

Written Questions answered between 18 December 2003 and 5 January 2004

[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

Christmas Cards

William Graham: How many Christmas cards were sent by the First Minister for Christmas 2002, and will he make a statement on the amount paid from Assembly finance for the purchase and posting of these cards? (WAQ30717)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I sent 600 cards in Christmas 2002. The total cost of print, envelopes, postage and value added tax was £331.50.

'Iaith Pawb'

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno 'Iaith Pawb', pa gamau y mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi'u cymryd i greu mecanwaith ar gyfer ystyried rhyngweithio ac effaith amryw o bolisiau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad? (WAQ30893) [W]

Y Prif Weinidog: Ers cyhoeddi 'Iaith Pawb', yr ydym, ymysg pethau eraill, wedi sefydlu uned iaith sy'n gyfrifol am oruchwylio gweithredu 'Iaith Pawb' a chynllun iaith y Llywodraeth a darparu canllawiau a chynghor ar brif-ffrydio'r Gymraeg. Bydd yr adroddiad blynyddol ar 'Iaith Pawb' a chynllun iaith y Llywodraeth yn ystyried yr ystod eang o bolisiau'r Llywodraeth sy'n cefnogi'r Gymraeg.

'Iaith Pawb'

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of 'Iaith Pawb', what steps has the First Minister taken to create a mechanism to consider the interaction between, and effect of, various Welsh Assembly Government policies? (WAQ30893) [W]

The First Minister: Since publishing 'Iaith Pawb', we have, among other things, established a Welsh language unit to oversee the implementation of 'Iaith Pawb' and the Government's Welsh language scheme and to provide guidance and support on mainstreaming the language. The annual report on 'Iaith Pawb' and the Government's Welsh language scheme will consider the wide range of Government policies that support the Welsh language.

Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

Christmas Cards

William Graham: How many Christmas cards were sent by the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport for Christmas 2002, and will he make a statement on the amount paid from Assembly finance for the purchase and posting of these cards? (WAQ30718)

The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh): The then Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language sent 300 Christmas cards in 2002. The cost of print, envelopes, postage and VAT was £192.

Middleton—Gardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Faint o ymwelwyr y mae gardd fotaneg Cymru wedi eu denu ers ei hagor, a beth yw incwm gwariant o ganlyniad i'r ymweliadau hyn? (WAQ30775) [W]

Alun Pugh: Ers ei hagor, dyma faint o ymwelwyr y mae gardd fotaneg Cymru wedi'u denu:

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| 2000-01 | 205,000 |
| 2001-02 | 192,000 |
| 2002-03 | 142,000 |
| 2003-04 | 110,000 (rhagamcan) |

Bydd ateb i'ch ail bwynt yn dilyn.

Middleton—the National Botanic Garden of Wales

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: How many visitors has the Welsh botanic garden attracted since it opened and what is the spending income to the area as a result of these visits? (WAQ30775) [W]

Alun Pugh: Since opening, the national botanic garden of Wales has attracted the following number of visitors:

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| 2000-01 | 205,000 |
| 2001-02 | 192,000 |
| 2002-03 | 142,000 |
| 2003-04 | 110,000 (forecast) |

A response to the second point you raise will follow.

Cardiff County Council's Welsh Language Scheme

Jenny Randerson: Have you received any complaints about, or taken any action for, the failure of Cardiff County Council to properly apply its Welsh language scheme? (WAQ30847)

Alun Pugh: I have not received any complaints. The Welsh Language Board is responsible for monitoring and dealing with complaints in relation to Welsh language schemes.

Y Gronfa Ffilm, Teledu a Chyfryngau Newydd

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno 'Iaith Pawb', pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ddarparu cefnogaeth ychwanegol ar gyfer y gronfa ffilm, teledu a chyfryngau newydd? (WAQ30882) [W]

Alun Pugh: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cynnal arolwg gwariant ar draws pob portffolio. Yn ogystal, mae'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, Andrew Davies, wedi comisiynu arolwg o sut mae Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn cefnogi'r diwydiannau creadigol. Yn sgîl y ddau arolwg, yr ydym wedi penderfynu peidio â pharhau gyda sefydlu cronfa ffilm, teledu a'r cyfryngau newydd. Yr ydym yn credu ei bod yn synhwyrol inni edrych ar y gronfa eto fel rhan o'r broses arolygu, wrth inni ganolbwyntio ar gyflawni ein blaenoriaethau maniffesto.

The Film, Television and New Media Fund

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of 'Iaith Pawb', what steps has the Minister taken to provide additional support for the film, television and new media fund? (WAQ30882) [W]

Alun Pugh: The Welsh Assembly Government is undertaking a spending review across all portfolios. Furthermore, the Minister for Economic Development and Transport, Andrew Davies, has instigated a review of how the Welsh Development Agency supports creative industries. In light of these two reviews, we have decided at this stage not to progress with the film, television and new media fund. We feel it is prudent to look at the fund again as part of the review process, while we concentrate on delivering our manifesto priorities.

Sefydlu Theatr Gymraeg Genedlaethol

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno 'Iaith Pawb', pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i sefydlu theatr Gymraeg genedlaethol a rhoi hwb i'r ddrama Gymraeg? (WAQ30884) [W]

Alun Pugh: Yn ystod 2002-03, cymerwyd cam mawr ymlaen yn y gwaith o greu cwmni theatr cenedlaethol Cymraeg wrth lansio Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru. Ym mis Mai 2003, dewiswyd sir Gaerfyrddin fel cartref y cwmni a symudodd i'w leoliad newydd dros dro yn ystod yr hydref. Y bwriad yw cynnal y cynhyrchiad cyntaf yn gynnar yn 2004.

Bydd gwaith Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru yn cryfhau theatr Gymraeg ei hiaith ac yn sicrhau bod y theatr o fewn cyrraedd pawb, a bod pawb ar bob lefel yn gallu cymryd rhan. Mae'n gysylltiedig â rhaglen datblygu lleoliadau Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru ac â'r flaenoriaeth strategol o sicrhau cynulleidfaoedd sy'n cynrychioli holl gymunedau Cymru.

Establishing a Welsh National Theatre

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of 'Iaith Pawb', what steps has the Minister taken to establish a Welsh national theatre and to promote Welsh-language drama? (WAQ30884) [W]

Alun Pugh: During 2002-03, a major step forward in the creation of a national Welsh-language theatre company was taken with the launch of Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru. In May 2003, Carmarthenshire was chosen as the home of the company, which moved into its temporary new base during the autumn. The aim is to host its first production early in 2004.

The work of Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru will result in the strengthening of Welsh-language theatre and increase access and participation at all levels. It links to the programme of venue development being pursued by the Arts Council of Wales and to the strategic priority of building audiences more representative of communities across Wales.

Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport

The Illegal Tendering of the Tetra System

Kirsty Williams: What are the implications for the Assembly of the decision made by the European court regarding the illegal tendering of the Tetra system? (WAQ30711)

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): There are no implications for the Assembly.

Christmas Cards

William Graham: How many Christmas cards were sent by the Minister for Economic Development and Transport for Christmas 2002, and will he make a statement on the amount paid from Assembly finance for the purchase and posting of these cards? (WAQ30720)

Andrew Davies: As Minister for Economic Development, I sent 300 cards in Christmas 2002. The cost of print, envelopes, postage and VAT was £192.

Arian Cyfatebol

David Lloyd: Yn dilyn ailwerthuso'r ewro, faint mwy o arian cyfatebol sydd ei angen ar gyfer rhaglenni cronfeydd strwythurol o ffynonellau: (i) cyhoeddus, a (ii) preifat? (WAQ30769) [W]

Andrew Davies: Gan dybio y bydd gwerth yr ewro yn parhau ar y lefelau presennol, amcangyfrifwyd i gyfanswm yr arian cyfatebol ychwanegol sydd ei angen er mwyn cyflawni rhaglenni'r gronfa strwythurol fod yn ryw £22 miliwn bellach o'r ffynonellau cyhoeddus a £10 miliwn o'r ffynonellau preifat ar gyfer pob blwyddyn o'r rhaglen sy'n weddill.

Match Funding

David Lloyd: Further to the re-evaluation of the euro, how much more match funding is needed for structural funds from: (i) public sources, and (ii) private sources? (WAQ30769) [W]

Andrew Davies: Assuming that the value of the euro remains at its current levels, the requirement for extra match funding to deliver the structural fund programmes is estimated to be some £22 million from public sources and £10 million from private sources for each remaining year of the programme.

Middleton—Gardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar oblygiadau cau gardd fotaneg Cymru i economi sir Gaerfyrddin a gorllewin Cymru? (WAQ30776) [W]

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Faint o gyfalaf fydd yn cael ei golli i economi sir Gaerfyrddin o ganlyniad i gau'r ardd fotaneg yn Llanarthne? (WAQ30778) [W]

Andrew Davies: Fe'ch cyfeiriaf at fy ateb i WAQ30790.

Middleton—the National Botanic Garden of Wales

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on the implications of closing the Welsh botanic garden on the economy of Carmarthenshire and west Wales? (WAQ30776) [W]

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: How much capital will be lost to the economy of Carmarthenshire as a result of the closure of the botanic garden in Llanarthne? (WAQ30778) [W]

Andrew Davies: I refer you to my answer to WAQ30790.

Middleton—Gardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi cynnal unrhyw drafodaethau gydag Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a'r awdurdod lleol ynglŷn â sicrhau gwaith i gyn-weithwyr gardd fotaneg Llanarthne? (WAQ30777) [W]

Andrew Davies: Yn ystod y diswyddiadau a fu yn ddiweddar, deallaf fod asiantaethau lleol, er enghraifft, Canolfan Byd Gwaith, ar gael ar y safle i roi cymorth i'r bobl hynny a gollodd eu swyddi.

Middleton—the National Botanic Garden of Wales

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Has the Minister held any discussions with the Welsh Development Agency and the local authority about ensuring work for the former workers of the Llanarthne botanic garden? (WAQ30777) [W]

Andrew Davies: I understand that, during the recent round of redundancies, local agencies, for example, Job Centre Plus, were available on site to provide help and assistance to those people who had lost their jobs.

Objective 1 (Job Creation)

Brynle Williams: How many full-time jobs is it estimated have been created in each of the counties of Gwynedd, Conwy and Denbighshire as a result of the Objective 1 programme? (WAQ30787)

Andrew Davies: In the local partnership areas of Conwy, Gwynedd and Denbighshire, Objective 1 local projects have reported the creation of nearly 3,100 gross new jobs (full-time equivalent). These figures are based on payments made to project sponsors. A breakdown of information is as follows:

| Objective 1 local partnership area | Gross new jobs created (This local partnership) |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Conwy | 189 |
| Denbighshire | 455 |
| Gwynedd | 2,433 |

Projects approved by other partnerships also creating jobs in these local partnership areas are as follows:

| Objective 1 local partnership area | Gross new jobs created (Other partnerships) |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Conwy | 671 |
| Denbighshire | 763 |
| Gwynedd | 459 |

The above details can be obtained from the Objective 1 monitoring report for the Objective 1 programme monitoring committee meeting on 12 December, which is published on the Welsh European Funding Office's website at <http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk/>.

Bypasses for Builth Wells and Rhayader

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on what progress has been made for bypasses for Builth Wells and Rhayader? (WAQ30788)

Andrew Davies: Both schemes are in phase 3 of the current trunk road forward programme, which identifies schemes unlikely to start before 2008. However, I am currently undertaking a review of transport issues, which should be completed in the spring. I cannot comment further on these schemes at this stage except to confirm that consultants have been appointed to review the traffic and planning issues at Builth Wells.

Promoting Tourism in Mid and West Wales

Nick Bourne: What is the Minister doing to promote tourism in mid and west Wales? (WAQ30789)

Andrew Davies: The Wales Tourist Board has delegated £750,000 to the South-West Wales Tourism Partnership and £600,000 to Tourism Partnership Mid Wales respectively for 2003-04 to support the tourism industry in those areas. The WTB has also designated nine tourism growth areas in the mid and west Wales regions and has earmarked over £7.5 million over 2001-08 for the development of tourism in those areas.

Middleton—the National Botanic Garden of Wales

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: How does the closure of the national gardens in Llanarthne impact on the Labour Government's economic strategy in west Wales and the Valleys? (WAQ30790)

Andrew Davies: The national botanic garden of Wales remains open and we remain committed to doing all that we can to secure its long-term future.

The Development of Technium Centres

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on the development of Technium centres in Carmarthenshire? (WAQ30792)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister announce how many Technium centres were originally foreseen in Carmarthenshire and how many centres are likely to proceed? (WAQ30793)

Andrew Davies: There are no current plans to locate further Techniums in Carmarthenshire beyond the BioTechnium and the AutoTechnium activities at Dafen and Pembrey. The Media Technium will not now be located at Gelli Aur. Discussions about relocation continue, but Carmarthenshire remains very much in consideration for Media Technium activity.

Cau'r Rhaniad Digidol yng Nghefn Gwlad Cymru

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cymryd i gau'r rhaniad digidol mewn busnesau, ysgolion, colegau a chymunedau yng nghefn gwlad Cymru? (WAQ30825) [W]

Andrew Davies: Mae'r cynllun 'profi cyn prynu', y cynllun cymhorthdal lloeren band eang i fusnesau bach a chanolig a phrosiect Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru i ddarparu band eang i barciau busnes yn mynd i'r afael â'r diffyg cyfleoedd i fusnesau yng nghefn gwlad Cymru fanteisio ar gysylltiadau band eang. Bydd y rhaglen menter cymhorthdal seilwaith band eang (BISI) a'r rhaglen cymorth band eang arloesol rhanbarthol (RIBS) yn darparu band eang i gymunedau a busnesau mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

Prosiect gwerth £26.8 miliwn yw BISI sy'n anelu at gynyddu nifer y cymunedau sydd â chyswllt band eang i o leiaf 90, a nifer y busnesau i o leiaf 10,000 a bydd yn niwtral o ran technoleg. Bydd cymhorthdal gwerth £15 miliwn o arian cyhoeddus yn cael ei gynnig ar gyfer darparu seilwaith i'r darparwr llwyddiannus. Gobeithir y bydd y broses gaffael mewn perthynas â'r prosiect hwn yn cychwyn yng ngwanwyn 2004. Mae arian Amcan 1 wrthi'n cael ei sicrhau.

Prosiect gwerth £13.4 miliwn a ariennir yn rhannol gan Amcan 1 yw RIBS sy'n anelu at ddarparu technoleg band eang fforddiadwy. Bydd RIBS yn ariannu prosiectau arloesol, lleol a rhanbarthol yn yr ardal Amcan 1 na fyddai fel arall yn gallu manteisio ar rwydweithiau cyfathrebu cyflym iawn. Bydd yn niwtral o ran technoleg a bydd yn sicrhau bod bandiau uwch ar gael drwy un ai dechnolegau cyfathrebu sefydlog neu symudol. Nod RIBS yw cynyddu nifer y cymunedau sydd â chysylltiadau band eang i 100 a hefyd sicrhau bod 1,250 o fusnesau ychwanegol yn gallu manteisio ar gysylltiadau band eang. Sicrhawyd arian Amcan 1 ar gyfer y prosiect hwn ym mis Hydref 2003.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi buddsoddi £36 miliwn yn y prosiect rhwydwaith dysgu gydol oes er mwyn sicrhau cyswllt o 2mbs o leiaf i bob ysgol gynradd a chanolfan ddysgu a chyswllt o 8mbs o leiaf i bob ysgol uwchradd a llyfrgell. Prosiect Amcan 1 gwerth £13.4 miliwn yw ymestyn y rhwydwaith band eang (ELLeN) sy'n anelu at sicrhau bod gan ysgolion, llyfrgelloedd, canolfannau dysgu a lleoliadau cysylltiedig mewn ardaloedd anghysbell gysylltiadau band eang. Mae'r cyllid ar gyfer y prosiect hwn wrthi'n cael ei sicrhau.

Mae colegau mewn ardaloedd gwledig wedi elwa ar waith rhwydwaith fideo Cymru, a sicrhodd y cynhaliwyd 2,240 o gynadleddau fideo yn ystod y flwyddyn academiaidd 2003-04 yn y sectorau addysg bellach ac addysg uwch. Mae rhwydwaith y bobl, sy'n galluogi pobl i ddefnyddio cyfrifiaduron a'r rhyngwyd am ddim mewn 316 o lyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus wedi hwyluso mynediad at TGCh mewn ardaloedd gwledig, a chaiff cyfleusterau technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu eu hagog i'r gymuned ehangach mewn dros 400 o ganolfannau dysgu mewn ysgolion a lleoliadau cymunedol.

Prosiect arall sy'n berthnasol i Gymru wledig yw'r strategaeth am y Gymraeg mewn perthynas â TGCh y mae Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn ei llunio ar hyn o bryd.

Narrowing the Digital Divide in Rural Wales

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to narrow the digital divide in businesses, schools, colleges and communities in rural Wales? (WAQ30825) [W]

Andrew Davies: Lack of broadband infrastructure for businesses in rural Wales is being addressed by the 'try before you buy' scheme, the small and medium-sized enterprises satellite broadband subsidy scheme and the Welsh Development Agency project to deliver broadband to business parks. The broadband infrastructure subsidy initiative programme and the regional innovative broadband support programme will provide broadband to communities and businesses in rural areas.

BISI is a £26.8 million project aimed at increasing the number of communities with high bandwidth connectivity by a minimum of 90, and businesses by a minimum of 10,000 and will be technology neutral. A publicly funded subsidy of £15 million will be offered for the provision of infrastructure to the successful provider. It is intended that the procurement process for this project will commence in spring 2004. Objective 1 funding is in the process of being secured.

RIBS is an Objective 1 part-European funded £13.4 million project designed to deliver affordable broadband technology. RIBS will support funding for innovative, local and regional projects in the Objective 1 area that would not otherwise have access to high-speed communications networks. It will be technology neutral and will make higher bandwidths available either through fixed or through mobile communication technologies. RIBS aims to increase the number of communities with access to broadband by 100 and also give broadband access to 1,250 more businesses. Objective 1 funding for this project was secured in October 2003.

The Assembly Government has invested £36 million in the lifelong learning network project in order to connect all primary schools and learning centres at a minimum of 2mbs and all secondary schools and libraries at 8mbs. The extension of the lifelong learning network (ELLeN) is a £13.4 million Objective 1 project to deliver broadband connectivity to remote schools, libraries, learning centres and related premises that could not otherwise be viably connected. Funding is in the process of being secured.

Rural colleges have benefited from the work of the Welsh video network, which ensured that 2,240 video conferences were held in the academic year 2003-03 in the further and higher education sectors. Access to information and communications technology in rural areas has been made easier by the people's network, which provides free computer and internet access in 316 public libraries, and ICT facilities in over 400 learning centres in schools and community venues will be opened to the wider community. Another project relevant to rural Wales is the Welsh language in ICT strategy that is being drawn up by the Welsh Language Board at present.

Cynyddu Arlosoesedd

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i gyflwyno rhaglen i gynyddu arloesedd, ymchwil a datblygu, i drosglwyddo technoleg a datblygu cynnyrch newydd i gynyddu cystadleugarwch rhanbarthol? (WAQ30829) [W]

Andrew Davies: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cyhoeddi strategaeth gyffredinol ynghylch datblygu economaidd: 'Cymru'n Ennill'. Mae cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer arloesi, 'Cymru o Blaid Arloesi', wedi'i ddatblygu i'w hyrwyddo. Lanswyd hyn gennyf yn swyddogol ym mis Mawrth 2003.

Increasing Innovation

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to introduce a programme to increase innovation, research and development, to transfer technology and to develop new products to increase regional competitiveness? (WAQ30829) [W]

Andrew Davies: The Welsh Assembly Government has published an overall economic development strategy: 'A Winning Wales'. Supporting this, an innovation action plan, 'Wales for Innovation', has been developed. I formally launched this in March 2003.

Hyrwyddo Cefn Gwlad

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i hyrwyddo adfywio, twristiaeth a chrefftau mewn ardaloedd penodol yng nghanol gwlad? (WAQ30830) [W]

Andrew Davies: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'i hasiantaethau allweddol yn annog datblygu economaidd ac adfywio ledled Cymru drwy wahanol fecanweithiau cymorth fel y grantiau buddsoddi adfywio a grantiau datblygu twristiaeth. Mae Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn gweithredu fel hwylusydd ar ran Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wrth roi'r rhaglen gweithredu dros gymunedau gwledig a'r rhaglen siopau gwledig ar waith ac wrth weithredu erthygl 33 o'r cynllun datblygu gwledig ar draws Cymru wledig. Mae gan y rhaglenni hyn ddulliau eang a hyblyg o ran adfywio cefn gwlad, ac maent yn cynnwys gweithgareddau amrywiol iawn sy'n gysylltiedig ag anghenion penodol cymunedau. Mae'r gweithgareddau hyn yn cynnwys meithrin gallu, datblygu busnesau, annog gweithgareddau crefft a gweithgareddau i dwristiaid, datblygu cymunedau, adfywio a datblygu pentrefi a diogelu a gwarchod treftadaeth wledig, iaith, diwylliant, siopau, hyfforddiant a sgiliau. Mae gan yr awdurdod swyddogaeth allweddol yn ogystal o ran rheoli'r rhaglen Leader+ yng Nghymru a sicrhau y'i cyflwynir yn effeithiol, ar ran Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Promoting Rural Areas

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to promote regeneration, tourism and craftwork in specific areas in rural Wales? (WAQ30830) [W]

Andrew Davies: The Welsh Assembly Government and its key agencies encourage economic development and regeneration throughout Wales through a range of support mechanisms, such as regeneration investment grants and tourism development grants. The Welsh Development Agency is acting as facilitator for the Welsh Assembly Government in delivering the rural community action programme, the rural retail programme and the implementation of article 33 of the rural development plan, across rural Wales. These programmes have a broad and flexible approach to rural regeneration, covering a wide range of activities linked to the needs identified for a community. The activities include capacity building, business development, encouragement for tourist and craft activities, community development, renovation and development of villages and protection and conservation of the rural heritage, language, culture, retailing, training and skills. The agency also has a key role in managing and ensuring effective delivery of the Leader+ programme in Wales, on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Datblygu Polisiau Economaidd a Chymdeithasol

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ddarparu cyd-destun is-ranbarthol ar gyfer datblygu polisiau economaidd a chymdeithasol? (WAQ30832) [W]

Andrew Davies: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn darparu cefnogaeth ar gyfer datblygu fframweithiau adfywio rhanbarthol. Bydd y fframweithiau hyn yn dilyn patrwm fframwaith adfywio'r pum sir a ddatblygwyd ar gyfer ardal Gwent fwyaf yng nghyd-destun cau'r gweithfeydd dur, a byddant yn cyfuno strategaethau cenedlaethol, rhanbarthol a lleol.

The Development of Economic and Social Policies

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to provide a sub-regional context for the development of economic and social policies? (WAQ30832) [W]

Andrew Davies: The Welsh Assembly Government is providing support for the development of regional regeneration frameworks. These frameworks will follow the model of the five counties regeneration framework, which was developed for the greater Gwent area in the context of the steel closures and will link national, regional and local strategies.

Cyfathrebu yn Gymraeg (Y Diwydiant Twristiaeth)

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ganiatáu i'r diwydiant twristiaeth ledled Cymru gyfathrebu yn Gymraeg ar bob lefel? (WAQ30833) [W]

Andrew Davies: Mae cynllun iaith Gymraeg statudol Bwrdd Croeso Cymru yn nodi sut y dylai ddelio â'r cyhoedd a'r diwydiant ar ystod eang o feysydd, megis cynadleddau a chyfarfodydd, a chyhoeddi ac argraffu deunyddiau sydd wedi'u hanelu at y cyhoedd yng Nghymru. Mae cynllun gweithredu strategaeth twristiaeth ddiwylliannol Bwrdd Croeso Cymru yn cynnwys mesurau penodol sy'n anelu at annog a helpu busnesau twristiaeth i gyfathrebu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Communicating in Welsh (The Tourism Industry)

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to allow the tourism industry to communicate in Welsh at every level throughout Wales? (WAQ30833) [W]

Andrew Davies: The Wales Tourist Board's statutory Welsh language scheme sets out how it should deal with the public and the industry on a whole range of areas, such as conferences and meetings, and publishing and printing material directed at the public in Wales. The WTB's cultural tourism strategy action plan contains specific measures aimed at encouraging and assisting tourism businesses to communicate in Welsh.

Cynllun Rhwydweithio Busnes ar gyfer Siaradwyr Cymraeg

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i greu cynllun rhwydweithio busnes ar gyfer siaradwyr Cymraeg? (WAQ30836) [W]

Andrew Davies: Fel rhan o'r cynllun gweithredu entrepreneuriaeth, mae Menter a Busnes yn gweithredu Cwlwm Busnes Cymru, sef gwasanaeth ar-lein Cymraeg ar gyfer busnesau. Mae'r gwasanaeth hwn wedi mynd o nerth i nerth yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf gan ddenu aelodau o bob rhan o Gymru. Mae Menter a Busnes yn bwriadu datblygu'r gwasanaeth ymhellach i feithrin rhagor o gyswllt rhwng ei aelodau ac i annog mentrau busnes newydd.

A Business Network Plan for Welsh Speakers

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to create a business network plan for Welsh speakers? (WAQ30836) [W]

Andrew Davies: As part of the entrepreneurship action plan, Menter a Busnes operates Cwlwm Busnes Cymru, which is an online service for businesses through the medium of Welsh. This has gained considerable momentum in recent months attracting members from all parts of Wales. Menter a Busnes is planning to further enhance the service to develop greater interaction between its members and encourage new business initiatives.

Cynyddu Nifer y Siaradwyr Cymraeg Mewn Busnes

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i gynyddu nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg mewn busnes? (WAQ30837) [W]

Andrew Davies: Mae Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn rhoi cyllid craidd i Menter a Busnes, sy'n anelu at ddatblygu menter yn yr ystyr ehangaf bosibl, a busnes yn enwedig, yng nghyd-destun yr iaith Gymraeg a diwylliant. Mae Menter a Busnes hefyd yn bartner ym mhrosiect Potentia ac yn gyfrifol am roi cefnogaeth i siaradwyr Cymraeg cyn iddynt ddechrau busnes a gweithio gyda darparwyr cymorth busnes yn y brif ffrwd er mwyn gwella'r gwasanaethau i siaradwyr Cymraeg.

Increasing the Number of Welsh Speakers in Business

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to increase the number of Welsh speakers in business? (WAQ30837) [W]

Andrew Davies: The WDA is providing core funding to Menter a Busnes, which aims to develop enterprise in its widest sense, and business in particular, in the context of the Welsh language and culture. Menter a Busnes is also a project partner in Potentia and is responsible for delivering pre-start business support to Welsh speakers, and working with mainstream business support providers to enhance the services for Welsh speakers.

Datblygu Fframwaith Ymchwil a Datblygu

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ddatblygu fframwaith ymchwil a datblygu sy'n sail well i bolisiau sy'n effeithio ar yr economi a'r iaith Gymraeg? (WAQ30838) [W]

Andrew Davies: Sefydlaeth grŵp trafod ar y Gymraeg a'r economi, sy'n cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o drawstoriad o sefydliadau sy'n delio â materion yn ymwneud â'r Gymraeg. Ei brif nod yw ymchwilio i faterion yn ymwneud â'r Gymraeg a'r economi, a datblygu camau gweithredu yn deillio o'r ymchwil.

Developing a Research and Development Framework

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to develop a research and development framework which serves as a more sound foundation for policies that impact on the economy and the Welsh language? (WAQ30838) [W]

Andrew Davies: I have established a Welsh language and economy discussion group involving representatives from a cross-section of organisations that deal with Welsh language issues. Its primary aim is to research issues surrounding the Welsh language and economy and to develop actions arising from the research.

Busnesau a Mentrau Cymunedol

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ddarparu cyllid a chefnogaeth reoli i fusnesau a mentrau cymunedol? (WAQ30839) [W]

Andrew Davies: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cymryd nifer o gamau er mwyn cynnal busnesau cymunedol, gan gynnwys datblygu undebau credyd, darparu benthyciadau cymunedol drwy Cyllid Cymru, a chyflwyno'r prosiect ymarfer menter o dan nawdd y cynllun gweithredu entrepreneuriaeth.

Community Businesses and Initiatives

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to provide financial and management support for community businesses and initiatives? (WAQ30839) [W]

Andrew Davies: The Welsh Assembly Government has taken several steps to support community businesses, including developing the credit union movement, the provision of community loans through Finance Wales and the introduction of the enterprise rehearsal project under the auspices of the entrepreneurship action plan.

Middleton—the National Botanic Garden of Wales

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Has the Minister recently met with the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport to discuss the national botanical garden? (WAQ30857)

Andrew Davies: I have met with Ministers on a number of occasions to discuss the national botanic garden of Wales.

Middleton—the National Botanic Garden of Wales

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on the importance of the national garden at Llanarthne in assisting the development of the tourism industry in west Wales? (WAQ30858)

Andrew Davies: The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to helping secure the long-term future of the garden as a quality attraction that will draw visitors to the area and generate employment. I understand that several potential investors have expressed interest, and we stand ready with our public-sector partners to work with any organisation that has viable proposals for taking the garden forward.

Blas ar Fusnes i Bobl Ifanc

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno ‘Iaith Pawb’, pa gamau y mae’r Gweinidog wedi’u cymryd i helpu pobl ifanc i gael blas ar fusnes? (WAQ30894) [W]

Andrew Davies: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cefnogi nifer o fentrau sy’n galluogi pobl ifanc i gael blas ar fyd busnes mewn amgylchedd diogel. Mae’r rhain yn cynnwys prosiect ffatri fentrau Menter a Busnes, y prosiect ymarfer menter, menter yr ifanc, menter graddedigion ac eraill.

A Taste of Business for Young People

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of ‘Iaith Pawb’, what steps has the Minister taken to help give young people a taste of business? (WAQ30894) [W]

Andrew Davies: There are a number of initiatives supported by the Welsh Assembly Government that enable young people to experience business in a safe environment. These include Menter a Busnes’s enterprise factory project, the enterprise rehearsal project, young enterprise, graduate enterprise and others.

Gwobrau Busnes Cymraeg

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno ‘Iaith Pawb’, beth y mae’r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i gefnogi ymhellach y gwobrau busnes iaith Gymraeg blynyddol? (WAQ30895) [W]

Andrew Davies: Menter a Busnes sy’n rheoli’r gwobrau hyn ac mae wedi sicrhau arian oddi wrth nifer o wahanol noddwyr, gan gynnwys Bwrdd Croeso Cymru, gan ddefnyddio’r cymorth grant yr wyf yn ei ddarparu.

Welsh Language Business Awards

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of 'Iaith Pawb', what has the Minister done to provide further support for the annual Welsh language business awards? (WAQ30895) [W]

Andrew Davies: These awards are managed by Menter a Busnes, which has secured funding from a number of sponsors, including the Wales Tourist Board, drawing in grant in aid that I provide.

Questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

Christmas Cards

William Graham: How many Christmas cards were sent by the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning for Christmas 2002, and will she make a statement on the amount paid from Assembly finance for the purchase and posting of these cards? (WAQ30713)

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I sent 500 cards in 2002. The total cost of print, envelopes, postage and VAT was £320.

Estyn's Inspection Reports

Leighton Andrews: Will the Minister list the inspection reports on post-16 training providers produced by Estyn? (WAQ30730)

Jane Davidson: The production and publication of inspection reports is a matter for the Chief Inspector of Education and Training. The inspectorate provides details of the learning providers to be inspected in the current year and the inspection reports completed to date. The inspection schedule and the full inspection reports can be accessed on <http://www.estyn.gov.uk/>.

Public Transport Journey Times to Learning Institutions

Leighton Andrews: How many learners aged 16 to 19 in each local authority area face public transport journeys of a) more than 1 hour, b) 45 minutes and c) 30 minutes to an institution providing one or more of their courses? (WAQ30731)

Jane Davidson: This type of information is not held centrally. However, in accordance with their new duty under the Education Act 1996 (as amended by section 199 and Schedule 19 of the Education Act 2002), local education authorities will be expected to produce annual transport policy statements for learners in this age group.

Under the amended Act, local education authorities are required to publish, by 31 May each year, a statement setting out arrangements for the provision of transport and related financial assistance within their boundaries for the forthcoming academic year. In so doing, they will need to seek the assistance of their partners in community consortia for education and training and Education and Learning Wales.

Draft guidance on these responsibilities is currently being prepared by officials for consultation early in the new year. It will be finalised and issued to local authorities in April 2004.

New Teachers' Assessment System

Peter Black: How will the decision of the School Teachers' Review Body to create a new assessment system to decide which teachers will progress from level 2 to level 3 affect Welsh teachers and what money will be available to schools to fund this? (WAQ30794)

Jane Davidson: Teachers' pay is not devolved and decisions for both Wales and England are the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. Following the recommendations of the independent School Teachers' Review Body, the Secretary of State has been consulting key stakeholders on proposed changes to teachers' pay, based on the body's recommendations.

As part of this process, discussions are being held with key stakeholders on a framework for progression to upper pay scale 3. In light of the STRB report, the Secretary of State indicated that the discussions would need to cover rigorous criteria to identify the very best teachers, a grading system with which to rank these teachers, and a system of external assessment. No conclusions have yet been reached.

The increase of over 5 per cent in the local government revenue settlement is double that previously indicated, and is almost double the rate of inflation. It takes account of pay and price pressures, including teachers' threshold pay. We are confident that it is sufficient for local authorities to meet their obligations.

Cyswllt Dwys â'r Gymraeg

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i dreialu cyswllt dwys â'r Gymraeg i ddisgyblion (mewn ysgolion cynradd) er mwyn iddynt allu symud o ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg i ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg neu hwyluso astudio mwy o bynciau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg (WAQ30822) [W]

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf wedi gofyn i Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg arwain o ran datblygu a gweithredu prosiectau peilot gan gynnwys cyfleoedd trochi a dwys i ddysgu'r iaith mewn ysgolion cynradd. Mae grŵp llywio yn goruchwyllo'r gwaith ac mae'n cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, y bwrdd, Awdurdod Cymwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru, Estyn ac unigolion sy'n meddu ar arbenigedd yn y maes hwn. Penodwyd cyfarwyddwr prosiect ym mis Medi. Mae ei gwaith yn cynnwys pennu (a) ysgolion i gymryd rhan yn y prosiect, (b) deunyddiau i gefnogi'r dysgu, a (c) y gofynion o ran hyfforddiant. Mae'r bwrdd hefyd wrthi'n penodi dirprwy gyfarwyddwr. Bydd y prosiectau peilot sy'n cynnwys disgyblion blwyddyn 6 yn cychwyn ym mis Mai 2004. Bydd y prosiectau peilot sy'n cynnwys disgyblion ym mlwyddyn 3 yn cychwyn ym mis Medi 2004. Ysgrifennais at holl gyfarwyddwyr addysg Cymru yn ddiweddar er mwyn eu hysbysu ynghylch y prosiectau peilot ac er mwyn ceisio sicrhau eu cefnogaeth ar gyfer rhoi'r agenda hon ar waith.

Intensive Exposure to the Welsh Language

Owen John Thomas: What action has the Minister taken to trial a scheme to give primary school pupils intensive exposure to the Welsh language to enable them to move from English-medium to Welsh-medium schools or to facilitate the study of a wider range of subjects through the medium of Welsh? (WAQ30822) [W]

Jane Davidson: I have asked the Welsh Language Board to lead on the development and implementation of pilot projects involving immersion and intensive language teaching in primary schools. This work is being overseen by a steering group consisting of representatives from the Welsh Assembly Government, the board, the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales, Estyn and individuals with expertise in this field. A project director has been in post since September. Her work involves identifying (a) schools to take part in the project, (b) materials to support the teaching, and (c) the training requirements. The board is also in the process of appointing a deputy director. Pilot projects involving pupils in year 6 will start in May 2004. Pilot projects involving pupils in year 3 will start from September 2004. I have recently written to all directors of education in Wales drawing attention to the pilot projects and enlisting their support in taking this agenda forward.

Hyfedredd Disgyblion yn y Gymraeg

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ymchwilio i'r posibilrwydd o fesur hyfedredd disgyblion yn y Gymraeg ar hyd continwrm ieithyddol? (WAQ30823) [W]

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ymchwilio ymhellach i faes dilyniant ieithyddol yn enwedig wrth drosglwyddo o'r cynradd i'r uwchradd? (WAQ30824) [W]

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf wedi gofyn i ACCAC ein cyngori ynghylch y materion hyn fel rhan o'i gylch gwaith ar gyfer y flwyddyn bresennol. Mae Estyn hefyd yn gysylltiedig â'r gwaith yma. Disgwyliaf dderbyn cyngor oddi wrth yr awdurdod ynghylch gwella'r trefniadau asesu o ran Cymraeg a Chymraeg ail iaith fel rhan o'r cyngor cyfunol ynghylch y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol diwygiedig a'r trefniadau asesu cysylltiedig ym mis Ebrill 2004. Disgwylir i ACCAC gyflwyno cyngor ynghylch dilyniant a'r newid o iaith gyntaf i ail iaith wrth drosglwyddo o'r ysgol gynradd i'r ysgol uwchradd ym mis Rhagfyr 2004.

Pupils' Welsh-language Proficiency

Owen John Thomas: What action has the Minister taken to research the possibility of measuring pupils' Welsh-language proficiency on a linguistic continuum? (WAQ30823) [W]

Owen John Thomas: What action has the Minister taken to undertake further research into linguistic progression, particularly in transferring from the primary to the secondary sector? (WAQ30824) [W]

Jane Davidson: I have asked ACCAC to advise on these issues as part of its remit for the current year. Estyn is also involved in this work. I expect to receive the authority's advice on improving assessment arrangements for Welsh and Welsh second language as part of the consolidated advice on the revised national curriculum and related assessment arrangements in April 2004. ACCAC's advice on progression and the shift from first to second language in the transition from primary to secondary school is scheduled to be submitted in December 2004.

Taliadau Cymhelliant Atodol Cymraeg

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i wella'r dull o weithredu a hyrwyddo'r cynllun taliad cymhelliant atodol Cymraeg sy'n annog myfyrwyr HAC i hyfforddi drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a'i gwneud yn fwy deniadol drwy godi lefel grantiau a gwella cefnogaeth? (WAQ30840) [W]

Jane Davidson: Mae'r cynllun taliad cymhelliant atodol Cymraeg wedi'i anelu at fyfyrwyr ar gyrsiau hyfforddiant cychwynnol cymwys i athrawon uwchradd y mae angen mwy o gymorth arnynt er mwyn cynyddu'u cymwyseddau a'u hyder fel y gallant ddysgu drwy gyfrwng yr iaith Gymraeg. Ar hyn o bryd, cynigir taliad cymhelliant o £1,200. Yn sgîl ymrwymiad 'Iaith Pawb', mae swyddogion yn adolygu'r cynllun ar hyn o bryd er mwyn sicrhau cynigion ar gyfer cynnal ymgynghoriad.

The Welsh-medium Incentive Supplement Scheme

Owen John Thomas: What action has the Minister taken to improve methods of implementing and promoting the Welsh additional incentive payment in order to encourage HAC students to train through the medium of Welsh and to make this an attractive option by increasing grant levels and improving support? (WAQ30840) [W]

Jane Davidson: The Welsh medium incentive supplement scheme is aimed at students on qualifying secondary initial teacher training courses who need extra help to raise their competence and confidence to teach through the medium of Welsh. Currently, a £1,200 incentive payment is payable. Officials are currently reviewing the scheme, in light of the commitment in 'Iaith Pawb', to be followed by proposals for consultation.

Argaeledd Deunyddiau Electronig

Owen John Thomas: Pa ddatblygiad sydd wedi bod ers cyhoeddi 'Iaith Pawb' yn yr argaeledd o ddeunydd electronig yn Gymraeg a Saesneg i gefnogi'r Cwricwlwm Cymreig? (WAQ30849) [W]

Jane Davidson: Mae deunyddiau electronig yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg i gefnogi anghenion y cwricwlwm a'r Cwricwlwm Cymreig ar gael ar y grid cenedlaethol ar gyfer dysgu Cymru a lansiwyd yn ffurfiol ym mis Ionawr. Fe'i sefydlwyd yn sgîl ymrwymiad ar wahân gennyf y llynedd, nad oedd yn rhan o 'Iaith Pawb' er ei fod yn amlwg yn chwarae rhan bwysig iawn o ran rhoi agenda 'Iaith Pawb' ar waith.

Daw'r adnoddau a geir ar y grid, a weithredir gan gonsortiw m o'r enw Data Cwricwlwm Cymru, o wahanol ffynonellau, megis ysgolion, awdurdodau addysg lleol a deunyddiau Learnthings premium, ynghyd â ffynonellau digidol eraill fel Casglu'r Tlysau.

Pan lansiwyd y wefan ym mis Ionawr, yr oedd yn bennaf yn cynnwys 1,500 tudalen o ddeunyddiau Learnthings premium yn Saesneg. Ers hynny, mae Data Cwricwlwm Cymru wedi ychwanegu 1,100 tudalen o arfer da, 6,500 tudalen ar y ganolfan athrawon rithwir a gomisiynwyd gan Learnthings, 3,000 tudalen oddi wrth Cynnal i hyrwyddo llythrennedd a rhifedd a 1,200 tudalen oddi wrth awdurdodau addysg lleol ac ysgolion. Ceir hefyd 1,200 dogfen y gellir eu lawrlwytho. Amrywia cyfrwng ieithyddol y deunyddiau: nid yw rhai ond ar gael yn y Saesneg, mae rhai ond ar gael yn y Gymraeg, ac mae eraill ar gael yn y ddwy iaith.

The Availability of Electronic Materials

Owen John Thomas: What development has there been since the publication of 'Iaith Pawb' in the availability of electronic materials in English and Welsh to support the Curriculum Cymreig? (WAQ30849) [W]

Jane Davidson: Electronic material in Welsh and English to support curriculum needs and the Curriculum Cymreig is available on the national grid for learning Cymru, which was formally launched in January. It was established as a result of a separate commitment that I gave last year, which was not a part of 'Iaith Pawb' although it clearly plays a very important function in taking forward the 'Iaith Pawb' agenda.

Resources on the grid, which is operated by a consortium called Curriculum Data Wales, are drawn from a range of sources, such as schools, local education authorities and from the Learnthings premium materials, together with other digital sources like Gathering the Jewels.

When the site was launched in January it was populated mainly by 1,500 pages of Learnthings premium materials in English. Since then, Curriculum Data Wales has added a further 1,100 pages of good practice, 6,500 pages on the virtual teachers centre commissioned from Learnthings, 3,000 pages to support literacy and numeracy prepared by Cynnal, and 1,200 pages from local education authorities and schools. In addition, there are 1,200 downloadable documents. The language medium of the materials varies: some are in English only, some in Welsh only, others in both languages.

Cynlluniau Iaith Gymraeg (Cynghorau Sgiliau Sector)

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i'w gwneud hi'n ofynnol i'r Asiantaeth Datblygu Sgiliau Sector sicrhau bod cynghorau sgiliau sector dan arweiniad cyflogwyr sy'n delio â materion sgiliau a chynhyrchiant yn llunio cynlluniau iaith Gymraeg ac yn delio ag anghenion sgiliau iaith Gymraeg eu sectorau? (WAQ30859) [W]

Jane Davidson: Cafodd yr Asiantaeth Datblygu Sgiliau Sector ei 'henwi' o fewn darpariaethau Deddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993. Er mwyn cydymffurfio â'i chynllun iaith Gymraeg, bydd yr asiantaeth yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol o dan gontract i'r cynghorau sector sgiliau ddatblygu a chytuno ar gynllun iaith Gymraeg gyda

Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg cyn pen 12 mis ar ôl llofnodi'r contract. Er mwyn hyrwyddo'r broses, mae Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg wedi gweithio gyda rhwydwaith y cynghorau sector sgiliau i ddatblygu cynllun iaith Gymraeg enghreifftiol y bydd y cynghorau sector sgiliau yn gallu'i addasu er mwyn bodloni gofynion pob sector unigol.

Bydd yr Asiantaeth Datblygu Sgiliau Sector, drwy gydweithio â Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ELWa—Y Cyngor Cenedlaethol, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, ACCAC a Chyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru, yn monitro a gwerthuso effeithiolrwydd cynlluniau iaith Gymraeg y cynghorau sector sgiliau.

Welsh Language Schemes (Sector Skills Councils)

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to require the Sector Skills Development Agency to ensure that employer-led sector skills councils dealing with skills and production issues should draw up Welsh language schemes and deal with the Welsh language skills issues relating to their sectors? (WAQ30859) [W]

Jane Davidson: The Sector Skills Development Agency has been 'named' within the provisions of the Welsh Language Act 1993. In compliance with its Welsh language scheme, the agency will contractually require each sector skills council to develop and agree a Welsh language scheme with the Welsh Language Board within 12 months of contract signing. To facilitate this process, the Welsh Language Board has worked with the sector skills council network to develop a Welsh language scheme template that can be adapted by sector skills councils to meet individual sector requirements.

The Sector Skills Development Agency, in collaboration with the Welsh Assembly Government, ELWa—the National Council, the Welsh Development Agency, ACCAC and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of sector skills councils' Welsh language schemes.

Cynlluniau Addysg Gymraeg Awdurdodau Lleol

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i sicrhau bod cynlluniau trefniadaeth ysgolion yn cymryd cynlluniau addysg Gymraeg awdurdodau lleol i ystyriaeth hefyd? (WAQ30860) [W]

Jane Davidson: Mae rhwymedigaeth statudol eisoes ar bob awdurdod i ymgynghori â Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar y cynlluniau trefniadaeth ysgolion, gan sicrhau felly bod eu cysondeb â chynlluniau addysg Gymraeg yn cael ei fonitro. Byddwn, maes o law, yn ymgynghori ar ganllawiau cryfach ar gyfer awdurdodau addysg lleol o ran cynnwys y cynlluniau trefniadaeth ysgolion, i bwysleisio'r angen i gynlluniau nodi'n glir y galw am addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg, gan farnu dros eu hunain a yw'r ddarpariaeth yn ddigonol ac amlinellu unrhyw gamau y mae'n rhaid eu cymryd i wella lefel y ddarpariaeth. Yr ydym hefyd wedi cytuno â'r bwrdd y dylai'r cynlluniau addysg Gymraeg gydnabod yr angen am ymgynghori a gweithdrefnau statudol cyn rhoi'r cynigion i ad-drefnu'r ysgolion ar waith.

Local Authorities' Welsh-language Education Plans

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to ensure that schools' organisation plans also take the local authorities' Welsh-language education plans into consideration? (WAQ30860) [W]

Jane Davidson: Authorities are already statutorily obliged to consult both the Welsh Language Board and the Welsh Assembly Government on draft school organisation plans, thus allowing their consistency with Welsh education schemes to be closely monitored. We will shortly be consulting on strengthened guidance to local education authorities on the content of school organisation plans, which will emphasise the need for plans to clearly identify demand for Welsh-medium education, draw conclusions about whether provision is sufficient and outline any required action to improve levels of provision. We have also agreed with the board that Welsh education schemes should acknowledge the requirement for consultation and statutory procedures before school reorganisation proposals are implemented.

Cyrsiau Dysgu Cymraeg Sabathol

Owen John Thomas: Faint o athrawon blynyddoedd cynnar sydd wedi mynychu cyrsiau sabathol dysgu Cymraeg ers lansio'r cynllun hwn? (WAQ30861) [W]

Jane Davidson: Ni ragwelir y bydd adnoddau ar gael i weithredu'r fenter o dan 'Iaith Pawb' i gynnig cyfleoedd i ddysgu drwy drochi ar gyrsiau sabathol i athrawon cymwys, gan ddechrau gydag athrawon y blynyddoedd cynnar ac athrawon cynradd i ddechrau, hyd nes 2005-06. Mae gwaith paratoi cychwynnol eisoes yn cael ei wneud i bennu darparwyr hyfforddiant posibl.

Yr ydym yn ariannu menter benodol i ddarparu hyfforddiant ar gyfer 150 o athrawon Cymraeg ychwanegol yn y blynyddoedd cynnar. Bydd y £7 miliwn sydd ar gael yn cael ei ddyrannu dros ddwy flynedd: £2 miliwn yn 2004-05 a £5 miliwn yn 2005-06. Yr ydym wedi derbyn mynegiannau o ddiddordeb oddi wrth sefydliadau ar gyfer darparu'r hyfforddiant hwn. Rhagwelir y bydd y tendrwr llwyddiannus yn cael ei gyhoeddi ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn newydd, ar ôl i ddogfennau tendro gael eu cyflwyno.

Sabbatical Welsh Learners' Courses

Owen John Thomas: How many early years teachers have attended sabbatical Welsh learners courses since the launch of this scheme? (WAQ30861) [W]

Jane Davidson: Resources to implement the initiative under 'Iaith Pawb' to offer immersion learning through sabbaticals for the training of qualified teachers, initially in the early years and primary levels, are not due to be available until 2005-06. Initial preparatory work is already under way to identify the likely training deliverers.

We are funding a specific initiative to provide training for an additional 150 Welsh medium early years' practitioners. The available resources of £7 million are spread over two years: £2 million in 2004-05 and £5 million in 2005-06. Expressions of interest from organisations to deliver this training have been received and, following the submission of tender documents, I would expect to announce the successful tenderer early in the new year.

Darpariaeth Gymraeg ar gyfer Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ddatblygu cynllun gweithredu er mwyn sicrhau argaeledd darpariaeth Gymraeg ar gyfer anghenion addysgol arbennig? (WAQ30862) [W]

Jane Davidson: Yn 2001, comisiynodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Brifysgol Bangor ynghyd â Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg i arolygu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg a dwyieithog ar gyfer disgyblion sydd ag anghenion addysgol arbennig. Nododd yr adroddiad a ddilynodd, 'Adnabod Angen', gryfderau a gwendidau wrth roi'r gwasanaeth ac awgrymodd rai camau allweddol i sicrhau bod cyfle cyfartal i blant a phobl ifanc gael mynediad i ddarpariaeth yn eu dewis iaith. Cafodd yr adroddiad hwn ei drafod gan Grŵp Cynghori Cymru ar Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig a gefnogai egwyddorion ei gasgliadau. Bydd ei argymhellion manwl yn cael eu hystyried gan is-grŵp o Grŵp Cynghori Cymru ar Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig yn gynnar y flwyddyn nesaf.

Mae swyddogion datblygu anghenion addysgol arbennig y Cynulliad wrthi'n adolygu elfennau arbenigol anghenion addysgol arbennig ac, fel rhan hanfodol o'r gwaith hwnnw, gofynnwyd iddynt sicrhau bod darpariaeth a gwasanaethau ar gael i blant sydd ag anghenion addysgol arbennig yn newis iaith eu rhieni.

Welsh-medium Provision for those with Special Educational Needs

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to develop an action plan to ensure the availability of Welsh-medium provision for those with special educational needs? (WAQ30862) [W]

Jane Davidson: In 2001, the Welsh Assembly Government, in conjunction with the Welsh Language Board, commissioned Bangor University to conduct a survey of Welsh-medium and bilingual provision for pupils with special educational needs. Their resultant report, 'Acknowledging Need', identified strengths and weaknesses in service delivery and suggested a number of key actions to ensure that all children and young people have equality of opportunity to access provision in their choice of language. This report has been considered by the Welsh Advisory Group for Special Educational Needs, which supported its conclusions in principle. Its detailed recommendations are to be considered by a sub-group of WAGSEN early next year.

A programme of reviews of specialist elements of special educational needs are being undertaken by the Assembly's special educational needs development officers, who have been asked, as an inherent part of that work, to ensure that provision and services are made available to children with special educational needs in their parents' language of choice.

Treialu Cyfnodau Dysgu Sabathol

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i dreialu cyfnodau dysgu sabathol i ymarferwyr er mwyn cefnogi'r cyflenwad o staff addysg bellach cyfrwng Cymraeg? (WAQ30864) [W]

Jane Davidson: Mae Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru wedi nodi bod hyfforddi mwy o ymarferwyr i ddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn hanfodol i lwyddiant ei strategaeth ar gyfer dysgu dwyieithog. Bydd yn dechrau gweithio ar raglen beilot sabathol yn 2004-05, gyda'r bwriad o'i datblygu ymhellach yn ystod y blynyddoedd dilynol drwy ddefnyddio'r £1 filiwn ychwanegol a neilltuwyd at y diben hwn yn 'Iaith Pawb' o 2005-06 ymlaen.

Trialling Sabbatical Teaching Periods

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to trial sabbatical teaching periods for practitioners in a bid to support the supply of staff available to provide Welsh-medium further education? (WAQ30864) [W]

Jane Davidson: Education and Learning Wales has identified the need to train more practitioners to teach through the medium of Welsh as being crucial to the success of its bilingual learning strategy. It intends to begin work on a pilot sabbatical programme in 2004-05, with the intention of developing this further in following years using the £1 million of extra funding targeted for this purpose from 2005-06 in 'Iaith Pawb'.

Darpariaeth Cyfrwng Cymraeg Ôl-16

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ddatblygu strategaeth tymor hir ar gyfer y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg ôl-16 nad yw'n addysg uwch? (WAQ30865) [W]

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf wedi gofyn i ELWa gynyddu'r amrywiaeth o gyfleoedd dysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, a llunio cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer y sector ôl-16 ar ddysgu dwyieithog a dysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Lluniwyd y cynllun hwnnw, strategaeth dysgu dwyieithog ELWa, drwy ymgynghori â phwyllgor dwyieithrwydd ELWa sy'n cynnwys arbenigwyr ar y Gymraeg a chynrychiolwyr darparwyr gwasanaethau a sefydliadau perthnasol fel Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Bydd yn cael ei gyhoeddi ar gyfer ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus fel rhan o gynllun iaith Gymraeg arfaethedig ELWa.

Post-16 Welsh-medium Provision

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to develop a long-term strategy for post-16 Welsh-medium education provision outside higher education? (WAQ30865) [W]

Jane Davidson: I have remitted ELWa to increase the range of opportunities for learning through the medium of Welsh and to draw up an action plan for bilingual and Welsh-medium learning for the post-16 sector. That plan, ELWa's bilingual learning strategy, has been drawn up in consultation with ELWa's bilingualism committee, which comprises Welsh language experts and representatives of service providers and relevant organisations such as the Welsh Language Board. It will be published for public consultation as part of ELWa's forthcoming Welsh language scheme.

Canolfannau Cymraeg i Oedolion

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyhoeddi 'Iaith Pawb', sawl canolfan Gymraeg bwrpasol i oedolion sydd wedi agor yng Nghymru er mwyn rhoi cyfle i oedolion sy'n siarad Cymraeg gael mynediad i gysiau dysgu Cymraeg effeithiol a chysu? (WAQ30866) [W]

Jane Davidson: Yn ddiweddar, cynhaliodd y Sefydliad Cenedlaethol er Ymchwil i Addysg adolygiad cynhwysfawr ar ran ELWa o'r cysiau Cymraeg a ddarperir i oedolion. Bu'r adolygiad yn edrych ar sut yr oedd y ddarpariaeth wedi'i threfnu, y costau, y cymorth sydd ar gael a'r anghenion datblygu. Mae swyddogion ELWa wrthi'n ystyried y canfyddiadau, a rhagwelir y bydd papur yn cael ei gyflwyno gerbron y Cyngor Cenedlaethol yn y gwanwyn a fydd yn sail i ddatblygu'r ddarpariaeth hon ymhellach.

Centres Teaching Welsh for Adults

Owen John Thomas: Since the publication of 'Iaith Pawb', how many dedicated adult Welsh centres have been opened in Wales to provide opportunities for Welsh-speaking adults to access effective and regular Welsh courses? (WAQ30866) [W]

Jane Davidson: The National Foundation for Education Research has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of Welsh for adults provision on behalf of ELWa. The review has looked at the organisation of provision, its costs, support and development needs. ELWa officers are considering the findings and it is anticipated that the National Council will receive a paper in the spring, which will be the basis for further development of this provision.

Deunyddiau Dysgu

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno 'Iaith Pawb', pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i gomisiynu deunyddiau o ansawdd da i'r ystafell ddosbarth ac ymestyn cyfleoedd i ennill cymwysterau drwy'r Gymraeg? (WAQ30885) [W]

Jane Davidson: ACCAC sy'n gyfrifol am gomisiynu deunyddiau i'r ystafell ddosbarth a chefnogi cymwysterau Cymraeg. Yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol bresennol, mae'r awdurdod yn buddsoddi cyfanswm o £2.4 miliwn i gefnogi'r gweithgareddau hyn. Byddaf yn darparu £400,000 yn ychwanegol i ACCAC o'r flwyddyn ariannol nesaf er mwyn ei alluogi i ddatblygu'r gweithgareddau hyn.

Teaching Materials

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of 'Iaith Pawb', what steps has the Minister taken to commission high quality classroom materials and to enhance opportunities for gaining qualifications through the medium of Welsh? (WAQ30885) [W]

Jane Davidson: The commissioning of classroom materials and support for Welsh-medium qualifications are undertaken by ACCAC. In the current financial year, the authority is investing a total of £2.4 million to support these activities. I am making an additional £400,000 available to ACCAC from the next financial year to enable it to expand those activities.

Darpariaeth Cyfrwng Cymraeg Mewn Ysgolion

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ymgynghori ar gyngor oddi wrth Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ac eraill ynglŷn â diffiniadau darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn ysgolion? (WAQ30886) [W]

Jane Davidson: Cynhaliwyd trafodaethau rhwng cynrychiolwyr o Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, wyth awdurdod addysg lleol, ELWa, Estyn, a swyddogion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Hyd yn hyn, nid yw'r grŵp wedi cyflwyno unrhyw gyngor i mi.

Welsh-medium Provision in Schools

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to consult on advice from the Welsh Language Board and others regarding the definition of Welsh-medium provision in schools? (WAQ30886) [W]

Jane Davidson: Discussions have been held involving representatives from the Welsh Language Board, eight local education authorities, ELWA, Estyn, and officials from the Welsh Assembly Government. This group has not, as yet, submitted its advice to me.

Addysg Uwch yn Gymraeg

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno 'Iaith Pawb', pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i gynyddu'r galw am addysg uwch Gymraeg? (WAQ30887) [W]

Jane Davidson: Ers cyflwyno 'Iaith Pawb', yr wyf wedi gofyn i Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru brif-ffrydio'r Gymraeg (fy llythyr cylch gwaith ar gyfer 2003-04, dyddiedig 20 Mawrth 2003, paragraff 6 yn cyfeirio).

Gofynnais i'r cyngor cyllido ystyried hefyd pa ddatblygiadau sy'n bosibl o dan y ddarpariaeth bresennol. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed fod Andrew Green wedi cytuno i gadeirio'r grŵp llywio lefel uchel ar ddatblygu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sector addysg uwch, a bod y cyngor cyllido wedi gwahodd cynigion am ddwy swydd cymrodoriaeth addysgu, ac y bydd enwau'r ymgeiswyr llwyddiannus yn cael eu cyhoeddi cyn bo hir.

Yr wyf hefyd wedi hysbysu sefydliadau y byddwn yn croesawu cynigion cydweithrediadol i ehangu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg y sector o dan y gronfa ailgyflunio Anelu'n Uwch. Gyda chyllid o'r gronfa hon y datblygwyd y modiwl newydd 'Gwyddoniaeth Amgylcheddol' yn Gymraeg gan Brifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth, Prifysgol Cymru, Bangor a Choleg y Drindod, Caerfyrddin ar y cyd. Bydd cynigion cydweithrediadol fel hyn yn sicrhau y gallwn gynnal unrhyw ddarpariaeth ehangach yn y tymor hwy ac maent yn cyd-fynd ag un o argymhellion yr adroddiad diweddar gan Dr Cen Williams.

Welsh-medium Higher Education

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of 'Iaith Pawb', what steps has the Minister taken to increase the demand for Welsh-medium higher education? (WAQ30887) [W]

Jane Davidson: Since the introduction of 'Iaith Pawb', I have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales to mainstream Welsh (my remit letter for 2003-04, dated 20 March 2003, paragraph 6 refers).

I have also asked HEFCW to consider what developments it can take forward within its current provision. I was pleased to learn that Andrew Green has agreed to chair the high level steering group on developing Welsh-medium provision in the higher education sector and that HEFCW has invited bids for two teaching fellowship posts, and that the successful applicants will be announced shortly.

I have also informed institutions that I would welcome collaborative proposals to extend Welsh-medium provision in the sector under the Reaching Higher reconfiguration fund. The new 'Environmental Science' module in Welsh has been developed collaboratively by the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, the University of Wales, Bangor and Trinity College, Carmarthen using funding from this fund. Such collaborative proposals will ensure the sustainability of any extended provision in the longer term and are in line with one of the recommendations of the recent report by Dr Cen Williams.

Therapyddion Lleferydd

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i dreialu hyfforddiant neu gyfnodau sabothol ar gyfer therapyddion lleferydd? (WAQ30896) [W] *Trosglwyddwyd i'w ateb gan y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol.*

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Cyfrifoldeb y cyflogwr, boed mewn sefydliad iechyd, awdurdod addysg lleol neu sefydliad arall, yw sicrhau bod cyfleoedd ar gael i staff ddatblygu eu potensial. Mae cynllun y GIG, 'Gwella Iechyd yng Nghymru', wedi ei gwneud yn glir bod dysgu gydol oes yn hanfodol i ddatblygiad personol a phroffesiynol parhaus staff y gwasanaeth iechyd, a rhaid i gyfleoedd fod ar gael i staff ddatblygu ar bob lefel.

Speech Therapists

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to trial training or sabbatical periods for speech therapists? (WAQ30896) [W] *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Health and Social Services.*

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): It is for the employer, whether in a health organisation, local education authority or other setting, to ensure that opportunities are made available for staff to develop their potential. The NHS plan, 'Improving Health in Wales', has made it clear that lifelong learning is vital to the continuous personal and professional development of health service staff and that development opportunities must be available to staff at all levels.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

Contracts Between Forest Enterprise and Contractors in Brecon and Radnorshire

Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the suspension and cuts to contracts between Forest Enterprises and local contractors in Brecon and Radnorshire? (WAQ30468)

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 3 December 2003.

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): In my holding reply of 3 December, I said that the chief executive of the forest management agency planned to meet the Forestry Contracting Association to discuss this issue. That meeting took place in Aberystwyth on 2 December, and the position regarding the agency's budget for 2003-04 and the availability of work for forestry contractors was discussed in depth.

The chief executive of the agency, Mr Bob Farmer, explained that the end-of-year spend on harvesting activities will be close to the agency's agreed budget of £6.5 million. Some adjustments are currently under way to bring in work under the programme of conversion of the Assembly's woodlands to management using low impact silvicultural systems; the production of material for trials of fuelwood; some landscape felling work; some extra sales of standing trees, and the working of large Douglas fir and Sitka spruce crops.

Difficulties in the present year stem mainly from the planned ramping down in the total volume to be produced over the course of the year, and poor product prices. This has meant that some operations are no longer viable, and has necessitated the search for substitute work. This situation has been explained to Forestry Contracting Association representatives for them to pass the information to their members. It was agreed that there is a need for better communication, and regular liaison meetings will be reinstated. The FMA will also be contributing to a newsletter to be sent to its members describing the position.

Mr Farmer invited individual contractors to meet the head of the FMA's harvesting and marketing section to discuss their particular situations with an FCA representative, if they wished. Mr Farmer also explained that, in 2004-05, the FMA expects to undertake a similar volume of timber production as it did in 2003-04, but this will have a higher thinning content than in previous years, with an attendant higher requirement for contract services compared with this year. The FMA will also provide opportunities for harvesting contractors to diversify their work, by offering work under the silvicultural and conservation programmes that is suitable for adapted harvesting machines. I suggest that the contractors in question seek an early meeting with the Forest Management Agency so that they can discuss their individual circumstances, and look for ways that this might be improved.

Christmas Cards

William Graham: How many Christmas cards were sent by the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside for Christmas 2002, and will he make a statement on the amount paid from Assembly finance for the purchase and posting of these cards? (WAQ30714)

Carwyn Jones: In Christmas 2002, there was not a portfolio for environment, planning and countryside.

Monitro Cynlluniau Datblygu Unedol

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cymryd i fonitro cynlluniau datblygu unedol i sicrhau bod y polisi cynllunio lleol yn gyson â pholisïau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer hybu a chefnogi'r iaith Gymraeg? (WAQ30761) [W]

Carwyn Jones: Bydd fy swyddogion yn cydlynu archwiliad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad dros holl egin-gynlluniau datblygu unedol yn y cyfnod ymgynghori statudol pan ymgynghorir â hwy gan yr awdurdodau cynllunio lleol. Rhoddir ystyriaeth i'r cynlluniau mewn perthynas â pholisi cynllunio cenedlaethol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ac mae hyn yn cynnwys y polisi ar gefnogi'r iaith Gymraeg sydd yn 'Polisi Cynllunio Cymru' 2002 a gefnogir gan 'Nodyn Cyngor Technegol 20: Yr Iaith Gymraeg—Cynlluniau Datblygu Unedol a Rheoli Cynllunio', 2000. Bydd gwrthwynebu pan fydd yr egin-gynlluniau'n gwrthdaro â'r polisi cynllunio cenedlaethol heb fod amgylchiadau lleol yn cyfiawnhau hynny. Lle bydd gwrthwynebiadau pwysig yn parhau heb eu datrys, mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad y grym angenrheidiol i ymyrryd cyn y mabwysiadu.

Monitoring Unitary Development Plans

Owen John Thomas: What action has the Minister taken to monitor unitary development plans to ensure that the local planning policy is consistent with Welsh Assembly Government policies for promoting and supporting the Welsh language? (WAQ30761) [W]

Carwyn Jones: My officials co-ordinate the Assembly Government's scrutiny of all emerging unitary development plans at the statutory consultation stages when consulted by the local planning authorities. The plans are considered in relation to the Assembly Government's national planning policy and this includes the policy on supporting the Welsh language contained in 'Planning Policy Wales' 2002 and supported by 'Technical Advice Note 20: The Welsh Language—Unitary Development Plans and Planning Control', 2000. Objections are made where emerging plans conflict with national planning policy without justification by local circumstances. Where there remain important outstanding objections, the Assembly Government has powers of intervention prior to adoption.

Cronfa Gynaliadwyedd yr Ardoll Agregau

Alun Ffred Jones: A oedd llithriad yn y gyllideb ar gyfer cronfa'r ardoll agregau yn 2002-03 ac, os felly, a gariwyd ef drosodd i'r flwyddyn ariannol ganlynol, a faint ohono sydd dal ar gael? (WAQ30765) [W]

Carwyn Jones: Lanswyd cronfa gynaliadwyedd yr ardoll agregau ar gyfer Cymru ym mis Mehefin 2002, a chynhaliwyd cyfarfod cyntaf panel ymgynghorol y gronfa ym mis Medi 2002. O ganlyniad i'r amserlen hon, a'r oedi a fu felly cyn canfod prosiectau addas, bu tanwariant o £1,348,000 yn llinell wariant cyllideb yr ardoll agregau yn 2002-03. Nid yw'r tanwariant hwnnw ar gael i'w wario ar y cynllun yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol.

The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Alun Ffred Jones: Was there a slippage in the budget for the aggregates levy fund in 2002-03 and, if so, was this carried forward to the following financial year, and how much is still available? (WAQ30765) [W]

Carwyn Jones: The aggregates levy sustainability fund for Wales was launched in June 2002 with the first meeting of the fund's advisory panel held in September 2002. As a result of this timetable, and the consequential delay in identifying suitable projects, an underspend of £1,348,000 occurred on the aggregates levy budget expenditure line in 2002-03. That underspend is not available for spending on the scheme in the current financial year.

Y Gronfa Ardoll Agregau

Alun Ffred Jones: Faint o arian o'r gronfa ardoll agregau sydd wedi cael ei ddynodi i gynlluniau yn 2002-03 ac hyd yn hyn yn 2003-04? (WAQ30766) [W]

Carwyn Jones: Yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol 2002-03, ymrwymwyd cyfanswm o £1,788,643.77 i brosiectau yng Nghymru o gronfa gynaliadwyedd yr ardoll agregau ar gyfer Cymru. Hyd yma, mae £1,584,007.63 hefyd wedi'i ymrwymo o'r gronfa ar gyfer prosiectau yn ystod 2003-04. Bydd rhai o'r prosiectau a gynorthwyir yn cymryd dwy neu dair blynedd i'w gwireddu, ac felly bydd cyfran o'r gwariant hwn yn digwydd mewn blynyddoedd i ddod.

The Aggregates Levy Fund

Alun Ffred Jones: How much money has been allocated from the aggregates levy fund to schemes in 2002-03 and for 2003-04 so far? (WAQ30766) [W]

Carwyn Jones: During the 2002-03 financial year, a total of £1,788,643.77 was committed to projects in Wales from the aggregates levy sustainability fund for Wales. To date, £1,584,007.63 has also been committed to projects during 2003-04. Some of the projects supported will take two to three years to come to fruition, and therefore a proportion of these spends will occur in future years.

The Aggregates Levy Fund

Alun Ffred Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the budget allocation to the aggregates levy fund? (WAQ30767)

Carwyn Jones: The budget allocation to the aggregates levy sustainability fund for Wales for 2003-04 is £1,650,000. The same figure has been allocated for 2004-05, and is the indicative figure for 2005-06.

The Fraudulent Labelling of Imported Meat Products

Helen Mary Jones: What examinations are made in order to detect fraudulent labelling of meat products imported into Wales? (WAQ30813) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Health and Social Services.*

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): There are no border inspection posts in Wales at present so meat products are not imported directly into Wales from third countries. All imported animal products (including meat) from countries outside of the European Union are subject to rigorous border controls. In many cases, these checks will identify fraudulently labelled meat as traceability is a key component of border checks. Where attempts are made to evade border controls, Her Majesty's Customs and Excise officials act to control smuggled meat.

Goods distributed from other member states are not considered to be imported food. The checking of domestic/EU-produced meat products is the responsibility of local authority food law enforcement officers, and they routinely examine labels of food on sale and check the accuracy by means of analysis of the product. Batch codes and health marks are used by officers to ensure that the product can be traced and is authentic. Local authorities and the Meat Hygiene Service have powers to investigate and, where appropriate, bring prosecutions where meat products are illegally imported or falsely labelled.

Partneriaeth Wledig Cymru

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i helpu i wella dyfnder, amrediad ac ansawdd y dadansoddiad o faterion gwledig ac ategu/cefnogi Partneriaeth Wledig Cymru? (WAQ30826) [W]

Carwyn Jones: Mae Partneriaeth Wledig Cymru yn gorff cynghorol pwysig ar faterion gwledig. Ehangwyd aelodaeth y bartneriaeth yn ddiweddar i gynnwys tua 45 o gyrff sy'n cysylltu â thros 150 o sefydliadau eraill ledled Cymru wledig. Yn ogystal â chyfraniad gan holl is-adrannau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i gefnogi'r bartneriaeth yn ei gwaith, mae arsyllfa wledig Cymru wedi'i sefydlu i ddarparu tystiolaeth ddiuedd ar faterion gwledig allweddol.

The Rural Partnership for Wales

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to improve the depth, breadth and quality of rural issues analysis in support of the Rural Partnership for Wales? (WAQ30826) [W]

Carwyn Jones: The Rural Partnership for Wales is an important advisory body on rural matters. It was recently extended in membership to embrace around 45 bodies, which connect to over 150 other organisations across the span of rural Wales. In addition to contributions from all Assembly Government divisions in supporting the partnership in its work, the Wales rural observatory has been set up to provide impartial evidence on key rural issues.

Gwasanaethau Manwerthu Cefn Gwlad

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i roi cymorth i wasanaethau manwerthu cefn gwlad a helpu i gynnal cymunedau? (WAQ30827) [W]

Carwyn Jones: Erbyn hyn, mae'r cynllun siopau gwledig wedi'i gyflwyno o fewn y rhaglen gweithredu dros gymunedau gwledig. Ei nod fydd cynnig amrywiaeth o gyngor a chymorth grant i fusnesau neu grwpiau cymunedol sy'n ymgymryd â chynlluniau adwerthol.

Rural Retail Services

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to provide assistance to rural retail services and to help support communities? (WAQ30827) [W]

Carwyn Jones: The rural retail scheme has now been introduced within the rural community action programme. It will aim to provide a mix of advice and grant aid to businesses or community groups undertaking retail schemes.

Helpu Amaethyddiaeth i Addasu

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i helpu amaethyddiaeth yng Nghymru i addasu fel bod cymaint o ffermydd teuluol â phosib yn goroesi, gan bwysleisio dimensiwn cymdeithasol cynaliadwyedd? (WAQ30828) [W]

Carwyn Jones: Mae teuluoedd sy'n ffermio yng Nghymru yn cael eu helpu gan Gyswllt Ffermio gyda'r nod o wella effeithlonrwydd a phroffidoldeb ffermydd teuluol. Mae hefyd yn ei gwneud yn haws i deuluoedd sy'n ffermio gysylltu â'r bobl iawn wrth wneud penderfyniadau pwysig am eu busnesau. Mae hefyd yn gyfle i ffermwyr a'u teuluoedd wella'u gwybodaeth a'u sgiliau, a datblygu ac arallgyfeirio eu busnesau. Mae amrywiaeth o wasanaethau ar gael, megis cynlluniau datblygu busnesau fferm, gwasanaethau cynghori arbenigol, cyfleoedd i gael hyfforddiant, rhwydwaith o ffermydd arddangos, a chynghor ar gadwraeth, rheoli llygredd a sut i gael grantiau cyfalaf.

Mae'r gwasanaethau yn cael eu hadolygu a'u diwygio'n barhaus yng ngoleuni sylwadau gan gleientiaid, y gofynion a osodir ar deuluoedd sy'n ffermio gan natur gyfnewidiol yr economi wledig a blaenoriaethau esblygol y Cynulliad. Yn fwyaf diweddar, ffurfiwyd strategaeth amgylcheddol ar gyfer Cyswllt Ffermio a chafodd hyn, ynghyd â dull gwerthfawr o'i gweithredu (yr arolwg cyfleoedd amgylcheddol), ei lansio yn y Ffair Aeaf.

O'r grantiau cyfalaf sydd ar gael, mae'r grant menter ffermydd yn targedu arallgyfeirio i ffwrdd o'r gweithgareddau amaethyddol craidd. Gyda chymorth y cynllun datblygu busnes fferm, mae'n annog ffermwyr i adolygu eu cryfderau busnes presennol a'r cyfleoedd sy'n dod i'r amlwg wrth i'r economi wledig newid.

Mae cyfeiriad strategol hirdymor Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer amaethyddiaeth Cymru wedi'i nodi yn 'Ffermio i'r Dyfodol'. Cynaliadwyedd y fferm deuluol draddodiadol Gymreig sydd wrth wraidd y strategaeth hon, ac mae'n cynnwys rhaglen o 52 o bwyntiau gweithredu i helpu ffermio i addasu i'r heriau presennol.

Helping Agriculture to Adapt

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to help agriculture in Wales to adapt in order to ensure the survival of as many family farms as possible, emphasising the social dimension of sustainability? (WAQ30828) [W]

Carwyn Jones: Farming families in Wales are assisted by Farming Connect, which is aimed at improving the efficiency and profitability of family farm businesses. It also makes it easier for farming families to get in touch with the right people when making crucial business decisions and offers opportunities for farmers and their families to increase their knowledge and skills, and develop and diversify their business. The services available range from farm business development plans, specialist advisory services, training opportunities, a demonstration farm network, and advice on conservation, pollution control and accessing capital grants.

The service is being continually reviewed and updated in light of comments from clients, requirements placed upon farming families by the changing nature of the rural economy and evolving Assembly

priorities. Most recently an environmental strategy for Farming Connect has been developed and this, together with a major delivery mechanism for its implementation (the environmental opportunities review), was launched at the Winter Fair.

Of the capital grants available, the farm enterprise grant specifically targets diversification away from core agricultural activities and, supported by the farm business development plan, it encourages farmers to review their current business strengths and the opportunities that present themselves as the rural economy changes.

The Welsh Assembly Government's long-term strategic direction for Welsh agriculture is set out in 'Farming for the Future'. The sustainability of the Welsh traditional family farm is at the core of this strategy, including the 52-point action programme to help farming to adapt to current challenges.

Hyrwyddo Adfywio a Datblygu Cefn Gwlad

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i hyrwyddo adfywio a datblygu cefn gwlad mewn modd integredig? (WAQ30831) [W]

Carwyn Jones: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a rhanddeiliaid wedi cymryd amryw o gamau i sicrhau bod polisiau datblygu ac adfywio gwledig yn cael eu hintegreiddio. Mae'r bartneriaeth wledig, corff cynghori Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar faterion gwledig, yn cynnwys tua 45 o chwaraewyr allweddol sy'n helpu i lunio a chyflawni polisiau gwledig. Hefyd, mae strategaethau allweddol megis y cynllun gofodol, 'Cymru'n Ennill', a'r cynllun datblygu gwledig yn cysylltu meysydd gweithgaredd y Cynulliad i gyflawni rhaglenni integredig.

The Regeneration and Development of Rural Areas

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to promote the integrated approach to the regeneration and development of rural Wales? (WAQ30831) [W]

Carwyn Jones: A wide range of steps has been taken by the Assembly Government and stakeholders to ensure the integration of rural regeneration and development policies. The rural partnership, the Assembly Government's advisory body on rural affairs, includes some 45 key players in shaping and delivering rural policies. In addition, key strategies, such as the spatial plan, 'A Winning Wales', and the rural development plan link areas of Assembly action to deliver integrated programmes.

Allowing Children to Participate in Planning Decisions

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: How does the Minister plan to allow children to participate in planning decisions within their communities? (WAQ30841)

Carwyn Jones: Planning decisions are normally taken by elected councillors who, by definition, are not children. There are no plans to change this.

Hyrwyddo Datblygu Gwledig Arloesol

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i hyrwyddo datblygiad gwledig arloesol? (WAQ30845) [W]

Carwyn Jones: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, gan adeiladu ar raglenni Leader I a II, wedi cyflwyno Leader+ a'r rhaglen gweithredu dros gymunedau gwledig. Nod pob un o'r rhain yw hyrwyddo arloesedd mewn datblygu gwledig. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cymryd camau da ymlaen gyda'r cynllun gweithredu entrepreneuriaeth sy'n rhan o'r portffolio datblygu economaidd a thrafnidiaeth.

Promoting Innovative Rural Development

Owen John Thomas: What steps has the Minister taken to promote innovative rural development? (WAQ30845) [W]

Carwyn Jones: Building on the Leader I and II programmes, the Welsh Assembly Government has introduced Leader+ and the rural community action programme, all of which seek to promote innovation in rural development. The Assembly Government is also making good progress with the entrepreneurship action plan which falls to the economic development and transport portfolio.

Farming Connect (North Wales)

Brynle Williams: Will the Minister state what funding is available to north Wales applicants of Farming Connect for the conversion of farm buildings for holiday accommodation? (WAQ30848)

Carwyn Jones: Funding for the conversion of farm buildings for holiday accommodation under the Farming Connect initiative is provided by the Wales Tourist Board through the farm tourism grant scheme, which is available to farm businesses that have an innovative idea and can demonstrate that a demand exists for the proposed venture.

In the Objective 1 area, funding of £900,000 is available to farm businesses through a specific Wales Tourist Board-sponsored project. However, in east Wales, there is strong competition for the resources available, and farm businesses have to compete for funds with other small and medium-sized enterprises.

Farming Connect (Mid and West Wales)

Nick Bourne: What is the Minister doing to improve the operation of Farming Connect in mid and west Wales? (WAQ30863)

Carwyn Jones: I launched the Farming Connect service in September 2001, and have taken a keen interest in its progress and evolution. The service is being continually reviewed and updated in light of comments from partner organisations and clients, requirements placed upon farming families by the changing nature of the rural economy and evolving Assembly priorities. An example of such change is the development of an environmental strategy for Farming Connect and a major delivery mechanism for its implementation, the environmental opportunities review, both of which I launched recently at the Winter Fair.

To ensure that we can gain the most from the lessons learned from the first two years of operation of the service, a pause and review report has recently been completed, and I am awaiting a final report on the recommendations and conclusions that have been reached. I will report back to the Assembly on possible further changes to the scheme in due course.

The Fallen Stock Scheme

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister make a progress report on the implementation of the fallen stock scheme in Wales and will he also make a statement on what information his department has sent out to farmers regarding the implementation date and any possible delays? (WAQ30873)

Carwyn Jones: Following a meeting to discuss state aid implications, the European Commission has raised some concerns about some aspects of the scheme. These are currently under consideration. Meanwhile, work is ongoing to launch the scheme as soon as possible in the new year. Application forms and scheme literature are currently being produced and will be sent to farmers as soon as is practicable.

Genetically Modified Crops

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister outline what circumstances may be considered in order for regions or sub-regions to be able to declare themselves to be GM-free, taking into account economic and environmental factors? (WAQ30874)

Carwyn Jones: The National Assembly for Wales is committed to applying the most restrictive approach to the commercialisation of GM crops allowed by EU and UK legislation. This is not the same as declaring Wales to be GM-free. There is no mechanism for introducing a blanket ban on the growing of GM crops in existing legislation. However, the National Assembly for Wales, together with nine other EU regions, is pressing the European Commission to agree that regions or parts of them could define themselves as GM-free zones or regions, taking into account economic and environmental peculiarities. Details of the circumstances will have to await the outcome of any negotiations, but might include potential damage to sensitive or endangered species or economic loss to a niche market.

Questions to the Finance Minister

Council Tax Increases

Nick Bourne: What discussions has the Minister held with local councils regarding increases in council tax? (WAQ30686)

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): Increases in council tax are a matter for each individual authority, taking into account a number of considerations including the level of support provided through the local government settlement. I have regular meetings with the leader of the Welsh Local Government Association at which a wide range of issues are discussed, including council tax and the local government settlement

Postal Voting

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister outline any steps that she is taking to encourage postal voting in next year's local government elections? (WAQ30687)

Sue Essex: The Assembly Government is keen to foster new methods of voting where they can be shown to improve levels of participation. That is clearly the case with postal voting, and we should embrace this method.

Now that we know that the Electoral Commission has not recommended Wales to be an all-postal pilot region for the elections in 2004, I am still keen that best practice be adopted in the promotion of postal voting to further increase turnout.

I recently attended a seminar with returning officers and electoral administrators, organised by the Welsh Assembly Government so that electoral staff could discuss the benefits of establishing good practice in the promotion and implementation of postal voting procedures. The Assembly Government will be working closely with the Electoral Commission and others to encourage this in the build-up to the 2004 elections.

The Cost of Advertising Local Government Elections

Nick Bourne: How much money does the Minister plan to spend advertising the local government elections next year? (WAQ30688)

Sue Essex: The Electoral Commission is the body with the main responsibility for promoting elections. The commission's aim is to encourage participation and an increased understanding of the democratic

process. Separately, the Welsh Assembly Government will be working with the WLGA to promote awareness and understanding of the role of local government and the ways in which the public can engage with their local authority. The Welsh Assembly Government has earmarked £50,000 for this purpose.

Past Service Awards for Councillors

Nick Bourne: How many councillors are expected to take up the past service awards scheme? (WAQ30690)

Sue Essex: We will not know final figures until after the close of nominations for next year's local government elections.

Block Grant from the Treasury

Nick Bourne: How much money, in the form of the block grant, will the Assembly receive from the Treasury this year? (WAQ30698)

Sue Essex: The current figure for this financial year is £11,209,877,000. Additional resources may be received via a spring supplementary estimate.

Money Spent by Ministerial Departments

Nick Bourne: How much has been spent by each ministerial department during each of the last three years, (a) in pounds, and (b) as a percentage of the annual Assembly budget for each of those years? (WAQ30699)

Sue Essex: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

| 2000-01 | Spend £000 | Spend as per cent of total Assembly budget |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Health and social services | 2,947,000 | 35.9 |
| Local government | 2,702,700 | 33.0 |
| Education and training | 890,100 | 10.9 |
| Housing | 499,300 | 6.1 |
| Environment, planning and transport | 269,600 | 3.3 |
| Economic development | 253,700 | 3.1 |
| Agriculture and rural development | 229,000 | 2.8 |
| Other (1) | 133,900 | 1.6 |
| Total | 7,925,300 | 96.6 |
| 2001-02 | Spend £000 | Spend as per cent of total Assembly budget |
| Health and social services | 3,307,200 | 36.9 |
| Local government | 2,883,100 | 32.1 |
| Education and lifelong learning | 958,100 | 10.7 |
| Housing and local government other services | 531,600 | 5.9 |
| Economic development | 444,400 | 5.0 |
| Environment, planning and transport | 310,100 | 3.5 |
| Agriculture and rural development | 214,200 | 2.4 |
| Culture, sport and Welsh language | 66,400 | 0.7 |
| Forestry | 14,300 | 0.2 |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Other (1) | 161,200 | 1.8 |
| Total | 8,890,600 | 99.1 |
| 2002-03 | Spend £000 | Spend as per cent of total Assembly budget |
| Health and social services | 3,805,800 | 35.5 |
| Local government | 3,024,400 | 28.2 |
| Education and lifelong learning | 1,126,000 | 10.5 |
| Environment, planning and transport | 1,038,200 | 9.7 |
| Housing and local government other services | 584,200 | 5.5 |
| Economic development (2) | 513,200 | 4.8 |
| Agriculture and rural development | 259,500 | 2.4 |
| Culture, sport and Welsh language | 100,400 | 0.9 |
| Forestry | 34,000 | 0.3 |
| Other (1) | 170,800 | 1.6 |
| Total (2) | 10,656,500 | 99.4 |

Notes

1. Include Auditor General for Wales, Welsh Administration Ombudsman, central administration, Estyn, Presiding Office and other Assembly services.
2. Provisional spend figure as the accounts of the Welsh European Funding Office have not been approved by the National Audit Office.

Money Spent by Ministerial Departments

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister list the amount spent by each ministerial department between 1 May and 1 November 2003, (a) in pounds, and (b) as a percentage of the overall amount of money spent by the Assembly between those dates? (WAQ30700)

Sue Essex: The information is set out in the following table.

| | Spend between 1 May and 1 November | Percentage of total Assembly spend |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Health and social services | 2,051,234 | 37.8 |
| Local government | 1,486,800 | 27.4 |
| Economic development and transport | 593,271 | 10.9 |
| Education and lifelong learning | 556,698 | 10.3 |
| Social justice and regeneration | 343,392 | 6.3 |
| Environment, planning and countryside | 215,494 | 4.0 |
| Culture, sport and Welsh language | 57,107 | 1.1 |
| Forestry | 18,044 | 0.3 |
| Other (1) | 107,464 | 2.0 |
| Total | 5,429,504 | 100.0 |

Note

1. Includes Auditor General for Wales, Welsh Administration Ombudsman, single public audit body, Commissioner for Public Appointments, central administration, Estyn, Presiding Office and other Assembly services.

The New Assembly Building

Nick Bourne: Is there a cancellation clause in the Assembly's agreement with Associated British Ports regarding the new Assembly building? (WAQ30701)

Sue Essex: No, the building is in the course of construction.

The New Assembly Building

Nick Bourne: If the new Assembly building was cancelled at this point in time, how much would the Assembly have to pay Associated British Ports as a result of any cancellation clause? (WAQ30702)

Sue Essex: I refer you to the answer I gave to WAQ30580.

Christmas Cards

William Graham: How many Christmas cards were sent by the Finance Minister for Christmas 2002, and will she make a statement on the amount paid from Assembly finance for the purchase and posting of these cards? (WAQ30716)

Sue Essex: There were no costs for Christmas cards for the then Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities for Christmas 2002.

Cronfa'r Ardoll Agregau

Alun Ffred Jones: Faint o arian sydd yn y gyllideb ar gyfer cronfa'r ardoll agregau ar gyfer 2002-03 a 2003-04? (WAQ30734) [W]

Sue Essex: Cyllideb y ddwy flynedd ar gyfer cronfa gynaliadwyedd yr ardoll agregau ar gyfer Cymru oedd £1.65 miliwn y flwyddyn. Neilltuir yr arian gan Drysorlys ei Mawrhydi i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad gan ddefnyddio fformiwla Barnett.

The Aggregates Levy Fund

Alun Ffred Jones: How much budget funding is there available for the aggregates levy fund for 2002-03 and 2003-04? (WAQ30734) [W]

Sue Essex: The budget, in both years, for the aggregates levy sustainability fund for Wales is £1.65 million per annum. This level of funding has been allocated to the Welsh Assembly Government by HM Treasury using the Barnett formula.

Arian Cymunedau yn Gyntaf

Alun Ffred Jones: Faint o arian sydd ar gael i gymunedau sydd wedi cael eu clustnodi ar gyfer cyllid Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ar gyfer 2003-04 a 2004-05? (WAQ30735) [W] ***Trosghwyddwyd i'w ateb gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio.***

Ateb terfynol yn dilyn yr ateb dros dro a roddwyd ar 19 Rhagfyr 2003.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Mae gan yr is-grŵp gwariant dibenion cymunedol, sy'n cynnwys Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, gyllideb o £34.464 miliwn ar gyfer y blynyddoedd ariannol 2003-04 a 2004-05. Bydd cynnig y Gweinidog Cyllid ar 20 Ionawr 2004 yn ymdrin ag addasiadau i'r gyllideb ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol hon.

Communities First Funding

Alun Ffred Jones: How much funding is there available to communities that have been earmarked to receive Communities First funding for 2003-04 and 2004-05? (WAQ30735) [W] *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration.*

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 19 December 2003.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): The community purposes sub-expenditure group, which includes Communities First, has a budget of £34.464 million for financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05. Adjustments to this financial year's budget will be covered in the Finance Minister's motion on 20 January 2004.

The Teachers' Workload Agreement

Peter Black: How will the £33 million in the local government settlement for the teachers' workload agreement be distributed among Welsh councils? (WAQ30737)

Sue Essex: The £33 million in the local government settlement for the teachers' workload agreement will be distributed among Welsh councils according to a formula that uses the existing settlement formulae for primary teaching and other services and secondary teaching, and other services weighted according to the total number of schools in the primary and secondary sectors. This formula has been agreed with local government. The allocation is indicative. All the funding provided through the local government settlement is non-hypothecated; it is for individual authorities to determine their own spending priorities in relation to their own particular circumstances.

Seremonïau Dinasyddiaeth

Eleanor Burnham: Pa gynrychiolaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu gwneud i'r Swyddfa Gartref ynglŷn â chynnwys y seremonïau dinasyddiaeth newydd? (WAQ30754) [W]

Sue Essex: Nid wyf wedi trafod y mater yn benodol â'r Swyddfa Gartref, ond mae fy nghyd-Weinidogion eisoes wedi'i gwneud yn ymwybodol bod angen i seremonïau yng Nghymru gydnabod sefyllfa'r Gymraeg.

Citizenship Ceremonies

Eleanor Burnham: What representations has the Minister made to the Home Office regarding the content of the new citizenship ceremonies? (WAQ30754) [W]

Sue Essex: I have not made any specific representation, however, my Cabinet colleagues have previously made the Home Office aware of the need for ceremonies in Wales to recognise the position of the Welsh language.

Employees of County Councils

Brynle Williams: How many full-time equivalent employees are employed by the county councils of Gwynedd, Conwy and Denbighshire? (WAQ30795)

Sue Essex: The number of employees employed in the requested county councils are given in the following table.

Numbers of local authority employees

| | Full time | Part time | Total |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Conwy County Borough Council | 2,402 | 2,295 | 4,697 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Gwynedd Council | 3,602 | 3,485 | 7,087 |
| Denbighshire County Council | 2,388 | 1,503 | 3,891 |

(Source: local government employers organisation survey 2002)

Information on full-time equivalents is not available centrally.

The 2001 Census

Jenny Randerson: Following WAQ30602, on what date did the Minister receive the letter from Cardiff County Council about the results of the 2001 Census? (WAQ30811)

Sue Essex: The letter was dated 20 November 2003.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

The Performance of Local Health Boards

Jonathan Morgan: How many targets has the Minister or her department set for the performance of each of the local health boards in Wales? (WAQ29159)

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 8 December 2003.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I am writing in response to WAQ29159, which you tabled for answer on 28 October 2003, asking how many targets my department or I have set for the performance of each local health board in Wales. I apologise for the delay in responding. The Welsh Assembly Government's requirements for local health boards and trusts for the year are set out in the annual planning and priorities guidance, which provides details of expectations across the whole range of healthcare. The 2003-04 guidance, issued in January 2003, contained 84 entries relating to local health boards. I am currently considering the 2004-05 service and financial framework, which will detail the progress against targets that I would wish health organisations in Wales to achieve. This information should be in the public domain by the end of December 2003.

In-patient Beds for Children

Jonathan Morgan: Does the Minister have any plans to introduce children's in-patient beds in Wales? (WAQ30435)

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 9 December 2003.

Jane Hutt: I am now in the position to state that, during the 2002-03 financial year, there were 632 average daily available beds in paediatric specialities (including child and adolescent psychiatry).

Specialist Emergency Adolescent Beds for Children

Jonathan Morgan: Does the Minister have any plans to introduce specialist emergency adolescent beds for children in Wales? (WAQ30437)

Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 9 December 2003.

Jane Hutt: Unfortunately, the information is not held centrally in this form.

Christmas Cards

William Graham: How many Christmas cards were sent by the Minister for Health and Social Services for Christmas 2002, and will she make a statement on the amount paid from Assembly finance for the purchase and posting of these cards? (WAQ30719)

Jane Hutt: I sent 500 cards in Christmas 2002. The costs of print, envelopes, postage and VAT was £320.

Home Care Charges for Disabled People

David Melding: Is the Government's pledge to scrap home care charges for disabled people contingent on resources being made available in the next comprehensive spending review? (WAQ30739)

David Melding: In relation to the Government's pledge to scrap home care charges for disabled people, will the Minister provide a definition of 'home care', and is this the same as the definition contained in the National Assistance Act 1948? (WAQ30740)

David Melding: In relation to the Government's pledge to scrap home care charges for disabled people, will the Minister provide a definition of 'a disabled person', and is this the same definition used to trigger disability living allowance? (WAQ30741)

David Melding: Will the Minister make a commitment to implement the Government's pledge to scrap home care charges for disabled people by 2005-06? (WAQ30742)

Jane Hutt: It is not normal practice to disclose the legal advice received by Ministers, and I do not intend to make an exception on this occasion. My working assumption is that the policy will account for a substantial part of the £16.6 million that local authorities currently collect in non-residential social services charges. This is broadly consistent with the WLGA's own estimate in their most recent expenditure sub-group report. The actual costs will depend on the definitions adopted.

I have given a commitment to work closely on all of this with key stakeholders and to consult on my detailed proposals. In the new year, I shall be reconvening the advisory group that helped to produce the 'Fairer Charging' guidance to work on the details and options for implementing the policy. The group includes all of the key stakeholders.

I will determine the implementation timetable in light of the practical implementation issues and the costs.

Officials and I are in regular contact with a number of the key stakeholders, including the WLGA and Disability Wales, on a range of issues including this one. I last met representatives of Disability Wales on 4 December. My officials have had discussions with the WLGA on free home care for the disabled in the context of the expenditure sub-group report.

In the course of a year, I receive many letters from individuals and organisations about various aspects of the care charging arrangements. In addition, officials received a briefing paper from members of the Coalition on Charging on 8 August this year, and I, and other members of the Health and Social Services Committee, received a briefing paper from the coalition on 4 November.

The Newborn Hearing Screening Programme

Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the plans that her department has to complement the audit of educational services for deaf newborn to two-year-olds, recently completed by the Royal National Institute for the Deaf Cymru on behalf of the Assembly Government, with an audit of social services for deaf newborn to two-year-olds, identified as part of the newborn hearing screening programme? (WAQ30763)

Jane Hutt: An audit of local authority children's services will be undertaken in the new year. This will establish their response to referrals and services that are available to deaf babies and their families. The results will be reported to the children's national service framework project board.

The Newborn Hearing Screening Programme

Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the plans that she has to ensure that social services professionals work closely with education professionals to ensure a seamless, co-ordinated and family friendly support service to all babies identified as deaf by the newborn hearing screening programme? (WAQ30764)

Jane Hutt: The findings of the RNID consultation document have been taken into account in a report on newborn to two-year-olds' education provision. It is essential that staff from education services co-operate effectively with other professionals involved with young deaf children. They will play a key role as part of a team supporting the child and the family.

The Children Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities, local education authorities, local housing authorities and health authorities to work co-operatively together in providing services to children. The requirement to seamlessly deliver co-ordinated multi-agency services to disabled children is a key part of the work being undertaken in developing the children's national service framework, which will be published for consultation in 2004.

The Capital Programme Spend for NHS Wales

Alun Cairns: Would the Minister list the capital programme spend for NHS Wales for each of the last five years? (WAQ30770)

Jane Hutt: The capital programme spend for NHS Wales for the last five years has been as follows:

| Financial year | £ million |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1998-99 | 97.18 |
| 1999-2000 | 90.40 |
| 2000-01 | 73.35 |
| 2001-02 | 128.14 |
| 2002-03 | 120.18 |

The figures include recent capital modernisation fund and end-year flexibility additions to the capital programme.

The Maintenance of NHS Buildings

Alun Cairns: Would the Minister list the backlog in maintenance on NHS buildings for each of the last five years? (WAQ30771)

Jane Hutt: Figures on backlog maintenance on NHS buildings for the last five years are given in the following table.

| Financial year | £ million |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1998-99 | 325 |
| 1999-2000 | 318 |
| 2000-01 | 435 |
| 2001-02 | 431 |
| 2002-03 | 465 |

Orthopaedic Waiting Lists and Times

Alun Cairns: How much extra money has each trust in south-east Wales estimated is needed to help alleviate orthopaedic waiting lists and times? (WAQ30772)

Jane Hutt: To ensure that orthopaedic waiting times do not exceed the 18-month target set within the service and financial framework, additional funds have been allocated to each of the local health boards within south-east Wales. These funds have been utilised by the local health boards to commission services from trusts to enable the targets to be met in respect of their resident population.

The level of additional funds allocated to each local health board is presented in the table below.

| Local health board | Additional funds in respect of orthopaedic waiting times |
|------------------------|--|
| Caerphilly | £978,000 |
| Blaenau Gwent | £631,000 |
| Torfaen | £696,000 |
| Monmouthshire | £587,000 |
| Newport | £1,008,000 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | £11,000 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | £752,000 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | £244,000 |
| Cardiff | £3,541,000 |
| Total south-east Wales | £8,448,000 |

Orthopaedic Waiting Lists and Times

Alun Cairns: How much extra funding has been allocated to each local health board trust to help alleviate orthopaedic waiting lists and times? (WAQ30773)

Jane Hutt: This year, £9,635,000 extra funding has been spent to help to sustain the 18-month target for orthopaedic waiting lists and times.

Orthopaedic Surgery

Alun Cairns: Would the Minister list, year by year over the last five years, the amount NHS Wales has spent in the private sector on orthopaedic surgery? (WAQ30774)

Jane Hutt: This information is not collected centrally.

Cancelled Operations

Jonathan Morgan: How many operations have been cancelled this year due to a shortage of intensive care beds and what was the figure for the previous four years? (WAQ30779)

Jane Hutt: The total number of operations cancelled because of a lack of intensive care/high dependency unit beds from January to the end of October 2003 is 156. This information has only been collected since January 2003. The total number of operations carried out in the same period is 176,355.

Intensive Care Beds

Jonathan Morgan: How many intensive care beds are there at Llandough Hospital this year compared with 1999? (WAQ30780)

Jonathan Morgan: What is the total number of intensive care beds in Wales and how does this figure compare with 1999? (WAQ30782)

Jonathan Morgan: How many intensive care beds are there at the University Hospital of Wales this year compared with 1999? (WAQ30812)

Jane Hutt: The latest figures for the numbers of resourced adult critical care beds in Wales are taken from a survey by the Welsh Intensive Care Society in December 2003. The results of the survey for Llandough Hospital and the University Hospital of Wales are shown in the following table, together with comparative figures on the same basis for December 2000. Figures for 1999 are not available.

| Non-specialist adult intensive care and high dependency beds in Wales | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | intensive care unit beds | | high dependency unit beds | |
| | Dec 2000 | Dec 2003 | Dec 2000 | Dec 2003 |
| University Hospital of Wales | 10 | 10 | 14 | 14 |
| Llandough Hospital | 0 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Total of Welsh trusts | 60 | 66 | 93 | 102 |

Source: The Welsh Intensive Care Society.

Intensive Care Beds

Jonathan Morgan: What is the total cost of providing an intensive care bed, and how much has been allocated in the budget for this purpose? (WAQ30781)

Jane Hutt: The operational cost of an individual intensive care bed will vary from unit to unit but can be in the region of £300,000 a year. Funding for intensive care beds is not ring-fenced but forms part of each local health board's discretionary allowance.

The European Working Time Directive

Alun Cairns: What implications does the European working time directive have on NHS Wales? (WAQ30783)

Jane Hutt: The extension of the working time directive to include doctors in training will have far-reaching implications for the delivery of acute healthcare across Wales. It will require significant alterations in ways of working and an ongoing programme of change within NHS organisations.

The European Working Time Directive

Alun Cairns: What plans does the Minister have to deal with the European working time directive and its impact on the health service in Wales? (WAQ30784)

Jane Hutt: The European working time directive is not an issue that can be dealt with in isolation. It has to be considered alongside other factors, such as the developments in modernisation, 'Agenda for Change', the consultant and GP contracts and the financial resources available. The Assembly Government is currently working with the health service in Wales to consider how services will need to be reconfigured to achieve compliance.

The European Working Time Directive

Alun Cairns: What plans does the Minister have to pilot any changes in working patterns in the NHS prior to the impact of the European working time directive? (WAQ30785)

Jane Hutt: North West Wales NHS Trust has recently completed a pilot exercise on the impact of the working time directive on the NHS in Wales. I am also aware of the various projects being piloted in England particularly the 'hospital at night' project, which divides the 24-hour hospital day into three sections: 'the day', 'the evening' and 'the night', and considers how the hospital should be staffed over each of these periods to meet the health demands that arise.

In an effort to promote these and other ideas, the Welsh Assembly Government is hosting a conference in Cardiff on 5 February 2004 for the benefit of the Welsh NHS trusts and their commissioning bodies.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What representations has the Minister made regarding enhancing the powers of the children's commissioner in Wales? (WAQ30798)

Jane Hutt: I am in correspondence with Right Honourable Margaret Hodge MP exploring opportunities for the forthcoming Children Bill to enhance the power of the Children's Commissioner for Wales in relation to non-devolved matters.

Services for Children with Learning Difficulties

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Does the Minister have any plans to improve services for children with learning difficulties? (WAQ30800)

Jane Hutt: Work is under way on delivering the national service framework for children. The NSF will set standards across areas of children's health, including for those children with learning disabilities. The learning disability implementation advisory group is contributing to this process.

Eating Disorder Beds

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Does the Minister have any plans to make provision for establishing eating disorder beds in Wales? (WAQ30801)

Jane Hutt: I refer to the answer given to Jonathan Morgan's WAQ30436 on 3 December.

Adolescent Forensic Service

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Does the Minister have any plans to establish an adolescent forensic service in Wales? (WAQ30802)

Jane Hutt: Over the coming year, from centrally held budgets, we will be making an investment to start developing a forensic child and adolescent mental health service in Wales.

Emergency Adolescent Beds

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Does the Minister have any plans to establish emergency adolescent beds in Wales? (WAQ30803)

Jane Hutt: Establishing beds such as these would be a matter for local health boards to commission on a regional basis in conjunction with the NHS trust.

In-patient Beds for Children

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Does the Minister have any plans to increase the number of children's in-patient beds in Wales? (WAQ30804)

Jane Hutt: The new development of the children's hospital for Wales details 50 beds.

Mental Health Services

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Does the Minister have any plans to identify and dedicate money for implementation of the all-Wales strategy for child and mental health services? (WAQ30805)

Jane Hutt: Local health boards are expected to develop programmes within their overall allocation to implement the all-Wales strategy for child and adolescent mental health services.

Access to Therapy

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What plans does the Minister have for initiating direct referrals to therapists such as physiotherapists and dieticians? (WAQ30806)

Jane Hutt: I assume that this question refers to GP direct access to NHS therapy services. I understand that GP direct access to many of the therapy services, including physiotherapy and dietetics, is already in place across Wales.

Local health boards are responsible for commissioning the majority of therapy services from the trusts for their local population. These commissioning arrangements may include GP direct access to therapy services. It is therefore for each health board to establish its commissioning priorities. Where these include therapy services, the board will commission these on behalf of GPs.

Consultant Therapists

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Which speciality areas will the Minister be prioritising when making provision for consultant therapists? (WAQ30807)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What plans does the Minister have to make provision for increasing the number of consultant therapists in Wales? (WAQ30817)

Jane Hutt: The Welsh Assembly Government guidance, including the processes for the national approval and subsequent appointment of consultant posts within the allied health professions in Wales, was issued to the service in June 2003.

The guidance states that the establishment of these posts must be linked with national priorities. The approval process for the establishment of these posts requires all consultant post submissions to make clear the link with national priorities. National priorities may change over time, and these changing priorities will need to be considered when drawing up posts for approval. The specific remit of the consultant post is therefore a matter for each of the local health, social, and education communities and NHS trusts in Wales to decide, ensuring that the post meets the stated criteria.

The approval process for new consultant posts within the allied health professions is managed on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government by Health Professions Wales. We anticipate the approval of the first such post in Wales early in 2004.

The NHS Capital Programme

Alun Cairns: What timescale does the Minister estimate before eradicating the capital programme shortfall in her portfolio? (WAQ30808)

Jane Hutt: It is expected that the NHS will deliver the capital programme for 2003-04 on budget.

In relation to the longer term, I have established a capital investment board to provide an improved all-Wales perspective to NHS estate development. It will ensure a strategic overview of all NHS capital development and the board will advise me of both essential capital requirements and how these demands can be appropriately met.

The issue of funding is, as always, a difficult one and I continue to explore possibilities for getting more money to use in the health service, but I have also recognised the need to improve the way in which money is spent. This is currently being implemented through stringent examination of business cases for value for money and the efficiency of the model of service being proposed, and key business cases are subjected to external scrutiny by recognised experts in business case evaluation.

Second Offer Scheme

Alun Cairns: What extra capacity is the Minister building in NHS Wales to meet the Wanless-based commitment to allow patients waiting more than 18 months for some in-patient treatment to use another hospital? (WAQ30809)

Jane Hutt: Our policy is to build capacity in Wales so that more patients can be treated more quickly through sustainable NHS services. I have already announced the second offer scheme for patients who would be waiting more than 18 months for treatment after 1 April 2004, and I will continue to seek the improvement of waiting times for Welsh residents. I will make a further statement on the operation of the second offer scheme once the details have been finalised.

NHS Capital Spend

Alun Cairns: What is the Assembly's record on NHS capital spend against requirements compared with that in England for each of the last five years? (WAQ30810)

Jane Hutt: Spending on capital is given in the following table. The figures for Wales include recent capital modernisation fund and end-year flexibility additions to the capital programme. Those for England are taken from the Department of Health's 'Departmental Report 2002-03', on public spending.

| Financial Year | £ million | |
|----------------|-----------|-------|
| | England | Wales |
| 1998-99 | 700 | 97 |
| 1999-2000 | 908 | 90 |
| 2000-01 | 1,318 | 73 |
| 2001-02 | 1,745 | 128 |
| 2002-03 | 2,401 | 120 |

Assistance to Local Health Boards

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Does the Minister intend giving further financial assistance to local health boards in order to alleviate the debts inherited and ensuring that services commissioned from various voluntary organisations can be fully funded? (WAQ30814)

Jane Hutt: Some local health boards are still in an underlying financial deficit situation after the additional funding that I announced on 1 April. These boards are finalising financial plans that will provide a framework and timetable for the restoration of financial balance which, at the latest, is expected to occur by 31 March 2006. Once these plans are agreed with my officials, the Welsh Assembly Government will provide financial assistance to these boards, if required, in the form of repayable loans. These loans are expected to be repaid by 31 March 2009. I have no intention of providing any other financial assistance to local health boards to support their underlying financial position.

Stroke Services

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on whether the reduction in stroke services will have an adverse long-term effect on health spending? (WAQ30815)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What plans does the Minister have to mitigate the effect of increasing numbers of stroke patients on waiting lists for services? (WAQ30842)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What contingency plans are in place to fund stroke services in Wales in the event of local health boards being unable to do so? (WAQ30844)

Jane Hutt: The provision of health services, including stroke services, is the responsibility of local health boards. They must undertake local needs assessments and, working with NHS trusts, the voluntary sector and others, plan and prioritise services to meet these needs within the resources available.

The national service framework for older people, currently being taken forward in Wales, will focus on stroke care and will help to identify actions to reduce any unacceptable variation in service and drive up quality.

We have asked trusts and local health boards to put in place integrated care pathways by March 2004 to ensure that there are consistent measures wherever you live in Wales for the prevention and management of strokes.

Consultant Therapists

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What resources will the Minister make available to increase the number of consultant therapists in Wales? (WAQ30818)

Jane Hutt: The Welsh Assembly Government is not providing any central funding for the establishment of posts. The development, introduction, and funding arrangements for these posts is a matter for local health communities and NHS trusts to decide.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Owen John Thomas: What steps is the Minister taking to eradicate MRSA in hospitals under her control and do the measures that she is pursuing match effectively those being implemented in England? (WAQ30819)

Jane Hutt: I refer you to the answer given to Nick Bourne AM in respect of WAQ30722.

Deaths from MRSA

Owen John Thomas: How many deaths from MRSA were there in Wales and England respectively for the year 2002-03? (WAQ30820)

Jane Hutt: We do not have a register of deaths attributed to MRSA in England and Wales.

Gwasanaethau ar gyfer Oedolion gydag Anabledd Dysgu

Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad parthed arolygon ar wasanaethau sydd ar gael ar gyfer oedolion gydag anabledd dysgu? (WAQ30843) [W]

Jane Hutt: Cynhaliodd Argolygiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru gyfres o arolygiadau ar wasanaethau ar gyfer oedolion ag anableddau dysgu yn 2002-03. Yr awdurdodau a arolygwyd oedd Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Merthyr Tudful, Castell-nedd Port Talbot a Chasnewydd. Cafodd canlyniadau'r arolygiadau eu crynhoi yn adroddiad blynyddol y prif arolygydd. Barnwyd bod Ceredigion a Gwynedd yn

gwasanaethu'r rhan fwyaf o'r bobl yn dda a bod y tri awdurdod arall yn gwasanaethu rhai pobl yn dda. Barnwyd bod y rhagolygon ar gyfer y pum awdurdod yn addawol o ran gwelliannau pellach.

Mae'r arolygiadau yn cadarnhau'r cynnydd a wnaed o safbwynt nod y polisi o alluogi pobl ag anableddau dysgu i fyw bywyd mwy normal yn y gymuned. Dangosant hefyd y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol ac iechyd yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd. Dengys yr adroddiadau bod mwy eto i'w wneud er mwyn cynnig mwy o ddewis a rhoi mwy o sylw i'r unigolyn o fewn y gwasanaethau. Ar y cyfan, ceir darlun digon calonogol o'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn y maes hwn.

Mae'r cyd-adolygiadau ar wasanaethau cymdeithasol awdurdodau lleol hefyd yn gwneud sylwadau ar y gwasanaeth anableddau dysgu. Bydd arolygiadau a chyd-adolygiadau yn y dyfodol yn ystyried gwasanaethau anableddau dysgu ynghyd â chyfrifoldebau eraill awdurdodau lleol o safbwynt gwasanaethau cymdeithasol.

Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities

Alun Ffred Jones: Will the Minister make a statement with regard to inspections of the services available to adults with learning disabilities? (WAQ30843) [W]

Jane Hutt: The Social Services Inspectorate for Wales carried out a series of inspections of services for adults with learning disabilities in 2002-03. The authorities inspected were Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot and Newport. The judgments of the inspections were summarised in the chief inspector's annual report. Ceredigion and Gwynedd are judged to be serving most people well and the remaining three authorities to be serving some people well. All five authorities are judged to have promising prospects for further improvement.

These inspections confirm progress in the policy aims of enabling people with learning disabilities to lead more normal lives in the community. They also show social and health services working together. The reports show that more is to be done, to increase choice and individuality in services. Overall, they present a reasonably encouraging picture of social services in this field.

Joint reviews of local authority social services also comment on learning disability services. Future inspections and joint reviews will consider learning disability services along with other local authority social services responsibilities.

Respite for Carers of Stroke Patients

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What assessment has the Minister made of the impact on respite for stroke patients' carers because of increased numbers of stroke patients on waiting lists and what effect will this have on carers' wellbeing? (WAQ30846)

Jane Hutt: Carers have an important role in helping to look after relatives or friends who have suffered a stroke. Carers are entitled to a social services assessment of their needs in their own right under the provisions of the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000. It is for local NHS and social services authorities to ensure that any carers' needs for services or support are assessed and addressed.

Orthopaedic Unit at Llandough Hospital

Jonathan Morgan: Will the Minister make a statement on the status of the orthopaedic ambulatory care and diagnostic unit at Llandough Hospital? (WAQ30850)

Jane Hutt: As I announced on 5 November, the capital development of the orthopaedic ambulatory care and diagnostic centre at Llandough will commence in April 2004. The Assembly Government is providing £10.72 million in capital funding to support this and another orthopaedic scheme in Gwent over the next two years. The Assembly Government is also contributing £5 million in revenue on a recurrent

basis to support these developments. Currently, trust project staff are engaged in developing the business case. They are in close liaison with Assembly officials to ensure that their plans will enable reductions in waiting times and improved access to services for patients—expectations that I also detailed when announcing my support for the schemes.

Orthopaedic Services at Llandough Hospital

Jonathan Morgan: How many complaints relating to orthopaedic services at Llandough Hospital have been received in a) 1999, b) 2000, c) 2001, d) 2002 and e) most recent figures for 2003? (WAQ30851)

Jane Hutt: The information you requested is not held centrally.

Orthopaedic Services, Consultants and Beds

Jonathan Morgan: How many orthopaedic spinal a) services, b) consultants and c) specialist beds are provided by NHS Wales in the south Wales area, and will the Minister list them? (WAQ30852)

Jane Hutt: As at 30 September 2002, in the south Wales area, there were 50.7 whole-time equivalent consultants in the speciality of trauma and orthopaedic surgery. In 2002-03, there were 702.6 average daily available beds in the speciality of trauma and orthopaedic surgery. Data broken down into specific sub-specialities is not held centrally. The area covers the following NHS trusts: Bro Morgannwg, Cardiff and Vale, Gwent Healthcare, North Glamorgan, Pontypridd and Rhondda, and Swansea.

Waiting Lists for Orthopaedic Surgery at Llandough Hospital

Jonathan Morgan: How long is the ‘soon’ out-patient waiting list for orthopaedic spinal surgery in Llandough Hospital, what are the other categories for out-patient waits in this speciality, and will the Minister give figures for the number of patients on those lists? (WAQ30853)

Jane Hutt: This information is not held centrally.

Orthopaedic Services at Llandough Hospital

Jonathan Morgan: What discussions has the Minister had with professionals at Llandough Hospital in relation to the provision of orthopaedic services, and will she make a statement on any initiatives specific to that hospital? (WAQ30854)

Jane Hutt: As I announced on 5 November 2003, the orthopaedic ambulatory care and diagnostic centre at Llandough Hospital will provide an important contribution to the orthopaedic services in Wales, hence the capital development that will commence in 2004.

I have had no direct and regular discussions with professionals at Llandough Hospital, but my officials have been in discussion with professionals and managers with regard to the ambulatory care and diagnostic centre, as well as orthopaedic services more generally. They will continue to be in communication with them throughout the development of the centre.

Blocked Hospital Beds

Jonathan Morgan: How many hospital beds are currently classified as ‘blocked’ in Wales, and will the Minister give a monthly breakdown for this figure over the last five years? (WAQ30855)

Jane Hutt: The November census shows 1,113 delayed transfers of care across Wales. Of these, 26 per cent were in mental health, 32 per cent in acute and 42 per cent in non-acute sectors.

The top five reasons for delay in November were:

1. awaiting place availability in care home of choice: 179
2. awaiting another NHS bed: 120
3. awaiting funding for care home placement: 107
4. patient/family/carer selecting care home of choice: 64
5. awaiting completion of continuing healthcare assessment: 61

Census data for the past year is:

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| November 2003 | 1,113 |
| October 2003 | 1,008 |
| September 2003 | 1,116 |
| August 2003 | 1,075 |
| July 2003 | 1,075 |
| June 2003 | 1,002 |
| May 2003 | 1,079 |
| April 2003 | 1,011 |
| March 2003 | 1,116 |
| February 2003 | 994 |
| January 2003 | 1,071 |
| December 2002 | 987 |
| November 2002 | 1,067 |

Comparable information prior to April 2002 is not available.

Orthopaedic Referrals at Llandough Hospital

Jonathan Morgan: How many orthopaedic referrals are received by the Llandough Hospital trust, and what is the maximum capacity of the trust to deal with orthopaedic cases? (WAQ30856)

Jane Hutt: The referral data available is insufficiently robust to provide a meaningful picture but, as an alternative indicator, in 2002-03, there were 5,315 new out-patient attendances in the speciality of trauma and orthopaedic surgery at Llandough Hospital and 2,253 in-patient cases. Details on trust capacity are not held centrally. Capacity varies according to the case mix of major, intermediate and minor cases present at a given time.

Information Technology in NHS Wales

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Which private-sector management consultancy companies, or individual self-employed management consultants, have been used to provide services in respect of the information and information technology-related work programmes of the NHS Wales department, and what is the scope value of the individual contracts with each company or individual? (WAQ30871)

Jane Hutt: The tables below list the private-sector management consultancy companies and individuals that have provided information technology-related services to the NHS Wales department since 1 April 1999.

Private-sector management consultancy companies used to provide services in respect of information and technology work-related programmes for the NHS Wales department from 1 April 1999 to 22 November 2002.

| Company name | Scope of Work | Value | |
|---------------|--|---------|--|
| 4C Strategies | The analysis of voice communications across NHS Wales, the | £70,000 | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------|-----------------|
| | subsequent development of a strategy for voice communications, with the migration of voice from the DAWN core as a key deliverable. | | |
| Cap Gemini | Consultancy services for Health of Wales Information Service. | £15,000 | |
| Draxmont | Provision of consultancy support for the primary care information and communications technology project. | £42,000 | |
| Healthcare Alliances | Development of telemedicine for Wales. | £45,000 | |
| Hyder Consulting | To provide a programme manager resource for the telecommunications migration programme, facilitating all of its sub-groups. | £45,000 | Annual Contract |
| Indigo Consulting | Provision of a strategic outline case for a single integrated electronic health record for healthcare in Wales. | £165,000 | |
| IHG Healthcare Consultancy | As part of information quality programme, undertook internal review of data management processes at all Welsh NHS trusts. | £95,000 | |
| | Commissioned the external assessors on behalf of the health information management technology and estates division. | | |
| IHG Healthcare Consultancy | Work now commenced on an internal review of data outputs at all Welsh NHS trusts. | £150,000 | |
| PA Consulting | Scoping study undertaken to see if/how Wales could join with the data dictionary redevelopment being undertaken in England. | £37,500 | |
| Vega | Review of information requirements undertaken. Report presented to the national association for continuing educating and the information requirements and standards sub-committee and conclusions used to inform 'Improving Health in Wales' information task and finish group in the development of 'Informing Healthcare'. | £35,000 | |

Private-sector management consultancy companies/individuals used to provide services in respect of information and technology work related programmes for the NHS Wales department from 23 November 2002 to 17 December 2003.

| Company Name | Scope of Work | Value (inc. VAT) |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Planning and Management Services | Provision of external validation of a complex capital investment business case (north Wales clinical school). | £7,186 |
| Healthcare Alliances Ltd | Telemedicine-related work. | £15,683 |
| MultiSense | Telemedicine-related work. | £6,064 |
| Indigo Consulting | Provision of a strategic outline case for a single integrated electronic health record for healthcare in Wales. | £832,496.41 |
| Hyder Consulting | Programme management of the telecommunications migration programme. | £54,823 |
| 4C Strategies | The analysis of voice communications across NHS Wales, the subsequent development of a strategy for voice communications, with the migration of voice from the DAWN core as a key deliverable. | £19,094 |
| Stephanie Freyaldenhoven | Work on data accreditation. | £711.71 |
| Merck, Sharp and Dohme | Training days to support the roll-out of clinical audit in Wales. | £41,125 |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--------|
| Balance Consulting | Training for the Projects in Controlled Environments project management package. | £1,457 |
|--------------------|--|--------|

Private Healthcare Providers

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What was the total cost of using private providers to perform NHS healthcare during the past 12 months? (WAQ30872)

Jane Hutt: The NHS in Wales spent a total of £53.691 million on non-NHS providers of healthcare during the 2002-03 financial year. This is the most recent period for which figures are available.

Rhaglen Ymwybyddiaeth Iaith yn y GIG

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno 'Iaith Pawb', pa gamau sydd wedi cael eu cymryd i greu rhaglen ymwybyddiaeth iaith yn y GIG er mwyn datblygu dealltwriaeth o sensitifrwydd iaith wrth ddarparu gwasanaeth gofal iechyd ymysg staff a myfyrwyr GIG? (WAQ30876) [W]

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno 'Iaith Pawb', pa gamau sydd wedi cael eu cymryd i ddatblygu dealltwriaeth o sensitifrwydd iaith wrth ddarparu gwasanaeth gofal iechyd ymysg staff a myfyrwyr y GIG? (WAQ30877) [W]

Jane Hutt: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cynhyrchu fideo a phecyn hyfforddi ymwybyddiaeth iaith y GIG, sydd ar hyn o bryd ar brawf mewn tair ymddiriedolaeth, pump bwrdd iechyd lleol a thri choleg. Yn dilyn hyn, caiff ei lansio'n swyddogol ym mis Ebrill 2004.

Yn ogystal, comisiynwyd Prifysgol Cymru, Bangor, i gynnal astudiaeth ymchwil o ymwybyddiaeth a sensitifrwydd gweithwyr ym maes gofal iechyd yng Nghymru tuag at ddarpariaeth ddwyieithog.

A Language Awareness Programme in the NHS

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of 'Iaith Pawb', what steps have been taken to create a language awareness programme in the NHS in order to develop an understanding of language sensitivity in the provision of healthcare services among NHS staff and students? (WAQ30876) [W]

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of 'Iaith Pawb', what steps have been taken to develop the understanding of language sensitivity in the provision of healthcare services among NHS staff and students? (WAQ30877) [W]

Jane Hutt: The Welsh Assembly Government has produced an NHS Welsh language awareness training pack and video, which is currently being piloted with three trusts, five local health boards and three colleges. Following this, it will be launched in April 2004.

In addition, the University of Wales, Bangor has been commissioned to conduct a research study into the awareness and sensitivity of healthcare professionals in Wales towards bilingual provision.

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

Christmas Cards

William Graham: How many Christmas cards were sent by the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration for Christmas 2002, and will she make a statement on the amount paid from Assembly finance for the purchase and posting of these cards? (WAQ30715)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): In Christmas 2002, there was not a portfolio for social justice and regeneration.

Y Cynllun Prynu Cartref

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cymryd i adolygu gweithrediad y cynllun prynu cartref i sicrhau ei fod yn galluogi pobl sydd angen tai i ddod yn berchnogion tai am bris isel? (WAQ30756) [W]

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf newydd rag-adolygu'r cynllun prynu cartref gan sylwi'n arbennig ar Wynedd. Y casgliad oedd fod y cynllun prynu cartref yn fodd hwylus sy'n cynorthwyo wrth ddarparu tai fforddiadwy mewn rhai cymunedau gwledig, ond nad dyna'r ateb ym mhob sefyllfa.

The Homebuy Scheme

Owen John Thomas: What action has the Minister taken to review the implementation of the homebuy scheme to ensure that it enables people in need of housing to become low cost home-owners? (WAQ30756) [W]

Edwina Hart: I have recently carried out a preliminary review of the homebuy scheme with particular attention given to Gwynedd. The conclusion was that homebuy provides a useful tool to assist with affordable housing provision in some rural communities, but is not the solution in all circumstances.

Ail Gartrefi

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cymryd i asesu effaith gymdeithasol ac economaidd ail gartrefi mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru? (WAQ30759) [W]

Edwina Hart: Gwnaed ymchwil i ail gartrefi yn 2001-02 fel rhan o raglen ymchwil cynllunio Cymru. Dyma'r canlyniadau allweddol:

- rhwng 1991 a 2001 yr oedd y farchnad ail gartrefi a chartrefi gwyliau wedi crebachu i nifer o ardaloedd craidd ar arfordir y Gorllewin ac yng ngogledd-orllewin Cymru;
- nid oes dolen gyswllt genedlaethol rhwng niferoedd uchel o ail gartrefi a phrisiau tai ond, mewn llecynnau dymunol lleol, mae ymddeol, patrymau teithio i'r gwaith ac ail gartrefi i gyd yn effeithio ar brisiau tai; ac
- mae llawer o awdurdodau cynllunio lleol brin yn defnyddio'r dulliau cynllunio sydd ar gael iddynt er mwyn negodi tai fforddiadwy.

Cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ei hymateb i argymhellion yr ymchwilwyr ym mis Hydref 2002, a diweddarwyd hyn ym mis Gorffennaf eleni. Mae hyn yn dangos bod llawer o'r argymhellion yn cael eu gweithredu'n barod neu'n destun ystyriaeth bendant gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Second Homes

Owen John Thomas: What action has the Minister taken to assess the social and economic effect of second homes on communities throughout Wales? (WAQ30759) [W]

Edwina Hart: Research into second homes was undertaken in 2001-02 as part of the Wales planning research programme. The key findings were:

- between 1991 and 2001, there was a contraction of the second and holiday home market into a number of core areas on the west coast and in north-west Wales;
- there is no national link between second home concentration and house prices but, in localised, desirable settings, retirement, commuting patterns and second homes all impact on house prices; and

- many local planning authorities make only limited use of the planning tools available to them to negotiate affordable housing.

The Assembly Government published its response to the researchers' recommendations in October 2002 and this was updated in July this year. This shows that many of the recommendations are already being actioned or actively considered by the Assembly Government.

Arian Cymunedau yn Gyntaf

Alun Ffred Jones: Ar ba linell neu linellau yn y gyllideb yr ymddengys arian Cymunedau yn Gyntaf? (WAQ30768) [W]

Edwina Hart: Lleolir Cymunedau yn Gyntaf o fewn yr is-grŵp gwariant pwrpasau cymunedol.

Communities First Money

Alun Ffred Jones: On what line or lines in the budget does Communities First funding appear? (WAQ30768) [W]

Edwina Hart: Communities First sits within the community purposes sub-expenditure group.

Anti-social Behaviour

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What representations has the Minister made to her colleagues at Westminster regarding the Anti-social Behaviour Bill? (WAQ30799)

Edwina Hart: None, although we have been looking closely at all parts of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, which received Royal Assent on 20 November 2003, and have ensured that it will be for the National Assembly to decide whether certain provisions are commenced in Wales.

I did however respond to the Department for Work and Pensions' consultation paper on housing benefit sanctions and anti-social behaviour back in August 2003, outlining a number of our concerns about the proposals.

Swyddfeydd Post

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i ddatblygu cynllun grant i gynnal swyddfeydd post mewn cymunedau difreintiedig a/neu anghysbell ledled Cymru? (WAQ30821) [W]

Edwina Hart: Mae'r Cynulliad yn cynnal cynllun grantiau y gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post. Bwriad y gronfa yw helpu gyda'r gwaith o gynnal rhwydwaith ymarferol o swyddfeydd post yn rhai o gymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig ac ynysig Cymru. Hyd yn hyn, yr wyf wedi dyrannu dros £1 filiwn i gynnal swyddfeydd post o dan y cynllun. Cyhoeddais yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ar 15 Hydref fy mod wedi dweud wrth fy swyddogion i archwilio'r gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post a'i gwerthuso.

Post Offices

Owen John Thomas: What action has the Minister taken to develop a grant scheme to maintain post offices in deprived and/or isolated communities throughout Wales (WAQ30821) [W]

Edwina Hart: The Assembly is running the post office development fund grant scheme. The aim of the fund is to help sustain a viable network of post offices in the most deprived and isolated communities across Wales. To date, I have allocated over £1 million to support post offices under the fund. I

announced to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee on 15 October that I had instructed officials to undertake a short stocktake and evaluation of the post office development fund.

Cynorthwyo Mentrau Cymunedol

Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i gynorthwyo mentrau cymunedol a thwf yr economi gymdeithasol a ffurfio cwmnïau newydd mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig? (WAQ30835) [W]

Edwina Hart: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ystyried mentrau cymunedol fel ffordd o adfywio ein cymunedau a lledaenu cyfoeth yn fwy cyfartal.

Drwy strategaeth undebau credyd Cymru, buom yn cydweithio â Chanolfan Gydweithredol Cymru a Chymdeithas Undebau Credyd Prydain Cyf. yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf er mwyn datblygu undebau credyd yng Nghymru. Mae hyn wedi arwain at gynnydd triphlyg yn nifer y bobl sy'n aelodau o undebau credyd yng Nghymru ac at gynnydd sylweddol o ran cynilion a benthyciadau. Mae cymeradwyaeth wedi'i sicrhau i ariannu ail gam y prosiect hwn drwy gymysgedd o arian Amcan 1 ac arian cyfatebol oddi wrth y Cynulliad.

Yn gynharach eleni, lansiodd y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio y 'Cynllun Gweithredu Mentrau Cymdeithasol', sef dogfen ymgynghori a gynhyrchwyd mewn partneriaeth â chynrychiolwyr o'r economi gymdeithasol. Bydd ymateb i'r materion a godwyd yn y ddogfen ymgynghori yn cael ei gyhoeddi yn y flwyddyn newydd.

Mae'r cynllun ymarfer menter hefyd yn llwyddiannus iawn. Mae'n annog pobl ddi-waith i fentro drwy ddechrau eu busnes eu hunain heb gollu eu budd-daliadau.

Yn olaf, yr ydym wedi cymeradwyo cais i ariannu prosiect cymorth busnes cydweithredol er mwyn cynorthwyo'r bobl sy'n awyddus i greu cyfleoedd i weithwyr brynu cyfrannau gweithwyr eraill neu i sefydlu busnesau cydweithredol ledled Cymru.

Assisting Community Initiatives

Owen John Thomas: What action has the Minister taken to assist community initiatives and the growth of the social economy and to establish new companies in deprived areas? (WAQ30835) [W]

Edwina Hart: The Assembly Government considers community-based enterprises as a means of regenerating our communities and spreading wealth more equitably.

Through the Welsh credit union strategy, we have been working over the last three years with the Wales Co-operative Centre and the Association of British Credit Unions Ltd to develop the credit union movement in Wales. This has seen almost a threefold increase in credit union membership in Wales and also a significant increase in savings and loans. Approval has been reached to fund in essence phase 2 of this project through a mixture of Objective 1 and Assembly match funding.

Earlier this year, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration also launched the 'Social Enterprise Action Plan' consultation document, produced in partnership with representatives of the social economy. A response to the issues raised in the consultation will be published in the new year.

The enterprise rehearsal scheme is also proving a success. It encourages the unemployed to be entrepreneurial by starting their own businesses without losing their benefits.

Finally, we have approved funding of a co-operative business support project to assist those looking to form employee buy-outs or co-operative businesses throughout Wales.

‘Iaith Pawb’

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno ‘Iaith Pawb’, pa gamau y mae’r Gweinidog wedi’u cymryd i fynd i’r afael â thlodi ac anfantais gymdeithasol yn ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig Cymru? (WAQ30888) [W]

Edwina Hart: Caiff pwysigrwydd yr iaith Gymraeg ei gydnabod yn y rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, a chaiff Menter a Busnes ei ariannu i godi ymwybyddiaeth o’r iaith Gymraeg wrth adfywio cymunedau.

‘Iaith Pawb’

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of ‘Iaith Pawb’, what steps has the Minister taken to address poverty and social disadvantage in the more deprived areas of Wales? (WAQ30888) [W]

Edwina Hart: The importance of the Welsh language is recognised in the Communities First programme, and Menter a Busnes is funded to raise awareness of the Welsh language in community regeneration.

‘Iaith Pawb’

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno ‘Iaith Pawb’, pa gamau y mae’r Gweinidog wedi’u cymryd i sicrhau cymysgedd o gefnogaeth refeniw a chyfalaf i hyrwyddo adfywio dan arweiniad y gymuned? (WAQ30889) [W]]

Edwina Hart: Fe’ch cyfeiriaf at yr ateb a roddwyd i WAQ30888. Yn ogystal, sefydlwyd y rhaglen cyfleusterau a gweithgareddau cymunedol er mwyn darparu neu wella adnoddau cymunedol a chefnogi gweithgareddau sy’n anelu at adfywio cymunedau. Gall y sefydliadau cymunedol a gwirfoddol ddefnyddio grantiau ar gyfer darparu cymorth refeniw a chyfalaf. Mae’r rhaglen cyfleusterau a gweithgareddau cymunedol yn annog ceisiadau oddi wrth sefydliadau sy’n ymateb i anghenion diwylliannol a ieithyddol cymunedau ledled Cymru.

‘Iaith Pawb’

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction ‘Iaith Pawb’, what steps has the Minister taken to secure a combination of revenue and capital support to promote community-led regeneration? (WAQ30889) [W]

Edwina Hart: I refer to the answer provided for WAQ30888. In addition, the community facilities and activities programme has been established to provide or improve community facilities and support activities aimed at community regeneration. Grant awards can be used by community and voluntary organisations for revenue and capital support. CFAP explicitly encourages applications from organisations that respond to the cultural and linguistic needs of communities across Wales.

‘Iaith Pawb’

Owen John Thomas: Ers cyflwyno ‘Iaith Pawb’, pa gamau y mae’r Gweinidog wedi’u cymryd i sefydlu astudiaeth effaith ieithyddol er mwyn llunio offer i helpu i weithredu polisi a chyngor cynllunio cenedlaethol sy’n gysylltiedig â’r iaith Gymraeg? (WAQ30892) [W] *Trosglwyddwyd i’w ateb gan y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad.*

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Mae’r Llywodraeth yn gweithio gyda chonsortium o awdurdodau cynllunio lleol a rhanddeiliaid, gan gynnwys Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, ar ymchwil er mwyn sefydlu sylfaen ddamcaniaethol ac ymarferol ar gyfer asesiad o effaith iaith gan ei fod yn berthnasol i bolisi cynllunio yng Nghymru. Comisiynwyd cyngorwyr gan y consortium er mwyn mynd i’r afael â’r gwaith ymchwil a disgwyliwn iddynt gyflwyno’u hadroddiad i’r grŵp yn y flwyddyn newydd. Unwaith i’r consortium gytuno ar yr adroddiad ymchwil terfynol, byddaf yn edrych ar ei oblygiadau ar gyfer polisi cynllunio ac yn pennu pa newidiadau y byddai’n rhaid eu

gwneud efallai i'r polisi presennol yn 'Polisi Cynllunio Cymru' 2002, a 'Nodyn Cyngor Technegol 20: yr Iaith Gymraeg—Cynlluniau Datblygu Unedol a Rheoli Cynllunio'.

'Iaith Pawb'

Owen John Thomas: Since the introduction of 'Iaith Pawb', what steps has the Minister taken to establish a language impact assessment with a view to establishing tools to assist with the implementation of national planning policy and advice in relation to the Welsh language? (WAQ30892) [W] *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside.*

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): The Government is working with a consortium of local planning authorities and stakeholders, including the Welsh Language Board, on research to establish the theoretical and practical basis for language impact assessment as it applies to planning policy in Wales. This consortium took on consultants to undertake the research and they are due to submit their report to the group in the new year. Once the consortium has agreed the final research report, I will be investigating its implications for planning policy and establishing what changes might need to be made to current policy in 'Planning Policy Wales' 2002, and 'Technical Advice Note 20: Welsh Language—Unitary Development Plans and Planning Control'.