

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 6 November 2001

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

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

Questions to the First Minister

Sub-post Offices and Related Facilities in Rural Wales

Q11 Nick Bourne: What discussions has the First Minister had with his Westminster colleagues regarding the loss of sub-post offices and related facilities in rural Wales? (OAQ13637)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I meet Paul Murphy, the Secretary of State for Wales, on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues.

Cais Dinas Diwylliant Ewrop 2008 Caerdydd

C12 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar yr hyn y mae ef yn ei wneud, fel Prif Weinidog Cymru, i hyrwyddo delwedd Cymru ledled Ewrop trwy gefnogi cais Dinas Caerdydd i ddod yn ddinas diwylliant 2008? (OAQ13635) [W]

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae codi proffil Cymru yn un o flaenoriaethau allweddol y Cabinet. Mater i awdurdodau'r DU yw penderfynu pa ddinas a ddewisir i fod yn Ddinas Diwylliant Ewrop yn 2008. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn llwyr gefnogi cais Caerdydd ar gyfer 2008.

Cardiff's European City of Culture 2008 Bid

Q12 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the First Minister make a statement on the steps he is taking, in his capacity as First Minister, to promote the image of Wales throughout Europe in support of Cardiff's bid to be the city of culture in 2008? (OAQ13635) [W]

The First Minister: Raising the profile of Wales is a key priority for the Cabinet. The responsibility for determining which city will be designated the European City of Culture in 2008 lies with the UK authorities. The Government of the Assembly wholly supports Cardiff's bid to be chosen for 2008.

‘Cynllun i Gymru 2001’ (Gwella Ansawdd Bywyd yng Nghymoedd y De)

C13 Geraint Davies: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar sut y bydd y mesurau o fewn y ‘Cynllun i Gymru 2001’ yn gwella ansawdd bywyd yng Nghymoedd y De? (OAQ13646) [W]

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae ‘Cynllun i Gymru 2001’ yn ymrwmo i wella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ac yn pennu cyfeiriad cliriach i'r economi, yr amgylchedd a'r gymdeithas, ac i Gymru gyfan. O ran Cymoedd y De yn arbennig:

- mae'r gronfa anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn cefnogi 20 prosiect i helpu i wella iechyd a'i gwneud yn haws i bobl gael gwasanaethau iechyd yng Nghymoedd y De;
- wrth weithredu adolygiad dyraniad adnoddau Townsend, sy'n destun ymgynghori ar hyn o bryd, disgwylir yn y pen draw i adnoddau iechyd gael eu hanelu'n fwy at Gymoedd y de a chymunedau eraill sy'n dioddef o afiechyd gwaeth na gweddill Cymru;
- bydd prosiect Continental Teves yn ymestyn ar ystâd ddiwydiannol Waun-y-Pound, Glynebwy, gan greu 116 o swyddi newydd a diogelu 161;

- derbyniodd Desk-Link Office Furniture Limited ar ystâd ddiwydiannol Tafarnaubach yn Nhredegar gymorth rhanbarthol dewisol o £1.2 miliwn, gan greu 75 o swyddi newydd yn y broses.

‘Plan for Wales 2001’ (Improving Quality of Life in the South Wales Valleys)

Q13 Geraint Davies: Will the First Minister make a statement on how the measures of ‘Plan for Wales 2001’ will improve the quality of life in the south Wales Valleys? (OAQ13646) [W]

The First Minister: ‘Plan for Wales 2001’ offers a commitment to improving public services and a clearer sense of direction for the economy, environment, and society for the whole of Wales. In terms of the south Wales Valleys specifically:

- the inequalities in health fund is supporting 20 projects to help improve health and access to health services in the south Wales Valleys;
- the implementation of the Townsend resource allocation review, currently out to consultation, is expected to result in a significant shift of health resources towards the south Wales Valleys and other communities that experience health worse than that in the rest of Wales;
- the Continental Teves project will expand its operation on the Waun-y-Pound industrial estate in Ebbw Vale, which will create a further 116 new jobs and safeguard 161;
- Desk-Link Office Furniture Limited on the Tafarnaubach industrial estate in Tredegar has been supported with regional selective assistance of £1.2 million, creating a further 75 jobs in the process.

‘Plan for Wales 2001’ (Delivering Better Public Services)

Q14 Elin Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement on the ways in which the forthcoming ‘Plan for Wales 2001’ will deliver better public services for the people of Wales? (OAQ13622)

The First Minister: The ‘Plan for Wales 2001’ was launched on 25 October and clearly sets out our commitment to delivering better public services. ‘Improving Health in Wales: A Plan for the NHS with its Partners’ and ‘The Learning Country’ provide the detail on how we intend to improve our schools and hospitals.

Dealing with Civil Emergencies in North Wales

Q15 Janet Ryder: How is the First Minister co-ordinating policy development in north Wales to ensure that adequate plans are in place to deal with civil emergencies? (OAQ13627)

The First Minister: A strategic co-ordination group, chaired by the chief constable of North Wales Police, meets regularly to co-ordinate policy development across all the agencies involved in civil contingencies. Assembly officials attend this. It has a series of inter-agency working groups, which look at the various aspects to ensure that adequate plans are in place. The most recent inter-agency exercise was held in north Wales on 1 November and the Assembly was represented.