

Atebion i Gwestiynau nas Cyrhaeddwyd yn y Sesiwn Llawn Answers to Questions not Reached in Plenary

22 Mehefin 1999

22 June 1999

[R] yn dynodi bod yr Aelod wedi datgan buddiant.

[R] signifies the Member has declared an interest.

Cwestiynau i'r Prif Ysgrifennydd Questions to the First Secretary

Meningitis Outbreaks

Q7 Christine Chapman: In light of the recent tragic events that affected communities in the Cynon Valley and Taff Ely, what further advice has the First Secretary taken on board from the meningitis task force to prevent further large scale outbreaks of this terrible disease? (OAQ163VB)

The First Secretary: There are two important sets of recommendations to consider and I know the Assembly will wish to give positive consideration to both. Bro Taf Health Authority established an outbreak control team following the school outbreak of meningitis in the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taff, earlier this year. That team, in its report, has recommended that Bro Taf set up a task force. The task force will be set up within the Health Authority in line with their major incident plan.

At the time of the outbreak, there was concern about the high incidence of cases in Wales though they were often described as 'unrelated'. As Secretary of State for Wales, I asked Professor Ian Cameron to chair an expert group to ask whether there were steps to be taken to identify reasons for the high level of cases. His group has now completed its report which will be published shortly.

Achosion Sylweddol o Lid yr Ymennydd

C7 Christine Chapman: Yng ngoleuni'r digwyddiadau trasig sydd wedi taro cymunedau yng Nghwm Cynon a Thaf Elái yn ddiweddar, pa gyngor y mae'r tasglu ar lid yr ymennydd wedi'i roi i sicrhau na cheir achosion sylweddol eraill o'r clefyd ofnadwy hwn? (OAQ163VB)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Mae dwy set bwysig o argymhellion i'w hystyried a gwn y bydd y Cynulliad am roi ystyriaeth bositif i'r naill a'r llall. Sefydlodd Awdurdod Iechyd Bro Taf dîm rheoli arbennig pan gafwyd nifer sylweddol o achosion o lid yr ymennydd yn ysgolion Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf yn gynharach eleni. Yn ei adroddiad, argymhelliad y tîm hwnnw oedd y dylai Bro Taf sefydlu tasglu. Sefydlir y tasglu o fewn yr Awdurdod Iechyd yn unol â'u cynllun digwyddiadau difrifol.

Adeg yr achosion hynny, yr oedd y nifer o bobl a drawyd gan y llid yng Nghymru'n destun pryder er iddynt gael eu disgrifio'n aml fel achosion 'digyswllt'. Fel Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, gofynnais i'r Athro Ian Cameron gadeirio grŵp o arbenigwyr i ofyn a ellid cymryd camau i ganfod y rhesymau dros y nifer fawr o achosion. Mae ei grŵp bellach wedi cwblhau ei adroddiad ac fe'i cyhoeddir yn fuan.

Denbighshire County Council (Financial Problems)

Q8 Karen Sinclair: Will the First Secretary review the inherited financial position of Denbighshire County Council and is he aware that its financial problems continue to grow? (OAQ153JS)

The First Secretary: I am aware of the difficulties which Denbighshire County Council is currently experiencing as a result of a number of capital projects undertaken by one of its predecessor authorities, Rhuddlan Borough Council. However, the Welsh Affairs Committee has been enquiring into the funding legacy inherited by the Council. The Committee is expected to publish its report before long and it would be inappropriate for me to comment on such matters before they announce their findings.

Cyngor Sir Ddinbych (Problemau Ariannol)

C8 Karen Sinclair: A fydd y Prif Ysgrifennydd yn edrych ar y sefyllfa ariannol a etifeddwyd gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych ac a yw'n sylweddoli bod ei broblemau ariannol yn parhau i dyfu? (OAQ153JS)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Gwn am yr anawsterau a wynebwr gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych ar hyn o bryd o ganlyniad i nifer o brosiectau cyfalaf yr ymgwymerwyd â hwy gan un o'r awdurdodau a'i rhagflaenodd, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Rhuddlan. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Pwyllgor Materion Cymreig wedi bod yn holi am y sefyllfa ariannol a etifeddwyd gan y Cyngor. Disgwylir i'r Pwyllgor gyhoeddi ei adroddiad cyn bo hir ac ni fyddai'n briodol imi roi sylwadau ar faterion o'r fath cyn iddynt gyhoeddi eu casgliadau.

European Objective 1 Funds

Q9 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What action has the First Secretary taken to protect the principle of additionality in respect of European Objective 1 funds? (OAQ164VB)

The First Secretary: Under Article 11 of the General Regulations, the Commission will require all member states to demonstrate that it has maintained public or equivalent structural expenditure in the sum of its regions covered by Objective 1. This will require verification at fixed points during the programming period.

Cronfeydd Ewropeaidd Amcan 1

C9 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pa gamau a gymerwyd gan y Prif Ysgrifennydd i ddiogelu egwyddor ychwanegedd o ran cronfeydd Ewropeaidd Amcan 1? (OAQ164VB)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Dan Erthygl 11 y Rheoliadau Cyffredinol, bydd y Comisiwn yn mynnu bod pob aelod wladwriaeth yn dangos iddi gadw gwariant cyhoeddus neu'r gwariant strwythurol sy'n cyfateb iddo o fewn holl ranbarthau Amcan 1. Bydd angen dilysu hyn ar adgau penodol yn ystod cyfnod y rhaglen.

Council of the Isles

Q10 Huw Lewis: Has the First Secretary had any discussions with the First Minister of the Scottish Parliament on the workings and the business of the Council of the Isles? (OAQ162VB)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Yes. I have been to Belfast when I was able to discuss this with the Deputy First Minister and others. I have also had a discussion with Donald Dewar on this matter. No further progress can be made until the Northern Ireland Executive is established but I am certain this will prove a very useful development for Wales.

Cyngor yr Ynysoedd

C10 Huw Lewis: A yw'r Prif Ysgrifennydd wedi cael trafodaethau gyda Phrif Weinidog Senedd yr Alban ynghylch gwaith a busnes Cyngor yr Ynysoedd? (OAQ162VB)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Ydw. Bûm ym Melfast, ac yno cefais gyfle i drafod hyn gyda'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac eraill. Hefyd, cefais drafodaeth gyda Donald Dewar ynghylch hyn. Ni ellir gwneud rhagor o gynnydd nes sefydlir Adran Weithredol Gogledd Iwerddon, ond yr wyf yn sicr y bydd hyn yn ddatblygiad defnyddiol iawn i Gymru.

Education Centre

Q11 Huw Lewis: Are there any plans for the Assembly to set up an education centre that could be used as a resource and visiting centre for schools and teachers? (OAQ161VB)

The First Secretary: Yes. One of my first decisions on becoming Secretary of State for Wales was to house the Cabinet and First Secretary here with the rest of the Members of the Assembly. This frees the Pierhead building to provide opportunities for young people and their teachers when they visit the Assembly.

Canolfan Addysg

C11 Huw Lewis: A oes cynlluniau i'r Cynulliad sefydlu canolfan addysg i'w defnyddio fel canolfan adnoddau ac ymwelwyr er budd ysgolion ac athrawon? (OAQ161VB)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Oes. Un o fy mhenderfyniadau cyntaf wrth ddod yn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru oedd lleoli'r Cabinet a'r Prif Ysgrifennydd yma gyda gweddill Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Mae hyn yn rhyddhau adeilad y Pierhead i roi cyfleoedd i bobl ifanc a'u hathrawon pan fyddant yn ymweld â'r Cynulliad.

Strategic Waste Disposal Strategy

Q12 Peter Black: What steps are being taken to develop a strategic waste disposal policy for Wales? (OAQ147VB)

The First Secretary: A draft waste strategy for Wales and England is currently being prepared. I plan to publish this for consultation shortly.

Polisi Strategol ar gyfer Cael Gwared ar Wastraff

C12 Peter Black: Pa gamau sy'n cael eu cymryd i ddatblygu polisi strategol ar gyfer cael gwared ar wastraff yng Nghymru? (OAQ147VB)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Mae strategaeth drafft ar wastraff wrthi'n cael ei pharatoi ar gyfer Cymru a Lloegr. Bwriadaf ei chyhoeddi ar gyfer ymyngori'n fuan.

Youth Assembly for Wales

Q13 Jenny Randerson: Will the First Secretary take steps to establish an elected youth assembly for Wales, which will have the right to be consulted by the Assembly on relevant issues? (OAQ157VB)

The First Secretary: I am very aware of the work being done by various agencies, including Children in Wales, Save the Children, the Wales Youth Agency and the British Youth Council, to make sure that young people can get the most out of their National Assembly, including proposals for a physical or virtual Youth Assembly.

I too am determined that young people, pre and post-16, are able to learn about what the Assembly is doing and make a real input to the political process. We must show young people that we, the National Assembly, want to listen to them, do value their ideas and will be responsive to their views and needs. The challenge will be to create a truly inclusive and representative system which straddles social and academic divides, and, importantly, has the trust of young people.

Cynulliad i Ieuenctid Cymru

C13 Jenny Randerson: A fydd y Prif Ysgrifennydd yn cymryd camau i sefydlu cynulliad etholedig i ieuenctid Cymru, a fydd â'r hawl i gael mynegi ei farn i'r Cynulliad ar faterion perthnasol? (OAQ157VB)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol iawn o'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud gan amrywiol asiantaethau, gan gynnwys Plant yng Nghymru, Achub y Plant, Cyngor Ieuenctid Cymru a Chyngor Ieuenctid Prydain, er mwyn sicrhau bod modd i bobl ifanc gael y budd mwyaf o'u Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan gynnwys cynigion ar gyfer Cynulliad sy'n cyfarfod yn y cnawd, neu Gynulliad rhithiol i bobl ifanc.

Yr wyf i hefyd yn benderfynol bod pobl ifanc, cyn ac ar ôl 16 oed, yn gallu dysgu am waith y Cynulliad a gwneud cyfraniad gwirioneddol i'r broses wleidyddol. Rhaid i ni ddangos i bobl ifanc ein bod ni, y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, am wrando arnynt, ein bod yn gweld gwerth yn eu syniadau ac y byddwn yn ymateb i'w barn a'u hanghenion. Yr her fydd creu trefn sy'n wir gynhwysol a chynrychioladol ac sy'n pontio rhwng rhaniadau cymdeithasol ac academiaidd. Mae'n bwysig hefyd ei bod hi'n drefn y mae pobl ifanc yn ymddiried ynddi.

Objective 5b

Q14 Mick Bates: When will monies for Objective 5b currently held in the Welsh Office be allocated, in particular to round 8 applications of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund? (OAQ160VB)

The First Secretary: I have completed my consideration of all the bids received for 'last resort' match funding under the Rural Development Grant scheme in respect of round 8 EAGGF Objective 5b applications. Decision letters were issued to applicants on 11 June 1999. Five of the 11 bids received have been supported with awards totalling £724,000 over the next three financial years. The projects supported are strategic in nature and will be of considerable benefit to the industry as a whole.

Amcan 5b

C14 Mick Bates: Pryd caiff arian ar gyfer Amcan 5b sydd ar hyn o bryd yn cael ei ddal gan y Swyddfa Gymreig ei ddyrannu, yn enwedig parthed ceisiadau rownd 8 Cronfa Arweiniad a Gwarant Amaethyddiaeth Ewrop (EAGGF)? (OAQ160VB)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Yr wyf wedi gorffen ystyried pob cais a dderbyniwyd ar gyfer arian cyfatebol 'cyfle olaf' dan gynllun y Grant Datblygu Ardaloedd Gwledig parthed ceisiadau rownd 8 Amcan 5b EAGGF. Anfonwyd llythyrau'n nodi'r penderfyniad at ymgeiswyr ar 11 Mehefin 1999. Cefnogwyd pump o'r 11 cais a dderbyniwyd gyda chyfanswm o £724,000 dros y tair blynedd ariannol nesaf. Mae'r prosiectau a gefnogwyd yn rhai strategol o ran natur a byddant o fudd sylweddol i'r diwydiant drwyddo draw.

Church Village Bypass

Q15 Jane Davidson: Is the First Secretary prepared to review the Welsh Office decision to not include the A473 Church Village bypass in its priority schemes? (OAQ171JS)

The First Secretary: Bids for Transport Grant support in 2000-01 will be invited shortly. The Assembly will need to take its own view on projects submitted based on the level of available resources and the need to continue to support integrated transport packages and Safe Route to School projects.

Ffordd Osgoi Pentre'r Eglwys

C15 Jane Davidson: A yw'r Prif Ysgrifennydd yn barod i adolygu penderfyniad y Swyddfa Gymreig i beidio â chynnwys ffordd osgoi A473 Pentre'r Eglwys yn y cynlluniau y mae'n rhoi blaenoriaeth iddynt? (OAQ171JS)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Cyn bo hir, gwahoddir ceisiadau am gefnogaeth gan y Grant Trafnidiaeth ar gyfer 2000-2001. Bydd angen i'r Cynulliad ystyried ei farn ynghylch prosiectau a gyflwynwyd ar sail lefel yr adnoddau sydd ar gael a'r ffaith fod angen parhau i gefnogi pecynnau trafniadaeth integredig a phrosiectau Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol.

Education Budget (Local Education Authorities)

Q16 Rod Richards: What proportion of the announced £880 million rollover increase in the education budget will be retained by local education authorities in Wales? (OAQ193AG)

Education Budget (Schools)

Q17 Rod Richards: What proportion of the announced £880 million rollover increase in the education budget will be delegated to schools in Wales? (OAQ192AG)

The First Secretary: A record £844 million increase is planned for education and training in Wales over the three year period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. Of this, increases totalling £225.2 million have been identified for education as part of the local government revenue settlement; and increases of £16.3 million for grants for education support and training (GEST). The GEST figure does not include the £6 million made available for literacy and the purchase of books in 1998-99.

As regards funding through the local government revenue settlement, it is for local authorities to decide on their local schools budget and within that the amount to be delegated to schools. In accordance with the fair funding regime which came into effect on 1 April 1999,

authorities can only retain funding for specified services provided to schools; funding for other categories of school expenditure must be delegated.

We made it clear that we expected local authorities to increase their education budgets by at least their share of the overall increase of £70.2 million identified in the local government revenue settlement for 1999-2000; and that we expected the vast bulk of this to be included in schools' delegated budgets. We are awaiting budget returns from local authorities. Analysis of these will be presented to the Assembly's Under-16 Education Committee in September.

It will be for the Assembly to decide what guidance it wants to give to local authorities as to the use of additional education resources with the revenue settlement for 2000-2001 and beyond.

As regards GEST, it is a statutory requirement that LEAs delegate a sum equivalent to 65 per cent of their formula-based funding to schools in certain designated activities. Where authorities go beyond this, the Secretary of State has indicated his willingness to exercise his powers to require delegation in accordance with the LEAs' wishes.

LEAs are also permitted to retain funds centrally for a number of specific initiatives such as the National Grid for Learning, literacy and numeracy strategies and the Music Development Fund.

Cyllideb Addysg (Awdurdodau Addysg Lleol)

C16 Rod Richards: Pa gyfran o'r cynnydd o £880 miliwn a gyhoeddwyd yn y gyllideb addysg a fydd yn cael ei chadw gan awdurdodau addysg lleol Cymru? (OAQ193AG)

Cyllideb Addysg (Ysgolion)

C17 Rod Richards: Pa gyfran o'r cynnydd o £880 miliwn a gyhoeddwyd yn y gyllideb addysg a fydd yn cael ei dirprwyo i ysgolion Cymru? (OAQ193AG)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Bwriedir gwneud y cynnydd mwyaf erioed, sef £844 miliwn ym maes addysg a hyfforddiant yng Nghymru o'i gymharu â'r cyfnod tair blynedd 1999-2000 i 2001-2002. O'r swm hwn, dynodwyd cynnydd o £225.2 miliwn ar gyfer addysg fel rhan o setliad refeniw llywodraeth leol; a chynnydd o £16.3 miliwn ar gyfer grantiau tuag at ddarparu grantiau cynnal addysg a hyfforddiant (GEST). Nid yw ffigur GEST yn cynnwys y £6 miliwn a oedd ar gael ar gyfer llythrennedd a phrynu llyfrau ym 1998-99.

Yng nghyswllt cyllido drwy gyfrwng setliad refeniw llywodraeth leol, awdurdodau lleol sydd i benderfynu ar eu cyllideb leol ar gyfer eu hysgolion ac o fewn hynny, faint sydd i'w ddirprwyo i ysgolion. Yn unol â'r drefn gyllido teg a ddaeth i rym ar 1 Ebrill 1999, ni all awdurdodau ond cadw cyllid ar gyfer gwasanaethau penodol a ddarperir i'r ysgolion; rhaid dirprwyo cyllido ar gyfer categorïau eraill o wariant ysgolion.

Fe'i gwnaethom yn glir ein bod ni'n disgwyl i awdurdodau lleol gynyddu eu cyllideb addysg o leiaf yn ôl eu cyfran hwy o'r cynnydd cyffredinol o £70.0 miliwn a nodwyd yn setliad refeniw llywodraeth leol ar gyfer 1999-2000; a'n bod yn disgwyl i ran helaeth iawn o'r swm hwn gael ei gynnwys yng nghyllidebau dirprwyedig ysgolion. Yr ydym yn disgwyl manylion y cyllidebau gan yr awdurdodau lleol. Cyflwynir dadansoddiad o'r rhain gerbron Pwyllgor Addysg Cyn-16 y Cynulliad ym mis Medi.

Y Cynulliad sydd i benderfynu pa ganllawiau y dymuna'u rhoi i awdurdodau lleol ynghylch defnyddio adnoddau addysg ychwanegol yn y setliad refeniw ar gyfer 2000-2001 a'r tu hwnt.

Gyda golwg ar GEST, mae'n ofyniad statudol bod AALI yn dirprwyo swm sy'n cyfateb i 65 y cant o'u cyllideb ar sail fformiwla i ysgolion mewn gweithgareddau penodedig. Lle bydd awdurdodau'n mynd y tu hwnt i hyn, mae'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol wedi dangos ei fod yn barod i ddefnyddio'i bwerau i fynnu bod yr arian yn cael ei ddirprwyo'n unol â dymuniadau'r AALI.

Caiff AALI hefyd gadw arian yn ganolog ar gyfer nifer o gynlluniau penodol, megis y Grid Dysgu Cenedlaethol, strategaethau llythrennedd a rhifogrwydd a'r Gronfa Datblygu Cerddoriaeth.

Nant-y-gwyddon Landfill Site (Rhondda)

Q18 Pauline Jarman: Will the First Secretary issue a statement in respect of the call for an inquiry into the Nant-y-gwyddon landfill site in the Rhondda? (OAQ158VB)

The First Secretary: I understand the concerns of the local community and I am considering the options open to me before responding to the recent request.

Safle Tirlenwi Nant-y-gwyddon (Y Rhondda)

C18 Pauline Jarman: A fyddai'r Prif Ysgrifennydd gystal â gwneud ddatganiad ynglŷn â'r alwad am ymchwiliad i safle tirlenwi Nant-y-gwyddon yn y Rhondda? (OAQ158VB) [C]

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Deallaf bryderon y gymuned leol ac yr wyf yn ystyried y dewisiadau sydd ar gael imi cyn ymateb i'r cais diweddar.