

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 6 February 2001

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

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

### Questions to the First Minister

#### Discussions regarding Non-devolved Issues

**Q11 Nick Bourne:** Can the First Minister report on any recent discussions that he has had with his Westminster colleagues in relation to Welsh issues that are non-devolved? (OAQ9338)

**The First Minister:** I have frequent discussions with colleagues in the UK Government on non-devolved matters, such as asylum and immigration, the Employment Service, the future of the post offices and defence base investment.

#### The Functions of the Assembly Cabinet

**Q12 Jocelyn Davies:** Can the First Minister make a statement regarding the functions of the Assembly Cabinet? (OAQ9322) *Withdrawn.*

#### Policy Development in Wales

**Q13 Ieuan Wyn Jones:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the progress of overall policy development in Wales? (OAQ9318) *Withdrawn.*

#### Cross-cutting Issues

**Q14 Dafydd Wigley:** Will the First Minister make a brief statement on progress of policy regarding cross-cutting issues? (OAQ9333) *Withdrawn.*

#### The Criminal Records Bureau

**Q15 Kirsty Williams:** What discussions has the First Minister had with the Home Secretary regarding the operation of the Criminal Records Bureau in Wales? (OAQ9329) *Withdrawn.*

#### Promoting Community Involvement

**Q16 Richard Edwards:** In his role as policy development co-ordinator, what is the First Minister doing to promote community involvement in the social, economic and cultural development of Wales? (OAQ9327) *Withdrawn.*

#### Enlargement of the European Union

**Q17 Val Feld:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the extent of the Assembly's policy on enlargement of the European Union? (OAQ9343) *Withdrawn.*

#### The Operation of the Criminal Records Bureau

**Q18 Mick Bates:** What discussions has the First Minister had with the Home Secretary regarding the operation of the Criminal Records Bureau in Wales? (OAQ9340) *Withdrawn.*

### **The Implications of the Euro to Wales**

**Q19 Christine Gwyther:** What discussions has the First Minister had with his ministerial colleagues at Westminster about the potential implications to Wales of the euro when it becomes fully operational in 2002? (OAQ9328) *Withdrawn.*

### **Miners' Compensation Claims and Payouts**

**Q20 Janice Gregory:** Will the First Minister make a statement on miners' compensation claims and payouts in Wales? (OAQ9342) *Withdrawn.*

### **Discussions with the Business Partnership Council**

**Q21 Brian Hancock:** Will the First Minister make a statement on discussions with the Business Partnership Council regarding the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in Wales? (OAQ9320) *Withdrawn.*

### **Meetings with European Colleagues**

**Q22 Alun Cairns:** Can the First Minister make a statement in relation to any recent meetings that he has had with his European colleagues as regards Welsh issues? (OAQ9344)

**The First Minister:** I meet regularly with various European colleagues, either when they visit the Assembly or at conferences in Europe. A wide range of issues are discussed, many of which are of direct interest to Wales, including the prospects for the next intergovernmental conference in 2004. That was agreed at the Nice summit at the end of 2000 and it will look at the charter of competencies for the regional tier, the nation-state tier and the European tier, to have their respective roles and responsibilities clarified.

### **Rural Affairs Policies**

**Q23 Pauline Jarman:** Will the First Minister make a brief statement on how his role as policy development co-ordinator affects rural affairs policies? (OAQ9332) *Withdrawn.*

### **Discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales**

**Q24 Helen Mary Jones:** Will the First Minister make a brief statement on his recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding policy development on non-devolved issues that are relevant to Wales? (OAQ9334) *Withdrawn.*

### **Discussions with the British Irish Council**

**Q25 David Lloyd:** Will the First Minister make a statement on future discussions between the National Assembly for Wales and the British Irish Council? (OAQ9321) *Withdrawn.*

### **The Institute of Welsh Affairs**

**Q26 Janet Davies:** Could the First Minister make a brief statement further to his speech 'Variable Geometry UK' made to the Institute of Welsh Affairs on 2 February 2000? (OAQ9341) *Withdrawn.*

### **Discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales**

**Q27 David Melding:** Has the First Minister had discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding matters concerning Wales not devolved to the Assembly? (OAQ9337) *Withdrawn.*

### North Wales Regional Committee Meetings

**Q28 Janet Ryder:** As co-ordinator of Government policy in north Wales, is the First Minister fulfilling his commitment made on 31 October 2000, in which he said that he would attend every North Wales Regional Committee meeting to which he was invited? (OAQ9335) *Withdrawn.*

#### Cydlynu Cyhoeddiadau ar Faterion sydd o Ddiddordeb i'r Ddwyr Ochr

**C29 Owen John Thomas:** A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru gymryd camau i sicrhau bod adrannau ei Weinidogion yn ceisio cytundeb y rhai sydd yn cyfateb iddynt yn adrannau Whitehall er mwyn gofalu y cydlynir cyhoeddiadau ar faterion sydd o ddiddordeb i'r ddwy ochr? (OAQ9315) [W]

**Prif Weinidog Cymru:** Pan fo'n bosibl, ceisiwn roi gwybod ar unwaith i'r Cynulliad a'r cyhoedd yng Nghymru am gyhoeddiadau yn Whitehall sydd â goblygiadau i Gymru. O dan y concordatau a gytunwyd rhwng Cabinet y Cynulliad ac adrannau'r Llywodraeth ganolog, mae gofyn rhoi rhybudd ymlaen llaw am gyhoeddiadau pwysig a, lle ceir budd i'r ddwy ochr o wneud cyhoeddiadau ar y cyd, gellir sefydlu trefniant o'r fath.

#### Co-ordinating Announcements on Issues of Mutual Interest

**Q29 Owen John Thomas:** Will the First Minister take action to ensure that his Ministers' departments seek agreement with their counterparts in Whitehall departments to ensure that announcements on issues of mutual interest are co-ordinated? (OAQ9315) [W]

**The First Minister:** Whenever possible, we seek to inform the Assembly and the public in Wales immediately of Whitehall announcements that have implications for Wales. Under the concordats agreed between the Assembly Cabinet and central Government departments, there is a requirement that advance notice is given of major announcements and, where there is a mutual interest in making parallel announcements, such an arrangement can be set up.

#### The Importance of Children's Rights

**Q30 Elin Jones:** Can the First Minister make a further statement on his response in Plenary on 17 October 2000, in which he said that he would give the Assembly and the children of Wales his absolute assurance that children's rights would be given the importance that they deserve? (OAQ9331) *Withdrawn.*