

DP 164/99-03



Minister for Rural Affairs
Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig

Gweinidog y Cynulliad · Assembly Minister
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5 February 2002

Dee Pritchard

RE WAQs 14068, 14067, 14066, 14057, 14056, 14061, 14060, 14059 & 14058

I promised to write to you following your questions about fisheries enforcement on 13 November. Fisheries enforcement in Welsh waters is carried out by two main groups; the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Sea Fisheries Inspectors and the Royal Navy, and Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs).

Enforcement out to 12 miles is carried out on behalf of the Assembly by the DEFRA Sea Fisheries Inspectors and the Royal Navy. Both enforce UK, EU and Welsh fisheries legislation and are funded centrally. Inspections can take anything from one to seven hours, and fines recovered from 1997 to date total some £1.8 million; with 56 cases still outstanding.

The number of fisheries offences detected by the Royal Navy are not recorded in a way which would enable details of time spent in Welsh waters to be provided without incurring disproportionate costs. However, DEFRA has given us information on the total number of patrol days and inspections at sea undertaken by the Royal Navy in British fishery limits adjacent to England and Wales, and other waters. Boardings are only one aspect of the fisheries monitoring and surveillance work undertaken by the Royal Navy and are not separately costed. Many small fishing vessels may be stopped during transit trips through Welsh waters by RN patrol vessels, although these may not necessarily be recorded as boardings.

The two Welsh Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) enforce their own byelaws and Regulating Orders out to six miles and on land. They also enforce limited UK legislation on net sizes and minimum landing sizes. SFCs are funded by local authorities.

Detection incidents by Sea Fisheries Committees can involve a number of persons and offences within each incident report, and many offences are determined by warnings, which are not detailed in the information provided.

The questions and answers are attached at annex A.

cc Assembly Business Unit

Cardiff Bay library

Cathays Park library

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Carwyn Jones', written in a cursive style.

Carwyn Jones AM

ANNEX A

Richard Edwards (Preseli Pembrokeshire); What is the number of inspections on land undertaken in each of the last five years by the Sea Fisheries Inspectorate. (WAQ14068)

Answer : 1,900

Richard Edwards (Preseli Pembrokeshire); What is the number of inspections on land undertaken in each of the last five years by Sea Fisheries Committees. (WAQ14067)

Answer : 14,496

Richard Edwards (Preseli Pembrokeshire); How many fisheries offences have been detected in Wales and Welsh waters during the last five years by Sea Fisheries Committees. (WAQ14066)

Answer : 315

Richard Edwards (Preseli Pembrokeshire); How many fisheries offences have been detected in Wales and Welsh waters during the last five years by the Royal Navy. (WAQ14057)

Answer : This information is not recorded on a Wales only basis, and to provide it would incur disproportionate costs.

Richard Edwards (Preseli Pembrokeshire); How many fisheries offences have been detected in Wales and Welsh waters during the last five years by the Sea Fisheries Inspectorate. (WAQ14056)

Answer : 117

Richard Edwards (Preseli Pembrokeshire); What is the length of patrol time in Welsh waters in each of the last five years by Royal Navy fishery protection vessels. (WAQ14061)

Answer : This information is not kept on a Wales only basis. However, the total number of patrol days by the Royal Navy over the last 5 years is 5,483.

Richard Edwards (Preseli Pembrokeshire); What is the length of patrol time in Welsh waters in each of the last five years under the auspices of Sea Fisheries Committees. (WAQ14060)

Answer : 677 days at sea

Richard Edwards (Preseli Pembrokeshire); What is the cost per boarding of boarding fishing vessels in each of the last five years by Royal Navy fishery protection vessels. (WAQ14059)

Answer : Boardings are one aspect of the fisheries monitoring and surveillance activities undertaken by the Royal Navy and are not separately costed. However, based on the total cost of enforcement activity and the number of boardings over the last 5 years, the average cost would be £3,378.

Richard Edwards (Preseli Pembrokeshire); What is the cost per boarding of boarding fishing vessels in each of the last five years under the auspices of Sea Fisheries Committees. (WAQ14058)

Answer : £ 341