

## **Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 19 May 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***

**Nerys Evans (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement regarding which local authorities have measured the demand for Welsh-medium education. (WAQ56001) [W]

***Answer issued on 21 May 2010***

The Welsh-medium Education Strategy makes it clear that we will expect local authorities to adopt robust methods of measuring parental demand for Welsh-medium childcare and education provision, where appropriate. It also notes that we will encourage the use of standardised methods of measuring parental demand based on those developed by the Welsh Language Board. In November 2009, the Board published a good practice document which identified the key considerations in terms of measuring demand, and an exemplar questionnaire.

The following local authorities have undertaken surveys to measure the demand for Welsh-medium education in accordance, or broadly in line, with the principles of the good practice document – Newport, Wrexham, Flintshire, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and the Vale of Glamorgan. Collaborative work is also currently underway on a regional basis in Newport, Monmouthshire, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent. Other authorities, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taff have also undertaken surveys using different approaches.

Two other local authorities – Powys and Denbighshire wish to undertake surveys in line with the good practice document but have experienced difficulty in obtaining the data to enable them to identify the appropriate target audience. Work is ongoing to seek an agreement which will ensure that all local authorities are able to obtain such data. Preparations are also under way to establish a support unit to assist local authorities and consortia to move forward on technical and practical issues connected with parental surveys, as well as other Welsh-medium planning and training matters.

**Nerys Evans (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement regarding when he will make a decision on school reorganisation in Cardiff. (WAQ56002) [W]

***Answer issued on 21 May 2010***

There are a number of school organisation proposals published in relation to Cardiff schools currently awaiting determination by the Welsh Ministers. Proposals involving the closure of Llanedeyrn High School, the transfer and enlargement of St Teilo's Church in Wales High School, the establishment of a new Welsh medium secondary school and the creation of a new Special Education Needs facility at Bishop of Llandaff High School will be determined by me, as Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning. Proposals relating to the closure of Lansdowne Primary School and Ysgol Tan yr Eos, the transfer, enlargement and age range extension of Ysgol Treganna, and the enlargement and age range extension of Radnor Primary School will be determined by the First Minister.

It is not possible for me to say when determinations might be made in relation to these matters. Decisions will only be issued when all the necessary information had been gathered and assessed and firm conclusions can be drawn.

**Nerys Evans (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement regarding when work will commence to measure the demand for Welsh-medium education, in line with the Welsh-medium education strategy. (WAQ56003) [W]

***Answer issued on 21 May 2010***

The implementation programme for the Welsh-medium Education Strategy notes that we will work with local authorities with a view to adopting robust methods of measuring parental demand for Welsh-medium childcare and education provision, where appropriate.

Work is starting immediately on identification of best practice in measuring parental demand and the preparation of guidelines. Preparations are also under way to establish a support unit to assist local authorities and consortia to move forward on technical and practical issues connected with parental surveys, as well as other planning and training matters.

**Nerys Evans (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement regarding when education authorities are expected to report to the Government on their plans to extend and expand Welsh-medium education, in line with the Welsh-medium education strategy. (WAQ56004) [W]

*Answer issued on 21 May 2010*

The implementation programme for the Welsh medium strategy notes that Welsh in Education Strategic Plans will be submitted annually by local authorities to the Welsh Assembly Government. It is expected that the achievement of the Strategy's outcomes and targets will be a central aim of these plans. This process will build on the system of Welsh Education Schemes that are currently submitted to the Welsh Language Board. My officials will work with the Language Board for an interim period, with a view to transferring the process of monitoring the existing Welsh Education Schemes to DCELLS and further building on them.

Details of the monitoring processes for the Welsh-medium Education Strategy, including the date of transfer of the local authority plans, are currently at a planning stage.

*To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services*

**Dai Lloyd (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on the development of the Rural Health Plan. (WAQ55995)

*Answer issued on 18 May 2010*

I launched the Rural Health Innovation Fund on the 8 April 2010 to improve access to healthcare in rural areas. The closing date for applications was the 7 May 2010. The Rural Health Implementation Group are currently in the processes of sifting applications.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister outline procedures used to test healthcare workers for TB in Wales. (WAQ55996)

*Answer issued on 19 May 2010*

NHS Occupational Health departments across Wales adhere to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) TB Guidelines for healthcare workers in hospital settings. Healthcare workers in primary care settings would be expected to follow guidance provided by their regulatory bodies.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What checks are in place to ensure that the Welsh Health Circular (2006) 086 guidance is strictly adhered to. (WAQ55997)

*Answer issued on 19 May 2010*

This information is not held centrally and is a matter for individual Health Boards.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Is the Welsh Health Circular (2006) 086 guidance sufficiently robust to tackle incidence of TB in Wales. (WAQ55998)

*Answer issued on 19 May 2010*

The guidance was developed by an UK expert group who were tasked with carrying out an assessment of the potential health risk posed to patients by healthcare workers who are new to the NHS and who are infected with tuberculosis (TB), hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV. Its primary purpose is to provide protection for patients from exposure in the clinical care setting to TB, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV and not to tackle the incidence of TB in Wales.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** How many healthcare workers have been tested for TB over the last twelve months and will the Minister provide a breakdown by hospital. (WAQ55999)

*Answer issued on 19 May 2010*

This information is not held centrally and is a matter for individual Health Boards.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What discussions has the Minister had regarding plans to reverse the increase in TB cases in Wales. (WAQ56000)

*Answer issued on 19 May 2010*

The official 2009 figures for TB in Wales have not yet been published. Newly diagnosed cases of TB in Wales do fluctuate from year to year and rates of TB in Wales are still amongst the lowest in the UK. Public Health Wales continues to actively monitor TB cases throughout Wales and takes immediate action where necessary.