

## **Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 1 October 2009**

[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 First Minister***

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the First Minister provide a list of all journeys by air undertaken by his department since May 2007 including cost and destination, and advise if other forms of transport were considered. (WAQ54862)

***Answer issued on 01 October 2009***

I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the question above. Information on expenditure on journeys by air is not collated centrally and is therefore not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

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

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** What is the current budget allocated for Welsh-medium nursery education. (WAQ54853)

***Answer issued on 02 October 2009***

The principal sources for state funding for both Welsh and English -medium nursery education come via the revenue support Grant (RSG) supplemented by additional grants for the Foundation Phase. Prior to 2008, the Welsh Assembly Government has provided a specific grant for early years education. From April 2008, £17m was transferred to the RSG settlement for this purpose. In addition, specific grants have been made available to support local authorities introduce the Foundation Phase, which from September 2009 is available to all 3 to 5-year-olds. £54m has been allocated for 2009-10, with up to £170m allocated to the first three years of the Foundation Phase.

These monies are provided to Local authorities, which then decide on allocations for their Welsh and English-medium providers. The Welsh Assembly Government does not hold figures on how local authorities allocate these monies according to the medium of instruction.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** What extra provision has been made for the Welsh-medium nursery education budget in respect of obligations which will need to be met within the Foundation Phase and Child Protection schemes. (WAQ54854)

***Answer issued on 02 October 2009***

I have referred to the additional provision being made to support the Foundation Phase in WAQ54853. In determining what provision to make available, local authorities have regard to parental preference and their statutory duty to provide a free part-time, good quality education place, which may be through a combination of maintained and funded non-maintained provision.

Child protection applies in the same way for both Welsh and English medium settings and there is no additional provision therefore made specifically for Welsh medium settings.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister provide a list of all the companies that have received aid to date from ProAct, the amount they have received and the number of jobs safeguarded. (WAQ54856) ***Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Skills***

***Answer issued on 06 October 2009***

**The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths):** We are unable to provide a full list of companies that have been supported as we have to respect companies' confidentiality. However, the latest ProAct figures are:

- a) 129 companies have been approved for ProAct funding
- b) This number covers 6729 employees
- c) Total funding committed is £17,387,966

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** What plans does the Welsh Assembly Government have to enter into a contract with Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin to provide Welsh-medium immersion through nursery education over the next two years. (WAQ54859)

*Answer issued on 02 October 2009*

We have a contract with Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, in partnership with Trinity University College, Carmarthen to increase the number of qualified Welsh-medium early years practitioners to support the delivery of the Foundation Phase. These contractual commitments continue until March 2011. To date, some 1,100 students have successfully completed this training, and these individuals are contributing to the additional classroom assistants required to meet the improved Foundation Phase adult/pupil ratios. Further, Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin is working in collaboration with Care Council for Wales and the Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education (CACHE) on developing Welsh language immersion units based on the National Occupational Standards. These will form part of the revised Children's Care Learning & Development qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 which will be introduced from September 2010.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister provide a list of all journeys by air undertaken by his department since May 2007, including cost and destination, and advise if other forms of transport were considered. (WAQ54868) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

*Answer issued on 01 October 2009*

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the question above. Information on expenditure on journeys by air is not collated centrally and is therefore not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Why is the encouragement of more nursery education through the medium of Welsh not mentioned in the Welsh-medium Education Strategy. (WAQ54871)

*Answer issued on 02 October 2009*

It is included; the first Strategic Aim in the draft strategy includes for instance an objective: "To increase access to Welsh-medium early years and statutory provision within the child's community."

The strong focus is on local authorities and other stakeholders responding positively to meet parental demand for early years and other provision through the medium of Welsh.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Given the Welsh-medium Education Strategy target that more children will be taught through the medium of Welsh by 2015, what is the structure for Welsh medium 'immersion'. (WAQ54872)

*Answer issued on 02 October 2009*

Our approach is based on both early and later ‘immersion’. Early acquisition of the language through Welsh as the medium of learning is the most effective way for children to become bilingual. The 21% of pupils in Wales that are currently assessed in Welsh at the age of seven, will have acquired the language mainly by such “immersion”. One of the Aims of the Strategy is to increase access to Welsh-medium early years and statutory provision within the child’s community. Improved assessment of parental demand for Welsh-medium education and responding to it will increase the numbers of learners receiving ‘immersion’ Welsh-medium education in several areas of Wales.

The Assembly Government has also piloted models of ‘late’ immersion. These pilots show that it is possible to provide later entry to Welsh-medium education by Welsh-language immersion in Year 5 or 6 of primary school or in Year 7 of secondary school.

In the more Welsh speaking areas of Wales, Centres for “Latecomers” are also funded. These immerse incoming pupils in the Welsh language for a term, enabling them to return to their school and continue with their education through the medium of Welsh.

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

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the fifteen projects approved for EU funds of £140 million over the summer period. (WAQ54851)

### ***Answer issued on 07 October 2009***

The Structural Funds programmes 2007-2013 are continuing to progress well, having approved over the summer recess period EU funding of some £140 million to 15 projects, worth £245 million of investment for Wales. Details of those projects that have been formally announced are as follows (with more project information available on the Welsh European Funding Office website: [www.wefo.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk)):

1. £34 million (£15m ERDF) Low Carbon Research Institute (LCRI) Energy programme, led by Cardiff University in collaboration with industry and key Welsh universities to strategically coordinate and facilitate industrial energy research and development projects;
2. £37 million (£16m ESF) Leadership and Management project, led by the Assembly Government, which will work with some 5,000 businesses and 18,000 individuals to develop a motivated, competitive, and highly skilled workforce;
3. £24 million (ESF £13m) Wellbeing Through Work project, led by a strategic partnership between Remploy and the National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH), which will create a coordinated early intervention service to help reduce the risk of people moving out of work to unemployment or long-term economic inactivity because of a work-limiting health condition;
4. £8 million (ERDF £3.5m) Valleys Cycle Network project, led by Sustrans Cymru, which will create the first 25 miles of a 277-mile network of walking and cycling routes across the former South Wales Coalfield;
5. £13 million (ERDF £6m) Flood and Coastal Risk Management scheme to help protect homes and businesses in East Wales from risk of flooding;
6. £7 million (ESF £4m) STRIP (Steel Training Research and Innovation Partnership) project, led by Bangor, Cardiff and Glyndwr universities in collaboration with 22 companies, which will help Wales’ steel industry develop new products and technologies, and improve higher level skills to sustain the industry.

In line with European Commission regulations to maximise the publicity of European Structural Funds projects, further announcements will be made over the coming weeks for the remaining 9 projects approved during the summer recess period. These include six HE sector led projects (total investment £112m) supporting workforce skills and business development; two Assembly Government led projects (total investment £7m) supporting IT skills development in rural businesses; and a local authority (total cost £5m) led initiative encouraging community enterprise and regeneration.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister provide a list of all journeys by air undertaken by his department since May 2007, including cost and destination, and advise if other forms of transport were considered. (WAQ54863) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

*Answer issued on 01 October 2009*

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the question above. Information on expenditure on journeys by air is not collated centrally and is therefore not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

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

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** How much funding does Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd receive from both the Welsh Assembly Government and Countryside Council for Wales. (WAQ54855)

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Does the Board of Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd have any direct accountability to the Welsh Assembly Government. (WAQ54873)

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Does the Welsh Assembly Government monitor the work and activities of Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd. (WAQ54874)

*Answer issued on 06 October 2009*

The Welsh Assembly Government does not provide any funding direct to Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd. The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) has a current grant offer of £14,000 with Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd for 2008 – 2010 for its Living with the River Project. This is an environmental project looking at human and natural interactions within the Teifi Estuary.

The Welsh Assembly Government is also not directly involved in the management of this project. In line with the terms of the grant provided, Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd is accountable to the CCW for ensuring that it delivers the outputs agreed for the project.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister provide a list of all journeys by air undertaken by his department since May 2007, including cost and destination, and advise if other forms of transport were considered. (WAQ54864) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

*Answer issued on 01 October 2009*

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the question above. Information on expenditure on journeys by air is not collated centrally and is therefore not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** What discussions has the Minister had regarding the massive amount of spoil/ballast which has been removed from the Pen-yr-Ergyd Spit over recent weeks and is the Minister aware of the purpose of this action by Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd. (WAQ54875)

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Is the Minister aware of whether or not Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd consulted with the Afon Teifi Fairways Committee over the removal of spoil/ballast from the Pen-yr-Ergyd Spit and, if so, how was this consultation carried out. (WAQ54876)

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Is the Minister aware of whether Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd looked into the probable resultant inundation of the estuary, loss of the entry channel and permanent alteration to the course and flow of the river before removing the spoil from the Pen-yr-Ergyd Split. (WAQ54877)

*Answer issued on 06 October 2009*

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), as the Welsh Assembly Government's statutory nature conservation advisor, has had discussions with Afon Teifi Fairways Committee about the works on the Pen-yr-Ergyd spit which forms part of an important nature conservation site. I understand that the works were proposed in order to secure navigation of the estuary. I also understand that Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd hosted a public event on 27 September 2008 in order to consult local interests on the works planned. In May 2009 CCW issued consent for the Committee to carry out specific works to the spit. CCW undertook an assessment of the proposed works before issuing the consent and concluded that the activity would not have a significant impact upon the features of the Afon Teifi Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the Afon Teifi Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Aberarth Carreg Wylan SSSI or the Cardigan Bay SAC. A condition of this consent was that the removal of material from the spit be restricted to a maximum of 5000 cubic metres in order maintain the morphology and morpho-dynamics of the spit.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Is the Minister aware of how much Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd has spent on a GPS survey of the river Teifi in recent years, and if so, can she provide details. (WAQ54878)

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Is the Minister aware of whether any consultation was carried out with Afon Teifi Fairways Committee in respect of the decision to carry out a GPS survey of the river Teifi. (WAQ54879)

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Is the Minister aware of how Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd responded to questioning over the GPS survey of the river from members of the public, the Afon Teifi Fairways Committee and individual Mooring Masters and if so, will she provide details. (WAQ54880)

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Is the Minister aware of what legal steps were followed by Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd in awarding the contract for the GPS survey and if so, will she provide details. (WAQ54881)

*Answer issued on 06 October 2009*

The decision to undertake a GPS survey of the River Teifi, including any related consultation and the management of any resultant contract is a matter for Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd as the managers of this project. The Welsh Assembly Government does not hold relevant information on these issues and you may therefore wish to approach Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd direct about them.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** What involvement did the Welsh Assembly Government have regarding the formation of Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd, and will she confirm whether or not it was formed in order to give the Officers and Mooring Masters of the river a legal standing and protection from personal liability. (WAQ54882)

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** What discussions has the Minister had regarding the situation that Mooring Masters (unpaid volunteers) have been informed that they must insure themselves against any public liability deriving from their work on behalf of Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd. (WAQ54883)

*Answer issued on 06 October 2009*

The Welsh Assembly Government has had no direct involvement in the formation of Afon Teifi Fairways Ltd and holds no information on the legal standing of the local Officers and Mooring Masters. I have also not been involved in any discussions about insurance issues affecting the Mooring Masters; nor would I expect to be as Minister.

***To ask the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery***

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement updating members on proposals, reported in March 2009, to refurbish the Welsh Assembly Government's offices in Cathays Park, Cardiff. (WAQ54852)

*Answer issued on 07 October 2009*

Work continues on developing an Outline Business Case. Any decision to progress to developing a Final Business Case will be subject to Ministerial approval and governed by value for money and potential energy savings, and possible rationalisation of the Welsh Assembly Government's property portfolio in Cardiff and its surrounds.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister provide a list of all journeys by air undertaken by his department since May 2007, including cost and destination, and advise if other forms of transport were considered. (WAQ54865) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the question above. Information on expenditure on journeys by air is not collated centrally and is therefore not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

***To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services***

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What progress has the Minister made in establishing an implementation group following the findings of the Routledge Report. (WAQ54848)

*Answer issued on 02 October 2009*

The Implementation Group met twice during the summer on 20 May and 8 June to identify the core issues for action and allocated tasks to members. Some of the recommendations have already been completed, for example the adoption by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) of supplementary advice relating to life-extending/end of life treatments published by NICE earlier this year. The Group has further considered other key issues including the potential broadening of the remit of the AWMSG to appraise all new medicines in Wales; the development of a proposed model for dealing with requests from individual patients for treatment funding; and, training for health professionals to help them effectively communicate with patients about difficult decisions around the risks and benefits of different treatments.

The Chair has recently produced an interim report on progress of implementing the recommendations. I have noted the report and will consider any funding implications as part of my 2010 -11 budget deliberations.

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** How many people have presented at A & E with alcohol-related conditions and will the Minister provide a breakdown by LHB for each year since 1999. (WAQ54849)

*Answer issued on 30 September 2009*

Alcohol related attendances at major A&E departments have been collected since April 2008 and are shown in the attached table.

Table 1 – Alcohol related attendances at major A&E departments

	Morrison	Princess of Wales	UHW	Prince Charles	Royal Glam	Royal Gwent	Nevill Hall	Bronglais	West Wales	Withybush	Glan Clwyd	Wrexham	Ysbyty Gwynedd
Apr 08	66	73	98	33	47	24	135	10	19	73	58	49	37
May 08	112	90	139	26	57	35	54	16	23	104	117	53	25
Jun 08	158	84	150	42	167	34	57	19	23	101	84	53	29
Jul 08	153	84	114	84	139	31	42	16	26	85	143	36	28
Aug 08	119	103	115	53	129	36	79	4	11	89	66	45	82
Sep 08	141	249	165	79	129	45	62	21	29	105	40	47	76
Oct 08	121	57	108	42	137	35	69	14	26	87	106	59	31
Nov 08	119	57	92	47	89	57	16	10	16	79	118	48	34
Dec 08	165	90	129	61	129	66	24	12	6	86	133	88	54
Jan 09	161	69	68	44	83	48	14	4	17	65	73	54	36
Feb 09	193	93	96	53	83	79	10	12	18	73	104	65	46
Mar 09	190	92	121	52	114	62	21	10	34	91	102	n/a	46
Apr 09	152	62	91	29	76	83	20	12	21	88	91	53	61
May 09	146	61	93	54	61	113	17	16	26	79	93	48	41
Jun 09	147	105	149	77	97	88	22	13	19	93	143	94	34
Jul 09	90	159	83	23	89	40	12	17	14	63	95	45	54
Aug 09	161	203	112	53	111	47	37	15	25	107	126	67	48

**Val Lloyd (Swansea East):** What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to ensure that access to cardiac rehabilitation services is prioritised and provided as part of a strategic approach to cardio and vascular health. (WAQ54850)

*Answer issued on 01 October 2009*

From 2008-09, I have protected funding within the Local Health Board (LHB) annual funding allocations in order to ensure a minimum spend. The three Cardiac Networks have put action plans in place to ensure the systematic referral of patients to these important services.

In the recently updated Cardiac Disease National Service Framework, published in July 2009, a dedicated standard has been set for cardiac rehabilitation specifying the level and quality of care LHBs should provide. The new LHBs are currently in the process of assessing current cardiac services against the full



requirements of the NSF and producing Local Delivery Plans (LDPs) to map the journey to full compliance with the NSF, including the standard for cardiac rehabilitation, by 2015. These LDPs will draw from and build upon the Network action plans and the progress made to date.

Last year, the Welsh Assembly Government's National Exercise Referral scheme was expanded to incorporate Phase IV cardiac rehabilitation and given additional funding to increase its capacity to deliver this service.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** What plans does the Minister have to improve services for stroke patients in South Powys. (WAQ54861)

*Answer issued on 02 October 2009*

I have set a formal target which will ensure people living in Powys suspected of or confirmed as having had a stroke are admitted to dedicated and co-located acute stroke beds staffed by a specialist multi-disciplinary medical and acute rehabilitation stroke team. I have made a total of £2.275m available to the NHS in Wales to support improvements to stroke services. In Powys, this funding is being used to improve specialist long term rehabilitation services.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister provide a list of all journeys by air undertaken by his department since May 2007, including cost and destination, and advise if other forms of transport were considered. (WAQ54867) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

*Answer issued on 01 October 2009*

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the question above. Information on expenditure on journeys by air is not collated centrally and is therefore not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

*To ask the Minister for Heritage*

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister provide a list of all journeys by air undertaken by his department since May 2007, including cost and destination, and advise if other forms of transport were considered. (WAQ54870) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the question above. Information on expenditure on journeys by air is not collated centrally and is therefore not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

*To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs*

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** When does the Minister expect regulations relating to electric shock training devices to be laid before the Assembly. (WAQ54857)

*Answer issued on 05 April 2011*

The Minister for Rural Affairs issued a Written Statement in the *Introduction of Legislation to Ban Electronic Training Devices* on 22 October 2009.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Does the Minister have any plans to bring in regulations to control puppy farming in Wales. (WAQ54858)

*Answer issued on 30 September 2009*

Under the Companion Animal Welfare Enhancement Scheme, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion were successful in their grant bids to carry out special projects focusing on dog breeding. The local authorities have submitted their first-year reports, which are currently being analysed by my officials. If there is evidence that new regulations are required, then changes will be considered.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** What encouragement and support is the Welsh Assembly Government providing to local authorities to promote off-road motorcycling by landowners in Wales. (WAQ54860)

*Answer issued on 02 October 2009*

The Welsh Assembly Government is not actively promoting offroad motorcycling in Wales because of the potentially damaging environmental effects this activity can cause. Our approach is based around encouraging better management of the activity, including effective enforcement where vehicles are being driven offroad illegally and a focus on routes and sites where offroad vehicles can be driven without damaging effects.

The Assembly Government issued guidance to the Police and to the local authorities on this matter in 2006. This guidance is being followed up in a variety of ways through practical projects at the local level supported by the Countryside Council for Wales and other partners.

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister provide a list of all journeys by air undertaken by his department since May 2007, including cost and destination, and advise if other forms of transport were considered. (WAQ54869) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the question above. Information on expenditure on journeys by air is not collated centrally and is therefore not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

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

**Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales):** Will the Minister provide a list of all journeys by air undertaken by his department since May 2007, including cost and destination, and advise if other forms of transport were considered. (WAQ54866) *Transferred for answer by the First Minister*

*Answer issued on 01 October 2009*

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** I am responding on behalf of all Ministers to the question above. Information on expenditure on journeys by air is not collated centrally and is therefore not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

**Mike German (South Wales East):** What correspondence, including e-mails, has there been between the Welsh Assembly Government and the Post Office Ltd, relating to the operation and procedures of the recommenced Post Office Development Fund, and will the Minister provide details. (WAQ54884) *Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Regeneration*

*Answer issued on 01 October 2009*

**The Deputy Minister for Regeneration (Leighton Andrews):** The launch of the Post Office Diversification Fund fulfilled a One Wales commitment. The Fund was developed over a period of two years and the process included consultation with our stakeholders. Post Office Ltd is a key stakeholder and was therefore involved in the development process to ensure that our criteria was compatible with sub postmasters contracts with Post Office Ltd and that the scheme was fully State aid compliant.

With regard to the operation of the scheme, Post Office Ltd's involvement is limited to a confirmation that applications are compliant with individual sub postmasters contracts with Post Office Ltd. This is obtained prior to my officials' assessment of the applications