

Answers issued to Members on 27 June 2008

[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 Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister provide details of the number of teaching assistants employed at primary schools in each local authority area in each year since 1999? (WAQ51902)

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt): The number of teaching assistants/classroom aides employed in primary schools are shown in the following table:

Full time equivalents

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Isle of Anglesey	35	41	57	60	94	65	76	84	75
Gwynedd	59	55	73	106	126	127	152	180	164
Conwy	43	53	52	64	82	93	77	88	71
Denbighshire	38	46	69	79	66	87	91	145	141
Flintshire	35	58	77	86	97	104	155	170	161
Wrexham	35	57	71	87	103	128	157	195	225
Powys	115	132	149	185	170	156	143	142	147
Ceredigion	63	74	84	101	111	125	171	163	161
Pembrokeshire	185	213	251	300	299	299	302	354	335
Carmarthenshire	146	209	260	313	283	309	360	361	368
Swansea	88	132	210	259	261	306	368	397	439
Neath Port Talbot	67	101	120	156	148	157	149	183	204
Bridgend	71	81	93	118	149	111	160	198	208
The Vale of Glamorgan	70	79	87	103	88	123	163	186	200
Rhondda Cynon Taff	152	194	203	257	254	240	268	279	345
Merthyr Tydfil	20	24	30	42	43	43	48	69	68
Caerphilly	57	59	65	95	121	123	179	203	251
Blaenau Gwent	4	8	9	13	13	11	24	26	37
Torfaen	20	38	50	69	69	74	88	119	154
Monmouthshire	34	38	51	61	74	90	116	147	146
Newport	19	42	46	56	74	113	131	141	165
Cardiff	142	160	185	251	286	322	383	421	457
Wales	1,495	1,895	2,292	2,861	3,010	3,205	3,761	4,249	4,521

Source: Schools Census

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister provide details of the percentage of parents who make use of a) after school clubs, and b) extended school provision in each year since 1999? (WAQ51903)

Jane Hutt: There is no year on year information collected.

However, in a survey of 600 parents in Wales with children aged under 15 conducted in 2004/5, interviewees were asked about the childcare they had used at some time over the previous year. 12% reported having used a breakfast club or after school club on a school or nursery school site, 3% had used such clubs not on a school or nursery school site, and 6% had used holiday play schemes.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister provide details of the number of school playing fields which were sold for development per local authority in each year since 1999? (WAQ51905)

Jane Hutt: I would refer you to my previous answer WAQ51741 16 May 2008. The information that you request is not collected centrally by the Assembly Government.

The School Premises Regulations 1999 require that minimum areas of "team game playing fields" must be provided for schools with pupils who have attained the age of 8 years. The minimum area requirements for individual schools are calculated via a formula linked to the age and number of pupils at each school. Playing fields do not have to be provided on the site of a school or adjacent to it but, they must be close enough for pupils to reach them with sufficient ease, whether on foot or using such reasonable transport as it can be certain will be available to them. These requirements are not negotiable. We expect authorities in drawing up their programmes for investment to have regard to the need for playing fields and playground facilities. However there are schools where the restricted nature of the site they occupy means grassed play areas and playing fields cannot be provided on site. We do not expect LEAs to relocate schools so as to secure on site provision.

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on what steps are being taken to support programmes to educate school children about farming and food production? (WAQ51924)

Jane Hutt: The revised school curriculum will be implemented from September 2008 and the place of food and practical skills within the National Curriculum Order for Design and Technology has been given greater significance and status. In particular:

- practical food preparation skills have been made compulsory at Key Stages 2 and 3
- food has been made a compulsory material at both key stages.

Additionally, the revised Framework for Personal and Social Education (PSE) has Health and Emotional Well - being as one of its five key themes, with a clear emphasis placed on diet, food and fitness and the importance of healthy eating.

Support materials for schools will be produced to accompany the revised curriculum in the autumn term, and officers in my department will be revising and distributing the guidance document Food in the School Curriculum in Wales as part of this package.

The increased focus on food in the revised curriculum, together with the reduction of content and focus on skills, will allow schools the opportunity to undertake cross curricular investigations into where their food comes from.

Some schools and local authorities are working directly with local producers and farmers, implementing 'farm to fork' initiatives such as school visits and children working in school gardens and vegetable plots where they grow their own produce; this increases children's awareness and appreciation of food and how it is produced. Our Appetite for Life Action Plan recognises the need to ensure that we promote the development of the necessary skills to support healthy eating in the wider environment.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister provide details of the number of nurses based in schools, broken down per local authority area? (WAQ51910)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): The data which you request is not held centrally in the format which you have requested. The Welsh Assembly Government publishes statistics on school data, numbers of schools, staff, schools and children/young people attending schools along with the number of staff employed by NHS Trust. This can be accessed via StatsWales at <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx>

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): What estimate has the Minister made of the number of junior doctors who qualified in Wales in 2007 who have not been employed by the NHS in a) Wales, or b) elsewhere in the United Kingdom? (WAQ51914)

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): What estimate has the Minister made of the number of nurses who qualified in Wales in 2007 who have not been employed by the NHS in a) Wales, or b) elsewhere in the United Kingdom? (WAQ51915)

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): What estimate has the Minister made of the number of midwives who qualified in Wales in 2007 who have not been employed by the NHS in a) Wales, or b) elsewhere in the United Kingdom? (WAQ51916)

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): What estimate has the Minister made of the number of a) junior doctors, b) nurses, and c) midwives who qualified in Wales in 2007 who have secured employment overseas? (WAQ51917)

Edwina Hart: 37 Junior Doctors did not choose to apply to Wales for their 2 year Foundation training programme, but were allocated to posts elsewhere in the UK by the Foundation Office.

Figures for nurses & midwives are not held centrally.

Information about staff working overseas is not held centrally.

Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on the Arts Council for Wales' (ACW) decision to cut funding for the Celf o Gwmpas project in Llandrindod Wells in light of his recent statement to ACW in which he said community arts projects working with disabled people would be a priority? (WAQ51895)

The Minister for Heritage (Rhodri Glyn Thomas): The Arts Council of Wales' Arts and Disability Strategy is designed to promote excellence and increase access and participation in the arts by disabled people. The ACW is working in partnership with Disability Arts Cymru to support community arts/dance organisations throughout Wales which deliver programmes specifically targeted at and inclusive of disabled people.

The Arts Council of Wales' decision to withdraw funding from Celf O Gwmpas came as a result of their Community Arts Review. The conclusions of that Review made it clear that the funding allocated to Celf O Gwmpas should be re-invested in the area. As part of their commitment to ensure continuity of provision within the area, the Arts Council are currently in discussions with other community arts and dance providers in Powys.