

## **Answers issued to Members on 11 May 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**

**Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** Will the Minister make a statement on support for businesses during the recession? (WAQ53878)

*Substantive answer following holding reply.*

**The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones):** Five Economic Summits have been held throughout Wales, the latest was held on 7th April in Swansea. Five “Weathering the Storm” business events also took place last week. Businesses can access information on the FS4B website [www.business-support-wales.gov.uk](http://www.business-support-wales.gov.uk) or via the Contact Centre 03000 603000.

We are also:

- Supporting companies to maintain and grow a business through a range of FS4B initiatives underpinned by the Single Investment Fund.;
- Assisting small businesses through two Welsh business rate relief schemes;
- Assisting companies with the ProAct scheme to minimise redundancies by having employers trained at public expense. A further £20m will be made available to support Apprenticeships during the economic downturn, subject to support from ESF to create a package of measures to sustain and encourage apprenticeship recruitment;
- Working to improve procurement practices and access to public sector contracts for businesses including applying the “Opening Doors” charter principles and developing a procurement strategy for construction for the Welsh public sector.

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

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on any discussions she’s had with the Swansea Council on the future of Llanmorlais Primary School? (WAQ54070)

**The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt):** I have had no discussions with Swansea Council on the future of Llanmorlais Primary School. Given my potential role in the statutory process, I cannot comment on the potential merit or otherwise of individual proposals which may be disputed and come to me for decision.

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister detail (a) if she has any plans to visit Llanmorlais Primary School, and (b) what extra funding is available for small rural schools like this one because of the additional costs they face as a result of their isolation? (WAQ54071)

**Jane Hutt:**

a) I have no plans to visit Llanmorlais Primary School.

b) The Welsh Assembly Government currently provides small and small rural schools with additional grant funding totalling £4.1 million per annum.

£2.5 million of the £4.1m is available to support head teachers in small schools who have a teaching commitment and to support joint working among small schools. This funding is distributed on a formula basis to local authorities who then utilise and distribute the money as they think appropriate. In 2008-2009 Llanmorlais Primary School received £14,844 to support the head teacher and £8,350 to support joint working.

The remaining £1.6m is available via the Small and Rural Schools budget in the Community Focussed Schools Grant. This money is ringfenced and can only be accessed by small and rural schools like Llanmorlais Primary School; in 2008-09, the school received £4,250 to increase access to its outdoor facilities.

**Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire):** What is the Welsh Assembly Government's policy on surplus school places? (WAQ54073)

**Jane Hutt:** It is important that the finite resources available both for capital investment and school running costs are focussed on schools which are sustainable in educational and financial terms. Empty school places often tie up resources that need to be used to drive up standards of education so as to give pupils the best possible provision.

Surplus places are only part of the picture however. To improve educational outcomes we need well managed schools which are located in the right places to serve children, their families and their communities; and housed in buildings fit for delivery of the curriculum and for provision of services to the community.

We are therefore developing links between the allocation of capital funding for schools and effective strategic planning by local authorities that takes into account all the important factors. This will encourage more strategic use of capital funding and provide an incentive to local authorities to plan school places effectively.

**Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire):** Will the Minister confirm the number of surplus school places over the last 5 years, in a year-by-year breakdown? (WAQ54074)

**Jane Hutt:** The numbers of surplus school places in Wales as reported by local authorities over the last five years are as follows:

Year	Surplus Places
September 2004	82,931
January 2006	83,723
January 2007	86,811
January 2008	89,514

My officials do not have a figure for 2005 as the baseline date for reporting changed from September to January at that time.

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

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on what steps she is taking to ensure that all planning applications are dealt with in accordance with Welsh Government targets? (WAQ54076)

**The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson):** I refer you to the answer I gave you to WAQ53992 on 5 May 2009.

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

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of adolescent psychiatry in Powys? (WAQ54072)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** Powys has a community based CAMHS team which operates in office hours. Outside office hours mental health on-call provision is provided by the general psychiatry team.

A child with a mental illness in Powys, thought to require inpatient services will be referred to Tier 4 CAMHS services in accordance with the Assembly's Annual Operating Framework Targets set for 2009/10.

No child is waiting longer than the 16 week Welsh Assembly Government Annual Operating Framework target set for 2009/10 for referral to Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for assessment and intervention. Primary mental health care workers respond within two weeks and multiagency early intervention programmes are well developed.

Welsh Assembly Government officials are considering how to resolve the age range of patients treated by CAMHS, and transitional matters.