

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

Cyhoeddir atebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o atebion yn y Gymraeg.

Responses are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at WAQ62168 a gyhoeddwyd gan Leighton Andrews, y
Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau, ar 18 Chwefror 2013
Information further to WAQ62168, issued by Leighton Andrews, the Minister for
Education and Skills, on 18 February 2013**

At/To Aled Roberts:

Further to the holding reply sent to you for WAQ 62168, I am now in a position to provide you with a response.

During 2012-13 local authorities were notified of the allocation per school (based on the formula of £450 per child aged 5-15 eligible for free school meals) and payment was made to each of the local authorities on this basis. Although the payment was made to the local authority, they were required to pay 100% of the funding to those qualifying schools. Once the spending plan for the PDG element was approved, local authorities had 10 days in which to pay the grant in its entirety to their schools. The spreadsheet sent to each authority is attached with the calculation that underpinned the PDG allocation.

For 2013-15 in line with my Improving Schools plan we are strengthening the focus on accountability and collaboration, building on the School Effectiveness Framework.

The PDG will be distributed on the basis of the distribution formula outlined in my previous response (WAQ 62053). It will then be the responsibility of each consortium to liaise with its partners on how much each school will receive based on the latest information available (PLASC data 11-12 and SSSA for those LAC in the school). The consortium allocations will be published in the SEG & PDG guidance which will be on our website in due course.

In addition there is a requirement for each of the schools in receipt of PDG funding to publish online their PDG allocation together with details on how they have used their grant, and the impact it has made. This is to ensure schools are accountable for their performance to parents and the wider community and that they have addressed the specific focus of the funding.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at WAQ62171 a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y Gweinidog
Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 18 Chwefror 2013
Information further to WAQ62171, issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for Housing,
Regeneration and Heritage, on 18 February 2013**

At/To Mohammad Asghar:

Further to your recent Written Assembly Question, what assessment has the Minister made of the impact of the Facebook group 'Shit Newport' on the inhabitants of Newport.

I have made no assessment of the impact of this Facebook group on the inhabitants of Newport.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at WAQ62172 a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y Gweinidog
Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 18 Chwefror 2013**
**Information further to WAQ62172, issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for Housing,
Regeneration and Heritage, on 18 February 2013**

At/To Mohammad Asghar:

Further to your recent Written Assembly Question, will the Minister detail any commitments he has made towards improving the state of Newport City centre.

The Welsh Government has been a Founding Member of the Urban Regeneration Company (URC) Newport Unlimited since 2003 along with Newport City Council. While Newport City centre clearly continues to suffer from the effects of the economic downturn and a change in shopping habits, the focus of the URC in recent years has been largely on the city centre. In the last year alone, the retail development Friars Walk has been brought back on track-this will breathe new life into the area around John Frost Square providing shopping and entertainment; the Cambrian Centre is currently being demolished to make way for a new office building that will secure the regeneration of a key city centre site; contractors are currently on site at and around the market on High Street to make the approach to this historic building more attractive with space for cafes or restaurants.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at WAQ62173 a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y Gweinidog
Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 18 Chwefror 2013**
**Information further to WAQ62173, issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for Housing,
Regeneration and Heritage, on 18 February 2013**

At/To Mohammad Asghar:

Further to your recent Written Assembly Question, what support is the Minister providing to enable the long-term future prosperity of Newport City centre.

The Welsh Government has been a Founding Member of the Urban Regeneration Company (URC) Newport Unlimited since 2003 along with Newport City Council. Staff at the URC have worked very hard to secure the retail development at Friars Walk (due to open in 2015)-this is predicted to secure £100 million investment and in the region of 1000 jobs in retail and entertainment and 200-300 construction jobs; the URC has provided support to the Alacrity Foundation which is now established at a site on the river front-not only will this encourage footfall in the short term but Newport should also benefit from the inception of high tech businesses that is one of the aims of the scheme; assistance has also been given to the former Newport University to bring students to the town centre in the iconic campus building on the river front; the prospect of a Business Improvement District is being investigated by my officials and the Council in order to secure the best prospects possible for existing businesses in the city centre while it is in transition and beyond.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at WAQ62174 a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y Gweinidog
Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 18 Chwefror 2013**
**Information further to WAQ62174, issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for Housing,
Regeneration and Heritage, on 18 February 2013**

At/To Mohammad Asghar:

Further to your recent Written Assembly Question, has the Minister made any assessment of whether Newport City has appropriate facilities to encourage, support and promote youth development.

The local authority has a pro-active sports development department which supports young people to contribute positively to their communities and to help them achieve their potential. The Council's Positive Future officers use sport as a vehicle to deter young people from crime and anti social behaviour while the Family First and Community First teams encourage and facilitate participation in sport to address poor health or social issues and to provide further education, training and employment opportunities.

Young people in Newport took part in the Taking Over Museums Day 2012 at Newport Museum and Art Gallery. The day gave young people the chance to have meaningful roles and be at the heart of a museum's work. For some, this was their first real interaction with heritage and culture. Young people in Newport are also able to take part in a consultation about the delivery to young people of cultural and heritage services.

These measures, coupled with the benefits for the youth of Newport afforded by the regeneration programme in Newport, for example, the Riverside Park around the Usk which provides a safe route for walking, cycling and skating and the potential for entertainment facilities planned at Friars Walk, and in the longer term, job opportunities there, suggest that young people have some good opportunities for development and engagement in Newport.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at WAQ62181 a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y Gweinidog
Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 18 Chwefror 2013
Information further to WAQ62181, issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for Housing,
Regeneration and Heritage, on 18 February 2013**

At/To Kirsty Williams:

Further to your recent Written Assembly Question, does the Minister have pre-existing plans for spending the additional £29,000,000 allocated to the Social Housing Grant or will this be subject to a new round of bidding.

The additional £29m will be used to fund planned affordable housing schemes from the Social Housing Grant Programme. £2 million has been made available for Extracare schemes and the remaining £27 million has been distributed to local authorities using the Social Housing Grant formula. All local authorities have identified their housing priorities and have submitted lists of schemes which will benefit from the additional funding. Some local authorities were unable to take up their full allocation, so any balances have been re-distributed.

The funding has enabled local authorities to bring forward planned affordable housing schemes and to allow the purchase of land. Some affordable housing schemes in the current Social Housing Grant Programme are funded over two to three financial years. The additional funding is also being used to bring forward some of these grant payments. The benefit of this is that it frees up funding in future years which will enable more affordable homes to be built.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at WAQ62183 a gyhoeddwyd gan Leighton Andrews, y
Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau, ar 18 Chwefror 2013**

**Information further to WAQ62183, issued by Leighton Andrews, the Minister for
Education and Skills, on 18 February 2013**

At/To Kirsty Williams:

Further to the holding reply you received for WAQ 62183, I am now in a position to provide you with a response.

The AME budget for FY12-13 has decreased by £13,947k. Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) relates to the provision of statutory demand-led maintenance and tuition fee loans and the repayment of loans by Welsh domiciled students. However, due to the volatile nature of this budget, forecasting the expenditure is extremely difficult and involves numerous complex accounting adjustments.

For 2012-13, the decrease in budget was made up of amendments to the following:

- an increase in the amount of loan issued to students,
- an increase in the amount of loan repayments received from students;
- an increase in the provision release/utilised; and
- a decrease in the unwinding of discount.