

## **Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 17 March 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 Children, Education and Lifelong Learning***

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister give an update on when detailed anti-homophobic bullying guidance for schools will be released, and will he also confirm when the in-depth survey on bullying in schools (mentioned in plenary on 23rd September 2009) will be released. (WAQ55866)

***Answer issued on 16 March 2010***

The new anti-bullying guidance will be published on the Assembly Government's website later this Spring. The guidance will not only cover homophobic bullying, but also bullying around race, culture and religion; SEN and disability; cyber-bullying; sexist and sexual bullying; and the bullying of transgender people.

The detailed report of the survey on bullying will be made available on the website next month.

***To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport***

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** What discussions has the Minister had with regard to safeguarding the future of the Chevron oil refinery in Pembrokeshire. (WAQ55861)

***Answer issued on 19 March 2010***

I met the Operations Manager at the Chevron refinery on 11 February to discuss the position and to offer the full support of the Welsh Assembly Government; I spoke to the Plant Manager on 9 March following the company's second announcement to discuss the emerging position; and I have written to the company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer in California offering our support and seeking a further meeting.

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on any discussion he has had with Treasury over Finance Wales. (WAQ55871)

***Answer issued on 19 March 2010***

My officials have been in discussion with the Treasury regarding the appropriate accounting treatment of the external borrowings of Finance Wales.

**Alun Cairns (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on the future of Finance Wales. (WAQ55872)

***Answer issued on 19 March 2010***

Along with the First Minister and the Minister for Budget and Business, I recently met Finance Wales' Chairman to discuss the strategic future of and opportunities for Finance Wales. Discussions are continuing. When I am in a position to do so, I will make an announcement.

***To ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing***

**Eleanor Burnham (North Wales):** When will the results of the Fuel Poverty Strategy consultation be made known and what Welsh Assembly Government resources is the Minister willing to commit to abolishing fuel poverty. (WAQ55864)

*Answer issued on 23 March 2010*

The final Fuel Poverty Strategy will be published before the summer recess.

The Assembly Government is committed to working towards the eradication of fuel poverty and we have been very successful in the last two years in securing additional funding for action on fuel poverty.

We have committed over £30 million of additional funding received through the Strategic Capital Investment Fund to the first phase of Arbed. This funding will enabling investment in major domestic energy performance projects across Wales' Strategic Regeneration Areas that will improve the energy efficiency of homes, tackle fuel poverty and generate employment for Welsh residents and economic opportunities for Welsh businesses. The strategic deployment of these funds is expected to lever in at least a further £20 million of investment by energy companies through the Community Energy Saving Programme.

We also announced on 17 March that £34 million of European funding will be available to improve the energy efficiency of homes in Wales and we are currently working on proposals to deliver this investment.

In February I also announced that additional investment of £3.9 million would be made available in 2010-11 to tackle fuel poverty. £1.4 million of this funding will be invested in the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme, providing a budget of over £20 million, and £2.5 million will be invested in a new boiler scrappage scheme helping up to 5,000 vulnerable households.

*To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services*

**Jonathan Morgan (Cardiff North):** Has the National Framework for Continuing NHS Health Care in Wales been published and if so, when was it formally implemented. (WAQ55865)

*Answer issued on 17 March 2010*

The National Framework and Guidance currently in force were issued in 2004 as circulars NAFWC 41/2004 and NAFWC 41a/2004 and were updated by circular NAFWC 32/2006 issued in October 2006. A revised framework for Continuing NHS Health Care is under consideration.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on what input her officials are having with the Department of Health regarding their work on improving the supply of medicines. (WAQ55868)

*Answer issued on 17 March 2010*

My officials are involved in ongoing discussions with the Department of Health and other administrations to ensure the supply of essential medicines is maintained for patients.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of specialised mental health services for refugees living in Wales who have been victims of torture. (WAQ55869)

*Answer issued on 18 March 2010*

The NHS in Wales provides healthcare for people who normally live in the UK. People who do not normally live in this country are not automatically entitled to use the NHS free of charge.

Asylum seekers, refugees and their dependants who are fleeing persecution in their own country are deemed to be ordinarily resident for the purposes of NHS entitlement. Those who arrive in Wales requiring specialist mental health services can access services in the normal way. Where emergency interventions are required, individuals will not be denied treatment. I expect each individual patient's care to be managed according to local mental health service provision and in line with national standards.

Refugees whose asylum applications fail may end up destitute or homeless and they normally only receive emergency support. In Wales we have decided that, when someone in those circumstances falls ill, they will not be denied healthcare or forced to pay when they have no means of doing so.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What discussions has the Minister had with the Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service regarding ambulance response time targets. (WAQ55873)

*Answer issued on 18 March 2010*

I do not normally hold discussions with individual Chief Executives of NHS bodies. Meetings with Chief Executives are normally undertaken by the Director General of the NHS in Wales. I have attended meetings on non specific Ambulance issues at which the Chief Executive of the Ambulance Trust has been present.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** When was the Minister informed that the Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service would be standing down. (WAQ55874)

*Answer issued on 18 March 2010*

There are no formal mechanisms in place to advise me of the resignations of senior Local Health Board or NHS Trust personnel as I am not their employer.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** When was the Minister's last meeting with the Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service. (WAQ55875)

*Answer issued on 18 March 2010*

I do not normally hold discussions with individual Chief Executives of NHS bodies. Meetings with Chief Executives are normally undertaken by the Director General of the NHS in Wales. I have attended meetings on non specific Ambulance issues at which the Chief Executive of the Ambulance Trust has been present.

*To ask the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government*

**Eleanor Burnham (North Wales):** What criteria were used to inform the decision to withdraw core funding from Wales Women's National Coalition. (WAQ55862)

*Answer issued on 18 March 2010*

The Wales Women's National Coalition applied for funding under the Advancing Equality Fund 2010-13 which opened in September 2009 and were unsuccessful.

All applications were assessed on the basis of the information they submitted..

The criteria which were used to inform the assessment process are set out in the Criteria and Application Pack which can be found at the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dsjlg/publications/equality/090930criappaefen.doc>

**Eleanor Burnham (North Wales):** Will the Minister reconsider and reverse his decision to withdraw core funding from Wales Women's National Coalition. (WAQ55863)

*Answer issued on 18 March 2010*

The Wales Women's National Coalition applied for core funding under the Advancing Equality Fund bidding round for 2010 – 2013 which opened in September 2009. Their application was unsuccessful.

The Wales Women's National Coalition was in receipt of funding from the Promoting Equality Fund from 2001. It received core funding for financial years 2005-2008 and transitional funding was made available in 2008-09 and in 2009-10.

Funding under the Advancing Equality Scheme has been allocated and successful applicants notified.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on actions taken by the Welsh Assembly Government to implement the Refugee Inclusion Strategy. (WAQ55867)

*Answer issued on 30 March 2010*

The Welsh Assembly Government has taken a range of actions in line with the overall strategy of the Refugee Inclusion Strategy to support and enable refugees to rebuild their lives in Wales.

We are in regular dialogue with our colleagues in Westminster, UKBA and stakeholders in the statutory and voluntary sector that deliver services to take forward the successful inclusion of refugee and asylum seekers into Welsh society. We have appointed a secondee from the Refugee Sector to ensure that the plan promotes meaningful change based on specialist knowledge and experience.

We have implemented and launched:

- The provision of health services to all asylum seekers due to the introduction of an exemption of NHS charges for failed asylum seekers by the Minister for Health and Social Services.
- Public health screening to all new asylum seeker arrivals in Cardiff including children.
- Targeted funding to Local Education Authorities to support Refugee Inclusion in schools
- An 'Understanding Wales' pack to provide reliable information and links to relevant public sector, regulatory and governmental bodies, in languages spoken by refugees and asylum seekers

Refugee Inclusion has also been facilitated by Welsh Assembly Government funding of the Welsh Interpretation and Translation Service, and a range of voluntary sector initiatives specifically aimed at promoting Refugee Inclusion including, the Welsh Refugee Council, Wales Strategic Migration Partnership, Displaced People in Action and The British Red Cross.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister outline what mapping and monitoring of services used by refugees takes place in Wales. (WAQ55870)

*Answer issued on 23 March 2010*

'Refugees living in Wales, A survey of skills, experience and barriers to inclusion' was launched by the previous Minister in November 2009. This was the first survey reflecting the experiences of refugees in Wales in recent years and represents a pragmatic response to the lack of information currently available to inform policy and practice in relation to refugee integration and issues of community cohesion. The survey was devised in consultation with policy makers and practitioners to look at the key indicators of inclusion such as language, housing, support, skills, qualifications, employment and health and well-being regarding the, circumstances and needs of refugees and asylum seekers living in Wales. It provides WAG with evidence needed to accomplish the plan for Refugee Inclusion.

There are however several problems relating to the collection of data. Firstly, when Refugees have been granted leave to remain in the UK, there is no need for them to identify themselves as refugees to services. Secondly, services to Asylum Seekers are provided by UKBA.

However, the Refugee Integration and Employment Service (RIES), run by the Welsh Refugee Council in partnership with other organisations has begun an evaluation on the effectiveness of this 1 year programme of integration funded by the Home Office. Dialogue with stakeholders and local organisations such as WLGA is a further method by which officials are able to extract information.