

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 15 November 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 Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): Does the Minister have plans to review the success and failings of TAN 18. (WAQ56724)

Answer issued on 16 November 2010

A comprehensive review of Technical Advice Note 18 Transport was completed in 2007. Since 2007, work has focussed on supporting policy delivery through the publication of supporting guidance, including the Manual for Streets and provision of training for local authority staff.

Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): What consideration has the Minister given to providing safe routes for horse riders in planning guidance for new developments. (WAQ56725)

Answer issued on 16 November 2010

The Manual for Streets and Manual for Streets 2 provides guidance on the planning, design, provision and approval of new streets. It aims to reduce the impact of vehicles on streets by giving a high priority to the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and users of public transport. Streets designed according to these principles improve safety for all road users, including horse riders.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Does the Minister have plans to include the North Wales coast in the 'Smart Coasts: Sustainable Communities' scheme. (WAQ56727)

Answer issued on 16 November 2010

I am committed to improving the quality of Wales' coastal areas and I support the provision of improved information for the public on bathing water quality, as the revised Bathing Water Directive requires.

Smart Coasts; Sustainable Communities is funded under the European Structural Funds Wales Ireland Cross Border programme which will improve the quality of the coastal areas of Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Swansea and Dublin to boost tourism and support local economies.

I am following the progress of this project very closely and am hopeful it will lead to further work being undertaken throughout Wales resulting in improved information for the public on bathing water quality.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on electromagnetic hypersensitivity, and the actions she is taking to address the concerns of the individuals in Wales suffering from it. (WAQ56723)

Answer issued on 15 November 2010

The Welsh Assembly Government is advised by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in relation to the protection of communities from radiation hazards. In November 2005 the HPA published a study entitled "Definition, Epidemiology and Management of Electrical Sensitivity". This study did not look specifically at the causes of electrical sensitivity; however it did acknowledge the symptoms and their attribution. It explored how to treat people who consider themselves electro-sensitive acknowledging that people complaining of the condition have real, unpleasant and sometimes disabling symptoms.

Scientific studies in carefully controlled conditions have consistently failed to demonstrate symptoms in patients exposed to their triggers who were unaware of that exposure. More recent scientific studies published since the HPA report has not altered this finding.

The World Health Organization has also concluded that no scientific basis currently exists for a connection between electrical sensitivity and exposure to electromagnetic fields.

The Welsh Assembly Government advises individuals who consider themselves electro-sensitive to contact their general practitioner for support and advice.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister detail, by LHB and in each of the past five years, how many patients under the age of 18 were admitted into hospital wards following presentation in Accident and Emergency departments whilst under the influence of alcohol. (WAQ56728)

Answer issued on 16 November 2010

This information is not held centrally.

To ask the Representative of the Assembly Commission

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Commissioner detail how many staff have designated security duties assigned by the Commission, providing figures for the last four years. (WAQ56726)

Answer issued on 15 November 2010

Assembly Commissioner for Assembly Resources, William Graham AM:

The number of designated staff assigned to security duties by the Commission over the past four years is indicated in the below chart. These numbers provide twenty four hour security coverage for the Assembly estate throughout the year. FTE refers to full time equivalents.

Date	Number of staff	FTE
31 October 2007	52	51.24
31 October 2008	59	58.24
31 October 2009	59	59.03
31 October 2010	55	54.73

In line with the current budget strategy the service provision is being reviewed in order to ensure it offers an efficient and cost effective service.