

Edwina Hart AM MBE

Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio

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GWASANAETH SENI DDOL Y CYNULLIAD
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DP 954/05-07
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES
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MEMBERS' LIBRARY

Our ref: MB/EH/0906/06

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November 2006

In a supplementary question to the OAQ 0915 from Jenny Randerson on Wednesday, 8 November, 2006, you asked if figures were available across Wales on the numbers of people in need of treatment and help who are not yet accessing services. Identifying this "hidden population" is very important, but as I am sure you will appreciate, it is a complex issue.

I agreed to report back to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee but I thought you would find it helpful if I outlined how we are tackling this important but extremely difficult aspect. There is no one solution which is why I am supporting a range of activities that that will help to provide a fuller picture of the scope and nature of the substance misuse problems in Wales.

Firstly, the new Welsh Database on Substance Misuse provides us with valuable data on those accessing treatment. We are also planning research studies next year that will include prevalence estimating and identifying and examining the barriers to access.

In addition to this work we now have the data emerging from the Drug Intervention Programme, which is proving a useful source of information about individuals who have not previously sought help. We are also looking at how we might better exploit intelligence from the Police records system to help build up the picture.



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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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15 November 2006

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE