

Information Further to Ministerial Answers

Information further to OAQ0767(CWS) issued by Alun Pugh, the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, on 14 June 2006

To Lisa Francis:

At my oral questions session on 17 May you raised with me again the possibility of the Assembly Government producing a state of the historic environment report, including an audit of the built historic environment. You will recall that I announced in debate on 18 January the Assembly Government's plan to consider such a proposal and I thought that it might be helpful to let you know how matters presently stand.

The matter was discussed by the Historic Environment Group in February and will also be discussed further at its meeting later this month. We have in mind that the scope of the work would, initially at least, cover those elements of activity in the historic environment over which Cadw, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and the Assembly Government's two new advisory panels on historic buildings and ancient monuments have direct control. Subject to what might emerge over the coming months, the audit could cover issues of statutory protection and designations across the historic environment, consent and control procedures, management and grant issues, condition reports, the monuments in State care, archaeological and historical records and the impact of existing strategy documents.

This will involve a substantial body of work never previously collated, which will illustrate the progress made to preserve the historic environment and provide a benchmark of the current position. It is planned that publication will take place in the early part of next year under the collaborative title of Cymru Hanesyddol/Historic Wales, on which I announced details in April last year.

I will keep the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee informed of progress in this area.