

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 13 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

Healthcare

Q10 Alun Cairns: Will the First Minister make a statement on the numbers of people waiting for healthcare? (OAQ36879)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): Data on the number of patients waiting for in-patient and daycase treatment are available from the StatsWales website, www.statswales.wales.gov.uk. In relation to primary care, the promise made to the people of Wales at the last election was to provide all patients in Wales with access to a member of the primary care team within 24 hours or sooner in an emergency.

Cancer Services

Q11 Lynne Neagle: Will the First Minister make a statement on the provision of cancer services in Wales? (OAQ36890)

The First Minister: Tackling cancer remains one of the Welsh Assembly Government's top priorities for the NHS in Wales. Our strategy for improving services and access to treatments is through the progressive implementation of our national standards of cancer care and the advice of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence.

RSA in North Wales

Q12 Denise Idris Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement on the uptake of regional selective assistance in north Wales? (OAQ36895)

The First Minister: Since July 1999, the Welsh Assembly Government has offered 212 RSA grants in north Wales worth £77.3 million towards capital investment projects that are expected to lever in almost £301 million of private sector investment and create or safeguard nearly 8,697 jobs. The re-focusing of the scheme, which Andrew Davies announced on 15 June, will enable grants to be targeted even more closely to the specific needs of Wales.

Cefnogaeth Ariannol i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol

C13 Jocelyn Davies: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar gefnogaeth ariannol ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol? (OAQ36887) [W]

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn derbyn un o grantiau mwyaf Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Yn ystod 2004-05, bydd yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn derbyn £360,000, sef cynnydd o 20 y cant ers y llynedd. Byddaf yn ymweld â'r Eisteddfod eleni yng Nghasnewydd ac edrychaf ymlaen at hynny.

Financial Support for the National Eisteddfod

Q13 Jocelyn Davies: Will the First Minister make a statement on financial support for the National Eisteddfod? (OAQ36887) [W]

The First Minister: The National Eisteddfod is one of the Welsh Language Board's largest grant recipients. During 2004-05, the National Eisteddfod will receive £360,000, an increase of 20 per cent on last year. I shall be attending this year's Eisteddfod in Newport and look forward to my visit.

The Children Bill

Q14 Christine Chapman: What discussions has the First Minister had with Westminster colleagues about the Children Bill? (OAQ36889)

The First Minister: I have discussed the Bill with the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, and Jane Hutt and Jane Davidson have exchanged letters and held discussions with Ministers in the Department for Education and Skills and the Wales Office.

Incorrect Charging for Personal Care

Q15 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the First Minister make a statement on how incorrect charging for personal care is being addressed? (OAQ36884)

The First Minister: I assume that this question refers to claims received following the ombudsman's report on long-term care, which indicated that some people had been wrongly charged for care home fees. Local health boards are currently investigating such claims, which are then submitted to an all-Wales special review panel. This has been established to help ensure a fair, equitable and transparent decision-making process across Wales.