

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 18 Ionawr 2012

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 18 January 2012

*Cyhoeddir atebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o atebion yn y Gymraeg.
Answers are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.*

[R] *yn nodi bod yr Aelod wedi datgan buddiant/signifies that the Member has declared an interest.*

[W] *yn nodi bod y cwestiwn wedi'i gyflwyno yn Gymraeg/signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.*

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Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
To ask the Minister for Education and Skills

William Powell (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): O gofio bod arweiniad ar reoli asbestos mewn adeiladau parod, a gyhoeddwyd gan yr Awdurdod Gweithredol Iechyd a Diogelwch, yn dweud mai awdurdodau lleol sydd â'r ddyletswydd o reoli asbestos a thalu am ei dynnu o ysgolion ledled Cymru, pa asesiad y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i wneud o'r posibilrwydd y gallai hyn droi awdurdodau yn erbyn chwilio am asbestos o gofio goblygiadau ariannol y gwaith o'i dynnu.. (WAQ58532)

William Powell (Mid and West Wales): Given that guidance on the management of asbestos in system build premises, published by the Health and Safety Executive, stated that local authorities have the duty to manage asbestos and pay for its removal in schools across Wales, what assessment has the Minister made of the potential for this to act as a disincentive for authorities to search for asbestos given the financial implication of its removal. (WAQ58532)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 18 Ionawr 2012
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The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): Locating and dealing with asbestos in schools, including the removal if appropriate is a health and safety matter for schools and local authorities. Local authorities as the building owner and employer have a legal duty under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 to manage the risks arising from asbestos.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) do state in their guidance that the most likely way Asbestos Containing Materials will create a risk in schools is when they are damaged through maintenance, repair and construction activities.

Asbestos is safe if undisturbed and schools should work closely with their respective Local Authorities to have in place appropriate health and safety plans for staff, pupils and visitors. Local Authorities are required to have asbestos surveys undertaken on all premises under their control, and implement an asbestos management system. The HSE inspections of local authorities checks for compliance with these requirements.

The Welsh Local Government Association, local authorities and HSE meet regularly and work collaboratively to ensure understanding of the legal requirements and implementation of a risk based approach to the management of asbestos.

Local authorities determine their priorities of investment in the schools estate and then make applications for WG capital grant support as evidenced in the Transitional Schools programme. More specifically, the first wave of programmes approved under the new 21st Century Schools Programme requested that local authorities prioritise those projects where schools were in a poor condition. The degree and nature of asbestos as identified in local authorities asbestos surveys can, and should form a critical part in determining and identifying those schools in poor condition categories. Therefore from both a legal and financial perspective local authorities there should not be a disincentive for them to address the issue of asbestos in schools.

William Powell (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau a yw presenoldeb asbestos fel y nodir mewn arolygon cyflwr ysgolion yn un o'r prif feini prawf ar gyfer gwerthuso cynigion Ysgolion ar gyfer yr 21ain Ganrif. (WAQ58533)

William Powell (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister confirm whether the presence of asbestos as identified in school condition surveys is one of the key criteria in evaluating 21st Century School proposals. (WAQ58533)

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Leighton Andrews: Locating and dealing with asbestos in schools (including its removal if appropriate) is a health and safety matter for schools and local authorities. Local authorities as the building owner and employer have a legal duty under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 to manage the risks arising from asbestos.

Local Authorities should know whether any of their schools contain asbestos in some form or another. Local Authorities are required to have asbestos surveys undertaken on all premises under their control, and implement an asbestos management system. HSE inspections, in Local Authorities, check for compliance of these requirements. With these surveys in place Local Authorities should then factor this information into their programmes of investment for both maintenance and school replacement/refurbishments. It is for Local Authorities to determine their priorities of investment.

The current and projected categories of condition of school buildings were requested, from Local Authorities, as part of the revised proposals submitted to the Welsh Government in November 2011. However, the level of detail, in terms of schools that may have the presence of asbestos was not considered at this stage of the process, since the written statement December 2010 related to overall outline programmes and not individual projects.

The WLGA, LAs and HSE meet regularly and work collaboratively to ensure understanding of the legal requirements and implementation of a risk based approach to the management of asbestos.

Managing asbestos in schools, including removal if appropriate, rests with those responsible for the maintenance of schools, including (in the case of community schools, for example), the relevant Local Education Authority.

HSE guidance in relation to asbestos surveying has been issued with the intention to help both duty holders and surveyors. 'Asbestos - The Survey Guide January 2010' replaces and expands previous guidance issued in 2001.

Gofyn i Weinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn): A wnaiff y Gweinidog nodi'r dyraniad cyfalaf yng nghyllideb Cymru i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ar gyfer y blynyddoedd 2010-11, 2011-12 a 2012-13. (WAQ58527)

Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn): Will the Minister set out the capital allocation in the Welsh budget to the Environment Agency in the years 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13. (WAQ58527)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 19 Ionawr 2012
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The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development (John Griffiths): The Environment Agency were allocated £12.8 million from the Welsh Government for capital funding for flood alleviation works in the financial year 2010/2011 and will receive £10.7 million in 2011/2012. For the financial year 2012/2013 I intend to make £8.9 million available.

Despite the reduction in the capital settlement for the Welsh Government, I have sought to minimise the impacts on the Environment Agency, enabling them to continue their important flood and coastal erosion risk management activities. This includes maximising the benefits from the European Regional Development Fund where appropriate and over the period 2010/11 – 2012/13 the Environment Agency will receive £7.862m from the ERDF.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): Beth yw pellter lleiaf a bennir y mae'n rhaid i Fastiau Cyfathrebu Rheilffyrdd fod oddi wrth eiddo. (WAQ58534)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What is the specified minimum distance which Rail Communication Masts must be from a property. (WAQ58534)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 19 Ionawr 2012
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John Griffiths: Public safety must be paramount in the rail network. Effective and safe railway network infrastructure operational management is central to the spacing of individual masts forming part of Network Rail's Railway Communications System. Individual mast spacing is not something which is the subject of specific land use planning legislation or transport policy.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Simon Thomas (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gau ward 5 yn Ysbyty'r Tywysog Philip yn Llanelli. (WAQ58528)

Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the closure of ward 5 at Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli. (WAQ58528)

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The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): The responsibility for planning, funding and delivering healthcare services at the local level rests with Health Boards. Therefore, in the specific case of Prince Philip Hospital, this is an operational matter for Hywel Dda Health Board. .

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Beth yw'r amcangyfrif o'r gost fesul claf i newid mewnblaniadau bronnau y cleifion hynny y cafodd eu llawdriniaeth wreiddiol ei chynnal gan y GIG yng Nghymru, ac a wnaiff y Gweinidog hefyd roi amcangyfrif o'r costau cyfanredol ar gyfer cyfanswm nifer y cleifion cymwys a ragwelir. (WAQ58529)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What is the estimated cost per patient of replacing breast implants for those patients whose initial surgery was undertaken by the NHS in Wales, and will the Minister also give estimated costs as an aggregate for the envisaged total number of qualifying patients. (WAQ58529)

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Beth yw'r amcangyfrif o'r gost fesul claf i newid mewnblaniadau bronnau y cleifion hynny y cafodd eu llawdriniaeth wreiddiol ei chynnal gan y sector preifat, ac a wnaiff y Gweinidog hefyd roi amcangyfrif o'r gost gyfanredol. (WAQ58530)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What is the estimated cost per patient of replacing breast implants for those patients whose initial surgery was undertaken by the private sector, and will the Minister also provide an estimated aggregate cost. (WAQ58530)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 16 Ionawr 2012
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Lesley Griffiths: I refer you to my written statement about the problem of PIP Breast Implants published on 13 January. Costs per patient will vary depending on the clinical complexity of each case and we will have better overall cost information once we have increased clarity on the number of women affected by PIP implants in Wales. Not all the women affected will need or want to have their implants removed or replaced if they are not experiencing problems. My overriding concern is to ensure the health and wellbeing of the women affected and I believe the final costs will be both appropriate and necessary.

I gave a commitment to update Assembly Members as the situation develops.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
To ask the Minister for Local Government and Communities

Aled Roberts (Gogledd Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro pam nad yw'r Amserlen Trenau Arriva Cymru newydd yn dangos dim gwasanaeth trên ar ddydd Sul ar hyd llwybr Cyffordd Llandudno – Blaenau Ffestiniog sy'n gwasanaethu pobl leol a thwristiaid, ac a yw'n ymwybodol o unrhyw ddulliau trafniadaeth eraill a fydd yn cymryd lle'r trenau. (WAQ58531)

Aled Roberts (North Wales): Will the Minister explain why the new ATW Timetable shows no Sunday train service on the Llandudno Junction - Blaenau Ffestiniog route which serves local and tourist users, and is he aware of any alternative means of transport that will replace the trains. (WAQ58531)

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The Minister for Local Government and Communities (Carl Sargeant): Arriva Trains Wales operates a Sunday train service on the Conwy Valley Line during the high summer season. There are also three bus services that operate between Llandudno Junction and Blaenau Ffestiniog on Sundays, and there is a train timetable showing these on the Conwy Valley Rail Initiative's website at http://www.conwy.gov.uk/cvr/english/pg_timetable.htm