

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 24 Mehefin 2013

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 24 June 2013

*Cyhoeddir atebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o atebion yn y Gymraeg.
Answers are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.*

[R] yn nodi bod yr Aelod wedi datgan buddiant/signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] yn nodi bod y cwestiwn wedi'i gyflwyno yn Gymraeg/signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

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***Gofyn i Brif Weinidog Cymru
To ask the First Minister***

Ann Jones (Dyffryn Clwyd): Pa drafodaethau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u cael gyda Gweinidogion yn yr Adran Cymunedau a Llywodraeth Leol yn y chwe mis diwethaf? (WAQ64914)

Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd): What discussions has the Welsh Government had with Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government in the past six months? (WAQ64914)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Mehefin 2013
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The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): There are regular discussions between Welsh Government and Department for Communities and Local Government officials on a wide range of issues. The Minister for Local Government and Government Business has recently been in correspondence with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government regarding press and public access to council meetings, and the Minister for Housing and Regeneration is scheduled to meet next month with Mark Prisk MP, the Minister of State for Housing.

Ann Jones (Dyffryn Clwyd): A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog roi dyddiad ei gyfarfod diwethaf â Chomisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddau Gogledd Cymru? (WAQ64915)

Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd): Will the First Minister provide the date of his last meeting with the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner? (WAQ64915)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Mehefin 2013
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The First Minister: I have not met with the Police and Crime Commissioners. However, the former Minister for Local Government and Communities met the Commissioners on two occasions, on 28 November 2012 and 25 February 2013, and the Minister for Local Government and Government Business has scheduled regular meetings with them. Their next meeting will be on 27 June.

***Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi
To ask the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty***

Ann Jones (Dyffryn Clwyd): Pa drafodaethau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u cael gyda Llywodraeth y DU ynghylch y Bil Priodi (Cyplau o'r Un Rhyw)? (WAQ64913)

Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd): What discussions has the Welsh Government had with the UK Government regarding the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill? (WAQ64913)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 27 Mehefin 2013
Answer received for publication on 27 June 2013***

The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty (Jeff Cuthbert): I will write to you and a copy of the letter will be put on the internet.

*Gweler Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad
See Information Further to Written Assembly Questions*

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

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): Yn dilyn WAQ64598, a wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gynnydd y trafodaethau gyda'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Drafndiaeth a Network Rail ynglyn ag ailsefydlu cyswllt rheilffordd uniongyrchol rhwng Lerpwl a Gogledd Cymru? (WAQ64912)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Further to WAQ64598, will the Minister provide an update on the progress of discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport and Network Rail regarding the reestablishment of a direct rail link between Liverpool and North Wales? (WAQ64912)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 20 Mehefin 2013
Answer received for publication on 20 June 2013***

The Minister for Economy, Science and Transport (Edwina Hart): My letter to all Assembly Members of the 15 May 2013 provides an update on progress in improving the transport system in North Wales.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Faint o fusnesau sydd wedi gwneud cais llwyddiannus am ryddhad ardrethi drwy gynllun rhyddhad ardrethi busnes Llywodraeth Cymru ers iddo gael ei lansio, gan roi dadansoddiad o'r ceisiadau llwyddiannus o bob ardal fenter a nifer y ceisiadau llwyddiannus gan fusnesau y tu allan i'r cynllun ardal fenter? (WAQ64919)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many businesses have successfully applied for rate relief through the Welsh Government's business rate relief scheme since it was launched, giving a breakdown of successful applications from each enterprise zone and the number of successful applications by businesses outside of the enterprise zone scheme? (WAQ64919)

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi cyfanswm nifer y ceisiadau am ryddhad ardrethi drwy gynllun rhyddhad ardrethi busnes Llywodraeth Cymru ers iddo gael ei lansio, gan gynnwys nifer y ceisiadau o bob ardal fenter a nifer y ceisiadau gan fusnesau y tu allan i'r cynllun ardal fenter? (WAQ64920)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide the total number of applications for rate relief through the Welsh Government's business rate relief scheme since it was launched, including the number of applications from each enterprise zone and the number of applications by businesses outside of the enterprise zone scheme? (WAQ64920)

***Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Mehefin 2013
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Edwina Hart: 61 companies applied for the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Scheme in round 1 (2012/13), of which 39 companies were successful:

Haven - 17 companies
Deeside - 9 companies
Ebbw Vale - 6 companies
Anglesey - 5 companies
St Athan - 2 companies
Cardiff - 0 companies
Snowdonia - 0 companies

8 companies applied who were outside of the 7 enterprise zones. Therefore, they were deemed ineligible.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Pa feini prawf a ddefnyddir wrth ystyried ceisiadau gan fusnesau am gymorth gan gynllun rhyddhad ardrethi busnes Llywodraeth Cymru? (WAQ64921)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What criteria is applied when considering applications from businesses for support from the Welsh Government's business rate relief scheme? (WAQ64921)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Mehefin 2013
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Edwina Hart: Details of the criteria are published on the Enterprise Zone website.
<http://enterprisezones.wales.gov.uk/business-rates-scheme>

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi ffigurau ar gyfer (a) pob prisiad y gofynnwyd amdano ar gyfer tir ar Sgwâr Callaghan cyn i Lywodraeth Cymru ei brynu a (b) y cwmnïau a ddarparodd pob prisiad? (WAQ64922)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide figures for (a) each valuation sought for land on Callaghan Square prior to its purchase by the Welsh Government and (b) the companies who provided each valuation? (WAQ64922)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Mehefin 2013
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Edwina Hart: Prior to the purchase of the land on Callaghan Square the Welsh Government obtained independent advice on the market value. The purchase price did not exceed the expert valuation advice.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Wrth brynu tir yn Sgwâr Callaghan, a oedd gan Lywodraeth Cymru naill ai gytundeb adfachu neu gytundeb gorswm ar y tir, ac os felly, a weithredwyd y cytundeb hwn neu a gafodd ei ildio? (WAQ64923)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): In its purchase of land at Callaghan Square did the Welsh Government have either an overage or clawback agreement on the land and, if so, was this agreement either exercised or waived? (WAQ64923)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Mehefin 2013
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Edwina Hart: The vendor of the land at Callaghan Square was obliged to pay overage to the Welsh Government, but only in the event that a development of the site by them produced a surplus profit.

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Gan gyfeirio at WAQ64856, faint y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i wario i gyd yng nghyswllt ardaloedd menter ar a) astudiaethau dichonoldeb, b) adfer safleoedd ac c) gwaith cyfalaf arall? (WAQ64929)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): With reference to WAQ64856, how much in total has been spent by the Welsh Government in relation to enterprise zones on a) feasibility studies, b) site remediation and c) other capital works? (WAQ64929)

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): Gan gyfeirio at WAQ64856, faint yw'r cyfanswm gwariant uniongyrchol hyd yma ar ardaloedd menter gan roi cyfanswm ar gyfer pob blwyddyn ariannol ers dechrau gwario? (WAQ64930)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): With reference to WAQ64856, what is the total direct expenditure to date on enterprise zones giving a total figure for each financial year since spending commenced? (WAQ64930)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Mehefin 2013
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Edwina Hart: As I have stated, I have made regular statements which capture many of these developments. Investment in Enterprise Zones is about the alignment of existing and new investment from across the Welsh Government and local partners.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
To ask the Minister for Natural Resources and Food

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog nodi faint y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i wario yn y pum mlynedd ariannol diwethaf ar gefnogi cwmnïau bwyd a diod lleol yng Nghymru, gan ddadansoddi'r ffigurau fesul pob blwyddyn ariannol? (WAQ64917)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister detail how much the Welsh Government has spent in the last five financial years on supporting local food and drinks companies in Wales, with the figures broken by each financial year? (WAQ64917)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Mehefin 2013
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The Minister for Natural Resources and Food (Alun Davies): The five year history of the expenditure by the Food Division is presented below. This is the total revenue budget for the Division which is ultimately all aimed at supporting food and drink companies across Wales, the majority of which are micro businesses.

Other Welsh Government departments have also supported food and drink companies in this period but there is a great range of different supports that could be relevant, for example, support for training from the Department for Education and Skills, support for capital investment projects from the Department for the Economy, Science and Transport and further support from Axes 1,3 and 4 of the Rural Development Plan.

Financial Year	Food Division Revenue Expenditure £m
2008-2009	6.157
2009-2010	5.962
2010-2011	4.806
2011-2012	6.256
2012-2012	5.871

Andrew RT Davies (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog nodi nifer y swyddogion prosiect a chyfanswm cost swyddogion prosiect ar gyfer y cynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol Tir Cynnal a Tir Gofal, gan roi dadansoddiad ar gyfer y pum mlynedd ariannol diwethaf? (WAQ64918)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister detail the number of project officers and the total cost of project officers for the Tir Cynnal and Tir Gorfal agri-environmental schemes, providing a breakdown for the last five financial years? (WAQ64918)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 25 Mehefin 2013

Answer received for publication on 25 June 2013

Alun Davies: There were no Project Officers working on the Tir Cynnal Scheme. The majority of Project Officer activity ceased on Tir Gofal in 2010/11. The table below details full time equivalent Project Officer numbers and their total salary costs up to 2010/11.

Financial Year	Project Officers (FTE)	Costs (£M)
2008/2009	36	1.2
2009/2010	33	1.1
2010/2011	26.4	0.9
2011/2012	-	-
2012/2013	-	-

Antoinette Sandbach (Gogledd Cymru): Beth yw asesiad y Gweinidog o effeithiolrwydd ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i Phytophthora ramorum yn yr ystad coedwigoedd cyhoeddus hyd yma? (WAQ64924)

Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales): What is the Minister's assessment of the effectiveness of the Welsh Government's response to Phytophthora ramorum on the public forestry estate to date? (WAQ64924)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 25 Mehefin 2013

Answer received for publication on 25 June 2013

Alun Davies: Phytophthora ramorum is an aggressive fungal pathogen which has been spreading rapidly in all four countries of the UK. The wet summer last year has enabled it to spread much more quickly than anticipated. Welsh Government is working with Natural Resources Wales and the Forestry Commission to strengthen our action to tackle the disease. It is far too early to make such an assessment.

Antoinette Sandbach (Gogledd Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau a) nifer a b) ardal y clystyrau llarwydd sydd wedi'u heintio â Phytophthora ramorum a gafodd eu clustnodi yn 2012 i gael eu cwympo ond lle nad yw hynny wedi digwydd eto? (WAQ64925)

Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales): Will the Minister confirm a) the number of, and b) the area covered by larch stands infected with Phytophthora ramorum that were identified for felling in 2012 but have not to date been felled? (WAQ64925)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 26 Mehefin 2013

Answer received for publication on 26 June 2013

Alun Davies: I confirm:-

- a) The number of larch stands not yet felled is 25
- b) The area of larch stands not yet felled is 556.5 hectares

A stand is the area covered by a single Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN). Stands identified for felling in 2012 are those with SPHN compliance dates of 31 August 2012 or 31 March 2013.

Any further enquiries regarding details of operational matters should be referred to the Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales.

Antoinette Sandbach (Gogledd Cymru): Beth yw asesiad diweddaraf Llywodraeth Cymru o'r dewisiadau rheoli ar gyfer *Phytophthora ramorum*, a pha asesiad o'r costau, os o gwbl, sydd wedi'i wneud ar gyfer pob dewis dan sylw? (WAQ64926)

Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales): What is the Welsh Government's most recent assessment of the management options for *Phytophthora ramorum*, and what cost-assessment, if any, has been made for each identified option? (WAQ64926)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 26 Mehefin 2013
Answer received for publication on 26 June 2013

Alun Davies: Operational management of tree health in Wales rests with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) working with the Forestry Commission (FC). They are implementing a management strategy for the disease agreed by the *Phytophthora* Outbreak Management Team.

As a result of the rapid spread of the disease in Wales, NRW and FC are updating the strategy and have developed a number of actions, including costed options which the Welsh Government is considering.

Antoinette Sandbach (Gogledd Cymru): Pa gamau penodol y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu cymryd i leihau'r fiwrocraatiaeth sy'n gysylltiedig â thrwyddedau cwmpo coed i fynd i'r afael â lledaeniad *Phytophthora ramorum*? (WAQ64927)

Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales): What specific actions will the Welsh Government be taking to reduce bureaucracy associated with felling licenses to combat the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum*? (WAQ64927)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 26 Mehefin 2013
Answer received for publication on 26 June 2013

Alun Davies: NRW has developed a proposal for the Welsh Government to suspend the requirement for all applications for clear felling of uninfected larch to be placed on a public register for four weeks. This will significantly reduce the time it takes to process and issue a felling licence.

Antoinette Sandbach (Gogledd Cymru): Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu cymryd i gefnogi marchnata coed sydd wedi'u cwmpo oherwydd *Phytophthora ramorum*? (WAQ64928)

Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales): What steps is the Welsh Government taking to support the marketing of timber from *Phytophthora ramorum* felling? (WAQ64928)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 26 Mehefin 2013
Answer received for publication on 26 June 2013

Alun Davies: Natural Resources Wales (NRW) marketed 150,000 cubic metres (m³) of infected larch in 2013-14. This will increase to 220,000m³ in 2014-15.

They recently tendered long term contracts amounting to over 150,000m³/annum onto the open market. This will stimulate new investment in the processing and contracting sectors.

NRW staff will be meeting with industry representatives from across the UK in July 2013 to discuss marketing issues. Other meetings are scheduled with the timber trade and growers in Wales. Further information should be sought from NRW in this respect.

Antoinette Sandbach (Gogledd Cymru): Beth yw asesiad diweddaraf Llywodraeth Cymru o'r graddau y mae *Phytophthora ramorum* wedi lledaenu yng Nghymru, gan nodi a) nifer y clystyrau llarwydd sydd wedi'u heintio, b) yr ardal dan sylw i) yn yr ystad gyhoeddus a ii) yn yr ystad breifat, ac c) faint o goed y tybir sy'n dal ar eu traed sydd wedi'u heintio? (WAQ64931)

Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales): What is the Welsh Government's most recent assessment the extent of *Phytophthora ramorum* infection in Wales, detailing a) the number of infected larch stands, b) the area covered on i) the public and ii) private estate, and c) the anticipated standing volume of infected trees? (WAQ64931)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 26 Mehefin 2013
Answer received for publication on 26 June 2013

Alun Davies: The most recent assessment is as follows:-

a) The number of infected larch stands is 1,155.

b) The area of infected larch stands on the public estate (i) is 3457.9 hectares and on the private estate (ii) is 122.1 hectares.

c) The anticipated standing volume of infected trees is assessed at approximately 930,000 cubic metres.

Survey work and interpretation are ongoing and all the above figures are subject to further revision.

Any further enquiries regarding details of operational matters should be referred to the Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales.

Gofyn i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad
To ask the Assembly Commission

Ann Jones (Dyffryn Clwyd): Yn dilyn OAQ0072, a wnaiff y Comisiynydd roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am unrhyw sgysiau y mae wedi'u cael ynglyn â defnyddio llwyfannau mewn digwyddiadau a noddir gan Aelodau Cynulliad? (WAQ64916)

Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd): Further to OAQ0072, will the Commissioner provide an update on any conversations had regarding the use of stages at Assembly Member sponsored events? (WAQ64916)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Mehefin 2013
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Assembly Commissioner (Sandy Mewies): I was grateful for your recent Oral Assembly Question (OAQ0072) providing feedback on modifications to the staging and steps used at events to improve access for those with limited mobility. I am pleased to outline below the enhancements to be introduced as a result.

You may be aware that as part of the facilities provision across the estate, we make three stages available for use at events, one for each of the event spaces – the Oriel, the Neuadd and the Pierhead.

To ensure accessibility for all, we provide steps and a ramp for access to the stage and as a result of your feedback we have purchased handrails for the steps which will be available for use shortly.

Stages do not form part of the automatic set-up in these areas. Organisers are required to state whether they would like a ramp and / or steps available during their event. Handrails will now be added as a matter of course when steps are requested.

I am also pleased to inform you that events staff have received further training on accessibility issues. This will enable them to work effectively with external event organisers to fully understand the requirements of all attendees at events and to ensure that everyone is able to participate.

Plans are also in place for all front line staff to receive further disability awareness training during the summer recess.

These enhancements support our commitment to promoting equality of opportunity and to ensuring that everyone has equal access to our buildings. They will also complement other measures to assist visitors with limited mobility already in place such as level access entry to the Pierhead and Tŷ Hywel, ramp/lift access to the Senedd, accessible toilet facilities and the availability of wheelchairs for loan on site.