

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 26 February 2002

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

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

Questions to the First Minister

Health Policies

Q11 David Lloyd: Will the First Minister make a statement on the overall development of the Assembly's health policies? (OAQ15831)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): 'Improving Health in Wales' is a plan for the further development of the NHS in Wales, and is now being implemented. This builds on and complements the foundations laid by 'Better Health, Better Wales', which set a strategy for national, regional and local action to prevent disease and to improve health and wellbeing.

Economic and Social Policies

Q12 Pauline Jarman: Will the First Minister make a statement on the measures the Assembly has taken to ensure its economic and social policies benefit all of Wales? (OAQ15838)

The First Minister: 'A Winning Wales' sets out a new direction for the Welsh economy. Our strategy is to increase prosperity across the whole of Wales over the next decade and to ensure that no part of Wales loses out. This is reinforced by the additional financial assistance available in the Objective 1 area of west Wales and Valleys containing 65 per cent of the population of Wales. The Wales spatial plan will provide a clear framework for ensuring balanced economic development as well as social inclusion and a quality environment.

Our community regeneration and social inclusion policy has an important role to play in informing the strategic direction of policies and programmes to tackle social disadvantage across Wales at community level, in particular through the Communities First programme.

Policy Development

Q13 Geraint Davies: How is the First Minister monitoring the way in which the views of the people of Wales are represented when developing policies in the National Assembly? (OAQ15839)

The First Minister: We are committed to engaging communities of interest and the public in policy-making, and are taking steps to ensure that decisions are made as closely as possible to the people who are affected by them.

We report formally on the comments made in each Welsh Assembly Government consultation exercise so that the way in which views are reflected in final policies is transparent and open to scrutiny.

'Plan for Wales 2001'

Q14 Phil Williams: Will the First Minister make a statement on progress towards fulfilling commitments made in the 'Plan for Wales 2001' strategic document? (OAQ15832)

The First Minister: 'Plan for Wales 2001' sets out the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic policy agenda and targets for the medium term. We are making good progress across the board.

This session will see further progress in all areas of our work including implementation of 'A Winning Wales', our 10-year plan to transform the Welsh economy.

Determinations on Instruments in Writing

Q15 David Melding: Will the First Minister outline the criteria used by the administration to determine whether individual instruments in writing are to be legislative or non-legislative directions? (OAQ15841)

The First Minister: One basic test is whether the direction creates law or whether it establishes an operational arrangement that may have legal consequences. In the former case it will be legislative, and in the latter it will be administrative. Directions are often of a limited nature, having administrative effect.