

Answers issued to Members on 2 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 details of his expenditure on overnight accommodation and subsistence for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52503)

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Counsel General provide details of his expenditure on overnight accommodation and subsistence for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52518)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): The information is shown below:

Minister		Expenditure**
First Minister	Rhodri Morgan	£717
Minister for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning	Jane Hutt	£104
Minister for Economy & Transport	Ieuan Wyn Jones	£646
Minister for Environment, Sustainability & Housing	Jane Davidson	£759
Minister for Finance & Public Service Delivery	Andrew Davies	£1,210
Minister for Health & Social Services	Edwina Hart	£449
Minister for Heritage	Rhodri Glyn Thomas	£449
Minister for Social Justice & Local Government	Brian Gibbons	£109
Minister for Rural Affairs	Elin Jones	£107
Counsel General	Carwyn Jones	£155

** Expenditure does not account for costs incurred during overseas visits.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the First Minister provide details of each overseas visit he has made since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52504)

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Counsel General provide details of each overseas visit he has made since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52517)

The First Minister: The information is shown in the table below:

Overseas Visits - 1st May 2007 to 19th Sept 2008

Minister	Destination		Reason for Visit	Accompanying Officials	Cost
First Minister Rhodri Morgan	Brussels	Sep-2007	EU Cohesion Forum	Private Secretary, Policy Official	£1,263
	Ireland	Feb-2008	British Irish Council Meeting	Private Secretary	£350
	Brussels	Feb-2008	Brussels St Davids Day Celebration	Private Secretary	£896
	China	Mar-2008	Ministerial Visit	Private Secretary	£7,104
	USA	Sep-2008	Ryder Cup - Kentucky	Full information & cost not available to date	
sub total					£9,613

Minister for Economy & Transport Ieuan Wyn Jones	Brussels	Jul-2007	90th Anniversary of Battle of Paschendaele	Private Secretary	£1,158
	Brussels	Sep-2007	EU Cohesion Forum	Private Secretary & Policy Official	£1,263
	India	Nov-2007	Trade Mission	Private Secretary & five Policy Officials	£14,530
	Ireland	Feb-2008	British Irish Council	n/a	£171
	New York & Boston	Feb-2008	Ministerial Involvement in Wales Week	Private Secretary & Press Officer	£19,425
	USA	Sep-2008	Ryder Cup - Kentucky	Full information & cost not available to date	
sub total					£36,547

Minister for Health & Social Services Edwina Hart	Brussels	Jul-2007	90th Anniversary of Battle of Paschendaele	n/a	£630
sub total					£630

Minister for Finance & Public Service Delivery Andrew Davies	Barcelona - Spain	Nov-2007	REGLEG Conference	Private Secretary	£1,096
	Ireland	Mar-2008	Wales vs Ireland Rugby match - guest of Noel Dempsey Transport Minister	n/a	£295
sub total					£1,391

Minister for the Environment, Sustainability & Housing Jane Davidson	Brussels	Dec-2007	EU Council Meeting	Private Secretary	£1,200
	Monaco	Feb-2008	Presentation to NRG4SD Network Regional Government for Sustainable Development	Private Secretary	£598
	Brussels	Mar-2008	EU Council Meeting	Private Secretary	£1,160
sub total					£2,958

Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning &	Brussels	Mar-2008	Attendance EARALL meeting	Private Secretary	£1,708
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Skills Jane Hutt					
sub total					£1,708

Minister for Heritage Rhodri Glyn Thomas	Barcelona - Spain	Nov-2007	Cultural Tourism Conference	Private Secretary	£444
	Brussels	Feb-2008	Multilingualism Conference	n/a	£445
	Brussels	Jun-2008	Launch of Network for the Promotion of Linguistic Diversity	Private Secretary	£1,179
sub total					£2,068

Minister Rural Affairs Elin Jones	Brussels	Nov-2007	Agricultural Council Visit	Private Secretary	£872
	Dubai	Feb-2008	Gulfood Show Exhibition	Private Secretary	£5,910
	Luxembourg	Jun-2008	Agriculture Council	Private Secretary	£1,298
sub total					£8,080

Minister for Social Justice & Local Government Brian Gibbons	Dublin - Ireland	Feb-2008	British Irish Council Meeting	n/a	£425
sub total					£425

Counsel General Carwyn Jones	No overseas travel costs were incurred during this period				
sub total					£0

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

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of his expenditure on overnight accommodation and subsistence for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52515) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer to WAQ52503.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of each overseas visit he has made since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52516) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer to WAQ52504.

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

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of each overseas visit she has made since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52513) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer to WAQ52504.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of her expenditure on overnight accommodation and subsistence for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52514) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer to WAQ52503.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide a list of all Higher Education Institutions in the United Kingdom which do not accept the Welsh Baccalaureate as a valid entry qualification? (WAQ52536)

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt): We are not aware of any Higher Education Institutions (HEI) that does not accept the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification as a valid entry qualification.

There are some 307 HEIs in the UK, of these 159 (52%) make specific reference to the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification in their entry requirements. 77% of the HEIs use the UCAS Tariff in framing entry requirements.

Within HEIs different courses do, of course, have their own distinct entry requirements. Of approximately 49,000 HE courses, over 23,000 make specific reference to the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification in their entry requirements and over 30,000 use the UCAS Tariff. This means that, even where there is no specific reference to the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification in entry requirements, its Tariff points can be counted.

The high level of recognition of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification as an entry qualification is very encouraging. However, we continue to work with partners, including UCAS and the Higher Education Advisory Team (HEAT), lead by the University of Bath to further analyse data and to promote the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification within HEIs.

Questions to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of his expenditure on overnight accommodation and subsistence for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52521) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer to WAQ52503.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of each overseas visit he has made since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52522) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer to WAQ52504.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of each overseas visit she has made since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52505) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer to WAQ52504.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of her expenditure on overnight accommodation and subsistence for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52506) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer to WAQ52503.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of each overseas visit she has made since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52511) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer to WAQ52504.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of her expenditure on overnight accommodation and subsistence for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52512) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer to WAQ52503.

Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): How many overseas visits have been undertaken by the Minister for Heritage since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52498) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer to WAQ52504.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): How much money was spent on overnight accommodation and subsistence by the Minister for Heritage for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52499) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer to WAQ52503.

Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of her expenditure on overnight accommodation and subsistence for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52507) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer to WAQ52503.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of each overseas visit she has made since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52508) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer to WAQ52504.

Mike German (South Wales East): What factors does the Minister take into account when designating 'deep rural areas', and what areas have received this designation? (WAQ52546)

The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones): I have agreed that the Welsh Assembly Government can use the criterion of 'over thirty minutes average drive time from a settlement of ten thousand people' as a working definition of a deep rural area. This definition is being used to gather evidence on potential options to support the delivery of the One Wales commitment to 'encourage work with the relevant local authorities to identify and address the needs of deep rural areas'.

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of each overseas visit he has made since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52509) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer to WAQ52504.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister provide details of his expenditure on overnight accommodation and subsistence for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52510) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer to WAQ52503.

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on what the Welsh Assembly Government is doing to help eradicate violence against women? (WAQ52527)

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): We are continuing to implement our Domestic Abuse Strategy. To strengthen the implementation we are updating a Strategic Action Plan and a major focus will be to continue to work to help eradicate violence against women.

Questions to the Counsel General and Leader of the House

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Counsel General provide details of each overseas visit he has made since May 2007, including destination, purpose and total cost including officials? (WAQ52517) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer to WAQ52504.

Andrew R.T. Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Counsel General provide details of his expenditure on overnight accommodation and subsistence for the year 2007-08? (WAQ52518)
Transferred for answer by the First Minister.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer to WAQ52503.