

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 1 December 2004

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

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

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Questions on Finance to the Finance Minister

Resource Budgeting

Q12 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement about the implications of resource budgeting on the level of reserves required in the budget? (OAQ40059)

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): We have established a prudent level of reserves against circumstances, both unforeseen and those which we know of but cannot quantify, for example, future year resource budgeting adjustments relating to depreciation, cost of capital, impairments and provisions.

The Assembly Budget (Increased Transparency)

Q13 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the opportunities for increasing transparency in relation to the Assembly budget? (OAQ40060)

Sue Essex: The final budget sets out the Assembly Government's expenditure plans for the next three years in detail. This year, we published for the first time our draft spending plans document, which links expenditure to the delivery of our policy agenda set out in 'Wales: A Better Country'.

London's 2012 Olympic Games Bid

Q14 Owen John Thomas: Has the Minister made a commitment to provide finance from the National Assembly budget to help fund London's 2012 Olympic bid? (OAQ40065)

Sue Essex: I have not made any such commitment. If London's bid is successful, the possibility of the Welsh Assembly Government incurring costs in relation to the staging of Olympic football events in Cardiff was notified to members by the First Minister on 23 November 2004.

Funding Staff of Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies

Q15 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement on the funding of ASPB staff within the South Wales East region? (OAQ40064)

Sue Essex: Funding for the running costs of each ASPB is determined by the appropriate Minister responsible and is shown in the appropriate budget expenditure line on the face of the budget.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

Promoting Sustainable Energy

Q9 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on what the Welsh Assembly Government is doing to promote sustainable energy in Wales? (OAQ40142) *Transferred for written answer by the Minister for Economic Development and Transport.*

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): Our aim is to secure the right mix of energy provision for Wales to take us forward through the next two decades, and, in doing so, maximise economic opportunities while minimising our impact on the environment. Our strategy is to strongly develop renewable energy production, energy efficiency and conservation, clean coal, energy infrastructure and liquid natural gas opportunities. We have announced the way forward for renewable energy production by setting benchmark targets and have published the draft technical advice note. We have also published 'Energy Saving Wales', the Welsh Assembly Government's energy efficiency action plan. LNG projects in west Wales are proceeding, and I hope to publish an energy route map later this year that will set out ways in which we can strengthen and secure our energy production and infrastructure.

Questions 10 to 15 were answered in Plenary.