

## **Written Questions answered between 31 July and 7 August 2003**

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

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

### **Contents**

- 2 Questions to the First Minister
- 2 Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport
- 3 Questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
- 4 Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services
- 6 Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

## Questions to the First Minister

### Post Office Closures

**Nick Bourne:** What representations has the First Minister made to Westminster regarding post office closures in Wales, and will he ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for a list of all the closures since 1999 and publish it? (WAQ27320)

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** I have not made any representations to Westminster regarding post office closures in Wales but this is a subject raised by the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration in her regular discussions with the company. I understand that the Government does not compile a list of all the closures since 1999. However, the Royal Mail advisory board holds statistics on the numbers of post offices in Wales over that period.

### The New Assembly Building

**Nick Bourne:** Will the First Minister make it known how much it will cost to fit out the new Assembly building with information technology equipment (including value added tax)? (WAQ27597)

**Nick Bourne:** Will the First Minister make it known how much has been allocated to fit-out the new Assembly building with IT equipment? (WAQ27598)

**Nick Bourne:** Will the First Minister make it known the ceiling amount to fit-out the new Assembly building with IT equipment? (WAQ27599)

**Nick Bourne:** Will the First Minister make it known how much it will cost to fully furnish the new Assembly building (including VAT)? (WAQ27600)

**Nick Bourne:** Will the First Minister make it known how much has been allocated to furnish the new Assembly building? (WAQ27601)

**Nick Bourne:** Will the First Minister make it known the ceiling amount to furnish the new Assembly building? (WAQ27602)

**The First Minister:** I refer the Member to the answer given to WAQ26811.

## Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport

### Cardiff International Airport Access Road

**Alun Cairns:** Would the Minister outline the steps and timescale for the consideration of trunking the access road from Culverhouse Cross to Cardiff International Airport? (WAQ27576)

**The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies):** We have received the consultants' report on the A48/A4232 Culverhouse Cross road, and the Welsh Assembly Government's transport directorate has also drawn up a policy statement. Both documents have been circulated among our partners in the study, Cardiff County Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, for their comments.

Once the route to be trunked is agreed, it is necessary to prepare documents and publish a draft statutory Order as required by the Highways Act 1980. If there are statutory objectors, a public inquiry may be required. This process may take between 15 and 30 months.

### **Road Traffic Accidents on the M4 (Westbound)**

**Alun Cairns:** How many road traffic accidents have occurred over the last 12 months between junctions 28 and 24 of the M4 westbound? (WAQ27578)

**Andrew Davies:** The latest 12-month period for which road traffic accident statistics are available is from 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003. According to trunk road agents, during this period, there were 26 recorded accidents between junctions 28 and 24 on the M4 westbound, of which one involved a fatality, one was serious and the remaining 24 were slight. These figures are based on accidents reported to the police and involving personal injury. Any other accidents occurring during this period are not included.

### **Road Traffic Accidents on the M4 (Eastbound)**

**Alun Cairns:** How many road traffic accidents have occurred over the last 12 months between junctions 28 and 24 of the M4 eastbound? (WAQ27579)

**Andrew Davies:** The latest 12-month period for which road traffic accident statistics are available is from 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003. According to trunk road agents, during this period, there were 26 recorded accidents between junctions 28 and 24 on the M4 eastbound, of which all were slight. These figures are based on accidents reported to the police and involving personal injury. Any other accidents occurring during this period are not included.

### **Game Sports and Shooting**

**Alun Cairns:** What specific action is the Minister planning to take to support game sports and shooting as a high-value tourism sector? (WAQ27611)

**Alun Cairns:** What analysis has the Minister made of the contribution that game sports and shooting make to the Welsh economy? (WAQ27612)

**Alun Cairns:** What reviews have been conducted into the development of game sports and shooting to support the rural economy? (WAQ27617)

**Andrew Davies:** I have undertaken no initiatives in this area. However, the Welsh Development Agency is taking the lead with appropriate partners (including the Countryside Council for Wales, the Forestry Commission and the Wales Tourist Board) on a study of countryside sporting activities, which will cover angling, game shooting and niche pursuits, such as mountain biking. This exercise will identify and promote opportunities for these activities to contribute to tourism, community regeneration and wider economic development across Wales.

## **Questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning**

### **Exam Re-marking Fee**

**Leighton Andrews:** Has the Minister raised in discussion with the Welsh Joint Education Committee its policy of charging £25 as an exam re-marking fee, regardless of whether the paper has been marked erroneously, and has the Minister any plans to compensate people on low incomes who are charged the fee? (WAQ27618)

**The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson):** I have not raised this matter in discussions with the Welsh Joint Education Committee. However, I am advised that the WJEC charges a fee for a re-mark (ie an 'inquiry about results service 2') only if a candidate's grade remains unchanged following the re-mark. If a candidate's grade is raised or lowered by the process, the WJEC makes no charge.

If a fee is charged, it is payable (except in the case of private candidates) by the examination centre. It is a decision for the centre whether it passes the cost on to the candidate. The WJEC is conscious of the hardship that may arise from that, and its re-marking fees have remained unchanged at £40 per subject for GCSE since 2001 and £25 per unit for GCE, AS and A-level since 2002.

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

### **Byrddau Iechyd Lleol**

**David Lloyd:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu cyfrifon cyllideb manwl ar gyfer pob bwrdd iechyd lleol am y flwyddyn ariannol bresennol? (WAQ27632) [W] [R]

**Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt):** Nid yw cyfrifon yn cael eu paratoi hyd at ddiwedd blwyddyn ariannol. Bydd y gyfres gyntaf o gyfrifon ar gyfer byrddau iechyd lleol, sy'n gysylltiedig â'r flwyddyn ariannol yn gorffen ar 31 Mawrth 2004, ar gael yn ystod haf 2004.

### **Local Health Boards**

**David Lloyd:** Will the Minister provide detailed budget accounts for each local health board for the current financial year? (WAQ27632) [W] [R]

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt):** Accounts are not prepared until after the end of a financial year. The first set of accounts for local health boards, relating to the financial year ending 31 March 2004, will be available in the summer of 2004.

### **Diabetes in Black and Minority Ethnic Communities (Checks)**

**Lorraine Barrett:** Does the Welsh Assembly Government have any plans to introduce routine checks for diabetes for people from black and minority ethnic communities in Wales? (WAQ27656)

**Jane Hutt:** Routine checks will form part of the screening programme when the UK National Screening Committee completes a project on the most effective method of screening. The findings of the project are not expected until 2005.

### **Diabetes in Black and Minority Ethnic Communities (Awareness and Support)**

**Lorraine Barrett:** What actions is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to raise awareness of diabetes among black and minority ethnic communities in Cardiff South and Penarth? (WAQ27658)

**Lorraine Barrett:** What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to support black and minority ethnic communities with diabetes in Cardiff South and Penarth? (WAQ27659)

**Jane Hutt:** As part of the Heart Link and the Barefoot Health Workers projects funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff Local Health Board has a facilitator, a dietician, a podiatrist and a diabetes specialist nurse working in the community, specifically with black and ethnic minority communities in Cardiff South and Penarth. Twelve practices are involved in the projects and work closely with community representatives of various ethnic groups. This initiative both raises awareness and supports black and minority ethnic communities.

Opportunistic screening for diabetes is being performed on people from all parts of the population who are at high risk. Educational literature is distributed in main black and ethnic minority languages, as well as in English.

The Welsh Assembly Government plans to fund the updating of the Diabetes UK Cymru database for black and minority ethnic communities, and the database's information will be available for these people in their own language.

There is also a report, undertaken by Diabetes UK, on its work in black and ethnic minority communities in these areas.

### **Diabetes in Black and Minority Ethnic Communities (Number of Cases)**

**Lorraine Barrett:** Can the Minister make a statement on the number of cases of people with diabetes from black and minority ethnic communities in Cardiff South and Penarth? (WAQ27660)

**Jane Hutt:** Although statistics on the number of people being treated for diabetes, by ethnic group, was collected by the Welsh Health Survey 1998, it is not possible, owing to small sample numbers, to produce reliable data for small geographical areas. This information will be available in time, when all surgeries in the specified areas use a computerised database of people with diabetes for audit and recall purposes. That is being introduced as part of the diabetes national service framework and the all-Wales retinopathy screening programme.

### **The Diabetes National Service Framework**

**Lorraine Barrett:** What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to ensure that the diabetes national service framework takes full account of the specific circumstances of people from black and minority ethnic communities in Cardiff South and Penarth? (WAQ27661)

**Jane Hutt:** As part of the diabetes national service framework, the Assembly Government provides funding to Diabetes UK for a co-ordinator. The co-ordinator works with black and ethnic communities, as well as other parts of the population, and ensures that the local diabetes service advisory groups are drawing up the implementation plans in partnership with local health boards and reference groups. Reference groups will be formed from people with diabetes and will include representatives from black and ethnic minority communities.

A representative from the Assembly is working closely with the local health boards and local diabetes service advisory groups. Local health boards will be encouraged to ensure that the diabetes national service framework makes a difference to Wales's ethnic minorities as they develop their implementation plans.

### **Interpretation Facilities**

**Lorraine Barrett:** What interpretation facilities are available for black and minority ethnic communities accessing the NHS in Wales? (WAQ27667)

**Jane Hutt:** The NHS Wales equality unit is currently in the process of auditing hospital trusts to establish the availability of translation services. At the current time, all NHS trusts in Wales use Language Line, a UK-wide translation facility to meet the communication needs of black and ethnic minority patients, which involves simultaneous telephone translation. In addition, NHS trusts have identified staff, within the work environment, who are able and prepared to provide language translation services if required.

Information relating to the provision of translation services for black and ethnic minority groups is published in the race equality schemes of NHS organisations.

## Using Picture Messaging to Transmit X-rays

**Ann Jones:** In light of the recent Wanless review on health and social care, will the Minister welcome the use of picture messaging to transmit x-rays between clinicians to obtain second opinions? (WAQ27668)

**Jane Hutt:** I am aware that the use of picture messaging is in operation in certain trusts. Innovative technology, which makes new and improved ways of working possible for healthcare professionals and increases the benefits to patients, is to be welcomed.

## Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

### Contact Centres

**Leanne Wood:** What plans does the Minister have to fund appropriate supervision in contact centres in Wales given that the domestic violence Bill outlines arrangements for the funding of contact centres in England but does not contain funding arrangements for contact centres in Wales? (WAQ27631)

**The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart):** The Assembly Government is currently reviewing the position regarding the funding of contact centres.

### Communities First

**Leighton Andrews:** Will the Minister make a statement on whether the ‘Prove It!’ methodology developed by the New Economics Foundation and Groundwork for assessing success in community regeneration will be used in evaluating the success of Communities First schemes? (WAQ27638)

**Edwina Hart:** Cambridge Policy Consultants, which is undertaking the evaluation of Communities First, is aware of the ‘Prove It!’ methodology and is currently working with the New Economics Foundation on a similar instrument for use elsewhere. The general principles lying behind ‘Prove It!’ will, along with other instruments, be incorporated in the development of the monitoring and evaluation framework.

### Community Facilities for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities

**Lorraine Barrett:** Can the Minister make a statement on support for community facilities for black and minority ethnic communities in Cardiff South and Penarth? (WAQ27662)

**Edwina Hart:** Support provided for community facilities for black and minority ethnic communities in Cardiff South and Penarth includes:

Black and minority ethnic housing:

- a grant of £898,000 to Taff Housing Association to develop the £1.3 million Red Sea House scheme, which provides 15 units of sheltered accommodation to meet the needs of Butetown’s elderly Somali community;
- a grant of £1,334,000 to Cardiff Community Housing Association towards the Butetown Yemeni scheme; and
- a grant of £7,500 was approved in April 2003 for a black and minority ethnic advice and language support housing project, based at Riverside advice centre, for black and minority ethnic tenants of Grŵp Agored. The aim of this project is to give new black and minority ethnic tenants an induction geared to their particular language and cultural needs.

Community facilities and activities programme:

- a grant of £24,644 for the Cardiff Gypsy and traveller project in 2002-03 to provide an accessible drop in/information centre to serve the traveller community; and

- a grant of £259,729 for Cardiff Women's Workshop for 2002-05 to provide training programmes tailored for ethnic communities to provide confidence-building courses, such as IT, in a women-only environment, with childcare and appropriate religious facilities available.

### **Community Facilities for Older People**

**Lorraine Barrett:** Can the Minister make a statement on community facilities for older people from black and minority ethnic communities in Cardiff South and Penarth? (WAQ27663)

**Edwina Hart:** The implementation plan for the strategy for older people in Wales includes an Assembly-funded development project to identify the experiences and future needs of black and minority ethnic elders in Wales. Up to £25,000 will be available for this work, which we expect to be completed in 2004. Representatives of black and minority ethnic communities will be consulted in undertaking the project.