

## **Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 20 October 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***

**Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central):** Will the Minister provide the details of any calculations relating to the illustration, within his statement of 12th October, that charging a £7,000 fee to Welsh students going to English universities could result in a cost to the Welsh Assembly Government of an additional £70m by 2015-2016, £55m of which would effectively flow from the Welsh block into English universities. (WAQ56604)

***Answer issued on 20 October 2010***

In my statement of 12 October, I provided an indication of the potential cost to the Welsh Assembly Government of providing the tuition fee costs for Welsh students studying at English Universities in academic year 2015/2016. The precise financial implications are based on a number of factors including the final policy detail and the behavior of both students and English institutions in response to the likely changes, and more detailed financial modelling will take place.

The Assembly government issues loans and subsidises (e.g. the cost of loans not repaid) the cost of providing loans to students. Excluding initial teacher training students, we would expect (based on 2009-10 levels) to be supporting around 14,000 Welsh domiciled undergraduates in English HEIs in 2015-16. If fees are increased to £7000 in 2012-13, then uprated by inflation we would expect that the additional cost to the Welsh Assembly Government of providing additional loans to students studying in England could therefore be around £55m plus around £15m in loan subsidy.

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

**Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire):** How much of the Welsh Assembly Government budget has been allocated for the Newtown bypass. (WAQ56607)

***Answer issued on 20 October 2010***

£3.1m has currently been allocated for the next stage of scheme development which is to undertake Preliminary Design and prepare draft Orders for publication.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on the criteria for the erection of horse-warning signs. (WAQ56608)

***Answer issued on 15 April 2011***

There are three signs available in the Traffic Signs Manual (TSM) to warn of horses or horse-drawn vehicles in the road.

- Diagram 550 - Wild horses or ponies likely to be in road ahead depicts a riderless galloping horse.
- Diagram 550.1 - Accompanied horses or ponies likely to be in or crossing road ahead portrays a horse and rider at a leisurely trot.
- Diagram 550.2 - Used to warn of horse-drawn vehicles in the road ahead.

Guidance on their use is provided in Chapter 4 paragraphs 10.10, 10.11 and 10.12 of the TSM;

- Paragraph 10.10 - Diagram 550 may be used wherever such animals are likely to be found in the road.
- Paragraph 10.11 - Diagram 550.1 warns of accompanied or ridden horses or ponies where numbers of horses are frequently walked or ridden along or crossed over the road. Warning of horses crossing the road ahead, e.g. where a bridleway crosses the road, can be given by adding a distance plate.
- Para 10.12 - Use of diagram 550.1 to indicate an informal crossing place should normally be considered only where the visibility distance is less than specified in table 10-2 (Shown below). These distances are based on one step below the minimum desirable stopping sight distance.

**Table 10-2 Horse crossing places**

<b>85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed (mph)</b>	<b>Visibility distance (m)</b>
Up to 40	80
41 to 50	110
51 to 60	150
Over 60	200

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

**Brian Gibbons (Aberavon):** Further to the Minister's answers to WAQ55664 and WAQ55665, will she provide an update on annual emission levels since 1990. (WAQ56603)

***Answer issued on 15 April 2011***

The Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland report, providing data for 2008, showed that on a 'by-source' basis, Wales' share of the UK's total net GHG emissions was 7.9%, and that emissions in Wales have declined by 9.9% compared to 1990.

The report also included 'end-user' datasets which provide estimates of emissions at the point of consumption of energy, rather than where it is produced. A general downward trend in emissions can be seen. Wales' share of the UK's total net greenhouse emissions was 7.1%, representing a decline of 20.9% across all greenhouse gases since 1990.

***To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services***

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on CAF/CASS Cymru's budget and the number of free supervised access sessions they are able to give families. (WAQ56606)

***Answer issued on 14 April 2011***

CAFCASS CYMRU administers the Welsh Assembly Government's funding arrangements for contact service provision in Wales. The current allocation for Contact Services across Wales is £198,000 per annum.

CAFCASS CYMRU does not provide the sessions but commissions the Contact Services Providers to provide sessions in response to referrals. The referral would usually be made at the time the court required the Family Court Advisor to assess the quality of contact between a parent, carer, or extended family member and the child. Therefore referrals to Contact Service Providers are made on a case by case basis for a specific number of sessions based on the nature of the issues to be addressed within a welfare report to the court.