

Written Questions answered between 15 and 22 March 2007

[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

Leanne Wood: How much has the First Minister spent on consultancy fees in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06? (WAQ48517) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I refer you to WAQ47898 and WAQ48518.

Glyn Davies: Will the First Minister confirm whether his department uses an internal traffic light or colour-coded system in relation to written Assembly questions and whether his department grades or classifies written Assembly questions according to their political sensitivity? (WAQ48749)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): There is no such classification system in existence within the Welsh Assembly Government.

Glyn Davies: How many staff in the First Minister's department received performance-related bonuses in 2005-06 and 2004-05? (WAQ48761)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister: The Permanent Secretary has supplied the following answer:

I enclose a breakdown of performance-related bonus awards by department as you requested. A number of individuals have been included under the heading 'small department' to preserve their anonymity.

Department	Number of individuals who received a bonus award	
	2004-05	2005-06
Office of the Chief Medical Officer	10	8
Environment, planning and countryside	4	4
Legal services	2	4
Corporate information and services	4	3
Local government and culture	6	5
Small departments	13	11
Education, lifelong learning and skills	7	6
Health and social services	8	9
Enterprise, innovation and networks	10	8
Human resources	3	3
Public services and performance	-	8
Business development	-	3
Finance	7	3
Total	74	75

* Some Finance Department responsibilities were transferred to the new Public Services and Performance Department in 2005-06.

Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister list the expenditure for his portfolio since 1999 on consultants employed by the Welsh Assembly Government and Assembly sponsored public bodies, listing each item of expenditure awarded, the cost of each contract, the purpose of each item of expenditure and the dates on which they awarded? (WAQ47893) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Leanne Wood: How much has the Minister spent on consultancy fees in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06? (WAQ48520) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I refer you to WAQ47898 and WAQ48518.

Glyn Davies: Will the Minister confirm whether his department uses an internal traffic light or colour-coded system in relation to written Assembly questions and whether his department grades or classifies written Assembly questions according to their political sensitivity? (WAQ48750) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer the I gave to WAQ48749.

Glyn Davies: How many staff in the Minister's department received performance-related bonuses in 2005-06 and 2004-05? (WAQ48757) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer given to WAQ48761.

Janice Gregory: Will the Minister detail the Welsh Assembly Government's main achievements in the culture, Welsh language and sport portfolio in the constituency of Ogmore since 2003? (WAQ49732)

The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh): Since 2003, the Welsh Assembly Government has achieved a great deal in improving opportunities for the people of Ogmore to take part in and enjoy a wide range of cultural and sporting experiences. For example:

- the Arts Council of Wales has provided grants amounting to almost £113,000 to Bridgend County Borough Council for county-wide projects. This includes some the £37,000 for creative industries training offered to young people across Bridgend from 2005-06. Following its community arts review, the organisation Valley and Vale, which works in the Ogmore area, has been awarded a significant increase in revenue funding and it will receive £142,420 in 2007-08. Funding of £30,000 was provided in 2003-04 for the three-year arts development officer post, which Bridgend County Borough Council now funds;
- CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales's support to local museums, archives and libraries in the constituency of Ogmore includes grants of some £48,000 paid in 2004-05, £47,000 paid in 2005-06 and over £30,000 allocated in 2006-07;
- through our historic environment service, Cadw, the Assembly Government has offered some £120,000 in grant assistance to help repair and restore some of the most important historic buildings in the constituency. This assistance includes an arrangement with the local authority to part fund a town scheme partnership to restore the original historic features to the listed Park Terrace in Tondy. Schemes of this type are designed to encourage regeneration through historic building conservation, and improve the appearance of run down conservation areas;

- we are making steady progress in our effort to reach the targets set within 'Climbing Higher'. The Sports Council for Wales has reported that, since 2003, adult physical activity levels have increased by an impressive 4 per cent, which equates to an additional 95,000 adults achieving a 30 minutes/five days a week activity level. This shows that our range of programmes is already beginning to make a difference. To improve the sporting infrastructure of Ogmere, the Sports Council for Wales has provided over £1.3 million in capital schemes and improvements since 2003. This includes £0.75 million for Ynysawdre pool, £216,000 for upgrading facilities at North Site playing fields at Bettws, £142,000 to the Brynna community centre and £100,000 under the active lifestyles capital fund.

Karen Sinclair: Will the Minister make a statement on take-up of free swimming in Clwyd South? (WAQ49877)

Alun Pugh: Since April 2003, the Welsh Assembly Government has invested almost £15 million in the free swimming initiative, which continues to have a positive impact on swimming participation levels in Clwyd South and across Wales.

The full impact of free swimming will be known in July 2007, but we know that, on average, there is an increase of 30,000 in junior swims per week during the summer holiday period and local authorities are delivering more than 40,000 60 plus free swims each month.

An additional £1.4 million is being invested through our 'Climbing Higher' free swimming improvement fund in all local authority areas across Wales. The fund aims to add value to the existing successful free swimming initiative and to support local authorities to develop and grow their local schemes to attract more participants and retain existing users.

In Wrexham, 11 projects are being supported with total funding of over £90,000 and Denbighshire is also benefiting from nine projects with total funding of over £45,000.

William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Assembly Government's policies address the issues outlined by the Barclays youth sports survey? (WAQ49878)

Alun Pugh: The issues identified by the Barclays Youth sport report are generally consistent with those of our own Sports Council for Wales participation surveys, which we are addressing through our 'Climbing Higher' strategy and the increased investment that underpins it.

Next year, we will be investing over £25 million in programmes such as 5x60 and initiatives such as free swimming to increase participation in sport and physical activity by young people. Free swimming is delivering free water-based activities for children and young people aged 16 and under, while our new 5x60 programme specifically targets teenagers and provides them with a programme of extra-curricular activities that they themselves have chosen. These two initiatives, combined with the many other schemes being delivered across Wales by our key partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors, are providing young people in Wales with more opportunities than ever before to enjoy sport and physical activity.

William Graham: Will the Minister outline plans to hold a Roman amphitheatres and spectacular conference in Wales? (WAQ49880)

Alun Pugh: The Welsh Assembly Government has no plans to hold such a conference in Wales.

Cadw, the Assembly Government's historic environment division, organises each July, with Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales, a two-day Roman military spectacular event at Caerleon amphitheatre, where visitors can experience gladiatorial entertainment and learn more about life in the Isca fortress.

Cadw has also carried out an extensive programme of interpretation and presentation at the Caerwent Roman town—Venta Silurum. The monument now boasts the latest in accessible interpretative technology: an audio post that enables visitors to discover more than the written information panels, illustrations and guidebook can offer.

Michael German: Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of local sport and activity coaching in Wales? (WAQ49881)

Alun Pugh: The Welsh Assembly Government has invested £3.9 million in the coaching plan for Wales to raise the profile of coaching and to deliver more and better coaches and leaders across Wales.

We are investing over £5 million at all levels of coaching to support both the participation and performance pathways. Over £16,000 training opportunities for coaches and leaders are currently provided each year, the majority of which are for community volunteers.

The coaching plan is moulding a community-based infrastructure of coaches and leaders to deliver more opportunities for people to take part in sport and physical activity. We are also working more closely than ever before with our national governing bodies to ensure that our coaches have the appropriate training and support to maximise their contribution to us achieving more success on the world stage.

Owen John Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ei drafodaethau diweddar gyda Chymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru? (WAQ49882) [W]

Alun Pugh: Cefais gyfarfod buddiol iawn yn ddiweddar gydag uwch-gynrychiolwyr Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru. Cefais gadarnhad ganddynt y byddant yn paratoi dogfen bolisi strategol a fydd yn amlygu eu gwaith presennol a hefyd yn rhoi cyfeiriad i ddatblygu pêl-droed yng Nghymru.

Mae paratoi'r strategaeth hon yn gam positif ymlaen ac yr wyf yn galonnog ynghylch dyfodol pêl-droed yng Nghymru ac yn edrych ymlaen at weithio mwy mewn partneriaeth gyda Chymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru.

Owen John Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on his recent discussions with the Football Association of Wales? (WAQ49882) [W]

Alun Pugh: I met recently with senior representatives from the FAW and we had a very constructive meeting. They confirmed that they will be preparing a strategic policy document that will highlight their existing work and also provide direction in order to further develop the game of football in Wales.

The preparation of a strategy is a very positive step forward and I am encouraged with the outlook for football in Wales and look forward to working more in partnership with the FAW.

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on his policies for promoting Wales's cultural identity? (WAQ49883)

Alun Pugh: The Welsh Assembly Government is investing significant amounts to strengthen and promote Wales's cultural identity, both at home and abroad. For example:

- the rich and varied historic environment of Wales is celebrated through Cadw, which promotes the sites in Welsh Assembly Government care through print, publications and a strong web presence. On-site interpretation and a lively events programme aims to bring our cultural heritage to life. To celebrate our national day, I have removed admission charges from a number of Cadw-managed sites on St David's Day this year and last year.
- we established CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries as a new policy division of the Welsh Assembly Government on 1 April 2004 with a programme budget of £2 million a year. CyMAL provides bilingual advice and financial support on development issues to local museums, archives and libraries, which includes preserving and promoting Wales's cultural identity.
- Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales plays a key role in promoting Wales's cultural identity. Following extensive redevelopment work in recent years at the National Slate Museum in Llanberis, the National Wool Museum at Drefach Felindre in Carmarthenshire and at Big Pit: National Mining Museum at Blaenafon, the national museum's £40 million industrial strategy culminated in the opening of the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea in October 2005. This site tells the story of Wales's industry and innovation and its role in shaping our economy and society from the industrial revolution to the present. The museum received over 240,000 visitors in its first year.

Our cultural identity is also portrayed at St Fagans: National History Museum where a major gallery redevelopment, Oriol 1, will be unveiled later this month. Perthyn (Belonging) is the theme of the first exhibition in Oriol 1 and visitors will discover that there are many ways in which someone can belong to a country such as Wales. This promises to be an exhibition that will challenge stereotypes and encourage people to respect the cultures, beliefs and practices of others, ensuring that everyone has their place in Wales.

The National Library of Wales provides an invaluable resource for the discovery of the Welsh identity. Through the dissemination and interpretation of its collections, the library contributes substantially to the underlying awareness and promotion of cultural identity of Wales.

In October 2007, the library partnership with the Aberystwyth Arts Centre will host a centenary film festival that will portray the cultural identity of Wales as it is manifested in cinema from the 'classic' film era. The festival will bring together a wide variety of film related to Wales and the Welsh.

The library's exhibition 'Clic: Delweddu Cymru/Visualising Wales' is being shown in the national libraries of Latvia and Estonia during April to July 2007. The project comprises an exhibition of photographs of Wales and Welsh people, and will be complemented by a selection of short films that encapsulate aspects of Welsh culture.

The Wales Millennium Centre has been key to raising our cultural profile. The centre's success has exceeded all expectations and is duly recognised for its iconic status, which has placed Wales firmly on the international cultural map.

The Welsh presence at the Venice biennale of art has created an interest in contemporary art from Wales at an international art buying level.

The Assembly Government supports a wide range of cultural events that showcase Wales to the world. These include Artes Mundi, Brecon Jazz, the Hay festival, Bryn Terfel's Faenol festival and Beyond the Border.

The Assembly Government's policy on the Welsh language is set out in 'Iaith Pawb', our national action plan for a bilingual Wales. In implementing this action plan, the Assembly Government has invested an extra £40 million in the Welsh language since 2003. We will be evaluating 'Iaith Pawb' in 2007.

Eleanor Burnham: Will the Minister make a statement on the Cymru'n Creu working group's report into a Welsh sports hall of fame? (WAQ49884)

Alun Pugh: Even though Wales is a small nation, there has been no shortage of individuals who have achieved sporting success on the world stage. The Welsh Assembly Government has supported a number of exhibitions to celebrate their success, the most recent being the exhibition on John Charles. Through Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales, the Assembly Government provides a home for the Welsh sports hall of fame at St Fagans: National History Museum. Although the Cymru'n Creu working group put forward ideas in May 2002 for a larger home for the collection, no-one has ever put forward a business case or plan to turn those ideas into reality. However, we would be interested to consider such a plan.

Elin Jones: What part did the Minister play in the appointments procedure of the new 'Welsh' member of the Office of Communications board? (WAQ49885)

Alun Pugh: The membership of the Ofcom board does not include a member with a specific role to represent the interests of Wales.

Questions to the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister list the expenditure for his portfolio since 1999 on consultants employed by the Welsh Assembly Government and ASPBs, listing each item of expenditure awarded, the cost of each contract, the purpose of each item of expenditure and the dates on which they awarded? (WAQ47895) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Leanne Wood: How much has the Minister spent on consultancy fees in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06? (WAQ48519) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I refer you to WAQ47898 and WAQ48518.

Glyn Davies: Will the Minister confirm whether his department uses an internal traffic light or colour-coded system in relation to written Assembly questions and whether his department grades or classifies written Assembly questions according to their political sensitivity? (WAQ48752) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer that I gave to WAQ48749.

Glyn Davies: How many staff in the Minister's department received performance-related bonuses in 2005-06 and 2004-05? (WAQ48759) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer given to WAQ48761.

Alun Cairns: What consideration has the Minister given in seeking the powers to govern driving instructors in regards to regulating prices and ensuring they have received their Criminal Records Bureau checks? (WAQ49725)

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): I have no plans to seek the measure-making powers to govern driving instructors. The Driving Standards Agency recently announced that, from 12 March 2007, anyone applying to become an instructor will need a criminal record disclosure and those already on the DSA's approved driving instructor register will also be checked over the next two years.

Janice Gregory: Will the Minister detail the Welsh Assembly Government's main achievements in the enterprise, innovation and networks portfolio, in the constituency of Ogmore since 2003? (WAQ49731)

Andrew Davies: My department continues to support the development of a high-value-added knowledge economy based on a skilled and innovative workforce, an advanced technology and knowledge base and high-quality infrastructure, both natural and physical. In the Ogmore constituency, and indeed in the wider Bridgend unitary authority area, we have some very good specific examples where the support of my department has been critical in bringing fresh employment and new opportunities to the area.

For example, the recent £9 million investment in a new plant at Maesteg announced by Creative Outsourcing Solutions International Ltd was supported by my department through a regional selective assistance grant of £4 million. This support is helping to create and safeguard over 900 good-quality jobs and is a real boost to the area. International companies such as COSI chose to come to Wales and, in this instance, to the Ogmore constituency because of the supportive environment that we provide, the skills and adaptability of the workforce and the quality of the local environment.

Such support is not unique. In terms of inward investment, since devolution, Bridgend unitary authority has attracted some 47 inward investment projects that have helped to create and safeguard over 8,600 jobs. In that time frame, we have also used RSA to support some 90 projects worth in excess of £113 million. These projects have created and safeguarded over 9,200 jobs. Since being launched in 2002, the Assembly investment grant has been used to support some 103 projects in Bridgend unitary authority worth in excess of £3.4 million, creating and safeguarding over 1,100 jobs.

It is because of support like this that we have seen the dramatic reductions in claimant count unemployment in the Bridgend unitary authority area that indeed have been reflected across Wales. Claimant count unemployment currently stands at 2.5 per cent in Bridgend unitary authority; this is in line with the Wales average of 2.5 per cent and significantly down on the pre-devolution figure of 4.4 per cent.

Janice Gregory: What action is the Minister taking to promote and increase the use of public transport in the constituency of Ogmore? (WAQ49733)

Andrew Davies: There is currently a £1.2 million project to lengthen seven platforms at the stations on the Maesteg to Cardiff and Caldicot route, which is due for completion in spring 2008. This will enable the future operation of longer trains, providing more seats on the busiest services. The scheme is funded by the Assembly Government with financial support from the European Union. Work started on 5 March on a £4.3 million scheme, which the Assembly Government is also funding, to return passenger trains to Llanharan after a gap of over 40 years.

More generally, Bridgend County Borough Council received revenue funding for local bus services through its standard spending assessment. In addition, I have awarded £393,488 in 2006-07 for local transport services grant to support the provision of socially necessary bus services. It is for the council to decide how to use this funding to meet local priorities.

Nick Bourne: How much public money has the Assembly Government committed to the proposed RAF Valley to Cardiff air link? (WAQ49847)

Andrew Davies: The capital cost of the passenger terminal at Anglesey has been met from transport grant funding to Isle of Anglesey County Council of £1.5 million. The Welsh Assembly Government has allocated revenue support of £1.2 million in 2007-08 and an indicative budget of £1.2 million 2008-09 and £1 million in 2009-10.

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on the proposed RAF Valley to Cardiff air link? (WAQ49848)

Andrew Davies: Airports and air services have a vital role to play within an integrated and sustainable transport system and I am keen to exploit their full potential. This new air service is important for the economic development of north-west Wales and for delivering the Assembly Government's objective of bringing north and south Wales closer together.

The service will improve business linkages and tourism opportunities and ensure significant time savings for travel between north and south Wales. It will allow the possibility of a day return from either Cardiff or Anglesey. There will be two daily return flights on weekdays. Highland Airways will use a Jetstream 31 aircraft for the service. The maximum fare for a single ticket will be £50. There will be no air passenger duty.

The Isle of Anglesey County Council is responsible for managing the new passenger terminal at Anglesey, called Maes Awyr Môn/Anglesey Airport. The council has appointed Operon as the terminal operator.

I am delighted that we can now look to this new air service between Cardiff and Anglesey.

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on the proportion of power derived from renewable energy sources in Wales? (WAQ49849)

Andrew Davies: The latest statistics show that, in 2005, 1.23 TWh of electricity was generated in Wales from renewable sources, comprising onshore and offshore wind, biomass and hydro. This represented 3.5 per cent of the total electricity generated. The Assembly Government's targets for electricity from renewable sources are 4 TWh per year by 2010 and 7 TWh per year by 2020.

John Marek: What plans does the Minister have to ensure that every construction worker working on major projects in Wales has been trained and has the relevant safety passports before being allowed to work? (WAQ49855)

Andrew Davies: We have recently published a strategic framework for the construction sector, 'Building Companies: Building Skills', which has a range of proposals for raising skills in the sector. As part of this approach a new forum for the built environment is to be established, charged in part with developing and overseeing the implementation of an action plan.

In addition, the Assembly Government's Value Wales will help promote the use of trained employees on all projects within the construction industry in the public sector in Wales, through the evaluation of technical capacity as part of the tendering processes. Technical capacity assessments will consider and evaluate the tendering company's potential to satisfactorily deliver the required outcomes of the project

and, in doing so, will take account of adequately experienced and trained personnel, including appropriate aspects of health and safety.

Health and safety is a matter of legislation and there is much to commend good health and safety training by employers to ensure that they meet the necessary requirements of the Acts. However, it should be noted that the site passport scheme is voluntary, and while many companies have adopted it, it is not a statutory requirement and we can only promote it as good practice.

Questions to the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister list the expenditure for her portfolio since 1999 on consultants employed by the Welsh Assembly Government and ASPBs, listing each item of expenditure awarded, the cost of each contract, the purpose of each item of expenditure and the dates on which they awarded? (WAQ47894) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Leanne Wood: How much has the Minister spent on consultancy fees in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06? (WAQ48522) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I refer you to WAQ47898 and WAQ48518.

Glyn Davies: Will the Minister confirm whether her department uses an internal traffic light or colour-coded system in relation to written Assembly questions and whether her department grades or classifies written Assembly questions according to their political sensitivity? (WAQ48751) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer that I gave to WAQ48749.

Glyn Davies: How many staff in the Minister's department received performance-related bonuses in 2005-06 and 2004-05? (WAQ48758) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer given to WAQ48761.

Lisa Francis: Would the Minister make a statement on the availability of Welsh classes for adults in mid and west Wales? (WAQ48469)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): Welsh for adults is one of the biggest adult learning programmes in Wales. A wide variety of courses are available, from weekly evening classes to more intensive courses and courses in the workplace. In 2006-07, approximately £2.7 million will be spent on developing Welsh for adults, including the establishment of a national infrastructure, and £5.6 million will be allocated in core funding to 31 providers to deliver a range of courses.

My officials have liaised with the newly established Welsh for adults language centres in order to obtain the information relevant to the mid and west Wales regional constituency and a list of courses offered during 2006-07 is published as an attachment (Annex A).

Janet Ryder: What support is available for higher education students from Wales who: a) started their courses in September 2006, and b) start next year, in subjects not available in Welsh universities? (WAQ48494)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

Jane Davidson: Welsh domiciled students studying outside Wales from academic year 2006-07 are entitled to the full range of available student support: a student loan of £4,405 (£6,170 in London), a tuition fee loan of up to £3,000 and an Assembly learning grant of up to £2,700, with any award being based upon an income assessment. In addition, students are eligible to apply for all supplementary support, for example, disabled students' allowances.

From academic year 2007-08, the student support package will remain unchanged for Welsh domiciled students studying outside Wales. However the maximum entitlement will rise to: a student loan of £4,510 (£6,320 in London), ALG of up to £2,765 and a tuition fee loan of up to £3,070.

Elin Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on what progress has been made by the reference group on dyslexia to assess the provision for dyslexia in each local authority area in Wales? (WAQ48500)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

Jane Davidson: Since the establishment of the Assembly-led external reference group for specific learning difficulties (which includes dyslexia) in March 2006, a questionnaire has been sent to all local education authorities requesting information on their provision for children and young people with specific learning difficulties. The questionnaires have been returned and are currently being evaluated.

In the light of these and during the course of 2007, we aim to develop quality standards in education for meeting the needs of children and young people with specific learning difficulties.

More generally, last year we assisted the British Dyslexia Association Cymru with funding (£25,000) for printing and distribution of the 'Achieving Dyslexia Friendly Schools in Wales' resource pack. Produced by BDA Cymru, this pack aims to advise schools on approaches to meeting the needs of pupils with dyslexia by removing potential barriers to learning. It emphasises the importance of identifying children's and young people's needs as soon as possible and providing the right support geared to individual needs. These packs were distributed to schools during the summer term 2005.

BDA has also been successful in obtaining £1.17 million Objective 1 funding to fund Project Llwyddiant (Project Success). This project is a joint initiative between BDA, the Dyscovery Trust and other partners. It is helping hundreds of teenagers across Wales by supporting and enhancing existing systems of education and training.

Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on science provision in Welsh universities? (WAQ49851)

Jane Davidson: I recognise the importance played by Welsh higher education institutions in the area of science. I am supporting many collaborative bids with 'Reaching Higher' funding in important areas such as the Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences, the rationalisation of chemistry and

the Wales Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, to ensure that these subjects are protected and strengthened.

Research funding of some £64 million is provided by HEFCW in 2006-07 to the higher education sector in Wales. A considerable portion of this is directed at science research. There are several examples of research of international excellence such as in the fields of psychology, civil engineering, physics and mathematics.

HEFCW's research on subjects of broader importance to Wales showed that enrolments on science courses at Welsh HEIs since 2004-05 have shown a 6.7 per cent increase. We will continue to monitor the position in Wales with regard to subjects of broader importance. HEFCW will work with Higher Education Funding Council for England to ensure that subjects of major importance to the economy and life of Wales will be kept under review.

Trish Law: Does the Minister have any plans to allocate school budgets directly to schools, rather than via LEAs? (WAQ49852)

Jane Davidson: The Assembly Government has no plans to allocate school budgets directly to schools. Funding for schools will continue to be provided in the main through the local government revenue settlement, with decisions on levels of school funding made by local authorities in the light of local needs and circumstances. Authorities are accountable to their electorates for the decisions that they make.

Janet Ryder: What financial help is available for an educational psychology doctorate student from Wales, studying in Bristol, and whose first-year placement is with Pembrokeshire County Council? (WAQ49886)

Jane Davidson: There is no difference in the funding arrangements for postgraduate students from Wales whether they study in Wales or elsewhere in the UK. While most postgraduate students will have received at least some student support as of right during their undergraduate studies, direct Government-funded support at postgraduate level is selective. Awards for postgraduates are the responsibility of the arts and humanities board and the six research councils, depending on the field of study. Many students who fail to obtain an award seek funding through various sources, including career development loans, loans from banks, sponsorships from educational trusts and charities or discretionary awards from their local authority.

The Assembly Government does recognise however that there may be some circumstances in which further help may be needed. Additional assistance has been made available through financial contingency funds. These funds provide discretionary support funding through the university to students in particular need. Similar arrangements apply in England through access to learning funds.

Janet Ryder: Why do some schools that offer the Welsh Assembly Government's free breakfast scheme charge parents £1 a day? (WAQ49887)

Jane Davidson: No school participating in the free breakfast initiative should charge pupils for attending the specific breakfast sessions. Funding is available from the Welsh Assembly Government to cover the costs of the breakfast and the supervision, provided the school delivers the breakfast session in accordance with the guidelines for operating this initiative.

However, there is scope for the free breakfast sessions and childcare clubs to work together. For example, a school could provide childcare from 7.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m., followed by the free breakfast session starting at 8.30 a.m..

Schools have some flexibility regarding the detail of the timings of their free breakfast sessions. For the purposes of the initiative, the breakfast session should commence before the start of the school day. It is suggested that breakfast provision should normally be delivered as a short period (for example 30 minutes) with the primary purpose of providing sufficient time to enable those children who attend the session to have a healthy breakfast before the start of the normal school activities.

Providing the period for operating this initiative is not extended so as to create another purpose of childcare, registration with the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales would not be required. There may be scope for a low-ratio, play-based, fee-charging childcare club to precede the free breakfast service, and registration may then be required if, taken with an after-school club with the same management, more than two hours per day of care is provided.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister list the expenditure for his portfolio since 1999 on consultants employed by the Welsh Assembly Government and ASPBs, listing each item of expenditure awarded, the cost of each contract, the purpose of each item of expenditure and the dates on which they awarded? (WAQ47896) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Leanne Wood: How much has the Minister spent on consultancy fees in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06? (WAQ48524) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister. JD*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I refer you to WAQ47898 and WAQ48518.

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on the tendering process for wind farm developments on Forestry Commission land? (WAQ48371)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): Following the publication of the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for the development of renewable energy in Wales (Technical Advice Note 8, (TAN8)) Forestry Commission Wales is managing a procurement programme on behalf of the Assembly Government to select suitable companies to be invited to develop wind-farms on the land it manages within the Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) identified in TAN8.

Applications for consideration under this programme were invited earlier this year as part of the pre qualification exercise designed to identify developers who had the right experience and capabilities in the field of wind-farm construction and there was an excellent response from a wide range of companies.

Following a rigorous, open and transparent selection process, 10 companies were invited to submit detailed proposals in order to be awarded an option to develop a wind-farm in one or more of the SSAs, subject to their scheme gaining permission through the normal planning process.

The selected companies are currently producing detailed tenders for submission in January 2007 to secure an option to develop to be awarded later next year. The successful developers will then be in a position to submit a planning application to the relevant Local Planning Authority.

The Welsh Assembly Government is currently considering how it will use the income derived from any wind-farm development on the land managed by the Forestry Commission in Wales.

Glyn Davies: Will the Minister confirm whether his department uses an internal traffic light or colour-coded system in relation to written Assembly questions and whether his department grades or classifies written Assembly questions according to their political sensitivity? (WAQ48753) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer that I gave to WAQ48749.

Glyn Davies: How many staff in the Minister's department received performance-related bonuses in 2005-06 and 2004-05? (WAQ48760) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer given to WAQ48761.

Janet Ryder: Will the Minister please list all the engagements that he undertook in his ministerial capacity, whether formally or informally, detailing the purpose of those engagements and who he met and why, on 11, 12 and 13 October 2006? (WAQ48593)

Carwyn Jones: The information is shown in the following table:

Engagement	Purpose	Persons met
Meeting with Michael German AM	To discuss Standing Order No. 31	Michael German
Discreet, low-key visit to Hafod Quarry en route to ministerial engagements	To view the Hafod Quarry site	None
Public meeting in Llanrwst	To discuss and provide an update on flood-alleviation projects in the Conwy valley	Denise Idris Jones AM and members of the public
Meeting with Mr Ieuan Edwards	Informal update meeting	Mr Ieuan Edwards, True Taste ambassador and owner of the Traditional Welsh Sausage Company Ltd and Edwards of Conwy
Meeting regarding the Caernarfon abattoir site	To discuss the potential re-opening of the former Caernarfon abattoir site	Confidential
Interviews	Welsh language interviews regarding the location strategy	None—interviews given via telephone

Peter Black: Will the Minister comment on plans for the development of biomass crops in Wales? (WAQ49703)

Carwyn Jones: We provide grants under the wood energy business scheme to encourage the establishment of a network of small-to-medium-scale wood fuel plants. The review of land management schemes will look at the feasibility of introducing grants for energy crops.

Ann Jones: What powers does the Minister have to restrict the use of snares in Wales? (WAQ49706)

Carwyn Jones: Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence to set any trap or snare intended to either injure or kill any wild animal included in Schedule 6 of the Act. Snaring protected species is not permitted unless the person has been authorised by a specific licence under section 16 of the Act.

Ann Jones: What plans does the Minister have to increase funding for sea and flood defence? (WAQ49707)

Carwyn Jones: The Welsh Assembly Government and its predecessor have significantly increased the level of funding for flood and coastal defence in recent years. Since 2002, funding to the Environment Agency has increased by over 40 per cent to £27.6 million for 2007-08. Over the same period, grant aid for local authority improvement schemes has been increased by over 50 per cent to £5.8 million. To date, this provision has more than kept pace with the programmes put forward by operating authorities.

The Assembly Government's environment strategy confirmed the need to adapt to climate change impacts and, in particular, to move to a risk management approach for flood and coastal matters in Wales. As part of the strategy's action plan a project is being scoped that will clarify the way in which we will manage flood and coastal risk in the future and part of that project will be to consider future funding issues.

The Assembly Government has identified potential funding for such works from the European convergence programme. Officials are co-ordinating a strategic bid in conjunction with operating authorities.

Kirsty Williams: Has the Minister considered making regulations under section 31 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, to allow for the occasional use of bridleways for bicycle races? (WAQ49888)

Carwyn Jones: I have not been asked by promoters of cycle races to make regulations to allow the use of bridleways. I would be willing to consider such a request in the right circumstances.

Questions to the Finance Minister

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister list the expenditure for her portfolio since 1999 on consultants employed by the Welsh Assembly Government and ASPBs, listing each item of expenditure awarded, the cost of each contract, the purpose of each item of expenditure and the dates on which they awarded? (WAQ47898)

Leanne Wood: How much has the Minister spent on consultancy fees in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06? (WAQ48518)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): The information supplied has been compiled by Assembly corporate procurement services from Assembly records and returns provided by the former Assembly sponsored public bodies.

The information is comprised of management consultancy contracts over £25,000 in value. As requested, separate spreadsheet has been provided for each ministerial portfolio, covering the period from 1999 to date, and the award date for each contract is given. Contracts that are still in the tender process have not been included.

Assembly Business Minister consultancy contracts 1999 to 2006

Contract number	Department	Contract title	Division	Contract value (excluding VAT)	Successful company	Award date
Nil return	Nil return	Nil return	Nil return	Nil return	Nil return	Nil return

Culture, Welsh language and sport consultancy contracts 1999 to 2006

Contract number	Department	Contract title	Division	Contract value (excluding VAT)	Successful company	Award date
1320	Cadw	Assessment of Chirk castle operation	Cadw	37,600	PBL Consulting Ltd	24/05/2006
267/2001	Culture, sport and Welsh language	Botanical gardens consulting	CSWLD	£50,000	KPMG	0210/2002

Education, lifelong learning and skills consultancy contracts 1999 to 2006

Contract number	Department	Contract title	Division	Contract value (excluding VAT)	Successful company	Award date
023/2003	Department for Training and Education	Career Wales review	TSCP2	£66,300	GCL Management Consultancy	10/10/2003
185/2002	DfTE	Evaluation of 'Extending Entitlements for Young People in Wales'	YPT	£69,464.25	Interactive feedback	21/02/2003
117/2002	DfTE	Evaluation of learning worker	DFTE-TSCP2	£81,175	Newidiem	09/12/2002
091/2000	DfTE	Leadership programme for headteachers	Schools leadership	£154,940	Hay Management	14/03/2000

Enterprise, innovation and networks/economic development and transport consultancy contract 1999 to 2006

Contract number	Dept	Contract title	Division	Contract value (excluding VAT)	Successful company	Award date
156/2005	EDT	Business evaluation and action plan	OCTO	28,405	Enviros	01/03/2006
77/2005	EDT	Evaluation for structural funds	Welsh European Funding Office	100,900	Old Bell 3	01/02/2006
"02/2005	EDT	Review of business support schemes	EDT	£49,800	Strategem	14/07/2005
	WDA	Risk management	WDA	111,625	Proteus Programme management	01/03/2005
	WDA	Evaluation of	WDA	£49,100.00	CRG, Old	01/08/2005

		Leader+ programme			Bell, Dateb and Fitz Patrick Associates	
	WDA	Investigate economic potential of game shooting in Wales	WDA	46,864	Institute of Rural Sciences, University of Wales Aberystwyth	01/09/2005
	WDA	Evaluation of rural programmes in Wales—joint with WAG	WDA	£84,776.00	CRG Consulting	01/10/2005
	WDA	Risk management—programme change	WDA	£58,750	Proteus Programme management	01/03/2006
131/2004	EDT	Mid-term evaluation updates of the Objective 1,2,3 progs in Wales and Interreg IIIA community initiative in Wales/Ireland	PHPD (i)	£98,850.00	Old Bell 3	26/01/2005
131/2004	EDT		(ii)	£40,237.50	EROS	26/01/2005
131/2004	EDT		(iii)	£97,025.00	Old Bell 3	26/01/2005
131/2004	EDT		(iv)	£44,000.00	Old Bell 3	26/01/2005
	WDA	Finance Wales review	WDA	£59,855	Pricewaterhouse Coopers	01/02/2004
	WDA	Feasibility study—centenary complex (Royal Welsh)	WDA	£29,081.00	Rural Consultancy Com, Harper Adams University, Stubbs Rich Architects	01/12/2004
253/2003	EDT	Call-off contract for gateway reviews	BIMD	£26,320	Chandler KBS	15/04/2004
	WDA	Evaluation of market towns initiative	WDA	£120,140	Tavistock Institute	01/01/2003
	WDA	Corporate brand identity review	WDA	£264,486	Glazer Ltd	01/06/2003
	WDA	Welsh forestry industry mapping—	WDA	53,912	Jaako Poyry consulting	01/09/2003

		joint with Forestry Commission				
	WDA	CAST technium project	WDA	40,000	Waypost Ltd	01/12/2003
123/2002	EDT	Cymru Arlein awareness and promotion programme	Cymru Arlein	£1,179,678.00	The Glasgow Group	06/08/2003
150/2002	EDT	Mid-term evaluation	WEFO	£279,610	EKOS	06/02/2003
206/2002	EDT	Consultant to undertake a study for freight terminal activities in south Wales	WEFO	£40,795	Steer Davies Gleave	06/05/2003
	WDA	Action plan for rural economic regeneration—joint-funded with local authorities	WDA	25,000	University of Wales Aberystwyth	01/12/2002
345/2001	EDT	Mid-term evaluation of Objective 1 programme	WEFO	£700,000.00	CRG & CSES (divided into lots)	19/09/2002
022/2001	EDT	Evaluation of XL Plus	ECAD 4	£42,412.50	York Consulting	05/04/2001
	WDA	Development of energy strategy for WDA	WDA	£39,000	West Coast Energy	01/01/2001
	WDA	Investigate community regeneration	WDA	29,457	University of Glamorgan	01/07/2001
	WDA	Business continuity	WDA	£41,125	Adams Associates	01/10/2001
	WDA	Review WDA SD policy	WDA	£221,000	Ove Arup and partners	01/11/2001
154/2000	EDT	Leader III and Urban Ex-ante evaluations	WEFO, CPSDS	£35,097.25	Ove Arup	15/08/2000
070/99	EDT	Inside Welsh industry—management of the 1999-2002 programme	ITD	£72,409	Wales Quality Centre	28/02/2000
	EDT	Evaluation of market towns initiative	WDA	£39,600	Tavistock Institute	01/05/2001

	EDT	Leader evaluation, joint commission with Leader Network, and WEPE	WDA	£30,000	Newidiem	01/02/1999
	WDA	Information system strategy	WDA	£69,332	Deloitte & Touche	01/02/2000
	WDA	Economic reviews/advice	WDA	£79,900	P&C Economic Consultants	01/06/2000
	WDA	E-WDA programme management	WDA	£270,234	Deloitte & Touche	01/08/2000

Environment, planning and countryside consultancy contracts 1999 to 2006

Contract number	Department	Contract title	Division	Contract value (excluding VAT)	Successful company	Award date
92/2005	EPC	Evaluation of Wales planning research		39,500	Ecotec Ltd	14/11/2005
063/2004	EPC	RAB model for Wales	SD ETE52	£48,888.00	Charles River Associates	30/07/2004
087/2004	EPC	External quality assurance advisor—common agriculture policy reform programme	EPC—CAPM	£35,000.00	TQMI	12/10/2004
139/2003	EPC	Review of coastal monitoring in Wales	ENVP2	£43,858	Posford Haskoning	01/04/2004
126/2003	EPC	Draft Wales spatial plan consultancy	Countryside Division	£67,000	Kevin Murray Associates	29/09/2003
196/2002	EPC	External consultants: parks review	TPE	£50,000	Land Use Consultancy	04/03/2003
231/2002	Epc	Regional waste plans, waste import and export study	Planning (4)	£30,000	SLR Consulting	24/12/2002
250/2002	Epc	Essential dwellings in the open countryside	Planning (4)	£60,000	Land Use Consultancy	29/08/2003
291/2002	Epc	Effectiveness of the Assembly in promoting sustainable development	SPU	£29,150	CAG Consultants	22/05/2003
137/2001	DEPC	Consultancy to study policy options for age balanced rural communities	Rural policy	£76,758.00	Newidiem	18/03/2002
004/2000	EPC	Study into appraising new entrants into farming	APD4	£36,840	ADA Consulting	23/03/2000
036/2000	EPC	Short-term appointment consultancy	CAP	£36,000	Mr Goodwin	20/05/1999
132/2000	EPC	IT consultancy skills call-off (SCAT)	CAPM	£288,525	W.S. Atkins	07/07/2000

129/2000	EPC	Study into renewables in Wales	CID	£69,995	Sustainable Energy Ltd	07/07/2000
178/2000	EPC	North Wales slate waste tips—a sustainable source of secondary aggregates	Planning	£36,730	Ove Arup & Partners	13/11/2000
230/2000	EPC	Municipal waste composition in Wales	TPE	£99,790	AEA Technology	22/11/2000
299/2000	EPC	Evaluation of operating aid/fiscal variation	EP3	£75,500	Price Waterhouse Coopers	27/02/2000
100/99	EPC	Scoping study on a waste strategy for Wales	TPE	£56,129.75	Ecotech	03/11/1999
092/99	EPC	Consultancy support to undertake a bilingual customer survey	WOAD1	£59,900	NOP research	16/02/2000
086/99	EPC	Rural development plan	URD	£26,850	Roger Tym & Partners	08/10/1999
056/99	EPC	Consultancy—business examination model	WOAD	£45,000	Ethos Management	03/08/1999
028/99	EPC	Scoping study of climate changes: impact in Wales	Environmental Division	£45,000	School of Agriculture & Forest Sciences	06/07/1999

Finance, local government and public service consultancy contracts 1999 to 2006

Contract Number	Department	Contract Title	Division	Contract Value (Exc VAT)	Successful Company	Award Date
210/2005	Loc Gov	Communications study		53,550	CRG Ltd	08/04/2005
81/2005	Loc Gov	Reform of Local Services		45,000	Cardiff University	29/09/2005
287/2002	Finance	Quinquennial Review of ACCAC	FP2	£50,800	Open Direction	24/04/2003
052/2000	Finance	Welsh Procurement Review	Fa4	£30,000	Martin Darcy	Mar-2000
107/99	Finance	Consultancy Services	FA	£50,000	Price Waterhouse Coopers	22/12/1999

Health and Social Services Consultancy Contracts 1999 to 2006

Contract number	Department	Contract title	Division	Contract value (excluding VAT)	Successful company	Award date
	Health	Review of Gwent health authority	RD	£320,000	Price Waterhouse Coopers	Jun-06
	Health	Capacity plan for personal disorder services	HCW	£48,000	Finnamore Management Consultants	Mar-06
	Health	South Wales Neuosciences Centre impact assessment	HCW	£72,000	Finnamore Management Consultants	Mar-06
	Health	Review of cross-border tariff	RD	£54,000	Badenock & Clark Geraldine Rolf	Aug-05
	Health	Model waiting lists	RD	£89,925	Rawlinson, Kellt & Whittlestone Ltd	Jun-05

	Health	Review reporting system	RD	£94,580	Badenock & Clark Geraldine Rolf	Feb-05
	Health	Programme budgeting database	RD	£42,505	PA Consulting	Jan-05
066/2004	Health	Specification for evaluation support	HP3	£60,512.00	People and Work Unit	11/11/2004
	Health	Evaluation of collaboration on implementing a social model of health	SU	£49,900	Professor Vivienne Walters	01/09/2004
	Health	Lead development of database for programme budgeting information	RD	£25,000	Graham McInnes	22/11/2004
	Health	External review of a three shared service centre	RD	£48,750	Atos KPMG Consulting	01/08/2004
	Health	Evaluation of food and fitness health promotion grant scheme in Wales	HPD	£38,200	Institute of Food, Active Living, and Nutrition, Bangor Uni.	13/02/2004
	Health	Finance maturity model for NHS trusts	RD	£48,000	Atos KPMG Consulting	01/12/2003
	Health	Internal control systems within business service centres	RD	£99,700	Atos KPMG Consulting	01/10/2003
	Health	Review of the priority risk areas within mental health areas	HSPD	£95,000	University of Wales, Bangor	29/07/2004
112/99	Health	Smokebusters— programme management and delivery	HPD	£47,655	Quadrant	23/12/1999
090/99	Health	Development of an executive management information system	SCP	£61,600	Nuffield Institute for Health	01/11/1999
45/2003	Health	Q&A Consultants	CSIW	£80,000	QA Plus Ltd	21/11/2003
75/2003	Health	Assessment of children and young people's framework	CFD	£50,000	Children in Wales	14/10/2003
224/2002	Health	Review of the purpose, development and management of fostering services	CFD4	£36,000	Roger Clough	28/02/2003
225/2002	Health	Review of the purpose and future shape of residential care services	CFD4	£39,630	Roger Clough	28/02/2003
226/2001	Health	Childcare information consultant	CFD	£49,500.00	Hedra	12/11/2001

Social justice and regeneration consultancy contracts 1999 to 2006

Contract Number	Department	Contract title	Division	Contract value (excluding VAT)	Successful company	Award date
"06/2005	SJ&R	Substance misuse framework	CSU	£49,650	WHISC	14/06/2005

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001/2004	SJ&R	Independent consultant	Housing	£31,500	Anne Delaney	16/06/2004
127/2002	SJ&R	Supporting people in Wales	Housing	£50,000.00	DT2 PIEDCU	13/12/2002
	SJ&R	Age-related housing and domiciliary care and support	Housing	£26,850.00	Contact Consulting	16/04/2002
227/2000	SJ&R	A project to develop a home energy conservation Act reporting methodology	Housing	£30,575.00	National Energy Services	16/11/2000
109/99	SJ&R	Brownfield study	Housing	£29,235.00	Hyder	23/11/1999
	SJ&R	Substance misuse review	CSU	£45,365	Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care—University of Glamorgan	01/12/2003
229/2003	SJ&R	Training needs analysis	CSU	£59,000	CAIS Ltd	23/07/2004

Glyn Davies: Will the Minister confirm whether her department uses an internal traffic light or colour-coded system in relation to written Assembly questions and whether her department grades or classifies written Assembly questions according to their political sensitivity? (WAQ48746) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer that I gave to WAQ48749.

Glyn Davies: How many staff in the Minister's department received performance-related bonuses in 2005-06 and 2004-05? (WAQ48762) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer given to WAQ48761.

Peter Black: What consideration did the Minister give to the Welsh Assembly Government's manifesto pledges when determining the draft budget? (WAQ49713)

Sue Essex: The draft budget took into account the commitments that have been made by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the Assembly Governments provision of funding for the refurbishment of public playgrounds? (WAQ49844)

Sue Essex: There is no statutory duty on local authorities to provide public playgrounds. Within the context of Assembly Government support, unhypothecated funding is provided that can be used towards

the capital cost of building and refurbishing or the revenue cost of generally maintaining public playgrounds. Unhypothecated general capital funding of £212 million and revenue support grant of £3.5 billion was made available to local authorities in 2006-07.

Section 508 of the Education Act 1996 provides that a local education authority may establish, maintain and manage or assist the establishment, maintenance and management of facilities for recreation including playgrounds. Such facilities are provided as local priorities dictate.

A further possible source of funding is the community focused schools grant made available to local education authorities. A total of £10 million has been made available between 2005 and 2008 for community-focused developments. The grant can assist schools and partners to provide a range of services and activities during and beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of pupils, families and the wider community. The establishment and maintenance of play facilities to meet the needs of the community may be within the scope of the grant.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister list the expenditure for his portfolio since 1999 on consultants employed by the Welsh Assembly Government and ASPBs, listing each item of expenditure awarded, the cost of each contract, the purpose of each item of expenditure and the dates on which they awarded? (WAQ47899) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Leanne Wood: How much has the Minister spent on consultancy fees in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06? (WAQ48523) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I refer you to WAQ47898 and WAQ48518.

Glyn Davies: Will the Minister confirm whether his department uses an internal traffic light or colour-coded system in relation to written Assembly questions and whether his department grades or classifies written Assembly questions according to their political sensitivity? (WAQ48747) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer that I gave to WAQ48749.

Glyn Davies: How many staff in the Minister's department received performance-related bonuses in 2005-06 and 2004-05? (WAQ48763) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer given to WAQ48761.

Jenny Randerson: Does the Minister have any plans to vaccinate young women against cervical cancer? (WAQ49853)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): The use of HPV vaccine in the UK is currently being reviewed by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, an independent

expert group that advises all four UK Government health departments. Any recommendations on the use of these vaccines need to be made following a full assessment of the available evidence. JCVI is aware of the increasing public interest in this vaccine. Any policy decisions by the Assembly Government regarding HPV vaccine will only be made after receiving the expert advice of the main JCVI.

David Lloyd: What ministerial activity is happening in Wales, to mirror ministerial and select committee activity in England, which is looking at the whole field of research and development in prostate cancer management? (WAQ48835)

David Lloyd: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to promote research and treatments of prostate cancer in Wales, and will he detail plans for how this work will develop further? (WAQ48836)

David Lloyd: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to improve prostate cancer screening in Wales? (WAQ48837)

Brian Gibbons: The Welsh Assembly Government has published national cancer standards for urological cancer, which includes prostate cancer. The three regional cancer networks are taking forward the implementation of these standards and service guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. Our policy on tackling cancer is an holistic approach that addresses prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment through to palliative care.

The Welsh Assembly Government funds the Wales Cancer Bank, which aims to collect and store cancer tumour, tissue and blood samples from all consenting patients with possible or confirmed cancer as a basis for future scientific studies. These studies will help establish the causes of cancer, and help identify areas for treatment and select the best treatment for individual patients. Since October 2006, the Wales Cancer Bank has been collecting samples from seven sites across Wales including: the University Hospital of Wales, Llandough; Singleton and Morriston hospitals (Swansea); Withybush Hospital (Haverfordwest); Royal Gwent Hospital (Newport); and Ysbyty Gwynedd (Bangor). In particular, it is collecting prostate cancer samples at the University Hospital of Wales site. The Wales Cancer Bank plans to collect samples from prostate cancer patients across more sites in the near future. Once the bank has built up sufficient samples, researchers will be able to apply to access them for future research studies.

We are working closely with the Department of Health and the charter for action on prostate cancer group and will consider what action should be taken in Wales once this work comes to fruition. The prostate cancer charter for action group wishes to raise awareness of prostate cancer. The director of the cancer services coordinating group is an observer on the Department of Health's prostate cancer advisory group which is considering ways of improving services for prostate cancer patients in England and which has noted the content of the charter. CSCG will advise the Welsh Assembly Government and the NHS on any further action required specifically to tackle prostate cancer over and above what we are already doing. As part of this, the CSCG urological cancers steering group has provided expert advice to Health Commission Wales on brachytherapy.

Health Challenge Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government's messages on healthy lifestyles promote health and raise awareness generally about cancer.

A test for prostate cancer has been developed. The National Screening Committee, which advises the four UK health administrations, does not support the need for a national screening programme because the risks associated with the test include false alarms. This, in turn, can result in unnecessary anxiety and treatment.

Men in Wales are supported in taking an informed decision about whether or not to take the prostate specific antigen test. The Welsh Assembly Government has produced a leaflet for this purpose and a website is available that contains a decision aid tool.

Jenny Randerson: What effect, if any, will the capital investment into the Prince Charles Hospital, announced in the recent Cabinet statement, have on the reported plans to downgrade the accident and emergency service at either Prince Charles Hospital or Royal Glamorgan Hospital? (WAQ48871)

Brian Gibbons: The capital investment recently announced into the Prince Charles Hospital does not affect the position in north Glamorgan or Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS trusts. At this stage, the NHS has no plans in place to 'downgrade' either. The investment at PCH ensures that accident and emergency facilities in Merthyr Tydfil will be enhanced and will provide a better, modern, fit-for-purpose facility that will benefit the local population

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister detail what structures are in place to ensure that local health boards respond to guidance set by the Welsh Assembly Government, and will he detail the time deadline for responses to be made? (WAQ48873)

Brian Gibbons: The Welsh Assembly Government's Department for Health and Social Services has a network of three regional offices across Wales. The regional directors act as agents of the head of the Department for Health and Social Services in each of these regions and one of their roles is to hold to account the chief executives of the statutory NHS bodies in Wales, including LHBs, on a day-to-day basis. The regional directors also manage the performance of LHBs in line with the framework for continuous improvement.

Much of the guidance issued to LHBs in Wales by the Welsh Assembly Government is published in the form of Welsh health circulars which, where applicable, clearly state the deadlines for expected implementation, response or action by the health organisations concerned.

Jenny Randerson: What funding arrangements have been put in place to ensure adequate service capacity for patients identified with HER2 positive breast cancer? (WAQ49552)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

Brian Gibbons: Local health boards are responsible for commissioning services for patients who require treatment following confirmation that they are HER2 positive.

The decision on whether or not to prescribe trastuzumab (Herceptin) after diagnosis is a clinical one based on the nature of the tumour and the appropriateness of the treatment for the individual concerned. Following guidance issued by the all-Wales medicines strategy group on trastuzumab for early breast cancer, the regional cancer networks undertook an assessment of need and developed commissioning advice, supported by the local health boards, for the testing and administration of treatment, to meet demand.

Lisa Francis: Why has Health Commission Wales refused to fund deep brain stimulation for people with Parkinson's disease and was this decision evidence-based? (WAQ49715)

Brian Gibbons: I refer to my answer to WAQ49312.

Lisa Francis: How many sufferers of Parkinson's disease in Wales could be eligible for deep brain stimulation treatment? (WAQ49716)

Brian Gibbons: The provision of deep brain stimulation services for patients with Parkinson's disease is the responsibility of Health Commission Wales, who is best placed to undertake the necessary needs assessments and prioritise services accordingly, within the finite resources made available by the Welsh Assembly Government.

The provision of this treatment option has been designated as a low priority for HCW in 2006/07. This decision was supported by the HCW national commissioning advisory board at its meeting on the 7 June 2006. HCW will review its DBS policy on an annual basis, and its priority status will be reviewed, following the publication of the Medical Research Council trial results, as a potential area for investment in future years.

Exact statistics on how many sufferers of Parkinson's disease in Wales could be eligible for DBS treatment are not centrally held in the requested format. However, I can confirm that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has stated that between 1 and 10 per cent of people with Parkinson's disease may be suitable for DBS.

Lisa Francis: Has the Minister had any discussions with consultants or specialists about DBS treatment for patients with Parkinson's disease? (WAQ49717)

Brian Gibbons: I have had no discussions with consultants or specialists about deep brain stimulation treatment for patients with Parkinson's disease.

Lisa Francis: When will Health Commission Wales meet with local health boards and NHS trusts to develop community-based tertiary eating disorder services in order to treat patients with more severe eating disorders? (WAQ49718)

Lisa Francis: How is Health Commission Wales working with NHS trusts to develop specialist outreach teams and day-care facilities to support patients with eating disorders at home? (WAQ49722)

Brian Gibbons: Health Commission Wales is developing a community-based tertiary eating disorder service in order to treat patients with more severe eating disorders; this will reduce the need for a specialist in-patient service. HCW is in the process of meeting with the local health boards and trusts in order to develop the appropriate services for this group of patients.

As a key action of the revised adult mental health national service framework, a range of specialist services will be available across Wales. These should include eating disorder services accessible in each NHS trust area. The Welsh Assembly Government has asked the LHBs and HCW to examine the provision of in-patient eating disorder services and develop appropriate services in line with their commissioning strategies.

LHBs are producing their own local action plans, showing how they propose to implement NSF key actions and bring additional mental health services, over and above those needed to meet existing service and financial framework targets.

The Welsh Assembly Government has also commissioned the National Public Health Service to develop an eating disorders care pathway for services from primary care through to tertiary care. I would expect all tiers of the service to take account of these and the NICE clinical guidelines when considering how to develop eating disorder provision.

Lisa Francis: When will Health Commission Wales's plan to develop community-based tertiary eating disorder services be finalised and where and when is it likely to be implemented? (WAQ49719)

Brian Gibbons: Health Commission Wales is in the process of developing community-based tertiary eating disorder service in order to treat patients with more severe eating disorders; this will reduce the need for a specialist in-patient service.

HCW is planning to develop a new service for south-east Wales to commence later this year and is in discussions with all-Wales eating disorder special interest group and the trust on proposals for the new service.

Lisa Francis: Would the Minister make a statement on specialist services to treat patients with eating disorders? (WAQ49720)

Brian Gibbons: Local health boards are responsible for providing services for those patients presenting with eating disorders who do not require inpatient or specialist day-care treatment. Patients who are younger than 18 years old are seen by community services initially and are referred to community intensive therapy teams where relevant or referred to the tier 4 unit if necessary.

Health Commission Wales is responsible for commissioning specialist eating disorder services. Children and young people in need of specialist in-patient care may be admitted to the Harvey Jones unit in Cardiff. Access to the unit has improved over recent months, but HCW is committed to improving and expanding the service and intends to hold a 12-week public consultation on plans to develop a new child and adolescent mental health service in-patient service in Bridgend, which will replace the Harvey Jones unit. The proposals are for an interim solution in upgraded accommodation at Glanrhyd to be available by the end of 2007 and a permanent purpose-built facility on the Princess of Wales Hospital site by June 2009.

In addition to the CAMHS development, HCW is in the process of developing a community based tertiary eating disorder service in order to treat patients with more severe eating disorders; this will reduce the need for a specialist in-patient service. HCW has invited NHS trusts to submit expressions of interest in developing this service and once proposals have been received will be working with a provider to develop a new service.

As a key action of the revised adult mental health NSF, a range of specialist services will be available across Wales. These should include eating disorder services accessible in each trust area. We have asked the LHBs and HCW to examine the provision of in-patient eating disorder services and develop appropriate services in line with their commissioning strategies.

LHBs are producing their own local action plans, showing how they propose to implement national service framework key actions and bring additional mental health services, over and above those needed to meet existing service and financial framework targets.

We have also commissioned the National Public Health Service to develop an eating disorders care pathway for services from primary care through to tertiary care. In response to our request, the National Public Health Service has produced its discussion paper on a proposed care pathway or model of care for eating disorders. This paper can be downloaded from its website at www.nphs.wales.nhs.uk. We would also expect all tiers of the service to take account of these and the NICE clinical guidelines when considering how to develop eating disorder provision.

Lisa Francis: When will Health Commission Wales complete its review in respect of the demand for in-patient beds, which will inform the number of beds commissioned in the proposed new CAMHS and eating disorder unit at Glanrhyd? (WAQ49723)

Brian Gibbons: HCW has completed the review and plans to commence consultation on proposals for the new unit at Glanrhyd in May.

Lisa Francis: When will the National Public Health Service complete its development of an eating disorders care pathway, which has been commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government? (WAQ49724)

Brian Gibbons: In response to our request, the National Public Health Service has produced its discussion paper on a proposed care pathway or model of care for eating disorders. This paper can be downloaded from its website at www.nphs.wales.nhs.uk.

Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of podiatry services for patients with diabetes? (WAQ49726)

Brian Gibbons: Commissioning responsibility for podiatry services lies with local health boards. It is for each LHB to assess local health needs and work with providers of healthcare services and others to plan and prioritise services to meet that need within the resources made available by the Welsh Assembly Government.

The all-Wales podiatry group has developed guidelines for the foot care management of people with diabetes. These guidelines will be incorporated into the all-Wales consensus guidelines for the management of people with diabetes mellitus.

Any person with diabetes who is assessed as medium or high risk of developing foot complications is given priority status.

In November 2006, the Welsh Assembly Government published 'A Therapy Strategy for Wales: Therapies for Modernisation'. This identifies the contributions of therapies—including podiatry—to the modernisation programme.

Leighton Andrews: What are the prescribed waiting times for cancer sufferers in Wales, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ49728)

Brian Gibbons: Our current targets for access to services are detailed below:

- patients referred as urgent suspected cancer by the general practitioner and confirmed as urgent by a member of the multi-disciplinary team or their representative should, if diagnosed with cancer, start definitive treatment within 62 days of receipt of the referral at the hospital.
- when diagnosed with cancer, patients not already included as an 'urgent suspected cancer' referral should start definitive treatment within 31 days from diagnosis regardless of referral route.

The table below shows details for patients newly diagnosed with cancer starting definitive treatment during the quarter ending 31 December 2006:

	Via urgent suspected route	Not via urgent suspected route
Total number of patients starting treatment during the quarter	1,052	2,513
Of which were treated within the target	798	2,379
Percentage starting their treatment within the target	76 per cent	95 per cent

Source: Health statistics and analysis unit

Information is incomplete for some tumour sites. North West Wales NHS Trust has not supplied information on children's cancer for the quarter and North Glamorgan NHS Trust has not supplied information on brain/central nervous system and children's cancers for October. The latest data for the period October to December 2006 were published into the public domain on 7 March 2007 at the following address: <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/index.htm>

Leighton Andrews: What training are GPs given in cancer care treatment, and what weight is given to this within the general medical services contract? (WAQ49729)

Brian Gibbons: GPs have an important role in providing advice to patients on prevention of cancer, the early detection of cancer, the ongoing treatment of patients with cancer and palliative care. The GP vocational training scheme includes comprehensive training on cancer care.

The GMS contract enables patients to receive cancer treatments such as Zoladex injections in the community as a local enhanced service. The quality and outcomes framework of the contract includes indicators for both cancer care and palliative care, encouraging a high quality of primary care through the multidisciplinary management of patients.

Alun Cairns: What guidance has the Minister issued to local health boards in relation to the promotion, knowledge, and treatment of familial hypercholesterolaemia? (WAQ49741)

Alun Cairns: What policies are in place to promote knowledge and understanding of familial hypercholesterolaemia? (WAQ49743)

Brian Gibbons: The Welsh Assembly Government recognises the importance of treating familial hypercholesterolaemia and other hereditary lipid disorders in order to reduce premature morbidity and mortality from coronary heart disease.

Modern drug treatments for FH and other hereditary lipid disorders combined with lifestyle advice (particularly on smoking) are very effective in prevention, especially when combined with active surveillance for early signs of coronary disease.

In terms of guidance to LHBs, the updated version of the original national service framework for CHD, although not yet published, recommends that people with FH should be offered specific LDL cholesterol-lowering treatment in addition to lifestyle advice and treatment of other risk factors. The update also recommends that an all Wales register of people found to have FH should be developed and maintained. The Wales Gene Park has funded a three-year project to develop a co-ordinated register for those with FH.

Current key aspects of treatment for those with FH and other hereditary lipid disorders are the provision of specialist lipid services and associated genetic counselling services. Wales currently has nine dedicated lipid clinics, four lipid/endocrine clinics, two lipid/cardiology clinics and two paediatric/adolescent lipid clinics. A specialist nurse has been in post, working between Cardiff and Vale and Bro Morgannwg NHS trusts, assisting in piloting cascade screening, but this is not a permanent post. The responsibility for commissioning a dedicated service for those with FH and their families would lie with LHBs.

The cardiac networks co-ordinating group in Wales held a successful FH symposium in November 2005 that produced a consensus that FH is a priority for coronary heart disease prevention. Since then a special interest group for FH has been established under the auspices of CNCG with a number of awareness-raising sessions for health professionals, patients and their families having taken place. Wales also has three representatives on the NICE guideline development group currently considering FH.

Nick Bourne: What is the Minister doing to promote nurse-led cascade screening of families for familial hypercholesterolaemia in Wales? (WAQ49845)

Brian Gibbons: The Welsh Assembly Government recognises the importance of treating familial hypercholesterolaemia in order to reduce premature morbidity and mortality from coronary heart disease. A specialist nurse has been in post, working between Cardiff and Vale and Bro Morgannwg NHS trusts, assisting in piloting cascade screening.

Modern drug treatments for FH combined with lifestyle advice (particularly on smoking) are very effective in prevention, especially when combined with active surveillance for early signs of coronary disease.

The cardiac networks co-ordinating group in Wales recently held a successful FH symposium that produced a consensus that this is a priority for coronary prevention and has been specified as a target in the cardiac national service framework for Wales.

Current key aspects of treatment for those with FH are the provision of specialist lipid services and associated genetic counselling services. Wales currently has nine dedicated lipid clinics, four lipid/endocrine clinics, two lipid/cardiology clinics and two paediatric/adolescent lipid clinics.

David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on the forecasted debt for the current financial year of Health Commission Wales? (WAQ49856)

Brian Gibbons: Health Commission Wales is currently on profile to achieve the required financial target for 2006-07 without the requirement for any additional financial support above the level planned of £5 million.

Helen Mary Jones: For each LHB area: will the Minister detail the total dental spend for each quarter during the 2006-07 financial year, and in addition the revenue actually collected from patients' contribution and how this compared to original estimates? (WAQ49857)

Brian Gibbons: The tables below detail Welsh Assembly Government dental allocations, the total gross dental spend and the actual patient charge revenue collected by LHB for quarters 1 to 3 of 2006-07. Quarter 4 final audited outturn for gross expenditure and patient charge revenue will be available July 2007. Comparisons of final outturn to original estimates for patient charges cannot be made until the audited position is available.

LHB	WAG gross allocation	Gross Expenditure £000s		
		Q1 actual	Q2 cumulative actual	Q3 cumulative actual
Cardiff	19,870	4,674	9,194	14,190
Merthyr Tydfil	2,766	450	1,134	2,068
Rhondda Cynon Taff	11,475	2,695	5,933	8,474
Vale of Glamorgan	5,620	1,312	2,685	3,942
Carmarthenshire	9,045	1,952	4,242	6,643
Ceredigion	4,100	854	1,470	2,209
Pembrokeshire	3,819	577	1,058	1,599
Powys	6,352	1,546	3,058	4,625
Blaenau Gwent	3,871	970	1,934	2,943
Caerphilly	8,346	1,994	4,072	6,099
Monmouthshire	4,517	827	1,676	3,466
Newport	7,510	1,876	3,718	5,628
Torfaen	3,924	1,005	1,968	2,971

Bridgend	7,866	1,301	3,445	5,482
Neath and Port Talbot	6,905	1,361	3,135	4,710
Swansea	13,904	3,373	6,487	9,438
Ynys Môn	2,482	440	961	1,650
Conwy	4,017	1,027	1,969	2,994
Denbighshire	6,461	1,085	2,822	4,343
Flintshire	5,813	1,603	2,810	3,871
Gwynedd	4,808	793	1,187	1,923
Wrexham	5,695	1,360	2,863	4,306
Totals	149,166	33,075	67,821	103,574

LHB	Income £000s			
	WAG allocation	Q1 actual	Q2 cumulative actual	Q3 cumulative actual
Cardiff	3,685	744	1,281	2,386
Merthyr Tydfil	741	-	166	317
Rhondda Cynon Taff	2,633	658	943	1,570
Vale of Glamorgan	1,217	219	439	658
Carmarthenshire	851	34	149	503
Ceredigion	420	18	144	277
Pembrokeshire	346	29	108	174
Powys	1,321	330	555	870
Blaenau Gwent	681	170	341	489
Caerphilly	1,701	308	535	882
Monmouthshire	932	-	466	699
Newport	1,555	389	744	1,166
Torfaen	798	-	317	508
Bridgend	1,695	75	517	857
Neath and Port Talbot	1,651	47	506	761
Swansea	2,947	737	705	1,291
Ynys Môn	469	49	127	240
Conwy	673	196	270	486
Denbighshire	1,631	121	408	772
Flintshire	1,096	366	319	676
Gwynedd	496	1	74	166
Wrexham	1,195	299	597	896
Totals	28,734	4,790	9,711	16,644

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: With regard to the modernising medical careers programme, will the Minister detail any plans he has for an urgent review of the division of training posts? (WAQ49858)

Brian Gibbons: Modernising medical careers is a UK-wide strategy to modernise the way in which doctors are trained. The programme is not a devolved matter. The Department of Health has announced a review into round one of modernising medical careers recruitment and selection into specialist training, made through the Medical Training and Application Service. The review will be led by Professor Neil Douglas, vice president of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and president of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The review team will include a Welsh member. The review team is expected to report by the end of March and it is envisaged that the division of training posts will be included in the final report.

David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on the accumulated debt of Health Commission Wales? (WAQ49859)

Brian Gibbons: The level of financial support provided to Health Commission Wales was £10.0 million in 2004-05, £18.3 million in 2005-06 and £5.0 million in 2006-07, giving a cumulative total of £33.3 million. Financial balance will be achieved in 2006-07.

David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on the funds available by Health Commission Wales for the current financial year, and for the next year, to finance new treatments? (WAQ49860)

Brian Gibbons: For the 2006-07 financial year, Health Commission Wales received specific funds of £12.9 million for additional treatments in order to reduce waiting times. Included in this new provision was £10 million to increase specialist treatment and diagnosis for cardiac disease including angiography and angioplasty across Wales. The remaining £2.9 million was directed to increase provision of plastic surgery, neurosurgery, renal surgery and paediatric surgery to achieve ministerial waiting times targets.

In addition to the targeted waiting list funding outlined above, the commissioning plan for HCW identified investment funds totalling £4.659 million. This resource was directed to a number of key priorities including the development of bone marrow transplant capacity, the development of additional renal capacity, increased high-cost individual treatments and a variety of initiatives directed to improving consultant capacity in a range of specialities.

For the 2007-08 financial year, HCW will be provided with the same level of waiting-list-specific funding as provided in 2006-07 totalling £12.9 million. These funds are likely to be directed to the same priorities as described for 2006-07.

HCW have been provided with a general financial uplift of 3.5 per cent for the 2007-08. A commissioning plan is currently in preparation, which will determine the balance between meeting the current costs of existing services, savings required and investment decisions. Specific development funds have been provided for disease-modifying therapies for multiple sclerosis and brachytherapy.

Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's provision of guidance to staff and parents for the treatment of school children infected with head lice? (WAQ49861)

Brian Gibbons: The role of the Welsh Assembly Government has been identified as one of health promotion and we have published a leaflet for use in schools, which explains and normalises the issue and gives detailed information on how to treat the infestation. We receive many requests throughout the year for copies of the leaflet from schools, general practices and the public. This leaflet is provided free of charge.

The Welsh Assembly Government does not follow a policy of targeted intervention, as this can lead to victimisation of the individual child for a condition that causes no direct harm. National eradication is not seen as appropriate action; instead, a co-ordinated approach between parents, teachers and the wider community is advised.

It has been recognised that routine inspections at school by a school nurse are not only ineffective at tackling head lice in the long term, but can lead to a false sense of security. The responsibility for checks and any management must lie with the individual parent (who is best placed to detect infestation).

In order to encourage this method, the parent teacher associations of some schools have organised family health promotion sessions with health professionals. Many schools will participate in the national bug-busting days (31 January, 15 June and 31 October 2007), which aim to ensure that children and parents know how to detect and treat head lice.

David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on the recruitment of chiropractors? (WAQ49862)

Brian Gibbons: Chiropractors are part of a fast-growing independent healthcare profession. The General Chiropractic Council keeps a register of chiropractors who meet their standards for training, professional skills and health. They are not included in the Welsh Assembly Government's careers information or workforce planning processes because chiropractors are not employed directly by the NHS.

Helen Mary Jones: Further to his answer to WAQ4928, will the Minister list those closed hospitals in each year and their location? (WAQ49863)

Brian Gibbons: The following hospitals were closed between 1997 and 2006:

Hospital closures 1997-2006—including speciality

Hospital	Year	Specialties
Brynhyfryd	1997	Learning difficulties
Gwynfa residential unit	1997	Child and adolescent psychiatry
Bridgend General	1998	General surgery
		Ear, nose and throat
		Ophthalmology
		Oral surgery
		General medicine
		Rehabilitation
		Palliative medicine
		Dermatology
		Rheumatology
		Geriatric medicine
		GP other than maternity
Llys Maldwyn	1998	Learning difficulties
Mardy Hospital	1998	Old age psychiatry
Prince of Wales	1998	Trauma and orthopaedic
Aberaeron	1999	Geriatric medicine
Porth and District	1999	General surgery
		Urology
		Trauma and orthopaedic
		ENT
		Ophthalmology
		Anaesthetics
		Gynaecology
Treherbert	1999	GP other than maternity
Bodfaen MI unit	2000	Mental illness
Mid Wales	2000	Mental Illness
		Old age psychiatry
Sully	2001	Mental illness
		Old age psychiatry
Tonteg	2001	Old age psychiatry
Ystrad Mynach Bungalows	2001	Learning difficulties
Landowne Hospital	2002	Geriatric medicine
		Old age psychiatry
Royal Hamadryad	2002	Old age psychiatry
Neath General	2002	General surgery
		Urology

		Trauma and orthopaedic
		Pain management
		General medicine
		Gastroenterology
		Clinical haematology
		Paediatrics
		Obstetrics
		Gynaecology
		Radiology
		High dependency
		Intensive care
Conwy Hospital	2003	Geriatric medicine
Minfordd	2004	Old age psychiatry
Bryntirion	2004	Geriatric medicine
		Clinical haematology
Dobshell	2004	Geriatric medicine
Meadowslea	2004	Geriatric medicine
Brynseiont	2004	Geriatric medicine
		Palliative medicine
		General medicine
Trevalyn	2004	Geriatric medicine
Ebbw Vale	2005	Geriatric medicine

Notes:

1. Up to 30 June 2006.
2. There is no formal mechanism for informing the National Assembly for Wales that a hospital has closed.
3. Excludes hospitals that closed and subsequently reopened.
4. Excludes partial closures.
5. Excludes hospitals rebuilt with the same name.
6. Specialty information for bed use and in-patients only. Some hospitals dealt with other specialties on an out-patient basis.

Karen Sinclair: Will the Minister make a statement on the childhood vaccination and immunisation programme in Wales? (WAQ49864)

Karen Sinclair: When does the Minister intend to review and evaluate the impact of Prevenar, the conjugated pneumococcal vaccine, on the prevalence of pneumococcal disease in Wales? (WAQ49889)

Karen Sinclair: Can the Minister provide an update at national and LHB level of the number of children who have received the Prevenar vaccine and are now protected and those who remain vulnerable? (WAQ49890)

Brian Gibbons: Trends in childhood immunisation in young infants have been very positive for the last few years. In 2006, the national 95 per cent target for one-year-old children was met for the first time in over decade. With the addition of pneumococcal vaccination to the schedule in September 2006, the childhood programme now protects Welsh children against more diseases than ever before.

Uptake of MMR has also been steadily improving among two-year-old children and, in over half of LHBs, now exceeds 90 per cent. Uptake of two doses of MMR in five-year-old pupils, important for preventing outbreaks in schools, remains comparatively low with a quarter of children entering school not fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella. One in eight children have no protection at all from

these diseases. Review of MMR immunisation status for each child at school entry, in line with Welsh Assembly Government policy (WHC (2005)081), will address this trend.

The Health Protection Agency is carrying out surveillance on the impact of the new childhood immunisation programme and the latest data can be found at the following links:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/pneumococcal/IPDcumuINvacc.htm

http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/pneumococcal/IPDcumuNOTinVacc.htm

If the graphs contained in the links above are compared, one can begin to see an impact on the incidence of disease caused by the serotypes included in the Prevenar vaccine compared to other types even at this early stage. Such early surveillance of impact is best conducted for Wales and England combined because of the relatively low numbers of cases.

Age-related childhood immunisation uptake rates (including pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) will be available from next week in the quarter 4 COVER report published by the National Public Health Service.

Karen Sinclair: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to upgrade the ambulance fleet in Wales? (WAQ49865)

Brian Gibbons: It is accepted that the modern ambulance service needs a more flexible fleet with single crewed vehicles of various types able to reach those in need more quickly and to support paramedics working in the community. There is an immediate need to replace and upgrade the current fleet while also addressing the mix of vehicles required to adapt to current and future needs.

The Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust currently operates 250 emergency and 235 non-emergency ambulances, 40 emergency response cars and 47 support vehicles. As you know, WAG has provided funding of £16 million to buy out leases and to purchase vehicles—119 emergency medical services vehicles and 67 patient care service vehicles. A second business case has just been submitted, which is looking to address those remaining vehicles that are leased.

With regard to the long-term view, WAST and WAG are considering the format and management of a vehicle replacement programme, which will be in keeping with the modernisation plan, and a paper with recommendations will be presented to the capital investment board for its consideration.

Eleanor Burnham: Will the Minister make a statement on commissioning patient transport services? (WAQ49866)

Brian Gibbons: The commissioning of non-emergency patient transport services is the responsibility of acute trusts. Many trusts commission for this service from the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust. However, others do use private/voluntary providers such as St Johns Ambulance. The service is provided to patients with a medical need for non-emergency patient transport.

WHC (2007) 005 was issued on 12 February 2007 to advise NHS trusts and local health boards of the revised criteria for determining whether a patient has a medical need for free non-emergency patient transport. The revised criteria applies only to patient journeys within Wales and first journeys to hospitals in England.

Owen John Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on the Gleason score threshold for prostate cancer patients requiring brachytherapy treatment? (WAQ49867)

Brian Gibbons: The Gleason score is one of several indicators used to assess a patient's condition. A number score is assigned to indicate how different a sample of prostate tissue looks when compared to

normal prostate tissue. Alongside other evidence, clinicians can use the score to inform decisions about the appropriate treatment in each case.

A Gleason score of six or below, when taken together with other indicators, indicates early/low-grade cancers that are suitable for treatment with low dose brachytherapy and where the evidence base to support this treatment option is most robust.

Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on provision for people with eating disorders in north Wales? (WAQ49868)

Brian Gibbons: A range of specialist services, including eating disorder services, is to be made available in each NHS trust area across Wales as part of the implementation of the revised adult mental health national service framework. We have asked local health boards and Health Commission Wales to examine the provision of in-patient eating disorder services and develop appropriate services in line with their commissioning strategies.

Eating disorder patients are normally dealt with as part of the generic community mental health provision for both adults and children. HCW is working with trusts and LHBs in south Wales to develop a pilot specialist tertiary community-based eating disorder service to support local mental health services in the treatment of patients with eating disorders. If this pilot is successful, consideration will be given to rolling it out across Wales

Plans are under way to develop a purpose built CAMHS unit in Abergele, which will accommodate those under the age of 18 who present with an eating disorder requiring specialist tier 4 treatment.

The National Public Health Service has been commissioned to develop an eating disorders care pathway for services from primary care through to tertiary care. We would expect all tiers of the service to take account of these and the NICE clinical guidelines when considering how to develop eating disorder provision. A discussion paper has been produced, the link to which is www.nphs.wales.nhs.uk.

Trish Law: What assessment has the Minister made of the link between poor housing and poor health? (WAQ49869)

Brian Gibbons: The relationship between poor housing and health is well documented. This information is used to inform the Welsh Assembly Government's housing policy, particularly the new housing health and safety rating system, and the standards for new build social housing.

The housing health and safety rating system was introduced last year and closely links health and safety to house conditions. Hazards are categorised and local authorities must take action on high priority hazards.

There is also evidence that tenants in social housing tend to have poorer health. In order to address this, the Welsh Assembly Government has published the Welsh housing quality standard. This document sets out minimum standards for a wide range of physical conditions that must be adopted in all dwellings owned by all registered social landlords by 2012.

Other measures in place that focus on housing, health and wellbeing include the following:

- the Minister for Health and Social Services has appointed a health and homelessness facilitator. Working with voluntary and statutory organisations, they will advise the Welsh Assembly Government on the development of policy, services and practice to address the health needs of homeless people;
- the keep well this winter campaign is helping to address the link between health and housing through the following schemes:

- the home energy efficiency scheme grants funded by the Welsh Assembly Government offer grants for a package of home insulation and heating for those who are eligible—specifically people aged 60 and over and disadvantaged groups.
- the Care and Repair agency (based in every local authority in Wales) provides a service to help older people to complete repairs in the home and access grants or benefits. In February 2007, Edwina Hart AM announced a funding package of £4,366,000 for Care and Repair organisations, an increase of 3.69 per cent compared to the previous year.

Jeff Cuthbert: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to improve access to defibrillators in public places in Wales? (WAQ49871)

Brian Gibbons: The provision of public access defibrillation machines in Wales is an important service, particularly because coronary heart disease is prevalent in Wales, with a high death rate from the condition. The Welsh Assembly Government's public access defibrillators initiative is aimed at increasing the survival of those who suffer cardiac arrest in the community. The scheme is run in conjunction with the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust and Health Commission Wales. It provides funding for the placement of automatic external defibrillators at selected sites throughout Wales with £80,000 for the purchase of equipment, and £61,000 for a sustainable training programme to ensure optimal and appropriate use of the machines.

By the end of December 2006, WAST reported that a total of 48 defibrillators had been installed across Wales with a total of 294 volunteers trained in using the equipment and 39 staff receiving refresher training. The scheme also allows for organisations to self-fund their own defibrillators, as a result of which they are currently located at 38 sites across Wales with 310 volunteers trained. The award of a defibrillator to any organisation is only made with the approval of the local ambulance service. This allows a degree of co-ordination, management and audit of self-funded sites.

Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's investment in community health services? (WAQ49872)

Brian Gibbons: Local health boards are responsible for the health and wellbeing of people who are usually resident in its area. The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to supporting and strengthening community services in Wales consistent with the policy direction identified in 'Designed for Life'.

This will be further informed by the forthcoming community services framework and other relevant guidance such as the commissioning guidance, health, social care and wellbeing strategies, and the chronic conditions model and framework.

It is proposed that the community services framework will be published shortly and will:

- (i) establish a vision of future community-based health and social services, aimed at meeting the needs of people in the community most efficiently using all the resources at our disposal, set in the context of developments to date, both in the United Kingdom and internationally, and acknowledging the importance of interface issues between health services, social services and housing that need to be addressed;
- (ii) give local bodies a firm steer on what they must do to develop comprehensive and integrated services for their local areas.

Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on the reorganisation of hospitals in Swansea? (WAQ49873)

Brian Gibbons: Swansea health community and its partners have now developed a strategic outline programme, which outlines the options for the future provision of acute, mental health and community health services in Swansea. This SOP is now being considered by the Assembly in conjunction with similar SOPs received from all other regions of Wales. During the spring, a new all-Wales capital programme will be produced, based on these SOPs, which will identify the proposed capital spending priorities for Wales for the next 10 to 15 years.

The various options available for acute services in Swansea will need to be evaluated fully through the all-Wales NHS capital investment process before a preferred option can be identified. Work is already underway on the preparation of a strategic outline business case, which should be completed towards the end of 2007. This will further examine the options for the proposed single integrated hospital. It is unlikely that the final option will be confirmed until the outline business case is developed and submitted during 2008.

With regard to the proposals to close services at Hill House and Fairwood Hospitals, in line with our guidance on proposals to change health services, efforts are focused on making a decision locally on what is in the best interests of patients. To that end, the community health council is taking forward work to ensure that all possible avenues have been explored in seeking agreement on the provision of future services in Swansea. The CHC is considering the additional information received from the LHB and trust. A workshop has been arranged on 3 April in order to ensure thorough consideration of this information.

Following the workshop, the CHC will formally meet the Welsh Assembly Government health and social services regional office in mid April to take this work forward. It would be inappropriate to speculate as to when a final decision will be made because it will depend on the outcome of the workshop. We are not at a stage where final agreement has been reached or decisions made.

If agreement cannot be reached following the workshop and further information provided by the trust and LHB, the regional office will meet them again to see whether the issue can be resolved. If agreement cannot be achieved then, any proposal will be sent to me for my consideration and determination

Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on the proposals for reconfiguring the NHS in Powys? (WAQ49874)

Brian Gibbons: Powys Local Health Board has responsibility for improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Powys. In line with the Assembly's strategic direction in 'Designed for Life', Powys LHB has recently consulted on its proposals for the broad future configuration of services as part of the 'Doing More, Doing Better' strategy consultation process. The LHB has now indicated that it will be bringing forward for consultation more specific proposals to implement its strategy.

It has been agreed that reconfiguration of hospital services should not take place without adequately planned community provision, and that before any reconfiguration occurs there must be public consultation.

A draft community services framework document is being prepared and Powys LHB will need to carefully consider this framework in drawing up its proposals for the future development of local services.

Jenny Randerson: What assessment has the Minister made of the service capacity benefits arising from the use of oral chemotherapies for the treatment of cancer? (WAQ49553)

Substantive answer following holding reply.

Brian Gibbons: As the use of oral chemotherapies increase, there will be some service capacity benefits regarding reducing pressure on pharmacy aseptic units and nursing chemotherapy day units.

However, it is important that oral chemotherapy is not seen as the easy option. The risks associated with it can be as great as with conventional chemotherapy. Supporting these patients will still require extensive resources from the specialist teams currently delivering chemotherapy services.

It is the role of the cancer networks to work with all stakeholders to develop preferred service models for the delivery of cancer services across Wales. Work is currently being undertaken to consider the effect of future changes in the delivery of chemotherapy.

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister list the expenditure for her portfolio since 1999 on consultants employed by the Welsh Assembly Government and ASPBs, listing each item of expenditure awarded, the cost of each contract, the purpose of each item of expenditure and the dates on which they awarded? (WAQ47900) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Leanne Wood: How much has the Minister spent on consultancy fees in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06? (WAQ48521) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I refer you to WAQ47898 and WAQ48518.

Glyn Davies: Will the Minister confirm whether her department uses an internal traffic light or colour-coded system in relation to written Assembly questions and whether her department grades or classifies written Assembly questions according to their political sensitivity? (WAQ48748) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to the answer that I gave to WAQ48749.

Glyn Davies: How many staff in the Minister's department received performance-related bonuses in 2005-06 and 2004-05? (WAQ48756) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer given to WAQ48761.

Carl Sargeant: Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Assembly Government is making communities safer in Wales? (WAQ49850)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): The Welsh Assembly Government's crime-fighting fund seeks to reduce fear of crime and address drug related crime, including effective treatment for addicts, and is currently worth over £132 million. The fund provides support for a range of Assembly initiatives which impact on community safety, and includes funding to tackle and treat substance misuse, school disaffection, domestic violence, youth crime, support for Operation Tarian and

housing for ex-offenders. During the period April 2002 to March 2006, recorded crime in Wales has fallen by 15 per cent.

Alun Cairns: What consideration has the Minister given in the review of monies distributed by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, local mental health grant schemes, and the scheme for people with disabilities in regards to protecting the funding of small independent voluntary organisations, like Swansea Mind, that support those with mental health problems? (WAQ49854)

Edwina Hart: The Welsh Assembly Government is in discussion with the WCVA and other stakeholders on general voluntary sector funding for health and social care. No decisions about the future administration of the two mental health grants, whether they should be merged, who will administer them and how have been taken yet.

Questions to the Business Minister

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister list the expenditure for her portfolio since 1999 on consultants employed by the Welsh Assembly Government and ASPBs, listing each item of expenditure awarded, the cost of each contract, the purpose of each item of expenditure and the dates on which they awarded? (WAQ47892) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Leanne Wood: How much has the Minister spent on consultancy fees in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06 for: a) her role as Minister for children; b) equality and equal opportunities issues and c) other portfolio responsibilities? (WAQ48516) *Transferred for answer by the Finance Minister.*

Substantive answer following holding reply.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I refer you to WAQ47898 and WAQ48518.

Questions to the House Committee

Glyn Davies: Pursuant to WAQ37399, have the House Committee's plans changed in any way regarding the introduction of car-parking charges? (WAQ46108)

The Chair of House Committee (John Marek): The House Committee's plans have not changed.

Helen Mary Jones: Will the representative of the House Committee make a statement on public access in the Senedd? (WAQ46375)

John Marek: The Senedd is open seven days a week to the public, subject to closure on a few public holidays, including Christmas day. Members of the public have free access to most of the building, and to the area immediately around the access to the Siambr and committee rooms (the Cwrt) when accompanied by passholding Members, AM support staff or employees or on organised tours. Lobby journalists have access to the Cwrt.

Kirsty Williams: Would the representative of the House Committee detail the full estimated capital and revenue costs of establishing a separate computer service for the Assembly Parliamentary Service following the implementation of the Government of Wales Bill 2006? (WAQ47782)

John Marek: In implementing the Government of Wales Act 2006, the National Assembly for Wales will require computer systems for finance and human resources as well as information technology services, which are tailored to the needs of AMs and their staff and the employees of the National Assembly for Wales Commission. The House Committee agreed that these requirements needed to be addressed.

In addition to these developments, the House Committee has decided that there is a requirement for some infrastructure changes. At present, the APS staff's computers are dependent on the Welsh Assembly Government's server farm in Cathay's park. There are concerns about the stability of this facility and WAG officials are reviewing the situation. The Members' server farm is already located in Cardiff bay: the House Committee, therefore, took the decision to enhance the server farm in Cardiff bay so that all National Assembly for Wales computer users would be linked to the same server farm in Cardiff bay. There are building works associated with enhancing the server farm. The capital and revenue costs associated with these developments are detailed below, but I emphasise that these are only estimates at this stage and it is likely that the building costs will be less than those quoted.

It is also important to point out that it is also envisaged that there will be cash and efficiency savings that will materialise through improving processes and information management. For example, the integrated human resources and payroll system will deliver savings of around £30,000 per year. Details of the revenue costs are not available until the improved Members' services have been agreed.

High-level programme costs

One-off costs, as at 8 September 2006

Item	Estimated Cost	Description / Reason
ICT separation	£1,000,000	Separation of the ICT infrastructure, creating an area for all ICT systems for the Assembly.
Building work	£360,000	To create an enlarged server farm area to store ICT equipment locally.
Finance system	£212,000	To implement a dedicated finance system.
HR system	£180,000	To implement a dedicated HR system, to follow with a payroll solution in 2008.