

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 19 February 2010

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

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

Contents

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

To ask the First Minister

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many Welsh Assembly Government task and finish groups within the First Minister's portfolio have completed their work within the required time frame. (WAQ55650)

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

The information you requested is not held centrally.

To ask the Minister for Business and Budget

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many Welsh Assembly Government task and finish groups within the Minister's portfolio have completed their work within the required time frame. (WAQ55649) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The information you requested is not held centrally.

To ask the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many Welsh Assembly Government task and finish groups within the Minister's portfolio have completed their work within the required time frame. (WAQ55646) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The information you requested is not held centrally.

To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport

Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales): Further to his answer to WAQ55505, will the Minister provide a list of dates on which he held meetings with the UK Government to discuss 'Going for Growth, Our Future Prosperity' in the last 12 months and the date of the next meeting. (WAQ55642)

Answer issued on 08 April 2011

I have regular meetings with the Secretary of State for Wales where we have discussed a variety of issues, including 'Going for Growth, Our Future Prosperity'.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many Welsh Assembly Government task and finish groups within the Minister's portfolio have completed their work within the required time frame. (WAQ55647) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The information you requested is not held centrally.

To ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many Welsh Assembly Government task and finish groups within the Minister's portfolio have completed their work within the required time frame. (WAQ55648) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The information you requested is not held centrally.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What progress has been made in conducting local analysis of needs with regard to the implementation of not-for-profit nursing homes. (WAQ55657)

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

On 1st February 2010, in response to WAQ55525, I advised you that two demonstration projects are being developed in Built Wells in Powys and Tregaron in Ceredigion to develop new models of providing health and care services. An assessment of local needs is a fundamental part of the work that the local authorities and local health boards are undertaking to prepare their business cases.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales): How many operations due to be performed at Bronglais Hospital were cancelled in November and December 2009 and January 2010, and what were the reasons for their cancellation. (WAQ55643)

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

In November and December 2009, a total of 243 scheduled operations were cancelled at Bronglais Hospital. Of these, 78 were cancelled due to patient reasons, 127 due to hospital non-clinical reasons and 38 due to hospital clinical reasons. A breakdown by month is shown in the table below.

	Nov 2009	Dec 2009
Hospital clinical	15	23
Hospital non clinical	95	32
Patient reasons	43	35
Total	153	90

Statistics for January 2010 are currently unavailable.

Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales): How many scheduled appointments for minor treatments and tests at Bronglais Hospital were cancelled in November and December 2009, and January 2010, and what were the reasons for their cancellation. (WAQ55644)

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

This information is not held centrally.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many Welsh Assembly Government task and finish groups within the Minister's portfolio have completed their work within the required time frame. (WAQ55652) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The information you requested is not held centrally.

Chris Franks (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of defibrillators in South Wales Central. (WAQ55654)

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

Health Commission Wales (HCW) and the 3 regional Cardiac Networks have agreed an all Wales strategic development plan for arrhythmia services, which includes plans to improve the rate of access to ICDs. This will help address the needs of the population of South Wales Central. The £2.550m central funding I have provided to support the strategic development plan will be allocated to the 7 LHBs from 2010-11 and I expect them to continue to implement the plan.

Chris Franks (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement regarding the performance issues of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. (WAQ55655)

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

Performance is routinely monitored by Welsh Assembly Government officials and monthly meetings are held between the Director of Operations and the LHB to discuss and address any issues. In addition, the Chief Executive of the NHS meets the Chief Executives of all LHBs collectively to address performance and in turn, I meet the Chairs to ensure that they are well aware of any performance issues.

From the recent statistical release you will have seen that Cardiff and Vale University LHB achieved the referral to treatment waiting times in December 2009, where 99.8% of patients were waiting less than 26 weeks for treatment and no one was waiting longer than 36 weeks.

To ask the Minister for Heritage

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many Welsh Assembly Government task and finish groups within the Minister's portfolio have completed their work within the required time frame. (WAQ55651) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The information you requested is not held centrally.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What structures are the Sports Council for Wales putting in place to ensure an effective link and pathway from school participation in sport to joining local sport clubs. (WAQ55658)

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

As I indicated in my response to your question earlier this month (ref WAQ55529) the 5 x 60 programme administered by the Sports Council for Wales continues to make a significant contribution in ensuring that young people who participate in the scheme are then encouraged to join local sports clubs. For example, Pontypridd High School has formed links with a ladies football club; a skiing club, which has resulted in several pupils joining the weekend academy; and disability sessions have been set up with another local football team.

To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many Welsh Assembly Government task and finish groups within the Minister's portfolio have completed their work within the required time frame. (WAQ55653) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The information you requested is not held centrally.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How has the Welsh Assembly Government worked towards increasing the proportion of Welsh milk being used for added value products. (WAQ55656)

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

In delivering the Strategic Action Plan for the Welsh Dairy Industry, the Welsh Assembly Government last year provided funding to commission work to look at potential opportunities for Added Value Dairy products in the key categories for the industry; namely, yogurt, chilled desserts, ice-cream, cheese, flavoured milk, and butter. The combined value of all added value dairy sectors in the UK is £6.2 bn. This research identified a number of opportunities which the Welsh Dairy Industry could potentially exploit. The Welsh Assembly Government is now keen that Welsh companies benefit from this research and develop new products for the market.

To ensure the industry takes advantage of this information a support programme has been developed. The 'Added Value Dairy programme' has been developed to support companies with a comprehensive support package including information on understanding the UK Retailer Market, support and guidance to develop marketing plans and an insight into developing presentations to buyers and training in negotiation skills.

It will be important from the outset that the companies are confident that the retailers/foodservice operators will be open to new product concepts from Welsh suppliers. It is therefore proposed to undertake trade interviews with the head of dairy in each of the major retailers. This will ensure that a clear understanding of their national and regional (i.e. Welsh) strategies is obtained, while at the same time, getting their support for the programme and a commitment to work with Welsh suppliers on an ongoing basis.

Nine companies are engaging in this tailor made programme of support which starts next week (24th February 2010.)

In addition to this specific programme a total of £2.5m grant aid has been approved for the Dairy Industry in Wales since 2007, enabling a total investment in the sector of £ 6.5 million. Other Government support for processors is currently available under the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 in the form of the Processing and Marketing Grant scheme and the Supply Chain Efficiencies project.

The True Taste Awards, has also been an excellent driver in emphasising Wales as a producer of high quality and innovative produce, and is recognised by consumers and the food and drink industry as a sign of excellence.

The Welsh Dairy industry is ideally suited to milk production with predominance of grass-fed systems, climate, topography and water resources all supporting dairy production. I am therefore keen to see Wales process more of what we eat, particularly added value dairy products and I trust the market intelligence information obtained and Added Value Dairy programme will be embraced by the industry and result in a number of new and exciting products being developed.

To ask the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many Welsh Assembly Government task and finish groups within the Minister's portfolio have completed their work within the required time frame. (WAQ55645) ***Transferred for answer by the First Minister***

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the above questions. The information you requested is not held centrally.