

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 6 July 2004

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

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

### Questions to the First Minister

#### Open Government

**Q11 Alun Cairns:** Will the First Minister make a statement on open government? (OAQ36622)

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** Our Code of Practice on Public Access to Information sets out the principles for maximising openness. It allows the release of a great deal of information through its publications scheme and by answering specific requests. We are already delivering the Freedom of Information Act 2000's 'right to know'.

#### Animals Fed on GM Crops

**Q12 Mick Bates:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the labelling of produce from animals fed on genetically modified crops? (OAQ36625)

**The First Minister:** Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 established harmonised procedures for the scientific assessment, authorisation and labelling of genetically modified organisms and GM food and feed. The regulation requires that all food and feed containing or consisting of GMOs, or produced from or containing ingredients produced from GMOs, be labelled, regardless of the presence or absence of GM material in the final product. This is an extension of previous rules, which required labelling only when the presence of GM material in the final product could be demonstrated. The new regulation does not, however, require products from animals fed on GM crops to be labelled.

#### Dental Recruitment in North East Wales

**Q13 Sandy Mewies:** Will the First Minister make a statement on dental recruitment in north-east Wales? (OAQ36644)

**The First Minister:** The Assembly Government will consider the need for the expansion of dental undergraduate training as an integrated element of its dental strategy for Wales. The all-Wales workforce development steering group has, in principle, given its support to this expansion, and discussions are ongoing.

#### RSA in Islwyn

**Q14 Irene James:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the uptake of regional selective assistance in Islwyn? (OAQ36615)

**The First Minister:** Since the inception of the Assembly, 43 offers of RSA, to the value of £27.7 million, were made to companies in Islwyn. These grants should lever in investment of some £78.9 million with 1,682 new jobs and 713 safeguarded. Comparative figures for all of Wales were 934 offers of RSA, to the value of over £540 million, leveraging in some £2,496 million in investment. Over 40,000 new jobs and nearly 15,800 safeguarded jobs are projected.

## **Local Transport Systems**

**Q15 Christine Chapman:** What action has the Welsh Assembly Government taken to improve local transport systems in Wales? (OAQ36634)

**The First Minister:** In 2004-05, we will be investing an over-£85 million package of investment in local transport infrastructure, including funding for road and rail schemes, integrated transport, walking and cycling and safe routes to schools. We are also providing nearly £9 million in support for local bus services and community transport and £8 million in local road safety grants to local authorities.