

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 4 February 2003

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

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

### Questions to the First Minister

#### Objective 1 (South-east Wales)

**Q11 William Graham:** Will the First Minister make a statement concerning the impact of the Objective 1 funding programme on south-east Wales? (OAQ22129)

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** Objective 1 is making a real impact on south-east Wales. Within the six Objective 1 authorities in the South-east, 179 projects had been approved by the end of last year, and it is predicted that these, together with regional projects, will create over 11,000 jobs and almost 700 new small businesses.

#### Recycling in Wales

**Q12 Peter Black:** What resources are available to the Welsh Assembly Government to promote recycling in Wales? (OAQ22138) [R]

**The First Minister:** The Assembly Government has allocated £51.63 million for sustainable waste management between 2001-02 and 2003-04, including £42.50 million for local authorities to support the Wales waste strategy targets. We have also funded the environmental voluntary sector, awareness campaigns and research projects. Grant assistance may be available to recycling companies.

#### Credit Unions

**Q13 Gwenda Thomas:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the development of credit unions in Wales? (OAQ22147)

**The First Minister:** Since September 2000, the Welsh Assembly Government has contributed almost £850,000 to the Wales co-operative centre in support of its project targeted at developing and spreading the credit union movement in Wales. In total, we will contribute nearly £1.4 million over the life of the project, which will also be supported by some £2.1 million Objective 1 funds.

#### ‘BetterWales.com’

**Q14 Cynog Dafis:** Will the First Minister report on the progress made on the Government target of creating 34,000 net jobs in west Wales and the Valleys by March 2003 in the ‘BetterWales.com’ document? (OAQ22150)

**The First Minister:** Between 1998, the base for ‘BetterWales.com’, and November 2002, employment in west Wales and the Valleys increased by 10,000. Between 1999, when the Assembly came into being, and November 2002, employment in west Wales and the Valleys increased by 22,000.

#### Setting Targets

**Q15 Phil Williams:** What procedures, using what methodologies, does the Assembly Government follow in setting the targets that are subsequently included in statements of Government policy? (OAQ22146)

**The First Minister:** The targets used by the Assembly Government are the most appropriate for the context of the specific policy. There is no uniform set of procedures or methodologies, although targets draw on relevant information from statistical and other sources.