

Answers issued to Members on 15 July 2009

[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 First Minister

Nick Ramsay (Monmouth): Since may 2007 how much has the Welsh Assembly Government spent on overseas visits and could you provide me with details on i) location; ii) attendees; iii) subsistence; iv) accommodation; and v) additional costs? (WAQ54516)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): Since May 2007 £109,911 has been spent on overseas visits. The information we hold is shown in the following table. We hold overall costs, not the detailed breakdown requested.

Overseas Visits - May 2007 to June 2009

Minister	Destination		Reason for Visit	Accompanying Officials	Estimated Cost
First Minister Rhodri Morgan	Brussels	Sep-2007	EU Cohesion Forum	Private Secretary & Policy Official	£1,263
	Ireland	Feb-2008	British Irish Council Meeting	Private Secretary	£350
	Brussels	Feb-2008	Brussels St Davids Day Celebration	Private Secretary	£896
	China	Mar-2008	Ministerial Visit	Private Secretary	£7,104
	USA	Sep-2008	Ryder Cup - Kentucky	Private Secretary & Deputy First Minister	£6827
	Switzerland	Oct-2008	Visit to LHC Control Room	Private Secretary	£520
	Brussels/Paris	Feb-2009	St Davids Day Reception Brussels Meeting with British Ambassador in Paris & guest at France vs Wales Rugby	Private Secretary	£2,980
	USA/Washington	Mar-2009	Smithsonian Launch	Private Secretary	£10,107
	Milan	May-2009	European Committee of Regions	Private Secretary	£1,704
	USA/Washington	Jun-2009	Smithsonian Week	Full Information & Costs not available to date	

Minister for Economy & Transport Ieuan Wyn Jones	Brussels	Jul-2007	90th Anniversary of Battle of Paschendaale	Private Secretary	£1,158
	Brussels	Sep-2007	EU Cohesion Forum	Private Secretary & Policy Official	£1,263
	India	Nov-2007	Trade Mission	Private Secretary & 5 Policy Officials	£14,530
	Ireland	Feb-2008	British Irish Council	n/a	£171
	New York & Boston	Feb-2008	Ministerial Involvement in Wales Week	Private Secretary & Press Officer	£19,425
	USA	Sep-2008	Ryder Cup - Kentucky	Private Secretary & First Minister	£6827
	Brussels	Feb-2009	Meeting with Director General of EU Commission	Private Secretary	£419
	Paris	Feb-2009	Meetings & Guest at France	n/a	£497

			vs Wales Rugby		

Minister for Health & Social Services Edwina Hart	Brussels	Jul-2007	90th Anniversary of Battle of Paschendaele	n/a	£630
sub total					£630

Minister for Finance & Public Service Delivery Andrew Davies	Barcelona - Spain	Nov-2007	REGLEG Conference	Private Secretary	£1,096
	Ireland	Mar-2008	Wales vs Ireland Rugby match - guest of Noel Dempsey Transport Minister	n/a	£295
	Barcelona - Spain	Apr-2009	Meetings with Catalonian Government Ministers	Private Secretary	£1,025

Minister for the Environment, Sustainability & Housing Jane Davidson	Brussels	Dec-2007	EU Council Meeting	Private Secretary	£1,200
	Monaco	Feb-2008	Presentation to NRG4SD Network Regional Government for Sustainable Development	Private Secretary	£598
	Brussels	Mar-2008	EU Council Meeting	Private Secretary	£1,160
	Brussels	Oct-2008	Climate Change - European Week	Policy Official	£894
	Poland/ Poznan	Dec-2008	Climate Leaders Summit	Policy Official	£1,941
	Brussels	Mar-2009	Environment Council	Private Secretary	£1,186

Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills Jane Hutt	Brussels	Mar-2008	Attendance EARALL meeting	Private Secretary	£1,708

Minister for Heritage Rhodri Glyn Thomas	Barcelona - Spain	Nov-2007	Cultural Tourism Conference	Private Secretary	£444
	Brussels	Feb-2008	Multilingualism Conference	n/a	£445
	Brussels	Jun-2008	Launch of Network for the Promotion of Linguistic Diversity	Private Secretary	£1,179

Minister for Heritage Alun Ffred Jones	Brussels	Nov-2008	EU Culture Council	Private Secretary	£1,335
	Venice	Jun-2009	Open 'Wales Exhibition' at Venice Biennale of Art	Full Information & Costs not available to date	
Minister Rural Affairs Elin Jones	Brussels	Nov-2007	Agricultural Council Visit	Private Secretary	£872
	Dubai	Feb-2008	Gulfood Show Exhibition	Private Secretary	£5,910
	Luxembou rg	Jun-2008	Agriculture Council	Private Secretary	£1,298
	Brussels	Nov-2008	European Agriculture Council	Private Secretary & Policy Official	£2,923
	Brussels	Jan-2009	Meeting with Commissioner of Vassilou	Private Secretary	£1,033
Minister for Social Justice & Local Government Brian Gibbons	Dublin - Ireland	Feb-2008	British Irish Council Meeting	n/a	£425
Counsel General Carwyn Jones	Hong Kong	Apr-2009	Commonwealth Law Conference	Private Secretary	£7,167

Questions to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on the continuation of the small school grant and the value of small schools to the community? (WAQ54538)

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt): We undertook, in One Wales, to continue the funding in support of small and rural schools and have met this undertaking. In 2009/10 a total of £4.1 million is again available to local authorities to support joint working, teaching heads and to promote the community focus of small schools. It is for local authorities to decide on the pattern of schools to serve all their communities and the appropriate size of school needed in each area.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): How many alcohol related deaths have there been in Wales for each year since 1999 and will the Minister provide a breakdown by LHB area in addition to an age profile of the victims? (WAQ54545)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): The definition of alcohol-related deaths can be found at the following Office for National Statistics web page:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14496&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272>

The table below shows the number of alcohol related deaths in Wales in age groups since 1999.

Alcohol-related deaths for normal residents of Wales by age group, 1999 to 2007

Age group	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15-44	67	65	76	68	79	75	68	67	101
45-74	222	246	276	254	283	302	302	329	333
75+	30	28	33	41	52	39	37	34	42
All	319	339	385	363	414	416	407	430	477

Further data broken down by LHB area is provided on the NPHS website at:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=719&pid=28657>

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): How many people present at A&E departments with alcohol related conditions in each year since 1999 and will the Minister provide a breakdown by LHB area? (WAQ54546)

Edwina Hart: Since April 2009 data on whether an attendance at A&E units is alcohol related have been collected for the Emergency Department Data Set (EDDS). There are no published data yet from this source

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): How many people present at A&E departments with injuries sustained as a result of domestic violence in each year since 1999 and will the Minister provide a breakdown by LHB area? (WAQ54547)

Edwina Hart: No data are routinely collected at present but there is an action in our draft strategic action plan which states: 'Ensure that A&E departments have information systems which are capable of identifying repeat attenders, and particularly repeat attenders who are injured. This will enable appropriate and timely referrals to be made.'

Huw Lewis (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney): Will the Minister provide an update on the review of the use of 0844 / 0845 telephone numbers by GP practices? (WAQ54548)

Edwina Hart: I have recently received a briefing from my officials on the potential options, but after giving it careful consideration, I have asked officials to undertake further work before I decide on what action I want taken. I hope to be in a position to make a decision on the way forward very soon.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on community-based treatment for glaucoma patients? (WAQ54549)

Edwina Hart: On 24 June I announced the ophthalmic diagnostic centre pilot that would evaluate the feasibility of diagnosing and monitoring glaucoma in the community. The pilot and opening dates of the clinics still apply.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide an update on the new optometry contract? (WAQ54550)

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): When will the new optometry contract be ready to be introduced? (WAQ54551)

Edwina Hart: A review of the delivery of eye care in Wales concluded that an improved patient pathway should be introduced. This has been agreed with Optometry Wales. The current economic difficulties have had an adverse impact on implementation. I have not yet decided when the contract will be introduced.

Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd): Will the Minister provide a breakdown, by location, of where Welsh Athletics are currently providing support programmes for Welsh athletes? (WAQ54524)

The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones): The Sports Council work closely with Welsh Athletics to provide support for athletes across Wales.

One example is the Talent Cymru programme aimed at 14-19 year olds. This scheme provides financial assistance and other support to athletes who have been identified by Welsh Governing Bodies, in this case Welsh Athletics, as having the potential to meet the UK Pathway or Elite Cymru criteria.

Welsh Athletics also employ several specialist coaches to work with high performance athletes and have established Area Development Centres in Swansea, Deeside and Cardiff. A series of psychology workshops is also being held in Cardiff, Swansea and in North Wales which will commence in August. In addition, through the North Wales Regional Institute of Sport, identified athletes have access to physiotherapy services based in Llanrwst and Wrexham.

The list below provides details of the athletes who are receiving support under Talent Cymru.

Name	Event	Age	Current Age group and years on scheme	Location
Lauren Bell	800m/1500m	14	U15 (2 nd)	Fishguard
Daniel Chesworth	800m/1500m	15	U17 (1 st)	Newport
Antonio Cirillo	10k/20k RW	18	U20 (2 nd)	Swansea
Sarah Dacey	400mH	18	U20 (2 nd)	Swansea
James Gardner	Long Jump	17	U20 (1 st)	Nantwich
Dewi Griffiths	5000m/ 10,000m	17	U20 (2 nd)	Carmarthen
Stephen Guest	Pole Vault	15	U17 (1 st)	Bridgend
Christina Hughes	Pole Vault	17	U20 (1 st)	Deeside
Rachel Johncock	100/200m	15	U17 (1 st)	Colwyn Bay
R Llewellyn	Pole Vault	15	U17 (1 st)	Bridgend
Alex Obiako	Triple Jump	18	U20 (2 nd)	Cardiff
Sara Otung	Hept/80mH	15	U17 (1 st)	Pontypridd
Stephanie Owens	Hammer Throw	19	U20 (2 nd)	Deeside

Megan Rogers	Hept/300mH/ 400mH	16	U17 (2 nd)	Wrexham
Sian Swanson	High Jump	16	U17 (2 nd)	Newtown
Hannah Thomas	100m/200m	16	U17 (2 nd)	Wrexham
Toni Wells	Hammer Throw	15	U17 (2 nd)	Cross Keys
David Westbury	3k SC	19	U23 (1 st)	Derby
Rhiannon Yates	Long Jump	17	U20 (2 nd)	Newport
Tesni Ward	SP/DT/JT	17	U20 (1 st)	Mansfield
Kate Yhnell	Hammer Throw	18	U20 (2 nd)	Gloucester

Name	Event	Age	Current Age group	Location
Tom Knight	100m/200m	16	U20 (1 st)	Tonypandy
Michael Payne	Long jump	15	U17 (1 st)	Newport
Mica Moore	100m	16	U17 (2 nd)	Newport
Tom Miller	400m	20	U23 (1 st)	Cardiff
Rhys L. Williams	100mH	15	U17 (1 st)	Pontypridd