

## **Answers issued to Members on 5 March 2009**

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

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### Questions to the First Minister

**David Melding (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister make a statement on recent meetings the Welsh Assembly Government has had in connection with innovation management and science policy in Wales? (WAQ53566)

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** I have recently met officials and Ministers several times to discuss R&D priorities for Structural Funds. I also regularly chair meetings of science advisors, inviting Vice Chancellors and other external experts. We have presented Flexible Support for Business, including innovation management, to public meetings across Wales.

**David Melding (South Wales Central):** What are the First Minister's key priorities for the commercialisation of science in Wales? (WAQ53567)

**The First Minister:** A Science Policy for Wales identified Health science; the low-carbon economy and science for sustainable economic and social renewal. We have University excellence and companies to commercialise research outcomes from these. We have identified business sectors important to our economy. Science to support their growth and well being is also important.

### Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** What discussions has the Minister had regarding the future of Wylfa Power Station in Ynys Mon? (WAQ53551)

**The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson):** I regularly discuss issues relating to power generation, with UK and Assembly Government Ministers, officials, and the industry.

The Assembly Government fully recognises the economic and social importance of the current Wylfa Power Station to the Isle of Anglesey and is supportive of an extension to Wylfa's operating life beyond 2010.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister indicate how many applications to the Mortgage Rescue Service programme? (WAQ53561)

**The Deputy Minister for Housing (Jocelyn Davies):** I am assuming that the question refers to the Assembly Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme. To date, the Housing Directorate has received 61 applications from housing associations for grant assistance under the scheme. Of these, three were subsequently withdrawn after approval.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Mortgage Rescue Service be continued in the new financial year and how much will be allocated to it? (WAQ53562)

**Jocelyn Davies:** I am assuming that the question refers to the Assembly Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme. It is my intention to continue to provide Social Housing Grant resources for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in 2009/2010. The amount to be allocated has yet to be determined pending the outcome of ongoing discussions on bringing forward additional resources from the 2010/2011 programme.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Does the Minister have plans to review the Mortgage Rescue Service guidelines? (WAQ53563)

**Jocelyn Davies:** I am assuming that the question refers to the Assembly Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme. My officials have met with representatives from the Welsh Local Government Association, Community Housing Cymru, Shelter Cymru, Citizens' Advice and the Council of Mortgage Lenders to review the operation of the scheme. Following on from this discussion, recommendations on changes to the scheme are being brought forward for consideration.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Can the Minister confirm the start date for the opening of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in Wales? (WAQ53564)

**Jocelyn Davies:** Following consultation with stakeholders, guidance on the Mortgage Rescue Scheme was issued to local authorities and housing associations on 22 August 2008.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** How much of the original funding allocated to the Mortgage Rescue Service has been distributed to date? (WAQ53565)

**Jocelyn Davies:** I am assuming that the question refers to the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. To date, just over £3.5 million has been committed.

### Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many alcohol and drug related attacks have there been on staff in Welsh hospitals in every year since 2005? (WAQ53552)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** The total number of violent incidents against NHS Trust staff in 2005/06 and 2006/07 were 6,788 and 8,466 respectively. Numbers of alcohol and drug related attacks are not held centrally.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many people are employed in the Welsh Ambulance Service since 2005? (WAQ53553)

**Edwina Hart:** The number and whole-time equivalent of staff employed by the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust since 2005 can be found on the Stats Wales site <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/reportfolders.aspx> (within the Health and Care > NHS Staffing folders)

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** What record is kept of attacks on NHS Staff in each Local Health Board area and by seriousness of assault? (WAQ53554)

**Edwina Hart:** Data are not held on an LHB boundary basis, but data for NHS Trusts were provided under WAQ53552.