

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 17 November 2009

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

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

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To ask the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister detail, separately, how many individuals in each North Wales local authority have successfully accessed ReAct funding in each month since its introduction. (WAQ55126) *Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Skills*

Answer issued on 18 November 2009

The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths): The number of individuals in each North Wales local authority area who have accessed ReAct funding in each month since its introduction is as follows:

	10/ 08	11/ 08	12/ 08	01/ 09	02/ 09	03/ 09	04/ 09	05/ 09	06/ 09	07/ 09	08/ 09	09/ 09	10/ 09	Total
Conwy	5	14	6	5	7	10	20	15	12	9	24	29	14	170
Denbighshire	6	2	4	3	11	9	14	9	11	17	12	16	15	129
Flintshire	22	10	18	30	53	51	57	49	37	47	34	28	43	479
Gwynedd	2	4	4	12	8	47	5	11	7	5	9	15	3	132
Isle of Anglesey	5	2	1	6	2	7	6	6	3	5	4	14	18	79
Wrexham	14	24	12	36	30	76	49	28	42	24	25	46	22	428
TOTAL	54	56	45	92	111	200	151	118	112	107	108	148	115	1,417

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister detail, separately, how many individuals and businesses in North Wales have successfully accessed ProAct funding in each month since its introduction. (WAQ55127) *Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Skills*

Answer issued on 18 November 2009

John Griffiths: The number of successful North Wales applications to ProAct for each month since its introduction is as follows.

[Please note that many companies have submitted more than one detailed training application and if the second falls in a different month to the first, then the total funding approved is indicated against the month that the first application was approved.]

	Businesses	Individuals	Funding
March 2009	1	25	£72,203
April 2009	1	20	£83,668
May 2009	2	200	£494,109
June 2009	4	280	£513,569
July 2009	3	551	£812,860
August 2009	2	24	£18,833
September 2009	4	51	£151,524
October 2009	2	7	£15,065
November 2009	1	7	£11,090

TOTALS	20	1165	£2,172,921
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Alun Cairns (South Wales West): Will the Minister give details of every investigation that Estyn has conducted into the Foundation Phase in the last 12 months. (WAQ55131)

Answer issued on 19 January 2010

Early in the New Year, the Chief Inspector will be publishing his annual report containing evidence gathered as part of the inspection cycle. This will include a commentary on the first year of the Foundation Phase roll-out. The annual report will be available on Estyn's website.

To ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister provide details on the number of staff employed in Environment Agency Wales flood defence teams in each of the last five years. (WAQ55130)

Answer issued on 18 November 2009

It is for the Environment Agency to determine what staff they employ in its flood risk management teams within Wales out of the £18.576 million pound revenue grant for flood risk management that I have allocated to the Environment Agency for this financial year.

The Environment Agency Wales has informed me that the number of staff employed in its flood risk management teams for the last three years is as follows:

2007/08 – 298

2008/09 – 296

2009/10 – 302

The Environment Agency is unable to provide figures beyond those dates at present.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Peter Black (South Wales West): Will the Minister confirm whether September 2009 represents the best performance in meeting targets for the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust since their inception. (WAQ55132)

Answer issued on 13 November 2009

I can confirm that September 2009 represented the best performance in meeting targets for the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust since their inception.

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): For each year since 2006/7 will the Minister provide figures on the number of times NHS premises were used for private purposes and the total amount of remuneration received. (WAQ55134)

Answer issued on 18 November 2009

This information is not held centrally.

Peter Black (South Wales West): Will the Minister confirm whether she intends to follow the example of the Secretary of State for Health and give patients the legal right to free private care if they do not get the treatment they need from the Welsh NHS within an 18-week period. (WAQ55135)

Answer issued on 23 November 2009

I do not intend to follow the approach set out in England.

The target in Wales is a maximum wait of 26 weeks from referral to treatment. This target will be achieved by the end of December. If a patient is not seen within 26 weeks, the Second Offer Scheme is still in place and a patient will be able to have their treatment at another hospital.

In England, although the maximum waiting time is 18 weeks, this is only for 90% of patients. For those patients not seen within the 18 week target, there is no maximum waiting time.

To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister detail, separately, the average cost of processing a single SFP (Single Farm Payment) claim in each of the last five years. (WAQ55128)

Answer issued on 23 November 2009

Rural Payments Wales' costs cover the administration of all Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) schemes jointly and cannot be broken down between schemes to show cost exclusively for the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). The average cost of processing a single CAP claim for the last 5 years is:

2009 - £304

2008 - £298

2007 - £303

2006 - £336

2005 - £343

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister provide a progress update on the Welsh Assembly Government's review of farm Red Tape. (WAQ55129)

Answer issued on 18 November 2009

An update detailing the progress made was published on 15 July and is available at <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/?lang=en>

One area where there has been marked improvement is in the joining up of inspections. For example Veterinary inspectors have been encouraged to combine their TB tests with Cattle Identification inspections carried out by the Assembly Government. To date 50% of large animal veterinary practises in Wales are now fully supporting this initiative. The Assembly Government and Animal Health (Agency) are working with vets to increase this percentage still further.

As a result of the review the Welsh Assembly Government is also working more closely with Local Authorities and the Farm Assured Schemes to improve the targeting of inspections to prevent duplication.

Other ongoing work includes measures to further simplify literature and application forms sent to farmers.

To ask the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): What funding does the Welsh Assembly Government provide for the Children's Bond, broken down by the level or levels of funding set and the criteria used to determine which children receive which level, and what plans does the Government have to increase or decrease these levels. (WAQ55133)

Answer issued on 18 November 2009

£4 million has been made available in 2009-10 and a further £2.5 million in 2010-11 to fund the Child Trust Fund Cymru Scheme. The Scheme aims to provide £50 for all eligible children and a further £50 for those children living in low income households.

In 2009-10 the Assembly Government will target those children born between 1 September 2002 and 31 August 2004 (the first children to become eligible for the UK wide CTF scheme). These children entered Years 1 and 2 in September 2009. Funding is also available for 2010-11 for children born between 1 September 2003 and 31 August 2004.

To qualify for the £50 top-up this financial year the child must:

- have been born between 1 September 2002 and 31 August 2004;
- already have a CTF account opened; and
- live in Wales.

Children who are claiming and eligible for free school meals will be eligible for the low income element.

Around 64,000 children will receive a claim form this financial year, with 52,000 eligible for the £50 payment and 12,000 eligible for the additional low income element.

There are no plans to increase or decrease the £50 or £100 elements available for each eligible child.