

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 12/01/2011

[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 Business and Budget

#### Priorities

*10. Nerys Evans: Will the Minister make a statement regarding her priorities for the remainder of this Assembly. OAQ(3)1253(BB)*

**The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt):** ‘One Wales’ set our priorities for the duration of this Assembly and has shaped our spending plans. The draft budget for 2011-12 sets out how we will continue to deliver our priorities despite the UK Government’s spending cuts.

#### Priorities

*11. Paul Davies: Will the Minister outline her priorities for the remainder of the Third Assembly. OAQ(3)1284(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** Our spending plans are set out in the draft budget 2010-11. As with each budget during the Third Assembly, this budget turns the priorities and commitments of ‘One Wales’ into a comprehensive and deliverable set of spending plans.

#### Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

*12. Irene James: Will the Minister make a statement on the overall allocation of funding to the Children, Education and Lifelong Learning portfolio. OAQ(3)1262(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** Included in the Assembly Government’s draft budget for 2011-12 is an allocation of over £1.8 billion for the children, education and lifelong learning portfolio.

*Question 13, OAQ(3)1256(BB) was withdrawn*

#### Social Justice and Local Government Portfolio

*14. Jenny Randerson: Does the Minister have any plans to allocate additional funding to the Social Justice and Local Government portfolio to provide extra financial support for local government in Wales to tackle extreme weather. OAQ(3)1273(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** I monitor expenditure in all areas of the Assembly Government’s responsibilities on a monthly basis, including assessing emerging risks and pressures. First and foremost, responsibility for responding to pressures rests with the relevant Minister, but I maintain an overview and discuss handling of pressures as necessary.

## Census

*15. William Graham: Will the Minister provide an update on the arrangements for the Census. OAQ(3)1285(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** The census will take place on 27 March 2011. The Welsh Assembly Government has worked with the Office for National Statistics in developing the arrangements. Each household in Wales will receive an English and Welsh questionnaire and householders will be able to complete the census online for the first time.

## Questions to the Minister for Heritage

### Community Radio

*9. Bethan Jenkins: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government support for community radio in Wales. OAQ(3)1382(HER)*

**The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones):** The Welsh Assembly Government's community radio fund was established to recognise and support the contribution that community radio stations make to their communities. Relevant stations are now invited to apply for the fourth year of funding from the community radio fund.

### Quality of Tourist Information

*10. David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on measures that are currently under consideration to improve the quality of tourist information. OAQ(3)1394(HER)*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** Tourists have more choice than ever in how they access information on destinations and their tourism offer. Visit Wales is currently undertaking research into visitors' expectations on the provision of tourist information, and how that should be developed in the future.

### Key Sporting Events

*11. Alun Davies: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to attract key sporting events to Wales. OAQ(3)1361(HER)*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** Wales has successfully hosted a number of major international sporting events, including the 1999 Rugby World Cup, the 2009 Ashes Test and the 2010 Ryder Cup. On 29 September 2010 we launched our first major events strategy for Wales, in which we set out how we plan to build on that success over the next 10 years.

### Historic Buildings

*12. Joyce Watson: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to restore historic buildings. OAQ(3)1357(HER)*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** My historic environment ambition statement emphasises the importance of historic buildings in contributing to the distinctiveness of Wales and to our wellbeing. My officials in Cadw have offered grant of over £2 million in the last year towards restoration work in Wales, including £250,000 for repairs to buildings at Cardigan castle.

### Promotion of the Welsh Language

*13. Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of Welsh through*

*the implementation of the Welsh Language Measure. OAQ(3)1385(HER)*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** The provisions within the Propsoed Welsh Language (Wales) Measure recognise that responsibility for promoting the use of the language will rest with several bodies. The Welsh language commissioner will have a duty to promote the language, as will the Assembly Government, local government and other bodies that may be placed under a duty to do so.

*Question 14 OAQ(3)1379(HER) was withdrawn.*

### **Priorities**

**15. Nerys Evans:** *What are the Minister's priorities for the remainder of this Assembly term. OAQ(3)1360 (HER) W*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** I remain committed to fulfilling my 'One Wales' commitments, including securing a thriving future for the Welsh Language, encouraging more physical activity for better health, increased tourism by maximising the economic value of our heritage, and modernising the public library network.