Welsh Headlines — 18 Oct 2026

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? Top Story: Reform MS defends his autocue glasses as the Lib Dems demand a Senedd ban

Jason O'Connell says smart glasses with a built-in autocue have "massively" boosted his confidence in the chamber — as the Welsh Liberal Democrat leader calls for them to be banned from the Senedd until rules exist, and the parliament confirms a review is under way.

O'Connell, the Reform MS for Pontypridd Cynon Merthyr elected in May, told BBC Wales's Politics Wales programme that a digital script scrolls across the lenses of the glasses and can be controlled by a ring on his finger, so that he can look at the government rather than down at his notes. "One of the things I identified as a weakness of mine was that my head was down looking at my notes a lot, and I wanted to get away from that and these glasses enable me to do that," he said.

Asked whether he risked misleading people into thinking he was speaking without notes, he replied: "I'm delivering my words in the manner that I see fit. Other people might use an iPad, they might use a phone, they might use printed paper. This is authentically my voice, and it's just me relaying that in the way that I feel most comfortable." Unlike the smart glasses that have caused controversy elsewhere, his have no camera built in.

Jane Dodds, the Welsh Liberal Democrat leader, said not enough was known yet about what the glasses can do, and that Members of the Senedd needed equal access to them: "What I've called for is that there is a ban on the use of smart glasses in the Welsh Parliament until we have rules and regulations in place which standardise them, and make sure that everybody can have access

to them, if that's what they want as well."

A spokesperson for the Senedd's presiding officer said: "Rapidly advancing technologies such as smart glasses offer opportunities to improve accessibility and support Members of the Senedd in their work, but we recognise that they also prompt concerns. A review of the use of this technology on the Senedd estate is under way, and we will bring forward its conclusions shortly."

(BBC Wales, published 17 October, updated this morning — Cemlyn Davies. Politics Wales is on BBC One Wales at 10:00 BST today and on iPlayer. The row itself, and the Westminster letter to Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle, were covered on 3, 7, 10 and 15 October; this is the Senedd-side interview, the Welsh ban call and the review.)

?? Politics & the Senedd

? Reform's undercover film airs today — would-be MP said Muslims "cannot be British"

A would-be Reform UK MP told an undercover reporter that Muslims cannot be British and that asylum seekers should be put in "concentration camps", in footage broadcast today as part of ITV's investigation into the party.

The activist and aspiring MP described himself as "pretty hardline about Islam", saying: "If a Muslim's prepared to de-convert, I'm happy. But if they want to remain faithful to Islam, then this would be, I would have disagreements... To me, you cannot be a Muslim and British... it's like oil and water." Discussing small boat crossings, he said: "In the first week of election, build concentration camps, and everyone who comes across on the Channel, you're in there."

Other footage included a Reform councillor describing the party's board as "hardline" and saying board members held views that would get them expelled if expressed publicly, while Reform MP Sarah Pochin called the party "chauvinistic", adding: "They just exclude you if you're a woman." Earlier excerpts showed councillors and candidates using racist language, referring to black children as "animals" and describing an area as "infested" with Asian families, and former Reform Wales caseworker Martin Roberts using racial slurs.

Labour chairwoman Bridget Phillipson said Nigel Farage's response showed he was "completely unfit to lead": "Bad apples don't fall far from the tree... Nigel Farage is incapable of taking responsibility and getting his house in order because he himself shares culpability." Reform said it had opened investigations where members had "clearly behaved inappropriately" and that there was "no room for racism" in the party, but that "you can't vet people for what they say in the future".

(Nation.Cymru / Press Association, 17 October — Christopher McKeon; ITV investigation. The party's Welsh troubles — Sarah Cooper-Lesadd's defection to Plaid and Dan Thomas's intervention — were covered yesterday; this is the broadcast itself.)

?? Ben Lake: delay the landline switch-off in rural Wales

Rural households risk losing their only means of communication in a power cut unless the digital landline switchover is postponed in the most remote areas, Ceredigion Preseli MP Ben Lake has warned.

BT is retiring its traditional Public Switched Telephone Network on 31 January 2027, with calls carried over broadband instead. Unlike corded phones powered through the telephone line, the replacements need mains power. Ofcom requires providers to offer customers who depend on a landline a free back-up lasting at least an hour during an outage — although some providers supply equipment lasting up to seven hours — which Lake calls inadequate for isolated communities where storm-related cuts can run far longer.

Lake has written to the UK Government and Ofcom asking for the timetable in the most rural areas to be aligned with planned broadband and mobile improvements. Government answers cited by the MP suggest 769 residential premises in his constituency fall below the acceptable broadband threshold, with a further 2,427 lacking an acceptable mobile signal from any network. "A household or business should not lose its copper landline connection until such time that a reliable alternative is in place," he said.

(Nation.Cymru, 18 October.)

????? First Women's and Girls' Rights cross-party group at the Senedd

Members of the Senedd's four main parties have joined forces to launch the parliament's first cross-party group on women's and girls' rights.

Conservative MS Natasha Asghar will chair the group, with Reform's Cristiana Emsley and Art Wright, Labour's Mike Hedges and Plaid Cymru's Safa Elhassan involved. The group's stated aim is to bring experts and MSs together to consider the legal and policy framework for women's and girls' rights and what it means for devolved policy. Its inaugural meeting was attended by representatives of Women's Rights Network Wales and Merched Cymru.

(Nation.Cymru, 17 October — Martin Shipton.)

? Minister asks Cadw to raise Sycharth's profile

The culture minister has asked officials to consider how Owain Glyndŵr's court at Sycharth, near Llansilin in Powys, can be better promoted.

Heledd Fychan told the Senedd she had asked Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, to "investigate how the story of this site can be made more prominent, because it is so, so important in terms of our history". She was responding to Plaid Cymru MS Elwyn Vaughan, who said Sycharth needed to be "promoted as a site of national importance for future generations" and called it "shameful that the current condition of the site does not reflect its historical and cultural importance".

(BBC Cymru Fyw, 17 Hydref — Alun Jones.)

? Health

? "I'm a qualified midwife — so why can't I get a job when there aren't enough midwives?"

A newly qualified midwife from Cardiff has described crying for hours after being told she had no post, in an account that puts a personal face on Wales's midwifery workforce squeeze.

Megan Lewis qualified from the University of South Wales in September with a First Class Honours degree, registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and with 2,550 hours of clinical practice behind her. She learned on 25 June that she had not secured a job through the NHS Wales streamlining process, which she says was delayed three times; when it opened, there were fewer posts than she had expected.

She points out that the Welsh Government funded her training and paid an NHS bursary on condition she worked in Wales for two years — a commitment she says she was glad to make. She is now working full time at the restaurant she worked in throughout her degree, and worries about being away from clinical practice, with the first Band 5 preceptorship year "so important" for consolidating training. "How can you invest in educating midwives, ask them to commit to working in Wales, and then not provide the jobs for them to do that?" she writes.

(Nation.Cymru, 18 October — Megan Lewis, first person. Follows the Royal College of Midwives' petition for funded posts, covered here on 15 October.)

? Education

? 342 new specialist school places in Cardiff

More than 340 specialist school places have been created across Cardiff as demand for additional learning needs provision grows, with about 120 more planned.

Cardiff Council said work at 14 schools had delivered 342 places — 196 in special schools and 146 in specialist resource bases within mainstream schools — backed by roughly £40m of investment. The provision covers autism and social communication needs, complex learning needs, and emotional health and wellbeing. The council attributed rising demand to better identification of additional learning needs, improved survival rates for children with significant disabilities and a rise in emotional health needs.

(Nation.Cymru, 18 October.)

? Empty register at Ysgol y Fro as the village school closes

Ysgol y Fro in Llangyndeyrn, Carmarthenshire, closes at the end of the year — and since September its register has been a blank page.

BBC Cymru Fyw marked the closure with the story of Huw Williams, or Huw Pant-teg, whose family has farmed in Cwm Gwendraeth Fach for generations: "It is very sad to say, but six or seven generations of our family have been educated in Llangyndeyrn." His family also fought the 1960s plans to flood the valley for a Swansea reservoir — the farm he worked would have been under water, and the school with it.

(BBC Cymru Fyw, today — Anna George. Carmarthenshire's vote to close Ysgol Meidrim and Ysgol y Fro was reported here on 15 October; this is the human angle.)

?? Housing & Planning

? Channel View tenants: "a smack in the mouth" over new flats

Older residents of one of Wales's largest social housing blocks say Cardiff Council has gone back on a promise of priority for the new flats being built across the road.

In 2016 it was announced that the Channel View tower block in Grangetown would be demolished, with residents given first refusal on the replacement block. Ten years later Channel View is still standing, and the Local Democracy Reporting Service has seen a 2020 letter promising a resident

"first preference for the new Older Persons apartments" — against a 2026 letter saying tenants aged 50 to 59 will be given first priority for Block B, with only "a small number" of apartments left for the over-60s.

Kay Monaghan, 67, a 19-year resident, called it "a smack in the mouth": "I can't wait two more years in my freezing cold flat. It goes down to 13 degrees when I get up in the morning in the winter because it doesn't retain any heat." She added: "I wake up every morning and there it is. That is rubbing it in really." Another 80-year-old resident said the allocation was unfair on longer-standing tenants, while an 84-year-old said: "I could be pushing up bloody daisies by the time [the council] is ready."

Cardiff Council said residents are "guaranteed a new home within the redevelopment", either in Block B (24 apartments, completion early 2027) or Block A (102 community living apartments, by the end of 2027), and that it will keep engaging with over-60s about the remaining Block B flats.

(Nation.Cymru, 18 October — Kieran Molloy, Local Democracy Reporter.)

?? Final go-ahead for Medallion House

Plans to turn the empty Medallion House on Crwys Road, Cardiff, into affordable housing and a community centre have received final approval.

The former British Heart Foundation furniture shop — and before that a Co-op — will be partially demolished, with the ground floor becoming a community centre and four new upper floors added to house 64 affordable flats. Three two-bedroom flats are also planned in the existing car park. *(Nation.Cymru, 17 October — Kieran Molloy. The council's acquisition of the building was reported here on 17 July.)*

? Justice & Policing

? Man arrested after death in Holyhead flat

A man has been arrested after another man's body was found in a flat in Holyhead in the early hours of Saturday.

North Wales Police were called to Llys Watling on London Road at about 02:40, having been alerted by the Welsh Ambulance Service, and the man was pronounced dead at the scene. A local man was arrested in connection with the incident and remains in custody; the force has not said what he was arrested on suspicion of. Det Ch Insp Richard Sidney said: "We understand this incident may cause concern in the local community and I would like to reassure residents that there will be an increased police presence in the area today as officers carry out house-to-house enquiries and further investigations."

(BBC Wales and BBC Cymru Fyw, 17 October; ITV Wales.)

?? Two years on, police still cannot name the man found in Claerwen Reservoir

Dyfed-Powys Police have renewed their appeal to identify a man whose body was found in a wetsuit in a Powys reservoir two years ago to the day.

A dog walker found the body at Claerwen Reservoir on 17 October 2024; officers believe he had been in the water for up to 12 weeks. He was wearing a black XL Zone 3 Agile wetsuit and was estimated to be between 30 and 60 years old, about 6ft (1.83m), between 91.5kg and 99.5kg, and of white European descent, with protruding teeth and a left-sided cross bite, a rounded chin and a square jawline.

Detectives checked UK missing-person databases, DNA and fingerprints against national records, then the National Crime Agency's wider register, and asked Interpol to circulate appeals to 24 European countries. A facial depiction was produced with Face Lab at Liverpool John Moores University. Det Insp Anthea Ponting called it a "highly unusual situation" that police are no closer to identifying him, and no clothing, jewellery or transport was found nearby.

(BBC Wales, 17 October — Maria Cassidy; ITV Wales.)

? Environment & Energy

?? Brechfa: a turbine blade fell — then the turbines were switched back on

A 40-metre blade detached from a wind turbine at Brechfa West in February and came to rest on high-voltage cabling — and internal papers show turbines were restarted before the whole site had been inspected, while the regulator was still asking the operator for safety information.

The blade came off turbine T303 in the early hours of 26 February. Natural Resources Wales imposed a 962-hectare Countryside and Rights of Way exclusion "for the purpose of avoiding danger to the public", and RWE asked NRW to warn staff and contractors of an "identified risk on site" and to ensure nobody "remain[ed] stationary in proximity to the turbines". By 28 February RWE reported circuits 1, 2 and 4 running, and on 4 March said seven turbines were back in service; the position changed on 5 March, when all turbines were paused pending inspection and discussion with NRW.

On 13 March NRW recorded that it still had not received RWE's Case to Operate, and said the decision to resume running "rested solely with RWE as owner and operator". NRW also found on 5 March that fencing it had been told was installed around T303 and the blade was "not the case". The disclosed papers do not identify any public body that independently approved the restart, give no substantive explanation for a 100-metre exclusion zone — when Brechfa's turbines were consented at up to 145m and planning guidance advises a setback of at least blade-tip height — and contain no final root-cause report.

The documents were released under Freedom of Information to Havard Hughes of CRAiG Sir Gâr, with much technical and mitigation material redacted. The author's conclusion: future wind farms should have to say who independently oversees turbine safety and restart decisions, how every public right of way is controlled after a serious incident, the basis for emergency exclusion zones, and whether root-cause findings will be published. *(Nation.Cymru, 16 October — Sarah Eyles.)*

? 24/7 drilling at Hailey Park: "I had to go and stay with a friend"

Round-the-clock tunnelling for a sewage pumping station in a Cardiff park is causing headaches, earaches and sleepless nights for residents, who say the authorities have barely communicated with them.

The pumping station at Hailey Park is needed to take sewage from the planned Plasdwr development, where a developer intends to build 7,000 homes. Plans were approved in 2022, but delays, a legal challenge lost by campaigners and machinery damaged by a waterlogged site have stretched the work out; permission for the current phase was granted in September and work began later that month.

Steph Wilkins, 56, who was involved in the failed legal challenge, said the vibrations meant "in my house, there's only one spot that I can sit down in, where I don't feel it as much", and that she had stayed with a friend the previous night to escape the noise. Another resident, Milly Hardy, 37, called it "really frustrating"; Amanda Smith, 60, was most annoyed by the lack of communication. When the Local Democracy Reporting Service visited, the sound measured 50 decibels — roughly moderate rainfall — and was audible from the Melingriffith Water Pump almost half a kilometre away. Welsh Water said the 24-hour working was needed "to carry out this phase of the work safely" and that it was working with residents to mitigate disruption.

(BBC Wales / Local Democracy Reporting Service, 17 October — Kieran Molloy.)

? "We've been warned. Now Wales needs to get ready"

Wales has been warned to expect a milder, wetter and windier start to winter, with a developing El Niño one influence — and Climate Cymru's Sam Ward argues the warning

should be used to prepare rather than to wait for the next flood.

He points out that much of the ground is baked and water-repellent after a summer of heatwaves, and that Natural Resources Wales estimates around 275,000 properties in Wales are at risk of flooding. *(Nation.Cymru opinion, 17 October.)*

? Business & Economy

? £18.4m for ports and business units in south west Wales

Four projects supporting port infrastructure and new business premises in Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire have been approved for £18.4m through the Celtic Freeport.

The largest allocation is £7.2m for the Port of Milford Haven's Criterion Quay scheme at Pembroke Port, restoring marine infrastructure, adding berthing and creating 1.7 hectares for storing and handling floating offshore wind equipment. Associated British Ports gets £5m at Talbot Wharf in Port Talbot to make 9.1 hectares available to floating offshore wind suppliers; Neath Port Talbot Council gets £4.2m towards an £8.4m scheme for six business units at Waterside Innovation Park; and Ledwood's quayside upgrade in Pembroke Dock gets £2m.

The money comes from the UK Government's Freeport Programme in Wales and remains subject to grant conditions and final funding agreements. Freeport chair Chris Martin said the projects would "unlock investment, support high-quality jobs and accelerate economic growth"; enterprise minister Adam Price said economic growth "depends on having the right infrastructure in the right places"; and Welsh Secretary Stephen Kinnock said investment in Wales's two freeports would "deliver thousands of new jobs".

(Nation.Cymru, 18 October.)

? The Neath man whose signature is about to be on every banknote

Rhys Phillips becomes the first Welshman to have his signature appear on UK banknotes when he starts as the Bank of England's chief cashier on Monday — and he has ruled out one suggested national icon.

Phillips, born in Neath and raised in Baglan near Port Talbot, said it was "an incredible honour" and that he had been practising his signature: "You've got to get that one right. I think people wouldn't let me forget it if I screwed it up." Asked about adding a Welsh dragon, a daffodil or Sir Tom Jones

to the notes, he said: "I'm not going to rule anything in or out other than the picture of Tom Jones, which won't be on there, I'm afraid. I'm not sure how King Charles would feel about that, being replaced by Sir Tom." The role, which dates to 1964, covers designing, producing and distributing notes and tackling counterfeiting.

(BBC Wales, published 17 October, updated this morning — Holly-Mae Harrison.)

? Culture & Community

?? Alex Jones: "the children were all the same age as my own"

The One Show presenter has described visiting Aberfan cemetery for a documentary marking the 60th anniversary of the disaster, which airs tonight.

Alex Jones, who was born in Ammanford, travelled to the village for the first time to meet survivors, volunteers who joined the rescue effort and young people helping preserve its history. "I knew what I was going to see," she said. "But I think once you start reading the inscriptions on the graves... the children were all the same age as my own. The loss is so terrible... it's just so sad."

On 21 October 1966, 116 children and 28 adults were killed when a colliery waste tip collapsed and swept down the hillside, burying Pantglas Junior School and nearby homes. Among those in the film is Gaynor Madgwick, eight at the time, who was injured and lost her brother Carl and sister Marilyn, and who describes years of psychological effects without diagnosis or support: "You suffered in silence... there was so much stigma around mental health, so nobody talked." She now works with healthcare professionals on support for traumatised children, and shows Jones Carl's football and Marilyn's dress. Jones also meets Jeff Edwards, one of only four in his class to survive, and Dewi Meirion Lewis, one of 30 University of Wales students sent to help.

Alex Jones: Un diwrnod yn Aberfan is on S4C at 20:00 tonight, after *Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol — Remembering Aberfan* at 19:30, and on S4C Clic and BBC iPlayer with English subtitles. On 21 October she presents *Aberfan: Arwyr ein Cwm* for children. *(Nation.Cymru, 18 October.)*

? Daniel Evans puts Welsh songs into Shakespeare at the RSC

The Royal Shakespeare Company's co-artistic director has woven Welsh language and Welsh songs into *As You Like It* at Stratford for the first time.

Daniel Evans, who grew up in Rhondda, said: "There is always hiraeth with me, and there is always a fire in my belly about Welsh and Welsh-language representation." His production includes *Myfanwy*, *Ar Lan y Môr*, *Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn* and *Ar Hyd y Nos*, with Welsh actors Steffan Harri, Steffan Hughes and Rhys Parry Jones in the cast alongside Jonathan Groff as Rosalind. "The big theme in *As You Like It* is love... so I thought, what would happen if I put my love for my language and my culture into this production?" *(BBC Cymru Fyw, today — Angharad Rhys.)*

? Fifty years of Côr Meibion Bro Aled

Côr Meibion Bro Aled marks its half-century tonight with a sold-out concert in Llansannan, Conwy, founded in 1976 by Mair Selway for the Ŵyl Gerdd Dant.

"It is more than just turning up to rehearse or a concert and singing — it's a tonic, a way of making lifelong friends and a brotherhood," said vice-chair Carwyn Meurig Williams, adding that every ticket had gone. *(BBC Cymru Fyw, 17 Hydref — Iwan Arwel.)*

? Merched y Wawr's pink campaign passes £107,000

Merched y Wawr's Positifrwydd Pinc campaign has raised £107,241.65 for Cancer Research Wales, with a focus on breast cancer.

National president Bethan Picton-Davies chose the charity for her two years in the role for family reasons, promising to "paint the world pink" to bring "hope, care and healing" to patients in Wales; volunteers have been fundraising in pink wigs and aprons at Eisteddfodau and events. *(BBC Cymru Fyw, 17 Hydref.)*

? Cardiff cake stall turns racist comments back on the trolls

The owner of Cardiff Bakestones has publicly read out and answered racist comments aimed at his staff, saying he would not simply delete them and let those responsible "get away with it".

Adam El Tagoury, known online as The Welsh Cake Man, posted a video after a light-hearted clip asking staff whether they preferred margarine or butter drew comments including "Why is everyone Asian?", "So he couldn't find any Welsh staff to make Welsh cakes?" and "There [sic] called Welsh cakes not Chinese cakes". He replied that the business uses local suppliers and that it "doesn't matter who's making them", that four of his 15 staff are foreign-born, and that "if you don't like it, people like you, we actually don't want you buying your Welsh cakes here". Cardiff Bakestones was founded in Pontypridd in 2001 by Welsh-Egyptian baker Jamal El Tagoury and his wife Gaynor and now also trades in Merthyr. *(Nation.Cymru, 17 October.)*

? Also in culture

Catherine Zeta-Jones has given fans a playful Welsh lesson while promoting her new thriller *Kill Jackie*, running through *cariad*, *cwtch* and *bore da* on AMC+ social media — "Go forth, cariad!" *(Nation.Cymru, 17 October)*. In Felinheli, **Kelly Rowlands**, who spent 25 years on heroin from the age of 17 and has been clean for a decade, has graduated with a first-class degree in art and design from Coleg Menai and set up her own jewellery business *(BBC Cymru Fyw, 17 Hydref — Gwen Aeron)*.

? Sport

? Scarlets run in seven — but Costelow gives Tandy a worry

Scarlets opened their European Challenge Cup campaign with a 47-14 bonus-point win over Newcastle Red Bulls at Parc y Scarlets, marred by a hamstring injury to Sam Costelow three days before the Wales squad is named.

Costelow scored the opening try and converted it before limping off in the first half, with Steve Tandy naming his Autumn Nations Championship squad this week. Macs Page marked his 50th appearance with two tries, Johnny Williams, Gareth Davies, Fletcher Anderson and Mee also crossing, and Ioan Hawkins kicking four conversions.

In Tbilisi, a much-changed **Ospreys** side ran in seven tries to beat Georgian side Black Lion 39-14, with six players making their first starts of the season for Mark Jones. *(BBC Sport and Nation.Cymru, 17 October.)*

? Football: Wrexham respond, Swansea stay top, Cardiff hold Boro

Wrexham answered the pressure talk with a 4-1 Championship win over Preston North End at the Racecourse, and Phil Parkinson said his side had to "block everything out" after a midweek home defeat by West Brom.

"I have managed over 1,000 games so I'm used to that," Parkinson said of the criticism. "Obviously the criticism of Wrexham is intensified because of the profile of the club."

Swansea City remain top of the Championship despite a first home league defeat of the season, 0-1 to West Ham United through Divine Mukasa's first-half goal; Ben Cabango hit the woodwork

and Vitor Matos said the manner of the loss should be "fuel" but admitted his side "lacked sharpness and conviction". **Cardiff City** led 2-0 at Middlesbrough through Jack Moylan and Ollie Tanner before Will Lankshear inspired a fightback, and finished with 10 men after Gabriel Osho's straight red for a reckless tackle on Lankshear in the 83rd minute — 2-2. In League Two, **Newport County** drew 1-1 with 10-man York City, Cardiff loanee Kion Etete scoring with his first touch. *(BBC Sport and Nation.Cymru, 17 October.)*

? Morris completes a golden hat-trick in Shanghai

Anna Morris became the first woman to win all three events at a single track cycling World Championships, taking the madison with Erin Boothman to add to her omnium and team pursuit titles.

The 31-year-old from Cardiff and 19-year-old Boothman, from Scotland, finished with 40 points ahead of France and Japan. "I am quite speechless. It is going to take a while to sink in," said Morris, now a seven-time world champion. *(BBC Sport, 17 October.)*

? Also in sport

Cardiff begin their Champions Cup campaign away to Northampton Saints this afternoon. And in a bit of cross-code fun, Wales' Olympic sprint bronze medallist **Jeremiah Azu** raced Premiership rugby's fastest winger **Louis Rees-Zammit** at Bristol Bears' training ground — the pair played in the same Cardiff Schools rugby side as boys. *(Nation.Cymru, 16 October; BBC Sport.)*

?? Weather

No weather warnings are in force for the UK. Today brings sunny intervals and a gentle breeze in Cardiff, 14°C and a low of 7°C; Monday 15°/8°, Tuesday 14°/8°, Wednesday 13°/8°, Thursday 15°/10°, Friday 12°/7°, Saturday 14°/10°. *(BBC Weather, Cardiff, updated 08:58 today.)*

? Quick Summary

Story	Key detail
Smart glasses	O'Connell defends autocue glasses on Politics Wales; Jane Dodds wants a Senedd ban; presiding officer confirms review

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Reform	ITV undercover film airs today: would-be MP says Muslims "cannot be British", calls for "concentration camps"
Landlines	Ben Lake asks for the January 2027 digital switchover to be delayed in rural Wales
Wind turbine	FOI papers show Brechfa turbines restarted before site-wide inspection; no independent restart approval
Justice	Man arrested after a death in a Holyhead flat; new appeal over the unidentified man found in Claerwen Reservoir
Housing	Channel View tenants say Cardiff broke a priority promise; Medallion House gets final approval for 64 flats
Health	Newly qualified midwife on having no post despite a funded training place and staff shortages
Education	342 specialist places created in Cardiff; Ysgol y Fro closes with an empty register
Business	£18.4m Celtic Freeport awards; Neath-born Rhys Phillips becomes chief cashier at the Bank of England
Culture	Alex Jones's Aberfan documentary on S4C tonight; Daniel Evans brings Welsh songs to the RSC
Sport	Scarlets 47-14 Newcastle, Ospreys 39-14 Black Lion, Wrexham 4-1 Preston, Swansea 0-1 West Ham, Cardiff 2-2 Boro; Morris's hat-trick of world golds
Weather	Sunny intervals, 14°C; no warnings in force

Method note: compiled in cron mode at ~09:55 BST. SearXNG (:8086) returned an index-and-aggregator mix (BBC schedules, WalesOnline, NewsNow, senedd.wales, a German Wikipedia page, plus one usable ITV lead), so the sweep ran through the Playwright fetch service at 192.168.178.100:8090 (MarkItDown): 12 index/feed pages and 50 article pages, all successful. GOV.WALES' main news index had nothing newer than Friday 16 October (the £550,000 culture funding already covered yesterday) and The Guardian's Wales RSS feed had no item newer than 16 October, so neither contributed. Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit skipped as instructed; senedd.wales returns only a consent shell; WalesOnline and itv.com article bodies remain unusable (Reach consent wall / HTTP 500) although ITV's index is readable. De-duplicated against yesterday's 17 October Welsh file, this morning's UK file and folder-wide keyword greps over the Headlines archive: the King's Senedd visit, the YouGov poll, the £750k care-home theft, the Reform defection row, the Cardiff data-centre gas plant, the NAHT ballot, the M4 relief road U-turn, the Aberfan plaque, Elfyn Evans's homecoming and the Westminster smart-glasses letter were all dropped or reduced to one line. BBC pages carry explicit publish stamps (most items 17 October, several updated this morning); Nation.Cymru dates under the headline; Cymru Fyw uses relative timestamps and Welsh datelines (17 Hydref 2026). Weather from BBC Weather Cardiff and the warnings page.

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