

Citizens' Panel Introductory Session

REPORT



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Introductory Session

Tuesday 26th July, 18:30 - 20:00

Introduction

Susan Welcomed participants into the virtual room before giving a brief reminder of the purpose of this Citizens' Panel, explaining that all participants have been selected to contribute their views on how the news helps us to understand politics in Wales.

After conducting a short overview on how to effectively use the Zoom functions, participants were placed into groups to introduce themselves and discuss:

- What made them want to contribute in this process
- What are their fears about the process
- What are their hopes within the process

Group 1: Ice Breaker Activity

Why did you sign up to the process?

- use social media alot and its difficult to know who to trust and not trust/ what news is trust worthy
- Really important to me as I have disabilities and the news and policies affect me all the time!
- masters politics student in cardiff!
- I lived in England for 20 years and did not know anything about Wales (my homeland) it is very sad - you just don't hear anything about the complicated welsh politics!
- Fake news is so common - you have to look into everything and get the facts - they should do that first before spreading this fake news
- ics ... just eople! but people there would be no politics

What are your hopes for the process?

- Find out how decisions are made - who makes the decisions about what?
- Find out more
- have our voice heard!
- I would like to be educated more on whats happening in Wales and what the welsh government are doing to let us know
- will we be able to see the recommendations put forward being put into practices
- hope that progress is made! Got alot to get off my chest - I will try to keep it clean (LOL)
- social media: we see so much fake news and I would like to look at that in our discussions
- for good discussions on politics!
- i hope this process actually does have some benefit!

What are your fears for the process?

- Concerned about things that are happening in wales and would like to find out more: Pensions/children/education/ money
- no consultations about some policies being deployed at the moment - agriculture policy affects us farmers and we have no say - im worrie about the famers voice and if that will ever be heard - and do the public even know whats going on??

Here are some of the reasons participants joined the process...

- only recently moved to Wales and very interested in democracy and the chances people have to make a difference
- interested to see what recommendations emerge
- Thinks citizens panels are a good idea
- I am a politics student in Cardiff and a previous OU graduate - I know the theory but don't know the public view
- Fake news is so common - you have to look into everything and get the facts - they should do that first before spreading this fake news
- I lived in England for 20 years and did not know anything about Wales (my homeland) it is very sad - you just don't hear anything about the complicated Welsh politics!
- Really important to me as I have disabilities and the news and policies affect me all the time!
- Use social media a lot and it's difficult to know who to trust and not trust/ what news is trustworthy

Here are some of the hopes for the process you mentioned...

- Find out how decisions are made - who makes the decisions about what?
- I would like to be educated more on what's happening in Wales and what the Welsh government are doing to let us know
- For good discussions on politics!
- Will we be able to see the recommendations put forward being put into practice?
- Saw in COVID that it's not just UK but need to know a bit more about Wales
- I hope the government listens to us! The government don't seem to listen to the public's views
- Advantage of having meetings like this is hearing other people's opinions

Here are some of the fears for the process you mentioned...

- We need to do some work around where we get news from especially on social media as news can be fake
- Is there enough to fill 3 days? I can't see that I see a great deal of fake news that is Welsh oriented
- No knowledge about politics
- no consultations about some policies being deployed at the moment - agriculture policy affects us farmers and we have no say - I'm worried about the famers voice and if that will ever be heard - and do the public even know what's going on?
- Concerned about things that are happening in wales and would like to find out more: Pensions/children/education/money
- Will the IT work!

Where do you get your news from?

The groups then discussed where they currently get their news from. We can see from the responses that people can get their news from a range of sources, from the BBC, national and local newspapers, to online articles and social media!

Group 1: News?



Here is a closer look at where you said you get your news from:

- **BBC radio** and **TV**. I listen to English news followed by Welsh news
- Free news on my phone: **The Guardian** and **writers.com** (free apps)
- I like the printed word, including **The metro** on the train in the mornings
- Most of the politics is about London and not here. Scary in terms of devolution impact
- There is a lot of rubbish in the newspaper
- Papers are so expensive
- **The Economist**
- W watched a lot of debate about Brexit - which was fascinating. Current political news is very aggravating
- I lived in Cambs for a while and never got Welsh news. When I came back I had missed 20yrs of Welsh culture. I speak a little Welsh, but not enough to converse.
- I am drawn to **Radio Cymru** as it helps learning Wales and I learn a lot. You learn contextual Welsh, the spoken Welsh rather than formal written Welsh
- Some **Wales Online**, but the journalism is poor. It is reactionary.
- **Ch 4 news** on computer. **Guardian Online**
- Wales online comes in through Facebook - but not sure whether it's a good thing
- **Daily Mail** and **Mail on Sunday** from the Sunday post
- I was brought up with Manchester Guardian and **the Guardian** today reflects my views. I spend a lot of time shouting at the TV!
- I used to say I would never trust anything i saw on **Facebook** or **twitter** but that's not true! You have to check the source where it came from originally - sometimes that is easy and sometime it is quite difficult
- local news: **BBC news online** with filters to show south wales specifically!
- I like listening to **podcasts** - more specific topics like '**this is money**' focuses on finance

- Are there any relevant trust worthy places to get wales specific news? I'm not sure I am aware of them!
- I trust verified users on **social media**
- if it was linked to a news article I would trust social media but if not I don't - if its something worried I would search it on other trusted sites to confirm it!
- What my **friends** share on Facebook
- Go to different places for different reasons - most concern is that you should try to use reliable sources
- TV/Radio: I listen to **Sky News** and BBC news - sometimes you read a lot online and you compare it to the tv and it is not correct! That's why I went onto watching/listening via the tv
- some sources will have some sort of bias but in general can be trusted not to tell you outright lies!
- **ITV News**
- I don't really search for it - it pops up on my Social Media feed once and a while and i do have a read but I don't search for it! It depends on the topic as to whether i keep following it.
- I check the **daily mail online** - i think it is easier to read then the others the way it is structured
- I come from a neutral standpoint - I do not vote. Do they really know what's happening in their country?
- If things don't directly affect you, you tend to push it to one side - I'm on Facebook but not Twitter, **Instagram** or **TikTok**. I'm more likely to get news from one place
- Everyone gets their stuff from social media these days. All the youngsters do anyway.
- Re: Brexit. You don't have to be a brain surgeon to know we've all been lied to. I think the right wing tabloid press, **The Telegraph**, the **Daily Mail** and mickey mouse papers like **The Sun** - unfortunately certain individuals take what they say as the truth. That's the frustration.
- Sometimes the news on Facebook is fake, and it's a nightmare
- Mainly I go on Twitter quite a lot - I'm a big fan and follow lots of politicians - certain MPs. (I used to be a union rep so obviously I'm a Labour supporter)

As you can see, there were many different views on where to get the news, and on how reliable different sources are for different kinds of news!

In this Citizens' Panel process, it is important that participants contribute their authentic views and thoughts, as experts in their own lives and experiences. In the next session we will be hearing from experts in a variety of fields connected to the panel question '**How does the news help you to understand politics?**', and we will explore the trade offs and differences that arise in deliberative discussions.