

## **Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 23 January 2001**

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

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

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

*Questions were answered by the Minister for Assembly Business on behalf of the First Minister.*

#### **Meeting between the First Minister and North Wales Council Leaders**

**Q6 Alun Pugh:** In his role as policy co-ordinator for north Wales, will the First Minister make a statement on any plans to meet with north Wales council leaders? (OAQ8998)

**The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies):** In his capacity as co-ordinator of the administration's work in north Wales, the First Minister visits regularly and has contact with a wide range of individuals and organisations. He has met with different local authority leaders on several occasions and in many different contexts. Cabinet colleagues are also in regular contact with issues in north Wales that fall within their different responsibilities.

If requested, the First Minister would be happy to meet with the local authority leaders on a collective basis and would put such arrangements in hand in consultation with the Welsh Local Government Association.

*Questions 7 to 12 were answered in Plenary.*

#### **Implications to Wales of the Euro**

**Q13 Christine Gwyther:** What discussions has the First Minister had with his Ministerial colleagues at Westminster about the potential implications to Wales of the euro when it becomes fully operational in 2002? (OAQ8980) *Withdrawn.*

#### **Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion (Promoting Public Understanding)**

**Q14 Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** How will the Assembly promote public understanding of sustainable development and social inclusion? (OAQ8989) *Withdrawn.*

#### **Policy Co-ordination for North Wales (First Minister's Responsibilities)**

**Q15 Janet Ryder:** Will the First Minister make a statement on his responsibilities for the co-ordination of policy for north Wales? (OAQ9999) *Withdrawn.*

#### **Negative Impacts in Wales of the High Value of Sterling**

**Q16 Peter Black:** Will the First Minister update the Assembly on his discussions with UK Government Ministers about addressing the negative impacts in Wales caused by the high value of sterling? (OAQ8978)

**Andrew Davies:** The First Minister has regular meetings with UK Government Ministers in which a wide variety of issues are discussed, including the state of the economy. The position of Corus has recently been a central part of these meetings.

Stephen Byers at the Department of Trade and Industry wrote to colleagues last summer, suggesting the establishment of a ministerial group to support the manufacturing sector. The First Minister or his deputy, Michael German, will attend those meetings with a Minister from the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales, members of the UK Government and devolved administrations.

The first meeting is due to take place in the near future. The agenda is likely to include employment and skills, the image of manufacturing and currency issues.

### **Assembly Cabinet (Transparency)**

**Q17 David Lloyd:** Does the First Minister plan to expand the transparency of the Assembly Cabinet? (OAQ8990) *Withdrawn.*

### **UK Delegation to EU Council of Ministers' Meetings**

**Q18 Ieuan Wyn Jones:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the process by which members of his Cabinet are included in the UK delegation to European Union Council of Ministers' meetings? (OAQ8985) *Withdrawn.*

### **Promoting Community Involvement in the Social, Economic and Cultural Development of Wales**

**Q19 Richard Edwards:** In his role as policy development co-ordinator, what is the First Minister doing to promote community involvement in the social, economic and cultural development of Wales? (OAQ8981) *Withdrawn.*

### **Policy Consultation (The Assembly Cabinet and Westminster)**

**Q20 Geraint Davies:** Will the First Minister make a brief statement on how policy consultation is conducted between the Assembly Cabinet and Westminster? (OAQ8988) *Withdrawn.*

### **Marketing and Re-branding Wales**

**Q21 Alun Cairns:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the latest developments of marketing and re-branding Wales? (OAQ8972)

**Andrew Davies:** Raising the international profile of Wales is one of the Assembly's priorities and work has been done to develop a co-ordinated approach at an all-Wales level, involving the Assembly sponsored public bodies. The First Minister recently met a number of key interests to discuss how the image of Wales can be better promoted. Together with the Deputy First Minister and the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language, the First Minister is considering the issues that were raised at that meeting and the further measures required by the Assembly.

### **CBI (Partnership with Business)**

**Q22 Dafydd Wigley:** Will the First Minister make a statement on his last meeting with the Confederation of British Industry in relation to partnership with business? (OAQ8994) *Withdrawn.*

### **The British Council**

**Q23 Phil Williams:** What discussions has the First Minister had with the British Council to ensure that Wales is given an adequate emphasis in the activities of the British Council throughout the world? (OAQ8996) *Withdrawn.*

### **Policies of Mutual Reference to Scotland and Wales**

**Q24 John Griffiths:** What discussions has the First Minister had with Scotland's new First Minister about the development of policies of mutual relevance to our two countries? (OAQ8977) *Withdrawn.*

#### **'Putting Wales First'**

**Q25 David Melding:** Has the 'Putting Wales First: A Partnership Agreement for the People of Wales' programme superseded 'Betterwales.com' as the Cabinet's policy framework? (OAQ8975) *Withdrawn.*

#### **National Assembly Electoral Arrangements (Establishing an Independent Commission)**

**Q26 Jocelyn Davies:** Will the First Minister make a statement on his plans to establish an independent commission into the powers and electoral arrangements of the National Assembly? (OAQ8997) *Withdrawn.*

#### **Committee on European Affairs**

**Q27 Elin Jones:** Will the First Minister make a statement on his Government's response to the recommendations for reforming the Committee on European Affairs? (OAQ8984) *Withdrawn.*

#### **Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant**

**C28 Owen John Thomas:** Pa drafodaethau y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru wedi'u cael yn ddiweddar gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, Paul Murphy, ynghylch Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant? (OAQ8973) [W]

**Andrew Davies:** Mae Prif Weinidog Cymru yn cyfarfod yn rheolaidd â Paul Murphy i drafod amryw o faterion.

#### **St David's Day**

**Q28 Owen John Thomas:** What discussions has the First Minister had recently with the Secretary of State for Wales, Paul Murphy, about St David's Day? (OAQ8973) [W]

**Andrew Davies:** The First Minister has regular meetings with Paul Murphy, at which discussions on various issues take place.