

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 21 Chwefror 2013

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 21 February 2013

*Cyhoeddir atebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o atebion yn y Gymraeg.
Answers are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.*

[R] *yn nodi bod yr Aelod wedi datgan buddiant/signifies that the Member has declared an interest.*

[W] *yn nodi bod y cwestiwn wedi'i gyflwyno yn Gymraeg/signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.*

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Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
To ask the Minister for Education and Skills

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro pa reolaethau sydd ar waith i sicrhau nad yw'r dryswch ynghylch asbestos a gododd yn Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn yn digwydd eto. (WAQ62259)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Will the Minister explain what controls are in place to ensure that the confusion surrounding asbestos in Cwmcarn High school does not happen again. (WAQ62259)

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro pa wersi a ddysgwyd yn sgîl y broblem ag asbestos yn Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn. (WAQ62260)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Will the Minister explain what lessons have been learned following the issue of asbestos in Cwmcarn High School. (WAQ62260)

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro pa wersi a ddysgwyd yn sgîl yr adroddiadau gwrthdrawiadol ynghylch yr asbestos a ganfuwyd yn Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn. (WAQ62261)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Will the Minister explain what lessons have been learned following the conflicting reports of asbestos found in Cwmcarn High School. (WAQ62261)

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro pa gymorth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei roi i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili i sicrhau bod Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn yn cael ei hadleoli neu ei hailagor cyn gynted ag y bo modd. (WAQ62262)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Will the Minister explain what assistance the Welsh Government is providing Caerphilly County Borough Council to ensure that Cwmcarn High School will be relocated or reopened as soon as possible. (WAQ62262)

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro pa gymorth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei roi i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili i sicrhau y bydd safonau addysgol Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn yn cael eu cynnal. (WAQ62263)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Will the Minister explain what assistance the Welsh Government is providing Caerphilly County Borough Council to ensure that educational standards at Cwmcarn High School will be maintained. (WAQ62263)

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro pa gymorth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei roi i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili i sicrhau na fydd dim cwtogi ar y cyllid a gaiff Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn. (WAQ62264)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Will the Minister explain what assistance the Welsh Government is providing Caerphilly County Borough Council to ensure that there is no cut to the funding of Cwmcarn High School. (WAQ62264)

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro pa gymorth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei roi i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili i sicrhau na fydd unrhyw swyddi'n cael eu colli yn Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn yn sgîl y broblem ag asbestos. (WAQ62265)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): Will the Minister explain what assistance the Welsh Government is providing Caerphilly County Borough Council to ensure that there will be no job losses at Cwmcarn High School following the ongoing issue of asbestos. (WAQ62265)

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): Pa sicrwydd y gall y Gweinidog ei roi i rieni a staff Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn na fydd dim cwtogi ar gyllid yn sgîl canlyniadau adroddiadau Santia a'r Awdurdod Gweithredol Iechyd a Diogelwch. (WAQ62266)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): What assurances can the Minister provide the parents and staff at Cwmcarn High School that there will be no cut to funding following the results of the Santia and HSE reports. (WAQ62266)

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): Pa sicrwydd y gall y Gweinidog ei roi i rieni a staff Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn na fydd dim cwtogi ar gyllid gan fod nifer o rieni yn awr yn ystyried symud eu plant o'r ysgol. (WAQ62267)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): What assurances can the Minister provide to the parents and staff at Cwmcarn High School that there will be no cut to funding now that many parents are considering removed their children from the school. (WAQ62267)

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): Pa sicrwydd y gall y Gweinidog ei roi i rieni a staff Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn na fydd unrhyw swyddi'n cael eu colli gan fod nifer o rieni yn awr yn ystyried symud eu plant o'r ysgol. (WAQ62268)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): What assurances can the Minister provide to the staff at Cwmcarn High School that there will be no job losses now that many parents are considering removing their children from the school. (WAQ62268)

Mohammad Asghar (Dwyrain De Cymru): Pa sicrwydd y gall y Gweinidog ei roi i staff a disgyblion Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithio'n galed â Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili i sicrhau y bydd safonau addysgol yn cael eu cynnal pan gaiff yr ysgol ei hadleoli neu ei hailagor. (WAQ62269)

Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): What assurances can the Minister provide to staff and pupils at Cwmcarn High School that the Welsh Government will work hard with Caerphilly County Borough Council to ensure that educational standards will be maintained when the school is either reopened or relocated. (WAQ62269)

*Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 21 Chwefror 2013
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The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): I recognise the very serious nature of the situation at Cwmcarn High school and the impact upon parents, pupils and staff as a result of the discovery of asbestos containing materials at the school.

There is legislation in place in respect of asbestos. You will also be aware that when this issue was brought to the Welsh Government's attention, I requested that all local authorities should review and update their asbestos management plans, to ensure that their procedures for dealing with such incidents reflected current practices, along with their Contingency Plans (in the event of school closures). All local authorities confirmed that they had complied with this request.

As I have previously indicated in both my written statement of the 26th November and the debate in Plenary on 27th November 2012, Health and Safety policy is not devolved to this Government and the enforcement of the relevant regulations (the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012) is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and local authority Environmental Health Officers. In addition the management of asbestos in schools, including removal if appropriate, rests with those responsible for the maintenance of schools; this responsibility can therefore, for example, reside with a relevant local authority or, in the case of Cwmcarn High School (a Foundation school), with the school's Governing body. As the building owner and employer, local authorities, governing bodies and/or head teachers are required to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, and the duty is to manage the asbestos and to protect those using or working in the buildings. This includes setting health and safety policies, standards and systems to monitor completion of any works which may entail dealing with Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs). It is essential that whoever is identified as the duty holder in accordance with the Regulations ensures they are aware of their statutory duties. In terms of assisting the authority with regard to the asbestos situation my officials are in frequent dialogue with the local authority.

In respect of what lessons are to be learnt from the case of Cwmcarn, I understand that the investigations concerning the discovery of asbestos containing materials at Cwmcarn High School are still continuing. Any issues arising from that investigation are a matter for both the school's governing body, who have assumed full responsibility, and Caerphilly local authority.

Any decisions regarding the re-opening or the relocation of the school are a matter for the local authority and the school's governing body. It is not appropriate for me as Minister for Education and Skills to intervene in any local decision making process. If the decision was taken to bring forward a proposal to re-locate the school which was contested, I could be called upon to determine such a proposal in my role as Minister.

Local authorities are responsible for setting schools' delegated budgets. These are determined by a local funding formula. The School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010 require 70% of funding for schools' budgets to be distributed on the basis of pupil numbers. Authorities have discretion to distribute the remaining 30% on the basis of a range of factors so that they can take account of individual school circumstances. The questions you ask regarding funding are a matter for the local authority as it is they who ultimately determine Cwmcarn High School's delegated budget.

In law school staffing issues are local matters for governing bodies to determine and there is no role for Welsh Ministers or the Welsh Government in these matters..

As Education Minister I would want to ensure that educational standards are maintained and will ask my officials to continue to work with Caerphilly local authority and the school to ensure that this is the case. The new Education Achievement Service consortia arrangements in S E Wales established in September 2012 will play a key role in addressing the three national education priorities, to drive up improvements and provide appropriate support and challenge to schools and local authorities in order to raise school achievement.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
To ask the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

Peter Black (Gorllewin De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi manylion ynghylch ble y bydd y £150,000 ychwanegol sydd i'w fuddsoddi ar draws y portffolio Treftadaeth yn y flwyddyn ariannol hon, fel y cyhoeddwyd yn y datganiad 'Gwneud Gwahaniaeth: Rôl Amgueddfeydd, Archifau a Llyfrgelloedd o ran Mynd i'r Afael â Thlodi Plant', yn cael ei wario a sut y caiff y canlyniadau eu monitro. (WAQ62270)

Peter Black (South Wales West): Will the Minister give details on where the additional £150,000 to be invested across the Heritage portfolio this financial year, as announced in the statement 'Making a Difference: The Role of Museums, Archives and Libraries in Tackling Child Poverty', will be spent and how the outcomes will be monitored. (WAQ62270)

*Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 20 Chwefror 2013
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The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage (Huw Lewis): Changing Cultures / Newid Pethe will deliver a rich programme of cultural and heritage activities aimed at encouraging children and young people in Wales to enjoy, learn and be inspired by our history, heritage and culture. Organisations funded by the Heritage Portfolio will be encouraged to review their approach to working with children and young people disadvantaged by circumstance or location.

Activities co-ordinated by Cadw include a Heritage Graffiti Project with youth offenders in addition to visits to hillfort, Roman fort and shipwreck sites with school children. Free entry to all Cadw sites open during the winter season will encourage broader audiences from 1 March.

CyMAL: Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales division is co-ordinating a varied activities programme in our national and local libraries, museums and archives.

Public libraries and the National Library of Wales are working closely with the Welsh Books Council to arrange all Wales activities around World Book Day on 7 March to encourage more children to enjoy reading. Libraries are working with a theatre company, storytellers, authors and an illustrator. Kids in Museums is supporting young people in the production of a bilingual DVD on making museums more relevant to children. Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales will conduct research on participation in cultural activities by children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Glamorgan Archives will conduct workshops with school children to explore the impact of poverty on children through artistic interpretation. A key strand of all Changing Cultures activities will be ensure that schoolchildren are able to take part in activities through meeting transport needs.

The evaluation of activities and outcomes will be based on the Inspiring Learning for All framework which identifies learning outcomes in five areas. Outcomes will also feed into the Programme for Government monitoring process.