

**Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at Atebion Gweinidogion  
Information Further to Ministerial Answers**

*Cyhoeddir ymatebion gan Weinidogion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfiethiad Saesneg o ymatebion yn y Gymraeg.*

*Ministerial responses are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.*

**Gwybodaeth ychwageol at y Datganiad ar Adroddiad Blynyddol Comisynydd Plant Cymru a gyhoeddwyd gan Leighton Andrews, y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, ar 16 Mawrth 2011**

**Information further to the Statement on the Annual Report of the Children's Commissioner for Wales issued by Leighton Andrews, the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning, on 16 March 2011**

**At/To Paul Davies:**

On the 8th of March 2011, the Deputy Minister for Children made a statement to the plenary session in order to inform the Assembly of the response to the Children's Commissioner for Wales Annual Report 2009-10. During the session, the Deputy Minister for Children made a commitment that I would provide you with the timescales of the final best practice guidance on school toilets.

A Steering Group was set up last year to develop the guidance on standards. The group is chaired by the Deputy Chief Environmental Health Advisor of the Welsh Assembly Government and includes representatives from the WLGA, Estyn, Children's Commissioner for Wales, Public Health Wales, Directors of Public Protection and key staff within the Welsh Assembly Government. The Consultation on the Best Practice Guidance was published in November 2010. The Consultation ended on 24 January 2011 and included consulting with children and young people through the Pupil Voice Wales and other networks. Officials have collated the responses and are in the process of developing an action plan prior to the publication of the final guidance.

The Consultation was communicated electronically to a wide range of stakeholders. In total, 35 responses have been received. Several of the responses highlighted areas in which further guidance would be appropriate and officials are currently drafting guidance to take account of these areas. As part of engaging with children and young people, a school toilet questionnaire was provided to schools. This enabled pupils to anonymously voice their opinion on the state of their own school toilets and how they could be improved. 1,786 responses have been received and the results will be fed into the guidance. The final draft guidance and outcomes of the consultation will be taken to the Steering Group in April 2011, with a planned publication date of May 2011 for the finalised guidance.

I trust this provides you with the reassurance that guidance on school toilets will be available shortly.

**Gwybodaeth ychwageol at y Datganiad ar Adroddiad Blynyddol Comisynydd Plant Cymru a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Blant, ar 28 Mawrth 2011**  
**Information further to the Statement on the Annual Report of the Children's Commissioner for Wales issued by Huw Lewis, the Deputy Minister for Children, on 28 March 2011**

**At/To Paul Davies:**

I made a commitment to you in plenary on the 8th March, when we debated on the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Children's Commissioner for Wales Annual Report 2009-10, to update you on what the Welsh Assembly Government has been doing on the blue badge scheme over the last 12 months.

As you will be aware the Deputy First Minister is responsible for the modernisation of the Blue Badge Scheme, however officials have informed me that an action plan was published in January 2010, and that good progress has been made to date with the early priorities set out within that 5 year programme.

A 'Blue Badge Modernisation Steering Group' has been established to assist with informing, developing and overseeing the emerging policy for the Deputy First Minister. Membership represents the interests of disabled people and local authorities in Wales.

A consultation on extending eligibility to children under the age of three and to those with upper limb impairments has been undertaken, and we expect to deliver the relevant regulations in summer 2011. Work is also being taken forward to develop a more consistent assessment process and look at the eligibility criteria for a blue badge through a task and finish group. Progress is also being made on developing proposals which will tackle misuse of the scheme through the enforcement, administration, data sharing and badge design work-streams.

The Deputy First Minister has been working with the Scottish and UK Government to develop a GB wide badge design and data sharing system. This will be in place by spring 2012 pending the results of a consultation exercise.

I do hope the above update addresses your query.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at y Datganiad ar Adroddiad Blynyddol Comisynydd Plant Cymru a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Blant, ar 30 Mawrth 2011**  
**Information further to the Statement on the Annual Report of the Children's Commissioner for Wales issued by Huw Lewis, the Deputy Minister for Children, on 30 March 2011**

**At/To Helen Mary Jones:**

I am responding to your question during the debate on the Children's Commissioner for Wales's Annual report on 8th March, about the timetable for the implementation of the duty on play and the publication of associated guidance on the duty.

The new duty requires a clear definition of play to enable the regulations to be completed. During the past year we have commissioned and conducted research into children's, young people's and parents' views on play. We have also engaged with a wide range of stakeholders on what should be included in the regulations and associated standards and guidance to Local Authorities under the play sufficiency duty of the Children & Families (Wales) Measure.

The work of the Children and Young People Committee in your inquiry into the Provision of Safe Places to Play and Hang Out, has also provided a valuable contribution to this process.

The Measure gave us the power to make legislation in relation to the sufficiency of play opportunities and to introduce a duty on local authorities to assess sufficiency of play opportunities and to make adequate provision locally. However, developing the regulations that would commence this duty has proved to be a complex piece of legislation and one which has required extensive discussion with stakeholders. This is due to the varying definitions of play that exist and the different interpretations that can be taken on what sufficiency of play opportunities are. We are aiming to resolve these complex issues over the next few months and will then be in a position to finalise the precise timescale for introduction this Autumn.