

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 26 October 2000

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

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Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development

Pilkington Special Glass Factory, St Asaph

Q6 Ann Jones: What discussions has the Deputy First Minister had with reference to the provision of financial assistance from the Assembly to help secure the future of the Pilkington Special Glass factory in St Asaph? (OAQ7355)

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development (Michael German): My officials have had discussions with the management team about assistance towards a management buy-out. However that project was unsuccessful and the company is now proposing to make changes to the St Asaph operation to improve profitability. Officials are in regular contact with the company and will ensure that every possible assistance is provided to secure the future of the plant.

Objective 1 (Approved Schemes)

Q7 Glyn Davies: How many schemes have been approved to date for Objective 1 financial support? (OAQ7285)

Michael German: As of Thursday 20 October 16 Objective 1 projects have received formal grant offer letters. This follows the decision by the Objective 1 Programme Monitoring Committee on 16 October to approve the programme complement.

Discussions with the Land Division of the Welsh Development Agency

Q8 Pauline Jarman: Has Michael German had any discussions with the land division of the Welsh Development Agency over their plans for major development in the Mwyndy area of Taff Ely? (OAQ7353) [R]

Michael German: I have had no discussions with the land division of the Welsh Development Agency with regard to possible redevelopment in the Mwyndy area. However, I understand that the WDA is working closely with the local authority and other partners in order to bring forward development that is both ambitious and sensitive to the needs of the locality.

Audit of European Funding Process

Q9 Elin Jones: Will Michael German make a brief statement on the plans to establish a full ongoing audit of the European funding process? (OAQ7333)

Michael German: The primary responsibility for the financial control of assistance lies with the National Assembly. In accordance with European Commission regulations (article 38 of Regulation 1260/99 and 2064/97) a monitoring and audit unit has, therefore, been established within the Welsh European Funding

Office, with financial management and control arrangements, to ensure that European structural funds are used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

The Continuing Crisis within the Steel Industry in Wales

Q10 Dafydd Wigley: What action does Michael German intend to take to address the continuing crisis within the steel industry in Wales? (OAQ7341)

Michael German: The problems facing the steel industry are driven almost exclusively by global and commercial considerations and were heavily influenced by factors such as the general state of UK manufacturing and exchange rate differentials.

The First Minister has held meetings with Corus and the trade unions. In July he set up an all-Wales taskforce to address the issues arising from the job losses and to co-ordinate the actions proposed in each local authority area. When the taskforce met earlier this month, it was agreed that its remit should be extended to reinforce the case for the development of the steel industry in Wales; this will be one of the issues for discussion when the taskforce next meets in December.

European Structural Funds (Representatives of North Wales)

Q11 Peter Rogers: What steps has Michael German taken to ensure that representatives of the north Wales community are fully involved in the administration of European structural funds? (OAQ7354)

Michael German: In all four counties in north-west Wales—Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy and Denbighshire—broad and inclusive partnerships have been formed to involve local communities in the implementation of the Objective 1 programme. Each partnership board is based on the ‘thirds’ principle, that is, with equal numbers of members from the voluntary/community sector, the public sector and the social partners. The composition of the boards will be an element in the consideration by the Programme Monitoring Committee of the local action plans prepared by the partnerships.

For the administration of Objective 3, partnerships based on the thirds principle have been formed in Wrexham and Flintshire. Community and voluntary groups will also be fully involved in the partnership being developed for the URBAN community initiative in Wrexham.

Employment of Local Indigenous Labour

Q12 Brian Gibbons: Does Michael German have any plans to look at ways to encourage capital projects in Wales to employ local indigenous labour wherever possible before looking outside the locality? (OAQ7290)

Michael German: The Assembly tries to make the maximum use of Welsh expertise within the procedures set down in the European regulations on public procurement. The regulations require that there can be no discrimination for or against a particular nation’s products or services, including labour. However, local firms and the local indigenous labour should have a competitive advantage as the reality of moving labour from one place to another is expensive to contractors. It is our policy, in line with UK Government policy, to obtain best value for money from publicly-funded projects in Wales.

The Assembly is investing heavily in developing Welsh firms to be more competitive and in enhancing the skills of the local workforce. There are various initiatives such as the WDA’s ‘Source Wales’ scheme, which has among its aims to increase the profitability, competitiveness and growth of companies based in Wales. Source Wales is a buyer-driven initiative aimed at helping Welsh companies win more business. Source Wales works with Welsh business to ensure their performance meets the high standards expected by today’s top companies.

Each of our public bodies will have initiatives to help local suppliers. For example the Assembly is currently undertaking a review of procurement across the public sector in Wales. The review is, among other things, addressing how we can best assist our small and medium-sized enterprises to successfully compete for publicly-funded business.

Recent Job Losses in the Steel Industry

Q13 Christine Humphreys: Will Michael German make a statement on recent job losses in the steel industry in Wales? (OAQ7279)

Michael German: Market and trading conditions are undoubtedly difficult for Corus, but I am most disappointed that further job losses are being suffered on top of those announced earlier in the summer. The impact of these job losses on the individuals involved and their families can not be over-estimated. The all-Wales steel taskforce will give even greater emphasis to promoting the contribution of the industry to the economy of Wales.

Pre-match Funding for European Programmes

Q14 David Lloyd: Will Michael German make a brief statement on the situation regarding pre-match funding for European programmes in Wales? (OAQ7344)

Michael German: Details of the provision for match funding are set out in the Minister for Finance, Local Government and the Communities' budget statement.

Objective 3 Programmes

Q15 Kirsty Williams: Will Michael German make a statement on recent progress in the development of Objective 3 programmes in Wales? (OAQ7282)

Michael German: Implementation of the east Wales Objective 3 operational programme is now underway. The Monitoring Committee has agreed the programme complement and it was submitted to the European Commission on 16 October 2000. Over 150 applications for support have been received and appraised under the first round. To date, just over one third of these have met the quality threshold set by the Monitoring Committee and European social fund grants totalling £7.8 million have been approved. The Welsh European Funding Office is providing feedback to unsuccessful applicants and many of these will be invited to resubmit improved applications for further consideration. The Monitoring Committee has also agreed a framework for implementing the programme through regional and local action plans from 2001 onwards. Action plans will be submitted to the Welsh European Funding Office by the end of November 2000.

Economic Development in the Vale of Glamorgan

Q16 David Melding: What policies is Michael German implementing to facilitate economic development in the Vale of Glamorgan? (OAQ7351)

Michael German: The aim of this administration is to ensure that the whole of Wales benefits from Assembly policies that provide support to areas of social and economic need. The Assembly's first strategic plan, 'Betterwales.com', sets out our plan to create fresh 'made in Wales' policies.

The national economic development strategy is currently being drafted and the final document is due to be published in March 2001. It will look at the present economic problems of Wales and concentrate on specific areas such as the knowledge economy, better government, sustainable development, employment/skills strategy, innovation and entrepreneurship, communities regeneration and sectoral initiatives. In addition, the Economic Development Committee is currently reviewing business support schemes and will give this report its very careful attention.

Many forms of assistance are available to facilitate economic growth in the Vale of Glamorgan, one of which is regional selective assistance, which is available in the assisted areas. The availability of different and appropriate types of finance is also of vital importance to the establishment and growth of small and medium-sized businesses. Finance Wales offers a range of financial products to support and encourage business in Wales. The Wales Innovation Fund comes under the scope of Finance Wales, and signifies a changing climate, where we recognise the need to encourage enterprising people to start good quality businesses and help businesses with potential develop.

The Objective 3 programme, which was formally approved on 17 July 2000, covers seven unitary authorities including the Vale of Glamorgan. Its strategic aim is to support economic growth by contributing to the sustainable development of a competitive and knowledge-based economy, with an efficient and flexible labour market where people have access to learning and employment and opportunities to fulfil their potential. Around £81 million will be available for the Objective 3 programme over a seven-year period (2000-2006). The exact amount will depend on prevailing exchange rates.

The National Assembly's local regeneration fund will share a £6.8 million allocation across seven local authority projects in Wales. This reinforces the Assembly's commitment to providing both urban and rural areas with sustainable economic regeneration and the creation of employment opportunities. These schemes, which are expected to create over 1,000 jobs, have been successful in securing funding under the local regeneration fund accelerated approval scheme. This represents the first of two stages of funding from the local regeneration fund in 2000 and there will be two rounds of announcements in this, the first stage. The recent announcement is for successful local regeneration fund accelerated approval bids which are not seeking to match fund Objective 1 projects. The second round will cover bids for which Objective 1 match funding is sought. Bids under the second stage, the 'main bidding round,' have just been submitted and approvals will follow later in the year.

Medium-sized Firms in Delyn

Q17 Alison Halford: What plans are there for encouraging medium-sized firms in Delyn to improve their capacity to export their excellent products and services, as a means of improving productivity and employment? (OAQ7313)

Michael German: The National Assembly's overseas trade operation, WalesTrade International, is setting up four regional offices throughout Wales. Each one is to be led by an international trade counsellor, recruited from business, and his or her main task will be to help small and medium-sized companies develop their international business potential. The north Wales office, based in Colwyn Bay, is now open for business. A range of international business services can be accessed from this office, including those provided by WalesTrade International itself and the range of support put in place by the Government's international trade organisation, Trade Partners UK.

Wales Millennium Centre

Q18 Nicholas Bourne: Can Michael German report on the latest developments to promote Wales as a tourist destination through the building of the Wales millennium centre? (OAQ7287)

Michael German: The development of the Wales Millennium Centre is not yet sufficiently advanced for it to be used to promote Wales as a tourist destination. How the centre could feature on its own, or as part of the wider promotion of Wales, is a matter that would need to be considered much closer to the completion of the project.

Integrating Local and Regional Action Plans within Objective 1

Q19 Cynog Dafis: Will Michael German make a brief statement on the process for integrating local and regional action plans within the Objective 1 programme? (OAQ7345)

Michael German: The Objective 1 Programme Monitoring Committee decided at its meeting on 16 October that the Welsh European Funding Office should work with partnerships to develop six overarching priority action plans, to define the relationship between these and the 15 local action plans and to develop an appropriate project selection process. The aim is that the plans and project selection process should be in place by 1 January 2001 following approval by the Programme Monitoring Committee at its meeting on 15 December.

Co-ordination between Tourism Promotion Bodies at Regional Level

Q20 Kirsty Williams: What arrangements are in place to ensure co-ordination between tourism promotion bodies at a regional level? (OAQ7283)

Michael German: The current tourism structure has arrangements in place at a regional level for the co-ordination of marketing Wales both in the UK and overseas. This is carried out by two working groups covering UK and overseas marketing, which consist of representatives from the Wales Tourist Board, local authorities and regional tourism companies.

Support to Businesses where Parent Company is Abroad

Q21 Jane Davidson: What support can the Assembly give to businesses where the parent company is abroad? (OAQ7303) *Withdrawn*

Promotion of Economic Development in South Wales Central

Q22 Jonathan Morgan: How will Michael German's economic development strategy promote economic development in South Wales Central? (OAQ7349)

Michael German: The national economic development strategy is currently being developed and a draft version will be put out to consultation in due course. The strategy will address a range of economic issues across the whole of Wales taking into account particular local circumstances where appropriate.

Objective 3 and Objective 1

Q23 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What steps is Michael German considering taking to adopt the approved proposals for evaluating the Objective 3 programme for the Objective 1 programme? (OAQ7337)

Michael German: Proposals for a European social fund evaluation strategy, similar to those recently approved by the Objective 3 Monitoring Committee, will be considered by the Objective 1 Monitoring Committee on 15 December 2000.

Discussions with Training Providers in Wrexham

Q24 Janet Ryder: What discussions has Michael German had with training providers in Wrexham recently due to the number of job losses in the area? (OAQ7331)

Michael German: I have not held discussions with training providers in the Wrexham area and have no plans to do so. CELTEC, the North Wales Training and Enterprise Council, is in close contact with training providers and other organisations so that those affected by job losses are offered help with gaining new skills and new employment; assistance with starting up in business and careers advice and guidance.

Grant to Broughton Factory

Q25 Gareth Jones: Will Michael German make a statement on the agreement reached recently between Assembly officials and BAE Systems on the £19.5 million grant to the Broughton factory? (OAQ7332)

Michael German: Rhodri Morgan announced on 24 September that a package of financial support totalling up to £19.5 million has been agreed in principle between the National Assembly and BAE Systems to secure the A3XX Airbus wing project for Broughton. The package comprises Welsh Development Agency support towards the fitting out of the new building and a CELTEC training grant to support training and skills development. It is likely that the support will be provided over a four year period. Naturally, the special funding involved will be allocated to the agencies involved in response to the progress of the project. The budget lines have not yet been decided. The Assembly will be informed in due course.

National Economic Development Strategy

Q26 Brian Hancock: How does Michael German intend to get businesses in Wales involved in the process of preparing the national economic development strategy? (OAQ7335)

Michael German: There is an ongoing consultation process for the national economic development strategy. An informal consultative group has been set up including the major umbrella organisations, which can then represent the interests of associated organisations and individuals at these meetings. There has already been one meeting of this group and another one is scheduled for 9 November.

In addition, a further 70 organisations or individuals (primarily from the business community) have been contacted with copies of the draft framework and/or the draft economic analysis and comments have been invited. This group (and any others who wish to contribute) will be consulted at regular stages in the process.

Community-based Economic Development

Q27 Mick Bates: What plans does Michael German have to promote community-based economic development? (OAQ7302)

Michael German: A major theme for the Assembly is the development of an inclusive society where everyone has the chance to fulfil their potential and participate in the new economy. We are supporting a number of projects that are part of the overall objectives of sustainable development and tackling social disadvantage. These include: the provision of funding for support of a project developing and strengthening the credit union movement in Wales; the commitment to Communities First which is a new concept in community regeneration in Wales; provision of funds through the local regeneration fund, Finance Wales and its community loan fund.

Establishment of Business Birth Rate

Q28 Michael German: What plans does the Minister for Economic Development have to establish a business birth rate for Wales? (OAQ7281) *Withdrawn*

Business Support

Q29 Christine Gwyther: Can Michael German make a statement on the Assembly's review of business support, and how its findings will be implemented? (OAQ7293)

Michael German: I cannot comment at this stage on the review of business support by the Assembly's Economic Development Committee as its review is still ongoing. I understand that the Committee now plans to issue its final report by the end of November.

Promotion of Economic Development in Cardiff

Q30 Jonathan Morgan: How will Michael German's economic development strategy promote economic development in Cardiff? (OAQ7350)

Michael German: The national economic development strategy is currently being developed and a draft version will be put out to consultation in due course. The strategy will address a range of economic issues across the whole of Wales, taking into account particular local circumstances where appropriate.

Questions to the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities

Supporting the Proposed Millennium Centre Project

Q4 Glyn Davies: Has the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities made a specific financial allocation from the Assembly's budget to support the proposed Millennium Centre project? (OAQ7310) *Transferred for written reply*

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): I published the draft budget on 19 October and I will make a statement about the budget later today.

Funding from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

Q9 Ieuan Wyn Jones: Will Edwina Hart list the funds, initiatives or other sources of finance available to the National Assembly for Wales's core budget from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions? (OAQ7377)

Edwina Hart: I have no central list of where Whitehall departments run programmes that cover England and Wales or Great Britain as a whole as these resources are paid direct to the final beneficiary and not via the National Assembly.

Addressing Social Exclusion on Anglesey

Q10 Peter Rogers: What estimates has Edwina Hart made of the funds required to address social exclusion on Anglesey? (OAQ7371)

Edwina Hart: The formula for distributing grants to local authorities takes into account deprivation factors.

'Communities First', our new programme to address deprivation in communities across Wales, will potentially play a significant part in addressing the problems of socially excluded communities.

Consulting Black and Ethnic Minority Communities

Q11 Lorraine Barrett: Can Edwina Hart outline what measures are in place to ensure that black and ethnic minority communities are fully consulted on the work of the National Assembly? (OAQ7362)

Edwina Hart: I am pleased to say that there are now a number of measures in place to ensure effective consultation with members of the black and ethnic minority communities across Wales, including:

- The Commission for Racial Equality, which acts as advisor to the Equal Opportunities Committee.
- The All Wales Ethnic Minority Association (AWEMA) has been established and is taking a lead in ensuring that there is effective communication across all Assembly subject areas.
- I have recently established a forum for regular consultation with representatives from black and voluntary organisations, the first meeting of this forum was held on 17 October.

- The Equality Policy Unit is taking a proactive approach in developing relationships with the black and ethnic minority community and has recently taken on a secondment from the South East Wales Race Equality Council to develop contacts between the Assembly and the black and ethnic minority communities.
- The Permanent Secretary meets on a quarterly basis with senior members of the black and ethnic minority communities across Wales.

Locating an Assembly Department in North Wales

Q12 Christine Humphreys: What plans has Edwina Hart to locate a department of the National Assembly for Wales in north Wales? (OAQ7306)

Edwina Hart: The Assembly already has offices in Caernarfon and Colwyn Bay. The need for offices in particular locations is kept under review.

Locating an Assembly Department in Mid Wales

Q13 Mick Bates: What consideration has been given to locating an Assembly department in mid Wales? (OAQ7305)

Edwina Hart: The Assembly already has offices in Llandrindod Wells and Machynlleth. The need for offices in particular locations is kept under review.

External Agencies

Q14 Ann Jones: What external agencies does the Assembly employ to handle our marketing and communications? (OAQ7372)

Edwina Hart: The Assembly's Marketing and Communications Branch uses a range of external agencies for paid for publicity, including companies specialising in design, advertising and exhibitions. Companies are commissioned on an individual project basis in line with the Assembly's procurement procedures and value for money criteria.

Financing the Building of the Wales Millennium Centre

Q15 Nick Bourne: Can Edwina Hart confirm whether separate funds will be provided from the Assembly budget towards the building of the Wales Millennium Centre? (OAQ7309)

Edwina Hart: I published the draft budget on 19 October and I will make a statement about the budget later today.

Financing the Promotion of the Arts in Wales

Q16 Jenny Randerson: Will Edwina Hart consider making an additional and separate provision for the finance of the promotion of the arts in Wales? (OAQ7380) *Withdrawn*

Funding Available under the Coalfields Trust Initiative

Q17 Geraint Davies: Will Edwina Hart report on the funding available to the National Assembly for Wales's core budget under the Coalfields Trust initiative? (OAQ7375)

Edwina Hart: I will answer these questions together. The Great Britain-wide Coalfields Regeneration Trust's budget to fund regeneration projects in coalfield (and former coalfield) communities is £50 million over three years from April 1999.

Wales's ring-fenced contribution of £3.462 million is made up of £1.5 million over three years from the National Assembly's block budget and is in proportion (based on the Barnett formula) to the £25 million grant from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. The remaining £1.962 million represents Wales's share (£1.36 million) from the £10 million made available by the UK Government in lieu of surplus miners' pension funds and £0.602 million from the Reserve (the Barnett equivalent of £10 million secured from the Reserve for England).

To date the Trust has drawn down £1.006 million to fund activities in Wales.

The Assembly's Draft Budget

Q18 Jonathan Morgan: Will Edwina Hart make a statement on the Assembly's draft budget? (OAQ7365)

Edwina Hart: I will make a statement about the Assembly's draft budget later this morning.

Access to Schools for People with Disabilities

Q19 Jenny Randerson: When considering access to schools for people with disabilities will Edwina Hart ensure that parents with hearing impediments are not disadvantaged, particularly with regard to those who need support when meeting teachers? (OAQ7381) *Withdrawn*

Funding for the Provision of New School Buildings

Q20 Alison Halford: Will Edwina Hart consider separate and additional funding from the Assembly budget for the provision of new school buildings? (OAQ7316)

Edwina Hart: The proposals contained in the draft budget which was laid before the Assembly on 19 October and discussed in Plenary today, contained additions in the provision for capital expenditure for local education authority maintained schools of £5.525 million in 2001-02, £34.275 million in 2002-03 and £40.525 million in 2003-04 and additions for voluntary aided schools of £1.475 million in 2001-02, £2.475 million in 2002-03 and £3.475 million in 2003-04.

This brings the total planned provision available for education capital to £293 million for the period to 2003-04.

The Administration's Financial Priorities

Q21 David Melding: Will Edwina Hart outline the administration's financial priorities? (OAQ7367)

Edwina Hart: I refer you to the statement I made on the budget earlier today.

Effaith Rhoi Polisiau'r Bartneriaeth Newydd ar Waith

C22 Owen John Thomas: A fydd rhoi polisiau'r bartneriaeth newydd rhwng Llafur a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar waith yn cael effaith ar gyllideb flynyddol y Cynulliad? (OAQ7361)

Edwina Hart: Fe'ch cyfeiriaf at y datganiad a wnaed gennyf yn gynharach heddiw ar y gyllideb.

The Effect of Implementing the New Partnership's Policies

Q22 Owen John Thomas: Will the implementation of the policies of the new partnership between Labour and the Liberal Democrats have any effect on the Assembly's annual budget? (OAQ7361)

Edwina Hart: I refer you to the budget statement that I made earlier today.

The Effect of the Partnership Programme on 'Betterwales.com'

Q23 Glyn Davies: What effect will the programme agreed between Labour and the Liberal Democrats have on 'Betterwales.com', the Assembly's corporate strategy? (OAQ7297)

Edwina Hart: As the First Minister said on Tuesday the Partnership Government will continue to develop and implement the objectives set out in 'Betterwales.com'.

The Partnership Agreement upholds the three guiding themes, which were agreed by the Assembly in Plenary; sustainable development, tackling social disadvantage and equal opportunities.

The agreement contains a series of initiatives designed to further these themes.

The new commitments to action will be incorporated into a revised 'Betterwales.com'. We will provide initial indications of how targets will change in the current budget round. We will issue a draft strategic plan for 2001-02 onward in December for adoption in March 2001.

The Assembly's Financial Priorities

Q24 Jonathan Morgan: Will Edwina Hart make a statement on the Assembly's financial priorities? (OAQ7364)

Edwina Hart: I refer you to the statement that I made on the budget earlier today.

Funding from the Coalfields Trust Initiative

Q25 Brian Hancock: Will Edwina Hart report on the funding drawn down by the National Assembly for Wales under the Coalfields Trust initiative? (OAQ7374)

Edwina Hart: I will answer these questions together. The Great Britain-wide Coalfields Regeneration Trust's budget to fund regeneration projects in coalfield (and former coalfield) communities is £50 million over three years from April 1999.

Wales's ring-fenced contribution of £3.462 million is made up of £1.5 million over three years from the National Assembly's block budget and is in proportion (based on the Barnett formula) to the £25 million grant from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. The remaining £1.962 million represents Wales's share (£1.36 million) from the £10 million made available by the UK Government in lieu of surplus miners' pension funds and £0.602 million from the Reserve (the Barnett equivalent of £10 million secured from the Reserve for England).

To date the Trust has drawn down £1.006 million to fund activities in Wales.

Increase in the Assembly Budget

Q26 Nick Bourne: Can Edwina Hart confirm if the Assembly budget will increase as a result of the Labour-Liberal Partnership Agreement? (OAQ7296)

Edwina Hart: The size of the Assembly's budget for the next three financial years was announced following the outcome of the 2000 comprehensive spending review and was fixed in accordance with the terms of the statement of funding policy. The Labour-Liberal Partnership has no effect on this process.

Funding Available from the Department of Trade and Industry

Q27 Cynog Dafis: Will Edwina Hart list the funds, initiatives or other sources of finance available to the National Assembly for Wales's core budget from the Department of Trade and Industry? (OAQ7376)

Edwina Hart: I have no central list of where Whitehall departments run programmes that cover England and Wales or Great Britain as a whole as these resources are paid direct to the final beneficiary and not via the National Assembly.

Additional Funding for Health

Q28 Peter Black: What plans does Edwina Hart have for additional funding to health this financial year? (OAQ7300)

Edwina Hart: On 12 April I confirmed that health would receive an additional £110 million in this financial year. This comprised the full 2000-01 Wales share of the increased funding for health announced by the Chancellor in his March budget, together with a further £11 million from uncommitted carry-forward in other programmes.

I have no plans to provide further funding for health this financial year.

Public Consultation Response to Assembly Initiatives

Q29 Lorraine Barrett: Has Edwina Hart received any representations regarding the time allowed for public consultation responses to National Assembly initiatives? (OAQ7363)

Edwina Hart: I am not aware of any representations received regarding this matter. Assembly guidance is that eight weeks is generally the minimum time allowed for consultation responses to National Assembly for Wales's initiatives.

Funding from England and Wales Initiatives

Q30 Ieuan Wyn Jones: Has Edwina Hart commissioned any research on the amount of funding from England and Wales initiatives drawn down for use in Wales to date in this financial year? (OAQ7378)

Edwina Hart: No.