

Answers issued to Members on 17 October 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 First Minister

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the First Minister provide figures for the road mileage undertaken by each member of his cabinet for the year 2007/2008? (WAQ52596)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): Road mileages are not collected separately for each cabinet member. The total mileage undertaken by the Official Car Service for the period is 141,621. This figure includes the mileage undertaken by all cabinet members, Deputy Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and occasional guests of the Welsh Assembly Government.

This however does not include any road mileage accrued on official business using chauffeur companies, taxis or road travel while undertaking official duties outside the UK.

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

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister state the Welsh Assembly Government's position, including information regarding any discussions with the UK Government, regarding the re-establishment of a direct rail link between Llandudno and Liverpool, and Wrexham and Liverpool, via the improvement of the stretch of railway known as the Halton Curve in Cheshire? (WAQ52599)

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I have had no discussions with the UK Government on this subject. The Network Rail draft consultative Wales Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS) identified that through services between Liverpool and Chester/North Wales and Liverpool and Chester/Wrexham could be established if Halton Curve was reinstated and new crossovers were provided. It indicated that more feasibility and appraisal work would be required to progress the scheme.

Further evaluation is being considered through Network Rail's Merseyside RUS.

Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire): What work is currently being undertaken to review WelTAG? (WAQ52601)

The Deputy First Minister: WelTAG is kept under regular review.

Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire): What plans does the Minister have to include an environmental/cost impact assessment within WelTAG? (WAQ52602)

The Deputy First Minister: I intend to keep WelTAG under review to meet all necessary environmental issues.

The environmental impacts currently included in WelTAG are: noise, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, landscape and townscape, biodiversity, soil, heritage and water environment.

Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire): What monitoring takes place of the free bus travel scheme in Wales? (WAQ52603)

The Deputy First Minister: The Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities monitor the free concessionary bus travel in a range of ways throughout the year. Further scrutiny of local authorities' expenditure is undertaken by external auditors and the Wales Audit Office, as appropriate. Since the scheme was introduced in April 2002, we have commissioned two reviews, carried out by consultants.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on the full cost of the low secure mental health inpatient service at Whitchurch Hospital, including all apportioned indirect costs and Trust overhead apportionments? (WAQ52597)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): The total cost, including all apportioned indirect costs and Trust overhead apportionments, of low secure inpatient forensic psychiatry services provided at Whitchurch Hospital is £2,888,775.

Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Irene James (Islwyn): Will the Minister provide details of Sports Council for Wales capital grants awarded in the Islwyn constituency since April 2003, as well as the names and locations of projects that have received this grant? (WAQ 52466).

The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones): Since 2003 the Sports Council for Wales has awarded a range of capital grants totalling nearly £305k to organisations in the Islwyn constituency, mainly for the improvement of facilities and the provision of equipment. A breakdown of these is attached.

AM Constituency (Project)	Islwyn	SPORTS COUNCIL FOR WALES	CAPITAL GRANTS - ISLWYN CONSTITUENCY 2003-2008	
Sum of Decided Amount				
SCW Year (Award Date)	Budget	Applicant Name	Project Name	Total
2002/03	Capital (71005)	Caerphilly County Borough Council	Storage Area at Blackwood Community College	7688
		Caerphilly County Borough Council Total		7688
		Islwyn Gymnastics Club	Gymnastics Equipment	13043
		Islwyn Gymnastics Club Total		13043
	Capital (71005) Total			20731
	Minor Grants (71035)	Cwmcarn High School	Junior Cycling Club Start Up	3255
		Cwmcarn High School Total		3255
		Newbridge Boxing Club	Purchase of equipment	8150
		Newbridge Boxing Club Total		8150
	Minor Grants (71035) Total			11405
2002/03 Total				32136
2003/04	Capital (71005)	Blackwood Rugby Football Club	Third generation ATP training area and changing facilities	183263

		Blackwood Rugby Football Club Total		183263
	Capital (71005) Total			183263
	Minor Grants (71035)	Risca Sea Cadets	Purchase Of Kayaks	1503
		Risca Sea Cadets Total		1503
	Minor Grants (71035) Total			1503
2003/04 Total				184766
2004/05	Regional Grants (20115)	Pontymister Youth Football Club	Clwb Cymru Year 3	2610
		Pontymister Youth Football Club Total		2610
	Regional Grants (20115) Total			2610
2004/05 Total				2610
2005/06	Minor Grants (71035)	Crumlin Rugby Football Club	Floodlights on new training area	6000
		Crumlin Rugby Football Club Total		6000
	Minor Grants (71035) Total			6000
2005/06 Total				6000
2006/07	Minor Grants (71035)	Groundwork Caerphilly	MG - Active Lifestyles	10000
		Groundwork Caerphilly Total		10000
	Newbridge Comprehensive School	Newbridge Comprehensive School Total	Purchase of equipment and facility hire	1716
			Newbridge Comprehensive School Total	
	Newbridge Rugby Football Club	Installation of Training Lights	10000	
	Newbridge Rugby Football Club Total		10000	
Minor Grants (71035) Total			21716	
2006/07 Total				21716
2007/08	Regional Grants (20115)	Caerphilly County Borough Council	MG - Youth Justice Team - Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme	1984
			MG - Youth Offending Team - Caerphilly and	1920

			Blaenau Gwent	
		Caerphilly County Borough Council Total		3904
	Regional Grants (20115) Total			3904
2007/08 Total				3904
2008/09	Minor Grants (71035)	Torfaen Ski Club	MG - Purchase of Ski Equipment	2087.98
		Torfaen Ski Club Total		2087.98
	Minor Grants (71035) Total			2087.98
2008/09 Total				2087.98
Grand Total				253219.98

Active Lifestyles Grant	Caerphilly CBC - Bike Power	Modified bikes for people with physical/learning disabilities	11700
Active Lifestyles Grant	St. Catherine's Community Group	Upgrade floor to offer classes & activities	17504
Active Lifestyles Grant	Community Partnership	Improve footpath (Trinant - Penyfan pond area) Work on surface, drainage, gate & fencing etc	22122
		ALF Total	51326
		GRAND TOTAL	304526