

## **Written Questions answered from 4 to 11 November 1999**

[R] signifies the Member has declared an interest.

### **Contents**

2	Questions to the First Secretary
6	Questions to the Secretary for the Environment and Local Government
12	Questions to the Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development
16	Questions to the Finance Secretary
18	Questions to the Secretary for Economic Development
23	Questions to the Secretary for Post-16 Education and Training
29	Questions to the Secretary for Education and Children
37	Questions to the Secretary for Health and Social Services

## Questions to the First Secretary

### Assembly Information Campaign

**David Davies:** What information is available to the First Secretary with regard to the performance of the public relations company Bell Pottinger Good Relations in organising the Assembly information campaign? (WAQ1382VB)

**The First Secretary:** Bell Pottinger Good Relations implemented the free media element of the Assembly information campaign. It was sub-contracted to do that work by the contracted agency, Howell Henry Chaldecot Lury. Appraisal of the work of this agency is a matter for the Central Office of Information, which was responsible, on behalf of the Welsh Office, for the contract. As is normal in these circumstances, the appraisal is considered to be commercially sensitive and is not available publicly.

### Responsibility for Curtains

**David Davies:** Which department within the Assembly or the Welsh Office was responsible for acquiring the curtains that hang in the Members' offices? (WAQ1383VB)

**The First Secretary:** The Management Services Division of the Welsh Office was responsible for acquiring the curtains that hang in the Members' offices.

### Women in Public Bodies

**Glyn Davies:** What percentage of chairs and members of public bodies in Wales were women on 1 January 1979-96? (WAQ1540JS-1557JS)

**The First Secretary:** The information on the percentage of women in chair and member positions on public bodies in Wales between 1986 and 1996 is as follows. The figures relate to appointments for which the Welsh Office was responsible and include NHS bodies. Information in the requested form prior to 1986 was not held centrally and collecting that data now would be at disproportionate cost.

	% Women Chairs	% Women Members
1996	15%	25%
1995	18%	24%
1994	17%	23%
1993	16%	16%
1992	16%	18%
1991	18%	18%
1990	13%	18%
1989	8%	19%
1988	12%	20%
1987	12%	19%
1986	8%	19%

As of 30 June 1999, 31 per cent of appointments to public bodies in Wales and 21 per cent of chair appointments to public bodies in Wales were held by women, which represents a significant improvement.

### Grant Aid for Voluntary Bodies

**Peter Black:** What sources of grant aid are available directly from the Assembly to fund Wales-wide voluntary bodies in 2000-01 and what funding has been provided in the current financial year and 1998-99? (WAQ1603AG)

**The First Secretary:** Voluntary organisations receive funding from many sources. The key grant schemes available directly from the Assembly for Wales-wide voluntary bodies are:

- Grants to Welsh Archaeological Trusts
- Civic Initiatives (Heritage) Grants

- Support for Health Promotion
- Older People with Physical/Sensory Disabilities- All Wales Voluntary Bodies
- Welsh Mental Illness Strategy
- Welsh Mental Handicap Strategy
- Environment Wales
- Home improvement/Care & Repair Agencies
- Promotion of Education and Training and of Good Practice in the Management of Social Housing
- Voluntary Sector rooflessness
- Grants to National Voluntary Youth Organisations
- Combating Drug and Alcohol Misuse
- Support for Child and Family Services
- National Childcare Strategy
- Support for Voluntary Intermediary Services

Expenditure under those schemes totalled £10.646 million in 1998-99. So far the amounts allocated in 1999-2000 under those schemes totals £10.790 million. Further details of voluntary sector grant schemes will be included in 'A Guide to National Assembly Voluntary Sector Grants' which will be published around the turn of the year. Copies of the Guide will be available from the Library.

#### **Calf Processing Aid Scheme (Meetings)**

**Dafydd Wigley:** Will the First Secretary list the dates of the meetings held between Sir Stephen Wall, Head of UKREP in Brussels, and himself, to discuss the calf processing aid scheme agreed by the Assembly on 15 September; and what was the outcome of those discussions? (WAQ1616VB)

**The First Secretary:** Assembly officials worked closely with UKREP officials throughout the period and met them on 5 October to discuss the calf processing aid scheme. UKREP officials were very helpful and supportive of our discussions with the Commission and I was briefed on the discussions. No need for direct contact with Sir Stephen Wall as a consequence.

#### **Calf Processing Aid Scheme (Legal Advice)**

**Dafydd Wigley:** What effort has the First Secretary made, or has a member of his Cabinet made, to seek the advice of his lawyers on the calf processing aid scheme that was passed by the Assembly on 15 September? Were the Assembly lawyers asked to prepare firm proposals to be laid before the Commission and/or the EU Council of Ministers regarding the implications of the difficulties posed by the calf processing aid scheme? (WAQ1617VB)

**The First Secretary:** The application to the Commission for consent for an emergency package under the EU calf processing aid scheme was discussed with Assembly lawyers before its submission to the European Commission. As soon as the legal principles became clear, Christine Gwyther and I sought legal advice to see whether the view of EC officials could be challenged as well as mounting the vigorous political challenge, which Christine took to Commissioner Fischler. That legal advice confirmed that it had been worthwhile pursuing the application but that sufficient legal grounds did not exist to contest the position that the Commission was taking.

#### **M4 Relief Road**

**William Graham:** What impact will the construction of the M4 relief road have on social inclusion in South Wales East? (WAQ1633VB)

**The First Secretary:** Any major project has to be considered in terms of its direct value--in this case to the transport infrastructure together with the Assembly's commitment to promote integrated policies--and indirectly to cross-cutting policies such as social inclusion. Economic regeneration, the creation of jobs and the social impact on different communities all come into the equation. We will need to consider the argument that, if constructed, the M4 relief road would eliminate traffic congestion and improve accessibility around Newport and to south east Wales. The Assembly Secretary for Local Government and the Environment, Peter Law, hopes to make an announcement on the future of the scheme around the

turn of the year, after careful consideration of the Common Appraisal Framework study into options for dealing with the predicted congestion on the motorway at Newport.

### **Job Advertisements**

**Nick Bourne:** What is the Assembly's policy in relation to Welsh only advertisements or English advertisements in Wales seeking to fill posts? (WAQ1760VB)

**The First Secretary:** The Assembly's policy on advertising vacancies is that the majority of advertisements appear bilingually in Wales or elsewhere. For the remainder of posts, which require postholders to work through the medium of Welsh e.g. translators, the advertisement appears in Welsh only with a short explanation in English. This policy ensures that we give equal treatment to the languages, comply with the requirements of the Welsh Language Act 1993 and keep advertising costs to a minimum.

### **Publicity and Advertising**

**David Davies:** Will the First Secretary outline how the £1.6 million that has been set aside for publicity and advertising this year will be spent? (WAQ1837VB)

**The First Secretary:** The Finance Secretary, Edwina Hart, responded to a question from you on 20 October 1999, asking why the Assembly needed £3.5 million for advertising and publicity in this financial year. Her response was:

'Traditionally, paid-for information activity in Wales has largely arisen as a direct response to public information available in England. In the current financial year, policy divisions within the Assembly have so far set aside £2.4 million for public information activity such as child pedestrian safety, anti drink-driving, and promoting services to help businesses in Wales.'

The position remains unchanged.

### **Curtains**

**David Davies:** Are there any plans to purchase curtains for the new Assembly building? (WAQ1838VB)

**The First Secretary:** It is far too early on in the design process to be able to answer this question with any degree of certainty. What I can say is that any requirement for curtains in the new building will be minimal.

### **Contracts with HHCL and Bell Pottinger Good Relations**

**David Davies:** What contracts are held by Howell Henry Chauldecott Lury (HHCL) and/or Bell Pottinger Good Relations? (WAQ1840VB)

**The First Secretary:** There are no contracts between Howell Henry Chauldecott Lury or Bell Pottinger Good Relations and the National Assembly for Wales.

### **Assembly Information Campaign (Payment)**

**David Davies:** How much has HHCL and/or Bell Pottinger Good Relations been paid to undertake the Assembly information campaign? (WAQ1841VB)

**The First Secretary:** Howell Henry Chauldecott Lury was contracted on behalf of the Welsh Office by the Central Office of Information. The amount paid to the agency by the Central Office of Information is considered by the COI to be commercially sensitive and is not available publicly.

### **Bairdwear Job Losses**

**Michael German:** Following the recent ending to the supply agreement between Marks and Spencer and

William Baird, what action has the First Secretary taken to alleviate job losses in Wales, and has he met with the management of Marks and Spencer and William Baird to discuss what effect that will have on the already high unemployment levels of the south Wales Valleys? (WAQ1844VB)

**The First Secretary:** Job losses in Wales are always regrettable because of the suffering and uncertainty caused to the people involved and their communities. We work hard to alleviate the effects of closures and redundancies and, as is demonstrated at Baird's operations in Maesteg and Pontardawe, our officials, local training and enterprise councils, the Welsh Development Agency and the Employment Service work in genuine partnership with the companies and their employees to help those affected find new jobs. Where the Department accepts that the redundancies are significant, rapid response measures are put into place quickly to help affected employees re-train and gain alternative employment. To help stave off closures, Rhodri Morgan recently asked the WDA to consider setting up 'hit squads' to offer help to companies experiencing difficulties.

The announcement by Marks and Spencer involves Baird's UK-wide operations and I understand that there are no plans for UK Government Ministers to meet with either company, since the decision is a commercial one for those two parties. Mr David Sieff, Chairman of the British Retail Consortium and a Director of Marks & Spencer Plc is due to meet Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in the new year, but I understand that this is to discuss retail pricing issues, rather than the Baird contract.

Rhodri Morgan has spoken to Bairdwear at length to clarify what the impact on employment in Wales could be. He has also discussed these issues with the GMB's full time official for the clothing industry in Wales. The announcement by Marks and Spencer to discontinue its supplier link with Baird from next autumn does not necessarily mean that the company's operations in Wales (which employ around 1,000 people) will close, because it will be actively seeking other outlets for its products. I understand that Baird will be concentrating on marketing its products on a more global scale, and this should help to secure its future viability and employment opportunities. Furthermore, Marks and Spencer may seek another UK supplier for the lines of clothing produced in Bairdwear's operation in Wales.

Rhodri Morgan and I are carefully monitoring developments with a view to assisting the company and its employees in whatever ways appropriate.

### **Bairdwear Redundancies**

**Michael German:** Has the First Secretary received any representation from West Wales and South East Wales TECs to deal with significant possible redundancies at Bairdwear factories? (WAQ1865VB)

**The First Secretary:** Following the decision by Baird to close its Pontardawe and Maesteg factories, Assembly officials agreed with South East Wales and West Wales training and enterprise councils to classify redundancies arising from these closures as 'significant' in scale relative to the local labour markets. This permits early entry to the work based learning programme for adults which helps long-term unemployed people to secure and sustain employment.

In addition, further rapid response measures have been agreed with the South East Wales TEC enabling flexible support packages to be made available to help Baird employees find alternative employment. Similar measures are being made available by the West Wales TEC drawing on European structural funding.

The packages on offer from the TECs include careers advice and guidance; help with gaining new skills; new employment; travel difficulties; childcare provision; and starting up in business.

Both TECs remain in close contact with the company about its future plans.

### **Local Government Bill**

**Jenny Randerson:** Has the First Secretary had any discussions with the Secretary of State with responsibility for local government about the inclusion of the repeal of Section 28 of the Local

Government Act 1988 in the forthcoming Local Government Bill? (WAQ1955VB)

**The First Secretary:** I have had no recent discussions with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions about the repeal of Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988. I support the Government's commitment to repeal this provision.

#### **Assembly Internet Site**

**David Davies:** Why is the National Assembly for Wales internet site hosted in Bath University? (WAQ2021VB)

**The First Secretary:** The contract for hosting the Assembly internet site rests with National Information Services and Systems, a UK wide organisation, located at Bath University. NISS were able to offer an extremely competitive price when the Welsh Office required a new internet service provider in the summer of 1998. This contract will cease on 31 March 2000 and we will shortly be issuing an invitation to tender for this service.

#### **New Assembly Building (Cost)**

**Glyn Davies:** Does the First Secretary continue to maintain that the estimated costs of the new Assembly building will be contained within previously stated budgets? (WAQ2022VB)

**The First Secretary:** As you are well aware, I issued a statement in October to Members setting out the current position on the development of the new Assembly building. The statement set out the design competition requirements for the concept design, including the functional specification and the cost limit of £12 million. The design of the building is being reviewed to reflect observations of Members and to ensure that the building will be fully accessible for people with a disability. I shall shortly convene a meeting of the Policy Steering Board, at which Party Leaders and the Presiding Officer will be provided with full details of the proposed design changes together with the latest financial estimates.

### **Questions to the Secretary for the Environment and Local Government**

#### **Parish Councils**

**Peter Black:** In the light of comments by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, reported in *The Sunday Times* on 3 October 1999, that the Government is considering abolishing parish councils, will the Secretary for the Environment and Local Government say what discussions have taken place on the future of community councils in Wales and whether Wales will have a distinctive approach on this issue? (WAQ1539VB)

**The Secretary for the Environment and Local Government (Peter Law):** There are no proposals to abolish community councils in Wales. The First Secretary spoke at the annual conference of the Association of Community and Town Councils in Aberystwyth on 9 October and took the opportunity to spell out the opportunities for community councils and town Councils to be fully involved in building a partnership approach in the new Wales. He pointed out that he recommended that their representatives on the Partnership Council be doubled and that the Assembly's endorsement of that proposal sends out a very positive message to community councils about their future role.

#### **Home Energy Conservation Schemes**

**Peter Black:** What provision and what funding is available to promote home energy conservation schemes in areas of high unemployment so as to help combat fuel poverty? (WAQ1566VB)

**Peter Law:** It is my intention to introduce the new home energy efficiency scheme for Wales in April/June 2000.

This scheme replaces the existing measures currently administered by the Department of the

Environment, Transport and the Regions and applicable to England and Wales designed to improve energy efficiency to families in receipt of low incomes. Fuel poverty is an issue that we take very seriously and this new scheme is designed specifically to help those people who are likely to live in the least energy efficient homes.

The new home energy efficiency scheme will be made available primarily to the private sector owner occupied and rented sectors in receipt of a range of 'passport' benefits. These include income based job seekers allowance, housing benefit, working families tax credit and disabled living allowance.

Consultation proposals published in July this year included a range of insulation and heating packages including loft and cavity wall insulation, gas room heaters with thermostatic controls and electric storage heaters. An enhanced scheme available to 'passport' benefit recipients over the age of 60 is also intended. Gas and electric central heating will be offered in addition to the measures outlined above.

Instead of just one main measure being offered, as is the case under the current scheme, recipients will now be provided with a package of insulation and heating measures to improve the comfort of their home.

The consultation proposals expressed a desire to link the scheme with youth training and employment via the New Deal, we are currently considering how this might be achieved.

As part of devolution arrangements a total of £15.3 million will be transferred to the Assembly to cover fuel poverty activities for the years 2000-02. It will be for the Assembly to consider how this money is utilised. The provision will be considered at part of the current budget planning round.

#### **Garden Refuse**

**Nick Bourne:** What representations has Peter Law received with regard to charges being made for the collection of garden refuse in Pembrokeshire, and will he publish them? (WAQ1589VB)

**Peter Law:** I have received a copy of a letter sent to the Editor of *The Western Mail* by a local councillor. It was published in the newspaper on 15 October.

#### **Holyhead Railway Line**

**Nick Bourne:** Is Peter Law proposing that electrification of the railway line to Holyhead should be a top priority for funding under Objective 1 status? (WAQ1818VB)

**Peter Law:** It is not for me to propose priorities for European funding. Decisions on applications will be for the monitoring committee to make. However, it is difficult to see how an investment of this sort could qualify since the electrification of the line within the Objective 1 area would only make sense in the context of the electrification of the same line outside the Objective 1 area in both Wales and England, neither of which are in any current programme.

#### **Local Authority Owned Vacant Dwellings**

**Peter Black:** What are the total number of vacant dwellings owned by each of the 22 Welsh local authorities as at 31 March 1997, 31 March 1998 and 31 March 1999? (WAQ1956VB)

**Peter Law:** Information on the number of local authority vacant dwellings is given in the following table:

#### **Number of vacant local authority dwellings as at 31 March**

	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998 (a)</b>	<b>1999</b>
Isle of Anglesey	105	41	59
Gwynedd	110	136	148
Conwy	47	75	71
Denbighshire	29	33	73
Flintshire	90	96	114

Wrexham	327	445	568
Powys	64	54	34
Ceredigion	27	55	33
Pembrokeshire	120	134	189
Carmarthenshire	170	260	428
Swansea	445	533	738
Neath Port Talbot	230	357	348
Bridgend	467	529	549
The Vale of Glamorgan	117	131	55
Cardiff	621	547	572
Rhondda Cynon Taff	512	580	734
Merthyr Tydfil	238	322	396
Caerphilly	212	249	357
Blaenau Gwent	181	284	369
Torfaen	332	295	271
Monmouthshire	29	37	28
Newport	249	229	341
Wales	4,722	5,422	6,475

(a) = Includes estimates for Vale of Glamorgan

#### Welsh Office Owned Vacant Dwellings

**Peter Black:** What are the total number of vacant dwellings owned by the Welsh Office as at 31 March 1997, 31 March 1998 and 31 March 1999? (WAQ1957VB)

**Peter Law:** The number of vacant dwellings owned by the Welsh Office on those dates is as follows:

31 March 1997 = 33

31 March 1998 = 17

31 March 1999 = 18

These dwellings were acquired for future road schemes. Dependent on the timescale of such schemes they are let, demolished or sold in cases where the properties are no longer required.

#### RSL Owned Vacant Dwellings

**Peter Black:** What is the total number of vacant dwellings owned by each of the registered social landlords or their equivalent, as at 31 March 1997, 31 March 1998 and 31 March 1999? (WAQ1959VB)

**Peter Law:** Information about the number of vacant registered social landlord dwellings is only collected for those RSLs within the performance indicator system. Performance indicators for RSLs are collected by the Assembly and cover RSLs responsible for over 90 per cent of RSL owned dwellings. The 1999 figures are not yet available. The available information is given in the following table:

#### Number of vacant registered social landlord dwellings as at 31 March

1997

1998



Aelwyd	-	7
Baneswell	.	.
Bro Myrddin	5	1
Cadwyn	34	17
Cantref	17	14
Cardiff Community	9	59
Charter	8	27
Clwyd	30	12
Clwyd Alyn	25	34
Cynon Taf	4	18
Dewi Sant	23	14
Eastern Valley	1	2
Eryri	21	10
Family (Wales)	11	23
First Choice	-	-
Glamorgan and Gwent	98	47
Gwalia	42	143
Gwerin (Cymru)	5	30
Hafan	1	-
Hafod	1	1
Merthyr Tydfil	5	63
Mid Wales	2	6
Newtown	.	-
Newydd	83	98
North Wales	-	2
Pembrokeshire	3	3
Pontypridd and District	3	-
Rhondda	5	7
Swansea	23	12
Taff	23	3
Trothwy	-	-
United Welsh	35	38
Wales and West	21	92
Wales	538	783

- = *Not applicable*

### **Greenhouse Gases Reduction**

**Alun Cairns:** What action is Peter Law planning to take in meeting the greenhouse gases reduction in relation to the Kyoto agreement in 1997? (WAQ1970VB)

**Peter Law:** The Assembly is committed to playing its part to help develop and deliver a new climate change programme. We are working in partnership with the UK Government, the Scottish Executive and the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland, on the development of a draft climate change programme. This sets out how the UK will achieve its Kyoto target and move towards its domestic goal and public consultation on the draft will take place in the new year.

**Ailgylchu Gwastraff**

**Dafydd Wigley:** Pa gamau a gymerwyd gan Peter Law hyd yma i sefydlu gwell gyfundrefn o ailgylchu gwastraff yng Nghymru, ac a wnaiff ef gais i ddefnyddio cronfeydd strwythurol o Ewrop yn y flwyddyn 2000-01 i'r perwyl hwn? (WAQ1977VB)

**Peter Law:** Mae ailgylchu yn ystyriaeth bwysig wrth ddatblygu strategaeth gwastraff gynaliadwy i Gymru. Ysgrifennodd y Prif Ysgrifennydd at arweinwyr cynghorau ym mis Awst i bwysleisio mor bwysig oedd hi i gadw'u cynlluniau ailgylchu yn gyfoes ac i bwysleisio hefyd y cyfraniad y gallai'r sector gwirfoddol ei chwarae. Yr wyf yn cymryd pob cyfle i ategu'r neges hon.

O fewn y rhaglenni newydd sy'n cael eu datblygu, bydd yna fesurau penodol i hybu cynlluniau rheoli gwastraff a mater i'r noddwyr fydd cynnig projectau cymwys ac ymgeisio am yr arian strwythurol sydd ar gael.

### **Recycling Waste**

**Dafydd Wigley:** What action has Peter Law so far taken to establish an improved system for recycling waste in Wales; and will he apply for European structural funds for the years 2000-01 to support such improvement? (WAQ1977VB)

**Peter Law:** Recycling has a crucial role in the development of a sustainable waste strategy for Wales. The First Secretary wrote to council leaders in August, stressing the importance of keeping recycling plans up-to-date and emphasising the significant contribution that can be made by the voluntary sector. I take every opportunity to reinforce this message.

Within the new programmes currently being developed, there will be specific measures to support waste management and it will be for potential sponsors to bring forward eligible projects to access the available structural funds.

### **Gwasanaeth Trenau rhwng Gogledd a De Cymru (Cwmnïau Rheilffyrdd)**

**Dafydd Wigley:** A wnaiff Peter Law drefnu i'w adran gysylltu â chwmnïau rheilffyrdd gan gynnwys Central Trains, Northwestern Trains, First Great Western, DSW Swansea a chwmnïau priodol eraill, i sefydlu a oes ganddynt ddiddordeb ai peidio mewn rhedeg gwasanaethau trên rhwng gogledd a de Cymru? (WAQ1980VB)

**Peter Law:** Yr wyf eisoes wedi ysgrifennu at y cwmnïau trên, trwy'r Association of Train Operating Companies, i ofyn iddynt am eu barn am y ddarpariaeth bresennol a'r posibiladau ar gyfer eu hymestyn ac ar gyfer gwella'r gwasanaeth yn gyffredinol. Byddwn yn disgwyl i'w hymateb ymdrin â'r cysylltiadau rhwng y de a'r gogledd.

### **North-South Train Service (Railway Operation Companies)**

**Dafydd Wigley:** Will Peter Law arrange for his department to contact the railway operating companies including Central Trains, Northwestern Trains, First Great Western, DSW Swansea and other relevant companies, to establish whether or not they would be interested in running a train service between north and south Wales? (WAQ1980VB)

**Peter Law:** We have already written to train operators, through the Association of Train Operating Companies, to request their views of current provision and the possibilities for further expansion and improvement of services generally. I would expect north south links to be covered where appropriate as part of their responses.

### **Gwasanaeth Trên rhwng Gogledd a De Cymru**

**Dafydd Wigley:** A wnaiff Peter Law ddatganiad ar y gofynion am wasanaeth trenau rhwng gogledd a de Cymru a fu'n sail trafodaethau rhyngddo ef a'r cwmnïau rheilffyrdd; a beth oedd y canllawiau o ran uchafswm y cymorthdal ar gyfer gwasanaeth o'r fath? (WAQ1981VB)

**Peter Law:** Ar 24 Mawrth 1999, cyhoeddodd y cyn-Is-Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, Mr Peter Hain AS,

y byddai'r Swyddfa Gymreig yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth gyda Fforwm Economaidd Gogledd Cymru i wella gwasanaethau rheilffyrdd rhwng y gogledd a'r de. Dyna oedd sail y trafodaethau a gynhaliwyd gyda Wales and West Passenger Trains. Ni chafwyd canllawiau o ran uchafswm y cymhorthdal fyddai ar gael ar gyfer gwasanaeth o'r fath, heblaw'r egwyddor bwysig y dylai unrhyw wasanaeth newydd roi gwerth yr arian. Nid oedd y cynnig gan Wales and West yn bodloni'r gofyn hwn. Ers hynny, mae First North West wedi mynegi eu diddordeb i ddarparu gwasanaethau ychwanegol ond nid ydynt wedi mynd â hyn ymhellach.

Rydym yn bwriadu rhoi tystiolaeth i'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol Cysgodol i gefnogi'n cynigion ar gyfer gwella gwasanaethau rheilffyrdd yng Ngymru, gan gynnwys y gwasanaethau rhwng y de a'r gogledd. Bydd yr astudiaeth o gysylltiadau cyhoeddus rhwng y de a'r gogledd a lansiwyd gennyf ar 9 Medi yn gyfraniad pwysig at y dystiolaeth hon.

### **North-South Train Service**

**Dafydd Wigley:** Will Peter Law make a statement on the demand for a train service between the north and south which formed the basis of his discussions with rail companies; and what guidelines were given with regard to the maximum subsidy available for such a service? (WAQ1981VB)

**Peter Law:** On 24 March 1999, the former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales, Mr Peter Hain MP, announced that the Welsh Office would be working in partnership with the north Wales economic forum, to improve rail services between north and south Wales. This was the basis for the negotiations taken forward with Wales and West Passenger Trains. No guidelines were set for the maximum subsidy available for such a service, save for the important principle that the additional services proposed should offer value for money. The bid from Wales and West did not meet this criterion. Subsequently, First North West expressed an interest in providing additional services but this was not pursued by them.

We intend to provide the shadow Strategic Rail Authority with evidence to support our proposals for improvements to rail services in Wales, including services between north and south. The study of north south public transport links, which I announced on 9 September, will provide a significant contribution to this evidence.

### **Carbon Dioxide Emissions**

**Alun Cairns:** What was the level of carbon dioxide emissions in Wales for each year individually from 1990 to present? (WAQ1982VB)

**Peter Law:** This information is not available at present. A report will be published shortly which provides details of historic emissions of carbon dioxide and the other greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol, in Wales and the rest of the United Kingdom for the years 1990 and 1995. The report will be in the same format as that currently used for the UK-wide greenhouse gas inventory. In future years, an inventory will be produced annually for each of the countries of the UK alongside the UK inventory.

### **Listed Buildings**

**David Melding:** What restrictions apply to listed buildings that are adapted for use as commercial leisure facilities? (WAQ2025VB)

**Peter Law:** Planning permission is required for the change of use of any building, including one that is listed. In addition, the consent of the local planning authority is required for any alterations to, or extension of, a listed building which would affect its special architectural or historic character. Conditions may be imposed but these will depend upon individual circumstances. Guidance on alterations to and usage of listed buildings is given in circular 61/96, a copy of which is in the Library.

### **A40 Upgrade**

**Nick Bourne:** What representations has Peter Law received regarding the proposal to upgrade the A40 at Travellers Rest, Johnstown, Carmarthenshire, particularly from householders in the area, and will he

publish those representations? (WAQ2026VB)

**Peter Law:** A public inquiry into the draft orders published in respect of the proposals was held on 5-7 October 1999, at which representations about the scheme, including 24 from individual householders, were put to an independent inspector. All correspondence received about the draft orders was available for inspection during the inquiry, and can be seen now at the Assembly.

The inspector will report his findings and recommendations to the Assembly for its consideration and its decision, together with the inspector's report, will be made public: it is anticipated that this will be in the early part of next year.

## **Questions to the Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development**

### **European Commission Discussions (Calf Scheme)**

**Dafydd Wigley:** Will the Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development list the dates and purposes of each of the meetings held between herself and European Commission representatives during September, to discuss the calf scheme that was passed by the Assembly on 15 September? Does she intend to make a detailed statement on the matter? (WAQ1613VB)

**Dafydd Wigley:** On what dates and for what reason did members of staff from Christine Gwyther's department visit a) staff at the European Union Commission in Brussels and b) staff at UKREP offices in Brussels, during September and will she make a statement regarding these visits? (WAQ1615)

**The Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development (Christine Gwyther):** Officials from the agriculture department kept in close touch with UKREP in September and October on the issue of the proposed calf scheme. There were informal contacts between Assembly officials and Commission staff on the issue in September; contact with the Commission was principally via UKREP. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and UKREP arranged for Assembly officials to meet Commission officials on 5 October to discuss the proposals, and I met Commissioner Fischler on 6 October.

### **Tir Gofal**

**Nick Bourne:** Has Christine Gwyther any intention of extending the Tir Gofal scheme to include more farms in its next year of operation? (WAQ1682VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** Funding available for Tir Gofal in the next financial year is dependent on the outcome of the budget planning round. I am hopeful that more farms will be able to participate in Tir Gofal in the coming year.

### **Statutory Right to Roam**

**Nick Bourne:** What discussion has Christine Gwyther had with (i) the National Farmers Union, (ii) the Farmers Union Wales and (iii) the Country Landowners Association regarding the statutory right to roam, and will she publish details of those discussions? (WAQ1683VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** I have met all three organisations recently but only in my meeting with the CLA was access to the open countryside discussed. When Mr Win Griffiths MP was Minister at the Welsh Office, he met the NFU, the FUW and the CLA in May 1998, as part of the consultation process on the Government's proposals for access to the open countryside. All three organisations submitted formal responses to the consultation paper. I do not intend to publish minutes of my meeting with the CLA.

### **Genetically Modified Crops**

**Nick Bourne:** When will Christine Gwyther publish the legal advice she has received regarding the possible independent action of Wales in relation to genetically modified crops, and a possible moratorium on commercial exploitation of genetically modified crops? (WAQ1684VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** I will be writing to Friends of the Earth shortly about the assertions contained in its paper on the powers of the Assembly in respect of the release and marketing of genetically modified organisms in Wales. A copy of my reply will be placed in the Library.

### **Calf Processing Aid Scheme**

**Nick Bourne:** At what stage did Christine Gwyther become aware of the attitude of the European Commission to a separate calf processing aid scheme for Wales, with regard to its likely illegality? (WAQ1685VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** We always knew that there were going to be legal hurdles to clear if the scheme was to be accepted and these hurdles were spelled out to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. But the signals given by the Commission to Eurig Wyn and to Labour Members of European Parliament seemed to indicate that there was a real possibility that approval might be given. It was only on 6 October that it finally became apparent to me that there was no prospect of getting approval for a scheme to operate in Wales only.

### **Meeting with Commissioner Fischler**

**Nick Bourne:** What arrangements were made to speak to Commissioner Franz Fischler regarding the separate Welsh calf processing aid scheme, and how long a meeting did Christine Gwyther request with him? (WAQ1686VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Will Christine Gwyther publish details of the meeting with Franz Fischler regarding a Welsh calf processing aid scheme? (WAQ1687VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Did Christine Gwyther raise the possibility of a resumption of live veal exports to Europe from the UK and specifically Wales with Franz Fischler when she met him? (WAQ1689VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** Arrangements were made for me to meet with Commissioner Fischler on 6 October, principally to discuss the possibility of a separate calf processing aid scheme for Wales. The meeting lasted one hour during which we also discussed a number of other issues of importance to Welsh agriculture including the continued refusal of the French Government to disallow the resumption of British beef exports to France. The resumption of veal exports from the UK was not specifically discussed. I reported the results of our meeting to the Assembly during the debate on the calf processing aid scheme on Tuesday 9 October.

### **Discussions with MEPs**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Christine Gwyther publish details of her discussions, if any, with Wales's Members of European Parliament regarding a Wales only calf processing aid scheme? (WAQ1688VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** I have had several discussions on this and other matters of importance to Welsh agriculture with colleagues in the European Parliament.

### **Live Exports**

**Nick Bourne:** Does Christine Gwyther have any plans to meet with Farmers Ferry Ltd to discuss the export of live animals? (WAQ1819VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** Farmers Ferry Ltd has not asked me for a meeting with regard to the export of live animals. Assembly officials are in discussion with Farmers Ferry Ltd about the possibility of support under the marketing development scheme to help it to introduce a more sophisticated marketing operation exclusively for Wales, which will include quality controls on the standards of animal husbandry, transportation and welfare provisions to establish a world class operation with a viable long-term future. I am undertaking many visits and meetings and look forward to meeting Farmers Ferry Ltd at some stage.

### **Welfare Arrangements**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Christine Gwyther publish details of any representations she has received regarding the stringency of welfare arrangements, and her response to those representations in relation to pig farming? (WAQ1820VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** That is a matter for the individual making representations unless it is part of a recognised consultation process where agreement to publish responses has already been obtained. In cases of responses to consultations e.g. the welfare of animals in transport, will be made available in the Assembly Library.

Since July this year, I have received several representations from organisations and individuals expressing concern about the state of the pig industry. The Government is supporting a number of measures to strengthen the market for British pig meat and to revive the industry. These include a number of European Commission proposals to introduce/extend market support measures in the pig meat sector, which will cost the EU budget £220 million in 1999.

#### **Average Farm Income**

**Nick Bourne:** What is the average farm income in Wales, what was it last year and what was it in the year previous to that? (WAQ1821VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** The latest information available is shown below and covers all dairy and livestock farms.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Net Farm Income (£000/farm)</b>
1995/96	23.2
1996/97	18.7
1997/98	11.4

This information is also available on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's web site at [www.maff.gov.uk](http://www.maff.gov.uk).

#### **Future of HLCA**

**Nick Bourne:** What discussions has Christine Gwyther had with Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food regarding the future of the hill livestock compensatory allowance? (WAQ1822VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** I have not discussed the reform of HLCA with Nick Brown. On 3 November, the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee made its first consideration of a paper outlining proposals for the new area-based scheme in Wales, which will be introduced in 2001. We are also consulting interested parties in Wales. England, Scotland and Northern Ireland are consulting separately on their proposals.

#### **Beef on the Bone**

**Nick Bourne:** What discussions has Christine Gwyther had with Professor Anderson of Oxford University regarding any risks derived from eating beef on the bone? (WAQ1823VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** None. I rely on the Chief Medical Officer for advice on beef on the bone. I am aware that the final findings from the Oxford group are being vigorously sought. Detailed questions on this issue were addressed in the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee meeting on 13 October 1999.

#### **Specified Risk Materials**

**Nick Bourne:** What discussions has Christine Gwyther had with Nick Brown regarding adopting the French method of removal of specified risk materials from sheep carcasses? (WAQ1824VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** I have not discussed adopting the French method of removing specified risk

materials from sheep carcasses with Nick Brown. French slaughterhouses remove SRM by either splitting the carcasses, the method used in this country, or by aspiration. We do not consider that the aspiration method is as safe because, without splitting the carcass, it is not possible to ensure that all SRM has been removed.

### **Regulatory Burdens on Farmers**

**Nick Bourne:** Does Christine Gwyther have a regular dialogue with Nick Brown and/or European officials regarding the need to ease regulatory burdens on farmers? (WAQ1825VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Does Christine Gwyther have any proposals that she is pursuing to ease the regulatory burdens on farmers in Wales? (WAQ1826VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** On 20 September the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announced a joint review of red tape. There are three areas that are being reviewed; slaughterhouse regulations, integrated administration and Control System and intervention procedures. Assembly officials have been in regular contact with their counterparts in MAFF regarding the review of the meat industry. I am especially pleased that Mr Robert Kennard of Graig Farm, Dolau, Llandrindod Wells is one of the members of the group, chaired by Mr Robin Pooley, which is looking at slaughterhouse regulation.

In addition, on 15 December 1998, the then Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Michael, announced a £16 million project which emphasised the Government's determination to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the administration of the common agricultural policy payments to farmers in Wales and to provide co-ordinated access to services and information on Assembly services to farmers and rural citizens.

This project will revolutionise the way in which the Assembly administers the common agricultural policy for the industry in Wales by reducing, as far as possible, the amount of bureaucracy associated with subsidy payments to farmers. It will also develop the agriculture division's three regional offices as 'one-stop' shops providing farmers and the public generally with computer access to all services from the Assembly.

### **Ban on Hunting with Dogs**

**Nick Bourne:** What discussions has Christine Gwyther had with (i) the National Farmers Union, (ii) the Farmers Union Wales and (iii) the Country Landowners Association regarding a possible ban on hunting with dogs? (WAQ1827VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** The NFU, FUW and CLA have not asked me for a meeting on this subject.

### **Calf Processing Aid Scheme (Extension)**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Christine Gwyther publish details of the response of Nick Brown to her request (if there was one) to make a separate application for Wales for a calf processing aid scheme extension? (WAQ1828VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** During his announcement on support packages for farmers on 20 September, Nick Brown made it clear that he did not see a need to re-introduce a calf processing aid scheme for the UK. However, he did undertake to facilitate an approach to the Commission to operate a scheme for Wales only.

### **Meat Hygiene Service Charges**

**Nick Bourne:** What discussions is Christine Gwyther having with Nick Brown, regarding the impact of meat hygiene service charges on abattoirs? (WAQ1829VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** Assembly officials and I have been in regular contact with our counterparts in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food regarding the impact of meat hygiene charges on abattoirs, particularly in respect of small/medium plants which constitute a large proportion of the meat industry in

Wales. I am especially pleased that Mr Robert Kennard of Graig Farm, Dolau, Llandrindod Wells is one of the members of Robin Pooley's group that is looking at slaughterhouse regulation, as part of the independent review of red tape.

### **Calf Processing Aid Scheme (UK Application)**

**Nick Bourne:** Has Christine Gwyther impressed upon counterparts in Government, the need for an application from the UK for (i) a UK extension of the calf processing aid scheme, and/or (ii) an independent Welsh scheme? (WAQ1830VB)

**Christine Gwyther:** Yes, I did this at the meeting of agriculture Ministers on 8 September.

### **Labelling of Animal Feed**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Christine Gwyther make a statement on the requirements governing the labelling of animal feed containing genetically modified crops in Wales? (WAQ1852JS)

**Christine Gwyther:** At present, there is no specific legislation requiring the labelling of GM material in animal feed. This is expected to be included in the forthcoming EC Novel Feeds Regulation. We continue to support the UK Government in pressing the Commission to bring these regulations forward as soon as possible.

Meanwhile the UK Government is exploring the possibility of voluntary national labelling arrangements with the feed trade, farmers and retailers and the Assembly will be involved in this.

### **Public Owned Forestry**

**David Davies:** Is it Government policy to allow public owned forestry to be sold off for development? (WAQ1862VB) *Transferred from the Secretary for the Environment and Local Government.*

**Christine Gwyther:** Yes. The Forestry Commission may sell land, including forests, which has development potential, where its sale will release significant capital that can be re-invested to produce greater public benefits.

### **Sale of Forest**

**David Davies:** Is it legitimate for Forest Enterprise to sell off forest for development? (WAQ1863VB) *Transferred from the Secretary for the Environment and Local Government.*

**Christine Gwyther:** Yes. Section 39(2) for the Forestry Act 1967, as amended, gives the Assembly power to dispose of the Forestry Commission land in Wales for any purpose.

### **Forest in Wales**

**David Davies:** Does Christine Gwyther have legal powers to overturn decisions by Forest Enterprise to sell off areas of forest in Wales? (WAQ1864VB) *Transferred from the Secretary for the Environment and Local Government.*

**Christine Gwyther:** Yes. Under Section 1 of the Forestry Act 1967, as amended, the Forestry Commissioners are required, in the exercise of their functions as regards Wales, to comply with directions given to them by the Assembly.

## **Questions to the Finance Secretary**

### **Spending (2000-01)**

**Peter Black:** Will the Finance Secretary list the spending pressures that fall to be funded by the Assembly in 2000-01 as a result of new statutory measures together with the extra central Government



grant (if any) allocated to Wales to meet those pressures? (WAQ1204JS)

**The Finance Secretary (Edwina Hart):** The budget planning round which is now underway will collect the information about the known pressures on the Assembly's budget for 2000-01 as a result of new statutory measures. The rules which govern the funding of the Assembly (section 8 of the Treasury document entitled 'A Statement of Funding Policy'), set out the circumstances in which the Assembly is entitled to an increase in its budget to cover such costs. In broad terms, if a Whitehall department receives additional resources to fund the new burden, then the Assembly will be entitled to an appropriate share. All new statutory requirements that fall to the Assembly to implement are examined to ensure that we receive any additional funding to which we are entitled.

### **National Museums and Galleries of Wales (Spending)**

**Peter Black:** How much was spent by the National Museums and Galleries of Wales on private sector consultancy in association with the relocation of the National Maritime and Industrial Museum to Swansea? (WAQ1445JS)

**Edwina Hart:** In 1998-99, the National Museums and Galleries of Wales spent £65,179 on private sector consultancy fees in connection with the National Maritime and Industrial Museum in Swansea.

### **Block Grant**

**Glyn Davies:** How much Welsh Office block grant was returned to the Treasury in each of the last 10 years? (WAQ1558JS)

**Edwina Hart:** Total Welsh block moneys returned to HM Treasury since 1994-95 are as follows:

	<b>1994-95</b> £ million	<b>1995-96</b> £ million	<b>1996-97</b> £ million	<b>1997-98</b> £ million	<b>1998-99</b> £ million
Returned to Treasury	30	17	12	10	9

Figures for 1989-90 to 1993-94 would only be available at disproportionate cost, because prior to 1994-95, the Treasury did not collate information on overall underspends by departments against block provision.

### **Annual Salary Cost**

**David Davies:** What is the total anticipated annual salary cost (excluding the standard AM salary) and the total anticipated annual cost of providing office facilities, support staff, cars and drivers for Welsh Assembly Secretaries, including the First Secretary? (WAQ1839VB)

**Edwina Hart:** The total annual salary cost of the First Secretary and Cabinet Secretaries, excluding their standard Assembly Members' salaries, is £331,185. The actual expenditure for the financial year 1999-2000 is expected to be £299,340.

The 1999-2000 running cost budget for the Cabinet Secretariat, whose scope includes support to Assembly Secretaries but covers other responsibilities and which includes the communications directorate and the policy unit, is £1,815,000. This excludes the cost of some facilities, such as office accommodation, which are not separately identifiable. The estimated cost of the car service, which is also available to the Presiding Officer, the Deputy Presiding Officer and the Permanent Secretary, for 1999-2000 is £115,399.

### **Council Tax**

**Jonathan Morgan:** Does the Executive's authorisation to levy additional council tax charges to compensate for failing councils, constitute a tax raising power for the Assembly? (WAQ1963)

**Edwina Hart:** There is no such decision. During consultation with local government we were asked to consider strengthening the 'damping grant' arrangements to protect people living in some of the poorest areas of Wales from an excessive rise in council tax. An option to bring about that outcome was put to the

Partnership Council and comments were invited from local government representatives. Decisions on the level of council tax are taken by local authorities, although the Assembly has reserve powers to limit the increases that they make.

The council tax damping arrangements do not exist to help councils because they are inefficient or to pay off their debts. We have damping to protect council tax payers from excessive increases in council tax, because there is a serious mismatch between budgets and standard spending assessments in some areas--a problem we inherited from the previous Government and which we are trying to address with local government. We hope that the need for damping will come to an end when a new standard spending assessment formula is implemented in 2001-02.

### **Stamp Duty Increases**

**Alun Cairns:** What is the additional cost to Assembly Operations as a result of recent stamp duty increases? (WAQ1972VB)

**Edwina Hart:** Nil. Under schedule 12 (25) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Assembly is exempt from stamp duty.

### **Difference in Money paid to Wales and back to the Treasury**

**David Davies:** What is Edwina Hart's estimate of the difference between the amount of money paid to Wales from central Government and European funds, and the amount paid back to the treasury in the form of direct and indirect taxation? (WAQ2013VB.)

**Edwina Hart:** The most recent year for which estimates of revenue raised in Wales has been made is 1994-95. In that year Welsh Office estimates were that £9.9 billion was raised from income tax, social security contributions, value-added tax and other revenues (including local authority revenues, which remain within Wales).

In 1994-95 total identifiable general Government expenditure in Wales (i.e. that expenditure of general government that can be identified from available records as having been incurred for the benefit of people in Wales) was £12.5 billion. This excludes any Welsh share of UK non-identifiable expenditure (e.g. defence, debt interest) on behalf of all UK residents even if the expenditure takes place in Wales (for example the Office for National Statistics at Newport). In 1994-95 the UK Government had a general government borrowing requirement of £47.9 billion, about 7 per cent of GDP.

## **Questions to the Secretary for Economic Development**

### **Offshore Wind Farms**

**Peter Black:** What is the likelihood of support being available from Objective 1 moneys to promote offshore wind farms? (WAQ1564VB)

**The Secretary for Economic Development (Rhodri Morgan):** The Objective 1 single programming document clearly provides the potential for renewable energy projects to be eligible for grant aid, where they will lead to demonstrable economic benefits. Support for specific initiatives will be dependent on their ability to meet all statutory requirements and provide good value for money.

### **Attracting Jobs to Ystradgynlais**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rhodri Morgan give details of what continuing efforts are being made to attract jobs to Ystradgynlais, notwithstanding the recent success in attracting Lyte Industries into the community? (WAQ1579VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** Sumitomo Electrical Wiring Systems will provide 100 jobs in a customer service engineering centre at Woodlands Enterprise Park. About 200 of the former employees of Lucas Varyty

have found alternative work. Lyte Industries forecasts the provision of 200 or more jobs at Ystradgynlais. Harlech Tool and Engineering will be expanding at Ynyscedwyn Enterprise Park as a result of help received through the Welsh Development Agency's lean manufacturing programme, which helped the company achieve supplier status to Sony. A company is expanding a warehouse facility at Woodlands Business Park promising 12 to 15 new jobs and Cwrt Enfys Nursing Home at Ystradgynlais has created 20 jobs and is likely to create more in due course. The Mitzui Kinzoku factory providing 200 new jobs at Capel Hendre near Ammanford is expected to have a labour catchment area partially overlapping that of the former Lucas SEI plant at Ystradgynlais.

The Amman and Swansea valley regeneration partnership, which draws together local authorities in the area as well as the Welsh Development Agency and others, continues to drive forward the encouragement of the growth of local businesses and the attraction of inward investment. An economic development strategy is being considered which will provide a multi-disciplinary study and strategic action plan. Ystradgynlais has been included in the United Kingdom's Objective 2 proposals for 2000 to 2006 to the European Commission. Subject to suitable projects being submitted, Ystradgynlais could be well placed to benefit from European Objective 2 funding.

There has already been success in providing new jobs in the area. The close co-operation and positive outlook of all those involved in seeking to regenerate the area, together with new opportunities offered by the economic development strategy and Objective 2 is likely to ensure that more jobs will follow.

### **Tourist Impact of Canals**

**Nick Bourne:** Has there been an assessment of the tourist impact of canals in Wales, and if so will Rhodri Morgan publish it? (WAQ1799VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** There has been no overall assessment of the tourism impact of canals in Wales. The Wales Tourist Board has supported a number of canal development projects, which have been assessed against their own grant criteria. Several canals in Wales have been refurbished to increase their capacity to attract narrow boat holidays and the more general attractiveness of the canal environment for leisure pursuits such as walking and fishing.

### **Promoting Welsh Industry**

**Nick Bourne:** What proposals does Rhodri Morgan have for promoting Welsh industry overseas this year? (WAQ1801VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** To help promote Welsh industry internationally, an expanded programme of trade missions administered by the Assembly has been set up. The programme includes the activities of the Welsh Development Agency's overseas offices and consultancy network; advertising campaigns in international business press; television commercials on long haul flights and joint working with the four motor regions on economic development matters are also relevant to this purpose.

Assembly officials are working with other public sector bodies and agencies to develop a co-ordinated approach to optimise opportunities and resources to raise the profile of Wales more generally, which will benefit Welsh products and services.

### **Treasury Funding for Objective 1**

**Nick Bourne:** How much additional Treasury funding from Westminster is anticipated will be committed to Objective 1 projects in its first year of operation, and when will such an announcement be made public? (WAQ1804VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** Paper EDC-08-99 (p.1) which was debated at the Economic Development Committee on 13 October 1999, sets out in paragraph 21 the likely funding requirement and source of funds to meet expenditure on structural fund programmes in 2000-2001. This excludes provision for the European social fund, which is the responsibility of the Department for Education and Employment.

### **Match Funds Shortfall**

**Nick Bourne:** If the Government falls short of committing the necessary additional match funds for the first year of operation of Objective 1 funding, which budgets does Rhodri Morgan anticipate will be top-sliced to make good the shortfall? (WAQ1805VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** We are confident that the estimate of likely expenditure in the first year of operation can be accommodated within the provision that has been set aside for this purpose, as a result of which the top-slicing issue does not arise.

### **Business Start-Ups**

**Nick Bourne:** In what ways is Rhodri Morgan seeking to ensure that business start-ups in Wales are given a competitive edge over business start-ups in England? (WAQ1806VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** The key objective of the new business starts programme, managed by the training and enterprise councils in Wales, and related initiatives, is to help ensure that new ventures are soundly based with a well worked out business plan, appropriate financial backing, skills training, mentoring and counselling. This range of support aims to ensure that as many as possible of the new start-ups are competitive with other existing firms and remain so through the difficult initial years of trading. New ventures need to be competitive in their own right and relative to new starts in England, and increasingly on a global basis, given developments in e-commerce and related technology.

### **Tourism (Pound Sterling)**

**Nick Bourne:** What representations has Rhodri Morgan received from the tourist industry regarding the adverse effect of the strength of the pound sterling on tourism and has he relayed these representations to Treasury officials at Westminster? (WAQ1809VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** Although this has, from time to time, arisen in discussions with those in the tourist industry, I have received no formal representations regarding the adverse effect of the strength of the pound.

### **Tourism (Price of Petrol)**

**Nick Bourne:** What representations has Rhodri Morgan received from the tourist industry regarding the adverse effect on tourism of the high price of petrol, and has he relayed these representations to Treasury officials at Westminster? (WAQ1810VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** Although the cost of petrol has come up from time to time in discussions with those in the tourist industry, I have received no formal representations regarding the adverse effect of the price of petrol.

## **Objective 2**

**Kirsty Williams:** Why have the areas of south east Powys been excluded from Objective 2 status? How was the decision reached and what criteria was used? Who made the decision? (WAQ1814VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** The submission to the European Commission of proposals for an Objective 2 map is the responsibility of the UK Government. In formulating his proposals, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry considered of advice from the Secretary of State for Wales, the First Secretary and me.

Within an envelope of total coverage of population of some 270,000, priorities were set having regard to levels of unemployment in combination with measures of high dependency on industry or agriculture and a decline in these sectors. For urban areas an index of local deprivation was used. In submitting our advice, the First Secretary and I sought to strike the best balance between coverage of disadvantaged urban and rural areas, having regard to these criteria.

### **Economic Activity Level in Wales**

**Alun Cairns:** What is the economic activity level in Wales compared to every other region in the UK?

(WAQ1952JS)

**Rhodri Morgan:** The latest available estimates for the economic activity level in Wales and other regions of the UK, for the June to August period 1999, are given in the table below:

Thousands, seasonally adjusted

Government Office Region/Country	Economically active <sup>1</sup>	
	Total	Rate (%) <sup>2</sup>
North East	1,182	73.7
North West	3,277	76.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,456	78.2
East Midlands	2,127	80.7
West Midlands	2,643	79.5
East of England	2,749	81.6
London	3,590	77.8
South East	4,128	82.9
South West	2,475	81.8
England	24,628	79.5
<b>Wales</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>74.1</b>
Scotland	2,474	77.0
Great Britain	28,433	79.0
Northern Ireland <sup>3</sup>	746	72.7
United Kingdom	29,176	78.8

Source: Office for National Statistics, Labour Force Survey

1. The number of persons in employment and the ILO unemployed.
2. The economically active as a percentage of all persons of working age.
3. Estimates for Northern Ireland are not seasonally adjusted.

### Research and Development Activity Level (Wales)

**Alun Cairns:** What is the research and development activity level in Wales compared to every other region in the UK? (WAQ1953JS)

**Rhodri Morgan:** Official figures on research and development activity levels are not available. Data from the Annual Census of Production show manufacturing R&D as a percentage of Gross Value Added. Figures for 1997 are published by the Department of Trade and Industry in *Regional Competitiveness Indicators* (July 1999) and are given below.

These figures are potentially misleading; they show where R&D activities take place but not necessarily where R&D is exploited.

Government Office Region / country	Business enterprise R&D for manufactured products, as a % of gross value added
North East	3.4
North West	6.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	2.0
East Midlands	5.1
West Midlands	3.7

East of England	18.6
London	5.9
South East	12.4
South West	7.3
England	7.4
<b>Wales</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Scotland	3.2
Northern Ireland	2.6
United Kingdom	6.7

### Level of Skills in the Workforce

**Alun Cairns:** What is the skills in the workforce level in Wales compared to every other region in the UK? (WAQ1954JS)

**Rhodri Morgan:** There is no composite index for the levels of skill in the workforce. The Labour Force Survey provides us with estimates of the attainment of academic and vocational qualifications by economically active people and these are given in the following table.

### Estimated levels of qualifications in the workforce, summer 1999 (1)

Percentage of economically active (2) people of working age qualified to:

	Level 2 or higher	Level 3 or higher	Level 4 or higher
Wales	68	42	24
Scotland	74	51	29
Northern Ireland	67	43	25
England	67	44	25
English regions:			
North East	66	41	21
North West	70	44	24
Yorkshire & Humberside	67	42	21
East Midlands	67	41	22
West Midlands	65	40	21
East of England	68	42	23
London	72	50	34
South East	72	48	29
South West	70	45	25
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26</b>

Source: Labour Force Survey (Office for National Statistics)

1. The levels indicated relate to the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) of that level or equivalent qualification.
2. Economically active means those people in work plus those who are unemployed and seeking and available for work.

### Control of European Social Fund (Negotiations)

**Jonathan Morgan:** Will the Secretary for Economic Development report on the progress of negotiations between the Executive and DFEE over the possibility of Wales gaining the management control of the European social fund in Wales? (WAQ1969VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** Discussions are currently taking place between officials of the National Assembly and

DFEE about the future arrangements for the financial management of the European social fund in Wales. The issues are complex, and there are difficult matters to resolve on both sides and I will be keeping the Assembly advised of progress.

### **Kyoto Obligations (Job Losses)**

**Alun Cairns:** What assessment has the Secretary for Economic Development made of any jobs that may be lost as a result of Wales playing its part in meeting the Kyoto obligations in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gases? (WAQ1971VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** The Kyoto Protocol recognises the need to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases if development is to be sustainable and improve our quality of life. The Assembly is working in partnership with the UK Government, the Scottish Executive and the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland, to develop a strategy to meet the UK's obligations and I expect there to be public consultation on this in the new year.

The long-term consequences of ameliorating climate change are expected to be beneficial for the prosperity of the people of Wales. The shorter-term implications for employment will depend on the mix of measures adopted, with initial potential for beneficial and adverse impacts, with particular concern for the potential adverse effects on energy intensive industries, of which Wales has a high concentration.

### **Closure of Businesses (European Legislation)**

**David Davies:** How many businesses in Wales have closed down due to European legislation since May 1997? (WAQ2017VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** Businesses fail for a variety of reasons, usually due to a lack of sales and/or orders and consequential financial problems rather than because of legislative constraints.

### **Inspection and Registration Scheme (Tourist Accommodation)**

**Kirsty Williams:** What plans does the Secretary for Economic Development have to introduce a compulsory inspection and registration scheme for tourist accommodation in Wales? (WAQ2033VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** The Wales Tourist Board launched its new voluntary star quality grading scheme last year and is monitoring its take up and impact on the accommodation sector. We shall consider the need for any further action once the scheme has had time to develop. The issue of a compulsory scheme is covered in the Wales Tourist Board's proposed new tourism strategy which is due to be discussed at an Economic Development Committee meeting on 17 November.

### **Input into Assembly's Policy Development**

**Kirsty Williams:** How will the Secretary for Economic Development ensure that individual operators in the industry will have an input into the Assembly's policy development in this area? (WAQ2034VB)

**Rhodri Morgan:** During the development of the Wales Tourist Board's proposed new tourism strategy for the years 2000-10 tourism operators were widely consulted by the Board and invited to attend tourism seminars held throughout Wales.

Their views have been fed into the strategy which is to be presented and discussed at an Economic Development Committee meeting on 17 November.

## **Questions to the Secretary for Post-16 Education and Training**

### **Lottery Grants (Museums and Art Galleries)**

**Nick Bourne:** What lottery grants have been received by Welsh art galleries and museums in each of the last five years? (WAQ991VB)

**The Secretary for Post-16 Education and Training (Tom Middlehurst):** Lottery grants to art galleries and museums in Wales are made by the Welsh Arts Lottery Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund. I have asked each organisation to write to you with details. I will place a copy of their replies in the Library.

### New Deal Options

**David Davies:** What is the number of people in each Assembly constituency currently enrolled in each of the following New Deal options (a) full time education and training, (b) voluntary sector, and (c) the environmental taskforce? (WAQ1198VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** The information is given in the following table. It relates to the New Deal for young people as at the end of July 1999 and is derived from new analyses carried out by the Employment Service at constituency level.

Numbers on the New Deal for young people in Wales as at the end of July 1999, by Assembly constituency:

Assembly Constituency	Full-time education and training	Voluntary sector	Environment Taskforce
Aberavon	18	8	22
Alyn and Deeside	8	6	17
Blaenau Gwent	28	21	16
Brecon and Radnorshire	11	9	10
Bridgend	22	10	17
Caernarfon	24	14	13
Caerphilly	27	11	43
Cardiff Central	21	21	8
Cardiff North	11	7	3
Cardiff South and Penarth	24	21	13
Cardiff West	11	17	10
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	34	5	9
Carmarthen West and South	30	13	13
Pembrokeshire			
Ceredigion	16	17	6
Clwyd South	12	6	15
Clwyd West	20	6	13
Conwy	39	18	19
Cynon Valley	32	15	13
Delyn	11	4	14
Gower	14	8	22
Islwyn	16	9	24
Llanelli	53	15	26
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	7	15	10
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	49	32	53
Monmouth	15	7	2
Montgomeryshire	8	9	1
Neath	18	8	26
Newport East	24	10	12
Newport West	20	11	19
Ogmore	13	5	19
Pontypridd	15	21	12
Preseli Pembrokeshire	24	30	18
Rhondda	26	27	14
Swansea East	20	12	24
Swansea West	32	15	23
Torfaen	20	19	19
Vale of Clwyd	26	17	23



Vale of Glamorgan	29	8	14
Wrexham	18	5	23
Ynys Môn	27	29	14
Wales (1)	885	545	680

1. In 24 cases the address was not recorded, therefore the total of the constituency figures shown will be slightly lower than the all-Wales figure that is given here.

### **Excellence in Music**

**Nick Bourne:** What bursaries and scholarships are available to Welsh youngsters for excellence in music? (WAQ1673VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** All Government funding for the arts in Wales is transferred to the Arts Council of Wales. Their management statement states quite clearly that it is for them to take decisions relative to the allocation and distribution of funds.

As regards bursaries and scholarships, the Arts Council presently provides support to individuals wishing to undertake post-graduate studies. In 1999-2000, nine awards have been made, from an initial 48 applications, totalling £18,460.

### **School Playing Fields**

**Nick Bourne:** How many school playing fields in Wales were disposed of in 1996, 1997 and 1998 and what is the Government of Wales doing to discourage schools from selling school playing fields? (WAQ1764VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** There are no centrally held figures on the number of school playing fields disposed of in Wales. There are a number of safeguards in place to protect playing fields and school lands in Wales;

- the Town and Country Planning (Procedure) Order was amended in 1996 to require local planning authorities to consult the Sports Council for Wales about planning applications that affect all playing fields;
- the Government policy in Planning Guidance (Wales) Planning Policy, advises local planning authorities to protect from development those open spaces with significant recreational or amenity value in urban areas.

A review of the 1996 Order, by the Sports Council for Wales in 1997, concluded that the turnover of pitches was low and there was a progressive net gain in quantity and quality. There is no subsequent evidence to suggest that the position has changed.

### **School Sports**

**Nick Bourne:** What is the Government of Wales doing to promote competition in school sports? (WAQ1765VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** On 21 October, Rosemary Butler launched the final phase of statutory consultation on the revised national curriculum for Wales. The proposals for physical education maintain games as a requirement of key stages 1-3. Key stage 4 sport, which includes competitive sports, is one of four activities from which two must be selected. These proposals will allow those who wish to participate in competitive sport to do so, whilst ensuring that those who are not motivated by competitive sports are able to participate in physical education which they find rewarding.

The Sports Council for Wales's role and plans for extra-curricular sport are set out in its strategy for Welsh sport and include, in particular, its dragon sport scheme. A copy of this strategy was sent to all Members in May 1999 and is also available in the Library.

### **Athletic Training Facilities**

**Nick Bourne:** What facilities are made available in Wales for training athletics at international level? (WAQ1766VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** There are 14 synthetic athletics tracks, with associated field event facilities in Wales that are used for training. A new national indoor athletics centre at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, due to open in January 2000 with the assistance of £5.56 million of Lottery funding, will fulfil the Athletics Association of Wales's main priority for national funding.

### **International Sport**

**Nick Bourne:** What bursaries and scholarships are made available to schoolchildren to enable them to compete at international level in sport? (WAQ1767VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** The main source of funding for schoolchildren to enable them to compete at international level is the Sports Council for Wales's elite Cymru scheme as mentioned in its strategy for Welsh sport. A copy of this strategy was sent to all Members in May 1999 and is also available in the Library. The Sports Council for Wales is supporting 120 Welsh athletes per annum to achieve their potential through the elite Cymru awards.

### **Visitors to Welsh Museums and Galleries**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Tom Middlehurst publish details of the number of visitors to Welsh museums and galleries during 1996, 1997 and 1998? (WAQ1768VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** Available data relates only to visitors to the National Museums and Galleries of Wales. The figures, which reflect the current closure of the Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum, are as follows:

1996-97	826,035
1997-98	738,790
1998-99	717,682

### **Museums and Galleries**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures is Tom Middlehurst taking to promote museums and galleries throughout Wales, particularly among young people? (WAQ1769VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** The National Museums and Galleries of Wales seek to involve children and young people in its activities in a number of ways: by mail-shots to schools and colleges; by holding open evenings for teachers; and through the preparation of curriculum-related material. Links have been established with youth organisations in Wales such as Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Scouts, Guides, and Brownies. Information technology has provided new ways of reaching and engaging with young people. The museum's web-site is growing in appeal and includes pages specifically aimed at children and young people. Project Cambrensis, a video-conferencing project funded by public/private partnership, will link museums with schools and colleges throughout Wales and beyond, in order to share collections and expertise. The museum also mounts highly popular exhibitions intended to attract younger audiences such as 'Megabugs', 'Animal Magic' and 'Secret Spaces'.

In addition, the Council of Museums in Wales promotes links between schools and its member museums, which cover local authority, independent and other non-national museums in Wales. The Council of Museums in Wales has funded education officer posts in selected museums to develop contacts between schools and local museums. Many museums in this sector provide guided tours and workshops for children on matters of local interest, carry out school visits and distribute loans from their collections for study by schools.

All museums in Wales will seek to involve children and young people in 'Museums Month' next May. This will be an opportunity to promote the work of museums and to draw up exciting and innovative events with specific appeal to younger audiences.

### **Free Access to Museums and Galleries**

**Nick Bourne:** On what date will entrance to museums and galleries become free in Wales to school children, and how will Tom Middlehurst seek to ensure that this facility is advertised as soon as possible? (WAQ1770VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** Entrance to the National Museums and Galleries of Wales is already free to pre-booked school parties. We are considering how to extend free admission to all children to the museum in the context of the current budget planning round and in the light of our manifesto commitment.

### **Hospitality and/or Membership of Cardiff County Club**

**Val Feld:** Will Tom Middlehurst give figures for any moneys expended in the Cardiff County Club by the National Museums and Galleries of Wales for membership and/or hospitality over the past five years? (WAQ1845JS)

**Tom Middlehurst:** I have asked the Museum's director to provide you with any relevant information direct and will arrange for a copy of his reply to be placed in the Library.

### **Delivering Post-16 Education and Training (Local Partnership)**

**Sue Essex:** Does Tom Middlehurst have any plans to encourage bodies in Cardiff, including schools and colleges, to form a local partnership to deliver Post-16 Education and Training? (WAQ1849JS)

**Tom Middlehurst:** Yes. I intend to encourage local publicity in every part of Wales. My officials are currently working up the criteria for the partnership incentive fund, which will make £7 million available over three years to projects that encourage collaboration between schools and further education institutions across Wales. Details of how to apply for funding will be published early in the new year.

### **Wales Millennium Centre (New Jobs)**

**Jonathan Morgan:** How many new jobs will the Wales Millennium Centre create? (WAQ1960VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** Wales Millennium Centre Ltd estimates that it will provide permanent work for over 350 people, of which around 200 will be new jobs. It also expects 1,000 people to be employed--at various times--during the construction programme.

### **Wales Millennium Centre**

**Jonathan Morgan:** Will the Finance Secretary cap the Assembly's financial contribution towards the building of the Wales Millennium Centre? (WAQ1978VB) *Transferred from the Finance Secretary.*

**Tom Middlehurst:** We have agreed to provide the Wales Millennium Centre with Assembly funding of £8 million over three years. We have no plans to increase that amount.

### **Student Drop Out Rates**

**Jonathan Morgan:** Has the trend of student drop out rates altered in Wales since May 1997? (WAQ1961VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** Information on student drop out rates in Wales since May 1997 is not available at present.

A new methodology is being introduced for calculating non-completion rates, to cover all UK higher education institutions, which will take into account the wider variety of patterns of student attendance, including students changing courses or institutions, repeating years, or leaving higher education for a year

or more before continuing their studies.

### **Student Hardship**

**Jonathan Morgan:** Will Tom Middlehurst commission a financial study into the current levels of student hardship? (WAQ1962VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** As the Assembly Member is aware, policy responsibility for the financial support of higher education students for both England and Wales rests with the Department for Education and Employment. The function has not been devolved to the National Assembly for Wales. DfEE is carrying out a review of hardship loans and access funds. The aim of the review is to look at both schemes to determine how funding can best be used to increase access to higher education from particular groups (e.g. mature students) and support students facing financial hardship in a timely and proactive manner.

DfEE has consulted widely and thoroughly with those in the sector, asking institutions, including those in Wales, to complete a short survey of how the two schemes worked last year. Visits have taken place to a cross-section of institutions, which included Cardiff, speaking to both administrators and students. DfEE has also set up an advisory group with representatives from the sector and the National Union of Students.

The DfEE Review reflects the Government's commitment to widening access to higher education. Changes already introduced for academic year 1999-2000 include increased access funds in England and Wales, the widening of the bursary scheme and the extension of fee remission to part-time students on benefits and from low income families. Any changes arising from the review will be implemented for academic year 2000-2001. Assembly officials are keeping in close touch with DfEE on the review.

As you already know, the Post-16 Education and Training Committee is to undertake a policy commission into higher education in Wales next year. This will no doubt give consideration to the wider issues of student support.

### **Management of Further Education Institutions (Additional Controls)**

**Jonathan Morgan:** Does the Government have any plans to introduce additional controls on the management of further education institutions in Wales? (WAQ1964VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** I have no plans to introduce additional controls on the management of further education institutions. The Further Education Funding Council for Wales is currently consulting on administrative measures to strengthen the financial management and governance of further education institutions, some of which will formalise existing arrangements. The revised arrangements are due to be in place early in the new year.

### **New Deal Jobs (South Wales Central)**

**Jonathan Morgan:** How many new jobs in the South Wales Central region have been taken up by 'New Dealers'? (WAQ1968VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** Employment policy is reserved to the UK Government, which takes the lead on funding and delivery of the New Deal. In Wales, it does this in partnership with the Assembly and contributing Welsh organisations.

No information is collected on the number of new jobs secured by New Deal participants. The New Deal is not a job creation scheme but a programme of individually tailored support to help young people into real and sustainable jobs.

The first analyses of the progress of New Deal participants by Assembly Constituency have been produced recently by the Employment Service. Information on the numbers entering employment (ie all jobs) have not yet been prepared but are expected shortly. I will arrange for a copy of this information to be placed in the Assembly Library as soon as it becomes available.

### **Further Education Corporations Order 1999 (Legal Implications)**

**Jonathan Morgan:** What advice will be issued to further education colleges on the legal implications of the Further Education Corporations (former Further Education Colleges) (Modification of Instrument of Government) (Wales) (No 2) Order 1999 particularly with regard to the dual responsibility of clerks to governing bodies of further education colleges and the Further Education Funding Council for Wales, and how will this affect the employment contracts of clerks? (WAQ1979VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** The modifications to Further Education Corporations' Instruments of Government were introduced on 11 October 1999, following consultation with the further education sector, and others, in Wales. I have not received any requests for advice on the modifications to further education corporations' instruments and articles of government, although I understand that the Further Education Council for Wales has answered a number of queries. The FEFCW is to consult with institutions on the optional requirements that the changes will place on clerks to corporations.

#### **Financial Support for Sgrîn**

**David Davies:** Will Tom Middlehurst meet with the Arts Council of Wales to discuss their financial support for Sgrîn? (WAQ2014VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** It is the Arts Council of Wales's own responsibility to decide on how to apportion its overall funds between individual organisations, including Sgrîn.

#### **Arts Council of Wales Funding**

**David Davies:** What is the projected funding for the Arts Council of Wales for each of the last three years? (WAQ2016VB)

**Tom Middlehurst:** This information is available in the published document 'Departmental Report 1999—The Government's Expenditure Plans', a copy of which is in the Library.

### **Questions to the Secretary for Education and Children**

#### **School Administrative Costs**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures is the Secretary for Education and Children taking to ensure that administrative costs within schools are kept to a bare minimum? (WAQ1656VB)

**The Secretary for Education and Children (Rosemary Butler):** The allocation of a school's budget is a matter for the governing body. It must demonstrate general adherence to the principles of Best Value in its annual budget plans and comply with local authority internal and external audit requirements. Governors' annual reports to parents must include details of how funds provided by the local education authority were spent.

I am committed to reducing the bureaucratic burdens on schools. Circular 22/98 'Reducing The Bureaucratic Burden on Teachers' issued in June 1998 by the Welsh Office contains guidelines designed to enable teachers to concentrate on teaching and learning. Work is in hand to review the circular and my officials will consult interested parties.

#### **Vacancies for Headteachers**

**Nick Bourne:** How many vacancies exist in Wales for permanent headteachers in Welsh schools, and how many vacancies existed for such posts in October 1997 and October 1998? (WAQ1657VB)

**Rosemary Butler:** Teacher vacancies in Welsh maintained schools are collected in January each year. The number of vacancies for permanent headteachers in Welsh maintained schools for January 1997, 1998 and 1999 are as follows:

**Number of vacancies for permanent headteachers in Welsh maintained schools at January each year:**

	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
All maintained schools (a)	25	29	16

*Source: STATS3 (formerly 618G)*

*(a) Includes grant maintained schools.*

**Spiritual Guidance for School Children**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to ensure that school children receive spiritual guidance? (WAQ1658VB)

**Rosemary Butler:** Pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development should be at the heart of every maintained school's educational and pastoral policy and practice. The current provision for religious education will be complemented by a new framework for personal and social education that has been prepared by the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales (ACCAC) and which will place an important emphasis on the spiritual and moral development of young people.

**Christianity and Christian Teaching**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to ensure that school children are aware of Christianity and Christian teaching as well as receiving a grounding about religious beliefs in schools? (WAQ1659VB)

**Rosemary Butler:** All maintained schools must provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development. Local religious education syllabuses must reflect the fact that religious traditions in Wales are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of other principle religions. Syllabuses must be reviewed periodically. Local bodies advise on religious education and collective worship and recommend new syllabuses. They represent faith groups, teachers and local education authorities.

**School Closures**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rosemary Butler publish details of the numbers of school closures in Pembrokeshire 1995,1996,1997 and 1998? (WAQ1661VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rosemary Butler publish details of the numbers of school closures in Carmarthenshire 1995,1996,1997 and 1998? (WAQ1662VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rosemary Butler publish details of the numbers of school closures in Ceredigion 1995,1996,1997 and 1998? (WAQ1663VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rosemary Butler publish details of the numbers of school closures in Powys 1995,1996,1997 and 1998? (WAQ1664VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rosemary Butler publish details of the numbers of school closures in Gwynedd 1995,1996,1997 and 1998? (WAQ1666VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rosemary Butler publish details of the numbers of school closures in Monmouth 1995,1996,1997 and 1998? (WAQ1668VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rosemary Butler publish details of the numbers of school closures in Conwy 1995,1996,1997 and 1998? (WAQ1669VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rosemary Butler publish details of the numbers of school closures in Denbighshire in 1995,1996,1997 and 1998? (WAQ1670VB)

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rosemary Butler publish details of the numbers of school closures in Flintshire in 1995,1996,1997 and 1998? (WAQ1671VB)

**Rosemary Butler:** The information is as follows.

#### School Closures Since 1995

Local Education Authority (LEA)	1995	1996	1997	1998
Flintshire	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0
Conwy	1	0	1	0
Monmouth	2	0	0	0
Gwynedd	0	0	0	0
Powys	4	0	0	0
Ceredigion	1	0	1	0
Carmarthenshire	2	0	2	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	7

#### Entrepreneurship and Enterprise

**Nick Bourne:** What efforts are being made to teach entrepreneurship and enterprise to Welsh youngsters in schools, and will Rosemary Butler promote this? (WAQ1674VB)

**Rosemary Butler:** As part of the national curriculum review, I wrote to schools and local authorities across Wales last week to inform them that I had accepted the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales's advice to introduce non-statutory frameworks for personal and social, and work related education. Both of these aim to better prepare young people for the world of work. In particular, the work related education framework, sets out opportunities for 14 to 19-year-olds to become involved in an enterprise activity. The framework, which will be introduced in September 2000, will support the work of the training and enterprise councils which already provide opportunities for young people in education to participate in activities to increase their awareness of business and enterprise skills. In 1998-99, for example, 249 schools and colleges in Wales delivered an enterprise activity and over 2,600 young people in 170 centres took part in young enterprise programmes. In this financial year (1999-2000), the Assembly is providing additional funding of £400,000 through TEC education-business links, primarily for the further development and expansion of opportunities to involve young people in activities that improve their understanding of how business operates and provide access to basic entrepreneurial skills.

#### Future of A-levels

**Nick Bourne:** Will Rosemary Butler make a statement on the Government of Wales policy regarding the future of A-levels in Wales? (WAQ1831VB)

**Rosemary Butler:** I refer you to the answer I gave to WAQ1031, a copy of which is below:

'GCE A-levels have a deserved and long established reputation for high quality and standards. We are committed to maintaining the quality and rigour of all qualifications. The recent results represent an excellent achievement by students and their teachers. Alongside other qualifications, like GNVQs and NVQs, A-levels form a formidable suite of qualifications that are recognised and valued by employers and higher education.

The consultation paper 'Qualifying for Success' set out our plans to add breadth to post-16 studies by broadening A-levels and promoting vocational qualifications, underpinning them with rigorous standards and key skills. Following on from that consultation we will be introducing, from September 2000, new AS level qualifications, revised A-levels and revised GNVQs, together with a new key skills qualification. These reforms will enable students to study broader programmes, combining academic and vocational studies, while maintaining rigour.'

## Local Education Authority Breakdown of Information

**Jonathan Morgan:** Is the information provided in the tables for WAQ1235VB available for breakdowns on a local education authority basis rather than on electoral regions, and if so, would the Secretary for Education and Children provide such information? (WAQ1861VB)

**Rosemary Butler:** The information on class sizes provided for the WAQ1235VB is available on a local education authority basis. Table 1 shows the average class sizes in maintained primary schools, by Key Stage by local education authority. Table 2 gives similar information for maintained secondary schools.

**Table 1: Average class size for registered classes in maintained primary schools by Key Stage and local authority.**

	Ordinary classes					
	Year	Key Stage 1	Key Stage2	Mixed Key Stage	All ordinary classes	All registered classes (a)
Blaenau Gwent	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26.9
	1998	28.5	30.1	29.0	29.3	27.9
	1999	25.7	29.8	28.4	28.0	26.4
Bridgend	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.8
	1998	29.3	30.5	30.6	30.1	28.7
	1999	27.2	29.7	27.2	28.5	27.2
Caerphilly	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.3
	1998	28.9	29.2	28.7	29.1	27.5
	1999	26.4	28.9	28.6	27.8	26.5
Cardiff	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.8
	1998	27.9	28.9	29.1	28.5	28.0
	1999	26.2	28.6	26.4	27.5	27.1
Carmarthenshire	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.8
	1998	22.3	23.5	22.2	22.9	22.6
	1999	22.6	23.9	22.8	23.2	22.9
Ceredigion	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.0
	1998	20.7	22.4	19.2	21.1	21.2
	1999	20.6	21.9	17.4	20.7	20.8
Conwy	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.1
	1998	26.2	27.2	23.2	26.6	26.2
	1999	25.5	27.2	21.9	26.2	25.9
Denbighshire	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.9
	1998	27.3	27.7	25.4	27.3	26.8
	1999	24.8	27.6	21.8	26.1	25.5
Flintshire	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.1
	1998	29.1	29.8	28.8	29.4	28.9
	1999	26.1	28.0	28.2	27.3	26.7



Gwynedd	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.5
	1998	25.1	25.0	22.6	24.7	24.2
	1999	24.7	24.9	21.0	24.1	23.8
Isle of Anglesey	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.9
	1998	24.0	24.6	22.7	24.2	23.6
	1999	23.0	24.2	24.4	23.8	23.3
Merthyr Tydfil	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.1
	1998	27.6	28.9	27.9	28.2	26.8
	1999	25.3	28.3	27.5	27.0	25.7
Monmouthshire	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.9
	1998	27.3	29.4	27.9	28.4	27.9
	1999	25.5	29.5	27.2	27.7	27.1

Source: Schools' Census at January each year

- a. Includes all registered ordinary, nursery and special classes

**Table 1: Average class size for registered classes in maintained primary schools by Key Stage and local authority (continued)**

		Ordinary classes					
	Year	Key Stage1	Key Stage2	Mixed Stage	Key All classes	ordinary	All registered classes (a)
Neath Port Talbot	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		25.1
	1998	26.3	26.8	25.9	26.4		25.3
	1999	24.6	27.1	25.3	25.8		24.7
Newport	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		28.6
	1998	28.4	30.1	29.8	29.4		28.6
	1999	26.0	29.3	27.9	27.8		27.3
Pembrokeshire	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		24.0
	1998	22.9	24.6	21.2	23.6		23.6
	1999	22.3	25.0	23.1	23.7		23.8
Powys	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		22.7
	1998	22.3	24.1	24.4	23.5		23.1
	1999	21.8	23.7	21.0	22.7		22.4
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		26.9
	1998	27.6	28.8	29.1	28.3		27.0
	1999	26.6	28.0	26.9	27.3		26.2
Swansea	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		26.1
	1998	27.3	28.6	27.2	27.9		27.1
	1999	25.4	29.1	26.9	27.3		26.3
The Vale of Glamorgan	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		26.8
	1998	27.1	28.6	28.8	28.0		27.3

	1999	25.6	28.2	28.1	27.1	26.3
Torfaen	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.6
	1998	28.8	30.4	24.2	29.2	28.0
	1999	26.5	28.5	27.3	27.6	26.7
Wrexham	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26.2
	1998	27.9	28.6	26.0	28.0	26.9
	1999	24.7	28.0	24.7	26.4	25.7
Wales	1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.9
	1998	26.7	27.8	25.8	27.1	26.4
	1999	25.1	27.4	24.7	26.2	25.6

Source: Schools' Census at January each year

- a. Includes all registered ordinary, nursery and special classes

**Table 2: Average class size for registered classes in maintained secondary schools by local authority (a)**

		Year 7 to 11	Years 12 and 13	All classes
Blaenau Gwent	1997	21.2	12.3	20.0
	1998	21.3	9.0	19.3
	1999	20.8	9.6	19.5
Bridgend	1997	22.9	13.8	21.1
	1998	23.0	15.8	21.7
	1999	22.9	11.7	20.7
Caerphilly	1997	22.1	12.2	20.8
	1998	22.1	10.4	20.5
	1999	22.5	11.2	20.9
Cardiff	1997	22.6	19.8	22.3
	1998	23.8	14.8	22.5
	1999	24.2	17.0	23.2
Carmarthenshire	1997	22.7	11.9	20.9
	1998	23.0	11.1	20.9
	1999	22.2	13.5	20.8
Ceredigion	1997	20.5	15.9	19.6
	1998	21.2	14.5	19.7
	1999	19.7	13.1	18.2
Conwy	1997	22.9	13.8	21.1
	1998	22.5	13.8	20.8
	1999	23.8	14.9	22.1
Denbighshire	1997	21.4	13.9	20.1
	1998	22.3	10.2	19.9
	1999	21.6	14.1	20.3

Flintshire	1997	22.9	12.2	20.8
	1998	22.5	11.3	20.1
	1999	21.9	11.5	19.8
Gwynedd	1997	18.7	10.9	17.8
	1998	19.1	9.5	17.7
	1999	19.1	10.9	18.1
Isle of Anglesey	1997	21.2	14.9	20.1
	1998	21.3	11.8	19.5
	1999	21.7	15.2	20.5
Merthyr Tydfil	1997	21.2	11.7	19.3
	1998	21.8	9.6	19.2
	1999	21.6	13.4	20.2
Monmouthshire	1997	21.9	13.0	19.7
	1998	21.0	17.0	20.2
	1999	22.9	15.8	21.2

Source: Schools' Census at January each year

- a. All figures relate to the size of teaching groups at a specific period in the school timetable on the day of enumeration.

**Table 2: Average class size for registered classes in maintained secondary schools by local authority (a) (continued)**

		<b>Year 7 to 11</b>	<b>Years 12 and 13</b>	<b>All classes</b>
Neath Port Talbot	1997	21.3	12.6	20.8
	1998	21.3	12.4	20.9
	1999	21.4	12.4	21.1
Newport	1997	22.6	15.4	21.4
	1998	23.6	12.4	21.4
	1999	24.0	12.2	21.8
Pembrokeshire	1997	22.4	13.7	20.4
	1998	24.2	13.5	21.5
	1999	23.2	12.1	20.5
Powys	1997	19.7	9.9	17.5
	1998	20.0	10.1	17.7
	1999	19.9	10.9	17.8
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1997	22.3	11.9	20.4
	1998	22.5	11.4	20.5
	1999	22.8	11.4	20.6
Swansea	1997	21.5	12.2	20.5
	1998	22.0	13.4	21.0
	1999	22.1	11.4	20.8

The Vale of Glamorgan	1997	22.4	16.4	21.4
	1998	23.9	15.3	22.4
	1999	22.9	12.5	21.0
Torfaen	1997	22.5	12.5	21.2
	1998	22.4	12.2	21.0
	1999	22.3	12.5	21.2
Wrexham	1997	22.9	7.2	21.8
	1998	22.9	8.6	22.0
	1999	23.7	8.6	22.7
Wales	1997	21.9	13.2	20.6
	1998	22.3	12.3	20.6
	1999	22.3	12.7	20.7

Source: Schools' Census at January each year

- a. All figures relate to the size of teaching groups at a specific period in the school timetable on the day of enumeration.

#### **Potential Wage Differentials (Performance Related Pay)**

**Jonathan Morgan:** How will Rosemary Butler address the potential wage differentials between deputy head teachers and teachers who are rewarded under the new performance related pay scheme? (WAQ1965VB)

**Rosemary Butler:** The Department for Education and Employment has put detailed evidence on pay reform to the School Teachers' Review Body, which will consider evidence from other statutory consultees before reporting back to the Secretary of State for Education and Employment. As part of this process, the School Teachers' Review Body has been asked to take into account the relationship of pay spines for deputy head teachers and the upper pay spine for classroom teachers when making its recommendations.

#### **Failure to meet Performance Targets (Teacher Support)**

**Jonathan Morgan:** What are Rosemary Butler's proposals to support teachers who consistently fail to reach nationally set performance targets? (WAQ1966VB)

**Rosemary Butler:** We have said that schools' decisions on post-threshold pay points will be informed by the outcomes of performance review. But pay decisions should not be restricted to the achievement of objectives set under the performance management framework alone. Objectives are very valuable to set clear expectations but by themselves will not necessarily cover the totality of a teacher's contribution. We must leave it to the discretion of individual schools' to judge whether teachers have shown the substantive achievements which merit increases in post-threshold pay.

The annual review under the performance management system is an opportunity for teacher and team leader to reflect on the teacher's performance in a structured way, to recognise achievements and to discuss areas for improvement and professional development. This should include identifying areas for development and how these needs will be met, and recognising personal development needs.

We intend to set out a clear framework for professional development which brings together all-Wales, schools and individual priorities to help all teachers to raise standards in the classroom and to progress within the new career structure. There will be a significant expansion in the programme of grants for education support and training which will total over £100 million during the next two years, excluding money for reducing class sizes.

## **Performance Related Pay Scheme Requirements (Loss of Hours)**

**Jonathan Morgan:** How many teachers hours will be lost when teachers are engaged in assessment processes to fulfil the requirements of the performance related pay scheme? (WAQ1967VB)

**Rosemary Butler:** The proposals for performance management build on existing best practice and systems. Teachers have the right to expect that their performance will be regularly assessed and that they will have a proper opportunity for professional discussion with their team leader about their work and their professional development. Appraisal arrangements have been in place for many years. Target setting, monitoring and evaluation arrangements are well established in many schools.

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

### **Waiting Lists**

**Nick Bourne:** What action is being taken to reduce waiting lists and waiting times in Wales? (WAQ1584VB)

**The Secretary for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt):** Projects running this year were described in the paper presented to the Health and Social Services Committee on 22 September, copies of which are on the intranet. This year £19 million has been made available to the health authorities on a recurrent basis to help them continue their work to reduce waiting lists. The Assembly is also funding a number of initiatives aimed at improving the management of waiting lists as part of a longer term approach which will include measures to improve the prioritisation of patients on waiting lists, the management of outpatient services and relationships between the NHS and other agencies.

The Health and Social Services Committee has commissioned a comprehensive strategy to tackle waiting lists and times to which all the parties in the Assembly and all the key stakeholders will have opportunity to contribute.

### **24-Hour Cover**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Jane Hutt promote measures to ensure 24-hour cover at all ambulance stations throughout Wales? (WAQ1690VB)

**Jane Hutt:** I have asked the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust to ensure that 24-hour ambulance cover is available throughout the whole of Wales. It is the trust's responsibility to determine the most appropriate method of providing this cover, either through the use of continuously manned stations, standby systems or the dynamic deployment of ambulances.

### **Friends of Leagues Hospitals**

**Nick Bourne:** Has there been any assessment of the financial contribution of the Friends of Leagues Hospitals throughout Wales, and if so, will Jane Hutt publish details? (WAQ1691VB)

**Jane Hutt:** Leagues of Friends of Hospitals makes valuable contributions, both financial and otherwise, to improve the quality of life of patients in hospitals. It is for Leagues, in discussion with its NHS Trusts to determine the level and form of contribution it makes.

### **Children's Hospital**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Jane Hutt publish a proposal she is putting forward for the establishment of a children's hospital in Wales? (WAQ1692VB)

**Jane Hutt:** The proposal to establish a children's hospital in Wales is being developed by the University Hospital of Wales and Llandough NHS Trust.

The Trust's proposal will be submitted to the Assembly for approval in the form of an outline business

case. Subject to approval being given, copies of the document will be available from the Trust.

### **Cardiac Waiting Lists**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Jane Hutt publish proposals for dealing with the growing problems of cardiac waiting lists in Wales? (WAQ1693VB)

**Jane Hutt:** Following a review of adult cardiac services across Wales, the Specialised Health Services Commission has recently submitted a report to the Assembly setting out its advice and recommendations for improving this service.

The Assembly has made £19 million available for the management of waiting lists recurrently from 1999-2000. This is part of a discretionary cash increase of £148 million to health authorities this year, which is 10.5 per cent more than in 1998-99.

The need for investment in adult cardiac services will be considered alongside other pressures and priorities. In 1999-2000, SHSCW has negotiated arrangements on behalf of all Trusts for Welsh patients to be treated at English centres.

### **Kidney Dialysis Treatment**

**Nick Bourne:** Will Jane Hutt give details of which hospitals in Wales offer kidney dialysis treatment, and will any additional hospitals offer such treatment in the year 2000? (WAQ1694VB)

**Jane Hutt:** This information is not collected centrally but we are aware that the following hospitals provide a haemodialysis service for treating end stage renal failure:

Ysbyty Maelor, Wrexham  
Ysbyty Clan Clwyd, Bodelwyddan  
Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor  
West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen  
Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil  
Morrison Hospital, Swansea  
University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff  
Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport

It is for each health authority to assess local health need and, working with providers of health care services and others, to plan and prioritise services to meet that need. The rate of provision per million population in Wales is better than for the UK as a whole and I understand that a number of health authorities are currently considering increasing provision further.

### **Healthy Lifestyles**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to promote healthy lifestyles in Wales? (WAQ1695VB)

**Jane Hutt:** A person's lifestyle has an important influence on his or her health. These individual lifestyles are affected by family circumstances, living and working conditions, and the wider cultural and socio-economic environment.

Action to promote healthy lifestyles is a key area within the Better Health, Better Wales strategic framework. A wide range of activity is taking place at local level throughout Wales. The following initiatives are currently being implemented through the Assembly:

**Tobacco Control:** The Assembly is undertaking a comprehensive programme of work to implement the tobacco White Paper in Wales. Full details of this were set out in my opening speech on tobacco in Plenary on 13 October, and are covered in my response to WAQ1698VB.

**Sexual Health Strategy:** A draft strategy for promoting sexual health and reducing the rates of teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections is due to be put to the Health and Social Services

Committee later this year.

**Food Safety, Standards and Nutrition:** The Food Standards Agency will work closely with the Assembly to promote healthy eating. The Food Standards Bill is expected to receive royal assent in November. Work in setting up the Food Standards Agency and its Welsh executive is well advanced. The Agency is due to be established during the first half of 2000.

**Drug and Alcohol Strategy:** The existing Welsh drug and alcohol strategy, 'Forward Together', is currently being refocused in the light of the new UK anti-drugs strategy. The refocused strategy for Wales will be launched early in 2000.

**Activity, Sport and Physical Recreation:** The Assembly works closely with the Sports Council for Wales, and provides funding support for the Council's core activities. The Sports Council's aim of 'Sport for All' is designed to promote good health by establishing recreational and competitive opportunities for all people within Welsh communities. The Council's current strategy 'Young People First' specifically targets the young and introduces a range of schemes designed specifically to encourage children's participation. I will be providing details of the Council's work with school-age children in my reply to WAQ1707VB.

**Mental Health:** The Assembly has convened two multi-disciplinary advisory groups to develop mental health strategies for adults, children and adolescents. These documents, which are scheduled to go to the Assembly early in 2000, will provide a strategic framework for mental health promotion.

**Health Promotion Strategy:** The health promotion strategy, which will be considered by the Health and Social Services Committee, will provide an overview of action to be taken to promote healthy lifestyles. The strategy will be followed early in 2000 by a three-year rolling health promotion action plan which will draw on the other strategies mentioned above.

### **Influenza Protection**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to ensure that senior citizens receive influenza protection this winter? (WAQ1696VB)

**Jane Hutt:** A publicity campaign to alert the public to the symptoms of influenza has recently been undertaken. In August, leaflets and posters were disseminated widely throughout the country to GP surgeries, community pharmacists, hospitals and citizens advice bureaux to advise on action to be taken to alleviate flu symptoms. At the same time, GPs were reminded of the importance of offering vaccination to those most at risk of serious illness from influenza including those of all ages with chronic respiratory disease; chronic heart disease; chronic renal disease; immunosuppression and diabetes. Recently, all those aged over 75 years have also been added to the at-risk categories.

### **Meningitis Protection**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to protect against meningitis, particularly amongst the young in Wales? (WAQ1697VB)

**Jane Hutt:** A comprehensive immunisation campaign to protect children against meningococcal C infection is underway. The vaccination programme has been targeted by risk factors primarily on an age basis. In the first instance, the vaccine has been made available to young people attending higher education. This phase of the programme is now near completion. The second phase of the programme, to commence early November, will provide for the protection of children aged 2 months to 17 years.

The introduction of this new vaccine to the childhood immunisation programme is a major achievement that will bring us one step closer to eliminating killer diseases.

As part of the ongoing routine childhood immunisation campaign parents and carers are reminded of the importance of awareness of symptoms to look out for against other strains of meningitis for which there is no vaccine.

## **Cigarettes and Tobacco**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to discourage use of cigarettes and tobacco in Wales? (WAQ1698VB)

**Jane Hutt:** The Government published the tobacco White Paper, 'Smoking Kills', last December as an indication of its commitment to tackle the tobacco epidemic. The White Paper has been widely welcomed because of its comprehensive approach to smoking issues.

Some of the measures in the White Paper are being implemented on a UK basis. These include:

- The Health and Safety Commission's consultation on a new approved code of practice on smoking in the workplace;
- A commitment to tobacco tax increases of at least 5 per cent per year;
- A major offensive against tobacco smuggling;
- Implementation of the EU Directive ending tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

As I indicated in my speech in the Plenary debate on tobacco on 13 October, a number of tobacco control initiatives are being developed in Wales which address the three key areas of activity outlined in the White Paper. In summary, these are:

Stopping children and young people from starting smoking:

- The re-focusing and extension of the 'Smokebusters' children's club project for 9 to 11-year-olds;
- The development of two secondary school prevention projects, the smoke-free class competition and tobacco action groups;
- Dissemination of new secondary school teaching materials on tobacco control;
- An awareness raising campaign on the risks of smoking;
- The development of briefing materials for retailers to support them in maintaining the law in relation to sale of tobacco products to young people under 16.

Helping young people and adults to stop smoking:

- The allocation of half a million pounds this year for the development of new smoking cessation services to be delivered through the NHS in Wales. This funding will be increased over the next two years, as services develop.
- A media-led smoking cessation campaign, the all-Wales quit and win challenge;
- The establishment of a freephone smoking cessation helpline;
- The establishment of a pilot adolescent smoking cessation project;
- Continued support for the UK no smoking day campaign;
- Creating a smoke-free environment;
- The development of a voluntary code of practice for smoke-free public places in Wales.

## **Excessive Alcohol Warning**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to warn the public of the excessive intake of alcohol? (WAQ1699VB)



**Jane Hutt:** The Assembly has developed and distributed a wide range of substance misuse prevention resources that include information on alcohol and the dangers of misusing it. Among them are ‘The A Files’, a CD size alcohol leaflet designed for 11 to 16-year-olds and ‘Alcofacts’, a booklet which points out the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption and gives guidance on sensible drinking.

Other measures include a financial contribution from the Assembly to the department of health for the operation of the national alcohol helpline in Wales and work in partnership with the Health & Safety Executive to promote awareness among employers of the dangers of alcohol misuse and promotion of the development of workplace alcohol policies.

### **Hypothermia**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to ensure that the public is aware of the dangers of hypothermia (particularly senior citizens) this winter? (WAQ1700VB)

**Nick Bourne:** How many deaths were attributable to hypothermia in 1996,1997 and 1998, and how is it intended to cut this figure? (WAQ1701VB)

**Jane Hutt:** The number of deaths attributed to hypothermia is as follows:

Year	1996	1997	1998
No. of deaths	27	14	26

*Source: Office for National Statistics*

*Note: Figures relate to deaths for usual residents of Wales where hypothermia is mentioned on the death certificate*

A number of measures are being taken to reduce these figures. These include a campaign run on behalf of the Assembly by Age Concern Cymru, disseminating important information about keeping warm in cold weather and targeted principally at older people and other vulnerable groups. The primary message of this year’s campaign is ‘Energy Efficiency’ and will include advice and information on how to keep home and self warm and how to get help to improve energy efficiency in the home. Helpline numbers will also be included along with a room thermometer.

The campaign is in two parts, an information initiative and a consultation and conference. The information initiative will consist of the publication and distribution of bilingual ‘Keep Warm, Keep Well’ booklets for older people and their carers, with cassette tapes for those with a visual impairment. The distribution will be widely spread around Wales, using Age Concern groups, statutory agencies, voluntary organisations, churches, energy agencies and the Wales Council for the Blind. The consultation and conference meets a recommendation from the previous year’s evaluation of the campaign for an all-Wales conference on fuel poverty and older age. It should engage a wide range of service providers and older people’s organisations throughout Wales and include a discussion of ways of reaching those older people most at risk of hypothermia.

This year’s campaign is grant funded by the Assembly to the sum of £40,000 (£35,000 for the information initiative and £5,000 for the consultative conference). SWALEC are funding the inclusion of the room thermometers to the sum of £10,200. The campaign is due to start soon. Additionally, Help the Aged are running a UK freephone telephone line with funding from the department of health to provide advice on winter warm topics including; diet, exercise, clothing, health, fuel debt, social services benefits, energy advice and details of the home energy efficiency scheme.

All health authorities in Wales are supporting these and other local initiatives.

### **Health Promotion**

**Nick Bourne:** How much was spent on health promotion throughout Wales in each of the years 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998? (WAQ1702VB)

**Jane Hutt:** Expenditure on health promotion in the years 1995 to 1998 is provided in the following table:

## Expenditure on health promotion in Wales, 1995-96 to 1998-99

	<i>£ millions</i>
1995-96	9.6
1996-97	9.1
1997-98	9.9
1998-99	9.8

*Source: Includes expenditure figures from annual accounts and financial returns of NHS Trusts, health authorities, Health Promotion Authority for Wales (health promotion programmes), family health service authorities and district health authorities 1995-96 to 1998-99.*

Available information is limited to expenditure on health promotion from NHS budgets. The review of health promotion arrangements in Wales recommended that an audit of expenditure in health promotion should be undertaken to establish a baseline of investment in health promotion resources and programmes by the NHS and local government. Work is in hand to develop an audit tool for this purpose.

### **Waiting Times**

**Nick Bourne:** How many people are waiting in Wales to see a consultant for more than 13 weeks before going on the inpatient waiting list, and how many were waiting in October 1997 and October 1998? (WAQ1703VB)

**Jane Hutt:** Not all patients who attend outpatient clinics require onward referral to the inpatient or day case waiting list. The total numbers of patients who wait over three months to see a consultant are shown in the following table.

Number of Welsh residents waiting over three months to see a consultant

	<b>October 1997</b>	<b>October 1998</b>	<b>August 1999</b>
Number Waiting	36,583	54,826	67,893

The Assembly has funded two out-patient management reviews to identify issues relevant to improving the management of out-patient clinics, reducing waiting times and improving the understanding and management of out-patient waiting lists. A guide explaining how trusts carry out their own reviews is currently being prepared and will be issued to the NHS later in 1999-2000.

### **Abergele Hospital**

**Nick Bourne:** Has Jane Hutt received any representations about the future of Abergele Hospital, north Wales, and will she publish those representations? (WAQ1704VB)

**Jane Hutt:** The future of Abergele Hospital is a matter for North Wales Health Authority. The Assembly has received one representation from Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust, in the form of a strategic outline case for the transfer of services from Abergele Hospital to Glan Clwyd Hospital. I do not intend to publish this document.

Proposals to change services substantially at Abergele Hospital, would have to be subject to formal public consultation by North Wales Health Authority.

### **Sport**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to promote sport amongst the young as a way of contributing to health and fitness? (WAQ1707VB)

**Jane Hutt:** Low levels of physical activity are linked to a range of illnesses including coronary heart disease, cancers, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, obesity and overweight, hypertension, osteoporosis, asthma and poor psychological health.

Only a quarter of adults in Wales currently meet the recommended levels of activity to maintain good health. Encouraging children to exercise is important for establishing habits that will persist throughout

life, and so ensuring that these recommended levels of activity are met.

Research has shown that most children enjoy sport or some form of physical exercise and that increasing numbers are participating in sport and joining sports clubs. The Sports Council for Wales is the national organisation responsible for developing and promoting sport and recreation in Wales. The Assembly works closely with the Sports Council, and provides funding support for the Council's core activities. The Council's current strategy 'Young People First' specifically targets young people, has clear targets for participation levels at various age groups and introduces a range of schemes designed specifically to encourage children's participation.

'Dragon Sport' and 'Clwb Cymru' are lottery funded schemes that are aimed at under 11 and under 16/18 age groups respectively. Local sports development grants are the main mechanism used by the Council to support and fund developments designed to increase the quantity and quality of opportunities for young people. For children who wish to progress to a higher level there are the centres of local development and centres of regional excellence.

A copy of the 'Young People First' strategy was sent to all Members in May 1999 and is also available in the Library.

### **Air Ambulance**

**Nick Bourne:** What use will be made of the air ambulance in Wales in the year 2000? (WAQ1708VB)

**Jane Hutt:** Under a prior arrangement, the regional police forces, RAF and West Midlands Air Ambulance Service currently respond to approximately two calls each week throughout Wales on behalf of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust. If the Trust is successful in procuring a dedicated air ambulance during 2000, I would anticipate a similar level of usage in that year, to be divided between the dedicated air ambulance and these existing external agencies.

### **Taxol**

**Lynne Neagle:** Which health authorities are funding the use of the drug taxol for ovarian cancer? (WAQ1756VB)

**Jane Hutt:** All health authorities in Wales fund the use of the drug taxol for ovarian cancer. On 25 October, the Secretary of State for Health and I jointly announced that we were asking the National Institute for Clinical Excellence to give priority to its work on cancer and to bring forward its appraisal of these drugs.

### **Solvent, Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to prevent solvent abuse amongst the young? (WAQ1757VB)

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to prevent drug abuse amongst the young? (WAQ1758VB)

**Nick Bourne:** What measures are being taken to prevent alcohol abuse amongst the young? (WAQ1759VB)

**Jane Hutt:** One of the key aims of 'Forward Together', the Welsh drug and alcohol strategy, is to prevent the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, including solvents, particularly among younger people. In support of that aim, a strategic prevention action plan for drugs and alcohol in Wales was published in 1997. This document recommended prevention activities by a wide range of agencies and professionals at a local and national level; highlighted the rationale for them; and identified the need to raise awareness of the effects of drugs, alcohol and other substances. A selection of prevention resources aimed at specific ages has been developed and distributed in Wales to support the strategic plan.

A refocused Welsh substance misuse strategy is currently being developed in the light of the new UK anti-drugs strategy. As with 'Forward Together', the refocused strategy for Wales will be concerned with

preventing any misuse--to stop people starting--but complemented by action to start people stopping. It will place the same emphasis on children and young people and cover drugs, alcohol and solvents.

### **Voluntary Agencies (Care for the Elderly)**

**Owen John Thomas:** Will Jane Hutt make a statement on the role of voluntary agencies in the care and treatment of the elderly, and what steps she is taking to promote their activities? (WAQ1832VB)

**Jane Hutt:** We recognise that voluntary groups play a vital role in the provision of services in the care and treatment of the elderly. Innovation, flexibility and their closeness to those who need the services are among their particular strengths. Where in the past the voluntary sector acted informally to fill gaps in provision, it is now increasingly the case that their services are provided within contractual agreements.

The National Assembly for Wales currently funds three older people's voluntary organisations and two carers' organisations. They in turn work in partnership with us in developing and promoting policy. Their work is promoted by the Assembly not only in the financial support we give but through consultation and regular involvement with these groups. We will continue to consult and involve those organisations and others.

We are seeking to build a real partnership with the voluntary sector through the compact, the Voluntary Sector Scheme and our proposal to establish a Voluntary Sector Partnership Council on which all the key parts of the voluntary sector will be represented.

### **Resignations of Surgeons**

**Dr David Lloyd:** Will Jane Hutt make a statement on the circumstances behind the resignations of two transplant surgeons at the University Hospital of Wales this week? (WAQ1874VB)

**Jane Hutt:** There is currently a UK-wide shortage of consultant surgeons in renal transplantation. The two UHW consultants have left for prestigious jobs elsewhere. Assembly Officials have recently held a meeting with the University Hospital of Wales and Llandough Hospital NHS Trust, the Specialised Health Services Commission for Wales and Bro Taf Health Authority to discuss action to attract suitable replacements and the concerns raised over the facilities available for transplant patients.

The service at UHW is not in immediate danger and it should be possible to maintain renal transplantation in Wales with the remaining consultants.

I am assured that all parties are completely committed to keeping this service operational and that urgent action is being taken to address the situation both in the immediate future and in the longer term.

I have asked to be kept informed of developments.

### **Responsibility for Cancer Policy**

**Dr David Lloyd:** In view of the appointment of Professor Mike Richards as the new 'Cancer Supremo,' with overall responsibility for cancer policy in England, does Jane Hutt know of any plans for a similar appointment for Wales? (WAQ1875VB)

**Jane Hutt:** This would not be appropriate as Wales has an effective Cancer Services Co-ordinating Group, led by Fiona Peel, which is accountable to the Assembly. The Group provides a sound mechanism to ensure that the implementation of the recommendations of the Cameron Report on Cancer Services in Wales, published in 1996, are carried forward in a co-ordinated and inclusive way with the active involvement and support of clinicians, management and patients across Wales.

### **GM Foods**

**Jocelyn Davies:** Has Jane Hutt read Dr Pusytins and Dr Ewen's report into the safety levels of GM foods? (WAQ1945JS)

**Jane Hutt:** A report by Dr Arpad Pusztai on the safety of GM potatoes was widely reported in the press

last October prior to the report being scientifically peer reviewed or published. The resulting exchange between Dr Pusztai and Dr Ewens and the Royal Society has been published in the *Lancet*.

I have not read the report as it has now been peer reviewed by the Royal Society, the Advisory Committee for Novel Foods and Processes and the Committee on Toxicity. All three concluded that the design of the study was inadequate and that the results do not support the contention that GM foods are unsafe.

### **NHS Staff Salary Reviews**

**Elin Jones:** Which categories of NHS staff are subject to salary reviews from the pay review body and which are not? (WAQ 1948JS)

**Jane Hutt:** The pay review bodies currently cover hospital and community doctors and dentists, general practitioners, nurses, midwives, health visitors and professions allied to medicine. All other NHS staff are covered by separate Whitley Councils.

### **Lung Cancer**

**Dr David Lloyd:** Given the recent announcement of £10 million to be spent on lung cancer treatment in England, can Jane Hutt make a statement on any plans for a similar initiative for Wales? (WAQ1949JS)

**Jane Hutt:** In Wales, we already have a strategic direction for cancer services, as set out in the Cameron Report, which we are implementing. Extra money is being made available to fill key gaps in specialist provision, which will amount to £3.5m in 1999-2000. As part of our plan to improve the quality and access to cancer services, we have established an All-Wales Cancer Trials Network with the Cancer Research Campaign and an All-Wales Cancer Genetics Services with Macmillan Cancer Relief. Plans are already in hand to ensure that the £9.75m which will come to Wales from the new opportunities fund are spent wisely. I have asked the health authorities in Wales to work together and make sure local communities, the voluntary sector and the NHS co-operate to develop innovative ways to improve cancer care in Wales.

### **Medical School for Swansea**

**Dr David Lloyd:** What representations has she received on the issue of a second medical school for Swansea? (WAQ1950JS)

**Jane Hutt:** I have recently received a letter from the Rt. Hon. Alan Williams MP supporting the proposal for a medical school to be established in Swansea.

### **Health Promotion Unit**

**Kirsty Williams:** Given financial pressures on many health authorities how will Jane Hutt ensure that Health Promotion Unit's work will be protected? (WAQ2032VB)

**Jane Hutt:** I am taking a close interest in action to promote health and well-being throughout Wales. The Review of Health Promotion Arrangements in Wales (1998) recognised the work of local health promotion units, and the skills and experience of their staff, in facilitating and supporting action to promote better health. The review made a number of recommendations to strengthen further the infrastructure and capacity to promote health in Wales. It is for health authorities to determine, in conjunction with their local partners, how best to develop the role of local health promotion staff and their deployment in support of local and national strategies to improve health. The introduction of a performance management framework, which was one of the review's recommendations, will provide a means of monitoring developments and outcomes of action to promote health and wellbeing.