

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 20 March 2001

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

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

### Questions to the First Minister

#### Balancing Demands

**Q5 Jocelyn Davies:** How will the Assembly continue to balance the demands of sustainable development, a working rural economy, and health and food safety? (OAQ10418) *Transferred for written answer.*

**The First Minister:** The safety of food consumers and workers alike remains of fundamental importance and is, of course, entirely compatible with the principles of sustainable development. We are working to ensure that the rural economy of Wales develops sustainably, with high-quality extensive agriculture at its heart.

*Questions 6, 7 and 8 were answered in Plenary.*

#### Reducing International Debt

**Q9 Elin Jones:** Will the First Minister make a statement about discussions that he has had with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding support offered by Wales to reducing international debt? (OAQ10415) *Transferred for written answer.*

**The First Minister:** I have regular meetings with the Secretary of State for Wales and we discuss a wide range of issues. He is well aware of the Assembly's support for the efforts of the Government to reduce international debt.

*Question 10 was answered in Plenary.*

#### Co-ordinating Policies (Partnership with Business)

**Q11 Alun Cairns:** Will the First Minister make a statement on any discussions that he has had with the Secretary of State for Wales and Westminster colleagues on co-ordinating policies relating to partnerships with business? (OAQ10387)

**The First Minister:** My colleagues and officials continually aim to foster close working relationships with their counterparts in Whitehall. The concordats that the Cabinet has agreed with Whitehall departments reflect the principles that are necessary to underpin those relationships, including the co-ordination of policies relating to partnerships with business. I also meet regularly with the Secretary of State for Wales.

#### Progression of Policy and Strategy

**Q12 Gareth Jones:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the recent progression of National Assembly for Wales policy and strategy in north Wales? (OAQ10408) *Withdrawn.*

### International Policy

**Q13 Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the strength of relations between Wales, the United Kingdom and the rest of the European Union regarding international policy? (OAQ10411) *Withdrawn.*

### The Government's Legislative Programme

**Q14 Nick Bourne:** What recent representations has the First Minister made to Westminster on the Government's legislative programme? (OAQ10386)

**The First Minister:** I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales on a range of issues, including the Government's legislative programme. As I have said on numerous occasions, all relevant Government Bills should give the Assembly sufficient powers to develop policies that meet the needs of Wales.

### Promoting Community Participation

**Q15 Dafydd Wigley:** What measures is the First Minister using to ensure that community participation is promoted in all areas of environmental, cultural and social policy? (OAQ10410) *Withdrawn.*

### Social and Economic Assistance for Communities

**Q16 Cynog Dafis:** In his role as policy development co-ordinator, what is the First Minister doing to ensure that communities that need the greatest social and economic assistance are receiving it? (OAQ10413) *Withdrawn.*

### 'Variable Geometry UK'

**Q17 Pauline Jarman:** Will the First Minister make a statement further to his speech, 'Variable Geometry UK', made on 14 February 2000? (OAQ10419) *Withdrawn.*

### Effect of the Welsh Language on Assembly Policy

**Q18 Helen Mary Jones:** Will the First Minister make a brief statement about how the Welsh language affects all areas of Assembly policy, including health care, education, and economic development? (OAQ10420) *Withdrawn.*

### Visits to Anglesey

**Q19 Peter Rogers:** How many times has the First Minister visited Anglesey since taking on special responsibility for north Wales? (OAQ10405) *Withdrawn.*

### A49 to A5 Route

**Q20 Ann Jones:** What assessment has the First Minister made of the importance of the A49 to A5 route to north Wales to the development of Assembly policy for north Wales? (OAQ10406) *Withdrawn.*

### Developing a Welsh Infrastructure

**Q21 Ieuan Wyn Jones:** Will the First Minister make a statement about the progress of developing a better co-ordinated and sustainable Welsh infrastructure to support local communities and create a prosperous economy, as outlined in 'Betterwales.com'? (OAQ10416) *Withdrawn.*

### **Adults whose Health Interferes with Daily Social Activities**

**Q22 Janet Davies:** Will the First Minister make a statement on how the Assembly, through the development and co-ordination of health, social care and social inclusion issues, plans to help the 40 per cent of adults in Wales whose current health interferes with their daily social activities? (OAQ10412) *Withdrawn.*

### **Wales European Centre**

**Q23 Glyn Davies:** Will the First Minister make a statement following his last meeting at the Wales European Centre on 28 February 2001? (OAQ10421)

**The First Minister:** On 28 February, I met the European Commission in Brussels to discuss possible responses to the jobs situation at Corus. As well as meeting Assembly officials, I also met the UK Permanent Representative to the European Union to discuss a range of issues. In addition, I visited the offices of the British Tourist Authority to discuss the promotion of Wales in Belgium. Before returning to Cardiff, I addressed the annual St David's Day reception at the European Parliament, organised by the Wales European Centre.

### **Foot and Mouth Disease**

**Q24 Mick Bates:** What action has the First Minister taken to ensure the continued provision of all public services in Wales during the restrictions imposed by the foot and mouth disease outbreak? (OAQ10402)

**The First Minister:** Advice has been issued consistent with the need to balance control of the disease and the continuation of legitimate activity.

### **Developing Closer Links between Wales and Europe**

**Q25 Brian Hancock:** Will the First Minister make a statement on recent efforts to develop closer links between Wales and the rest of Europe? (OAQ10414) *Withdrawn.*

### **Increasing Voter Awareness**

**Q26 Richard Edwards:** What discussions has the First Minister had with his Westminster colleagues about developing ways of increasing voter awareness in Wales? (OAQ10388) *Withdrawn.*

### **Implications of the Euro for Wales**

**Q27 Christine Gwyther:** What discussions has the First Minister had with his ministerial colleagues at Westminster about the potential implications for Wales of the euro when it becomes fully operational in 2002? (OAQ10389) *Withdrawn.*

### **Encouraging the Economically Inactive to Re-enter the Workforce**

**Q28 Janet Ryder:** How will the Assembly, through the development and co-ordination of social inclusion, economic development, and education and lifelong learning issues, encourage people of Wales who are considered economically inactive to re-enter the workforce? (OAQ10417) *Withdrawn.*