

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 02/03/2010

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

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

### Questions to the First Minister

#### Budget

**Q11 Christine Chapman:** What discussions has the First Minister had with the UK Government regarding the Welsh budget? OAQ(3)2674(FM)

**The First Minister:** The Minister for Business and Budget has regular discussions with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on issues relating to the Welsh budget and financial matters. I also have regular contact with UK Government Ministers, where I discuss current issues impacting on Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government.

#### Fuel Poverty

**Q12 Mark Isherwood:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's policies to tackle fuel poverty? OAQ(3)2683(FM)

**The First Minister:** The Assembly Government's proposals for tackling fuel poverty were set out in the recent consultation on a revised fuel poverty strategy. We are committed to tackling fuel poverty and will be investing an additional £1.4 million in the home energy efficiency scheme and £2.5 million in a boiler scrappage scheme in 2010-11.

#### Private Sector

**Q13 Nick Ramsay:** Will the First Minister provide an update on the Welsh Assembly Government's policies for unleashing the potential of the private sector? OAQ(3)2697(FM)

**The First Minister:** As part of our economic renewal programme to create a stronger, more sustainable economy for the future we are listening carefully to the views of a range of stakeholders on how we can assist the private sector to maximise its contribution to economic prosperity in Wales.

#### Fairtrade

**Q14 Lorraine Barrett:** Will the First Minister provide an update on the Welsh Assembly Government's efforts to ensure that Wales remains a Fairtrade Nation? OAQ(3)2684(FM)

**The First Minister:** We continue to support local Fair Trade groups across Wales. Several more local authorities and towns were certified Fairtrade this year and 41 per cent of Welsh schools are now registered with the UK Fairtrade schools scheme. We are also funding awareness raising in Wales and specific Fairtrade projects with Africa.

#### Residents in South Wales Central

**Q15 Andrew R.T. Davies:** What measures is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to improve the quality of life for residents in South Wales Central? OAQ(3)2679(FM)

**The First Minister:** We are continuing to deliver on the 'One Wales' vision of a fair and just society in ensuring that the residents of South Wales Central live in strong, safe and diverse communities and have access to improved public services.