

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 2 February 2011

[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 the Economy and Transport

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister outline how much money has been spent by the Welsh Assembly Government in the last 5 years on the protection of Dara and Defence Support Group jobs located in St Athan. (WAQ57016)

Answer issued on 08 February 2011

Since acquisition of the site in 2003 and up to 31 October 2010, £13.329 million has been spent on airfield operations and maintenance costs with the specific aim of supporting users of the aerodrome and retaining vital skills in Wales. This expenditure represents sums spent by the Assembly Government and the former Welsh Development Agency.

The above figure includes a net cost of £5.254 million incurred in the reconstruction of the runway which has a design life of fifteen years.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide the figure for how many Dara and Defence Support Group jobs (in total) have been safeguarded through Welsh Assembly Government investment at St Athan. (WAQ57017)

Answer issued on 08 February 2011

From 2009 and until the end of 2012, approximately 339 Defence Support Group jobs in total have been protected through the contribution the Assembly Government is making towards the annual operational costs of the airfield and the reconstruction of the runway at St Athan.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Is the Minister now in a position to clarify the answer given to WAQ56837, with particular reference to whether the cost relates exclusively to the Aerospace Business Park Development at St Athan. (WAQ57018)

Answer issued on 08 February 2011

I refer you to my letter to you in response to WAQ 56910.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): With reference to WAQ56837, could the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the money spent on land acquisition, professional fees and environmental and biodiversity advice in relation to the Aerospace Business Park Development at St Athan. (WAQ57019)

Answer issued on 08 February 2011

I refer you to my letter to you in response to WAQ 56910.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Has RCMA Social Enterprise Ltd been in receipt of financial support from the Minister's department in any of the last four years, giving an annual breakdown. (WAQ57021)

Answer issued on 08 February 2011

No.

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): How much money was allocated to Wales in the current Convergence programme, how much was spent in each of the previous years and how much of future spend is a) allocated and b) unallocated. (WAQ57027)

Answer issued on 08 February 2011

The EU funding allocation for the Convergence programmes 2007–2013 is £1.75 billion, representing a total project investment of £2.9 billion for the West Wales and the Valleys region.

A breakdown, by calendar year, of commitment and expenditure is as follows:

Calendar Year	Total cost of projects approved (£m)	EU funds committed (£m)	Total expenditure (£m)	EU funds expenditure (£m)
2008	937.0	470.0	1.0	1.0
2009	979.0	509.0	247.0	134.0
2010	810.0	398.0	379.0	200.0
Total	2,726.0	1,377.0	627.0	335.0

(note: the 2007–2013 programmes were launched in Autumn 2007, with first project approvals in early 2008.

Expenditure figures are based on claims submitted by project sponsors, with sponsors having up until the end of 2015 to make expenditure claims.

Programme budget allocations are given to Member States in Euros. The pound sterling figures above are based on a planning rate of £1: €1.20 and will vary with changes in the exchange rate over the lifetime of the programmes).

To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How much Forestry Commission owned land has been sold in Wales in each of the last 10 years, giving figures in acres/hectares. (WAQ57022)

Answer issued on 07 April 2011

Woodland Sales

Business Year	Area Sold hectares/acres 1 hectare=2.47 acres
2001/02	399/986
2002/03	57/141
2003/04	11/27
2004/05	8/20
2005/06	239/591
2006/07	524/1294
2007/08	64/158

2008/09	0
2009/10	0
2010/11	15/37
Total	1317 hectares/3254 acres

Other Land and Building Sales

Business Year	Area Sold hectares/acres 1 hectare=2.47 acres
2001/02	18/45
2002/03	12/30
2003/04	8/20
2004/05	109/269
2005/06	66/163
2006/07	20/50
2007/08	14/35
2008/09	6/15
2009/10	7/17
2010/11	6/15
Total	265 hectares/657 acres

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How much money has been raised in the sale of Forestry Commission owned land and property in Wales, giving figures for each of the last 10 years. (WAQ57023)

Answer issued on 07 April 2011

Woodland Sales

Business Year	Disposals Income (£)
2001/02	485,283
2002/03	113,500
2003/04	20,000

2004/05	27,000
2005/06	666,565
2006/07	901,875
2007/08	148,500
2008/09	0
2009/10	0
2010/11	25,000
Total	£2,387,723

Land and Building Sales

Business Year	Disposals Income (£)
2001/02	116,225
2002/03	148,900
2003/04	17,651
2004/05	586,756
2005/06	75,350
2006/07	276,541
2007/08	85,585
2008/09	28,650
2009/10	118,279
2010/11	999,449
Total	£2,453,386

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Assembly Government's work to prepare for the change from historic to area-based single farm payments. (WAQ57024)

Answer issued on 08 February 2011

The Welsh Assembly Government has undertaken extensive research and impact assessments to prepare for this change. Through scenario planning we have been able to estimate the numbers of farmers that

would receive higher and lower payments and the extent of those gains and losses in relation to several different variables including a standard all Wales average payment and a differential payment between LFA and non LFA. We have also looked at the impact on the different sectors. The LFA beef and sheep sector tends to fair rather better irrespective of scenario while the dairy sector fairs less well although there are winners and losers in every sector for all scenarios. It is most unlikely that the historic basis of Single Payment will be tenable after 2013 and I will be pressing for a lengthy transitional period to area based payments to minimise the impact of the redistribution.

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister detail a) the number of successful grant applications under the Better Woodland for Wales scheme in each year since its introduction, and b) the total amount paid for each application in each year since the scheme's introduction. (WAQ57025)

Answer issued on 03 February 2011

a) Number of successful grant applications under Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW) since its introduction in 2006:

	Number of successful BWW applications
2006/07	5
2007/08	196
2008/09	302
2009/10	299
2010/11 (27 Jan 2011)	256
Total	1058

b) Payments per application each year since the scheme's introduction as per attached spreadsheet.

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister provide an update on her discussions with Defra concerning the future funding of animal health budgets. (WAQ57026)

Answers issued on 03 February 2011

Animal health and welfare powers are already largely devolved to Wales. DEFRA has proposed to devolve a proportion of the animal health and welfare budgets, currently held on a GB basis, by April 2011. Negotiations have been complex and have covered issues such as; the financial split between Administrations; the conditions to be imposed on the settlement; and future governance arrangements between Administrations. These discussions are nearing a conclusion. I then expect to receive a formal offer of funding. Once in receipt of the offer, I will be in a position to make a final determination on whether the settlement and any conditions attached to the offer are acceptable to Wales.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide figures for how much grant aid/financial support WAG have provided to RCMA Social Enterprise Ltd in each of the last four years. (WAQ57020)

Answers issued on 08 February 2011

I can advise that Riverside Community Market Association Social Enterprise Ltd (RCMA) received £12,000 for a feasibility study into the viability of establishing a Community Garden in 2007. This has since been established and RCMA won a gold award in the Wales the True Taste Awards 2010 for a Local Sourcing Initiative - for their Community Enterprise and Riverside Market Garden.

RCMA has also received funding (in 2010) to put a Processing and Marketing Grant application together via our Food Business Development Advisors (FBDA) - at a cost of £2,500.