

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 28 May 2002

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

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

Questions to the First Minister

Attracting Economic Investment to Mid Wales

Q11 Mick Bates: Will the First Minister make a statement on what is being done to promote mid Wales in terms of attracting economic investment in order to tackle social exclusion and poverty? (OAQ18002)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): As part of the Welsh Assembly Government's assistance package to promote industry and business right across Wales, we have recently added the Assembly investment grant, which is available to all eligible small and medium-sized enterprises, including those in mid Wales. The Accelerate Wales advisory service promoted by the Welsh Development Agency has recently assisted Stadco in Llanfyllin, Powys to win a £1.5 million contract for a new Range Rover.

Confeydd Dŵr Newydd yn y Canolbarth

C12 Dafydd Wigley: Pa drafodaethau a gafodd y Prif Weinidog hyd yma gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynglŷn â'r adroddiadau bod cynlluniau'n cael eu datblygu ar gyfer cronfeydd dŵr newydd yng nghanolbarth Cymru i gyflenwi dŵr i dde-ddwyrain Lloegr? (OAQ18001) [W]

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf wedi trafod y mater hwn gyda'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol o gwbl. Gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd a'r Cynulliad y mae'r prif bwerau mewn perthynas â chymradwyo datblygiad o'r fath, a hwy hefyd sy'n bennaf gyfrifol. Fel y dywedodd Sue Essex wrth yr Aelodau yr wythnos diwethaf, mae rheolwr gyfarwyddwr Dŵr Hafren Trent wedi ein sicrhau nad yw ef, na'i gwmni na Water UK yn datblygu unrhyw gynlluniau i ehangu cronfa ddŵr Craig Goch.

New Reservoirs in Mid Wales

Q12 Dafydd Wigley: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding the reports that plans are being developed for new reservoirs in mid Wales to supply water to south-east England? (OAQ18001) [W]

The First Minister: I have had no discussions with the Secretary of State on this issue. The main powers and responsibilities in relation to approving such a development lie with the Environment Agency and the Assembly. As Sue Essex advised Members last week, the managing director of Severn Trent Water has assured us that neither he, his company, nor Water UK are developing any plans to enlarge Craig Goch reservoir.

Tax-raising Powers of Proposed English Regional Assemblies

Q13 Phil Williams: Will the First Minister make a statement on the lack of tax-raising functions of the National Assembly for Wales in relation to the tax-raising powers of the proposed regional assemblies in England? (OAQ18014)

The First Minister: The proposed regional assemblies will have the ability to raise a precept on council tax in the same way as local authorities. Comparison with the Assembly is wholly invalid.

Question 14 (OAQ17992) withdrawn.

Impact of Government Policies on South Wales West

Q15 Alun Cairns: Will the First Minister make a statement on the impact his policies have had on the South Wales West region? (OAQ18003)

The First Minister: The policies of the Welsh Assembly Government are having a positive impact upon South Wales West, as they are throughout Wales. For example, we have provided £26.2 million in transport grant over the last two years to improve transport in South Wales West, including measures for road safety and to provide Safe Routes to Schools. Furthermore, claimant count unemployment over the past year has fallen from 6.1 per cent to 5.1 per cent in Neath Port Talbot, 4.6 per cent to 3.8 per cent in Bridgend and from 4.8 per cent to 4.0 per cent in Swansea.