

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 5 October 2004

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

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

Questions to the First Minister

Question 12 (OAQ37979) withdrawn.

Increasing Voter Participation

Q13 Helen Mary Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement on any measures that he plans to introduce regarding increasing voter participation? (OAQ37953)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): The Assembly Government does not have direct responsibility for elections in Wales. However, it does support the Electoral Commission and the Welsh Local Government Association in their efforts to raise voter awareness and voter participation.

Tackling Long-term Youth Unemployment

Q14 Ann Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement on the progress made in tackling long-term youth unemployment in Wales since 1997? (OAQ37972)

The First Minister: Measures for tackling long-term youth unemployment are delivered through the UK Government's New Deal for Young People. Figures, correct to the end of June 2004, show that over 35,000 young people in Wales have left the New Deal for employment since its introduction in January 1998.

The Provision of Children's Centres

Q15 Lynne Neagle: Will the First Minister make a statement on the provision of children's centres in Wales? (OAQ37973)

The First Minister: The Assembly Government is committed to creating at least one integrated children's centre in each local authority area in Wales. We are working in partnership with the big lottery fund, which has made £11 million available towards the capital costs of building these centres.