

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 18 June 2002

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

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

Questions to the First Minister

Damage Caused by Cardiff Bay Lake (Cost Implications)

Q11 Alison Halford: What discussions has the First Minister had with the UK Government over concerns raised by Kevin Brennan MP over the cost implications of damage that the Cardiff bay lake is causing to houses in the city? (OAQ18441)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan):: None in recent times, given that this is now a devolved matter. Current indications are that there is little cause for concern about damage to property—over 8,000 property surveys have been carried out since 1999 and only one property has been identified as having groundwater damage. Nevertheless, the situation is being thoroughly monitored and controlled by Cardiff Harbour Authority.

Public Information Campaigns (Effectiveness)

Q12 David Davies: What is the First Minister doing to monitor the effectiveness of public information campaigns? (OAQ18439)

The First Minister: Various methods are used to monitor the effectiveness of our public information campaigns. For example, we regularly consult farmers on the information provided to them, and we obtain feedback from national health service staff on health campaigns. For many campaigns, the results speak for themselves. The huge take-up of free bus passes, following the campaign to inform the public, clearly demonstrated the success of the campaign and the policy. I confidently expect an equally positive response to the current promotion of Assembly learning grants.

Combating Poverty to Boost Educational Attainment

Q13 Mick Bates: What is being done to combat poverty to boost educational attainment in deprived areas? (OAQ18424)

The First Minister: The Assembly Government's programme for tackling the problems of our most deprived communities recognises that improved educational attainment is key to successful regeneration. Overall proposals for regenerating communities will be detailed in Communities First action plans, developed by local partnerships. These need to address education and training issues and link with other public sector initiatives.

Such initiatives include:

- funding to tackle social disadvantage under the grants for education support and training programme;
- the Assembly learning grants scheme introduced in September to widen access to further and higher education; and
- action to raise standards in schools in disadvantaged areas, by identifying the factors that make some such schools successful and sharing that good practice.

Use of Accelerated Procedure for Subordinate Legislation

Q14 David Melding: Will the First Minister make a statement on his administration's use of the accelerated procedure for subordinate legislation? (OAQ18442)

The First Minister: Standing Orders do not require my administration to make recommendations to the Business Committee distinguishing between the use of the standard or accelerated procedures for handling draft subordinate legislation in Plenary. Nevertheless, we do so as a matter of good practice and 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.

Blaenoriaethau Addysg yn y Gogledd

C15 Ieuan Wyn Jones: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ynglŷn â blaenoriaethau ei lywodraeth ar gyfer addysg yng ngogledd Cymru? (OAQ18381) [W]

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer addysg yng ngogledd Cymru—a Chymru gyfan—i'w gweld yn 'Cynllun i Gymru 2001', 'Rhoi Cymru'n Gyntaf' ac yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu'. Mae'r rhain yn ategu ein huchelgais i wneud Cymru'n wlad sy'n dysgu gydag un o systemau addysg a hyfforddiant gorau'r byd.

Priorities for Education in North Wales

Q15 Ieuan Wyn Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement on his Government's priorities for education in north Wales? (OAQ18381) [W]

The First Minister: The Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for education in north Wales—as they are for all Wales—are set out in 'Plan for Wales 2001', 'Putting Wales First' and in 'The Learning Country'. These underpin our ambition to make Wales a learning country with one of the best education and training systems in the world.