

Written Questions answered between 13 and 20 July 2006

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

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Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

William Graham: Will the Minister outline how the Welsh Assembly Government promotes minority sports in Wales? (WAQ47208)

The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh): Support is provided to minority sports via our Sports Council for Wales. There are local grant schemes available such as community chest and minor equipment grants which aim to provide necessary equipment and kit. This support helps to promote the sports and provide more opportunities for participation which is in line with the 'Climbing Higher' agenda.

Michael German: Following the demise of the music development fund, what is the Minister doing to ensure that the next generation of musical talent is nurtured in Wales? (WAQ47209)

Alun Pugh: The Assembly Government made substantial provision to the music development fund of £17 million over a six-year period. Although the fund was extended well beyond its original three-year lifespan, it was not the intention to provide ongoing support for music services indefinitely. These services remain the responsibility of the 22 local education authorities in Wales.

The advice in the recent Estyn report on the music development fund indicates that local authorities are now making the decision to move the resources included in the settlement for music to other activities. The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning has written to all directors of education in Wales, drawing the conclusions of the Estyn report to their attention. It is for local authorities to decide what level of support they should give to music services in their area, based on their own understanding of local needs and priorities. We would, however, expect local authorities to give appropriate consideration to ensuring that they build on the good practice supported by initiatives such as the music development fund.

Funding for youth music under the culture fund is channelled through the Arts Council of Wales, which runs a number of projects supporting youth music, with £329,000 provided in 2005-06, aimed at the under-15 or 15 to 26 age groups. This includes various projects run by youth clubs, youth organisations and schools throughout Wales. The arts council sees such work as a priority and is engaged at many levels of youth music provision, notably through, for example, the north Wales youth music forum, which provides a close interface with music service providers and developing new youth music action zone projects, alongside the youth music foundation and other national and British organisations, and at many levels of grant-making in general.

Youth music action zones provide high quality and diverse musical experiences for young people in the area who might otherwise lack the opportunity. The first zone in Ynys Môn was launched in July 2003. The second youth music action zone project, Yo!Maz in Merthyr Tydfil, was launched recently. It aims to develop a network of partners throughout Merthyr Tydfil in order to support and engage children and young people in a wide range of musical activities. This is aimed at developing young people's potential as members of a regenerating community.

Further ACW funding is provided for national networks such as the Welsh Music Foundation and Community Music Wales and supports a number of pop/rock initiatives throughout Wales.

Eleanor Burnham: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government support for music festivals in Wales? (WAQ47210)

Alun Pugh: I refer you to my answer on 14 June 2006 to your WAQ47197.

John Griffiths: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government policy on promoting sport in Wales? (WAQ47211)

Alun Pugh: The Welsh Assembly Government is increasing its investment in sport and physical activity in Wales through its 'Climbing Higher' strategy; 2007-08 will see a £7.8 million increase in the sports budget. Sport and active recreation services make an enormous contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of our nation, in response to Health Challenge Wales. I look forward to introducing new programmes later this year, which will include my new secondary school sports programme.

Carl Sargeant: Will the Minister make a statement on free swimming for children during the school holidays? (WAQ47212)

Alun Pugh: Since Easter 2004, all 22 local authorities across Wales have been delivering free swimming to all children and young people aged 16 and under during all school holidays. Evidence highlights that the free swimming initiative is, and continues to be, a major success. For example, children and young people in Wales swam 50 per cent more than usual during the school summer holidays and there was a 108 per cent increase in juvenile swims across Wales during the school summer holidays. I fully expect this to be borne out in the statistical data, which I will be receiving from the local authorities at the end of November this year. I hope to see this success continued during the forthcoming summer school holidays.

William Graham: Will the Minister outline discussions held with Government agencies or other organisations to promote and protect the culture of Wales? (WAQ47213).

Alun Pugh: I have frequent meetings with organisations involved in promoting and safeguarding the culture of Wales, including regular meetings and discussions with the ASPBs within my portfolio.

For example,

the Welsh Assembly Government recognises that sport has and continues to play an important part of the culture of Wales and has a fundamental role in helping us to become a fitter, healthier nation. Therefore, an extensive consultation exercise was carried out involving a range of organisations and key partners when preparing the 'Climbing Higher' sport and physical activity strategy. By driving forward our 'Climbing Higher' strategy and working more closely with our Sports Council for Wales we will help to promote and protect the sport element of Welsh culture.

The Welsh Assembly Government has prioritised substantial extra money for the arts. A total of £181 million has been invested since 1999-2000. A sum of £27 million has been allocated to the Arts Council of Wales this year, which is an increase in investment of 80 per cent since 1999. By any standards that is a remarkable increase and compares very favourably with the 1980s and early 1990s. There are still real barriers to access to the arts in some communities in Wales, and there is a need to reform for the future in order to ensure that we continue as a country to develop excellent art, with access for all. Moreover, following the Plenary debate on 1 February, we are carrying out a public review of the role of the Arts Council for Wales. The review will clarify the role of the arts council and how it will work with Government to achieve our strategic agenda.

Since it was established as a new division of the Welsh Assembly Government on 1 April 2004, CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales has developed close working relationships with local authorities,

national institutions, professional bodies and the voluntary sector. Partnership working is key to the development of new and innovative services for local museums, archives and libraries. The CyMAL advisory council, which I chair, has met six times. The council of 12 members provides advice on CyMAL work programmes and contributes expertise on museums, archives and libraries. Four members of the council serve in an ex-officio capacity, representing Archives and Records Council Wales, the National Library of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales, and the Welsh Local Government Association. Again, there has been considerable investment in this area.

Laura Anne Jones: How is the Minister promoting fishing in Wales? (WAQ47214)

Alun Pugh: In 2005-06, fishing in Wales received £63,000 of funding from the Sports Council for Wales. In addition, funding has been allocated in partnership with the Environment Agency Wales to appoint a full-time angling development manager to work with the three national governing bodies of fishing to increase participation in the sport.

Fishing is also included within our coaching plan as it will aim to recruit, train and retain coaches in order to further develop the sport of fishing in Wales, in line with the UK coaching certificate.

Carl Sargeant: What discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government regarding the switch to digital television? (WAQ47215)

Alun Pugh: I am in regular contact with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on broadcasting matters which affect Wales, including the digital switchover. The Welsh Assembly Government is represented on the UK Government digital switchover group that meets quarterly. I have also raised aspects of digital switchover in my responses to the review of the BBC's Royal Charter. All Welsh Assembly Government responses to the charter review are available on the Assembly Government website.

Laura Anne Jones: How is the Minister promoting bowls in Wales? (WAQ47216)

Alun Pugh: Indoor and outdoor bowls in Wales are promoted and supported by our Sports Council for Wales, which provides the Welsh Bowls Federation with almost £108,000 per annum towards coaching, programme and staff costs, together with a further £23,000 in community chest grants in 2005-06.

In Wales there are currently 147 rinks and greens at 26 centres with 631 clubs involving a membership of nearly 25,000 people. Success has been demonstrated by two silver medals in the male and female singles at the recent Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games and one silver medal in the elite athletes with a disability category and four bronze in the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games. Introducing young people into the sport is being routed through a new community working programme and a youth development scheme aimed at 14 to 18-year-olds.

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government policies for promoting the cultural heritage of Wales (WAQ47245)

Alun Pugh: Wales has a rich and unique cultural heritage of which we are enormously proud. Welsh Assembly Government policies have resulted in millions of pounds being spent directly, as well as through our ASPBs, to enable people in Wales to celebrate their cultural heritage. These policies demonstrate our continuing commitment to the development of national and local libraries, museums and archive services, the Welsh language, the arts and the protection and preservation of our historic environment. My new culture strategy will explore the role of cultural heritage in the wider agenda and its contribution to areas such as regeneration, social inclusion, sustainability and education.

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister outline Welsh Assembly Government policies for supporting the major sporting venues in Wales? (WAQ47246)

Alun Pugh: The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to strengthening Wales's reputation as a premier location for major sporting events and we work closely with venues such as the Wales Millennium Stadium to ensure that we deliver world-class events.

Eleanor Burnham: Following the completion of the consultation on the future of the Welsh Language Board, on what date was the decision to postpone its merger taken? (WAQ47533)

Alun Pugh: A final decision was taken on 3 July 2006 following a consideration of the responses to the consultation.

Eleanor Burnham: On what date, at what time and in what way did you inform the Welsh Language Board of your decision to postpone its merger? (WAQ47534)

Alun Pugh: A senior official phoned the chief executive at around 4.30 p.m. on 4 July to advise him of a forthcoming announcement. Although messages were left, no contact was made. My office sent the Cabinet statement electronically to Welsh Language Board staff at 5.16 p.m..

Questions to the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks

David Lloyd: Will the Minister list, for each local authority area, all European funded projects, and will he detail the amount of funding that has been provided to each project from: (i) European funding, (ii) local government, (iii) Assembly funding, (iv) private funding, (v) other sources? (WAQ45649)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): The Welsh European Funding Office analyses data for the current structural fund programmes at local partnership level on a quarterly basis. Local partnership areas are not wholly coterminous with local authority areas and they support projects other than local-authority-led projects.

The tables that have been placed in the Members' Library provide details for Objectives 1, 2 and 3 by local partnership area, showing for each local partnership project the structural fund grant committed, the total project cost and the private and public match funding contribution. Further disaggregation of the data, to the level requested would require a substantial analysis and validation exercise. A similar level of analysis is not undertaken for the community initiative programmes.

It should be noted that strategic projects, which impact on more than one local partnership area, are not included in the data provided. Strategic projects represent approximately 50 per cent of the funding that has been committed to the above three programmes.

Lisa Francis: Which train stations in Wales do not have CCTV installed and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ46303)

Andrew Davies: Arriva Trains Wales operate 238 stations within the Wales and Borders franchise; 213 of these stations are in Wales. Eighty-five of the 213 Welsh stations now have CCTV. Following is a table that lists stations with and without CCTV in Wales. I invested £1.75 million for CCTV to be

installed at 11 of the railway stations across north Wales listed below (Bangor, Conwy, Llandudno Junction, Llandudno town, Colwyn Bay, Abergele and Pensarn, Rhyl, Prestatyn, Flint, Shotton (high and low levels).

Stations with CCTV installation (Wales)	Stations without CCTV installation (Wales)
<p>Aber, Abercynon North, Abercynon South, Aberdare, Abergele and Pensarn, Aberystwyth, Bangor, Bargoed, Barmouth, Barry Dock, Barry Island, Barry town, Bridgend, Buckley, Cadoxton, Caerphilly, Caergwrle, Caldicot, Canton, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff Central, Carmarthen, Cathays, Chirk, Cogan, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, Coryton, Cwmbran, Dinas Powys, Dingle Road, Eastbrook, Flint, Grangetown, Gwersyllt, Hawarden, Heath High Level, Heath Low Level, Hengoed, Holyhead, Hope, Lisvane, Llandaff, Llandudno, Llandudno Junction, Llanelli, Llanishen, Llantwit Major, Llwynypia, Machynlleth, Merthyr Tydfil, Merthyr Vale, Mountain Ash, Neath, Newport, Newtown, Penarth, Pengam, Pen-y-Ffordd, Pontypool, Pontypridd, Port Talbot, Porth, Prestatyn, Queen Street, Radyr, Rhiwbina, Rhoose-Cardiff International Airport, Rhyl, Rhymney, Severn Tunnel Junction, Shotton Low, Shotton High, Swansea, Taffs Well, Ton Pentre, Tonypany, Trefforest, Trehafod, Treherbert, Treorchy, Troed-y-Rhiw, Ystrad Mynach, Ystrad Rhondda, Wrexham Central.</p>	<p>Aberdovey, Abererch, Abergavenny, Ammanford, Baglan, Betws-y-Coed, Birchgrove, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Bodorgan, Borth, Brithdir, Briton Ferry, Builth Road, Bynea, Caersws, Cefn-y-Bedd, Chepstow, Cilmeri, Clarbeston Road, Clunderwen, Cogan, Criccieth, Cwmbach, Cyngordy, Danescourt, Deganwy, Dinas, Dolau, Dolgarrog, Dolwyddelan, Dovey Junction, Dyffryn Ardudwy, Fairbourne, Fairwater, Fernhill, Ferryside, Ffairfach, Fishguard Harbour, Garth, Garth (Mid Glamorgan), Gilfach Fargoed, Glan Conwy, Gowerton, Harlech, Haverfordwest, Hawarden Bridge, Johnston, Kidwelly, Kilgetty, Knucklas, Lamphey, Llanaber, Llanbedr Road station, Llanbradach, Llandanwg, Llandecwyn, Llandeilo, Llandoverly, Llandrindod Wells, Llandybie, Llanfairfechan, Llanfairpwll, Llangadog, Llangammarch, Llangennech, Llangynllo, Llanrwst, Llanrwst North, Llansamlet, Llanwrda, Llanwrtyd, Llwyn Gwril, Maesteg, Maesteg Ewenny Road, Manorbier, Milford Haven, Minffordd, Morfa Mawddach, Narberth, Ninian Park, Pantyffynnon, Pembrey and Burry Port, Pembroke, Pembroke Dock, Pen-y-Bont, Penally, Pencoed, Penhilig, Penmaenmawr, Penrhiwceiber, Penrhyndeudraeth, Pensarn, Pentre Bach, Penychain, Pont-y-Pant, Pontarddulais, Pontlottyn, Pontyclun, Porthmadog, Pwllhelli, Pyle, Quakers Yard, Rhosneigr, Roman Bridge, Ruabon, Sarn, Saundersfoot, Skewen, Sugar Loaf, Tal-y-Cafn, Talsarnau, Talybont, Tenby, Tir-Phil, Tondy, Tonfanau, Trefforest Estate, Tŷ Croes, Ty Glas, Tygwyn, Tywyn, Valley, Waun-Gron Park, Welshpool, Whitchurch (Cardiff), Whitland, Wrexham General, Ynyswen</p>

Nick Bourne: Has any assessment been made of the economic impact of the closure of the A5, and if so, will the Minister set out details of that assessment, and if not, will the Minister consider making such an assessment? (WAQ47286)

Andrew Davies: An assessment of the economic impact of the closure of the A5 has not been made. A meeting with local businesses which have been affected has been arranged for June 2006.

William Graham: Will the Minister outline discussions held with UK Government Ministers on the need to ensure quality of council tax assessment throughout the UK? (WAQ47331) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I have not discussed the issue of assessment of properties for council tax purposes with UK Government Ministers. I do, however, meet regularly with the Valuation Office Agency in Wales, which is responsible for the assessment of properties in Wales. I hope that this provides you with the information that you require. If it does not, please let me know.

Ann Jones: What has been the total spending on cycling safety in Wales since 2000? (WAQ47498)

Andrew Davies: We fund a number of programmes that contribute to cycling safety, for example, Safe Routes to Schools, cycling infrastructure improvements, local safety schemes, the transport grant and the Celtic Trail. It is not possible to determine how much of this funding directly relates to safety.

Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the procurement timetable for the FibreSpeed project? (WAQ47539)

Andrew Davies: The procurement for FibreSpeed will commence at the end of July 2006, after publication of a notice in the OJEU, with a contract expected to be awarded in early summer 2007. The implementation of the infrastructure solution will commence immediately after the contract is awarded. FibreSpeed is anticipated to become fully operational during the second half of 2007.

Ann Jones: When does the Minister expect to issue the OJEU contract notice for the FibreSpeed project? (WAQ47540)

Andrew Davies: It is anticipated that the OJEU contract notice for the FibreSpeed project will be issued at the end of this month, along with the pre-qualification documents marking the start of the procurement process.

Ann Jones: When does the Minister expect FibreSpeed to be available to SMEs based on St Asaph Business Park? (WAQ47541)

Andrew Davies: By the second half of 2007.

Ann Jones: How does the Minister plan to enable the benefits of FibreSpeed to be available to SMEs based on industrial estates near to chosen business parks? (WAQ47542)

Ann Jones: What can be done to bring the benefits of FibreSpeed to businesses located on Kinnel Park industrial estate, Bodelwyddan? (WAQ47543)

Andrew Davies: FibreSpeed is about creating an open access network available to all retail service providers. While the open access network itself will link the 14 business parks together it can also act as a local network for operators who can extend their services out from it. It therefore has the potential to benefit businesses and citizens across the whole of north Wales. As part of contractual agreements, the chosen successful supplier will have to ensure the marketing of FibreSpeed to ensure that it is maximised to the greatest effect.

Alun Cairns: Would the Minister list the number of companies that have been assisted by each Business Eye office for each of the last 12 months? (WAQ47544)

Andrew Davies: The number of companies assisted by each Business Eye centre in each of the last 12 months are as follows:

Region and centre	Jul 05	Aug 05	Sep 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Total
MID													
Cardigan	8	13	16	15	12	9	18	15	24	18	15	11	174
Lampeter	2	0	4	5	14	12	5	10	8	12	15	5	92
Aberystwyth	0	5	9	9	8	9	37	21	40	27	37	34	236
Brecon	8	3	5	2	2	1	14	18	8	12	13	21	107
Llandrindod Wells	5	12	10	2	2	2	3	3	8	3	7	5	62
Welshpool	25	23	28	26	11	17	17	16	15	15	12	15	220
Ystradgynlais	4	1	4	1	10	7	11	5	2	1	1	5	52
NORTH													
Anglesey	11	31	23	26	25	8	22	21	37	14	23	15	256
Llandudno Junction	14	26	10	24	26	6	22	32	35	17	18	16	246
Rhyl	13	15	10	17	18	12	16	24	15	14	17	18	189
Mold	8	18	13	15	19	11	16	17	26	14	15	25	197
Caernarfon	5	9	8	17	8	7	19	21	11	11	16	14	146
Dolgellau	13	23	14	14	17	7	21	13	10	8	11	17	168
Wrexham	3	0	5	12	16	7	19	20	15	15	33	21	166
SOUTH-EAST													
Bridgend	23	31	45	26	25	18	41	25	26	12	24	25	321
Cardiff	2	6	8	13	13	11	22	11	11	8	11	29	145
Rhondda Cynon Taf	3	4	4	8	12	0	4	9	9	5	8	9	75
Vale of Glamorgan	10	20	27	16	14	4	12	12	13	8	14	17	167
Blaenau Gwent	5	18	33	17	21	10	20	11	6	19	8	13	181
Caerphilly	6	7	16	5	11	8	6	6	12	2	13	14	106
Merthyr Tydfil	2	3	3	17	8	4	6	9	12	15	7	15	101
Monmouthshire	4	9	25	4	12	6	14	18	21	10	15	14	152
Newport	4	2	1	2	4	3	0	5	5	6	5	8	45
Torfaen	27	29	46	52	35	14	57	38	54	49	46	84	531
SOUTH-WEST													
Carmarthenshire	59	61	56	66	69	22	46	40	43	42	37	45	586
Pembrokeshire	24	25	10	22	22	14	24	21	22	21	29	25	259
Swansea Bay	23	11	21	15	11	11	14	14	15	10	11	19	175
PAN-WALES													
Contact centre	322	344	610	464	425	211	480	397	484	278	338	368	4,721
Grand total	633	749	1064	912	870	451	986	852	987	666	799	907	9,876

Alun Cairns: Would the Minister list the number of telephone calls received by each Business Eye office on a monthly basis for each of the last 12 months? (WAQ47545)

Andrew Davies: While telephone call figures in their own right are recorded at a pan-Wales level, the capability to undertake this accurately at a local centre level is not presently within Business Eye's internal reporting abilities.

Business Eye, however, assesses client activity levels at each of its 27 local centres through records held on its own client management system. This system enables a more accurate analysis of inquiry levels to be undertaken as it also takes into account two other key ways in which contact may be made with local centres: through client visits to premises and by e-mail. This is achieved by establishing a count of all 'new inquiries' dealt with by each centre. For all Business Eye reporting purposes, a new inquiry is considered to be the first contact made with Business Eye concerning a subject, question or issue that has not previously been raised by that particular client.

Taking into account the above it is felt that the provision of these new inquiry figures, rather than estimated call figures alone, may be of use in answering this question and as such, the details are as follows:

New inquiry breakdown by local Business Eye centre

<i>Region and centre</i>	<i>Jul 05</i>	<i>Aug 05</i>	<i>Sep 05</i>	<i>Oct 05</i>	<i>Nov 05</i>	<i>Dec 05</i>	<i>Jan 06</i>	<i>Feb 06</i>	<i>Mar 06</i>	<i>Apr 06</i>	<i>May 06</i>	<i>Jun 06</i>	<i>Total</i>
MID													
Cardigan	40	31	47	31	32	16	38	38	67	44	40	47	471
Lampeter	19	6	13	27	34	33	26	26	28	35	55	18	320
Aberystwyth	0	26	44	34	41	18	113	90	128	91	103	88	776
Brecon	32	22	34	20	22	9	40	61	44	52	63	69	468
Llandrindod Wells	22	42	26	11	15	11	27	23	39	15	40	38	309
Welshpool	54	57	57	60	42	25	40	44	43	35	31	42	530
Ystradgynlais	7	8	6	11	31	20	29	31	14	15	12	32	216
NORTH													
Anglesey	25	79	85	56	51	26	55	60	113	39	58	58	705
Llandudno Junction	40	51	40	78	60	17	63	74	89	60	56	48	676
Rhyl	20	29	24	37	32	26	26	45	41	30	39	29	378
Mold	28	38	26	44	37	22	32	29	61	31	35	50	433
Caernarfon	12	34	28	50	30	25	46	72	45	34	37	51	464
Dolgellau	31	60	61	46	44	25	59	41	43	40	37	43	530
Wrexham	9	1	8	27	25	18	44	34	43	33	57	40	339
SOUTH EAST													
Bridgend	63	76	105	97	57	52	98	68	69	48	47	53	833
Cardiff	9	17	29	36	84	29	46	34	34	35	42	65	460
Rhondda Cynon Taf	13	32	25	24	32	10	25	30	33	22	36	41	323
Vale of Glamorgan	27	60	47	63	39	11	33	43	53	29	39	44	488
Blaenau Gwent	22	40	60	36	41	22	50	19	10	55	37	47	439
Caerphilly	16	24	42	17	30	16	20	31	37	10	32	32	307
Merthyr Tydfil	15	23	8	37	14	7	14	19	30	40	19	36	262
Monmouthshire	10	14	37	9	29	8	20	30	36	24	26	24	267
Newport	14	10	15	4	23	5	2	13	18	11	18	18	151
Torfaen	60	44	74	79	93	28	86	69	89	72	82	129	905
SOUTH WEST													
Pembrokeshire	76	91	40	91	79	40	91	76	66	68	78	70	866
Swansea Bay	48	39	72	49	52	35	57	36	61	47	61	53	610
Carmarthenshire	118	125	121	152	135	49	106	89	116	82	80	98	1271
PAN-WALES													
Contact centre	1430	1390	1694	1228	1092	502	1263	1141	1393	823	914	989	13859
Grand total	2260	2469	2868	2454	2296	1105	2549	2366	2843	1920	2174	2352	27656

Alun Cairns: What analysis has the Minister conducted into the cost of promoting Business Eye in comparison to the number of inquiries received? (WAQ47546)

Andrew Davies: Business Eye is the primary marketing brand for raising awareness of business support in Wales. As such its role is to promote the service as well as to encourage businesses to seek support generally. The advertising budget for Business Eye in 2006-07 is £800,000.

Business Eye undertakes annual surveys to assess impact of its marketing activity in relation to the awareness of businesses to support available. Between 2004 and 2005, independent research undertaken on behalf of Business Eye showed a drop of 13 per cent in the percentage of businesses unable to name a source of support (Beaufort Research survey into business support awareness 2005). During this period, year-on-year inquiries to Business Eye rose by 27.7 per cent (2004-05 compared to 2005-06).

Alun Cairns: Would the Minister provide a report on the numbers of hits that the Business Eye website has received for each of the last 12 months? (WAQ47547)

Andrew Davies: The website hit figures requested are as follows:

July 2005	195,838
August 2005	213,155
September 2005	229,347
October 2005	239,215
November 2005	247,252
December 2005	267,239
January 2006	286,456
February 2006	349,292
March 2006	354,905
April 2006	358,829
May 2006	374,752
June 2006	365,227

Questions to the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Michael German: What level of additional funding is being put into the NPFS funding system for 16 to 18-year-old students in further education colleges to address the unforeseen shortfall in unit funding? (WAQ47207)

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): Further education colleges are not supplied with a specific funding stream for 16 to 18-year-old students. Therefore, the notion of supplying additional funding for that cohort is not being considered. Also, all guarantees of funding have been honoured. The only area where there is still an opportunity to affect the overall quantum—as opposed to the distribution of the quantum between colleges—is in the discussions that officials are having in connection with the FE pay initiative. When the budgetary requirements are known, decisions on that area will be announced.

William Graham: Will the Minister outline how the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth benefits children in Wales? (WAQ47588)

Jane Davidson: The National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth is an English initiative. It was established by the Government in 2002 with a remit to drive forward improvements in gifted and talented

education by developing a national Government-supported catalyst that provides leadership and support for professionals working in the field. There are currently no places available to children living in Wales.

NAGTY is funded by the Department for Education and Skills at a cost of £5 million per year. My officials met with DfES officials last year and since then have continued to closely monitor the situation in terms of NAGTY's impact on the quality of gifted education in schools in England. I am informed that NAGTY's current contract with DfES ends next year and the service is shortly to be evaluated by an independent body. In the circumstances, I believe that we should wait to see the results of that evaluation before any decision is taken on either purchasing places for children in Wales, or indeed establishing a similar provision in Wales.

That said, my officials have recently met with representatives of NAGTY to discuss their approach to meeting the needs of more able and talented pupils and we are currently considering whether and how this could be incorporated into a Welsh policy context.

In Wales, we use the term 'more able and talented' to describe pupils who require opportunities for enrichment and extension that go beyond those provided for the general cohort of pupils. Our approach to meeting individual pupils' needs is set in the context of a whole-school approach to school improvement and to ensuring that policies and practices are fully inclusive in meeting the needs of all our learners. We are committed to ensuring that the individual learning needs of pupils are considered at every stage and that appropriate support is available to meet a diverse range of needs. That means that where pupils are more able and talented, their needs should be recognised as early as possible to ensure that appropriate provision is made in their local schools to ensure that they reach their full potential.

In 2003, the Assembly established a task and finish group with a specific remit to produce guidance for LEAs on how best to address the needs of pupils who are more able and talented. The group consisted of representatives from the Welsh Assembly Government, ACCAC, Estyn, LEAs and the voluntary sector. Members of the group worked closely with the then curriculum authority in Wales—ACCAC—that was also commissioned to produce specific curriculum guidance for schools, entitled 'A Curriculum of Opportunity'. The latter has been well received by schools in Wales and a number of specific projects have been established to ensure that such pupils are identified as early as possible and receive appropriate support. The guidance provides advice to schools on learning styles and effective strategies to ensure that the needs of more able and talented pupils are met. This has been seen as a positive approach to meeting needs within the context of inclusion.

In August 2003, we consulted on guidance entitled 'Educating Pupils who are More Able and Talented: Guidance for Local Education Authorities'. Although the feedback received was generally positive, we recognised however that further work was required. As a result, we are currently working with NACE Cymru, the National Association for Able Children in Education to develop quality standards for LEAs and schools. We aim to issue a consultation document on these standards in October 2006. The revised guidance will contain a self-evaluation tool for use by schools and LEAs in monitoring progress against the standards to ensure that pupils' needs are appropriately met and to aid school improvement.

The Welsh Assembly Government is also currently developing an inclusion policy and performance framework for Wales that will provide an overarching strategy in supporting all pupils with additional learning needs, including those who are more able and talented.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister detail what European funding will be made available to Wales for rural development for the period 2007 to 2013? (WAQ47532)

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): The European Commission has yet to detail funding allocations to support rural development measures for the 2007 to 2013 programming period.

Laura Anne Jones: What representations has the Welsh Assembly Government received regarding a derogation licence in accordance with the provisions of Article 16(1)(c) of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) in relation to the proposed retail and leisure complex at Blackwood retail park? (WAQ47535)

Carwyn Jones: The Assembly Government has not received an application for a derogation licence in accordance with the habitats directive, or any representations relating to such a licence, for the proposed development at Blackwood retail park.

Alun Cairns: Will the Minister make a statement on the numbers waiting for entry to Tir Gofal? (WAQ47566)

Carwyn Jones: Of the 1,911 applications received under the last window, 1,115 agreements have been made, 299 are currently being negotiated and work on a further 18 will begin shortly. The remainder were withdrawn by the applicant.

Alun Cairns: Will the Minister make a statement on Tir Gofal delays? (WAQ47567)

Carwyn Jones: There are no delays.

Alun Cairns: What plans does the Minister have to use Common Agricultural Policy funds held in suspense to alleviate shortfalls in Tir Gofal? (WAQ47568)

Carwyn Jones: There are no shortfalls in the resources available for Tir Gofal. The accumulated receipts from modulation will support payments on Tir Gofal and Tir Cynnal in line with the commission's legal requirements as will be the case for the use of modulation receipts for the purposes of the successor RDP for Wales.

Elin Jones: How many farm holdings currently hold Tir Mynydd agreements? (WAQ47594)

Carwyn Jones: There are no Tir Mynydd agreements; farmers claim annually on their single application form. To date, 10,300 Welsh farmers have received a 2006 Tir Mynydd payment. Around 200 remaining 2006 applications are currently undergoing eligibility checks.

Nick Bourne: What plans does the Minister have to introduce new regulations regarding oil storage to control pollution in Wales? (WAQ47597)

Carwyn Jones: We are currently considering whether new controls on oil storage to reduce the risk of pollution of inland and coastal waters should be introduced in Wales and, if so, in what form. Before doing so, we will consult widely on any proposals. The timescales are still to be determined.

Questions to the Finance Minister

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on any additional funding that she is making available for the education, lifelong learning and skills portfolio? (WAQ47476)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I will publish the revised spending plans for the Assembly Government in line with the requirements of Standing Order No. 21 during the autumn.

Glyn Davies: How many attacks have been made on refuse collectors over each of the last five years in local authorities that have introduced fortnightly collection of non-recycled refuse? (WAQ47586)

Sue Essex: This information is not collected centrally.

David Lloyd: Will the Minister publish a set of tables in accordance with the format employed in the summary tables for final budget 2005 showing the expenditure outturn for each year since 1999-2000? (WAQ46853)

Sue Essex: In my holding response to WAQ46853, I said that I would write to you with the information that you requested relating to the Assembly's outturn since 1999, shown in the same format as the summary tables in the 2005 final budget. This has now been collated and a copy has been placed in the Members' Library.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on proposals for the reform of the Coroner's Service by the Department for Constitutional Affairs with regard to the geographical circumstances in Wales? (WAQ47560)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): There are already issues of ease of accessibility to coroner services in rural areas of Wales with, for example, a distance of 120 miles between the north and south boundaries of the Powys coroner's district.

We will therefore be looking for assurances from the DCA on how ease of access is to be addressed under the current proposals.

Helen Mary Jones: For each year since 1999, and according to referral type, will the Minister provide details in percentage terms of how patients accessing NHS Wales were referred? (WAQ47202)

Brian Gibbons: Information for in-patient and day-case admissions by referral type is provided in the following table. Information on out-patient attendances by referral type is not available:

In-patient and day-case admissions, by referral type (per cent)							
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
GP referral	82	86	86	82	80	78	75
Consultant	8	7	7	12	14	15	17
Other medical	1	0	0	1	1	1	2
Self referral	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Not known	10	7	7	5	5	5	5
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Source: Patient Episode Database for Wales

Information on the out-patient attendances by referral type is not available.

Helen Mary Jones: For each year since 2003, will the Minister detail the number of salaried GPs for each local health board area? (WAQ47203)

Brian Gibbons: The data collected on general medical practitioners does not differentiate between salaried and independent practitioners. Nevertheless, the numbers of general practitioners (excluding GP registrars and retainers) by LHB area as at 30 September 2005 is indicated in the table below. Historical data on numbers of GPs by LHB area is not available.

General Medical Practitioners by LHB—2005

Isle of Anglesey	44
Gwynedd	90
Conwy	67
Denbighshire	58
Flintshire	83
Wrexham	80
Powys	98
Ceredigion	63
Pembrokeshire	72
Carmarthenshire	105
Swansea	155
Neath Port Talbot	74
Bridgend	82
Vale of Glamorgan	72
Cardiff	207
Rhondda Cynon Taf	121
Merthyr Tydfil	31
Caerphilly	109
Blaenau Gwent	36
Torfaen	62
Monmouthshire	58
Newport	82
TOTAL	1,849

Total General Medical Practitioners 2003–05

2003	1,822
2004	1,816
2005	1,849

Helen Mary Jones: For each year since 1999, will the Minister detail the cost of conducting care assessments? (WAQ47205)

Brian Gibbons: We do not collect information in the form requested.

Helen Mary Jones: For each year since 1999, will the Minister detail the cost of providing NHS treatment for Welsh patients in (i) the private sector, and (ii) English trusts? (WAQ47206)

Brian Gibbons: Expenditure reported in the annual accounts for secondary healthcare is as follows:

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Non-NHS providers of healthcare	35,482	56,478	99,393	98,219	73,535	87,887
Non-Welsh NHS trusts	79,548	90,647	79,663	111,959	90,544	92,032

Source: Audited accounts of health authorities, local health boards and Health Commission Wales

Note

1. Expenditure is recorded in the accounts of health authorities up to 31 March 2003. From 1 April 2003, expenditure is recorded in the accounts of local health boards and Health Commission Wales.
2. Non-NHS providers of healthcare includes payments to private providers of healthcare, such as private hospitals, but does not include payments to voluntary bodies.
3. The annual accounts do not analyse expenditure with English trusts but do report expenditure with all non-Welsh NHS trusts.

Owen John Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on funding for the arthritis and chronic musculoskeletal directives? (WAQ47217)

Brian Gibbons: Local health boards receive a recurrent discretionary allocation and an allocation for protected and ring-fenced services. LHBs are responsible for managing the totality of their discretionary allocation and for making best use of this resource to commission healthcare services. LHBs will be responsible for implementing the arthritis and chronic musculoskeletal directives within current financial allocations.

Owen John Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on the use of private finance initiative funding with the NHS? (WAQ47218)

Brian Gibbons: Guidance on the use of PFI is provided in Welsh Health Circular (2002) 038. In preparing a business case, the NHS should test the value for money of a PFI scheme against a public sector scheme. Where it serves the public interest to make use of PFI its use is considered; where it does not, it is not.

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on the funding of local health boards in Wales? (WAQ47219)

Brian Gibbons: Funding for local health boards is detailed in the local health board and Health Commission Wales revenue allocations, which are published annually by the Welsh Assembly Government and can be found on the internet at

http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/health/healthservice/nhs/nhs_allocations/?lang=en

The revenue allocation for local health boards in 2006-07 is £3,348.214 million.

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister outline his strategy for investing in hospitals in Mid and West Wales? (WAQ47220)

Brian Gibbons: The investment strategy for the twenty-first century will focus on the principles outlined in 'Designed for Life', currently being taken forward in Mid and West Wales by the Designed to Deliver consultation process to achieve our ambition of creating world-class healthcare and social services.

Designed to Deliver is concerned with shaping acute hospitals in Mid and West Wales. When the outcome of the consultation is known, the Welsh Assembly Government will make the necessary investment to ensure that we provide safe, quality and sustainable services for the region.

Michael German: Will the Minister make a statement on early tackling of urological cancer? (WAQ47221)

Brian Gibbons: Tackling cancer is one of our top health priorities and a cornerstone of our policy is to reduce the incidence of this disease in Wales by promoting a healthier lifestyle for all. Other key components of our policy are, where cancer does occur, to ensure that it is detected and tackled as early as possible. There should be improved access to the highest quality of treatment and care so that a patient with cancer has the best possible chance of survival. Our strategy for improving access to and the quality of care is via the progressive implementation of our national cancer standards and the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence cancer service guidance. Both cover urological cancers.

Michael German: Will the Minister give an update on the introduction of the screening process for bowel cancer? (WAQ47222)

Brian Gibbons: A framework is currently being developed that will outline what is needed to improve bowel cancer services in Wales. This will look at specific issues that relate to all aspects of patient care, not just screening. This will include prevention, raising public awareness, screening, diagnosis and palliative care.

I have asked Health Commission Wales to work with the NHS and the cancer services co-ordinating group to develop formal proposals for the phased introduction of a national bowel cancer screening programme for men and women aged 50 to 74 in Wales. This will be supported by the establishment of a managed training network for endoscopists. This approach will ensure a first-class service for bowel cancer patients in Wales.

Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sefyllfa cleifion sy'n disgwyl prawf angiograffeg yng ngogledd-orllewin Cymru? (WAQ47223) [W]

Brian Gibbons: Mae'r wybodaeth am nifer y cleifion sy'n disgwyl prawf angiograffeg wedi'i chyhoeddi yn http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/intro_eng/index.htm a http://www.statscymru.cymru.gov.uk/intro_wal/index.htm. Ar hyn o bryd, mae chwech o gleifion sy'n byw yn ardaloedd Byrddau Iechyd Lleol Ynys Môn a Gwynedd yn disgwyl am brawf angiograffeg. Mae dau o'r rhain wedi bod yn disgwyl mwy na dau fis ac nid oes yr un ohonynt wedi bod yn disgwyl mwy na phedwar mis am brawf. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi pennu targed na ddylai cleifion ddisgwyl mwy na phedwar mis am brawf angiograffeg.

Alun Ffred Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the situation of patients who are waiting for an angiography test in North West Wales? (WAQ47223) [W]

Brian Gibbons: Information on the numbers of patients waiting for an angiography test is published in the public domain at http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/intro_eng/index.htm and http://www.statscymru.cymru.gov.uk/intro_wal/index.htm. There are currently six patients resident in the Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Health Board areas who are waiting for angiography. Of these, two have been waiting more than two months and none has been waiting more than four months. The Welsh Assembly Government target is that no patient should wait more than four months for an angiography.

Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau cardioleg yng ngogledd Cymru? (WAQ47224) [W]

Brian Gibbons: Y byrddau iechyd lleol a Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru sy'n comisiynu gwasanaethau cardioleg. Strategaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer gwella mynediad at wasanaethau cardioleg a gwella'u hansawdd yw gweithredu fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol clefyd coronaidd y galon fesul cam. Drwy broses y fframwaith gwasanaeth a chyllid, yr ydym wedi pennu targedau blynyddol gyda'r bwriad o leihau amserau aros. Ar hyn o bryd, nid oes neb yn y gogledd yn aros mwy na phedwar mis am angiogram na mwy na chwe mis am driniaeth ailfasgwlaiddio.

Ar gyfer 2006-07, yr ydym wedi pennu targed ar gyfer y fframwaith gwasanaeth a chyllid; erbyn mis Mawrth 2007, dylai claf yr amheuir bod clefyd coronaidd y galon, angina sefydlog neu glefyd falfaidd arno sydd wedi'i atgyfeirio gan feddyg teulu gael ei asesu gan gardiolegydd a, lle y bo'n briodol, ni ddylai aros mwy na 16 mis o'r adeg y caiff ei atgyfeirio gan y meddyg teulu i dderbyn triniaeth ailfasgwlaiddio neu driniaeth ddiffiniol arall gan yr ymddiriedolaeth sy'n ei dderbyn.

Cyrhaeddwyd y targed ar gyfer yr amser aros hwyaf o bedwar mis am angiograffeg erbyn 31 Mawrth 2006 ac, ers hynny, nid oes neb yng Nghymru wedi bod yn aros mwy na phedwar mis am angiograffeg.

Alun Ffred Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on cardiology services in north Wales? (WAQ47224) [W]

Brian Gibbons: Cardiology services for the people of north Wales are commissioned by local health boards and Health Commission Wales. The Assembly Government's strategy for improving access to and the quality of cardiology services is through the progressive implementation of the coronary heart disease national service framework. Through the service and financial framework process we have set annual targets designed to drive down waiting times. No-one in north Wales is currently waiting more than four months for an angiogram or more than six months for revascularisation.

For 2006-07, we have set a SaFF target that by March 2007, a patient referred with suspected CHD, stable angina or valvular disease should be assessed by a cardiologist and, where appropriate, should receive revascularisation or other definitive treatment within 16 months of receipt of the original GP referral by the receiving trust.

The maximum waiting-time target of four months for angiography was achieved by 31 March 2006 and no-one in Wales has been waiting for more than four months for angiography since then.

William Graham: Will the Minister outline how he will ensure effective investment for ambulance services in Wales? (WAQ47225)

Brian Gibbons: The Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust is finalising a modernisation plan in line with the requirements of our policy, 'Designed for Life', to create a world-class ambulance service for Wales in the twenty-first century. This will ensure that the men and women who provide this important service can be supported by a modern organisation and that the performance and response times of the ambulances can improve to meet all our expectations.

The modernisation plan is expected to identify a requirement for capital funding for buildings and equipment, but the amount of investment required is yet to be confirmed. The trust will need to submit business cases to the Welsh Assembly Government for such funding and these will be prioritised alongside all other bids for capital investment.

I am pleased that the staff and the management of the trust have pledged to work together on modernising the service and I look forward to receiving a copy of the modernisation plan in due course.

William Graham: Will the Minister outline how the GP out-of-hours service is monitored? (WAQ47226)

Brian Gibbons: There are a series of minimum quality standards in place, which local health boards have incorporated into the contracts for out-of-hours services. Local health boards are required to monitor these standards along with any local standard they have included.

The minimum national standards include: response times for initial telephone contact; response times for clinical assessment; response times for patients being seen by clinical staff; and audits of clinical records.

Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on proposals to close Fairwood Hospital and ward one of Hill House Hospital in Swansea? (WAQ47227)

Brian Gibbons: This matter is currently out for consultation by Swansea Local Health Board. It will be alongside, but separate to, the 'Designed to Deliver' consultation, with an end date of 26 June 2006. I am unable to comment at this point in time as I may need to adjudicate on the outcome of the consultation in the future.

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of services for sufferers of keratoconus? (WAQ47229)

Brian Gibbons: The provision of all health services, including ophthalmology and optometry services, is the responsibility of local health boards in Wales.

Patients who are diagnosed with keratoconus are treated by both optometrists and ophthalmologists, depending upon the needs of the individual.

Jonathan Morgan: What improvement measures has the Minister taken following the recent resignation of the chief executive of the Welsh ambulance service? (WAQ47230)

Brian Gibbons: I have had discussions with the chair and acting chief executive and have welcomed the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust's speedy action in appointing an acting chief executive. I understand that a substantive chief executive will be appointed, which could be as early as August. I am pleased that the trust board is taking forward promptly the appointment of a substantive chief executive, as strong and skilled leadership will be crucial to the modernisation of the organisation.

Staff and management of the trust have pledged to work together on the modernisation programme and will produce a modernisation plan by the end of July.

Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy to improve services for people with arthritis and other chronic musculoskeletal conditions in Wales? (WAQ47231)

Brian Gibbons: The Welsh Assembly Government is taking active steps to help improve the health and wellbeing of people with arthritis and chronic musculoskeletal conditions. The service development and commissioning directives for arthritis and chronic musculoskeletal conditions were issued in May for consultation. This work is in line with the key objectives for remodelling the management of chronic conditions as set out in 'Designed for Life'.

The directives underline the importance of the development of a multi-disciplinary approach to care across the care pathway and focus on the key issues of prevention, assessment and diagnosis, treatment and management and the facilitation of independence.

The public consultation period will run until 4 August 2006.

Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy to promote sun safety in Wales this summer? (WAQ47232)

Brian Gibbons: The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to raising public awareness of the risks of sun exposure and the action that people can take to protect themselves. Excessive sun exposure can lead to sunstroke and skin cancer, which is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Wales and a largely preventable disease.

Since 2003, the Assembly Government, along with the other UK health departments, has supported Cancer Research UK's SunSmart campaign. The focus of the 2006 campaign is on outdoor workers.

The Assembly Government is also participating in the Heat Health Watch system operated by the Met Office. This provides alerts of extreme heat conditions in Wales.

Laura Anne Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on what is being done to assist patients suffering from prostate cancer in Wales? (WAQ47233)

Brian Gibbons: On 7 June 2006, Health Commission Wales's national commissioning advisory board approved the paper on low-dose brachytherapy for the treatment of localised prostate cancer. This is subject to a recommendation that Health Commission Wales works with Velindre NHS Trust to explore the possibility of establishing a local service in the future.

HCW is working with specialist centres in England to implement this policy, and hopes to be in a position to confirm arrangements for access to this service in 2006-07 within the next few weeks.

Laura Anne Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on ambulance response time in South Wales East? (WAQ47234)

Brian Gibbons: I am aware that there is a variance in the levels of performance across the different regions in Wales and I am concerned that performance continues to be below the required level in certain areas of the south-east region. The Welsh ambulance trust is currently producing a modernisation plan that will be presented to the trust board this month. It has already introduced a number of initiatives in lower-performing LHB areas, including locally agreed performance measures and the deployment of extended paramedic practitioners, to help improve performance. The trust is continuing to explore how resources can best be used to further improve the performance of the emergency ambulance service.

The detailed performance information for south-east region is held in the public domain and is available on the following link: www.wales.gov.uk/statistics.

Carl Sargeant: Will the Minister make a statement on the treatment of osteoporosis in Wales? (WAQ47235)

Brian Gibbons: The Welsh Assembly Government is currently developing an all-Wales arthritis and musculoskeletal health and wellbeing policy and action plan, which is currently out for consultation. The policy will help to ensure the fair provision of high quality, integrated health and social care services for

people with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, including osteoporosis, across Wales: focusing on providing person-centred care, promoting health and independence and fitting services around people's needs.

The treatment and prevention of osteoporosis is also being addressed in the national service framework for older people in Wales and the orthopaedic strategy currently being developed. Exercise and nutrition will form part of the health promotion action plan for older people that is being developed as part of the strategy for older people in Wales, which will be reinforced in the health promotion standard of the national service framework for older people. Links between these pieces of work will be made to ensure all cross-cutting issues are addressed in an integrated way.

Leighton Andrews: How many women in Wales with breast cancer have been diagnosed as HER2-positive? (WAQ47236)

Brian Gibbons: This information is not held centrally by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Leighton Andrews: How many women in Wales, diagnosed with the HER2-positive form of breast cancer have been assessed as having a less than 50 per cent risk of relapse? (WAQ47237)

Brian Gibbons: This information is not held centrally by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Helen Mary Jones: What practical actions has the Welsh Assembly Government undertaken to assist undergraduate physiotherapists to find employment? (WAQ47238)

Brian Gibbons: Wales has taken positive steps to engage service commissioners to ensure effective use of new graduate physiotherapists.

Meetings between Assembly officials, the physiotherapy school, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and physiotherapy managers resulted in various collaborative developments.

The conference in March 2006 was an opportunity to explore ways in which to harness graduate resources, providing commissioners and trusts with new ways of working that support Wanless objectives and local delivery plans.

An Assembly-sponsored survey of NHS Wales was carried out, establishing the number of 'traditional' posts available this year for graduates. The project will identify where trusts have created new posts.

Our future work-plan will ensure that:

- WAG work with LHBs will concentrate on commissioning and supporting service redesign/modernisation to employ junior grades.
- long-term planning will include investment in junior posts to grow the seniors of the future.
- workforce planning and education machinery in place for managing supply and demand, so that supernumerary posts can be recommended when there is an increase in graduates.
- there is encouragement in terms of the development of novice recruitment and support in other fields where this grade has not traditionally been employed, such as public health, primary and intermediate care.

Helen Mary Jones: How many junior physiotherapy posts have been made available in Wales for those physiotherapists who are about to qualify in July? (WAQ47239)

Brian Gibbons: The shortage of junior posts has been a problem across the United Kingdom. However, few of the new jobs created were at a junior level. There is therefore an urgent need to create junior posts to provide employment for the numbers of new graduates, and thereby provide the senior physiotherapists that the NHS needs in the future.

Within Wales we have taken positive steps to engage with service commissioners to ensure effective use of new graduate physiotherapists.

An Assembly-sponsored survey undertaken by physiotherapy managers across Wales will identify how many additional novice placements can be safely supervised and establish the number of 'traditional' posts available this year for graduates. The exercise will identify the capacity for developing these graduates as an effective resource to assist in supporting services to meet the targets of NHS Wales in line with Wanless, 'Making the Connections' and 'Designed for Life'.

Janet Ryder: What recommendations from the Waterhouse inquiry are yet to be implemented and how is the Minister continuing to monitor implementation of all recommendations? (WAQ47240)

Janet Ryder: What recommendations from the Carlisle review are yet to be implemented and how is the Minister continuing to monitor implementation of all recommendations? (WAQ47241)

Janet Ryder: What recommendations from the Lamming inquiry (Climbie) 2003 are yet to be implemented and how is the Minister continuing to monitor implementation of all recommendations? (WAQ47244)

Brian Gibbons: A detailed report on the action taken to implement the recommendations from 'Lost in Care' was submitted to the Health and Social Services Committee on 12 March 2003 (HSS-04-03(p.1)). That report stated that the Welsh Assembly Government's response to recommendations that were a devolved responsibility had primarily been furthered through the Children First programme. The report also noted that a large number of recommendations fell to local authorities to take forward and were now covered by statutory duties or had been built into best practice.

The recommendations in the Carlisle report were accepted by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2002 and action to implement them has been taken by the Assembly Government and other agencies as appropriate. It was recognised at the time of the Assembly Government response that some of the recommendations could be implemented within existing budgets, while others would require new funding and therefore might take longer to implement. Any further work now needed will be reviewed as part of our response to 'Keeping Us Safe', the report of the safeguarding vulnerable children review.

The Welsh Assembly Government response to the Laming report was published in September 2003 and detailed the actions that had been taken or were to be taken to address Lord Laming's recommendations. Those recommendations covering social care and health were all accepted in that response. Many covered established good practice and these were all included in a checklist of good practice recommendation issued in March 2003. In March 2004 we published 'Safeguarding Children: Working Together for Positive Outcomes' in direct response to many of the recommendations in Lord Laming's report.

The Children Act 2004 also addresses some of the issues raised in the report, in particular the establishment of statutory local safeguarding children boards and the strengthening of partnership arrangements and joint working in developing and delivering children's services. Later this month, the Assembly will consider the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (Wales) Regulations, which will lead to the establishment of boards by 1 October.

Again, as part of our response to 'Keeping Us Safe', we will review whether any further work needs to be done.

The performance of local authorities and NHS bodies continue to be monitored through audits and inspections by the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales, the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales and the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales.

Helen Mary Jones: How many new physiotherapy posts have been created in response to 'Designed for Life'? (WAQ47242)

Brian Gibbons: In 2005, the number of funded permanent posts and additional supernumery posts took the total number of novice employees to the highest recorded level of 117 novice joiners.

The NHS physiotherapy profession is continuing to expand, with physiotherapists embracing the Government's modernisation agenda and actively delivering very significant innovation and change in services for patients, in support of the delivery of 'Designed for Life'.

Helen Mary Jones: How has the physiotherapy workforce in Wales developed in response to the Government's vision, 'Designed for Life'? (WAQ47243)

Brian Gibbons: 'Designed for Life' identifies four levels of care that are required to meet the future needs of the people in Wales.

The first of these targets services provided to people at home and in the local community. Services will be strengthened to support people to remain healthy, independent and in their own homes. This means an expansion of services, including rehabilitation. Each locality will have a team of professionals working together, including physiotherapists, who will acquire specialist skills and provide specialist services that use their full potential.

Health and social care communities have a major opportunity to explore ways in which to harness the physiotherapy resource to help them meet 'Designed for Life' milestones and support local delivery plans; encompassing the physiotherapy-specific 2006-09 waiting-time targets and those areas in which physiotherapists can support other disciplines to meet targets, in particular orthopaedics and accident and emergency.

In addition, where experienced physiotherapists are needed to deliver on Wanless and 'Designed for Life', the service will maintain its current physiotherapy service by utilising new graduates to back fill experienced practitioners.

Janet Ryder: Will the Minister clarify whether residential care homes are currently subject to receive announced or un-announced visits from CSIW, and will he detail any changes made to the announcement of visits during the last five years? (WAQ47489)

Brian Gibbons: In the first three years since CSIW was set up, care homes received one announced and one unannounced inspection annually. In April 2005, CSIW began a programme of reform of regulation, which places more emphasis on service users experiences and a proportionate approach to inspection. This means that providers will have one inspection episode each year, which will include an unannounced element.

An inspection episode runs over a period of time and calls upon a range of inspection approaches. These are developed to suit the individual needs of the service. These include visits, meetings with families/service users, administering questionnaires, discussions with other agencies and so on. As part of this process, the vast majority of settings will receive an unannounced visit.

Janet Ryder: Will the Minister detail what guidance exists that recommends the ratio of staff to residents within residential care homes? (WAQ47490)

Brian Gibbons: For adults the Care Homes (Wales) Regulations 2002 and the Assembly Government's national minimum standards require that the registered person ensures that suitably qualified, competent, skilled and experienced persons are working in the home, in such numbers as is appropriate for the health and welfare of service users and the individual circumstances of the home. The regulations and national minimum standards can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.csiw.wales.gov.uk/fe/default.asp?n1=7&n2=27>.

Janet Ryder: Will the Minister detail what checks are undertaken for staff working within residential care homes? (WAQ47491)

Brian Gibbons: The Care Homes (Wales) Regulations 2002 set out a range of pre-employment checks an employer should undertake to ensure that a prospective employee is fit for work in respect of qualifications, competence and experience. The regulations also require that all prospective employees hold a valid Criminal Records Bureau certificate, issued under the Police Act 1997. Employers must also satisfy themselves that a prospective employee does not appear on the protection of vulnerable adults list held by the Secretary of State for Health jointly for England and Wales, which lists those individuals considered unsuitable to work with vulnerable adults.

Jenny Randerson: When will the all-Wales consensus guidelines for diabetes be issued for consultation and implementation? (WAQ47517)

Brian Gibbons: The most recent versions of the diabetes consensus guidelines have been referred to members of the all-Wales consensus group for their consideration and comment. We are awaiting the amended versions for consideration by the end of July and we aim to issue for consultation early in the autumn.

Jenny Randerson: What are the planned annual funding figures annually for 'Agenda for Change' in the NHS in Wales until 2015? (WAQ47518)

Brian Gibbons: The sum of £56.839 million has been included within the 2006-07 local health boards and Health Commission Wales revenue allocations for 'Agenda for Change'. The funding is at 2005-06 price levels, and has been included within the discretionary allocations. It is therefore part of the NHS-funded baseline that attracts annual core uplifts, and it has received an uplift of 4.5 per cent for 2006-07. The funding for the years from 2007-08 onwards will depend on the core uplifts provided in those years.

Jenny Randerson: Broken down by each NHS trust (including the NHS Business Services Centre), how much funding has been allocated to 'Agenda for Change'? (WAQ47519)

Jenny Randerson: Broken down by each NHS trust, what is the rate of matching and assimilation under 'Agenda for Change'? (WAQ47520)

Brian Gibbons: I refer you to my answer to WAQ46196.

Glyn Davies: What is the average waiting time for a set of dentures in Wales? (WAQ47522)

Brian Gibbons: The average waiting time for a set of dentures is two to four weeks. That is, however, dependent on a number of factors relating to each individual case.

Glyn Davies: How many dentists in Wales will be qualified to make dentures under the rules being introduced by the General Dental Council from 31 July 2007? (WAQ47523)

Brian Gibbons: At 31 July 2006, all dentists in Wales will be qualified to make dentures. From that date, clinical dental technicians, a new class of dental care professional, will be able to register with the General Dental Council if they meet the required standard, and see edentulous patients without prior review by a dentist, for the purpose of supplying and maintaining complete dentures.

Glyn Davies: What assessment has been made of any increase in waiting times for dentures following new rules being introduced by the General Dental Council from 31 July 2007? (WAQ47524)

Brian Gibbons: From 31 July 2006, clinical dental technicians who are appropriately qualified and registered with the General Dental Council may provide dentures to the public in addition to dentists, thereby increasing the number of dental care professionals who are able to provide this service.

Lisa Francis: Will the Minister confirm the percentage increases of a) managers and administrators b) nurses c) midwives and d) doctors to the Welsh NHS for the year 2004-05? (WAQ47526)

Brian Gibbons: Information on NHS staff is collected annually and relates to staff in post at 30 September. Information on the change in numbers between 2004 and 2005 is given in the following table:

Staff in post as at 30 September (whole-time equivalents)

	2004	2005	Percentage change
Managers and administrators (a)	13,504	14,241	+5.5
Nurses (b)	18,926	19,488	+3.0
Midwives (c)	1,200	1,210	+0.8
Doctors (d)	4,458	4,624	+3.7

Source: Annual Staff Census

(a) Managers and clerical and administration staff.

(b) Qualified nurses (excluding registered midwives, including health visitors).

(c) Registered midwives.

Working in hospitals and community/public health.

Leighton Andrews: Will the Minister state whether targets of ensuring a regular recall of those screened for breast cancer every three years are being achieved? (WAQ47548)

Leighton Andrews: How many women in Rhondda Cynon Taf are taking up breast screening appointments, what percentage are screened every three years, and how many over the age of 70 self-refer? (WAQ47549)

Brian Gibbons: For some years, Breast Test Wales has been unable to ensure all women are recalled within three years, due to a problem in attracting and recruiting sufficient specialist medical staff. This is now largely corrected, throughput has increased, and coverage is steadily rising as the slippage improves.

Coverage is the percentage of women in the eligible age group who have been invited and accepted their invitation to be screened within the previous three years. Breast Test Wales works to the standards and targets set by the Department of Health for the NHS breast screening programme in England. The target is 70 per cent.

Coverage (aged 50-64)

2003-04	63.4 per cent
2004-05	66.0 per cent
2005-06	68.6 per cent

Each general practice is screened in turn over the three-year period, so there are always women who have become eligible, that is reached age 50, who have not yet been invited. The coverage figures above are therefore artificially low, and the programme in England and Wales is now reporting the 53 to 64 age band. The target remains at 70 per cent.

Coverage (aged 53-64)

2003-04	68.7 per cent
2004-05	71.2 per cent
2005-06	73.6 per cent

Breast Test Wales has screening plans in place that should ensure that the programme continues to exceed the target.

Uptake in Rhondda Cynon Taf has improved on every round and is well above the 70 per cent target. The percentage of women in the age group 50 to 64 who accepted their invitation to be screened in each round of screening was:

Round 1	70.8 per cent
Round 2	73.3 per cent
Round 3	77.6 per cent
Round 4 is not yet complete but would be expected to be similar to round 3.	

Of women aged 53 to 64, 77.3 per cent had been recalled and accepted their invitation to be screened within the previous three years to 2005-06.

Seven hundred and seventy five women aged over 70 had been screened within the three years to 2005-06 out of an eligible population of 15,214.

Leighton Andrews: What reviews has the Minister undertaken of healthy eating schemes? (WAQ47550)

Brian Gibbons: The community-based programmes to encourage healthy eating, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government grant schemes over the last six years, have been subject to external evaluation:

- the community food initiative 2000-01 and 2001-02 was evaluated by the Centre for Public Health Nutrition Research, University of Dundee;
- the food and fitness grant scheme, 2004-07 is being evaluated by the Institute of Food, Active Living and Nutrition Cymru, University of Bangor;
- the food and fitness grant scheme, 2006-08 is being evaluated by the Social Inclusion Research Unit, University of Wales NEWI.

In addition to the overarching evaluation of the various grant schemes, each university provided evaluation support and training to individual grantees.

The Inequalities in Health Fund is currently supporting 62 projects, over half of which have a healthy eating component. The Welsh Institute of Health and Social Care has been contracted to undertake an overarching evaluation of the fund and its final report is due in early 2007. <http://www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/inequalities-in-health-fund/index-e.htm>

The two-year Welsh Assembly Government pilot to develop community food co-operatives in north and south-east Wales, which took place between April 2004 and March 2006, was evaluated by the Cardiff Institute of Society, Health and Ethics, Cardiff University and the Social Inclusion Research Unit, University of Wales NEWI.

A research project was carried out by the University of Bristol's department of social medicine, and the Welsh Assembly Government into a trial of fruit tuck shops between 1998 and 2000. <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/cishe/pages/projects/fruittuckshop.html>

The information from the research has been used to inform a practical guide to planning and running a school fruit tuck shop. <http://www.healthschool.org.uk/nutrition/pdfs/fruit-tuck-shops-e.pdf>

The Welsh Assembly Government Primary School Free Breakfast Initiative is also being evaluated. A randomised controlled trial is being carried out by Cardiff Institute of Society, Health and Ethics in two phases. The outcomes of interest include potential impact on pupils' eating habits as well as impact of breakfast on concentration and behaviour. http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/policy_strategy_and_planning/schools/breakfast_initiative/breakfast_initiative_evaluation/?lang=en

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Could the Minister set out the arrangements made to protect and safeguard the people of Wales in the event of a pandemic occurring? (WAQ47556)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: How will the public be advised of the precautionary measures they should take to prevent the spread of infectious diseases when a pandemic occurs? (WAQ47554)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Who are the priority groups that will receive inoculations when a pandemic occurs? (WAQ47555)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What discussions have taken place between the Minister's office and that of the Secretary of State for Wales about managing a pandemic? (WAQ47552)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Does a contingency plan exist for Wales that can be implemented when a pandemic occurs, and will the cross-party group for funerals and bereavement be involved in further discussions relating to funeral and bereavement matters? (WAQ57551)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What additional arrangements are being made to ensure the efficient disposal of infected cadavers? (WAQ47553)

Brian Gibbons: The UK pandemic influenza contingency plan, which has been commended by the World Health Organization, sets the scheme and provides the overall framework for the UK's response. This provides for a graduated series of public health measures that will be implemented to reduce the impact of a pandemic, including:

- advice about self-help measures such as good hand hygiene and cough etiquette;
- advice about the use of healthcare services;
- the provision of treatment to ill people to help reduce the severity and duration of symptoms;
- other social measures to reduce person to person spread; and,
- the use of vaccines when they become available.

Guidance about managing major infectious disease emergencies in Wales has been provided to the NHS and partner organisations in the 'Wales Framework for Managing Infectious Disease Emergencies' to enable them to develop integrated response arrangements and detailed operational plans. We also have a Welsh Assembly Government emergency response plan that will be implemented in a pandemic.

A key component to the holistic health response is an effective communication strategy that provides accurate, timely and consistent advice to the public and to health professionals. Our intention, in aligning our efforts with the WHO alert phases is to ensure that information sharing is measured and proportionate to the risk. The UK plan fully details the materials for each of the WHO phases.

Pandemic vaccines cannot be manufactured until the circulating virus is known and are therefore unlikely to be available in the early stages of a pandemic. Global demand means that, when available, they will be in limited quantities and groups for immunisation will need to be prioritised as supplies come on stream. Provisional priorities are contained in the UK plan.

In April 2006, I met with Nick Ainger MP inter alia and can confirm that our discussion included the management arrangements for a pandemic that are being led by the Cabinet Office MISC 32 Committee chaired by Patricia Hewitt MP.

Progress on the management of deaths in a pandemic, across all elements of the response, is being led by the Home Office, which will issue guidance when its planning is completed. In Wales, we have also established a fatalities group that is tasked with preparing a contingency plan although its deliberations are at an early stage.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What representations has the Minister made to the Department for Constitutional Affairs about the proposals for the reform of the coroner's service in Wales? (WAQ47557)

Brian Gibbons: Although coroner services are not a devolved matter, earlier this year, the Lord Chancellor invited the First Minister's comments on the UK Government's proposals on reform of coroner services prior to the preparation of a draft Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny.

As part of his response, the First Minister indicated the various aspects of the proposals that impinged on Welsh Assembly Government responsibilities, such as health and local authority services. As a consequence, an Assembly official now sits on the coroner reform programme board at the DCA to ensure that Welsh Assembly Government responsibilities are highlighted as appropriate during the management of the project.

This is of course in addition to participation in the formal consultation process on the draft Coroner's Reform Bill (Cm 6849), published last month, which ends on 8 September 2006.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What representations has the Minister received about the proposals for the reform of the coroner's service in Wales? (WAQ47558)

Brian Gibbons: As yet, no formal representations have been received on this subject, although I am aware that a wide range of queries and concerns were raised by Welsh coroners and local authority representatives attending the Department of Constitutional Affairs seminar on the draft reform Bill held recently in Cardiff.

DCA officials and the Rt. Hon Harriet Harman, Minister of State for the DCA, who was present for part of the day, freely acknowledged that many of the issues raised indicated a need for further consideration.

I anticipate that any specific concerns relating to Wales, and impacting on the Assembly Government's responsibilities, are likely to be forthcoming during the current consultation process when the various stakeholders have had an opportunity to fully consider the draft Coroner's Reform Bill.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on how proposals for the reform of the coroner's service by the Department for Constitutional Affairs will improve the existing service for the people of Wales? (WAQ47559)

Brian Gibbons: The draft Coroner's Reform Bill is aimed at addressing identified weaknesses in the coronial system. We will be seeking to ensure that the proposed change to a service based on full-time

coroners, and any consequent changes in coronial districts, provides an improved service for people in Wales.

Two of the key reforms are specifically aimed at improving services to families coming into contact with the coroner services: first, the improved legal standing of the bereaved in the investigation and coronial processes, including the right of appeal against matters and decisions that concern them, as the draft Bill includes a charter for bereaved people coming into contact with the coroner services. Also, coroners will have new powers to impose reporting restrictions in certain cases, including apparent suicides and child deaths, to avoid the additional grief and pain caused to families by the publication of personal details.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on proposals for the reform of the coroner's service by the Department for Constitutional Affairs with the regard to the recruitment and monitoring of health professionals? (WAQ47561)

Brian Gibbons: The Home Office position paper on coroner reforms (Cm 6159), published in March 2004, envisaged a system of legally qualified coroners, each working in tandem with full-time medical advisors.

The proposed system of medical advisors, which was in response to the recommendations of the fifth Shipman report, gave rise to concerns regarding the number of appropriately qualified doctors that this system would need, and which might conflict with NHS demands.

This is no longer proposed. A chief medical advisor to the coroner service is now proposed to provide strategic medical advice to the new chief coroner. Additionally, funding will be made available to each coroner to buy-in medical support, in consultation with the local authority, appropriate to local needs.

Such input is not likely to involve any full-time posts and therefore initial concerns on medical staffing and monitoring are no longer relevant.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Has the Minister met with Welsh MPs to discuss the proposals for the reform of the coroner's service in Wales? (WAQ47562)

Brian Gibbons: No such meeting has as yet been mooted or requested.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Further to his response to WAQ47397, will the Minister detail those capacity pressure indicators and statistics provided for hospitals in Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust and Carmarthenshire NHS trust? (WAQ47563)

Brian Gibbons: All NHS Trusts, including Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion and Mid Wales, report against a suite of indicators that provide an assessment of the level of pressures on capacity within the system. These are currently used as a management tool to enable trusts to manage pressures within their own sites and also to factor in the pressures within neighbouring trusts. The information is not held centrally.

The range of indicators reported on includes the number of new attendances at accident and emergency departments, the number of emergency admissions, the number of acute beds available and the number of critical care beds available. NHS Wales is currently looking at the issues around the development of a real-time capacity management system to enable trusts to manage capacity issues in a more proactive manner.

Jenny Randerson: As the National Assembly has already signed up to a UK-wide 10-year agreement evaluation of the effectiveness of disease modifying drugs with a cohort of about 5,200 patients, what is the Minister expecting to gain from a further Health Commission Wales review of the effectiveness of these drugs which will not have access to the same amount of data on patients? (WAQ47564)

Brian Gibbons: There is evidence to suggest that the current usage of disease modifying therapies for patients with multiple sclerosis is inequitable, as in certain areas of Wales there is a much greater penetrance than others. The focus of the review is on the numbers of patients who would be eligible for DMTs, and the numbers of patients receiving DMTs who no longer fulfill the Association of British Neurologists' criteria. It is not a review of the effectiveness of these drugs.

Jenny Randerson: What is being done to help the 25 patients who have been assessed for disease modifying drugs under the terms of the Welsh Health Circular (2002) 16 and who should now be prescribed these treatments, but are in fact awaiting funding from the Welsh Assembly Government in contravention of the requirements to treat the circular in the same light as a positive appraisal from NICE? (WAQ47565)

Brian Gibbons: Health Commission Wales has committed to ensuring that MS patients in Wales who have commenced treatment with disease modifying therapies continue to be supported. We are currently exploring what opportunities are available to support other patients who have been assessed as eligible for DMTs.

Glyn Davies: When does the Minister intend to publish commissioning guidelines for respiratory disease services and will it set minimum national standards to ensure patients in Wales have access to high quality care, regardless of where in the country they live? (WAQ47569)

Brian Gibbons: We are currently developing service development and commissioning directives for respiratory conditions in Wales which we aim to release in August this year. The document will be part of series of strategic publications for redesigning the care of chronic conditions and it builds upon the agenda established by 'Designed for Life'. It is aimed at the health and social care community—planners, commissioners, and providers of services—as well as people with respiratory conditions, the voluntary sector, carers and wider support networks. A wide range of key stakeholders, including the British Lung Foundation, have been actively engaged in the development of this work.

The purpose of the document is to set out a number of key actions to improve the health and quality of life of people with respiratory conditions. It will promote the positive lifestyle changes needed to help prevent the onset of these chronic disorders. It aims to ensure that services are configured effectively and equitably to provide the right services in the right place, and at the right time. The directives underpin the commissioning and organisation of services for people with respiratory conditions in Wales.

Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister provide a timetable for the publication of the commissioning Guidelines for respiratory disease, and will he detail if the document will include national minimum standards? (WAQ47585)

Brian Gibbons: We are currently developing service development and commissioning directives for respiratory conditions in Wales, which we aim to release in August this year. The document will be part of series of strategic publications for redesigning the care of chronic conditions and it builds upon the agenda established by 'Designed for Life'. It is aimed at the health and social care community—planners, commissioners, and providers of services—as well as people with respiratory conditions, the voluntary sector, carers and wider support networks. A wide range of key stakeholders, including the British Lung Foundation, have been actively engaged in the development of this work.

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