

## **Answers issued to Members on 18 October 2007**

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

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

### **Contents**

- 2 Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport
- 3 Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government
- 3 Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services
- 5 Questions to the Deputy Minister for Housing

## Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

**Joyce Watson (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on what the Welsh Assembly Government is doing to improve the rail services west of Swansea? (WAQ50485)

**The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones):** The Welsh Assembly Government is commissioning Network Rail to:

- undertake an engineering feasibility study jointly with SWWITCH for removing the capacity constraint on the single section of line over Loughor Railway Viaduct (between Gowerton & Llanelli);
- Considering at the end of the year the results of the feasibility study and business case study being undertaken by SWWITCH for the enhancement of passenger rail services on the Fishguard Harbour Line. Any enhancements will have to be prioritised by SWWITCH with the Regional Transport plan; and
- Work with the Heart of Wales Line Forum and ARRIVA Trains Wales to consider improvements to the services on the line.

**Alan Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on the transport grant allocated to each local authority for the past 5 years? (WAQ50490)

**The Deputy First Minister:** Please see the table below:

Authority	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Anglesey	2.501	2.708	0.972	2.336	0.618	9.135
B. Gwent	10.794	8.666	2.771	15.260	0.480	37.971
Bridgend	3.709	4.238	2.233	1.857	2.007	14.044
Caerphilly	5.523	7.490	8.194	11.635	16.146	48.988
Cardiff	3.151	5.453	3.557	5.613	5.850	23.624
Carms.	4.193	3.223	5.457	6.549	1.666	21.088
Ceredigion	1.620	2.504	3.897	7.855	6.8545	22.7305
Conwy	0.879	1.319	0.921	1.172	0.765	5.056
Denbighs.	1.183	0.899	0.506	2.131	2.349	7.068
Flintshire	5.512	4.510	3.938	3.310	3.730	21.000
Gwynedd	4.985	9.897	12.099	5.712	7.093	39.786
Merthyr T	1.103	0.750	0.640	0.270	0.402	3.165
Monmouth	0.585	0.846	0.456	0.515	0.224	2.626
Neath P T	2.157	6.589	10.038	11.139	6.410	36.333
Newport	4.917	7.580	8.507	5.384	10.020	36.408
Pembs.	1.597	0.715	0.631	0.218	0.631	3.792
Powys	2.155	0.696	0.911	0.440	0.4495	4.6515
RCT	7.207	9.061	40.541	41.458	25.518	123.785
Swansea	8.432	7.887	7.718	6.014	8.2355	38.2865
Torfaen	1.106	1.153	1.459	1.335	0.635	5.688
VoG	2.494	2.676	1.713	0.748	0.971	8.602
Wrexham	1.293	1.046	1.357	1.398	0.347	5.441
<b>Total £m</b>	<b>77.096</b>	<b>89.906</b>	<b>118.516</b>	<b>132.349</b>	<b>101.401</b>	<b>519.268</b>

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister please make a statement as to what plans there are to support local businesses making use of the opportunities presented by the Amazon facility in Swansea? (WAQ50491)

**The Deputy First Minister:** There will be potential opportunities for Welsh businesses to become suppliers of goods and services to Amazon. The project is currently managed by International Business

Wales and we are aware that Neath Port Talbot Local Authority have expanded their Source Baglan Project to cater for the development. We will work through the existing Local Supplier Development Programme as there could be significant potential for suppliers locally and throughout Wales.

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of land for business purposes adjacent to the Amazon facility in Swansea? (WAQ50492)

**The Deputy First Minister:** Neath Port Talbot Council, within which Amazon sits, is working with City and County of Swansea and the Welsh Assembly Government to promote the regeneration of this strategically important area.

There are two sites adjacent to the Amazon development in Assembly ownership, measuring 6.7 acres and 2.6 acres respectively. These two sites, which have direct frontage to the new Jersey Marine roundabout, currently under construction, are expected to be ready for development in Spring 2008.

### **Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government**

**Joyce Watson (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to help people and communities to deal with substance misuse? (WAQ50483)

**The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons):** I will be publishing the 5th Annual Report on delivering the current Substance Misuse Strategy by written statement later this month.

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister list the estimated numbers of class A drug abusers per local authority in Wales? (WAQ 50493)

**Brian Gibbons:** The Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse records information about those people engaging in treatment. The first report was published in September 2006 and can be found at [www.wales.gov.uk/substancemisuse](http://www.wales.gov.uk/substancemisuse). This report only reported on referrals for drugs and alcohol. The second annual report will be published shortly and will contain a detailed breakdown of referrals by Community safety Partnership and by identified problem.

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

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister please list the take up of the MMR vaccine in Wales at the LHB level in the past 5 years? (WAQ50488)

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister please list the number of measles outbreaks in Wales at the LHB level in the past 5 years? (WAQ50489)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** Please see the table which provides MMR uptake rates by LHB for the years 2002-2007. A breakdown of measles outbreaks by LHB is not held centrally.

	2006-7		2005-6		2004-5		2003-4	
LHB	MMR1 (at 2 years of age)	MMR2 (at 5 years of age)	MMR1 (at 2 years of age)	MMR2 (at 5 years of age)	MMR1 (at 2 years of age)	MMR2 (at 5 years of age)	MMR1 (at 2 years of age)	MMR2 (at 5 years of age)
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	91.8	83.3	87.8	81.7	86.7	81.0	85.2	82.0
<b>Caerphilly</b>	89.0	78.2	86.1	78.9	84.4	76.2	84.5	77.5
<b>Cardiff</b>	90.0	75.7	88.6	76.0	84.9	78.3	85.7	77.1
<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>	90.0	77.5	85.5	84.0	84.6	80.5	83.0	86.1
<b>Monmouths hire</b>	86.6	75.0	86.1	72.6	81.9	74.9	79.1	73.3
<b>Newport</b>	89.8	80.8	85.8	78.4	85.0	78.0	84.9	78.4
<b>Rhondda Cynon Taff</b>	90.0	78.7	86.9	79.2	84.5	79.4	82.2	79.9
<b>Torfaen</b>	92.8	83.5	89.3	83.5	87.7	84.2	87.7	85.5
<b>Vale of Glamorgan</b>	90.7	78.8	87.1	78.4	87.6	80.3	83.1	82.0
<b>South East Wales</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>79.3</b>
<b>Bridgend</b>	85.9	77.2	84.6	74.2	82.1	78.9	82.3	81.7
<b>Carmarthen shire</b>	82.3	73.6	80.8	71.6	77.6	70.4	75.3	71.2
<b>Ceredigion</b>	85.0	79.3	85.8	76.8	80.7	78.0	81.1	75.1
<b>Neath Port Talbot</b>	79.5	68.5	77.2	66.3	74.5	70.8	70.3	71.9
<b>Pembrokes hire</b>	86.1	76.6	82.5	77.8	79.0	76.8	79.1	74.7
<b>Powys</b>	82.4	73.2	81.3	71.9	79.1	71.0	77.1	72.6
<b>Swansea</b>	83.5	70.7	81.8	68.4	74.8	69.7	69.0	65.7
<b>Mid and West Wales</b>	<b>83.3</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>72.3</b>
<b>Anglesey</b>	91.5	78.9	90.7	78.8	87.5	75.2	83.6	77.2
<b>Conwy</b>	88.9	78.4	86.8	75.8	82.1	75.5	80.5	76.5
<b>Denbighshire</b>	87.5	75.9	85.5	72.3	80.6	67.7	77.1	64.1
<b>Flintshire</b>	91.0	77.2	89.1	72.2	84.2	68.8	75.6	65.2
<b>Gwynedd</b>	89.3	77.8	86.3	78.7	83.8	76.6	81.8	80.5
<b>Wrexham</b>	88.6	77.1	85.7	73.4	86.9	72.4	84.2	72.0
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>80.1</b>	<b>71.8</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	81.7	70.1	80.0	50.5	73.7	56.3	74.5	66.5
<b>Wales total</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>80.1</b>	<b>74.8</b>

Source NPHS annual COVER reports

Data for 2002-3 pre-dates the current organisational structure of Local Health Board Areas, data for this year is presented by old District Health Authority

	2002-3	
Health Authority	MMR1 (at 2 years of age)	MMR2 (at 5 years of age)
	(%)	(%)

<b>Bro Taf</b>	85.0	75.8
<b>Dyfed Powys</b>	79.7	69.9
<b>Gwent</b>	83.7	76.5
<b>Morgannwg</b>	72.8	69.5
<b>North Wales</b>	79.7	67.2
<b>Wales</b>	80.7	72.1

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

**Joyce Watson (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on the proposed house stock transfer in Mid and West Wales? (WAQ50484)

**The Deputy Minister for Housing (Jocelyn Davies):** The Welsh Assembly Government has set an objective for all social housing in Wales to be brought up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) by 2012. We believe that this is the minimum standard that tenants should expect in the 21st century. All local authorities in Wales are required to provide business plans to show how they will fund the improvements to their housing stock to meet WHQS by 2012.

Ceredigion Council has provided a business plan that identifies a shortfall of £18.3 million to bring the council's housing stock up to WHQS by 2012 and a further £72.3 million to maintain that standard for 30 years. The Council set up an Options Appraisal panel comprised of tenants, elected members and staff of the council to look at the available options and to recommend the most appropriate way to meet WHQS. The Council agreed with the Panel's recommendation that the Council ballot its tenants with a view to the transfer of all of its stock to a completely new Registered Social Landlord. The process of consulting with tenants and other stakeholders is well underway. It is envisaged that a ballot of all tenants eligible to vote will be held in the Summer of 2008.