

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 16/06/2010

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

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

Contents

- 1 Questions to the Minister for Business and Budget
- 2 Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Questions to the Minister for Business and Budget

The Rural Affairs Budget

Q8 Brynle Williams: Will the Minister outline what considerations have been given to the future funding of the rural affairs budget? OAQ(3)1078(BB)

The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt): The rural affairs budget for 2010-11 was approved by the Assembly last December. The forthcoming comprehensive spending review will set future budgets. In preparation for this, I am already exploring with Cabinet colleagues how best to address the future funding challenges whilst ensuring we continue to deliver our priorities.

‘One Wales’

Q9 Eleanor Burnham: What plans does the Minister have to adjust the Welsh Assembly Government’s budget to take into account ‘One Wales’ commitments that have already been delivered? OAQ(3)1118(BB)

Jane Hutt: I work with each Minister to understand the issues faced by their portfolios when determining budgets. Our budget proposals consider achievements to date and future priorities including those set out in ‘One Wales’.

Budget Consultation

Q10 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on recent budget consultations? OAQ(3)1116(BB)

Jane Hutt: The Assembly Government’s budget for 2010-11 was approved by the Assembly last December. I recently met the Chief Secretary to discuss the implications for Wales of the UK Government’s announcement on spending cuts in 2010-11 and will make a further statement to Plenary in due course.

Welsh Budget

Q11 Lynne Neagle: What discussions has the Minister had with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury regarding the Welsh budget? OAQ(3)1114(BB)

Jane Hutt: I met the Chief Secretary on 9 June. We had constructive discussions on the Welsh Assembly Government views about managing the £187 million in-year cuts for Wales,

the second Holtham commission report, and fair funding for Wales. The Chief Secretary agreed to refund the £1.6 million negative consequential from the Olympics budget.

Portfolio

Q12 Andrew R.T. Davies: What discussions has the Minister had with ministerial colleagues about the impact of her portfolio priorities on the delivery of services in Wales? OAQ(3)1091(BB)

Jane Hutt: I have regular discussions with my ministerial colleagues about budget issues. As we prepare for a series of difficult budget settlements, our commitment to maintaining service delivery in Wales is a key consideration.

Housing Priorities

Q13 Mark Isherwood: What consideration does the Minister give to the Welsh Assembly Government's housing priorities when allocating the environment, sustainability and housing budget? OAQ(3)1094(BB)

Jane Hutt: In determining the budget settlement, I work with each Minister to explore their portfolio pressures and priorities. Our budget proposals reflect these pressures and priorities as well as aligning our spending with our overall priorities set out in 'One Wales'.

Welsh Budget

Q14 Lynne Neagle: What discussions has the Minister had with ministerial colleagues regarding the Welsh budget? OAQ(3)1115(BB)

Jane Hutt: During the budget process, I meet all portfolio Ministers to understand the pressures and priorities within their portfolios. These discussions form part of the planning and preparatory work undertaken as part of the normal budget planning round process.

Public Services

Q15 Mark Isherwood: What consideration did the Minister give to public services when allocating the overall budget? OAQ(3)1093(BB)

Jane Hutt: 'One Wales' sets the programme for this Government. That programme is underpinned by our commitment to delivering excellent public services for the people of Wales. This commitment informs our budget proposals each year.

Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Promoting Welsh Culture

Q9 Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on promotion of Welsh culture? OAQ(3)1194(HER)

The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones): The importance of a rich and diverse culture lies at the heart of my portfolio objectives. The 'One Wales' document outlines our aims to offer high-quality cultural experiences to the people of Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government supports and promotes Welsh culture and heritage throughout Wales and abroad.

Women in Sport

Q10 Christine Chapman: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to encourage the participation of women in sport? OAQ(3)1190(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that all age, gender and social groups have opportunities to participate in sport. A key priority for Sport Wales is to encourage more women and girls to become hooked on sport for life.

Tourism

Q11 Leanne Wood: Will the Minister make a statement on tourism in the south Wales Valleys? OAQ(3)1176(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: The Valleys have the potential to offer great opportunities for tourism. The Valleys regional park initiative is helping realise those opportunities by developing, enhancing and promoting the Valleys' outstanding environmental and cultural assets to help change the reality and perceptions of the Valleys as a tourism destination.

*Tynnwyd cwestiwn 12, OAQ(3)1183(HER), yn ôl.
Question 12, OAQ(3)1183(HER), was withdrawn.*

Protection of Rural Heritage

Q13 Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on the protection of rural heritage across Wales? OAQ(3)1185(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to protecting Wales' rural heritage, enabling people to enjoy it, helping people to understand and appreciate it, and supporting those who manage it. Our aspiration is for the Welsh rural heritage to be engaged, managed and protected.

Hybu Twf yr Iaith Gymraeg

Promoting the Growth of the Welsh Language

Q14 Nerys Evans: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn hybu twf yr iaith Gymraeg? OAQ(3)1164(HER) [W]

Q14 Nerys Evans: Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Assembly Government is promoting the growth of the Welsh language? OAQ(3)1164(HER) [W]

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae Llywodraeth 'Cymru'n Un' yn parhau i ymrwymo i wneud Cymru'n wlad wirioneddol ddwyieithog, lle y gall bobl fyw eu bywydau trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Yr ydym wedi cyflwyno Mesur arfaethedig y Gymraeg a gafodd ei gynnig, ac yr ydym hefyd yn datblygu strategaeth ar gyfer yr iaith Gymraeg fydd yn destun ymgynghoriad yn ddiweddarach eleni.

Alun Ffred Jones: The 'One Wales' Government remains committed to making Wales a truly bilingual country where people can live their lives through the medium of Welsh or English. We have introduced the proposed Welsh language Measure, and we are also developing a new Welsh language strategy for consultation later in the year.

Sport Coaching in Wales

Q15 Sandy Mewies: Will the Minister make a statement on the recent moneys announced to support extra sports coaching in Wales? OAQ(3)1199(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: Coaching plays an instrumental part in the development of people who participate in sport and I was pleased to announce at the recent stakeholders' conference that an additional £1 million will be invested to support the delivery of our 'One Wales' commitments relating to coaching.