

## **Answers issued to Members on 4 November 2008**

[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 Minister for Health and Social Services

**Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire):** How many physiotherapists who graduated in Wales in 2007 have yet to find jobs? (WAQ52685)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** 119 physiotherapists graduated from Cardiff in 2007, of these 76 have informed the School that they have employment. It is probable that others have now secured employment but not informed the School. A survey by Chartered Society of Physiotherapists indicated that 102 had secured employment.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Further to WAQ52597, will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of what this expenditure includes? (WAQ52687)

**Edwina Hart:** This level of detail is not held centrally.

**Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire):** How many physiotherapists who graduated in Wales in 2008 have yet to find jobs? (WAQ52686)

**Edwina Hart:** 74 physiotherapists graduated from Cardiff University in July 2008 of these 30 have informed the School that they have jobs. Most of the others are currently applying for posts. Some may have obtained posts but not informed the school of that.

### Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on the number of drug offences in Wales and what he proposes to do to address this problem? (WAQ52683)

**The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons):** There were 12,700 drug offences in Wales during 2007-08 which translates to 4 offences per 1,000 of the population in line with the England and Wales average.

The Welsh Assembly Government's new substance misuse strategy 'Working Together to Reduce Harm', sets out a clear national agenda for how we and our partners can tackle and reduce the harms associated with substance misuse in Wales. We believe that a co-ordinated approach is essential and are supporting a range of interventions including a drug intervention programme for offenders as well as counselling, assessment referral advice, through care teams and transitional support. We also believe that education has a key role to play in reducing substance misuse and are supporting the All Wales Schools Liaison Core Programme to promote the dangers of substances to all school children in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government has made significant investment to tackle substance misuse. Last year, we announced the new Strategy would be backed by an extra £9.6 million from the Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF) for 2008-09 to 2010-11. In August 2008, we announced a further £2 million (SMAF) is available this year and in the draft budget a total of £3.2 million (also SMAF) will be made available for substance misuse services in 2009-10 and 2010-11. There will also be a further £3 million from the Health Inequalities Fund to help deliver the related alcohol actions which underpin the strategy. This means that in total, the Welsh Assembly Government are increasing funding for substance misuse treatment services over this period by £17.8 million.

The Welsh Assembly Government also continues to fund Operation Tarian who in 2007-08 disrupted and dismantled a number of organised crime groups in the Southern Wales regions and made a significant number of arrests.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister advise whether the serious under recording of violent crime by police forces has any implications for the delivery of social justice policies in Wales? (WAQ52684)

**Brian Gibbons:** In England and Wales the level of violent crime against the person recorded by the police showed a seven percent fall in April to June 2008. Two changes have been made which have affected the count of most serious violence against the person offences. Following the introduction of the UK Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) Delivery Agreement 23, grievous bodily harm without intent has been moved from 'Other violence against the person—with injury' to the 'Most serious violence against the person' offence category but trend data are not yet available.

There was also a clarification in the counting rules covering offences of grievous bodily harm with intent. The clarification is around the circumstances that may indicate intent, and when it is appropriate to record a crime as attempted GBH with intent. Information received from police forces indicates that this clarification accounts for at least two thirds of the 26% increase in GBH with intent. GBH with intent accounts for 92% of 'Most serious violence against the person'.

The Welsh Assembly Government continues to support CSPs in delivering safer communities across Wales.