

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 17 September 2010

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

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

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To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport

Lynne Neagle (Torfaen): What plans does the Minister have to promote the development of Bwcabus services in the South Wales Valleys. (WAQ56486)

Answer issued on 07 October 2010

The National Transport Plan sets out my commitment to support innovative transport services and the Bwcabus service in west Wales is a good example of this.

I provided funding of £11.3 million in 2010/11 for local authorities to support bus services through Local Transport Services Grant (LTSG), and it is for each local authority to decide how it uses its allocation to best meet local needs. There are a number of local authorities that already use LTSG funding to support demand responsive dial-a-ride services similar to Bwcabus.

I am also aware of a proposal from an operator to run a commercial dial-a-ride bus service in the south Wales Valleys, and my officials have been in discussion with the operator and the relevant local authorities about the eligibility of the service for the concessionary bus pass scheme.

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): Will the Minister specify how many staff are employed to administer the Techniums, including figures for those in Cardiff, regional Assembly offices and at the Techniums themselves. (WAQ56487)

Answer issued on 07 October 2010

As of 15 September 2010:

Technium	Welsh Assembly Government Staff
Technium Pembrokeshire*	0
Technium Performance Engineering	0
Technium Digital	1
Technium Swansea 1&2	7.5**
Technium Sustainable Technologies	1
Technium Sony	1
Technium Springboard*	0
@Wales	4
Technium Aberystwyth	2
Technium Optic*	0
Technium Cast	0

* The Welsh Assembly Government part funds a full-time equivalent post in these locations through EU convergence funding

** This figure includes Technium Central Administrative team of six staff members

These figures refer to Welsh Assembly Government staff only.

Details of non-Welsh Assembly Government staff employed at these centres are not held by the Welsh Assembly Government.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many GP practices will offer the MY Health Online service by the end of 2010 and how many are expected to roll it out by the end of 2011 and will the Minister express these figures as a percentage of the total number of GP practices in Wales. (WAQ56440)

Answer issued on 21 September 2010

Early adopter GP practices will begin to roll out My Health Online at the end of this year, with the majority of the 500 practices in Wales being able to offer the service by the end of 2011.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): In relation to access to GP's, has the Minister looked at the voluntary scheme operated in New Zealand which sets out to reward medicine graduates who relocate to rural areas that are hard to staff. (WAQ56478)

Answer issued on 16 September 2010

The Junior Doctor Review group is considering a scheme similar to the one operated in New Zealand in the next few months.

Lynne Neagle (Torfaen): Will the Minister provide details of the numbers of applications received by each Local Health Board in Wales for funding of the drug Lapatinib, together with the numbers of requests for funding that have been approved. (WAQ56479)

Answer issued on 16 September 2010

This information is not centrally held.

Lynne Neagle (Torfaen): How is the Minister ensuring that Local Health Boards process applications for drugs funding under exceptional funding arrangements in a prompt and transparent way. (WAQ56480)

Answer issued on 16 September 2010

Health Boards currently have their own policies in place for dealing with such requests. However, work is now underway in the NHS to develop an all-Wales model policy and standard documentation including mechanisms for determining exceptionality, for involving and explaining decisions to patients and for in-house review of decisions. I expect to receive the draft policy by the end of October.

In addition, my officials are also appraising the options for setting up an Independent all-Wales Appeals Panel to consider Individual Patient Treatment funding applications where the Health Board processes have been exhausted but the applicant feels that the decision has been incorrectly taken.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): How many consultant cardiologists currently serve Bronglais Hospital from within the hospital's own cardiology department and when were these cardiologists appointed. (WAQ56481)

Answer issued on 15 September 2010

This information is not held centrally.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): How many beds are there in (a) Bronglais Cardiology Unit, (b) Prince Phillip Hospital Cardiology Unit, (c) West Wales Hospital Cardiology Unit and (d) Wityhush Cardiology Unit. (WAQ56482)

Answer issued on 15 September 2010

This information is not held centrally.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): How many cardiologists currently serve (a) Prince Phillip Hospital, (b) West Wales Hospital, (c) Witybush Hospital and when were they appointed. (WAQ56483)

Answer issued on 15 September 2010

This information is not held centrally.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): When will a second cardiologist be appointed to serve Bronglais Hospital and what assurances did the Welsh Assembly Government give that more than one cardiologist would be appointed in 2005-06. (WAQ56484)

Answer issued on 15 September 2010

It is for Hywel Dda Local Health Board to plan, fund and secure access to high quality cardiac services for its population, including people in the Aberystwyth area.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the implications of the McKinsey Report on the Health Service in Wales. (WAQ56485)

Answer issued on 21 September 2010

There is no McKinsey Report. The work carried out by McKinsey is helping to inform the development of a 5-Year Service, Workforce and Financial Strategic Framework by the NHS in Wales. The overall framework is a set of documents, processes and behaviours which will guide transformation and integration. These include the seven Health Board delivery plans which will continue to be developed and refined year on year with partners.