

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 17 June 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

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): Will the First Minister make a statement on the number, date and purpose of meetings (i) the First Minister and (ii) other Welsh Assembly Government Ministers attended regarding (a) proposals to reorganise primary schools in Treganna and Grangetown, Cardiff, (b) reorganising education in Cardiff West, (c) Lansdown School in Treganna Cardiff or (d) Ysgol Treganna Cardiff, including who else attended those meetings. (WAQ56100) W

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): Will the First Minister make a statement on what advice (i) the First Minister and (ii) other Welsh Assembly Government Ministers received from Estyn regarding (a) proposals to reorganise primary schools in Treganna and Grangetown, Cardiff (b) reorganising education in Cardiff West (c) Lansdowne School in Treganna Cardiff or (d) Ysgol Treganna Cardiff. (WAQ56101) W

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): Will the First Minister make a statement on the date on which he became aware that he would be responsible for making a decision regarding proposals to reorganise primary schools in Treganna and Grangetown, Cardiff. (WAQ56102) W

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): Will the First Minister make a statement on the number of times (i) the First Minister and (ii) other Welsh Assembly Government Ministers received legal advice regarding the proposals to reorganise primary schools in Treganna and Grangetown, Cardiff. (WAQ56103) W

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): Will the First Minister make a statement on the number of Welsh Assembly Government officials involved in preparing legal advice regarding proposals to reorganise primary schools in Treganna and Grangetown, Cardiff. (WAQ56104) W

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): Will the First Minister make a statement on the cost of any legal advice regarding proposals to reorganise primary schools in Treganna and Grangetown, Cardiff. (WAQ56105) W

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): How many times did (i) the First Minister and (ii) other Welsh Assembly Government Ministers receive verbal legal advice regarding proposals to reorganise primary schools in Treganna and Grangetown, Cardiff, and when did they receive them. (WAQ56106) W

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): How many times did (i) the First Minister and (ii) other Welsh Assembly Government Ministers request legal advice regarding proposals to reorganise primary schools in Treganna and Grangetown, Cardiff. (WAQ56107) W

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): How many times did (i) the First Minister and (ii) other Welsh Assembly Government Ministers meet with legal officers to discuss proposals to reorganise primary schools in Treganna and Grangetown, Cardiff. (WAQ56108) W

Answer issued on 22 June 2010

The Minister for Children Education and Lifelong Learning declared a potential conflict of interest and on 25 March I decided that this matter should be submitted to me for consideration in the first instance. I received written advice from Estyn on the Canton school proposals as well as written legal advice on one occasion and that advice was incorporated within the submission folder which I considered when making the decision. As is the usual practice, the Deputy First Minister, the Minister for Business and Budget and the Deputy Minister for children were copied into that submission. I held one meeting with officials on 11 May at which all advice, including legal advice, was discussed. No other Welsh Assembly Government Minister attended the meeting. No further legal advice was requested.

Four Welsh Assembly Government lawyers were involved in the preparation of the legal advice at various stages. Departments within the Welsh Assembly Government are not charged for in-house legal advice. The cost of external legal advice on the Canton schools proposals was £2,150.25.

To ask the Minister for Business and Budget

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister detail (a) how much has been budgeted to be spent in 2010/11 by the Welsh Assembly Government on IT purchases, (b) the proportion of this expenditure that will be spent on replacing old equipment, (c) the nature and age of the equipment being replaced, and (d) the reasons for its replacement. (WAQ56099)

Answer issued on 08 March 2011

I responded on 17 June saying that I would collect this information and write to you as soon as possible.

Most of the Welsh Assembly Government's ICT expenditure goes towards its office ICT systems which are delivered through a service contract. Consequently we do not regularly need purchase ICT equipment for these systems.

Last year (2009-2010) the Welsh Assembly Government completed a major two year transformation of its office systems and as a result most staff now have new desktop equipment with an anticipated lifespan of around seven years. As most of our office ICT equipment is now relatively new, we have set aside a modest £350k replacement budget in 2010-2011.

During 2010-2011 we do plan to replace some of our older servers along with their underlying ICT infrastructure. These servers, which have been operating for a number of years, are based on old technology which is less effective and efficient than their modern replacements. As a result overall we expect to be able to reduce the number of servers (and their resulting power consumption) without loss of performance.

In addition to office systems and servers the Welsh Assembly Government is also responsible for a number of ICT systems, including our financial and HR systems, records and customer management systems, rural and European funding payments systems etc. The 2010-2011 equipment purchase budgets for all of these systems are set out below.

Cost £'000	Description	Replacing Equipment	Existing IT
2,100	Licenses for new Electronic Records Management System (i-share)	No- current filing records system is manual.	
1,850	Servers and associated office ICT infrastructure	Yes-existing servers are old and energy inefficient.	
490	Customer Relationship Management System	No-this is the development of an existing system.	
350	Replacement of damaged office desktop ICT.	Yes-Equipment is usually less than 5 years old but damaged and no longer usable.	
250	Geographical positioning field equipment	Yes- we are required by EU rules to upgrade this equipment regularly.	
250	Infrastructure for Glastir agri-	No- this is a new scheme (which	

	environment scheme	is part funded by the EU)
25	Rural payments-hard disks	Yes- existing disks are > 5 years old and worn.

I will publish a copy of this letter on the Welsh Assembly Government's internet site.

To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport

Gareth Jones (Aberconwy): Will the Minister state to what degree he expects the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) programme to benefit the economy in North Wales. (WAQ56092)
Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Science, Innovation and Skills

Answer issued on 22 June 2010

The Deputy Minister for Science, Innovation and Skills (Lesley Griffiths): The purpose of the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) is to increase the research capacity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by linking with a PhD / Masters project. This will be achieved by encouraging SMEs to undertake research and recruit researchers as well as capitalise on the research they have conducted for the benefit of the Welsh economy. It also seeks to prepare and train individuals to contribute to research as professionals; to support the development of key technologies in the Convergence area, and to promote higher-level skills development in the Welsh workforce.

KESS is closely aligned to meeting the higher-level skills needs of the Welsh Assembly Government's priority economic sectors, these being the Digital Economy; Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering; Low Carbon Economy; and Health and Biosciences. The KESS project is unique in Europe in the way it uses European Structural Fund money to support and deliver collaborative research projects and higher-level skills training in partnership with employers. The work of KESS will play a vital role in helping to boost the economy of North Wales.

Gareth Jones (Aberconwy): Will the Minister state how the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) programme will benefit Wales as a learning nation and country of innovation. (WAQ56093)
Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Science, Innovation and Skills

Answer issued on 22 June 2010

Lesley Griffiths: The Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) will benefit Wales as a learning nation and country of innovation by supporting collaborative research projects (Research Masters and PhD) with external partners based in the Convergence area of Wales (West Wales and the Valleys). KESS will run from 2009 until 2014 and will provide 400+ PhD and Masters places.

Investing in higher level skills is one of the central themes of our skills Strategy Skills That Work for Wales, as well as the Higher Education Strategy For Our Future. I am particularly pleased that the KESS initiative, led by Bangor University, will encourage small and medium enterprises to undertake research and recruit researchers, and thus increase the research capacity of these companies. It will also support the development of key technologies in the Convergence areas and generally promote higher level skills in the workforce particularly in what we see as priority economic sectors by providing demand responsive accredited provision.

The KESS project is unique in Europe in its use of ESF support to deliver collaborative research projects and higher-level skills training in partnership with employers.

Gareth Jones (Aberconwy): Will the Minister state how the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) programme will promote and strengthen links between the third sector and academic institutions and will he detail the key benefits. (WAQ56094) *Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Science, Innovation and Skills*

Answer issued on 22 June 2010

Lesley Griffiths: The key objectives of Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships are to increase the research capacity of SMEs by linking with a PhD / Masters project; encourage SMEs to undertake research and recruit researchers; prepare and train individuals to contribute to research as professionals; support the development of key technologies in the Convergence area; and Promote Higher-level Skills Development.

It is expected that the overall portfolio of partners will be weighted towards small and medium enterprises (SMEs) but third sector organisations (Charities, not-for-profit Organisations and Social Enterprises) can participate provided that their projects relate to research with links to the private sector.

KESS is an accessible mechanism for all organisations to undertake long term research collaborations with some of Wales' leading research groups on projects of mutual benefit.

To ask the Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister publish copies of legal advice received in relation to the ability of the Welsh Assembly Government to fulfil its One Wales commitment to "develop new not-for-profit nursing homes under European state-aid rules. (WAQ56109) W *Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration*

Answer issued on 23 June 2010

The Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration (Jocelyn Davies): Legal advice to Ministers and officials is subject to legal privilege and is not disclosed outside of the Welsh Assembly Government.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What plans does Public Health Wales have for extending the TB screening in Rhondda Cynon Taff and Caerphilly following the recent discovery of 20 cases of latent TB in the area. (WAQ56096)

Answer issued on 22 June 2010

Public Health Wales is working with partner agencies to consider the results of the TB community screening programme in Rhondda Cynon Taf and is considering the options for any further action.

A press release issued by Public Health Wales following the community screening programme can be found at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/news/16174>

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many people did Public Health Wales test for TB in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. (WAQ56097)

Answer issued on 22 June 2010

Year	Number of TB tests conducted
2006	12,212
2007	12,594
2008	11,181
2009	11,109

The table above provides details on the number of tests conducted by the Wales TB laboratory; more than one test may have been carried out for some individuals.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Is there a centrally held register to monitor the number of TB cases amongst health workers in Wales and, if not, how does the Minister monitor this information. (WAQ56098)

Answer issued on 22 June 2010

There is no separate register for cases of TB among healthcare workers. Public Health Wales registers and monitors all cases of tuberculosis in Wales and this register includes cases among healthcare workers.