

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 13/07/2010

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

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

Questions to the First Minister

Income Inequalities

Q10 Irene James: Will the First Minister make a statement on income inequalities in Wales?
OAQ(3)3024(FM)

The First Minister: The Assembly Government has consistently stated its commitment to tackling poverty and inequality and this is reflected by the range of policies that we have in place to improve the economic, health and educational outcomes between those on the lowest income and their more affluent peers.

Tobacco Control Regulations

Q11 Trish Law: What assessment has the Welsh Assembly Government made of the impact the proposed tobacco control regulations for Wales will have on small retailers?
OAQ(3)3039(FM)

The First Minister: The consultation on draft regulations relating to the display of tobacco products, which closed last week, included a regulatory impact assessment. Responses on the possible impact of the proposed regulations and on the impact assessment itself are being collated and will be given careful consideration before the regulations are finalised.

Fire Safety

Q12 Mark Isherwood: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's policies for fire safety in Wales? OAQ(3)3030(FM)

The First Minister: Fire and rescue authorities have a statutory responsibility under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to make provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety. Activity is detailed in our fire and rescue national framework for Wales. Last year, this was supported by £27 million of Assembly Government funding.

Teenage Pregnancy Rate

Q13 Dai Lloyd: Will the First Minister make a statement on the teenage pregnancy rate in Wales? OAQ(3)3023(FM))

The First Minister: The latest figures show a small decrease in teenage conception rates. For 2008, the provisional rate for under 18 conceptions in Wales was 44.2 per 1,000 women aged between 15 and 17. This compares to a rate of 44.9 for 2007.

Question 14 OAQ(3)3045(FM) was withdrawn.

Welfare Cuts

Q15 Gareth Jones: What assessment has the Welsh Assembly Government made of the impact of welfare cuts on Welsh communities? OAQ(3)3032(FM)

The First Minister: A variety of proposals for welfare reform have been put forward by the UK government. Many of these proposals are currently lacking in detail, but it is apparent that much of the impact will be felt disproportionately by the most disadvantaged in society.