

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 9 February 2011

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

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

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To ask the First Minister

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): How many official complaints have been made against each Ministerial department in each of the past 5 years. (WAQ57066)

Answer issued on 10 February 2011

I refer you to the answer the former First Minister issued to you on 18 February 2009, attached for ease of reference (WAQ53386). The previous response provided information up to, and including, 2007/08. The information available for 2008/09 and 2009/10 is in the tables below. For completeness, information has been provided for all Welsh Assembly Government departments.

| Complaints reported to the WAG Complaints Unit by Department, 2008/09 | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| <u>Type of complaint under the Code</u> | | | |
| Department | Maladministration | Failure to provide a service | Total |
| Office of the Permanent Secretary | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Department for Rural Affairs & Heritage | 34 | 11 | 45 |
| Department for Economy & Transport | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Department for Social Justice & Local Government | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Constitutional Affairs, Equality & Communications Department | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Department for Public Services & Performance | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Department for Environment, Sustainability & Housing | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Legal Services Department | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Department for Health & Social Services | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Finance Department | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Corporate Information & Services Department | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Human Resources Department | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Business Development | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| Department for Public Health & Health Professionals | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Department of the First Minister | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 75 | 23 | 98 |

| Complaints reported to the WAG Complaints Unit by Department, 2009/10 | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| <u>Type of complaint under the Code</u> | | | |
| Department | Maladministration | Failure to provide a service | Total |
| Office of the Permanent Secretary | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sustainable Futures | 53 | 22 | 75 |
| Economy and Transport | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| Public Services and Local Government Delivery | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| Health and Social Services | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Strategic Planning, Finance and Performance | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| People, Places and Corporate Services | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Legal Services | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Department of the First Minister and Cabinet | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 92 | 38 | 130 |

| Complaints reported to the WAG Access to Information Unit | |
|---|------------------|
| Year | Total Complaints |
| 2008 | 30 |
| 2009 | 16 |
| 2010 | 32 |

| Complaints reported to the WAG Welsh Language Unit | |
|--|------------------|
| Year | Total Complaints |
| 2008/09 | 9 |
| 2009/10 | 13 |

To ask the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What assessment has the Minister made in relation to the percentage of Welsh Assembly Government funding that LEA's should be able to retain out of money made available to schools for the services that they provide on their behalf. (WAQ57060)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): In relation to the Welsh Assembly Government agreement with the WLGA on school funding, will the Minister make a statement on how this agreement will lead to greater financial resources being made available to schools in South Wales Central. (WAQ57061)

Answer issued on 10 February 2011

I have not made a specific assessment in that regard. The majority of money granted by the Welsh Assembly Government to Local Authorities is not specifically earmarked for education. Local Authorities are responsible for funding their schools and must do so in the way that ensures best use of public money and the best outcomes for pupils – this continues to be the case.

The WLGA has pledged to increase delegation from the current 75%. They have committed to increase it to 80% in two and 85% in four years.

The nature of the target and the numbers were offered by local government, not set by me. It is a positive move. It chimes strongly with the themes identified by PricewaterhouseCoopers; it will increase the proportion of schools expenditure that schools themselves have control of and I welcome it.

To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Who has responsibility for the maintenance of the A55 Dwygyfylchi Footbridge (Iron Bridge) and what agreement is in place regarding this. (WAQ57065)

Answer issued on 05 April 2011

We are continuing to work to resolve the ownership and liability issue surrounding the footbridge and continue to carry out regular routine maintenance and inspections. There are no current concerns about any major maintenance requirements but any proposals must compete with other schemes and prioritised accordingly.

To ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister confirm what proportion of wind turbines in TAN:8 Strategic Search Areas will contain rare earth metals sourced from the People's Republic of China. (WAQ57067)

Answer issued on 10 February 2011

The Welsh Assembly Government does not collect this information as these are commercial matters for the wind power companies.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on neurosurgery capacity within the Cardiff & Vale Health Board area, with particular emphasis on consultant capacity and waiting times. (WAQ57064)

Answer issued on 08 April 2011

I refer you to my letters of 6 and 14 January updating Assembly Members with the Adult Neuroscience Review.

The delivery of neurosurgery in line with waiting times targets is a matter for Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board. The neurosurgery service is now fully integrated onto the University Hospital of Wales site, clinical staff have been transferred, new dedicated theatre facilities are fully operational and new ward facilities became operational in January.

To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister confirm how many fewer inspections were carried out during 2010 as a result of the ongoing review of on-farm red tape. (WAQ57059)

Answer issued on 10 February 2011

The number of on farm inspections required is governed by European regulation and therefore remains in line with these requirements.

As part of the ongoing review of on-farm red tape, the burden on farmers is being reduced by coordinating inspections where a farm is required to be inspected for more than one reason. As a result of this co-ordination the total number of separate visits has been reduced by 290, due to joint inspections being carried out in 2010.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Can the Minister confirm when she intends to bring the draft regulations to the breeding of dogs before the Assembly for approval. (WAQ57062)

Answer issued on 10 February 2011

There has been a substantive response to the consultation on draft regulations on dog breeding and all will be properly considered in detail. This takes time. These responses and our analysis will be placed on the website when available. I will be making a statement on the process for introducing draft legislation on dog breeding in due course.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): When will the Minister's department be issuing a response to consultations on the draft regulations on the breeding of dogs. (WAQ57063)

Answer issued on 10 February 2011

Please see my response to WAQ57062.