

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 18 August 2010

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

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

Contents

2	Questions to the Minister for Business and Budget
2	Questions to the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning
3	Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport
4	Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing
8	Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services
10	Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs
11	Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

To ask the Minister for Business and Budget

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Is the Minister aware of any Barnett consequentials which may be due as a result of the boiler scrappage scheme in England. (WAQ56352)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

The Boiler Scrappage Scheme was announced in England in the UK Government's Pre-Budget Report last December. The English Scheme was worth £50 million in 2010-11 and consisted of a combination of new funding and the reallocation of existing funding. Under the operation of the Barnett Formula we receive consequentials of new funding. We received £1.164 million as a result of the boiler scrappage scheme announcement, although it is for the Assembly Government to determine where we invest additional resources. £3.9 million was allocated in the First Supplementary Budget for 2010-11 to the Environment, Sustainability and Housing Main Expenditure Group measures to tackle fuel poverty. This included £2.5 million for a Welsh boiler scrappage scheme in 2010-11.

Peter Black (South Wales West): For each awards ceremony funded or part-funded by the Welsh Assembly Government or its Sponsored Bodies, please provide (a) the ceremony's name, (b) its purpose, (c) the amount it was funded by, and (d) what indicator the Welsh Assembly Government uses to measure its success. (WAQ56364)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

To ask the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): What plans does the Minister have for the future of the General Teaching Council of Wales. (WAQ56347)

Answer issued on 27 September 2010

In June 2010, Michael Gove, the Education Secretary, announced his intention to abolish the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE). What is suggested in England is not necessarily right for Wales and I have been considering my position. It is my intention to seek the devolution of powers to decide the future of the General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW).

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister detail any discussions he has had with local authorities, home-educating parents and others in recent months relating to home education in Wales and any forthcoming Welsh Assembly Government policies dealing with this issue. (WAQ56353)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

The Welsh Assembly Government committed to looking at aspects of home education in its Behaviour and Attendance Action Plan, released in March 2009.

The removal of the provisions relating to home education from the then Children, Schools and Families Bill earlier this year means that the Assembly has not been provided with powers to legislate on the issue. In light of this, I shall look at the options available in the autumn.

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on the impact of the proposed cut in inset days for teachers and the scrapping of the individual Continual Professional Development (CPD) programme as run by the General Teaching Council for Wales. (WAQ56355)

Answer issued on 21 September 2010

Evidence show that the most effective forms of professional development for teachers are ones where they work with their peers to strengthen their teaching, using techniques such as coaching and mentoring, professional learning communities and action research. The School Effectiveness Framework and implementation of the Review of Performance Management, Professional Standards and Continuing Professional Development are supporting schools to develop Professional Learning Communities which offer a more collective approach to professional development. Directing funding at one-off training courses for individuals is not consistent with this approach.

There are five INSET days included for all teachers as part of their terms and conditions of service. On 13 July I issued a Written Statement discussing the options for the use of timing of the additional INSET days which are subject to Minister's discretion. A consultation has also been launched seeking views on the longer term requirements for these additional INSET days. We will also be looking at the way the most effective schools support the development of their own staff within Wales and internationally so that we can draw on this evidence to inform decisions about the most effective use of INSET in the longer term.

To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): Is the Minister aware of any plans to withdraw or alter the high speed train service between Holyhead and Cardiff. (WAQ56346)

Answer issued on 21 September 2010

I am not aware of any plans to withdraw or alter the high speed train service between Holyhead and Cardiff.

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister confirm how much of the £250,000 grant funding offered to the Faenol Festival has already been paid out and how much will be recovered. (WAQ56349)

Answer issued on 21 September 2010

Our funding for this year's festival was subject to confirmation that the event would be going ahead. No formal grant agreement had been completed, and no monies paid.

Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister advise the reasons why he has made a grant of £7.5 million available to upgrade trains run by Arriva Trains Wales. (WAQ56350)

Answer issued on 21 September 2010

The National Transport Plan sets out a commitment to refurbish and invest in rolling stock and the investment of £7.5m will help to deliver this.

Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire): What is the estimated cost of the Four Crosses Bypass. (WAQ56351)

Answer issued on 08 April 2011

I can confirm the estimated cost of the Four Crosses Bypass is £6.5m.

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): What environmental assessment has been made of the operation of the North-South airlink, both in terms of the absolute level of emissions and emissions relative to other forms of transport serving the same route. (WAQ56357)

Answer issued on 21 September 2010

Both the intra-Wales air service and the north-south rail express were included in the high-level WelTAG assessment which was undertaken as part of the development of the National Transport Plan.

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): Will the Minister outline the timetable for determining the contractors for the operation of the North-South airlink and the likely start date of the new contract. (WAQ56359)

Answer issued on 21 September 2010

The Invitation to Tender for the intra Wales air service closes on 20th September 2010. It is anticipated a new four year contract will be awarded before the end of the year to enable a new service to commence in early January 2011.

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): When determining which contractor is awarded the contract for operating the North-South airlink, does the Welsh Assembly Government have a limit on how much it is willing to spend on the contract, above which tenders will not be accepted. (WAQ56360)

Answer issued on 03 November 2010

The Invitation to Tender for the new four year contract has specified a maximum annual budget of up to £1.2m.

To ask the Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Peter Black (South Wales West): What promotion and publicity and services in connection with Housing has the Welsh Assembly Government carried out for each of the financial years of the current Assembly (2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/2010), for what purposes and how much has this cost; what does the Minister plan to carry out for the current financial year and what is the estimated cost. (WAQ56365)
Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Answer issued on 08 March 2011

The Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration (Jocelyn Davies): The majority of promotion and publicity costs incurred in connection with Housing is for publications of our literature, guidance, and strategies. Using information which could be accessed within the time available, the annex attached shows the expenditure that falls within the remit of promotion and publicity and covers the period from 2007/08 to 2010/11.

Please note that the planned expenditure to be carried out this year is an estimate. In some cases costs are not yet known and may be subject to change.

Year	Description	Total Cost £k
2007/08	Housing Strategy Publication	35.7
	Guarantee for Housing Associations Residents	
	Stock Transfer Tenants Charter Publication	
	Private Rental Market Tenants Survey Publication	
	WHQS-Guidance publications and training manuals	
	Strategic Housing Function and Housing Activities (i2i) Publications and associated costs	
2008/09	The Guarantee for Housing Association Residents Publication	30.0
	Wales Housing Management Standards for Tackling Anti Social behaviour	
	Review of Affordable Housing in Wales	
	Housing Related Support Strategy Consultation Publication	
	Council Tenants and Leaseholder Guides	
	Display stands for Conferences	
	Residential Property Tribunal Information leaflets	
	National Housing Strategy Consultation Document	
	'Can Do' flyers	
2009/10	Council Tenants and Leaseholder Guides	10.0
	Ten Year Homelessness Plan Publication	
	Stock Transfer –Council Tenants and Leaseholder Guidance inc translations	
	Display Stands for conferences	
	Review of Affordable Housing in Wales	
	'i to i; publications and banner stands, Wall displays	
	Residential Property Tribunal Information leaflets	
2010/11(forecast)	Housing Strategy Framework Publication	20.0
	Essex Evaluation Report Publication (Provision) up to	
	Community Land Trust Handbook	
	Stock Transfer-Council Tenants	

Peter Black (South Wales West): What investigations, research and evaluation have you carried out for each of the financial years of the current Assembly (2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/2010), for what purposes and how much has this cost; what does the Minister plan to carry out for the current financial year and what is the estimated cost. (WAQ56366) *Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration*

Answer issued on 08 March 2011

Jocelyn Davies: I apologise that you were not supplied with the information within the timescale allocated for initial responses. I understand that your question is specifically in connection with housing matters.

Expenditure incurred in relation to housing matters on investigations, research and evaluation during financial years 2007/09, 2008/09 and 2009/10 was as follows:

Financial Year	Amount
2007/08	£365,639
2008/09	£1,181,658
2009/2010	£219,091

It must be noted that much of the expenditure was incurred by the Social Justice and Local Government Department which, for historical reasons, covered research into housing matters and not the Housing Directorate. My officials in the Housing Directorate have highlighted currently known research and evaluations planned for 2010/11 and the figure at present is £138,000. However, that is likely to change as the year progresses.

As detailed breakdown is provided in the Annex attached. During the time in question, there have been organisational changes and also a change in the Finance system; therefore, whilst every effort has been made to ensure these figures are as accurate as possible, we cannot guarantee that we have been able to capture all relevant transactions.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Annex

Expenditure on Investigations, Research and Evaluations during 2007/08

Review of Sheltered Housing - £34,687.50

Review of Choice-based lettings -£9,358.80

Evaluation of the main forms of accommodation for young single homeless people £30,603.38

Analysis of Fuel Poverty form Living in Wales data - £63,007.00

Living in Wales Physical Survey - £151,489.00

Evaluation of Care and Repair -£51,543.75

Sponsorship of Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Housing Review -£5,000

Development of good practice in interventions with homeless ex-prisoners- £9,975

A sustainable option? Home ownership and mortgage possession actions in Wales - £9,975

Expenditure on Investigations, Research and Evaluations during 2008/09

Evaluation of Care and Repair - £17,181.25

Development of a small-area fuel poverty indicator -£29,650.00

Feasibility study to develop an allocation mechanism for Supporting People funding-£23,750.00

Review of Welsh Women's Aid - £32,200.00

Evidence Review to support the development of the National Housing Strategy-£24,840.00

Assessment of the impact of migration on the allocation of council housing in selected local authority areas -£27,375.00

Living in Wales Physical Survey - £1,004,672

Sponsorship of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Housing Review -£5,000

Development of the environmental standards component of WHQS -£7,990.00

Study of stock transfer in selected case study areas - £5,000

Feasibility study into the re-introduction of CORE- £4,000

Expenditure on Investigations, Research and Evaluations during 2009/10

Assessment of the impact of migration on the allocation of council housing in selected local authority areas - £15,584.53

National Assessment of housing needs and demands - £11,850

Living in Wales Physical Survey - £120,000

Sponsorship of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Housing Review - £5,000

Study of stock transfer in selected case study areas - £5,000

Feasibility study into the re-introduction of CORE - £5,400

Investigation for potential for a capital market intervention for Welsh housing market - £26,257

Research to support development of the new Regulatory Framework - £30,000

Planned expenditure on Investigations, Research and Evaluations during 2010/11

Research in the field of low housing demands and eco-refurbishment in the South Wales valleys - £10,000

Researching the need for capacity building of service commissioners, providers and users to deliver co-governance - £8,500

The impact of intentional homelessness - £10,000

Supporting People Review - £75,000

Housing Revenue Account Subsidy and Rent Reviews - £17,000

Essex Evaluation - £17,500

This is still an estimate and this is likely to change.

Peter Black (South Wales West): Will the Minister (a) detail how frequently the Welsh Assembly Government (or other bodies) monitor, audit or inspect organisations who provide support under the Supporting People Grant; (b) detail the procedure for this; (c) provide a breakdown of the costs, e.g. for consultants, expenses etc and (d) detail how this audit information is shared and used with local authorities, if at all. (WAQ56369) *Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration*

Answer issued on 08 March 2011

Jocelyn Davies: The Supporting People Programme is funded through two streams, the Supporting People Grant and the Supporting People Revenue Grant.

The Supporting People Grant is paid direct to Local Authorities. They commission services with providers; the responsibility for monitoring these services rests with them. The Welsh Government provides guidance for this purpose.

By way of additional information; organisations providing support under the Supporting People Revenue Grant are inspected as part of a rolling programme. The aim is that each organisation is inspected at least once every three years. The programme is procured annually. The estimated cost of the inspection programme in the current financial year is £218,000, which covers twenty nine inspections by three consultancy firms. A breakdown of expenses will become available as inspections are completed.

There is provision in the Grant Conditions which allows the Welsh Government to disclose relevant issues to the Local Authorities. Local Authorities themselves are the subject of some inspections. Provider organisations are free to share their own inspection information with Local Authorities.

The forthcoming report for the independent review of the Supporting People Programme is expected to include reference to the monitoring of services.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister confirm on how many occasions the Chief Medical Officer has met with the Food Standards Agency in the past 12 months and could she list the dates of any meetings and confirm at which meetings the implementation of the Pennington Report was discussed. (WAQ56348) *Transferred for answer by the Chief Medical Officer*

Answer issued on 08 March 2011

Dr Tony Jewell: Following the receipt of the Pennington inquiry report the I convened a group on 7th May 2009 to look at the recommendations and agree the lead responsibilities for actioning them, the FSA was part of this meeting as was the WLGA. I also met the FSA to discuss progress on 1st April 2010.

Officials including the Chief Environmental Health Adviser acting on my behalf met the FSA to discuss the implementations of the EColi Inquiry on the 4th June 2009, 10th June 2009, 8th October 2009 and the 17th November 2009. My department and the FSA are in frequent contact.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister confirm whether the 'Releasing Time to Care' pilot scheme will be rolled out across the whole of the NHS in Wales. (WAQ56354)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

Following the success of this pilot, the scheme has been further developed and re-launched as the Transforming Care programme. It is a key element of the 1000 Lives Plus priorities for 2010/11 and all NHS organisations in Wales are fully engaged in the work.

Veronica German (South Wales East): Will the Minister provide details on what progress has been made beyond accepting the recommendations set out in the document entitled 'Unscheduled care: developing a whole systems approach' by the Wales Audit Office. (WAQ56358)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

The Welsh Assembly Government's full response is in the public domain.

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): At the end of the 2009/10 financial year, what was the total surplus or deficit of each Local Health Board in Wales. (WAQ56361)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

This information is in the public domain.

Veronica German (South Wales East): What is the budget for the Welsh Assembly Government's service level agreement with (a) NICE; (b) the All-Wales Medicine Strategy Group; and (c) each local formulary. (WAQ56362)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

The budget for the Welsh Assembly Government's service level agreement with NICE is available on NICE's website at www.nice.org.uk.

The administration of the AWMSG is one of the functions undertaken by the Welsh Medicines Partnership.

The budget for the Welsh Assembly Government's service level agreement with for local formularies is not held centrally.

Veronica German (South Wales East): Will the Minister publish (a) the minutes and papers of all meetings of the Bevan Commission; and (b) the cost and terms of reference of the Commission. (WAQ56363)

Answer issued on 07 October 2010

Minutes and papers of the Bevan Commission are not routinely published. The Welsh Assembly Government website includes pages relating to the Bevan Commission, and material that is published, at

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/nhswales/organisations/bevan/?lang=en>

The Welsh Assembly does not pay Commission members but reimburses their expenses.

Jonathan Morgan (Cardiff North): What steps is the Minister taking to monitor the implementation of the second cycle IVF policy that was in place from April and what progress has been made to date. (WAQ56367)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

My officials have been monitoring implementation of the second cycle IVF policy, which came in to effect from 1 April, through ongoing discussions with the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC).

Veronica German (South Wales East): Does the Minister have any plans to introduce an anti-stigma campaign around mental health such as the 'Time to Change' campaign in England and the 'See Me' campaign in Scotland. (WAQ56368)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

I have agreed funding of £150K for the mental health voluntary sector to develop and take forward service user led anti-discrimination training.

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): At the end of the 2009/10 financial year did the Welsh Assembly Government provide any additional financial support for Local Health Boards with (a) short-term deficits or (b) structural deficits, and if not, does it intend to. (WAQ56370)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

No funding was provided for short term deficits in 2009/10. In December 2009, both Powys and Hywel Dda Local Health Boards were provided additional allocations of £11m non-recurrent revenue resource funding each.

Veronica German (South Wales East): Does the Minister have any plans to investigate the possibility of amending ambulance services targets in order to take into account more qualitative factors. (WAQ56371)

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

The national work on intelligent targets and other studies is currently being assessed.

To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister give details of all discussions between the Welsh Assembly Government and (a) the EU and (b) the UK Government relating to the EU's Less Favoured Area (LFA) Boundary Review. (WAQ56372)

Answer issued on 27 September 2010

My officials have been fully engaged in the review from its inception and have mapped all proposals and considered the impacts in Wales.

On 5 March 2010 the UK submission was forwarded to the Joint Research Centre for consideration. The submission demonstrated little or no change to the current Wales LFA designation boundary. A bilateral meeting with the European Commission was held on 12 April 2010 to discuss the contents of the UK submission. A formal response from the Commission was received on 11 May 2010, asking for further information on climate data, poor drainage stimulations and fine tuning thresholds.

My officials met with the UK LFA project team on 23 July 2010 and forwarded the information on these aspects to DEFRA for inclusion in the UK response. This is due to be sent to the commission in early September 2010. At present, indications are that the LFA is unlikely to change in Wales; however, we do expect further discussions with the Commission in the coming months in relation to both designation and eligibility criteria. My officials will continue to scrutinize proposals and engage closely at the UK and EU level.

To ask the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Will the Welsh Assembly Government continue funding for Voice Wrexham (Advocacy Grant Scheme), via the British Institute of Learning Disabilities, after funding ends in March. (WAQ56345) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Health and Social Services.*

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart) I have made no decision about the future funding of the Learning Disability Advocacy Grant Scheme after March 2011.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister please confirm whether there is a standard definition of 'learning disability' that can be used by local authorities to minimise the risk of offence to service users. (WAQ56356) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Health and Social Services.*

Answer issued on 20 August 2010

Edwina Hart: Our 2007 Statement on Policy and Practice for Adults with a Learning Disability includes a section that defines the term 'learning disability'.