

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 14 March 2011

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

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

Contents

- 2 Questions to the Minister for Business and Budget
- 2 Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

To ask the Minister for Business and Budget

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): How many full-time equivalent staffing hours were lost when the Welsh Assembly Government's offices in Llandudno Junction closed due to bad weather in February. (WAQ57287) *Transferred for answer by the Permanent Secretary*

Answer issued on 05 April 2011

The Permanent Secretary (Dame Gill Morgan): It is not possible to determine how many staffing hours were lost on 7 February 2011 as a result of the closure of the Llandudno Junction office. On this date, the total number of full-time equivalent staff who had registered the Llandudno Junction office as their permanent base was 366.5 (382 headcount). With the office closed, a significant number of those staff took the opportunity to work remotely, either from home using portable ICT equipment or from other Assembly Government offices close to their homes. We have not collected data centrally on the number of staff who took either of these options. Similarly, we have not collected data centrally on the number of staff who had planned to be working away from the office on that day, for example attending meetings elsewhere or undertaking official visits and inspections. This responsibility is delegated to individual line managers.

In respect of those who were not able to work as a direct result of the closure, the Welsh Assembly Government does not record centrally the annual or flexi-leave arrangements for individual members of staff. We do not, therefore, have a central record of how many staff had already planned to be absent on that day. There is also no requirement on staff working within a flexi-time system to notify their manager, in advance, how many hours they are proposing to work in a particular day. Even if we knew how many staff were going to be in the office on that day, we would have no central record of how many hours they had planned to work.

Therefore, the only way to determine with any level of accuracy how many staffing hours were lost as a result of the closure would be to ask each member of staff individually about their proposed working pattern on that day. You will appreciate that this would be excessively time-consuming and costly for over 380 staff.

I can assure you, however, that the disruption to members of the public was kept to an absolute minimum. All departments within the Assembly Government have in place a Business Continuity Plan which identifies the business critical activities for the department, together with the arrangements for ensuring their continuity in the event of a disruptive incident. The Business Continuity Coordinators for each department were notified as soon as the decision was taken to close the building and the Plans were activated for each department to ensure that all time-critical activities for that day were completed.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Brian Gibbons (Aberavon): Will the Minister make a statement on the delivery of the One Wales commitment on NHS provided occupational health. (WAQ57285)

Answer issued on 15 March 2011

Our One Wales commitment to explore placing occupational health services on a statutory basis is on schedule and there are no major issues. I have considered the report containing the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group, chaired by Professor Sir Mansel Aylward. I have asked for an implementation plan to be developed to take forward the recommendation for a National NHS Health and Well being Service.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr): Will the Minister detail the number of people in Carmarthenshire who are (a) currently experiencing delayed transfer of care, and (b) specifically waiting to be transferred from hospital to a care home. (WAQ57286)

Answer issued on 15 March 2011

The number of people in Carmarthenshire who were experiencing a delayed transfer of care at the January monthly census point was 16. Of these, 5 were specifically waiting to be transferred from hospital to a residential or nursing place in a care home of their choice. The February census figures will be published on 22 March.