

## **Answers issued to Members on 22 June 2009**

[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 Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

**Eleanor Burnham (North Wales):** Further to the First Minister's statement in plenary on 9 June 2009 (p.29 of the Record) that many manufacturing companies have moved to Wales from South East England, will the Minister provide a list of those companies who have relocated to North Wales since 2004? (WAQ54345)

**The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones):** Six companies, with which we have had involvement, have relocated from the South East of England to North Wales since 2004. For commercial in confidence reasons, I am unable to name the companies concerned but can confirm that a total of 93 jobs have been created thus far.

In addition, we have attracted 44 other new inward investment projects and 48 expansions over the period promising over 4,000 new jobs and capital investment of almost £400 million.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** How does the changing economic climate in other countries affect where the Welsh Assembly Government's international trade missions are based? (WAQ54348)

**The Deputy First Minister:** Our international trade mission programme is driven by our priority markets and the requirements of businesses in Wales. Valued judgements are made taking account of those factors and the likelihood of our clients achieving export deals.

This year's programme includes a significant number of trade missions to markets, such as the USA and China, where companies may be able to capitalise on advantageous exchange rates. We also target exhibitions at international trade shows where visitors are drawn from all over the world.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Do the Welsh Assembly Government's international trade missions attempt to secure foreign public sector contracts—for example contracts with the US government? (WAQ54350)

**The Deputy First Minister:** Our international trade missions assist Welsh companies to target new business opportunities in both the private and public sectors. The trade mission to Mumbai and Delhi earlier this year resulted in more than £2 million in new business from the public sector in India.

Next week the largest ever trade mission from Wales takes is leaving for Washington. Eighty companies are participating in a series of events, including meetings at NASA's research centre and individual advice from a leading expert on how to sell to the US Government.

**Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central):** How much is the Welsh Assembly Government planning to spend on upgrading (a) The Cambrian Line and (b) The Heart of Wales line? (WAQ54364)

**The Deputy First Minister:** I am providing capital funding of £8 million to improve the infrastructure of the Cambrian Railway between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, as part of a joint investment with Network Rail. Following completion of this, I will be considering the business case for additional services.

There are no current plans to upgrade the infrastructure on the Heart of Wales Line, although I am aware that Network Rail is reinstating the points on the passing loops.

## Questions to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

**David Melding (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister give an update on plans to establish a National Science Academy? (WAQ54347)

**The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt):** We are taking forward our One Wales commitment to work to establish a National Science Academy, with the objective of improving the supply of scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians in Wales and ensuring that there are no barriers to discourage learners from studying these important subjects.

We have commissioned a scoping study with a particular focus on providing further advice about the STEM supply chain. This study has been undertaken with the aims of:

- Bringing together what is currently being done by the Welsh Assembly Government across departments and by others to promote science/study of STEM subjects;
- Highlighting some examples of best practice across Wales, including those in Schools, Further Education, Higher Education, Techniquet activities, and support from the private sector;
- Investigating what the barriers to the study of STEM subjects in Wales at different educational stages currently are;
- Making recommendations on what more the Welsh Assembly Government and its partners could do to address the barriers to STEM;
- Examine the role of a National Science Academy.

A total of 34 stakeholders have been interviewed to gather their views on the barriers to up take of STEM subjects and to gain views on the establishment and role of the National Science Academy.

The report of this study will be an important input as we take forward the development of the Academy. I hope to announce further details later in the year.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister detail (a) what the Disabled Discrimination Act requires in relation to small schools in Wales and (b) the compliance requirements for this? (WAQ54371)

**Jane Hutt:** The requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 are the same for all schools in Wales regardless of size.

The general disability equality duty, which has been in force since December 2006, is contained in section 49A of the 1995 Act. It requires schools, in carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to take various steps to secure equal treatment of disabled children and young people.

There is also a specific duty for schools in Wales under the Disability Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) Regulations 2005, which came into force in April 2007. These regulations require schools to produce Disability Equality Schemes that show how they intend to fulfil their obligations under the general section 49A duty and take other steps connected with the promotion of disability equality.

More information on this issue, including compliance requirements, is contained within Welsh Assembly guidance for headteachers and teachers in Wales entitled 'Promoting Disability Equality in Schools' which can be viewed by following the appropriate links on the Welsh Assembly Government website at [www.learning.wales.gov.uk](http://www.learning.wales.gov.uk).

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister detail (a) what funding assistance is available to small schools in Wales and (b) how this differs in both rural and urban areas? (WAQ54373)

**Jane Hutt:** For the current financial year, the Welsh Assembly Government is specifically providing small and rural schools with additional grant funding totalling £4.1 million.

£1.6m of the £4.1m is available via the Small and Rural Schools budget in the Community Focused Schools Grant. This money is targeted and is allocated to local authorities for use in small and rural schools to help them to develop as a focus for the communities they serve. Schools make proposals to their local authority for use of the grant, setting these proposals against the eligibility criteria of the Community Focused Schools grant.

The remaining £2.5 million is available to support head teachers in small schools who have a teaching commitment and to support joint working among small schools. The grant is provided to local authorities on the basis of the following conditions:

- Grant can be used to fund additional administrative support or additional classroom support for head teachers with a teaching commitment of at least 10% of the timetable, or in schools where there are 90 or fewer pupils on roll.
- Local authorities must give priority to the head teachers with the heaviest teaching commitments and to the smallest schools in respect of joint working initiatives.
- Local authorities without schools with 90 or fewer pupils on roll must use grant for their smallest schools (measured by the number of pupils on roll).
- At least 60% of grant funding should be allocated to joint working projects.

Both elements of the funding are allocated to local education authorities using a formula incorporating factors for sparsity, school size and deprivation as follows:

- 70% by reference to sparsity (based on the population in each local authority outside settlements above the thresholds of a specified population);
- 20% by reference to the number of (primary) schools maintained by the authority with 90 pupils or fewer; and
- 10% by reference to deprivation (based on free school meals entitlement).

The distribution of the funding allocations is therefore weighted towards rural authorities. However the funding can be used by small schools irrespective of whether they are in rural or urban areas.

The following table shows the distribution of the £4.1 million in 2009/10.

Local Authority	Joint working and support for teaching heads	Community focused schools	Total
Anglesey	115,775	74,096	189,871
Gwynedd	219,859	140,710	360,569
Conwy	125,771	80,494	206,265
Denbighshire	96,578	61,810	158,388
Flintshire	131,105	83,907	215,012
Wrexham	95,311	60,999	156,310
Powys	217,123	138,959	356,082
Ceredigion	141,231	90,388	231,619
Pembrokeshire	139,623	89,359	228,982
Carmarthenshire	242,063	154,920	396,983
Swansea	111,864	71,593	183,457
Neath Port-Talbot	108,815	69,642	178,457
Bridgend	77,454	49,571	127,025
Vale of Glamorgan	64,045	40,988	105,033

Rhondda Cynon Taf	174,321	111,565	285,886
Merthyr Tydfil	32,237	20,632	52,869
Caerphilly	123,675	79,152	202,827
Blaenau Gwent	48,972	31,342	80,314
Torfaen	37,666	24,106	61,772
Monmouthshire	77,244	49,436	126,680
Newport	50,475	32,304	82,779
Cardiff	68,793	44,027	112,820
	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>1,600,000</b>	<b>4,100,000</b>

### Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

**Peter Black (South Wales West):** Will the Minister provide figures to update us on how much progress has been achieved in reaching the Welsh Assembly Government target of 6,500 new affordable housing units by 2011? (WAQ54325)

**The Deputy Minister for Housing (Jocelyn Davies):** The Wales Economic Research Unit (WERU) report published on 21 November 2008 showed that in 2007/08 1,533 affordable homes were built in Wales. We have now introduced a new comprehensive method for counting affordable homes which are delivered from a number of different sources. The numbers of affordable homes built in 2008/09 will be known in the late autumn.

Clearly, the numbers of affordable homes we anticipated being provided by the private sector has reduced with the economic downturn. For this reason we have taken a number of measures to provide affordable homes from other sources. Housing was awarded £42m from the Strategic Capital Investment Fund over a three year period. We are also bringing forward Welsh Assembly Government-owned sites for transfer to Housing Associations. We aim to meet the potential shortfall of homes coming forward as a result of the credit crunch with these and other additional measures.

£42m of Strategic Capital Investment Funding (SCIF) was awarded to the Housing Directorate in 2008 to allow Housing Associations to purchase developers' unsold properties and private land where it was a priority for the local authority in order to meet housing need. This assisted the developer, the construction industry and provided good value affordable housing. In 2008/09 25 developers were assisted with 205 affordable homes provided. SCIF money awarded for 09/10 and 10/11 should provide similar additional outputs.

The current housing market downturn has made it more difficult to obtain affordable housing through the private sector and s106 planning agreements; for this reason we have looked at other ways to maintain affordable housing figures.

The Land Release Protocol ensures that publicly-owned land is more easily accessible for the provision of affordable housing. Use of Welsh Assembly Government Department of Economy and Transport sites, Welsh Health Estates, NHS Trusts and other public sector sites, including local authority sites is another way of maintaining the provision of affordable housing and boosting the construction industry.

We are considering funding for Social Housing Grant for these sites and a series of other linked housing programmes which would also assist the private sector. An announcement will be made before Christmas 2009 on any extra funding which may or may not be available for this area.

Following a review of the available data on affordable housing a comprehensive data collection has now been introduced for local authorities, Housing Associations and National Park Authorities to submit on an

annual basis. The aim is for this to be collected with effect from 1 April 2009 and to include retrospective statistics for 2007/08 and 2008/09.

**Peter Black (South Wales West):** How many affordable housing units have been built in Wales since May 2007? (WAQ54326)

**Jocelyn Davies:** The Wales Economic Research Unit (WERU) report published on 21 November 2008 showed that during 2007/08 1533 affordable homes were built in Wales. We have now introduced a new comprehensive method for counting affordable homes which are delivered from a number of different sources. The numbers of affordable homes built in 2008/09 will be known in late autumn 2009. We measure affordable home completions once a year. This count begins at the end of the financial year. We are now counting affordable home completions from 1 April 2008—31 March 2009. So once we have this figure, later in the autumn we can add it to last year's figure of 1,533 and answer your question with some accuracy.

Following a review of the available data on affordable housing a comprehensive data collection has now been introduced for local authorities, Housing Associations and National Park Authorities to submit on an annual basis. The aim is for this to be collected with effect from 1 April 2009 and to include retrospective statistics for 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Some affordable homes are provided through the Social Housing Grant system, others are provided from Housing Associations' own resources, traditionally some have also been provided through s106 Planning Agreements on new residential schemes. We anticipate that fewer affordable homes will be provided through the private sector.

For this reason we have taken measures to ensure the supply of affordable homes is boosted from elsewhere at the same time as assisting the development industry.

In response to the Credit Crunch, additional funding of £42 million has been made available from the Strategic Capital Investment Fund to Local Authorities for the provision of affordable housing. The funding is split over three years.

£12 million Social Housing Grant was brought forward from the 2010/2011 programme and added to the programme in 2008/2009. £10 million was used on bringing forward schemes already in Consortiums' development programmes and £2 million was used for Physical Adaptation Grants.

The Land Release Protocol ensures that publicly-owned land is more easily accessible for the provision of affordable housing. Use of Welsh Assembly Government Department of Economy and Transport sites, Welsh Health Estates, NHS Trusts and other public sector sites, including local authority sites is another way of maintaining the provision of affordable housing and boosting the construction industry.

We are considering funding for Social Housing Grant for these sites and a series of other linked housing programmes which would also assist the private sector. An announcement will be made before Christmas 2009 on any extra funding which may or may not be available for this area.

**Mark Isherwood (North Wales):** What is your current position on the development of anaerobic digesters in Wales and what guidance have you issued, or will you be issuing to Planning Authorities particularly in regard to planning application for anaerobic digesters received from Farmers? (WAQ54368)

**The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson):** It is Assembly Government policy to promote the development of anaerobic digesters in Wales for the treatment of appropriate segregated food wastes from the municipal, commercial and industrial waste streams.

Planning policy is outlined within the overarching 'Planning Policy Wales' document, and the TAN21—'Waste' and TAN8—'Renewable Energy' technical advice notes. Further guidance to local authorities is contained within the first revision of the Wales Regional Waste Plans.

**Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire):** What discussions has the Minister had with UK Government colleagues regarding any UK consultative meetings planned on the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill and if any meetings are planned, where and when are these planned for? (WAQ54382)

**Jane Davidson:** There are no UK-wide consultative meetings planned in relation to the draft Flood and Water Management Bill. Defra are making arrangements for consultation events in England and the Welsh Assembly Government is hosting three consultation workshops in Wales as outlined in my answer to WAQ54380.

Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government are hosting a joint seminar on reservoir safety on 23 June 2009 and while this relates to an area covered by the draft Flood and Water Management Bill it is not directly linked to the proposals within the draft clauses.

### Questions to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** What guidance is given to recipients of Welsh Assembly Government funds to ensure Value for money in terms of job creation and skills development? (WAQ54334)

**The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery (Andrew Davies):** Assembly Government grant schemes include standard terms and conditions to ensure value for money. Specific terms and conditions are included where grants are made available for job creation and skills development. In the case of Assembly Government contracts, we use a Sustainable Risk Assessment to look for opportunities to use SMEs, Supported Enterprises and Third sector organisations; and, to recruit the long-term economically inactive and seek other community benefits. Where a contract presents an opportunity for such benefits, we use conditions in our tender specification, commonly termed 'social clauses', to encourage delivery of the benefits.

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Are any conditions issued to recipients of Welsh Assembly Government funds to ensure that skills and employment within Wales, the UK and/or EU are used when delivering the services contracted for and, if so, what are those conditions? (WAQ54336)

**Andrew Davies:** All our contracts over £25,000 are subject to a Sustainable Risk Assessment (SRA), which looks specifically for opportunities: to use SMEs, Supported Enterprises and Third sector organisations; and, to recruit the long-term economically inactive and seek other community benefits. Where a contract presents such an opportunity, we use conditions, commonly called 'social clauses', in our tender specification.

Such conditions can include encouraging the use of local businesses where work is sub-contracted and advertising opportunities on the Sell2Wales website.

Examples of the benefits of this approach include:

- an EU contract for Sheltered Workshops, with Remploy being awarded an Assembly Government contract for the refurbishment or disposal of surplus ICT equipment—the first of its type in Wales;
- the Assembly Government's catering contract includes provision for apprenticeships through partnerships with local colleges;

- The Facilities management contractor for the new Assembly Government building at Aberystwyth (Taylor Woodrow) has appointed a local contract manager and a local firm has been awarded a sub-contract for grounds maintenance;
- The contractor for the new Assembly Government building at Llandudno (Pochins Plc) has with the local Supplier Development Service prepared an Unemployment Utilisation Plan to take on and train a number of economically inactive or unemployed people.

### **Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services**

**David Melding (South Wales Central):** What was the cost to the NHS of treating fragility fractures in men in each of the last three years for which figures are available? (WAQ54369)

**David Melding (South Wales Central):** What was the cost to the NHS of treating fragility fractures in women in each of the last three years for which figures are available? (WAQ54370)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** I refer you to WAQ54309 and WAQ54310 which I answered on 10 June 2009.

**Lesley Griffiths (Wrexham):** What estimate has the Minister made on the total number of people suffering from coeliac disease in Wales? (WAQ54383)

**Edwina Hart:** I do not have a formal estimate but based on epidemiological accounts there is expected to be some 25,000-30,000 people with coeliac disease in Wales, albeit in varying degrees of severity.