

# **Answers issued to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 27 January 2011**

[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 First Minister***

**Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** By year, how many official complaints have been made against each respective Minister since 2007. (WAQ56998)

**Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** By year, how many official complaints have been made investigated against each respective Minister since 2007. (WAQ56999)

***Answer issued on 02 February 2011***

Year	Number of complaints	Minister	Investigated
2007/08	0	-	
2008/09	1	First Minister	1
2009/10	1	Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills	1 (Ongoing)
2010/11	1	Minister for Health and Social Services	1
Total	3		3

***To ask the Minister for Business and Budget***

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How much did the Welsh Assembly Government spend in 2010 on Christmas cards. (WAQ56976)

***Answer issued on 02 February 2011***

A total of £248 (excluding VAT) was spent on Christmas cards in 2010.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How much did the Welsh Assembly Government spend on Christmas parties and celebrations in 2010. (WAQ56977)

***Answer issued on 02 February 2011***

No identifiable expenditure has been incurred by the Assembly Government on Christmas parties and celebrations.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How much did the Welsh Assembly Government spend in 2010 on Christmas trees. (WAQ56978)

***Answer issued on 02 February 2011***

No identifiable expenditure was incurred by the Assembly Government on Christmas Trees in 2010.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** From where did the Welsh Assembly Government source its 2010 Christmas trees. (WAQ56979)

***Answer issued on 02 February 2011***

Christmas trees are donated to the Welsh Assembly Government by the Forestry Commission.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many Ministerial visits has the Minister made to the North Wales electoral region in the last 12 months. (WAQ56980)

*Answer issued on 02 February 2011*

The totals for each Minister are shown in the following table:

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Number of Ministerial visits</b>
Ieuan Wyn Jones	25
Jane Hutt	4
Leighton Andrews	12
Jane Davidson	7
Edwina Hart	4
Carl Sargeant	24
Elin Jones	8
Alun Ffred Jones	14

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What has been the total annual cost of the Welsh Assembly Government's communications operation, giving figures for the last three years. (WAQ57000)

*Answer issued on 01 February 2011*

The Welsh Assembly Government does not maintain information under the category 'communications operation'. 'Communications' potentially covers a wide area across all Welsh Assembly Government departments and providing information for the last three years without some further indication of the information being sought would entail considerable investigation and incur disproportionate costs.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What is the total departmental cost paid to staff via any 'acting up' allowance, giving annual figures for each of the last three years for a) the Department for Children, Education and Lifelong learning and b) the Department for the Economy and Transport. (WAQ57001)

*Answer issued on 01 February 2011*

This is a matter for the Permanent Secretary and she will write to you.

***To ask the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning***

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister explain why Wales remains at the bottom of the league of OECD nations according to the 2009 PISA study. (WAQ56984)

*Answer issued on 01 February 2011*

The PISA 2009 figures paint a very disappointing picture of educational performance in Wales but we are far from the bottom of the OECD nations. My Written Statement on 7 December refers.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many Ministerial visits has the Minister made to the North Wales electoral region in the last 12 months. (WAQ56985) ***Transferred for answer by the Minister for Business and Budget***

*Answer issued on 02 February 2011*

**The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt):** The totals for each Minister are shown in the following table:

Minister	Number of Ministerial visits
Ieuan Wyn Jones	25
Jane Hutt	4
Leighton Andrews	12
Jane Davidson	7
Edwina Hart	4
Carl Sargeant	24
Elin Jones	8
Alun Ffred Jones	14

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many students were entered for Modern Foreign Languages at GCSE and A level for each year since 2005 and will the Minister provide a breakdown by language. (WAQ56986)

*Answer issued on 01 February 2011*

This information is in the tables below.

**Table 1: Number of GCSE examinations entries by 15 years old, by subject**

Subject	Number of entries					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
French	8,810	8,613	8,237	7,840	7,005	6,798
German	2,423	2,273	2,101	2,082	1,959	1,758
Spanish	1,268	1,287	1,419	1,379	1,560	1,645
Polish	*	*	16	40	34	86
Italian	91	86	95	43	50	46
Chinese/Japanese	69	56	60	53	28	23
Arabic	39	40	62	44	17	26
Urdu, Bengali, Panjabi, Gujarati	67	64	51	41	20	28
Other (a)	49	51	54	47	33	22

Source: Welsh Examination Database

There are fewer than 5 pupils in this category. The number has been suppressed to reduce the risk of disclosure of data for very small numbers of pupils

(a) Dutch, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Persian, Portugese, Russian, Turkish

**Table 2: Number of A level examinations entries by 17 year olds, by subject**

Subject	Number of entries					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010

French	845	836	833	767	700	563
German	249	248	275	231	200	176
Spanish	133	153	155	142	184	160
Chinese/Japanese	16	19	16	27	28	35
Polish	0	0	*	*	*	16
Russian	6	5	*	7	6	9
Arabic	5	9	14	10	6	7
Other (a)	16	23	27	28	14	16

There are fewer than 5 pupils in this category. The number has been suppressed to reduce the risk of disclosure of data for very small numbers of pupils

(a) Dutch, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** What guidance has been sent to schools in Wales by the Children, Education and Lifelong Learning department between April 2009 and April 2010, and will the Minister provide an electronic link to each one. (WAQ56994)

*Answer issued on 01 February 2011*

At the end of the academic year DCELLS produces a Statutory Annual Report to Schools issued under Section 38(3) of the Education Act 2002.

Its purpose is to keep schools and their governing bodies fully informed of documents sent to schools by the Welsh Assembly Government over the previous academic year.

The report includes a list of documents (with web links where available)\* and contact details of the relevant DCELLS policy official if further information is required.

Please note that the guidance sent to schools is recorded on an academic year basis and not a financial year basis.

Annual report 2009-10 (September 2009 – August 2010)

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/annualreport2010/?lang=en>

Annual report 2008-09 (September 2008 – August 2009)

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/annualreport0809/?lang=en>

*To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport*

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many Ministerial visits has the Minister made to the North Wales electoral region in the last 12 months. (WAQ56988) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Business and Budget*

*Answer issued on 02 February 2011*

**The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt):** The totals for each Minister are shown in the following table:

Minister	Number of Ministerial visits
Ieuan Wyn Jones	25
Jane Hutt	4
Leighton Andrews	12
Jane Davidson	7
Edwina Hart	4
Carl Sargeant	24
Elin Jones	8
Alun Ffred Jones	14

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** What is the Minister doing to increase employment in Dolgellau, Aberdovey, Towyn and Blaenau Ffestiniog. (WAQ56995)

*Answer issued on 02 February 2011*

I have set out my intentions for the whole of Wales in Economic Renewal: a new direction, a programme which will help increase employment by creating a better environment for economic growth.

I recently attended the launch of the Meirionnydd Employment Plan, developed by Gwynedd Council and key stakeholders, offering a comprehensive response to the area's needs and opportunities. Some of the specific projects being undertaken under the Plan, and being funded with support from the Assembly Government through our Wales European Funding Office and others, are:-

- Strategic Regeneration Programme for Blaenau Ffestiniog  
Enhanced Public Realm; Integrated Signage and Parking; Enhanced Gateways; Public Art; Local Enterprise; Town Improvement Scheme. Total cost £4.4m
- Briwat Bridge Renovation  
Total cost £19.6m
- Eryri Centre Of Excellence (E4G)  
Cycling Centre at Coed y Brenin; mountain bike paths at Blaenau Ffestiniog; outdoor activities at Glanllyn; activities on Trawsfynydd Lake. Total cost £4m
- Llwyddo'n Lleol  
Providing a mechanism for young people to contribute to their communities. Total cost £3.8m
- Shaping the Future  
Addressing the impact of nuclear industry restructuring in North West Wales. Total cost £2.3m

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

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many Ministerial visits has the Minister made to the North Wales electoral region in the last 12 months. (WAQ56991) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Business and Budget*

*Answer issued on 03 February 2011*

**The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt):** The totals for each Minister are shown in the following table:

Minister	Number of Ministerial visits
Ieuan Wyn Jones	25
Jane Hutt	4
Leighton Andrews	12
Jane Davidson	7
Edwina Hart	4
Carl Sargeant	24
Elin Jones	8
Alun Ffred Jones	14

*To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services*

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many Ministerial visits has the Minister made to the North Wales electoral region in the last 12 months. (WAQ56987) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Business and Budget*

*Answer issued on 27 January 2011*

**The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt):** The totals for each Minister are shown in the following table:

Minister	Number of Ministerial visits
Ieuan Wyn Jones	25
Jane Hutt	4
Leighton Andrews	12
Jane Davidson	7
Edwina Hart	4
Carl Sargeant	24
Elin Jones	8
Alun Ffred Jones	14

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Does the Welsh Assembly Government plan on making cuts to the NHS budget and, if so, will the Minister detail those cuts and how it plans to implement them over the next 3 years. (WAQ56993)

*Answer issued on 25 January 2011*

We have no plans to cut the NHS budget over the next three years. We expect NHS organisations to make efficiency savings to meet increases in cost and to fund improvements in the quality of care for patients.

*To ask the Minister for Heritage*

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many Ministerial visits has the Minister made to North Wales electoral region in the last 12 months. (WAQ56990) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Business and Budget*

*Answer issued on 02 February 2011*

**The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt):** The totals for each Minister are shown in the following table:

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Number of Ministerial visits</b>
Ieuan Wyn Jones	25
Jane Hutt	4
Leighton Andrews	12
Jane Davidson	7
Edwina Hart	4
Carl Sargeant	24
Elin Jones	8
Alun Ffred Jones	14

*To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs*

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many Ministerial visits has the Minister made to the North Wales electoral region in the last 12 months. (WAQ56992) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Business and Budget*

*Answer issued on 02 February 2011*

**The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt):** The totals for each Minister are shown in the following table:

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Number of Ministerial visits</b>
Ieuan Wyn Jones	25
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Jane Davidson	7
Edwina Hart	4
Carl Sargeant	24
Elin Jones	8
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**Brynle Williams (North Wales):** What assessment has the Welsh Assembly Government made of how many fewer hours a typical farmer now spends on administrative work and inspections as a result of the on-going review of on-farm red tape. (WAQ56996)

*Answer not yet issued*

**Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire):** Is it possible to extend the derogation for Dual use on Common Land to the whole of Wales land tenure. (WAQ56997)

*Answer issued on 01 February 2011*

There is no derogation for dual use on common land, but rather a regulatory provision (EC regulation: 1122/2009 - Article 34) for land used in common to be apportioned notionally based on the farmers' use or right of use of the land for the activation of Single Payment Scheme entitlements. The allocation is



notional as no one farmer has control of the common land. This European provision is not available or appropriate for enclosed land as only one farmer can have the land at their disposal, or have control of it, at any one time. This is also the reason the EC auditors have given as to why dual use of individual land parcels cannot be permitted.

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

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How many Ministerial visits has the Minister made to the North Wales electoral region in the last 12 months. (WAQ56989) ***Transferred for answer by the Minister for Business and Budget***

***Answer issued on 02 February 2011***

The totals for each Minister are shown in the following table:

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Number of Ministerial visits</b>
Ieuan Wyn Jones	25
Jane Hutt	4
Leighton Andrews	12
Jane Davidson	7
Edwina Hart	4
Carl Sargeant	24
Elin Jones	8
Alun Ffred Jones	14

***To ask a Representative of the Assembly Commission***

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How much did the Assembly Commission spend in 2010-11 celebrating Christmas. (WAQ56981)

***Answer issued on 27 January 2011***

**Assembly Commissioner for Assembly Resources, William Graham AM:**

The Commission incurred expenditure of £2,625 on Christmas related items such as the trees and decorations in the Pierhead and North Wales Office, the carol concert and Waterfront Christmas events, light refreshments for the end of term staff brunch and Christmas cards. As is our normal practice, Assembly staff were given one hour's additional time to accommodate an earlier finish on days when they planned a celebratory lunch with colleagues, at an estimated cost of £6,500.

We also made some savings. This Christmas period was the first time the Senedd, Pierhead and Tŷ Hywel buildings closed from Friday 24 December to 3 January inclusive. Together with our continuing energy efficiency programme this delivered £8,000 savings in comparison with the same period in 2009.

In the spirit of Christmas, the trees for the Senedd and Tŷ Hywel reception were donated by the Forestry Commission and our maintenance contractors, Integral, erected and dismantled the trees free of charge. Our Chief Executive and Clerk personally provided raffle prizes at the staff Christmas brunch (the end of term briefing for all staff) and biscuits and chocolates for each Commission team.

The Commission adopted a greener approach to Christmas cards this year with increased use of electronic greeting cards, an approach favoured by the Presiding Officer and members of the Management Board.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How much did the Assembly Commission spend in 2010-11 on Christmas cards. (WAQ56982)

*Answer issued on 27 January 2011*

**Assembly Commissioner for Assembly Resources, William Graham AM:**

The Commission adopted a greener approach to Christmas cards this year, with increased use of electronic greeting cards. Electronic cards were sent by the Presiding Officer and members of the Management Board. Official cards were sent by the Deputy Presiding Officer, at a cost of £21.97. Assembly Members are given the opportunity to purchase personalised Assembly Christmas cards via the Assembly shop. This year 2,555 cards were purchased.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** How much is the Assembly Commission spending on its referendum campaign 'Vote 2011'. (WAQ56983)

*Answer issued on 27 January 2011*

**Assembly Commissioner for Assembly Resources, William Graham AM:**

The Government of Wales Act 2006 empowers the Assembly Commission to “promote public awareness of the current or any pending system for the election of Assembly Members and the current or any pending system of devolved government in Wales”. The power includes the ability to provide programmes of information or education to promote public awareness. The referendum on law-making powers on 3 March and the Assembly elections on 5 May together form the first opportunities since the 2006 Act came into force that people in Wales have had to vote on these important issues.

The Commission’s first strategic goal since it came into being has been to promote and widen engagement in devolution. It has exercised its statutory powers and supported this goal by committing the following resources to the “Vote 2011” campaign, all these resources have been contained within the budget for external communications agreed by the Assembly for the current year, no additional monies have been sought or spent.

Vote 2011 spending and totals

The main cost related to the Assembly’s online multimedia advertising campaign and was £68,099.85. This includes creation of all online advertisements across a variety of digital formats and platforms, as well as the cost of buying advertising space online.

This total figure includes a fee of £5,650 paid to the Central Office of Information to cover procurement, project and financial management fees. The Assembly Commission has used the same media planning agency as the Electoral Commission. This helps to ensure that there is synergy between the Electoral Commission’s multi-media advertising campaign and the targeted campaign undertaken by the Assembly Commission.

Other costs are:

£267.90: for a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter for a BSL version of the video - the first time the Commission has produced such a video to reach a wider audience.

£191.87: for a braille version of the Vote 2011 leaflet

£528.75: for an easy read version of the same leaflet

£1332.45: for six Vote 2011 popup displays

£282.00: for one large Vote 2011 pop up display

£3,743 (to November 2010): for Outreach bus costs that can be directly related to Vote 2011.

The Assembly Commission has used these resources in an innovative multimedia communications campaign that offers accurate, impartial and authoritative information about the work of the Assembly, the referendum and the Assembly elections. The campaign is designed to make as many people as possible aware of the opportunities to make their voices heard this year. It is not confined to information about the referendum on law-making powers.

As part of the campaign and of the Assembly's commitment to e-democracy – using new and popular channels to access traditionally 'hard-to-reach' audiences – Vote 2011 includes an online advertising programme. The campaign has been specifically designed to target 18-35 year-olds. Research that informed the planning of this campaign indicated that this group in Wales differs from their peers across the border; they are more active civic citizens, and undertake more activities such as voluntary work but often fall short of exercising their rights to vote. This campaign, which features on social networking sites such as Facebook, Hotmail and MSN Messenger, and rotates between Welsh and English versions, is designed to give young people the push they need to get out and vote.

While the online advertising campaign is an important strand in fulfilling the Assembly Commission's responsibilities to engage the public and raise awareness of devolution and the democratic process, a range of other, more traditional, communication tools have also been used. These include: a strong media relations programme, which while targeting local weekly press and papurau bro has also secured BBC network coverage, including BBC Television News, Radio 4 and Radio 5 Live; outreach activities such as presentations to Merched y Wawr, Rotary, voluntary organisations; an Outreach Bus tour to all 22 local authority areas; a range of videos covering subjects such as who is eligible to vote, how to register to vote and what to expect on polling day, produced in-house; education workshops, outreach and teaching training activities based on the issue of voting and the theme of democracy; and a distinctive range of marketing materials and publications which have been available to the public at events, in the Senedd and at all outreach activities since July 2010.

Many of these activities form part of the normal work of the External Communications team. Vote 2011 has provided a particular and important focus for the activities.