

Written Questions answered between 12 and 19 August 2004

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

Contents

[Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport](#)

[Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport](#)

[Questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning](#)

[Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside](#)

[Questions to the Finance Minister](#)

[Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services](#)

[Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration](#)

Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

The National Botanic Garden's Biotechnium

Lisa Francis: Out of the rescue package of moneys which was put together in respect of the national botanic garden, what funding has been set aside for the garden's biotechnium? (WAQ37349) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): The funding provided to the National Botanic Garden of Wales by the Welsh Assembly Government is to assist with operational costs; it was not earmarked for specific elements.

The National Library of Wales

Lisa Francis: Is it legally possible for the Welsh Assembly Government to bring the National Library of Wales under its control? (WAQ37359)

The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh): The National Library of Wales is an Assembly sponsored public body and is accountable to the Assembly for how it uses its grant-in-aid funding. This accountability is achieved on a day-to-day basis through procedures set out in the management statement and financial memorandum issued by the Assembly to the library.

The NLW was established by Royal Charter, which could be revoked by an Act of Parliament or by the Sovereign through an Order in Council. The powers available under Section 28 and Schedule 4 of the Government of Wales Act 1998 would not permit the Assembly to transfer the functions of the NLW to itself.

Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport

Cynllun E-gymunedau

Elin Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gynllun e-gymunedau? (WAQ35764) [W]

Elin Jones: Ar ba sail, ac ar ba awdurdod y penderfynwyd peidio â gweithredu cynllun e-gymunedau? (WAQ35765) [W]

Elin Jones: Faint o arian Amcan 1 ac arian cyfatebol a benodwyd ar gyfer cynllun e-gymunedau? (WAQ35766) [W]

Elin Jones: A oes cynlluniau i weithredu cynllun e-gymunedau yn y dyfodol? (WAQ35769) [W]

Elin Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro sut y bydd cymunedau mwyaf ynysig a difreintiedig Cymru yn buddianu [sic] gyda thechnoleg gwybodaeth heb gynllun e-gymunedau? (WAQ35770) [W]

Ateb terfynol yn dilyn yr ateb dros dro a roddwyd ar 27 Mai.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Dyfarnwyd £8.03 miliwn o grant Amcan 1 i raglen e-gymunedau Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn erbyn cyllid cyfatebol o £8.36 miliwn. Ni wnaed unrhyw daliadau Amcan 1, na chyllid cyfatebol o gronfa cyllid cyfatebol y Ffordd i Ffyniant Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i'r prosiect e-gymunedau. Roedd pryder wedi codi ynghylch effeithiolrwydd y rhaglen e-gymunedau. Yn y bôn, teimlwyd ei fod yn amhriodol i'r rhaglen weithredu yn ganolog trwy un prosiect unigol, ac y byddai cefnogi prosiectau lleol, cynaliadwy a fyddai'n helpu i roi strategaeth Cymru Ar-lein Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer TGCh ar waith yn hybu adfywio cymunedol effeithiol yn well. Oherwydd hyn, ac yn dilyn trafodaethau gyda Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, penderfynodd y WDA beidio â bwrw ymlaen gyda'r rhaglen e-gymunedau, ac felly nid oedd wedi ei flaenoriaethu o fewn cynllun busnes y WDA ar gyfer 2004-05.

Ar hyn o bryd, mae Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru (WEFO) yn datblygu rhaglen a fydd yn cynorthwyo cymunedau lleol wrth iddynt baratoi eu ceisiadau ar gyfer cyllid Ewropeaidd. Bydd cymunedau yn derbyn cymorth ac anogaeth gyda'u ceisiadau, yn ogystal â chael mynediad i astudiaethau achos o brosiectau llwyddiannus o Gymru trwy wefan WEFO. Bydd yr ymagwedd hon yn sicrhau y bydd y cyfleoedd TGCh gorau

ar gael gyda chymorth cronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop, sydd eisoes wedi dyrannu cyllid o £130 miliwn i 130 o brosiectau sy'n canolbwyntio ar TGCh.

Ar hyn o bryd, mae Cymru Ar-lein hefyd yn cynnal cyfres o weithdai 'Llywio'r Llygoden' ledled Cymru, a fydd yn cyflwyno sgiliau TGCh sylfaenol i'r gynulleidfa. Nod yr ymgyrch yw cynyddu ymwybyddiaeth o fanteision TGCh, a gweithgareddau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Mae'r gweithdai wedi eu hanelu at nifer o grwpiau gan gynnwys addysgwyr, pobl sy'n rhedeg busnesau, pobl sy'n gweithio i elusennau a'r cyhoedd. Mae pob seminar wedi ei addasu i ddangos rhaglenni TGCh ymarferol sydd yn berthnasol i ddiddordebau penodol y bobl sy'n bresennol. Wedyn byddant yn cael eu cyfeirio at bynciau perthnasol a drafodwyd yn y seminar megis LearnDirect, canolfannau dysgu TGCh neu ganolfannau cymorth i fusnesau.

Mae rhaglen band eang Cymru yn ceisio sicrhau bod gan gymunedau fynediad i TGCh. Erbyn haf 2005, bydd gan 90 y cant o boblogaeth Cymru fynediad i fand eang, a bydd dros 260 o fusnesau bach a chanolig yn manteisio ar grantiau cymorth a fydd yn cynorthwyo busnesau i gael band eang. Mae'r rhwydwaith Dysgu Gydol Oes yn cynnig gwasanaeth cyfathrebu band eang i 82 y cant o'n hysgolion uwchradd a thros 54 y cant o'n hysgolion cynradd.

The E-communities Programme

Elin Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the e-communities programme? (WAQ35764) [W]

Elin Jones: On what basis, and by which authority was it decided not to implement an e-communities programme? (WAQ35765) [W]

Elin Jones: How much Objective 1 funding and match funding was allocated to the e-communities programme? (WAQ35766) [W]

Elin Jones: Are there any plans to implement an e-communities programme in the future? (WAQ35769) [W]

Elin Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on how the most remote and underprivileged communities in Wales will benefit from information technology in the absence of an e-communities programme? (WAQ35770) [W]

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 27 May.

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): The WDA's e-communities programme was awarded £8.03 million of Objective 1 grant against match funding of £8.36 million. No Objective 1 payments or match funding from the Assembly Government's Pathway to Prosperity match funding pot were made to the e-communities project. There were a number of concerns over the effectiveness of the e-communities programme. Primarily, it was considered inappropriate for the programme to be delivered centrally through a single large project and that effective community regeneration would be better achieved by supporting sustainable, local projects that can help deliver the Welsh Assembly Government's Cymru Ar-lein strategy for ICT. For this reason, and following discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government, the WDA decided not to go ahead with the e-communities programme and it was therefore not prioritised within the WDA's business plan for 2004-05.

A support programme is currently under development within the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) that will assist local communities as they prepare their bids for European funding. Communities will receive support and encouragement with their applications in addition to being able to access case studies of successful Welsh projects on the WEFO website. This approach will ensure that ICT opportunities are fully maximised with the support of the European structural funds, which have already committed funding of £130 million to 130 projects with an ICT focus.

Cymru Ar-lein is also currently running a series of workshops pan-Wales by the name of 'Meet the Mouse' that will introduce basic ICT skills to the audience. The campaign aims to increase awareness of the benefits of ICT and of the Welsh Assembly Government's activities. Target groups include educators, business people, charity workers and the general public. Each seminar is tailored to show attendees practical ICT applications of direct relevance to their specific interests. Attendees are then directed to services relevant to the topics covered in the seminar such as LearnDirect, ICT learning centres or business support centres.

The broadband Wales programme is working towards ensuring communities have access to ICT. By summer 2005, 90 per cent of the population in Wales will have access to broadband, while in excess of 260 small and medium-sized enterprises will take advantage of support grants to make it possible for businesses to have broadband. The lifelong learning network provides broadband communication into 82 per cent of our secondary schools and over 54 per cent of our primary schools.

Questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

School Transport (Bus Company Contracts)

Alun Cairns: What consideration has the Minister given to encouraging local authorities to offer longer contracts to bus companies in relation to school transport? (WAQ37340)

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): Awarding longer contracts for the provision of school transport can sometimes enable local education authorities to achieve better terms and perhaps afford higher specification vehicles. It is the responsibility of LEAs to negotiate appropriate contracts with local transport operators, taking into account the need to balance changing demands and priorities in school transport services against the potential benefits of longer-term contracts.

The Pay Modernisation Programme

Jenny Randerson: How much funding is being made available to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales specifically to cover the pay modernisation programme? (WAQ37348)

Jane Davidson: No decision has been made yet. The amount of funding is subject to the outcome of the current budget planning round, which will conclude in the autumn.

Integrating ELWa's Functions with the Civil Service

Mike German: Does the Minister plan to transfer ELWa powers under SI2004/1576 (W162) to the civil service as part of the proposals to integrate ELWa's functions with the civil service? (WAQ37354)

Jane Davidson: The delegation of powers absorbed by the Assembly Government as a result of the merger will be a matter for consideration in due course. No change in policy direction is signalled by the decision to transfer powers.

Assembly Learning Grant

Lisa Francis: Is there any existing criteria, or criteria being considered, which would preclude a student who has achieved NVQ level 3 in information technology, and received an Assembly learning grant to do so, from receiving a further Assembly grant to pursue a BTEC level 3 qualification? (WAQ37357)

Jane Davidson: A student will not be eligible for an ALG if he/she has previously received an Assembly learning grant for attendance on a course at the same or higher level. For continuing eligibility, a student must demonstrate advancement to a higher level of learning—he or she must demonstrate progression.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

The TAN 8 Policy Statement

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister say for how long the TAN 8 policy statement will be out for consultation, who is being consulted, and what arrangements have been made to publicise this consultation throughout Wales? (WAQ37334)

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): Draft TAN 8: 'Renewable Energy' was issued for consultation for 12 weeks on 13 July. The consultation period closes on 8 October. A broad range of organisations was included on the list of consultees, including Government departments and agencies, local planning authorities, conservation and environmental organisations, social organisations, and all AMs and Welsh MPs. A press release was issued on 13 July and the consultation documents are available on the Assembly Government website.

The Cockle Fishing Industry in the Burry Port Inlet

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the cockle fishing industry in the Burry Port inlet? (WAQ37355)

Carwyn Jones: Management of the fishery is the responsibility of the south Wales sea fisheries committee and I understand that the director has responded directly to concerns expressed on behalf of the gatherers.

To date £202,673 has been allocated under the Welsh Assembly Government's financial support scheme due to outbreaks of diarrhetic shellfish poisoning.

Promoting the National Parks of Wales

Val Lloyd: What is the Minister doing to promote the national parks of Wales? (WAQ37362) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): In July 2004, I launched a national parks' week, which was the very first time a national parks' week had taken place. The aim was to raise awareness of the parks and the many social, economic and environmental benefits they provide. Also in September 2004, I am speaking at the annual national parks conference in Exeter, where I will be speaking about the importance of national parks for Wales.

Following the review of the national park authorities, which was published in March 2004, the Assembly Government in conjunction with key partners is developing an action plan, which will among other things include promotion of the national parks in Wales.

The Importance of National Parks in Wales

Val Lloyd: Can the Minister comment on the importance of national parks in Wales? (WAQ37363) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Sue Essex: The review of the Welsh national park authorities, which was published in March 2004, underlined the importance of national parks in Wales for their environmental, economical and social benefits. The national parks cover some 20 per cent of Wales's land mass, are seen as jewels in the Welsh crown, and provide significant environmental and economic benefits.

Siting Wind Farms on Common Land

Nick Bourne: Do all farmers who graze an area of common land have to agree to siting a wind farm on it, or can it proceed on a majority decision? (WAQ37367) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Sue Essex: The agreement of the owner who grazes animals on the land and all commoners whose rights would be affected by the proposal is normally needed at common law.

The agreement of a majority of the affected commoners would only suffice if all commoners were members of a body, such as a commoners association, where arrangements are in place that a majority decision passed at a properly constituted meeting will apply to all its members.

The Operation of the National Reserve

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail what discretion the Assembly has in determining the operation of the national reserve, and will he make a statement on why he failed to make notification of the requirement for a UK decision on this aspect of the Common Agricultural Policy reform prior to the consultation process? (WAQ37371) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Sue Essex: The consultation paper on the national reserve was issued on 5 April. The consultation issues were

based on the UK's shared understanding of the operation of the national reserve as set out in the draft commission implementing regulations that were under negotiation at Brussels at that time. This was made clear in the consultation document. Commission regulation 795/2004 covers the national reserve and requires the reserve to operate at member state level.

The four UK agriculture administrations are working closely to decide the operational detail of the reserve from 2005 within the UK; my officials are fully engaged in that process.

The UK is applying the common agricultural policy reform package on a regional basis. There will be a fixed regional financial ceiling for Wales as with the other five regions within the UK. From that ceiling, the reserve will be funded by deductions from the reference amounts for individual farmers based on the average of their farm activity in 2000-02.

'Unitary Development Plans—A Guide to Procedures'

Lisa Francis: Does the Assembly's publication 'Unitary Development Plans—A Guide to Procedures' give guidance and recommendations as to the timing of public consultation periods in respect of UDPs and, if so, how does the Welsh Assembly Government ensure that the advice given is adhered to by national park authorities? (WAQ37373) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Sue Essex: The Assembly Government's publication 'Unitary Development Plans—A Guide to Procedures, 2001' gives guidance on public consultation at each stage of the UDP process. That, 'Unitary Development Plans Wales 2001', and The Town and Country Planning (Development Plan) Regulations 1991 (as amended), set out the detailed procedures for UDP preparation, including the timing and advertisement of public consultation periods.

The regulations require statutory publicity notices to be served at prescribed stages of the UDP process, and at certain locations, for example in the local press, to advertise the availability of the UDP for public inspection. Assembly officials monitor compliance with this as a part of the regular scrutiny of all emerging UDPs.

Questions to the Finance Minister

Local Authority Electoral Registration Department

Ann Jones: How much did each local authority electoral registration department spend, per elector, in Wales, in 2002-03 and 2003-04, listed in descending order? (WAQ37335)

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): The most recent figures available outlining local authority spend on electoral registration are set out in the table below.

Local authority net current expenditure on elections (sorted by 2003-04 cost per elector)

		2002-03 out-turn		2003-04 budget		2003 electors
		£000	£/per elector	£000	£/per elector	
1	Gwynedd	146	1.59	243	2.64	92,095
2	Carmarthenshire	252	1.87	344	2.56	134,487
3	Wrexham	178	1.84	236	2.44	96,835
4	Monmouthshire	125	1.85	150	2.22	67,711
5	Blaenau Gwent	108	2.03	118	2.21	53,150
6	Flintshire	242	2.11	254	2.21	114,932
7	Ceredigion	106	2.00	110	2.07	53,066
8	Torfaen	134	1.92	126	1.81	69,718
9	Pembrokeshire	145	1.63	157	1.76	89,186
10	Merthyr Tydfil	83	1.92	74	1.71	43,195
11	Conwy	124	1.40	145	1.64	88,397
12	Caerphilly	270	2.03	204	1.53	132,864
13	Neath Port Talbot	148	1.38	164	1.52	107,566
14	Bridgend	169	1.66	149	1.46	101,675
15	Rhondda Cynon Taf	209	1.29	235	1.45	162,323
16	Isle of Anglesey	95	1.90	72	1.44	49,896
17	Swansea	218	1.23	234	1.32	177,105
18	Cardiff	215	0.90	272	1.14	238,894
19	Denbighshire	82	1.23	73	1.10	66,502
20	Newport	114	1.09	97	0.93	104,240
21	Powys	102	1.02	91	0.91	100,371

22	Vale of Glamorgan	32	0.36	60	0.67	88,994
	Total Wales	3,298	1.48	3,606	1.61	2,233,202

Best Practice in Electoral Registration

Ann Jones: Further to question WAQ29437, will the Minister consider carrying out an audit, in partnership with the Electoral Commission, to ascertain which local authorities are, and are not adopting best practice in electoral registration? (WAQ37336)

Sue Essex: The auditing of local authority best practice in relation to electoral registration is a function of the Electoral Commission. I will refer your request to the commission.

Many electoral registration measures have been proposed for inclusion in the Electoral Reform Bill, which will hopefully be made in time for the next Assembly elections. This will provide a stronger legislative backdrop to the process and hopefully negate the need for an audit of best practice.

Encouraging Local Authorities to Adopt Best Practice in Electoral Registration

Ann Jones: Further to her answers to WAQ29435 and WAQ29437 will the Minister make a statement outlining the work that has been carried out by her officials, in partnership with the Electoral Commission, in encouraging local authorities to adopt best practice in electoral registration? (WAQ37337)

Sue Essex: Assembly officials recently assisted the Electoral Commission in the organisation of a seminar to discuss issues arising from the local government elections in June this year.

The Assembly also commissioned the Electoral Commission to carry out a review of the local government in Wales and it is due to publish its final report in November. The report will include observations and recommendations for initiatives to promote electoral registration in Wales.

The Electoral Commission's review of electoral registration is ongoing and research is currently being carried out linking registration and non-registration rates to census data. I will ensure that you receive a copy of the report when it is published. The Assembly continues to support the Electoral Commission to promote best practice in all areas of the electoral process.

Training and Guidance for Election Officials

Ann Jones: Further to the complaint by Mencap Cymru regarding the denial of his vote to my constituent, Mr Stephen Thomas (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/3918855.stm>), what action is the Minister considering to investigate the circumstances surrounding this complaint and any reforms to the training and guidance for election officials that may be required? (WAQ37345)

Sue Essex: I will write to the Electoral Commission requesting its observations on this matter. The Electoral Commission was responsible for producing the training material for the June elections. This material was

delivered to all local returning officers in training sessions across Wales and then cascaded to election officers. For the first time all poll clerks received training on their role and responsibilities. The training material was made available as reference guides for all election officers to have at hand on election day, the importance of voter care being emphasised throughout. Any recommendations for reform of electoral law rest with the Electoral Commission.

The Adequacy of Existing Guidance for Election Officials

Ann Jones: Further to the complaint by Mencap Cymru regarding the denial of his vote to my constituent, Mr Stephen Thomas (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/3918855.stm>), will the Minister make a statement on the adequacy of existing guidance for election officials on assisting mentally handicapped, visually impaired, or otherwise disabled electors to exercise their right to vote? (WAQ37346)

Sue Essex: The Electoral Commission published a good practice guide 'Equal access to Electoral Procedures', which provided practical advice for electoral staff. This guidance was set in the context of current legislation and it is the Electoral Commission's remit to recommend changes to electoral law. Following the Assembly elections, in conjunction with the Electoral Commission, officials held a seminar to encourage electoral administrators to share best practice and develop the lessons learnt previously, particularly in the area of accessibility. When the guidance for the next Assembly elections is being prepared, we will ensure that the Disability Rights Commission is consulted on its contents.

The New National Assembly Building

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister provide details, including costs, of contracts already agreed and signed for the new National Assembly building? (WAQ37389)

Sue Essex: On 1 July 2003, a lump sum contract for the sum of £40.997 million was awarded to Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd to complete the design and construction of the new Assembly building. Under this form of contract, the awarding of sub-contracts is a matter for Taylor Woodrow Ltd.

It is anticipated that ICT equipment will be procured through the MERLIN contract and loose furniture will be procured through the Assembly's furniture contract. However, requirements for both are still being developed and are, therefore, still subject to commercial negotiations.

Council Tax Re-banding and Revaluation

David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a detailed statement on her intention to introduce a relief scheme with regard to council tax re-banding and revaluation? (WAQ37395)

Sue Essex: I wrote to all Assembly Members on 4 August signalling that I am currently considering the introduction of a relief scheme.

New Hospital Development Projects Planned for the NHS

Nick Bourne: How many new hospital development projects are planned for the NHS in Wales? (WAQ37330)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): Fifteen such schemes have currently received full business case approval. A further five are expected to receive such approval within the next few months.

Money Spent on New Hospital Developments since May 1999

Nick Bourne: How much money has the Welsh Assembly Government spent on new hospital developments in Wales since May 1999? (WAQ37331)

Jane Hutt: Since the commencement of the financial year 1999-2000, the Welsh Assembly Government has invested £257.847 million in capital sums on hospital building programmes. This figure includes approximately £62 million from the financial year 2003-04, which remains subject to auditory confirmation. It should be noted that this figure excludes expenditure on schemes funded from within the discretionary capital allocated to NHS trusts. Inclusive of the current financial year, this has been £254.111 million since the financial year 1999-2000.

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

Assisting Low Income Households to Maintain Healthy Diets

Val Lloyd: What policies have been developed to assist low income households maintain healthy diets? (WAQ37361) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Health and Social Services.*

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): Through 'Food and Well Being', the national nutrition strategy for Wales, we are implementing a number of programmes to improve the diet of people in Wales. Addressing food poverty and the promotion of food equality, by improving physical and economic access to food, particularly for low income families, is at the heart of 'Food and Well Being'. Tackling obesity, through the promotion of healthy eating and physical activity, is a key theme of Health Challenge Wales, and in relation to young people, is being considered by the food and fitness task group for children and young people that I co-chair.

The Welsh Assembly Government's food and fitness health promotion grant scheme, for example, funds a range of innovative projects designed to increase access to healthy food, improve basic skills and address issues of cost and availability. The Garnsychan Partnership, Torfaen, is being funded to improve access to affordable healthy food in the community by establishing a number of innovative initiatives that support the growing and eating of healthy food by low income groups. Other projects funded include community cafés, growing schemes, and cookery classes.

In addition a pilot scheme is underway to develop a minimum of 26 food co-operatives throughout north and south-east Wales. The focus of the scheme is to supply quality affordable fruit and vegetables to disadvantaged

communities, including rural communities, through sustainable local food distribution networks, particularly in Communities First areas. Furthermore, as part of the 'Keep Well This Winter' campaign in 2004-05, the Food Standards Agency Wales will be training peer educators throughout Wales to promote healthy eating in older people.

A number of projects within the inequalities in health fund's portfolio incorporate a nutrition element. For example, the North East Wales NHS Trust is supporting a programme of healthy eating community classes and in Swansea, the provision of professional dietetic advice is being provided in the primary care setting.

These initiatives are linked to a wide range of policies such as Communities First.

The Disaffection Grant

Peter Black: Will the Minister outline the budget provision for the disaffection grant for each of the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08? (WAQ37381) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.*

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): The budget provision for tackling disaffection in schools grant is £500,000 per year for 2004-05 to 2007-08.

Budget Provision for Drug and Alcohol Initiatives

Peter Black: Will the Minister outline the budget provision for drug and alcohol initiatives for each of the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08? (WAQ37382)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): The current budget provision for the substance misuse action fund (formerly the drug and alcohol initiatives budget) is £15.6 million for 2004-05, including a £5 million transfer from the Home Office for the throughcare and aftercare scheme, £12.3 million in 2005-06 and 2006-07. The level of funding in 2007-08 is being considered as part of the current budget planning round.

Budget Provision for Housing Ex-Offenders/Young People/Substance Misusers

Peter Black: Will the Minister outline the budget provision for housing for ex-offenders/young people/substance misusers for each of the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08? (WAQ37383)

Edwina Hart: The current budget baseline for 2004-05 to 2006-07 is £3 million in each financial year. The budget for 2007-08 is yet to be finalised.

Budget Provision for Domestic Violence

Peter Black: Will the Minister outline the budget provision for domestic violence for each of the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08? (WAQ37384)

Edwina Hart: The current budget provision for the domestic violence services grant for 2004-05 to 2006-07 is

£1,582,000 in each year. Included in this provision, for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06, is an element of funding for youth justice provision. In advance of the spending review, it is not possible to provide any information in respect of 2007-08.

Budget Provision for the Safer Communities Fund

Peter Black: Will the Minister outline the budget provision for the safer communities fund for each of the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08? (WAQ37385)

Edwina Hart: The current budget provision for the safer communities fund is £3,533,000 in 2004-05, £4,933,000 in 2005-06 and £4,933,000 in 2006-07. The level of funding in 2007-08 is being considered as part of the current budget planning round.