



**Wales Safer Communities Network response to:
Amending existing regulations to extend the term of office for the
Older People's Commissioner for Wales from 4 to 7 years -
Consultation Response**

Closed 12 September 2023

Response submitted via the online survey.

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**Are you completing the survey as a member of the public or on behalf of an
organisation?**

On behalf of an organisation

Name of organisation (if applicable): Wales Safer Communities Network

Questions:

**Question 1: We would like your views on whether we should make these
proposed changes.**

**Do you agree that we should change the Regulations for the appointment of an
Older People's Commissioner for Wales from a 4-year term of office to a 7-year
term of office in line with the other Welsh Commissioners? In doing so, we will
remove the existing option to request a 2-year extension or to apply for a
second 4-year term of office.**

Yes

Question 2: Do you have any additional comments to support your response?

We agree with the principle of having consistency between the four Welsh
Commissioners which has the potential to enable an increased in partnership
working and collaboration.

**Question 3: We would like to know your views on the effects that these changes
would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use
Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
We are not aware of any negative or positive impacts that this change would have on
the use of the Welsh language.**



What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

We have no comment to make.

Question 4: Please also explain how you believe the proposed changes could be formulated or changed to have a positive effect or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

As a Network we do not have an opinion in this matter.

Question 5: What do you think would be the likely effects on individuals and groups with protected characteristics from these changes? Your views on how positive effects could be increased, or negative effects mitigated, would also be welcome.

Improved consistency and opportunities for partnership working and collaboration should improve the engagement and voice of older people and potentially have the opportunity to respond and make improvements where issues and concerns are raised. Which should have a positive impact on older people.

Community safety is frequently a concern for older people and therefore the longer term could enable more joined up working between devolved and reserved agencies.