

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 29 January 2002

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

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

### Questions to the First Minister

#### Deprived Communities

**Q12 Peter Black:** How is the First Minister co-ordinating policy on deprived communities? (OAQ15257)

**The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):** A community regeneration and social inclusion policy board, chaired by the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities, has been established. It will drive forward the Assembly's social inclusion agenda and advise on the strategic direction of the Communities First programme. The board brings together key players at a senior level from within the Assembly and a range of other organisations across Wales.

#### Construction Skills Certificate

**Q13 Brian Gibbons:** Will the First Minister make a statement regarding the construction skills certificate being made mandatory for contractors working on public sector projects across the Assembly's range of responsibilities? (OAQ15260)

**The First Minister:** The certificate is a skills passport issued to individuals by the UK-wide construction skills certification scheme, run for the industry by the Construction Industry Training Board and indicating achievement of a recognised level of construction skills and competence. It is not a mandatory scheme and the Assembly does not currently require its use for construction projects within its control.

#### Location of Assembly Jobs

**Q14 Peter Rogers:** What discussions has the First Minister had with the Permanent Secretary about a review of the location of Assembly jobs? (OAQ15269)

**The First Minister:** I have regular discussions with the Permanent Secretary on many different issues. The Welsh Assembly Government's ongoing review of non-Cardiff-based locations for its offices is among the regular topics covered.

#### Distributing Financial Support

**Q15 Glyn Davies:** Will the First Minister make a statement on the importance of recognising sparsity in any formula for distributing financial support to different parts of Wales? (OAQ15266)

**The First Minister:** Population sparsity is a factor in any formula used for distributing financial support where there are extra costs associated with providing services to highly dispersed populations. That has been taken into account in detail for the local government settlement and the health formula.