

## **Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 28 April 2010**

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

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

### **Contents**

- 2 Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing
- 3 Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services
- 5 Questions to the Representative of the Commission

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

**Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd):** Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of affordable housing in North Wales. (WAQ55956) ***Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration***

***Answer issued on 30 April 2010***

**The Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration (Jocelyn Davies):** We remain committed to providing an extra 6,500 affordable homes over the term of this Government. Figures released by the Welsh Assembly Government Statistics Division show that at the half way point of this Government 4,235 additional affordable homes have been provided for those in most need across Wales.

In North Wales a total of 876 affordable homes were provided during 2007-08 and 2008-09 as follows:

	<b>2007-08 Delivered</b>	<b>2008-09 Delivered</b>
<b>Isle of Anglesey</b>	77	116
<b>Gwynedd</b>	85	93
<b>Conwy</b>	26	49
<b>Denbighshire</b>	78	134
<b>Flintshire</b>	61	74
<b>Wreham</b>	73	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>476</b>

**Social Housing Grant Expenditure**

From 2007-2008 to 2009-10, the total Social Housing Grant (SHG) expenditure over the six North Wales local authority areas was £74,288,128. The funding has supported general needs housing, supported and extra care housing, the Mortgage Rescue scheme, hospital resettlement schemes and accommodation linked to projects for the prevention and treatment of substance misuse.

**Strategic Capital Investment Fund – Tranche 1**

The six North Wales local authorities have benefitted from **£7,934,182** for the period 2008-09 and 2009-10 from Tranche 1 of the Strategic Capital Investment Fund (SCIF).

**Strategic Capital Investment Fund – Tranche 2**

All local authorities across Wales were asked to apply for funding under Tranche 2 of SCIF under the headings of Stalled Sites, Homebuy, Intermediate Rent and Welsh Assembly Government and Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies' sites. An announcement will be made shortly as to how the allocations have been made.

**Rural Housing Enablers**

The number of Rural Housing Enablers has increased from four to ten across Wales with funding by the Welsh Assembly Government from the Rural Development Fund (£150,000 per annum) over three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11. (A number of projects will continue into 2011-12).

Four Rural Housing Enablers operate throughout the North Wales area jointly funded by the local authorities, Registered Social Landlords and the Welsh Assembly Government.

## **Land Release Protocol**

We have identified a number of sites across North Wales suitable for affordable housing under the Land Release Protocol. Two of these are currently in the process of being transferred to Housing Associations; namely Aston Mead in Flintshire, and Bridge Street in Wrexham, although Bridge Street is being dealt with as a joint venture between DE&T and Wrexham County Borough Council.

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

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to encourage detection and presentation of cancer, particularly amongst lower socioeconomic groups, to help reduce the prevalence of cancer deaths in Wales. (WAQ55945)

#### ***Answer issued on 27 April 2010***

The Welsh Assembly Government policy Designed to Tackle Cancer in Wales (2006) currently has three national screening programmes for breast cancer, cervical cancer and bowel cancer.

In addition, we have used the Wales rugby Captain Ryan Jones on a resource to promote awareness of testicular cancer.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister provide a list of the 17 groups that have achieved NISCHR Registered Research Group Status, following the re-commissioning of the R&D Infrastructure in Wales. (WAQ55946)

#### ***Answer issued on 27 April 2010***

Below is a list of the 17 groups that have achieved NISCHR Registered Research Group Status, following the recommissioning of the R&D Infrastructure in Wales.

- All Wales Kidney Research Network
- Cardiovascular Research Group Cymru
- Children and Young People Research Network
- Dementias and Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network Cymru
- Diabetes Research Network Wales
- Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Mental Health Research Network – Cymru
- Microbiology and Infection Translational Research Group
- Older People and Ageing Network
- Patient Safety and Healthcare Quality Research Group
- Public Health Improvement Research Network
- Thematic Research Network for Emergency and UnScheduled Treatment
- Wales Cancer Trials Unit
- Wales Epilepsy Research Network
- Wales School for Primary Care Research
- Welsh Arthritis Research Network
- Ymchwil yr Ysgyfaint Cymru (Lung Research Wales)

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister supply copies of individual Local Health Boards' Action Plans for complying with National Cancer Standards so that stakeholder organisations can

work together to achieve these standards. (WAQ55947)

***Answer issued on 30 April 2010***

These action plans belong to the Local Health Boards. Their implementation relies on effective engagement with stakeholders.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What action is the Minister taking to ensure that all NHS staff are effectively tested for T.B. (WAQ55948)

***Answer issued on 27 April 2010***

New NHS healthcare workers are screened for TB in accordance with Welsh Health Circular (2006)086: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/circulars/2007/WHC2006086?lang=en>

It is the responsibility of Occupational Health Departments within each NHS organisation to deliver this guidance. Staff who are at higher risk of TB exposure are advised to seek immediate medical attention should they display any symptoms that would indicate TB infection.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What action is Welsh Assembly Government taking to address the increase in T.B. cases in Wales. (WAQ55949)

***Answer issued on 27 April 2010***

Tuberculosis rates have remained relatively stable over the last ten years in Wales at between 150 and 200 cases per year, and are lower than the UK average. The provisional data for 2009 show an increase in the number of cases detected compared with 2008, but this is not necessarily indicative of a general upward trend in TB cases in Wales.

Immunisation against TB is targeted at individuals who are at greatest risk. Public Health Wales undertakes continuous surveillance of TB and investigates any TB outbreak occurring in Wales, taking immediate action where necessary.

The statutory notification of all TB cases in Wales enables the prompt investigation of all cases and contacts who may be at risk of infection. The appropriate preventive or therapeutic measures can then be taken to reduce the onward transmission of the disease.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What has been the increase of recorded T.B. cases in Wales between April 2009 and March 2010 (inclusive) compared with the previous five years. (WAQ55950)

***Answer issued on 27 April 2010***

Data for TB cases in 2010 is not yet available and figures for 2009 are still provisional. It is therefore not possible to provide data for the period requested.

Recorded cases from 1999 onwards can be accessed via the Public Health Wales website:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgId=457&pid=27952>

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What action is Welsh Assembly Government taking to give access to speedy diagnostic tests to suspected cancer cases. (WAQ55951)

***Answer issued on 06 October 2010***

The Welsh Assembly Government has set a target of 62 days from referral to start of definitive treatment for those patients referred with urgent suspected cancer. In order to achieve this overall target, speedy access to all parts of the pathway, including diagnostic tests are required.

The Welsh Assembly government also holds regular monthly performance meetings with each LHB, and cancer performance is one of the items on the agenda.

Performance reports are available from the StatsWales website at the following link;  
<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/reportFolders.aspx>

**Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd):** How many junior doctors have left Betsi Cadwaladr LHB after completing the F1 stage. (WAQ55954)

*Answer issued on 30 April 2010*

As Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board only formed in October 2009 it is not yet possible to give the numbers leaving the Foundation Programme from that Health Board.

**Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd):** How many junior doctors does Betsi Cadwaladr LHB employ in each of the following grades: (a) F1, (b) F2, and (c) training grades. (WAQ55955)

*Answer issued on 30 April 2010*

We do not hold this information centrally.

*To ask the Representative of the Assembly Commission*

**Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** What are the projected costs to the Assembly Commission for the next 3 years for the provision of Welsh language tuition to a) Assembly Members, b) AMSS and c) Commission staff. (WAQ55952)

*Answer issued on 27 April 2010*

**Assembly Commissioner for Assembly Resources, William Graham AM:** The Assembly election in May 2011 and the potential this has for turnover in Assembly Members and their support staff, coupled with the retendering of the contract for AM/AMSS Welsh language support in early 2011, makes it difficult to project the costs of Welsh language tuition with great accuracy. The following estimates should be read with the above in mind. Based on a snap shot of the current take up of training, the estimated costs have been apportioned between Assembly Members and their Support Staff.

**Estimated costs over the next 3 years**

	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Assembly Members	£9,000	£9,270	£9,548
Assembly Member Support Staff	£3,808	£3,922	£4,039
Assembly Staff	£19,040	£19,611	£20,199
<b>Total</b>	<b>£31,848</b>	<b>£32,803</b>	<b>£33,786</b>

**Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** What is the total expenditure by the Assembly Commission in each of the last 5 years for the provision of Welsh language tuition to a) Assembly Members, b) AMSS and c) Commission staff. (WAQ55953)

*Answer issued on 27 April 2010*

**Assembly Commissioner for Assembly Resources, William Graham AM:**

**Welsh tuition expenditure in the last 5 years**

	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2005-06</b>
AMs & AMSS	£12,943.92	£13,654.00	£7,789.60	£7,534.00	£9,427.00
Assembly Staff	£13,721.70	£20,649.10	£10,183.44	£14,822.10	£8,065.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>£26,665.62</b>	<b>£34,303.10</b>	<b>£17,973.04</b>	<b>£22,356.10</b>	<b>£17,492.19</b>

The combined cost of Welsh language tuition for Assembly Members (AMs) and Assembly Members Support Staff (AMSS) is shown as the training is delivered by a single provider (@SianT) and this is reflected in the way the data was recorded and is kept. It is not considered feasible to attempt to apportion these actual costs between the two groups retrospectively. There are variations in costs between financial years because of differences in take-up from year to year. The increase in demand in 2008-09 may have been influenced by the roll out of the Assembly's Welsh Language Scheme, which was launched in the summer of 2007.