

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 29 September 2004

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

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

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Questions on Finance to the Finance Minister

The Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

Q13 Leanne Wood: Will the Minister explain how the priorities of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee are taken into account in the budget process? (OAQ37844)

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): In line with Standing Order No. 21, I invite all subject committees to submit their views on priorities at the beginning of the budget planning process. Committees are also consulted on the draft budget when it is published.

The Barnett Formula

Q14 Mick Bates: Has the Minister had discussions with the UK Government regarding altering the allocation to Wales from the Barnett formula? (OAQ37869)

Sue Essex: I am in regular contact with Treasury Ministers and raise issues as appropriate.

Assembly Sponsored Public Bodes (Savings from Merger)

Q15 Leighton Andrews: What estimates has the Minister made of savings in public spending likely to arise from the merger of ASPBs within the Welsh Assembly Government? (OAQ37839)

Sue Essex: The mergers process is still at the scoping stage. This early, first phase of the project is to gather facts and information on how work is currently organised, and to identify potential opportunities. Therefore, precise savings estimates are not currently available. However, the information gathered will be analysed and a business case produced which will outline estimated savings.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

Targets and Funding for Recycling

Q14 Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on targets and funding for recycling in Wales? (OAQ37822)

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): The Assembly waste strategy for Wales sets local authorities escalating targets so that, by 2009-10, at least 40 per cent of municipal waste is recycled or composted. In 2004-05, the Assembly has made £29.5 million available for the waste strategy, of this total, £21 million goes directly to local authorities. The remaining funding is largely used to fund projects that will support local authorities' own efforts to increase recycling and

composting through supporting market development for secondary materials and by increasing public awareness.

The Disposal of Animal By-products in Household Waste

Q15 Brian Gibbons: Will the Minister make a statement on the disposal of animal by-products in household waste? (OAQ37805)

Carwyn Jones: There are no special obligations on the householder regarding the disposal of food waste of animal origin in the household waste collection system. If the waste collection authority separately collects food waste that contains meat or other products of animal origin, then it must comply with the Animal By-Products Order 1999 as amended in 2001.