

Written Questions answered between 10 and 17 August 2006

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

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

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Questions to the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the estimated cost, including re-branding and civil service time, of bringing the Wales Tourist Board in house? (WAQ45030)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): On checking our records we have found that the response to your question WAQ45030 remains outstanding. We apologise for this oversight.

Additional provision has been made to support the non staff costs of bringing the Wales Tourist Board in house. Details of these costs were included in the regulatory appraisal of the relevant Orders.

Branding-related expenditure is restricted to replacing signage.

Assembly Government staffing costs associated with the ASPB mergers are largely being accommodated within existing budgets. The change programme team, who administers all of the ASPB mergers along with other corporate business change initiatives, is expected to cost around £0.6 million for 2005-06. For the Wales Tourist Board element of merger, the estimated cost of staff involved in this work and in project managing the setting up of the new departments in 2005-06 is £160,000. Comparable information for 2006-07 is not currently available.

Nick Bourne: How much did the Minister's department spend on hospitality in the last 12 months, and will he provide details of this expenditure? (WAQ47598)

Andrew Davies: In the response to WAQ47598, I undertook to write to you about spending on hospitality in my department.

Taking the period June 2005 to June 2006 spending in the former EDT and the current DEIN portfolio (with post-ASPB merger expenditure in the former WDA/WTB included) was in the order of £102,697. What I believe to be important to note is what this spending underpinned, and what outcomes are derived from the investment. For example:

- the dinner that I hosted with the First Minister for Sir Howard Stringer and his senior colleagues from Sony. While the project was already destined for Wales, ministerial hosting of the dinner provided for closer working relationships and an enhanced understanding of the company's plans for the future;
- some measure of hospitality given to the Quinn Group of Ireland where we subsequently secured 460 new jobs/£133 million investment for Newport;
- the visit to Wales by the British ambassador to the Republic of Ireland; a visit that enabled us to explore how the embassy might help us in our efforts at the Ryder Cup in September this year and which also developed closer links on the trade and inward investment front;
- Link Financial attended the Wales Rally GB in 2004. In 2005 we secured a project from the company which created 210 new jobs and safeguarded 50 existing jobs in Caerphilly;
- the Accelerate Wales dinner in March this year, jointly funded by the Welsh automotive forum and the Accelerate Wales programme. The event celebrated success in the automotive sector in Wales with awards to the best in class companies. The event was attended by 121 people from 44 companies, and also included representatives from the WDA, the Assembly Government, the Department of Trade and Industry, and trade unions, together with key buyers from Land Rover and Jaguar; and

- in excess of 200 inward visits to Wales to promote Wales from an inward investment and trade front; visits that were instrumental in the overall promotion of Wales on the inward investment and international trade front.

What the above figure does not include is spending by the former WDA and WTB in the period prior to the merger. As you will understand, elements of spend by both organisations on hospitality would have been combined with their wider marketing activities. For example, sponsorship of the Wales Open, our activities to promote the Ryder Cup, the BMW Championships and the Speedway Grand Prix and the Heineken Cup where we entertained senior French journalists to promote Wales as a holiday destination.

In the light of the above, I am sure that you would agree that in our efforts to promote Wales, and all that it has to offer, an integral part of this is the provision of appropriate hospitality. I do believe, however, that such expenditure must be appropriate and I am determined to ensure that value for money is secured for such expenditure from the public purse. I have made this clear to the director of my department and his senior management team. Where this expenditure however relates to ongoing engagement with prospective investment and trading partners, it will be appreciated that this cannot be disclosed on commercial grounds. However, as a matter of principle, I would be more than happy to report on spend on hospitality to the EIN Committee at the end of each financial year.

I am copying this letter to Christine Gwyther AM, as Chair of the EIN committee, in view of this suggestion, and to Alun Cairns AM given his interest in the issue.

Ann Jones: What estimate has the Minister made of how many (a) people and (b) households in (i) Wales, (ii) Denbighshire (iii) Vale of Clwyd constituency are unable to gain access to broadband in their homes? (WAQ47668)

Andrew Davies: There are 2.9 million people¹ and 1.4 million households² in Wales. Using this data in combination with the number of customers connected to the remaining unviable telephone exchanges in Wales³ and the number of registrations on the broadband brokerage website⁴, the following can be estimated for Wales and Denbighshire in relation to the number of people and households unable to connect to broadband⁵.

In Wales it is estimated that there are 1,749 households which equates to 3,673 people unable to connect to a broadband service.

In Denbighshire, all exchanges have been upgraded to deliver broadband services, however 27 households have registered on the broadband brokerage website indicating they are unable to access broadband.

The number of people and households unable to connect to broadband in the Vale of Clwyd constituency is not available as it is not recorded to this level of detail.

Elin Jones: Will the Minister outline the cost to the Assembly Government of undertaking road improvements on the A487, Aberarth, Ceredigion? (WAQ47670)

¹ Stats Wales.

² Broadband Wales Observatory—Broadband Benchmark: Quarterly Update (Q1) January—March 2006.

³ Regional innovative broadband support project

⁴ The broadband brokerage website is a facility created in partnership with the Broadband Wales Observatory to capture details of broadband demand across Wales.

⁵ The Broadband Wales programme definition of 'broadband' is 512 kbps to 2 mbps downstream and 256 kbps to 512 kbps upstream.

Andrew Davies: The cost of undertaking road improvements on phase 1 of the A487 Aberarth improvements is approximately £761,000 in construction costs, including diversion of statutory undertaker's services and land costs of £153,000 associated with the purchase of two properties. An offset will be made by the anticipated completion of the re-sale of one these properties.

Glyn Davies: What was the total cost of the Minister's visit to Cork racing week, including the cost of the officials that accompanied him (private secretary and press officer)? (WAQ47679)

Andrew Davies: The total cost of my visit to Cork including the two accompanying officials was £663.95. This does not include salary costs.

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister provide a list of the number of major accidents and the number of minor accidents on the A4076 at Johnston, Pembrokeshire, for each year from 1999 to the present day? (WAQ47686)

Andrew Davies: The following statistics have been obtained in relation to the aforementioned request:

Accidents on the A4076 at Johnston, Pembrokeshire, by severity (a) (b)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Fatal accidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serious accidents	2	2	1	0	3	0	1
Slight accidents	5	5	1	4	6	4	7
Total accidents	7	7	2	4	9	4	8

- (a) The statistics refer to personal injury accidents on public roads reported to the police and forwarded to the National Assembly for Wales. Figures for deaths refer to people killed immediately or who died within 30 days of the accident.
- (b) The accidents occurred on the A4076 within the following grid references: Eastings 192897 to 193582, Northings 210044 to 211760.

Questions to the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

David Melding: How many secondary school children suffered an injury while playing a supervised contact sport, which required hospital treatment, in 2004? (WAQ47418)

David Melding: How many primary school children suffered an injury while playing a supervised contact sport, which required hospital treatment, in 2004? (WAQ47419)

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): It was not possible to provide the data that you requested in the above written answer questions within the required timescale, and I undertook to write with the information once available. I now enclose the requested information, which has again been estimated by extrapolating data from the all-Wales injury surveillance system.

I should point out that this is not Assembly Government data, and it has been requested by my officials on your behalf from CAPIC (Collaboration for Accident Prevention and Injury Control). Should you wish to seek the information directly yourself in the future, you can do so by contacting:

CAPIC
 School of Medicine
 Grove Building
 University of Wales Swansea

Singleton Park
Swansea
SA2 8PP
Tel: 01792 602309
Email: enquiries@capic.org.uk.

You will note that the 2003 data differs from that provided to you last year. This is because last year the 2003 data was extrapolated from attendance recorded at only one hospital. This has now been increased to five hospitals and should therefore be a more accurate picture, but you should note that it is still an estimate.

Annex A

Topic:	Injuries
Subject:	Primary and secondary school sports injuries
Numerator Source:	All-Wales injury surveillance system (AWISS)
Geography:	Wales
Period:	01/01/2003—31/12/2004
Demography:	5-10 and 11-16 years old, both sexes
Statistics:	Estimated number of injury attendances
Caveats:	Data are based on attendances at Caerphilly Miners Hospital; Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport; Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny; Morrision Hospital, Swansea; and Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, Rhyl. Extrapolated up to Wales data using an AWISS/Sitreps injuries extrapolation factor.
	Expected numbers are based on this extrapolated factor and may not show the exact incidence at an all-Wales level. The extrapolation assumes that the attendance pattern is similar in hospitals that have provided data to AWISS and those that are yet to do provide data.
	Numbers less than five have not been suppressed as it was decided that, because the numbers are estimated at a national level, individual persons could not be identified.
Notes:	Sitreps is a Welsh-Assembly-Government-approved measure of hospital activity including all unplanned accident and emergency attendances.
Date:	11/07/2006

Estimated number of sport injuries occurring in an educational establishment requiring accident and emergency treatment, by age, Wales 2003-04

Age	2003	2004
5	0	3
6	10	3
7	13	16
8	33	33
9	42	36
10	78	94
5-10	176	185
11	137	205
12	286	205
13	371	299
14	403	351
15	413	299
16	426	234
11-16	2,036	1,593

Ann Jones: What assessment has the Minister made of the effect of the Sure Start scheme on children in the west and south west wards of Rhyl, with particular reference to educational attainment? (WAQ47657)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

Jane Davidson: Sure Start activities for children aged 0-3 in Denbighshire are provided through NCH. It provides parent and toddler groups, parent support groups and workshops on parenting skills and children's behaviour. The impact on educational attainment of these projects has not been systematically evaluated.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

Elin Jones: What reports has the Minister considered with regard to distances travelled by GM pollen? (WAQ47676)

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): My officials have given consideration to the wide range of information that exists on pollen flow and related matters, in particular, the Agriculture Environment Biotechnology Commission report, 'Coexistence and Liability', and the recent National Institute of Agricultural Botany review of separation distances and buffer crops for co-existence.

Elin Jones: Will the Minister detail: (i) the number of bovine TB incidents, and (ii) new cases of bovine TB for Wales for each month since December 2005, and will he detail the percentage of these incidents in relation to the GB total? (WAQ47677)

Carwyn Jones: The information requested is not readily available. I will write to you separately with the available information in response to your question as soon as this is to hand.

Elin Jones: Will the Minister report on any information he has received on the lowest level of GM contamination in non-GM produce that current technology can detect? (WAQ47678)

Carwyn Jones: I understand that a laboratory method known as polymerase chain reaction can reliably detect a GM presence as low as 0.1 per cent in non-GM material. It takes between three and 10 days to complete the test and costs around £200 per sample.

Questions to the Finance Minister

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on any additional funding she is making available for the education, lifelong learning and skills portfolio? (WAQ47476)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I will publish the revised spending plans for the Assembly Government in line with the requirements of Standing Order No. 21 during the autumn.

Lisa Francis: How much has the Assembly Government paid private sector organisations to facilitate the undertaking of Gateway procedures and Gateway principles through Value Wales and will he detail these payments? (WAQ47614)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

Sue Essex: The Gateway process is applied to major projects and is designed to test each key stage, from the concept and business case through to the project completion, has been fully designed, represents value for money, and is being managed in the best way. Thus, for each project, the fees paid cover up to six separate key stage reviews. The Welsh Assembly Government has paid the following for Gateway reviews through Value Wales. The figures include travel and subsistence costs and VAT.

	Project value	Fees paid
	£ million	£000
Broadband programme	150	23
Public sector broadband aggregation	61	22
Regional innovation broadband	18	14
Relocation strategy programme	150	21
Llandudno Junction project	31	25
Aberystwyth project	30	14
Facilities management contract	23	16
Student support programme	76	17
Gateway support including training	-	212

Lisa Francis: How many people are in the employ of Value Wales and what are its total staff costs? (WAQ47618)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

Sue Essex: At present 72 staff are working for Value Wales, 11 are on secondment from other organisations and three are employed from an agency. Value Wales has a provisional delegated running cost budget of £2.054 million.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Irene James: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to ensure that patients who may be vulnerable to sudden death syndrome are identified, monitored and treated? (WAQ47664)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): In March 2005, the Department of Health published its new chapter of the coronary heart disease national service framework on arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death in both adults and young people. The chapter provides new models of care and markers of quality to enable further improvements in services for arrhythmias, giving special attention to sudden unexplained cardiac deaths.

The cardiac networks co-ordinating group (CNCG) has been commissioned to prepare a Welsh version of this chapter, including formal quality requirements, a detailed assessment of the resource implications and the development of an implementation framework with appropriate and clinically relevant targets.

The new chapter will provide a quality framework against which local services can secure improvements and is designed to enable the NHS to deliver the highest quality care to people whose lives are affected by arrhythmias. The quality requirements within the new chapter cover three specific areas of patient support: diagnosis and treatment and sudden cardiac death.

It is proposed that the quality requirements for arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death will form part of the updated coronary heart disease NSF document.

Ann Jones: How many missed appointments there have been in each (a) Welsh health care trust, and (b) each local health board in (i) each of the last 12 months and (ii) each of the previous four years? (WAQ47665)

Brian Gibbons: Information on the number of missed GP appointments is not collected centrally. Data concerning missed outpatient appointments, by trust, is given in the following table. Information by LHB is not available centrally.

Number of out-patient appointments that were not kept and prior warning was not given (a)

NHS trust	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (b)
Bro Morgannwg	33,133	32,230	30,053	29,031	27,923
Cardiff and Vale	73,910	83,740	78,332	68,293	71,323
Carmarthenshire	20,439	21,073	16,765	13,254	11,598
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	6,705	6,486	6,530	5,945	6,138
Conwy and Denbighshire	19,543	18,918	19,689	18,669	17,612
Gwent Healthcare	51,924	51,287	46,578	45,314	46,784
North East Wales	23,263	19,362	18,727	14,514	15,147
North Glamorgan	20,525	20,536	20,771	21,004	20,124
North West Wales	22,431	23,980	22,587	22,564	21,178
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	13,095	12,792	13,135	13,146	13,391
Pontypridd and Rhondda	25,742	25,075	23,505	24,204	27,062
Powys LHB	3,668	3,482	2,947	3,309	3,222
Swansea	39,468	40,244	37,469	38,760	37,346
Velindre	3,944	4,163	4,437	3,857	3,549
Wales	357,790	363,368	341,525	321,864	322,397

Source: QS1

- (a) Figures may disagree with those previously published as data in this table takes account of any later amendments
 (b) Provisional.

Ann Jones: How many people in Denbighshire (a) were entitled to and (b) received the vaccine for influenza in each year since 1999? (WAQ47666)

Brian Gibbons: Figures on flu vaccination uptake rates and those eligible for flu vaccination in Denbighshire are available in table 1 below. The overall uptake in Denbighshire for those aged 65 years or over increased this year from 68.6 per cent to 71.9 per cent. The uptake figures for at-risks also rose from 29.1 per cent to 30.6 per cent. For Wales as a whole, uptake of vaccine in those aged 65 and over increased from 62.8 per cent to 68.2 per cent in 2005-06—an increase of 5.4 percentage points on the previous year and just below the Welsh Assembly Government target of 70 per cent. The all-Wales uptake in those under sixty-five years of age in a clinical ‘high risk’ group was 28 per cent—an increase of 3 percentage points on the previous year. Although these increases are encouraging, the Assembly Government is continuing to do all it can to improve uptake rates further.

Table 1

	Immunisation season		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Denbighshire LHB			
Eligible patients	30,870	35,451	36,882
Aged 65 and over	18,969	19,325	19,440
Aged under 65 at risk	11,901	16,126	17,442
Eligible patients immunised	17,303	17,955	19,327
Aged 65 and over	12,560	13,264	13,985
Aged under 65 in high-risk groups	4,743	4,691	5,342
Uptake rate in patients aged 65 and over	66.2	68.6	71.9

Uptake rate in patients aged under 65 in high-risk groups	39.9	29.1	30.6
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(Source: National Public Health Service)

Figures for flu vaccination prior to 2003-04 are unavailable at present due to the difficulty in validating this data in the time required. Care should be used when making comparisons between these yearly figures as data collection methods changed in 2004 and additional risk groups were added in 2005.

Ann Jones: How many people tested HIV positive in each Welsh trust/LHB area in each year since 1985? (WAQ47667)

Brian Gibbons: The attached table outlines the number of individuals who have tested HIV positive in each of the old health authority areas since 1985. Data referring to local health boards were not available earlier than April 2003, when they were established. Therefore, for clarity, the data is presented for the whole period for the old health authorities in the table attached.

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail administration costs of each NHS trust for each year since 1999? (WAQ47671)

Brian Gibbons: There is no single definition of administrative costs reported in the annual accounts of NHS trusts and the provision of this information is not therefore possible. The information could not be provided without a single definition being established and without a detailed information collection exercise subsequently being undertaken. The cost involved would prohibit the collection of this information.

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail salary costs for (i) non-medical personnel and (ii) medical personnel: for each LHB since 2003? (WAQ47672)

Brian Gibbons: There is no published information available to the Assembly which fully describes detailed salary costs for non-medical and medical personnel. Information breaking down total salaries and wages over staff categories is provided by each LHB in support of their accounts. The information supplied by each LHB between 2003-04 and 2005-06 set out in a table which has been placed in the Members Library.

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister detail salary costs for (i) non-medical personnel and (ii) medical personnel for each NHS trust since 1997? (WAQ47673)

Brian Gibbons: There is no published information available to the Assembly that specifically describes detailed salary costs for non-medical and medical categories. Due to the trust reconfiguration and other restructurings that have taken place, it is not possible to provide comparative data for all trusts prior to 2000-01. In April 2003, Powys LHB was set up to both commission and provide services.

Information analysing salaries and wages over staff categories is provided by trusts in support of the published accounts and the data supplied between 2000-01 and 2005-06 is set out in a table which has been placed in the Members Library.

Helen Mary Jones: Further to his response to WAQ44248, will the Minister detail the change in annual administration costs for each LHB from 2004-05 to 2005-06? (WAQ47674)

Brian Gibbons: There is no single definition of administrative costs that is collected on a consistent basis across all NHS organisations. An administrative definition is set out in the published local health board

accounts, which is based on the resource accounting definition. It must be noted that for LHBs this is not consistent with the restructuring costs on which the previous Minister for Health and Social Services made a statement of cost neutrality.

The amounts reported as administrative costs in the 2005-06 LHB annual accounts are as follows:

Local health board	2005-06	2004-05	
	Admin costs	Admin costs	Admin costs increase/(decrease)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Anglesey	1,603	1,562	41
Blaenau Gwent	1,770	1,848	-78
Bridgend	2,319	2,266	53
Caerphilly	2,810	2,865	-55
Cardiff	3,439	3,303	136
Carmarthenshire	2,867	2,849	18
Ceredigion	1,589	1,723	-134
Conwy	2,175	1,981	194
Denbighshire	1,946	1,864	82
Flintshire	2,261	2,204	57
Gwynedd	2,197	2,194	3
Merthyr Tydfil	1,799	1,809	-10
Monmouthshire	1,894	2,138	-244
Neath Port Talbot	2,372	2,361	11
Newport	2,374	2,230	144
Pembrokeshire	2,128	2,096	32
Powys	895	1,062	-167
Rhondda Cynon Taff	3,246	3,320	-74
Swansea	2,936	2,980	-44
Torfaen	1,851	1,727	124
Vale of Glamorgan	1,760	1,726	34
Wrexham	2,380	2,310	70
Totals	48,611	48,418	193

Helen Mary Jones: Further to his response to WAQ44509, will the Minister detail annual changes to the running costs of local health boards from 2004-05 to 2005-06? (WAQ47675)

Brian Gibbons: As quoted in WAQ44509, net operating costs are included to represent running costs. They are defined as net expenditure less miscellaneous income. The annual change in net operating cost between 2004-05 and 2005-06 is set out below.

Local health board	2005-06	2004-05	
	Operating costs	Operating costs	Operating costs increase/(decrease)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Anglesey	81,291	76,981	4,310

Blaenau Gwent	96,727	90,271	6,456
Bridgend	168,699	156,764	11,935
Caerphilly	204,389	191,336	13,053
Cardiff	332,371	316,042	16,329
Carmarthenshire	215,445	199,944	15,501
Ceredigion	94,862	89,761	5,101
Conwy	145,721	137,295	8,426
Denbighshire	136,552	126,965	9,587
Flintshire	155,712	144,483	11,229
Gwynedd	164,949	154,750	10,199
Merthyr Tydfil	77,371	73,024	4,347
Monmouthshire	100,480	96,384	4,096
Neath/Port Talbot	174,563	160,932	13,631
Newport	164,117	155,628	8,489
Pembrokeshire	145,441	137,213	8,228
Powys	163,039	158,714	4,325
Rhondda Cynon Taff	299,789	282,694	17,095
Swansea	269,656	252,681	16,975
Torfaen	121,058	113,583	7,475
Vale of Glamorgan	147,497	143,497	4,000
Wrexham	157,700	148,816	8,884
Totals	3,617,429	3,407,758	209,671

Note: Powys LHB includes costs of commissioning and providing services

Leanne Wood: How many people have received cosmetic surgery on the NHS and what was the cost to the NHS for each year since 2000? (WAQ47680)

Brian Gibbons: Since its establishment in April 2003, Health Commission Wales (HCW) is responsible for commissioning plastic surgery services for the population of Wales. Prior to that date, health authorities were responsible for commissioning plastic surgery services.

In common with most commissioning organisations, HCW has developed strict access criteria to plastic surgery services. The policy of HCW has been set out in its 'Procedures of low clinical priority/procedures not usually available on the NHS'.

The range of surgical intervention that HCW commissions from the plastic surgery service includes a wide spectrum of procedures from skin cancer excision through to correction of deformity, trauma and improvement of function. HCW does not commission any procedures for purely cosmetic reasons.

Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister give details of the estimated total cost of prescribing the drug Herceptin for the current financial year? (WAQ47683)

Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister give details of the annual cost, per patient, of treatment with the drug Herceptin? (WAQ47684)

Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister give details of the total actual cost, to date, of prescribing the drug Herceptin during the current financial year? (WAQ47685)

Brian Gibbons: This information is not held centrally.

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

Mark Isherwood: What current environmental health standards are available for environmental health departments to determine if a private house is fit for habitation? (WAQ47663)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): Since 30 June 2006 and following implementation of part 1 of the Housing Act 2004, standards determining suitability for occupation are governed by the housing health and safety rating system, which assesses a house's suitability in terms of the health and safety of the occupant. This replaced the housing fitness standard contained within section 604 of the Housing Act 1985 as amended.

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister make a statement on when she expects deprived areas identified in the top 100 most deprived in the Welsh index of multiple deprivation 2005, but not identified as such in the WIMD 2000, to begin receiving Communities First funding? (WAQ47682)

Edwina Hart: I have written to all key stakeholders on this issue. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.