

## **Information Further to Ministerial Answers**

### **Information further to OAQ1421(FM) issued by Carwyn Jones, the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside, on behalf of Rhodri Morgan, the First Minister**

#### **To Jocelyn Davies:**

In Plenary on 28 March 2006 you raised a supplementary question to OAQ1421 with the First Minister as to whether coal extraction by open casting could be rendered carbon neutral in Wales by the planting of trees. I have been asked to reply.

There is a potential to sequester carbon to offset carbon emissions by planting new woodland and forestry and some research has been completed on this, however considerable uncertainty remains. To be able to calculate whether opencast coal mining in Wales could be rendered carbon neutral we would need to establish the level of emissions of Carbon Dioxide from this sector.

The National Environmental Technology Centre (NETCEN) compiles the Greenhouse Gas inventories on behalf of DEFRA and the Devolved Administrations. They do hold some information on emissions of methane from this sector but they advise that data is not available for emissions of Carbon Dioxide from open cast mining in Wales. These emissions would mainly be due to the combustion of fuels used by mobile off road machinery and transport (gas oil, fuel oil).

This is a difficult area to obtain any meaningful data but my officials will consider this further to establish if any more recent research has been published or if any additional work has been carried out in this area. The development of the inventory system may mean that more information is available in future.

I will write again in due course if any meaningful data becomes available.

### **Information further to OAQ1422(FM) issued by Rhodri Morgan, the First Minister**

#### **To Dai Lloyd:**

During First Minister's questions on the 28 March you raised a question seeking my thoughts on automotive energy generated by harnessing the 'slip stream' created by motor vehicles using small wind turbines on the central reservations on motorways. I understand that you also wrote to the Minister of Enterprise, Innovative & Networking on 6 March regarding a concept by Mr David Montanari for harnessing 'slip stream' energy.

Automotive energy in Wales is still in the very early stages and as no official evidence has yet been published it is too soon for me to comment on its potential. There are of course a number of issues which will require further consideration before any conclusions can be reached. Amongst these are the implications which the technology will have for traffic, road safety and maintenance.

I understand that Mr Montanari is currently in discussion with various Welsh Assembly Government departments who are providing him with guidance and assistance and I wish him every success in the development of his proposals.