

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 10 May 2000

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

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Questions to the First Secretary on Economic Development

Objective 1 (Evaluation Unit)

Q4 Michael German: What progress has been made in establishing an Objective 1 evaluation unit? (OAQ5044)

The First Secretary (Rhodri Morgan): The agreement with the Commission will include an obligation to provide a mid-term evaluation of the Objective 1 programme, carried out by an independent assessor, three years after adoption of the programme and no later than 31 December 2003. A further ex post evaluation shall be completed not later than three years after the end of the programme period.

The Welsh European Funding Office will have responsibility for arranging the mid-term evaluation. Provision will be made for this, and for the preparation of annual implementation reports, in the structure and staffing of WEFO now being developed. The ex post evaluation will be the responsibility of the European Commission.

Regional Selective Assistance Map (Monmouthshire)

Q5 David Davies: Will the First Secretary comment on why the most deprived area of Monmouthshire, Llanelly Hill, was not included on the regional selective assistance map? (OAQ5019)

The First Secretary: The European Commission has stipulated that assisted areas have to be self-contained, compact and contiguous and have a population of at least 100,000. In addition, they must qualify on the basis of statistics of employment, unemployment, inactivity or dependence on manufacturing - on at least one of them the area must be more than half a standard deviation worse than the average of all of the non Objective 1 areas. Llanelly Hill does not meet these criteria, and it was therefore not possible for this area to be included in the proposed map.

Securing Manufacturing Jobs in Wales

Q6 Janet Davies: What action has the First Secretary taken recently to secure manufacturing jobs in Wales? (OAQ5038)

The First Secretary: The Assembly, together with its Assembly sponsored public bodies and other organisations, are actively promoting the manufacturing sector in Wales, both through support from foreign direct investment and indigenous businesses.

Both the Secretary of State for Wales and I have regular discussions about this matter with UK Government Ministers.

Proposed Hyder Takeover

Q7 Glyn Davies: Does the First Secretary plan to meet with the chief executive of Hyder to discuss the

proposed takeover of the company? (OAQ5158)

The First Secretary: I and the Assembly Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Planning have met with and discussed the Hyder take-over proposals with its present chief executive and with representatives of those who have made an offer to acquire the company.

I will seek to maintain such contacts and to obtain appropriate assurances with respect to the future of Hyder and its operations in Wales, having particular regard to the interests of its employees, the customers and the planned investment and environment programmes of the water and electricity utilities, and the future management of the group.

Bairdwear Factory Closures

Q8 Carwyn Jones: What is being done to assist those affected by the closure of Bairdwear factories in Wales? (OAQ5047)

The First Secretary: Members of the GMB addressed Assembly Members on 17 January and I met Mr Tony Harris, GMB south Wales regional industrial officer on 14 February and Marks & Spencer's procurement manager, Mr Joe Rowe, on 23 February. The Assembly, the Employment Service and the training and enterprise councils are all working hard to help those who are losing their jobs at Bairdwear, specifically a package of rapid response measures is in place which includes an Employment Service presence on-site with advice, guidance, and support on various matters.

However, we cannot lose sight of the fact that the Bairdwear closures were a result of a commercial decision by Marks & Spencer. That said, I very much regret the redundancies that occurred.

Job Creation in Areas of most Need

Q9 Cynog Dafis: What steps is the First Secretary taking to ensure that the commitment to creating jobs in areas of most need contained in the 'Better Wales.com' document will be met? (OAQ5034)

The First Secretary: Job creation in the areas of most need will continue to be a top priority for the Assembly through existing schemes such as regional selective assistance, the programmes of the WDA and, of course, European structural funds programmes. The national economic development strategy will address the strategic priorities in this and other areas.

Local Authority Plans for Objective 1 Funding

Q10 Jane Davidson: When will local authorities in the Objective 1 area have plans in place for making the maximum use of the new funding? (OAQ5156)

The First Secretary: Local partnerships are either in place or are being established in all 15 local authority areas within the Objective 1 area. All will have a partnership board with equal membership drawn from the public sector, social partners (business and unions) and the third sector (voluntary and community groups). Officials from the Welsh European Funding Office have met with representatives of the partnerships in all areas to discuss progress. It is expected that partnership boards will have held at least one formal meeting within the next few weeks. Based on a range of work already undertaken in each area, they will be developing key projects immediately and aiming to produce Objective 1 action plans by the autumn at the latest.

National Economic Development Strategy (Consultation Period)

Q11 Gareth Jones: Can the First Secretary confirm the timetable for publishing and establishing a consultation period for the draft national economic development strategy? (OAQ5030)

The First Secretary: I refer you to the answer I gave Rhodri Glyn Thomas in Plenary earlier today.

BAe Systems (Financial Assistance)

Q12 Peter Rogers: Will the First Secretary make a statement regarding the provision of financial assistance for BAe Systems at Broughton? (OAQ5021)

The First Secretary: I have little to add to the statement I made to the Assembly on 28 March about BAe Systems' application for assistance under the RSA scheme. I have since met the company and union representatives. Discussions with the company are continuing at official level.

National Economic Development Strategy (Implementation)

Q13 Ieuan Wyn Jones: How does the First Secretary plan to implement the national economic development strategy? (OAQ5031)

The First Secretary: I refer you to the answer I gave to Rhodri Glyn Thomas in Plenary earlier today.

Regional Selective Assistance Map (Brymbo)

Q14 Janet Ryder: Has the First Secretary had any discussions with Wrexham County Borough Council regarding the omission of Brymbo from the regional selective assistance map? (OAQ5023)

The First Secretary: Yes. My officials and I have been in close and regular contact with Wrexham County Borough Council on this matter.

Objective 1 Single Programming Document (Negotiations with the European Commission)

Q15 Dafydd Wigley: Will the First Secretary report on the progress of negotiations with the European Commission regarding the final submission of the Objective 1 single programming document? (OAQ4986)

The First Secretary: Negotiations are continuing on two sets of issues. Officials hope to bring discussions to a conclusion by the end of this week on the technical content of the implementation chapters in the programming documents to be submitted from the UK. On the specifically Welsh issue of allocation of resources among the various priorities (including that for infrastructure), following further discussions between officials I am writing to Commissioner Barnier. We are still aiming for submission of the document by the middle of the month.

Objective 1, 2 and 3 Funding Programmes (Implementation)

Q16 William Graham: Are plans for Objective 1, 2 and 3 funding programmes ready to be implemented within the required timescale? (OAQ5167)

The First Secretary: All the principal structural funds programmes for Wales are running to schedule. The detailed text for Objectives 1 and 3 is now being finalised in agreement with the European Commission. This should allow the programmes to begin being implemented in July in line with other UK areas. The draft Objective 2 programme will be debated by the Assembly at the end of this month before it is submitted to the Commission as a basis for negotiation. This is a few weeks behind some other regions of the UK but in the context of a seven-year programme is fully within the timeframe required both by the regulations and the requirements of sensible implementation arrangements.

Small and Medium-sized Business Programme (South Wales Valleys)

Q17 Geraint Davies: How many of the 1,500 companies who are to receive in-depth support under the

Wales small and medium-sized business programme launched recently are located in the south Wales valleys? (OAQ5165)

The First Secretary: This is WDA led project so I have contacted them to obtain the details you require. I am advised that no specific figures for the south Wales valleys have been set. However, the target for industrial south Wales is to provide in depth support to 1,000 companies. I have been assured that the WDA will be seeking to ensure a full and fair representation of companies from the Valleys.

Publishing the Draft National Economic Development Strategy

Q18 Dafydd Wigley: What action is the First Secretary taking to ensure that the draft national economic development strategy will be published in the near future as stated in Annex 1 of the 'Better Wales.com' document? (OAQ4985)

The First Secretary: I refer you to the answer I gave to Rhodri Glyn Thomas in Plenary earlier today.

Welsh Identity (Effect on Economic Development)

Q19 Peter Black: Will the First Secretary make a statement on recent criticisms of the inference in the single programming document that the promotion of Welsh identity could be an obstacle to economic development? (OAQ5041)

The First Secretary: The Objective 1 single programming document (SPD) which the Assembly approved on 12 April does not contain any inference that promotion of Welsh identity could be an obstacle to economic growth. On the contrary the SPD explicitly identifies the use of 'Welshness' as an opportunity to be exploited in the marketing and promotion of west Wales and the Valleys and its products.

Hyder (Impact on Employment)

Q20 Peter Black: What assessment has been made of the possible impact on employment in Wales of the bids to buy Hyder plc by Nomura and Western Power Distribution? (OAQ5042)

The First Secretary: The bid by Nomura is the only firm offer that has presently been made for Hyder. I have been assured by Nomura representatives that they have no plans to break up the Hyder group or for job losses beyond those that were announced last year, and which have now largely been achieved.

I would want to examine the details of any further bid that was made for Hyder, including the implications for employment in Wales, if and when it was formalised.

Local Enterprise Networks

Q21 Jane Davidson: What support can the First Secretary give to the establishment of local enterprise networks? (OAQ5157)

The First Secretary: The National Assembly for Wales directly sponsors Business Connect which facilitates effective networking - at the local and national levels - between business and the main business support organisations in Wales. This year the Assembly is providing £2.5 million to Business Connect Wales Ltd to support a range of activity, including the work of the local Business Connect partnerships.

National Economic Development Strategy (Consideration and Response)

Q22 Ieuan Wyn Jones: What steps does the First Secretary intend to take to ensure that there will be a proper consultation period for people and organisations from all over Wales to consider and respond to his Government's edition of the draft national economic development strategy? (OAQ5032)

The First Secretary: I refer you to the answer I gave to Rhodri Glyn Thomas in Plenary earlier today.

Cardiff International Airport

Q23 Mick Bates: What plans does the First Secretary have to assist the development of Cardiff International Airport? (OAQ4987)

The First Secretary: I recognise the key role which Cardiff International Airport has in promoting the economic and tourist potential of Wales, and welcome the positive developments which the airport has already taken forward. It is one of the fastest growing airports in Britain, serving many domestic and international destinations. Its owners, TBI, have invested in new terminal buildings and facilities, and are reporting continuing increases in passenger numbers.

The regional air services study for Wales, which we commissioned jointly with the Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions, will help us assess the opportunities for further growth in services. The results of the study are expected to be published later this year, and will be available for public consultation soon after.

Statement on Grant Project Money

Q24 Lorraine Barrett: Can the First Secretary make a statement regarding the Penarth head project grants and make clear over what timescale the monies announced for the walkway project will be made available? (OAQ4983)

The First Secretary: The Assembly's funding contribution to the completion of the Penarth link scheme by the Vale of Glamorgan County Council is limited to a maximum of £7.5 million as follows:

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
£0.5m	£1m	£1m	£2m	£3m

BAe Systems (Super Jumbo Aircraft)

Q25 Janet Ryder: Has the First Secretary had any further discussions with BAe Systems in light of the recent interest shown in their factory at Broughton with the announcement of the first orders for the new super jumbo aircraft? (OAQ5022)

The First Secretary: I have had discussions recently with the company and with union representatives, but these were held prior to any confirmed orders for the new super jumbo aircraft. Discussions are continuing with the company at official level.

Manufacturing Jobs in Wales (Discussions with Government Ministers)

Q26 Janet Davies: Has the First Secretary had discussions recently with the appropriate UK Government Ministers regarding continuing threats of and actual loss of manufacturing jobs in Wales? (OAQ5037)

The First Secretary: Both the Secretary of State for Wales and I have regular discussions about this matter with UK Government Ministers.

Tackling Poverty and Unemployment (Anglesey)

Q27 Peter Rogers: What measures will the First Secretary take to tackle poverty and unemployment on Anglesey? (OAQ5046)

The First Secretary: There are a range of measures which the Assembly is pursuing to tackle poverty and unemployment across Wales. These include investment of both time and money in people (for example re-training, re-skilling), their communities and businesses. For example, four companies, assisted by regional selective assistance, in the Ynys Môn Local Authority district expanded during 1999/2000, safeguarding 71 jobs and promising to create an additional 154 new jobs.

In addition, the Assembly, Welsh Development Agency and others are working in close partnership with the County Council to promote and regenerate the economy of Ynys Môn. The Agency has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which provides a forum for joint initiatives with the County Council in relation to the WDA's approved economic development programmes.

I have also lobbied vigorously for the construction of the gas-fired station at Rhos-goch, Anglesey. Indeed I met the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 29 March to discuss the situation and I greatly welcome the lifting of the stricter consents policy on gas-fired stations, which may open the way for the development of the Rhos-goch project.

Regional Selective Assistance Map (Wrexham Industrial Estate)

Q28 Karen Sinclair: Can the First Secretary give an assurance that he has put his full weight behind the appeal from Wrexham County Borough Council and north Wales Assembly Members for the reinstatement of the wards of Holt, Marchwiel, Ruabon, Cefn and Plas Madoc, to the proposed new regional selective assistance map in order to ensure the inclusion of Wrexham industrial estate? (OAQ4984)

The First Secretary: Wrexham County Borough Council has submitted a detailed proposal on this matter to both the Secretary of State for Wales and the Assembly. My officials have been in discussion with Wrexham and are now in discussion with the DTI about the details of the proposal.

BAe Systems (Financial Assistance)

Q29 Nick Bourne: Has the First Secretary been involved in any further discussions in relation to providing BAe Systems in Broughton with financial assistance? (OAQ5155)

The First Secretary: I have had discussions recently with BAe Systems and union representatives. Discussions with the company are continuing at official level.

Objective 1 Single Programming Document (Negotiations with the European Commission)

Q30 Phil Williams: Will the First Secretary give an update on the current state of negotiations with the European Commission regarding the final submission of the Objective 1 single programming document? (OAQ5036)

The First Secretary: I refer you to my answer on the same subject given today to Dafydd Wigley.

Questions to the Finance Secretary

Comprehensive Spending Review

Q4 Jocelyn Davies: Will the Finance Secretary make a statement on the progress of the comprehensive spending review? (OAQ5004)

The Finance Secretary (Edwina Hart): The Treasury's spending review is ongoing and the outcome is expected to be announced in mid-July.

Allocation of Funds to Devolved Authorities

Q5 Jenny Randerson: Does Edwina Hart have any plans to meet with representatives of the Greater London Assembly to discuss the allocation of funds to devolved authorities within the UK? (OAQ4992)

Edwina Hart: I have no such plans. The arrangements for funding the London Assembly are completely different to those for the devolved countries.

Asylum Seekers

Q6 Jocelyn Davies: What will Edwina Hart do to ensure that asylum seekers arriving in Wales have equal opportunities in Wales? (OAQ5054)

Edwina Hart: The Assembly will play a full part in encouraging local authorities and others to meet their responsibilities under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. To help this process a secondee from the Welsh Refugee Council joined the Assembly as a liaison officer for asylum and refugees issues. He is bringing together the agencies that will be responsible for providing services to asylum seekers and those in the Assembly with related responsibilities to encourage a co-ordinated response.

Overall responsibility for the asylum dispersal scheme lies with the Home Office which is working with Welsh local authorities.

OSIRIS System Users (Password Security)

Q7 William Graham: What measures has Edwina Hart taken, or will she take, to end the poor password security known to be practised by users of the OSIRIS system? (OAQ5052)

Edwina Hart: The policy on sharing passwords is quite clear and applies to all users of the OSIRIS system. Passwords must not be shared with others. OSIRIS system users are reminded from time to time of this rule and if users are proved to have broken the rule, action will be taken. As part of a planned upgrade that is due to take place over the summer, there will be a further training programme which will reinforce the need to practice better security

Reform of the Barnett Formula

Q8 Peter Black: In the light of the election of the London Mayor and Assembly, what plans does Edwina Hart have to convene a meeting of all devolved bodies within the UK to agree a common approach to the reform of the Barnett formula? (OAQ4999)

Edwina Hart: I have no plans to convene such a meeting.

Equal Opportunities

Q9 Janice Gregory: How will Edwina Hart ensure that all companies and contractors within the Assembly have a high regard for good practice in the area of equal opportunities? (OAQ4979)

Edwina Hart: The Assembly's standard conditions of contract includes provision for this under the heading 'Statutory Obligations', it reads:

'The Contractor shall comply with its statutory obligations for the time being in force including, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, those relating to health, safety and hygiene and those under legislation in respect of employment, race relations and sexual discrimination. The Contractor shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that observance of these provisions by all employees or agents of the Contractor and all sub-contractors employed in the execution of the Contract. The Contractor shall

indemnify the Client and the Crown against all actions, claims, losses, demands, costs and expenses which the Client may suffer or incur as a result of or in connection with any breach of these conditions.'

Contract managers hold regular contract monitoring meetings with contractors to ensure that contract requirements are met and the conditions of contract are observed.

Barnett Formula (Discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales)

Q10 Kirsty Williams: What discussions has Edwina Hart had with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding reviewing the Barnett formula? (OAQ5055)

Edwina Hart: I have had no formal discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales about the formula. As I have made clear on previous occasions, there are currently no plans to review the Barnett formula.

Comprehensive Spending Review (Assembly Budget)

Q11 David Lloyd: What submissions were made as part of the comprehensive spending review in relation to the Assembly's 2002-03 budget? (OAQ5014)

Edwina Hart: The Welsh budget will, of course, primarily be determined by the funding rules at the spending review, although we have an ongoing dialogue with the Treasury on Objective 1 funding and other matters.

Mobile Phone Licenses (Discussions with Colleagues in Westminster)

Q12 David Davies: Has Edwina Hart had discussions with colleagues in Westminster about whether the recent windfall from the sale of new mobile phone licenses will affect the Welsh budget? (OAQ5059)

Edwina Hart: I have had no formal discussions on this issue.

New Financial Settlement for Wales

Q13 Dafydd Wigley: Will Edwina Hart report on progress towards agreeing a new financial settlement for Wales? (OAQ4978)

Edwina Hart: The Welsh budget is of course primarily determined by applying the Barnett formula to changes in comparable English programmes. The resultant changes to our budget for the next three years will be announced as part of the Treasury's spending review in July.

Motion NDM268 (Better Wales)

Q14 Brian Hancock: How does Edwina Hart plan to implement the amendment to motion NDM268 (Better Wales), relating to provision of adequate funding by the UK Government? (OAQ5008)

Edwina Hart: The Welsh budget for the next three years will be primarily determined by the application of the funding rules. However, we are seeking to ensure that we receive additional provision outside of the Barnett formula arrangements to cover the funding implications of Objective 1.

Comprehensive Spending Review (Increased Funding)

Q15 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What submissions were made on behalf of Wales as part of the comprehensive spending review for increased funding for future Welsh budgets? (OAQ5012)

Edwina Hart: The Welsh budget will of course primarily be determined by the funding rules at the spending review, although we have an ongoing dialogue with Treasury on Objective 1 funding and other matters.

Motion NDM268 (Better Wales) (New Commitments)

Q16 David Lloyd: Will Edwina Hart make a statement on how she intends to finance the new commitments made as a result of motion NDM268 (Better Wales), as approved on 5 April 2000? (OAQ5013)

Edwina Hart: All the results shown in the detailed programme of Government in 'A Better Wales.com' are affordable within our current budget, though we have assumed the resources will be in place for us to move ahead as planned with Objective 1.

Motion NDM268 (Better Wales) (Programme on Sound Data)

Q17 Ieuan Wyn Jones: How does Edwina Hart plan to implement the amendment to motion NDM268 (Better Wales) relating to basing the programme on sound data? (OAQ5003)

Edwina Hart: We are already working hard to ensure that policies are based on better evidence. A draft Assembly statistics plan has recently been issued for consultation. This process will help to ensure that data requirements are identified. In the forthcoming budget planning round we will be placing a greater emphasis on the examination of the data

Pay Gap in Wales

Q18 Gareth Jones: What measures will Edwina Hart take to reduce the pay gap in Wales between men and women? (OAQ5056)

Edwina Hart: We are committed to equality of opportunity in all aspects of Welsh life including the work place where wage levels must be based upon the work performed and not upon the gender of the employee. I will want the Assembly's Committee on Equality of Opportunity to look at this issue soon, particularly in the light of the Wales TUC commitment to overcome this problem, made at its conference last week, which I very much welcome.

Air Conditioning in the Assembly Building

Q19 Glyn Davies: What will be the final cost of installing air conditioning in the Assembly building? (OAQ5151)

Edwina Hart: Work to install air cooling in the Assembly building is still ongoing, so the final cost cannot be confirmed at this stage. The contract sum is £1,169,220 (including VAT and agent's fees) and it is anticipated that the final cost will be very close to this figure. The sum quoted will not be exceeded.

Funding of Devolved Authorities

Q20 Mick Bates: What plans does Edwina Hart have to meet representatives of the Greater London Assembly to discuss the funding of devolved authorities in the UK? (OAQ4991)

Edwina Hart: I have no such plans.

Comprehensive Spending Review (EU Funded Projects)

Q21 Phil Williams: What submissions were made on behalf of Wales, as part of the comprehensive spending review, in order to help ensure the success of EU funded projects? (OAQ5010)

Edwina Hart: The First Secretary has an ongoing dialogue with the Chief Secretary on the spending review, including representations on structural funds issues.

Sale of Mobile Phone Licenses (£22 billion)

Q22 Glyn Davies: How much of the £22 billion windfall that the UK Government has received from the sale of mobile phone licenses will come to Wales? (OAQ5150)

Edwina Hart: It has been stated that the proceeds of the mobile phone auction will be used to reduce public sector debt. There are no immediate financial implications for the Assembly.

Lawrence Report (Discussions with Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies)

Q23 David Melding: Does Edwina Hart plan to meet Assembly sponsored public bodies to discuss the implementation of the Lawrence report? (OAQ5154)

Edwina Hart: The Committee on Equality of Opportunity agreed to set up an all party sub-committee, supported by officials and able to call on external expertise as required, to examine how the Assembly was addressing the findings of Sir William Macpherson's report on the inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence. The Committee plans to invite each ASPB in turn to its meetings. The Lawrence report will be part of the general equality discussions to be held with them.

Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies

Q24 Jonathan Morgan: How many Assembly sponsored public bodies does the Assembly have and how many can be abolished without recourse to primary legislation or the Privy Council? (OAQ5057)

Edwina Hart: The Assembly sponsors 36 ASPBs (14 executive bodies; 17 advisory bodies; and five tribunals). Of those, 16 can be abolished without recourse to primary legislation or the Privy Council (i.e. seven of the executive bodies and nine of the advisory bodies).

Cardiff Bay Development Corporation ('Renaissance')

Q25 Janice Gregory: Is Edwina Hart aware of the costs incurred by Cardiff Bay Development Corporation in the production of its book entitled 'Renaissance'? (OAQ4980)

Edwina Hart: The production, translation and printing cost of 4,500 copies of 'Renaissance' in English and Welsh amounted to £77,796.

To help raise the profile of the capital city of Wales in accordance with the corporation's regeneration objectives, the publication was circulated to appropriate businesses and relevant public authorities internationally, nationally and widely throughout Wales. This included higher and further education establishments and libraries, as well as all secondary and primary schools and community organisations locally.

Barnett Formula (Discussions with Colleagues in the Treasury)

Q26 Peter Rogers: In view of the large number of requests for Edwina Hart to comment on reviewing the Barnett formula, does she intend to have discussions with her colleagues in HM Treasury? (OAQ5149)

Edwina Hart: I have no plans to have formal discussions with HM Treasury on this matter, but will of course do so if I judge them to be necessary and appropriate.

Barnett Formula (Discussions with the New London Mayor)

Q27 Peter Black: What plans does Edwina Hart have to meet the new London Mayor to discuss a common approach to the reform of the Barnett formula? (OAQ5000)

Edwina Hart: I have no such plans. The London Assembly's funding arrangements are completely different to those of the Assembly.

Standard Spending Indicators

Q28 Janet Davies: Can Edwina Hart report on the current state of the review of standard spending indicators? (OAQ5006)

Edwina Hart: Work on the review of the standard spending assessment formula is on track. The Assembly is scheduled to debate the distribution sub-group report before the summer recess prior to consultation. Final recommendations are to be put to the Assembly by the Partnership Council this autumn.

Negotiations with the Treasury (Objective 1)

Q29 Alun Cairns: Will the Finance Secretary make a statement on her latest negotiations with the Treasury in relation to match funding for the Objective 1 programme? (OAQ5062)

Edwina Hart: Discussions with the Treasury are ongoing.

Motion NDM268 (Better Wales) (Lisbon Summit)

Q30 Ieuan Wyn Jones: How does Edwina Hart plan to implement the amendment to motion NDM268 (Better Wales) relating to the employment decisions of the Lisbon summit? (OAQ5002)

Edwina Hart: My colleagues responsible for economic development and training matters will take this forward through the proposed skills action plan and the national economic development strategy, and in the employment strategy set out in Betterwales.com, which we currently envisage as forming part of the national economic development strategy.