



Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/HL/3084/12

Ann Jones AM
Chair
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

13 November 2012

Dear Ann

At my appearance at the Communities, Equality and Local Government committee meeting on the 18th October I committed to respond on a number of issues and to answer a number of additional questions.

The requested information is provided below.

The full list of performance indicators for Sport Wales

The 2012-13 Remit Letter states that Sport Wales' performance will be measured by its progress against the following outcomes and performance indicators in the Programme for Government:

Outcome Indicators

- % of people participating in sport or active recreation
- % of adults actively involved in volunteering in sport (including coaching)

Key Performance Measures

- Number of free public swims and number of free structured aquatic activities made by children and young people aged 16 and under, and those aged 60 and over.
- Number of adults actively involved in coaching and volunteering.

A note on what land has been released by the Government for public housing since the elections

The land sites released since May 2011 are listed in the table below.

Site	Exchanged and/ or completed	To who	Homes delivered / Anticipated
Vaynor, Newtown, Powys	Exchanged and completed in February 2011	Mid Wales Housing	On site constructing 55 affordable homes
Factory Road, Blaenau Gwent	Exchanged and completed	Melin Homes	On site constructing 40 affordable homes
Caerphilly's Miners, Caerphilly	Completed on 31 st July 2012	United Welsh HA & Lovells for open market housing	Not on site - 60 affordable homes and 20 open market housing is anticipated
Croes Atti, Flintshire	Option entered into on 15 th August 2012	Anwyl Construction	Not on site – anticipated affordable homes 28
Pirelli	Exchanged in September 2011	Fairlake	Not on site – 120 anticipated affordable homes.
Brackla, Bridgend	Exchanged, completion subject to planning permission	Linc Cymru	Not on site – anticipated affordable homes 96
Ely Farm, Cardiff	Exchanged, completion subject to planning permission	Cadwyn HA	Not on site – anticipated affordable homes 57
Aston Mead, Flintshire	Exchanged, completion subject to planning permission	Pennaf HA	Not on site – anticipated affordable homes 22
OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR SITES			
Aberbargoed Hospital, Welsh Health Estates	Exchanged and completed in January 2011	United Welsh HA	Not on site – 23 affordable homes anticipated
Canton Health Centre, Welsh Health Estates	Exchanged and completed in July 2012	Taff HA	Not on site – 14 affordable homes anticipated
Blaina Hospital, Welsh Health Estates	Exchanged and completed in October 2012	United Welsh HA	Not on site - 21 affordable homes anticipated
Land at New Inn, Welsh Health Estates	Exchanged, completion subject to planning permission	Melin HA	Not on site - 10 affordable homes anticipated

Provide information on the equality impact assessment that was carried out on the disabled housing grants

This information is not held by the Welsh Government. It is for local authorities to determine how they use the overall General Capital Funding (GCF) settlement to meet their statutory duties and responsibilities.

A note on how much funding each local authority receives and is spent (including historical spend) on the disabled facilities grants.

The Budget Expenditure Line for Housing General Support capital budget is the notional housing element of the overall GCF settlement for local authorities. This funding is unhypothecated.

DFGs are mandatory, demand-led grants. Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide them and, generally, fund them from the unhypothecated GCF budget. The latest available figures on spending on DFGs for 2010-11 indicate that local authorities across Wales spent almost £35 million. The Welsh Government does not allocate specific resources for DFGs and does not hold details of likely spend.

I enclose details on historic spend as an annex.

Last year your officials said that an additional £10 to £15 million should be available annually for sports and the arts from post-Olympic Lottery funding after 2013. Do you still expect the funding to become available? If so, can you update us on the work that you have been doing to prepare for this?

The revised DCMS income projection issued in February this year suggests that Arts Council Wales and Sport Wales between them will have approximately £15m more available for distribution in the 13/14 financial year than they had in the 10/11 financial year. This is due to various factors. They include:

Increased Lottery ticket sales.

Lottery distributors' contributions to the construction of the Olympic Park have now ended.

The increased share of Lottery proceeds now going to Arts and Sport.

Sales of dedicated Olympic scratchcards have also finished.

All Lottery distributors will benefit from any funds remaining in the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) after the Games and will also benefit from over £69 million of Olympic village sales receipts, expected in 2014. It is too early to give an estimate of the closing balance in the OLDF. There is still work to do in fitting out the Olympic Village for sale. It was set out in the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding that Lottery distributors would receive back their share of the additional £675 million contribution to the Olympics from land sales pro-rata to their original contribution (ACW = £4.5m and SCW = £4.1m) and it has always been made clear that the timescale for development of the Olympic Park, dependent as it is on market performance, means that these payments will be in the longer term. Current estimates are that the Lottery should start to receive payments in the mid-2020s.

What specific projects in Wales do you expect to benefit from this extra resource and what allocations have you made in your budget to ensure that the impact of this additional resource can be maximised in Wales?

The additional Lottery funding that Sport Wales will receive will be invested in programmes and activities to support the implementation of the Community Sport Strategy and the Elite Sport Strategy. This includes a new fund, Calls for Action, which will support projects that deliver the outcomes of the Community Sport Strategy. Projects will be supported with funds of between £50,000 and £150,000 and to make a positive impact on priority areas such as:

Children and young people living in poverty;

Women and girls, BME and disability;

Multi-sport opportunities (for example, collaboration across sports);

Key age groups – 14 to 24 year olds;
Getting adults back into sport;
Demonstrate a significant step change in provision – from the 100's to the 1000's.

A major element of the additional Lottery funding that the Arts Council of Wales will receive will be invested in capital projects. ACW has recently implemented a new Lottery Capital Strategy and Funding programme. There are seven main priorities underpinning this ACW's new programme:

1. *Developing the infrastructure* – helping key organisations to realise the potential of their facilities.
2. *Completing the infrastructure* – addressing geographical and cultural gaps in national arts provision.
3. *Maintaining the standard* of the infrastructure – investing in existing facilities and venues to help keep them up to standard
4. *Improving viability and sustainability* – investing in entrepreneurial and commercial capital initiatives, aimed at increasing income and reducing costs.
5. *Regeneration* – supporting creative projects which are part of regeneration programmes.
6. *Equipping the arts to thrive* – helping organisations to have the right tools for the creative challenges that they've set.
7. Encouraging exemplary *public art projects* – incorporating public art strategies into building projects, (but also individually commissioned pieces of public art).

ACW will also make Lottery funds available to fund specific time limited projects of high quality, which best meet its priorities, for example through:

training grants;
small grants;
research and development grants; and
'Creative Wales Awards' - to recognise achievement, and enable individual artists to develop their creative practice.

Priorities for 2013 for non-capital Lottery grants are likely to include projects which support the ACW's 4 key priorities. These are:

Supporting the creation of great art.
Encouraging more people to enjoy and take part in the arts.
Growing the arts economy.
Developing the effectiveness and efficiency of arts organisations.

The total 'Regeneration' Action sees a reduction of £5 million (-7.1%) between 2012-13 and 2013-14. Can you explain the reason for this reduction and outline the likely effect it will have on the direct outputs that can be achieved by your department's regeneration activities?

The reduction comprises two elements. First, a transfer of £1.8m revenue to support the financing costs of increased investment in social housing (part of the £4m total budget allocation). I see this as having a significant regeneration benefits, both through the economic benefits of the investment in terms of jobs, training and opportunities for local businesses, and the enhanced sense of place and better quality of life that the investment will deliver.

Second, there is a reduction of £3.2m in the capital budget as a consequence of the reduction in capital budgets generally, as a result of the budget settlement from the UK Government. We have been able to elongate capital programmes to deliver the same level of investment over a longer time period, but this has inevitably resulted in a delay in releasing funding for new priorities.

Your paper states that the Welsh Government's regeneration programme aims to 'reverse the decline of disadvantaged areas in Wales and deliver sustainable renewal'. How confident are you that these aims will be achieved given the planned reductions in allocations on regeneration?

It is important to bear in mind that regeneration is a whole-Government activity. I see my regeneration budget not in isolation, but as additional investment over and above that available from mainstream budgets such as health and education. This view is reinforced in our regeneration framework consultation document, 'Vibrant and Viable Places', which sets out how we intend to achieve integration and prioritisation, in particular on a regional basis, and deliver against a new set of national outcomes. I would welcome the Committee's views on the proposals set out in the document, which can be found at:
<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/businessandconomy/vvp/?lang=en>

I hope that the information above is helpful. Please do let me know if I can be of further assistance at this time.



Huw Lewis AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants

Information on Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) is collected and published annually by the Welsh Government in order to monitor the effectiveness of current policy, particularly progress against the National Housing Strategy objectives and for future policy development. This information helps provide a picture of the number and types of Disabled Facilities Grants and the costs of adaptations at a local and national level. The Welsh Government local government finance department uses data on Disabled Facilities Grants in its local government settlement calculations and local authorities use the information for a number of reasons, including strategic planning for housing and completing Local Housing Market Assessments.

Summary

Both the number and the total value of Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs), fell between 2008-09 and 2009-10 but have since been increasing. Latest figures for 2010-11 show that 4,398 Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs), with a total value of £35.1 (r) million, were completed by local authorities in Wales.

This was an increase of 6 per cent (r) on the £33.2 (r) million spent on delivering 4,170 (r) DFGs in 2009-10 but was still down by 2 per cent on the £35.7 million spent during 2008-09 (Table 1) (Chart 1).

Whilst overall spending on Mandatory DFGs increased between 2009-10 and 2010-11, this was not the case across all authorities.

In some authorities such as Flintshire and Bridgend the decreases were quite large (down by 29 per cent and 26 per cent respectively), whilst in other authorities, such as Newport and Neath Port Talbot the amount spent on DFGs more than doubled between 2009-10 and 2010-11. This represents a stark contrast to 2009-10 when Newport and Neath Port Talbot reported the most significant decreases in expenditure compared with 2008-09.

Table 1 – Value of Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants completed, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 under the 1996 Act (a)(b)

	Expenditure in:			Percentage change in expenditure between 2008-9 and 2009-10	Percentage change in expenditure between 2009-10 and 2010-11
	2008-09 (£ thousands)	2009-10 (£ thousands)	2010-11 (£ thousands)	(per cent)	(per cent)
Isle of Anglesey	485	687	690	42	1
Gwynedd	781	724	942	-7	30
Conwy	1,787	1,552	1,390	-13	-10
Denbighshire	934	1,046	954	12	-9
Flintshire	2,137	2,747	1,958	29	-29
Wrexham	1,429	1,015 (r)	870	-29	-14
Powys	937	787	1,088	-16	38
Ceredigion	1,117	1,063	1,342	-5	26
Pembrokeshire	827	1,067	1,074	29	1
Carmarthenshire	1,263	1,836	1,623	45	-12
Swansea	3,119	2,907	4,213	-7	45
Neath Port Talbot	2,238	1,180	2,474	-47	110
Bridgend	2,583	2,636	1,952	2	-26
The Vale of Glamorgan	1,708	1,637	1,784	-4	9
Cardiff	5,176	4,266	4,210 (r)	-18	-1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	3,359	3,135	3,341	-7	7
Merthyr Tydfil	625	654	561	5	-14
Caerphilly	1,228	1,025	1,127	-17	10
Blaenau Gwent	900	944	937	5	-1
Torfaen	1,252	1,245	967	-1	-22
Monmouthshire	332	524	477	58	-9
Newport	1,491	515	1,096	-65	113
Wales	35,708	33,191 (r)	35,070 (r)	-7	6

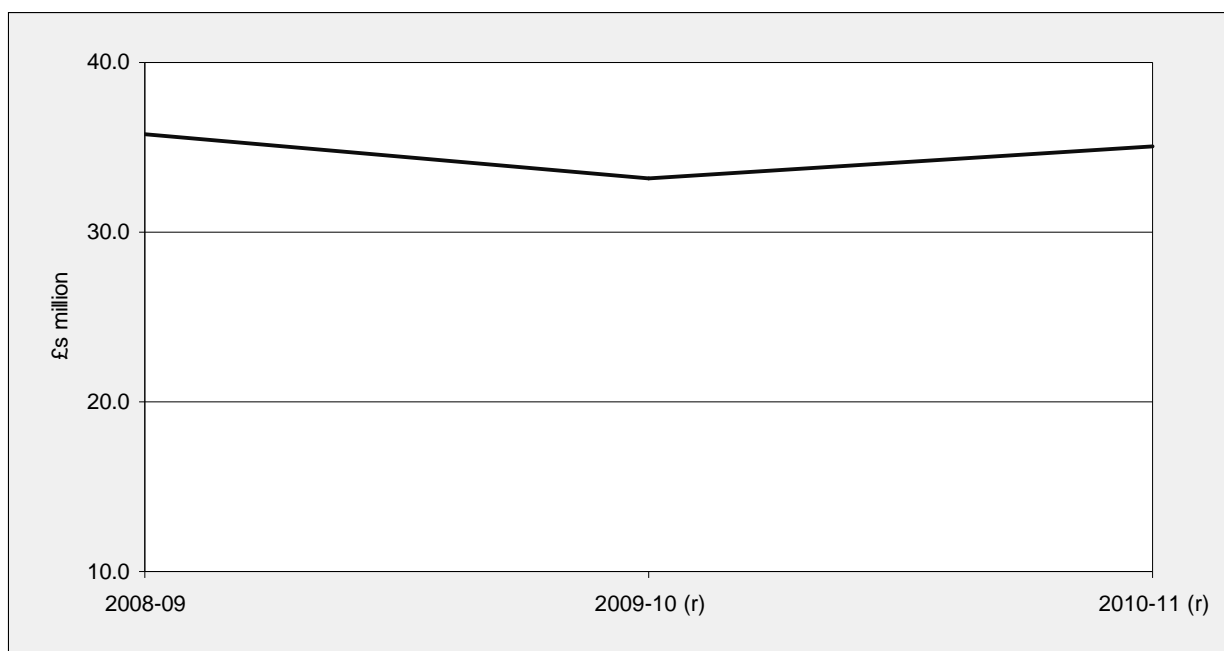
Source: Disabled Facility Grants return

(a) Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996

(b) Only includes expenditure on completed disabled facilities grants where final payments have been made on the grant and certified.

(r) Revised 2012

Chart 1. Value of Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants completed across Wales, 2008-09 to 2010-11 under the 1996 Act (a)(b)



Source: Disabled Facility Grants return

(a) Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996

(b) Only includes expenditure on completed disabled facilities grants where final payments have been made on the grant and certified.

(r) Revised 2012

Revisions

Please note some of the data shown has been revised since first published in August 2011, following receipt of revised figures from two authorities. The changes are not deemed to be significant and the revised data will be shown in the next statistical release due to be published on 13th February 2012. However these minor amendments to the figures may be reflected in the StatsWales tables prior to that next release. Revised data is marked with an (r). We also follow the Welsh Government's statistical revisions policy, details of which are available at: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/revisions/?lang=en>.

Notes:

A Disabled Facilities Grant is a grant for the provision of services for a disabled person either in a dwelling or in the common parts of a building containing one or more flats. Disabled Facilities Grants are paid by the local authority and can help towards the cost of adapting a home to enable a disabled person to continue to live there. Examples of what a Disabled Facilities Grant might be used for are:

- 1) Improving access to a room, for example widening doors or installing a stair lift;
- 2) Providing additional bathing, for example a level access shower;
- 3) Making preparation of food and cooking easier, for example by providing low level units.

The payment of some Disabled Facilities Grants is mandatory under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 as amended by the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) order 2002. The amount of grant will depend on the cost of the approved works and the homeowner's financial circumstances. The maximum grant payable is £36,000 in Wales but a local authority may use its discretion to pay additional costs if it chooses.