

# Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary

## 11/11/2009

[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 Finance and Public Service Delivery

#### Funding Allocation

**Q9 David Lloyd:** What consideration has the Minister given to increasing the overall funding allocation for the environment, sustainability and housing portfolio? OAQ(3)0853(FPS)

**The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery (Andrew Davies):** During the preparation of the Assembly Government's draft budget I had various discussions with ministerial colleagues about priorities, pressures and opportunities within their portfolios. The revenue allocation for the environment, sustainability and housing portfolio for 2010-11 has increased by 5.4 per cent over the budget for 2009-10.

#### Additional Funding for Flood Protection

**Q10 Leanne Wood:** What representations has the Minister received regarding providing additional funding to the environment, sustainability and housing portfolio to improve flood protection? OAQ(3)0875(FPS)

**Andrew Davies:** Following discussions with Cabinet Ministers during the budget process, and after securing a range of efficiency savings, an additional £800,000 has been allocated for dealing with flood risk.

#### Rural Affairs Budget

**Q11 Mick Bates:** Will the Minister make a statement on the amount of money allocated for the rural affairs budget for the next financial year? OAQ(3)0863(FPS)

**Andrew Davies:** The Assembly Government's draft budget allocation for the rural affairs portfolio for 2010-11 is some £136 million revenue and almost £17 million capital.

#### Priorities for Public Service Delivery

**Q12 Jenny Randerson:** Will the Minister make a statement on the effect of the Welsh Assembly Government's draft budget on his priorities for public service delivery? OAQ(3)0851(FPS)

**Andrew Davies:** The draft budget for 2010-11 provides the foundations for our ongoing work with our partners to help deliver and improve the public services that people, particularly the most vulnerable, rely on.

### **Draft Budget Allocation**

**Q13 Nerys Evans:** Will the Minister make a statement on the overall draft budget allocation for 2010-11 to the children, education, lifelong learning and skills portfolio? OAQ(3)0856(FPS)

**Andrew Davies:** The Assembly Government's draft budget allocation for the children, education, lifelong learning and skills portfolio for 2010-11 is around £1.69 billion revenue and almost £183 million capital.

### **The Next Census**

**Q14 Mohammad Asghar:** Will the Minister make a statement on the content of the next census in Wales? OAQ(3)0864(FPS)

**Andrew Davies:** The draft census Order was published on 21 October and sets out the questions to be asked in the next census. This includes a question on national identity, which will allow people to state that they are Welsh, whatever their ethnic group.

### **Funding Allocation**

**Q15 Gareth Jones:** Will the Minister make a statement on the overall funding allocation to the social justice and local government portfolio? OAQ(3)0876(FPS)

**Andrew Davies:** The Assembly Government's draft budget allocation for the social justice and local government portfolio for 2010-11 is around £4.4 billion revenue and around £78 million capital.

### **Questions to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills**

#### **Priorities for the Next Six Months**

**Q10 Nerys Evans:** Will the Minister make a statement on her priorities for the next six months? OAQ(3)1091(CEL)

**The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt):** Key 'One Wales' education priorities will continue to be delivered and include, for example, support for the foundation phase, measures to lead Wales out of the recession, schools counselling, the youth support strategy and Welsh-medium education.

#### **Priorities for the Next Six Months**

**Q11 Irene James:** Will the Minister outline her priorities for the next six months? OAQ(3)1077(CEL)

**Jane Hutt:** Key 'One Wales' education priorities will continue to be delivered and include, for example, support for the foundation phase, measures to lead Wales out of the recession, schools counselling, the youth support strategy and Welsh-medium education.

### **Education Provision in Rhyl**

**Q12 Janet Ryder:** Will the Minister make a statement on education provision in the Rhyl area? OAQ(3)1125(CEL)

**Jane Hutt:** Denbighshire County Council is responsible for planning primary and secondary

provision in Rhyl. The local authority maintains six primary and two secondary schools in the town, including one Welsh-medium primary and a voluntary aided school at primary and secondary level. Welsh-medium secondary provision is available in St Asaph.

### **School Leavers**

**Q13 Mick Bates:** Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's plans to increase the skills-based knowledge of school leavers? OAQ(3)1107(CEL)  
*Transferred for written answer by the Deputy Minister for Skills*

**The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths):** We are already implementing several co-ordinated initiatives to increase school leavers' skills base. Skills development starts in the foundation phase and continues through the school curriculum, revised GCSEs, 14-19 learning pathways and our Welsh baccalaureate qualification. Improving teaching methods and the basic skills strategy also support literacy and numeracy.

### **Improving School Buildings**

**Q14 Nick Bourne:** Will the Minister make a statement on funding for improving school buildings in Wales? OAQ(3)1105(CEL)

**Jane Hutt:** My statement to Plenary in February set out my proposals to develop a long-term strategic capital investment programme in partnership with the WLGA and local authorities that will deliver all their school rebuilding / refurbishment programmes.

### **Priorities for the Next Six Months**

**Q15 Nick Bourne:** Will the Minister outline her priorities for the next six months? OAQ(3)1106(CEL)

**Jane Hutt:** Key 'One Wales' education priorities will continue to be delivered and include, for example, support for the foundation phase, measures to lead Wales out of the recession, schools counselling, the youth support strategy and Welsh-medium education.