

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 5 Tachwedd 2012

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 5 November 2012

*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 Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth
To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y Cynllun Cymorth i Newydd-ddyfodiaid. (WAQ61469)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister provide an update on the Young Entrants Support Scheme. (WAQ61469)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 07 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 07 November 2012

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes (Alun Davies): The 2013-2014 Young Entrants Support Scheme's application window opened on 15th October 2012. 154 Expressions of Interest have been received to date.

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

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am addysgu disgyblion mewn ysgolion ynghylch bod yn berchnogion anifeiliaid cyfrifol. (WAQ61462)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the teaching of responsible animal ownership in schools. (WAQ61462)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 07 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 07 November 2012

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): The school curriculum is designed to give greater control and flexibility to schools to allow teachers and schools to organise and deliver the curriculum to meet the needs of their learners and local communities.

Whilst it is not explicitly mentioned in the curriculum, there are ways in which schools can and do promote responsible animal ownership. The Foundation Phase offers scope for children to explore opportunities to care for pets to understand and show care and respect for all living things.

In addition, through personal and social education (PSE) pupils learn about taking responsibility for themselves and their behaviour and develop a respect for the law and authority. The curriculum allows schools the scope to focus on responsible animal ownership and they can also work with specialist providers who can help them in the delivery.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ymdrechion parhaus Llywodraeth Cymru i fynd i'r afael â seiberfwlio. (WAQ61467)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Government's continued efforts to tackle cyber bullying. (WAQ61467)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 01 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 01 November 2012

Leighton Andrews: We have taken a number of steps to tackle cyber-bullying in schools. Last autumn we issued comprehensive new guidance on cyber-bullying to help schools and local authorities put in place mechanisms to prevent bullying and to respond to it when it occurs.

We are providing support to young people through the school-based counselling initiative and we promote programmes to manage pupils' behaviour and support their emotional development. We made £300,000 available to local authorities last academic year for well-evaluated behaviour management training for teachers, including specific anti-bullying interventions.

Simon Thomas (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddefnyddio dull Montessori yn y cyfnod sylfaen. (WAQ61470)

Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the use of the Montessori method in the foundation phase. (WAQ61470)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 07 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 07 November 2012

Leighton Andrews: In developing the Foundation Phase we looked at the research that had been undertaken and the theories put forward by numerous educational theorists and psychologists on children's learning in the early years.

The Foundation Phase is a holistic developmental curriculum based on the needs of the individual child to meet their stage of development. It is a skills based curriculum which places great emphasis on experiential learning delivered through child-initiated activities, structured play/active learning and by practitioners providing appropriate experiences that will help children reach their potential.

Gofyn i Weinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Pa asesiad y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i wneud ynghylch a yw manwerthwyr a'u staff yn dilyn y canllawiau ar godi ffi am fagioau siopa. (WAQ61468)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): What assessment has the Welsh Government made of whether retailers and their staff are following the carrier bag charges guidelines. (WAQ61468)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012

The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development (John Griffiths): Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that retailers comply with the requirements of the single use carrier bags charge. Welsh Government is working with the Welsh Local Government Association to ensure that consistent guidance and training is available to all local authority trading standards departments in Wales on their compliance and enforcement duties in respect of the charge.

Welsh Government is also continuing to engage directly with retailers and the Wales Retail Consortium to ensure that the requirements of the charge are fully understood. In addition, a comprehensive review of the policy will be undertaken over the next two years and this will include working with retailers and local authorities to understand any issues of compliance with the policy.

Mark Isherwood (Gogledd Cymru): Pa fesurau sydd gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar waith i helpu pobl i gadw eu cartrefi yn gynnes y gaeaf hwn. (WAQ61471)

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): What measures does the Welsh Government have in place to help people keep their homes warm this winter. (WAQ61471)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012

John Griffiths: The Welsh Government's main source of support for people to keep their homes warm during the winter is the Nest scheme.

Nest provides all householders with access to a range of advice and support services to help them reduce their fuel bills, in addition to referring eligible householders for free or subsidised home energy improvements.

In addition to Nest, we invest in the energy efficiency of homes in the most deprived areas of Wales through our area based scheme Arbed. The Arbed Phase 2 project supported by the European Regional Development Fund programme will carry out improvements to homes over the winter months. In addition Welsh Government has invested a further £2 million in Arbed CESP in 2011/12 which is being used by local authorities to lever in additional funding from the current energy company obligation CESP, which comes to an end in 2012.

The Welsh Government is also helping fuel poor householders in social housing by driving improvements in the energy efficiency of homes through the Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS).

In addition to the support provided directly by the Welsh Government, help is also available to households to meet the additional cost of heating their homes in the winter through Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments.

Mark Isherwood (Gogledd Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau faint o bobl hyn sydd wedi cael cymorth drwy 'Nyth: Strategaeth Tlodi Tanwydd' yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf. (WAQ61472)

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Will the Minister confirm how many older people have accessed support through 'Nest: Fuel Poverty Strategy' in the past 12 months. (WAQ61472)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012

John Griffiths: In 2011-12, over 1,800 householders, who gave their age as over 60 years, benefited from a Nest home energy improvement package.

During the same period, 38 householders, who gave their age as over 60 years, claimed a Nest Partial Grant towards the cost of installing loft or cavity wall insulation. This equates to 88% of all householders who claimed a Nest Partial Grant.

It is not possible to provide an accurate breakdown of the number of older people who benefited from Nest advice provision in 2011-12 as information on an applicant's age was not collected at the start of the scheme.

Mark Isherwood (Gogledd Cymru): Sut y bydd y Gweinidog yn sicrhau na fydd dim marwolaethau ychwanegol o ganlyniad i dlodi tanwydd yn ystod y gaeaf eleni. (WAQ61474)

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): How will the Minister ensure there are no excess winter deaths (EWD) this year due to fuel poverty. (WAQ61474)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 12 Tachwedd 2012

Answer received for publication on 12 November 2012

John Griffiths: The Welsh Government is committed to working to reduce the number of people in Wales living in fuel poverty. We know that excess winter deaths are more likely to occur in private-rented and owner-occupied homes and in houses built before 1850. This is one of the reasons why our Nest home energy advice and improvements scheme targets the highest level of support to households in private-rented and owner-occupied homes who are on low incomes and living in properties with an EPC rating of F or G, providing them with a package of energy improvement measures.

Nest is complemented by arbed, our area based energy efficiency programme. Phase 2 of arbed, ERDF project, will install energy efficiency improvements in a minimum of 4,790 homes in Wales by the end of 2015.

In addition to the direct action we are taking to help householders in Wales, I maintain regular dialogue with the energy companies, the Energy Retail Association and Ofgem on issues of concern to Welsh consumers. I and my officials are working to influence the UK Government's policy on reserved matters that impact on householders in Wales, including energy prices, reform of the retail energy market, the design and delivery of energy company obligations, and the protection of our most vulnerable households.

In October, I was pleased to support Big Energy Week, an event co-ordinated by Citizens Advice and supported by funding from the big six energy suppliers. Its purpose was to help encourage householders in Wales to check that they are on the best energy tariff and payment mechanism for their needs, and to make people aware of the potential to save more money by switching suppliers.

The actions that Welsh Government is taking, both directly and indirectly, to help householders in Wales lower their energy bills, will help us reduce the number of people living in fuel poverty and reduce the risk of excess winter deaths resulting from living in a cold home.

Mark Isherwood (Gogledd Cymru): Beth yw canran y bobl y disgwylir i dlodi tanwydd effeithio arnynt y gaeaf hwn. (WAQ61476)

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): What percentage of people are expected to be effected by fuel poverty this winter. (WAQ61476)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012

John Griffiths: The Welsh Government recently procured the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to develop a tool for modelling levels of fuel poverty in Wales. The tool uses the 2008 Living in Wales fuel poverty figures as the base data.

The modelling work indicates that the effect of increases in fuel prices and income since 2008 has resulted in around 332,000 householders in Wales living in fuel poverty in 2010. This equates to around 26% of all households. Very recent increases in fuel prices announced by five of the Big Six energy suppliers are likely to mean that this figure will increase in the coming winter.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd (Gogledd Cymru): Pa sylwadau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u cyflwyno i Lywodraeth y DU wrth iddi ystyried a ddylid cynnwys draenio tir gwlyb ac ail-wlychu yn ei thargedau newid yn yr hinsawdd cenedlaethol. (WAQ61477)

Llyr Huws Gruffydd (North Wales): What representations has the Welsh Government made to the UK Government as it considers whether to account for wetland drainage and rewetting in its national climate change targets. (WAQ61477)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012

John Griffiths: We are engaged with both DECC and DEFRA with regard to proposed reporting of drainage and rewetting of peatlands. Along with DECC, we nominated a UK scientist as the lead IPCC author of the method for accounting and reporting this potential new category and Chris Evens (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Bangor) is developing the standard method with an international team of co authors. Once finalised, by the IPCC and under the requirements of the UNFCCC, we will be in a position to undertake an impact assessment to establish what adoption would mean for the UK.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd (Gogledd Cymru): Beth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â gyrru oddi ar y ffordd anghyfreithlon, a sicrhau na fydd achosion cyfreithlon o hynny'n niweidio bywyd gwylt nac yn difrodi llwybrau treftadaeth. (WAQ61478)

Llyr Huws Gruffydd (North Wales): What is the Welsh Government doing to tackle illegal 'off-roading' and to ensure that when legal, it does not damage wildlife and heritage paths. (WAQ61478)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012

John Griffiths: Illegal off-roading is a criminal offence and therefore a matter for the police. The police have powers under the Police Reform Act 2002 (along with other legislation) to seize vehicles and/or to fine illegal and irresponsible users.

The Wales Off-road Motor Steering Group, led by the Countryside Council for Wales continues to work with partners, including user groups, the police and local authorities. This is with a view to increasing awareness and educating the off-roading community on sustainable use and the protection of sensitive areas.

I have commissioned a paper from the Countryside Council for Wales to look at potential options for improving access and rights of way legislative provision in Wales. This work will be undertaken with local authorities to establish where improvements need to be made and will consider motorised access.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty
To ask the Minister for Finance and Leader of the House

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): Pryd y bydd y Grwp Cynghori ar y Gyllideb ar Gydraddoldeb yn barod i ddechrau ei waith; beth fydd ei aelodaeth; a beth fydd ei gylch gwaith. (WAQ61452)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): When will the Budget Advisory Group on Equality be ready to begin its work; what will its membership be; and what will its remit be. (WAQ61452)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012

The Minister for Finance and Leader of the House (Jane Hutt): The Welsh Government Budget Advisory Group for Equality (BAGE) will begin its work in January and it will hold two meetings a year.

The group membership will include Welsh Government officials who have an expertise in key areas required for the group, including equalities and those involved with the Welsh Government budget setting process. The membership will also include appropriate equalities leads from Welsh devolved public sector bodies and the third sector.

An academic member will also be appointed to the group and should have a background and experience of equality issues and of economic affairs. As Minister for Finance, I shall also attend at least one meeting of the group each year.

The general purpose and remit of the group is to provide advice and support to improve equality considerations for future budgets. It will do this through helping to map and improve the equalities evidence base that we use to inform future budgetary equality considerations, assisting in the analysis of the equality evidence and suggesting other appropriate sources where available. It will act to improve the Welsh Government's future Equality Impact Assessment of the Budget, and in doing so, our accountability to the citizens of Wales.

***Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services***

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): Faint o gyllid ychwanegol y mae pob bwrdd iechyd lleol wedi'i gael i ymdopi â phwysau'r gaeaf. (WAQ61453)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): How much additional funding has each local health board received to cope with winter pressures. (WAQ61453)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 November 2012***

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): Local Health Boards are required to plan and deliver their services within available resources. They have a statutory duty to operate within that budget regardless of the service pressures they face. This includes making appropriate plans and arrangements to address expected service pressures during the winter months. However, my officials are currently undertaking a Mid-Year Review of NHS financial and service pressures, including the capacity of the NHS to respond to additional demands over the winter period. I will be reporting the outcome of the Review to Assembly Members in due course.

As you will be aware I have already made an additional £10 million available to support the delivery of unscheduled care services.

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu cymryd i leihau amseroedd aros hir mewn adrannau Damweiniau ac Achosion Brys ledled Cymru dros y gaeaf. (WAQ61454)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): What action is the Welsh Government taking to minimise lengthy waiting times in Accident and Emergency departments across Wales over the winter. (WAQ61454)

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i baratoi'r gwasanaeth iechyd ar gyfer misoedd y gaeaf. (WAQ61455)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): What action is the Minister taking to prepare the health service for the winter months. (WAQ61455)

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): Pa gynlluniau sydd gan fyrdau iechyd i fynd i'r afael ag achosion o norofeirws dros gyfnod y gaeaf. (WAQ61456)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): What plans do health boards have in place to combat outbreaks of norovirus over the winter period. (WAQ61456)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 November 2012

Lesley Griffiths: Responsibility for the delivery of NHS services is a matter for Local Health Boards and the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust. To support the service the Welsh Government works closely with LHB's and WAST on a range of initiatives.

To gain assurance on NHS preparations for service pressures, quarterly seasonal planning meetings have been held with the intention of improving emergency care planning arrangements and learn lessons from the challenges presented, including learning from previous winters.

The national meetings, attended by senior representatives of all Local Health Boards, the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust and social and primary care partners, aims to collectively identify and inform the management of key pressure areas for each Health Board and the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust.

A National Emergency Pressures Escalation and De-escalation Action Plan has been developed to ensure that essential health care services, including those provided at Emergency Departments, are delivered effectively during periods of pressure. The plan will be reviewed at a Welsh Government event for all stakeholders on 22 November to assist with planning for the forthcoming winter period.

NHS Executives attend emergency pressures daily conference calls to manage unscheduled care performance across Wales for the benefit of patients. The calls act as a mechanism for immediate senior decision making capability.

As you will be aware I have already made an additional £10 million available to support the delivery of unscheduled care services.

Guidelines on the management of norovirus outbreaks in acute, community health and social care settings were issued to the NHS in March 2012.

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): Sut y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn helpu byrdau iechyd os bydd prinder staff dros gyfnod y gaeaf. (WAQ61457)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): How will the Welsh Government be assisting health boards in the event of a shortage of staff over the winter period. (WAQ61457)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 November 2012

Lesley Griffiths: It is a matter for NHS organisations to ensure they have the appropriate number and skill mix of staff to meet fluctuating demands during the year. Health Boards are used to planning for winter months, they do it each year. It is important that in advance of the winter months Health Boards provide strong leadership to encourage vaccine uptake amongst their healthcare staff. To support this I have agreed to provide additional funding for each Health Board solely for the purpose of providing staff flu vaccinations.

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu manylion am:

- a) y targed ar gyfer brechiadau fflw tymhorol i grwpiau mewn perygl a staff y GIG; a
- b) faint sydd wedi cael brechiadau fflw tymhorol o'r grwpiau mewn perygl a staff y GIG. (WAQ61458)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister provide details:

- a) of the target for seasonal flu vaccinations among at-risk groups and NHS staff; and
- b) on the uptake of seasonal flu vaccinations among at-risk groups and NHS staff. (WAQ61458)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 November 2012

Lesley Griffiths:

a) Targets

The Welsh Government's target uptake rates for influenza for 2012-2013 will be maintained from last season -

- 75% - for those aged 65 years or older;
- 75% - for those under 65 years in clinical risk groups;
- 50% - for front line healthcare workers.

b) Uptake

As at 23 October 2012, the uptake was as follows –

- Patients aged 65 years and over was 33.8%.
- At-risk patients aged under 65 years was 23.1%.
- Healthcare workers – figures will not be available until the week commencing 12 November 2012.

Again this year, efforts are being focused on maximising uptake of the target groups to minimise the impact of seasonal flu on the population of Wales. Full details are contained in the Seasonal Flu Plan:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/protection/immunisation/leaf/flu/fluplan/?lang=en>

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): Faint o bobl sydd wedi llwytho app 'Dewis Doeth' Llywodraeth Cymru. (WAQ61459)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): How many people have downloaded the Welsh Government's 'Choose Well' app. (WAQ61459)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 November 2012

Lesley Griffiths: There have been 1183 downloads of the 'Choose Well' app since it was launched on 17 July.

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): A fydd disgwyl i fyrddau iechyd aros o fewn eu cyllideb dros gyfnod y gaeaf heb ystyried pwysau uwch y gaeaf. (WAQ61460)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will health boards be expected to stay within budget over the winter period regardless of increased winter pressure. (WAQ61460)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 November 2012

Lesley Griffiths: Local Health Boards are required to plan and deliver their services within available resources. They have a statutory duty to operate within that budget regardless of the service pressures they face. This includes making appropriate plans and arrangements to address expected service pressures during the winter months. However, my officials are currently undertaking a Mid-Year Review of NHS financial and service pressures, including the capacity of the NHS to respond to additional demands over the winter period. I will be reporting the outcome of the Review to Assembly Members in due course.

As you will be aware I have already made an additional £10 million available to support the delivery of unscheduled care services.

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): Pa gymorth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei roi i Wasanaeth Ambiwlans Cymru dros gyfnod y gaeaf. (WAQ61461)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): What support is the Welsh Government providing to the Welsh Ambulance Service over the winter period. (WAQ61461)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 November 2012

Lesley Griffiths: Responsibility for the delivery of NHS services is a matter for Local Health Boards and the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust. To support the service the Welsh Government works closely with LHB's and WAST on a range of initiatives.

To gain assurance on NHS preparations for service pressures, quarterly seasonal planning meetings have been held with the intention of improving emergency care planning arrangements and learn lessons from the challenges presented, including learning from previous winters.

The national meetings, attended by senior representatives of all Local Health Boards, the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust and social and primary care partners, aims to collectively identify and inform the management of key pressure areas for each Health Board and the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust.

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effectively during periods of pressure. The plan will be reviewed at a Welsh Government event for all stakeholders on 22 November to assist with planning for the forthcoming winter period.

NHS Executives attend emergency pressures daily conference calls to manage unscheduled care performance across Wales for the benefit of patients. The calls act as a mechanism for immediate senior decision making capability.

As you will be aware I have already made an additional £10 million available to support the delivery of unscheduled care services.

Guidelines on the management of norovirus outbreaks in acute, community health and social care settings were issued to the NHS in March 2012.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw gynlluniau i ddiddymu'r terfyn oed uchaf ar gyfer galw pobl yn awtomatig i gaelu eu sgrinio am ganser y fron (70 oed ar hyn o bryd). (WAQ61463)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Does the Minister have any plans to remove the upper age for automatic calling for breast cancer screening (currently 70 years). (WAQ61463)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012

Lesley Griffiths: There are no plans to remove the upper age for breast cancer screening in Wales. Breast screening is delivered on behalf of the Welsh Government (WG) by Public Health Wales and based on UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advice. The Committee's latest position is that women aged between 50-70 years should be invited to participate in breast cancer screening. Women over 70 are encouraged to request breast screening appointments. However, careful consideration of the balance of benefits and harms of screening should be given.

An Independent Review into the harms and benefits of breast cancer screening released last week, suggested the impact of breast screening outside 50-69 years was uncertain and recommended further research.

To raise awareness of the availability of the screening programme, there is literature specifically aimed at women over 70; the leaflet is sent out with all test results. The screening engagement team also uses this literature to communicate with the public and professionals in advance of a visiting mobile unit.

A randomised control trial (RCT) in England is evaluating the net effects of extending the age range for breast screening to women aged 47-49 and 71-73. WG will look at the findings from this RCT. Should the advice of the UK NSC change in light of the RCT, the WG will consider its implications for Wales.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn darparu gwasanaethau eirioli ar gyfer pobl hyn yng Nghymru, ni waeth ble maent yn byw. (WAQ61464)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Government is making advocacy services available for older people in Wales, regardless of location. (WAQ61464)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012

Lesley Griffiths: The Age Cymru report 'Advocacy Counts 3'(2011) reported in 2011-12 there were 22 advocacy services for older people in Wales, with 16 full time, 23 part time, and 30 volunteer staff delivering these services.

We do not collect or hold information on locally delivered advocacy services for older people. Our White Paper 'Sustainable Social Services' gives a clear commitment we will develop a business case to consider the options for the provision of a comprehensive advocacy service for older people on an all Wales basis.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn helpu i godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r ffaith bod menywod dros 70 oed yn dal mewn perygl o gael canser y fron. (WAQ61465)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): How is the Welsh Government helping to raise awareness of the fact that women over 70 are still at risk of breast cancer. (WAQ61465)

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An Independent Review into the harms and benefits of breast cancer screening released last week, suggested the impact of breast screening outside 50-69 years was uncertain and recommended further research.

To raise awareness of the availability of the screening programme, there is literature specifically aimed at women over 70; the leaflet is sent out with all test results. The screening engagement team also uses this literature to communicate with the public and professionals in advance of a visiting mobile unit.

A randomised control trial (RCT) in England is evaluating the net effects of extending the age range for breast screening to women aged 47-49 and 71-73. WG will look at the findings from this RCT. Should the advice of the UK NSC change in light of the RCT, the WG will consider its implications for Wales.

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

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn hybu chwaraeon ar gyfer pobl dros 65 oed. (WAQ61466)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): How is the Welsh Government promoting sport for people over 65. (WAQ61466)

*Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012*

The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage (Huw Lewis): Our aim is to encourage more people of all ages and abilities to be more active, more often, throughout their lives. Our physical activity action plan Creating an Active Wales has "Sport for All" as one of its four strategic aims and seeks to increase participation in sport by all sectors of the population.

Through the Community Sport Strategy, launched by Sport Wales earlier this year, we are encouraging our key partners to develop strategies and actions to understand and meet the needs of adults who want to continue to play or re-engage in sport. This includes actions to enable participation in sport into later years as physical ability declines, for example through developing shorter versions of a sport or versions of a contact sport with low impact.

Mark Isherwood (Gogledd Cymru): A oes gan y Gweinidog strategaeth i ymdrin â digartrefedd dros gyfnod y gaeaf. (WAQ61473)

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Does the Minister have a strategy in place to deal with homelessness over the winter period. (WAQ61473)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 November 2012

Huw Lewis: We have a clear long term strategy to tackle homelessness through prevention, as set out in our Ten Year Homelessness Plan.

I have set out in my housing White Paper how we will drive this forward through legislation and other means, in the face of savage cuts by the UK Government.

Rough sleeping is the most extreme form of homelessness and we must do everything we can to ensure no-one needs to sleep rough. I wish to strengthen the legislative protection we give to this group in the longer term.

We are already providing £1,530,000 each year to support services for rough sleepers including night shelters, outreach services and day centres. In addition we are supporting a pilot programme to resettle long term rough sleepers in four areas.

Local authorities have lead responsibility to identify needs and provide services in their areas for all homeless people including rough sleepers. We have strongly encouraged them to develop plans for winter emergency provision. Last winter I made available £90,000 to local authorities to help rough sleepers access shelter and other emergency assistance. I am now considering further assistance to local authorities for this coming winter.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
To ask the Minister for Local Government and Communities

Mark Isherwood (Gogledd Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi manylion effaith ddisgwyliedig yr ymgyrch gyhoedduswydd 'Byw Heb Ofn' yng ngwaith Llywodraeth Cymru i fynd i'r afael â cham-drin domestig. (WAQ61475)

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Will the Minister detail the expected effect of the 'Live Fear Free' publicity campaign within the Welsh Government's work tackling domestic abuse. (WAQ61475)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Tachwedd 2012
Answer received for publication on 05 November 2012

The Minister for Local Government and Communities (Carl Sargeant): I have recently launched the current Live Fear Free publicity campaign to draw attention to the often difficult to recognise signs and symptoms of domestic abuse and direct victims to support. Identifying the signs brings the issue to the forefront for citizens of Wales and raises the issue for victims so that they do not suffer in silence. The campaign runs from 18 October to 9 November across Wales and uses posters, social media and radio adverts to deliver its message.

This recent campaign is the Welsh Government's fourth since launching the "Right to be Safe" strategy in 2010. The campaigns were linked by three core components:

- Challenging attitudes
- Zero tolerance – violence against women and domestic abuse is unacceptable (there is no excuse)
- Victims should not suffer in silence (stop blame)

Preventing domestic abuse begins by challenging damaging attitudes and stereotypes that accompany the acceptance and use of violence. Zero tolerance is also key. By accepting gender skewed abusive behaviour in everyday life, we're normalising attitudes that lead to derogatory and controlling behaviour, or some of the blame being taken by victims.

All the campaigns have advertised the All Wales 24/7 Domestic and Sexual Violence telephone number so that victims are able to get help and support. The campaign run to coincide with the 2012 6 Nations tournament made a real impact on sufferers of domestic violence - during Wales's fourth match on the 10th March there was 17% increase in call volume in comparison to the previous weeks, and a 36% increase in comparison to the previous year.

During the violence against women campaign in autumn 2011, on-line advertising generated more than 12000 click throughs to view You Tube clips highlighting the issue in one month.