

## Written Questions answered between 23 and 30 March 2006

[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

**William Graham:** Will the Minister make a statement on the number, duration and cost of Assembly advertisements screened on ITV channels between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Sunday 26 February 2006? (WAQ46234)

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** The Welsh Assembly Government screened one 20 second advertisement on HTV Wales as part of its smoking cessation campaign. The airtime cost was £1,375.

**Christine Chapman:** What work is the Welsh Assembly Government undertaking to promote fair trade in Wales? (WAQ46239)

**The First Minister:** To make Wales a fair trade country involves funding a development officer for the Wales fair trade forum, the umbrella body for fair trade campaigning groups in Wales, plus campaign materials and their website. For fairtrade fortnight an all-Wales speaking tour of a fair trade banana farmer from the Windward Isles was funded and co-ordinated publicity for a number of events was provided.

**Lisa Francis:** How much has the Welsh Assembly Government spent on salaries to special advisers and would he break the figures down for each department? (WAQ46300)

**The First Minister:** Special advisers are not employed on a departmental basis. The table below shows the total salary costs of special advisers for each year since the Assembly was set up.

Year	Cost of special advisers
1999-2000	£110,067
2000-01	£254,479
2001-02	£237,388
2002-03	£252,824
2003-04	£257,514
2004-05	£317,108
2005-06	£314,022*

\*Cost as at 28 February 2006.

**Lisa Francis:** How much has the Assembly Government spent on media training for Ministers, special advisers and staff since 1999? (WAQ46306)

**The First Minister:** Since 1999, the cost of media training provided for Assembly staff is £17,665.15.

In addition, media training is included in some of the core training programmes for senior civil servants. There are no specific training costs associated with media training for Ministers and special advisers.

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

**Lisa Francis:** Does the Minister intend to carry out an audit of sports, leisure and recreational facilities in Wales? (WAQ46232)

**The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh):** The Sports Council for Wales maintains a database of sport, recreation and natural facilities in Wales, which it uses for strategic decision-making.

The Sports Council for Wales is currently undertaking a strategic review of the sport, leisure and recreation facilities in Wales that are managed by local authorities. The review has begun as a pilot exercise in partnership with Flintshire and Blaenau Gwent with a view to roll out to all other local authorities in Wales over a three-year period.

We recognise that local authorities are a crucial partner of the Welsh Assembly Government in delivering our 'Climbing Higher' strategy. This is because they provide the facilities that people use the most and because they spend the most money on sport and physical activity in Wales.

**Lisa Francis:** When precisely will the Minister provide further information to the Culture Committee on the work he had commissioned from the Arts Council of Wales on 'Arts in Health'? (WAQ46240)

**Lisa Francis:** When precisely will the Minister provide a note to the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee on the 'Artists in Residence' scheme? (WAQ46241)

**Lisa Francis:** When precisely will the Minister provide the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee with the working papers from the culture board? (WAQ46242)

**Alun Pugh:** These papers will be provided to the committee in advance of the meeting to be held on 23 March 2006.

**Kirsty Williams:** Will the Minister make a statement on financial support for festivals? (WAQ46277)

**Alun Pugh:** The Welsh Assembly Government supports a range of festivals across Wales, both directly and through our sponsored bodies. These include the Hay Festival of Literature and Arts, the Faenol

festival, the Llangollen international eisteddfod, Brecon jazz festival and many others.

**Leighton Andrews:** What funding programmes does the Minister have for new playing field projects? (WAQ46297)

**Alun Pugh:** My sport and physical activity strategy: Climbing Higher' emphasises the need to maximise the use of the outdoors in order to encourage the people of Wales to become a fitter, healthier nation. This includes, of course, making full use of our playing field facilities.

Our Sports Council for Wales has the discretion to provide a range of capital grants which might include the provision of pitch facilities. Local authorities have the power to acquire land or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control them. As the majority of funding to local authorities is unhypothecated it is, therefore, up to local authorities to set their budgets and to decide on their own spending priorities.

'Planning Policy Wales' (2002) charges the planning system with ensuring that adequate land (and water) resources are allocated for formal and informal sport and recreation, taking account of the need for space and current levels of provision.

So far as school playing fields are concerned the Schools Premises Regulations 1999 lay down a minimum requirement for the provision of areas of 'team game playing fields' to which all local authorities must adhere.

The Welsh Assembly Government has made a commitment that by 2010 all schools should be in a good physical condition and properly maintained so that they can deliver the national curriculum effectively. It is, therefore, expected that all Welsh authorities will draw up programmes for investing in playing fields and playground facilities as part of the 2010 commitment.

**Lisa Francis:** Will the Minister list the individuals, including staff, who will be representing the Welsh Assembly Government at the Commonwealth Games and would he detail the reasons for each individual? (WAQ46299)

**Alun Pugh:** I attended the Commonwealth Games as Minister for sport in Wales to support Team Wales and reinforce the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to promoting sport and physical activity from grass roots to elite level. I attended engagements that were aimed at strengthening our cultural links and was accompanied on my visit by my private secretary.

## Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport

**Kirsty Williams:** Will the Minister make a statement on how he encourages tourists visiting London to come to Wales? (WAQ46278)

**The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies):** The Wales Tourist Board has worked with Visit London to position London as a gateway to Wales. This involves joint media and trade missions. These arrangements will be kept under review.

**Kirsty Williams:** Has the Minister considered re-introducing a 'Wales desk' to a London tourist information centre (TIC)? (WAQ46279)

**Andrew Davies:** The Wales Tourist Board withdrew a dedicated Wales desk from the VisitBritain centre after a detailed return-on-investment review. There are no immediate plans to return to the centre, but visitors can still obtain tourist information about Wales there.

**Kirsty Williams:** What plans does the Minister have for the future marketing of Wales as a tourist destination? (WAQ46280)

**Andrew Davies:** The detail will be contained in the new Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Department's operational plan which will be published in due course.

Essentially, during 2006-07, Visit Wales will continue and develop the range of Wales Tourist Board initiatives that have been successful in recent years.

**Kirsty Williams:** What plans does the Minister have to market Wales as a tourism destination to a wider audience? (WAQ46281)

**Andrew Davies:** A new Wales brand strategy is being developed and is based on the brand work developed for tourism. This means that all-Wales communication should positively influence perceptions of Wales as a tourist destination.

**Kirsty Williams:** Will the Minister make a statement on support for the tourism sector, beyond that provided to accommodation? (WAQ46282)

**Andrew Davies:** The Wales Tourist Board provides a range of support for the sectors in the tourism industry. This includes capital grants, marketing assistance and business support and advice. The industry also benefits from the WTB's broader marketing activities within the UK and overseas.

Details of such support are available on the WTB's industry website [www.wtbonline.gov.uk](http://www.wtbonline.gov.uk). Each of the four regional tourism partnerships also provide support for the tourism sector.

Support for the industry, will continue and be developed following the WTB's merger with the Assembly Government on 3 April 2006.

**Lisa Francis:** What progress is being made to establish inter-Wales air services? (WAQ46302)

**Andrew Davies:** I announced plans for an air service to link north and south Wales in December 2004. At the request of the Welsh Assembly Government, the UK Government has now imposed a public service obligation on the route between Cardiff and RAF Valley. Work is in hand to develop a civilian enclave at RAF Valley and to select an airline to run a 'double daily' service which will facilitate day return journeys.

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

**Alun Cairns:** Will the Minister provide information on which schools have taken up free school breakfasts in each local authority area? (WAQ46252)

**The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson):** Based on the most recent information available from LEAs, 213 schools are confirmed as having started serving breakfast, with another 12 schools expected to start this term. A further 54 schools have committed to begin providing breakfasts from summer term 2006. I however anticipate that the pace of take-up will now increase even further.

I attach a table outlining the schools which are participating this term in each local authority area.

A further exercise to identify with individual local authorities their precise take-up took place during the week commencing 13 March and this should provide us with not only the exact number of schools but also the number of pupils who actually take breakfast.

**Primary school free breakfast initiative—schools confirmed as participating at this date in time.**

<b>LEA</b>	<b>Schools participating</b>	
<b>Isle of Anglesey</b>	<p>Ysgol Llanfawr</p> <p>Ysgol y Parc</p> <p>Ysgol y Graig</p> <p>Ysgol Santes Fair (St Mary's)</p> <p>Ysgol Parch. Thomas Ellis</p> <p>Ysgol Gymraeg Morswyn</p> <p>Ysgol Kingsland</p>	<p>Ysgol Rhosneigr</p> <p>Ysgol Gynradd Amlwch</p> <p>Ysgol Bryngwran</p> <p>Ysgol y Tywyn</p> <p>Ysgol Moelfre</p> <p>Ysgol Gymuned y Fali</p> <p>Ysgol Llaingoch</p>
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	Queen Street Primary	Willowtown Primary
<b>Bridgend</b>	Bettws Primary	
<b>Caerphilly</b>	<p>Pontlottyn Primary</p> <p>St Gwladys Bargoed</p> <p>Ysgol y Lawnt</p> <p>Hengoed Primary</p> <p>Phillipstown Primary</p> <p>Upper Rhymney Primary</p> <p>White Rose Primary</p> <p>Park Primary</p> <p>Pantside Primary</p> <p>Trinant Primary</p>	<p>Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bargod</p> <p>Pontlanffraith Primary</p> <p>Lower Rhymney Primary</p> <p>Aberbargoed Primary</p> <p>Waunfawr Primary</p> <p>Hendredenny Park Primary</p> <p>Cwmfelinfach Primary</p> <p>Abertysswg Primary</p> <p>Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili</p> <p>Tiryberth Primary</p>

<b>Cardiff</b>	Herbert Thompson Primary  Mount Stuart Primary  Tremorfa Nursery  Windsor Clive Junior  Windsor Clive Infants  Trelai Primary  St Francis RC Primary  Moorland Primary	Moorland Nursery  Ely and Caerau Childrens' Centre  Oakfield Primary  Bryn Celyn Primary  St Cuthbert's RC Primary  Glan-yr-Afon Primary  Rhiwbina Primary
<b>Carmarthen</b>	Ysgol y Babanod  Cefnbrynbrain Primary  Parcyrhun Primary  Brynsierfel Primary  Bigyn County Primary  Lakefield Junior	Brynamman Primary  Morfa Infants  Ysgol Bryn Teg (Llwynhendy)  Felinfoel Junior  Ystradowen Primary
<b>Ceredigion</b>	Ffynnonbedr CP  Tregaron CP  Pontrhydfendigiad CP  Ysbyty Ystwyth CP  Penuwch CP  Aberbanc CP	Cardigan Community Infants  Cardigan Community Junior  New Quay CP  Llwyn-yr-Eos CP  Bronant CP  Aberporth CP



	Llanllwchaearn CP	Blaenporth CP
<b>Conwy</b>	Ysgol Blessed William Davies Ffordd Dyffryn Craig y Don	Ysgol Tudno Ysgol Morfa Rhianedd
<b>Denbighshire</b>	Ysgol Emmanuel	
<b>Flintshire</b>	Bryn Gwalia CP Gwynedd Community Primary Ysgol Bryn Pennant Ysgol Croes Atti Ysgol Gronant Primary Ysgol Taliesin Junior St Winefride's RC, Hollywell Queensferry CP St Ethelwold's CP, Shotton Glan Aber CP, Bagillt	Abermorddu Primary Ysgol Yr Escob, Caerwys Trelogan CP Sealand CP Ysgol yr Llan Shotton Infants Ysgol Bryn Garth, Ffynnongroew Cornist Park CP Ven Edward Morgan RC
<b>Gwynedd</b>	Ysgol Cymerau Ysgol Talysarn Ysgol Traeth Ysgol Tanygrisiau	Ysgol Maesincla Ysgol Maenofferen Ysgol Hendre

<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>	Trefechan Nursery  Goetre Infants  Goetre Junior  Pantysgallog Primary  Ynysowen Community Primary  Gurnos Nursery	Trelewis Primary  Ysgol Gynradd Coed y Dderwen  Cyfarthfa Junior  Gellifaelog Primary  St Marys RC Primary  Bedlinog Primary
<b>Monmouthshire</b>	Deri View	Our Lady and St Michael's
<b>Neath Port Talbot</b>	Glanymor Primary  Melin Infants  Melin Junior  Tairgwaith Primary	St Therese's Primary  Tywyn Primary  Croeserw Primary
<b>Newport</b>	No schools yet participating	
<b>Pembrokeshire</b>	Monkton Priory CP  Pembroke Dock Primary  Hubberston CW Nursery & Primary  The Meads Infant & Nursery  The Mount Infants	Neyland Infants  Neyland Junior  Tenby Infants  Narbeth CP

<p><b>Powys</b></p>	<p>Ysgol Cynlais CP</p> <p>Oldford Infants</p> <p>Penrhos CP</p> <p>Maesyrhandir</p>	<p>Ysgol Gymraeg Ynysgedwyn</p> <p>Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmtwrch</p> <p>Machynlleth Primary</p> <p>Aberhafesp</p>
<p><b>Rhondda Cynon Taff</b></p>	<p>Ysgol yr Eos</p> <p>Glynhafod Junior</p> <p>Hafod Primary</p> <p>Penrhiwceibr Primary</p> <p>Penpych Community Primary</p> <p>Williamstown Primary</p> <p>Penygraig Junior</p> <p>Llantrisant Primary</p>	<p>Pentre Primary</p> <p>Our Lady's RC Primary</p> <p>Tai Referral Centre</p> <p>Pontygwaith Primary</p> <p>Cymer Junior</p> <p>Gwaunmeisgyn</p> <p>Craig y Hesg</p>
<p><b>Swansea</b></p>	<p>Craigfelin Primary</p> <p>Clase Primary</p> <p>Graig Infants</p> <p>Blaenymaes Primary</p> <p>Portmead Primary</p> <p>Townhill Community Primary</p> <p>Seaview Primary</p> <p>Terrace Road Primary</p>	<p>Gwyrosydd Primary</p> <p>Pentrechwyth Primary</p> <p>Cwmglas Primary</p> <p>St Illtyd's Primary</p> <p>Cwm Primary</p> <p>Gors Community Primary</p> <p>Morrison Primary</p> <p>Penlleger Primary</p>

	<p>Christchurch Primary</p> <p>St Helen's Primary</p> <p>Waun Wen Primary</p> <p>Arfryn Primary</p> <p>Clwyd Primary</p> <p>Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bryniago</p> <p>St Joseph's Junior</p> <p>St Joseph's Infants</p> <p>Trallwyn Primary</p> <p>Cila Primary</p> <p>Sketty Primary</p>	<p>Plasmarl Primary</p> <p>Manselton Primary</p> <p>Brynmill Primary</p> <p>Pentrepoeth Junior</p> <p>Gorseinon Junior</p> <p>Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tirdaunaw</p> <p>Gorseinon Infants</p> <p>Clydach Infants</p> <p>Hafod Primary</p> <p>Clydach Junior</p> <p>Cadle Primary</p> <p>Glyncollen Primary</p>
<b>Torfaen</b>	Woodlands Infants	Woodlands Junior
<b>Vale of Glamorgan</b>	No schools yet participating	
<b>Wrexham</b>	<p>Hafod y Wern Infants</p> <p>Hafod y Wern Junior</p> <p>Rhosymedre Infants</p> <p>Rhosymedre Junior</p> <p>Cefnmawr Primary</p>	<p>Gwenfro Infants</p> <p>Gwenfro Junior</p> <p>Alexandra Primary</p> <p>St Anne's RC Primary</p>

**Leighton Andrews:** Pursuant to WAQ46133, will the Minister state the number of pupils passing the subject of GCSE Welsh in each year since 1998-99? (WAQ46254)

**Jane Davidson:** Information on GCSEs is collected in terms of the number of *entries* in the subject of Welsh rather than the number of *pupils* entering GCSEs in the subject of Welsh. The number of entries and pass rates for Welsh first and second language, and Welsh literature, are given in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 GCSE entries and passes in Welsh (a)**

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
<b>Welsh</b>							
Number of entries	4,000	4,200	4,400	4,500	4,900	5,100	5,100
Number of passes at A*-G	4,000	4,100	4,400	4,500	4,900	5,000	5,100
Percentage of passes at A*-G	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.9
<b>Welsh Literature</b>							
Number of entries	3,200	3,300	3,500	3,500	3,900	4,000	4,000
Number of passes at A*-G	3,200	3,300	3,500	3,500	3,900	4,000	4,000
Percentage of passes at A*-G	99.7	99.7	99.5	99.7	99.7	99.9	99.7
<b>Welsh second language</b>							
Number of entries	7,900	9,100	11,500	11,700	11,700	12,00	9,800
Number of passes at A*-G	7,700	8,900	11,300	11,500	11,300	11,900	9,600

Percentage of passes at A*-G	98.5	98.2	98.3	98.1	98.5	98.9	98.4
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Source: Welsh Examinations Database.

(a) Full GCSE only. Excludes GCSE short course.

**Leighton Andrews:** What is the current situation regarding funding for WEA classes in the valleys and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ46257)

**Jane Davidson:** The Workers' Educational Association will still be able to draw down funding from Education and Learning Wales and following the merger the Assembly Government, to put courses on to cover tutor costs, materials, venues and organisational costs.

Welsh European Funding Office officials met WEA representatives in late February and had a positive discussion on issues relating to the 'Building the Community' project which is currently scheduled to finish in August 2006. The 'Progression through Partnership' project managed by the University of Wales Newport is also due to finish in October 2006, and WEFO are in correspondence with the project sponsor about this.

Both projects are funded under Priority 4 Measure 3 of the Objective 1 programme. A bidding round for the remaining funds under this measure was announced on 28 February which is focused on assisting eligible existing approved projects to access additional funding. I would encourage the project sponsors to pursue this avenue.

**Leanne Wood:** Has the Minister made any assessment on the financial implications of the passing of the Identity Cards Bill in Westminster to her budget and, if so, will the Minister publish its contents? (WAQ46263)

**Jane Davidson:** I refer you to the answer given by the Finance Minister to WAQ46262.

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister make a statement on the financial implications to her budget of the passing of the Identity Cards Bill in Westminster? (WAQ46267)

**Jane Davidson:** I refer you to the answer given by the Finance Minister to WAQ46271.

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** What financial assistance will the Assembly give to students who wish to study a higher education course not offered at any Welsh higher education institution from 2007 onwards? (WAQ46283)

**Jane Davidson:** Students normally living in Wales who study at higher education institutions in other parts of the United Kingdom will be eligible for a loan of up to £3,000 a year to help pay for the fees charged. The loan is repayable through the income tax system after studies finish, and only when the individual is earning a salary of £15,000 a year or more. They will also be able to apply for a means-tested Assembly learning grant of up to £2,700 per annum to help with living costs, and a maintenance loan of up to £6,170 for those studying in London, or up to £4,405 for those studying elsewhere.

There are a small number of courses which are not available at Welsh HEIs. The resolution in Plenary of 22 June 2005 commits the Assembly Government to finding a way of assisting students unable to pursue those courses in Wales. A scheme to provide such assistance will have to be carefully formulated to comply with European Union non-discrimination legislation. Work is in hand to examine the feasibility of various approaches.

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

**Nick Bourne:** Will the Minister make a statement on his policies for reducing the risk of flooding in Mid and West Wales? (WAQ46214)

**The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones):** The Welsh Assembly Government's policy aim is to manage the risk of flooding and its consequences for people, property and the environment. We encourage the provision of adequate and cost effective flood warning systems, and the provision of adequate, economically, technically and environmentally sound and sustainable flood and coastal defence measures, and we discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding and coastal erosion.

Responsibility for investigating and promoting appropriate flood risk management schemes rests with the relevant flood defence operating authorities (i.e. the Environment Agency and/or local authorities). This financial year I have made around £24 million available to the Environment Agency to fund flood risk management activities across Wales and I have increased local authority grants to £5.8 million. In addition, since 2001 local authority grant rates for flood defence schemes have increased from 25 per cent to 85 per cent generally and to 100 per cent for very large projects.

At the present time funding of around £1.1 million is supporting flood and coastal improvement works in Mid and West Wales. Gwynedd council has recently submitted a formal grant application for a coast protection scheme at Tywyn and we understand that Ceredigion council has similar proposals for Borth and Aberaeron.

In addition to promoting and constructing new works a programme of routine maintenance work is undertaken each year to ensure that our flood defence infrastructure is well maintained and that flood risks are appropriately managed. A flood warning service is available for most of those at risk of flooding within these catchments.

**Carl Sargeant:** what is the Minister doing to promote sustainable development as it relates to planning policy for housing in Wales? (WAQ46215)

**Carwyn Jones:** The promotion of sustainable housing development is a key element of planning policy in Wales. 'Planning Policy Wales' (2002) provides clear guidance for local planning authorities which includes promoting housing development that is easily accessible by public transport, cycling and walking; mixed use development to ensure good access to employment, retail and other services; regard for nature conservation and flood risk; making the most efficient use of land, including using brownfield land in preference to greenfield sites; good design; and construction of housing with low environmental impact that maximises energy efficiency.

'Planning Policy Wales' should be taken into account by local planning authorities in preparing their development plans and can be a material consideration in individual planning decisions.

**Peter Black:** Will the Minister comment on the Welsh Assembly Government's recycling policies? (WAQ46216)

**Carwyn Jones:** The Welsh Assembly Government's support for recycling and composting is clearly set out in 'Wise about Waste: the National Waste Strategy for Wales'. After waste minimisation, recycling and composting are the preferred methods of managing waste.

We have provided substantial financial support for local authority recycling and composting, including direct grants of £93 million for the period 2005-06 to 2007-08.

The latest available performance figure for local authorities in Wales is for 2004-05, and shows that they achieved a combined recycling and composting figure of 19.4 per cent (measured by National Assembly for Wales performance indicators). Of this, recycling was 11.8 per cent and composting 7.6 per cent.



For 2006-07 local authorities have targets of at least 25 per cent recycling and composting (measured by National Assembly for Wales performance indicators), of which a 10 per cent minimum must be composted and a 10 per cent minimum recycled. The 25 per cent figure was endorsed in our manifesto and in 'Wales: a Better Country'.

**Eleanor Burnham:** Will the Minister make a statement on how global warming will affect Wales?  
(WAQ46217)

**Carwyn Jones:** There is uncertainty about the impacts of climate change and when they might occur.

The UK climate change impact programme has produced predictions for Wales based on four scenarios. By 2080 it predicts average temperature increases of 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius, hot and dry summers, an increase in extremely warm days, milder winters, reduction of snowfall, increase in winter rainfall, increase in frequency of intense rainfall events, decrease in annual soil moisture content, increase in average length of thermal growing season, decrease in 'heating degree days' (days where the temperature is less than 15.5 degrees Celsius) and average sea level rise of 23 to 36 cm. Taking account of land movement, net sea-level change by 2080 is estimated to be in the range of 11 to 71cm for Wales.

The potential negative impacts of the changes suggested by these scenarios include increases in river and coastal flooding, winter storm damage, coastal erosion, increased pressure on sewer systems, habitat and species loss, changes to the landscape, summer water shortages, increased risk of subsidence, increase in thermal discomfort in buildings, health problems in summer, including heat-related deaths linked to high air pollution. Potential local advantages could include a longer growing season, less cold weather transport disruption, reduced demand for winter heating, less cold-weather related illness.

**Ann Jones:** What discussions has the Minister had regarding the importance of preserving the dune system at Gronant as a natural coastal defence? (WAQ46236)

**Carwyn Jones:** I have had no specific discussions about the sand dunes at Gronant.

However the Welsh Assembly Government provides funding where appropriate to relevant operating authorities for the promotion of flood and coastal defence works. In the case of the sand dune system at Gronant Flintshire County Council is the relevant authority and my officials have been liaising with council officers regarding works being promoted by that authority to manage the dune system as a natural coastal defence.

In 2002, with Welsh Assembly Government support, Flintshire CC commissioned the preparation of a management plan for the dune system specifically aimed at providing a secure flood defence for the

hinterland. In accordance with that plan Flintshire CC carried out beach replenishment works in 2003 and is currently considering works to fill low spots within the system to improve current flood defence standards.

**Ann Jones:** Will the Minister make a statement on the implications of the 'shoreline management plan' commissioned by the Liverpool bay coastal group for the north Wales coast? (WAQ46237)

**Carwyn Jones:** Shoreline management plans aim to identify the most appropriate policies for managing our shoreline taking account of natural coastal processes, present land use and any existing coastal defences. Plans are based upon 'coastal cells', defined on the basis that the coastal processes are independent of adjoining 'cells'. They are prepared by coastal groups comprising representatives of those bodies with an interest in coastal issues. The plans are underpinned by technical investigations and monitoring programmes commissioned by the group.

The north Wales coastline is included within the Liverpool bay coastal cell and the plan has been prepared by the Liverpool bay coastal group, which is currently chaired by an officer from Flintshire CC. Following consideration of options the shoreline management plan identifies some policy options for each specified frontage of coast. These policy options comprise holding the existing defence line, advancing the line, managing a realignment or effecting no active intervention. While these plans are not statutory many operating authorities have adopted the shoreline management plan recommendations as the basis for the production of individual strategic plans, monitoring programmes and studies for all or part of their coastline and in support of investment in appropriate capital improvement projects.

Responsibility for managing our shoreline rests with the relevant operating authorities and it is for those authorities to assess the level of risk for their coastal frontage and determine appropriate programmes of work to manage those risks. The preparation of the shoreline management plan has significantly improved our understanding and mapping of coastal processes together with our appreciation of the impacts of climate change. Over the next few years, however, these plans are to be reviewed in the light of our improved understanding of coastal processes and our increasing awareness of the longer-term implications (i.e. 50 to 100 years) of coastal change, climate change and rising sea levels.

The current Liverpool bay shoreline management plan provides not only a large-scale assessment of risk along the north Wales coastline but also a long-term policy framework to reduce those risks. It highlights the challenges and emphasises the importance of appropriate management. The Welsh Assembly Government will continue to encourage and support the preparation and implementation of such plans within Wales. Responsibility for the promotion of works to address these identified risks lies with the relevant authority.

**Mick Bates:** What is the budget for Tir Mynydd? (WAQ46243)

**Carwyn Jones:** The budget for the 2006 Tir Mynydd scheme year is £35.7 million. Future arrangements for Tir Mynydd under the successor rural development plan for Wales 2007 to 2013 are subject to decisions following recent consultation. Consultation ended on 10 March and the responses are currently being analysed.

**Elin Jones:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog fanylu ar (i) nifer y gwartheg a laddwyd ym mhob blwyddyn er 1997 o achos canlyniadau profion TB ymysg gwartheg, a (ii) nifer y gwartheg a laddwyd ym mhob blwyddyn ers 1997 o achos canlyniadau profion TB ymysg gwartheg ond y darganfuwyd nad oeddent yn dioddef o TB ymysg gwartheg? (WAQ46244) [W]

**Carwyn Jones:** Mae nifer yr anifeiliaid a laddwyd o dan y mesurau rheoli TB mewn gwartheg yng Nghymru a Phrydain Fawr rhwng 1997 i 2005 i'w gweld yn y tabl isod (1). Hefyd mae nifer y rhai a adweithiodd i TB ac y cadarnhawyd bod y clefyd arnynt post mortem yn y cyfnod hwn hefyd i'w gweld yn y tabl.

Os methwyd â chadarnhau'r clefyd drwy archwiliad post mortem yn y lladd-dy neu drwy dyfu m. bovis yn y labordy mae'n bwysig cofio nad yw hynny'n golygu nad oedd y clefyd ar yr anifail, neu fod yr anifail wedi bod mewn cysylltiad â TB gwartheg. Yn nyddiau cynnar y clefyd, nid yw'n bosibl bob amser gweld briwiau TB gyda'r llygad noeth, ac oherwydd natur gyswllt yr organeb, nid yw'n bosibl ei dyfu o samplau ym mhob achos. Mae tyfu o samplau yn anodd ac yn llai sensitif na'r prawf croen TB. Oherwydd y gost a'r rhesymau cyflenwi, nid yw samplau o'r holl anifeiliaid sy'n adweithio mewn buches yn cael eu rhoi i'w tyfu mewn labordy. Nid dilysu canlyniadau'r prawf yw prif bwrpas yr archwiliad post mortem a'r broses o dyfu bacteria o anifeiliaid sy'n adweithio i TB ond yn hytrach penderfynu at ddibenion epidemiolegol (a) pa mor ddifrifol yw'r clefyd mewn anifeiliaid a heintiwyd a (b) y math o organeb m. bovis sydd yno.

ANIFEILIAID A LADDWYD O DAN Y MESURAU RHEOLI TB YNG NGHYMRU A PHRYDAIN FAWR: 1997-2005(1)

CYMRU			PRYDAIN FAWR			
Adweithyddion a laddwyd	Cyfanswm y Gwartheg Laddwyd(2)	Adweithyddion gafodd eu cadarnhau	Adweithyddion a laddwyd	Cyfanswm y Gwartheg Laddwyd(2)	Adweithyddion gafodd eu cadarnhau	
1997	379	669	156	3,215	3,963	1,430
1998	774	1,046	311	4,949	6,191	2,272

1999	920	1,359	418	5,929	7,042	2,841
2000	986	1,399	461	7,073	8,682	3,644
2001(3)	1,578	2,074	627	5,406	6,549	2,342
2002(3)	4,305	5,060	1,302	19,965	23,744	6,993
2003	4,809	5,734	1,339	20,128	23,821	6,308
2004	4,682	5,515	1,224	19,975	23,064	6,422
2005	5,515	6,770	1,407	25,755	30,063	8,657

(1) Data dros dro a lawrlwythwyd o gronfa ddata'r Gwasanaeth Milfeddygol Gwladol ar 7 Mawrth 2006. Mae'n bosibl y bydd yn cael ei newid wrth i fwy o ddata ddod ar gael.

(2) Gwartheg a laddwyd fel anifeiliaid sy'n adweithio i TB, anifeiliaid sydd wedi bod mewn cysylltiad uniongyrchol â TB neu adweithyddion amhendant.

(3) Yn 2001, cafodd y rhaglen profi a rheoli TB ei gohirio i bob pwrpas oherwydd clwy'r traed a'r genau. Pan ailddechreuodd y profion yn 2002, canolbwyntiwyd ar fuchesi nad oedd wedi cael prawf TB ers tro ac a fyddai wedi cael cyfnod hirach i ddal y clefyd. Hefyd roedd y gyfran o'r buchesi risg uchel a brofwyd yn syth ar ôl clwy'r traed a'r genau yn fwy nag yn y cyfnod cyn yr argyfwng. Felly, ni ellir cymharu'r data ar gyfer 2001 a 2002 gyda'r blynyddoedd eraill.

Mae'r ystadegau hyn (o 1998 ymlaen) i'w gweld ar goedd ar wefan Adran dros yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/stats/index.htm>

**Elin Jones:** Will the Minister provide details of (i) the number of cattle slaughtered each year since 1997 following the results of bovine TB tests and (ii) the number of cattle slaughtered each year since 1997 following the results of bovine TB tests, but were found not to be infected with bovine TB? (WAQ46244) [W]

**Carwyn Jones:** The number of animals slaughtered under bovine TB control measures in Wales and Great Britain between 1997 and 2005 are presented in the table below (1). The number of TB reactors confirmed with the disease at post mortem testing during this period are also presented.

It is important to bear in mind that failure to confirm the disease by post mortem examination at the slaughterhouse, or by culturing *m. bovis* in the laboratory, does not mean that the disease was not present in the animal, or that the animal had not been in contact with bovine TB. In the early stages of the disease, it is not always possible to see lesions with the naked eye, and, due to the fastidious nature of the organism, it is not possible to culture from samples in every case. Culture is difficult and less sensitive than the tuberculin skin test. For cost and logistical reasons, samples are not submitted from all

reactor animals in a herd for laboratory culture. The purpose of post mortem examination and bacteriological culture of tuberculin test reactors is not so much the validation of test results, but rather to determine for epidemiological purposes, (a) the severity of disease in infected animals and (b) the type of *m. bovis* organism involved.

#### ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED UNDER BOVINE TB CONTROL MEASURES IN WALES & GREAT BRITAIN: 1997-2005(1)

WALES			GREAT BRITAIN			
Reactors slaughtered	Total Cattle Slaughtered (2)	Confirmed Reactors	Reactors slaughtered	Total Cattle Slaughtered (2)	Confirmed Reactors	
1997	379	669	156	3,215	3,963	1,430
1998	774	1,046	311	4,949	6,191	2,272
1999	920	1,359	418	5,929	7,042	2,841
2000	986	1,399	461	7,073	8,682	3,644
2001(3)	1,578	2,074	627	5,406	6,549	2,342
2002(3)	4,305	5,060	1,302	19,965	23,744	6,993
2003	4,809	5,734	1,339	20,128	23,821	6,308
2004	4,682	5,515	1,224	19,975	23,064	6,422
2005	5,515	6,770	1,407	25,755	30,063	8,657

(1) Provisional data downloaded from the State Veterinary Service database on 7 March 2006. Subject to change as more data becomes available.

(2) Cattle slaughtered as TB reactors, direct contacts or inconclusive reactors.

(3) In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the foot and mouth disease outbreak. When testing resumed in 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, data for 2001 and 2002 is not comparable with other years.

These statistics (from 1998 onwards) are publicly available on the Department for Environment, Food and Affairs website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/stats/index.htm>

**Elin Jones:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog fanylu ar nifer y moch daear marw sydd wedi eu casglu ar gyfer profion TB? (WAQ46245) [W]

Erbyn diwedd Chwefror, roedd 198 o foch daear wedi'u hanfon at yr Asiantaeth Labordai Milfeddygol i gael archwiliad post mortem fel rhan o arolwg Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o foch daear marw yng Nghymru.

**Elin Jones:** Will the Minister provide details of the number of dead badgers collected for TB tests? (WAQ46245) [W]

**Carwyn Jones:** By the end of February, 198 badgers had been delivered to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, for post-mortem analysis as part of the Assembly Government survey of badgers found dead in Wales.

**Elin Jones:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog fanylu ar (i) nifer yr achosion o TB ymysg gwartheg ym mhob blwyddyn er 1997, (ii) nifer yr achosion o TB ymysg gwartheg mewn buchesi newydd ym mhob blwyddyn er 1997? (WAQ46246) [W]

**Carwyn Jones:** Mae nifer yr achosion o TB mewn buchesi yng Nghymru a Phrydain Fawr rhwng 1997 a 2005 yn y tabl isod(1). Mae nifer yr achosion mewn buchesi newydd a ddigwyddodd yn y cyfnod hwn i'w gweld yno hefyd (yn ogystal â'r rhai y cadarnhawyd bod TB arnynt).

#### ACHOSION O TB MEWN BUCHESI YNG NGHYMURU A PHRYDAIN FAWR: 1997-2005(1)

CYMRU			PRYDAIN FAWR			
Cyfanswm Achosion TB <sup>2</sup>	Achosion TB Newydd	Achosion TB newydd gafodd eu cadarnhau	Cyfanswm Achosion TB (2)	Achosion TB Newydd	Achosion TB newydd gafodd eu cadarnhau	
1997	273	175	57	1,637	1,197	504
1998	312	230	87	2,084	1,518	721
1999	398	282	127	2,384	1,666	877
2000	409	264	151	2,492	1,741	1,049
2001(3)	357	207	132	1,711	807	516
2002(3)	812	618	348	4,184	3,333	1,918
2003	1,066	625	327	5,482	3,223	1,658
2004	1,073	656	324	5,239	3,349	1,770
2005	1,180	729	377	5,674	3,653	2,023

(1) Data dros dro a lawrlwythwyd o gronfa ddata'r Gwasanaeth Milfeddygol Gwladol ar 7 Mawrth 2006. Mae'n bosibl y bydd yn cael ei newid wrth i fwy o ddata ddod ar gael.

(2) Cyfanswm y buchesi sy'n destun cyfyngiadau symud oherwydd achos o TB ar ryw adeg yn ystod y flwyddyn. Mae'n cynnwys yr achosion hynny sydd wedi'u cario ymlaen o'r flwyddyn flaenorol.

(3) Yn 2001, cafodd y rhaglen profi a rheoli TB ei gohirio i bob pwrpas oherwydd clwy'r traed a'r genau. Pan ailddechreuodd y profion yn 2002, canolbwyntiwyd ar fuchesi nad oedd wedi cael prawf TB ers tro ac a fyddai wedi cael cyfnod hirach i ddal y clefyd. Hefyd roedd y gyfran o'r buchesi risg uchel a brofwyd yn syth ar ôl clwy'r traed a'r genau yn fwy nag yn y cyfnod cyn yr argyfwng. Felly, ni ellir cymharu'r data ar gyfer 2001 a 2002 gyda'r blynyddoedd eraill.

Mae'r ystadegau hyn (o 1998 ymlaen) i'w gweld ar goedd ar wefan DEFRA: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/stats/index.htm>

**Elin Jones:** Will the Minister provide details of (i) the number of cases of bovine TB each year since 1997 and (ii) the number of cases of Bovine TB in new herds each year since 1997? (WAQ46246) [W]

**Carwyn Jones:** The number of bovine TB herd incidents that occurred in Wales and Great Britain between 1997 and 2005 are presented in the table below(1). The number of new herd incidents that occurred during this period (and those of which were confirmed with TB) are also presented.

TB HERD INCIDENTS IN WALES & GREAT BRITAIN: 1997-2005(1)

WALES			GREAT BRITAIN			
Total TB Incidents(2)	New TB Incidents	Confirmed New TB Incidents	Total TB Incidents(2)	New TB Incidents	Confirmed New TB Incidents	
1997	273	175	57	1,637	1,197	504
1998	312	230	87	2,084	1,518	721
1999	398	282	127	2,384	1,666	877
2000	409	264	151	2,492	1,741	1,049
2001(3)	357	207	132	1,711	807	516
2002(3)	812	618	348	4,184	3,333	1,918
2003	1,066	625	327	5,482	3,223	1,658
2004	1,073	656	324	5,239	3,349	1,770

2005	1,180	729	377	5,674	3,653	2,023
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(1) Provisional data downloaded from the State Veterinary Service database on 7 March 2006. Subject to change as more data becomes available.

(2) Total number of herds under TB movement restrictions because of a TB incident at some point during the year. Includes those incidents ongoing from the previous year.

(3) In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the foot and mouth disease outbreak. When testing resumed in 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, data for 2001 and 2002 is not comparable with other years.

These statistics (from 1998 onwards) are publicly available on the DEFRA website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/stats/index.htm>

**Helen Mary Jones:** Will the Minister (a) detail any proposals that have been made with regards to the required size of bass that are caught in Welsh waters; (b) detail how the permitted size may vary across Wales and any comparison he has made with other parts of the UK; and (c) will he provide a date when a final decision will be made on these matters? (WAQ46248)

**Carwyn Jones:** The Welsh Assembly Government has undertaken a consultation exercise, which closed on 15 February, on a number of possible proposals, including increasing the minimum landing size to a minimum of 45 cm, to increase the number of large bass available to the commercial and recreational fisheries sectors. A large number of responses were received in response to this exercise. We will now need to carefully evaluate all the responses and evidence before coming to a decision. I will make an announcement on next steps in due course.

The European minimum landing size for bass is currently 36 cm. This is the minimum landing size enforced in the UK, with the exception of those areas under the control of the South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee and Cornish Sea Fisheries Committee, which enforce a 37.5 cm limit.

**Alun Cairns:** Will the Minister provide information on how much each local authority recycles? (WAQ46253)

**Carwyn Jones:** The latest available recycling and composting figures compiled are for 2004-05. These



show that local authorities in Wales as a whole achieved a municipal recycling and composting rate of 19.4 per cent that year as calculated by National Assembly for Wales performance indicators. The details for each local authority are contained in the table below.

2004-05 MUNICIPAL RECYCLING PERFORMANCE (National Assembly for Wales performance indicators)

<b>Local authorities</b>	<b>Recycling (%)</b>	<b>Composting (%)</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
Powys	18.1	15.7	33.8
Ceredigion	25.6	7.2	32.8
Caerphilly	11.5	15.6	27.0
Newport	14.7	10.7	25.4
Monmouthshire	11.7	12.5	24.2
Vale of Glamorgan	13.9	9.0	22.9
Swansea	15.1	6.6	21.7
Gwynedd	12.1	9.5	21.6
Carmarthenshire	15.3	5.1	20.4
Flintshire	11.9	7.8	19.7
Conwy	9.2	9.7	18.9
Blaenau Gwent	14.4	3.1	17.5
Bridgend	11.6	5.7	17.4
Pembrokeshire	9.3	7.0	16.4
Neath Port Talbot	10.3	5.7	16.0
Merthyr Tydfil	8.8	6.7	15.4

Denbighshire	8.9	6.5	15.4
Isle of Anglesey	8.9	6.4	15.3
Torfaen	10.7	4.4	15.1
Wrexham	8.3	6.5	14.8
Rhondda Cynon Taf	10.3	4.3	14.7
Cardiff	6.6	4.4	11.0
Wales	11.8	7.6	19.4

Source: Local Government Data Unit.

**Leighton Andrews:** Does the Minister have any plans to publish a revised Wales waste strategy? (WAQ46255)

**Carwyn Jones:** It is my intention to prepare and subsequently publish a revision of the Wales waste strategy 'Wise About Waste'. Work on the initial stages of this will begin this year, with a revised strategy ready for consultation during 2007.

**Leanne Wood:** Has the Minister made any assessment of the financial implications of the passing of the Identity Cards Bill in Westminster to his budget and, if so, will the Minister publish its contents? (WAQ46260)

**Carwyn Jones :** I refer you to the answer given by the Finance Minister to WAQ46262.

**Leighton Andrews:** Will the Minister make a statement on the powers given to the Assembly in the Water Act 2003 in respect of fluoridation of water? (WAQ46294)

**Carwyn Jones:** The Water Act 2003 received Royal Assent on 20 November 2003. Section 58 of the Act included amendments to the provisions on fluoridation in sections 87 to 91 of the Water Industry

Act 1991. Significantly, section 87(1) now imposes an obligation on water undertakers to introduce increased levels of fluoride if requested to do so by the relevant 'authority'. In Wales this 'authority' is the National Assembly for Wales. The new section 89 also requires the Assembly to make regulations governing public consultation prior to making a request to a water undertaker.

The Act also provides for the Assembly to meet the costs of fluoridation and to indemnify water undertakers in respect of liabilities incurred by them in complying with fluoridation arrangements. There is provision for dealing with England and Wales cross border arrangements.

The fluoridation provisions in the 1991 Act are subject to commencement by the Assembly of section 58 of the 2003 Act. Full details of Section 58 of the Water Act 2003 can be found at the link below. <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2003/20030037.htm>

### **Questions to the Finance Minister**

**Carl Sargeant:** what were the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities in determining the overall budget provision for the health portfolio for 2006-07? (WAQ46218)

**Sue Essex:** Our priorities for determining the budget allocations across all portfolios are set out in 'Wales: a Better Country'.

**Carl Sargeant:** Will the Minister make a statement on the impact of the Welsh Assembly Government's budget for the next three financial years on the overall budget provision for the Education and Lifelong Learning portfolio? (WAQ46219)

**Sue Essex:** The Education and Lifelong Learning Budget increases from £1.515 billion in 2006-07 to £1.662 billion in 2008-09.

**Owen John Thomas:** What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding the financial implications arising from the ruling in the Coughlin case? (WAQ46220)

**Sue Essex:** The main financial implications of the Coughlin case relate to the availability of funding to meet successful claims for retrospective care costs. These claims arose because many residents of care homes were not properly identified as eligible for continuing NHS healthcare (which would require the NHS to fully fund their fees). Following discussions with the Minister for Health and Social Services, the necessary arrangements were put in place to meet the costs of these claims.

In the light of the Coughlin judgment, the need to ensure that continuing NHS healthcare is appropriately funded will necessarily inform future budget discussions with the Minister for Health and Social Services.

**Peter Black:** What plans does the Minister have for the Welsh Assembly Government policies for procurement (WAQ46221)

**Sue Essex:** The Welsh Assembly Government's procurement policies are based on achieving best value for money while complying with all National and European Union regulations.

We also place great emphasis on sustainability, equality and social inclusion in procurement, in line with the Assembly core values, and have introduced a mandatory check list which will ensure these factors are considered in all our contracts.

Assembly procurement is now adopting a more strategic approach, with client manager groups developing three-year procurement strategies with departmental heads and business units. Value for money savings will be identified and recorded using the Value Wales assessment tool.

In order to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in Wales we have encouraged them to register on the Sell to Wales website, reduced financial checks, publicised our tendering procedures, offered full tender debriefings and conducted 'meet the buyer' events. All Assembly contracts over £25,000 are now advertised on the Value Wales procurement website.

Procurement policies are constantly under review and the merger with the Assembly sponsored public bodies has resulted in a full review of all our procedures. Office of Government Commerce gateway reviews will be used for all high-risk projects, and collaborative opportunities with other public sector organisations, which can provide substantial savings, will be used where appropriate.

**William Graham:** What representations has the Minister received regarding the overall allocation of funding to the education and lifelong learning portfolio? (WAQ46222)

**Sue Essex:** I have received a number of representations on the issue of the overall funding that has been allocated to the education and lifelong learning portfolio.

**Leanne Wood:** What assessment has the Minister made of the impact on the police precept of the merger of Welsh police forces in (a) the South Wales Police force area (b) the North Wales Police force (c) the Dyfed-Powys Police force and (d) the Gwent Police force area? (WAQ46258)

**Sue Essex:** The Home Office is currently considering a number of options to address the impact on police precepts following the merger of Welsh police forces. No decisions have yet been made. Using the precepts set by police authorities in Wales for 2006-07, and assuming precepts are equalised at the current Wales average without any Government intervention, then the precept in (a) south Wales would increase by 14.8 per cent, (b) north Wales decrease by 13.1 per cent, (c) Dyfed Powys decrease by 3.4 per cent, and (d) Gwent decrease by 4.8 per cent.

**Leanne Wood:** Has the Minister, in her capacity as Finance Minister, made any assessment on the financial implications of the passing of the Identity Cards Bill in Westminster to her budget and, if so, will the Minister publish its contents? (WAQ46262)

**Leanne Wood:** Has the Minister, in her capacity as Finance Minister, made any assessment on the financial implications of the passing of the Identity Cards Bill in Westminster to her budget and, if so, will the Minister publish its contents? (WAQ46264)

**Leanne Wood:** What budgetary preparations has the Minister made for the passing of the Identity Cards Bill in Westminster? (WAQ46268)

**Sue Essex :** Welsh Assembly Government Ministers have not made such assessments. The financial implications of the Identity Cards Bill are a matter for the Home Office.

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister make a statement on the financial implications for the block grant of the proposed merger of Welsh police forces? (WAQ46269)

**Sue Essex:** No final decisions have been made regarding the restructuring of police forces. The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration and I have made clear to the Home Office that we do not expect any costs arising from restructuring in Wales to fall on the Assembly Government's budget.

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister make a statement about the possibility of a Barnett consequential arising from the provisions of the Identity Cards Bill? (WAQ46270)

**Sue Essex:** I refer you to my reply at WAQ46271. I have no intention of making a statement on this issue.

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister make a statement about the impact on the National Assembly's block grant from Westminster of the Identity Cards Bill? (WAQ46271)

**Sue Essex:** I refer you to my reply to WAQ46262. The Welsh Assembly Government has no intention of making a statement on this issue.

**Leanne Wood:** Has the Minister made any assessments or held any discussions with other Ministers or officials about the impact on the National Assembly's block grant from Westminster of the Identity Cards Bill and, if so, will the Minister publish the contents? (WAQ46272)

**Sue Essex:** I refer you to my reply to WAQ46262. I have had no such discussions with other Ministers or officials on this issue.

**Lisa Francis:** Pursuant to her answer to WAQ45957, what is the total including postage? (WAQ46273)

**Sue Essex:** The total cost to the Assembly of Welsh Assembly Government Christmas cards, including postage, was £5,975.67.

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

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister make a statement on the stocks of the antiviral drug Tamiflu held by the NHS Wales? (WAQ46274)

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister list the surgeries, hospitals and/or other NHS properties in Wales that hold stocks of the antiviral drug Tamiflu and the number of courses of the drug held in each location? (WAQ46275)

**Leanne Wood:** What preparations has the Minister made for the distribution of the antiviral drug Tamiflu by NHS Wales? (WAQ46276)

**Brian Gibbons:** At the end of March 2006, we will have 360,000 courses ring-fenced for use in Wales with all deliveries completed by end of September. The order for 730,000 courses (sufficient to meet the expected clinical attack rate of 25 per cent of the population) has been adjusted recently to take advantage of an antiviral preparation that is suitable for very young children. This means that the total order for adults is 704,450 courses and delivery is scheduled to be completed at end September 2006.

Deliveries of antivirals have been, and will continue to be, made to a central store in England. Although no antivirals for use against pandemic influenza are in Wales at present, we are able to access our stock at any time should that be necessary. We are finalising arrangements to receive an interim delivery to a central store in Wales this spring.

We are also working with the National Public Health Service, local health boards and NHS trusts on the most appropriate holding and distribution arrangements within Wales to ensure that antivirals are accessible locally and readily at the time of need.

A small supply of antivirals has been made readily available to the National Public Health Service, which would lead the local health response should an avian influenza outbreak occur in Wales. These antivirals will be used to help protect those occupational groups at risk of exposure.

**Helen Mary Jones:** Will the Minister make a statement on how the financial deficits of some NHS trusts is impacting on their ability to deliver ‘Agenda for Change’? (WAQ46223)

**Brian Gibbons:** NHS organisations facing a deficit are required to produce a strategic change and efficiency plan to identify how they can eliminate the over spend. The increased funding required for ‘Agenda for Change’ is one of the many costs that NHS trusts will be covering within these plans.

**Helen Mary Jones:** What financial planning is currently taking place to ensure that over the next few years ‘Agenda for Change’ is fully funded? (WAQ46224)

**Brian Gibbons:** NHS organisations are required through the annual service and financial framework process to deliver financial plans for the following three years. The cost of ‘Agenda for Change’ will be incorporated in those plans.

**Helen Mary Jones:** Will the Minister detail the total amount of money he has made available to fund ‘Agenda for Change’ according to each financial year? (WAQ46225)

**Brian Gibbons:** The total amount of money made available to fund ‘Agenda for Change’: in 2004-05—£30 million; in 2005-06—£58 million.

**Jenny Randerson:** Does the Minister intend to fully fund the costs of ‘Agenda for Change’? (WAQ46226)

**Brian Gibbons:** The total costs of implementing ‘Agenda for Change’ in each NHS trust are not yet finalised. A number of organisations have modelled the projected costs but these figures remain estimates until all staff posts have been matched and assimilated and the staff paid.

The full costs are not likely to be realised until the middle of 2006-07. The Welsh Assembly Government has ring-fenced significant sums of money to cover these costs in 2004-05 and 2005-06. In 2006-07 the NHS has been directed through the national finance agreement to identify the necessary resources from the discretionary allocations to LHBs and HCW as part of the 2006-07 service and financial framework.

**Jenny Randerson:** Does the Minister intend to increase fees for care home registration and inspection in Wales? (WAQ46227)

**Brian Gibbons:** No. I announced in March 2005 the Welsh Assembly Government's intention to freeze the remaining registration and inspection fees for 2005-06—and to abolish them altogether with effect from 1 April 2006. This covers all regulated services including care homes.

My announcement was subject to the Assembly approving both the funding and secondary legislation. The funding was approved as part of the Assembly Budget for 2006-07. The necessary statutory instrument is timetabled for consideration by the Assembly in Plenary on Tuesday 21 March.

**Jenny Randerson:** Will the Minister be providing additional funding from April 2006 to pay for additional salaried dentists? (WAQ46228)

**Brian Gibbons:** An additional £15 million is being allocated for NHS dentistry from 2006-07. Local health boards will have responsibility for commissioning dental services in their area and will hold the dentistry budget to do this. It will be for LHBs to commission the dental services required through contracts with dental practitioners, dental bodies corporate or providing services themselves by directly employing dentists. As is the case now, LHBs will also be able to commission dental services from the community dental service.

**Jenny Randerson:** Has the Minister received any correspondence from Medserve or held any meetings with the charity? (WAQ46229)

**Brian Gibbons:** I have not received correspondence from Medserve or held any meetings with the charity. Officials met with Medserve in May 2004 to discuss its role in providing medical incident officers.

**Jenny Randerson:** Does the Minister have any plans to provide funding for Medserve? (WAQ46230)

**Brian Gibbons:** Medserve is a registered charity that operates in South Wales. It does not receive funding directly from the Welsh Assembly Government but does receive some funding from local health boards through formal arrangements to provide medical incident officers at major incidents. Local health boards, in partnership with local authorities and others, are responsible and accountable for commissioning services at a local level and commissioning has to reflect local needs and priorities.



**Jenny Randerson:** What action is the Minister planning to take following the end to the consultancy at 'Bridges to the Future'? (WAQ46231)

**Brian Gibbons:** At the request of the dental profession the consultation period for 'Bridges to the Future' was extended until 31 December 2005. The 37 responses received have been collated and I am expecting to receive advice, including a collective analysis of the responses, in a report shortly.

Following consideration of the report the Assembly Government will issue a public response. We have also said that we will be publishing guidance on the role of the community dental service and other salaried primary care dental services once the report has been considered.

**Kirsty Williams:** When does the Minister expect to announce the outcomes of the seminar held in Hay-on-Wye on 25 November, which looked at the problem of Welsh patients having to pay English prescription charges if their GP's practice is based in England? (WAQ46235)

**Brian Gibbons:** My officials are currently engaged in discussions with Assembly lawyers concerning the necessary legal framework to put the recommendations of the seminar into place.

When these discussions are complete and we have a timetable for the changes then I will be pleased to announce the way forward.

**Helen Mary Jones:** Does the Minister intend to fully fund 'Agenda for Change'? (WAQ46238)

**Brian Gibbons:** The total costs of implementing 'Agenda for Change' in each NHS trust are not yet finalised. A number of organisations have modelled the projected costs but these figures remain estimates until all staff posts have been matched and assimilated and the staff paid.

The full costs are not likely to be realised until the middle of 2006-07. The Welsh Assembly Government has ring-fenced significant sums of money to cover these costs in 2004-05 and 2005-06. In 2006-07 the NHS has been directed through the national finance agreement to identify the necessary resources from the discretionary allocations to LHBs and HCW as part of the 2006-07 service and financial framework.

**Helen Mary Jones:** Will the Minister detail the number of ambulance stations that have closed in each LHB area for every year since 1997? (WAQ46247)

**Brian Gibbons:** This information is not held centrally.

**Jenny Randerson:** Please provide details of the trusts that are providing the DAFYDD programme for diabetics, with approximate numbers for those who are receiving this programme within each trust? (WAQ46250)

**Brian Gibbons:** The following trusts are providing, or intend to provide, the dosage adjustment for your daily diet (DAFYDD) programme:

### **Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust**

At the Princess of Wales Hospital, patients are being taught carbohydrate counting: no formal sessions have yet commenced.

### **Carmarthenshire NHS Trust**

Carmarthenshire NHS Trust has delivered one adult course, which was completed by eight people. Three young adult courses (for those aged 11 to 16 years) have been undertaken: the first in the UK. Eighteen young adults attended the most recent course: 13 from Carmarthenshire NHS Trust and five from Swansea NHS Trust. The trusts were recently awarded the Abracadabra education award for this work with young adults.

### **Ceredigion NHS Trust**

At Bronglais Hospital, patients are being taught carbohydrate counting in preparation for DAFYDD training.

### **Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust**

Caerphilly District Miners' Hospital is in the preparatory stages of commencing DAFYDD.

Neville Hall Hospital commenced training in July 2004. Thirty-nine people have completed courses to date: with a further eight people registered for the sixth course, which begins next week.

The Royal Gwent Hospital began running DAFYDD courses in April 2005. So far 20 adults have completed one of the three courses that have been run.

### **North East Wales NHS Trust**

Wrexham Maelor Hospital commenced DAFYDD in October 2005. Three adults have undertaken and completed the course, and two further courses planned.

### **North Glamorgan NHS Trust**

At Prince Charles Hospital, consultants and diabetes specialist nurses have requested further DAFYDD training.

### **North West Wales NHS Trust**

Ysbyty Gwynedd has one-to-one training in progress in view of the rurality of the patient population.

### **Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust**

In Pembrokeshire, Withybush Hospital has undertaken three courses, with a fourth arranged for April. Twenty-four adults have completed the course.

### **Swansea NHS Trust**

At Morriston Hospital, patients are being taught carbohydrate counting. DAFYDD is the programme of choice to be implemented.

**Alun Cairns:** Will the Minister provide information on the number of violent incidents for each and every year over the last five years at each accident and emergency unit in Wales? (WAQ46251)

**Brian Gibbons:** This information is not held centrally. However, information on the total number of incidents reported in each department by NHS trusts in Wales for 2003-04 is contained in the Wales Audit Office report on protecting NHS trust staff from violence and aggression published in September 2005.

**Leighton Andrews:** Will the Minister make a statement on the treatment of those suffering from pleural plaques? (WAQ46256)

**Brian Gibbons:** Pleural plaques are a reactive response of the pleural membrane, most often, but not exclusively, seen following exposure to asbestos fibres.

While they frequently give rise to little in the way of symptoms or loss of lung function, they can indicate a past history of exposure to asbestos, which can be screened for pulmonary mesothelioma, the malignant lung tumour associated with asbestosis.

Local health boards are responsible for the development of services to support locally identified needs. They are well placed to undertake local health needs assessments and to develop services according to those needs and within allocated resources.

**Leanne Wood:** Has the Minister made any assessment on the financial implications of the passing of the Identity Cards Bill in Westminster to his budget and, if so, will the Minister publish its contents? (WAQ46259)

**Brian Gibbons:** I refer you to the answer given by the Finance Minister to WAQ46262.

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister make a statement on the financial implications to his budget of the passing of the Identity Cards Bill in Westminster? (WAQ46266)

**Brian Gibbons:** I refer you to the answer given by the Finance Minister to WAQ46271.

**Helen Mary Jones:** For each local authority area, will the Minister detail average life expectancy for each year since 1997? (WAQ46287)

**Brian Gibbons:** Life expectancy is calculated on the basis of a three-year average as this provides more robust estimates than can be obtained using data for single years. The life expectancy for each local authority area for the years in question can be found on the StatsWales website:

<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=2608>

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister list the NHS dentists taking new registrations in the Vale of Glamorgan at the present time? (WAQ46289)

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of NHS dentists in Dinas Powys? (WAQ46292)

**Leanne Wood:** What plans does the Minister have to increase the number of NHS dentists in the Vale of Glamorgan? (WAQ46293)

**Brian Gibbons:** The Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board has had nine personal dental service pilot proposals approved securing NHS provision for 20,994 existing NHS patients and creating additional access for 11,265 new patients. These additional NHS places have been filled via managed registration utilising LHB waiting lists. As a consequence there are no practices presently registering additional NHS

patients although information on where emergency dental services for unregistered patients may be accessed is available from the Vale of Glamorgan LHB helpline telephone number.

From 1 April substantial investment in the new dental reforms will introduce local commissioning which gives LHBs increasing control about how NHS dental services are developed to meet local needs. In addition if a dentist reduces their commitment to the NHS, as recently happened in Dinas Powys, the LHB will be able to use the resources freed up to provide alternative dental services.

**Leanne Wood:** What plans does the Minister have to regulate the way in which dentists move from NHS to private practice? (WAQ46290)

**Brian Gibbons:** The majority of dentists are independent self-employed practitioners who can choose whether or not they provide NHS treatment. We have no powers of compulsion in the matter. The new dental contract will break the present item of service treadmill where dentists are paid a wide range of different fees for each procedure they undertake. It will guarantee dentists an income for three years based on their historic earnings (with appropriate uplifts) without them having to worry whether the work they are undertaking generates charge income.

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister state the number of NHS dental practices which were taking new registrations in the Vale of Glamorgan for each year since 1999? (WAQ46291)

**Brian Gibbons:** The information is not available. The decision by a dental practice to register patients for treatment is a matter for the individual practice concerned. As a consequence the dental practices accepting patients fluctuates throughout the year, and from year to year, as registers are opened and closed preventing the capture of accurate data on individual practices.

**Leighton Andrews:** What evidence does the Minister have concerning the impact of fluoridation of the water supply on dental health, and will he make a statement? (WAQ46295)

**Brian Gibbons:** Scientific evidence to date supports the view that fluoridation of drinking supplies at World Health Organization recommended levels (1 part per million) is a safe and beneficial measure that significantly reduces tooth decay.

The University of York's report, 'A Systematic Review of Water Fluoridation', published in 2000, concluded that water fluoridation increased the number of children without tooth decay by at least 15 per cent and found no evidence of adverse associations other than dental fluorosis. The report called for

further good quality research on fluoridation. The Medical Research Council has recently identified the areas that require further study.

Fluoridation was introduced in Anglesey in 1955 as part of a UK pilot study, which resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in decayed, missing and filled teeth in five-year-old children.

The Secretary of State for Health has made consultation regulations in relation to England to enable strategic health authorities to carry out consultations on proposed schemes. The Welsh Assembly Government has no current plans to introduce fluoridation; however we will closely monitor developments in England before deciding on any action to be taken in Wales.

**Leighton Andrews:** How many GP practices in Wales (a) have and (b) do not have asthma nurses? (WAQ46296)

**Brian Gibbons:** I regret that the information requested is not held centrally.

**Lisa Francis:** Will the Minister make a statement on waiting times for MRI scans? (WAQ46301)

**Brian Gibbons:** Statistics on waiting times for diagnostic and therapy services were published for the first time on 15 February. The latest statistics, published on 15 March, are available through the StatsWales Website at <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk>.

**Lisa Francis:** What steps is the Minister taking to increase the number of railway stations equipped with defibrillator machines? (WAQ46304)

**Lisa Francis:** Which railway stations in Wales have defibrillator machines on the premises? (WAQ46305)

**Brian Gibbons:** Health Commission Wales is funding the roll-out of a number of defibrillators and a public training programme at key sites across Wales. This is due to begin in April and should be completed by the end of June.

All sites are shown in the tables below:

<b>South East Region</b>	<b>Number of automated external defibrulators</b>
Cardiff International Airport—Rhoose	4
Cardiff Central Railway Station—Cardiff	4
Cardiff Queen Street Railway Station—Cardiff	2
Newport Railway Station—Newport	2
St David's Arcade, Cardiff	3
Queens Arcade, Cardiff	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Central and West Region</b>	<b>Number of automated external defibrulators</b>
High Street Railway Station, Swansea	3
Neath Railway Station	2
Bridgend Railway Station	1
Llanelli Railway Station	1
Carmarthen Railway Station	1
Fishguard Ferry Terminal	3
Swansea University	1
Trinity College Carmarthen	1
Greyfriars Shopping Centre Carmarthen	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>North Region</b>	<b>Number of automated external defibrillators</b>
Stenna Ferry Terminal—Holyhead	3
Broughton Retail Park	2
Queens Square Shopping Centre—Wrexham	2
Wrexham Railway Station	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

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

**Val Lloyd:** Will the Minister provide an update on the Supporting People settlement for 2006-07?  
(WAQ46233)

**Edwina Hart:** I announced in Social Justice and Regeneration Committee on 9 February 2006 that I had found additional resources from within my budgets of £4 million to add to the Supporting People budget for 2006-07.

The extra resources have been utilised to maintain local authority Supporting People budgets at their 2005-06 level and to provide an inflationary uplift of 1.5 per cent for Supporting People revenue grant funded projects from 1 April 2006.

Revised Supporting People revenue grant tariffs have been introduced from 1 April 2006 following the deliberations of a multi agency working group. The tariffs have introduced reduced rates for larger projects based upon the economies of scale available to the administration of these projects. These reduced rates affect under 50 of the 544 projects operating across Wales and in introducing these tariffs I have been mindful of the need to ensure the protection of services for as many projects and vulnerable client groups as possible.

**Leanne Wood:** Has the Minister made any assessment on the financial implications of the passing of the Identity Cards Bill in Westminster to her budget and, if so, will the Minister publish its contents?  
(WAQ46261)

**Edwina Hart:** I refer you to the answer given by the Finance Minister to WAQ46262.



**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister make a statement on the financial implications to her budget of the passing of the Identity Cards Bill in Westminster? (WAQ46265)

**Edwina Hart:** I refer you to the answer given by the Finance Minister to WAQ46271.

**Leanne Wood:** When does the Minister intend to make the entire 'Communities First Initial Case Studies Key Findings: Working Paper' from June 2004 publicly available? (WAQ46284)

**Edwina Hart:** The initial case studies working paper presented first findings based on work in the case study areas which was still incomplete. It is not appropriate to publish those findings since the subsequent work undertaken has provided fuller and more accurate pictures of those case study areas. The findings from all the completed case studies will be published in the summer of 2006 as part of the final evaluation report into Communities First.

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister make a statement the impact of the Welsh index of multiple deprivation on the Communities First programme? (WAQ46285)

**Edwina Hart:** I have asked Communities First co-ordinators and partnership chairs for their views and their responses are now being analysed. By late spring I aim to issue a formal proposal about whether there will be any changes to the areas to be included in the Communities First programme. I will consult on that proposal with Communities First partnerships and key stakeholders with a view to reaching a decision in the summer.

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister list the organisations she has written to about the new Welsh index of multiple deprivation? (WAQ46286)

**Edwina Hart:** I have written to all the Communities First partnership co-ordinators and chairs inviting them to submit their views on how the Assembly Government might take forward the Communities First programme in light of the new index of multiple deprivation 2005.

**Lisa Francis:** What discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government regarding illegal gambling in Wales? (WAQ46298)

**Edwina Hart:** None.