

## Information Further to Ministerial Answers

Information further to OAQ21937, issued by Rhodri Morgan, the First Minister,  
on 27 February 2003

### To David Melding:

I am writing in response to your letter of 4 February about my reply to your oral question. I regret any confusion over the answer I gave. The term 'domiciliary care' is used in some instances to cover all home care and other non-residential services. Hence my answer referred to community-based services, which included numbers for day care, home care, meals and respite care. From the detail of your letter, I accept that you were asking more specifically about the number of people who received care in their own homes.

I understand that you are interested in updating trends reported in the chief inspector's reports. It has not been possible to update in the latest report, all of the information on the same basis as last year. A new set of performance agreement and indicator data is available in the latest report, which provides better comparative information between authorities. While this year it provides baseline information, it will be the basis for monitoring change in future years, an important element of the Social Services Inspectorate's evaluation approach. Table 3.2 of the 2000-01 report is one that has been possible to update and provides details of the level of people receiving home care. An updated version is reproduced below.

Financial Year	Home Care Hours Provided	People Receiving Home Care
1996-97	12,694,391	36,750
1997-98	11,519,027	33,078
1998-99	11,337,660	29,667
1999-2000	11,634,790	29,112
2000-01	12,449,413	27,202
2001-02	12,662,500*	27,882

(\*Provisional figure) Please note that the number of people receiving home care in 2000-01 has altered from that published in the 2000-01 report of the chief inspector.

The available balance of care figures show that there has been a decline in the number of people receiving home care, although this fall has been halted in recent years.

The current position has complex causes including the legacy from the pre-1993 Community Care Act position, whereby the old Department of Social Security-funded system tended to favour residential care. There is also the complexity of some domestic care packages, variable availability of providers, and cost including the effect of authorities having to invest in meeting the needs of people requiring high levels of care at the expense of those with less pressing needs.

The issues are being addressed both in the Wanless review and by the Wales care strategy group in its advice to the Welsh Assembly Government. The work of the group has identified the need to break into the cycle and for early action to prevent or delay people migrating to a higher level of need, alternative models of care including housing provision, self care initiatives and the impact of new technologies. The figures indicate that some local authorities manage the balance of care better than others and we will address this in inspection reviews and guidance.

Information further to the supplementary to OAQ21492, issued by Rhodri Morgan,  
the First Minister, on 13 February 2003

### To Peter Rogers:

In the Plenary session on 28 January, you asked for clarification of the payment windows for the agri-environment schemes in Wales and the Farming Connect Objective 1 payment period (farm improvement

grants and farm enterprise grants). In my letter of 29 January I informed you that the technical problems associated with the new computer systems were being addressed and that the pace of payments was accelerating. I now enclose a paper that sets out all the payment windows and current payment situation for both the common agricultural policy subsidy schemes and the schemes you have mentioned.

You have suggested that banks have refused to issue hardship letters where the overdue payment is in respect of the schemes where there is no prescribed window as the payment is 'a legal requirement or debt'. I am surprised to hear that this is the case as payments under the hardship provision have already been made to some agri-environment scheme claimants.

Perhaps you could ask the farmers who have raised this specific issue with you to contact the agriculture helpline with their details so that officials can identify a way forward in such cases.

### **Subsidy Payments by Scheme as at 11 February 2003-03-13**

**(All figures quoted are post-modulation)**

**General situation scheme year 2002—as at 11 February £84.6 million has been paid in CAP subsidies to farmers in Wales**

#### **Arable area payments scheme 2002**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: approximately £10.2 million**

**Payment window: 16 November 2002—31 January 2003 (31 March for cases involving the payment of non-food crops)**

**Payments made by close of play on 31 January 2003 (European Union window): £5.8 million (65 per cent of claims)**

**Payments started 29 January 2003**

- Payments made 11 February 2003: £6.7 million

#### **Sheep annual premium scheme 2002 and sheep national envelope**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: approximately £65.9 million**

**Payment window: 16 October 2002—31 March 2003**

**Payments started 18 November 2002**

- Payments made 11 February: £62.9 million

#### **SAPS less favoured area supplement**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: £18.7 million**

**Payment window: 16 October 2002—31 March 2003**

**Payments started 12 December 2002**

- Payments made 11 February: £9.3 million

#### **Beef special premium scheme 2002**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: approximately £23.8 million**

**Payment window: 16 October 2002—30 June 2003**

**Payments started 18 December 2002**

- Advance payments made 11 February: £5.7 million

#### **Suckler cow premium scheme 2002**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: approximately £28.5 million**

**Payment window: 16 October 2002—30 June 2003**

6,285 claims received

We have not yet finalised the development of a payment system for these advance payments. There is significant risk payments will not begin until well into March. Much depends on the success of further

testing. We are doing everything possible to bring forward the start date for payments. The requirement to make cattle tracing system cross-checks on all claims prior to payment has also affected England and Scotland.

### **Tir Mynydd**

Expect to pay 80 per cent of element 1 payments by end of March as in previous years.

### **Agri-environment schemes and FIG/ FEG**

#### **Farm woodland scheme and farm woodland premium scheme**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: approximately £430,000**

**Payment window: 16 October 2002—30 November 2002**

**Payment processing started 6 February 2003**

- Payment made 11 February: £243,000

#### **Environmentally sensitive area scheme**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: approximately £7,500,000**

**Payment window: no window, payments due on anniversary of agreement**

- Payments made at 11 February: £4,000,000 (53 per cent). This is an estimate.

#### **Habitat**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: approximately £650,000**

**Payment window: no window, payments due on anniversary of agreement**

- Payments made at 11 February: £350,000 (54 per cent). Payments are expected to restart later this month

#### **Organic aid**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: approximately £50,000**

**Payment window: no window, payments due on anniversary of agreement**

- Payments made at 11 February: £25,000 (50 per cent). Payments are expected to restart later this month.

#### **Organic farming**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: approximately £3,000,000**

**Payment window: no window, payments due on anniversary of agreement**

- Payments made at 11 February: £600,000 (20 per cent). Payments are expected to restart later this month

#### **Moorland scheme**

**Payments due 2002 scheme year: approximately £90,000**

**Payment window: no window, payments due on anniversary of agreement**

- Payments made: £90,000 (100 per cent)

#### **Farm enterprise grant and farm improvement grant**

Payment processing restarted 6 February. New FIG and FEG claims can be presented for payment at any time after the expenditure has been defrayed by the farmer. Consequently the number of claims due and the associated payments can vary from day to day.