

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 1 April 2003

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

Questions to the First Minister

NHS Staff Recruitment and Retention

Q12 David Melding: Will the First Minister make a statement on staff recruitment and retention in NHS Cymru? (OAQ23793)

The First Minister: Our recruitment and retention strategy for NHS Wales covers the entire career path, from making career choices in school to planning for retirement. We continue to increase the number of nurses, doctors and other health professionals in training to meet local need, and we have set staffing targets for all professions to 2010.

Partnership Agreement Targets

Q13 Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the implementation of targets outlined in the partnership agreement? (OAQ23804)

The First Minister: Since the partnership Government was established, the Welsh Assembly Government has delivered on the strategic targets set out in our joint strategic plan, 'Plan for Wales 2001'. In implementing these targets, the Government has worked hard to take account of the cross-cutting themes of equality, sustainable development and social inclusion.

Military Attack in Iraq (Views of Wales)

Q14 Cynog Dafis: How will the First Minister present the views of Wales on the military attack in Iraq to his Westminster colleagues? (OAQ23792)

The First Minister: It is for the Secretary of State for Wales and all Westminster colleagues representing Welsh constituencies to represent the views of Wales on this matter.

The International Image of Wales

Q15 Brian Gibbons: What steps are being taken at a regional level to promote the international image of Wales? (OAQ23795)

The First Minister: Wales promotes its international image through a number of activities, including through our membership of several influential regional networks and bilateral links with several regions. We participate in international events, such as the Interceltic Festival in Lorient, and host visits such as the recent visit from the president of the Regional Council of Brittany.

Over the weekend, I participated in a session of the regional network on sustainable development in San Sebastian, in the Basque Country.