

## **Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 26 October 2010**

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

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

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***To ask the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning***

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Further to the Minister's answer to WAQ56585, will he provide a time scale for the publication of the report into the funding and delivery of music education in Wales. (WAQ56640)

***Answer issued on 27 October 2010***

Detailed consideration is being given to the report produced by the Review of Music Education for 3-19 year-olds including a response to each of the wide-ranging recommendations directed to the Welsh Assembly Government. The report, together with the response, will be published by the Welsh Assembly Government once it has been fully considered.

***To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport***

**Veronica German (South Wales East):** What proposals are there for creating a spur off the existing motorway network to a park and ride facility close to the Severn Tunnel Junction. (WAQ56645)

***Answer issued on 03 November 2010***

Whilst I am not currently considering direct access from the motorway network to a park and ride facility at Severn Tunnel Junction, as part of the M4 corridor enhancement works, I have asked my officials to consider if there are additional proposals that can deliver benefits to the M4 corridor.

Enhancing parking provision at Severn Tunnel Junction railway station has been identified as one possible public transport improvement measure as part of a regional transport strategy. My officials are working closely with Sewta to further investigate this improvement including means of access to the site.

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** When does the Minister expect the results of the Builth Wells Transport Study to be publically available. (WAQ56646)

***Answer issued on 27 October 2010***

I am considering the findings of the Builth Wells Transport Study and I hope to announce my decision on the way forward in the near future.

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

**Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central):** From which budget line has the Welsh Assembly Government portion of the Regeneration Investment Fund been taken. (WAQ56641)

**Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central):** Of the £55 million total in the Regeneration Investment Fund, how much is EU funding. (WAQ56642)

**Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central):** Will the Regeneration Investment Fund be available for all parts of Wales to bid for or is it restricted to areas eligible for EU structural funds. (WAQ56643) ***Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration***

***Answer issued on 08 March 2011***

**The Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration (Jocelyn Davies):** I can confirm that the Welsh Government has provided investment totalling £30m, of which £9.37m is cash for the 2009/10 budget of the Department for the Economy and Transport, with the balance in property assets. A further £25m has been provided from the European Regional Development Fund. This European funding, together with match funding of £15.4m, will be restricted to qualifying expenditure within the Convergence area, but the balance of £14.6m can be spent in other areas of Wales. In addition, the main feature of the Regeneration Investment Fund is that the fund is recyclable. As money is repaid to the fund, the European location restrictions will no longer apply and the whole fund will become available to projects in all parts of Wales.

*To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services*

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on when Committees to deal with exceptional funding requests were established in each Local Health Board. (WAQ56638)

*Answer issued on 27 October 2010*

These arrangements are in place.

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister list the dates of the most recent meeting of each LHB body to determine exceptional funding requests. (WAQ56639)

*Answer issued on 27 October 2010*

This information is not held centrally.

*To ask the Minister for Heritage*

**Brynle Williams (North Wales):** What is the Minister doing to promote tourism in North Wales. (WAQ56644)

*Answer issued on 27 October 2010*

The Welsh Assembly Government, in recognition of the importance of tourism to North Wales, provides Tourism Partnership North Wales, which is the body responsible for the strategic development of the visitor economy in North Wales, with the highest level of funding support of any of the four regions - £915,000 in 2010-2011.

In January this year I launched Tourism Partnership North Wales's new strategy for tourism in North Wales. The industry supports 37,000 jobs and currently generates in £1.8 billion in spending by visitors every year – the aim of the strategy is to increase that figure to £2 billion.

North Wales will benefit from the investments in 3 Centres of Excellence that are being made through Visit Wales's EU funded Coastal and Sustainable Tourism projects - The National Trust Coastal Centre of Excellence in Aberdaron, the Eryri Centre of Excellence and the Tourism Centre of Cycling Excellence in Denbighshire.

We are also looking at opportunities to further develop tourism in North East Wales by building on its cultural strengths, especially given the designation of Pontycysyllte Aqueduct and Canal as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. An Action Plan has been developed to take this forward involving the relevant local authorities and next month I will be chairing the second meeting of the steering group in Mold.

***To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs***

**Brynle Williams (North Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on the control of Canada Geese in Wales. (WAQ56636)

***Answer issued on 08 March 2011***

The Canada goose, like all wild birds in Britain, is protected under the EC Wild Birds Directive implemented in Great Britain through the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended. This Act makes it an offence to capture, kill, or injure Canada geese, or to damage or take their nests or eggs. There are exceptions, the most important of which relate to the open season and to actions licensed under Section 16 of the Act.

Canada geese can be legally shot by authorised persons (i.e persons acting with the authority of the landowners, occupiers and the owners of the shooting rights to the land involved) or trapped by approved methods during the open season between September 1<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> except on Sundays (the open season extends to February 20<sup>th</sup> on the foreshore) Care must be taken to ensure that other regulations concerning firearms safety, capture methods etc are adhered to. Trapping and shooting are permitted during the open season but an individual licence is required to carry out these methods during the close season.

**Licensed action**

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Welsh Assembly Government may issue individual licences to kill or take Canada geese, to take, damage or destroy their eggs and nests where there is no other satisfactory solution for the purpose of:

- Preserving public health or safety;
- Preserving air safety;
- Preventing the spread of disease and preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber, fisheries or inland waters.

Certain methods of killing and taking birds are prohibited. These include the use of nets, automatic and semi-automatic weapons, and poisoned or stupefying substances. For full details see section 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Anyone seeking to use a prohibited method must apply for an individual licence from the Welsh Assembly Government.

In a public consultation on the review of General Licences in 2009, it was proposed to add Canada Geese to the list of species that can be controlled under the General Licences for the purposes of preserving public health and safety, preserving air safety and agricultural purposes. The views/opinions expressed in the consultation are currently under review by colleagues in the Department for Environment, Sustainability and Housing.

***To ask the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government***

**Nick Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** What measures is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to encourage volunteering. (WAQ56637)

***Answer issued on 27 October 2010***

The Welsh Assembly Government recognises the vital role of volunteers in our communities and remains committed to supporting and encouraging this. At the heart of our Strategic Action Plan for the

Voluntary Sector Scheme - The Third Dimension -are a series of specific actions for how the Assembly Government will promote, encourage and extend volunteering opportunities across Wales.