

TheyWorkForYou.com now covers the Senedd

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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- In partnership with the Welsh Government, mySociety's parliamentary site
 TheyWorkForYou.com now covers proceedings in the Senedd in Welsh and English
- Senedd debates to be published daily at www.theyworkforyou.com/wales/; all Senedd
 Members to be listed with records of their contributions and votes
- The project will increase awareness and understanding of the Senedd's purpose and activities

Thanks to funding from the Welsh Government, the charity <u>mySociety</u> has added the Senedd to their parliamentary website <u>TheyWorkForYou</u>. The site now covers debates and a list of all Members of the Senedd, in both English and Welsh. Find them via https://www.theyworkforyou.com/senedd/ and https://cv.theyworkforyou.com/senedd/.

With this addition TheyWorkForYou, which also publishes proceedings of the UK Parliament, Scottish Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly, now covers all the law-making parliaments of the UK.

TheyWorkForYou works to improve public awareness and understanding of the actions of our elected representatives, by using the information and open data provided by these institutions, and bringing it together in one place.

Senedd email alerts

One key feature of TheyWorkForYou is its email alerts. Anyone can sign up for emails on what their representatives are saying, or to be alerted when their topics of interest come up in debates. Alerts are also indispensable for <u>charities</u>, <u>companies and governments</u> who use them to monitor parliamentary discussions on topics relating to their work. mySociety send millions of these email alerts out per year.

mySociety Chief Executive Louise Crow says, "By extending our coverage - and especially email alerts - to the Senedd, we hope to help people and organisations living and working in Wales stay informed about what is said and done in their devolved parliament".

Making more information about Members of the Senedd available to TheyWorkForYou's users

Now, when users in Wales enter their postcode into TheyWorkForYou, they will see the members of Senedd as well as their MP in the UK's national parliament.

They'll be able to check when their Senedd Member last voted, and what they've been saying in debates; as well as using the site's powerful search function to access previous mentions of their topic of interest. More technical users may also use the data for their own projects through TheyWorkForYou's API.

TheyWorkForYou's sister site, WriteToThem.com, allows people to send an email to their elected representatives, quickly and easily. This site already covered members of the Senedd. The two services link together so that, having checked your Senedd Member's activity on TheyWorkForYou, if you wish to respond to them, you can click through to WriteToThem and send an email.

Louise Crow added, "This is such an important step, and one that we've wanted to take for many years. Now, thanks to support from the Welsh Government, we've been able to complete the work needed to add the Senedd in TheyWorkForYou's fully accessible format.

"This is a continuation of our mission to make the UK's Parliaments easier for everyone to access, understand and engage with. Through the regular publication of debates, plus TheyWorkForYou's search and alert functions, we want to support Welsh citizens and civil society to play an active part in democracy."

Mick Antoniw, Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, said: "We've been pleased to work with mySociety as part of our efforts to involve as many people in our democracy as possible. Being able to follow topics and receive updates about what happens in the Senedd will help people see how we discuss the issues that matter to them most. We'll continue to work to increase democratic engagement and open up democracy to more people."

About TheyWorkForYou:

TheyWorkForYou was launched more than twenty years ago, with the aim of making Parliament more accessible in the internet age. mySociety, the charity that runs the site, believe that

information about our elected representatives should be easily understandable and accessible to everyone, and not just insiders or those who can pay.

TheyWorkForYou now covers all of the UK's parliaments to bring information together in one place, and make it accessible to both citizens and to civil society. Through a 2021 Opinium survey: **one in three** UK adults have heard of the site, and **one in five** have visited it. For the last 10 years, TheyWorkForYou has generally had over six million page views per year.

About mySociety:

mySociety is a non-profit organisation seeking to repower democracy, putting more power into more people's hands through the creation of digital technologies and data.

Links:

- https://www.theyworkforyou.com TheyWorkForYou website
- https://www.theyworkforyou.com/senedd Senedd on TheyWorkForYou English
- https://cy.theyworkforyou.com/senedd/ Senedd on TheyWorkForYou Welsh
- https://www.mysociety.org/press/ mySociety and TheyWorkForYou logos
- https://www.mysociety.org/ mySociety website

Contact:

Myfanwy Nixon, mySociety Communications and Marketing Manager: press@mysociety.org or 07976 961 845.