

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 22 Ionawr 2013

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 22 January 2013

*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

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

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Pa asesiad a wnaeth y Gweinidog ynghylch perygl llifogydd ardaloedd a ddynodwyd yn Ardaloedd Menter cyn eu cyhoeddi. (WAQ61974)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What assessment did the Minister make regarding the flood risk of areas designated as Enterprise Zones prior to their announcement. (WAQ61974)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 17 Ionawr 2013
Answer received for publication on 17 January 2013***

The Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science (Edwina Hart): Environmental issues were addressed in the original business cases that I considered prior to agreeing the Zones.

***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 Lywodraeth Cymru safon y mae'n rhaid i ysbytai a darparwyr gofal iechyd ei chyrraedd er mwyn ystyried bod eu lefelau staffio yn 'ddiogel'. (WAQ61965)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Does the Welsh Government have a standard to which hospitals and healthcare providers have to reach for their staffing levels to be considered 'safe'. (WAQ61965)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 22 Ionawr 2013
Answer received for publication on 22 January 2013***

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): The responsibility for ensuring safe staffing levels rests with Health Boards and Trusts who, when determining staffing numbers, need to take account of acuity levels and local demands on services. Some Royal colleges have established standards which inform local decisions. Also, Health Boards are using an agreed set of principles for determining nursing staff levels for acute medical and surgical adult wards, while the Welsh Government is working to support the introduction of tools to guide local decisions about nursing staff levels.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): Faint o ddarparwyr gofal iechyd yng Nghymru sy'n gweithredu gyda lefelau staffio anniogel. (WAQ61966)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): How many healthcare providers in Wales are operating with unsafe levels of staffing. (WAQ61966)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 22 Ionawr 2013
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Lesley Griffiths: Welsh Government's expectation is there are no unsafe services at the present time. It is the responsibility of Health Boards and Trusts to ensure staff levels are adequate to deliver safe services in the context of constantly changing demands. Health Boards and Trusts must comply with the set of agreed principles for determining nursing staff levels in acute medical and surgical adult wards.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd yn ystod y deuddeg mis diwethaf i wella gwneud diagnosis cynnar ac ymyriadau amserol ar gyfer pobl sy'n byw â dementia. (WAQ61967)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What action has the Minister taken over the past twelve months to improve early diagnosis and timely interventions for people living with dementia. (WAQ61967)

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): Pa asesiad y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i wneud o'r ffigurau diweddaraf a gyhoeddwyd ar gyfer cyfraddau gwneud diagnosis o ddementia yng Nghymru o'u cymharu â gweddill y DU. (WAQ61968)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What assessment has the Minister made of the latest figures published for dementia diagnosis rates in Wales compared to the rest of the UK. (WAQ61968)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 22 Ionawr 2013
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Lesley Griffiths: We recognise there are concerns around rates of dementia diagnosis in Wales. It is important primary care services are equipped to identify the signs and symptoms of dementia and to refer on patients to appropriate services, such as memory clinics. We have asked the National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH) to consider this issue, and to establish rates across the UK. It is working with Public Health Wales to develop a training module for GP practices.

Additionally, the use of intelligent targets and the 1000 lives plus improvement methodology will have a positive impact. One of the four intelligent targets relating to dementia is focused on reducing the time between the onset of symptoms and diagnosis by memory assessment services. We also anticipate the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 will help support more effective diagnosis and referrals to memory clinics. Consequently, I expect a real improvement in diagnosis rates, identified and reflected in primary care registers, in future years.

In terms of ready access to support and more timely interventions, the Welsh Government has supported the development of the free bilingual 24/7 Wales Dementia Helpline. Information packs for all newly diagnosed patients are now available in memory clinics and from the Alzheimer's Society and our Book Prescription Wales scheme has been expanded to include publications on dementia.

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

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Ers iddo ysgwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb dros y portffolio llywodraeth leol, a wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu pob enghraifft o awdurdodau lleol yn uno swyddogaethau swyddfa gefn i sicrhau arbedion effeithlonrwydd, ac a wnaiff amlinellu faint o arian sydd wedi cael ei arbed o ganlyniad i'r camau hyn. (WAQ61969)

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Since taking control of the local government portfolio, will the Minister outline all examples of local authorities merging back office functions to ensure efficiency savings, and will he outline the amount of money which has been saved as a consequence of these actions. (WAQ61969)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Ionawr 2013
Answer received for publication on 24 January 2013

The Minister for Local Government and Communities (Carl Sargeant): The Compact for Change agreed between Local and Welsh Government sets out specific proposals for new ways of delivering services together. Each project is subject to a detailed business case appraisal which will demonstrate the scale of financial benefit, service improvement to the citizen, or both.

Amongst other proposals, the Compact includes a specific commitment to review the scope for collaboration in the future delivery of corporate services such as payroll and HR by March 2013.

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ynghylch a yw cytundebau canlyniadau wedi gwella perfformiad ar lefel llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru. (WAQ61970)

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Will the Minister make a statement on whether outcome agreements have driven up performance at local government level in Wales. (WAQ61970)

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Carl Sargeant: Outcome Agreements are agreements between the Welsh Government and local authorities in Wales. They started in 2010 and the current set are due to finish in 2013. Every agreement includes 10 outcomes which are expected to reflect local objectives but also to connect with the Welsh Government's strategic priorities. Authorities receive a pro rata grant for achieving the outcomes and targets in the agreement.

We have commissioned an independent evaluation of outcome agreements from Glamorgan University. I expect that the findings of that to fully endorse outcome agreements as a mechanism to incentivise better performance at local government level in Wales.

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gynnal gwerthusiad ar unwaith o raddfeydd cyflog yr uwch staff ym mhob awdurdod lleol. (WAQ61971)

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Will the Minister undertake an immediate evaluation of pay scales for senior staff in all local authorities. (WAQ61971)

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Carl Sargeant: No

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am awdurdodau lleol yn dyfarnu codiadau cyflog i uwch reolwyr yn yr hinsawdd ariannol anodd bresennol. (WAQ61972)

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Will the Minister make a statement on local authorities awarding pay rises to senior management in the current difficult financial climate. (WAQ61972)

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Carl Sargeant: Local authority pay is a matter for each authority and they are accountable to their local electorates for the decisions they take.

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Pa gamau sydd wedi cael eu cymryd gan y Gweinidog yn ystod y Pedwerydd Cynulliad i hybu lefelau gwell o dryloywder ar lefel llywodraeth leol. (WAQ61973)

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): What steps have been taken by the Minister during the Fourth Assembly to encourage improved and enhanced levels of transparency at local government level. (WAQ61973)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 23 Ionawr 2013
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Carl Sargeant: The Programme for Government sets out the Welsh Government's plans for strong local democracy. This includes the on-going implementation of provisions in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

In addition, the Scrutiny Support Programme will enable local authorities to develop independent and effective scrutiny services. It includes a grant to the Centre for Public Scrutiny to support local authorities to improve their scrutiny function and the re-instatement of the Scrutiny Development Fund.

I have also written to local authorities asking them what they have done or plan to do in relation to the broadcasting of their meetings. I am considering their responses and will shortly be making an announcement.

Finally, local authorities are required to disclose, as part of their annual reporting process, the salaries paid to their senior officers. From March 2012, the Localism Act 2011 requires authorities to prepare and make available for public inspection, a statement on their policy relating to the pay of its workforce. This has required authorities to be more open about their own local policies and how local decisions are made.

Authorities may wish to invest resources in making detailed information on expenditure available but I feel making this a statutory requirement would not be an effective way to achieve transparency. In keeping their citizens informed, authorities need to demonstrate that they use the most cost effective ways of achieving this.