



A snapshot of charities in Wales



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A snapshot of charities in Wales

The Charity Commission regulates charities throughout England and Wales, of which there are currently over 190,000 registered and approximately 110,000 unregistered. Charities undertake an incredibly wide range of activities and this is one of a series of reports that are designed to help broaden understanding of charities and their work. The reports are part of our mission to help charities comply with their legal obligations, and to enhance their effectiveness, impact and accountability.

The data for this report was collated between July and December 2008.

Key findings

- There are just over 9,000 registered charities in Wales, with nearly 42,000 trustees.
- Together these charities have a combined income of £982 million.
- Around 250 new charities are registered in Wales each year.
- The oldest registered charity found so far dates back to around 1290.

Background figures

There are 9,006 main charities in Wales¹ and 760 subsidiary charities² registered in Wales. Together these have an income of £982 million and account for 5% of all charities on the Register.

8,118 (90%) of them work solely in Wales and 230 (3%) work internationally. The remaining 658 of the 9,006 (7%) work in Wales and England.

The largest charities in Wales by income include the Arts Council for Wales, the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, and the Welsh National Opera. Other examples of charities with income over £10 million can be found in table 1.

Table 1 Charities in Wales with incomes over £10 million

Registered number	Charity name	Income (£)
1034245	Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, The Arts Council For Wales	£38,645,000
525774	National Museum of Wales	£29,685,000
1073332	WJEC CBAC Limited	£26,600,000
218093	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	£26,096,429
702290	Cartrefi Cymru Limited	£18,820,000
221538	Welsh National Opera	£17,273,049
517149	Opportunity Housing Trust	£17,164,800
1060458	Wales Millennium Centre	£13,582,000
525775	National Library of Wales	£13,325,000
1046763	Perthyn	£11,567,553
1048771	The Trinity College Carmarthen Foundation	£11,557,147
232835	The English Province of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Annecy	£10,226,961
703002	Drive	£10,118,348

¹ This is based on data taken from the address of the charity correspondent.

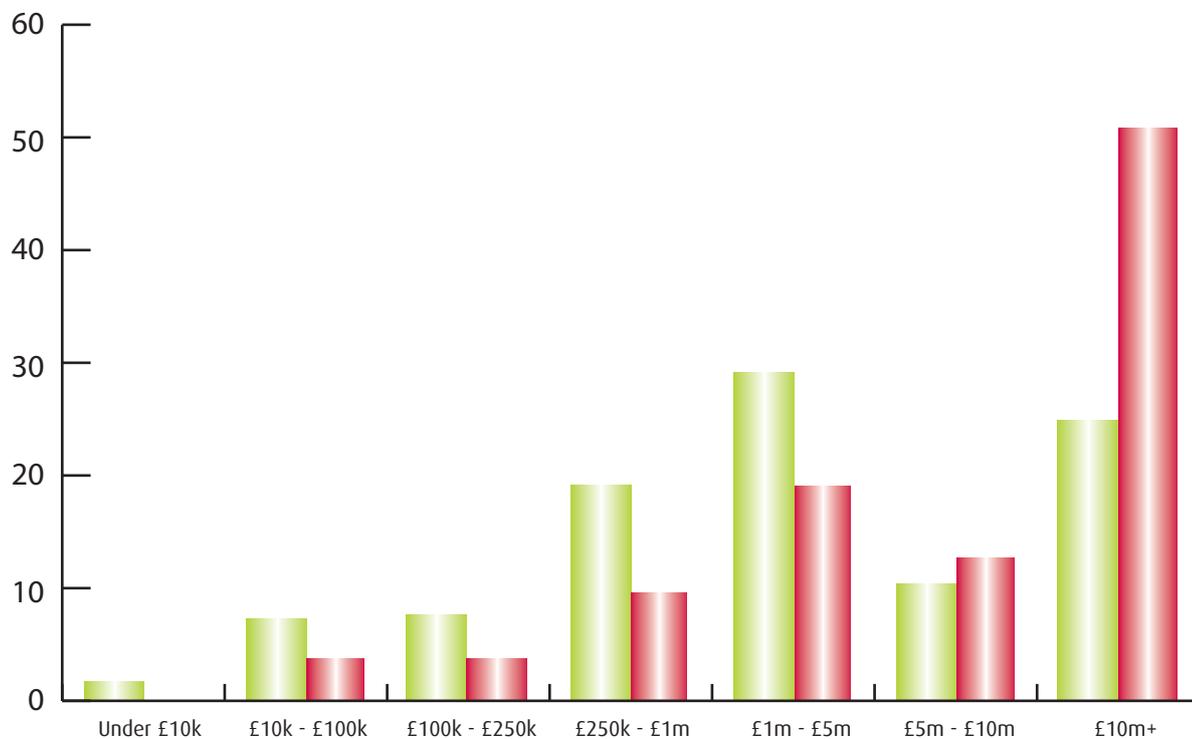
² The accounts of subsidiary charities are aggregated with those of the main charity.

We estimate that there may also be around 2,000 unregistered charities with exempt or excepted status,³ making the total number of charities in Wales nearer 11,000. This figure would represent just over one third of all third sector organisations included in a recent analysis of the third sector in Wales carried out by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action 'The third sector in Wales 2008'.⁴

Income of charities in Wales

The breakdown of charities in Wales by income band is slightly different to the breakdown of charities across the Register. The graph below shows that the number of small charities, those where income is under £1 million, is larger than the proportion of small charities across the Register as a whole. It also shows that Wales has a smaller proportion of larger charities ie those with incomes over £5 million than the Register as a whole.

Percentage of income held in each income band



■ % of income for charities in Wales by income band
 ■ % of income for charities across the Register

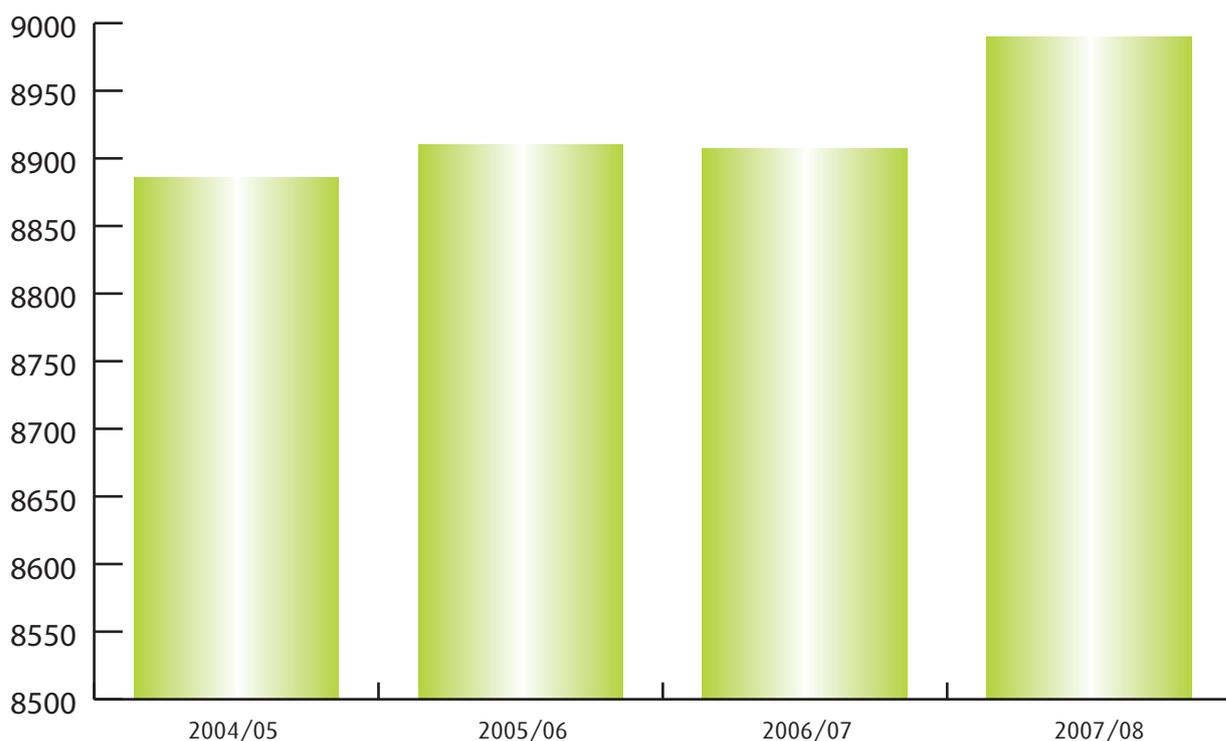
³ Excepted charities still fall under the jurisdiction of the Charity Commission although they are currently exempted from the registration and annual reporting requirements. Exempt charities are charities where another principal regulator has jurisdiction eg the Housing Corporation has regulatory power over Registered Social Landlords.

⁴ For further information on the Wales Council for Voluntary Action see www.wcva.org.uk

Registrations and removals

Since 2004, (the year the Wales office opened), the number of charities in Wales has (with the exception of the last financial year in which there was a slight decrease) continued to grow. In this time, 1,188 new charities in Wales have been added to the Register and 1,009 charities removed.

Total number of registered charities in Wales 1 April 2004 to 1 April 2008



■ Total number of charities in Wales on the Register

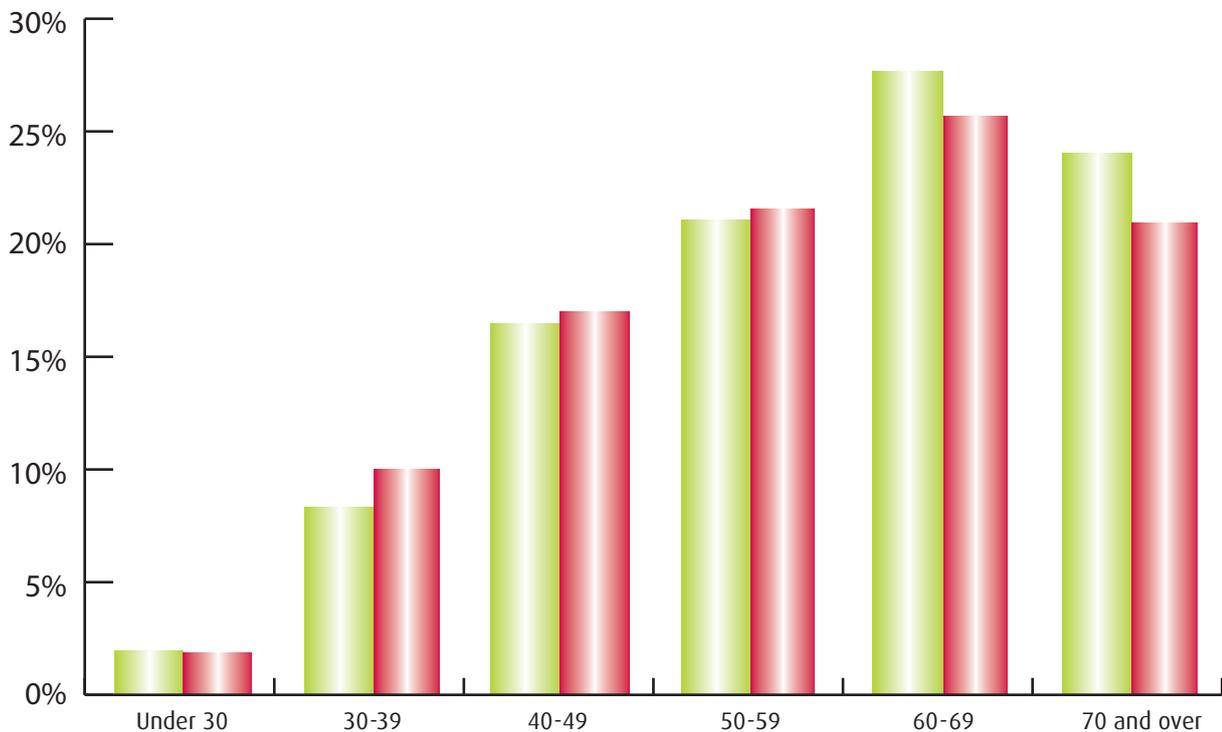
Details of recently registered charities are available on the Charity Commission website.

Trustees and volunteers in Wales

Registered charities in Wales have 41,839 trustees. This is an average of five trustees per charity and is the same as the average per charity recorded across the whole Register. The average trustee age in Wales is 58. The average across the Register as a whole is 57 (see annex 1, table 5 for further details). The proportion of female and male trustees is also similar to that of all trustees across the Register, with 55% of trustees being male and 45% female.

Charities with incomes over £500,000 now supply the Charity Commission with information about volunteer numbers. So far, we have received details from 276 of these charities in Wales. Between them, they have 79,584 volunteers. The total number of volunteers in Wales is likely to be much larger.

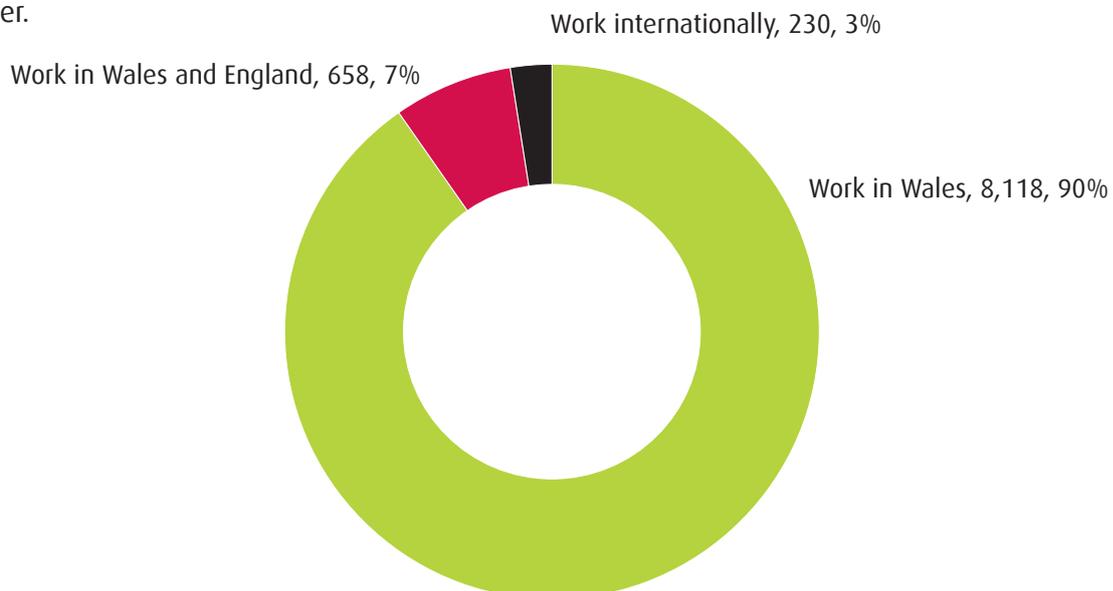
Age breakdown of trustees



■ % of trustees for charities in Wales
■ % of trustees across the Register

Where do charities in Wales operate?

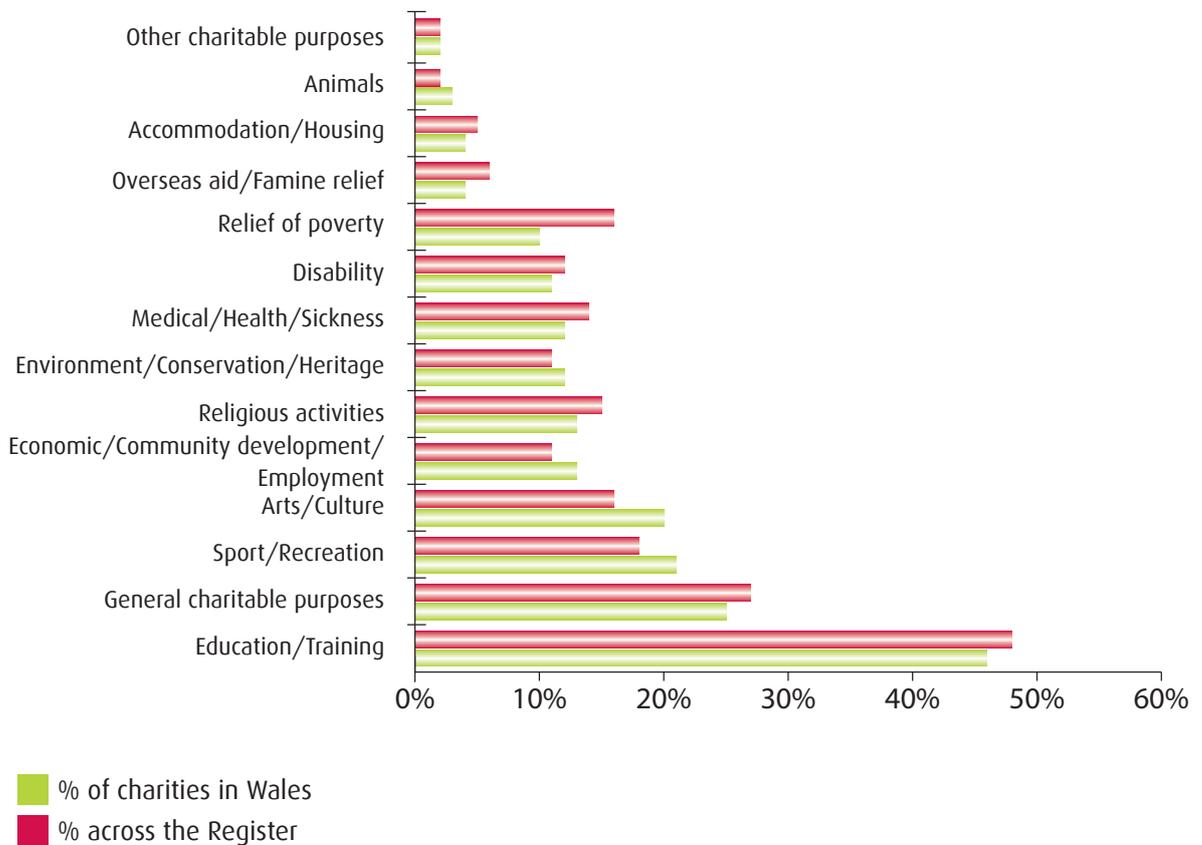
Charities based in Wales are slightly more likely to work locally or nationally within Wales and slightly less likely to work internationally than charities across the Register. For example, 8,118 (90%) charities working in Wales work solely within Wales (this is 4% higher than the equivalent figure for charities in England operating solely in England). 230 or 3% report they work internationally (see pie chart below for details), against the 6% of charities that report they work internationally across the Register.



Activities of charities in Wales

It is common for a charity to carry out multiple activities. For example, a community development based charity might provide activities for children and young people, and an advice service for the elderly. For this reason, charities are given the opportunity in the annual return forms collected by the Charity Commission to select more than one category of activity. The chart below displays the numbers of charities selecting each category. *Please note that one charity may have selected more than one category.*

Types of activity carried out by charities in Wales



Charities in Wales deliver the same types of activities as charities right across the Register (see annex 1, table 1 for comparative data). The three groups of major charitable activity include:

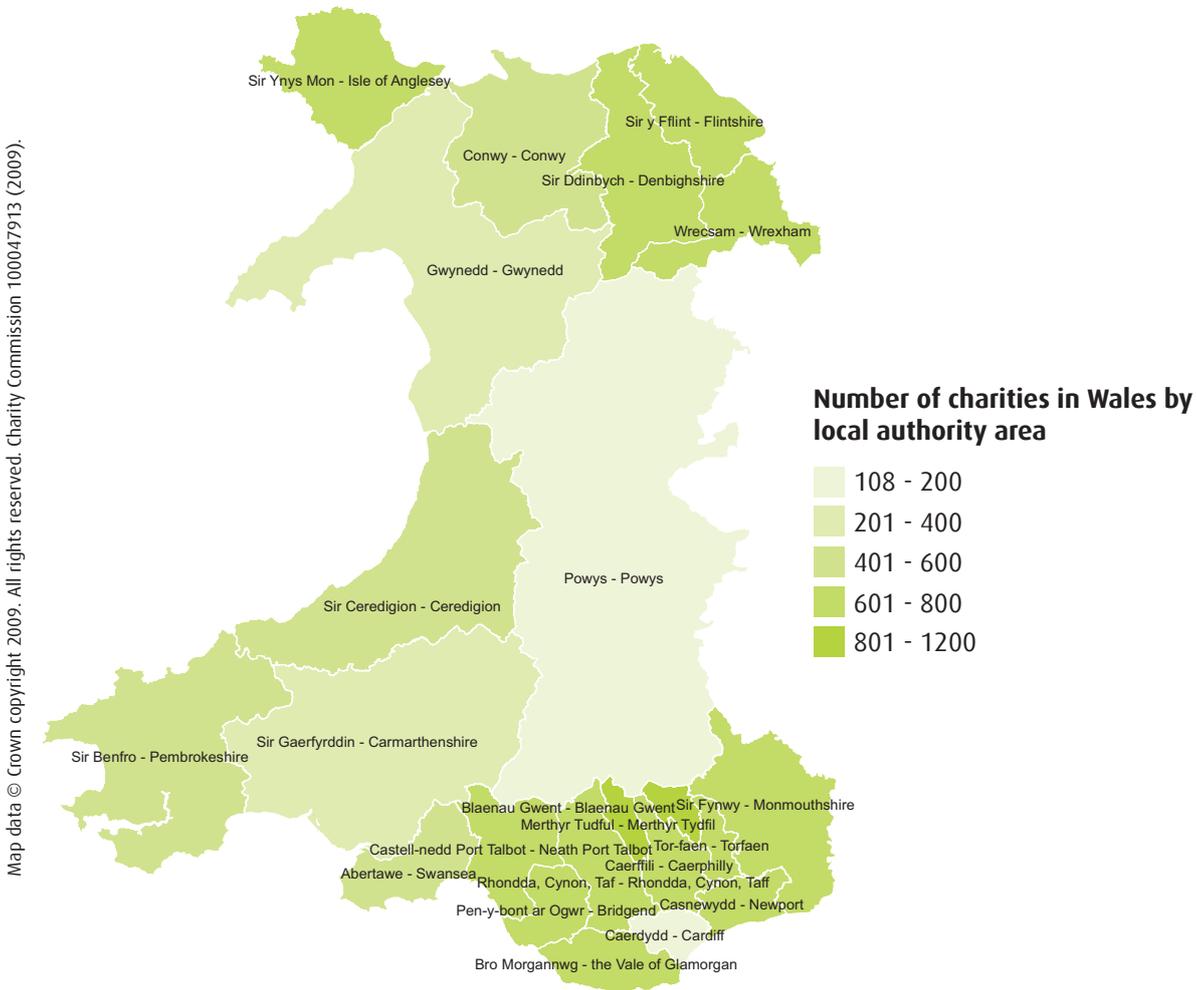
- education or training, delivered by 46% of charities in Wales;
- sports and recreational activities, delivered by 21% of charities in Wales; and
- arts and cultural activities, delivered by 20% of charities in Wales.

Geography of charities in Wales

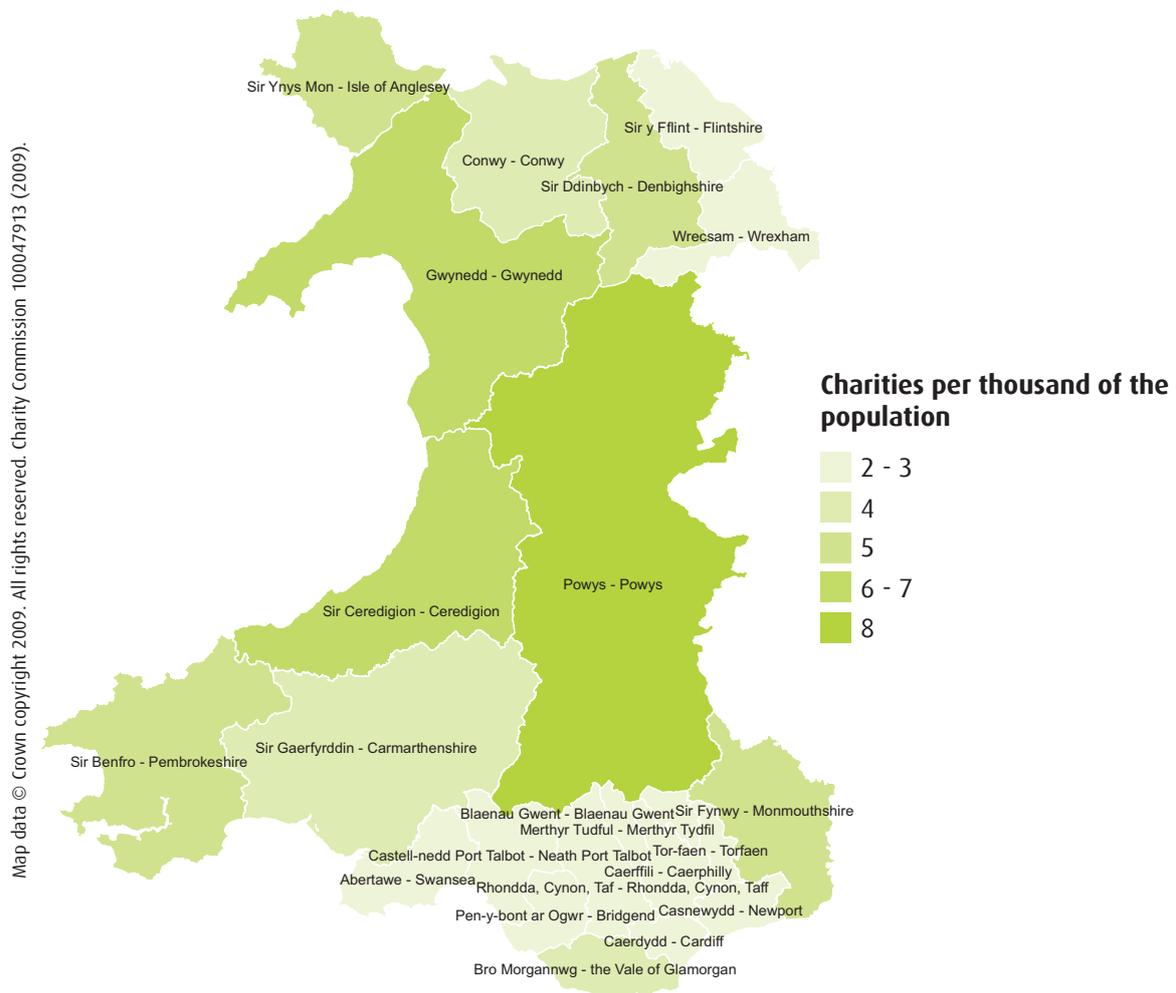
Initial research suggests that the distribution of charities in Wales reflects the general pattern across the Register as a whole; that is, there appear to be more charities per head of the population in rural areas than in non-rural areas.

The maps show a breakdown of charities by local authority area. The first map shows the number of charities in each area and the second shows the number of charities per thousand of the population. It is also interesting to note that the methodology has highlighted the existence of particular hotspots; for example, there are far more charities in some towns and counties than we might have expected. This includes parts of Port Talbot and Carmarthen.

Number of charities in Wales by local authority area



Number of charities per thousand of the population



The oldest charity in Wales

The Laugharne Corporation Lands (charity no. 218121) is the oldest currently registered charity identified so far in Wales, dating back to around 1290. This information was traced from the information on the Register of Charities.⁵

The charity's purposes are the relief of poverty, advancement of education, provision of public amenities and preservation and conservation of land and buildings of historical, scientific, architectural, or educational merit; these have not changed since its original inception. Yet the types of work it undertakes have changed over time to reflect changing social and economic conditions. Where the charity once provided help to orphans and widows of the Battle of Trafalgar, it has more recently given funds to help local schools and youth projects and worked with the Countryside Council for Wales to clear and renovate land designated as a site of Special Scientific Interest.

⁵ The Register records details of organisations that:

- have been recognised as charitable in law;
- have all or the majority of their trustees normally resident in England and/or Wales;
- or are companies incorporated in England and Wales.

See the following link for further details

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/showcharity/registerofcharities/registerhomepage.aspx?&=&>

Newly registered charities

Monmouthshire Environment Trust, Thornhill Church Trust, and the Carmarthen Youth Project are just some examples of charities that have been registered in recent years in Wales.

The Monmouthshire Environment Trust (charity no. 1119625) conducts research and collects information to educate people about the economic, social, and environmental benefits of recycling, reducing pollution, and promoting the protection of the environment. The Thornhill Church Trust (charity no. 1122810) advances the Christian faith amongst residents of North Cardiff and the Carmarthen Youth Project (charity no. 1124727) educates and assists young people through leisure activities to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities so they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.



Monmouthshire Environment Trust

Work of the Commission's Wales office

Our team at the Wales office, in Newport, provide dedicated support to charities throughout Wales aiming to maximise their impact and effectiveness. The office has built links with the Welsh Assembly and works in partnership with umbrella bodies including County Voluntary Councils, CISWO (Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation) and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. We aim to be actively in touch with the sector in Wales providing one-to-one support to individual charities through advice and regulatory consent. We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.

We hope this snapshot reflects the strength of the charitable sector in Wales, as well as serving as a useful baseline against which to track change in coming years.

For further information or questions about this data please contact the Research Team by email: Research@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk

Alternatively, please contact our team in Wales via Harry Iles, Head of the Wales Office: Harry.Iles@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk

Or telephone Charity Commission Direct on 0845 3000 218.

Annex 1

Table 1 Activities of registered charities in Wales, July 2008

Type of activity	Number in Wales	% of charities in Wales selecting each category	Numbers across the Register	% across the Register selecting each category
Education/Training	4,154	46	82,093	48
General charitable purposes	2,251	25	45,663	27
Sport/Recreation	1,927	21	31,083	18
Arts/Culture	1,834	20	27,141	16
Economic/Community development/ Employment	1,169	13	18,725	11
Religious activities	1,137	13	25,432	15
Environment/ Conservation/Heritage	1,109	12	17,972	11
Medical/Health/Sickness	1,083	12	23,489	14
Disability	1,017	11	19,797	12
Relief of poverty	935	10	26,935	16
Overseas aid/Famine relief	379	4	9,521	6
Accommodation/ Housing	332	4	8,753	5
Animals	243	3	3,515	2
Other charitable purposes	148	2	2,813	2
Total	17,718		342,932	

Charities can select more than one category

Table 2 Registration and removal of charities in Wales, financial year 2004/05 to 2007/08

	Number of registrations	Number of removed charities	Total number of charities in Wales across the Register	Number of charities across the Register
2004/05	264	177	8,886	163,345
2005/06	278	254	8,910	165,401
2006/07	206	209	8,907	166,662
2007/08	240	157	8,990	167,307
Total	988	797		

Table 3 Income of registered charities in Wales, July 2008

	Total income of charities in Wales by income band £	% of income for charities in Wales by income band	Total income of charities across the Register by income band £	% of income for charities across the Register
Under £10k	0.01 bn	1.62	0.0279 bn	0.06
£10k - £100k	0.07 bn	7.3	1.714 bn	3.73
£100k - £250k	0.08 bn	7.69	1.752 bn	3.81
£250k - £1m	0.19 bn	19.1	4.360 bn	9.5
£1mn - £5mn	0.29 bn	29.08	8.712 bn	18.98
£5 mn £10 mn	0.1 bn	10.3	5.781 bn	12.6
£10mn+	0.24 bn	24.91	23.312 bn	50.78
Total	0.98 bn		45.91bn	

Table 4 Number of registered charities in Wales by income band, July 2008

	Total number in Wales	% in Wales	Total number across the Register	% across the Register
Under £10k	5,796	64.36	94,240	55.65
£10k - £100k	2,192	24.34	49,812	29.42
£100k - £250k	463	5.14	10,910	6.44
£250k - £1m	387	4.3	8,822	5.21
£1mn - £5mn	139	1.54	4,028	2.38
£5 mn £10 mn	16	0.18	815	0.48
£10mn+	13	0.14	706	0.42
Total	9,006		169,333	

Table 5 Number of trustees of registered charities in Wales by age band, July 2008

	Number of trustees for charities in Wales	% of trustees for charities in Wales	Number of trustees across the Register	% of trustees across the Register
Under 30	832	1.99%	15,553	1.90%
30-39	3,498	8.36%	82,123	10.04%
40-49	6,926	16.55%	160,543	19.63%
50-59	8,852	21.16%	176,797	21.62%
60-69	11,621	27.78%	210,841	25.78%
70 and over	10,110	24.16%	171,921	21.02%
Total	41,839		817,778	

Annex 2

Resources

Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO)
Woodland Terrace
Maesycoed
Pontypridd
Mid Glamorgan
CF37 1DZ

Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Helpdesk: 0800 2888 329
Email: help@wcva.org.uk
www.wcva.org.uk

County Voluntary Councils

- Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Voluntary Action Cardiff
- Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services
- Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Conwy Voluntary Services Council
- Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Mantell Gwynedd
- Denbighshire Voluntary Services
- Medrwn Mon
- Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil
- Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service
- Pembroke Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Interlink
- Swansea Council for Voluntary Service
- Torfaen Voluntary Alliance
- Vale Centre for Voluntary Services
- Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham

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