

Written Questions answered between 8 and 15 February 2007

[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 Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks

Alun Ffred Jones: What assessment has the Minister made of the progress of the Knowledge Bank for Business? (WAQ49259)

Alun Ffred Jones: How many new jobs have been created by companies who have received support from the Knowledge Bank for Business? (WAQ49260)

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): The Knowledge Bank for Business will analyse and review its first year of performance in summer 2007, including jobs created and improvements in business competitiveness. The full results will be made publicly available. Direct feedback from clients is already telling us that KB4B is making a positive contribution by providing targeted and customer-focused support in a timely manner.

Alun Ffred Jones: What assessment has the Minister made of the progress of International Business Wales? (WAQ49261)

Andrew Davies: I hold regular meetings with department heads and directors at which we discuss a wide range of issues including performance and outputs. International Business Wales features as part of those discussions and I am content that this new customer-focused organisation has made significant progress since the merger last April. It is delivering new inward investment jobs for Wales and helping companies in Wales internationalise into new markets.

Alun Ffred Jones: How many visits abroad has the Minister made during the past 12 months as part of his ministerial duties and of these how many were by plane and how many of these flights were in business or first class? (WAQ49276)

Andrew Davies: The table below shows my visits abroad in the last 12 months.

Date/s of Travel	Destination	Class of Air travel
18/07/06-19/07/06	Cork	Economy
19/02/06-23/02/06	Toronto/Chicago	Business
06/11/06-06/11/06	Brussels	Economy

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister make a statement about the money he has allocated in his budget to reopen the south-bound junction of the A470 in Trefforest? (WAQ49280)

Andrew Davies: I have made no money available for the reopening of the south-bound junction of the A470 at Trefforest.

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister make a statement about plans to reopen the south-bound junction of the A470 in Trefforest? (WAQ49281)

Andrew Davies: I have no plans to reopen the south-bound junction of the A470 at Trefforest. The junction was stopped up for safety reasons in the early 1990s as part of work taken forward at that time by the local authority for the Pontypridd inner relief road scheme.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

Elin Jones: Further to his answer to WAQ49011 to WAQ49038, will the Minister detail estimated rate of voluntary modulation? (WAQ49196)

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): Accumulated voluntary modulation will be a funding source for the successor plan. Until such time as there is agreement at the EU level on the operation of the voluntary modulation regime from 2007, and the Welsh Assembly Government is in a position to finalise the financial details for the successor plan, it is too early to speculate what voluntary rates might apply in addition to the compulsory regime other than to say that it is likely that voluntary modulation will be required.

Elin Jones: Further to his answer to WAQ49011 to WAQ49038, will the Minister detail where revenues collected from compulsory modulation are included within the tables? (WAQ49197)

Carwyn Jones: Compulsory modulation is included within the 'EU' funding provision

Elin Jones: Further to his answer to WAQ49011 to WAQ49038, will the Minister detail where match funding from the Treasury is included within the tables? (WAQ49198)

Carwyn Jones: As previously explained, Treasury matched funding is within the overall departmental limit set for the Assembly Government within each spending review. This amount is not hypothecated. The 2006-07 Tir Cymru budget expenditure limit included the matched funding. For the purposes of the tables, the Tir Cymru BEL provision is covered in the 'domestic' line for the relevant measures under axis 2.

Decisions on future levels of matched funding are subject to the outcome at the EU level on the voluntary modulation regime from 2007 and the current spending review.

Elin Jones: Further to his answer to WAQ49011 to WAQ49038, will the Minister detail where match funding from Europe is included within the tables? (WAQ49199)

Carwyn Jones: The projected level of EU co-financing is shown in the line 'EU' against the individual measures under each of the axes.

Elin Jones: Further to his answer to WAQ49011 to WAQ49038, will the Minister confirm whether European funding match funding only applies to projects financed by voluntary modulation, and can he detail the rate of match-funding? (WAQ49200)

Carwyn Jones: EU co-financing applies to each of the four axes under the successor plan whether or not the funding for an individual measure relies on voluntary modulation.

The projected co-financing rates are:

Axis 1 non-convergence area 2007 to 2013 average 50 per cent convergence area average 35 per cent;

Axis 2 non-convergence area average 20 per cent convergence area average 50 per cent;

Axis 3 non-convergence area average 50 per cent convergence area average 73 per cent;

Axis 4 non-convergence area average 50 per cent convergence area average 76 per cent.

Elin Jones: Will the Minister detail the actual expenditure on Tir Cynnal for each year since its inception? (WAQ49205)

Carwyn Jones: The Tir Cynnal scheme was introduced in 2005. Payments under the 2005 scheme year commenced in July 2006, and to date we have paid £5.77 million.

Elin Jones: Will the Minister detail estimated take up levels of (i) Tir Gofal, (ii) Tir Cynnal, (iii) organic scheme, for each year between 2006 and 2013? (WAQ49206)

Carwyn Jones: On Tir Gofal, 3,044 agreements had been negotiated by the end of 2006. Following the recent re-opening of the scheme to new applications, it is expected that a further 700 agreements will be in place by 2009. On Tir Cynnal, the respective position is 3,367 and 8,000 with activity under the organic farming scheme at some 773 and 1,000.

The position for the longer term will depend on the outcome of the review, later this year, of axis 2 of the rural development plan.

Elin Jones: Will the Minister detail the number of agreement holders of the organic maintenance scheme for each year since 1999? (WAQ49267)

Carwyn Jones: The organic maintenance scheme was introduced on 1 March 2004. Since that date 312 participants have entered the scheme as follows:

Year	2004	2005	2006
Number of Participants	15	187	110

Elin Jones: Will the Minister provide a list of all the different varieties planted while replanting the Assembly's forestry estate during the plantation season of July 1999 to June 2000, and detailing the percentage of the total that each variety represents? (WAQ49268)

Carwyn Jones: The details are as follows.

Tree Species	% Total Planting July 1999 to June 2000
Scots pine	2.15
Sitka spruce	27.62
Washington sitka spruce	30.38
Corsican pine	3.23
Lodgepole pine	0.1
Hybrid larch	1.75
Japanese larch	18.24
Norway spruce	5.47
Douglas fir	5.34
Other conifer	4.32
Sessile oak	0.46
Alder	0.1
Ash	0.1
Cherry	0.01
Birch	0.4
Beech	0.03
Rowan	0.1
Other broadleaves	0.2
Total	100

Elin Jones: Will the Minister provide a list of all the different varieties planted while replanting the Assembly's forestry estate during the plantation season of July 2005 to June 2006, and detailing the percentage of the total that each variety represents? (WAQ49269)

Carwyn Jones: The details are as follows.

Tree Species	% Total Planting July 2005 to June 2006
Scots pine	1.07
Sitka spruce	0.56
Washington sitka spruce	33.31
Improved sitka spruce	21.89
Lodgepole pine	2.39
Hybrid larch	3.05
Japanese larch	9.17
Norway spruce	4.13
Douglas fir	4.31
Other conifer	0.16
Pedunculate oak	1.93
Sessile oak	8.66
Alder	0.21
Ash	2.24
Cherry	0.44
Willow	0.18
Birch	3.43
Other broadleaves	2.87
Total	100

It should be noted that an increasing area of clear-felled land is now restocked with native broadleaved trees through the encouragement of natural regeneration. This method takes longer to achieve establishment and it is therefore difficult to give an exact figure for the area of the Assembly estate it now represents but it is a significant addition to the figures presented in the table above.

Elin Jones: Will the Minister detail the value of grant for each recipient of food and processing marketing grants, and the number of jobs created with each grant? (WAQ49270)

Carwyn Jones: Since the start of the processing and marketing grants scheme in 2001, there have been over 300 grants awarded. Although jobs creation is not one of the key objectives of the scheme, information is gathered from each recipient of a grant and I have attached a list detailing this information.

Questions to the Finance Minister

Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the financial consequences for the Assembly budget of equal pay for the devolved public services? (WAQ49186)

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): The costs of the devolved public services complying with legislation on equal pay will be managed within the departmental expenditure limit.

Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the overall budget allocation to the local government and public services portfolio? (WAQ49187)

Sue Essex: The budget allocation for the local government and public services portfolio is £3.8 billion in 2006-07. This is an increase of 7.6 per cent over the 2005-06 budget. This increase includes transfers in respect of social care and education.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Jonathan Morgan: How many GP consultations have taken place across Wales every year since 1999 and will the Minister give an overall breakdown as well as by local health board? (WAQ49258)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): This information is not collected. The Welsh health survey for 2003-04 estimates that adults consult with a GP an average five times per year. In 2004-05 this increased to six times per year.

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail the number of treatments offered under the second offer scheme for each year since 1999? (WAQ49272)

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail the number of treatments declined under the second offer scheme for each year since 1999? (WAQ49264)

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail the number of treatments undertaken under the second offer scheme in settings outside NHS Wales for each year since 1999? (WAQ49266)

Brian Gibbons: The second offer scheme commenced on 1 April 2004. Below are the number of treatments offered, treatments declined and treatments outside NHS Wales for each year since April 2004.

	2004-05	2005-06	Apr 2006 to Dec 2006	Total (Apr 2004 to Dec 2006)
Second offers made	18,633	6,936	4,897	30,466
Second offers declined	8,082	1,668	1,312	11,062
Treatments outside NHS Wales	4,381	2,737	1,402	8,520

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail the number of delayed transfers of care for each year since 1999? (WAQ49265)

Brian Gibbons: Comparable and consistent information prior to November 2002 is not available. The number of delayed transfers of care in Wales as recorded on the delayed transfer of care database at the census point each month since November 2002 is set out in the table below.

The figures below include delays in all settings where an individual is not most appropriately placed. This can include, for example, where an individual is ready to be moved to another NHS setting for ongoing treatment. It can also include situations where no suitable place is available or where an individual refuses to move to a setting that best meets their assessed needs.

The monthly census is a snapshot that records individuals inappropriately delayed at a particular time of the month. Individuals delayed longer than a calendar month are included at each subsequent census point during the duration of their delay. Therefore it is not possible to provide an aggregated total for each year because this would involve some individuals being counted more than once.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2002											1,067	987
2003	1,071	994	1,116	1,011	1,079	1,002	1,075	1,075	1,116	1,008	1,113	988
2004	1,096	1,032	1010	934	906	856	795	829	785	790	798	738
2005	806	764	700	689	721	674	670	685	717	699	688	621
2006	659	610	618	601	611	612	574	646	731	722	754	642

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail the revenue collected from capital charges to NHS trusts for each year since 1999? (WAQ49273)

Brian Gibbons: The revenue collected is a charge reflecting the forecast cost of capital utilised by the NHS trusts. This is paid over as public dividend capital dividends. The charge is calculated at the real rate set by the Treasury, currently 3.5 per cent. The basis for calculating the public dividend capital dividends payable changed with effect from 2004-05. Dividends payable are calculated on the basis of actual cost of capital, not adjusted estimates as before.

PDC Dividends Payable 1999-2000 to 2005-06

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
PDC Dividends Payable	81,318	73,988	73,064	86,058	66,082	59,084	61,326

Source: NHS Wales Trust Summarised Accounts.

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail the number of NHS (i) full-time, and (ii) part-time hospital consultants for each year since 1999? (WAQ49274)

Brian Gibbons: The information is given in the following table.

Hospital consultants (medical and dental) (a)

	Number			Whole-time equivalent
	Whole-time	Part-time	Total	
1999	975	403	1,378	1,220.7
2000	975	466	1,441	1,250.5
2001	1,078	393	1,471	1,312.1
2002	1,162	364	1,526	1,376.9
2003	1,126	441	1,567	1,416.9
2004	1,206	514	1,720	1,549.2
2005	1,382	419	1,801	1,626.9

Source: Annual medical and dental staff census.

(a) Staff in post at 30 September.

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail the number of NHS (i) full-time, and (ii) part-time nurses for each year since 1999? (WAQ49275)

Brian Gibbons: The information is given in the following table.

Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff (a)

	Number			Whole-time equivalent
	Whole-time	Part-time	Total	
1999	16,109	16,599	32,708	23,972.7
2000	16,233	18,936	35,169	24,313.6
2001	16,534	18,987	35,521	24,750.5
2002	17,107	20,271	37,378	25,506.3
2003	18,001	21,632	39,633	26,697.3

2004	18,661	23,014	41,675	27,406.7
2005	19,179	24,036	43,215	28,151.7

Source: Annual non medical staff census.

(a) Staff in post at 30 September.

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister state the amount of money given to housing renewal areas for each year since 2003 by local authority area? (WAQ49283)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): Please see the table below.
Welsh Assembly Government Financial Resources for Renewal Areas since 2003

Local Authority	SCA*	SCGRA**	SCGRA**	SCGRA**	Total
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Allocation
Blaenau Gwent	£400,000	£1,300,000	£300,000	£1,000,000	£3,000,000
Bridgend	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	£230,000	£230,000
Caerphilly	£685,000	£1,085,000	£1,293,000	£1,510,000	£4,573,000
Cardiff	£1,600,000	£1,680,000	£1,120,000	£1,900,000	£6,300,000
Camarthen	£1,700,000	£2,200,000	£2,000,000	£1,750,000	£7,650,000
Ceredigion	£200,000	£650,000	£900,000	£1,400,000	£3,150,000
Conwy	£1,600,000	£2,000,000	£1,600,000	£650,000	£5,850,000
Denbighshire	£1,700,000	£1,800,000	£1,780,000	£1,450,000	£6,730,000
Flintshire	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	
Gwynedd	£1,600,000	£1,700,000	£1,500,000	£1,300,000	£6,100,000
Merthyr	£1,955,000	£2,200,000	£2,100,000	£1,800,000	£8,055,000
Monmouth	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	
Neath/Port Talbot	£300,000	£900,000	£1,450,000	£1,690,000	£4,340,000
Newport	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	
Pembrokeshire	£1,542,000	£1,800,000	£1,600,000	£1,300,000	£6,242,000
Powys	No renewal areas	£50,000	£130,000	£800,000	£980,000
Rhondda Cynon Taff	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£2,100,000	£1,900,000	£6,000,000
Swansea	£1,600,000	£2,150,000	£2,000,000	£1,800,000	£7,550,000
Torfaen	£1,800,000	£2,000,000	£2,106,000	£1,700,000	£7,606,000
Vale of Glamorgan	£1,000,000	£850,000	£1,700,000	£1,500,000	£5,050,000
Wrexham	£1,800,000	£2,435,000	£2,100,000	£1,900,000	£8,235,000
Ynys Môn	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	No renewal areas	
Total	£20,482,000	£25,800,000	£25,779,000	£25,580,000	£97,641,000

* Supplementary credit approval.

** Specific capital grant for renewal areas.

Source of Information: Housing Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government.