



# Welsh language and culture



*“Welsh is the language of life at Wylfa.”*

Greg Evans, Horizon’s Operations Director.

## Welsh in the community

**Anglesey is one of the areas in Wales with the highest concentration of Welsh speakers. We recognise the connections between economic growth, jobs and the wellbeing of the Welsh language and culture on Anglesey. We want to work with communities to ensure that Welsh speakers of working age have access to high quality, long-term employment on the Island.**

The recently published Welsh Language Use Survey 2013-2015, conducted by the Welsh Government, showed the importance of being educated in Welsh and speaking Welsh at home. The survey showed that there

had been significant increases in Welsh language skills in recent years among young people aged between three and 15 years. Horizon is keen to build further on this. We also recognise the importance of community and cultural events on Anglesey, which provide opportunities to socialise in Welsh, maintaining the feeling of belonging that protects and enhances the Welsh language.

Our Wylfa Newydd site office currently has 20 full-time permanent staff on Anglesey, of which 13 are fluent Welsh speakers (65%). Additionally, four (20%) have some Welsh language skills and are continuing to develop their knowledge. As the team increases in size on-site, we will work hard to ensure that the proportion of Welsh speakers continues to grow.

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## Horizon's Welsh Language Policy

We have a Welsh Language Policy, developed in consultation with the Welsh Language Board, because we understand that language matters to the communities of Anglesey.

We want to develop our Project with respect for the language and culture and our Policy provides the framework to enable us to do that.

## Our actions to support the Welsh language and culture

**We have worked in partnership with Menter Môn since 2013 to deliver a range of activities related to the protection and enhancement of the language. This has included providing financial support to language schemes such as 'I understand it, but I don't speak it' and, in 2015, support for the 'Fy Ardal i' initiative, which aims to raise awareness of the history and heritage of Anglesey, with language at its heart.**

To help us understand the potential impact of our Project on the language, we are currently preparing a Welsh Language Impact Assessment, which will inform our decision-making.

Once complete, this assessment will identify a number of measures to enable us to address any negative impacts and enhance any positive impacts. This work is still at a relatively early stage however we have identified some initial findings, including:

- Potential reduction in the number of people leaving the area for employment and the possibility that the Project could encourage people to return
- Potential positive impact on the economy in terms of increased spend in local businesses
- Potential negative impact on the language due to the size of our construction workforce
- Potential for changes to the housing market, which may benefit the tourism sector, but could increase competition for private rental accommodation

A key part of the Welsh Language Impact Assessment process is the establishment of a steering group, which includes representatives from a number of important organisations:

- Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit
- Gwynedd Council's Language Unit and Democratic Services
- IACC's Economic Development, Education, Corporate Policy and Welsh Language Officer
- Menter Môn
- Wylfa Project Liaison Group
- Horizon

In addition to these groups, the Welsh Language Commissioner and Welsh Government's Welsh Language division attend meetings as observers.

In terms of other support to the community, we have provided charitable donations to a number of organisations that work to promote and enhance the Welsh language. This includes:

- Anglesey's bilingual, volunteer-led community radio station, Môn FM
- Welsh language nursery Cylch Meithrin Amlwch
- 2015 Eisteddfod Môn

Please let us know what you think about our plans - you can give us your feedback at this event or visit our website: [www.horizonnuclearpower.com/consultation](http://www.horizonnuclearpower.com/consultation)

