

**Consultation on The National Assembly for Wales
(Legislative Competence) (Education) Order 2010**



About Us

The National Deaf Children's Society is the national charity dedicated to creating a world without barriers for deaf children and young people.

We represent the interests of and campaign for the rights of all deaf children and young people from birth until they reach independence.

Please note: NDCS Cymru uses the term deaf to refer to a range of hearing loss, including profound, severe, moderate, mild, unilateral and temporary hearing loss.

Comments on the Proposed LCO

NDCS Cymru would like to thank the Committee for inviting us to comment on the above proposed Legislative Competence Order (LCO).

NDCS Cymru notes with interest that the explanatory memorandum for this LCO highlights the importance of training for school governors. Since governors are involved in making key decisions for the school, NDCS Cymru would welcome steps from WAG to ensure that **all** school governors are trained in deaf awareness.

Most deaf children attend mainstream schools and in order to ensure that a school has an inclusive environment, it is vital that deaf pupils' needs/access requirements are considered when making decisions for the school. It should also be noted that the majority of school children will suffer from temporary deafness (glue ear) at some point. As such, it is imperative that school governors understand the importance of providing for the needs of deaf pupils and ensuring that a school is "deaf friendly." For example, school governors should be aware of the importance of good acoustics when planning refurbishments at the school.

School governors should also be provided with training on the implications of SEN and disability legislation.

Furthermore, NDCS Cymru would suggest that WAG encourages school governors to work closely with the school SENCo/ALNCo.

NDCS Cymru understands that most governing bodies currently appoint a governor/sub-committee to have specific oversight of the school's SEN provision and arrangements, and would urge WAG to ensure that all school governing bodies do so. This should be in addition to ensuring that **all** members of the school governing board are provided with training in deaf awareness and SEN/Disability legislation.