

# **Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 13 Hydref 2011**

## **Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 13 October 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.*

### **Cynnwys Contents**

- 2 Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Tŷ  
Questions to the Minister for Finance and Leader of the House
- 2 Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Questions to the Minister for Local Government and Communities
- 3 Cwestiynau i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad  
Questions to the Assembly Commission

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

**Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru):** A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi manylion faint o arian Llywodraeth Cymru sydd wedi cael ei ddyrannu i undebau llafur yng Nghymru yn ystod pob un o'r 10 blwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf. (WAQ58105)

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister detail how much Welsh Government money has been allocated to trade unions in Wales in each of the last 10 financial years. (WAQ58105)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 18 Hydref 2011***  
***Answer received for publication on 18 October 2011***

**The Minister for Finance and Leader of the House (Jane Hutt):** I will write to you as soon as possible and a copy of my letter will be published on the Internet.

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

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

**Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru):** A yw'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu cyhoeddi asesiad annibynnol Ymgynghorwyr Atkins o adroddiad dichonoldeb Grip 3 Network Rail ynghylch y cyswllt rheilffordd rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd. (WAQ58103)

**Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East):** Does the Minister have any intention to publish Atkins Consultants' independent assessment concerning Network Rail's Grip 3 feasibility report into the Ebbw Vale to Newport rail link. (WAQ58103)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 17 Hydref 2011***  
***Answer received for publication on 17 October 2011***

**The Minister for Local Government and Communities (Carl Sargeant):** The Network Rail Grip 3 feasibility report and the technical review of the report, conducted by Atkins Consultants, will be published in the next few weeks.

**Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru):** Pam oedd swyddogion y Gweinidog wedi penderfynu comisiynu Ymgynghorwyr Atkins i gynnal asesiad annibynnol o adroddiad dichonoldeb Grip 3 Network Rail ynghylch y cyswllt rheilffordd rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd. (WAQ58104)

**Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East):** Why did the Minister's officials decide to commission Atkins Consultants to undertake an independent assessment of Network Rail's Grip 3 feasibility report into the Ebbw Vale to Newport rail link. (WAQ58104)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 17 Hydref 2011***  
***Answer received for publication on 17 October 2011***

**Carl Sargeant:** Network Rail feasibility reports are subject to review by Welsh Government before being finalised. Sometimes these reports can be of a technical nature, and, in certain circumstances, Welsh Government will instruct specialist consultants to assist with the review process. Atkins Consultants were contracted to complete the technical review of the Ebbw Valley Grip 3 report as they are on the Welsh Government's consultancy framework agreement.

***Gofyn i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad  
To ask the Assembly Commission***

**Bethan Jenkins (Gorllewin De Cymru):** Pa ddarpariaeth sydd ar gael i bobl fyddar a phobl â nam ar eu clyw ddilyn trafodion y Cynulliad, mewn cyfarfodydd llawn ac mewn pwyllgorau. (WAQ58102)

**Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West):** What provision is there for the deaf and hearing impaired to follow Assembly proceedings, both in plenary and for committees. (WAQ58102)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 12 Hydref 2011  
Answer received for publication on 12 October 2011***

**Assembly Commissioner (Sandy Mewies):** The Assembly Commission is committed to ensuring access for everyone to the Assembly, and all its services. This commitment is enshrined in the Government of Wales Act 2006 and the Commission's strategic values for equality.

For deaf and hearing impaired visitors, induction loops are installed in each of the Senedd viewing galleries and in Committee Room 4, situated in Tŷ Hywel, giving live access to Plenary and committee proceedings. To complement the loop system, each visitor has a personal screen in the viewing galleries which offers written information such as the agenda and calendar as well as general information about the Assembly. Fixed induction loop systems are situated in the reception areas of the Senedd, Pierhead and Tŷ Hywel, and two portable induction loops for the public areas and meeting rooms are also available upon request. The equipment is tested prior to each committee meeting by Assembly staff, and the Senedd loop is tested by Assembly contractors as part of their regular maintenance checks. In-vision British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation for Assembly proceedings has been available on request from Members since 2006. This enables the broadcast of Assembly proceedings with an interpreter in the lower right hand corner of the screen and can be streamed live to the Siambr gallery, Senedd.tv and is available to the BBC, ITV and S4C. This facility has been used occasionally. BSL interpretation is provided for the Cross Party Group on Deaf Issues.

As part of the Assembly's commitment to being accessible to the people of Wales, 23 staff members have undertaken training in deaf and deafblind awareness. This training has enabled staff to communicate on a basic level and to gain insight into how best to accommodate such visitors. Nine individuals have progressed further to attain a Level 1 qualification in BSL, which has been of great value to BSL users visiting the Assembly.

Visitors to the Assembly can book BSL translation services through our booking line, although advance warning is advised to ensure the request can be met.

The Assembly is currently holding a consultation on its Strategic Equality Plan. Part of this will include canvassing opinions on the accessibility of the Assembly. Accessible versions of the consultation questions (including a BSL video) have been provided on the Assembly's website and focus groups will be held with different users of the Assembly. The responses we receive will shape our plan and objectives, which will be published in April 2012.

At its meeting on 20 October, the Assembly Commission will consider a paper which proposes the creation of a central Access Fund. This fund would allow Members to access resources to provide for additional requirements of disabled Assembly Members and enable Members, where reasonably practicable, to engage with constituents with diverse needs without financial hindrance.