

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 23 April 2002

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

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

Questions to the First Minister

Future of Public Services in Wales

Q13 David Lloyd: Will the First Minister make a brief statement on what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Wales in the last three months regarding the future of public services in Wales? (OAQ16848)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I meet regularly with the Secretary of State for Wales, and we discuss a wide range of issues, including the future of public services in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government also welcomes the additional resources that will flow to Wales from the Chancellor's budget statement to improve the quality of healthcare in Wales. We will receive an additional £128 million in 2003-04, an additional £493 million for the year 2004-05, an additional £907 million in 2005-06, an additional £1,348 million in 2006-07 and an additional £1,844 million in the year 2007-08. These figures are all increases on the 2003-04 baseline agreed with the Treasury for the current spending review.

Subordinate Legislation subject to the Accelerated Procedure

Q14 David Melding: Will the First Minister make a statement on the criteria used by his administration to identify subordinate legislation that is to be subjected to the accelerated procedure? (OAQ16816)

The First Minister: Standing Orders do not require Ministers to make a recommendation to the Business Committee distinguishing between the use of the standard or accelerated procedures for handling draft subordinate legislation. Nevertheless, my Cabinet Colleagues and I do so as a matter of good practice. Our recommendations reflect our judgment as to the degree of scrutiny that Members may want to exercise, having regard to the nature of the proposed instrument and any representations received from Members.

Priorities as Policy Co-ordinator for North Wales

Q15 Gareth Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement on his priorities as policy co-ordinator for north Wales? (OAQ16846)

The First Minister: In my role as policy co-ordinator for north Wales, I endeavour to ensure that the impacts on all the regions of Wales are considered in the policy decisions of the Welsh Assembly Government, including north Wales.

For example, when coming to a view on policies and priorities for north Wales in education, I take proper account of the statements of regional need in education and lifelong learning prepared by Education and Learning Wales.