

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 28 January 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 Minister for Budget and Business

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): For each Welsh Assembly Government department, what magazines and journals are funded and at what cost. (WAQ55500)

Answer issued on 02 February 2010

The attached table provides information on the external magazines and journals that are funded by each Welsh Assembly Government department. The funding costs cover the 9 month period, April 2009 to 31 December 2009 in this financial year.

Department	Journal/Magazine Title	Cost for the period 1 April 2009-31 December 2009
Economy and Transport	Advances Wales The Build	£72,750.00 £10,757.00
Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills	Thrive – The Fostering Network Wales Magazine for Young People CADWYN Cliczine	£12,322.83 £10,912.00 £12,015.00
Sustainable Futures	Archaeology in Wales *2 Archaeologia Cambrensis *2 British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography *2 Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society *2 Heritage in Wales Cymal The True Taste Magazine *3 Gwlad *4	£1,837.00 £2,122.75 £1,500.00 £390.72 £38,422.45 £2,935.00 £176,400.00 £371,224.35
Health and Social Services	The department does not fund any journals or magazines	£0.00
Public Services and Local Government Delivery	The department does not fund any journals or magazines	£0.00
Central Services	CYTGORD	£625.00
Total		£714,214.10

1. The information does not include journals and magazines funded through Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies. It also does not include internal journals and magazines.
2. Grant Aid Contribution from the Welsh Assembly Government. Costs for the full year have been paid during this period.
3. The True Taste Magazine is produced for consumers. The Magazine is utilised at all trade (both UK and overseas) and consumer facing shows and Food Festivals across Wales. The magazine is also distributed through all hospitality establishments within Wales. The publication is produced to promote Award Winning Welsh Food & Drink producers in Wales and also communicates the messages in the Food Tourism and Local Sourcing Action Plans launched by the Minister for Rural Affairs in 2009.
4. Gwlad is a targeted publication sent directly to 38,000 farmers in Wales eleven times per year. It carries news features but its primary function is to keep the farming industry up to date with a mix of essential and helpful information. Gwlad plays a vital role delivering on the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to simplify and reduce literature in line with the red tape review.

To ask the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): Has the Welsh Assembly Government or its agencies issued any demands or advice to Higher Education institutions to model various potential cuts in funding for any of the coming five years and, if so, what are they. (WAQ55499)

Answer issued on 02 February 2010

In January 2010, the Welsh Assembly Government released the following press statement in relation to the 2010-11 budget:

It is imperative that Higher Education sector in Wales maximises its use of the £400m+ it receives annually from the Welsh Assembly Government. The new Welsh HE strategy, For Our Future, sets a framework to ensure the sector meets the needs of the people of Wales and the Welsh economy.

The budget allocation for Higher Education is £429 million for 2010-11, this represents a 1.4% increase in cash terms over the settlement for 2009-10. Although there is no reduction in funding we expect further and higher education institutions to continue to seek efficiencies to release resources for the delivery of front line services and this is particularly important in the current economic climate.

In terms of future budget modelling, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) issued Circular W09/10HE - Forecasts and Reaching Higher Target Requests 2009 to higher education institutions in Wales on 1 May 2009. This circular requested that institutions submit financial forecasts for 2008/09 to 2012/13. It also detailed the assumptions on GDP and efficiency gains that institutions were expected to use in the construction of their forecasts.

The financial forecasts of HE institutions were considered by the Council at its July meeting and the HEFCW Chief Executive issued a subsequent communication to the sector clarifying that the assumptions made in Circular W09/10HE had been proposed prior to the confirmation of 2010-11 or subsequent budgets. This communication advised that institutions' financial forecasts should take into account the likelihood of reductions in the HEFCW grants beyond 2009-10 over and above the efficiency gain stated in the planning assumptions that were set out in Circular W09/10HE.

Following receipt of financial forecasts from institutions, the HEFCW Chief Executive issued a further communication to the sector in September 2009 requesting evidence of institutions' financial assumptions and assurance that they had a strategy in place to respond to any budget reductions. Responses were received from all higher education institutions.

Following the Assembly's endorsement of the final 2010-11 budget on 8 December details were provided to the Council at its meeting on 11 December. In the absence of indicative budgets for subsequent years, the Council proposed that modelling should be done on the basis of a reduction of up to 5% in financial year 2011-12 in order that the 2010/11 academic year budgets could be calculated from the two financial years.

This was communicated to higher education institutions in a letter issued by HEFCW on 23 December 2009. This letter also reiterated that the Welsh Assembly Government had not announced an indicative budget for the 2011-12 and as such there was therefore no firm basis for the assumptions made in respect of budget for this financial year.

To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs

Brynle Williams (North Wales): What assessment has the Minister made of the implications for animal health in Wales of the recent detection of Equine Infectious Anaemia in Wiltshire. (WAQ55498)

Answer issued on 27 January 2010

The Welsh Assembly Government is fully engaged with DEFRA regarding the case of Equine Infectious Anaemia in Wiltshire. The premises is currently under restriction and the two infected horses have been humanely destroyed in line with existing regulations. Overall the expert advice on the likelihood of spread of disease via transmission by biting flies is very low. The risk of further spread among horses by equipment is low and can be mitigated by good hygiene measures. This is the first case of EIA being imported into Great Britain since 1976 and demonstrates the effectiveness of the post import testing regime.