

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 10 Awst 2011

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 10 August 2011

*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.*

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

William Powell (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Beth yw polisi Llywodraeth Cymru ar 'Mega Ffermydd'. (WAQ57833)

William Powell (Mid and West Wales): What is the Welsh Government policy on 'Mega Farms'. (WAQ57833)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011
Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011***

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes (Alun Davies): Welsh Government policy is to support farm businesses of all sizes to be efficient and profitable. The Welsh Government does not take a view on the size of farms or farming methods as long as they operate within the law.

William Powell (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Beth yw 'mega fferm' a phryd y byddai datblygiad o'r fath yn cael ei weld yn rhywbeth y tu allan i gwmpas awdurdodau cynllunio lleol. (WAQ57834)

William Powell (Mid and West Wales): What constitutes a 'mega farm' and when would such a development be seen as outside the scope of local planning authorities. (WAQ57834)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 12 Awst 2011
Answer received for publication on 12 August 2011***

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes (Alun Davies): I will ask the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development to write to you and a copy of the letter will be placed on the internet.

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

Nick Ramsay (Mynwy): Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael ynghylch ymestyn y rhyddhad ardrethi i fusnesau. (WAQ57842)

Nick Ramsay (Monmouth): What discussions has the Minister had about extending business rate relief. (WAQ57842)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Awst 2011
Answer received for publication on 10 August 2011***

The Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science (Edwina Hart): I set out the position on business rates in Plenary on 13 July.

Nick Ramsay (Mynwy): Faint o ymwelwyr a ymwelodd â Chymru yn ystod 2010 a) o'r DU; a b) o dramor. (WAQ57843)

Nick Ramsay (Monmouth): How many tourists visited Wales during 2010 from a) within the UK; an b) overseas. (WAQ57843)

Nick Ramsay (Mynwy): Beth oedd cyfanswm gwariant yr ymwelwyr â Chymru yn ystod 2010 a) o'r DU; a b) o dramor. (WAQ57844)

Nick Ramsay (Monmouth): What was the total expenditure of tourists visiting Wales during 2010 from a) within the UK; and b) overseas. (WAQ57844)

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Edwina Hart: I am replying to WAQ57843 and WAQ57844.

Published reports on visitor numbers to Wales and their expenditure can be found on the Welsh Government's website at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/tourism/research/tourisminwales/volumeandvalue/?lang=en>

Overseas reports on visitor numbers to Wales and their expenditure for 2010 are provisional at this time. These can be found on the VisitBritain website at:

<http://www.visitbritain.org/insightsandstatistics/inboundvisitorstatistics/regions/regiontrends.aspx>

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am weledigaeth Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer sicrhau bod pawb yng Nghymru yn cael mynediad i fand eang yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain. (WAQ57851)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement of the Welsh Government's vision for ensuring universal access to broadband in Wales in the 21st century. (WAQ57851)

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Edwina Hart: Our Next Generation Broadband for Wales project will ensure that all businesses and residential premises have access to next generation broadband by 2015. We are in dialogue with four bidders and aim to award the contract by March 2012.

Eluned Parrott (Canol De Cymru): Pa gynnydd y mae'r llywodraeth wedi'i wneud wrth weithredu argymhellion adolygiad Hargreaves yn y diwydiannau creadigol, ac a oes amserlen ar gyfer gweithredu'r argymhellion. (WAQ57858)

Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): What progress has the government made in implementing the recommendations of the Hargreaves review into the creative industries, and is there a timeline for implementing the recommendations. (WAQ57858)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Awst 2011
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Edwina Hart: We have taken a number of steps to implement the recommendations of the Hargreaves review including, establishing a new Creative Industries team, a Creative Industries Panel and a Digital Wales board, as well as ongoing work on mapping of the Creative Industries.

The Sector Team is currently working with the Sector Panel to identify strategic priorities for the sector in the context of the Hargreaves review, and a supporting action plan, including a timeline for the implementation. This process is expected to be completed by October 2011.

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

William Graham (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu polisiau Llywodraeth Cymru i fynd i'r afael â nifer y bobl nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant yn Nwyrain De Cymru. (WAQ57838)

William Graham (South Wales East): Will the Minister outline the Welsh Government's policies to address the number of NEETS in South Wales East. (WAQ57838)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Awst 2011
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The Deputy Minister for Skills (Jeff Cuthbert): Supporting young people to engage in learning and find sustainable employment is one of the Welsh Government's top priorities. The Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan, published on 12th January 2011, outlines our approach to ensure young people remain connected to the labour market via a broad range of learning, education and work experience opportunities. The overall aim of the plan is the reduction of the number of young people who are, or at risk of becoming, not in education, employment or training in Wales.

The action plan includes the introduction of the Intermediate Labour Market pilot projects for 16-17 year olds, which provide paid supported employment at minimum wage or above for a 6-month period. One of the pilots is taking place in the Heads of the Valleys. We have also commenced three Vacancy Matching pilot projects (one is taking place in Blackwood) in partnership with Job Centre Plus and Careers Wales. These will test whether a personalised approach to matching individuals to vacancies could result in a higher number of unemployed young people taking up vacancies and sustaining that employment.

On 1st August 2011, the Welsh Government introduced throughout Wales new contracting arrangements to take forward our Apprenticeships, Traineeships and Steps to Employment programmes. These programmes focus on our priorities to provide more opportunities for young people and deliver the skilled employees our economy needs. We are also creating more apprenticeship opportunities for young people in Wales.

In April 2012, the Welsh Government will introduce the Welsh Jobs Fund. It will create 4,000 jobs for unemployed young people aged 16-24 across Wales for a 6-month period.

Nick Ramsay (Mynwy): Pa werthusiadau o ProAct a ReAct sydd wedi cael eu comisiynu neu eu cynnal gan Lywodraeth Cymru, a pha bryd y cânt eu cyhoeddi. (WAQ57845)

Nick Ramsay (Monmouth): What evaluations of ProAct and ReAct have been commissioned or carried out by the Welsh Government, and when will they be published. (WAQ57845)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 10 August 2011

The Deputy Minister for Skills (Jeff Cuthbert): The only evaluation of ProAct will be published in September 2011. The latest published ReAct evaluation report is dated April 2005 although a full, but unpublished, evaluation was undertaken in 2008 to inform programme development. An independent, interim evaluation of the current ReAct programme will be published in autumn 2011.

Gofyn i Weinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy

To ask the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Russell George (Sir Drefaldwyn): Pa wybodaeth ystadegol sydd gan Lywodraeth Cymru am ddigwyddiadau llygredd olew ar (a) lefel breswyl a (b) lefel fasnachol yng Nghymru ym mhob un o'r 5 mlynedd diwethaf. (WAQ57829)

Russell George (Montgomeryshire): What statistical information does the Welsh Government hold on the level of (a) residential and (b) commercial oil pollution incidents in Wales in each of the last 5 years. (WAQ57829)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development (John Griffiths): The Environment Agency collects statistical information on oil pollution incidents on a calendar year basis. Data from their National Incident Recording System for substantiated fuel and oil pollution incidents in Wales for the last five full calendar years are as follows:

Calendar year	Domestic	Commercial	Total oil incidents ¹
2006	43	68	280
2007	36	67	272
2008	36	66	217
2009	43	81	299
2010	52	86	287

1. Total includes "other" categories and untraced pollution incidents

The Welsh Government takes very seriously the impact of oil pollution on people, property and the environment. I will be considering bringing forward proposals for regulations to effectively address the issue in the near future.

Where an oil spill has only a localised effect and does not enter a watercourse, it may not be reported to the Environment Agency. Although the Welsh Government has not made any estimate of unreported oil pollution incidents, a study commissioned by the Oil Care Campaign for England and Wales in 2005², which used information from the insurance industry and oil spill clean-up contractors, estimated that between 68% and 64% respectively of all the oil and fuel incidents they dealt with were not reported to the Agency.

2. An analysis of Inland Oil and Fuel Incidents in England and Wales, Oakdene Hollins for the Oil Care Campaign, April 2005.

Russell George (Sir Drefaldwyn): Beth yw amcangyfrif Llywodraeth Cymru o lefel tlodi tanwydd yng Nghymru a pha ragamcaniadau y mae wedi'u gwneud ar gyfer lefel tlodi tanwydd yng Nghymru yn y tair blynedd nesaf. (WAQ57830)

Russell George (Montgomeryshire): What is the Welsh Government's estimate of the level of fuel poverty in Wales and what projections has it made for the level of fuel poverty in Wales in the next three years. (WAQ57830)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

John Griffiths: The Welsh Government's most recent estimate of the level of fuel poverty shows that 332,000 households were fuel poor in 2010. This is based upon models which use data from the 2008 Living in Wales survey. Consideration is being given to how we project the level of fuel poverty over the next few years.

Russell George (Sir Drefaldwyn): A yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu cyflwyno rheoliadau storio olew yng Nghymru at safon gweinyddiaethau datganoledig eraill yn y DU. (WAQ57831)

Russell George (Montgomeryshire): Does the Welsh Government intend to introduce oil storage regulations in Wales to the standard of other devolved administrations in the UK. (WAQ57831)

Russell George (Sir Drefaldwyn): Pa amcangyfrif y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i gwneud ynghylch cyfran y digwyddiadau llygredd olew domestig yng Nghymru nad yw'r awdurdodau yn cael gwybod amdanynt. (WAQ57832)

Russell George (Montgomeryshire): What estimate has the Welsh Government made on the proportion of domestic oil pollution incidents in Wales that are not reported to the authorities. (WAQ57832)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

John Griffiths: The Environment Agency collects statistical information on oil pollution incidents on a calendar year basis. Data from their National Incident Recording System for substantiated fuel and oil pollution incidents in Wales for the last five full calendar years are as follows:

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2. An analysis of Inland Oil and Fuel Incidents in England and Wales, Oakdene Hollins for the Oil Care Campaign, April 2005.

William Graham (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu polisiau Llywodraeth Cymru i reoli ymlediad llysiau'r gingroen. (WAQ57839)

William Graham (South Wales East): Will the Minister outline the Welsh Government's policies to control the spread of Ragwort. (WAQ57839)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

John Griffiths: The Welsh Government's policy to control the spread of Common ragwort is to provide a balance between the needs of the farming community and equine community, and the importance of ragwort to the biodiversity in Wales.

“The Code of Practice to Prevent and Control the Spread of Ragwort” published by the Welsh Government makes clear that the primary responsibility for controlling the spread of ragwort lies with the owner / occupier of the land on which ragwort is growing. The Code requires control of the spread of ragwort where there is a medium or high risk that it will spread and adversely affect horses and other grazing animals, the production of feed and forage, or other agricultural activities. It is a statutory offence not to remove ragwort in these circumstances. However, where no such risk has been identified, ragwort removal is not encouraged.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatgelu faint o filfeddygon a gyflogir gan Lywodraeth Cymru yng nghyswllt eu rhaglen TB mewn gwartheg, gan roi ffigurau ar gyfer y pedair blynedd ariannol diwethaf. (WAQ57853)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister disclose the number of vets employed by the Welsh Government in relation to their bovine TB programme, giving figures for the last four financial years. (WAQ57853)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

John Griffiths: During the last four financial years the Welsh Government has employed, and continues to employ, a Veterinary Adviser within the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) whose primary role is to provide advice on veterinary issues related to bovine tuberculosis (TB). Since April 2008 this advice has been provided within the context of the Welsh Government's TB Eradication Programme and, from April 2009, the role of the TB Veterinary Adviser within OCVO has been supplemented with a Veterinary Officer seconded from the Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency. Where necessary, other OCVO Veterinary Advisers, as well as the Chief Veterinary Officer, also provide veterinary advice on TB matters.

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

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw gynlluniau i gynnwys dangosyddion osteoporosis yn Fframwaith Ansawdd a Chanlyniadau 2012/13; ac os nad oes, a fyddai'n ystyried cyflwyno dangosyddion o'r fath. (WAQ57822)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Does the Minister have any plans to include osteoporosis indicators in the 2012/13 Quality and Outcomes Framework; and if not, would she consider introducing such indicators. (WAQ57822)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 10 August 2011

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) manages the process for developing clinical and health improvement indicators for the QOF. The system was changed a couple of years ago to make it more independent and evidence based.

Newly developed indicators are reviewed by an independent advisory committee. The committee includes GPs, primary care health professionals, patients, carers, pharmacists and public health professionals, from the four home countries. NICE then publishes a menu of indicators that have been developed.

NICE have now published their recommended indicators which can be found at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qof/Recommendationsindicatorretirement.jsp?domedia=1&mid=717C9E86-19B9-E0B5-D4C0675DECE1FEBF>. The indicator menu has been passed to NHS Employers, BMA and the four health departments and will be used in the annual GMS contract negotiations for 2012/13.

As these indicators are subject to negotiations it would be inappropriate to speculate on what indicators will finally be included in the menu.

William Graham (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r cynnydd yng nghyswllt y Ganolfan Gofal Critigol yn Nwyrain De Cymru. (WAQ57836)

William Graham (South Wales East): Will the Minister outline the progress on the Critical Care Centre for South Wales East. (WAQ57836)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 15 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 15 August 2011

Lesley Griffiths: On 23 March 2011 my predecessor wrote to all Assembly members re-iterating her support for the project and her request that Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board (LHB) submit an Outline Business Case (OBC).

The LHB is currently developing a revised OBC which will identify the shortlist of options and subsequently the preferred option. My officials will scrutinise the options thoroughly and objectively, to enable me to make a strongly evidence-based decision.

I expect the LHB to send me the revised OBC in October 2012.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): Beth yw prif amcanion Llywodraeth Cymru yng nghyswllt gwella gofal ataliol a lleihau nifer yr ymweliadau ag ysbytai. (WAQ57840)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What are the Welsh Government's main objectives for improving preventative care and for reducing the number of hospital visits. (WAQ57840)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 15 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 15 August 2011

Lesley Griffiths: The Welsh Government launched the Choose Well campaign earlier this year in an effort to educate people about the range of NHS services available to them if they become unwell or injured, and to combat rising demand on busy Emergency Departments.

Setting the Direction and better Chronic Conditions Management clearly sets out the Welsh Government's approach to better primary and community services, providing prevention and early interventions closer to people's homes.

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): A wnaiff y Gweinidog esbonio pam nad yw amseroedd ymateb ambiwlansys yng Nghymru yn cael eu mesur o'r amser y derbynnir galwad frys gan switsfwrdd ystafell reoli, fel y gwneir yn Lloegr – ac egluro a oes unrhyw gynlluniau i fabwysiadu system 'cyswllt galwadau' yng Nghymru. (WAQ57841)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister explain why Ambulance response times in Wales are not measured from the time at which the emergency call is received at the control room switchboard, as they are in England – and clarify whether there are any plans to adopt a 'call connect' system in Wales. (WAQ57841)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

Lesley Griffiths: The Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust utilises a range of different measurement systems to those used by other ambulance services across the United Kingdom, and this includes 'call connect'.

It is my understanding that the Department of Health is currently reviewing the effectiveness of the 'call connect' system used by ambulance services in England. There are, therefore, currently no plans to adopt the system in Wales.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): Pa gynlluniau sydd gan Lywodraeth Cymru i roi blaenoriaeth i ddarparu gwasanaethau gofal traed sylfaenol am ddim i bobl hyn yng Nghymru, ac i fynd i'r afael â'r gwahaniaethau mewn mynediad at wasanaethau gofal traed ledled y wlad. (WAQ57848)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What plans does the Welsh Government have to prioritise the provision of free basic foot care services for older people in Wales, and to address the disparity in access to foot care services across the country. (WAQ57848)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 10 August 2011

Lesley Griffiths: The Welsh Government recognises that healthy well looked after feet are essential to maximising quality of life, independence and well being. In respect of basic foot care (ie nail cutting) the former Minister for Health and Social Services, commissioned a scoping study to examine the availability of services in Wales. A Consultation Group explored the issues and developed proposals to improve services for the future. Their Report made a total of 12 recommendations and presented 3 options for funding these services. The previous Administration reconvened meetings with the Consultation Group together with LHB Heads of Podiatry to consider the report's findings. Subsequently a draft scheme outline was issued to Local Health Boards to discuss with local stakeholders and to respond to the Welsh Government. These responses have now been received and are currently being analysed before final guidance to LHBs is issued.

The foot health service provided by All Wales NHS Podiatry departments is based on clinical, podiatric and medical need with a focus on those service users who are clinically in high risk groups i.e. those at risk of limb loss, lower limb ulceration and reduced function or pain. Provision of NHS podiatry services is a matter for local determination by Local Health Boards (LHB) based on local service user need and clinical resources are targeted accordingly.

In relation to public health surveys, the Welsh Health Survey already includes data on the percentage of adults who reported using the services of a chiropodist over the previous twelve months.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A oes cynlluniau i weithredu rhaglen hyfforddi 'Cymru gyfan' i sicrhau bod safonau a dulliau cyson ar waith wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau torri ewinedd a gofal traed. (WAQ57849)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Are there plans to implement an 'All Wales' training programme to ensure the delivery of consistent standards and approaches to delivery of foot care and nail cutting services. (WAQ57849)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 10 August 2011

Lesley Griffiths: There are currently no plans to implement an 'All Wales' training programme. Provision of NHS podiatry services is a matter for local determination by Local Health Boards (LHB). Clinical resources are targeted toward patients with a medical need including people with diabetes and peripheral vascular disorders.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw gynlluniau i gynnal asesiad cynhwysfawr o anghenion gofal traed yng Nghymru, ac a wnaiff hi sicrhau bod gofal traed yn cael ei gynnwys mewn arolygon iechyd y cyhoedd yn y dyfodol. (WAQ57850)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Does the Minister have any plans to undertake a comprehensive foot care needs assessment in Wales, and will she ensure that foot care is included in future public health surveys. (WAQ57850)

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Lesley Griffiths: The Welsh Government recognises that healthy well looked after feet are essential to maximising quality of life, independence and well being. In respect of basic foot care (ie nail cutting) the former Minister for Health and Social Services, commissioned a scoping study to examine the availability of services in Wales. A Consultation Group explored the issues and developed proposals to improve services for the future. Their Report made a total of 12 recommendations and presented 3 options for funding these services. The previous Administration reconvened meetings with the Consultation Group together with LHB Heads of Podiatry to consider the report's findings. Subsequently a draft scheme outline was issued to Local Health Boards to discuss with local stakeholders and to respond to the Welsh Government. These responses have now been received and are currently being analysed before final guidance to LHBs is issued.

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In relation to public health surveys, the Welsh Health Survey already includes data on the percentage of adults who reported using the services of a chiropodist over the previous twelve months.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gasgliadau adroddiad yr Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd a gomisiynwyd gan y Prif Weinidog ar safonau bwyd a hylendid. (WAQ57827)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on the conclusions of the Food Standards Agency report that the First Minister commissioned into food standards and hygiene. (WAQ57827)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

Lesley Griffiths: The First Minister set out his intentions for the handling of this report his letter to you of 21 July. I can confirm that I will be attending the FSA presentation to the First Minister on this report on 20 September.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddefnyddio ysbytai neu glinigau preifat yn awr ac yn y dyfodol i ddarparu gwasanaethau yn y GIG yng Nghymru. (WAQ57852)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on the current future use of private hospitals or clinics to provide services within the NHS in Wales. (WAQ57852)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 10 August 2011

Lesley Griffiths: We are continuing to increase capacity in secondary care services and have significantly reduced our use of private sector hospitals in NHS Wales, so that the percentage of overall procedures undertaken in the private sector is now less than 1%. We will continue to rule out the use of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) in health services.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi dadansoddiad llawn o gyfanswm y cyllid 'achosion eithriadol' sydd ar gael ym mhob Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol, ym mlynnyddoedd ariannol 2008-9, 2009-10, 2010-11, a 2011-12. (WAQ57859)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide a full breakdown of the total 'exceptional case' funding available in each Local Health Board, in the financial years 2008-9, 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12. (WAQ57859)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

Lesley Griffiths: Local Health Boards (LHBs) are responsible for funding 'exceptional cases' from their discretionary hospital and community health services revenue allocation, or, where relevant, their ring-fenced mental health or learning disabilities revenue allocations. The Welsh Government does not hold information on the amount of funding each LHB has set aside for these cases.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau

To ask the Minister for Local Government and Communities

William Graham (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu sut y mae ei adran yn goruchwylio prosiectau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. (WAQ57835)

William Graham (South Wales East): Will the Minister outline how Community First projects are overseen by his department. (WAQ57835)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 10 August 2011

The Minister for Local Government and Communities (Carl Sargeant): Funding, employment and governance arrangements for Communities First Partnerships are managed on their behalf by an organisation experienced in managing grants, projects and staff. Local authorities are the Grant Recipient Bodies for the majority of Communities First Partnerships but a number of other organisations such as Development Trusts and County Voluntary Councils also carry out these roles in some areas. The Grant Recipient Bodies ensure both that the projects identified by Communities First Partnerships as necessary for their areas are delivered successfully against previously agreed outcomes and that the Communities First Partnership itself is operating in line with Welsh Government guidelines.

Grant Recipient Bodies are also required to report to the Welsh Government on the activities of each Communities First Partnership and the delivery of the projects for which grant is agreed. This includes submitting on a quarterly basis – to the Welsh Government - information on the progress of each of the projects being delivered by the Communities First Partnerships. Information on the outcomes from each of these projects is then also collected on an annual basis as part of an Annual Monitoring Review and Reporting process.

The Welsh Government in turn ensures that Communities First Partnerships and Grant Recipient Bodies are kept informed of developments in the programme and participate in opportunities to exchange ideas and information via: regional Communities First Co-ordinator meetings; a Communities First website; a monthly Bulletin; and a national annual conference. There is also a Support Service funded by the programme which works closely with the Welsh Government and provides additional assistance to Communities First partnerships where necessary, to address local issues.

William Graham (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ailystyried yr angen am ffordd liniaru'r M4. (WAQ57837)

William Graham (South Wales East): Will the Minister reconsider the requirement for the M4 relief road. (WAQ57837)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

Carl Sargeant: In July 2009 the then Deputy First Minister announced his decision not to proceed with the new M4 relief road.

As part of the M4 Corridor Enhancement Measures Programme, we are working with stakeholders and the public to better understand the problems along the M4 corridor and consider practical solutions to these issues.

Given the ongoing economic situation the M4 relief road continues to be unaffordable.

Mark Isherwood (Gogledd Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu manylion ynghylch amseru arfaethedig a maint y gostyngiadau yng nghyllidebau CTCSI a'u heffaith ar gynlluniau cludiant cymunedol presennol a gyllidir gan hyn. (WAQ57846)

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Will the Minister please detail the planned timing and extent of reductions in CTCSI budgets and their impact on current community transport schemes funded from this. (WAQ57846)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

Carl Sargeant: I am providing funding of £1.3m in 2011-12 to support participating schemes in the Community Transport Concessionary Fares Initiative and this is at the same level as previous years. The initiative will end on 31 March 2012 and participating community transport operators are aware of this. We will continue to support community transport schemes through our Local Transport Services Grant and separate funding for innovative schemes such as Bwcabus in Carmarthen. We are also looking to help community transport through the pilots in deep rural areas and non-emergency patient transport services.

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Pa gamau sy'n cael eu cymryd i sicrhau bod llwybrau mwy diogel ar gyfer beicwyr yn Aberconwy, yn enwedig y rheini sydd ar gefnffyrdd neu'n agos at gefnffyrdd. (WAQ57847)

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): What measures are being taken to ensure safer routes for cyclists in Aberconwy, particularly those on or near trunk roads. (WAQ57847)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 11 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 11 August 2011

Carl Sargeant: During the last 3 years we have made significant investments in the provision of safer routes for cyclists in Aberconwy. Approximately £3 million of Welsh Government funding has enabled cycling schemes at Pen y Clip, Penmaenbach Headland and Penmaenmawr to be completed. In addition the recently completed highway improvement schemes on A470, north and south of Llanrwst, include provision for cyclists.

Work is currently ongoing to develop and implement a further cycling scheme between Penmaenbach Headland and Conwy Morfa. Also, this year, we have allocated £186,000 Safe Routes in Communities funding to Conwy County Borough Council to help improve walking and cycling routes in Llanrwst.

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu cost yr adroddiad dichonoldeb y mae wedi'i gael gan Network Rail erbyn hyn ynghylch agor gwasanaeth rheilffordd uniongyrchol rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd. (WAQ57854)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Will the Minister outline the cost of the feasibility report which he has now received from Network Rail concerning the opening of a direct rail service between Ebbw Vale and Newport. (WAQ57854)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 15 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 15 August 2011

Carl Sargeant: The cost of the GRIP 3 study is expected to be around £280,000.

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): Pa amserlen y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i rhoi i'w swyddogion i lunio'r gwerthusiad manwl o'r achos am wasanaeth rheilffordd rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd y maent yn gweithio arno ar hyn o bryd, yn dilyn cyflwyno adroddiad dichonoldeb gan Network Rail. (WAQ57855) *Tynnwyd y cwestiwn yn ôl*

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): What timeframe has the Minister set his officials to draw up the detailed appraisal of the case for a rail service between Ebbw Vale and Newport they are presently undertaking, following the submission of a feasibility report from Network Rail. (WAQ57855) *Question withdrawn*

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): Yn dilyn adroddiad Guide to Railway Investment Project a gyflwynwyd yn ddiweddar gan Network Rail ynghylch gwasanaeth rheilffordd uniongyrchol rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd, beth yw amcangyfrif yr adroddiad o gost y gwaith angenrheidiol i sicrhau bod gwasanaethau rheilffordd rheolaidd yn gallu rhedeg o Lynebwy i Gasnewydd a Chaerdydd. (WAQ57856)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Following Network Rail's recent submission of a Guide to Railway Investment Project report concerning a direct rail service between Ebbw Vale and Newport, what cost does the report estimate the necessary work would incur to ensure regular rail services can run from Ebbw Vale into both Newport and Cardiff. (WAQ57856)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 15 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 15 August 2011

Carl Sargeant: The report provides a cost estimate of £17.277 million capital at current prices for the necessary infrastructure work.

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): Yn dilyn adroddiad Guide to Railway Investment Project a gyflwynwyd yn ddiweddar gan Network Rail ynghylch gwasanaeth rheilffordd uniongyrchol rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd, pa waith adeiladu a nodir yn yr adroddiad sy'n angenrheidiol er mwyn sicrhau bod gwasanaethau rheilffordd rheolaidd yn gallu rhedeg o Lynebwy i Gasnewydd a Chaerdydd. (WAQ57857)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Following Network Rail's recent submission of a Guide to Railway Investment Project report concerning a direct rail service between Ebbw Vale and Newport, what construction work does the report state is required to ensure regular rail services can run from Ebbw Vale into both Newport and Cardiff. (WAQ57857)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 15 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 15 August 2011

Carl Sargeant: The report recommends a new passing loop at Llanhilleth, a second platform and access improvements at Llanhilleth station, and signalling upgrades.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth

To ask the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): Yn dilyn penderfyniad tîm Rygbi'r Gynghrair Crusaders i dynnu eu cais yn ôl am drwydded y Super League ar gyfer 2012-14, pa gynlluniau sydd gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn y dyfodol i gefnogi rygbi'r gynghrair ledled Cymru. (WAQ57828)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Following Crusaders Rugby League's decision to withdraw their application for a 2012-14 Super League licence, what future plans does the Welsh Government have to support rugby league across Wales. (WAQ57828)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Awst 2011

Answer received for publication on 10 August 2011

The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage (Huw Lewis): Welsh Government funding for sport is allocated via Sport Wales. During 2009 – 2011 Sport Wales invested over £98,000 in rugby league across Wales. The majority of this funding has been allocated to Wales Rugby League who are the governing body. This financial support is based around achieving specific targets, which include

attracting more players, developing coaches, establishing clubs and gaining success on the international scene.