

Information Further to Ministerial Answers

Information further to OAQ1141(CWS) issued by Alun Pugh, the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

To Elin Jones:

Thank you for your letter of 14 February 2007 regarding 60+ Free Swimming at Lampeter Pool in your constituency. I am also responding as part of my Plenary commitment of 14 February to write to you on this matter.

Our local authority partners have considerable flexibility to manage the delivery of Free Swimming locally. The grant they receive via the Sports Council for Wales is provided in two parts, in September and March of each financial year and is linked to the receipt of relevant and accurate management information. The precise way in which the Free Swimming grant is subsequently managed locally is at the discretion of the local authority.

I understand that Ceredigion County Council pays the Free Swimming grant to Lampeter Pool in advance of receiving its allocation from the Sports Council for Wales but I am also aware that there are ongoing discussions between the local authority and the pool manager about the level of grant received. Clearly this has to be a matter determined at local level but I would assume that factors such as relative size, throughput and costs would be relevant considerations. I do know, however, that the pool was successful during the bidding round for the Free Swimming Improvement Fund and received a further grant of £3,200 for pool equipment and to operate structured sessions such as aquacise.

The Sports Council for Wales is party to the discussions between Ceredigion County Council and Lampeter Pool regarding the Free Swimming funding issue and I am assured that the Free Swimming provision for Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire residents has not been affected by these discussions.

I hope this is helpful.