

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 17 December 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

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): How many times has the First Minister visited North Wales on Assembly business since his appointment a year ago. (WAQ56899)

Answer issued on 04 January 2011

This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): How many meetings has the First Minister had with cancer charities over the course of the last 12 months, and where did these meetings take place. (WAQ56900)

Answer issued on 04 January 2011

I have not had meetings specifically with cancer charities, but I have undertaken a number of engagements relating to research into, and the treatment of, cancer.

To ask the Minister for Business and Budget

Andrew Davies (South Wales Central): With reference to her answer to WAQ56849, will the Minister explain the substantial increase in the number and proportion of payments being made late so far in 2010, when compared with equivalent periods in 2009. (WAQ56887)

Answer issued on 04 January 2011

This has resulted from the need to embed new ways of working surrounding the implementation of a new procurement system.

Andrew Davies (South Wales Central): With reference to her answer to WAQ56849, will the Minister explain the significant increase in the total value of payments recorded for months so far in this financial year 10/11, as opposed to previous years. (WAQ56888)

Answer issued on 04 January 2011

The increase in the monthly value of payments is due to the incorrect inclusion of public sector funding invoices in the later payment performance figures. These will be removed in the published results.

Andrew Davies (South Wales Central): With reference to her answer to WAQ56832, will the Minister provide a breakdown for travel and subsistence claims made by staff and Ministers of the Welsh Assembly Government, with figures for each of the last four years. (WAQ56889)

Answer issued on 04 January 2011

We are unable to provide a breakdown of Travel and Subsistence claims for Ministers as these are separately captured. The figures below show the total value of claims made by staff on the Travel and Subsistence system.

T&S Claims	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Staff	4,330,188.54	4,363,007.85	4,362,504.67	2,356,337.69

Andrew Davies (South Wales Central): With reference to her answer to WAQ56832, will the Minister detail the total number of all travel and subsistence claims made by staff and Ministers of the Welsh Assembly Government, with figures for each of the last four years. (WAQ56890)

Answer issued on 04 January 2011

We are unable to provide a breakdown of Travel and Subsistence claims for Ministers as these figures are not captured. The figures below show the total number of claims made by staff through the Travel and Subsistence system.

T&S Claims	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Staff	122,018	122,803	122,748	67,707

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister detail the cost of security for all Welsh Assembly Government offices in Wales during 07/08, 09/10 and 10/1, with an office by office breakdown. (WAQ56902)

Answer issued on 04 January 2011

Following clarification, the question has been interpreted as applying to the costs of security guarding on the Welsh Assembly Government's Administrative Estate for the last three full financial years for which information is available.

Uniformed guards provide an important deterrent, although their use is commensurate with the assessed risk and limited to a small number of Assembly Government buildings. These are the larger sites, where there may be a high number of visitors who require scanning and there is judged to be an increased security threat.

Information for financial year 2007/08 is archived following the introduction of a new financial system and could only be gathered at disproportionate cost. Costs for the last two full financial years, for each office with a permanent security guard presence are as follows:

LOCATION	FINANCIAL YEAR	
	2008/09	2009/10
Cathays Park, Cardiff	£567,513.71	£574,511.10
Rhyd y Car, Merthyr Tydfil	£361,501.95	£395,312.17
Rhodfa Padarn, Aberystwyth	N/A	£143,994.00

The costs provided in relation to the Aberystwyth office are part year costs only and cover the period from the opening of the office in July 2009 to March 2010.

The new Llandudno Junction office also has a permanent security guard force. However, costs are not included above as the office opened in the current financial year.

In addition to the above, there are estate-wide costs associated with key-holding services and emergency response and patrol services. The breakdown of these costs on an office by office basis could only be gathered at disproportionate cost. However, annual expenditure is:

LOCATION	FINANCIAL YEAR	
	2008/09	2009/10
Estate-wide	£42,839.00	£52,161.00

To ask the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What is the proposed budget for each Assembly Government-sponsored body for which the Minister is responsible for the three years covered by the draft budget. (WAQ56891)

Answer issued on 20 December 2010

The proposed running cost budget for the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales is £3,013,000 for 2011-12; £2,908,000 for 2012-13; and £2,768,000 for 2013-14.

To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What is the proposed budget for each Assembly Government-sponsored body for which the Minister is responsible for the three years covered by the draft budget. (WAQ56893)

Answer issued on 20 December 2010

There are no Assembly Government-sponsored bodies that are funded from within the Economy and Transport budget.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): In reference to his answer to WAQ56837, will the Minister provide an explanation as to the discrepancy between the figures provided and confirm which dates the figures relate to. (WAQ56903)

Answer issued on 08 April 2011

Since 2003 and up to 31 October 2010, £19,210,000 has been spent on airfield operations and related costs in support of the Aerospace Park development at St Athan. This expenditure can be attributed specifically to the development of the aerospace park.

An additional £24,776,000 has been spent during the same period on site remediation, land assembly, facilities management, legal and professional fees, highway and utilities design work. These are whole site development costs.

For the sake of completeness, it may be helpful if I explained that £2,676,000 was also spent on the Defence Technical College proposal between 2007 and 31 October 2010.

Overall, therefore, a total of £46.6 million has been spent since 2003 on the St Athan site.

To ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What is the proposed budget for each Assembly Government-sponsored body for which the Minister is responsible for the three years covered by the draft budget. (WAQ56894)

Answer issued on 13 April 2011

I can now confirm the final budget for 2011-12 and indicative plans for the following two years in respect of the AGSB's for which I am responsible.

AGSB	2011-12 Final Budget £'000s	2012-13 Indicative Plans Final Budget £'000s	2012-14 Indicative Plans Final Budget £'000s
CCW Programme Costs	17,602	17,543	17,151
CCW Admin Costs	19,652	18,719	17,911
CCW Coastal Path	1,500	1,500	1,500
Environment Agency	21,071	20,070	19,108
Flood Defence for EA	26,000	26,889	27,754

I have also set aside over £10m across the 3 years to assist with any restructuring associated with Natural Environment Framework.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What is the proposed budget for each Assembly Government-sponsored body for which the Minister is responsible for the three years covered by the draft budget. (WAQ56895)

Answer issued on 20 December 2010

This information is in the public domain.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): How many meetings has the Minister had with cancer charities over the course of the last 12 months, and where did these meetings take place. (WAQ56901)

Answer issued on 04 January 2011

I meet a range of cancer charities on a regular basis, either in my office or when I go out to see the work these important charities do for the people of Wales.

Nick Ramsay (Monmouthshire): Will the Minister provide figures for the number of orthopaedic patients who have (i) been withdrawn or (ii) not been included on an orthopaedic waiting list, giving a breakdown for each of the last four years. (WAQ56904)

Answer issued on 04 January 2011

This information is not held centrally.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister give an update on the provision of dental services in relation to the new dental contract and the ability of Local Health Boards to commission new

dental services allowing dental practices to expand to meet demand within the NHS in Wales. (WAQ56905)

Answer issued on 15 December 2010

The ability of patients to access NHS dental services has improved significantly since the new dental contract was introduced. Local Health Boards have responsibility for the provision of dental care to meet local needs and for the control and accountability of their dental budget; this must be achieved through a finite general dental budget allocation.

Where a contract ceases, for whatever reason, the financial value of the contract does not return to the Assembly Government but remains with the LHB to reinvest in the provision of alternative dental services. Change to the provision of dental services, such as expansion, is a matter for the LHB to determine in conjunction with providers as part of their planning and development of services.

To ask the Minister for Heritage

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What is the proposed budget for each Assembly Government-sponsored body for which the Minister is responsible for the three years covered by the draft budget. (WAQ56896)

Answer issued on 13 April 2010

I can now confirm that the final budget for 2011-12 and indicative plans for the following two years in respect of the AGSB's for which I am responsible.

AGSB	2011-12 Final Budget	2012-13 Indicative Plans Final Budget	2013-14 Indicative Plans Final Budget
Arts Council for Wales	30,612	29,976	30,145
Amgueddfa Cymru, National Museum Wales	27,175	25,705	25,694
National Library Wales	12,851	13,160	12,526
Sports Council for Wales	25,637	25,130	24,867
Welsh Language Board	13,908	14,058	14,158
RCAHMW	2,293	2,207	2,121

To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on the review into funding for the Organic Centre Wales. (WAQ56892)

Answer issued on 16 December 2010

The review of the Assembly Government core funding to Organic Centre Wales (OCW) identified that OCW provided an important resource and service to the Assembly Government, the need for which is likely to continue in the future. As a result funding will continue and at a level sufficient to retain access to the expertise and knowledge of the organisation. Arrangements will be made to procure, via a call-off contract, any additional services that the Assembly Government requires.

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What is the proposed budget for each Assembly Government-sponsored body for which the Minister is responsible for the three years covered by the draft budget. (WAQ56897)

Answer issued on 13 April 2011

I confirm that there are no Assembly Government-sponsored bodies in the Rural Affairs portfolio.

I apologise for the delay in responding to you. This has been due to the fact that the commission requesting a response to your question was inadvertently misplaced in the system. This oversight did not become apparent until Thursday 3 March.

To ask the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What is the proposed budget for each Assembly Government-sponsored body for which the Minister is responsible for the three years covered by the draft budget. (WAQ56898)

Answer issued on 16 December 2010

The only Assembly Government Sponsored Body for which I have responsibility is the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales. The Commission's proposed budget for the next three years is as follows:

2011-12 £561, 000

2012-13 £539, 000

2013-14 £520, 000