

**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)0154(HSS) a gyhoeddwyd gan Lesley Griffiths, y
Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ar 11 Gorffennaf 2012
Information further to OAQ(4)0154(HSS) issued by Lesley Griffiths, the Minister for
Health and Social Services, on 11 July 2012**

At/To Rhodri Glyn Thomas:

Thank you for your Oral Assembly Question of 27 June about the availability of homeopathic medication.

In my answer to you at that time I indicated my officials had been in dialogue with the Department of Health and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Given your recent correspondence I think it would be appropriate to provide you with more detail on the issues surrounding the review of the Medicines Act 1968 and its effect on the homeopathic community.

The aim of the consolidation project is to bring the fragmented UK medicines legislation, most of the Medicines Act 1968 and around 200 statutory instruments, into one set of regulations. The primary goal is to simplify the law without changing its effect. The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 will replace the Medicines Act 1968 and other statutory instruments.

The MHRA consultation has revealed there is concern from the homeopathic community about the effect of the consolidation regulations on their ability to continue to deliver their services as they currently do.

Section 10 of the Medicines Act 1968 is not to be consolidated in the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 but it will be retained in the Medicines Act 1968. The consolidated regulations will refer back to Section 10, and as a consequence change neither the current regulatory status nor the longstanding regulations governing the sale and supply of homeopathic products.

My officials will continue to have an ongoing dialogue with the Department of Health and MHRA about the regulation of medicines, this will include the issues around the sale and supply of homeopathic products where appropriate.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0144(ESD) a gyhoeddwyd gan John Griffiths,
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy, ar 12 Gorffennaf 2012
Information further to OAQ(4)0144(ESD) issued by John Griffiths, the Minister for
Environment and Sustainable Development, on 12 July 2012**

At/To Peter Black:

In plenary on 27 June 2012 I agreed to write to you regarding the suggestion that Japanese Knotweed be classified as an injurious weed under the Weeds Act 1959.

The Weeds Act 1959 consolidates earlier agricultural legislation designed to protect commercial food production and allows Welsh Ministers to take statutory action to control the spread of the five injurious (harmful) weeds. The Act does not make it illegal to allow the five injurious weeds to grow on land, but gives Welsh Ministers powers to respond to complaints about the spread of the injurious weeds.

The five injurious weeds covered by the provisions of the Weeds Act 1959 are; Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Creeping or field thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), Broad-leafed dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and Common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*). The Act recognises that these five weeds can be harmful to agricultural production, or may be harmful if eaten by animals.

Given that responsibility for enforcement of the provisions of the Act is within the remit of the Rural Inspectorate Wales, not with local authorities, and its focus on agricultural production or livestock I do not consider at this time adding Japanese Knotweed to the list is likely to provide any additional clarity with regard to responsibility for dealing with Japanese Knotweed, especially on urban sites.

As I said in plenary I fully recognise that the legal position with regard to this issue requires revision, and I anticipate that the appropriate mechanism to do so will be determined when transposing the EU Invasive Alien Species Directive.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0144(ESD) a gyhoeddwyd gan John Griffiths, Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy, ar 12 Gorffennaf 2012
Information further to OAQ(4)0144(ESD) issued by John Griffiths, the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, on 12 July 2012**

At/To Mike Hedges:

In plenary on 27 June 2012 I undertook to provide you with an update on the release of the psyllid *Aphalara itadori*, along with an indication of when we might expect meaningful results.

The release of the psyllid (a sap sucking insect) began in Spring 2010 at two closely monitored sites in England. This allowed further safety testing in the field and in outdoor cages which confirmed the lab safety data.

The next stage of the controlled country-wide release of the psyllid at a small number of carefully selected sites containing Japanese Knotweed in England and Wales has now been completed. These sites, together with a number of control sites on which the psyllid has not been released, will be closely monitored for five years.

I think it does need to be stated that it is not the case that this release will result in an eradication of Japanese Knotweed. Rather, the intention is to release a biological control agent that will become naturalised and slow the growth and spread of Japanese Knotweed, and therefore make any interventions in terms of chemical treatment or removal more effective.