

## Written Questions answered between 9 and 16 September 2004

[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

#### The Sixtieth Anniversary of the D-day Landings

**David Lloyd:** Further to your answer to WAQ36913, will the First Minister detail when was the decision made to decide who should attend the sixtieth anniversary of the D-day landings? (WAQ37352)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 11 August 2004.*

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** Confirmation of Edwina Hart's availability to attend was conveyed to my office on 12 May.

## Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

### The Commonwealth Games Council for Wales

**Jenny Randerson:** Has the Minister had discussions with the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales about proposals to bid for the commonwealth games? (WAQ37451)

**The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh):** It is the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales that formally bids to the Commonwealth Games Federation and I am aware that the council is currently considering the possibility of a bid from Wales to host the commonwealth games in 2014. I have not yet had the opportunity to meet the council to discuss this issue.

### Culturenet Cymru

**Peter Black:** What financial support is provided to Culturenet Cymru for the current financial year and the previous three financial years? (WAQ37455)

**Alun Pugh:** A sum of £500,000 this year, £600,000 in 2003-04 and £123,000 in 2002-03 was provided towards Culturenet Cymru's set up costs.

### The Welsh Heroes Website and Internet Poll

**Peter Black:** What financial support was provided by the Welsh Assembly Government to the Welsh heroes website and internet poll? (WAQ37456)

**Alun Pugh:** As I made clear in my answer to Glyn Davies on 19 January and to Nick Bourne before that, £154,000 was provided by the Welsh Assembly Government to support the contractual costs of running the Welsh heroes poll.

### The Welsh Heroes Website and Internet Poll (Correspondence, E-mails and Telephone Conversations)

**Peter Black:** Will the Minister publish all correspondence, e-mails and records of telephone conversations relating to the Welsh heroes website and internet poll? (WAQ37457)

**Alun Pugh:** I would be happy to publish information which is not subject to the exemptions in the Assembly's code of practice on public access to information. While we will publish all that we can, the request, as it stands, covers a large amount of information. It would help if you could provide details of any specific area that you are interested in. This is not to restrict the information provided, but to assist

officials in providing it more quickly.

### **The Welsh Heroes Website and Internet Poll (Value for Money)**

**Peter Black:** What arrangements are in place to ensure that the Welsh Assembly Government gets value for money from its funding of Culturenet Cymru and the Welsh heroes website and internet poll? (WAQ37458)

**Alun Pugh:** When Culturenet Cymru was established, the then Culture Minister approved its constitution and a three-year strategy and action plan. It was also agreed that the most effective method for the delivery of Culturenet Cymru would be via a consortium of ASPBs represented on Cymru'n Creu. It is a matter for those ASPBs to decide how Culturenet Cymru delivers on the objectives set out in its three-year strategy and action plan.

Given the investment made by the Welsh Assembly Government, officials are represented on Culturenet Cymru's board in an observer capacity. In addition, Welsh Assembly Government officials monitor and process Culturenet Cymru's financial activities on a monthly basis.

### **The Welsh Heroes Website and Internet Poll (Setting Up and Monitoring)**

**Peter Black:** Will the Minister detail the involvement of his officials, if any, in the setting up of and monitoring of the Welsh heroes website and internet poll? (WAQ37459)

**Alun Pugh:** Officials have an observer role on the board of Culturenet Cymru which oversaw the setting up of the Welsh heroes project. The day to day monitoring of the website and internet poll are operational matters for Culturenet Cymru.

### **The National Botanic Garden of Wales**

**Janet Davies:** Will the Minister make a statement on the future of Middleton—the National Botanic Garden of Wales? (WAQ37460)

**Alun Pugh:** On 22 March 2004, I announced a tri-partite funding package with the Millennium Commission and Carmarthenshire County Council to help support the garden's recovery strategy.

This strategy is based upon fundamental improvements at the garden and is now being implemented. The garden is making improvements to its management and governance—implementing a strategy for improved marketing activity and adding value to the attraction for visitors. The garden is focused on increasing visitor numbers and is operating in a more efficient way by maintaining a low cost base while increasing visitor income.

We continue to work closely with the garden and our public sector partners throughout this recovery

process.

### **Llywernog Mine, Ceredigion**

**Nick Bourne:** Does the Welsh Assembly Government provide any assistance to Llywernog mine in Ceredigion? (WAQ37464)

**Alun Pugh:** The Welsh Assembly Government is not providing assistance to Llywernog mine in Ceredigion through CyMAL, Cadw, Welsh Development Agency or the Wales Tourist Board.

### **Sporting Facilities in North Wales**

**Carl Sargeant:** Since 1999, how much funding has the Welsh Assembly Government provided to build, develop and improve sporting facilities in north Wales? (WAQ37483)

**Alun Pugh:** The Sports Council for Wales, an Assembly sponsored public body, plays a key role in developing and improving sporting facilities throughout Wales. Since 1999, over £10 million has been invested in over 80 capital based projects that have focused on improving sporting facilities in north Wales.

## **Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport**

### **Widening Eastbrook Road to Penarth**

**Alun Cairns:** Would the Minister make a statement on the background, purpose and objectives of the WDA's proposal to widen Eastbrook road to Penarth? (WAQ37377)

**Alun Cairns:** Would the Minister publish all the traffic data relating to the WDA's proposal to widen Eastbrook road to Penarth? (WAQ37378)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 18 August 2004.*

**The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies):** The WDA has no proposal to widen Eastbrook Road and has not owned any land or property in that area since 2001.

### **Business Eye Centre**

**Alun Cairns:** Would the Minister list the cost of administering each individual business eye centre? (WAQ37379)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 18 August 2004.*

**Andrew Davies:** The WDA will begin shortly the process of inviting competitive tenders to bid for contracts to provide locally business eye services with effect from 1 April 2005. To release the details of the value of existing contracts now could have a bearing on the outcome of the tendering process. The total cost of the current contracts is £2.83 million. In preparing for the new round of contracts, the agency will be reviewing the performance of the current contractors to ensure that the service remains effective and accessible.

### **Multi-modal Feasibility Study**

**Mark Isherwood:** Further to answer WAQ36648, when was the transport grant to support the multi-modal feasibility study awarded? (WAQ37386)

**Mark Isherwood:** Further to answer WAQ36648, over what timescale would the Welsh Assembly Government/National Assembly for Wales expect, or be required to be made aware of the results of the multi-modal study? (WAQ37387)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 18 August 2004.*

**Andrew Davies:** A sum of £150,000 was made available to Flintshire County Council on the 9 February 2000 as part of its 2000-01 transport grant settlement to fund the A541/A550 corridor integrated transport feasibility study. I understand that the study has been completed within a reasonable timescale and it is now a matter for the council to consider how it wishes to proceed. However, bids for new schemes (apart from the Safe Routes to School Scheme) have not been invited for 2005-06.

### **The 701 Trawscambria Service**

**Laura Anne Jones:** Has the Minister had any discussions with Arriva plc regarding the termination of the 701 Trawscambria north-south Wales coach service? (WAQ37388)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 25 August 2004.*

**Andrew Davies:** The Trawscambria service runs between Bangor and Cardiff. Arriva proposes to replace bus travel with train travel between Carmarthen and Cardiff, which is for its commercial judgement. My officials are in regular contact with Arriva, local authorities and the National Federation of Bus Users, which is discussing the proposals in detail.

### **Downsizing the Cross-country Rail Network**

**Laura Anne Jones:** What discussions has the Minister had on downsizing the cross-country rail

network and the effect that this will have on rail passengers? (WAQ37431)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 25 August 2004.*

**Andrew Davies:** The answer to your question is none. The Strategic Rail Authority announced on 6 August that a single tender deal it had been negotiating with Virgin Rail Groups to run the franchise until 2012 was significantly too high to pass the value for money test that it undertakes on behalf of taxpayers. It is a matter for the SRA to decide the next steps.

### **Environmentally Friendly Practices**

**Val Lloyd:** How are businesses being encouraged to 'go green' and use more environmentally friendly practices? (WAQ37446)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 10 September 2004.*

**Andrew Davies:** The Welsh Assembly Government works in partnership with a number of key organisations and service deliverers to both encourage and give practical support to businesses. The business and environment action plan launched during February 2003 signifies my commitment to this issue. The plan concentrates on business resource management and efficiency issues and is a means of co-ordinating and emphasising the considerable support service that is available to assist the business sector.

The Wales environment annual award is a good indicator of the progress that is being made, and, each year, the sectors are becoming more competitive and more diverse as shown in the need to expand the number of award categories. In relation to carbon emissions, the Carbon Trust, sponsored by the Welsh Assembly, provides direct support to the Welsh business and there are some good case studies available that help illustrate the benefits to business and the impact their programmes are having. The business and environment annual report, published in June this year, expands on these point and illustrates the various activities that have been on-going since the launch of the plan, a copy is available through the following website: <http://www.businessenvironment.wales.gov.uk/documents/beap-ar0304-e.pdf>

My appointment of an independent expert panel on resources management tasked with scoping future business needs post 2007 shows the importance that I attach to this issue and to its significant role in economic development.

### **The National Institute for Research into Aquatic Habitats**

**Nick Bourne:** Will the Minister advise what action the Welsh Assembly Government is taking to encourage the National Institute for Research into Aquatic Habitats to build the world's largest aquarium in Wales? (WAQ37463)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 10 September 2004.*

**Andrew Davies:** The First Minister and I have received a presentation of the NIRAH proposal, and will be giving them further consideration when the project's business plan becomes available.

### **Black Spot Level Crossing at Talwrn Bach**

**Lisa Francis:** What plans does Network Rail have to replace the dangerous black spot level crossing at Talwrn Bach near Llanbedr, Gwynedd and what plans does the Welsh Assembly have to ensure that this work is carried out? (WAQ37466)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 10 September 2004.*

**Andrew Davies:** This is a matter for Network Rail. It inspects all public road level crossings on a monthly basis and any crossing defects are reported and repaired by its maintenance team. Currently, it is fitting surveillance equipment at automatic open crossings that are locally monitored and Talwrn Bach is on its list for this financial year.

However, in line with Network Rail's assessment of the low level of risk at this crossing, there are no plans to install barriers.

### **The European Rail Traffic Management System**

**Lisa Francis:** How will the draft all-Wales Transport Bill impact on the European rail traffic management system? (WAQ37469)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 10 September 2004.*

**Andrew Davies:** The Strategic Rail Authority has confirmed that the initial phase of trials for the European Rail Traffic Management System will take place on the Cambrian coastline between 2005 and 2008. The draft all-Wales Transport Bill has no impact on these trials.

### **The Take-up of Free Bus Passes**

**Jenny Randerson:** What steps has the Minister taken to increase take-up of free bus passes by the over-60s? (WAQ37476)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 10 September 2004.*

**Andrew Davies:** In April 2002, a publicity campaign included television advert, posters and leaflets. A similar campaign marked the extension of the scheme to men aged 60 to 64 in April 2003. A series of

regional launches took place on both occasions. Dr Brian Gibbons will shortly be participating in local events to highlight the success of the scheme.

### **Community Transport Organisations**

**Jenny Randerson:** How many community transport organisations have expressed an interest in participating in schemes to provide free bus travel to over-60s as a result of the legislation recently passed by the Assembly? (WAQ37477)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 10 September 2004.*

**Andrew Davies:** The Bus Service Operators Grant (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004, which came into force on 31 July, made provision for the grant to be paid to operators of flexible bus services, enabling them to claim fuel duty rebate, and have no bearing on the provision of free travel for over-60s.

### **BT Telephone Kiosks**

**Lisa Francis:** How many new BT telephone kiosks in Wales are fitted with cash machines and payphones? (WAQ37495)

**Andrew Davies:** All BT telephone kiosks in Wales have payphones, but none are fitted with cash machines.

### **Broadband-enabled Multimedia Telephone Kiosks**

**Lisa Francis:** How many local authorities in Wales have funded the upgrade to broadband-enabled multimedia telephone kiosks? (WAQ37496)

**Andrew Davies:** No unitary authorities in Wales have contributed funding to install broadband to telephone kiosks in Wales. Any decision to upgrade BT telephone kiosks to broadband would have been a commercial decision made by BT alone and not as a result of any public sector intervention.

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

### **Vocational Qualifications**

**Carl Sargeant:** What action has the Welsh Assembly Government undertaken to raise the profile of vocational qualifications in Wales? (WAQ37493)



**Carl Sargeant:** Will the Minister make a statement on the most recent statistics issued by the Statistical Directorate regarding vocational qualifications in Wales in 2002-03? (WAQ37494)

**The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson):** Around 81,350 vocational qualifications were awarded in Wales in 2002-03. Due to improvements in the way the data are processed by the Department for Education and Skills, data for 2003-03 are not directly comparable with previous years. However, there is evidence to suggest that the recently published data, which also show 30,320 NVQ awards in Wales, represent an increase when compared to 2001-02, particularly in further education institutions. We are continuing to take a range of actions to further raise the profile of vocational qualifications. These include participating in a UK-wide programme of work which is looking at ways to improve how they are developed, delivered and funded, taking forward the 14 to 19 agenda, developing the credit and qualification framework for Wales, supporting the Wales union learning fund and supporting ELWa in its review of work-based learning. The overall context is set by our consultation document on the skills and employment action plan 2004, which was published in May this year.

### **Compensation Claims Against Schools in Relation to Extramural Outdoor Activities**

**Nick Bourne:** Will the Minister make a statement about compensation claims against schools in relation to extramural outdoor activities? (WAQ37504)

**Nick Bourne:** How much compensation has been paid by schools in relation to extramural outdoor activities in each of the last five years? (WAQ37505)

**Jane Davidson:** It is for schools to satisfy themselves that they have adequate insurance cover when planning outdoor activities. Information on compensation is not collected centrally.

### **Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside**

#### **Cwmni Cig Arfon (Grant Aid)**

**Brynle Williams:** Will the Minister make a statement on how much grant aid Cwmni Cig Arfon was awarded by the Welsh Assembly Government? (WAQ37488)

**The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones):** The Assembly has provided Cwmni Cig Arfon with a processing and marketing grant for the development of an added value meat processing facility. The project investment was £1,032,600 and received grant support of £413,040. The company has also received marketing development scheme grants totalling some £167,500 to help them develop an efficient marketing structure and to identify new markets for their added value products. All of these projects have been completed.

## **The Suckler Cow Premium Scheme**

**Glyn Davies:** How many applications under the suckler cow premium scheme have been affected by the rule that when any heifer calves down within the retention period, the Assembly Government must be notified of the replacements' identification numbers? (WAQ37490)

**Carwyn Jones:** Around 5 per cent (320 applications) of the 2003 suckler cow premium scheme applicants appear to be affected by the heifer rule.

### **Non-notification of the Replacement Heifer's Identification Number**

**Glyn Davies:** What sum of money has been retained from Welsh livestock farmers as a result of non-notification of the replacement heifer's identification number when a heifer has calved down under the suckler cow premium scheme? (WAQ37491)

**Carwyn Jones:** The amount of money lost to the farming industry in Wales as a result of the 2003 heifer rule cannot be easily identified from the resources currently available. The calculation is complex and would involve estimating, on a case by case basis, potential cash lost due to the removal of previously eligible animals and the need to take account of the impact of cross bovine penalties.

### **The Transfer of WEFO Jobs from Machynlleth**

**Glyn Davies:** What discussions has the Minister, or his officials, been involved in which could lead to the transfer of Welsh European Funding Office jobs from Machynlleth to any other location in Wales? (WAQ37492) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

**The Finance Minister (Sue Essex):** No discussions have been held on the transfer of WEFO jobs from Machynlleth. Work is ongoing under the location strategy to identify suitable functions to move to the new north and mid Wales offices and a further announcement will be made when decisions have been made.

### **Meirionnydd (Category of Less Favourable Area)**

**Lisa Francis:** What steps are the Government taking to ensure that Meirionnydd is not in the category of less favourable area? (WAQ37497)

**Carwyn Jones:** The vast majority of Meirionnydd currently lies within the less favoured areas of Wales. If you are aware of any reasons why this area should no longer be designated as LFA, I would be interested to hear them.

### **The Removal of Telephone Kiosks**

**Lisa Francis:** Does the Welsh Assembly Government have any input into guidelines for consultation processes drawn up by Ofcom on the prospect of the removal of telephone kiosks from Wales? (WAQ37498) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Economic Development and Transport.*

**The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies):** Regulation in this area is a non-devolved matter. However, I am making representations to Ofcom to emphasise the importance of maintaining comprehensive coverage of telephone kiosks in the rural areas of Wales.

## Questions to the Finance Minister

### Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (Labour Party Members)

**Lisa Francis:** Would the Minister list all the board members of Assembly sponsored public bodies who also happen to be members of the Labour Party? (WAQ37428)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 14 September 2004.*

**The Finance Minister (Sue Essex):** This information is not held. In accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointment's requirements, applicants for appointments are asked to declare information on political activity. This does not include personal or private information such as memberships of political parties.

### Seven Elements of the Crime Fund

**Peter Black:** Will the Minister provide details of the Welsh Assembly Government's expenditure on each of the seven elements of its crime fund—WAQ36919—for the financial year 2003-04? (WAQ37499)

**Sue Essex:** For the financial year 2003-04, the following allocations contributed to the crime fighting fund:

	£
Safer communities fund	3,393,592
Disaffection grant	500,000

Drug and alcohol initiatives	7,074,974
Domestic violence	1,428,539
Housing for ex-offenders etc	354,000
Total	12,751,105

## Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

### Additional Funding for Occupational Therapy

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** What consideration has the Minister given towards providing additional funding for occupational therapy to finance interpretation services? (WAQ37427)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 25 August 2004.*

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt):** The provision of all health services, including occupational therapy services, is the responsibility of local health boards. They must assess the needs of the local area and, working with NHS trusts, the voluntary sector and others, plan and prioritise their health services to meet that need within the resources available.

I am not aware of any particular issues concerning the funding of interpretation services within occupational therapy. If you are able to provide me with details of the specific issues to which you refer, please let me know.

### Wait Faced by Patient at UHW

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Will the Minister make a statement on the wait faced by Morag Redman on a hospital trolley at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff? (WAQ37454)

**Jane Hutt:** I was very concerned to hear about this case.

There is a great deal of work going on across Wales to reduce pressures on staff, to support them and ensure that patients are seen quickly. Accident and emergency department staff are on the frontline of healthcare and work under tremendous pressure. We are working with them to create better ways of working. For example, Innovations in Care launched the Welsh emergency care access collaborative in June 2004. This 18-month programme is focusing on primary care, accident and emergency and acute assessment and involves all relevant organisations working together to adopt methods to improve patient

access to emergency care services. This will ensure that patients receive the appropriate care in a timely manner in the most appropriate location.

I understand that the Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust is dealing with this specific matter through the NHS complaints procedure. As you will appreciate, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this stage.

### **Capacity within Existing NHS Dental Practices**

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Will the Minister make a statement on any plans to increase capacity within existing NHS dental practices? (WAQ37478)

**Jane Hutt:** The decision to increase capacity within an NHS dental practice is entirely a matter for the dental practitioner concerned. General dental practitioners are independent self-employed practitioners who are at liberty to choose whether they contract a proportion of their work time to provide NHS treatment on behalf of local health boards or not. They are also free to decide how many and which patients they wish to have on their NHS list.

The Welsh Assembly can offer financial assistance to dentists who are willing to make a sustained commitment to the NHS and who are prepared to establish new practices, or expand existing practices in designated areas, through the Welsh dental initiative.

### **The Compulsory Six-month Check-up Procedure for Dental Patients**

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Will the Minister make a statement on the need to reconsider the compulsory six-month check-up procedure for dental patients? (WAQ37479)

**Jane Hutt:** Dentists are expected to follow the advice on recall intervals from the National Institute for Clinical Excellence. Formal guidance on this subject is due to be issued to the NHS in England and Wales later this year. It is anticipated that the guidance will follow the principles that modern teaching advocates a minimal intervention approach which may mean that patients at low risk of disease are seen less frequently than now.

### **Waiting Lists to Register with an NHS Dentist**

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Will the Minister make a statement on the number of people in Wales waiting to register with an NHS dentist? (WAQ37480)

**Jane Hutt:** Data to show the number of people waiting to register with an NHS dentist are not kept centrally. However, as of 30 June 2004, 49.2 per cent of the population of Wales were not registered for treatment with an NHS dentist. This figure has remained at a constant level for some years. It is important to note that this includes a large number of people who choose not to register.

## **Grant as Aid Towards Affordable Housing**

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** What plans does the Minister have to introduce grants, to be made available to key workers such as NHS staff, as an aid towards affordable housing? (WAQ37481) *Transferred for written answer by the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration.*

**The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart):** I refer you to my answer to WAQ37434.

## **The Political Affiliation of Local Health Board Members**

**Lisa Francis:** Will the Minister make a statement on what information they hold on the political affiliation of members of local health boards? (WAQ37482)

**Jane Hutt:** I refer to my answer to WAQ37465 given on 1 September.

## **Tackling the Incidence of Strokes**

**Sandy Mewies:** How much funding has the Welsh Assembly allocated to tackle the incidence of strokes in Wales? (WAQ37484)

**Jane Hutt:** This information is not held centrally. Funding to tackle the incidence of stroke forms part of the overall financial settlement agreed with local health boards.

## **The Provision of Stroke Units in Welsh Hospitals**

**Sandy Mewies:** Would the Minister make a statement on the provision of stroke units in Welsh hospitals? (WAQ37485)

**Jane Hutt:** The Royal College of Physicians's sentinel audit of stroke services provided a view of health service provision for stroke patients in Wales. It found that we have provisions in place to treat patients effectively and suggests that some hospitals require stroke units.

The results of the sentinel audit will inform the development of the stroke standard—part of the national service framework for older people in Wales—to help make stroke services more efficient and consistent across Wales.

## **Supporting Stroke Patients in North Wales**

**Sandy Mewies:** Would the Minister make a statement on the work being undertaken to support stroke

patients in north Wales? (WAQ37486)

**Jane Hutt:** Work to ensure the development of effective stroke services is ongoing in north Wales, as it is across the whole of Wales. We are currently developing a national service framework for older people, which will include a standard for stroke.

Local health boards are developing integrated care pathways to help ensure that the treatment and care of stroke patients is effective and timely. Additionally, north Wales local health boards working with NHS trusts and other agencies have established partnership groups, as part of the service and financial framework for 2004-05 to undertake a review of current stroke service provision.

I have encouraged all local health boards to support the work of the Royal College of Physicians's national sentinel audit of stroke in Wales that will inform clinicians and those involved in organising stroke services on how they are performing against predetermined standards. I am pleased to report that the north Wales partnership groups are currently considering their participation in this work. The results of this audit will also influence the stroke standard of the NSF for older people in Wales. This will give direction and build on the specialist stroke services already in place and developing in north Wales.

### **The BSC Way Forward Review (Powys LHB)**

**Laura Anne Jones:** Has the Minister discussed with Powys Local Health Board proposals within the Business Services Centre way forward review that are not practicable for many BSC workers and could lead to the NHS losing staff? (WAQ37487)

**Jane Hutt:** I have had no discussions with Powys Local Health Board on this matter. I am aware that some members of staff have expressed their concerns about issues such as transport arrangements should some BSC offices be amalgamated and all of these points are being considered in the consultation process. Staff have also been advised to discuss their personal circumstances, in confidence, with their human resources managers.

## **Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration**

### **The Teen Challenge Project in South Wales**

**Brynle Williams:** Will the Minister make a statement on the planned withdrawal of Assembly Government funding from the Teen Challenge UK project in south Wales and the reasons behind this decision? (WAQ37489)

**The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart):** Teen Challenge UK has lodged an appeal against this decision, and until this has been fully considered it would be inappropriate to

comment further.

### **Budget Provided to Youth Justice**

**Peter Black:** How much has been budgeted by the Welsh Assembly Government for youth justice provision for each of the four financial years between 2003 and 2007 and from which budget head? (WAQ37500)

**Edwina Hart:** The Welsh Assembly Government does not make specific budgetary provision for youth justice, which is not devolved to the Assembly. The Assembly does have power to make grants for youth crime prevention purposes and some resources have been made available under the domestic violence services grant and the safer communities fund for this purpose. I refer you to my answer to WAQ37501.

### **The Domestic Violence Services Grant**

**Peter Black:** How much of the domestic violence services grant for each of the four financial years between 2003 and 2007 has been allocated for youth justice provision? (WAQ37501)

**Edwina Hart:** Amounts for youth justice contained within the domestic violence services grant were £133,000 in 2003-04 and £138,000 in 2004-05. It is not possible to comment on future years since the budget planning round is still in progress.

### **Questions to the House Committee**

#### **Plans for New Air Conditioning in the Current Assembly Building**

**Glyn Davies:** What plans are there to introduce new air conditioning into the current Assembly building and at what cost? (WAQ37502)

**The Deputy Presiding Officer (John Marek):** Air cooling units were installed in the milling and reception areas during August to provide cooling to those areas at a cost of £15,867 plus VAT.

#### **New Security Cameras in the Current Assembly Building**

**Glyn Davies:** What plans are there to introduce new security cameras into the current Assembly building and at what cost? (WAQ37503)

**John Marek:** In response to security advice, during the summer the Assembly building CCTV system has been upgraded to provide digital recording facilities at a cost of £284,943 plus VAT.



