

Information Further to Ministerial Answers

Information further to OAQ(3)1119(HER) issued by Alun Ffred Jones, the Minister for Heritage, on 19 April 2010

To Jenny Randerson:

During Plenary question time on 23 March 2010 I undertook to make enquiries with Sport Wales (formerly the Sports Council for Wales) about the Llanishen and Lisvane Reservoirs and write to you once I had received their response.

I understand that Sport Wales were involved with this matter when they confirmed their objections to the application, and that Chris Basten, Chairman of the Welsh Yachting Association (WYA) attended the 2008 Public Inquiry jointly on behalf of WYA and Sport Wales.

As you are probably aware, Western Power Distribution Investments Limited successfully challenged the decision by Welsh Ministers to reject their appeal and refuse to grant planning permission and the Appeal was sent back to Welsh Ministers for reconsideration and redetermination. During the redetermination process all those previously involved will be consulted again. However, there is as yet no firm schedule for when this will happen.

I will of course continue to follow developments at the site.

Information further to the Statement on the Annual Report of the Children's Commissioner issued by Huw Lewis, the Deputy Minister for Children, on 7 June 2010

To Paul Davies:

On March 23rd, 2010, you attended a Plenary session in which I gave an oral statement on the Annual Report by the Children's Commissioner. Following from this you asked '*What actions are the Welsh Assembly taking to ensure that the needs of disabled children are met?*' I agreed to provide a response once I had collated some information.

I am now in a position to respond and wish to assure you that the Welsh Assembly Government, through its Play Policy and Implementation Plan has fully expressed the commitment to provide for all children and young people's rights to play opportunities in Wales. It is made clear that this includes the provision of inclusive play which provides for the play of disabled children.

Under the recently passed Children and Families (Wales) Measure, local authorities will be required to make a formal assessment of the sufficiency of play opportunities in their area, both in terms of quality and quantity, and to use the assessment to meet a new duty to secure sufficient play opportunities for children in the area, in regard (amongst other things) to the needs of disabled children.

Over the coming year the Welsh Assembly Government will work and consult with key stakeholders, including disabled children, their parents and groups that support them, to set down standards which will be underpinned by regulations and will then be detailed in guidance to local authorities to ensure that they fulfil these duties.

Local authorities will also be required to publish information about play opportunities for children in their area and keep the information up to date.

To further support this area of provision, the Welsh Assembly Government has made available a grant which will help local authorities provide play opportunities for disabled children. This funding of £250,000 for the present financial year, has been provided to extend pre-school play opportunities for disabled children with consideration of support for older disabled children's play if comprehensive gaps in provision have been identified by Children and Young People's Partnerships. Ministers have also stated that local authorities would be expected to set aside a minimum of £250,000 from already allocated resources to match-fund this initiative.

The Welsh Assembly Government will continue to work with the Rights into Action for Disabled Children and Young People in Wales Task Group to look into and enhance provision for disabled children, including their opportunities to play.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my officials.