

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 16 May 2002

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

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

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Questions to the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language

Swyddogaethau a Chyfrifoldebau Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru

C8 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A oes unrhyw newidiadau diweddar wedi bod i swyddogaethau a chyfrifoldebau Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru? (OAQ17656) [W]

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson): Ni fu unrhyw newidiadau diweddar i swyddogaethau a chyfrifoldebau Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i'ch cwestiwn tebyg cynharach, byddwn am adael i strwythur newydd cyngor y celfyddydau sefydlogi cyn ystyried pa newidiadau sydd eu hangen, os dim.

Functions and Responsibilities of the Arts Council of Wales

Q8 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Have there been any recent changes to the functions and responsibilities of the Arts Council of Wales? (OAQ17656) [W]

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): There have been no recent changes to the functions and responsibilities of the Arts Council of Wales. As I stated in my reply to your earlier, similar question, we want to let the arts council's new structure bed down before we consider what changes, if any, are necessary.

Developing the Translation Industry in Wales

Q9 Glyn Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on developing the translation industry in Wales? (OAQ17651)

Jenny Randerson: The Welsh Language Board is taking forward initiatives with the long-term aim of ensuring a sufficient supply of translators of an acceptable standard. In particular, it is working with the Association of Welsh Translators and Interpreters to produce a strategy for the development of the translation industry. In addition, this issue will be considered in the Culture Committee's report on the Welsh language, to which I will respond.

Question 10 (OAQ17612) withdrawn.

Mountain Safety Group for Wales

Q11 Alun Pugh: Can the Minister make a statement following the first meeting of the mountain safety group for Wales? (OAQ17604)

Jenny Randerson: The Wales outdoor activities forum has now held three meetings, which have proved to be very constructive, and has created positive discussions on how best to approach issues. I expect to receive its interim report toward the end of this month.

Sustainable Growth of Film, Television and New Media

Q12 David Melding: What steps is the Minister taking to develop a strategy for the sustainable growth of film, television and new media in Wales? (OAQ17610)

Jenny Randerson: Finance Wales is developing a business plan on a film fund for Wales, which would help to foster and promote cinematic excellence through the media of Welsh and English. Broadcasting is not a devolved issue, but I work closely with the broadcasters, for example, on the Draft Communications Bill, to enable us to promote Welsh interests in our contacts with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The Millennium Stadium plc

Q13 Owen John Thomas: Does the Minister advise Millennium Stadium plc in its negotiations with sporting organisations wishing to use its facilities? (OAQ17634)

Jenny Randerson: No. Millennium Stadium plc is an independent company that manages its own affairs, including negotiations for the use of its facilities.

Promotion Campaigns for Wales

Q14 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement concerning the involvement of Welsh art and artists in promotion campaigns for Wales? (OAQ17633)

Jenny Randerson: Welsh art and the arts in general are a great strength in the promotion of Wales at home and abroad. The Assembly's sponsored public bodies are mindful of this. For example, a key element of the Wales Tourist Board's cultural tourism strategy is the need to support and promote the culture of Wales. The WTB uses the Welsh arts scene to promote Wales by focusing, where appropriate, on particular events, galleries or festivals, depending on the target market.

There are a number of action points in 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol' which are aimed at promoting Wales's profile through performance and international participation. These range from a new competition for Wales focusing on the human form, entitled Humanitas, to a review by the Arts Council of Wales of the funding policy for the international promotion of festivals and major exhibitions, in liaison with the other cultural Assembly sponsored public bodies.

Welsh Football

Q15 Delyth Evans: Will the Minister make a statement on the current status of Welsh football? (OAQ17667)

Jenny Randerson: Football is immensely popular in Wales. There are now over 30,000 registered boys and girls playing football in Wales and 10,000 registered coaches. Women's football is one of the fastest growing sports in Wales.

In October last year, I established a football forum to consider the development of football in Wales. The aim is to establish a strategic framework for the future development of football in Wales for young people. I expect the forum to report back to me shortly.

Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business

Marketing Produce from North Wales

Q10 Alison Halford: How much does the Assembly currently spend on marketing produce from north Wales? (OAQ17615)

The Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business (Carwyn Jones): Records are not held on a regional basis, and the information requested is therefore not readily available.

Animal Welfare Practices

Q11 Brian Gibbons: How important are animal welfare practices to promote the brand image of Welsh agriculture? (OAQ17624)

Carwyn Jones: Welsh agriculture can only benefit from good animal welfare practices. Wales is currently working with the other UK administrations to implement a number of animal welfare codes, which—alongside assurance schemes such as farm-assured Welsh livestock, which promotes good stockmanship and animal husbandry—will improve the quality of Welsh produce and the brand image of Welsh agriculture.

Farming Connect in South Wales Central

Q12 David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on the implementation of Farming Connect in South Wales Central? (OAQ17616)

Carwyn Jones: To date, 87 farmers in the South Wales Central area have registered for the services offered by Farming Connect.

Bovine Tuberculosis in Wales

Q13 John Griffiths: Will the Minister make a statement on the latest position on bovine tuberculosis in Wales? (OAQ17640)

Carwyn Jones: During the calendar year ending in March, over 175,000 cattle in 2,280 Welsh herds (13 per cent of herds in Wales) have been tested, with 127 new incidents (69 confirmed). New incidents have been in hitherto ‘clean areas’: south Ceredigion, central Carmarthenshire, Montgomeryshire and Denbigh. Tackling bovine tuberculosis is a priority, and additional veterinary resources are being directed at the increased incidence of the disease.

Question 14 (OAQ17673) withdrawn.

Agri-monetary Compensation

Q15 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on agri-monetary compensation in Wales? (OAQ17646)

Carwyn Jones: I have argued consistently that the UK Government claim the maximum amount of agri-monetary compensation available. I am extremely disappointed at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs’s recent decision not to draw down further funds to assist the livestock industry in Wales.