

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 9 Tachwedd 2011

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 9 November 2011

*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.

Cynnwys Contents

- 2 Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog
Questions to the First Minister
- 2 Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth
Questions to the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science
- 3 Cwestiynau i Weinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Questions to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development
- 3 Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services
- 7 Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threfadaeth
Questions to the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

***Gofyn i Brif Weinidog Cymru
To ask the First Minister***

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): Yn dilyn yr ateb a gefais gan y Prif Weinidog dyddiedig 16 Mehefin 2011 (cyfeirnod FM05183/11), pa gamau sydd wedi'u cymryd ynghylch newid rheoliadau'r Cerdyn Bws Cydymaith fel bod unigolyn anabl sydd ag angen help i deithio gan fwy nag un cydymaith yn gallu gwneud cais am Gardiau Bws Cydymaith ychwanegol. (WAQ58290)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Following the First Minister's response to me dated 16th June 2011 (reference FM05183/11), what steps have been taken concerning changing Companion Bus Pass regulations to allow a disabled person who requires help from more than one companion to travel to apply for additional Companion Bus Passes. (WAQ58290)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 09 Tachwedd 2011
Answer received for publication on 09 November 2011***

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): In July my officials asked local authorities for information about the number of people who had asked, during the concessionary bus travel application and assessment process, if they could be accompanied by more than one companion where those companions would travel for free.

Since the introduction of the scheme in 2002, there have been a very small number of such requests, estimated at less than 20. However, we recognise that this is an important issue for those people who may need to travel with more than one companion at any one time.

We have been in touch with the Department for Work and Pensions, which has confirmed that people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance may use any part of their payments to cover the costs of those they wish to accompany them, as well as for other forms of transport.

As a next step, we will be assessing whether the existing provisions for only one companion per companion pass alongside Disability Living Allowance payments adequately meet the needs of people who consider that they need further, additional help. I will make an announcement in due course.

***Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth
To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science***

Leanne Wood (Canol De Cymru): Gan gyfeirio at yr hysbysiad o benderfyniad a gyhoeddwyd ar 24 Hydref, 2011, parthed tir yn Hirwaun, a allwch ddarparu'r holl fanylion am drafodion yr eiddo, y lleoliad a'r derbynebaw a dderbyniwyd. (WAQ58289)

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): With reference to the decision notice published on October 24, 2011, re land at Hirwaun could you provide full details of the property transactions, the location and receipts received. (WAQ58289)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 08 Tachwedd 2011
Answer received for publication on 08 November 2011***

The Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science (Edwina Hart): The proposed property transaction at Hirwaun Industrial Estate will not be legally completed until late December 2011 and is therefore subject to commercial confidentiality at present.

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

Aled Roberts (Gogledd Cymru): O gofio bod gwaharddiad yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar gewyll batri confensiynol yn dod i rym ar 1 Ionawr 2012, pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u cymryd naill ai i sicrhau bod wyau a allforir o'r gwladwriaethau hynny sydd wedi methu cydymffurfio â'r gwaharddiad yn cael eu gwahardd o Gymru, neu i warchod defnyddwyr rhag prynu neu fwyta wyau o'r fath os nad ydynt yn cael y wybodaeth ynghylch y diffyg cydymffurfio. (WAQ58288) ***Trosghwyddwyd i'w ateb gan y Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth***

Aled Roberts (North Wales): Given that the European Union conventional battery cage ban comes into force on 1st January 2012, what steps has the Welsh Government taken to ensure either that egg imports from those states that who have failed to comply with the ban are excluded from Wales, or to protect consumers from buying or consuming such eggs if they are not provided with information regarding non-compliance. (WAQ58288) ***Transferred for answer by the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science.***

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 08 Tachwedd 2011
Answer received for publication on 08 November 2011

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes (Alun Davies): I will write to you as soon as possible and a copy of my letter will be published on the Internet.

Gweler Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad
See Information Further to Written Assembly Questions

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

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Faint o arian a wariwyd ar annog diagnosis cynharach o Symptomau'r Llwybr Wrinol Isaf, Anymataliaeth Gwlychu ac Anymataliaeth Baeddu ym mhob un o'r tair blynedd diwethaf y mae data ar gael ar eu cyfer. (WAQ58278)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): How much was spent on encouraging earlier diagnosis of Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms, Urinary Incontinence and Bowel Incontinence in each of the last three years for which data is available. (WAQ58278)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 08 Tachwedd 2011
Answer received for publication on 08 November 2011

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): This information is not held centrally.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog restru'r holl gynlluniau cyfalaf yn ei hadran sydd ar y safle ac sydd wedi cael caniatâd adeiladu. (WAQ58279)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister list all capital schemes in her department which are on site and which have approval for construction. (WAQ58279)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 08 Tachwedd 2011
Answer received for publication on 08 November 2011

Lesley Griffiths: See Annex below.

HSSC Capital Spending Plans

The following capital projects are currently proceeding, i.e. schemes are on site and /or orders have been placed / equipment procured:-

Aneurin Bevan LHB

Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr (Caerphilly LGH)
Royal Gwent Engineering Infrastructure
Newport St. David's Hospice

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg ULHB

Morrison Modernisation, Enabling Schemes.
PoWH CAMHS Final (Inpatient Unit)
Pencoed Primary Care resource Centre
Modernisation of Mental Health Services (Cefn Coed hospital)
Singleton Maggie's Cancer Care Centre

Betsi Cadwaladr LHB

BYN Completion of LD settlement
YGC Wards 11 and 12 Redevelopment
YGC Theatre Redevelopment

Cardiff & Vale LHB

Children's Hospital Phase II Enabling Works
Cardiff Royal Infirmary Conservation / Enabling Works
Llandough EMI
C&V Integrated Stroke Unit / Specialist Rehabilitation
UHW Neurosciences ITU
Louden Square Resource Centre

Cwm Taf LHB

Cynon Valley Neighbourhood Hospital
PCH ECC/DSU
PCH Refurbishment - Phase 1 (wards 1 - 12)
Merthyr Health Park

Hywel Dda LHB

Bronglais Rural General Hospital Front of House
WWGH Mortuary
WWGH Engineering Infrastructure scheme D-G
WWGH Critical Care Centre
WWGH CDU

Powys LHB

Welshpool Renal Dialysis

Velindre Trust

Velindre Linac Replacement 5
Velindre Linac Replacement 7&8

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust

WAST HART
Ambulance replacement

Public Health Wales

Modernisation of Mammography services

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog restru'r holl gynlluniau cyfalaf yn ei hadran sydd ar fin cael eu cyflwyno iddi hi eu cymeradwyo o fewn y tri mis nesaf. (WAQ58280)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister list all capital schemes in her department which are due to be submitted for her approval within the next three months. (WAQ58280)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 08 Tachwedd 2011

Answer received for publication on 08 November 2011

Lesley Griffiths: We are unable to provide a definitive list as final submission dates will be a decision for the Health Boards/Trusts. This will be dependent on a number of factors including their priorities for service delivery, time needed for business case development, internal scrutiny and approval process.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau bod y Ganolfan Gofal Critigol yn Nhor-faen wedi cael ei chymeradwyo ac a wnaiff y Gweinidog hefyd amlinellu pa bryd y bydd gwaith adeiladu ar y prosiect yn dechrau. (WAQ58284)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister confirm that the Critical Care Centre in Torfaen has been approved and will the Minister also outline when construction on the project will commence. (WAQ58284)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 08 Tachwedd 2011

Answer received for publication on 08 November 2011

Lesley Griffiths: Notwithstanding the two announcements have been made by the previous Minister, the Aneurin Bevan Health Board still need to complete a robust Outline Business Case (OBC) within which they will need to demonstrate that the proposed capital investment presents value for money and that it presents better value for money than all other available options.

Final decisions cannot be taken until a revised OBC has been submitted and been through a formal scrutiny process. The Health Board have advised the revised Outline Business Case will be available in December 2012.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Ac eithrio'r gwasanaeth telestrôc, pa wasanaethau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn gobeithio eu rhoi ar waith ar lefel tele-iechyd neu dele-feddygaeth. (WAQ58285)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): What services other than the telestroke service is the Welsh Government seeking to implement on a tele-health or telemedicine level. (WAQ58285)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 09 Tachwedd 2011

Answer received for publication on 09 November 2011

Lesley Griffiths: Telecare, telehealth and telemedicine will play an important role in supporting care closer to home and improving the way we deliver integrated services in the future.

Within the Rural Health Plan, Telemedicine and Telehealth initiatives are ensuring better access to care for people living in rural areas. Developments have explored the potential across a range of clinical areas including Teledermatology, Telerehabilitation, Paediatric Telecardiology, Teleneurology,

Teleophthalmology, treating minor injuries and managing palliative care. Support has also been given to professional training and video conferencing, avoiding unnecessary travelling, reducing carbon footprints and improving efficiency.

Through the Telecare Capital Grant, we have invested nearly £10m in improving telecare services across Wales with nearly 20,000 people now living more independently as a result. Key lessons identified from the evaluation of this programme are now being taken forward.

Future work will build on these experiences, expanding clinical and professional champions and seeking to strengthen the wider integration of telehealth and telecare to embed this as an integral way of working throughout Wales.

We are also pursuing opportunities within the UK Technology Strategy Board's Delivering Assisted Living Lifestyles at Scale (DALLAS) programme which could benefit not only our public services but also companies in our ICT, life science and creative industries sectors.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw gynlluniau i roi'r gwasanaeth telestrôc ar waith ledled Cymru, ac os felly, pa bryd y bydd hyn yn digwydd. (WAQ58287)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Does the Minister have any plans for the telestroke service to be implemented across Wales, and if so, when will this implementation take place. (WAQ58287)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 09 Tachwedd 2011
Answer received for publication on 09 November 2011

Lesley Griffiths: Our Programme for Government includes a range of commitments which will help to prevent strokes and improve the outcomes for those who suffer a stroke, including providing 24/7 access to thrombolysis, and increasing the use of telemedicine. If it is administered within three hours of symptom onset, thrombolysis can dissolve the blood clot and could improve the patient's chances of getting better after a stroke.

Telemedicine equipment will aid the diagnosis of stroke particularly in rural areas by linking 13 sites across Wales. The equipment will enable trained professionals to diagnose acute stroke patients and, if necessary, authorise thrombolysis. Earlier this year we announced up to £350,000 to roll out Telemedicine equipment across Wales, which NHS Wales should deliver by March 2012.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y bydd yn buddsoddi ymhellach mewn offer TGCh ac mewn hyfforddiant TGCh i staff y GIG. (WAQ58286)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on how she will further invest in ICT equipment and training for NHS staff. (WAQ58286)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 08 Tachwedd 2011
Answer received for publication on 08 November 2011

Lesley Griffiths: During these difficult economic times we have to ensure existing investment is used as efficiently as possible. I have written to the Health Boards to instruct them that in future all ICT procurements will be nationally led to get best value for money and I expect capital funding on ICT infrastructure to be pooled and staff resources and skills to be shared. I have also directed them to work collaboratively on the implementation of the National NHS ICT Programme which is currently being rolled out through the NHS Wales Informatics Service. This is being accompanied by specific training programmes as new systems are introduced.

Currently, national systems are rolling out across many areas. These include a new electronic outpatient referrals system from the GP to the hospital, a new service to join up care between the GP and out of hours emergency care, through the Individual Health Record and the Welsh Clinical Portal, which is creating an integrated health record for patients in hospital.

We are committed to professional development of all staff and expect to see Health Boards including ICT training in personal development plans for each member of staff.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
To ask the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

Leanne Wood (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu dadansoddiad fesul awdurdod lleol o'r camau sy'n cael eu cymryd i aildefnyddio tai gwag sydd mewn perchnogaeth breifat. (WAQ58283)

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide a breakdown by local authority of action taken to bring empty privately owned houses back into use. (WAQ58283)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 07 Tachwedd 2011
Answer received for publication on 07 November 2011

The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage (Huw Lewis): The types of action taken by each local authority to bring empty properties back into use will vary and that information would only be available from the local authorities themselves.

However, I can provide information on the numbers of empty properties brought back into use. Based on data provided by local authorities, in 2010-2011, a total of 954 empty properties were brought back into use through direct action by local authorities. The breakdown by local authority area is as follows:

Local authority	The number of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 April which were returned to occupation during the year through direct action by the local authority 2010-2011
Isle of Anglesey	8
Gwynedd	55
Conwy	182
Denbighshire	154
Flintshire	11
Wrexham	27
Powys	26
Ceredigion	42
Pembrokeshire	2
Carmarthenshire	59
Swansea	23
Neath Port Talbot	9
Bridgend	95
The Vale of Glamorgan	5

Cardiff	80
Rhondda Cynon Taf	15
Merthyr Tydfil	15
Caerphilly	37
Blaenau Gwent	26
Torfaen	36
Monmouthshire	0
Newport	47

Leanne Wood (Canol De Cymru): Pa bwerau sydd gan (a) awdurdodau lleol a (b) Llywodraeth Cymru i aildefnyddio tai gwag sydd mewn perchnogaeth breifat. (WAQ58282)

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): What powers do (a) local authorities and (b) the Welsh Government have to bring empty privately owned houses back into use. (WAQ58282)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 07 Tachwedd 2011
Answer received for publication on 07 November 2011

Huw Lewis: When persuasion and negotiation with owners of empty privately owned properties fails the enforcement powers available to local authorities to bring empty houses back into use are:

- Compulsory Purchase Orders (under various Acts of Parliament but often using Section 17 of the Housing Act 1985);
- Enforced Sale Procedure (under the Law of Property Act 1925); and
- Empty Dwelling Management Orders (under the Housing Act 2004).

Further information on these powers is contained within Welsh Government Guidance which was published in September 2010. This is available on the Welsh Government website.

The Welsh Government has no powers to bring empty privately owned properties back into use.

Leanne Wood (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gyhoeddi canllawiau i sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn aildefnyddio eiddo gwag ar gyfer unigolion a theuluoedd. (WAQ58281)

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): Will the Minister issue guidance to ensure local authorities bring empty properties back into use for individuals and families. (WAQ58281)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 07 Tachwedd 2011
Answer received for publication on 07 November 2011

Huw Lewis: The Welsh Government has already published and promoted best practice guidance on empty homes and to provide support for local authorities to enable them to make more effective use of empty homes to meet housing need. The guidance was published on the Welsh Government website on 22 September 2010, and was prepared in partnership with Shelter Cymru and local authorities. It includes several examples of good practice and detailed information on enforcement powers.