

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 30 May 2012

Meeting time:
13:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Votes and Proceedings

(69)

1. Questions to the Minister for Education and Skills

The item started at 13:30.

The first 12 questions were asked. Questions 4 and 10 were answered by the Deputy Minister for Skills.

2. Questions to the Minister for Local Government and Communities

The item started at 14:16

The first 13 questions were asked.

3. Welsh Conservatives Debate

The item started at 15:01

Voting on the motion and amendments under this item was deferred until Voting Time.

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM4998 William Graham (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that:

a) forty per cent of pupils start secondary school with a reading age at least six months below their chronological age, according to Estyn's Annual Report 2010/2011;

b) Welsh performance in the 2009 Programme for International Student Assessments (PISA) was significantly below that of other UK nations;

c) there has been a decline in the number of pupils in Wales achieving top grades at A Level;

d) performance in GCSE and A Level examinations in Wales is worse than in England; and

e) there are presently no Welsh Universities in the World Top 200 Times Higher Education Rankings 2011/12, whereas there are 27 from England and 5 from Scotland.

2. Regrets that the Welsh Government has not effectively utilised its education budgets to drive up standards in the Welsh educational system.

3. Urges the Welsh Government to outline how education expenditure is monitored to ensure resources, where possible, are focussed on activities which deliver services directly to learners.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to re-prioritise education spending effectively in order to best deliver improvements in educational attainment in Wales.

Estyn's Annual Report 2010/2011 can be accessed through the following hyperlink: <http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/annual-report/annual-report-2010-2011/>

The Top 200 Times Higher Education Rankings can be accessed through the following hyperlink: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2011-2012/top-400.html>

For	Abstain	Against	Total
13	0	44	57

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Delete point 4.

A vote was taken on Amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
39	0	18	57

Amendment 1 was agreed.

Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Welcomes the pupil deprivation grant which is aimed at improving the educational attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

A vote was taken on Amendment 2:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
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34	10	13	57
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Amendment 2 was agreed.

Amendment 3 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that spending of the pupil deprivation grant is effectively monitored so that it delivers improvement in attainment.

A vote was taken on Amendment 3:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
56	0	0	56

Amendment 3 was agreed.

Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to develop plans to increase the pupil deprivation grant in future years to help develop further improvement in attainment.

A vote was taken on Amendment 4:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
5	13	39	57

Amendment 4 was not agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM4998 William Graham (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that:

a) forty per cent of pupils start secondary school with a reading age at least six months below their chronological age, according to Estyn’s Annual Report 2010/2011;

b) Welsh performance in the 2009 Programme for International Student Assessments (PISA) was significantly below that of other UK nations;

c) there has been a decline in the number of pupils in Wales achieving top grades at A Level;

d) performance in GCSE and A Level examinations in Wales is worse than in England; and

e) there are presently no Welsh Universities in the World Top 200 Times Higher Education Rankings 2011/12, whereas there are 27 from England and 5 from Scotland.

2. Regrets that the Welsh Government has not effectively utilised its education budgets to drive up standards in the Welsh educational system.

3. Urges the Welsh Government to outline how education expenditure is monitored to ensure resources, where possible, are focussed on activities which deliver services directly to learners.

4. Welcomes the pupil deprivation grant which is aimed at improving the educational attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

5. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that spending of the pupil deprivation grant is effectively monitored so that it delivers improvement in attainment.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
14	13	29	56

The motion as amended was not agreed.

4. Plaid Cymru Debate

The item started at 16:05.

Voting on the motion and amendments under this item was deferred until Voting Time.

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM5000 Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Supports the application by Nominet to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), for two Top Level Domains, .cymru and .wales for our nation;

2. Believes that such an internet presence will assist in the promotion of Wales internationally and in the growth of e-commerce; and

3. Calls on the Assembly Commission to adopt these two Top Level Domain names as soon as practicable.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
39	0	18	57

The motion without amendment was agreed.

5. Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

The item started at 17:01

Voting on the motion and amendments under this item was deferred until Voting Time.

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM5001 Aled Roberts (North Wales)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that its' National Cancer Delivery Plan will:

- a) enable as many people as possible to receive cancer treatment as close to their homes as possible;
- b) provide for support for cancer patients who struggle to travel to their treatment centre; and
- c) provide for financial and practical advice for cancer sufferers.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
35	0	22	57

The motion without amendment was agreed.

VOTING TIME

Voting Time started at 18:01

6. Short Debate

The item started at 18:03

NDM4999 Keith Davies (Llanelli)

Policing is a Priority

To discuss the future of Policing in Wales.

The meeting concluded at 18:25

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Tuesday, 12 June 2012