

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 14/10/2009

[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 Rural Affairs

### Tenant Farmers

**Q11 Brynle Williams:** Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's support for tenant farmers? OAQ(3)0811(RAF)

**The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones):** The Welsh Assembly Government does not differentiate between landowners and tenant farmers when developing agricultural policy. Our agricultural policy is relevant to all people who are actively farming and in managerial control of a particular holding or holdings.

### Cheese Producers

**Q12 Janet Ryder:** Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government support for Welsh cheese producers? OAQ(3)0828(RAF)

**Elin Jones:** Specific support is available for food processing and business development, with access to the single investment fund for larger companies. Marketing and development support can also be accessed to facilitate growth and identify market opportunities.

### Rural Affairs Policies

**Q13 Andrew R.T. Davies:** What discussions has the Minister had with her counterparts in the UK Government about rural affairs policies? OAQ(3)0805(RAF)

**Elin Jones:** I have met quite frequently with my UK Government counterparts over the last few months. Discussions have focussed on a broad range of issues including cost sharing and the devolution of animal health budgets, food matters, the electronic identification of sheep and policy on genetically modified foods. Regular discussion also takes place at official level.

### Bwyd Llysieuol

**C14 Bethan Jenkins** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hybu bwyd llysieuol yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0818(RAF) [W]

**Elin Jones:** Nid ydym yn gwahaniaethu rhwng hyrwyddo cynnyrch llysieuol ac unrhyw fath arall o gynnyrch bwyd yng

### Vegetarian Food

**Q14 Bethan Jenkins:** Will the Minister make a statement on promoting vegetarian food in Wales? OAQ(3)0818(RAF) [W]

**Elin Jones:** We make no differentiation in the promotion of vegetarian products as opposed to other food products produced in

Nghymru, fel cynnyrch llaeth neu gynnyrch organig. Yr ydym yn cydnabod, fodd bynnag, y bu cynnydd yn y galw yn y farchnad am gynnyrch sy'n perthyn i gategori llysiau, ac yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â hynny drwy gyfrwng ein strategaeth garddwriaeth.

Wales such as dairy or organic. We do however recognise the increased market demand for vegetable-category products, which is being addressed through our horticulture strategy.

### **Food Security**

**Q15 William Graham:** Will the Minister outline the discussions that she has held with the UK Government on food security? OAQ(3)0803(RAF)

**Elin Jones:** Last May, food Ministers from Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England met formally in Edinburgh to discuss food security issues and to identify areas where collaboration would be considered beneficial. The initiative is continuing, with further formal meetings planned for December and March 2010.

## **Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing**

### **Energy Needs**

**Q10 Nerys Evans:** What recent discussions has the Minister had regarding Wales's energy needs? OAQ(3)0975(ESH)

**The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson):** I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues, the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets, energy companies, and the UK Government, often on energy issues. Those discussions, and the responses to the renewable energy route-map for Wales consultation exercise in 2008, will inform the Assembly Government's strategic approach to energy, which I will publish near the end of the year.

### **Flooding**

**Q11 Rosemary Butler:** Will the Minister give an update on the measures being taken by the Welsh Assembly Government to tackle the threat of flooding in Newport? OAQ(3)0989(ESH)

**Jane Davidson:** The Welsh Assembly Government defines national policy and provides the majority of flood risk management funding. Local flood risk management measures are determined by local authorities and the Environment Agency. In Newport, measures to address flood risk on the Usk's east bank, the Gwent levels and Ponthir are being considered.

### **Housing—the Building Industry**

**Q12 Eleanor Burnham:** Will the Minister make a statement on what meetings she has had with the building industry regarding housing? OAQ(3)1016(ESH)

**Jane Davidson:** I have met individually with a number of building industry representative organisations including the Royal Society of Architects in Wales, the National Housebuilding Council, the Home Builders' Federation, and the Confederation of British Industry. I have held collective discussions with the range of industry interests that the Coalition of the Willing represents.

### **Affordable Housing**

**Q13 Mark Isherwood:** Will the Minister make a statement on the use of planning restrictions in the supply of affordable housing? OAQ(3)0992(ESH)

**Jane Davidson:** The supply of new affordable housing is currently being affected by the economic downturn. We will shortly be publishing updated guidance for local planning authorities on using the planning process to bring forward development and deliver the maximum possible amount of affordable housing during the economic downturn.

### **Maintaining Water Defences**

**Q14 Nick Ramsay:** Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's policies for maintaining water defences? OAQ(3)1005(ESH)

**Jane Davidson:** The Welsh Assembly Government's policy aim is to reduce the risk of flooding to people and property by encouraging the provision of technically sound, environmentally sensitive, economically viable and sustainable flood risk management measures. The proper maintenance of water or flood defences is an important element of the risk management approach.

### **Park Home Residents Arbitration Tribunal**

**Q15 Kirsty Williams:** Will the Minister make a statement on moves towards a park home residents' arbitration tribunal? OAQ(3)1012(ESH)

**The Deputy Minister for Housing (Jocelyn Davies):** We are currently making arrangements to change the way in which disputes are resolved by transferring jurisdiction from county courts to the residential property tribunal.