

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 26 April 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 First Minister

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): In each of the last 5 years and by Welsh Assembly Government department, what was the total cost of employee 'away days' (including those involving overnight stays), what was the purpose of each away day and how many employees were in attendance. (WAQ55821)
Transferred for answer by the Permanent Secretary

Answer issued on 26 May 2010

The Permanent Secretary (Dame Gill Morgan): I am afraid we do not hold this information centrally and could only provide it at disproportionate cost.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the First Minister make a statement on whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by the forthcoming general election. (WAQ55922)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The dates for all regular statistical outputs are pre-announced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This states all regular outputs should have a pre-announced publication month 12 months in advance of publication. An exact date for publication is confirmed no later than 4 weeks prior to release.

To ensure there was no opportunity, or perception of opportunity, for a release to be withheld or delayed for non-statistical reasons, the Statistical Directorate pre-announced in March the dates for all regular statistical outputs through to 4 June. No publication dates have since changed.

To ask the Minister for Business and Budget

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): How much has the Welsh Assembly Government spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. (WAQ55815)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

Refurbishment work undertaken over this period has not required input from an interior designer.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): How much has the Welsh Assembly Government spent on promotional items carrying the Welsh Assembly Government's branding and logo in each of the last five years; and what were these items. (WAQ55816)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

A wide range of promotional items are purchased throughout the Welsh Assembly Government as part of numerous campaigns and initiatives. However although information is maintained on the purchase of such items, it is not collated at the level of detail that you have requested. To collect this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister make a statement on whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by her Department have been affected by the forthcoming general election. (WAQ55845)
Transferred for answer by the First Minister

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The dates for all regular statistical outputs are pre-announced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This states all regular outputs should have a pre-announced publication month 12 months in advance of publication. An exact date for publication is confirmed no later than 4 weeks prior to release.

To ensure there was no opportunity, or perception of opportunity, for a release to be withheld or delayed for non-statistical reasons, the Statistical Directorate pre-announced in March the dates for all regular statistical outputs through to 4 June. No publication dates have since changed.

To ask the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

Nerys Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement regarding the role of the school governing body when deciding the language category of a school, in particular the role of the governing body in making this decision. (WAQ55814)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The categories of schools set out in information document 23/2007 are essentially descriptions of schools in Wales as they exist. The definitions are used for statistical purposes and are collected from schools, via local authorities on an annual basis. Schools are asked to identify which description most closely fits them at the time data is collected. Governing bodies and head teachers may seek assistance from the local authority in deciding which category best describes them. The data collection informs the national picture and is intended also to assist local authorities in identifying gaps in provision in the light of parental demand.

Regulations made under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 set out which changes to schools necessitate the publication of statutory proposals. Certain changes to schools in respect of the language used for teaching and learning require full consultation followed by the publication of statutory notices, and such proposals must be brought forward by the local authority in the case of community schools and the governing body in the case of voluntary and foundation schools.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What progress has been made on the Behaving and Attending Action Plan. (WAQ55822)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

Good progress is being made on the actions contained within the Behaving and Attending Action Plan. Some key examples include:

- 9 pilot projects to improve behaviour and attendance have been set up. These pilots will help establish the effectiveness of approaches undertaken at a local level.
- New attendance codes to improve the recording of attendance data have been consulted upon and agreed for use from September 2010.
- New guidance on Safe and Effective Intervention has been consulted upon and the final draft will be issued in the Summer Term
- A draft of an Attendance Framework for the Education Welfare Service has been produced following work with local authority education welfare services. We aim to publish this in the Summer Term.
- Draft recommendations for education otherwise than at school have been produced and will form the basis for improving the planning, commissioning and delivery of alternative provision both at an area level and for the individual.

The School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) has ensured that improvements in wellbeing and learning for all of our children and young people are at the heart of the education agenda in Wales. Because of this, the most important way that we are addressing attendance and behaviour is by creating a learning environment which is both engaging and supportive to the learner. Through the sharing of effective practice and expertise throughout the system, the SEF encourages teachers to continually learn from their practice and to focus on the individual needs of and learning outcomes for their pupils. This holistic approach is supported by the Behaving and Attending Action Plan.

As part of the delivery of the Action Plan we are developing an attendance and behaviour self-evaluation framework which mirrors elements of the School Effectiveness Profile. The framework can support strategic planning and the identification of priorities for development.

In the 2009-10 financial year approximately £700,000 was spent taking forward specific actions set out in the Behaving and Attending Action Plan. The Action Plan also ensures that behaviour and attendance issues are an integral part of major educational initiatives such as the School Effectiveness Framework, 14-19 Learning Pathways and training and development of school staff, each of which will have separate funding for their implementation.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister detail how the Welsh Assembly Government has focused on literacy as a key priority, as pledged in the Behaving and Attending Action Plan last year. (WAQ55823)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

I have made clear my intention to focus on children's literacy.

Through the Foundation Phase we are ensuring that children are immersed in language experiences and activities to boost their language, literacy and communication skills

In 2009-2010 £13.2m funding was allocated to support the continuing delivery of our national "Basic Skills Strategy" which is currently being reviewed and revised. This included key programmes for early years, schools, teachers and adults as well as innovative campaigns such as Read a Million Words in Wales.

Through this strategy effective use has been made of Welsh Assembly Government funding sources including Strategic Intervention Grants (SIGs) to all Local Authorities to support "catch-up" programmes for children falling behind in their learning.

The new Basic Skills Quality Standard was launched in 2009 and will help to drive up teaching standards. It is closely aligned to the new Estyn framework criteria and aims to improve the quality of planning for basic skills teaching and learning in schools and post 16 institutions.

Through the Better Schools Fund (BSF) we will invest in the development of teaching skills to tackle under-attainment in basic skills (literacy and numeracy). £13.88m is available as part of Priority Area 1 – School Effectiveness in 2010-2011.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister make a statement on the recent pay rises of Vice Chancellors in Welsh Universities. (WAQ55824)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

All higher education institutions are autonomous bodies, with responsibility for their own academic and administrative affairs, including pay and conditions. Pay increases are determined by the governing bodies of each institution, who need to consider what rewards are proportionate to the scope and scale of the responsibilities exercised.

In setting pay awards at a time of economic constraint it is essential that governing bodies consider the impact of increases in remuneration and that they have due regard to ensuring the quality of provision and financial health of their institutions. Our recently announced HE Governance Review will ensure that Institutions continue to have the proper governance structures to fit them for the demands of a more accountable age.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister detail how the Welsh Assembly Government has increased the focus on behaviour and attendance, to bolster school effectiveness. (WAQ55825)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

Good progress is being made on the actions contained within the Behaving and Attending Action Plan. Some key examples include:

- 9 pilot projects to improve behaviour and attendance have been set up. These pilots will help establish the effectiveness of approaches undertaken at a local level.
- New attendance codes to improve the recording of attendance data have been consulted upon and agreed for use from September 2010.
- New guidance on Safe and Effective Intervention has been consulted upon and the final draft will be issued in the Summer Term
- A draft of an Attendance Framework for the Education Welfare Service has been produced following work with local authority education welfare services. We aim to publish this in the Summer Term.
- Draft recommendations for education otherwise than at school have been produced and will form the basis for improving the planning, commissioning and delivery of alternative provision both at an area level and for the individual.

The School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) has ensured that improvements in wellbeing and learning for all of our children and young people are at the heart of the education agenda in Wales. Because of this, the most important way that we are addressing attendance and behaviour is by creating a learning environment which is both engaging and supportive to the learner. Through the sharing of effective practice and expertise throughout the system, the SEF encourages teachers to continually learn from their practice and to focus on the individual needs of and learning outcomes for their pupils. This holistic approach is supported by the Behaving and Attending Action Plan.

As part of the delivery of the Action Plan we are developing an attendance and behaviour self-evaluation framework which mirrors elements of the School Effectiveness Profile. The framework can support strategic planning and the identification of priorities for development.

In the 2009-10 financial year approximately £700,000 was spent taking forward specific actions set out in the Behaving and Attending Action Plan. The Action Plan also ensures that behaviour and attendance issues are an integral part of major educational initiatives such as the School Effectiveness Framework, 14-19 Learning Pathways and training and development of school staff, each of which will have separate funding for their implementation.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): How much has been spent on the Appetite for Life programme, per financial year since 2007. (WAQ55826)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The Welsh Assembly Government has spent the following sums on the Appetite for Life programme since 2007:

2007-08	£1,488,803
2008-09	£4,165,500

2009-10 £3,393,218

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What is the Minister doing to address the concerns of teachers regarding the roll out of the Foundation Phase. (WAQ55827)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

Recognising the importance of the Foundation Phase I have ensured that a total of £76m is available to local authorities in 2010-11, an increase of £22m on 2009-10. This brings to £170m the funding allocated to the first three years of rollout.

Welsh Assembly Government funding has enabled schools to employ an additional 3,700 staff in the first two years of rollout and local authority plans indicate that this will increase to 4,500 in 2010-11. The funding is being used primarily for front line services. As a result the all-Wales average adult/pupil ratio of 1:8 has been achieved for 3 to 5-year-olds and plans are in place for the 1:15 ratio to be secured for 5 to 6-year-olds as they enter the Foundation Phase from September 2010.

Early feedback points to improvements in the quality of teaching and learning as a result of the provision made for the Foundation Phase. In addition, Estyn has confirmed that through the Foundation Phase practitioners are offering well-planned practical activities that both challenge children and promote the development of their skills.

Implementation arrangements are therefore on track and Estyn has confirmed that practitioners are fully committed to the principles and philosophy of the Foundation Phase.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What steps is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to combat the failures to meet statutory requirements in teaching Welsh at Key Stage 4 level. (WAQ55828)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

As underlined in our Welsh Medium Education Strategy I am fully committed to increasing opportunities for learners to reach fluency and use the Welsh language in their communities, families and workplace.

The importance of Welsh is therefore recognised in the school curriculum with the requirement that Welsh is provided for all pupils in compulsory education. The programme of study set out in Welsh in the National Curriculum for Wales requires schools at Key Stage 4 to build on the skills, knowledge and understanding at Key Stage 3 through an integrated programme of oracy, reading and writing. Given that Welsh at Key Stage 4 is part of each individual's 14-19 learning pathway, provision is designed to encourage the abilities of young people as learners and their desire to access future learning opportunities.

Achievement and the quality of provision in Key Stage 4 in schools are subject to regular inspection by Estyn with schools required to take action to address any areas for improvement identified by the Inspectorate.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What strategies has the Minister put in to place to promote Science for secondary school pupils. (WAQ55831)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The revised school curriculum was introduced from September 2008 following extensive consultation with practitioners across Wales. The importance of science is recognised with the requirement that it is provided for all pupils in compulsory education. The programme of study set out in Science in the National Curriculum for Wales provides schools with a detailed programme of study for each Key Stage. In addition, schools have been provided with detailed guidance to support the planning, teaching and delivery of Science at Key Stages 2 and 3.

We continue to work with local authorities and secondary schools to support the delivery of the curriculum. This includes support for the external moderation of teachers' assessment of standards in Key Stage 3 and provision of guidance on developing higher-order scientific enquiry skills.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What was the total cost of the Behaving and Attending Action Plan over the past financial year. (WAQ55832)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

Good progress is being made on the actions contained within the Behaving and Attending Action Plan. Some key examples include:

- 9 pilot projects to improve behaviour and attendance have been set up. These pilots will help establish the effectiveness of approaches undertaken at a local level.
- New attendance codes to improve the recording of attendance data have been consulted upon and agreed for use from September 2010.
- New guidance on Safe and Effective Intervention has been consulted upon and the final draft will be issued in the Summer Term
- A draft of an Attendance Framework for the Education Welfare Service has been produced following work with local authority education welfare services. We aim to publish this in the Summer Term.
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The School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) has ensured that improvements in wellbeing and learning for all of our children and young people are at the heart of the education agenda in Wales. Because of this, the most important way that we are addressing attendance and behaviour is by creating a learning environment which is both engaging and supportive to the learner. Through the sharing of effective practice and expertise throughout the system, the SEF encourages teachers to continually learn from their practice and to focus on the individual needs of and learning outcomes for their pupils. This holistic approach is supported by the Behaving and Attending Action Plan.

As part of the delivery of the Action Plan we are developing an attendance and behaviour self-evaluation framework which mirrors elements of the School Effectiveness Profile. The framework can support strategic planning and the identification of priorities for development.

In the 2009-10 financial year approximately £700,000 was spent taking forward specific actions set out in the Behaving and Attending Action Plan. The Action Plan also ensures that behaviour and attendance issues are an integral part of major educational initiatives such as the School Effectiveness Framework, 14-19 Learning Pathways and training and development of school staff, each of which will have separate funding for their implementation.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What progress has been made, aside from the Appetite for Life programme, to teach children about healthy meals and nutritional standards. (WAQ55833)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The school curriculum in Wales provides a range of opportunities for learners to learn about healthy eating.

In the Foundation Phase, the 'Personal and Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity' area of learning provides children with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the importance of food in their daily lives.

In the national curriculum, the place of food in design and technology has been given greater significance and status. At Key Stages 2 and 3, practical food preparation skills have been made compulsory and food has been made a compulsory material. At all key stages in physical education, the 'Health, fitness and well-being activities' area of experience requires learners to be given opportunities to identify how to eat and drink healthily in order to meet the energy requirements of different activities and to find out how exercise affects the body. In science, in 'Interdependence of organisms' at Key Stage 2, learners should be given opportunities to study the need for a variety of foods and exercise for human good health. At Key Stage 3, they should be given opportunities to study how food is used by the body as fuel during respiration and why the components of a balanced diet are needed for good health.

In the basic curriculum, the 'Health and emotional well-being' theme in the framework for personal and social education has a clear emphasis on food and the importance of healthy eating, requiring learners to understand the relationship between diet, exercise and good health.

Support materials for schools are being produced to accompany the school curriculum and the guidance document Food and fitness in the school curriculum in Wales has recently been sent to schools as part of this package.

Schools also consider a whole school approach to food and fitness as part of their work linked to the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes; and, primary schools have been receiving visits from our Cooking Bus since September 2006.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister provide an update on the decisions made regarding school closures in Wales, broken down by constituency area. (WAQ55834)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The table below provides the number of school closure proposals approved by the Welsh Ministers since April 2009 together with those proposals which did not receive objections and were therefore determined directly by the local authority. The data is not held on a constituency area basis and has therefore been provided by local authority area.

Local Authority	Determined by Welsh Ministers	Determined by Local Authority	Total
Blaenau Gwent	2		2
Bridgend	1		1
Cardiff	4		4
Ceredigion		4	4
Conwy		1	1
Denbighshire		1	1
Merthyr Tydfil		1	1
Pembrokeshire	1		1
Powys		2	2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2		2
Swansea	3		3
Torfaen	1		1

Total	14	9	23

The figures provided include infant, junior, primary and secondary school closures. However, they do not include nursery school closures or the amalgamations of adjacent infant and junior schools. Where two or more schools are to be replaced by one new school the number of schools listed as closing has been reduced by one.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What steps is the Minister taking to tackle weaknesses in performance and provision of education for bilingual learners. (WAQ55844)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The recently launched Welsh-medium Education Strategy includes clear actions for tackling any weakness in provision. We expect local authorities to plan effectively for Welsh-medium provision, in conjunction with their Children and Young People's Partnerships. They will report on their Welsh-medium, bilingual and Welsh-language education strategy and planning to the Welsh Assembly Government, including whether they have achieved specific outcomes.

The Strategy and Implementation Programme also outline actions to tackle weakness in performance. These are more evident with Welsh second language (Estyn reports note that this remains a poorly performing subject).

For those being educated through the medium of Welsh, the Strategy and Implementation Programme target action to raise standards in Welsh-language literacy. We shall also expect an increase in the Welsh-medium element in bilingual schools in order to improve learners' fluency in Welsh.

Other actions include developing more effective methods of delivery, improving the training of practitioners at all levels, and identifying and sharing best practice as an integral part of the School Effectiveness Framework and the Quality and Effectiveness (post-16) Frameworks.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister make a statement on whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by the forthcoming general election. (WAQ55846) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The dates for all regular statistical outputs are pre-announced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This states all regular outputs should have a pre-announced publication month 12 months in advance of publication. An exact date for publication is confirmed no later than 4 weeks prior to release.

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To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): Does the Minister have any plans to establish a retail forum, along similar lines to the manufacturing forum. (WAQ55810)

Answer issued on 26 May 2010

Further to the holding reply you received for WAQ 55810, I am now in a position to provide you with a response.

Following discussions with members of the British Retail Consortium, the CBI and representatives from some of the larger retail companies that revealed an appetite to create a forum, my officials are currently considering the structure and remit of such a forum.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister make a statement on whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by the forthcoming general election. (WAQ55847) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The dates for all regular statistical outputs are pre-announced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This states all regular outputs should have a pre-announced publication month 12 months in advance of publication. An exact date for publication is confirmed no later than 4 weeks prior to release.

To ensure there was no opportunity, or perception of opportunity, for a release to be withheld or delayed for non-statistical reasons, the Statistical Directorate pre-announced in March the dates for all regular statistical outputs through to 4 June. No publication dates have since changed.

To ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister make a statement on whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by her Department have been affected by the forthcoming general election. (WAQ55848) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The dates for all regular statistical outputs are pre-announced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This states all regular outputs should have a pre-announced publication month 12 months in advance of publication. An exact date for publication is confirmed no later than 4 weeks prior to release.

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To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): What plans exist for amputee pain management in North Wales. (WAQ55801)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

Local Health Boards have responsibility for provision of health services in their area including services for amputees, from within the resources made available by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): What is Welsh Assembly Government policy on the provision of a second limb (as a spare), for amputees, if one breaks. (WAQ55802)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

There is no Welsh Assembly Government policy. The Artificial Limb and Appliances Service is responsible for the provision of artificial limbs, and should have their own policies in place when considering the need for a second limb, taking into account individual patient needs.

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Has an amputee consultant been appointed in North Wales or is there any intention to appoint one. (WAQ55803)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

Local Health Boards have responsibility for provision of health services in their area including services for amputees, from within the resources made available by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Has each limb centre in Wales now got a psychologist or counsellor attached. (WAQ55804)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

This information is not held centrally.

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): How many amputees patients in Wales are provided with silicone limbs. (WAQ55805)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

This information is not held centrally.

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Are amputees provided with early walking aids in Wales. (WAQ55806)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The Artificial Limb and Appliances Service provides early walking aids, taking into account individual patient needs.

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Under Welsh Assembly Government policy or guidance, how quickly do amputees start rehabilitation. (WAQ55807)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

Rehabilitation begins immediately after amputation.

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Does the Welsh Assembly Government have any plans to issue renewed guidance in relation to childcare, if so, when and will this guidance be incorporated into a family support strategy. (WAQ55808) *Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Children*

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

The Deputy Minister for Children (Huw Lewis): The Children and Families (Wales) Measure makes statutory provision, to take forward the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment in terms of child poverty, and to take forward its strategy for vulnerable children by bringing forward legislation to provide greater support to families where children may be at risk, and strengthened regulatory enforcement in childcare settings.

Part 2 of the Measure, Child Minding and Day Care for Children, takes the opportunity to use powers devolved under the Government of Wales Act 2006 to consolidate and improve existing child minding and day care legislation for Wales, making the law in these areas more accessible and easier to understand. Part 2 also includes new measures which strengthen regulatory enforcement in childcare settings.

The Welsh Assembly Government will be consulting on the childminding and day care regulations which fall from the Measure during the summer months.

In addition, following requests for additional guidance we have been working closely with key stakeholders in Local Authorities to produce a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment toolkit for Wales. The toolkit aims to assist Local Authorities with their duty under the Childcare Act 2006, to produce a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment every three years with at least an annual review. The toolkit is now in its final stages and will be available to key partners in May.

We will also be considering how best to develop childcare provision across Wales and to improve quality, as part of our overall approach to helping those families most in need.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What relationship has the Welsh Assembly Government had with the Local Safeguarding Children Boards over the past year. (WAQ55829)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

In the last year the Welsh Assembly Government, through the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, has published overview reports on the effectiveness of multi-agency child protection arrangements operated by Local Safeguarding Children Boards, and on a future framework for Serious Case Reviews, following evidence that the current arrangements undertaken by LSCBs were not working as intended.

Both of these reports were published in October 2009 and are available on the CSSIW website.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What steps is the Minister taking to combat child obesity. (WAQ55830)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

I am taking action to prevent obesity through the Food and Fitness 5 Year Implementation Plan for Children and Young People. This plan sets out the key ways in which we are helping to support children and young people and their families to eat well and stay fit. In addition, on March 10 the Welsh Assembly Government launched Change4Life, a social marketing campaign aimed at getting families and adults to eat better, move more and live longer.

To address obesity in young people, the Welsh Assembly Government is supporting the piloting of the MEND programme in Wales, investing £1.2m over 3 years. MEND, "Mind, Exercise, Nutrition...Do it!" is a family focussed community based obesity referral programme for overweight and obese children

aged 7-13. We are also consulting on a draft all Wales Obesity Pathway. Once finalised it will be used as a tool for Health Boards, with their partners, to review local policies, services and cross-departmental multi-agency activity on overweight and obesity.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): How much is currently being spent on developing cancer services for patients in West Wales. (WAQ55835)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The planning and delivery of cancer services in West Wales is a matter for the Local Health Boards (LHBs in that area). Details of spending by category and LHB can be found on the StatsWales website. I have attached a link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2010/100422/?lang=en>

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What is the current frequency for MDT (multi disciplinary team) meetings with clinicians from Singleton and Morriston hospitals. (WAQ55836)

Answers issued on 27 April 2010

The frequency of multi-disciplinary team meetings is a clinical matter for Local Health Boards.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): How many histopathologists are employed by Hywel Dda Health Board and how does this relate to the number of histopathologists across the country. (WAQ55837)

Answers issued on 27 April 2010

Data on the numbers of staff, including histopathologists, employed by NHS organisations up to 2008 is available on the Stats Wales website at: <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=1279>. Data relating to 2009 will be available on Stats Wales from 29 April.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister make a statement on cancer services in West Wales. (WAQ55838)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The planning and delivery of cancer services in West Wales is a matter for the Local Health Boards (LHBs in that area). Details of spending by category and LHB can be found on the StatsWales website. I have attached a link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2010/100422/?lang=en>

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What steps is the Minister taking to combat the infrequency of MDT (multi disciplinary team) meetings between senior clinicians and consultants in hospitals in West Wales. (WAQ55839)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The frequency of multi-disciplinary team meetings is a local clinical decision, and one in which it would be inappropriate for me to intervene, although I would not expect the lack of a meeting to delay cancer treatment.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What are the current waiting times for patients in West Wales who are waiting for complex biopsies to determine whether cancer is in situ. (WAQ55840)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

There are no specific waiting times targets for a biopsy. Patients should be seen in order of their clinical priority and within Welsh cancer waiting times policy.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What steps is the Minister taking to combat the waiting times of results for complex biopsies and confirmation of diagnosis meetings. (WAQ55841)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

I expect biopsies, results, and any subsequent treatment to be carried out promptly and in line with Welsh cancer waiting times policies.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What are the general waiting times for cancer patients in West Wales, broken down by hospital. (WAQ55842)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The information is not held centrally.

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): What is the current waiting time for a biopsy appointment in West Wales. (WAQ55843)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

There is no specific waiting time target for a biopsy appointment in Wales. I expect all patients to receive appointments, biopsies, and any subsequent treatment in line with Welsh cancer waiting times policies.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister make a statement on whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or report by her Department have been affected by the forthcoming general election. (WAQ55923) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The dates for all regular statistical outputs are pre-announced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This states all regular outputs should have a pre-announced publication month 12 months in advance of publication. An exact date for publication is confirmed no later than 4 weeks prior to release.

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To ask the Minister for Heritage

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister make a statement on whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by the forthcoming general election. (WAQ55924) ***Transferred for answer by the First Minister***

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The dates for all regular statistical outputs are pre-announced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This states all regular outputs should have a pre-announced publication month 12 months in advance of publication. An exact date for publication is confirmed no later than 4 weeks prior to release.

To ensure there was no opportunity, or perception of opportunity, for a release to be withheld or delayed for non-statistical reasons, the Statistical Directorate pre-announced in March the dates for all regular statistical outputs through to 4 June. No publication dates have since changed.

To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Assembly Government's preparations for dealing with bluetongue disease. (WAQ55798)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

At present the whole of GB remains in a Protection Zone for BTV8. Wales, as part of the UK Member State, is in discussion with the European Commission in regard to re-designating the current GB Protection Zone a BTV8 Lower Risk Zone. This would allow vaccination against BTV8 to continue whilst also putting in place additional measures to protect against the risk of bringing in animals which may be carrying the disease. Vaccination is the only effective means of protecting animals against Bluetongue and the Welsh Assembly Government continues to encourage farmers in Wales to vaccinate.

Further GB surveillance for all Bluetongue serotypes will be carried out in November which could support the case for disease freedom in 2011.

Susceptible animals that move to UK from other Bluetongue affected EU Member States continue to be post import tested for all Bluetongue strains.

Lorraine Barrett (Cardiff South and Penarth): How many letters or signatures on petitions has the Minister received objecting to a badger cull in Wales. (WAQ55799)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

Since 8 April 2008 I have received 40,000 representations both supporting and objecting to the TB Eradication Programme which includes a limited cull of badgers in a pilot area. This includes 12 petitions/campaigns and correspondence received during a 14 week public consultation on the Tuberculosis Eradication (Wales) Order 2010. The number of signatures on petitions/campaigns represents 90% of all representations received on this issue. The majority of the letters and signatures were from individuals living outside Wales.

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister provide an update on the progress of the Welsh Assembly Government's review of farming red tape. (WAQ55811)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

I am pleased to report good progress. Reducing/combining inspections has been our top priority with three main points of attack. First, working with Animal Health and private vets to deliver combined TB and WAG cattle inspections. Second, working with Local Authorities who, where appropriate, will not inspect where WAG has already done so. Third, delivering a similar arrangement with the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Scheme (FAWL).

Other practical work linked to reducing bureaucracy continues, most recently with the delivery of a simple solution to address the Food Chain Information (FCI) requirements for Cattle and Sheep in Wales.

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister provide an update on the progress of the Local Sourcing Action Plan. (WAQ55812)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

The Local Sourcing Action Plan sets out our agenda for increasing the amount of local food purchased by the consumer, public sector organisations and the hospitality sector.

Significant progress has been achieved with over 75% of the plan completed. Some projects are more long term in their impact and aspirations and these are making good progress. There are many partners involved in the delivery of both plans which require cross departmental co-operation and working across the sector.

I intend to produce a full progress report in September when officials have had the opportunity to analyse information from some key research projects which will take place over the Summer months.

Brynle Williams (North Wales): How many applications to the Young Entrants Support Scheme have been submitted, as of 31st March 2010. (WAQ55813)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

As of the 31 March 2010, 124 applications have been received for entry into the first year of the Young Entrants Support Scheme.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): What are the estimated receipts to the Welsh Assembly Government from adventure trails, zip wire courses and other similar activities on Forestry Commission Wales land in each of the next 3 years. (WAQ55819)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

The first of four zip wire courses to be constructed on land managed by Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government opened in March 2010. The Welsh Assembly Government will receive a minimum income of £5,000 this year from this activity, rising to an estimated £30,000 per year in three year's time, subject to planning consent being given for the completion of the remaining courses by the end of 2013.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): What were the total receipts to the Welsh Assembly Government from adventure trails, zip wire courses and other similar activities Forestry Commission Wales Land in each of the past 5 years. (WAQ55820)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

The Welsh Assembly Government has not received any income from adventure trails, zip wire courses and other similar activities on Forestry Commission Wales land in the past five years as there were no facilities of this nature in place during that period of time.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister make a statement on whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by her Department have been affected by the forthcoming general election. (WAQ55925) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The dates for all regular statistical outputs are pre-announced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This states all regular outputs should have a pre-announced publication month 12 months in advance of publication. An exact date for publication is confirmed no later than 4 weeks prior to release.

To ensure there was no opportunity, or perception of opportunity, for a release to be withheld or delayed for non-statistical reasons, the Statistical Directorate pre-announced in March the dates for all regular statistical outputs through to 4 June. No publication dates have since changed.

Lorraine Barrett (Cardiff South and Penarth): What assessment has the Minister made regarding whether the badger cull will prove cost effective, given the view of Imperial College London that it's far more expensive than the cost of bTB. (WAQ55928)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

The data used by Imperial College London in its report "The Duration of the Effects of Repeated Widespread Badger Culling on Cattle Tuberculosis Following the Cessation of Culling", published on 10 February 2010, came from the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT). Further monitoring of the effects in the RBCT areas is ongoing and a further report from this project, which will add to the information in the report published on 10 February 2010, is due to be published in autumn 2010. Our view, therefore, is that the conclusions of this report are premature. We are, in any event, not repeating the RBCT approach in Wales but will instead combine a limited cull of badgers with strict cattle control measures within a defined area over a sustained period. Although there are similarities between the RBCT and the Pilot Area in west Wales, the differences are so significant as to prevent true comparison of the results and we are confident of a much longer-term success rate as a result. The Pilot Area has been designed, amongst other things, to overcome the problems found in the RBCT and minimise the effect of perturbation. Information on the costs and implications of culling were provided to me and formed part of my consideration of the decision on the Pilot Area. This information has been published on the Welsh Assembly Government website.

Lorraine Barrett (Cardiff South and Penarth): Will the Minister clarify whether lactating female badgers will be exempt from being culled or will the cull be indiscriminate. (WAQ55929)

Answer issued on 07 April 2011

We recognise the welfare implications of orphaning dependent young in the sett. For this reason we will be implementing a closed-season in the pilot area, during which no badgers will be culled. This is in line with that which was adopted for the Randomised Badger Culling Trials (RBCT) in England, where the closed season ran from 1 February to 30 April each year. The Final Report of the Independent Scientific Group (ISG) concluded that the closed season adopted for the RBCT appeared highly effective at limiting the numbers of females caught that had dependent cubs: of 4,617 adult females captured in 2000-2005, only 171 (3.7%) were actively lactating.

It will not be possible to handle live, cage-trapped badgers to determine their sex or whether they are lactating. This information will however be recorded following despatch and be used to inform any decision on changing the closed-season in the future.

Lorraine Barrett (Cardiff South and Penarth): What consideration has the Minister given to the view set out in the report by Imperial College London, that the long term effects of a cull will be an increase in the prevalence of bTB amongst badgers. (WAQ55930)

Answer issued on 30 April 2010

The data used by Imperial College London in its report “The Duration of the Effects of Repeated Widespread Badger Culling on Cattle Tuberculosis Following the Cessation of Culling”, published on 10 February 2010, came from the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT). Further monitoring of the effects in the RBCT areas is ongoing and a further report from this project, which will add to the information in the report published on 10 February 2010, is due to be published in autumn 2010. Our view, therefore, is that the conclusions of this report are premature. We are, in any event, not repeating the RBCT approach in Wales but will instead combine a limited cull of badgers with strict cattle control measures within a defined area over a sustained period. Although there are similarities between the RBCT and the Pilot Area in west Wales, the differences are so significant as to prevent true comparison of the results and we are confident of a much longer-term success rate as a result. The Pilot Area has been designed, amongst other things, to overcome the problems found in the RBCT and minimise the effect of perturbation. Information on the costs and implications of culling were provided to me and formed part of my consideration of the decision on the Pilot Area. This information has been published on the Welsh Assembly Government website.

To ask the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Eleanor Burnham (North Wales): What plans does the Welsh Assembly Government have to replicate the Scottish system and place a statutory duty on fire brigades to respond to flooding in Wales, as set out in the current fire Brigade Union’s campaign. (WAQ55800)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

Any response to a major flood event will inevitably involve an operational response from the Fire and Rescue Service. The Welsh Assembly Government has consulted the three Chief Fire Officers in Wales who are of the view that provided there is clarity of purpose, guidance and the availability of necessary resources to carry out flood rescue a statutory duty is not required.

Since devolution of the Fire and Rescue Service to Wales, a major capital investment of £2.2 million has been made to provide four High Volume Pumps and special vehicles to the Fire and Rescue Services, which have been used to great effect in the serious flooding of 2007 and 2008.

A further £800,000 of funding has been provided over the last two years to the three Fire and Rescue Services in Wales to procure water rescue equipment and training to bring its teams up to national consistent standards.

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): What action has the Minister taken to support community pubs and does he plan to bring forward any measures to support community pubs and are there any specific financial allocations in the 2010/11 budget for measures to support community pubs. (WAQ55809)

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

Whilst the Welsh Assembly Government is committed to tackling the misuse of alcohol, we recognise the importance of local pubs to their communities. There are a range of measures being undertaken, and finance available, across portfolio areas that will support community pubs.

Within my portfolio, we have enhanced the Small Business Rates Relief available for small independent public houses for one year from 1st October 2010 to 31 September 2011. Businesses with a rateable value up to £6,000 will receive 100% relief for that year, whilst those with a rateable value of £6001 to £12,000 will receive relief tapered from 100% to 0%. Details of the tapering are still being finalised.

Also, within my portfolio area, the Post Office Diversification Fund can be used to relocate post office services into a local pub where the community has lost its post office for any reason other than compulsory closure. In order to apply the pub must have a contract with Post Office Ltd to provide post office services.

Recognising the importance of maintaining the local pub in rural areas, the Assembly Government has previously awarded a grant to 'Pub is the Hub', an independent advisory trust, to undertake a research project. Their report made a number of recommendations to help secure the future of pubs in rural Wales. Work has been taken forward on this and many rural pubs are now eligible for the Rate Relief Scheme, as detailed above. Officials in the Department for Rural Affairs are taking forward the remaining recommendations.

I'm aware that a number of Axes 3&4 Local Partnerships, established through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, have also been in discussion with 'Pub is the Hub' to explore ways in which they could contribute to the development of their rural areas. For example, Cadwyn Clwyd are already working with 'Pub is the Hub' to deliver projects for rural communities in Denbighshire, including supporting them to act as co-operatives to buy the pub to ensure it is retained as a centre of services for their local area.

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister make a statement on whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by the forthcoming general election. (WAQ55926) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

Answer issued on 27 April 2010

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The dates for all regular statistical outputs are pre-announced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This states all regular outputs should have a pre-announced publication month 12 months in advance of publication. An exact date for publication is confirmed no later than 4 weeks prior to release.

To ensure there was no opportunity, or perception of opportunity, for a release to be withheld or delayed for non-statistical reasons, the Statistical Directorate pre-announced in March the dates for all regular statistical outputs through to 4 June. No publication dates have since changed.

To ask the Representative of the Assembly Commission

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): In each of the last 5 years and by Assembly Commission department, what was the total cost of employee 'away days' (including those involving overnight stays), what was the purpose of each away day and how many employees were in attendance. (WAQ55817)

Answer issued on 26 April 2010

Assembly Commissioner for Assembly Resources, William Graham AM: Information of the detail requested has only been collated centrally since the 2008 calendar year, the first full calendar year after the creation of the Commission. There was insufficient time to gather and collate the detailed information for previous years (from individual Service Areas) in time for this response. Information in the form

requested is therefore shown below for the 2008 and 2009 calendar years. Available data shows total spend on awaydays for was £4,668 in 2006 and £3,744 in 2007.

Date	Service Area	Venue/Provider	Cost	Attendees	Focus of the day:
2 April 2008	Operations Directorate management team	Craft in the Bay, Cardiff Bay	£178.13	6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What we do well/ Where could we improve? 2. How do we feel about where we are now? 3. What would it look like if all went well? 4. How do we get there?
23 May 2008	Corporate Unit	Pierhead Building Lunch supplied by Kemi's Café, Cardiff Bay	£102.00	16	The day raised staff awareness of governance issues by delivering sessions covering the Finance Manual, Welsh Language Scheme, Equality Policy, and Access to Information and also developed action steps to implement the service plan.
6 June	Human Resources	Absolute Adventure, Swansea Valley	£972.00	16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce a new team structure to staff and nurture a sense of unity following the merger of Fees into HR. 2. Review current work practices. 3. Invite suggestions from staff to improve service delivery. <p>The programme included facilitated group discussions in the morning and a team building activity in the afternoon.</p>
27 June 2008	External Communications – Visits Team	Express by Holiday Inn, Cardiff Bay	£384.00	12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To discuss and demonstrate how we assist the delivery of the Assembly Commission strategy; 2. To determine and demonstrate how our team objectives contribute to the successful delivery of the External Communications'

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					Service Plan; 3. To discuss how we can improve the Customer Service we offer; 4. To learn about the delivery of Assembly legislation one year on and consider our role in promoting this work.
23 July 2008	Legislation Office	Craft in the Bay, Cardiff Bay	£261.63	12	Discussion of Service Plan Review of the last year Options for permanent legislation committees, implications for staffing etc.
28 July 2008	ICT	Canada Lakes, Creigiau	£1,649.70	13	The away day was designed to build upon the working relationships within the team and identify essentials for i-change. The aims and objectives of the day were: Objectives 1. To consider 'must haves' for i-change going forward, prioritised to Assembly Members' needs and to the Assembly Goals and Vision. 2. To understand the importance of Situational Leadership. 3. To understand the importance of communications.
1 October 2008	Committee Service	Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay	£196.81	25	This was a part day to discuss i-change, branding/media and risk.
4-5 December	External Communications	Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Llangrannog	£1,262.50	24	1. To understand the National Assembly for Wales Perceptions Survey 2008 results and consider the implications for service development. 2. To discuss the service wide implications for the Pierhead, Brand and Devolution Decade projects.

					<p>3. To plan and co-ordinate cross team working to deliver service wide projects.</p> <p>4. To map out risks and challenges to the delivery of our objectives.</p> <p>5. To discuss future challenges and projects to inform the development of the 2009-2011 service plan.</p> <p>6. To discuss the challenge of being a multi-site team on service delivery</p>
9 Feb 2009	Resources Group	Wales Millennium Centre	£624.00	30	<p>To discuss the group's three key priorities in improving how we work (below), and come up with ideas to make it happen.</p> <p>1. Making the Resources group a great place to work; working together and supporting each other to deliver fantastic service;</p> <p>2. Being imaginative, bold, professional and fresh in our approach;</p> <p>3. Supporting Members, Commissioners., the Chief Executive, Directors and Service Heads in planning for and managing their resources to best effect.</p>
27 Feb 2009	Committee Service	Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay	£684.25	27	<p>The aim was for the whole team to be involved in developing the service plan for the year ahead, looking at each of the Commission goals, the contributions we make to the themes and priorities within each goal and areas we need to work on as a priority for development within the service.</p>
27 March	Human	Craft in the	£353.13	21	<p>1. Clarify customer need.</p>

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2009	Resources	Bay, Cardiff Bay				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Agree Service Priorities (with a customer focus) 3. Allocate owners to priorities 4. Embed priorities in individual's <i>Performance Management and Development Reviews</i> for coming year 5. Engender a 'one team' spirit.
15 May 2009	Operations Directorate management team	Brecon Beacons Mountain Centre	£113.00	6		To horizon scan and consider strategic barriers and opportunities in the delivery of excellent operational support activities to Members and the Assembly.
22 May 2009	Corporate Unit	Captain's Wife, Sully/Ysgol Gwaun y Nant, Barry	£220.62	14		<p>To develop team building following reorganisation of the Unit.</p> <p>Individual team-building exercises in Cardiff and the Vale followed by whole team working by undertaking a project of benefit to the community.</p>
11 June 2009	External Communications Events Team	National Museum of Wales Cardiff	£183.66	6		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To handover information relating to planning and managing our summer event shows 2. Ideas on implementing our 10 year anniversary events programme-next steps action plan 3. Ideas and discussion on developing our events office and systems to streamline our events organisation 4. Case study examples of event management from the private sector, sharing experience on the principles of event management 5. The Pierhead opening event-introduction to the event and Q&A with Festivals Company 6. Create a forum for

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					ideas and actions relating to all Assembly events issues.
20 July 2009	External Communication Education Team	Craft in the Bay, Cardiff Bay	£112.70	9	Where would we like to be by the 4 th Assembly Myers Briggs Project Development What is our strategy?
21 July 2009	Legal Services	City and Council of Swansea	£460.99	9	1. The development of the Assembly and the contribution of Assembly staff as seen from the perspective of the Commission. 2. The Assembly Legal Service – the next two years 3. Successes, Lessons and Challenges
23-24 July 2009	ICT	Canada Lakes, Creigiau	£1,840.00	16	Objectives 1. To consider our responsibilities to the Change Programme 2. To realise the pressures and benefits of change 3. To understand the importance of trust within the team
20 Aug 2009	Security	Canada Lakes, Creigiau	£1,120.00	14	To build a more integrated security team.
23 Oct 2009	External Communications	Norwegian Church	£455.20	10	1. To help develop a service plan with a view to improving service delivery. 2. To brainstorm ideas for communicating the opening of the Pierhead.
19 November 2009	External Communications (PR Awayday)	Craft in the Bay	£197.00	15	1. In order to improve team working within the team. 2. In order to brainstorm

					service improvements.
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Darren Millar (Clwyd West): What is the total cost of the rebranding exercise carried out by the National Assembly for Wales. (WAQ55818)

Answer issued on 26 April 2010

Assembly Commissioner for the Assembly and the Citizen, Peter Black AM: Developing the Assembly brand was necessary as a result of the Government of Wales Act 2006, which secured the separation of the National Assembly for Wales (the parliamentary body) and the Welsh Assembly Government (the executive) in law for the first time.

It was clear that people did not understand the distinct purposes and functions of the two bodies. So that people will engage with the Assembly as a legislative and scrutiny body which holds the Welsh Government to account, the distinction needs to be understood. Branding to emphasise this distinction is a tool to help the Assembly to secure better engagement with the people of Wales. The work on the brand also demonstrates the Assembly's commitment to producing information that is accessible, consistent and engaging.

The National Assembly's publication budget (which includes the cost of branding) meets the costs of all printed materials. In 2008-09, the total spend on branding and consequent publication requirements was £79,805. Within that figure, £28,525 was paid to a professional design agency (Departures) for the creation and development of the new brand to be used across the Assembly.

The branding work was approved by the Commission in July 2008. Provision for a proportion of this expenditure had already been included in the Commission's budget for 2008-09 and approved by the Assembly. Additional costs were contained within the agreed budget and resources for that financial year.

The cost of producing resources, including business cards and display materials, in the new brand style amounted to £22,000 and this was paid from the 2009-10 publications budget. Some of these printing costs would have been incurred in any event to replace and update existing material.