

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 11 Rhagfyr 2012

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 11 December 2012

*Cyhoeddir atebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o atebion yn y Gymraeg.
Answers are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.*

[R] *yn nodi bod yr Aelod wedi datgan buddiant/signifies that the Member has declared an interest.*

[W] *yn nodi bod y cwestiwn wedi'i gyflwyno yn Gymraeg/signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.*

Cynnwys

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***Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth
To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science***

Nick Ramsay (Mynwy): Sawl gwaith y mae'r Gweinidog wedi cwrdd â'r Gymdeithas Manwerthu Elusennol a Chyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru ers dechrau'r Pedwerydd Cynulliad. (WAQ61797)

Nick Ramsay (Monmouth): How many times has the Minister met with the Charity Retail Association and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) since the start of the Fourth Assembly. (WAQ61797)

Nick Ramsay (Mynwy): Sawl gwaith y mae'r Gweinidog wedi cwrdd â'r Athro Brian Morgan ers dechrau'r Pedwerydd Cynulliad. (WAQ61798)

Nick Ramsay (Monmouth): How many times has the Minister met with Professor Brian Morgan since the start of the Fourth Assembly. (WAQ61798)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 11 December 2012***

The Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science (Edwina Hart): I have met Professor Brian Morgan formally as Chair of my Business Rates Task and Finish Group on three occasions. I have met with the WCVA in accordance with Section 3.7 of the Voluntary (Third) Sector Scheme. Their last scheduled meeting with me was cancelled at their request. The next meeting will take place on 6 March 2013.

The Charity Retail Association has requested a meeting with me and I have advised that I will not be accepting meeting requests on the Business Rates Wales Review in relation to charity shops until Professor Brian Morgan has reported to me.

Nick Ramsay (Mynwy): Pryd y bydd yr Athro Brian Morgan yn cyhoeddi ei adroddiad ar siopau elusen ac ardrethi busnes. (WAQ61799)

Nick Ramsay (Monmouth): When will Professor Brian Morgan publish his report on charity shops and business rates. (WAQ61799)

Nick Ramsay (Mynwy): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddiffinio beth a olygir wrth 'siop elusen fwy' mewn cysylltiad â'r argymhelliad yn yr adolygiad o ardrethi busnes Cymru i gyfyngu rhyddhad ardrethi i 50% ar gyfer siopau elusennol mwy. (WAQ61800)

Nick Ramsay (Monmouth): Will the Minister define what constitutes a 'larger charity shop' in relation to the recommendation to limit rate relief to 50% for larger charity shops in the Business Rates Wales Review (page 25). (WAQ61800)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 07 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 07 December 2012***

Edwina Hart: I refer to my statement and the Welsh Government response published on 23 October. Professor Morgan will report to me on business rates relief for charities in the New Year.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
To ask the Minister for Education and Skills

Angela Burns (Gorllewin Caerfyrddin a De Sir Benfro): Yn dilyn yr ateb i WAQ61723, a wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau beth a drafodwyd yn y cyfarfodydd ar 22 Mawrth, 13 Medi ac 8 Tachwedd ac a wnaiff gyhoeddi'r cofnodion. (WAQ61801)

Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): Further to the answer to WAQ61723, will the Minister confirm what was discussed at the meetings on 22 March, 13 September and 8 November and will he publish minutes. (WAQ61801)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 18 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 18 December 2012

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): I will write to you and a copy of the letter will be put on the internet.

Gweler Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad
See Information Further to Written Assembly Questions

Mark Isherwood (Gogledd Cymru): O ran cynigion Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer diwygio addysg bellach, a fydd colegau addysg bellach, fel Sefydliadau Di-Elw sy'n Gwasanaethu Aelwydydd, yn gallu cadw eu gwargedion er mwyn ail-fuddsoddi mewn addysg. (WAQ61802)

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): In relation to the Welsh Government's proposals for further education reforms, will further education colleges be able to retain their surpluses for reinvestment in education as Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH). (WAQ61802)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 11 December 2012

Leighton Andrews: In brief, yes. The Welsh Government is seeking to re-instate FE colleges in Wales as Non Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH), and reverse the re-classification of colleges as part of the public sector for National Accounts purposes, made by the Office for National Statistics in October 2010.

If the Welsh Ministers are successful in securing a reversal, colleges will once again resume the NPISH status and will continue to be able to retain surpluses for reinvestment in education, under the proposals for education reform.

Mark Isherwood (Gogledd Cymru): O ran cynigion Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer diwygio addysg bellach, a fydd colegau addysg bellach sydd wedi'u hailddosbarthu fel Sefydliadau Di-Elw sy'n Gwasanaethu Aelwydydd yn gallu anwybyddu'r Cytundeb Cyflogau Cenedlaethol a'r Contract Cenedlaethol Cymru-gyfan a rhoi eu trefniadau contract eu hunain ar waith. (WAQ61803)

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): In relation to the Welsh Government's proposals for further education reforms, will further education colleges reclassified as Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH) be able to disregard the all-Wales National Pay Agreement and National Contract and put their own contractual arrangements in place. (WAQ61803)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 15 Ionawr 2013
Answer received for publication on 15 January 2013

Leighton Andrews: The Funding Conditions for further education colleges in Wales require colleges to honour the National Pay Agreement or any successor agreement to ensure that pay parity with schools is maintained. Non compliance will result in the reclaim of 1.5 percent of the colleges' funding allocation. To date all colleges participate although they already have, in effect, the option to comply or not.

Officials are preparing a case to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for this requirement to remain in the Funding Conditions should colleges be reinstated with their original NPISH status.

With regard to the National Contract, I have met with representatives of staff unions and Colegau Cymru and have expressed my support for a national contract to be achieved in 2013. However, it is a matter for the FE sector and trades unions to manage and resolve, as Welsh Ministers do not currently have explicit legislative powers to impose staff terms and conditions on FE colleges.

The Welsh Government understands the concerns regarding these matters, but much has been, and is being achieved in partnership with the FE sector. Partnership working is the cornerstone of FE in Wales and this is expected to continue.

Mark Isherwood (Gogledd Cymru): O ran cynigion Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer diwygio addysg bellach, sut y bydd y Gweinidog yn sicrhau bod asedau a gyllidwyd gan arian cyhoeddus yn cael eu gwarchod ar ôl iddynt gael eu trosglwyddo i golegau sydd wedi'u hailddosbarthu fel Sefydliadau Di-Elw sy'n Gwasanaethu Aelwydydd. (WAQ61804)

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): In relation to the Welsh Government's proposals for further education reforms, how will the Minister ensure protection for publicly funded assets transferred to colleges reclassified as Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH). (WAQ61804)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 13 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 13 December 2012

Leighton Andrews: Ensuring publicly funded assets are retained for the benefit of learners in Wales will be paramount.

Colleges, through legislation I will introduce next year, will have the freedom to dissolve themselves and transfer their assets and liabilities to other bodies. Welsh Ministers will be able to identify the types of bodies to which the assets and liabilities can be transferred.

Subject to the Bill receiving Royal Assent, it is intended that statutory regulation on the transfer of assets and liabilities on the dissolution of a college will be introduced to ensure that all assets for the purpose of post-16 learning will be safeguarded for this purpose. A draft of the regulations will be subject to consultation, subject to the Bill receiving Royal Assent.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty
To ask the Minister for Finance and Leader of the House

Paul Davies (Preseli Sir Benfro): A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi manylion unrhyw gyfarfodydd sydd wedi'u cynnal i sefydlu swyddogaeth Trysorlys Cymru fel yr argymhellwyd yn Rhan 1 Comisiwn Silk. (WAQ61794)

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister detail any meetings which have taken place to set up a Welsh Treasury function as recommended by the Silk Commission Part 1. (WAQ61794)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 10 December 2012

The Minister for Finance and Leader of the House (Jane Hutt): The Silk Commission provides an ambitious and achievable range of proposals for tax devolution to Wales. It is too soon to say with certainty which new fiscal powers will be devolved following the intergovernmental discussions, or over what timescale such powers might be acquired. However, it is clear that any significant transfer of powers will require the Welsh Government to undertake new functions which will, in turn, require new and specialised skills, including a strengthened Treasury function. I have therefore instructed my officials to begin work on how a Welsh Treasury would operate in practice.

In the intergovernmental discussions on the Silk agenda, I will be looking to draw on HMRC's expertise and specialist knowledge of tax administration. I will also be using my meetings with the Finance Ministers of the other devolved administrations to build on the lessons learnt from their experiences of fiscal devolution. The Silk recommendations and their implementation will continue to feature in my regular discussions with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y mae'n disgwyl i Fyrddau Iechyd Lleol a chyrff proffesiynol gefnogi'r sawl sy'n "chwythu'r chwiban" drwy ddatgelu gofal amhriodol yn y GIG. (WAQ61795)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on how she expects LHBs and professional bodies to support "whistle blowers" who report inappropriate care in the NHS. (WAQ61795)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 10 December 2012

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): I expect all NHS Wales organisations to fully comply with the agreed NHS Wales Whistle Blowing Policy, which has been developed in partnership with Trade Unions. The policy is currently under a periodic review to ensure that it reflects current best practice, as well as remaining a relevant and supportive policy for all staff.'

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau a yw'n bwriadu sefydlu Cronfa Technolegau Iechyd ac, os felly, pryd y caiff ei rhoi ar waith ac a wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am unrhyw waith cychwynnol y mae ei hadran wedi'i wneud. (WAQ61796)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister confirm whether she plans to establish a Health Technologies Fund and, if so, when will it be operational and will the Minister make a statement on any initial work undertaken by her department. (WAQ61796)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 10 December 2012

Lesley Griffiths: I will be considering options in due course for developing a Health Technologies Fund, using the expertise available in the NHS to support this. I do not have a fixed view at this time about the type of medical technology which may be covered by such a fund. I am, however, clear it will not major on drug technologies since definitive guidance on new medicines is already provided by NICE and the AWMSG.

Elin Jones (Ceredigion): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu'r canllawiau a gyhoeddwyd ar ddefnyddio triniaeth laser ar gyfer cyflyrau llygaid a rhoi manylion am a) nifer y clinigau sy'n cynnig y driniaeth hon; a b) nifer y cleifion sydd wedi cael triniaeth o'r fath yn y pum mlynedd diwethaf. (WAQ61807)

Elin Jones (Ceredigion): Will the Minister supply the guidelines issued on the use of laser treatment for eye conditions and provide details of the number of a) clinics offering this treatment; and b) patients who have received such treatment in the last five years. (WAQ61807)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 10 December 2012

Lesley Griffiths: Health boards are responsible for issuing guidelines on the use of laser treatment for eye conditions and collating details of the number of clinics offering treatment and the number of patients who have received such treatment. You will need to write to the Health Boards for this information.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am fynediad at brostactomi laparoscopeg gyda chymorth roboteg ar gyfer cleifion canser y prostad yng Nghymru. (WAQ61808)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on access to robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy for Welsh prostate cancer patients. (WAQ61808)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 10 December 2012

Lesley Griffiths: This surgery is a relatively recent innovation, and not routinely provided at present by Health Boards in Wales.

I am aware the National Institute for Health Research has recently published a Health Technology Appraisal for this procedure. In light of this Cardiff and Vale University Health Board is considering this technology.

In the meantime, the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) process is considered an appropriate mechanism for patients seeking to access this method of treatment. Individual applications should be made by clinicians to Health Boards in the normal way and will be weighed against the costs and outcome benefits of existing treatment options.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
To ask the Minister for Local Government and Communities

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi manylion am yr holl ohebiaeth rhwng ei adran a Llywodraeth y DU (gan gynnwys y Trysorlys, yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, a'r Adran Cymunedau a Llywodraeth Leol) am gynllun gostyngiadau'r dreth gyngor. (WAQ61805)

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Will the Minister provide details of all correspondence between his department and the UK Government (to include the Treasury, DWP and DCLG) on the subject of the council tax reduction scheme. (WAQ61805)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 12 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 12 December 2012

The Minister for Local Government and Communities (Carl Sargeant): My officials are preparing a response to your Freedom of Information request on the same topic and will reply in due course.

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): A yw'r Gweinidog wedi rhoi unrhyw ystyriaeth yn ystod y Pedwerydd Cynulliad i'r rôl y gallai meiri a etholir yn uniongyrchol ei chwarae o ran adfywio democratiaeth leol yng Nghymru. (WAQ61806)

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Has the Minister given any consideration during the Fourth Assembly to the role which directly-elected Mayors could play in reinvigorating local democracy in Wales. (WAQ61806)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 12 Rhagfyr 2012
Answer received for publication on 12 December 2012

Carl Sargeant: I believe it is for the people of Wales and their representative bodies to decide if they wish to have a directly elected Mayor. I am not aware of any significant interest to have directly elected mayors in local authorities in Wales.