

About the Access to Elected Office Fund Wales

Money to help disabled people stand for election in Wales



This document was written by **Disability Wales**. It is an easy read version of '**Access to Elected Office Fund Wales leaflet**'.

November 2021

How to use this document



This is an easy read document, but you may still need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. They have been explained in a box below the word.



Where the document says **we**, this means **Disability Wales**. For more information contact:

Phone: 029 2088 7325

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This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**.

The Access to Elected Office Wales fund



The **Access to Elected Office Fund** is money to help disabled people stand for **election**.



An **election** is when everyone votes for the person they want to represent them.



The **Access to Elected Office Fund** can be used to pay for things that help disabled people have an equal chance. For example, special equipment and computers.



Welsh Government started this fund for the **Senedd Cymru election** in **May 2021**.



The fund will now be available for people standing in the **Local Government elections** in **May 2022**.



Disability Wales will manage the **Access to Elected Office** Fund. We will:



- tell people about the fund



- give people advice about the fund and how to apply.

Who can apply for the fund?

You can apply if:



- you are planning on standing as a **candidate** in the **2022 Welsh Local Government elections**. This could be as a councillor in a city or county council. Or for your community or town council.

A **candidate** is a person who puts themselves forward and asks people to vote for them in an **election**.



- you are disabled



- you are standing in an **election** for a **political party** or as an **independent**.



Some **candidates** are members of **political parties**. For example, Labour party or Green party.



Other **candidates** are **independent** – this means they are not part of a political party.

What you can use the fund for

The fund can be used to pay for things like:



- transport, if you can't use public transport like buses and trains



- screen reader software and other computer equipment



- training to use computer equipment and other software



- British Sign Language interpreters, and information in Braille, Easy Read and audio



- personal assistance.

Here are some examples of the types of things this fund can pay for:



Dyfrig is a person with serious sight loss. He finds it hard to walk around when he is out handing out leaflets and talking to people about the **election**.

He can apply for money from the fund to pay for a personal assistant to help him when he's out doing this work.



Bethan is a wheelchair user. She finds it hard to use buses to get around her local area to speak to people and promote herself as a **candidate**.

She can get money from the fund to pay for taxis.



Habib is a person with dyslexia. He finds it hard to read and answer emails from voters.

He can get money from the fund to pay for a screen reader to help him read his emails.

How to apply



You must check the **Electoral Commission** website www.electoralcommission.org.uk to find out if you are **eligible** to stand in the **election**.



Eligible means you have the right to do something, and can do something, because you meet a list of criteria.

The Electoral Commission

The **Electoral Commission** is the organisation that makes sure **elections** are fair. They check that **candidates** do not spend too much on their **election** campaigns.



If you are **eligible** to stand in the **election** you should contact **Disability Wales**.

How we will make our decision



We will think about what type of support you need, and how much money you need.



We will put this information together in a document.



You will have to tell us if you agree with the document.



We will give the document to the **Decision Making Board**. The document will not say who you are.



People on the **Decision Making Board** will have a different knowledge and experiences.



They will check to make sure you are **eligible** to apply for this fund.



If we decide to give you money, we will send you:

- an award letter
- a copy of our terms and conditions.



Please sign the terms and conditions and send it back to us.



If we decide not to support you with money from this fund, we will write to you to tell you why.

If you have a question you can contact us by:



Telephone: 029 2088 7325



Email: accesstopolitics@disabilitywales.org