

## **Answers issued to Members on 18 July 2008**

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

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### **Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport**

**Mark Isherwood (North Wales):** Further to the Minister's commitment to establish an 'action group' following the collapse of the sale of the Dolgarrog site to consider options for the future of the site: (a) was this group established; (b) who were the members and (c) what were their proposals? (WAQ52235)

#### **The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones):**

(a) The Local Action Group held its inaugural meeting on 18th March 2008.

(b) Membership consists of local elected members and officers of Conwy County Borough Council and neighbouring wards; Snowdonia National Park; Job Centre Plus; Assembly Government officials (DCELLS and DE&T). Implementation of the Group's work is led by the Deputy Minister for Regeneration.

(c) Initially, the Group agreed to commission a study to look at potential uses for the site which would be sustainable for the area. However, the study was postponed due to the 12 week exclusivity period with Ainscough Johnston. Representatives of the new owners will attend the next meeting to outline their proposals and work with the Group on a way forward.

Other actions include:

- Studying a creditor list supplied by KPMG to analyse the geographical spread of creditors in relation to Conwy.
- Consulting with Job Centre Plus on those ex-employees who remain out of work and providing subsequent assistance.
- Meeting with Job Centre Plus, DCELLS and Conwy County Borough Council to discuss how many ex-employees wish to become self employed so that they can be provided with advice on business support and potential training opportunities still available to them.

**Mark Isherwood (North Wales):** Has the Welsh Assembly Government made any financial commitment in relation to the sale of the Dolgarrog site and, if so, what level of funding is under consideration? (WAQ52236)

**The Deputy First Minister:** The Welsh Assembly Government has not made any financial commitment in relation to the sale of the Dolgarrog site. It did, however, facilitate the transfer of the site to Ainscough Strategic Land to enable early redevelopment of the site. The terms of the transfer requires the developer to meet the cost of any future remediation of the site.

**Mark Isherwood (North Wales):** Does the Welsh Assembly Government have any financial responsibility for the work undertaken by the administrators of Dolgarrog Aluminium, and if there is a financial relationship between Welsh Assembly Government and KPMG what is the extent of the commitments made by WAG? (WAQ52237)

**The Deputy First Minister:** The Welsh Assembly Government does not have any financial responsibility for the work undertaken by the by the administrators of Dolgarrog Aluminium. However, in order to facilitate the redevelopment of the site by Ainscough Strategic Land, the Assembly Government used its land acquisition powers to ensure the release of the site to the developer at no cost to the public purse. This was achieved by facilitating a back to back transfer of the site from the administrators to the developer via the Assembly Government, funded entirely by Ainscough Strategic Land.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on what the Welsh Assembly Government is doing to create job opportunities in Brecon and Radnorshire? (WAQ52245)

**The Deputy First Minister:** I am delivering on the One Wales vision of a stronger and more enterprising economy creating more and better jobs. In Brecon and Radnorshire this includes the introduction of Flexible Support for Business and the Single Investment Fund which is transforming the way in which we support business to grow, prosper and create high quality, sustainable employment. This approach will help us build upon recent inward investment into Brecon, Ystradgynlais, and Talgarth as well as ongoing negotiations with individual businesses in Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells.

**Irene James (Islwyn):** What grants are available from the Welsh Assembly Government to non-manufacturing companies? (WAQ52267)

**The Deputy First Minister:** Through Flexible Support for Business, the Assembly Government can offer support tailored to the specific circumstances and needs of individual companies in all sectors. This support could include the financial assistance from the new Single Investment Fund and/or a range of other services. For more information, companies should contact Flexible Support for Business on 03000 6 03000 or visit the website, [www.business-support-wales.gov.uk](http://www.business-support-wales.gov.uk).

### Questions to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister make a statement on gender equality in teaching roles in Welsh secondary schools? (WAQ52218)

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister make a statement on gender equality in teaching roles in Welsh Primary Schools? (WAQ52219)

**The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt):** The table below sets out the number of teachers working in primary and secondary schools in Wales and their gender. Decisions about the appointment of school staff is a matter for the Governing Body and Headteachers working with their LEA to ensure that the recruitment processes are operated within appropriate policies and procedures.

#### Qualified teachers by gender, January 2007

Includes headteachers, deputy heads and other qualified teachers

	Primary		Secondary	
	Headcount	Full time equivalent	Headcount	Full time equivalent
Male	2,237	2,174	5,225	5,112
Female	11,827	10,474	8,156	7,551
Total	14,064	12,648	13,381	12,663

Source: PLASC Jan 2007.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** How many incidences of arson have taken place at schools in each Local Authority in Wales for each year since 1999? (WAQ52233) *Transferred for answer by the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government.*

**The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons):** Table 1 below shows deliberate fires in schools and further education establishments within each Fire and Rescue Authority in Wales for the calendar years 1999-2006.

**Table 1: Deliberate fires in schools and further education establishments in Wales, 1999-2006(a)**

		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Wales Total (b)</b>	Schools (c)	54	47	36	64	39	45	41	32
	Further education (d)	4	5	10	5	0	12	6	5
<b>North Wales</b>	Schools (c)	8	6	0	6	10	4	18	8
	Further education (d)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
<b>Mid &amp; West Wales</b>	Schools (c)	14	25	0	26	12	8	9	9
	Further education (d)	4	0	4	0	0	12	2	0
<b>South Wales</b>	Schools (c)	31	16	36	32	16	32	14	15
	Further education (d)	0	5	6	5	0	0	4	0

Source: FRD1 fire incident data collection forms, Communities and Local Government.

(a) FRD1(94) forms for primary fires are sampled. The primary fires databases 2000 to 2004 and Quarter 2 onwards in 2006 contain all fires with casualties, but only a 20 per cent sample of other fires selected systematically for each fire and Rescue Service.

(b) items and totals have been rounded separately to the nearest final digit so the total shown may differ slightly from the sum of the items.

(c) Schools includes pre-school establishments e.g. day nurseries and play schools, local authority and independent schools, short stay centres, e.g. field study and adventure centres, boarding schools.

(d) Further education includes non-residential universities, adult education establishments, students union, art school, agricultural/veterinary training, police training centre, occupational training centre.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister explain how the review of Higher Education in Wales is taking account of the role of the charity sector? (WAQ52234)

**Jane Hutt:** As part of its remit the review of Higher Education chaired by Professor Merfyn Jones will seek to advise the Assembly Government on a new vision and strategy which will enable higher education in Wales to meet the needs of a modern knowledge based, globally competitive economy. In this context, the review will consider the relationship of higher education with the charity sector in Wales. The Third Sector plays a significant part in tackling issues of widening participation and in contributing to local economic development.

I shall expect the Professor Jones's Review to receive evidence from representatives of the sector such as the Wales Council for Voluntary Action on the responsiveness of higher education in Wales to international students.

**Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister make a statement on relations between Higher Education Institutions and the voluntary sector? (WAQ 52241)

**Jane Hutt:** Across Wales, Higher Education institutions have developed close working relationships with the voluntary sector. Their engagement is covered primarily in their Widening Access and Third Mission Strategies (which describe activities undertaken within HEIs that benefit the economy, society and culture of Wales).

The work of the Reaching Wider Initiative, established in 2002 by the Higher Education Funding Council, has supported and facilitated HEIs in their widening access work. The initiative particularly targets people living in Community First Areas, People from Black and Ethnic communities, People who wish to study through the medium of Welsh and Disabled People. The partnerships have developed close working links with the voluntary sector.

The recently announced Review of Higher Education in Wales will also seek to evaluate the work of the HE sector in its partnerships with the voluntary sector and build on this in its recommendations.

There are a number of examples within HEI's Widening Access and Third Mission Strategies of direct interaction between HEIs and the voluntary and/or charities sector, and I attach these at Annex 1.

I was pleased to note that HEFCW and the Welsh HEIs have already built an excellent relationship with a secondee from the RSPB to the Welsh Assembly Government whose role is to develop and deliver the Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship action plan. I would wish to encourage a full and proper engagement driven by both sides, as HEIs are very much open for business.

## ANNEX 1

Examples of HEI activity (source Third Mission Strategies):

Cardiff University: the University actively encourages outreach activities such as engagement events with the wider community and staff/student links with voluntary sectors. Eg via the work of Student Volunteering Cardiff and the Social and Community Action Network which provides a central focus for charity action and building links with the local community.

Dragon Innovation Partnership (formerly the South West Wales Economic Development Consortium—Swansea University, Swansea Metropolitan and Trinity College Carmarthen): a statement of the Partnership's commitment to draw together the public, private and voluntary sectors in order to deliver its priorities. Trinity College, alongside Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services is represented on the Management Committee of the County's Environment Partnership. Swansea Metropolitan University is building its links with the wider community via the All Wales Ethnic Minorities Association (AWEMA) and the Gower Society.

University of Wales, Lampeter: a description of existing strong links with organisations in the rural sector in the context of local community development, eg Cadw, Cambria Archaeology, Coed Cymru, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, Countryside Council for Wales, Hanes Llanbed.

University of Glamorgan / Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama: (i) training and consultancy service specifically targets the voluntary sector, usually in partnership with Rhondda Cynon Taff; (ii) the university is establishing a 'Corporate fundraising team' to support creative and cultural developments working in partnership with the voluntary sector; (iii) the Strategic Insight Programme, established jointly with UWIC and University of Wales, Newport, will support a series of secondments of academic staff into private, public and voluntary organisations.

University of Wales, Newport: relevant projects with voluntary sector partners include BeWEHL (Better Wellbeing, Education and Health in Communities) which builds community and individual capacity through engaging participants in community research and activities, working in partnership with community based groups.

Further examples of HEI activity (source: Reaching Wider programme / Widening Access Strategies):

- The University of Wales, Lampeter provides vocational training for volunteers and the voluntary and not-for-profit sectors. Flexible and distance learning programmes are available at certificate, diploma and degree level and from 2008 an MA in Voluntary Sector Studies will be available. In 1998 Certificate in Voluntary Sector Studies was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Award for Higher Education.
- The HE certificate in Personal and Professional Studies at Bangor University includes modules in Rehabilitation Studies and an Introduction to Drug and Alcohol Counselling. These modules are designed and delivered in association with CAIS (the North Wales Drug and Alcohol Counselling Service). Since 2004 approximately 100 students have taken part in the 30 credit Introductory Drug and Alcohol Counselling module. The Bangor Department of Lifelong Learning is currently working closely with CAIS to develop additional modules for those working on a paid or voluntary basis in this field.

- Four Welsh HEIs (Bangor, Cardiff, NEWI and Swansea) have achieved the Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark for Care Leavers in Higher Education. In November 2008 the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills will open the second joint HEFCW, Frank Buttle Trust Conference for Best Practice in Supporting Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Higher Education. HEFCW's care leaver action plan includes actions to encourage all Welsh HEIs to achieve the Trust's award.
- The North Wales Reaching Wider Partnership has developed a bilingual peer mentoring toolkit for schools to enable year 12 pupils to mentor year 7. This aspirational mentoring work contributes to year 12 pupils' Welsh Baccalaureate portfolio as evidence of volunteering work. The peer mentoring toolkit will be re-launched at the National Eisteddfod in August 2008.
- The South West Wales Reaching Wider Partnership is working with the Welsh Refugee Council, AWEMA, MEWN and other voluntary sector groups to deliver an all Wales widening access programme to raise educational aspirations of parents and young people from black and other ethnic minority backgrounds.

### **Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services**

**Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central):** What plans does the Minister have to amend the rural regulations to allow Community Pharmacies to dispense? (WAQ52263)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** I have recently asked for a working group to be established to advise me on the potential amendment of the 'Regulations'. Community Pharmacy Wales and other stakeholders will be invited to be part of this group.

**Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central):** When does the current oxygen contract expire and what plans are being made to review it? (WAQ52264)

**Edwina Hart:** The current oxygen contract expires on 31 January 2011 and is a Department of Health contract. The contract has a comprehensive review and management structure both at Wales level and at DoH level. The re-tendering process would start twelve months before the existing contract expires in February 2010.