

## **Answers issued to Members on 17 September 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 Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr):** Will the Minister make a statement on the proposed route for the Llandeilo bypass? (WAQ52456)

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr):** Will the Minister make a statement on what basis was the preferred route chosen? (WAQ52457)

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr):** Will the Minister make a statement on the progress the Llandeilo bypass? (WAQ52458)

**The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones):** The modified preferred route announced in June 2007 was chosen as it reduces the impact on the River Towy and its floodplain. Since the publication of the Wales Transport Strategy, the National Transport Plan is being prepared. This will set out my priorities for the trunk road programme taking into account the One Wales manifesto commitments.

**Irene James (Islwyn):** Will the Minister provide details of Regional Selective Assistance Grants awarded in the Islwyn constituency since April 2003, as well as the names and locations of projects that have received this Grant? (WAQ52464)

**The Deputy First Minister:** The information is given below.

30 offers of Regional Selective Assistance worth £25,578,000 were accepted in the Islwyn constituency between 1 April 2003 and 31 August 2008. Details are:

Name	Amount	Forecast Capital Expenditure	Forecast Employment		Location	Date of Acceptance
			New	Safe		
General						
Dynamics UK Ltd	5,200,000	1,099,000	300	0	Oakdale	02-Jun-03
Aztech						
Assemblies Ltd	100,000	224,870	7	0	Blackwood	16-Jun-03
Omiga Glass						
Centre Ltd	165,000	443,000	15	0	Blackwood	30-Jun-03
Anacomp Ltd	65,000	69,300	9	0	Crosskeys	20-Jun-03
TMS Greenwood						
Ltd	35,000	105,000	12	0	Pengam	01-Sep-03
G-Plas Ltd	275,000	300,000	18	0	Crumlin	06-Oct-03
Knight Plastics						
Ltd	500,000	1,335,000	45	29	Pengam	03-Nov-03
Murus						
Manufacturing						
(Wales) Ltd	150,000	416,000	23	0	Oakdale	16-Dec-03
Seda (Uk) Ltd	4,000,000	17,500,000	190	0	Blackwood	30-Apr-04
WRC – NSF Ltd	80,000	500,000	8	5	Oakdale	29-Jan-04
Rochester						
Midland						
Industries (UK)						
Ltd	60,000	605,000	5	5	Cross Keys	15-Jun-04
Abingdon						
Flooring Ltd	200,000	635,000	19	0	Newbridge	14-Jul-04
WF	550,000	1,230,000	34	0	Risca	28-Sep-04

Manufacturing Ltd - Newco Frontier Plastics Ltd & Frontier Therapeutics Ltd	600,000	3,007,000	30	0	Blackwood	12-Oct-04
Bon Bon Buddies Ltd Dragon Fabrications Ltd	700,000	500,000	32	0	Crumlin	21-Sep-04
Senior UK Ltd	131,000	127,000	40	0	Blackwood	01-Dec-04
Envirovac 2000 Ltd	2,150,000	4,476,000	83	100	Crumlin	10-May-06
Gwent Timber Products Ltd & Lanes Garages (Ystrad Mynach) Ltd	185,000	1,348,000	18	17	Blackwood	04-Jan-05
Pensord Press Ltd	140,000	1,148,000	10	10	Crumlin	28-Oct-05
British Airways Interior Engineering Ltd	300,000	1,873,000	22	0	Blackwood	20-Jun-05
Equipdata Ltd	98,000	328,000	0	21	Blackwood	16-Jan-06
General Dynamics UK Ltd	120,000	566,000	4	8	Blackwood	05-Jun-06
Mollertech Ltd	5,000,000	8,028,000	340		Blackwood Cwmfelinfac	08-Oct-06
Systems Power Eng Ltd	2,950,000	10,706,000	99	140	h	23-Nov-06
Synergy Plastics Ltd	150,000	885,000	10	8	Abercarn	28-Apr-06
Bar & Restaurant Foods Ltd	175,000	622,000	13	21	Crumlin Cwmfelinfac	19-May-06
P14 Ltd	600,000	1,952,000	20	46	h	06-Dec-06
Bon Bon Buddies Ltd	250,000	750,000	0	34	h	14-Feb-08
Relats UK Ltd	225,000	807,000	25	0	Crumlin	15-Oct-07
	424,000	1,063,000	17	23	Risca	05-Feb-08

The table may not reflect constituency boundary changes post dating the original offer date.

**Irene James (Islwyn):** Will the Minister provide details of Assembly Investment Grants awarded in the Islwyn constituency since April 2003, as well as the names and locations of projects that have received this Grant? (WAQ52465)

**The Deputy First Minister:** The information is given below.

48 offers of Assembly Investment Grants worth £1,518,120 were accepted in the Islwyn constituency between 1 April 2003 and 31 August 2008. Details are:

Name	Amount	Forecast Capital Expenditure	Location	Date of Acceptance
REL Eng Ltd	50,000	230,900	Risca	16-Apr-03
Dragon Saw Ltd	17,000	38,250	Blackwood	19-May-03

W A Noakes T/A Billyboard Marketing	14,500	30,930	Pontllanfraith	02-Jun-03
Blackwood Electrical Testing & Inspection	15,000	25,700	Blackwood	26-Jun-03
Springbok IT Solutions Ltd	50,000	247,368	Cwmfelinfach	07-Jul-03
Controlwise Ltd	8,500	15,800	Pengam	07-Jul-03
Gryson Airconditioning Equipment Ltd	30,000	114,858	Pontllanfraith	09-Jul-03
L Jarrett T/A Quicksand	10,000	35,000	Crosskeys	05-Aug-03
Maplestone Landscape Collections Ltd	40,000	195,500	Abercarn	26-Aug-03
ATB Training & Consultancy Services Ltd	31,000	135,500	Blackwood	04-Sep-03
Brian Jenkins Hosiery	10,000	13,662	Pontllanfraith	11-Sep-03
W A Noakes T/A Billyboard Marketing	15,000	35,450	Pontllanfraith	20-Sep-03
Drumlord Ltd	35,000	90,120	Abercarn	29-Sep-03
APC Vanco Ltd	25,000	24,000	Crumlin	10-Oct-03
Kite Packaging (South Wales) Ltd	50,000	14,100	Pontllanfraith	20-Oct-03
UPVC Distributors Ltd	30,000	110,000	Abercarn	22-Nov-03
Celtic Electrical & Lighting Ltd	38,000	101,000	Crumlin	02-Jan-04
Expressworks Ltd	35,000	83,000	Pontllanfraith	12-Jan-04
KCL E-Document Solutions Ltd	35,000	107,644	Pontllanfraith	16-Feb-04
Mr & Mrs M Davis, SG Davis & B Davis T/A Lexon	35,000	115,397	Crumlin	04-Mar-04
Morph Solutions Ltd	16,000	34,000	Newbridge	22-Mar-04
H & V Fusion And Drilling Ltd	20,000	206,000	Newbridge	23-Mar-04
SBS Electrical (Wales) Ltd	25,000	36,200	Blackwood	26-Apr-04
Synergy Plastics Ltd	50,000	191,000	Crumlin	20-May-04
Sheedy Scrap Metals (1976) Ltd	50,000	228,000	Cwmcarn	21-Jun-04
Sigma Manufacturing Ltd	35,000	88,000	Crosskeys	06-Jul-04
Autocraft Eng Ltd	50,000	112,000	Blackwood	07-Jul-04
Celtic Electrical &	40,000	125,000	Crumlin	27-Sep-04

Lighting Ltd				
Mojo Suspension Hoodoo Ltd	20,000	64,610	Risca	19-Oct-04
Relats Uk Ltd	50,000	280,000	Risca	30-Nov-04
Protein Products Ltd	35,000	77,949	Abercarn	07-Dec-04
Risca UPVC Ltd	30,000	91,145	Risca	03-Jun-05
Penyfan Processing & Recycling Ltd	40,000	146,000	Oakdale	20-Jun-05
H & V Fusion And Drilling Ltd	40,000	108,000	Gwent	12-Oct-05
Zuzu Media Ltd	25,500	15,500	Cwmcarn	18-Oct-05
SZ Gears Ltd	18,120	41,120	Risca	22-Nov-05
Autocraft Eng Ltd	50,000	125,000	Blackwood	03-Jan-06
Andrews & Andrews Ltd	15,000	61,000	Pengam	21-Feb-06
Drumlord Ltd	45,000	136,500	Newport	08-Jun-06
Penyfan Processing & Recycling Ltd	20,000	110,000	Blackwood	16-Jun-06
R Davies-Williams & G Davies-Williams T/A Sign Rite	20,000	83,224	Blackwood	10-Oct-06
Glass Solutions (Wales) Ltd	50,000	124,250	Blackwood	17-Nov-06
Uniclad Steels Ltd	24,000	55,800	Pontllanfraith	09-Jan-07
Controlwise Ltd	49,000	105,000	Blackwood	31-Jan-07
Tempestivo Ltd	25,000	54,950	Pengam	29-May-07
Stonerite Ltd	45,500	91,000	Oakdale	04-Jul-07
Advanced Network Solutions	6,000	18,500	Risca	14-Aug-07
GLJ Recycling Ltd	50,000	130,400	Newbridge	04-Dec-07
TOTAL	1,518,120	4,704,327		

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### Questions to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** What assessment has the Minister made of incidents of schools preventing local retailers from selling school uniforms in a bid to monopolise their availability? (WAQ52460)

**The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt):** The provision of school uniform by retailers is a commercial matter. Schools are free to negotiate with local retailers on school uniform requirements.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) carried out a review in 2006 and found that uniforms cost more for schools that require parents to purchase school uniform from particular retailers or even the school itself. Following their review, the OFT wrote to all schools in England and Wales urging them to end exclusive school uniform contracts and to make school uniform items readily available off the peg from a number of retail outlets.

I support this view. Accordingly, the Assembly Government's school uniform guidance includes a reference to the OFT Review and advises governing bodies to place high priority on school uniform costs. The guidance advises how to help keep costs low. I expect governing bodies to take steps to achieve that.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Would the Minister make a statement on the role of the Spanish Language Officer, whose appointment was cited in the 'Languages Count' strategy? (WAQ52461)

**Jane Hutt:** Working with the Welsh Assembly Government and CILT Cymru, the National Centre for Languages in Wales, the Spanish Government appointed an officer in 2003 to promote wider opportunities for young people in schools in Wales to learn Spanish. The officer was charged with developing and delivering a range of training for teachers to be provided in partnership with CILT Cymru.

The post is funded and managed by the Consejeria de Educacion based at the Spanish Embassy in London. The service was provided between 2003 and 2006 by an officer located with CILT Cymru in Cardiff and since 2006 the same level of support has been provided on an outreach basis by a designated officer operating from London. CILT Cymru has confirmed that the programme of professional development delivered under this arrangement is welcomed by schools and has been instrumental in driving up the number of young people electing to learn Spanish at both GCSE and A level.

CILT Cymru continue to work closely with the Consejeria de Educacion to ensure that the support provided is used to best effect in Wales and that it dovetails with the wider programme of advice and training for local authorities and schools provided by the Centre.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** How much funding has been made available for Foreign Language Assistants at Key Stage 2 for each year since 2003? (WAQ52462)

**Jane Hutt:** The Welsh Assembly Government commissioned CILT Cymru, the National Centre for Languages in Wales, to work with primary schools to pilot the provision of a modern foreign language in the last year of Key Stage 2—learning for 8-11 years olds. Primary schools have received support in developing a range of approaches for the delivery of a foreign language. This includes the option of employing a foreign language assistant. Each primary school received up to £2,000 each year in Phase 1 of the pilot (2003-06) and £1,500 in Phase 2 (2006-09) as a contribution towards costs. In total, therefore, £210,000 was made available to primary schools in the each of the first three years of the pilot and £175,500 is being provided annually in Phase 2.

Phase 1 was monitored by CILT Cymru and subject to external evaluation. The evaluation was very positive and reported that the pilots had successfully widened pupils' experience and enthusiasm for languages. It also noted that of the 105 primary schools participating in the pilots most preferred to develop provision in partnership with a local secondary school drawing on language teachers provided by the secondary school. Although other models were employed in a small number of schools, none of the pilot schools elected to employ a foreign language assistant as part of Phase 1 work.

CILT Cymru has confirmed that primary schools have adopted a similar approach in Phase 2 and again have opted not to make use of foreign language assistants.

To support the wider development of opportunities for language learning the Welsh Assembly Government has made resources available in the Better School Fund for 2008-09 for primary schools working in partnership with secondary schools to provide a foreign language at Key Stage 2. It will be a matter for schools working with local authorities to determine whether to draw on this resource to employ foreign language assistants. Support for the provision of foreign languages falls within Activity 1 of the

Better Schools Fund. A total of £13.1m has been provided to support the work identified in Activity 1 in 2008-09.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Which LEAs in Wales do not have access to a foreign language advisor? (WAQ52463)

**Jane Hutt:** Decision on the employment of an adviser to support schools in the delivery of a foreign language is a matter for local authorities. The Welsh Assembly Government does not require authorities to provide information on the employment of such advisers. However, in response to a recent survey conducted by Estyn, eleven authorities confirmed that they currently employ a foreign languages adviser either directly or on a shared basis with neighbouring authorities. The remaining authorities did not provide information on how they access advice on the teaching and learning of foreign languages.

All maintained secondary schools are required to provide a modern foreign language as part of the curriculum for pupils aged 11-14 years in Key Stage 3. It should be noted that in addition to employing an adviser local authorities often elect to buy in support on an ad hoc basis as needed. Local authorities also have access to specialist advice and support on language learning provided by CILT Cymru, the National Centre for Languages. For example, through its Compact scheme CILT Cymru is currently providing a programme of support to a number of local authorities to review and improve provision for foreign languages in secondary schools.

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

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on the establishment of a special Wales appeal mechanism as recommended in the David Jenkins Review? (WAQ52453)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** The Wales Partnership Forum are awaiting advice from The Centre for Equality and Human Rights as a result of discussions with the UK NHS Staff Council to assess any potential equality implications in taking the recommendations of the David Jenkins Review forward.

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** What structure or group exists to advise the Minister on infection control in Wales? (WAQ52471)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** The Welsh Healthcare Associated Infections Programme (WHAIP) of the National Public Health Service (NPHS) provides independent professional advice and information about healthcare associated infections to health professionals in Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government.

There are also a number of groups run by or closely associated with the Welsh Assembly Government providing advice on infection control. These are:

- Welsh Assembly Government representation is present on a number of UK fora, including the Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection and the Advisory Group on Hepatitis.
- There are also a number of professional associations in Wales, specifically the Microbiology Specialist Advisory group and the Infection Prevention Society that can also provide advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on infection control.

## Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs

**Brynle Williams (North Wales):** What work has the Welsh Assembly Government undertaken to anticipate the effects of potential land abandonment by farmers on the delivery of its policies? (WAQ52454)

**The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones):** Since its introduction in 2005 all recipients of the Single Payment must keep all the land they farm in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition and adhere to Standard Management Requirements. This was stipulated partly to avoid land abandonment and to safeguard the farming environment. Welsh Assembly Government's monitoring of compliance with the scheme has not identified any significant incidence of the problem and will continue to work with stakeholders and the industry to ensure that appropriate policies are maintained.

**Brynle Williams (North Wales):** What discussions has the Minister had with Treasury officials concerning the introduction of a derogation to exempt vehicles used in agriculture from the recent increase in vehicle excise duty? (WAQ52455)

**The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones):** I have had no discussions with Treasury officials about the introduction of a derogation as for taxation purposes agricultural vehicles have been exempt from Vehicle Excise Duty since 1 April 2001 as they fall into the 'Special Concessionary' class in the 'Agricultural Machine' taxation class. The Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 defines vehicles falling into the 'Agricultural Machine' taxation class as follows:

1. An Agricultural Tractor which is a tractor used on public roads solely for the purposes relating to agriculture, horticulture, forestry or activities falling within:
  - Cutting verges bordering public roads;
  - Cutting hedges or trees bordering public roads or bordering verges which border public roads.
2. An Off Road Tractor which is a tractor which is not an agricultural tractor and which is:
  - Designed and constructed primarily for use otherwise than on roads; and
  - Incapable by reason of its construction of exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour on the level under its own power.
3. An Agricultural Engine which is a machine specially designed/permanently converted to perform an agricultural operation on the land (e.g. a combine harvester).
4. A Light Agricultural Vehicle which means a vehicle which:
  - Has a revenue weight not exceeding 1,000kg;
  - Is designed and constructed so as to seat only the driver;
  - Is designed and constructed primarily for the use otherwise than on roads; and
  - Is used solely for the purposes relating to agriculture, horticulture or forestry.

The following vehicles also fall within the 'Special Concessionary' class:

- Mowing Machines
- Electric
- Gritters
- Snowploughs
- Steam Vehicles