

Information Further to Ministerial Answers

Information further to a point of order issued by Alun Pugh, the Minister for Culture, the Welsh Language and Sport, on 20 July 2004

To Lisa Francis:

Following your point of order during oral questions on 7 July, I agreed to write to you on the computerisation of records relating to the collection of the National Museums and Galleries of Wales. I am sorry that I missed the relevant exchange with the Llywydd, as I was not in the Chamber, but I am happy to provide you with the relevant information.

As you highlighted, computerisation of records is an area covered by the Auditor General for Wales's recent report on collections management at NMGW and is closely tied into one of the recommendations in the report (recommendation 2). I will await the Audit Committee's report to see what final recommendations emerge on this issue.

You will wish to note that the Auditor General's report confirms that the national museum:-

- has made good progress in improving its collection management;
- holds manual records on every item;
- has increased the proportion of computerised records from 11 per cent five years ago to 30 per cent now;
- has reviewed and refined the size of its collections.

You may also be aware that the Assembly has allocated £3.5 million to the national museum to enable it to improve its conservation and storage facilities.

Fuller information on these issues will be provided by the Assembly Government when it responds to the findings of the Audit Committee.

Information further to the debate on the fourth annual report on the voluntary sector scheme issued by Edwina Hart, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, on 21 July 2004

To Mark Isherwood:

During the recent Plenary debate on the fourth annual report on the voluntary sector scheme you raised the issue of future funding for the voluntary sector.

As you are aware, the independent commission that reviewed the voluntary sector scheme made several recommendations regarding funding. Following the end of the consultation period on the commission's report, I am currently considering their recommendations and do not propose to comment further at this point.

As I have already stated any proposed changes will be put before the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee and will be debated in Plenary.