

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 27 January 2010

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

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

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To ask the First Minister

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Which programmes in the First Minister's Department were underspent in each of the last 5 years and by how much in each case. (WAQ55494)

Answer issued on 02 March 2010

This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

To ask the Minister for Business and Budget

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Which programmes in the Minister's Department were underspent in each of the last 5 years and by how much in each case. (WAQ55496) ***Transferred for answer by the First Minister***

Answer issued on 02 March 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

To ask the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Which programmes in the Minister's Department were underspent in each of the last 5 years and by how much in each case. (WAQ55492) ***Transferred for answer by the First Minister***

Answer issued on 02 March 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport

David Melding (South Wales Central): What involvement did the Minister have in the decision taken by Finance Wales to open an office in North East England. (WAQ55482)

Answer issued on 26 May 2010

The Board of Finance Wales plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Welsh Assembly Government, is responsible for the development of the company's Strategy and Business plan, which is approved by my Department on an annual basis

Part of this strategy is for Finance Wales to build on its track record of generating returns from investments in Welsh businesses by securing and managing additional investment funds. This is important going forward given that the JEREMIE fund ceases investment in 2013/14, especially as the fund is currently running ahead of its target rate of investment.

In the light of this track record, over the last year Finance Wales was approached by a number of English regions, including a request from the One North East Regional Development Agency to participate in a

tender action for the management for part of their new JEREMIE fund. Finance Wales was awarded preferred bidder status for a £20m equity fund.

Recognising the wider strategic and sustainability benefits that Finance Wales believe will accrue to Wales as a result of them being able to undertake commercial fund management opportunities and on the basis that there will be no subsidy from the Welsh public purse to support this venture, I approved a request from Finance Wales that they be permitted to enter into a contractual relationship with One North East, on 19 February 2010.

David Melding (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on the decision taken by Finance Wales to open an office in North East England. (WAQ55483)

Answer issued on 26 May 2010

Further to the holding reply you received for WAQ 55483, I am now in a position to provide you with a response. I apologise for the lateness in replying to you.

I approved the execution of the contract for Finance Wales to act as a fund manager for part of the One North East JEREMIE fund for the reasons outlined in my reply to WAQ 55482.

David Melding (South Wales Central): What are the strategic advantages of Finance Wales operating beyond Wales. (WAQ55484)

Answer issued on 26 May 2010

Part of the Finance Wales strategy is to build on its track record of generating returns from investments in Welsh businesses by securing and managing additional investment funds.

Management of funds in other parts of the UK will enable Finance Wales to enhance its credibility and reputation within the sector and thus improve its chances of securing private sector backed investment for a new fund in Wales. Securing additional funds is critical to the longer term sustainability of Finance Wales in providing finance for Welsh businesses. This is especially the case with the £150m JEREMIE fund ceasing investment in 2013/14, i.e. at the same time as the current Structural Fund programmes coming to an end.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister confirm what discussions his officials have had with Bosch senior management in Germany regarding the closure of their plant in Miskin. (WAQ55485)

Answer issued on 08 April 2011

Bosch is Relationship Managed and my officials work closely with the company to identify all levels of possible support that may be available.

My officials and I have held joint discussions with Bosch's senior management from Germany. We have discussed the reasons behind the review and the implications for the Cardiff site. The Bosch site is a non-assisted area for financial support in terms of capital investment, but we have thoroughly investigated other support which could be offered to Bosch, such as financial support towards research and development of a new product. We have outlined the match funded support that was given over a 2 year period to a training programme to enhance the skills of the employees and efficiency at the plant.

We have also discussed the support that our ReAct Programme could provide to the affected employees, should the final Bosch Board decision be to phase out production at the plant. These discussions will be ongoing, subject to the final decision on the future of the plant.

My officials have also held several meetings with Bosch Management regarding the closure of the Miskin Plant between September 2009 and January 2010.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many employees who have been made redundant due to company closures have found new employment through Welsh Assembly Government employment schemes in Rhondda Cynon Taff since January 2007. (WAQ55486)

Answer issued on 27 January 2010

We continue to offer help to people to find employment through our ReAct programme. We made an additional £2m available to ReAct during 2009/2010. The current ReAct programme started on the 1st October 2008 and since that date it has helped 11,581 individuals across Wales and 1,104 individuals and 125 businesses in Rhondda Cynon Taf. We are unable to disaggregate data at a local authority level for ReAct during 2007. The most recent ReAct evaluation report, shows that 80% of individuals who had benefited from ReAct were in employment at the time of the survey with 3% undertaking further learning.

We do not collect information centrally regarding redundancies relating to company closures. However, between December 2006 and December 2009 the rate for those who were claimant count unemployed (Job Seekers Allowance claimants) in Rhondda Cynon Taf increased by 2.5 percentage points to 5.0 per cent of the working age population (7,200). This is a larger increase than for Wales (up 1.9 percentage point to 4.3 per cent) and the UK (up 1.7 percentage points to 4.1 per cent).

Between the year to June 2007 and the year to June 2009 the ILO unemployment rate in Rhondda Cynon Taf increased by 4.4 percentage points to 9.7 per cent of the population aged 16 and over (10,300). This is a larger increase than for Wales (up 2.2 percentage points to 7.7 per cent) and the UK (up 1.5 percentage points to 6.8 per cent)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister list the meetings he or his officials have held with senior Bosch management in Germany and will he provide details of who attended each meeting. (WAQ55487)

Answer issued on 08 April 2011

My officials and I have attended two meetings with senior Bosch management from Germany since the 17 September 2009 announcement, which outlined the review being carried out throughout the Bosch Group, including the Cardiff plant.

The first meeting was held on 20 October 2009. The attendees included the First Minister and myself, a private office official, a policy official and the following Bosch representatives:

- Stefan Asenkerschbaumer, President of Bosch Starter Motors and Generators Division, based in Germany;
- Klaus Peter Fouquet, President of Bosch Ltd UK, based in Germany;
- Jens-Knut Fabrowsky, Executive Vice President Starter Motors and Generators, based in Germany;

- Adam Willmott, Senior Vice President, Technical Plant Manager Cardiff Plant and;
- Martin Ziegler, Senior Vice President, Commercial Plant Manager Cardiff Plant.

The second meeting took place on 14 January 2010. Attendees included myself, a private office official, a policy official, a member of the Assembly Government Press Team, two Special Advisers and the following Bosch representatives:

- Stefan Asenkerschbaumer, President of Bosch Starter Motors and Generators Division;
- Jens-Knut Fabrowsky, Executive Vice President Manufacturing of the Starter Motors and Generators Division; and
- Martin Ziegler, Senior Vice President and Commercial Plant Manager, Cardiff Plant.

In addition, seven meetings have been held between my officials and Bosch Management regarding the issue. The dates of these meetings are as follows:

21 September 2009
8 October 2009
9 November 2009
11 November 2009
19 January 2010
20 January 2010
25 January 2010.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Which programmes in the Minister's Department were underspent in each of the last 5 years and by how much in each case. (WAQ55495) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 02 March 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

To ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Which programmes in the Minister's Department were underspent in each of the last 5 years and by how much in each case. (WAQ55491) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 02 March 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Peter Black (South Wales West): Given the report by the Nuffield Trust which shows that more money is being spent on the NHS in Wales than in England, but that outcomes are lower, will the Minister be investigating waste in the NHS. (WAQ55488)

Answer issued on 02 February 2010

The Nuffield Trust report is based on data which is over three years old. It is impossible to draw any meaningful conclusions from such an out of date analysis. The Chief Executive of the NHS, Paul Williams, is working with the NHS to develop a Five Year Service, Workforce and Financial Framework which will set out how services for patients will be further improved within an increasingly challenging financial context. The NHS has achieved significant quality, outcome and efficiency gains each year, and I will continue to hold the NHS to account for delivering best value from available resources.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Which programmes in the Minister's Department were underspent in each of the last 5 years and by how much in each case. (WAQ55490) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 02 March 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

To ask the Minister for Heritage

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Which programmes in the Minister's Department were underspent in each of the last 5 years and by how much in each case. (WAQ55497) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 02 March 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Which programmes in the Minister's Department were underspent in each of the last 5 years and by how much in each case. (WAQ55493) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 02 March 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

To ask the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Which programmes in the Minister's Department were underspent in each of the last 5 years and by how much in each case. (WAQ55489) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 02 March 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.