

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 26 February 2003

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

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

### Contents

- 1 Questions to the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language
- 3 Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad
- 6 Questions to the Business Minister

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

#### Strategaeth Ddrama Newydd

**C6 Elin Jones:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ddatblygiad strategaeth ddrama newydd yng Nghymru? (OAQ22625) [W]

**Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson):** Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddais fuddsoddiad o £2.7 miliwn dros y tair blynedd nesaf i ddatblygu cwmni theatr iaith Gymraeg newydd, a theatr mewn addysg. Yn ogystal, yr wyf yn gweithio'n agos gyda Chyngor Celfyddydau Cymru ac eraill i ddatblygu polisi sydd wedi'i gydlynu'n genedlaethol ar gyfer theatr trwy gyfrwng y Saesneg yng Nghymru. Hefyd, yn ddiweddarach heddiw yn y neuadd, byddaf yn lansio cronfa gelfyddydau ieuenctid, 'Cynnal Creadigrwydd Pobl Ifanc', sy'n werth dros £1.7 miliwn y flwyddyn, sy'n cynnwys cymorth i Theatr ar gyfer Pobl Ifanc, Agor Drysau a Theatr Cenedlaethol Ieuenctid Cymru.

#### New Drama Strategy

**Q6 Elin Jones:** Will the Minister make a statement on the development of a new drama strategy for Wales? (OAQ22625) [W]

**The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson):** I recently announced a total investment of £2.7 million over the next three years for the development of a new Welsh language theatre company, and theatre in education. In addition, I am working closely with the Arts Council and other key players to develop a national co-ordinated approach to English language theatre in Wales. Furthermore, later today I am launching in the milling area the youth arts fund, 'Supporting Young Creativity', worth over £1.7 million a year, which includes support for Theatre for Young People, Opening Doors and the National Youth Theatre of Wales.

#### Cultural Capital of Europe 2008

**Q7 Jocelyn Davies:** Will the Minister make a statement on recent developments in Cardiff's bid to become Cultural Capital of Europe 2008? (OAQ22639)

**Jenny Randerson:** I am delighted that Cardiff is on the shortlist of cities to be Cultural Capital of Europe in 2008. This means that Cardiff is already designated as a centre of culture. This achievement was made possible by Assembly support of almost £1.4 million. Cardiff 2008 is now working to develop its bid and secure the best opportunity to win the competition.

### **Promoting Wellbeing and Prosperity through Sport**

**Q8 Brian Gibbons:** What role can sport play in promoting wellbeing and prosperity in Wales? (OAQ22651)

**Jenny Randerson:** Sport has a very important role to play. Together with the Minister for Health and Social Services, I agreed last year a healthy and active lifestyle plan aimed at encouraging more active daily living. The Assembly Government is also working towards the first Welsh strategy for sport, physical activity and fitness that will address this in more detail.

### **Leisure and Recreational Facilities**

**Q9 John Griffiths:** Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy to ensure that high-quality leisure and recreational facilities are available across Wales? (OAQ22650)

**Jenny Randerson:** The Welsh Assembly Government recognises the need to provide a quality and diverse range of facilities to increase participation in sport, physical activity and fitness in Wales. Working with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors, we aim to continue to enhance the sport, leisure and recreational infrastructure across Wales.

### **The National Museums and Galleries of Wales**

**Q10 Alison Halford:** Will the Minister confirm that the letter of comfort to the National Museums and Galleries of Wales relating to the Swansea waterfront museum was complete before she authorised the transaction on 19 December 2002? (OAQ22646)

**Jenny Randerson:** A letter of authorisation for the National Museums and Galleries of Wales to enter into an agreement with the Heritage Lottery Fund to repay its grant in the unlikely event of the closure of the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea was submitted to me for signature on 19 December 2002. This was the day after the expiry of the 10 working day period specified in Standing Order No. 19.13, within which at least 10 Assembly members can table a notice requiring an Assembly Minister to seek the approval of the Assembly for a notifiable transaction, in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.14.

I signed the letter and arranged for its issue on 19 December.

### **Pigeon Racing**

**Q11 William Graham:** Will the Minister give her support to gain recognition of pigeon racing as a sport? (OAQ22633)

**Jenny Randerson:** I sympathise with the pigeon racing fraternity's situation, but I am unable to intervene in this matter. I fully support the system of formal recognition that the four home country sports councils have jointly developed, which is designed to ensure the proper, effective and efficient distribution of public funds for sport.

### **Cost of the National Swimming Pool**

**Q12 Peter Black:** What discussions has the Minister had with the City and County of Swansea about the cost of the national 50-metre swimming pool? (OAQ22627)

**Jenny Randerson:** I have not held any discussions with the City and County of Swansea about the cost of the national swimming pool. However I have asked the Sports Council for Wales, a key lottery funding partner in this project, to keep me informed on this matter.

*Question 13 (OAQ22630) is withdrawn.*

### **Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (Denu a Chynnal Staff)**

**C14 Owen John Thomas:** Faint o arian cyllideb newydd Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin sydd ar gyfer y pwrpas arbennig o ddenu a chynnal penaethiaid a staff eraill i'r cylchoedd meithrin? (OAQ22643) [W]

**Jenny Randerson:** Mae Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg wedi dyrannu £1 miliwn i Fudiad Ysgolion Meithrin ar gyfer 2003-04, a chaiff £820,000 o'r arian hwnnw ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer gwasanaethau cymorth uniongyrchol ar gyfer y cylchoedd; caiff £100,000 ei ddyrannu i gynorthwyo'r grwpiau gyda'r gwariant ychwanegol sy'n angenrheidiol er mwyn darparu gwasanaethau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, a chaiff £80,000 ei ddyrannu ar gyfer prosiect y swyddogion maes.

Bydd y gwariant hwn yn galluogi'r mudiad i ddarparu cymorth canolog ychwanegol i'r grwpiau hyn, sy'n bodoli fel cyrff annibynnol. Mater i'r grwpiau unigol yw delio â recriwtio a chadw staff.

### **Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (Attracting and Supporting Staff)**

**Q14 Owen John Thomas:** How much of the new Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin budget will be allocated to attracting and supporting group heads and other staff to cylchoedd meithrin? (OAQ22643) [W]

**Jenny Randerson:** Of the £1 million allocated to Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin from the Welsh Language Board for 2003-04, £820,000 will be allocated to provide direct support services to the cylchoedd; £100,000 will be allocated to assist the groups with additional expenditure necessary to provide services through the medium of Welsh, and £80,000 will be allocated to the Swyddogion Maes project.

This expenditure will enable MYM to provide additional central support to these groups, which exist as autonomous entities. Recruitment and retention matters are for the individual groups.

### **Profile of Women's Sport**

**Q15 Val Lloyd:** Would the Minister make a statement about the profile of women's sport in Wales? (OAQ22644)

**Jenny Randerson:** The success of sportswomen like Tanni Grey-Thompson, Leanda Cave, Becky Morgan, Michaela Breeze, Nicole Cooke, and the Rhondda Rebels are important and well known. Our aim, via the Sports Council for Wales, is to halve the gap between men's and women's participation in sport by the year 2005.

## **Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad**

### **Cockle Fishing in the Dee Estuary (Timescale)**

**Q8 Ann Jones:** Will the Minister set out his timescale for bringing forward a regulatory Order, in partnership with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which would allow the Environment Agency, by means of licences, to control cockle fishing in the Dee estuary? (OAQ22697)

**The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad (Michael German):** I refer you to my answer to your OAQ22698 given earlier today.

### Promoting Welsh Produce Abroad

**Q9 Jonathan Morgan:** Would the Minister make a statement on the measures in place to promote Welsh produce abroad? (OAQ22677)

**Michael German:** The Welsh Assembly Government, through the Welsh Development Agency Food Directorate and the Agri-Food Partnership, ensures that work is continuously carried out to aid the promotion and selling of Welsh agricultural produce at home and overseas. The WDA Food Directorate offers a wide range of support services to help Welsh food companies in pursuing opportunities internationally.

### Prosesu Taliadau Amaethyddol

**C10 Gareth Jones:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad cynnydd parthed prosesu taliadau amaethyddol? (OAQ22693) [W]

**Michael German:** Gwnaf. Ers 18 Tachwedd 2002, gwnaed tua £90 miliwn o gymorthdaliadau'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredin i ffermwyr yng Nghymru. Mae 97 y cant o geisiadau'r premiwm blynyddol defaid, 73 y cant o geisiadau atodiad ardal lai ffafriol y premiwm defaid, 77 y cant o geisiadau tir â 46 y cant o geisiadau rhagdaliad y premiwm arbennig eidion wedi eu talu dros y misoedd diwethaf. Yr wyf yn rhagweld y bydd rhagdaliadau buchod sugno yn cael eu talu fis nesaf.

Mae'r holl daliadau grantiau gwella ffermydd a grantiau menter ffermydd a oedd yn weddill wedi eu gwneud, sef cyfanswm o £1.4 miliwn. Mae holl daliadau cymwys coetiroedd ffermydd a oedd yn weddill wedi eu gwneud, sef cyfanswm o tua £412,000.

### Processing of Agricultural Payments

**Q10 Gareth Jones:** Will the Minister give a progress report on the processing of agricultural payments? (OAQ22693) [W]

**Michael German:** Yes. Since 18 November 2002 around £90 million of CAP subsidy payments have now been made to farmers in Wales. Some 97 per cent of sheep annual premium claims, 73 per cent of the sheep less favoured area supplement claims, 77 per cent of arable aid claims, and 46 per cent of beef special premium advance claims have been made over the last few months. I anticipate suckler cow advance payments to issue next month.

All outstanding farm improvement grant and farm enterprise grant payments have been made, amounting to £1.4 million. All currently eligible farm woodland payments have been made, amounting to £412,000.

### Clustnodi Cwotâu Llaeth

**C11 Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y posibilrwydd o glustnodi cwotâu llaeth yng Nghymru? (OAQ22688) [W]

**Michael German:** Cyfeiriaf yr Aelod at yr ateb ysgrifenedig WAQ22519 a ddarperais ar 13 Chwefror. Nid oes unrhyw beth arall i'w ychwanegu ar hyn o bryd.

### Ring-fencing Milk Quotas

**Q11 Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Will the Minister make a statement on the possibility of ring-fencing milk quotas in Wales? (OAQ22688) [W]

**Michael German:** I would refer the Member to the written answer WAQ22519 that I provided to him on 13 February. There is nothing further I can usefully add at this time.

### Future of Welsh Agriculture

**Q12 Brian Gibbons:** What consultation takes place on the future of Welsh agriculture with trade unions involved in the sector? (OAQ22695)

**Michael German:** My department regularly consults interested farming and environmental organisations on issues relating to agriculture in Wales. Trades unions are not automatically included in the list of consultees, but any such organisations that wish to be included routinely have only to request that they be added to the list.

### Cyfraddau Taliadau Tir Mynydd

**C13 Elin Jones:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gyfraddau taliadau Tir Mynydd? (OAQ22687) [W]

**Michael German:** Mae cyfraddau taliadau Tir Mynydd wedi eu nodi yn y cynllun datblygu gwledig i Gymru a gymeradwywyd gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd fis Hydref 2000.

Y cyfraddau arwynebedd sylfaenol yw £23 yr hectar yn yr arwynebedd anfanteisiol, a £35 yr hectar yn yr arwynebedd anfanteisiol difrifol. Ar gyfer 2003, bydd 10 y cant o gyfanswm y gyllideb ar gael ar gyfer taliadau chwyddo amgylcheddol elfen 2; cyn hynny 5 y cant oedd ar gael.

Yr wyf eisoes wedi cyhoeddi y cynhelir adolygiad o gynllun Tir Mynydd yn ddiweddarach eleni gyda'r bwriad o gyflwyno'r newidiadau ar gyfer 2005.

### Tir Mynydd Payment Rates

**Q13 Elin Jones:** Will the Minister make a statement on Tir Mynydd payment rates? (OAQ22687) [W]

**Michael German:** The Tir Mynydd payment rates are set out in the rural development plan for Wales approved by the European Commission in October 2000.

The base area rates are £23 per hectare in the disadvantaged area, and £35 per hectare in the severely disadvantaged area. For the 2003 scheme year, the proportion of the total budget available for the element 2 environmental enhancement payments will be 10 per cent; previously it was 5 per cent.

I have already announced that the Tir Mynydd scheme will be reviewed later this year with the intention of introducing changes from the 2005 scheme year.

### Replacement of the 20-day Rule with the Six-day Rule

**Q14 Eleanor Burnham:** Can the Minister make a statement on the recent replacement of the 20-day rule with the six-day rule? (OAQ22682)

**Michael German:** The change from a 20-day standstill to a six-day whole-farm standstill under the spring animal movement regime is scheduled to come into effect on 4 March. These arrangements have been widely welcomed by the industry. There will be ongoing consultation with the livestock industry aimed at agreeing a package of measures to improve surveillance and bio-security.

### Future of Livestock Markets

**Q15 David Davies:** What action is the Minister taking to ensure the future of livestock markets? (OAQ22694)

**Michael German:** The WDA Food Directorate, through the Agri-Food Partnership and working with other partner organisations, has been responsible for developing a number of initiatives that will assist livestock markets to develop the way in which they carry out their activities. Strategic plans for future development of livestock markets will be a matter for Hybu Cig Cymru.

## **Questions to the Business Minister**

### **Speaking Languages other than English**

**Q9 Janet Davies:** What action has the Minister taken to defend the right of people to speak languages other than English? (OAQ22660)

**The Business Minister (Carwyn Jones):** The Welsh Assembly Government is required to provide services in Welsh as well as in English. It is also committed to taking forward its obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, which incorporates both eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity and good race relations, in all public authorities in Wales.

### **The Assembly's Organisation and Activities**

**Q10 John Griffiths:** Will the Minister make a statement on openness and accessibility in the organisation and activities of the Assembly? (OAQ22667)

**Carwyn Jones:** We have demonstrated our commitment to open government through, amongst other initiatives, the Assembly's Code of Practice on Public Access to Information, which goes further than the equivalent Whitehall code; the new approach we are adopting in relation to releasing the facts and analysis behind ministerial decisions; and the launch of the Assembly's publication scheme. Last year, we also introduced new guidelines for officials on how to produce accessible documents for public use.

### **Publication of Members' Allowances**

**Q11 David Melding:** Will the Minister make a statement on the publication of Members' allowances? (OAQ22665)

**Carwyn Jones:** I refer you to the answer provided for your question 5 (OAQ22664) today.

### **People who have Changed their Names (Benefit Entitlement)**

**Q12 Peter Rogers:** Will the Minister tell me what mechanisms are in place for ensuring that the benefit entitlements of people whose names are changed by deed poll remain unchanged? (OAQ22658)

**Carwyn Jones:** Matters relating to the benefit system are not devolved to the National Assembly for Wales and are administered by Jobcentre Plus. If you contact me in writing, I would be happy to provide the relevant contact details for Jobcentre Plus in Wales.

### **Promotion of Equal Opportunities**

**Q13 Ann Jones:** Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of equal opportunities in Wales? (OAQ22672)

**Carwyn Jones:** We are currently undertaking a series of initiatives in Wales across the full range of equality strands. These initiatives include: public consultation seminars on a single equality body; meetings of the Wales public sector round table on equalities; an equal pay campaign; outreach initiatives to improve our work with disadvantaged groups and communities; the Interfaith Council for Wales;

disability discrimination seminars and further work, including public consultation on the Assembly's race equality scheme.

### **Equal Pay Campaign**

**Q14 Ann Jones:** Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of the equal pay campaign in Wales? (OAQ22671)

**Carwyn Jones:** The Assembly, in partnership with the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Wales TUC, have been undertaking a year long Close the Pay Gap campaign, which commenced in March 2002 and will cease in March 2003. I will be making a statement on the progress of the Close the Pay Gap campaign to date on 18 March 2003.

### **People without Birth Certificates (Human Rights)**

**Q15 Peter Rogers:** Will the Minister tell me what devices are in place for ensuring that people without birth certificates do not have their human rights abused by the benefits system? (OAQ22659)

**Carwyn Jones:** I refer to the answer provided for your question 12 (OAQ22658).