

Written Questions answered between 23 and 30 October 2003

[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 First Minister

European Funding Plans

Alun Cairns: Will the First Minister make a statement on European funding plans post 2006? (WAQ29156)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): The UK Government proposals for post-2006 EU regional policy and the policy of the directorate general for regional policy of a continuation of EU-wide structural funds are well known. We will be better placed to decide which of these options is best for Wales as the UK Government develops its proposals and the European Commission publishes its formal proposals later this year.

Civil Servants

Jonathan Morgan: What was the (a) the total salary cost, and (b) the total cost of all the civil servants working in each Minister's, including the First Minister's, department in 1999, and what is the current total cost in each case? (WAQ29157)

Jonathan Morgan: Will the First Minister provide the following information in relation to his own and each of his Minister's departments: (i) the number of full-time and part-time members of staff in 1999 and (ii) the number of full-time and part-time members of staff at present? (WAQ29158)

The First Minister: Given that the internal structure and composition of the portfolios and functions of the Welsh Assembly Government have undergone fundamental change since 1999, it is not possible to give a robust analysis of staff costs according to ministerial portfolio.

Visit to Australia (Staff and Officials)

Nick Bourne: Will the First Minister provide a list of the staff and officials who will be accompanying him on his visit to Australia this month? (WAQ29351)

The First Minister: I will be accompanied by a private secretary and a press officer.

Visit to Australia (Meetings and Engagements)

Nick Bourne: Will the First Minister provide a list of the meetings and engagements arranged for his visit to Australia this month? (WAQ29352)

The First Minister: A copy of the latest draft of my programme has been placed in the Library and has been published as [information further to WAQ28977](#).

Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

The National Botanical Gardens, Middleton

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister give an update on the progress of ensuring a long-term future for Middleton—the National Botanic Gardens of Wales in Llanarthne? (WAQ29141)

The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh): The Welsh Assembly Government continues to work closely with the trustees of Middleton and our public-sector partners. A public-sector group has been established to take forward the work of finding a long-term sustainable future at Middleton. The Welsh Assembly Government is joined on that group by Carmarthenshire

County Council, the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board. Officers from Middleton also attend meetings of the group and we remain in close contact with the Millennium Commission.

I am pleased to say that the group has had a number of useful meetings already. I can confirm that there has been tentative interest from the private sector in becoming involved in the project. We will be following up all of these interests and making concerted efforts over the coming weeks to ensure Middleton's continued operation.

A Museum of Welsh Football

Alun Cairns: Would the Minister make a statement on any plans to develop a museum of Welsh football? (WAQ29154)

Alun Cairns: What representations has the Minister received in relation to establishing a museum of Welsh football? (WAQ29155)

Alun Pugh: I have not received any specific representations regarding the establishment of a museum of Welsh football. Moreover, I am not aware of any interest that the Football Association of Wales or any other body has in developing such a facility, but I would obviously be happy to listen to any plans that they may have.

As one of the initiatives of 'Cymru Greadigol: Creative Future', a working group was established to review the feasibility of a Welsh sporting museum. This work was undertaken in conjunction with the Wales Sport Hall of Fame, which has been based at the Museum of Welsh Life for a number of years. I recently had a meeting with representatives of the Wales Sport Hall of Fame and am considering how that might be taken forward. Any decision on Assembly funding for such a scheme would naturally need to be taken in light of other priorities within my portfolio.

Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport

Business Support Schemes (List)

Alun Cairns: Would the Minister list all of the business support schemes that the Assembly and the Welsh Development Agency run? (WAQ29120)

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): The schemes that are currently run by the Welsh Assembly Government to support businesses are as follows:

- regional selective assistance;
- Assembly investment grant;
- marketing development scheme (agriculture);
- Inside Welsh Industry (delivered through the Wales Quality Centre);
- Design Wales (delivered on behalf of the Assembly Government through the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff); and
- Export Assist.

In addition, the business support programmes and services managed by the WDA are set out in the following groups.

1. NEW BUSINESS SUPPORT

Facilitating and supporting the birth of new businesses

- Finance Wales spinout programme
- Graduating to Enterprise

- New business start programme
- Sole Trader initiative

2. GENERAL ADVICE

General business development advice for new and established businesses

- general business advisory service
- Corus performance-based agreements

3. FINANCIAL HELP

Discretionary grant funding to help applicant businesses (in defined circumstances) to develop/remain competitive

- agri-food development grants
- enterprise support grant
- environmental goods and services
- Finance Wales business angels network
- Finance Wales equity
- Finance Wales loans
- Finance Wales mezzanine
- Finance Wales access to capital
- processing and marketing grants (agri-food)
- rural retail initiative
- small towns and villages enterprise initiative—grant
- SMART Cymru
- technology exploitation programme
- innovation credits (and the Wales innovation network)
- property development grants and business property improvement grants

4. CONSULTANCY

General and Specialist Consultancy and/or mentoring

- agri-business consultancy
- Source Wales
- specialist consultancy

5. SPECIALIST ADVICE

Advice (as opposed to consultancy) requiring specialist knowledge in any field

- energy facilitation programme
- ECM² – the Engineering Centre for Manufacturing and Materials
- Farming Connect
- innovation and technology counsellors
- renewables—all Wales
- small and medium-sized enterprise equality project
- Finance Wales investment support programme
- Community Enterprise—business support services

6. HELP WITH INNOVATION and R and D

Provision of innovation and technology advice and support

- centres of excellence in technology and industrial collaboration
- Know How Wales
- technology commercialisation centre
- Wales innovation relay centre
- Sustainable technologies
- Future Technologies programme
- Foresight programme

- Commitment to Innovation

7. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

ICT/e-Business Support

- Corus regeneration ICT programme
- ICT support centres
- Wales information society mobile exhibition trailer
- small and medium-sized enterprise satellite broadband subsidy scheme
- Wales SME business programme

8. HELP WITH TRADING and SOURCING

Inter-trading and sourcing support

- local supplier development project
- Source Wales—sourcing

9. INCUBATOR FACILITIES WITH OR WITHOUT ADVISORY/OTHER SUPPORT

A combination of revenue and capital, generic and specialist provision

- @Wales digital media initiative
- incubators and innovation centres
- Technium—various provisions

STAND-ALONE PROVISIONS

- WDA account management
- Business Eye service
- Finance Wales mentoring programme

Business Support Schemes

Alun Cairns: How many business support schemes do the Assembly and the WDA run? (WAQ29121)

Andrew Davies: The Welsh Assembly Government currently runs six schemes designed to support businesses. In addition, the Welsh Development Agency has grouped the support products and services it provides into nine categories which, together, comprise 51 individual components. The full list is set out in reply to WAQ29120 above.

Job Losses (Call Centres and the Service Sector)

Nick Bourne: What assessments has the Minister made concerning job losses in the call-centre sector in Wales where jobs are ‘exported’ overseas? (WAQ29146)

Nick Bourne: What assessments has the Minister made regarding job losses in the service sector where jobs are ‘exported’ overseas? (WAQ29147)

Andrew Davies: My assessment is that we have seen considerable successes in the service and call-centre sectors in recent years with the latter sector now employing some 24,000 people in Wales. However, recent news concerning job losses to overseas locations underlines yet again the global competition that we face particularly in terms of lower value added jobs. Team Wales is working with businesses to help them to continuously differentiate themselves from their global competitors. The Assembly Government promotes best practice business models and has introduced policies aimed at increasing innovation and moving businesses up the value chain.

Energy Imported from Abroad

Brynle Williams: Will the Minister outline how much energy was imported during the years 2002 and 2003 into Wales from abroad (providing a breakdown on the forms of energy imported and the amounts)? (WAQ29226)

Andrew Davies: The electricity grid in Wales is combined with that for England. The England and Wales grid is connected to both Scotland and France and, via Scotland, to Northern Ireland and the grid of the Republic of Ireland. By looking at the amount of electricity generated in 2002 by Welsh power stations, and estimating consumption in Wales by taking the electricity distributed in the south Wales region and half the electricity distributed in the Merseyside and north Wales region, it is apparent that, although electricity is imported into south Wales, Wales is a net exporter of electricity. Although data about electricity imported into south Wales, via the national grid from England (there are no transmission links between north and south Wales), are not available at present, it is safe to estimate that the net amount of electricity imported into Wales, as a whole, in 2002 was 0. The year 2003 is not yet complete, so there is no comparable data.

The gas network in Wales is also combined with England. As gas is not supplied to the network from indigenous sources, all of the gas used in Wales is imported, mainly from the North sea.

Questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

Equality of Opportunity

Val Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on recent research from the Equal Opportunities Commission stating that women in Wales are far more likely to be poorer than men (*The Western Mail*, 17 September 2003), and will she also outline any proposed action to counter this trend? (WAQ28390)
Transferred for answer by the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration.

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 3 October 2003.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): Previously, as Minister with responsibility for equal opportunities, I ensured that the National Assembly for Wales audited its pay arrangements and subsequently made substantial adjustments to these arrangements to reduce potential inequalities in pay between men and women working for the Assembly. The Cabinet fully supported this decision with the substantial increase in funding required to implement it. I am currently considering the areas on which the second year of the equal pay campaign will focus.

The Impact of Top-up Tuition Fees

Nick Bourne: What assessments has the Minister made of the impact of top-up tuition fees on Universities in Wales? (WAQ29144)

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): It is Welsh Assembly Government policy that variable fees will not be introduced during the lifetime of the second Assembly. I have made it clear that Welsh higher education institutions will not be disadvantaged by not being allowed to change variable fees in academic year 2006-07. I have made a commitment to Welsh higher education institutions that a supplementary funding stream in respect of the academic year 2006-07 cohort of students will be available.

It is not possible at this stage to say how much supplementary funding will be needed. Subject to the necessary legislative provisions being in place, it will depend to a significant extent on how the English higher education market behaves in light of the freedom to charge variable fees.

The Impact of Top-up Fees on University Applicants in Wales

Nick Bourne: What assessments has the Minister made of the likely impact on applicants in Wales for universities throughout the United Kingdom if top-up tuition fees are introduced? (WAQ29145)

Jane Davidson: The effects that higher fees at English universities will have on students' choice of institutions (or possibly course) will not be evident for some time. The matter will be considered by the second stage Rees review that I have already announced.

Rathbone Training

Leighton Andrews: What representations has the Minister had concerning ELWa support for Rathbone Training? (WAQ29148)

Jane Davidson: I have received a number of representations from Assembly Members and from trainees affected by Rathbone Training's decision to restructure its work-based learning operations in Wales. I have also met senior representatives from Rathbone, including the chief executive. In addition, I have had discussions with the National Council—ELWa's interim chief executive.

As I outlined in my written statement to Members on 22 October, I am pleased that the council has moved quickly to set up an emergency PROJECT TEAM to manage the implications if Rathbone does not reconsider its position. The council's priorities will be to protect the position of trainees who may be affected, and also to assist Rathbone employees facing the prospect of redundancy with training and employment support.

Timetabling Sport and Physical Education

Leighton Andrews: How much time are primary schools expected to provide for sport/physical education each week? (WAQ29149)

Jane Davidson: Physical education is an integral part of the national curriculum for all young people at all four key stages. In meeting the requirements of the programmes of study for physical education, schools are required to provide opportunities for pupils to participate in a range of activities, both indoor and outdoor, so that they can develop their skills in situations appropriate to their ability.

There are no statutory powers to prescribe a set time for the delivery of any subject in the national curriculum in Wales. Decisions on such matters are, quite rightly, a matter for schools, with standards and the quality of provision subject to inspection by Estyn. In this context, it was pleasing to note that the chief inspector's most recent annual report confirmed that, at all key stages, the standards achieved by pupils in physical education were satisfactory or better in 97 per cent of the classes observed.

However, the Welsh Assembly Government recognises that physical education and school sport play an important role in helping young people to improve physical skills, raise self confidence and self esteem and develop a positive approach to working with others, which is why I have asked the Sports Council for Wales to lead on the implementation of the key recommendations in the physical education and school sport action plan for Wales.

As part of this work, schools are being encouraged to work towards the provision of two hours of curriculum time for physical education for all pupils each week. This work is being taken forward, primarily, through the establishment of PE and school sport development centres in each local authority area. The school sport development centres draw together schools and local partners with the emphasis placed on sharing staff expertise, facilities and the development of good practice

Initial reports compiled by Estyn confirm that schools involved in the development centres are making very good progress in developing the range and quality of physical education and school sport, including

the provision of two hours of curriculum time. In addition, local authority co-ordinators have been appointed to ensure that best practice is disseminated to other schools and that the work complements support for out-of-school-hours initiatives such as Dragon Sports. Although it is early days, this is good news and I have asked Estyn to continue to monitor and report on the progress made in this initiative.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

Ailblannu Ystâd Goedwigaeth y Cynulliad

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog restru'r holl rywogaethau gwahanol a blannwyd wrth ailblannu ystâd goedwigaeth y Cynulliad yn ystod y tymor plannu: Gorffennaf 2002 hyd at Fehefin 2003, a nodi pa ganran o'r cyfanswm hwnnw y mae pob rhywogaeth yn ei chynrychioli? (WAQ29090) [W]

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Nid yw'n hawdd rhoi ateb, gan fod y broses o ailstocio coetiroedd y Cynulliad yn digwydd mewn llawer o wahanol ffyrdd, gan gynnwys ailblannu, adfywio naturiol (lle caiff hadau ar y safle dyfu'n gnwd o goed newydd) ac adfywio a gynorthwyir, lle caiff hadau eu lledaenu'n fwriadol ar y safle ailstocio er mwyn cyflymu'r broses naturiol. Dylid nodi bod yr ardal lle cynorthwyir adfywio trwy ddefnyddio hadau brodorol wedi cynyddu'n sylweddol y tymor diwethaf.

Tymor Plannu Gorffennaf 2002—Mehefin 2003

Gan ddefnyddio'r ffigurau ar gyfer planhigion a gyflenwyd i'w hailblannu, dyma'r rhywogaethau a blannwyd:

Rhywogaeth	Canran
Pinwydden yr Alban	0.84
Pinwydden Corsica	1.48
Pyrwydd sitca	64.34
Pyrwydd Norwy	9.60
Llarwydden Siapan	4.60
Llarwydden groesryw	9.67
Ffynidwydden Douglas	4.38
Ffynidwydden lwydlas	0.97
Derwen ddail digoes	1.92
Ffawyddden	0.10
Onnen	0.67
Bedwen	0.47
Castanwydden	0.18
Gwernen	0.22
Ceiriosyddden wyllt	0.52
Coed dail llydan eraill	0.06

Bydd y defnydd o dechnegau i ledaenu hadau'n fwriadol yn cynyddu o leiaf 100 y cant yn y tymor plannu nesaf, gan wneud yr ystadegau ar gyfer coed a blennir yn llai ystyrlon.

Replanting the Assembly's Forestry Estate

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister provide a list of all the different varieties planted while replanting the Assembly's forestry estate during the plantation season of July 2002—June 2003, detailing the percentage of the total that each variety represents? (WAQ29090) [W]

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): The answer is not easy to provide, as restocking in the Assembly woodlands takes place by a variety of methods. These include

replanting, natural regeneration (where seeds on the site are allowed to grow into a replacement tree crop) and assisted regeneration, where seeds are deliberately spread onto the restocking site to speed the natural processes. It should be noted that the area with assisted regeneration using native species increased markedly last season.

Planting season July 2002—June 2003

Using figures from the plants supplied for replanting, the species planted are as follows:

Species	Percentage
Scots pine	0.84
Corsican pine	1.48
Sitka spruce	64.34
Norway spruce	9.60
Japanese larch	4.60
Hybrid larch	9.67
Douglas fir	4.38
Noble fir	0.97
Sessile oak	1.92
Beech	0.10
Ash	0.67
Birch	0.47
Sweet chestnut	0.18
Alder	0.22
Rowan	0.52
Other broadleaves	0.06

The use of assisted seeding techniques will increase by at least 100 per cent in the coming planting season, making statistics for planted trees ever less meaningful.

Costs of the Rural Observatory

Glyn Davies: What are the estimated costs of the rural observatory in a full financial year? (WAQ29126)

Revised answer issued on 28 October 2003.

Carwyn Jones: Following full European Union tendering procedures, the contract for the rural observatory was initiated in September and the work programme is currently being developed. Some costs have been incurred but no invoices have, as yet, been submitted. The spend this year will depend on the work programme. We anticipate spending the full budgetary provision in a full financial year.

Safety Implications of Tetra Masts

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister undertake a review of the safety implications of Tetra masts in Wales? (WAQ29143)

Carwyn Jones: We introduced legislation in August 2002 to require applications for both prior approval and planning applications for telecommunications apparatus to be accompanied by a declaration that the apparatus will be operated in compliance with International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection guidelines. There is ongoing research being carried out by central Government, which will inform further consideration of policy development in this area.

Questions to the Finance Minister

End-year Flexibility

Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on end-year flexibility? (WAQ28571)

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 8 October 2003.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): The provisional amount of end-year flexibility entitlement arising from 2002-03 is £89 million. This, taken together with the end-year flexibility remaining in respect of previous years, provides the Assembly with a total of £164.4 million.

Assembly Learning Grants

Peter Black: What end-year flexibility does the Minister have available as the result of the underutilisation of Assembly learning grants? (WAQ28572)

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 8 October 2003.

Sue Essex: The final budget in 2002-03 for Assembly learning grants was £16.387 million and the outturn £16.344 million. The unspent provision of £0.043 million forms part of the Assembly's end-year flexibility arising from 2002-03.

Past Service Award

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on why it was not felt appropriate to bar retiring councillors taking a past service award from standing again in subsequent council elections? (WAQ29136)

Sue Essex: For legal reasons, it was not possible to include in the regulations that introduced the past service awards a provision that would prevent a recipient of an award from standing in a future election.

Scheme of Past Service Awards (Cost of Implementing)

Nick Bourne: What would be the cost of implementing the scheme of past service awards in Wales for councillors if every eligible councillor takes up the entitlement on retiring? (WAQ29137)

Sue Essex: It is for individual councils to decide whether to operate the scheme and who is eligible. The actual cost of the awards will be known after the close of nominations for the local elections.

Cost of the Scheme for Past Service Awards

Nick Bourne: What will happen if the calculations in relation to the cost of the scheme for past service awards in Wales proves to be more costly than the money set aside for the scheme? (WAQ29138)

Sue Essex: The figures in the budget can only be estimates of the costs arising from the payment of past service awards.

Past Service Awards to Retiring Councillors

Nick Bourne: What consultations have there been with people throughout Wales in relation to paying past service awards to retiring councillors? (WAQ29139)

Sue Essex: There has been a long process of discussion and consultation about the introduction of past service awards. The scheme was proposed in the University of Birmingham's 2001 report 'Recognising

Councillors' worth to their Communities', commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government. The policy intention to introduce past service awards for retiring councillors was included in the policy statement, 'Freedom and Responsibility in Local Government', which was published in March 2002 and widely distributed, with consultation responses invited. The draft regulations were then subject to consultation last summer. Those consulted on the regulations included local authorities, Assembly Members and Members of Parliament for Welsh constituencies as well as the Welsh Local Government Association, the Local Government Association and the Audit Commission Wales.

The local government Subject Committee of the National Assembly for Wales has also been kept fully informed as the policy has developed. For example, the introduction of a severance scheme, as it was then known, was discussed by the then Local Government and Housing Committee in July 2001 as part of the consideration of the recommendations of the Declan Hall report.

The Cost of Paying Past Service Awards to Retiring Councillors

Nick Bourne: On what basis have calculations been carried out on the cost of paying past service awards to retiring councillors in Wales? (WAQ29140)

Sue Essex: Estimates for budgeting purposes have been arrived at with the assistance of local government officers.

The Ethical Framework for Local Government

Mark Isherwood: When does the Minister intend to publish guidance to the ethical framework for local government? (WAQ29395)

Sue Essex: Draft guidance is already available. In the light of responses to that document I have concluded that there is no need to alter the guidance but that certain aspects of the code of conduct should be reviewed. Work on this review will begin in November.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Communication Aids for Stroke Patients

David Melding: What electronic communication aids are available to stroke patients who have impaired speech or no speech at all, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ28801)

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 24 October 2003.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): Information and communications technology can provide much-needed support to patients that have impaired or no speech. Stroke patients are referred to specialist communication aid centres, where the needs of the patient are assessed and advice given on the most suitable high or low-tech communication aid available. In some stroke cases, the use of such aids is not always appropriate.

The policy for accessing these aids varies across Wales. Generally, equipment can be loaned to patients from a speech and language therapy equipment bank. However, individual patients are also able to buy electronic communication aids independently from private companies, should they wish to do so.

Officials will consider the provision of communication aids for stroke patients across Wales within the national service framework for older people, which includes a specific standard for stroke. Proposals will be made to help to ensure a consistent and equitable approach to the provision of communication equipment that meets the needs of sufferers of stroke with dysphasia.

Caerphilly District Miners Hospital

Michael German: Can the Minister make a statement on the current position to replace the Caerphilly District Miners Hospital? (WAQ28596)

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 10 October 2003.

Jane Hutt: Gwent Healthcare NHS has been working on a strategic approach to the provision of services right across the area served by the trust. In doing so, it must consider the developing policies of the Welsh Assembly Government regarding clinical networks and pathways and the joined-up way of working between the range of services on which the community depends. Because of this, the replacement for the Caerphilly District Miners Hospital cannot be considered as a stand-alone project and must be put in the context of the health service infrastructure of Gwent and the neighbouring facilities in the south-east of Wales. It is anticipated that Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust, in conjunction with the local health board, will be submitting its strategic outline case for the future of services throughout the Gwent area to the Assembly shortly.

Spending of the Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Budget

Jonathan Morgan: When did the Minister become aware of concerns over the spending of the drugs and alcohol misuse budget by the Welsh NHS? (WAQ28979)

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 21 October 2003.

Jane Hutt: Up until 1 April 2003, responsibility for drug and alcohol budgets in the NHS rested with health authorities. During the 12 months prior to the dissolution of health authorities, their budgets were desegregated, in order to transfer responsibility to local health boards and Health Commission Wales. As a consequence of that process, a decision was taken to ring-fence substance misuse money within the NHS, as part of the Welsh Assembly Government's wider effort to improve services in this area.

GMS Project Implementation Team

Jonathan Morgan: Will the Minister confirm whether the general practitioner on the general medical services project implementation team is retired or practising? (WAQ28980)

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 21 October 2003.

Jane Hutt: The project implementation team is made up of nine sub-groups dealing with the key issues of the new general medical services contract. At present, we have 10 GPs as members of the sub-groups. Other GPs act as quality assurance assessors for the project. Of the 10 members, all but one are currently practising. I have agreed this week to restructure the project board meetings to allow participation by the General Practitioners Committee (Wales) while still avoiding any conflict of interest. As I stated in Plenary on 14 October, I have been concerned to ensure that we have appropriate GP representation on our implementation board. Clearly, we need to ensure that they do not appear on both sides of the negotiating table or be involved in contracts where they have a financial interest. GPs are already strongly represented on a number of the sub-groups and we have now reached an agreement with the British Medical Association about how we can involve them in board discussions in a way that does not create a conflict of interest.

Patients Waiting More Than Six Months for Angiography

Lynne Neagle: How many patients, by trust, have been waiting more than six months for angiography for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and for the current year? (WAQ29091)

Jane Hutt: This information is only available from August 2002 and is set out in the table below.

NHS Trust Name	31/08-02	31/08-03
Bro Morgannwg	110	2
Cardiff and Vale	87	0
Gwent Healthcare	100	0
Swansea	265	0
English trusts	20	0
Total	582	2

Of the two patients in Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust, one patient asked to be removed from the waiting list and the other patient had previously failed to turn up for his or her appointment.

Patients Waiting More Than 18 Months for Elective Procedure

Lynne Neagle: How many patients, by trust and by speciality, were waiting more than 18 months for elective procedure for the years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 and for the current year? (WAQ29092)

Jane Hutt: This data is published and available at <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/eng/ReportFolders/Rfview/explorerp.asp>.

Trolley Waits

Lynne Neagle: How many people, by trust, had trolley waits over 12 hours for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and for the current year? (WAQ29093)

Jane Hutt: The data relating to waits in accident and emergency have been collected, via Sitreps (a new reporting system set up in 2000), since October 2001. The following data shows the total number of patients who waited over 12 hours (from arrival at accident and emergency) for admission to a hospital bed, comparing two 12-month periods.

12-hour trolley waits	October 2001- September 2002	October 2002- September 2003
Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust	1,287	3,352
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	255	593
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	0	87
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	0	0
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	0	37
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	37	135
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	0	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	0	0
Swansea NHS Trust	38	585
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	0	13
North East Wales NHS Trust	0	0
North West Wales NHS Trust	0	0

It is important to consider these figures in the context of total numbers attending accident and emergency departments in Wales, which totals 800,000 patients per year. This means that more than one in four of the Welsh population will visit an accident and emergency department in a given year. The vast majority of these patients are seen, treated and discharged from accident and emergency within four hours.

The data shown above include patients attending medical and surgical assessment units, where these are co-located with accident and emergency departments. These units are widely regarded as good practice because patients have immediate access to a full range of diagnostic tests and are closely monitored by

clinicians. Each assessment unit has a different protocol regarding length of stay and, therefore, many of the patients shown above may wait for over 12 hours for clinical reasons, while tests and observations are carried out. Once tests have been completed, it is often possible for patients to return home, whereas previously they would have been admitted to a ward. For example, the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff discharges 28 per cent of patients attending the medical assessment unit and the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Llantrisant achieves a 30 per cent rate.

In-patient and Out-patient Treatment and Appointments

Lynne Neagle: In which trusts have exceptions been agreed with the National Assembly in regard to meeting the 18-month waiting time target for in-patient and out-patient treatment and appointments? (WAQ29094)

Jane Hutt: The Assembly's target is that no-one should wait over 18 months for either in-patient/daycase treatment or out-patient appointments. However, the demand for services has made it necessary for exceptions to be agreed this year for a small number of specialities in the following trusts:

Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, Swansea NHS Trust	in-patients and out-patients
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust, Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust, North Glamorgan NHS Trust	out-patients
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust, Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	in-patients

Access to a Member of the Primary Care Team within 24 hours

Lynne Neagle: How many patients, by trust and local health board area, have had access to a member of the primary care team within 24 hours for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and for the current year? (WAQ29095)

Jane Hutt: This information is not held centrally. Practices and local health boards will have to consider recording these data in future in relation to the implementation of enhanced services, which will include access targets.

First Consultant Out-patient Appointment

Lynne Neagle: How many patients, by trust, have been waiting more than 18 months for the first consultant out-patient appointment for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and for the current year? (WAQ29096)

Jane Hutt: This data is published and available at <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/eng/ReportFolders/Rfview/explorerp.asp>.

The Continuous Improvement Target

Lynne Neagle: Will the Minister make a statement on which specialities, by trust, are on target to meet the continuous improvement target of a further three-month reduction in waiting times, both in-patient and out-patient, by March 2004? (WAQ29097)

Jane Hutt: The continuous improvement target relates to the waiting time to be achieved by the end of the financial year and has been subject to discussion within the health communities. These targets will be monitored by the regional offices throughout the year.

Category A Calls

Lynne Neagle: What percentage of category A calls, by region, were responded to within eight minutes for every month of 2003? (WAQ29098)

Jane Hutt: The information requested is not held on a monthly basis. For the quarter from January to March 2003 the percentages, per health authority, are:

Bro Taf	51 per cent
Dyfed Powys	51.1 per cent
Gwent	45 per cent
Morgannwg	50.6 per cent
North Wales	63.6 per cent
All Wales average	52.1 per cent

For the quarter from April to June 2003 the percentages, per region, are:

Mid and west Wales	47.7 per cent
North Wales	63.3 per cent
South-east Wales	51 per cent
All Wales average	52.4 per cent

Accident and Emergency Waits

Lynne Neagle: What percentage of patients, by trust, spent fewer than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge for the years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, as well as for the current year? (WAQ29099)

Jane Hutt: This data has been collected through Sitreps (a new reporting system set up in 2000) since September 2003 and therefore it is not possible to make comparisons over these years. Current trust performance is shown below (week ending 29 September 2003):

Accident and emergency: percentage of patients spending fewer than four hours from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge (Sitreps, week ending 29 September)

Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust	83 per cent
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	90 per cent
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	91 per cent
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	99 per cent
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	95 per cent
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	95 per cent
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	98 per cent
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	99 per cent
Swansea NHS Trust	75 per cent
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	86 per cent
North East Wales NHS Trust	96 per cent
North West Wales NHS Trust	91 per cent

It is important to consider these figures in the context of the total numbers attending accident and emergency departments in Wales, which totals 800,000 patients per year. This means that more than one in four of the Welsh population will visit an accident and emergency department in a given year. The vast majority of these patients are seen, treated and discharged from accident and emergency within four hours.

Half of all trusts in Wales are currently achieving this target and work is ongoing in all organisations to further improve on the position. Innovative schemes are being adopted to implement 'streaming' in Accident and emergency Departments, whereby patients are directed to different areas according to their needs. These areas are individually staffed and continue to function whatever the pressures in other areas, ensuring that patients receive the correct care in a timely manner in the most appropriate location.

Accident and Emergency Waits

Lynne Neagle: Will the Minister make a statement on the progress being made by each trust with regard to meeting the target of there being no deterioration in the eight and four hour waits in accident and emergency (from 2002-03) by March 2004? (WAQ29100)

Jane Hutt: The following data, collected via Sitreps (a new reporting system set up in 2000), show the total number of patients who waited over four and eight hours (from arrival at accident and emergency) for admission to a hospital bed, comparing the two six-month periods April to September 2002 and April to September 2003.

	Four Hours		Eight Hours	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust	3,411	5,274	1,298	2,840
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	2,568	2,995	539	714
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	725	1,712	24	277
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	56	69	0	0
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	1,516	1,657	0	33
Carmarthen NHS Trust	1,466	1,365	250	306
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	81	124	0	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	94	125	3	0
Swansea NHS Trust	2,349	3,036	232	650
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	724	1,595	2	62
North East Wales NHS Trust	147	284	1	3
North West Wales NHS Trust	396	529	8	13

It is important to consider these figures in the context of the total numbers attending accident and emergency departments in Wales, which totals 800,000 per year. This means that more than one in four of the Welsh population will visit an accident and emergency department in a given year. The vast majority of these patients are seen, treated and discharged from accident and emergency within four hours.

The data shown above include patients attending medical and surgical assessment units, where these are co-located with accident and emergency departments. Such units are widely regarded as good practice because patients have immediate access to a full range of diagnostic tests and are closely monitored by clinicians. Assessment units will have local protocols regarding length of stay and therefore many of the patients included in the data above may wait for over 12 hours for clinical reasons, while tests and observations are carried out. Once the tests have been completed, it is often possible for patients to return home, whereas previously they would have been admitted to a ward. For example, the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff discharges 28 per cent of patients attending the medical assessment unit and the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Llantrisant achieves a 30 per cent rate.

The Innovations in Care team is working with accident and emergency departments in Wales to implement models of care whereby patients receive the appropriate care in a timely manner in the most appropriate location. This model of 'streaming' patients to appropriate areas leads to more efficient working, reduced waiting times and better patient care. However, it takes time for such schemes to make a difference.

Primary Urgent Referrals (Cancer)

Lynne Neagle: How many patients, by trust, have been waiting more than the 10 working day waiting times standard for all primary urgent referrals with suspected cancer for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and for the current year? (WAQ29101)

Jane Hutt: The Welsh cancer standard relating to waiting times requires patients to be referred urgently by their GP. On receipt at the hospital, the referral must be confirmed as urgent by the specialist, with the patient being seen within 10 working days. All trusts are monitoring their compliance with the standard for seven cancers, including breast cancer, and are working to improve their performance. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence will be providing guidance for the referral of patients with suspected cancer in the near future.

Work is currently in hand to review the cancer standards and in the future more emphasis will be placed on the waiting times from referral to the start of treatment. Information on trust performance against this revised waiting times standard is being taken forward.

Cataract Surgery

Lynne Neagle: How many patients, by trust, have been waiting more than four months for cataract surgery for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and for the current year? (WAQ29102)

Jane Hutt: Those data are only available for the years below and are summarised in the table.

NHS Trust	Date		
	31 Aug 2001	31 Aug 2002	31 Aug 2003
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	5	11	2
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	53	36	74
Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust	109	22	14
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	393	458	412
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	54	53	0
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	4	0	16
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	688	300	0
North East Wales NHS Trust	91	31	0
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	93	76	23
North West Wales NHS Trust	125	0	0
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	60	8	0
Powys Health Care NHS Trust	0	33	5
Swansea NHS Trust	163	281	696
Grand Total	1,838	1,309	1,242

Cardiac Surgery

Lynne Neagle: How many patients, by trust, have been waiting more than 10 months for cardiac surgery for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and for the current year? (WAQ29103)

Jane Hutt: Those data are only available for the years below.

NHS Trust	Date	
	31-Aug-02	31-Aug-03
Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust	9	0
Swansea NHS Trust	21	9
Grand Total	30	9

Draft Budget Proposals

Jonathan Morgan: With regard to the draft budget proposals, will the Minister elaborate on the 'FHS income' sub-category, particularly the specific areas covered, under the 'education and training' main category? (WAQ29104)

Jane Hutt: There is no FHS income budget expenditure line within the education and training sub expenditure group.

Draft Budget Proposals

Jonathan Morgan: With regard to the draft budget proposals, will the Minister elaborate on the 'research and development' sub-category, particularly the specific areas covered, under the 'family health services' main category? (WAQ29105)

Jane Hutt: There is no research and development budget expenditure line within the family health service sub expenditure group.

Draft Budget Proposals

Jonathan Morgan: With regard to the draft budget proposals, will the Minister elaborate on the 'public health' sub-category, particularly the specific areas covered, under the 'family health services' main category? (WAQ29106)

Jane Hutt: There is no public health budget expenditure line within the family health services sub expenditure group.

Draft Health Improvement Budget Proposals

Jonathan Morgan: With regard to the draft budget proposals, will the Minister elaborate on the 'Health Promotion' sub-category, particularly the specific areas covered, under the 'Health Improvement' main category? (WAQ29107)

Jane Hutt: There is no health promotion budget expenditure line within the health improvement sub expenditure group.

Draft Budget Proposals

Jonathan Morgan: With regard to the draft budget proposals, will the Minister elaborate on the 'grants to voluntary organisations' sub-category, particularly the specific areas covered, under the 'health improvement' main category? (WAQ29108)

Jane Hutt: There is no grants to voluntary organisations budget expenditure line within the health improvement sub expenditure group.

Draft Budget Proposals

Jonathan Morgan: With regard to the draft budget proposals, will the Minister elaborate on the 'payments to contractors' sub-category, particularly the specific areas covered, under the 'education and training' main category? (WAQ29109)

Jane Hutt: There is no payments to contractors budget expenditure line within the education and training sub expenditure group.

Draft Budget Proposals

Jonathan Morgan: With regard to the draft budget proposals, will the Minister elaborate on the 'tribunals and advisory committees' sub-category, particularly the specific areas covered, under the 'local health boards and NHS trusts' main category? (WAQ29110)

Jane Hutt: There is no tribunals and advisory committees budget expenditure line within the local health boards and NHS trusts sub expenditure group.

Draft Budget Proposals

Jonathan Morgan: With regard to the draft budget proposals, will the Minister elaborate on the 'education and training' sub-category, particularly the specific areas covered, under the 'local health boards and NHS trusts' main category? (WAQ29111)

Jane Hutt: There is no education and training budget expenditure line within local health boards and NHS trusts sub expenditure group.

Post of Director of Pay Modernisation

Jonathan Morgan: What will the life span of the post of director of pay modernisation be to implement the 'Agenda for Change' strategy, to whom will the post holder be responsible and what will be the total cost to the taxpayer? (WAQ29112)

Jane Hutt: The director of pay modernisation was appointed in March 2003 for a period of five years. The post heads a small team which will lead the implementation of three major changes to salaries and terms and conditions of employment for NHS staff, namely 'Agenda for Change', the revised consultants' contract and the new general medical services contract.

Each of these initiatives is intended not only to improve staff recruitment, retention and motivation, but also to help initiate changes to the ways in which healthcare is delivered over the next five years.

The director will be responsible to the human resources director of NHS Wales. The initial budget for the modernisation team is £340,000, reducing, after an initial two-year period, during the remainder of the project.

Treating Asylum Seekers

Jonathan Morgan: How much money has been spent by local health boards in meeting the costs of treating asylum seekers whose claims have yet to be processed by the Home Office? (WAQ29115)

Jonathan Morgan: When will the Minister decide how much money to allocate to local health boards to support the health needs of asylum seekers? (WAQ29117)

Jane Hutt: Work is currently progressing to determine the allocation to local health boards to support the health needs of asylum seekers in 2003-04. I anticipate a decision to be made next month. Four local health boards spent £1,000,531 in each of the cluster areas in the year 2002-03. This money was used to provide for the needs assessments and primary care support of asylum seekers.

The Cumulative Salary Bill

Jonathan Morgan: Further to the answer given to WAQ29020, will the Minister give the cumulative salary bill for a) the 359 civil servants employed in 1999, and b) the 740 civil servants employed today? (WAQ29118)

Jane Hutt: The budget for the Assembly staff-related costs of the functions supporting my portfolio in 1999-2000 was £14.06 million. Since that budget was set, 438 posts have been transferred into the Assembly in respect of functions previously undertaken by external bodies (see table). The annualised cost of those is estimated at £15.95 million. The costs of those functions are contained within the overall budget for staff-related costs of functions supporting my portfolio, which is £28.69 million for 2003-04.

Organisation	Posts
Welsh Health Common Services Authority	68
Health Promotion Wales	67
Wales Office of Research and Development	8
Clinical effectiveness support unit	6
Welsh drug and alcohol unit	7
Welsh National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting	22
Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales	230
Health Commission Wales	30
Total	438

Palliative Care Services (Motor Neurone Disease)

Kirsty Williams: What plans does the Minister have to ensure equitable access to palliative care services for motor neurone disease patients in Wales? (WAQ29129)

Jane Hutt: Every person with life-limiting conditions, irrespective of age, should be able to receive the palliative care appropriate to their assessed clinical, cultural, social and psychological needs.

The palliative care strategy 'A Strategic Direction for Palliative Care Services in Wales', which I launched in February this year, recognises that palliative care may be required by patients with any progressive life-limiting disease, such as those with motor neurone disease.

I am looking to develop an implementation plan in the coming months to help provide further details on how we translate the strategy into practice.

The North Wales Air Ambulance

Lisa Francis: Following my written question (WAQ27191) tabled on 10 July, could you please tell me if an evaluation has taken place regarding a permanent site for the north Wales air ambulance, and, if so, what the outcome was? (WAQ29130)

Jane Hutt: An evaluation of the Caernarfon base is currently being undertaken. A meeting has been scheduled between the ambulance trust and the air ambulance operator for 17 November to discuss the evaluation and agree a recommendation for the permanent base. The helicopter will continue to operate from Caernarfon during this period.

St David's Hospice, Llandudno

Brynle Williams: Will the Minister give details on the bid by St David's Hospice, Llandudno and its outcome in relation to the extra £10 million that is being allocated to hospices in Wales by the Welsh Assembly Government? (WAQ29131)

Brynle Williams: Will the Minister outline how much Government funding is given to St David's hospice, Llandudno for the financial years, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05? (WAQ29132)

Jane Hutt: In January 2003 £10 million was made available over a three-year period for voluntary hospices providing palliative care to the people of Wales. An independent panel has considered bids based on matched funding, and 22 hospices have been successful in securing funds for their proposals.

The St David's Hospice in Llandudno secured funding of £250,000, for year 1 (2003-04) only at this stage, to strengthen and support its existing services. Funding for years 2 and 3 was not agreed, however, owing to the failure of its bid to meet the specified criteria, which are:

- to set out what additional services would be funded; and
- to present a strategy on how the existing funding shortfall will be addressed.

Some resources are being retained and the hospice is being encouraged to resubmit a revised bid to take account of these points. Discussions with key stakeholders and Assembly officials are ongoing to support this resubmission.

Holywell Hospital

Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister give an update on the plans and timescale for Holywell Hospital? (WAQ29133)

Jane Hutt: I can advise that the North East Wales NHS Trust has submitted the outline business case document for the proposed development of a new community hospital in the Holywell area. This document has been considered by my officials and comments issued to the trust. The trust in turn has responded to these comments and its response is currently being considered by my officials.

A Cardiac Unit in Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on progress towards finance for a cardiac unit in Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth? (WAQ29142)

Jane Hutt: Final comments for the trust's outline business case for a coronary care unit at Bronglais Hospital are currently being collated. A formal view on the business case will be sent to the trust shortly.

The outline business case is the second part of a three-stage process. Once it is complete, the trust, working through the cardiac network, will need to work up the full business case. The Welsh Assembly Government has offered £932,500 for the development of the coronary care unit subject to the approval of the business case.