

Information Further to Ministerial Answers

Information further to OAQ990(SJR) issued by Edwina Hart, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, on 6 December 2006

To Janet Davies:

During Oral Assembly Questions on the 6 December you asked how many people have been sent to prison for breaching the conditions of Anti Social Behaviour.

The latest figures available indicate there are 424 ASBOs in place in Wales from April 1999-December 2005. Details on the number of people sent to prison for breaching an ASBO are not routinely published by the Home Office and so are not available.

The National Audit Office has just completed a report 'The Home Office-Tackling Anti Social Behaviour' which looked at a dozen sample areas to see how they deal with the problem (Merthyr Tydfil was one of the areas selected for a local area visit). The report sampled 893 case files of ASBOs, warning letters and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) issued in six areas (Wear Valley, Easington, Liverpool, Manchester, Exeter, Hackney). The study's main findings were:

- 65 per cent of people stopped behaving anti socially after one intervention
- 86 per cent of people stopped behaving anti socially after two intervention
- 93 per cent of people stopped behaving anti socially after three intervention

The Audit Office found that while the anti social interventions were frequently violated, those doing so are a small, hardcore group. The majority of people respond appropriately and legally to the restrictions put on them by the orders. The report concludes that the Home Office is now applying greater emphasis to the need to encourage the use of supportive or preventative measures to address the causes of anti social behaviour.

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To Rhodri Glyn Thomas:

In a supplementary question to OAQ986 in Plenary on 6 December 2006, in which Christine Gwyther AM requested a progress report on the New Ideas fund, you asked:

'To what extent are you ensuring that communities and community organisations in the voluntary sector are aware of this fund and how to apply for it? Will you ensure that assistance is available to those smaller organisations that perhaps do not have an administration system available to them, so that the bureaucratic element of making an application is completed, and so that assistance is also available to them?'

I undertook to discuss with officials whether smaller voluntary sector organisations are able to apply and whether assistance is available to them.

Smaller voluntary organisations are aware of the fund and are able to apply. Information about the fund is published on the SJR internet pages and in the SJR 'Research Programme April 2006-March 2008'. Letters setting out the terms and application requirements are sent to a very large number of organisations, of all types and sizes, inviting them to consider applying for funding. Applicants are encouraged to raise match funding for their projects, but this is not a requirement.

The New Ideas Fund was set up specifically to encourage organisations and individuals to apply for grants of up to £10,000 to support small research projects. The application process is deliberately kept very simple and open, with no application form or difficult bureaucratic requirements, so that smaller organisations can make applications and, if successful build their research capacity. The funding allows for the possibility of organisations buying in research expertise where they do not have the capacity in-house. Organisations are able to, and often do, discuss potential bids with my officials prior to putting together an application, in order to ensure eligibility and receive advice. Successful projects receive significant support and advice from Assembly Government policy and research officers through steering and other arrangements.

Applicants simply have to submit a proposal of up to 2,500 words, structured around the following headings: background; aims and objectives; methodology; skills and experience; and cost breakdown (by task and number of researcher days). Proposals should:

- Address themes within the SJR portfolio with clear relevance to the strategic objectives set out in Wales: Better Country.
- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of those themes.
- Demonstrate how the research projects will effectively contribute to the existing evidence base through the production of new evidence and novel ideas
- Set clear aims and objectives
- Demonstrate a proven ability to carry out research in the chosen field
- Demonstrate value for money

Applications are assessed against these criteria.

As the following list of successful applicants for 2006-07 shows, organisations receiving funding include voluntary sector organisations of various sizes, as well as voluntary sector representative bodies, academic institutions, and other:

- Coedcanals Enterprises
- Communities that care
- Gweini
- Sylfaen Cymunedol Cyfyngedig
- CPC (Community Projects Centre)
- TPAS Cymru/Groundwork Cymru
- Trothwy Cyf
- Save the Children Cymru
- Shelter Cymru
- Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services
- North East Wales NHS Trust
- People and Work Unit
- University of Wales, Aberystwyth
- University of Glamorgan/Concord