

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 13/10/2010

*[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 Heritage

#### Welsh Language Measure

*10. Gareth Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Language Measure. OAQ(3)1254(HER) W*

**The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones):** I made a statement during the debate on the general principles of the proposed Measure on 21 September outlining the Government's response to the Stage 1 scrutiny. I tabled the Government's amendments on 5 October. I will discuss these, along with the other amendments tabled, in the legislation committee tomorrow.

#### Blaenau Gwent Eisteddfod

*11. Trish Law: Will the Minister make a statement on the recent National Eisteddfod held in Blaenau Gwent. OAQ(3)1274(HER)*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** This year's Eisteddfod was the first to be held in Ebbw Vale since 1958, and the event certainly lived up to all expectations. I commend the people of Blaenau Gwent for their enthusiasm throughout the week, and all their hard work in the preparation leading up to the event.

#### Protection of Welsh Heritage in Wales

*12. Nick Bourne: Will the Minister outline his policies for the protection of Welsh heritage in Wales. OAQ(3)1260(HER)*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to protecting Welsh heritage: enabling people to enjoy it, helping people to understand and appreciate it, and supporting those who manage it.

*Question 13, OAQ(3)1257(HER), was withdrawn*

#### Priorities

*14. David Lloyd: What are the Minister's priorities for the next 6 months. OAQ(3)1269(HER) W*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** I am committed to fulfilling my 'One Wales' commitments, including:

securing a thriving future for the Welsh language; encouraging more physical activity for better health; increasing tourism by maximising the economic value of our heritage; and modernising the public library network.

*Question 15, OAQ(3)1280(HER), was withdrawn.*

## **Questions to the Minister for Business and Budget**

### **Budget**

**6. Jenny Randerson:** *What is the Minister doing to ensure that changes to the Welsh Assembly Government's budget are easily traceable. OAQ(3)1201(BB) **Transferred for written answer.***

**The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt):** I fully support the need for transparency and openness and I welcome the robust process we have in place for scrutinising the budget. As in previous years, we will publish as part of the budget supporting documentation a full reconciliation to support the scrutiny process.

*Questions 7, 8 and 9 were answered in Plenary.*

### **Budget Allocation**

**10. William Graham:** *What considerations has the Minister given to reviewing the budget allocation to the Health and Social Services portfolio. OAQ(3)1177(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** We published adjustments to budget allocations for the current year in the supplementary budget that was approved by the Assembly in June. We will bring forward a further supplementary budget later in the financial year.

*Question 11, OAQ(3)1162(BB), was withdrawn.*

### **Location Strategy**

**12. Gareth Jones:** *Will the Minister make a statement on the Location Strategy as it affects North Wales. OAQ(3)1169(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** The Llandudno Junction office was officially opened on 23 September 2010 and the subsequent public opening attracted over 2,000 visitors. Around 150 jobs have been brought to north Wales through a combination of new posts and posts relocated from south Wales. Over £8.7 million was spent locally in the construction phase.

### **Priorities**

**13. Andrew R.T. Davies:** *Will the Minister outline her priorities for the next six months for the South Wales Central region. OAQ(3)1198(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** As in all parts of Wales, we are committed to delivering better outcomes for the people of South Wales Central. The Assembly Government remains committed to delivering our 'One Wales' agenda, maximising resources to ensure effective and efficient public services that deliver value for money.

### **Value for Money**

**14. Darren Millar:** *Will the Minister make a statement on steps being taken to ensure value*

*for money across the Welsh Assembly Government budget. OAQ(3)1193(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** The duty to safeguard public funds and ensure value for money is at the heart of all Assembly Government spending, especially in these challenging financial times. Maximising efficiency and ensuring value for money in public service delivery is central to the work of the efficiency and innovation board.

*Question 15, OAQ(3)1166(BB), was withdrawn.*