

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 19 Mawrth 2012

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 19 March 2012

*Cyhoeddir atebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o atebion yn y Gymraeg.
Answers are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.*

[R] yn nodi bod yr Aelod wedi datgan buddiant/signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] yn nodi bod y cwestiwn wedi'i gyflwyno yn Gymraeg/signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

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Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
To ask the Minister for Education and Skills

Aled Roberts (Gogledd Cymru): A oes terfyn amser wedi'i bennu ar gyfer cyflwyno cynlluniau gwella ysgolion?. (WAQ59940)

Aled Roberts (North Wales): Has a deadline been set for the submission of school improvement plans. (WAQ59940)

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The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): Terms and conditions for the additional funding are being finalised and will be issued to schools by 30 March 2012. This will include a deadline for the submission of improvement plans. To minimise administration costs I expect this to align with the timetable for the School Effectiveness and Pupil Deprivation Grants.

Aled Roberts (Gogledd Cymru): Ar ôl i gynlluniau gwella ysgolion gael eu cymeradwyo gan y consortia rhanbarthol a'u cadarnhau gan y Llywodraeth, a ydynt wedyn yn cael eu costio i asesu'r adnoddau sydd eu hangen. (WAQ59941)

Aled Roberts (North Wales): Are school improvement plans which have been approved by the regional consortia and endorsed by the Government subsequently costed to assess the resources required. (WAQ59941)

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Leighton Andrews: Yes. All plans are costed along with targets for improved educational outcomes.

Leanne Wood (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau mai system gwintel a ddefnyddir ar gyfer y system fandio ar gyfer ysgolion uwchradd. (WAQ59942)

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): Will the Minister confirm that the banding system for secondary schools will be a quintile system. (WAQ59942)

Leanne Wood (Canol De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau, o dan system gwintel ar gyfer bandio, y bydd nifer yr ysgolion ym mhob band yn aros yn weddol gyson ni waeth beth fydd y perfformiad. (WAQ59943)

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): Will the Minister confirm that under a quintile system for banding the number of schools in each band will remain relatively constant irrespective of performance. (WAQ59943)

Leanne Wood (Canol De Cymru): Sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu dangos gwelliant cenedlaethol gan ysgolion yng Nghymru os yw nifer yr ysgolion ym mhob band yn aros yn weddol gyson o ganlyniad i natur y system fandio. (WAQ59944)

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): How does the Minister aim to demonstrate national improvement for schools in Wales if the number of schools in each band remains relatively constant as a result of the nature of the banding system. (WAQ59944)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 15 Mawrth 2012
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Leighton Andrews: Bands for secondary schools were issued in December 2011. The calculation was based on quartiles not quintiles. Schools were placed in 4 quarters of performance for each of the 12 measures used in the calculation of the bands and each school's score for each of the measures (quarter 1 =1 etc.) were totalled into a final score which determined their band. The boundaries for each band were calculated by dividing the possible range of scores equally into 5. A full explanation of the method of calculation is available on the Welsh Government's website.

The numbers of schools in each band will be determined by the variation in performance of schools. If the variation remains similar to the current level then the number of schools in each band will remain relatively constant. However, if the schools which are currently performing lowest raise their performance to levels nearer the Welsh average then there may be an increase in numbers in the middle bands and a reduction in the numbers in the lower bands. Similarly, if the performance of the highest banded schools reduces in comparison with the Welsh average then there may be a reduction in the numbers of schools in the highest bands and a consequent increase in the middle bands.

To ask about how national improvement for schools in Wales can be demonstrated if the number of schools in each band remains relatively constant is to misunderstand the purpose of banding. Banding is deliberately calculated using a relative model in order for it to be used as a tool, annually, to identify those schools which are most in need of support, and to prioritise the use of public resources. It is only one measure of performance amongst many. National improvement will be measured by looking at the changes in the overall measures of performance. For example, I will be looking for an increase in the proportion of pupils who achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English or Welsh and mathematics. This of course can also be looked at for each individual local authority and school.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn hybu ymwybyddiaeth o wenwyn carbon monocsid. (WAQ59937)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): How is the Welsh Government promoting awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning. (WAQ59937)

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The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): The Welsh Government's advice and awareness raising leaflet on Carbon Monoxide – “**you can't smell it, you can't see it, and it can kill!**” produced in 2007 (and updated in 2010), is available on the Welsh Government's website. Advice for health professionals on carbon monoxide poisoning is also published on the website.

The Welsh Government promotes awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning by reminding doctors, pharmacists and healthcare professionals across Wales to be vigilant in identifying possible cases of CO poisoning via the Chief Medical Officer for Wales' Update Bulletin. The Welsh Government's Chief Medical Officer/Chief Nursing Officer also issue a letter to GPs, pharmacists, NHS Direct and the NHS calling for action and detailing advice on the diagnosis and clinical signs of CO poisoning. The

Welsh Government remind the Fire and Rescue Service and Higher Educational settings, such as Universities of the availability of the Carbon Monoxide advice leaflet.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau'r dyddiad y bydd Uned Ddialysis Llandrindod ar waith. (WAQ59939)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister confirm the date from which the Llandrindod Wells Dialysis Unit will be operational. (WAQ59939)

*Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 15 Mawrth 2012
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Lesley Griffiths: The project group overseeing the development has confirmed the Unit is expected to treat its first patient on 26 March 2012.

*Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
To ask the Minister for Local Government and Communities*

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn mynd i'r afael â'r camddefnydd cynyddol o gyffuriau mewn ardaloedd gwledig. (WAQ59938)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Government is tackling the increasing drug abuse in rural areas. (WAQ59938)

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The Minister for Local Government and Communities (Carl Sargeant): The Welsh Government's 10 year substance misuse strategy "Working Together to Reduce Harm" sets out a clear national agenda for tackling and reducing the harms associated with substance misuse for all citizens in Wales.

To recognise the difficulties of providing services in rural areas, the Welsh Government has included a sparsity indicator in its substance misuse funding formula that reflects geographical access to services. The Welsh Government has also supported a number of major capital investments in treatment services across rural Wales.