

## **Answers issued to Members on 15 April 2008**

[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 Health and Social Services

**Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** What money is being provided to schools to educate pupils on dental hygiene? (WAQ51595)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** We do not provide money directly to schools for dental hygiene education. The Fissure Sealant Programme is a screening service delivered by health trusts through the Community Dental Service (CDS) in targeted schools in areas identified for Communities First, i.e. the 100 electoral divisions in the Welsh Index of Material Deprivation (WIMD, 2000). Dietary and oral health advice is made available including the provision of toothbrushes and toothpaste.

On 14 March 2008, I launched 'Designed to Smile,' an enhanced toothbrushing scheme to develop good oral health in the five year-old age group. This will provide children with the tools they need to develop and maintain good oral health from an early age. We intend to work towards every child in Wales being provided with free toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste.

Central to the delivery of 'Designed to Smile' is a strengthened public dentistry role for the CDS, building on the experience of the established Fissure Sealant Programme, which protects teeth against decay. Funding totalling at least £4.6million to 2010/11 will be made available for the action plan.

### Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs

**Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** What proportion of single farm payment applications are paid on time? (WAQ51591)

**The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones):** The Single Payment Scheme (SPS) is paid annually and has been in existence since 2005. Each year the Welsh Assembly Government has commenced payment on the first day of the statutory payment period that runs from 1 December of the scheme year to the 30 June of the year following the scheme year. Despite the deadline of 30 June about 75% of customers were paid immediately upon the opening of the payment period. The EC require at least 96.14% of the fund to be spent by 30 June, the Welsh Assembly Government has met this target for the 2005 and 2006 scheme years, and has already exceeded it for the 2007 scheme year. 97.7% of eligible SPS 2007 applicants have been paid to 10 April 2008.

**Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** What measures are taken in relation to late payment of single farm payment applications? (WAQ51592)

**Elin Jones:** The Welsh Assembly Government has met EC payment targets for payments by 30 June following the scheme year each year for the 3 years the Single Payment Scheme has been in existence so no late payment measures have needed to be taken.

**Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on the rate of payment of single farm payments by the due date, for each year since 1999? (WAQ51593)

**Elin Jones:** The Single Payment Scheme (SPS) is paid annually and has been in existence since 2005. Each year the Welsh Assembly Government have commenced payment on the first day of the statutory payment period that runs from 1 December of the scheme year to the 30 June of the year following the scheme year. Despite the deadline of 30 June about 75% of customers were paid immediately upon the

opening of the payment period. The closest the scheme has to a due date is 30 June, the date by which the EC requires at least 96.14% of the fund to be spent. The Welsh Assembly Government has met this target for the 2005 and 2006 scheme years, and has already exceeded it for the 2007 scheme year. 97.7% of eligible SPS 2007 applicants have been paid to 10 April 2008.

### **Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government**

**Dai Lloyd (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on the funding for the Black Association of Women Step Out (BAWSO)? (WAQ51543)

**The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons):** In 2008/09 BAWSO has been allocated the following funding to support the delivery of the National Domestic Abuse Strategy:

- £243,671 to support refuge provision in Newport, Swansea and Cardiff. This includes funding for a children's worker; and
- £130,170 to provide an outreach service to BME women in North Wales.

**Nick Ramsay (Monmouth):** What discussions has the Minister had with Help the Aged, the UK Government and other interested parties with regards to age discrimination? (WAQ51575)

**Brian Gibbons:** We have recently corresponded on this issue, and I am committed to tackling age discrimination.

On the 19th March, I launched a consultation document on our proposals for the priorities for a Single Equality Scheme. As part of the consultation, the Assembly Government will have strand specific engagement events to ensure that we can gauge the views of both older and younger people. We are in touch with interested parties representing younger and older people as part of our work on community engagement.

Tackling age discrimination is also at the heart of our Strategy for Older People in Wales. In March, we launched the second five year phase of the implementation programme with funding of £7million over three years. The Commissioner for Older People in Wales' function includes promoting the provision of opportunities for, and elimination of discrimination against, older people. The commissioner will also have an important role to play both as 'champion' for older people and through the forging of a close working relationship with the Commissioner for Equality and Human Rights.

More generally, I am keen to raise the subject of age discrimination with the UK Government when appropriate opportunities arise. I have continuing dialogue to ensure Welsh interests are appropriately represented across all equality strands.

**Nick Ramsay (Monmouth):** What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to ensure the protection of women in Wales from domestic violence? (WAQ51576)

**Brian Gibbons:** We are delivering a national strategy to tackle domestic abuse. To support the Strategy, £3.7m has been allocated to projects across Wales in 2008/09 from the Domestic Abuse Line within the Social Justice and Local Government Budget allocation. I have provided a paper for the Communities and Culture Committee meeting on 16th April that contains detailed information about the action the Welsh Assembly Government is taking to ensure the protection of women in Wales from domestic abuse.

**Nick Ramsay (Monmouth):** What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to provide secure accommodation, support services, medical care and legal advice for victims of domestic abuse? (WAQ51581)

**Brian Gibbons:** I have provided a paper for the Communities and Culture Committee meeting on 16th April that contains detailed information about the action the Welsh Assembly Government is taking to provide support for victims of domestic abuse.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to tackle anti-social behaviour in rural areas? (WAQ51596)

**Brian Gibbons:** The Welsh Assembly Government believes in a partnership approach to tackling anti-social behaviour in both urban and rural areas. Our Safer Communities Fund is providing £4.5 million to Community Safety Partnerships during the period 2008-09 to enable them to fund projects that tackle youth crime, including anti social behaviour e.g. Powys CSP is receiving £161,858 this year.