

## **Answers issued to Members on 29 July 2009**

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

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

### **Contents**

- 2 Questions to the First Minister
- 6 Questions to the Deputy First Minister for the Economy and Transport
- 6 Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services
- 6 Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs

### **Questions to the First Minister**

**Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** Will the First Minister list how many (a) actors, (b) musicians and (c) other performers that have been employed to support the Welsh Assembly Government initiatives in each of the last five years and what was the cost in each year? (WAQ54584)

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** This information is not routinely collected by the Welsh Assembly Government. Collating such information would incur disproportionate costs.

**Michael German (South Wales East):** How many meetings of the Joint Ministerial Committee have been held since 25 June 2008, who attended and who chaired these meetings? (WAQ54591)

**Rhodri Morgan:** Since 25 June 2008, there have been two Joint Ministerial Committee (Domestic) meetings and four Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) meetings. The list of the attendees and the chair at each meeting is as follows.

#### **Joint Ministerial Committee (Domestic) on Wednesday 11 March 2009**

##### **UK Government**

Secretary of State for Wales (Chair)  
Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform  
Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Wales Office  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Scotland Office

##### **Welsh Assembly Government**

First Minister for Wales  
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

##### **Scottish Government**

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well-being  
Minister for Culture, External Relations and the Constitution

#### **Joint Ministerial Committee (Domestic) on Wednesday 13 May 2009**

##### **UK Government**

Secretary of State for Wales (Chair)  
Minister of State for Borders and Immigration  
Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Wales Office  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Scotland Office

##### **Welsh Assembly Government**

First Minister for Wales  
Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

##### **Scottish Government**

Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution  
Minister for Schools and Skills

**Northern Ireland Executive**

First Minister of Northern Ireland

Junior Minister, Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

**Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) on Monday 6 October 2008**

**UK Government**

Foreign Secretary (Chair)

Minister of State for Europe

Attorney General

Financial Secretary to the Treasury

Deputy Leader of the House of Commons

Advocate General Scotland

Minister of State at the Scotland Office

Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice

Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Department of Energy and Climate Change

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Home Office

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions

Parliamentary Under Secretary (Further Education) at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Wales Office

**Welsh Assembly Government**

First Minister for Wales

**Scottish Government**

Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture

**Northern Ireland Executive**

Junior Minister, Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

**Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) meeting on Monday 1 December 2008**

**UK Government**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Chair)

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Attorney General

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury

Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs

Advocate General Scotland

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Home Office

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice

**Welsh Assembly Government**

First Minister for Wales

**Scottish Government**

Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture

**Northern Ireland Executive**

Junior Minister, Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

**Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) meeting on Monday 9 March 2009**

**UK Government**

Foreign Secretary (Chair)  
Minister of State for Europe  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Attorney General  
Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor  
Secretary of State for Wales  
Advocate General Scotland  
Assistant Chief Whip, Government Whips Office  
Economic Secretary to the Treasury  
Minister of State at the Department for Energy and Climate Change  
Minister of State at the Home Office  
Minister of State at the Department for International Development  
Minister of State at the Department for Culture Media and Sport  
Minister of State at the Department of Health  
Minister of State at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Scotland Office  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Work and Pensions  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Children, Schools and Families

**Welsh Assembly Government**

First Minister for Wales

**Scottish Government**

Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution

**Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) meeting on Monday 8 June 2009**

**UK Government**

Minister of State and Minister for Europe (Chair)  
Secretary of State for Wales  
Minister of State at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills  
Minister of State at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
Financial Services Secretary, HM Treasury  
Advocate General Scotland  
Assistant Chief Whip, Government Whips Office  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Children, Schools and Families  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Scotland Office  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Energy and Climate Change  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Work and Pensions  
Minister of State at the Department for Transport

**Welsh Assembly Government**

First Minister for Wales

**Scottish Government**

Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution

**Michael German (South Wales East):** What progress has been made in the revision of the concordat between Whitehall departments and the Welsh Assembly Government since 2007? (WAQ54592)

**Rhodri Morgan:** There is a series of concordats between the Welsh Assembly Government and the Whitehall Departments. They give effect to the principles of co-operation and joint working between the UK Government and the devolved administrations set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Assembly Government officials have been working with their Whitehall counterparts to update the concordats to take account of constitutional and machinery of government changes and revisions to the (MoU).

It is anticipated that an updated MoU will be signed off by Ministers in the Autumn, following which the Assembly Government's revised concordats with Whitehall Departments will be finalised.

### **Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport**

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister list all roads schemes considered or planned under the National Transport Plan? (WAQ54593)

**The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones):** In developing the National Transport Plan (NTP) all schemes from the trunk road forward programme (December 2008) were considered. Those proposals planned to start construction over the next five years are now listed in the NTP consultation draft. Transport Grant schemes were not considered, however four of the larger schemes are referred to in the text. All schemes in the NTP are presented by corridor and date. A list of road schemes taken from the NTP is given below.

Programmed to start construction before April 2011:

- A470 Penloyn to Tan Lan
- A470 Cwmbach to Newbridge
- A470 Gelligemlyn
- A470 Maes yr Helmau to Cross Foxes
- A470 Alltmawr
- A470 Pentrefelin to Bodnant West Lodge
- A487 Porthmadog, Minffordd and Tremadog
- A483 Four Crosses
- A40 the Kell

Programmed to start construction before April 2014:

- A470 Rhayader
- A470 Plas Maenan and Bodhyfryd
- A470 and A483 through Builth Wells
- A487 Caernarfon to Bontnewydd
- A483 Newtown
- A465 Brynmawr to Tredegar (scheduled to complete by 2014)
- A465 Gilwern to Brynmawr
- A477 St Clears to Red Roses

Schemes unlikely to start construction before 2014:

- A483 Llandeilo
- A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin
- A4042 Llanellen
- A465:A470 to Hirwaun and A465 Dowlias Top to A470 (A465 to be completed by 2020)
- A458 Buttington Cross to Wollaston Cross
- A55 Abergwyngregyn to Tai'r Meibion, and increase capacity of A55 across the Menai

We will also assist the relevant Local Authority to:

- complete the Port Talbot Peripheral Distributor Road;
- complete Church Village bypass;
- progress the Ceredigion Link Road; and
- provide safety improvements to A4226 Five Mile Lane.

### **Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services**

**Nick Ramsay (Monmouth):** Does the Minister have plans to charge patients who fail to cancel GP appointments which they subsequently miss? (WAQ54589)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** I have no immediate plans to introduce charges for patients who miss their appointment. Patients need to take responsibility and cancel their appointments if they are no longer required. I may consider this in the future if it emerges that patients are still continuing to miss their appointments.

**Nick Ramsay (Monmouth):** What discussions has the Minister had with regards to the charging of patients who miss their GP appointments? (WAQ54590)

**Edwina Hart:** I have had discussions with officials about ways of dealing with patients who miss their appointments. Included in these discussions was the possibility of charging patients and this may be considered as an option in the future.

### **Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs**

**Brynle Williams (North Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on a cost sharing for animal disease control in Wales? (WAQ54582)

**The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones):** No decisions can be taken on implementing the responsibility and cost sharing agenda in Wales until further progress has been made on the devolution of animal health budgets from DEFRA to the Welsh Assembly Government. Until this time, it is impossible to quantify what costs will need to be shared with the industry in Wales and the mechanism for doing so.

**Brynle Williams (North Wales):** What consideration has the Welsh Assembly Government given to the owners of equines contributing to cost sharing for animal disease control? (WAQ54583)

**Elin Jones:** Equines will be considered along with all other species as the responsibility and cost sharing agenda is developed.