

# The Electoral Commission

**22 September 2011**

## **Our response to the Welsh Language Board's report on the Electoral Commission's Welsh Language Scheme**

We are fully committed to providing a comprehensive bilingual service in Wales. The Commission has acknowledged, and apologised for, the fact that an error was made in this specific document.

The Commission has a strong record of producing all types of material bilingually for elections and referendums in Wales, including for the referendum on the law-making powers of the National Assembly for Wales and the subsequent referendum on the UK Parliamentary Voting System. The Welsh Language Board's report is into one case of a failure by the Commission to carry out the commitments in our Welsh Language Scheme and is not a conclusion on our overall performance. The Board concludes that this error was an administrative oversight rather than a deliberate act.

However we recognise that this rare error meant that we failed to meet certain commitments in our Welsh language scheme. We very much regret this and are actively working to ensure that such errors do not occur again in future. We accept the recommendations made by the Welsh Language Board, and will implement those that we have not already acted on.

We have worked closely with the Welsh Language Board in the preparation of this report and we look forward to continued cooperation with the Board and their staff in ensuring that the Commission continues to offer a fully bilingual service to stakeholders and voters in Wales.