

## **Answers issued to Members on 12 June 2008**

[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 Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport**

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on publishing the Setting Local Speed Limits Consultation? (WAQ51847)

**The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones):** The consultation on the Revised Speed Limit Guidelines for Local Roads commenced on 9th June 2008 and the consultation process will take 12 weeks.

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

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of musical instrument lessons for students at High School? (WAQ51841)

**The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt):** The place of Music within our schools is currently secured by its position as a compulsory National Curriculum subject for 5-14 year olds. The Programme of Study in the National Curriculum Order for Music sets out the knowledge, skills and understanding that pupils should develop. Within this programme, the elements of performing, composing and appraising music are foremost, and playing a range of instruments is given a high profile.

The requirement that pupils should gain experience of playing a range of instruments is carried through in the revised school curriculum, to be taught from September 2008. The majority of secondary schools achieve this entitlement through whole-class music lessons, though many employ additional visiting instrumental teachers to enhance this provision.

It is for schools to decide their own arrangements about any additional instrumental lessons. Many buy in music services. Most schools contribute towards the cost of lessons, and bill parents for the remainder.

## **Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing**

**Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** What was the total volume of waste produced by the public sector in Wales in each of the last 6 years? (WAQ51843)

**The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson):** Data for the amount of waste produced by the public sector is available for 1998 and 2003 and a further survey is in hand for 2008. The figure for 1998 was 249,000 tonnes and for 2003 was 147,000 tonnes. The results for 2008 will be available early 2009.

In addition to the survey data, recipients of funds from the Public Sector Reuse and Recycling Equipment Fund have provided feedback reports stating the tonnage reductions they have made thanks to their new equipment. Currently there are over 70 reports being disseminated and results of these will be made available this year.

**Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** What is the total cost of the Public Sector Waste Minimisation Campaign in each of the financial years since it was launched. (WAQ51844)

**Jane Davidson:** The budget allocation for the public sector waste minimisation campaign since its launch in 2003 is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>£s</b>
2003/04	100,000
2004/05	45,650
2005/06	125,000
2006/07	321,190
2007/08	453,948
2008/09	868,000
<b>Total Cumulative</b>	<b>1,913,788</b>

### **Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government**

**Mike German (South Wales East):** What plans does the Welsh Assembly Government have to secure the future of the Post Office Card Account. (WAQ51831)

**The Deputy Minister Regeneration (Leighton Andrews):** The Department for Work and Pensions has tendered for a replacement service after 2010 and is due to award the contract soon. The Welsh Assembly Government cannot intervene in the tendering process for a replacement to the Post Office card account (POca). I have written to the UK Government stating the importance which the Welsh Assembly Government places on retaining a viable post office network, particularly in addressing financial inclusion and promoting community cohesion. I have received representations to the effect that the post office network will be unsustainable without the POca and have passed on these concerns to the UK Government.