

**BUSINESS PAPERS**

**THURSDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2001**

**PART 1 – SECTION A**

**AGENDA**

**The Session will commence at 9.05am**

**Questions to Jenny Randerson, Minister for Culture and Sports** (15 minutes)

A list of the Oral questions are on the Internet (and Chamberweb)

**Questions to Carwyn Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs** (15 minutes)

A list of the Oral questions are on the Internet (and Chamberweb)

**Minority Party Debate: The Conservative Party**

This National Assembly:

1. regrets the Labour/Liberal administration's intention not to continue with direct payments to primary and secondary schools in the financial year 2001-2002 and calls on the administration to reverse this decision;
2. notes that a typical English primary school will receive additional direct payments of at least £20,000 and an English secondary school at least £60,000 in 2001/02;
3. agrees that the 'funding fog' that results from the huge variation in per pupil spending between Welsh local authorities is wholly unacceptable to parents and teachers, and thus;
4. resolves to support proposals to identify separately within the Standard Spending Assessment formula schools' delegated budgets and other local education authority expenditure.

**The following amendments have been tabled:**

In accordance with the revised guidance on the Grouping, Selection and Refusal of Amendments, the Presiding Officer has decided to group the amendments as follows for the purposes of debate - but votes will be taken separately:

(1)+(4)+(5)+(8)

(2)+(3)+(6)+(7)

**1. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)**

Delete bullet point 1

**2. Andrew Davies (Swansea West)  
Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)**

Delete point 1 and replace with:

'1. Welcomes the Labour-Liberal Democrat Partnership Government's proposals to allocate extra money to local authorities over the next three years in order to:

- Reduce class sizes
- Fund training grants for new primary school teachers
- Invest in the upgrade of school buildings
- Re-introduce free school milk for all pupils at key stage one'

**3. Andrew Davies (Swansea West)  
Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)**

Delete point 2 and replace with:

'2. notes that, in 2000-01, provisional figures show that schools in England outside the London area received an average of £2840 per pupil, compared with £2870 per pupil in Wales'.

**4. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)**

Add at end of bullet point 2

"notes with concern that the increase in expenditure on education over the next three years in Wales will be significantly lower than in England, and that this will compound an existing disadvantage in funding levels per pupil in Wales as compared to England, Scotland and Northern Ireland"

## **5. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)**

Delete bullet points 3 and 4 and add new bullet point

"recognises that various factors contribute to a 'funding fog' which makes a proper understanding of the financial situation problematic, thus causing frustration and dissatisfaction among schools, governors and staff"

## **6. Andrew Davies (Swansea West) Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)**

Delete point 3 and replace with:

'3. Welcomes the work being undertaken by the National Assembly and the Welsh Local Government Association to examine and address the issue of the wide variation in per pupil funding between Welsh authorities'.

## **7. Andrew Davies (Swansea West) Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)**

Delete point 4 and replace with:

'4. Welcomes the focus on improved outcomes based on shared priorities, being introduced by policy agreements between local authorities and the National Assembly'.

## **8. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)**

Add new final bullet point:

"calls upon the Government of Wales to provide comprehensive and objective data so that a clear understanding is possible of funding levels and patterns in Wales and of comparisons between Wales and the other countries of the UK"

**Short Debate:** (to last 30 minutes)

**The session is expected to conclude by 12.35pm**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at**

**2.00 pm on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2001**

**J W Lloyd**

**Clerk to the Assembly**