

**Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at y Cyfarfod Llawn
Information Further to Plenary**

Cyhoeddir ymatebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o ymatebion yn y Gymraeg.

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

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0027(BET) a gyhoeddwyd gan John Griffiths,
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy, ar 5 October 2011
Information further to OAQ(4)0027(BET) issued by John Griffiths, the Minister for
Environment and Sustainable Development, on 5 October 2011**

At/To Rhodri Glyn Thomas:

I refer to your question to Edwina Hart, Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science about the closure of science laboratories in Wales. I have responsibility for animal health matters and I have been informed that the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) has announced their intention to rationalise the provision of laboratory services following the completion of an internal review.

AHVLA, an executive agency of Defra, intend to locate all their laboratory testing at six sites in England, discounting such work at their regional laboratories, with a view to reducing operating costs. The change was approved by Jim Paice MP, Minister of State of Agriculture and Food.

The proposal will not result in the closure of any of the AHVLA laboratories that are losing testing work in Wales or England, they will continue with post mortem examinations. However, the proposals will result in the loss of 12 laboratory jobs from the two sites in Carmarthen and Aberystwyth by March 2013.

The Welsh Government was not consulted about the review or its outcome. We have however provided the AHVLA with our views on the changes. The AHVLA are undertaking further reviews into the future of the laboratories estate. My officials will be fully engaged in this process and we are particularly mindful of the need to maintain a laboratory presence in Wales.