

Written Questions answered between 3 and 10 August 2006

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

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

Contents

[Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport](#)

[Questions to the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks](#)

[Questions to the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills](#)

[Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside](#)

[Questions to the Finance Minister](#)

[Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services](#)

[Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration](#)

Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

Catherine Thomas: Will the Minister detail the Welsh Assembly Government's main achievements in the culture, Welsh language and sport portfolio in the Llanelli constituency since 2003? (WAQ47654)

The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh): The Welsh Assembly Government supports a number of initiatives in the Llanelli constituency.

Welsh Language

- Since 2003, the Welsh Assembly Government has made considerable investment in fully meeting our commitments in 'Iaith Pawb',
- Menter Iaith Llanelli is one of seven equal recipients of the Welsh Language Board's £240,000 grant to the area's Menter Iaith Myrddin,
- The local papur bro *Sosban Elli* has received a grant of £1,300 per annum since 2003.

Historic Wales

- Since 2003, £100,000 has been offered in grant for the repair and restoration of some of Wales's most important buildings.

Sport and Physical Activity

- The Llanelli area has received several Sportlot awards totalling more than £500,000 to support projects aimed at developing sport. Projects include constructing new changing facilities, upgrading cricket facilities and erecting new floodlighting as well as a number of smaller awards to support community sport.
- In addition, a new golf club has been constructed at Machynys. This first-class facility received lottery support to establish a regional centre of excellence to help attract more young people to the game. The club has already played host to prestigious international golf events, which is helping to raise the profile of golf in Wales in preparation for the Ryder Cup in 2010.
- The free swimming initiative for the over 60s was launched by Jane Davidson AM, the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, at Carmarthen leisure centre in Johnstown on 8 November 2004. Its aim is to encourage older people in Carmarthenshire to keep fit and make new friends. All five of Carmarthenshire's local authority owned swimming pools are taking part in the scheme: Llanelli leisure centre, Carmarthen leisure centre, Amman valley leisure centre, Llandovery pool and Newcastle Emlyn pool.

Culture

- CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales has awarded the following grants to projects in the Llanelli area:
 - Parc Howard Museum and Art Gallery conservation (storage of framed works and development of exhibition space) received £8,500 in 2005-06 with a grant allocation of £10,000 set aside this year for the development of an early Llanelli gallery
 - Kidwelly Industrial Museum. Over the years 2004-05 to 2005-06, the museum received £11,900 support to re-erect the old castle building, second phase, and new building work, phase 2/3, to improve the access road and to purchase a diesel crane. A grant allocation of £10,000 has been set aside this year for the new building, phase 4 development.
 - Carmarthenshire library services received £40,000 in 2004-05 to develop teenager facilities in libraries and improved ICT facilities on mobile library services.
- The Arts Council of Wales, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, has awarded nearly £590,000 in grants to organisations and initiatives in the Llanelli area since 2003
- Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales has made a number of loans to the Llanelli area. These include several objects from NMW's industrial collection to Pembrey country park, books to Llanelli library and a number of loans to Kidwelly Heritage Centre.
- National Waterfront Museum is also looking to develop outreach projects in Llanelli through Fairbridge. Based in 15 of the most disadvantaged urban areas in the country, Fairbridge supports 13 to 25-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training or who have been identified as being at risk of dropping out.

Questions to the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks

Nick Bourne: How much did his department spend on hospitality in the last 12 months, and will he provide details of this expenditure? (WAQ47598)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): In the response to WAQ47598, I undertook to write to you about spending on hospitality in my department.

Taking the period June 2005 to June 2006, spending in the former Economic Development and Transport Department and in the current Department for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks portfolio—with post ASPB merger expenditure in the former Welsh Development Agency/Wales Tourist Board included—was of the order of £102,697. What I believe to be important to note is what this spending underpinned, and what outcomes are derived from the investment. For example:

- the dinner I hosted with the First Minister for Sir Howard Stringer and his senior colleagues from Sony. While the project was already destined for Wales, ministerial hosting of the dinner provided for closer working relationships and an enhanced understanding of the company's plans for the future.
- some measure of hospitality given to the Quinn Group of Ireland where we subsequently secured 460 new jobs/£133 million investment for Newport.
- the visit to Wales by the British ambassador to the Republic of Ireland. A visit that enabled us to explore how the embassy might help us in our efforts at the Ryder Cup in September this year and which also developed closer links on the trade and inward investment front.
- LINK Financial attended the Wales Rally GB in 2004. In 2005 we secured a project from the company that created 210 new jobs and safeguarded 50 existing jobs in Caerphilly.
- the Accelerate Wales dinner in March this year, jointly funded by the Welsh Automotive Forum and the Accelerate Wales programme. The event celebrated success in the automotive sector in Wales with awards to the best-in-class companies. The event was attended by 121 people from 44 companies, and also included representatives from WDA, Assembly Government, Department for Transport and Industry, and trade unions, together with key buyers from Land Rover and Jaguar.
- In excess of 200 inward visits to Wales to promote Wales from an inward investment and trade front—visits that were instrumental in the overall promotion of Wales on the inward investment and international trade front.

What the above figure does not include is spending by the former WDA and WTB in the period prior to the merger. As you will understand, elements of spend by both organisations on hospitality would have been combined with their wider marketing activities. For example, sponsorship of the Wales Open, our activities to promote the Ryder Cup, the BMW Championships and the Speedway Grand Prix and the Heineken Cup where we entertained senior French journalists to promote Wales as a holiday destination.

In the light of the above, I am sure that you would agree that in our efforts to promote Wales, and all that it has to offer, an integral part of this is the provision of appropriate hospitality. I do believe, however, that such expenditure must be appropriate and I am determined to ensure that value for money is secured for such expenditure from the public purse. I have made this clear to the director of my department and his senior management team. Where this expenditure however relates to ongoing engagement with prospective investment and trading partners it will be appreciated that this cannot be disclosed on commercial grounds. However, as a matter of principle, I would be more than happy to report on spend on hospitality to the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee at the end of each financial year.

I am copying this letter to Christine Gwyther AM, as Chair of the EIN committee, in view of this suggestion, and to Alun Cairns AM, given his interest in the issue.

Catherine Thomas: Will the Minister detail the Welsh Assembly Government's main achievements in the enterprise, innovation and networks portfolio, in the Llanelli constituency since 2003? (WAQ47653)

Andrew Davies. 'Wales: A Vibrant Economy' sets out our economic vision. The Assembly Government's Department of Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (DEIN) is supporting various projects throughout the Llanelli area, some in partnership with other organisations. Specific highlights include Llanelli waterside, Machynys golf course, Cross Hands West food park and Technium Performance Engineering at Dafen, which is aimed at companies working in the automotive, aerospace and motorsport industries and has strong links with University of Wales Swansea's School of Engineering, Coleg Sir Gâr's Engineering and Construction Faculty and the British Automobile Racing Club's Pembrey racing circuit.

DEIN, through regional selective assistance grant support, has supported investment projects by local companies including Dyfed Steels Ltd, Cymru Metals and Shufflebottom Ltd.

Dawn Meats (UK) Ltd, located on the food park, has since 2003 built a food-processing facility, which employs up to 700 people at peak periods. Castell Howell Foods is building a new distribution unit at Cross Hands that will employ approximately 220 staff by 2009.

Carmarthenshire County Council is operating four dial-a-ride schemes serving Pembrey-Burry Port, Kidwelly, Carmarthen and Llanelli, three of which are entirely funded by my department through local transport services grant (LTSG). The Llanelli service receives 75 per cent LTSG and 25 per cent from the authority.

DEIN, through EU funding, has helped with the construction of the Morfa Cross to Berwick Park link and the Burry Port southern distributor road has opened up key development land.

Questions to the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Catherine Thomas: Will the Minister detail the Welsh Assembly Government's main achievements in the education and lifelong learning portfolio in the Llanelli constituency since 2003? (WAQ47651)

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): Since 2003 there have been some exciting developments in education, lifelong learning and skills in the Llanelli constituency and indeed

Carmarthenshire as a whole. These include:

Working with partners

We are committed to working in partnership to enable us to take forward our long-term strategy in Wales. We work with a wide range of statutory and voluntary bodies to deliver learning. Some of the major partners in the Llanelli constituency include Carmarthenshire County Council, Coleg Sir Gâr, south-west Wales 'Reaching Higher' partnership, Carmarthenshire Youth and Children's Association and the Foothold Group.

Special programmes and initiatives are of course in addition to funding education provision from the revenue settlement and are targeted at various aspects of improving outcomes for learners.

School breakfasts

School breakfasts are one of our top-10 commitments within 'Wales: a Better Country'. Twelve schools currently participate in the primary school free breakfast initiative in the Llanelli constituency. A further 13 schools have signed up to start during the autumn term 2006, with five more due to start spring term 2007.

School buildings

Again, as one of our top-10 commitments, under the schools building improvement grant programme, Carmarthenshire has received £13.368 million since 2003-04 for upgrading school buildings.

Projects in the Llanelli constituency which have received funding since 2004 are:

Coedcae School (gym refurbishment)	2005-06	£69k
Bryn Primary School (new school building)	2005-06	£305,220
	2006-07	£1,500,000
Brynteg School (new school building)	2005-06	£465,442
	2006-07	£750,000

Cymorth

Many disadvantaged children, young people and their families are being reached throughout Carmarthenshire via the Cymorth grant scheme. Carmarthenshire's funding in 2006-07 is £2,772,635 allocated through 48 individual projects. We are confident that these projects are doing excellent work and are highly valued by families.

Funding has been made available in conjunction with the Big Lottery Fund, to support the creation of an integrated children's centre at the infants and primary school site at Llwynhendy. The centre is scheduled to open in late 2006.

Better Schools Fund (BSF)

A wide range of in-service education and training (INSET) and continuing professional development opportunities for teachers and learning support assistants across the full range of priorities have been provided via BSF.

The fund has enabled Carmarthenshire local education authority to facilitate an INSET programme based upon the principles of 'Iaith Pawb' and the LEA's Welsh language scheme. Funding has allowed for dissemination of good practice in teaching and learning through the medium of Welsh and this is reflected in pupils' standards of achievement at the end of key stages.

Unlocking the Potential of Special Schools

The Welsh Assembly Government has made £5.1 million available to 22 LEAs to establish special school pilot projects, Unlocking the Potential of Special Schools, over three years, from September 2006.

As part of the wider strategy to raise standards for disadvantaged groups, this complementary pilot aims to promote further inclusion and develop the role of special schools by identifying and disseminating good practice in developing practical links with mainstream schools and promoting special schools' contribution to an increasingly inclusive education system. Carmarthenshire LEA was allocated £292,373 over three years to support pilot projects.

Speech and Language Services

In 2003, the Welsh Assembly Government completed an audit of speech and language services for children and young people aged 0-19. Research highlighted how the increase in demand had heightened pressures on service providers and commissioners of services in the delivery of speech and language therapy. It has become apparent that, in addition to the shortage of therapists to meet growing demands, there is also a lack of a coherent approach to service delivery at local level across the statutory agencies.

The Welsh Assembly Government has appointed a speech and language co-ordinator to establish pilot projects working across health and education to develop joint commissioning arrangements and a pooled budget approach to the delivery of speech and language services for children and young people in Wales. This will ensure that joint assessment and intervention teams operate appropriately across health and education and, wherever possible, intervention is provided in schools. A total of £3 million has been committed over the next three years to this project. Officials recently requested invitations from LEAs, local health boards and health trusts to join phase 2 of the pilot projects. Carmarthenshire was successful in the bid.

RAISE

Twenty-four schools in the Llanelli constituency will benefit from new and additional funding under the raising attainment and individual standards in education in Wales programme. A total of almost £0.5 million of new funding will be shared by the eligible schools, enabling them to introduce innovative new projects to tackle the link between deprivation and low pupil attainment. Twenty primary schools, three secondary schools and one special school have been advised of allocations under the programme.

RAISE is a new programme funded in the main from new money coming to Wales as a result of the Chancellor's budget statement earlier this year. Recipient schools will receive funding for two years. Schools with more than 50 pupils of compulsory school age or whom more than 20 per cent are eligible for free schools meals are to receive allocations under the programme.

Curriculum and Assessment

In spring/summer 2006, the first pilot phase of new work to support and secure teacher assessment at key stage 3 took place. This follows the ending of statutory key-stage testing. This year's pilot involved some 130 schools across Wales, including four from Llanelli. The pilot will inform future work on strengthening teacher assessment.

In addition, one secondary school and its seven feeder primaries are involved in a cross-phase teacher assessment working group. Through the context of science teaching and learning, this school cluster group are focusing on support for development of assessment for learning.

Anticipated outcomes are:

- development of links between summative and formative teacher assessment:
- development of strategies for incorporating assessment for learning into teacher assessment: and
- a working guide for teachers.

At key stage 1, the percentage of seven-year-olds in Llanelli achieving the core subject indicator has risen by 2 percentage points since 2003, and is now 2 percentage points below the all-Wales average.

At key stage 2, performance has also risen in Llanelli over the last three years. A total of 73 per cent of 11-year-olds have now achieved the core subject indicator, which is just 1 percentage point below the all-Wales average.

A total of 64 per cent of 14-year-olds in Llanelli achieved the core subject indicator at the end of key stage 3, up 14 percentage points since 2003 and is now 6 percentage points above the all-Wales average.*

Qualifications

GCSE performance has fallen since 2003. A total of 46 per cent of 15-year-olds achieved at least five GCSEs grade A* to C, which is 6 percentage points below the all-Wales average.*

The percentage of 17-year-olds entering two or more A-levels and achieving at least two grade A to C has risen by 5 percentage points since 2003, to stand at 81 per cent, which is 13 percentage points above the all-Wales average.

* There are only 5 secondary schools and 1 special school in Llanelli Assembly constituency. Aggregate figures based on a small number of schools are more liable to large year on year changes, as shown by the changes since 2003 in key stage 3 and GCSE results.

PE and School Sports (PESS)

Together with the Sports Council for Wales we are working with every local authority to improve opportunities for PE and school sport and roll out good practice. Since the initiative began in 2002, five PESS development centres have been established in Carmarthenshire to build upon existing good practice and broaden the quality and range of PE and sporting opportunities for young people in the area. Three current

development centres are based in Bryngwyn, Coedcae, and Dyffryn Taf and involve 14 local primary schools. The development centre schools are among those to benefit from funding under the Big Lottery Fund programme to improve facilities for PE and sport in schools. Five million pounds has been made available to date for PESS with a further £1.9 million agreed for this year. Two new development centres are due to be set up in Carmarthenshire during 2006-07, and at least one of those will be in the Llanelli area.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Since 2003, funding has been made available to Carmarthenshire LEA by the Welsh Assembly Government, led by the Centre for Information on Language Teaching (CILT) in Wales, for the implementation of a three-year pilot programme to introduce the teaching of MFL in primary schools. The project forms part of the 'Languages Count' strategy to increase participation in language learning across Wales. A number of schools in Carmarthenshire are taking part in this pilot and funding has recently been confirmed for phase 2 of the project, extending work until July 2008.

Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ)

Coleg Sir Gâr, which includes Graig campus, Llanelli, was one of the first cohort of the WBQ pilot and has been involved since September 2003. During the first two years of the pilot, 51 students of the 84 entered achieved the intermediate diploma. Forty seven students are entered for the award this summer, of which 38 are based in Llanelli. A further 120 students are expected to start the intermediate WBQ and 20 students the advanced WBQ in September.

Learning Pathways 14-19

The Carmarthenshire 14-19 network is actively involved in learning pathways developments and is responsible for securing a range of programmes and support necessary to ensure learners have access to all elements of learning pathways 14-19. In 2004-05, £50,000 was available to support 14-19 learning pathways activities in Carmarthenshire. In 2005-06 this has risen to £120,000, including a share of the Objective 3 learning pathways 14-19 project funding—a scheme that will run for two years from June 2005. Learning pathways funding helps the network take forward activities supporting the six key elements of learning pathways—individually tailored learning pathways, wider choice and flexibility, a learning core, entitlement to learning coach support, personal support and careers advice and guidance. As part of the options menu, the Llanelli 14-19 cluster development has established four new vocational pathways with 60 young people participating. In 2006-07, the money available to the network totals £194,180 to support the development of the work in the 14-19 network areas in taking forward learning pathways which include a range of activities in collaboration with Llanelli schools and colleges aimed at widening the choice and flexibility of young people.

Learning Workers pilot

Llanelli was chosen for the Welsh Assembly Government learning workers pilot operated from September 2002-March 2005, providing free learning up to level 3 for all those employed in the area. The project was very successful and supported the training of 1,800 workers in 300 organisations across the area. The project was very influential in designing the workforce development programme now available to businesses across Wales.

Basic Skills

The ELWa learning challenge fund basic skills strategy funded 14 courses for 122 people in Llanelli between

April 2004 and March 2006. These included the delivery of basic skills, healthy eating, parenting and English for the speakers of other languages (ESOL) classes for the families of migrant workers.

Learning Network

By the end of August 2006, the Carmarthenshire learning network project (a community learning project engaging with those people who have been out of education and training for some time), supported by the Wales European Funding Office European social fund, will have delivered 60 courses for 550 learners in the Llanelli area. Courses include children's behaviour, parenting, IT and cooking/food hygiene. Much of this provision has been developed in partnership with key voluntary sector groups including the Carmarthenshire Youth and Children's Association, YWCA, St Paul's family centre and the Glanymor and Tyisha Communities First wards. The project has recently been the subject of a WEFO Article 4 audit and project documentation identified as exemplars for best practice in European project work.

Common Investment Fund (CIF)

In 2005-06 a number of CIF projects were funded in the area:

- A joint LEA\Coleg Sir Gâr project received £40,000 to promote bilingualism
- A joint LEA\Coleg Sir Gâr project received £18,000, providing additional support for those most at risk of dropping out of education
- Carmarthenshire Training and Technology Centre and nine young farmers clubs received £10,000 to assist in the accreditation of wider activities. To date 23 young people are engaged on the project working towards communication key skills level 2 based on voluntary activities by YFC members (debating, presentations and the construction of individual portfolios). These activities are being undertaken through the medium of Welsh.

Work-Based Learning (WBL)

Work-based learning aims to provide the breadth, range and flexibility of competence-based skills and knowledge required by those in employment to enhance their employability and career progression. In addition, it can enable participants not in employment the opportunity to acquire the appropriate skills and work experience to improve their employability and provide employers with a workforce that has the skills and knowledge that they require to compete in the global economy. The table below provides information on the Llanelli constituency:

Count of potentially fundable WBL programme starts in Llanelli constituency by WBL programme, 2004-05 (academic year)

<i>WBL programme</i>	<i>Learning programme count</i>
Foundation modern apprenticeship	385
Preparatory learning (youth)	372
Modern apprenticeship	212

Preparatory learning (adults)	127
Skills learning (adults)	112
Skills learning (youth)	36
Modern skills diploma	24
Total	1,268

Notes

Source Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR), as of 2 March 2006

1. Table counts work-based learning programme starts
2. Postcode of learner used to identify area of domicile as at the start of each learning programme

Community Learning

Major community learning providers currently delivering community learning courses in the Llanelli area include Coleg Sir Gâr, Carmarthenshire County Council, Swansea university, the Workers Educational Association (WEA) and the Welsh for Adults Consortium. Voluntary groups including the University of the Third Age, Barnardo's, Foothold and the YWCA are also providing and hosting differing forms of community learning. These bodies and groups have begun to work in partnership through the Llanelli community learning fora, involvement in the Carmarthenshire learning network project and the work of the post-16 sub-group of the Carmarthenshire Community Consortium for Education and Training (CCET). The LCLP will progress this work further by improved identification and meeting of local needs, increasing participation by those people who are economically inactive, encouraging progression to other forms of learning and tackling deprivation. These aims will be achieved through working in partnership, developing capacity, promoting participation, extending provision and ensuring that the courses offered are of good quality.

Higher Education

Widening access is a key priority in my strategy for higher education in Wales, 'Reaching Higher', and Welsh HEIs consistently outperform UK averages in attracting a wide social mix of students, many of which are under-represented in HE. To date, Wales has been at the forefront, in UK terms, of increasing participation from under-represented groups. As part of the widening access agenda, four 'Reaching Wider' partnerships were established in 2003 to work specifically in Communities First areas. The partnerships are engaged in a wide range of projects designed to promote higher education to those whose families and communities have no tradition of going to university. The south-west Wales 'Reaching Wider' partnership encompasses Llanelli and engages in a variety of widening access activities aimed at the hardest to reach students from year 9 upwards. Activities range from student mentoring, Aiming for College (ACE) days, year 10 summer school and the Llanelli international day. In the 2003-04 academic year, 2,430 enrolments at higher education institutions were from the Llanelli constituency and in 2004-05 this figure had risen to 2,530.

Ann Jones: How many children in the Vale of Clwyd constituency and Denbighshire are entitled to and claim free school meals as a percentage of the overall total of school age children? (WAQ47656)

Jane Davidson: The annual school census collects details of pupils who are entitled to free school meals (where they are known to the school) and are as follows:

Pupil entitled to free school meals at January 2005—all ages

	Pupils	Total pupils all ages	% Total pupils entitled to FSM
Vale of Clwyd CC	1,623	12,196	13.3
Denbighshire	1,945	16,793	11.6

These figures include all pupils in maintained primary, secondary and special schools as well as those in nursery, reception and sixth form.

Pupil entitled to free school meals at January 2005—statutory school age

	Pupils	Total pupils statutory school age	% pupil statutory school age entitled to FSM
Vale of Clwyd CC	1,489	10,021	14.9
Denbighshire	1,780	13,772	12.9

These figures include all pupils born between 1 September 1988 and 31 August 1999 in maintained primary, secondary and special schools. The numbers of pupils who are entitled to free school meals but do not claim them are unknown.

Ann Jones: How many children have participated in Sure Start schemes in each Welsh constituency since its introduction? (WAQ47658)

Jane Davidson: Sure Start projects are funded within the Cymorth grant scheme. There are over 500 Cymorth projects across Wales in 2006-07, which include benefits for the 0-3 age group, with an associated investment of over £28 million. The number of children receiving the benefits of these projects is not available centrally.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister detail what powers local government has to prevent dogs entering public playing fields in order to prevent dog fouling on such fields? (WAQ47647)

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): Local authorities in Wales currently make dog byelaws under the byelaws system set out in the Local Government Act 1972. Typical dog

byelaws may include all or any of the following in relation to specified land:

- a requirement to keep dog on a lead
- a requirement to keep their dog on a lead if directed to do so; and
- a ban on dogs completely.

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 allows local authorities to designate areas where it is an offence to fail to clear up after one's dog.

Powers within the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (CNEA) will replace the current dog byelaw system with powers to make dog control Orders, and the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 will be repealed. This new system will, among other matters, enable local authorities and community councils to deal with fouling by dogs, ban dogs from designated areas, require dogs to be kept on a lead and restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person. In accordance with normal protocol for introducing new legislation, I propose to consult on the dog control order regulations for Wales in the autumn.

Mark Isherwood: What guidance does the Minister provide planning authorities on bedroom size? (WAQ47655)

Carwyn Jones: National planning policy and related guidance does not cover detailed issues such as bedroom size. This is a matter for local planning authorities to address when dealing with planning applications and may form part of an authority's supplementary planning guidance. The Assembly Government's planning policy for housing is contained in 'Planning Policy Wales', 2002 (as recently updated by ministerial interim planning policy statement 01/2006 on housing). This deals with strategic issues such as the factors that local planning authorities must take into account in planning the provision of new housing. This is supplemented by a series of technical advice notes, including 'Technical Advice Note 2: Planning and Affordable Housing' (2006), which provides more detailed guidance on the steps to be taken by local planning authorities in providing affordable housing through the planning system.

Elin Jones: Will the Minister make a progress report on the development of a compensation scheme with regard to GM contamination? (WAQ47661)

Carwyn Jones: The Assembly Government will seek views on a number of options to provide redress for the potential GM contamination of non-GM crops as part of our GM coexistence consultation exercise, which is planned for the autumn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What evidence has the Minister considered that shows a high incidence of bovine TB in cattle in areas where a high incidence of bovine TB among wildlife has been observed? (WAQ47662)

Carwyn Jones: The current prevalence of bovine TB in wildlife is unknown as it has not been investigated in

Wales since 1994. The found dead badger survey, which was set up to determine the prevalence of bTB in dead badgers found on roads and on farms, ceased at the end of May 2005. The samples collected are being analysed and initial available results will be presented to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee on 28 September.

Questions to the Finance Minister

Ann Jones: What was the average councillor to elector ratio in the 100 (a) richest and (b) poorest council wards in Wales in the most recent year for which figures are available? (WAQ47659)

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): The Welsh Assembly Government does not collect data of the richest and poorest areas. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales and is based on seven separate kinds of deprivation. As deprivation is a wide concept, it would not be accurate to list areas purely in terms of the richest and poorest areas based on this index. Also, the WIMD 2005 geography is not coterminous with current electoral division boundaries.

More information on WIMD can be found on the Assembly's website:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/wimd-2005/wimd2005-guide-e.pdf?lang=en>

Details of councillor/elector ratio for electoral divisions in Wales is held by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales. The details are on their website at http://www.lgbc-wales.gov.uk/electoral_reviews_e.htm

Ann Jones: How much funding was given to each local authority per person in the local government finance settlement in each year since 1999? (WAQ47660)

Sue Essex: The information provided in the table below is the amount of funding per head provided by the Welsh Assembly Government through the local government settlement since 1999. This is unhypothecated funding and includes revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rate income and, for the relevant years, deprivation, performance incentive, council tax reduction, and transitional grants.

Welsh Assembly Government central support per head by unitary authority, 1999-2000 to 2006-07 (a)

	£ per head							
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Isle of Anglesey	876	919	1,013	1,064	1,128	1,136	1,179	1,267
Gwynedd	865	912	993	1,046	1,154	1,178	1,219	1,310
Conwy	794	823	886	950	1,060	1,099	1,113	1,187
Denbighshire	875	920	981	1,033	1,118	1,142	1,179	1,259
Flintshire	791	819	853	882	954	977	1,030	1,097

Wrexham	773	806	849	901	965	983	1,030	1,083
Powys	898	927	973	1,007	1,102	1,122	1,177	1,265
Ceredigion	856	907	961	988	1,034	1,052	1,092	1,154
Pembrokeshire	864	901	980	1,014	1,125	1,140	1,171	1,241
Carmarthenshire	866	910	967	1,008	1,080	1,103	1,169	1,237
Swansea	800	833	884	941	1,051	1,055	1,113	1,190
Neath Port Talbot	861	901	946	1,006	1,132	1,141	1,218	1,311
Bridgend	815	853	890	918	1,025	1,039	1,106	1,182
Vale of Glamorgan	767	789	826	857	959	961	1,012	1,063
Rhondda Cynon Taff	882	927	980	1,014	1,157	1,177	1,255	1,348
Merthyr Tydfil	988	1,040	1,102	1,140	1,247	1,255	1,323	1,421
Caerphilly	850	900	959	1,011	1,129	1,166	1,226	1,310
Blaenau Gwent	938	991	1,038	1,099	1,204	1,238	1,344	1,446
Torfaen	868	921	981	1,025	1,108	1,133	1,217	1,306
Monmouthshire	707	733	760	783	875	881	932	998
Newport	823	858	922	964	1,069	1,128	1,155	1,243
Cardiff	772	800	831	872	1,003	994	1,023	1,077
Wales	833	871	922	964	1,069	1,086	1,139	1,214

(a) Welsh Assembly Government central support includes revenue support grant, re-distributed non-domestic rates, council tax reduction scheme (1999-2000 and 2000-01), transitional grant (2001-02 and 2002-03) and deprivation grant and performance incentive grant (2003-04 to 2006-07). Excludes hypothecated funding provided by the Assembly and other central Government departments in the form of grants for specific purposes.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail how he is ensuring that orthodontic practices receive adequate funding to meet demand, and how is he monitoring the situation? (WAQ47649)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): When the new general dental services and personal dental services contracts were agreed, the past earnings of individual practices were taken into account. The patterns of treatment across Wales also needed to be considered. Orthodontic budgets, like other dental budgets, were set for 2006-07 by local health board area, based on the reference period—October 2004 to September 2005. If practices have grown significantly since the reference period, which is what is being claimed in respect of some orthodontic practices, the LHB will need to make a decision on whether to reduce, maintain or increase the level of orthodontic activity in line with affordability and the needs of the local population. LHBs could consider using any growth monies for dentistry or from practices not taking up the new contract.

Catherine Thomas: Will the Minister detail the Welsh Assembly Government's main achievements in the health and social services portfolio in the Llanelli constituency since 2003? (WAQ47652)

Brian Gibbons: One of the Welsh Assembly Government's main achievements has been the major reduction in waiting times. In March 2003, there were 573 patients waiting over 12 months for in-patient/day-case treatment and 1,481 patients waiting over 12 months for a first out-patient appointment in the Carmarthenshire NHS Trust area. The latest statistics available for the end of June 2006 show that there were no patients waiting over 12 months for either in-patient/day-case treatment or for a first out-patient appointment at the trust.

Llanelli has recently benefited from the opening of a new dental practice creating 12,000 additional places through partnership with a private company, the Welsh Assembly Government and Carmarthenshire Local Health Board. On 9 June, an extra £375,000 was allocated to Carmarthenshire Local Health Board to further improve access to dental services.

Llanelli has benefited from new investment in primary care through the new GMS contract, formally introduced in April 2004. The range and quality of services available in primary care in the area is constantly improving. In April 2005, the average quality and outcomes framework points total achieved by practices in Carmarthenshire was 937 points. This represents 89 per cent of the total quality points available.

A new care of the elderly and elderly mentally ill unit has been opened at Prince Philip Hospital and we have also provided capital for the fourth orthopaedic theatre in 2005. Other service developments and improvements include:

- the revised model for accident and emergency services at Prince Philip Hospital,
- the revised model for GP out-of-hours services,
- the creation of community intermediate and care teams in the town, and
- the current 2006-07 allocation of £224 million to Carmarthenshire Local Health Board includes the £3.8 million Wanless funding targeted at reducing health inequalities, which will benefit parts of Llanelli.

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

Catherine Thomas: Will the Minister detail the Welsh Assembly Government's main achievements in the social justice and regeneration portfolio in the Llanelli constituency since 2003? (WAQ47650)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): Llanelli benefits from a number of schemes that deliver our social justice and regeneration agenda. Communities facilities and activities programme grant schemes support regenerating Llanelli. Funding has been committed to four Communities First areas and the post office development fund has supported six post offices. The Community Safety Partnership is impacting on crime and disorder. The care and repair agency helps older and disabled people to remain in their homes.

