

## **Written Questions answered between 24 and 30 May 2002**

[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 Economic Development**

### **Manufacturing Jobs lost Since May 1999**

**William Graham:** Will the Minister make a statement outlining the number of manufacturing jobs lost since May 1999 and the value of manufacturing industries to the Welsh economy? (WAQ18145)

**The Minister for Economic Development (Andrew Davies):** Employee jobs in manufacturing fell by 16,000 between December 1999 and December 2001, a fall of around 8 per cent. This compared to a fall of around 7 per cent for employee jobs in manufacturing for the UK as a whole. Overall employee jobs rose very slightly in Wales over the period due to an increase in services. In 1998, manufacturing made up just over a quarter of Welsh gross domestic product.

### **Future Economic Prosperity of South-east Wales**

**William Graham:** Will the Minister make a statement concerning the future economic prosperity of south-east Wales? (WAQ18146)

**Andrew Davies:** There are no official forecast figures available for the area of south-east Wales. However, the area has the highest GDP per head average in Wales and is well positioned to develop its economy in the future.

### **Cardiff Harbour Authority**

**Michael German:** What discussions has the Minister had with Cardiff County Council on the running of the Cardiff Harbour Authority following the adoption of executive arrangements in May 2002? (WAQ18155)

**Andrew Davies:** I have had no discussions with Cardiff County Council on the operation of Cardiff Harbour Authority. It is a matter for council to decide whether or not the functions of the harbour authority should rest with the executive.

### **CityLink (Expected Payments)**

**Janet Davies:** What are the expected payments to the CityLink consortium regarding the Bute Avenue private finance initiative scheme until 2025 at today's prices underwritten by the National Assembly? (WAQ18158)

**Andrew Davies:** The sum of the annual unitary payments (at today's prices) over the 25-year contract is estimated to be £139 million.

### **CityLink (Possible Repayments)**

**Janet Davies:** Are there any possible repayments from the CityLink consortium involved in the Bute Avenue private finance initiative scheme, and what is the current estimated likelihood of these being received? (WAQ18159)

**Andrew Davies:** The private finance initiative agreement includes clauses in respect of both commercial and residential developments, which in certain circumstances where CityLink profits exceed specific levels will be split 60 per cent to 40 per cent in favour of the public sector. It is too early to say whether these will be triggered.

### **Economic Development (Advertising)**

**David Davies:** How much of the economic development budget has been spent on advertising for each of the last three years? (WAQ18162)

**Andrew Davies:** The amount spent on press and media advertising relating to economic development in each of the last three financial years is as below. Included in the table is a comparison between advertising costs spent and the total budget for economic development.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>
	<b>(£)</b>	<b>(£)</b>	<b>(£)</b>
Advertising costs	43,120	61,078	148,194
Total budget	354,323,000	327,414,000	453,579,000

The increase in costs in 2001-02 relates to extensive WalesTrade International spending on regional advertising as part of the process of raising business awareness of its services within Wales and overseas.

## **Questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning**

### **Spending on Inspection**

**Cynog Dafis:** How much has Estyn spent on inspection for the last three years for which figures are available? (WAQ18018)

**The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson):** Details of Estyn's audited departmental resource accounts for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are available on the National Assembly's intranet and the Estyn website ([www.estyn.gov.uk](http://www.estyn.gov.uk)) respectively. The accounts for 1999-2000 also provide information for 1998-99.

All elements of Estyn's costs relate to aspects of inspection. Estyn's departmental resource accounts confirm that net operating costs for 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 were £8 million, £8.1 million and £6.8 million respectively.

### **Recommendations of WJEC**

**Glyn Davies:** Further to OAQ17397, what steps has the Minister taken to ensure that schools follow the recommendations of the Welsh Joint Education Committee in respect of the entry of pupils for Welsh first language examinations? (WAQ18024)

**Jane Davidson:** The Welsh Joint Education Committee is responsible for ensuring that its entry regulations are enforced. The WJEC regulations are published annually in both the general regulations booklet and the specification for GCE and GCSE Welsh second language. Further, for each examination cycle, heads of examination centres are required to sign declarations to certify that all candidates entered for GCE and GCSE Welsh second language examinations fulfil the entry requirements. These requirements are stipulated on the forms in exactly the same way as they appear in the documents mentioned above.

### **GEST Funding (Comparison to England)**

**Alun Cairns:** How does the level of GEST funding compare with similar schemes available in England? (WAQ18135)

**Jane Davidson:** Grants for education support and training differs in scope as well as scale from the nearest equivalent in England—the standards fund—and it is difficult therefore to make a direct comparison. Total GEST funding this year is nearly £60 million compared to the standards fund total of £2.3 billion. The standards fund, however, includes funding for capital developments which, in Wales, are

supported through other programmes. It also includes support for initiatives such as Excellence in Cities, which are specific to England.

### **GEST Funding (Support for Schools)**

**Alun Cairns:** Will the Minister make a statement on GEST support for schools? (WAQ18136)

**Jane Davidson:** The grants for education support and training programme is one of the Assembly's main mechanisms for supporting measures aimed at raising standards in schools. It provides direct grants to local education authorities to enable them to support school improvement across a range of priority areas, including school attendance and behaviour, literacy and numeracy, special educational needs, information and communications technology and teachers' professional development. The value of the GEST programme has risen substantially in recent years—from £30.7 million in 1998-99 to £59.3 million this year—and funding is being increasingly targeted at the most deprived areas of Wales.

### **Performance Management Arrangements (Guidance)**

**Alun Cairns:** Will the Minister make a statement on guidance offered to local authorities to fully implement performance management arrangements in schools? (WAQ18137)

**Jane Davidson:** We are working with local education authorities' consortia on the training and implementation arrangements for the new performance management system. Training is supported by a full range of guidance material.

### **Performance Management Arrangements (Funding)**

**Alun Cairns:** Will the Minister make a statement on the funding available to fully implement performance management arrangements in schools? (WAQ18138)

**Jane Davidson:** The Welsh Assembly Government will be fully funding local education authorities for the costs of the training needed for the new system and its implementation in 2002-03. That funding will cover training for all headteachers, governors' representatives from all maintained schools, the training and deployment of consultants who will provide assistance to schools in establishing their performance management arrangements, and training and deployment of advisers who will provide assistance to governors and headteachers in operating performance management arrangements in their schools.

### **Contact Time for Teachers**

**Alun Cairns:** Will the Minister make a statement on contact time for teachers? (WAQ18139)

**Jane Davidson:** The School Teachers' Review Body's report on teacher workload was published by the Department for Education and Skills on 8 May. The report makes a number of recommendations, including guaranteed time for lesson planning, preparation, marking and recording—'non-contact' time.

The report focuses on statutory conditions of service in Wales and England. This is not a devolved issue; the Department for Education and Skills is responsible for teachers' pay and conditions of service in both Wales and England. Public consultation by the Department for Education and Skills on the principles and approaches proposed by the report will run until 3 July. Following that, it will consult on practical measures put forward.

### **Teachers' Upper Pay Scale (Funding Guidance)**

**Alun Cairns:** Will the Minister make a statement on guidance offered to local authorities to support funding for teachers' upper pay scale threshold? (WAQ18140)

**Jane Davidson:** Teachers' pay is not a devolved matter and is the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills in both Wales and England. In September 2001, the DfES issued guidance to governing bodies, heads of maintained schools and local education authorities in Wales and England: 'School Teachers' Pay and Conditions of Employment 2001'. The guidance offers advice to schools on how to approach the award of performance points, including progression on the upper pay scale. In my statement to Assembly Members on 2 May, I said that I believe that the guidance is insufficiently clear, and I will raise this with the School Teachers' Review Body.

### **Teachers' Upper Pay Scale (Funding)**

**Alun Cairns:** Will the Minister make a statement on the funding for teachers' upper pay scale threshold? (WAQ18141)

**Jane Davidson:** I issued a Cabinet written statement about funding for teachers' pay, in particular the progression of teachers up the upper pay scale, on 2 May 2002. I have nothing further to add at this time.

## **Questions to the Minister for Environment**

### **Meeting with MD of Cardiff Bus**

**Alun Cairns:** Further to the Minister's letter to the Chair of the Economic Development Committee dated 23 January 2002, will the Minister make a statement on her meeting with Mr Alan Kreppel, managing director of Cardiff Bus? (WAQ18143)

**The Minister for Environment (Sue Essex):** I met Mr Kreppel on 24 January. We discussed a wide range of issues, including Cardiff Bus services to the bay. Cardiff County Council and the company have also discussed these services. Cardiff Bus has agreed to maintain current services pending the outcome of a comprehensive review by the council of the public transport requirements of people living or working in Cardiff bay. That review is expected to be completed shortly.

## **Questions to the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities**

### *Liberal Democrat News*

**Glyn Davies:** Further to questions WAQ17699 and WAQ17702, on what dates was the *Liberal Democrat News* added and removed from the list of publications used for advertising by the Government, how many adverts were placed in it and at what cost? (WAQ18129)

**The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart):** One advertisement was placed in the *Liberal Democrat News* in January 2001 at a cost of £828.75.

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

### **Care Homes**

**Peter Rogers:** Following my letter to the Minister on 15 April on the issue of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's handling of the payment of fees to residents in care homes formerly on preserved rights, when did her officials first contact the council about the issue? (WAQ18160)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt):** Officials contacted the Isle of Anglesey County Council several times in the week prior to my office's e-mail to you on 30 April confirming the position about the preserved rights cases, which you raised on 15 April.

## Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business

### Rural Affairs Budget

**David Davies:** How much of the rural affairs budget has been spent on advertising for each of the last three years? (WAQ18163)

**Carwyn Jones:** The response I gave to WAQ17481 identified the amount spent on press and media advertising relating to rural affairs in each of the last three financial years. A table showing the comparison between the advertising costs spent and the total budget for agriculture and rural affairs is set out below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>
	<b>(£)</b>	<b>(£)</b>	<b>(£)</b>
Advertising costs	59,799	12,625	116,608*
Total Budget	274,639,000	240,355,000	252,058,000
Percentage of total	0.02	0.005	0.05

\* This includes £111,712 advertising costs incurred in the course of providing information to help in the management of the foot and mouth disease outbreak. Therefore the percentage of the total budget spent, excluding foot and mouth disease, reduces to 0.002 per cent for the 2001-02 period.