

## Written Questions answered between 11 and 18 September 2003

[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

#### Location Strategy

**Elin Jones:** Will the Minister make a statement on the Assembly Government relocation strategy in relation to mid and west Wales? (WAQ27751)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 26 August 2003.*

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** The Cabinet is scheduled to discuss the location strategy in the autumn, and that will include consideration of a report of possible locations. The strategy is phased to take place in three moves between 2003 and 2007 and decisions on the exact timing and the order of the phasing will be made when all information is available.

Work on identifying a suitable location for the mid-Wales office is ongoing and part of that exercise has included a search for suitable sites. All suitable locations and sites, together with developer proposals, will be evaluated against specified criteria and will be tested for value for money.

#### Welsh Rugby Union Hospitality

**Alun Cairns:** What is the individual value of the hospitality the Minister received from the WRU, referred to in the answer to WAQ27261? (WAQ27673)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 19 August 2003.*

**The First Minister:** Except for the Wales v. Canada game, where I only attended the post-match reception, I have accepted a ticket for the match and also attended the pre-match lunch and the post-match reception. The total cost for each game is considered to be in the region of £80, based on £45 for the ticket, £20 for the lunch and £5 for tea.

### **Bullying of Staff**

**Leanne Wood:** During the last four years, have there been any complaints from civil servants involving bullying by any Ministers? (WAQ28047)

**The First Minister:** Questions of relationships between Ministers and officials are a matter for the Permanent Secretary.

## **Questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning**

### **Tuition Fees**

**Laura Anne Jones:** Further to WAQ27956, will the Minister make a statement on students in Wales not reaching their full potential in university study due to the financial burden of tuition fees? (WAQ28034)

**The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson):** In my previous reply (WAQ27956), I explained how the current system ensures that the least well-off students do not make any contribution towards their tuition fees. The independent investigation group into student hardship and funding in Wales recognised the need for a mixed economy whereby those students who can afford to make a contribution towards their learning should do so; the group attributed any 'poverty of learning experience' to a shortfall of about £1,300 per annum between the income of least well-off students and that which they required to pursue their courses. By introducing the Assembly learning grant, the Assembly Government has ensured that up to £1,500 per annum is available to assist those students.

## **Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside**

### **Cardiff City Stadium**

**Laura Anne Jones:** Would the Minister make a statement on his discussions regarding the proposed plans for a new stadium for Cardiff City? (WAQ28017)

**The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones):** I have had no discussions with any organisation or individuals outside of the Assembly Government on this issue, and nor would it be appropriate for me to do so.

### **Cardiff City Stadium**

**Laura Anne Jones:** Would the Minister explain his delay in announcing whether he supports plans for a new stadium for Cardiff City? (WAQ28018)

**Carwyn Jones:** There has been no delay. The council submitted the planning application to the Assembly on 22 August and I had until 12 September to decide whether it should be called in or not. I decided earlier this week that the application did not raise issues of more than local importance and that the application can be determined by the local planning authority. This decision does not infer or imply support or otherwise for the proposal.

### **Planning Applications**

**Alun Cairns:** When a planning application is the subject of a public inquiry, what impact, if any, can letters from the public to the Minister, whether for or against the application, have on the outcome? (WAQ28019)

**Carwyn Jones:** The fact that an application is being considered via a public inquiry does not in any way lessen the relevance of information and observations made by members of the public. If such observations are received before the inquiry starts, these are passed to the planning inspectorate, and are made known to the applicant and the local planning authority who have the opportunity to address at the inquiry any issues raised by the correspondence which they consider to be relevant to the application. If a letter is received after the inquiry, and is judged to raise relevant issues which have not been covered at the inquiry, or would cause the decision maker to disagree with the recommendation of the inspector who held the inquiry, those who appeared at the inquiry would have to be given the opportunity to comment on those issues, with the possibility of the inquiry being reopened.

The impact correspondence from the public has on any decision depends entirely on the circumstances of the application and the issues raised in correspondence. Planning decision committees take each decision in the light of the relevant inspector's report and all the evidence on which it is based, including letters from the public whether addressed to the Minister or not.

## Questions to the Finance Minister

### Unadopted Roads

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister outline who is responsible for personal injury claims arising from accidents resulting from the poor maintenance of unadopted roads? (WAQ27760)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 26 August 2003.*

**The Finance Minister (Sue Essex):** Where frontages (the owners of properties fronting onto an unadopted road) are the ones with a repairing liability, they will normally be liable for injury caused by their failure to repair. However, it is not necessarily the case that a privately-maintained highway is maintained by the frontages. It is not possible to offer a definitive answer to this question without reference to a particular case. It is a general principle that local highway authorities have no liability for injury arising from the failure to maintain an unadopted highway.

### Unadopted Roads

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister outline how she will strengthen the powers of local authorities to adopt and maintain unadopted roads? (WAQ27761)

*Substantive answer following holding reply issued on 26 August 2003.*

**Sue Essex:** Local authorities currently have the power to adopt roads as set out in the Highways Act 1980. Any changes to these powers would require primary legislation in Parliament. There are currently no plans to propose new primary legislation regarding unadopted roads in Wales.

### One Voice Wales

**Glyn Davies:** Does the Minister anticipate that One Voice Wales will be inaugurated, as planned, on 1 April 2004? (WAQ27949)

**Sue Essex:** The inauguration date for One Voice Wales is a matter for One Voice Wales itself and the existing town and community councils associations.

### Community Councils

**Glyn Davies:** When will the 'scoping study' into community councils, now being prepared by the University of Wales, be presented to the Minister and be published? (WAQ27950)

**Sue Essex:** The report of the research study into the role, functions and future potential of community

and town councils in Wales, undertaken by the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, is being presented to me this month and it is intended to publish the report in October 2003. The report will be distributed to all town and community councils in Wales and other interested parties.

### **One Voice Wales**

**Glyn Davies:** When does the Minister expect to approve the One Voice Wales business plan?  
(WAQ27951)

**Sue Essex:** The Welsh Assembly Government has offered support to assist those representatives who are working to establish One Voice Wales as a single organisation to represent all community and town councils in Wales. However, One Voice Wales will be an independent body. Any Assembly Government approval would relate to the conditions for Assembly financial support.

### **Payments to Councillors**

**Glyn Davies:** What is the estimated total annual cost to the public sector of making the salary payments to councillors pensionable? (WAQ27952)

**Sue Essex:** The estimated total is in the region of £2 million per annum. That is some 1 per cent of local authorities' staff pensions budget and approximately 0.1 per cent of their entire staffing budget. The final figures will be dependent upon the recommendations of the Welsh independent remuneration panel, as to which members of county and county borough councils are entitled to pensions under the local government pension scheme, and to the number of members in receipt of special responsibility allowances.

### **Councillors' Past Service Awards**

**Laura Anne Jones:** Would the Minister confirm the process by which councillors become eligible for 'golden goodbye' payments? (WAQ27957)

**Sue Essex:** I assume you are referring to the past service awards. County and county borough councillors are required to meet the eligibility criteria as set out in the past service award regulations, which includes a minimum service of 15 years, as at 9 May 2003, as an elected member with a Welsh local authority or a predecessor authority, excluding any periods of suspension. Councillors will not be eligible for an award if they are also a member of the National Assembly for Wales, the House of Commons, House of Lords or the European Parliament. It will be for the full council of each local authority to determine which of their members are entitled to receive past service awards, subject to those members meeting the eligibility criteria.

Entitled members are required to make a written application to their head of paid service within five weeks of the regulations coming into force. They must not stand for the local authority elections in 2004

and must remain an elected member of their authority until the day after those elections.

### **Councillors' Past Service Awards**

**Laura Anne Jones:** What measures are in place to prevent councillors who accept the 'golden goodbye' payment standing for election in the future? (WAQ27961)

**Sue Essex:** I assume you are referring to the past service awards. It will be made clear to councillors that only those retiring at the 2004 local authorities, and who have no intention of seeking public office at this level again, should apply for a past service award.

### **2004 Local Government Elections**

**Laura Anne Jones:** Will the Minister announce her decision later this month whether to hold the 2004 local government elections on 10 June? (WAQ27962)

**Sue Essex:** I will announce my decision on the date of the next local government elections as soon as is feasible.

### **One Voice Wales**

**Glyn Davies:** How many of the four organisations which signed the 'One Voice Wales' protocol at the National Assembly on 2 April 2003 are still fully committed to its implementation? (WAQ28011)

**Sue Essex:** I believe that the creation of One Voice Wales is one of the most important developments affecting town and community councils in recent years. I understand that discussions on the implementation of the protocol are still ongoing, and that all four organisations that signed the protocol recognise the importance of working towards a single representative association.

### **Councillors' Past Service Awards**

**Laura Anne Jones:** Would the Minister explain how payments to councillors of up to £20,000 to encourage them to stand down represent good value for money? (WAQ28014)

**Sue Essex:** The past service awards are in recognition of the long, unpensionable, service by county and county borough councillors who will be retiring at the 2004 local government elections. The introduction of such a one-off gratuity scheme was one of the recommendations of the University of Birmingham's 2001 report on 'Recognising Councillors' Worth to Their Communities' as a means of rewarding long-serving councillors and of encouraging them to make way for younger representatives in order to bring about greater diversity to local government in Wales.

Following the elections, an exercise will be undertaken to evaluate the success of the scheme.

### **Councillors' Past Service Awards**

**Glyn Davies:** How many councillors in Wales are eligible to benefit under the proposed severance scheme and what would be the estimated total cost if they all decided to accept the payments to which they were entitled? (WAQ27953)

**Sue Essex:** Local authorities hold the data on members' length of service, and it will be for them to determine which of their members are entitled to receive past service awards, subject to those members having met the eligibility criteria.

### **Councillors' Past Service Awards**

**Laura Anne Jones:** How much money has the Minister allocated for the 'golden goodbye' payments to councillors scheme? (WAQ27958)

**Sue Essex:** I assume you are referring to the past service awards. Local authorities will be asked in the autumn to provide the Assembly with their estimate of the costs arising from the payment of past service awards.

### **Councillors' Past Service Awards**

**Laura Anne Jones:** How have financial resources for the 'golden goodbye' payments to councillors scheme been raised? (WAQ27959)

**Sue Essex:** I assume you are referring to the past service awards. The financial resources will be provided from within the Assembly's budget for 2004-05.

### **Councillors' Past Service Awards**

**Laura Anne Jones:** According to the Minister's estimate, approximately how many councillors will take advantage of the 'golden goodbye' payments at the 2004 Local Government elections? (WAQ27960)

**Sue Essex:** I assume you are referring to the past service awards. I refer you to the answer I gave to Glyn Davies (WAQ27953).

## **Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services**

## **Beds for the Elderly Mentally Infirm**

**Brynle Williams:** Will the Minister list the total number of elderly mentally infirm beds there are between Prestatyn and Colwyn bay (please list figures in the NHS and private sector)? (WAQ27932)

**Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt):** The latest available data (quarter ending 31 March 2003) shows that, on the coast between Prestatyn and Colwyn bay, including the number of beds in the two towns, there were on average 51 daily available beds (occupied and unoccupied) in the speciality of old-age psychiatry.

Current records show that there are 579 registered places in adult care homes for older adults with dementia in the Conwy and Denbighshire areas. This is a new category for registration, and as a result, the figure may under-report the actual number of people with dementia in care homes.

## **Availability of Beds for the Elderly Mentally Infirm**

**Brynle Williams:** How many elderly mentally infirm beds are currently available (unused) and ready for occupancy between Prestatyn and Colwyn Bay—please list figures in NHS and private sector? (WAQ27933)

**Jane Hutt:** This information is not held centrally.

## **Occupational Health Services for GPs**

**Jonathan Morgan:** How does the provision of occupational health services in Wales for general practitioners and their staff compare to provision in: a) England, and b) the rest of the United Kingdom? (WAQ27934)

**Jane Hutt:** In Wales, the confidential counselling scheme for primary care practitioners will shortly become available to doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and midwives. It is planned that any further developments will be uniformly available to all primary care staff.

In England there are currently no national occupational health services available for GPs and their employers. The Department of Health has recently published guidance to health authorities as to how they should begin to commission occupational health services for GPs.

Scotland issued a strategy document in January 2003 that laid down guidelines for the development of a universal occupational health and safety policy for Scotland.

## **Occupational Health Services for GPs**



**Jonathan Morgan:** Of the occupational health services provided for general practitioners and their staff, are these services uniformly available throughout local health boards across Wales? (WAQ27935)

**Jane Hutt:** The confidential counselling scheme for primary care practitioners in Wales, shortly to become available, will apply to doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and midwives. It is planned that any further developments will be uniformly available to all primary care staff.

### **Occupational Health Services for GPs**

**Jonathan Morgan:** What occupational health services are provided for general practitioners and their staff across Wales, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ27936)

**Jane Hutt:** It is the intention that all staff working for NHS Wales, including those delivering primary care, should have access to occupational health services. Currently NHS Wales funds a doctors' support network for GPs in Wales. This is a confidential self-referral network that links to a similar service in England. In addition, a confidential counselling service for primary care staff in Wales, initially for doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and midwives, is due to commence later this year.

### **The Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health**

**Jonathan Morgan:** Following the appointment of the chief executive designate of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health, will the Minister clarify the responsibilities of the position with reference to Wales? (WAQ27942)

**Jane Hutt:** The Commission for Public and Patient Involvement in Health is an independent, non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department of Health, with a remit to ensure that the public is involved in decision making about health and the provision of health services in England. It will work at national, regional and local levels in England to ensure that the voice of both public and patients are heard in health matters.

The commission has no remit in Wales. However, the Health and Social Services Committee agreed in July 2001 that one of the core duties of the community health councils in Wales would be to monitor public involvement activities of NHS bodies in their geographic areas.

Good practice guidance has been issued to the NHS ('Signposts—a practical guide to public and patient involvement in Wales') and every NHS trust and local health group have produced annual public and patient involvement plans which set out proposals for patient involvement and public focus. The Assembly will be carefully monitoring progress against these plans, including specific actions relating to Carlile and Kennedy recommendations.

### **NHS Management Costs**

**Laura Anne Jones:** Further to WAQ27826, would the Minister confirm which four NHS trusts failed to achieve the target and the respective percentages by which that target was exceeded? (WAQ27955)

**Jane Hutt:** The four NHS trusts that exceeded the target were:

NHS trust	Per cent by which target was exceeded
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	0.7%
North Glamorgan	0.1%
Powys Healthcare	1.1%
Welsh Ambulance Services	0.6%

### NHS Waiting Lists

**Jonathan Morgan:** Is an increase of 107,345 patients waiting for an out-patient appointment in Wales since May 1999 in line with Welsh Assembly Government targets, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ27969)

**Jonathan Morgan:** Is an increase of 24,412 patients waiting for in-patient and day-case hospital treatment in Wales since May 1999 in line with Welsh Assembly Government targets, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ27970)

**Jonathan Morgan:** Is the figure of 187 NHS patients in Wales waiting over 18 months for urological treatment procedures in line with Assembly Government targets, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ27973)

**Jonathan Morgan:** Is the figure of 78 NHS patients in Wales waiting over 18 months for gynaecological treatment procedures in line with Assembly Government targets, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ27975)

**Jonathan Morgan:** Is the figure of 3,361 NHS patients in Wales waiting over 18 months for ear, nose and throat treatment procedures in line with Assembly Government targets, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ27977)

**Jonathan Morgan:** Is the figure of 1,721 NHS patients in Wales waiting over 18 months for general surgical procedures in line with Assembly Government targets, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ27979)

**Jane Hutt:** Current Welsh Assembly Government targets for in-patient and day cases focus on priority areas of cardiac surgery, cancer and orthopaedics, angiography and cataracts, where real progress has now been made. We are working towards nobody waiting more than 18 months for in-patient or day-case treatment and a first out-patient appointment by March 2004 as a first step to reducing all waiting times.

### **NHS Waiting Lists**

**Jonathan Morgan:** Why has the number of people in Wales waiting over 18 months for an out-patient appointment increased from 951 in May 1999 to 9,141 at the end of July 2003, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ27966)

**Jonathan Morgan:** Why has the number of people in Wales waiting over 18 months to be admitted as an in-patient and day-case patient increased from 605 in May 1999 to 5,846 at the end of July 2003, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ27967)

**Jonathan Morgan:** Can the Minister explain why out-patient hospital waiting list figures across Wales have increased from 114,878 in May 1999 to the current figure of 222,223 at the end of July 2003, and will she make a statement? (WAQ27968)

**Jonathan Morgan:** Can the Minister explain why in-patient and day-case hospital waiting list figures have increased from 53,014 in May 1999 to the current figure of 77,418 at the end of July 2003, and will she make a statement? (WAQ27971)

**Jonathan Morgan:** What reasons can the Minister give for: a) the 187 NHS patients in Wales waiting over 18 months for urological treatment procedures, and b) the 4,988 NHS patients in Wales awaiting these procedures? (WAQ27972)

**Jonathan Morgan:** What reasons can the Minister give for: a) the 78 NHS patients in Wales waiting over 18 months for gynaecological treatment procedures, and b) the 5,084 NHS patients in Wales awaiting these procedures? (WAQ27974)

**Jonathan Morgan:** What reasons can the Minister give for: a) the 1,721 NHS patients in Wales waiting over 18 months for general surgical procedures, and b) the total number of 17,289 NHS patients in Wales awaiting these procedures? (WAQ27978)

**Jane Hutt:** The causes of increased waiting times are complex and include changing demographics, increased demand for hospital services, the increased range of services available and other reasons. These are covered in detail in 'The Review of Health and Social Care in Wales'.

### **Ear, Nose and Throat Treatments**

**Jonathan Morgan:** What reasons can the Minister give for: a) the 3,361 NHS patients in Wales waiting over 18 months for ear, nose and throat treatment procedures, and b) the 12,270 NHS patients in Wales awaiting these procedures? (WAQ27976)

**Jane Hutt:** I refer to my answer to WAQ27966, WAQ27967, WAQ27968, WAQ27971, WAQ27972, WAQ27974 and WAQ27978. In addition, a significant proportion of these patients are waiting for either tonsillectomy or adenoidectomy operations which were suspended on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer on the grounds of patient safety. These operations have now resumed and a special project has been established to address the backlog.

### **Hospital Waiting Times**

**Jonathan Morgan:** a) What reasons can the Minister give for the discernible difference in hospital in-patient waiting times reported by the north regional NHS office and the south regional NHS office, and b) is proportional demographic provision for health services the same for both regions? (WAQ27980)

**Jane Hutt:** a) The main differences in lengths of wait between north and south Wales centre on a few specialities such as orthopaedics. Some of these differences are long-standing and relate to decisions made during previous administrations (such as the closure of Rhydlyfar, an elective orthopaedic hospital, which has had considerable negative impact on waits for orthopaedic treatment in south Wales). Other factors behind different lengths of wait in Wales include levels of demand, available capacity and local initiatives to address waits.

b) Until last year, the main funding allocation to health authorities was based on weighted capitation, i.e. according to resident population weighted for factors such as the proportion of elderly residents. Allocation has now been adjusted to take account of splitting the funding appropriately between local health boards, top-slicing funding from each for Health Commission Wales (Specialist Services), and implementation of the recommendations of the direct needs formula in 'Targeting Poor Health' to address health inequalities.

### **Hospital Waiting Lists**

**Jonathan Morgan:** Why are hospital waiting lists in Wales still rising overall, while comparable statistics for England point to a decrease in waiting times, and will the Minister make a statement? (WAQ27981)

**Jane Hutt:** The reasons for the large numbers of people waiting for treatment in Wales are complex and are covered in the answer to WAQ27966, WAQ27967, WAQ27968, WAQ27971, WAQ27972, WAQ27974 and WAQ27978. Wales and England have different circumstances and record waiting lists in significantly different ways.

### **Patients Waiting for Angiography**

**Jonathan Morgan:** Will the Minister make a statement on why four patients in Wales are waiting over six months for angiography? (WAQ27982)

**Jane Hutt:** There has been a significant improvement compared with September 2002 when there were 603 patients waiting over six months. The individual reasons for the four patients waiting at the end of July 2003 are not recorded centrally, though it has been confirmed that two have since been treated and a third has been suspended from the waiting list in line with trust policy.

### **Diabetes Strategy**

**Jonathan Morgan:** Will the Minister list the voluntary organisations: a) she intends to include, and b) those who have expressed an interest in being included, during the formulation of her strategy for the treatment of diabetes? (WAQ28005)

**Jane Hutt:** Diabetes UK Cymru, the main Welsh charity for people with diabetes, was closely involved as a member of the project board in developing the national service framework for diabetes in Wales which was launched in March 2003 to improve standards in the services and care provided to diabetic patients across Wales. The strategy outlines actions required to achieve the 12 national service framework standards, which will underpin access to high-quality care and support for diabetic patients in Wales.

### **European Year of Disabled People**

**Jonathan Morgan:** What initiatives in Wales has the Minister taken to mark the European Year of Disabled People, and will she make a statement? (WAQ28012)

**Jane Hutt:** The Welsh Assembly Government fully supports the European Year of Disabled People.

Disability organisations have been working together with the Welsh Assembly Government and other partner organisations to arrange a series of activities promoting disabled people's rights and participation.

Joint sponsorship from the European Commission and the Department of Work and Pensions' Disability Unit has enabled 13 special European year projects to run in Wales covering a wide range of issues, three nationally and 10 locally.

The Welsh Assembly Government also played a key role in funding one of the major events of the year—'Rights into Action'—an international congress of young disabled people.

### **Waiting Times in Gwent**

**Laura Anne Jones:** Would the Minister make a statement on waiting times for in-patient and out-

patient treatment in Gwent? (WAQ28024)

**Jane Hutt:** At the end of July 2003 there were 13,084 people waiting for in-patient and day-case treatment. Of these, 2,268 were waiting over 12 months and 1,138 were waiting over 18 months. There were 43,745 people waiting for a first out-patient appointment. Of these, 14,900 have been waiting over six months.

### Waiting Times in Gwent

**Laura Anne Jones:** Would the Minister make a statement on plans to slash waiting times for in-patient and out-patient treatment in Gwent? (WAQ28025)

**Jane Hutt:** Current Welsh Assembly Government targets for in-patient and day cases focus on the priority areas of cardiac surgery, cancer and orthopaedics, angiography and cataracts, where real progress has been made. We are working towards nobody waiting more than 18 months for in-patient or day-case treatment by March 2004.

To help manage waiting times in Gwent, Professor Brian Edwards's report has made a number of recommendations for increasing orthopaedic capacity. The implementation of the Edwards report's findings has been managed through an action plan drawn up and agreed by a project board set up by Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust and the local health boards to ensure that each element of the report is addressed.

### NHS Vacancies

**Laura Anne Jones:** Would the Minister confirm the number of NHS posts that have been vacant for three months or more? (WAQ28026)

**Jane Hutt:** As at 31 March 2003 there were 1,331 whole-time equivalent vacant posts in the NHS in Wales representing 2.2 per cent of the total NHS workforce. This is a reduction from 1,715.5 (3.0 per cent) as at March 2002 and 1,452.5 (2.5 per cent) as at September 2002.

### NHS Compensation

**Leanne Wood:** Will the Minister supply a breakdown of previously supplied statistics on NHS compensation pay-outs over the last four years (WAQ27767) to show the proportion spent annually on legal fees and court costs? (WAQ28046)

**Jane Hutt:** The statistics previously supplied in WAQ27767 represent the cost of clinical negligence claims as reported in the accounts of NHS trusts and health authorities. A full breakdown of these costs is detailed in the table below. The costs include payments by NHS bodies to the risk pool which are, in effect, an internal transfer of funds within the NHS. The net cost to the NHS of claims, excluding risk

pool premiums, is also detailed below, and the proportion defence legal costs is calculated against this amount.

	<b>2002-03 £m</b>	<b>2001-02 £m</b>	<b>2000-01 £m</b>	<b>1999-2000 £m</b>
<b>Clinical negligence</b>	62.285	32.442	45.862	47.541
<b>Risk pool premiums</b>	47.114	36.503	17.526	13.739
<b>Defence legal costs</b>	8.385	4.356	3.029	2.031
<b>Gross cost of clinical negligence to NHS Wales</b>	117.784	73.301	66.417	63.311
<b>Less risk pool premiums</b>	(47.114)	(36.503)	(17.526)	(13.759)
<b>Net cost of clinical negligence to NHS Wales</b>	<b>70.670</b>	<b>36.798</b>	<b>48.891</b>	<b>49.572</b>
<b>Defence costs as a percentage of net costs</b>	11.9%	11.8%	6.2%	4.1%

Notes:

1. Clinical negligence includes awards to plaintiffs of damages and the plaintiff's legal costs (these are not available separately).
2. Defence legal costs includes defence legal fees and other administrative expenses incurred by the health body in defending itself.
3. Source: annual accounts of health authorities and NHS trusts 1999-2000 to 2002-03—audited figures except for 2002-03 health authority accounts.

### **Private Nursing Homes**

**Nick Bourne:** How many private nursing homes are there in Wales according to the latest figures? (WAQ28030)

**Jane Hutt:** On 12 September 2003, the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales had 321 independent sector (private or voluntary) adult care homes registered to provide nursing care in Wales.

## **Private Nursing Home Beds**

**Nick Bourne:** How many beds in private nursing homes are there in Wales according to the latest figures? (WAQ28031)

**Jane Hutt:** The 321 independent sector adult care homes registered with the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales, at 12 September 2003, to provide nursing care in Wales have 10,413 places available for people requiring nursing care.