

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 15 June 2004

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

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

Questions to the First Minister

The Wales Millennium Centre

Q12 William Graham: Will the First Minister make a statement concerning arrangements for the opening ceremony for the Wales Millennium Centre? (OAQ36000)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I refer you to my answer to your OAQ35826.

The Wales Millennium Centre opens its doors to the public on Friday 26 November 2004. The opening ceremony will take place on that day and will be followed by a full weekend of celebrations and concerts. The Wales Millennium Centre company announced details of the opening weekend in September last year, and will be announcing further details soon. Tickets for the centre's opening weekend activities will be released in July.

Supported Employment

Q13 David Melding: What measures are in place to promote supported employment in Wales? (OAQ36004)

The First Minister: Supported employment provides a valuable route into work for many people suffering a work-limiting health problem or disability. Much of this activity is undertaken by the voluntary sector or organisations such as Remploy. Other measures include the New Deal for disabled people, and the Department for Work and Pensions' pathways to work initiative, both of which help people into work.

Budget Provision for Schools

Q14 Janet Ryder: Will the First Minister make a statement on budget provision for schools in Wales? (OAQ35989)

The First Minister: School budgets are a matter for individual local authorities. Authorities have to take account of the views of their school budget forum. An analysis of budgets set for 2004-05 will be provided to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in July.

Community Development in the Rhondda

Q15 Leighton Andrews: Will the First Minister make a statement on the outlook for community development in the Rhondda? (OAQ36006)

The First Minister: Progress is continuing towards our goal of strengthening communities in the Rhondda. A large number of initiatives support this process including Communities First, Objective One, the community facilities and activities programme, and community safety initiatives.