

**Response of the Welsh
Assembly Government to the
Second Annual Report of the
Children's Commissioner for
Wales**

2002-2003

**RESPONSE OF THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT TO THE
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER
FOR WALES 2002-03**

Foreword by the Rt. Hon. Rhodri Morgan AM, First Minister

I welcome Peter Clarke's second Annual Report, which once again fully justifies the priority we gave in Wales to creating a Children's Commissioner. Over the past year, a second UK Children's Commissioner has been appointed in Northern Ireland and the Scottish Parliament is about to nominate a Commissioner. The UK Government has now published its intention to appoint a Commissioner for England through the legislation to be enacted in the Children Bill. I know that Peter will welcome the arrival of three colleagues and the momentum this will give to the rights of children and young people across the UK.

Peter urges "all adults to reflect on the opportunities they are affording young people – both in their private lives and in their public responsibilities – as we work together to create a country in which our young people play an equal, active and proud role." The Assembly Government fully supports this call. Making sure that all "are listened to, treated with respect and able to have their race and cultural identity recognised" is one of our Core Aims for children and young people. We put this aim into practice through our work with Funky Dragon, local forums and the establishment of school councils.

Since we responded to his first report in March last year we have taken action in a number of ways to address the matters he raised. For example, we set up a Child Poverty Task Group to advise on drawing up a child poverty strategy. That is due to report back in March this year.

I would like to thank Peter and his team of staff for this well-presented, concise and accessible document. The Assembly Government takes his views very seriously and the actions that we are taking and plan to take in response to his concerns are set out in this report.

I wish him continuing success in his work.

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT

PARTICIPATION

Peter Clarke and his team have continued giving a priority to listening directly to children and young people. This is particularly welcome, since so much of the impetus in creating his Office was provided by wide-ranging concerns that children need someone they can talk to about their fears and problems.

The Assembly Government is showing its commitment to Article 12 of the UN Convention, setting up arrangements to hear the voices of children and young people at three levels – nationally, locally and in schools.

Nationally, we support **Funky Dragon – the Children and Young People’s Assembly**. It gives children and young people the opportunity to be heard on issues that affect them and to be involved in decision making at national level. Its Grand Council is made up of 2 representatives from each of the 22 unitary authority areas across Wales, plus representatives of special interest groups. It meets on 4 weekends, once with Assembly Ministers Jane Davidson and Jane Hutt and once with Assembly Cabinet Ministers each year. These meetings give children and young people the chance to tell the Assembly Government directly what they think of key policies. Meetings include issues of concern to members, developing responses to Assembly Government consultations, and discussions with officials, as well as opportunities for socialising and fun.

We have asked every local authority to set up a **Children and Young People’s Forum**. Forums are now in place and working with local Children and Young People’s Partnerships in 20 out of the 22 local authority areas across Wales. They have links with Funky Dragon, provide representatives for the Funky Dragon Council and are developing links with schools’ councils as these are set up.

Children and Young People Framework Partnerships and the related Children’s (0-10’s) and Young People’s (11-25’s) Partnerships are in place in every local authority. They set out the strategies and priorities across local authority, health and voluntary services and are responsible for joint planning and involving children and young people, and representatives of families, in their local planning. Plans are currently being assessed and officials are now arranging meetings with Partnerships to discuss them. We are paying particular attention to the partnerships’ arrangements for listening and responding to issues raised by children and young people.

We have consulted on proposals requiring **schools councils** to be set up in all maintained primary, secondary and special schools by July 2005. Nursery and infant schools would be free to set up councils if they wished. Responses to the consultation are being considered. Schools councils involve pupils in consideration of day to day running of schools and school policies, for example discussing matters where pupils have a personal

interest such as bullying. As part of the consultation we have run events for pupils and their teachers to give their views in a lively and enjoyable way. The consultation also asked for views about guidance to local education authorities and school governing bodies on asking all pupils for their views on decisions that affect them.

In order to match the Assembly Government's commitment to drive forward the participation agenda we are funding a Participation Unit to work with a range of partner organisations to develop, and encourage good participation practice in all organisations working with children and young people, including the voluntary sector.

RESPECT

Both the Children's Commissioner and Funky Dragon have reported the concerns of young people about the lack of respect that they are shown by adults. The Assembly Government regards children and young people as young citizens, with rights and opinions to be taken into account now.

Lack of respect is not just an issue for statutory services but for wider society as well and is not helped by negative messages about young people so often given by the news media. We must aim to present a more balanced picture so that children and young people are seen as active and positive members of their local communities. We can work towards this through encouraging children and young people to take more responsibility, as well as by making practical responses to solve the problems they experience. We have made a start to doing this through the examples of participation in decision-making outlined above, together with increased opportunities that are becoming available, for example through involvement in **changes to the planning system** and through major initiatives such as **Communities First**

Since the Commissioner published *Telling Concerns*, a comprehensive survey of **advocacy and complaints provision** by local authority social services,

the Welsh Assembly Government has taken action on all five of the recommendations made to us. Progress to date includes:

- introduction of national standards for advocacy services provided by local authorities and in health services;
- consultation with children and young people on local authority arrangements for complaints, to be published in the spring of 2004;
- consultation on regulations and guidance to make advocacy a statutory right for children in need, including those looked after who want to make a complaint under the Children Act 1989. It is hoped to implement this from April 2004;
- beginning a study of different models of advocacy in health, social care and education, taking views of children and young people on advocacy services;
- consultation on revising local authority social services complaints procedures; and,
- plans to set up a new Advocacy Unit by the spring of 2004.

We expect local authorities and advocacy providers to implement their responses in respect of the remainder of the Commissioner's recommendations. This is the Assembly Government's early response. We wish to see advocacy services made available eventually to all children and young people in all health, social care and education settings across Wales.

Peter Clarke has also been conducting the **Clywch Examination** into the handling of abuse allegations by former pupils of the late John Owen, which has been a thorough and searching inquiry. We await publication of his findings later this year.

CHILD POVERTY

Since we published our response to the Commissioner's first report in March 2003, we have wasted no time in addressing the matters he raised. The **Child Poverty Task Group**, set up to advise on drawing up an anti-child poverty strategy, chaired by Charlotte Williams of Bangor University, is due to report its findings in March 2004. We will take these into account in making sure that all the relevant Assembly Government policy and programmes are able to make an impact on alleviating of poverty and deprivation in Wales.

The Assembly Government is responding to child poverty in other ways, including through the **Cymorth** programme and **Communities First**.

Cymorth funding was introduced to improve the life chances of children and young people from disadvantaged families. Local Cymorth plans are currently funded to a total of over £39 million this year, and deliver a wide range of activities. Cymorth is the main source of local funding for childcare, providing quality care for children and giving families the opportunity to escape poverty through training or employment. It supports early years' services, providing parents of very young children in the poorest areas with the support to give them a flying start in life. Cymorth also supports play provision and helps young people remain involved in training and employment.

The needs of children and young people in the most deprived communities are addressed through Communities First Action Plans. The Communities First programme, which aims to reduce poverty and improve the lives of people in the most disadvantaged areas in Wales, is to receive £151m over the period from 2001 to 2006. The community's priorities for improving their areas are set out in Community Action Plans, and each Plan will make sure that improvements are made for children and young people, and offer them the opportunity to influence the services that affect them locally.

Considerable attention is being paid to issues of **children's health**, particularly diet and exercise. The Health and Well Being for Children and Young People Action Plan, is dealing with issues such as extending the Welsh Network of Healthy School Scheme. We recognise that a good diet is important both to children's health and to their school performance. *Food*

and Well Being, the national nutrition strategy for Wales launched in February 2003, makes children and young people a priority. The Assembly's Food and Fitness Health Promotion Grant Scheme provides financial support for community projects that encourage more active lifestyles and healthier eating. It is aimed particularly at infants, children and young people and those living in disadvantaged communities.

We have set out in regulations and guidance **nutritional standards for school meals** that include encouraging pupils to eat healthy foods. Many schools within the **Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes** have chosen to work on issues related to diet and nutrition, and over 300 have set up fruit tuck shops. Proposals to provide all primary school children in Wales with free breakfasts are currently being developed. **School breakfasts** are to be offered to all primary school children over the next four years, beginning with pilot projects in Communities First areas in September 2004.

We are also encouraging people in Wales to become more physically active and healthier. In every local authority area, funded in partnership with the Sports Council for Wales, schools and local partners are working together to improve quality of **PE and school sport**. This initiative has been developed in partnership with the New Opportunities Fund, which is providing £48m to improve facilities for sport in schools. It also complements the Healthy and Active Lifestyles Framework for Action aim to increase activity levels amongst children and young people. *Climbing Higher, the Sports and Active Recreation Strategy*, supports this, aiming to increase the ways in which we can become more physically active in our daily lives.

EDUCATION

Education issues took up a significant proportion of the Commissioner's first report, and action has been taken in a number of areas where he has raised concerns.

The improvement of **school buildings** remains at the top of the Assembly Government's priorities and investment has significantly increased since the Assembly came into being. Overall provision, including the funding that authorities are free to use for any capital purpose, reached £101m in 2003-04 and is set to rise to £107m in 2004-05. Commitment to further increases in funding from 2005-06 is contained in 'Wales: A Better Country.'

Improvements to toilet facilities are eligible for School Buildings Improvement Grant and many such improvements have been funded as part of grant funded projects. Local authorities themselves decide which schools should benefit from grant in light of local need and priorities. The Assembly will continue to work closely with local government in order to bring school buildings up to an appropriate standard for the 21st Century reflecting the importance we attach to giving children the right conditions for learning.

The current arrangements for **testing** in schools are being reviewed. Professor Richard Daugherty of Aberystwyth University has been asked to review the assessment of 11 and 14-year-olds. He has gathered evidence from a number of sources, including the Commissioner himself and his final report is due by the end of March 2004. This will advise us on changes that may be needed to improve the assessment system in Wales.

In addition, the Assembly Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning has made clear that she will act to reduce unnecessary assessment when to do so does not lower the standard of a qualification. For example, from September 2004 the assessment of Key Skills Qualifications in Communication, Application of Number and Information Technology in Wales will no longer require an external test.

The Assembly Government is committed to transforming **14-19 provision** and to ensuring that no pupil leaves school without qualifications by the end of the decade. This new approach aims to give:

- more choice and flexibility in relevant courses and qualifications, designed to help young people develop the essential skills they need for life and work;
- learning pathways designed to meet each individual's needs;
- personal support, careers information and learning guidance for individuals to help them make the best possible choices and stay in learning as long as they need to; and,
- a better balance between skills, knowledge and experience.

The Assembly Learning Grant has been introduced to help the least well off young people to access further and higher education. Funding is also being made available under our *Reaching Higher* strategy to encourage students from all backgrounds into higher education.

Since 1 September 2003 schools have been required to have **complaint procedures**. Guidance will be issued shortly. Further guidance on handling complaints involving children will be issued for consultation later this year.

The Commissioner mentions **Special Educational Needs (SEN)** in both his first and second reports. The Welsh Assembly Government has given a high profile to addressing concerns raised in this area.

We are aware that the service offered by individual authorities is less than adequate for some children with special educational needs, especially those with low incidence disabilities. With this in mind, specific clauses were included in the Education Bill 2002 to allow the development of regional arrangements for SEN in Wales. The Education Act 2002 has come into force and the Welsh Assembly Government is actively engaged in discussions with LEAs regarding the development of regional services for SEN. It will be more effective to provide the specialist services required by children and young people with SEN on a regional rather than an authority by authority basis.

In October 2003 we issued a consultation paper on "Inclusive Education" which provides guidance to LEAs and schools to make sure that the

different needs of children and young people are met in ordinary schools wherever possible.. The guidance set out in this document works towards the Assembly Government's commitment to ensuring that every child has a flying start and we work together in removing barriers to learning and ensuring equal access to educational opportunities. Following a period of consultation full guidance should be available by April 2004.

Bullying is a real concern to very many children and can have a powerful and damaging effect on a child or young person's experience of education and view of themselves. It is one of the ways in which children show lack of respect for one another. The Assembly Government takes these concerns very seriously. New anti-bullying guidance, *Respecting Others*, was issued in September 2003 to all schools and others interested. It looks at the effects of bullying and offers practical solutions for preventing and dealing with incidents.

Pupils non-attendance at school is also of concern and the Assembly Government regards truancy as an important issue. Our response to the Anti-Social Behaviour Act, Part 3 of which deals with parental responsibilities, will be based on the approach suitable for Wales and we will not, for example be adopting the sanction of fixed penalty notices. We hope to issue draft guidance for consultation on Parenting Contracts, Parenting Orders and Fast Tracking to Prosecution late in the spring of this year, 2004.

Although the responsibility to meet a child's special educational needs rests with individual local education authorities we are providing a series of guidance documents which, hopefully, assist LEAs in their planning. A number of the documents have either been issued for consultation or are about to be published. These include services for hearing impaired children and young people, support for able and talented pupils, the role of educational psychologists and the professional development of teachers working with children with SEN.

The National Assembly's Education and Lifelong Learning Committee agreed at their meeting in July 2003 to conduct a full policy review of SEN. The review will include planning from primary to secondary school age and Welsh language provision. The Committee will issue a report on the first topic, early identification and support, by mid 2004.

A Handbook of Good Practice for Schools and local authorities has been developed. The parts that have been distributed so far include Working in Partnership with Parents, Pupil Participation, Statements of Special Educational Needs and Responding to Diversity.

The National Steering Group (NSG) for SEN and the Welsh Advisory Group for SEN have continued with their development work in this area. In July 2003 a joint review of speech and language therapy across Health and Education services was undertaken and a consultation document issued. The analysis of the responses to this consultation exercise is now well underway, the results of which are to be published by the end of February.

The NSG is also working with colleagues in Social Services and Health on an all Wales strategy for Autism and will be issuing guidance for schools and LEAs on the provision of education services for children in schools.

As from April 2003 Wales has established its own SEN Tribunal, hearing appeals by parents against LEA decisions concerning pupil's special educational needs. The Tribunal will consider appeal papers through the medium of English or Welsh, according to the preference of those appealing.

This is a particularly complex and challenging area of work and there are no quick fixes available. However, we are confident that the strategy and approach adopted by the Assembly Government will lead to the necessary improvement to services.

PRIORITY ISSUES 2003-04

CAMHS

The Commissioner has raised a number of points concerning **Everybody's Business – the all-Wales Strategy for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**.

When the Assembly Government came into office we recognised that mental health services for children and young people had been neglected for a long time. Mental health services remain largely hidden from public view, coming to political and media attention only at a time of crisis. This administration has been determined not to continue that pattern of neglect.

We are fully committed to implementing the strategy over a ten-year period. From this year onwards, development of the social services aspects of CAMHS is one of the priorities in the Children First programme for local authorities. Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts have been required to develop costed plans by October 2004 that set out a way forward for delivering sustainable CAMHS services. These are needed in preparation for introducing a target maximum waiting time for services. Additionally, during the next financial year a start will be made on investing in forensic CAMHS service within Wales.

In the light of the criticism by the Children Commissioner of the number of inpatient beds, the Assembly Government has asked the Health Commission Wales and the CAMHS Implementation Advisory Group to consider his concerns and to examine whether best use is being made of the beds that are available.

PLANNING

The Commissioner mentions approaches made to him concerning the **impact of the planning system** on the lives of children and young people. Work is underway to reform the planning system, including new local development plans and an improved decision-making process. This

includes better and earlier consultation and a requirement for local planning authorities to prepare Community Involvement Schemes that set out who and how they will consult on the new style plans. We will take into account the Commissioner's views on the need to involve children and young people as we work with our partners to create the new system.

We have begun reviewing the planning Technical Advice Notes for Sport and Recreation and Tourism. The Advisory Group for this work includes a Children's Commissioner representative. Consultations over draft Notes, probably early next year, will include representatives of children and young people in the light of advice in the Funky Dragon guide to participation.

Reforms to the planning system in Wales, set out in *Planning: delivering for Wales* encourage consultation and participation in decision making by all sections of the community, including children and young people.

In respect of the use of landfill sites for schools, we have commissioned research from Aberystwyth University into health issues in the planning system. A draft final report has been received and is to be considered shortly by Ministers, and the Environment and Planning and Health and Social Services Committees. It will inform the preparation of the Assembly's policies to improve the way health issues are considered when planning decisions are taken.

PLAY AND LEISURE

The Commissioner's report raises children and young people's concerns at not having **things to do and places to go**. Factors such as cost and travel also create difficulties.

Extending Entitlement is the Assembly Government's flagship overarching policy for all young people. It is designed to ensure that every young person gets the services and support they need to achieve their full potential at a personal level, in society, in education, in the economy and in their community. Delivery is co-ordinated by 22 Young People's Partnerships in each local authority across Wales, who are responsible for identifying gaps in provision and bringing organisations together to share expertise and develop provision for all young people in their area.

All local authorities provide **youth centres** and the voluntary sector offers a wide range of opportunities for young people. Many organisations provide outreach and detached youth work provision to support young people who may not be using their local youth provision.

The Assembly Government is encouraging organisations to try and provide activities and services that will appeal to young people. £10 million has been provided to the statutory youth service over the last three years to fund new staff, update buildings and provide new equipment such as computers, to develop exciting programmes for young people. Last financial year, we also distributed an additional £5 million for use on outdoor recreation equipment, skateboard parks and youth shelters in Communities First Areas.

Creating adventure play facilities is closely linked to the provision of safe meeting places in local communities -"places to go"- which Funky Dragon has also raised as a priority in its meetings with Ministers. As a result, funding was awarded under the Communities First programme to provide **leisure and recreation equipment** to the most deprived areas across Wales. Activities included the repair or provision of outdoor play equipment and building skateboard and bike parks and youth shelters. Part of this funding has supported the **establishment of 38 youth shelters** across Wales.

The Assembly Government is working with the New Opportunities Fund and local partnerships to develop at least one **integrated centre** in each local authority area. These centres will bring together as a minimum open access play, early years' education, community training and childcare, together with other family support services such as parent and toddler groups.

Centres are not stand-alone buildings but act as the heart of a network of children's services. They represent an opportunity both for co-operation between the voluntary and statutory sectors and for multi-disciplinary team working between different professions.

The Welsh Assembly Government was the first administration in the United Kingdom to develop a **play policy**. Policy on play looks at needs of children at each stage of their development and touches many aspects of children's lives, including education, transport, leisure and safety. Since the policy's publication an Implementation Group has been established bringing together a wide range of expertise across the voluntary sector, business and local government. The group will look at how the policy can be implemented and a report will be published later this year. The Assembly Government will then confirm its own action plan.

TRANSPORT

Transport is also an important issue for children and young people who wish to use leisure, play and sports provision, including a number of concerns raised by Funky Dragon. The Assembly Government made a manifesto commitment at the last Assembly election in May 2003 to develop a half-fare bus scheme for young people 16-18 years old. We have established a working group to identify the practical and financial issues in developing this scheme and it is hoped that an initial report will be made to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport by April 2004.

From the start of the academic year 2004/05, LEAs will be required to publish details of **transport provision and financial assistance for travel** for young people aged 16-19 to places of learning in their local authority area. These include school sixth forms, Further Education institutions and work based training provision. Guidance on this is to be issued by spring 2004.

The Commissioner has begun to discuss provision of **school transport** in Wales. The Assembly Government is undertaking a mapping exercise to identify transport arrangements for school pupils – both dedicated school transport provided or contracted for by local education authorities and public service provision. The aim is to provide a better understanding of existing provision. The Assembly's Education and Life-Long Learning (ELL) Committee is also intending to undertake a review of school transport in the summer of 2004.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning will be considering the issues raised by the Coroner following the inquest into the Ystradowen bus crash in December 2002, which concluded on 19 January 2004. She is anxious that lessons should be learnt and that local authorities, schools, parents and bus operators should work together to share and adopt best practice.

Children and young people report that **safety is a particularly important issue** for them. The Road Safety Strategy for Wales, published last year, undertakes to develop road cycle training courses for young people and to consider cycle training as part of school travel plans. It also recognises that transport policies and strategies should be audited for their impact on children. Some local authorities in Wales are already working on the delivery of such training courses and the newly established Welsh Road Safety Forum will be monitoring progress across the country.

Cycling is important in the lives of children and young people, for transport and as a leisure activity. The Assembly launched its Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales in December 2003 and aims to increase pedestrian and cycle use, making provision for walkers and cyclists accessible and promoting walking and cycling as viable forms of transport. Existing training initiatives, such as the cycle proficiency course, are aimed at children and in addition local authorities carry out their own training initiatives, both on and off road, for young people.

The Safe Routes to School initiative aims to increase walking and cycling by implementing new or improved routes to school. Evidence from safe routes to school projects in Wales has shown that given the opportunity, many children and young people would happily cycle or walk to school, provided they felt safe and they had secure cycle facilities.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Commissioner raises a number of concerns in his report on the **Anti-Social Behaviour Act**. There was no opportunity to influence the content of the Bill since it received Royal Assent in November and the relevant parts have already come into force. Ministers are writing to urge the Home Secretary to take the Commissioner's views into account in the preparation of guidance.

Under the Act the police may disperse groups of young people under 16 only under certain conditions. These apply if members of the public have

been 'intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed' by the behaviour or the presence of the group, or when anti-social behaviour is a significant and persistent problem in the area. The police will need to use these powers carefully and find a balance between the rights of the children and the complainants. This power will, however, allow them to break up gangs who really are making life a misery for others.

The Act also gives police the power to remove someone under 16 to their home, if they are found in a public place between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. This allows that a police officer may not do so if 'he has reasonable grounds for believing that the person would, if removed to that place, be likely to suffer significant harm'. There is a delicate balance of risk involved in these circumstances that will need to be addressed in any guidance produced for the police on implementation. The risk the Commissioner has raised is acknowledged, and his concerns will be pointed out to the Home Secretary so that he may consider them when guidance on the Act is proposed.

It is true to say that young people are at greater risk of becoming victims of crime and they are particularly vulnerable to certain types of crime, such as mobile 'phone theft, as well as being the direct target of drug pushers. Young people can also be heavily involved in violent crime.

It is likely that people's perception of the nuisance caused by young people 'hanging around' is greater than the reality. Research carried out by the Home Office research team in the Assembly's Community Safety Unit shows that people's perception of the threat from youngsters is exaggerated. Though some young people misbehave, sometimes seriously, the activities of groups of young people playing games or street sport could be interpreted as social use of public space. Drop-in centres could provide valuable shelter for young people out on the streets - who may be vulnerable and feel safer on the streets than at home.

In his report, the Commissioner highlights the importance of investment in activities that provide young people with activities of their choice. A number of programmes are being run at present in Wales to achieve this, in addition to those outlined under Leisure and Play above.

Community Safety Partnerships in Wales receive Home Office funding under the Building Safer Communities Fund and Anti Social Behaviour Fund which they can use for local priorities. Virtually all have included youth diversion projects in their plans for the next three years. Activities include: skateboarding; graffiti wall art; moto-cross and motor projects; behaviour awareness workshops and videos; provision of minibuses and a community youth hall; involvement in youth forums; youth shelters (to which the Commissioner makes specific reference) and outdoor activities for 'at risk' children.

The Assembly has introduced a new Safer Communities Fund of £7 million over 2003-05 for Community Safety Partnerships, covering projects of the type suggested, offering interesting and enjoyable alternatives and including particular action on substance misuse. In addition, the Assembly already funds two 'On Track' projects, in Tylorstown and Caerau, Bridgend,

which work with children aged from 4 to 12 and their families to prevent them developing criminal behaviour later in life. Assembly support is also going to an 'Include' project that works with young people who are socially excluded and who have fallen out of the education/employment loop.

Earlier this year, the Assembly Government also secured an additional £950,000 from the New Opportunities Fund to provide additional funds for youth crime prevention schemes across Wales over the next three years.

Although a high proportion of offending and anti social behaviour is carried out by individuals aged under 18, substantial efforts are being made to prevent such activity and to provide alternatives to direct young people's energies into more positive activities.

BUDGET 2004-05

The Commissioner has submitted an estimate of his expenditure for the financial year 2004-05 that is set out below.

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER FOR WALES ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES FOR 2004-05

		£'000
Programme costs:		
Printing and publications	42	
Travel, subsistence and accommodation	39	
Promotion and materials	23	
Capital	6	
Other	<u>24</u>	
		134
Research Fund		20
Examination Fund		250
Organisation:		
Staff costs	915	
Accommodation	81	
Capital - Equipment and health and safety	19	
IT strategy	45	
Audit fees and consultancy	12	
Staff training, conferences and seminars	28	
Other running costs	<u>126</u>	
		<u>1,226</u>
Total estimate of expenses		<u>1,630</u>

The Welsh Assembly Government has approved finance for his Office in the year 2004-05 of £1,400,000. This is an increase of 10.4 percent on his funding for 2003-04.