

Answers issued to Members on 20 May 2008

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

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Questions to the First Minister

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the First Minister list details of all corporate hospitality he has accepted since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51759)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I am responding to the above questions on behalf of all Ministers. Since the publication of the revised Ministerial Code in June 2007 hospitality received by Ministers is not recorded centrally within the Assembly Government, but in accordance with paragraph 5.26 of the Code.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the First Minister list all details of overseas visits he has undertaken since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51761)

The First Minister: I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the above questions. The information is shown in the following table.

Overseas Visits - July 2007 to May 2008

Minister	Destination	Depart	Return	Reason for Visit	Estimated Cost (including accompanying officials)
First Minister	Brussels	27 September 2007	28 September 2007	EU Cohesion Forum	£1,263
	Ireland	13 February 2008	14 February 2008	British Irish Council Meeting	£350
	Brussels	25 February 2008	26 February 2008	Brussels St Davids Day Celebration	£896
	China	06 March 2008	09 March 2008	Ministerial Visit	£7,104
sub total					£9,613
Edwina Hart	Brussels	12 July 2007	13 July 2007	90th Anniversary of Battle of Paschendaale	£630
sub total					£630
Andrew Davies	Barcelona - Spain	14 November 2007	16 November 2007	REGLEG Conference	£1,096
	Ireland	08 March 2008	09 March 2008	Wales vs Ireland Rugby match - guest of Noel Dempsey Transport Minister	£295
sub total					£1,391
Jane Davidson	Brussels	19 December 2007	20 December 2007	EU Council Meeting	£1,800
	Monaco	21 February 2008	21 February 2008	Presentation to NRG4SD Network Regional Government for Sustainable Development	£598
	Brussels	02 March 2008	03 March 2008	EU Council Meeting	£1,740
sub total					£4,138
Jane Hutt	Brussels	26 March 2008	27 March 2008	Attendance	£1,708

				EARALL meeting	
sub total					£1,708

Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list details of all corporate hospitality he has accepted since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51722) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I am responding to the above questions on behalf of all Ministers. Since the publication of the revised Ministerial Code in June 2007 hospitality received by Ministers is not recorded centrally within the Assembly Government, but in accordance with paragraph 5.26 of the Code.

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list all details of overseas visits he has undertaken since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51723) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the above questions. The information is shown in the following table.

Overseas Visits - July 2007 to May 2008

Minister	Destination	Depart	Return	Reason for Visit	Estimated Cost (including accompanying officials)
Deputy First Minister	Brussels	11 July 2007	13 July 2007	90th Anniversary of Battle of Paschendaele	£1,158
	Brussels	27 September 2007	28 September 2007	EU Cohesion Forum	£1,263
	India	24 November 2007	01 December 2007	Trade Mission	£14,530
	Ireland	13 February 2008	14 February 2008	British Irish Council	£171
	New York & Boston	25 February 2008	02 March 2008	Ministerial Involvement in Wales Week	£19,425
sub total					£36,547
Rhodri Glyn Thomas	Barcelona - Spain	22 November 2007	23 November 2007	Cultural Tourism Conference	£444
	Brussels	14 February 2008	15 February 2008	Multilingualism Conference	£890
sub total					£1,334
Elin Jones	Brussels	25 November 2007	26 November 2007	Agricultural Council Visit	£872
	Dubai	23 February 2008	24 February 2008	Gulfood Show Exhibition	£5,910
sub total					£6,782
Brian Gibbons	Dublin - Ireland	13 February 2008	15 February 2008	British Irish Council Meeting	£425

sub total					£425
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Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): What discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government regarding increases in inflation in Wales? (WAQ51782)

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Responsibility for ensuring the inflation target, which is set by the UK Government is met, rests with the independent Bank of England.

Questions to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): How many school playing fields have been sold off by local authorities for development in Wales in each year since 1999? (WAQ51741)

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt): This information is not collected centrally. The Sports Council for Wales is consulted about any planning application for disposal of school playing fields.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list details of all corporate hospitality she has accepted since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51742) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51759.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list details of all overseas visits she has undertaken since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51743) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51761.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): What was the number of pupils excluded from school both permanently and temporarily during each of the last 5 years by local authority on grounds of behaviour? (WAQ51778)

Jane Hutt: The information requested is in the table in the file attached. Data are only collected on the number of periods of exclusion, and a pupil excluded more than once in a year will be counted more than once. The figures include all exclusions, as they are all deemed to have occurred on grounds of behaviour.

Questions to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list details of all corporate hospitality he has accepted since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51763) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51759.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list all details of overseas visits he has undertaken since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51764) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51761.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list details of all corporate hospitality she has accepted since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51756) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51759.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list all details of overseas visits she has undertaken since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51757) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51761.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list details of all corporate hospitality she has accepted since July 2007, and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51749) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51759.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list all details of overseas visits she has undertaken since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51750) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51761.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): When will the Agenda for Change Task & Finish Group be delivering its preliminary and final reports? (WAQ51777)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): As you are aware I tasked the Agenda for Change Partnership Forum Sub-Group (A4C PFSG) with taking forward the recommendations of the David Jenkins report.

The group met on 13th March 2008 for the first time since I formally accepted the David Jenkins Report. As a result that meeting the A4C PFSG set up two working groups to develop proposals for the implementation of the recommendations in the report, with the aim of reaching a conclusion on proposals for implementation by the end of June 2008, including an agreed timescale for implementation within Wales.

The working groups are looking at the following recommendations:

1. Establishing an NHS Wales Job Evaluation Unit and developing an All Wales mechanism for dealing with appeals relating to JE outcomes.
2. Developing protocols to fulfil the recommendations relating to pay protection and the variation of incremental dates in respect of leapfrogging.

The two working groups have developed initial proposals for the implementation of the recommendations in the report and reported progress at the meeting of the A4C PFSG on 15th May 2008. These were discussed with a view to the final recommendations being agreed as a result of the meeting of the A4C PFSG on 12th June 2008.

All recommendations from the David Jenkins review will be discussed with the NHS Staff Council and CEHR will be asked to review any proposals from an equality perspective.

Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): When did the Minister last meet management at the Wales Millennium Centre, and what was the outcome? (WAQ51701)

The Minister for Heritage (Rhodri Glyn Thomas): I last met the Chair and Chief Executive of the Wales Millennium Centre on Monday 14 April to receive an update on developments at the Centre, the Centre's plans for 2008, and the issues arising from them. It was agreed that a number of the issues discussed would be subject to further consideration by my officials and those of WMC.

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list all details of overseas visits he has undertaken since July 2007, and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51714) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51723.

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list details of all corporate hospitality he has accepted since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51720) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51722.

Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister provide details of the average farm income in Wales in each year since 1999? (WAQ51697)

The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones): The information is as follows

Average Net Farm Income in Wales 1999/00 – 2007/08 (current prices)

	1999/ 2000	2000/ 01	2001/ 02	2002/ 03	2003/ 04	2004/ 05	2005/ 06	2006/ 07 (p)	2007/ 08 (f)
Average NFI (£)	5,700	5,600	9,100	13,800	15,300	14,200	12,200	12,100	11,800

Source: Farm Business Survey (p = provisional, f = forecast)

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list all details of overseas visits she has undertaken since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51713) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51723.

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list details of al corporate hospitality she has accepted since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51719) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51722.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): How many hectares of forestry land have been planted in Wales in each year since 1999? (WAQ51753)

Elin Jones: The following figures refer to Welsh Assembly Government land only, managed by Forestry Commission Wales.

1 April – 31 March

1999-2000	1795 hectares
2000-2001	1433 hectares
2001-2002	1132 hectares
2002-2003	1184 hectares
2003-2004	1395 hectares
2004-2005	1342 hectares
2005-2006	1674 hectares
2006-2007	1672 hectares
2007-2008	figures available from 25 September 2008

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): How many hectares of forestry land have been cut down in Wales in each year since 1999? (WAQ51754)

Elin Jones: The following figures refer to Welsh Assembly Government land only, managed by Forestry Commission Wales.

1 April – 31 March (clearfelling)

1999-2000	2723 hectares
2000-2001	2423 hectares
2001-2002	2630 hectares
2002-2003	3097 hectares
2003-2004	2913 hectares
2004-2005	2179 hectares
2005-2006	1835 hectares
2006-2007	1863 hectares
2007-2008	1647 hectares

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the introduction of the Single Transferable Vote system for local government elections in Wales? (WAQ51712)

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): As you will be aware Peter Black has tabled a proposal for a Legislative Competence Order regarding 'The arrangements for the election of members of local authorities system and the electoral system by which they are elected'.

This forthcoming debate will provide an opportunity for all members to express their views.

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list all details of overseas visits he has undertaken since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51715) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51723.

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister list details of all corporate hospitality he has accepted since July 2007 and the estimated cost of each? (WAQ51721) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to WAQ51722.