

Answers issued to Members on 13 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

Jeff Cuthbert (Caerphilly): Will the Minister provide an update on the Communities First programme? (WAQ54087)

The Deputy Minister for Regeneration (Leighton Andrews): Communities First remains fundamental to our vision of building a better Wales for all inhabitants, including those living in the most disadvantaged areas. The Programme is even more vital in these times—enabling and supporting local people to work together and with key partners to tackle the issues which confront them and the communities they live in.

The programme has several significant achievements to its name, such as the establishment of, and sustained support for, over 150 local partnerships, covering some 20% of the population of Wales. The great majority of these partnerships are now delivering important outcomes for their communities across the whole range of the themes of the Communities First Vision Framework. Examples of the good work undertaken by Partnerships are highlighted in the Communities First ‘Making a Difference’ Good Practice Guidance booklet.

The programme is now moving forward with an increased focus for partnerships on tackling issues related to the recession—such as child poverty, economic inactivity and improving employability. I have also established the new Communities First Outcomes Fund which will provide at least £25million over the next three years and is already encouraging more genuine partnership working between communities and service providers.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): What percentage of nurses have completed their statutory training for each year since 1999? (WAQ54082)

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on levels of compliance with statutory training in the NHS? (WAQ54083)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): The Welsh Assembly Government does not hold any information centrally on Trusts compliance levels for their provision of statutory and mandatory training to staff.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): What measures is the Minister taking to tackle hospital-acquired infections? (WAQ54084)

Edwina Hart: With the launch of the ‘HCAIs—a Strategy for Hospitals in Wales’, in 2004, we have taken a generic approach to the problem.

In November 2007, we followed up the Hospital Strategy by launching ‘HCAIs—a Community Strategy for Wales’.

In June 2008, we announced new proficiency requirements for ward cleaners, working under the supervision of a ward sister or charge nurse in every hospital ward. We also created a stand-alone rapid response cleaning unit in each Trust.

On the 7th May this year new nurses' uniforms were introduced across Wales and improvements to hospital laundry facilities and on-site changing rooms were unveiled.

Reducing infections is a key theme in the 1,000 Lives Campaign launched last April. The campaign aims to reduce avoidable risk to patient safety by implementing new ways of working. The latest evaluation shows there is a greater awareness and compliance with staff hand washing between patients.

Peter Black (South Wales West): What engagement will the Welsh Assembly Government be having with the Health and Criminal Justice National Programme Board being set up by the UK Government as a result of the Bradley review? (WAQ54089)

Edwina Hart: The Welsh Assembly Government is conducting a separate consultation on the future of Secure Mental Health Services for Wales and will consider the findings of the Bradley Report alongside that review. Welsh Assembly Government Officials will join the Programme Board being established.

Alun Cairns (South Wales West): Will the Minister state the patient capacity of ambulances in Wales for each of the last 5 years? (WAQ54109)

Edwina Hart: These data are not held centrally.

Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Jeff Cuthbert (Caerphilly): Will the Minister outline what the Welsh Assembly Government's culture priorities are? (WAQ54085)

The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones): The Welsh Assembly Government remains committed to fulfilling its One Wales commitments in the field of culture such as supporting the Welsh Language and modernising the public library network through the Libraries for Life 2008-2011 programme.

The importance of a rich and diverse culture lies at the heart of my portfolio objectives. Key developments include the Welsh Cultural Heritage Initiative which offers grants worth £2 million for a variety of built heritage conservation projects, our Cultural Tourism Strategy, and a commitment to establish a National English language theatre.

In addition, the National Library of Wales, one of Wales' leading cultural and educational institutions, will receive increased funding in 2009-10. This increase in funding comes against the backdrop of the extremely difficult financial climate that currently exists.

I should also remind you that all Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales sites continue to be provided free of charge to visitors and this remains a key One Wales commitment. Amgueddfa Cymru's network of 7 sites across Wales make an invaluable contribution to Wales' cultural life and are immensely popular with visitors from Wales and beyond.

Jeff Cuthbert (Caerphilly): Will the Minister outline what the Welsh Assembly Government will be doing to mark Armed Forces Day on 27th June? (WAQ54086)

Alun Ffred Jones: Health Department officials are participating in the Planning Groups for both Cardiff and Caernarfon events. The First Minister is providing a foreword to both programmes. The Health and Social Services Minister, Edwina Hart AM is attending the event in Cardiff. The Presiding Officer will be

delivering the Welsh reading of the Drumhead services at both events. Itineraries for the events will be published shortly.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government targets to increase the number of (a) children, and (b) adults attending cultural events? (WAQ54091)

Alun Ffred Jones: The importance of a rich and diverse culture lies at the heart of my portfolio objectives.

To this effect I have remitted the Arts Council of Wales (ACW) to focus investment in the arts on increasing access to, and widening participation in, high-quality arts, particularly in areas of deprivation. In specific, it has been remitted to work with other bodies on the development of pilot schemes for Saturday and summer schools for sport, music and the arts.

You may also recall that in March I was pleased to announce that the National Eisteddfod will receive an additional £100,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government through the Welsh Language Board for the 2009-10 financial year. This additional funding will be allocated to the 2009 Festival in Bala. The festival itself attracts up to 158,000 visitors from all over Wales as well as visitors from overseas and can bring up to £8m into the local economy.

In the Autumn of 2007 Cadw appointed a Lifelong Learning Development Manager to work with a variety of organisations, teachers and education professionals to develop and deliver educational programmes and resources at Cadw's monuments. Examples of developments and projects include Adult Learners week events and Discovery Day education programmes for schools.

Cadw is also working with the Arts Council for Wales to develop a programme of creative activities between 2009 and 2012 as part of the Welsh Cultural Olympiad project. One of the strands of the initiative, 'Cauldrons and Furnaces', aims to involve young people, via school and community groups in the development and delivery of artistic product at eight Cadw sites across Wales.

I should also remind you that all Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales sites continue to be provided free of charge to visitors and this remains a key One Wales commitment. Amgueddfa Cymru's network of 7 sites across Wales make an invaluable contribution to Wales' cultural life and are immensely popular with visitors from Wales and beyond.

I have provided you with further details concerning museums and galleries in a separate WAQ answer.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): What is the percentage of (a) children and (b) adults in Wales participating in active sport in each year since 1999? (WAQ54094)

Alun Ffred Jones: This information is not currently available on a year by year basis. Information on sports participation is compiled by the Sports Council for Wales through its biennial surveys. I will write to you shortly with the latest survey results.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales) Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government targets to increase the number of (a) children and (b) adults participating in active sport? (WAQ54095).

Alun Ffred Jones: The Welsh Assembly Government plans to encourage people to become more active and incorporate physical activity into their daily lives which is contained in the Climbing Higher—Creating an Active Wales Strategic Action Plan. This forms part of Our Healthy Future, the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic approach to improve the quality and length of life.

Within the Action Plan there are targets for both children and adults. These include increasing the percentage of children who meet the physical recommendations (60 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on at least 5 days of the week). Similarly, we want to increase the percentage of adults who meet the physical activity recommendations (30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on at least 5 days a week).

We are keen to learn of people's views on the action plan and I have just announced the start of a three month public consultation period so people have opportunity to comment.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): How many pieces of art work have been held in storage by the National Museum and Galleries of Wales in each of the last five years? (WAQ54096)

Alun Ffred Jones: Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales' (AC-NMW) Department of Art holds over 42,000 pieces of art, which comprises oil paintings, sculpture, applied art and works on paper. There are currently over 2,800 on display at AC-NMW or on loan elsewhere. This figure is slightly lower than usual, due to a major re-development of galleries at the National Museum Cardiff. AC-NMW also has successful partnerships with regional museums in Wales through the Celf Cymru Gyfan—ArtShare Wales scheme, which enables more people to enjoy artwork from the national collections.

It is not possible to provide exact figures for each of the last 5 years as the collections are complex and the situation ever-changing. As is the case with all museums, it is impossible to display all of AC-NMW's art collections at the same time. In addition, great care must be taken to preserve many works. For example, as works on paper are light sensitive, such pieces are not normally displayed for more than three months in any year in any of the UK national museums.

AC-NMW began a major refurbishment of its art galleries in 2006, a project which is due to be complete in 2011. The Welsh Assembly Government invested 500k in 2008-09 and has allocated 500k in 2009-10 towards the conversion of the Upper West Wing at the National Museum Cardiff. The developments currently being undertaken will increase access to items from the national collections by providing 40% more exhibition space at the National Museum Cardiff.

Completion of the re-display in 2011 will allow significantly more works to be shown than in 2006 and will also allow displays to be changed on a more frequent basis, further raising the profile of Cardiff and Wales, as a destination for art-lovers.

You would be most welcome to visit the National Museum Cardiff to see at first hand the exciting developments taking place in the art galleries.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): What is the percentage of (a) children, and (b) adults in Wales attending museums or galleries in each year since 1999? (WAQ54098)

Alun Ffred Jones: The Arts Council of Wales commissions annual research into arts attendance and participation. The Report on the Arts Council of Wales' 2007 Omnibus Survey includes details on visits to art galleries and exhibitions as well as attendance at a range of other artistic events.

The report shows that the number of adults attending an art gallery or exhibition at least once a year has risen since 1998, when the research began. The figures are as follows:

Number of adults attending an art gallery or exhibition at least once a year

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Proportion	20%	19%	18%	19%	21%	21%	24%	22%	24%	31%

Source: Arts Council of Wales' 2007 Omnibus Survey

Collection of data on children's participation in the arts only commenced in 2007, and the report showed that the figure for that year was 28% attending an art gallery or exhibition at least once a year.

The survey does not include data relating specifically to museums.

In 2006, CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales carried out in-depth research Spotlight on Museums. The survey found total visitors to all categories of museum across Wales increased from 2.68 million in 2003 to 3.14 million in 2005.

Detailed data, including information relating to visitor numbers to art galleries and museums, are available under the research section of the Visit Wales website at <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/tourism/research/tourisminwales/attractionssurvey/?lang=en>.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government targets to increase a) children, and b) adults attending museums or galleries? (WAQ54099)

Alun Ffred Jones: Every year, the Welsh Assembly Government sets and monitors targets for Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales (AC-NMW) across a range of key performance areas.

There are currently no targets aimed at specifically measuring the attendance of children and adults visiting AC-NMW. However, targets are set to measure the overall visitor figures to its seven sites. In addition, the number of participants in education groups (i.e. the number of children partaking in school visits to AC-NMW sites) is also measured. The most recent figures are included in the table below.

Performance Indicator	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual
Total number of visitors	1,500,000	1,524,806
Number of visitors in formal education groups	229,000	238,644

Source: Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales Operational Plan 2008-09 (unpublished)

The most recent visitor survey in 2006 also found that of all visitors, 63% had children under 16 in their party visiting AC-NMW. An in-depth visitor survey is due to take place across AC-NMW's sites in 2009.

Local museums and galleries are managed by local authorities or trusts and therefore the Welsh Assembly Government does not set them specific targets.

In 2006, CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales carried out in-depth research, Spotlight on Museums. The survey found total visitors to all categories of museum across Wales increased from 2.68 million in 2003 to 3.14 million in 2005.

CyMAL and the Arts Council of Wales provide financial support to museums and galleries to develop their services.

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Has the First Minister made any representations to colleagues at Westminster regarding the rights of Ghurkhas to settle in the United Kingdom? (WAQ54167)

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the First Minister disclose any correspondence that he has had regarding the rights of Ghurkhas to settle in the UK since May 2007? (WAQ54168)

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): None. This matter does not fall within the devolved competency of the National Assembly for Wales.

Questions to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister detail public expenditure in Wales as a share of GDP in each year since 1999? (WAQ54065)

The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery (Andrew Davies): I will write to you and a copy of the letter will be placed on the internet.