

Day, Date, 2001

## **EDWINA HART ANNOUNCES FURTHER SUPPORT**

### **FOR RURAL BUSINESSES**

Assembly **Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities Edwina Hart** announced today (**day, date**) how she will be reallocating unspent special grant money between local authorities to help businesses still suffering the impact of foot and mouth disease.

Mrs Hart said: " In the light of the evidence we have gathered on the impact of the disease, I have decided to redistribute the unspent money we have available to the nine rural development areas. This reaffirms our commitment to help the rural economy get back on its feet."

Final figures are not yet available, but unaudited returns submitted by local authorities indicate that around £1.1 million will be available for reallocation among the nine authorities. Powys - the worst hit area - will get almost one-third of the money available.

The final allocations will be subject to the Assembly's approval of a special grant report due to be tabled in early November.

### **Notes**

On 27 March, Mrs Hart announced to the Assembly that she would be making £12 million available to local authorities in 2001-02, to enable them to make extensive use of their powers to grant rate relief and provide other support to businesses in their areas whose trade has been adversely affected by the foot and mouth outbreak. In July Mrs Hart reaffirmed her intention to reallocate unspent special grant money between local authorities to ensure that businesses in the worst hit areas get the financial support they need.

As part of the Assembly's rural recovery plan announced by Carwyn Jones on 26 July, a further £9 million has been made available to local authorities to assist businesses that continue to suffer trading difficulties as a result of the outbreak.

The provisional allocations to the 9 rural development areas are in the table below.

	£ 000's
Anglesey	96
Carmarthenshire	69
Ceredigion	57
Conwy	67
Denbighshire	74
Gwynedd	244
Monmouthshire	83
Pembrokeshire	79
Powys	331
<b>Total 9 RDAs</b>	<b>1100</b>