

Information Further to Ministerial Answers

Information further to OAQ37682, issued by Sue Essex, the Finance Minister, on 7 October 2004

To David Melding:

Further to my answer to your question on 29 September about the underspend during the last financial year, I am writing to advise you that we are still awaiting certification of the Assembly's 2003-03 accounts by the National Audit Office. When final figures of 2003-04 spend are available, I will arrange for them to be included in a Cabinet written statement that I will send to all Assembly Members. This statement will include a breakdown of spend by main expenditure group.

Information further to OAQ37826, issued by Carwyn Jones, the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside, on 21 October 2004

To Kirsty Williams:

In Plenary on 29 September 2004 you asked for details of how many badger control licences have been issued.

I can confirm that in the last 12 months, 73 badger control licences have been issued to applicants, allowing for the applicants to close down badger sets.

However, it must be recognised that badgers are not vermin. On the contrary, badgers are protected by law and it is a serious offence to kill, injure or interfere with a badger set unless a licence is obtained.

Information further to OAQ37871, issued by Jane Hutt, the Minister for Health and Social Services, on 26 October 2004

To Ieuan Wyn Jones:

During Plenary on 29 September 2004, Sue Essex, the Finance Minister, agreed to write to you regarding the payment for operations outside of Wales under the second offer scheme. As this falls under my portfolio, I am replying on her behalf.

As you know, the second offer scheme was introduced in April so that those patients who could not be treated within target maximum waiting times would be offered the opportunity of having their treatment carried out at an alternative hospital. To help achieve this, additional capacity has been commissioned both inside and outside Wales.

This additional capacity will also be used to cover the announcement that I made at the end of June, where the second offer scheme was extended so that by 31 March 2005 there should be no patients waiting over 12 months for surgery, except those that have either declined a second offer or are waiting for treatment under the second offer scheme.

The contracts that have been agreed with the alternative providers in England are therefore based on capacity to support the second offer scheme.

I hope that the information provided answers your question.