

## **Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 25 October 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***

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** On how many occasions in the past six months has the First Minister held meetings with either Ministers from the MOD or the Senior Civil Service in connection with the Defence Training Academy in St Athan. (WAQ56619)

***Answer issued on 26 October 2010***

I have not held meetings with MoD Ministers or Senior Civil Servants but the Deputy First Minister has done so, as detailed in his response to your question WAQ 56618.

***To ask the Minister for Business and Budget***

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister detail the current development costs for the Llandudno WAG offices, in terms of professional fees, loose furnishings and IT equipment, with a separate figure for each aspect. (WAQ56634)

***Answer issued on 27 October 2010***

Final accounts are currently being agreed with our managing agents. The current costs are: Professional Fees (since the Pause and Review period) - £1,421,219; Loose Furnishings - £2,138,839; and IT - £1,382,355 (all excluding VAT). These may be subject to change when accounts are finalised later this year.

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

**Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire):** For how long will funding be given for the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence programme in Wales. (WAQ56630)

**Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire):** What is the budget for the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence programme in Wales (WAQ56631)

**Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire):** How many apprentices are on the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence programme in Wales. (WAQ56632)

***Answer issued on 26 October 2010***

Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) is a sporting qualification for young people with the realistic potential to achieve excellence in their sport by competing on the world stage or securing a professional contract.

AASE combines a flexible education programme with a structured national training and development route across all sports, while preparing athletes for a career after sport. AASE has been designed to meet the needs of young people who have the realistic potential to achieve excellence in their sport and are seeking to perform at the highest level as their main career goal.

League Football Education is the only provider delivering the AASE in Wales. There are 20 apprentices on the Sporting Excellence programme in Wales. All are in their second year. The apprenticeships are only available in football.

DCELLS does not allocate specific budgets to each apprenticeship framework. Based on the data we hold, the potentially fundable value for the current cohort of learners to complete the apprenticeship is approximately £277,000. This is taking into account costs for induction, learning delivery and attainment (assuming all qualifications are attained).

Sporting excellence learners are not employed. From August 2011 when our new contracting arrangements with work-based learning providers will be put in place we will only fund employed status learners.

***To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport***

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** On how many occasions in the past six months has the Minister held meetings with either Ministers from the MOD or the Senior Civil Service in connection with the Defence Training Academy in St Athan. (WAQ56618)

***Answer issued on 26 October 2010***

I have had two such meetings:

- 11 May 2010: meeting of the Ministerial Steering Group on the St Athan Development Scheme
- 28 September 2010: meeting with the Secretary of State for Defence.

**Mark Isherwood (North Wales):** With the GRIP report being undertaken by Network Rail likely to be 9 months late in its delivery, what impact does that have on taking the options forward in light of any time limits that the SCIF funding identified for this project may have. (WAQ56635)

***Answer issued on 26 October 2010***

Capital expenditure for future years is being considered in light of the Spending Review announcement. Budgets will be set out in the Assembly Government's Draft Budget on 17 November.

***To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services***

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister outline any steps being taken to improve awareness of pneumococcal disease. (WAQ56620)

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister outline the procedures in place within the NHS in Wales to ensure early diagnosis and treatment of pneumococcal disease. (WAQ56621)

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Is the Minister organising a structured education programme to ensure awareness of pneumococcal disease and prevention through vaccination (WAQ56622)

***Answer issued on 26 October 2010***

In order to raise awareness of meningitis among young people, Public Health Wales has recently distributed a DVD entitled 'Meningitis - Know the Signs' to all secondary schools, independent schools and Further Education colleges in Wales.

Awareness and early diagnosis of pneumococcal disease is mainly achieved through the seasonal flu and pneumococcal immunisation programmes, since the at-risk groups are broadly similar. Local health

professionals are best placed to raise awareness of the disease through informed discussion with individuals recommended to have the vaccine. The Wales Immunisation Group will be looking at the adequacy of vaccine coverage in line with recommendations and Assembly Government targets. They will identify examples of best practice that can be shared across Wales and consider any additional steps that might be needed.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What steps are being taken within the NHS in Wales to improve access to quality treatment in all settings for older adults with HIV. (WAQ56623)

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What steps are in place to offer emotional support and to prevent social isolation for older patients with HIV, particularly in conjunction with organisations and services that regularly deal with this demographic age group. (WAQ56624)

*Answer issued on 26 October 2010*

'Providing for the needs of people with HIV/Aids in Wales', our national care pathway published in August 2009, aims to ensure access to specialist HIV treatment and care services for all affected patients – including older adults - and their carers and families.

All HIV positive individuals who request support will be provided with an assessment and the services provided - based on the assessment findings - may include emotional support and counselling.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What action has the Minister taken, along with Local Health Boards, to monitor the uptake of vacancies in the NHS in Wales and what steps has the Minister taken to promote the Welsh NHS to medical professionals as an attractive place to work. (WAQ56633)

*Answer issued on 26 October 2010*

A Workforce Modernisation Programme board has been established to ensure NHS workforce plans reflect the future needs of the service. The Junior Doctor Review group has developed a range of initiatives to improve the image of Wales to potential medical staff and reduce vacancies. Incentives for new and existing middle grade doctors have been agreed, including funding for training courses and professional qualifications, support for these doctors in LHBs and assistance with accommodation for new arrivals from overseas. The Wales Deanery is also working with Health Boards to improve the medical training programmes for junior doctors in Wales.

*To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs*

**Brynle Williams (North Wales):** What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to improve the reliability of the labelling of Welsh produce in the catering sector. (WAQ56627)

*Answer issued on 08 March 2011*

Food labelling rules are a matter within the EU's competence. In the case of catering, it is a requirement that any information provided by the catering sector to the final consumer must be accurate and honest. Local Authority enforcement authorities have powers to take appropriate action under a number of pieces of legislation, namely: the Food Safety Act 1990; the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 and Article 16 of EC 178/2002.

**Brynle Williams (North Wales):** What progress has the Welsh Assembly Government made towards achieving its target to plant 100,000 hectares of new woodland. (WAQ56628)

*Answer issued on 07 April 2011*

I launched the Glastir woodland creation grant on 21 October in order to encourage landowners, especially farmers, to create new woodlands on their land in support of the Assembly Government's target of 100,000 hectares of new planting over the next 20 years. In addition, it supports the commitment to create more native and mixed woodland as set out in Woodlands for Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government's woodland strategy. Forestry Commission Wales have given priority to the development of this bespoke element of Glastir, Wales's new sustainable land management scheme and offers grants to landowners to create new woodlands on their land.

In addition, they have undertaken and produced woodland opportunities mapping which provides an area of 1.2 million hectares across Wales which are suitable for Glastir woodland creation of which 700,000 hectares are suitable and eligible for reduced consultation processes which should allow the administration of eligible applications to be approved faster. The grants will provide support for the costs of creating new woodlands as well as income foregone payments. They will be administered by Forestry Commission Wales until 1 January 2013 when responsibility for delivery will transfer to the Glastir Team.

Forestry Commission Wales are also currently piloting the 'Woodland Carbon Code' which will look into the potential benefits of carbon trading schemes which pay landowners for storing carbon. A pilot is being run until April 2011 and through this they will be testing the Code with land owners and managers.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** What rules and regulations are in place regarding the use of human waste as fertiliser in Wales and is this practice allowed in any form. (WAQ56629)

*Answer issued on 08 March 2011*

The use of human waste as fertiliser is not prohibited, but all use is heavily regulated. There are a number of rules and regulations in place that would need to be adhered to. They include the sludge regulations and cross compliance requirements.

### ***To ask the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government***

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister outline any steps currently in place to tackle the issue of HIV discrimination in all services, particularly in social housing, sheltered housing, care homes and health services. (WAQ56625)

*Answer issued on 27 October 2010*

In the recent Sexual Health and Wellbeing Draft Working Paper, I have already proposed that we need to develop an action plan to tackle stigma and discrimination associated with HIV. In order to take this forward we need to understand people's experiences of this in all areas of their lives. The Equality of Opportunity Committee Inquiry into Discrimination against People Living with HIV/AIDS by Healthcare Providers and Professionals has identified a knowledge gap between formal evidence and anecdotal evidence. My officials are working with Public Health Wales and the All Wales HIV Network to undertake a needs assessment of people living with HIV in relation to stigma and discrimination.

Guidance has issued to local authorities and housing associations on Allocations and Homelessness to ensure that those who need to move on medical and welfare grounds or because of their sexuality are treated fairly and without discrimination. Housing associations are also regulated to ensure they assist local authorities to meet their obligations.

Our Supporting People programme funds housing related support for people who may face disadvantage or discrimination as a result of HIV status.

WAG has recently commissioned research into the experience of people accessing housing options services. This will include the experience of same sex couples and those suffering with HIV/Aids.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister outline any steps currently in place to tackle the issue of homophobia in all services, particularly in social housing, sheltered housing, care homes and health services. (WAQ56626)

*Answer issued on 27 October 2010*

Single Equality Scheme Action Plans are being developed by the NHS in Wales. These Plans will include how each health board will tackle homophobia and will include details of training delivered to all staff.

Guidance has issued to local authorities and housing associations on Allocations and Homelessness to ensure that those who need to move on medical and welfare grounds or because of their sexuality are treated fairly and without discrimination. Housing associations are also regulated to ensure they assist local authorities to meet their obligations.

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