

Answers issued to Members on 8 August 2008

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

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Questions to the First Minister

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): For each Welsh Assembly Government civil service post which has been advertised with a salary of over £50,000, how many people applied and would the First Minister provide figures for the past five years? (WAQ52337)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): The posts that have been advertised with a salary of over £50,000 are shown below, along with the numbers of applicants for each post. These figures cover the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2008.

Post Title	Number of Applicants
Head CyMAL	12
Head of CAPM Division	7
Head of Public Health Strategy Division	11
Assembly Second Legislative Counsel	1
Deputy Counsel General	2
Head of Members' Research and Committee Services	16
HR Director	26
Counsel General	11
Assistant Counsel General	8
Director, Local Government, Public Services and Culture	11
Chief Highways Engineer	11
Head of Information Management Division	77
Chief Executive, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales	11
Head of Programmes Division WEFO	17
Head of Higher Education Division	15
Head of Communities Directorate	28
Head of Financial Planning	10
Programme Director, Informing Healthcare	5
Head of Trade and Invest Wales	10
Chief Estates Surveyor	4
Director, Quality Standards and Safety Improvement	2
Director, Children and Families Policy	5
Director, Community, Primary Care and Health Services	3
Chief Economist	10
Director, Community, Primary Care and Health Services	3
Assistant Counsel General	4
Chief Veterinary Officer	4
Director of Legal Services	11
Head of Teaching and Leadership Division	5
Director, Public Service Management Wales	13
Director of Corporate Information	14
Chief Medical Officer	7
Programme Director, Heads of the Valleys Partnership	29
Head of Housing Division	6
Deputy Director, North Wales Office, DHSS	4
Head of Information Services Division	8
Head of CADW	23
Regional Director, Mid and West Wales, DHSS	9
Head of Local Government Policy Unit	18
Director, Education and Lifelong Learning	28
Director, Economy, Development and Transport	27

Chief Social Research Officer	20
Chief Executive Officer, Health Commission Wales	6
Head of HR Operational Delivery	17
Director, Policy & Strategy, EDT	18
Director, Trade and Invest Wales	26
Director, Transport, Planning and Administration	14
Teamleader, Transport and Infrastructure Policy	13
Head of Community Safety Division	7
Director, Children and Schools Group	10
Director, Lifelong Learning and Skills Group	18
Head, Business Development Division, DELL	26
Director, Higher Learning Group	12
Regional Director, South West, EDT	21
Director, Integrated Delivery, EDT	10
Chief Accountant	23
Director, Infrastructure, EDT	10
Director, Business Foundations, EDT	36
Deputy Regional Director, SE Wales, EDT	20
Chief Medical Officer	12
Director, Knowledge Bank for Business	29
Finance Director	14
Head of Strategic Communications	33
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Health and Social Care)	7
Assistant Director of Legal Services (EDT and Commercial)	12
Head of Schools Management Division	21
Head of Planning Division	4
Chief Executive, Value Wales	35
Head of Capital, Estates and Facilities	30
Director, Lifelong Learning and Skills Group	18
Director of Resources, NHS Wales	9
Head of Children's Health and Social Services	10
Head of Higher Education Division	21
Head of NHS Human Resources	5
Head of Local Government Finance	17
Head of Student Finance Division	16
Director, Knowledge Bank for Business	26
First Welsh Legislative Counsel	12
Deputy Chief Medical Officer	14
Director (Designate) – The Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales	9
Deputy Regional Director and Head of Performance Management, Improvement & Planning Mid & West Wales	5
Assistant Chief Inspector: Service Analysis and Improvement—Adults	6
Assistant Chief Inspector: Service Analysis and Improvement—Children	5
Assistant Chief Inspector: Service Regulation and Inspection	6
Assistant Chief Inspector: Local Authority Inspection and Review	7
Director, Finance and Corporate Services, WEFO	22
Director, ICT Services and Contract Management	29
ICT Programme Director	36
Head of Service Delivery and Performance Management	9
Finance Director, EIN	25
Head of Corporate Finance Development and Improvement	27
Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Public Health)	8
Head of Strategic Direction and Business Planning	20

Chief Inspector, Estyn	11
Senior Medical Officer	9
Director, Environment, Sustainability and Housing	24
Director, Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills	17
Director, Qualifications, Curriculum and Learning Improvement Group	10
Director, Children, Young People and Schools Effectiveness Group	20

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Why has the Welsh Assembly Government's Acceptable Cost Guidance gauged it to be more expensive to develop social housing in the Ringland area of Newport than in Maescar? (WAQ52323)

The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson): Acceptable Cost Guidance (ACG) figures comprise three components—land values, building costs and on-costs, where on-costs are expected to cover all the Registered Social Landlord's (RSL) own costs in developing a social housing scheme. The current six ACG cost bands reflect the variation in land values across Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government obtains independent advice on Welsh residential land values from the District Valuer (DV), who has offices throughout Wales. The DV's advice is presented on the basis of the value of one acre of residential land, and individual values are attributed to every community council (CC) in Wales.

The nominal values for each ACG band, and the range it encompasses, is determined by the Assembly Government based on the DV's advice. Land value advice received by WAG from the DV in June 2008 broadly supports the current ACG band positions of Maescar and Ringland within the October 2007 ACG document.

Peter Black (South Wales West): How many homes were sold under the right to buy or right to acquire by (a) Local Authorities and (b) RSLs in the financial year 2007-2008? (WAQ52325)

Jane Davidson: During the financial year 2007-08, there were 819 completed sales of local authority dwellings via the right to buy scheme. A total of 52 dwellings were sold by RSLs: 30 sold via right to buy and 22 by right to acquire.

Peter Black (South Wales West): How many homes were demolished by (a) Local authorities and (b) RSLs in the financial year 2007-2008? (WAQ52326)

Jane Davidson: The figures for the financial year 2007-08 are not currently available, as they are not due for publication until the 27 August 2008.

Peter Black (South Wales West): How many affordable houses have been completed by (a) Local authorities (b) RSLs (c) via S.106 agreements and (d) other bodies in the financial year 2007-2008? (WAQ52327)

Jane Davidson: During 2007-08, there were 343 new dwellings completed by RSLs, and five completed by local authorities. Information on section 106 agreements and affordable homes completed by other bodies is not currently held centrally.

The data collected on affordable housing are currently being reviewed and it is planned that a more comprehensive set of data will be collected from April 2009, which will include some retrospective statistics.

Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Alun Cairns (South Wales West): What consideration has the Minister given to the use of disused ships for the creation of artificial diving reefs around the Welsh coast? (WAQ52318)

Alun Cairns (South Wales West): Has the Minister given any consideration to the creation of artificial diving reefs around the Welsh coast? (WAQ52319)

The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones): I am not currently considering any specific provision for artificial diving reefs and this is a matter that would have to be considered in the light of the draft Marine and Coastal Access Bill which contains provisions to introduce marine planning for integrated use of our marine and coastal resources. In addition to this, we are in the process of finalising a Coastal Tourism Strategy for Wales which identifies a number of opportunities to attract more visitors with new and exciting water-based activities including diving.

Irene James (Islwyn): What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to support commercial radio in Wales? (WAQ52322)

Alun Ffred Jones: Though broadcasting is not devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government, we are making £100,000 per annum available to support community radio stations for the next five years.

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Irene James (Islwyn): Can communities who did not bid for Communities First status bid for Communities Next status? (WAQ52321) *Transferred to Leighton Andrews, Deputy Minister for Regeneration*

The Deputy Minister for Regeneration (Leighton Andrews): No. We have no proposals to expand the Communities First programme that now covers over 160 areas and 20 per cent of the population of Wales.

The consultation document on the future of the Communities First programme made clear the Assembly Government's view that regular and frequent changes to the make-up of the Communities First programme were not sustainable in the long term. We stated that we did not envisage any additions to the programme based on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008. None of the responses to the consultation dissented from this view.