

[Kirsty Williams wishes finalists of prestigious new teaching awards good luck](#)

Education Secretary Kirsty Williams has today sent a message of good luck to all those who have made it through to the finals of the prestigious new Professional Teaching Awards Cymru (Fri 5th May).

Thursday 04 May 2017

17 outstanding education professionals and schools have been shortlisted with the winners being announced at a special event in Cardiff City Hall on Sunday 7 May.

The awards have been established by the Welsh Government to recognise the best in schools across the country and to celebrate the commitment, dedication and inspiration of the teaching profession in Wales.

A panel of Wales-wide judges have selected the 17 entries for the seven categories, which include:

- Teacher of the year.
- Headteacher of the year.
- Award for promoting pupil wellbeing and or inclusion in school.
- Award for supporting teachers and learners.
- Whole school award for promoting relationships with parents and the community.

Kirsty Williams said:

“These prestigious new awards are an opportunity to say thank you to our teachers and educational professionals and formally recognise the best leadership and teaching from across Wales.

“I am looking forward to meeting all the finalists at the ceremony on Sunday and I wish all of them the best of luck and hope everyone has a great day.”

Winners will be presented with a ‘Griff’ in honour of Griffith Jones of Llanddowror, who turned the Welsh into one of the world’s most literate nations during the 1700s.

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[Temporary suspension of bird gatherings will be lifted from 15 May](#)

The temporary suspension was introduced in December 2016 after the declaration of the whole of Wales as an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone. This followed the confirmation of the H5N8 strain of Avian Influenza across European countries, the Middle East and North Africa.

Last week, the Cabinet Secretary confirmed the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone would not be replaced after its expiry on 30 April. The temporary suspension on gatherings of some species of birds in Wales, however, remained.

The lifting of the temporary suspension, from 15 May, follows an updated evidence-based risk assessment and is dependent on no further outbreaks of H5N8 in poultry or other captive birds or findings in wild birds.

The Cabinet Secretary said:

“I have taken this decision based upon the latest qualitative risk assessment, which considered the risk of incursion of H5N8 into poultry farms from contact primarily with resident wild waterfowl, but also with other possible pathways.

“The updated assessment concluded the overall risk should now be assessed as low, this is defined as being ‘rare, but may occur occasionally’. The overall risk is determined by the likelihood of the virus remaining in wild birds and the environment and the exposure to poultry.

“Expert opinion is that the risk to poultry is reduced as migratory wild birds leave Great Britain and as the resident wild waterfowl enters its breeding season. Environmental contamination will also reduce with warmer, drier weather and higher UV levels. Therefore, the risk of exposure to poultry is low as the resident wild waterfowl enters the breeding season they become less gregarious and the possibility of environmental contamination reduces.

“The overall risk presented by gatherings is also reduced, provided there are high levels of biosecurity at the gathering, ensuring species do not mix and cleansing and disinfection is carried out.

“Provided there are no further outbreaks or findings, the current general licence will be revoked and replaced on 15 May by a new general licence allowing all gatherings of birds.”

The Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales, Christianne Glossop added:

“While I am sure this news will be welcomed by poultry and other captive bird keepers I would remind them it is vital they remain vigilant for signs of disease and maintain excellent biosecurity practices.”

[Holyhead welcomes Wales' first Cruise call of the season](#)

The Astoria is a 580 passenger and 236 crew ship which is operated by Cruise and Maritime Voyages. After docking in Holyhead, passengers had a choice of excursions around north Wales, which included visits to Snowdonia, Anglesey and the north Wales coast.

The cruise ship market is big business for Wales and Cruise Wales and partners are working hard to grow the market. In addition to Holyhead an increasing number of cruise visitors are coming to south west Wales through cruise ships docking at Swansea, Milford Haven Port, Pembroke and Fishguard. With the support of Welsh Government support under the Tourism Investment Support Scheme a floating pontoon at Fishguard has been installed to allow larger vessels to anchor, as a result Fishguard calls have increased from 5 in 2015 to 29 for 2017.

Fishguard will get its first call of the season when the National Geographic 'Explorer' vessel – will call for the first time on 6 May. The call is as a result of a National Geographic familiarisation visit last year to see what Wales had to offer as a cruise destination. Passengers will be offered excursions to see the highlights of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and to explore the local flora and fauna.

This season, Welsh ports are set to welcome 37,000 passengers and 15,000 crew – an increase in calls of 33% year on year.

Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Infrastructure, Ken Skates, said:

“The cruise market has been highlighted in the tourism strategy for Wales as one way of growing the tourism industry in Wales by 10% by 2020 and Cruise is one of the fastest growing sectors year on year. We are working with many outside stakeholders and are looking at various infrastructure developments for the cruise market. I hope that both the cruise operators and passengers are impressed with what Wales has to offer and will return again in the future.”

Cabinet Secretary gives the Royal Welch a shot with grant

The Royal Welch Fusiliers is the oldest of the Welsh regiments and has one of the largest and most important military heritage collections outside of the National Army Museum in London.

The funding means the Museum which is situated in the Chamberlain Tower and the Queen’s Tower at the Castle will remain open until at least 2020.

Economy Secretary, Ken Skates, said:

“I am pleased to approve this funding that will enable the Museum to remain open until 2020.

“It will mean that visitors to the Castle can continue to enjoy all the Museum has to offer and gain an insight into the long history of the Royal Welch Fusiliers through the variety of letters, poems and photographs and other exhibits on show.

“The Museum has been providing an invaluable service since the 1960s and I am delighted that this grant will mean the service can continue to the next decade and beyond.”

The Welsh Government grant of £270,000 over 3 years will ensure that the Royal Welch Fusiliers Collections Trust will continue to deliver amongst other things an Accredited Museum open to the public and provide a variety of lifelong learning and public engagement activities.

Colonel Peter Knox, Chairman of the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum Management Committee said:

“The trustees of the Royal Welch Fusiliers welcome this announcement and value the long association with Cadw and the Welsh Government.”

Diabetes care for children improving

The Annual Statement of Progress for Diabetes highlights that the number of children and young people with Type 1 diabetes achieving blood glucose in the target range has increased from 17.8 % (2014-15) to 27.2% (2015-16).

Meanwhile, the number of these with high blood glucose levels reduced from 21.6% (2014-15) to 18.6% (2015-16).

The rates of young people undergoing essential key care processes such as foot and kidney checks have also improved.

The report also shows:

- A decrease in the rate of people dying from cardiovascular disease, which has a high prevalence among people with diabetes
- Improved care for patients in hospital people with diabetes, with a decrease in the average length of stay
- Better opportunities for patients to inform diabetes services
- Improved care for pregnant women with diabetes
- The success of the diabetic retinopathy screening service
- The ‘Think Glucose’ project is supporting quality improvement of patient care whilst in a hospital

The report sets out the progress made against the Diabetes Delivery Plan. Speaking ahead of a debate later today [Tuesday 2 May] on diabetes services in Wales, Health Secretary, Vaughan Gething, said:

“This report demonstrates that paediatric diabetes care has made significant strides in the quality of care and the outcomes being achieved over the past six years. The impact of the improvement in blood glucose levels, as well as those in some essential care processes, will reduce the risk of future complications significantly. This is good news for children and young people.

“As well as the improvements in paediatric diabetes care, we have seen improved hospital care, a decrease in the rate of people dying from cardiovascular disease, and better engagement with patients.

“One of our key aims over the coming years will be to continue to

work closely with the public on prevention. While there are no lifestyle factors associated with Type 1 diabetes, we must all reduce our risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by being active, eating a healthy balanced diet and maintaining a healthy body weight.”

Dr Andrew Goodall, Chief Executive of NHS Wales, said:

“Diabetes can have a major impact on the physical and psychological well-being of individuals and their families. However with careful management, healthy lifestyle choices and good blood glucose control the risks of complications are markedly reduced.

“During 2015-16 there was continued progress in the care of patients with diabetes in Wales. At an all Wales level, there have been infrastructure improvements including the creation of a number of national leadership posts and delivery structures.

“However, we continue to work to ensure standards are consistently high across the system and that people get the support they need. Ensuring adults with diabetes receive all eight health checks is a priority, which is why we are working with the NHS to ensure the checks are completed and providing more diabetes education opportunities so people are better able to self-manage their condition.”