

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 29 October 2010

[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 Business and Budget

Nick Bourne (Business and Budget): Will the Minister make a statement on how much the Welsh Assembly Government has spent on first class rail travel in each of the last three years for a) Ministers, b) Deputy Ministers, and c) Officials. (WAQ56665)

Answer issued on 03 November 2010

Rail tickets are purchased by individual departments and the breakdown of ticket details are not captured through current systems. This information could only be provided by going through individual departmental records to identify specific instances. This therefore cannot be provided due to the disproportionate cost that would be involved in its collection.

To ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Brian Gibbons (Aberavon): Given that in March 2010 the Department of Energy and Climate Change reported a provisional decline of UK greenhouse gases of 8.6% in 2009 compared to 2008, what was the figure for Wales for that period. (WAQ56670)

Answer issued on 03 November 2010

The figures published in March 2010 are provisional, and the high-level figures still require some analysis and this is being undertaken by DECC and their contractors, AEA.

The official 2009 figures for the UK will not be published until April 2011 and the disaggregated Welsh figures will then follow in September.

The most recent Greenhouse Gas Inventory reported that emissions in Wales had declined by 9.9% in 2008 compared to 1990.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Dai Lloyd (South Wales West): Will the Minister make a statement on the action taken to implement the recommendations in the Cross Party Group on Muscular Dystrophy's Thomas Report since the report launch in July 2010. (WAQ56666)

Answer issued on 03 November 2010

The seven Local Health Boards (LHBs) in Wales are responsible for driving the improvements needed to deliver high quality and sustainable co-ordinated care to ensure that patients have access to comprehensive multi-disciplinary and specialist services as close to home as is clinically safe.

Jan Williams, Chief Executive of Cardiff and Vale University LHB is leading on the development and planning of neuromuscular services across Wales. She has held discussions with LHB Directors of Planning and the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. Following these discussions she will be submitting a report on the recommendations contained within the Thomas Report, including succession planning, to the Welsh Assembly Government for consideration at the beginning of November.

Dai Lloyd (South Wales West): Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of recruiting and appointing neuromuscular care advisors in Wales. (WAQ56667)

Answer issued on 03 November 2010

The LHB Chief Executives agreed to appoint three Care Advisors, one for North Wales, one for Mid and West Wales and one for South Wales. An appointment in S Wales was made in September and the candidate will commence in post at the end of December. The recruitment process for a second post based in Swansea is underway.

In North Wales an alternative approach is being considered. This will be aligned with the Mersey region which is the current provider for tertiary neuromuscular and neurological disorders. This is being taken forward by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. It is considering a number of options based on the job description and profile of the South Wales appointment.

Dai Lloyd (South Wales West): What discussions the Minister has held with the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee regarding the commissioning, planning and delivery of specialist multi-disciplinary neuromuscular services in Wales. (WAQ56668)

Answer issued on 03 November 2010

I have not had any discussions with the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) on commissioning, planning and delivery of these specialist services. Jan Williams, Chief Executive of Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board is leading on the development and planning of neuromuscular services across Wales.

Jan Williams and Cerilan Rogers, Director of WHSSC are holding discussions with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign on any future role for WHSSC.

Dai Lloyd (South Wales West): What steps has the Minister taken to implement a structured, long-term succession planning system for key neuromuscular posts across Wales. (WAQ56669)

Answer issued on 03 November 2010

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