



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales

**WRITTEN ASSEMBLY QUESTION
TABLED ON 13 NOVEMBER 2001
FOR ANSWER BY THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ON 19 OCTOBER 2001**

Rod Richards (North Wales); If she will make a statement on the policies of each Health Authority in Wales on the funding of hospices. (WAQ14199)

Jane Hutt:

Funding for palliative care services in Wales, including funding for hospices was transferred to the general allocation of health authorities in 1995. Consequently it is the responsibility of the health authorities to use their general allocation to purchase services on an assessment of local needs and priorities.

In the last year, the Assembly has increased the general allocation budgets awarded to the health authorities and spending on health in general will increase from £2.6 billion in 1999/2000 to £3.6 billion in 2003/2004. This unprecedented level of investment should help to ensure that all patients receive a better service from the NHS in Wales. We encourage the health authorities to purchase appropriate high quality services from both the NHS and the voluntary sector. Ultimately however, it is for these authorities to determine the pattern of services bearing in mind that care may be provided at home or in a hospital as well as in a hospice.