

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 29 Mai 2013

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 29 May 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.*

Cynnwys

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Gofyn i Weinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth
To ask the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport

Eluned Parrott (Canol De Cymru): A oes gan Lywodraeth Cymru gynlluniau tebyg i Lywodraeth yr Alban, sydd newydd gyflwyno Wi-Fi am ddim mewn 25 o orsafoedd rheilffordd prysuraf yr Alban, ar gyfer gorsafoedd prysuraf Cymru? (WAQ64748)

Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): Does the Welsh Government have similar plans to the Scottish Government, who have just introduced free WiFi at 25 of Scotland's busiest railway stations, for Wales' busiest stations? (WAQ64748)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 23 Mai 2013
Answer received for publication on 23 May 2013

The Minister for Economy, Science and Transport (Edwina Hart): Introduction of WiFi is being considered as part of the Valley Lines Electrification programme.

Eluned Parrott (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu pa ohebiaeth y mae hi, ei swyddogion a'i hadran wedi eu cael gyda Rightacres Ltd yn dilyn eu cais llwyddiannus am barsel o dir ger Gorsaf Rheilffordd/Bysiau Caerdydd (i'r dwyrain o afon Taf ac i'r de o Stryd Wood) o ystyried bod ei hadran hi wedi gwneud cais amdano hefyd? (WAQ64749)

Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): Will the Minister outline what correspondence she, her officials and her department have had with Rightacres Ltd following their successful bid for a parcel of land adjacent to Cardiff Rail/Bus Station (east of the river Taff and south of Wood Street) given that her department also bid for it? (WAQ64749)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 23 Mai 2013
Answer received for publication on 23 May 2013

Edwina Hart: There has been no correspondence between the Welsh Government and Rightacres.

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

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gamau gweithredu Llywodraeth Cymru i ddatblygu sgiliau gwyddoniaeth, technoleg, peirianeg a mathemateg (STEM) pobl ifanc ledled Cymru? (WAQ64747)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Government action to develop STEM skills of young people across Wales? (WAQ64747)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Gorffennaf 2013
Answer received for publication on 10 July 2013

The Deputy Minister for Skills (Jeff Cuthbert): The delivery of quality learning across all Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects in all learning phases in Wales remains a priority for this government.

In September 2012 my Department published revised guidance on the provision of STEM for 3 to 19-year-olds in schools and colleges in Wales which provides greater clarity on the vast range of support materials and activities available.

The delivery of learning in the Foundation Phase for children aged 3 to 7 places great emphasis on learning by doing; children are encouraged to learn by exploration, enquiry, experimentation and asking questions. This provides a sound foundation for future learning.

STEM subjects, along with ICT, are all part of the school curriculum for all learners from the age of 7. The science curriculum in Key Stages 2 and 3 has been designed to motivate pupils, providing them with relevant knowledge and helping them to acquire age appropriate scientific skills.

Estyn has recently concluded a review of science in Key Stages 2 and 3, and will publish the resulting report in the coming weeks.

Attracting highly qualified individuals into the teaching profession in support of STEM delivery is essential to the delivery of quality learning, and remains a priority. We offer high value teacher training incentives of up to £15,000 depending on degree classification and the subject studied. Students with 1st degree classification applying for a mathematics, physics, chemistry or ICT postgraduate teacher training course for the maintained sector in Wales will receive a training grant of £15,000 and if resident in Wales, benefit from the tuition fee grant of £5,425 which when combined provides a higher financial incentive than that offered in England.

My Department provides ongoing funding to Techniquet for continued support to schools in the delivery of science and mathematics.

It is also important that we address any negative perceptions about STEM subjects and challenge gender stereotyping in schools. While we have already made great strides across a number of STEM subjects, the gender differential in girls' take-up of physics at A level remains notable. I have therefore asked my officials to review underlying causes and bring forward proposals for addressing this concern.

We have funded the 'Get on with Science' pilot project to develop a more co-ordinated approach to the way science is delivered in schools to better reflect the needs of girls; this has included a focus on the role industry can play in engaging the female workforce.

There is huge enthusiasm for STEM and interest and ability shown by young people, their teachers and educators. However, activities require greater coordination and leadership for it to be coherent and give effective coverage. In April 2010 we established the National Science Academy (NSA) with the primary role to promote, communicate and better co-ordinate STEM outreach and engagement across Wales. The Programme for Government sets out our continued commitment to the NSA. The important contribution that STEM activity makes towards the economy is also highlighted in Science for Wales: a strategic agenda for science and innovation in Wales.

Looking at progression into higher learning, we have invested some £400,000 in a project piloting a range of approaches to widening access to AS and A levels in Further Mathematics. This is aimed at helping learners with an aptitude for mathematics to pursue courses in higher education.

My Department is also working closely with Sector Skills Council (SSCs) to promote STEM subjects across sectors. Through the sector Priorities Fund Pilot Programme projects are underway to pilot the delivery of a new Level 4 and 5 Higher Apprenticeship for Life Sciences and Chemical Science Professional framework across Wales. It will provide support for universities and colleges and where appropriate will develop new training programmes using the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales to further support the needs of industry.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi dadansoddiad manwl o wariant Llywodraeth Cymru ar hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg, gyda ffigurau am bob un o'r pum mlynedd ariannol diwethaf? (WAQ64750)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of Welsh Government spending on promoting the Welsh language, with figures for each of the last five financial years? (WAQ64750)

*Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 03 Mehefin 2013
Answer received for publication on 03 June 2013*

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): I enclose details of Welsh Government budgets for promoting the Welsh language for the last five financial years. Prior to the last financial year (2012-2013) the majority of the budgets were allocated to the Welsh Language Board.

The overall expenditure on promotion of the Welsh language for 2012-13 remains consistent with previous years. Figures for 2012-13 look lower simply due to the fact that the funding in previous years, which was provided to the Welsh Language Board, included elements other than the promotion of the Welsh Language. These include £1.325m for staffing costs which have been transferred to other budgets, and £4.034m for education which was transferred to the Welsh in Education budget line. The overall budget for the Welsh Language Division for 2012-13 was £24.670M; the budget for 2013-14 is £25.076M.

2008-2009	
Element	Budget (£000)
Welsh Language Board	13,734
Patagonia Welsh Project	47
Publicity for Welsh Language & media	20
Total	13,801

2009-2010	
Element	Budget (£000)
Welsh Language Board	14,007
Patagonia Welsh Project	54
Publicity for Welsh Language & media	20
Total	14,081

2010-2011	
Element	Budget (£000)
Welsh Language Board	13,782
Patagonia Welsh Project	54
Total	13,836

2011-2012	
Element	Budget (£000)
Welsh Language Board	13,854
Patagonia Welsh Project	54
Publicity for Welsh Language & Media	20
Total	£13,928

2012-2013	
Element	Budget (£000)
Welsh Language Commissioner	4,100
Welsh Language Grants	3,564
Welsh Language Projects	880
Publicity for Welsh Language & media	20
Total	8,564

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu dadansoddiad o wariant Llywodraeth Cymru sydd wedi'i gynllunio ar hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg ar gyfer gweddill y pedwerydd Cynulliad gan gynnwys, lle y bo'n bosibl, ddadansoddiad am bob blwyddyn ariannol? (WAQ64751)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide a breakdown of planned Welsh Government expenditure on the promotion of the Welsh language for the remainder of the 4th Assembly including, where possible, a breakdown for each financial year? (WAQ64751)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 03 Mehefin 2013
Answer received for publication on 03 June 2013

Leighton Andrews: Funding to promote the Welsh language is met from the Welsh Language Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) within the Education and Skills MEG. The Welsh Language BEL for 2013-14 has a budget of £8.864m (as published in the Final Budget for 2013-14 on 27 November 2012). Agreed expenditure on promoting the Welsh Language is as follows:

2013-2014	
Element	Budget (£000)
Welsh Language Commissioner	4,100
Welsh Language Grants	3,635
Welsh Language Projects	859
Welsh Language Technology	250
Welsh Language Publicity	20
Total	8,864

I am unable to provide information of funding beyond the current financial year as the details have not yet been agreed. However, certain aspects are known, such as the £750,000 of funding over 3 years (2013-2016) for grants to promote Welsh-language technology and digital media which I announced at the Urdd National Eisteddfod on Monday, and three-year allocations to the Papurau Bro.

Angela Burns (Gorllewin Caerfyrddin a De Sir Benfro): A fydd y Grant Dysgu yn y Gymru Ddigidol gwerth £40m yn cynnwys darparu digon o ddyfeisiau neu galedwedd yn y pen draw i alluogi ysgolion i gyflawni'r nod o gael cysylltedd band eang dibynadwy? (WAQ64752)

Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): Will the £40m Learning in Digital Wales Grant include the provision of sufficient end devices or hardware to allow schools to achieve the aim of reliable broadband connectivity? (WAQ64752)

Angela Burns (Gorllewin Caerfyrddin a De Sir Benfro): Yn dilyn y gynhadledd i'r wasg ar 14 Ionawr 2013, lle y nododd y Prif Weinidog "y bydd y Grant Dysgu yn y Gymru Ddigidol yn sicrhau bod dysgwyr yn gallu cael gafael ar wasanaethau band eang cyflymach, o ansawdd uchel", a wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro a fydd y grant yn uwchraddio cyfrifiaduron i ysgolion er mwyn cyflawni'r nod hwn? (WAQ64753)

Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): Further to the press conference on 14 January 2013, where the First Minister stated that "the new Learning in Digital Wales Grant will ensure that learners are able to access faster, high-quality broadband services", will the Minister clarify whether the grant will provide upgraded computers for schools in order to achieve this aim? (WAQ64753)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 03 Mehefin 2013
Answer received for publication on 03 June 2013

Leighton Andrews: The Learning in Digital Wales (LiDW) Grant Programme comprises of the four following key strands of activity:

- (a) Capital funding to upgrade the core network for local authorities in Wales (PSBA and Janet links to support enhanced 1Gbps connections to the Internet for educational purposes for each local authority area).
- (b) Capital funding to upgrade the PSBA (Public Sector Broadband Aggregation) connection at each school maintained by local authorities including foundation schools and all schools in the Voluntary Aided sector so as to ensure a minimum of 100Mbps for each secondary school and 10Mbps for each primary and special school and pupil referral unit by July 2014.
- (c) PSBA revenue funding for two years to cover the revenue costs of improved broadband services during 2013-15.
- (d) Additional capital funding to all schools to facilitate ICT infrastructure improvements at local level. This funding is being paid as grants to local authorities based on an allocation of £10,000 per primary and special school and pupil referral unit and £20,000 per secondary school.

The LiDW Grant Programme cannot be used directly for end user devices or hardware. However, Item (c) provides a grant for the PSBA revenue costs which are usually met by the school or local authority. Where the school or local authority receives this grant it must use the funding which is released from its own budget to reinvest in local ICT in schools. This therefore enables further end user devices to be purchased. The decision on what is purchased is at the discretion of the school and local authority. Schools can already use their allocations from the School Effectiveness Grant and the Pupil Deprivation Grant to purchase ICT hardware and software.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Cyllid
To ask the Minister for Finance

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Pa gyllid canlyniadol y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i dderbyn gan Lywodraeth y DU yn sgîl ei phenderfyniad i rewi'r dreth gyngor yn Lloegr ac a wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu'r ffigur ar gyfer yr un cyllid canlyniadol am bob un o'r tair blynedd ariannol ddiwethaf? (WAQ64743)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What consequential has the Welsh Government received from the UK Government as a result of their decision to freeze council tax in England and will the Minister provide the figure for the same consequential for each of the last three financial years? (WAQ64743)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 03 Mehefin 2013
Answer received for publication on 03 June 2013

The Minister for Finance (Jane Hutt): The consequential funding received as a result of the increased funding provided to DCLG to support a freeze in council tax in English Local Authorities is detailed below.

Year of receipt by Welsh Government	Amount £000's
2011-12	38,895
2012-13	-
2013-14	12,978
2014-15	12,978