

## **Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 16 October 2001**

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

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

### **Questions to the First Minister**

#### **Public Understanding of the Importance of the National Assembly**

**Q13 Nick Bourne:** What steps will the First Minister's administration take to ensure that the public understands the importance of the National Assembly to their everyday lives? (OAQ12904)

**The First Minister:** The best way of convincing the public of the importance of the Assembly is by ensuring that our policies and actions on their behalf are relevant and successful. My annual report and the annual business programme, both of which are published today, set out an innovative and distinctive programme, intended to achieve precisely that.

*Question 14 (OAQ12920) withdrawn.*

#### **The Future of Railtrack**

**Q15 Lorraine Barrett:** What discussions has the First Minister had with the UK Ministers regarding the future of Railtrack? (OAQ12923)

**The First Minister:** I spoke to Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions at the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions on this matter shortly before Railtrack was placed in administration. I outlined the possible parallels between Railtrack's not-for-profit successor company and Glas Cymru. The Assembly's Minister for Environment has written to Mr Byers with more detail on the background of the establishment of Glas Cymru.