

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 21/09/2010

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

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

Contents

Questions to the First Minister

Equality and Human Rights Commission

11. Bethan Jenkins: Will the First Minister make a statement on any discussions the Welsh Assembly Government has held with the Equality and Human Rights Commission over its future operations in Wales. OAQ(3)3063(FM)

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): ‘One Wales’ sets out the Assembly Government’s commitment to make a success of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in Wales. We have an effective working relationship with the Equality and Human Rights Commission here in Wales and Ministers have regular dialogue with the commissioner for Wales and the director for Wales on a wide range of equality related issues.

Court Services

12. Chris Franks: What recent discussions has the Welsh Assembly Government had regarding the Court Services in Wales. OAQ(3)3058(FM)

The First Minister: The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government has been in correspondence with Ministers at the Ministry of Justice in respect of their proposals for courts estate rationalisation.

Efficiency Savings

13. Angela Burns: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government’s planned efficiency savings. OAQ(3)3057(FM)

The First Minister: We expect to exceed our target of saving £6 million from the Assembly Government’s non-staff running costs this year, having saved over £2 million in the first quarter. We have reduced staff costs steadily over the last year, including annual savings of over £14 million through staff leaving this month.

National Media

14. Sandy Mewies: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to ensure that Wales is supported by a good and varied national media. OAQ(3)3071(FM)

The First Minister: Although broadcasting is not devolved, the Welsh Assembly Government has expressed its concern regarding the loss of plurality in English-language television in Wales and has used every possible opportunity to press the UK Government to take urgent action to protect programmes and services in Wales.

Minister for the Valleys

*15. Trish Law: Does the First Minister have any plans to appoint a Minister for the Valleys.
OAQ(3)3056(FM)*

The First Minister: I have no plans at present.