

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 24 Mai 2013

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 24 May 2013

*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 Addysg a Sgiliau
To ask the Minister for Education and Skills

Angela Burns (Gorllewin Caerfyrddin a De Sir Benfro): O ran y Grant Dysgu yn y Gymru Ddigidol, a wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro ar ba adnoddau a gwasanaethau penodol y gellir gwario'r arian hwn er mwyn i ysgolion allu deall yn well sut gellir cyfeirio'r adnoddau ariannol hyn i gael mynediad cyflym, cyson a dibynadwy at y rhyngwrwyd? (WAQ64741)

Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): With regards to the Learning in Digital Wales Grant, will the Minister clarify what specific services and resources this money can be spent on in order for schools to understand better where these financial resources can be directed to get access to fast, consistent and reliable internet? (WAQ64741)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 22 Mai 2013
Answer received for publication on 22 May 2013

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): The Learning in Digital Wales (LiDWG) Grant Programme comprises of the four following key strands of activity:

- (a) Capital funding to upgrade the core network for local authorities in Wales (PSBA and Janet links to support enhanced 1Gbps connections to the Internet for educational purposes for each local authority area).
- (b) Capital funding to upgrade the PSBA (Public Sector Broadband Aggregation) connection at each school maintained by local authorities including foundation schools and all schools in the Voluntary Aided sector so as to ensure a minimum of 100Mbps for each secondary school and 10Mbps for each primary and special school and pupil referral unit by July 2014.
- (c) PSBA revenue funding for two years to cover the revenue costs of improved broadband services during 2013-15.
- (d) Additional capital funding to all schools to facilitate ICT infrastructure improvements at local level. This funding is being paid as grants to local authorities based on an allocation of £10,000 per primary and special school and pupil referral unit and £20,000 per secondary school.

The Welsh Government is directly funding (a) and (b) through the Public Sector Broadband Aggregation Project. Broadband installations to schools will be managed by our PSBA provider, Logicalis. The revenue costs in (c) will follow the broadband installations to schools and there is no set allocation per school or authority for this expenditure. It is our working assumption that local authorities will submit claims for reimbursement to the Welsh Government on receipt of invoices from Logicalis.

Local authorities have been required to draw up spending plans for the capital grant funding in (d) in consultation with their schools. The grant may be used for the following purposes:

Priority 1: To ensure all schools have robust network infrastructure including Wi-Fi coverage. Eligible expenditure includes such technology which delivers Ethernet and/or wireless connectivity to end devices or to network devices within the school's cartilage, and meets defined minimum technical standards.

Priority 2: To allow schools to add value to robust network infrastructure including (where appropriately managed) technology to support innovative approaches and Bring Your Own Device schemes. Eligible expenditure includes any device compatible with the technical standards defined for Priority 1.

Angela Burns (Gorllewin Caerfyrddin a De Sir Benfro): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau a yw Llywodraeth Cymru wedi rhoi'r gorau i fod yn rhan o Grwp Ymgysylltu â Rhanddeiliaid Arholiadau Ofqual, ac, os felly, a wnaiff roi manylion unrhyw grwpiau rhanddeiliaid eraill y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymwneud â nhw? (WAQ64742)

Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister confirm whether or not the Welsh Government have pulled out of Ofqual's Exam Stakeholder Engagement Group and if so, will he detail any other stakeholder groups that the Welsh Government is engaging with? (WAQ64742)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 22 Mai 2013
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Leighton Andrews: Ofqual is the regulator for England. Welsh Government was represented at the Exam Stakeholder Engagement Group meeting on 21 March 2013. We have not pulled out of stakeholder groups organised by Ofqual. However, we will review this position in the light of the Secretary of State for Education's letter of 20 May to me and the Education Minister in Northern Ireland in which he signalled his view that the three country regulation of GCSEs and A levels is no longer an achievable objective.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
To ask the Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Yn dilyn yr ateb i WAQ64692, a wnaiff y Gweinidog roi manylion am sut bydd yr £20 miliwn a ddyrannwyd i Landlordiaid Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy yn cael ei ddsbarthu rhyngddynt? (WAQ64737)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Further to the answer to WAQ64692, will the Minister detail how the £20m allocated to Registered Social Landlords for affordable housing will be distributed among them? (WAQ64737)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 23 Mai 2013
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The Minister for Housing and Regeneration (Carl Sargeant): The Welsh Government has asked local authorities to confirm the level of under-occupation in their areas and to identify new housing schemes which can benefit from the additional funding in 2013/2014. This will inform the distribution of the £20 million which will be used to mitigate the effects of the cuts made by the Conservative / Liberal Democrat coalition.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Pryd y mae'r Gweinidog yn disgwyl y bydd y tai ag un neu ddwy ystafell wely cyntaf a gaiff eu hadeiladu o'r £20 miliwn ychwanegol i'r Grant Tai Cymdeithasol yn barod i fyw ynddynt? (WAQ64738)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): When does the Minister expect the first 1 and 2 bedrooms homes built from the additional £20m Social Housing Grant to be ready for occupation? (WAQ64738)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 23 Mai 2013
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Carl Sargeant: Details on scheme completion and readiness for occupation have been requested by the Welsh Government as part of the process of putting in place a “Smaller Properties” Programme for 2013/2014.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu a fydd y rheini nad ydynt yn gallu symud i lety llai yn cael blaenoriaeth o ran y tai cymdeithasol newydd a gaiff eu hadeiladu, yn sgîl cronfa £20 miliwn y Grant Tai Cymdeithasol, o'u cymharu ag eraill ar restrï aros am dai? (WAQ64739)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister outline if those who aren't able to move into smaller accommodation will be prioritised for new social housing built, as a result of the £20m fund for Social Housing Grant, over others on housing waiting lists? (WAQ64739)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 23 Mai 2013
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Carl Sargeant: Local authorities are responsible for assessing and meeting housing need in their local areas.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Yn dilyn ateb y Gweinidog i WAQ64692, a gaiff arolwg ei gynnal i gael amcan o ble y bydd angen tai ag un neu ddwy ystafell wely, yn y tymor byr ar unwaith yn y lle cynthiaf, ac yna dros y 10 mlynedd nesaf? (WAQ64740)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Further to the Minister's answer to WAQ64692, will there be a survey carried out to gauge where 1 and 2 bed houses will be needed, firstly in the immediate short-term and secondly over the next 10 years? (WAQ64740)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 23 Mai 2013
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Carl Sargeant: Our immediate priority is to collate information that has already been collected by local authorities and housing associations on the extent of under occupation by local authority area. This will inform the “Smaller Properties” Programme.