

Written Questions answered from 29 March to 5 April 2001

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

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

Contents

2	Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development
2	Questions to the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language
3	Questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
4	Questions to the Minister for Environment
4	Questions to the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities
5	Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services
6	Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs

Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development

Official Visits to Swansea East

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister provide details of people or bodies he met with, those who accompanied him and whether he used the ministerial car on official visits that he has made to Swansea East in 2001 in his capacity as Deputy First Minister? (WAQ10716)

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister provide details of people or bodies he met with, those who accompanied him and whether he used the ministerial car on official visits that he has made to Swansea East in 2001 in his capacity as Minister for Economic Development? (WAQ10717)

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development (Michael German): I have made one official visit to Swansea East in 2001 in my capacity as Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development. Details of this were given in my answer to WAQ10577. I was accompanied by my private secretary and used a ministerial car. An official from the Economic Development Department was also in attendance.

The Aberystwyth Recycling Centre

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on his visit in March 2001 to Aberystwyth recycling centre, including details of who accompanied him, if he had use of the ministerial car, and whether a press conference was held? (WAQ10718)

Michael German: I visited the Aberystwyth recycling centre on 20 February, not in March, as I explained in my reply to WAQ10578. I was accompanied by my assistant private secretary, and used a ministerial car. No press conference was held.

Questions to the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language

Guidelines to Welsh Sports Teams

Nick Bourne: What guidelines have been issued to Welsh sports teams in relation to travelling into other parts of the United Kingdom during the foot and mouth disease crisis? (WAQ10804)

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): The Sports Council for Wales has issued general advice to sports bodies in Wales, in line with the guidance issued by the Assembly and the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Discussions with the Urdd

Nick Bourne: What discussions has the Minister had with the Urdd in relation to the cancellation of this year's Eisteddfod due to the foot and mouth disease crisis? (WAQ10805)

Jenny Randerson: I had discussions with the director of the Urdd on several occasions. However, the decision on whether or not to hold this year's Eisteddfod was a matter for the Urdd movement itself, taking account of the best interests of its members, competitors and staff. I have been kept fully informed of developments.

Questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

Cynnydd Arian y Sector Addysg Uwch

Gareth Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi esboniad a dadansoddiad o'r gwahaniaeth a'r berthynas rhwng y llinell gyllideb 'Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch—Gwariant Cyfredol Arall' sy'n rhoi cynnydd o 5.4 y cant rhwng 2000-01 a 2001-02 a'r setliad a gyhoeddwyd i sefydliadau addysg uwch mewn llythyr grant diweddar sy'n nodi cynnydd o 0.65 y cant? (WAQ10989) [W]

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Y llinell gwariant 'Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch—Gwariant Cyfredol Arall' yw'r ddarpariaeth a wnaed gan y Cynulliad ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol 2001-02 (o Ebrill i fis Mawrth) a'i gynlluniau dynodol ar gyfer y blynyddoedd i ddod. Mae llythyr grant Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru yn rhoi manylion am y dyraniadau mynych i sefydliadau ar gyfer y flwyddyn academaidd 2001-02 (o fis Awst i fis Gorffennaf), gan ddefnyddio rhan o gyllideb 2001-02 (neilltuwyd y gweddill i ddyraniad y flwyddyn academaidd gyfredol, a gynyddodd o 4.9 y cant ar AY1999/00 ac yn neilltuo rhan o'r gyllideb ddynodol ar gyfer 2002-03.

Wrth wneud ei ddyfarniad, ystyriodd y cyngor cyllido yr angen i allu cynnal nifer y myfyrwyr a gafodd eu recriwtio dros dair blynedd, yr angen i glustnodi rhywfaint o arian ar gyfer datblygiadau canolog a datblygiadau wrth gefn, a'r angen i ariannu canlyniad ymarfer asesu ymchwil 2001—sy'n debygol o olygu cynnydd mawr yn nifer y graddau ymchwil uchaf o sefydliadau Cymreig—yn y flwyddyn academaidd 2002-03, y bydd angen eu talu o arian a roddwyd gan y Cynulliad yn y flwyddyn ariannol 2002-03 a 2003-04.

Mae'r cynnydd o 0.65 y cant yn yr arian a ddyrannwyd gan Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru yn cyfeirio at wariant mynych yn unig, ac at flwyddyn academaidd 2001-02. Ar sail blwyddyn ariannol, a chan gynnwys grant cyfalaf ac incwm ffioedd hyfforddi, cynyddodd yr arian ar gyfer addysg uwch yng Nghymru dros 8 y cant yn 2000-01 a 2001-02. Ffigur dros dro o ddim ond 1.1 y cant yw'r cynnydd a gynlluniwyd yn 2002-03, a chaiff ei ailystyried yn ystod y rownd nesaf o gynllunio'r gyllideb.

Yn dilyn fy ateb i'r cwestiwn brys ar 27 Mawrth 2001, ysgrifennais at brif weithredwr y cyngor cyllido i fynegi'r gobaith y gall y cyngor ailystyried ei gyfrifiadau.

Funding Increases for the Higher Education Sector

Gareth Jones: Will the Minister explain and provide an analysis of the difference and relationship between the 'Higher Education Funding Council—Other Current Expenditure' budget line, which provides an increase of 5.4 per cent between 2000-01 and 2001-02, and the settlement that was announced to higher education institutions in a recent grant letter, which notes an increase of 0.65 per cent? (WAQ10989) [W]

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): The expenditure line 'Higher Education Funding—Other Current Expenditure' is the provision made by the Assembly for the financial year 2001-02 (April to March) and its indicative plans for the succeeding years. The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales's grant letter details the recurrent allocations to institutions for the academic year 2001-02 (August to July), using part of the 2001-02 budget (the remainder having been committed to the current academic year's allocation, which increased by 4.9 per cent on AY1999/00, and committing part of the indicative budget for 2002-03.

In reaching its judgment, the funding council has taken into account the need to be able to sustain the numbers of students recruited over three years, the need to earmark some moneys for central developments and contingencies, and the need to fund the outcome of the research assessment exercise 2001—which is likely to result in a big increase in the number of top-rated research grades from Welsh

institutions—in the academic year 2002-03, which will need to be met from funding made available by the Assembly in financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04.

The 0.65 per cent increase in funds allocated by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales refers only to recurrent expenditure, and to the academic year 2001-02. On a financial year basis, and including capital grant and tuition fee income, funding for higher education in Wales has increased by over 8 per cent both in 2000-01 and 2001-02. The planned increase of only 1.1 per cent in 2002-03 is a provisional figure, to be revisited during the forthcoming budget planning round.

Following my answer to the urgent question on 27 March 2001, I have written to the chief executive of the funding council to express the hope that the council will be able to revisit its calculations.

Questions to the Minister for Environment

Building New Roads on Flood Plains

Dafydd Wigley: Will the Minister make a statement about any representations she has had with regard to the issue of building new roads on flood plains? (WAQ10854)

The Minister for Environment (Sue Essex): The Environment Agency is consulted on any road proposal affecting a flood plain and its representations are taken account of in the development of the proposals.

Brecon Beacons National Park

Nick Bourne: What is the Minister doing to encourage tourists to visit the Brecon Beacons National Park, which has lost over £1.2 million-worth of business due to the foot and mouth disease crisis? (WAQ10952)

Sue Essex: A key point about visiting the Brecon Beacons National Park, other national parks and other areas in Wales is clarity on where visitors can go and what they can do. The Assembly issued guidance to local authorities, including the national park authorities, on 20 March and we are in the process of updating and extending that. We plan to issue the new guidance in the next few days.

Furthermore, the Cabinet has decided that I should take the lead on access issues. I have contacted each of the national park authorities, to urge them to look closely at areas where there are presently restrictions as a matter of some urgency and in light of the new guidance. This guidance, when issued, will also be available on the Assembly's website www.wales.gov.uk/newsflash. I will also work closely with the Forestry Commission.

Questions to the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities

Communicating with Local Authorities

Alun Cairns: What use does the Assembly make of information communication technology equipment to communicate with local authorities? (WAQ10799)

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): The Assembly routinely (but not exclusively) uses e-mail to communicate with local authorities. Videoconferences are also used, in particular for meetings with individual authorities. Consultation papers are placed on the internet.

The Police Service (Sharing Information)

Alun Cairns: What actions are in place to ensure that local authorities share their information with the police service to help their crime prevention measures? (WAQ10800)

Edwina Hart: The establishment of crime and disorder reduction partnerships under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has meant that local authorities and the police throughout Wales have been working together closely in partnership since that time. Section 115 of the Act empowers, but does not oblige, any organisation to disclose information to chief officers of police, chief constables, police authorities, local authorities, probation committees and health authorities so long as the disclosure is expedient for the purposes of the Act. The general purpose of the section is to ensure that as few obstacles as possible exist that hinder the free exchange of information between all agencies involved in crime and disorder reduction.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Cardiac Rehabilitation Services

Alun Cairns: Will the Minister make a statement on cardiac rehabilitation services across Wales? (WAQ10711)

Alun Cairns: Will the Minister make a statement on the cardiac rehabilitation centre at Morryston Hospital? (WAQ10712)

Alun Cairns: Which hospitals offer cardiac rehabilitation services in Wales? (WAQ10713)

Alun Cairns: What estimate has the Minister made of the cost of running cardiac rehabilitation centres, such as the one at Morryston Hospital? (WAQ10714)

Alun Cairns: What estimate of health risks has the Minister made in relation to the reported closure of Morryston Hospital cardiac rehabilitation centre? (WAQ10715)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I will answer these five questions together. Cardiac rehabilitation has an important role to play, both in terms of supporting patients after a myocardial infarction or surgery as well as patients waiting for treatment.

You ask about which hospitals provide cardiac rehabilitation in Wales. This information is not held centrally, but informally we know that these services are provided at the following hospitals: Bronglais General Hospital, Wrexham Maelor Hospital, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, Llandudno General Hospital, Prince Charles Hospital, Withybush General Hospital, University Hospital of Wales, Singleton Hospital, Morryston Hospital, West Wales General Hospital, Princess of Wales Hospital, Nevill Hall Hospital, St Woolos Hospital, Caerphilly District Miners Hospital, Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Breconshire War Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital, Neath General Hospital and Prince Phillip Hospital.

The provision of cardiac rehabilitation services is a matter for health authorities, whose responsibility it is to assess local health need and to plan and prioritise services to meet that need within the resources available. In relation to the cardiac rehabilitation centre at Morryston Hospital, I understand that this has been temporarily suspended pending the outcome of discussions between Swansea NHS Trust and Iechyd Morgannwg Health. I am making further inquiries of the trust and the health authority in order to answer questions WAQ10714 and WAQ10715 fully.

The following additional information was issued on 25 April 2001:

Iechyd Morgannwg Health has advised me that the annual cost of providing the cardiac rehabilitation service at Murryston Hospital is £60,000 per annum. Around 260 patients are seen each year. The health authority assures me that it is working hard, with the trust, to reinstate the service during May. In the meantime, a number of patients have been temporarily redirected to their local hospital to receive this service.

The Number of Nurses Trained in NHS Wales

Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister indicate the number of nurses trained in NHS Wales in the last year compared to the number of nurses trained in the private sector? (WAQ10801)

Jane Hutt: The total number of nurses in training in NHS Wales this year is as follows:

Pre-registration nursing	2,728
Pre- and post-registration midwifery	133
Community nursing	158
Four-year degree nursing	201
TOTAL	3,220

The private sector does not, to our knowledge, train nurses.

Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs

Untreated Waste From Abattoirs

Peter Rogers: Is there an increased risk of spreading foot and mouth disease due to untreated waste from abattoirs being spread on agricultural land? (WAQ10596)

The Minister for Rural Affairs (Carwyn Jones): There are a range of measures in place that already cover abattoir waste. In addition, where an abattoir is in an infected foot and mouth disease area, products such as blood can only be licensed to landfill, rendering and incineration or can be sub-soil injected on arable land only. Material such as blood can not be used for surface spreading.

Extending the Cull of Animals

Peter Rogers: With regard to his statement in Plenary on 15 March on the foot and mouth disease emergency, where he referred to the slaughter of animals 'that are at risk of having been exposed to the virus', does the Minister intend to extend the implementation of a cull of animals that were traded through Welshpool market to an all-Wales cull policy of animals within a 3km radius of all confirmed cases throughout Wales? (WAQ10722) [R]

Carwyn Jones: All the cull ewes traded through Welshpool market on 19 February have been slaughtered. All other sheep traded that day have been traced and Form D notices have been served on the farms concerned. In addition, I have received updated epidemiological advice from the state veterinary service that recommends that a cull policy would not be justified for these animals. I have accepted that advice, subject to state veterinary service inspection. The intention is to lift the Form D notices from 5 April. Subject to prevailing veterinary advice, it is not my intention to introduce a 3km cull policy based on infected places elsewhere in Wales.

Scientific Advice

Peter Rogers: Will the Minister make public the scientific advice that he has been given and on which he has based his policy decisions on the handling of the foot and mouth disease emergency? (WAQ10727) [R]

Carwyn Jones: In my open letter to Powys farmers, and in my letter to those in Anglesey, I have outlined the veterinary rationale for the actions taken for controlling the disease in those areas.

The Movement of Stock for Monsieur Nozin

Peter Rogers: What action is being taken as a result of representations the Minister has received regarding the movement of stock for a Monsieur Nozin by the exporter Mr Hughes Inizan? (WAQ10728) [R]

Carwyn Jones: I will write to the Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

An Equitable Return on Farm Produce

Peter Rogers: What is the Minister doing to ensure an equitable return to farmers in Wales on their produce from supermarkets? (WAQ10729) [R]

Carwyn Jones: In view of allegations that supermarkets were taking excessive profits, the Government referred the matter to the Office of Fair Trading, which conducted an eight-month investigation into the profitability of the major supermarkets in the grocery sector.

The outcome of the preliminary findings was made public on 8 April 1999 and John Bridgeman, Director General of Fair Trading, decided to refer the £60 billion a year grocery retailing sector to the Competition Commission for a full monopoly inquiry.

The Competition Commission's report into the grocery sector was published by the Department of Trade and Industry on 10 October 2000.

The key findings of the report were:

- On pricing, the report found evidence that prices are higher here than in some neighbouring countries and of pricing practices that operate against the public interest. The report cites the strength of sterling, for example, as distorting prices to the same extent as they are higher. The Competition Commission found no evidence of anti-competitive pricing and indicated that the situation helps to keep some prices down to the consumer.
- Regarding supply, the farmers' complaints were to some extent borne out and the report found that a complex monopoly situation existed in relation to suppliers and works against the public interest. It also made the point, which is important to our agri-food strategy, that this stifles investment and new product development and innovation by the industry. The remedy that it proposed is the code of practice, which it recommends should not be voluntary and should be approved by the Director General of Fair Trading as meeting its concerns. It also recommended provision for independent dispute resolution.

I welcomed the Commission's recommendation that a binding code of conduct should be developed for the industry, building on the Institute of Grocery Distribution's voluntary code to protect producers' interests and improve relationships in the food supply chain.

The National Assembly has sought to ensure that producers can contribute to the drafting of the code by the Office of Fair Trading. A consultation draft has been distributed to suppliers for comment by the end of March and it is expected that it will be published in final form in May.

Encouraging Co-operative Farming Arrangements

Peter Rogers: What plans has the Minister initiated to encourage co-operative farming arrangements in Wales? (WAQ10730) [R]

Carwyn Jones: I believe that farmers should improve their marketing strength through the development of marketing co-operatives. Collaboration will strengthen the ability of Welsh farmers to negotiate with and supply the large abattoirs, processors and their large retail customers.

The formation of co-operative ventures is, however, a commercial matter for individual organisations in the farming industry. The Assembly will support such ventures under the agri-food strategy where there is a genuine and significant potential to help the industry.

Grant aid is available under the marketing development scheme to assist farmers, growers and processors to improve their marketing expertise. The scheme provides support for 50 per cent of eligible costs. The Welsh Development Agency agri-food directorate also provides help to develop producer groups.

Improvements in Animal Husbandry

Peter Rogers: What plans has the Minister initiated that will contribute to further improvements in animal husbandry in Wales? (WAQ10731) [R]

Carwyn Jones: Farmers can access information and advice from a variety of sources, including the National Assembly.

Progress towards Organic Farming

Peter Rogers: Will the Minister make a statement on progress toward organic farming as a means of diversification? (WAQ10732) [R]

Carwyn Jones: The development of a strong organic farming sector is a key component of my strategy for the creation of a Welsh agricultural industry that is diversified, sustainable and of premium quality.

To support this policy, I have secured an increase in funding for this year's organic farming scheme from £1.95 million to £4.23 million—an increase of 117 per cent. This is sufficient to assist all farms that have started conversion. To date, we have accepted about 514 applications from farmers bringing about 40,000 hectares of land either into conversion or full organic production.

In addition, the Organic Centre for Wales, which was launched last July, now plays a major role in supporting organic farmers by co-ordinating the very best training, access to information and practical advice. Prospective organic farmers will also continue to be able to receive free on-farm advice through the organic conversion information service.

Securing the Registration of Welsh Produce in Europe

Peter Rogers: What progress has the Minister made on securing the registration of Welsh produce in Europe in relation to the protected designation of origin and protected geographical indication arrangements? (WAQ10733) [R]

Carwyn Jones: As part of the agri-food branding strategy, protected geographical indication applications have been submitted by Welsh Lamb Enterprise Limited and Welsh Beef Promotions Limited—now merged into Welsh Lamb and Beef Promotions Limited—to the European Commission in respect of Welsh lamb and Welsh beef. Notices detailing the draft Welsh lamb and Welsh beef protected geographical indications were advertised in the Official Journal of the European Communities in January 2000.

We have sought the views of the industry in Wales as a whole on the two protected geographic indications, as drafted and published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. The outcome of the consultation was that the industry as a whole continues to support the protected geographic indications as drafted and published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. We will now, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, seek the European Commission's ratification of the applications.

Imported Meat

Nick Bourne: Can the Minister confirm that Wales does not import meat from countries that do not have our stringent hygiene standards? (WAQ10739)

Carwyn Jones: Responsibility for the safety of food lies with the Minister for Health and Social Services, advised by the Food Standards Agency. All meat produced within the European Union must be produced in accordance with EU rules on hygiene and BSE. These are the EU Fresh Meat Directive (64/433/EEC), EU-wide controls on specified risk materials (Commission Decision 2000/418/EC), effective from 1 October 2000 and the EU-wide prohibition on the sale of beef from cattle aged over 30 months unless they have tested negative for BSE (EU Trade Regulation 2777/2000), effective from 1 January 2001. EU veterinary inspectors make regular inspections in the United Kingdom and throughout the EU to ensure compliance with these rules. Imports of any meat from outside the EU are only allowed if the European Commission has approved the meat plant as producing to standards at least equivalent to those required by EU law. The Commission has to approve both the country and the plant. Meat from such 'third countries' must enter through a designated border inspection post where all consignments are subject to a full documentation and identification check to ensure that it is from an approved plant. A sample is also tested physically.

Imported Meat

Nick Bourne: Can the Minister confirm that Wales does not import meat from countries known to have foot and mouth disease? (WAQ10740)

Carwyn Jones: All legally imported meat must conform to European hygiene standards. Imports from outside the European Union are only allowed where EU approval has been forthcoming for the exporting country and the individual plants in those countries. Standards are policed by EU inspectors. Following foot and mouth disease outbreaks within the EU, the Commission has introduced export restrictions, including that on animals, meat and meat products from the United Kingdom.

The Timing of Events at Gaerwen, Anglesey

Peter Rogers: Will the Minister make a statement explaining the timing of events relating to foot and mouth disease at Welsh Country Foods, Gaerwen, Anglesey? (WAQ10783)

Carwyn Jones: I refer to the answer that I gave to WAQ10594 on 20 March.

Inquiries about the Incineration of Animals

Peter Rogers: Were inquiries made about the incineration of animals because of foot and mouth disease prior to Sunday 25 February 2001? (WAQ10784)

Carwyn Jones: No inquiries were initiated by officials either directly or on my behalf.

Potential Cases of Foot and Mouth Disease

Peter Rogers: When was the Minister's department first made aware of potential cases of foot and mouth disease in England? (WAQ10785)

Carwyn Jones: On 20 February 2001.

Implementing a Policy of Ring Vaccination

Peter Rogers: Has provision been made for the implementation of a policy of ring vaccination to combat foot and mouth disease in Wales? (WAQ10787)

Carwyn Jones: I cannot rule out any viable option to control the spread of the disease in Wales.

Closing Public Roads

Peter Rogers: Will the Minister elaborate on his answer to WAQ10365 and explain the scientific basis on which he asserts that 'we do not consider that it is necessary to close public roads to help control the disease'? (WAQ10788)

Carwyn Jones: Veterinary advice does not support the closure of public roads.

Burying Carcasses

Peter Rogers: In respect of the foot and mouth disease crisis in Wales, has the Minister considered burial of carcasses as an alternative to burning? (WAQ10789)

Carwyn Jones: Yes.

Burying Carcasses as a Supplementary Action

Peter Rogers: In respect of the foot and mouth disease crisis in Wales, has the Minister considered burial of carcasses as a supplementary action to burning? (WAQ10790)

Carwyn Jones: Yes.

Co-ordinating a Response to the Foot and Mouth Disease Emergency

Peter Rogers: Will the Minister make a brief statement on the Assembly's inter-departmental working arrangements put in place to co-ordinate a response to the foot and mouth disease emergency? (WAQ10791)

Peter Rogers: Will the Minister make a brief statement on his intra-departmental working arrangements put in place to co-ordinate a response to the foot and mouth disease emergency? (WAQ10792)

Carwyn Jones: Overall responsibility rests with the cabinet, the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development and myself leading on the day-to-day co-ordination of the Assembly's response to the foot and mouth disease outbreak.

Across the Assembly, Ministers and officials are working closely with their counterparts in the United Kingdom Government and those in Scotland and Northern Ireland to complement the National Assembly's internal decision processes in dealing with the impact of foot and mouth disease. This includes the vital contribution being made by the state veterinary service.

A senior official in the Agriculture Department leads a dedicated team, responsible for co-ordinating the input from the army, the Environment Agency, the state veterinary service and others, on operational issues relating to the slaughter and disposal of animals.

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development has announced a range of measures designed to help rural businesses, including tourist enterprises, cope with the impact of foot and mouth disease.

In addition, I have convened a task and finish group drawn from the Wales Rural Partnership, including representatives of local authorities, the tourism and farming industries and other rural businesses. It is supported by key partners from the agri-food industry and its brief is to assess the implications of the outbreak and to prepare a plan to help relaunch the rural economy when the disease abates.

The Institute for Animal Health's Pirbright Laboratory

David Davies: Has the Minister discussed with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the United Kingdom Government whether the current foot and mouth disease outbreak is linked to an incident that took place at the Institute for Animal Health's Pirbright laboratory in December 2000? (WAQ10796)

Carwyn Jones: The potential sources of the current infection are being examined.

Implications of the Work of the Institute for Animal Health's Pirbright Laboratory

David Davies: Has the Minister discussed with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the United Kingdom Government what implications the work of the Institute for Animal Health's Pirbright laboratory has had on the foot and mouth disease outbreak in Wales? (WAQ10797)

Carwyn Jones: The Institute for Animal Health plays a pivotal role in the control of the eradication of the disease.