

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 25 January 2001

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

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

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Questions to the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language

Input into Westminster Legislation

Q7 Ieuan Wyn Jones: How will the Minister for Culture, Media and Sport secure effective input into the forthcoming Westminster legislation on broadcasting and communications? (OAQ9047)

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): I have already been identifying issues for Wales emerging out of the British Government's communications White Paper. I tabled a paper about this, which was discussed at the Culture Committee yesterday. We have scheduled a debate in Plenary on 8 February. This is a good example of the Assembly considering primary legislative proposals well before a Bill has been published. As an administration, we will feed views back to Westminster. I am keen to hear views from Assembly Members.

The Ryder Cup

Q8 Brian Gibbons: What steps will Jenny Randerson be taking to ensure economic benefits for localities outside Gwent if Wales is awarded the next Ryder Cup? (OAQ9021)

Jenny Randerson: The Ryder Cup is played every two years between the United States and Europe, and the location alternates between European and American venues. The next Ryder Cup will be played at the Belfry later this year, and in 2005 the host country is Ireland.

The potential economic and other benefits to Wales of hosting the Ryder Cup tournament are significant. That is why the Assembly is committed to supporting the bid for the Ryder Cup 2009.

If Wales is successful, the Assembly, in conjunction with the Wales Tourist Board, Welsh Development Agency, Sports Council for Wales and the local authorities, who have also pledged their support, will work hard to ensure that as much of Wales as possible benefits from the event.

We await the Professional Golfers' Association's decision on which country will host the cup in 2009 with considerable interest.

Promoting Equality of Opportunity

Q9 Helen Mary Jones: How will Jenny Randerson promote equality of opportunity within sports in Wales? (OAQ9083)

Jenny Randerson: I am absolutely committed to that. The Sports Council for Wales's plans for encouraging equal opportunities in sport are set out in its published strategy, 'Young People First: a Strategy for Welsh Sport'. They include identifying positive ways of promoting social inclusion, raising the profile of women in sport and providing opportunities for the disabled.

In particular, the Sports Council has established a social inclusion in sport forum with access to up to £8 million of lottery funding over the next five years. The aim is to support new approaches to tackling long-standing problems at the local level that prevent identified groups from participating in sports programmes.

Y Consortiwm Cymru'n Creu

C10 Cynog Dafis: A wnaiff Jenny Randerson ddatganiad am sefydlu'r consortiwm Cymru'n Creu? (OAQ9063) [W]

Jenny Randerson: Cyhoeddais yn y ddadl ar 'Diwylliant Cytûn' yn y Cyfarfod Llawn fy mod yn bwriadu rhoi blaenoriaeth i Cymru'n Creu. Byddaf yn cadeirio'r fforwm, ac yn dymuno i'r aelodau nodi materion y gallant gydweithio arnynt er mwyn cyflawni amcanion pendant er lles ymarferwyr a chynulleidfaoedd, ac er mwyn gwneud cyfraniad gwirioneddol i'r strategaeth datblygu economaidd genedlaethol.

The Cymru'n Creu Consortium

Q10 Cynog Dafis: Will Jenny Randerson make a statement on the establishment of the Cymru'n Creu consortium? (OAQ9063) [W]

Jenny Randerson: I announced in the Plenary debate on 'A Culture in Common' that I intend to give priority to Cymru'n Creu. I will chair the forum, and will want its members to identify issues on which they can work together to achieve concrete objectives for the good of practitioners and audiences, and to make a real contribution to the national economic development strategy.

Hosting the National Eisteddfod

Q11 Ann Jones: Will Jenny Randerson make a statement on the importance for Denbigh of playing host to the National Eisteddfod this summer? (OAQ9094)

Jenny Randerson: The staging of the National Eisteddfod in Denbigh this summer will undoubtedly put the town firmly in the public eye, and raise the profile and awareness of the area. The Eisteddfod is visited annually by over 160,000 people. The Eisteddfod can bring great economic benefits to the area in which it is held. It is estimated that the Eisteddfod generated £6 million for the local economy in Llanelli last year.

The 2008 European Capital of Culture

Q12 Jonathan Morgan: Has Jenny Randerson received any representations regarding a bid from a Welsh city for the 2008 European capital of culture? (OAQ9077) *Withdrawn.*

Young People and Sport

Q13 David Lloyd: How does Jenny Randerson plan to develop the involvement of young people in sport? (OAQ9055) *Withdrawn.*

Support for the Arts in West Wales

Q14 Christine Gwyther: Can Jenny Randerson make a statement on National Assembly support for the arts in west Wales? (OAQ9025) *Withdrawn.*

Raising the Profile of the Welsh Language in Wales

Q15 Ieuan Wyn Jones: What measures will the administration bring forward to raise the profile of the Welsh language in Wales? (OAQ9046) *Withdrawn.*

Developing Library Facilities in Wales

Q16 Dafydd Wigley: How does Jenny Randerson plan to develop library facilities in Wales? (OAQ9053) *Withdrawn.*

The Importance of Cultural Facilities

Q17 Phil Williams: What attempts have been made to measure the importance of cultural facilities for attracting inward investment? (OAQ9048) *Withdrawn.*

The Aims of the New Opportunities Fund

Q18 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will Jenny Randerson make a brief statement on the aims of the new opportunities fund in Wales? (OAQ9058) *Withdrawn.*

The Football Association Cup Final

Q19 Rosemary Butler: How will Wales benefit as a result of the FA Cup Final being hosted by the Millennium Stadium? (OAQ9018)

Jenny Randerson: The FA Cup is the most televised single event in the world and provides enormous opportunities to raise the international profile of Wales, and to bring us economic, tourism and sporting benefits.

The Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board will work closely together, and with Cardiff City and County Council, Cardiff Chamber of Commerce and the Assembly, to exploit the opportunities that this event will bring.

It is important that all organisations involved in this event adopt a Team Wales approach, with a clear strategy, to maximise the benefits to local regions and the country as a whole.

Setting up a Film Fund for Wales

Q20 Kirsty Williams: What progress has been made in setting up a film fund for Wales? (OAQ9097)

Jenny Randerson: We committed ourselves in the partnership agreement to investigating the possibility of establishing a Welsh film fund, to foster and promote cinematic excellence through the medium of Welsh and English. I met Sgrîn and Finance Wales plc on 22 January, and both organisations assured me that they are continuing to explore the proposal, with a view to harnessing Objective 1 moneys to establish the fund.

Promoting the Welsh Language

Q21 Geraint Davies: Could Jenny Randerson list her priorities for the promotion of the Welsh language? (OAQ9052) *Withdrawn.*

Access to Sporting Facilities

Q22 Val Feld: What plans does Jenny Randerson have to ensure access to sporting facilities in deprived parts of Wales? (OAQ9034)

Jenny Randerson: The Sports Council for Wales works closely with all local authorities to ensure that the needs of any area are not overlooked.

New policy directions issued to lottery distributors require them to achieve a fair geographical spread in allocating funds.

The Sports Council has established a social inclusion in sport forum with access to up to £8 million of lottery funding over the next five years. The aim is to support new approaches to tackling long-standing problems at the local level that prevent identified groups from participating in sports programmes.

The council will offer support to potential applicants in those identified areas, assisting them in putting together appropriate lottery applications.

The Wales Millennium Centre

Q23 Nick Bourne: Can Jenny Randerson report on latest developments with the Wales Millennium Centre? (OAQ9088)

Jenny Randerson: The redesign and specification work that is intended to develop the plans for the centre up to the Royal Institute of British Architects' stage D is continuing. The outcome of that exercise is expected in April.

The Communities First Programme

Q24 William Graham: Will Jenny Randerson make a statement on the initiatives made to encourage individuals or groups of people to incorporate artistic expression into the Communities First programme? (OAQ9078)

Jenny Randerson: An extensive and inclusive consultation exercise is underway in relation to the proposals for implementing Communities First, enabling all sectors of society to contribute views and ideas. Arts and cultural bodies such as the Arts Council of Wales, the Community Development Foundation, the Arts Factory, Voluntary Arts Wales and many others have been contributing to the process.

It has been acknowledged that arts and cultural development are relevant activities across and along the continuum of community development and regeneration, from simply making a community a more enjoyable place in which to live, to a community's self-identity, but also in raising self-awareness and self-esteem for the marginalised and excluded. The Communities First programme will provide scope for these activities.

Encouraging Participation in the Arts

Q25 John Griffiths: What strategy will Jenny Randerson follow to encourage mass participation in the arts in Wales? (OAQ9092) *Withdrawn.*

Encouraging Participation in Sport

Q26 John Griffiths: What strategy will Jenny Randerson follow to encourage mass participation in sport in Wales? (OAQ9095) *Withdrawn.*

Supporting Theatres

Q27 Alison Halford: What measures does Jenny Randerson intend to implement to ensure that theatres, such as Clwyd Theatr Cymru, are given sufficient support to enable them to continue to provide their value-for-money service to the public? (OAQ9098)

Jenny Randerson: It is a matter for the Arts Council of Wales to decide on the level of financial support to be provided to individual companies. The partnership Government has provided the council with significant increases in its budget for the next three years, which should enable it to give sympathetic consideration to the budget needs of Clwyd Theatr Cymru.

Trafodaethau ynghylch Rownd Derfynol Cwpan yr FA

C28 Owen John Thomas: Pa drafodaethau y mae Jenny Randerson wedi eu cael ynghylch rownd derfynol Cwpan FA Lloegr, a gaiff ei chwarae yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm dros y tair mlynedd nesaf? (OAQ9037) [W]

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf wedi cymryd rhan mewn trafodaethau â Phrif Weinidog Cymru a'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau ac yr wyf yn falch o groesawu a llongyfarch Millennium Stadium ccc am lwyddo i ddenu rownd derfynol Cwpan yr FA i Gaerdydd.

Discussions regarding the FA Cup Final

Q28 Owen John Thomas: What discussions has Jenny Randerson had regarding the English FA Cup Final, to be played in the Millennium Stadium over the next three years? (OAQ9037) [W]

Jenny Randerson: I have taken part in discussions with the First Minister and Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities, and am pleased to welcome and congratulate the Millennium Stadium plc on its success in attracting the FA Cup Final to Cardiff.

Promoting Sustainable Development

Q29 Phil Williams: Could Jenny Randerson state how she is promoting sustainable development through culture and sports in Wales? (OAQ9082) *Withdrawn.*

Funding for Mid Wales Opera

Q30 Mick Bates: What progress has been made in providing funding for Mid Wales Opera? (OAQ9038)

Jenny Randerson: The Arts Council of Wales has informed the company that it is free to submit a further application for funding, which will be considered by the council on its merits.

Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs

Impact of BNFL Sellafield Discharges on Shellfish

Q7 Alun Pugh: Has the Minister for Rural Affairs made an assessment of the impact of British Nuclear Fuels Limited Sellafield discharges on shellfish along the north Wales coast? (OAQ9123) *Transferred for written answer by the Minister for Health and Social Services.*

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): The responsibility for monitoring the impacts of discharges from Sellafield on shellfish in north Wales rests with the Food Standards Agency. Results from these monitoring programmes, which are published annually by the FSA and Scottish Environment Protection Agency in 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment', show that all samples taken are within internationally-accepted limits.

Question 8 was answered in Plenary.

The Closed Season for Canal Fishing

Q9 Lynne Neagle: Will Carwyn Jones give an update on the closed season for canal fishing? (OAQ9107)

Carwyn Jones: The Countryside Council for Wales remains opposed to the Environment Agency Wales's proposal to lift the closed season on Welsh canals. My officials met the council and the agency at the end of last week. In the light of these discussions, I hope to be able to resolve the issue in time for the coming fishing season.

The Impact of the Rural White Paper on Wales

Q10 Karen Sinclair: Will Carwyn Jones give a brief statement on how the rural White Paper will impact on Wales? (OAQ9067) *Withdrawn.*

Swift Payment of Farm Subsidies

Q11 David Davies: What is Carwyn Jones doing to ensure swift payment of farm subsidies? (OAQ9072)

Carwyn Jones: We have made significant improvements in this area, including meeting scheme targets last year.

Under the JIGSAW programme, the establishment of multi-skilled teams, new information technology and the reduction in red tape should ensure more efficient payment of farming subsidies.

On 4 October last year, I launched, 'Translating the Voice of Farming in Wales into Action', which spells out an action plan for improvements in services to farmers. A copy of the action plan was circulated to Assembly Members in November.

Rural Businesses

Q12 Kirsty Williams: What plans does Carwyn Jones have to assist the development of rural businesses? (OAQ9100)

Q18 Kirsty Williams: What consideration has Carwyn Jones given to possible means of supporting rural businesses? (OAQ9099)

Carwyn Jones: The Assembly's plans to secure investment in rural businesses in Wales are set out in the single programming document for Objective 1 and the rural development plan. Copies of the documents are available in the Assembly Library.

The measures include the processing and marketing grant, the small food processors grant (to support projects that fall below the threshold for PMG), the farm improvement grant, the farm enterprise grant, the farm food processors grant (to assist the development of small-scale added value processing on-farm), and Farming Connect. The latter will provide access to co-ordinated training, information and advisory services, and a technology transfer mechanism in Wales geared to providing practical information to farmers at a local level, linked to demonstration farms and groups. It will also provide free, one-to-one business advice, including a farm business review that will look at all aspects of the farm business and help farmers decide how to take their business forward. Every aspect of the scheme will be subject to quality controls, and organisations or individuals that fail to reach and maintain these standards will not be allowed to participate.

Officials are currently developing the exact mechanisms for delivery of these measures, working with the wider industry, including the farming unions and the Young Farmers' Clubs of Wales, and it is anticipated that they will be implemented during the early part of this year.

New Entrants Scheme for Young Farmers

Q13 Elin Jones: Will Carwyn Jones make a statement on the failure to implement a new entrants scheme for young farmers in Wales? (OAQ9111) *Withdrawn.*

The Use of Dairy Calves in the Veal Industry

Q14 Richard Edwards: Will Carwyn Jones make a statement on latest developments concerning the use of dairy calves in the veal industry in Wales? (OAQ9030) *Withdrawn.*

Bovine Tuberculosis in Badgers and Cattle

Q15 Helen Mary Jones: What specific action is Carwyn Jones considering to rectify the lack of adequate research into the possible link between bovine tuberculosis in badgers and cattle in Wales? (OAQ9119) *Withdrawn.*

Farmers' Markets and Local Village Shops

Q16 Janet Davies: Has Carwyn Jones had any discussions on the relationships between farmers' markets and local village shops? (OAQ9130) *Withdrawn.*

Controlling the Use of Chardon LL

Q17 Peter Black: What statutory authority does the Assembly have to control the use of the genetically modified maize Chardon LL? (OAQ9071)

Carwyn Jones: The policy and the principal laws on the release of all genetically modified organisms to the environment are determined at European Union level. The Assembly may make representations on the subject of genetically modified organisms to the UK Government with a view to influencing the development of the European legal framework, but it cannot enact legislation or take decisions that do not comply with Community law. The Assembly is currently operating as restrictive a policy on GMOs as possible, within the European Commission and domestic legislation.

The Impact of LEADER+ on Rural Development

Q19 Christine Gwyther: Can Carwyn Jones give a progress report on LEADER+ and its implications for rural development in Wales? (OAQ9029) *Withdrawn.*

Tackling Rural Poverty

Q20 John Griffiths: What strategy will Carwyn Jones follow to tackle rural poverty in Wales? (OAQ9108) *Withdrawn.*

Ensuring High Standards in Imported Food

Q21 Nick Bourne: Is Carwyn Jones proposing to introduce any measures to ensure that imported food meets the same high standards as those imposed in Wales? (OAQ9125) *Transferred for written answer by the Minister for Health and Social Services.*

Jane Hutt: The Food Standards Agency has responsibility for advising the Government and the devolved administrations on issues of public health relating to food, and we would consider carefully any measures that the agency proposes. The food safety interests of Welsh consumers are protected by the EU-wide system of food safety measures, which apply equally to Welsh and British food and to imports from the rest of the EU and beyond.

The Cost of Flooding to Farmers

Q22 Janet Davies: What discussions has Carwyn Jones had with the farmers' unions on the cost of flooding to farmers? (OAQ9122) *Withdrawn.*

Aiding Diversification in the Rural Economy

Q23 Janice Gregory: Will Carwyn Jones outline the measures that the Assembly has been putting in place to aid diversification in the rural economy? (OAQ9033)

Carwyn Jones: I refer you to the answer that I gave to Kirsty Williams's questions 12 and 18 today (OAQ9100 and OAQ9099).

Low Milk Prices being Paid to Farmers

Q24 Janet Ryder: What action is Carwyn Jones considering taking to deal with the continuing low milk prices being paid to farmers? (OAQ9121) *Withdrawn.*

Invoking Article 16 of Directive 90/220/EEC

Q25 Peter Black: What scope does the Assembly have to influence the UK Government to invoke article 16 of Directive 90/220/EEC in respect of Chardon LL in Wales and the rest of the UK? (OAQ9070)

Carwyn Jones: Article 16 of Directive 90/220/EEC may be invoked where there is a risk to human health or the environment. If the Assembly is aware of such evidence, then it would urge the UK Government to invoke the powers that it has under article 16.

Plans for a Rural Strategy Group

Q26 Karen Sinclair: Will Carwyn Jones make a brief statement on his plans for a rural strategy group? (OAQ9068) *Withdrawn.*

The Impact of the Hunting Bill on Wales

Q27 Alun Cairns: What recent assessments has Carwyn Jones made of the impact of the Hunting Bill on Wales? (OAQ9069)

Carwyn Jones: This subject will be put before the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee on 7 February.

Agri-monetary Compensation

Q28 Mick Bates: When did Carwyn Jones last meet with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Nick Brown, to discuss obtaining agri-monetary compensation? (OAQ9066)

Carwyn Jones: Agri-monetary compensation was one of several issues discussed at the meeting of UK agriculture Ministers on 22 January.

Number of Jobs Lost from Agriculture

Q29 Glyn Davies: How many jobs have been lost from agriculture in each of the last three years? (OAQ9127)

Carwyn Jones: Information on the number of jobs lost from agriculture is not centrally collected. Estimates for the past three years of the number of people working on agricultural holdings in Wales on the date of the agricultural and horticultural census are shown in the following table:

thousands

| Wales | June 1998 | June 1999 | June 2000 | % change 1998 to 1999 | % change 1999 to 2000 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Persons working on farm holdings | 62.0 | 59.5 | 55.7 | -4 | -6 |

Notes:

1) The agricultural and horticultural census asks for numbers of persons working on the farm holding on census day and includes the following categories:

- Farmers, partners, directors and their spouses working on the holding;
- Salaried managers;
- Regular paid workers;
- Regular unpaid workers;
- Casual workers;
- Gang labour.

2) The fall in the estimated total labour on agricultural holdings in Wales is reflected in the census results for the UK as a whole, as shown below:

thousands

| UK | June 1998 | June 1999 | June 2000 | % change 1998 to 1999 | % change 1999 to 2000 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Persons working on farm holdings | 608.2 | 586.0 | 556.9 | -4 | -5 |

Reducing the Accelerating Loss of Employment on Farms

Q30 William Graham: What measures is Carwyn Jones taking to reduce the accelerating loss of employment on farms in Wales, and its effect on those employed within the agricultural supply industries? (OAQ9110)

Carwyn Jones: There is no evidence to suggest that the long-term loss of employment on farms in Wales is accelerating. The status quo is not an option for the agriculture industry.

The farming futures group that I have set up has been tasked to prepare a long-term viable direction to sustain the future of farming across Wales. The group will present its report soon. In addition, the rural development plan for Wales and Objective 1 single programming document include measures to assist the industry and to support the development of the rural economy.