

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 20 November 2001

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

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

Questions to the First Minister

Legislative Programme (Additional Measures)

Q12 Helen Mary Jones: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Secretary of State for Wales about possible additional measures in the Government's legislative programme? (OAQ14032)

The First Minister: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales on a range of issues.

Policy Development

Q13 Janet Davies: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Secretary of State for Wales to ensure that the views of the people of Wales are taken into consideration with regards to general policy development? (OAQ14013)

The First Minister: I meet regularly with the Secretary of State for Wales to discuss a wide range of Welsh and UK issues.

The views of the people of Wales are important to all of our policies, as is evident from our commitment to open, transparent government. Over the summer, I asked the people of Wales what mattered to them, and was pleased to launch 'Plan for Wales 2001', which reflected their views and opinions.

Links with Patagonia

Q14 Gwenda Thomas: What benefits will there be for Wales in renewing links with Patagonia? (OAQ14018)

The First Minister: Patagonia is one of the few parts of the world outside Wales that has maintained a strong element of Welsh culture and identity. I recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the governor of Chubut, which provides opportunities for co-operation in tourism, economic development, export promotion, culture, education and language. We will continue to work with the authorities in Chubut province to develop these opportunities further, and contribute towards maintaining what has been a vital part of the heritage and history of both our country and their province.

Implementing Cabinet Policies

Q15 Alun Cairns: Will the First Minister make a statement on the reasons for the delays in implementing new cabinet policies? (OAQ14016)

The First Minister: I believe that we have made excellent overall progress on the commitments set out in the partnership agreement. The delays occurred where consultees wanted more time to develop proposals.