

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 24 April 2013

Meeting time:
13:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Agenda (126)v4

1. Questions to the Minister for Finance (45 mins)

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2. Questions to the Minister for Local Government and Government Business (45 mins)

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3. Questions to the Assembly Commission (0 mins)

No questions tabled.

Urgent Question

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Health Minister make an urgent statement about the Welsh Ambulance Service response times?

Motions to elect Members to committees

NDM 5217 Rosemary Butler (Newport West):

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Mick Antoniw (Welsh Labour) as a member of the Enterprise and Business Committee in place of Ken Skates (Welsh Labour).

NDM 5218 Rosemary Butler (Newport West):

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects:

- (i) Christine Chapman (Welsh Labour) and Jenny Rathbone (Welsh Labour) as members of the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee in place of Ann Jones (Welsh Labour) and Joyce Watson (Welsh Labour), and;
- (ii) Christine Chapman (Welsh Labour) as Chair of the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee.

NDM 5219 Rosemary Butler (Newport West):

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects:

- (i) Ann Jones (Welsh Labour), Keith Davies (Welsh Labour) and David Rees (Welsh Labour) as members of the Children and Young People Committee in place of Christine Chapman (Welsh Labour), Jenny Rathbone (Welsh Labour) and Julie Morgan (Welsh Labour), and;
- (ii) Ann Jones (Welsh Labour) as Chair of the Children and Young People Committee.

NDM 5220 Rosemary Butler (Newport West):

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Sandy Mewies (Welsh Labour) as a member of the Public Accounts Committee in place of Gwyn Price (Welsh Labour).

NDM 5221 Rosemary Butler (Newport West):

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Julie Morgan (Welsh Labour) and Joyce Watson (Welsh Labour) as members of the Environment and Sustainability Committee in place of David Rees (Welsh Labour) and Keith Davies (Welsh Labour).

NDM 5222 Rosemary Butler (Newport West):

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order

17.14, elects Ken Skates (Welsh Labour) as a member of the Health and Social Care Committee in place of Mick Antoniw (Welsh Labour).

4. Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins)

NDM5211 William Graham (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Recognises the impact of the recent severe weather conditions on rural communities and businesses in Wales;
2. Notes the impact which poor rural transport and communication infrastructure has had on efforts to combat severe weather conditions;
3. Believes the Welsh Government's emergency response strategy must be effective in dealing with the unique challenges facing rural communities; and
4. Urges the Welsh Government to consider a hardship fund to support businesses affected by severe weather.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert at the end of point 1:

‘and notes that as our climate changes the scale and frequency of severe weather conditions is likely to increase.’

Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Recognises that the severe weather has had a disproportionate impact on farmers in Less Favoured Areas, which accounts for 80% of agricultural land in Wales, and calls on the Welsh Government to introduce a new financial support scheme for farmers in Less Favoured Areas, which in turn would help them to manage the impact of severe weather conditions.

5. Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins)

NDM5212 William Graham (South Wales East)

National Assembly for Wales:

1. Recognises the potential of Ynys Môn as hub for energy and economic growth;
2. Welcomes the announcement that Hitachi will develop Horizon Nuclear Power at the Wylfa plant on Ynys Môn;
3. Urges the Welsh Government to consider the development of a clear plan to support the development of Ynys Môn as a centre for energy generation; and
4. Believes the development of nuclear energy on Ynys Môn must be complemented by further support for a robust energy mix across Wales.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Insert at end of point 1:

‘but regrets that the task of regenerating the island's economy is undermined by the UK Government's austerity programme’

Amendment 2 – Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Delete point 3 and replace with:

Welcomes the designation of Ynys Môn as an enterprise zone.

Amendment 3 – Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Insert at the end of point 4:

‘and therefore calls for the devolution of energy policy to the National Assembly.’

Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Recognises the need to strengthen the existing transmission network as a result of proposed energy developments in North Wales and calls on the Welsh Government to ensure full transparency in its engagement with the National Grid on new grid infrastructure.

6. Plaid Cymru Debate (60 mins)

NDM5213 Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Deplores gender inequality and its persistent pay gap and calls on the Welsh Government to develop a long term strategy to tackle gender stereotyping.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 1 and renumber accordingly:

Supports the UK Government's plans to give Employment Tribunals power to impose pay audits on employers who are found to have discriminated because of sex in contractual or non-contractual pay matters.

Amendment 2 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 1 and renumber accordingly:

Calls on the Welsh Government to provide an update on the action it is taking to tackle the entrepreneurial gender gap in Wales.

Amendment 3 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 1 and renumber accordingly:

Notes the recommendation of the Davies Report 'Women on boards' that FTSE 100 Boards should aim for a minimum of 25% female representation by 2015 and calls on the Welsh Government to consult with Welsh businesses to increase the number of women in senior management positions.

The Davies Report 'Women on boards' can be found on the following link:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk//assets/biscore/business-law/docs/w/12-p135-women-on-boards-2012.pdf>

Amendment 4 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 1 and renumber accordingly:

Welcomes the UK Government's announcement of a new scheme for tax-free childcare for working families and calls on the Welsh Government to investigate ways, in addition to Flying Start, to assist women back to work in all parts of Wales.

Amendment 5– William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 1 and renumber accordingly:

Acknowledges the UK Government's policy of providing resources for 5000 volunteer business mentors for women to give effective support to women who want to start or grow their own business and calls on the Welsh Government to work with the third sector to develop such a scheme.

Amendment 6– Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Welcomes the action by the UK Government to shift the balance of responsibility through shared parental leave, which will create more flexibility for parents and help tackle discrimination against women in the workplace and calls on the Welsh Government to work with businesses in Wales to ensure that they can adapt to the new arrangements.

Voting Time

7. Short Debate (30 mins)

NDM5210 Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central):

Abandoned Brothers – Assessing support for PTSD in Wales.

A debate about Armed and Emergency Service Personnel in Wales suffering with PTSD and the ways in which Wales, The Welsh Government and the Voluntary Sector can help.

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Tuesday, 30 April 2013

Agenda Item 1

Oral Assembly Questions tabled on 17 April 2013 for answer on 24 April 2013

R – Signifies the Member has declared an interest.

W – Signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

(Self identifying Question no. shown in brackets)

To ask the Minister for Finance

1. Julie Morgan (Cardiff North): What progress has been made in negotiations with the Treasury about the transfer of borrowing powers for infrastructure projects? OAQ(4)0244(FIN)

2. Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): What recent discussions has the Minister had with the Treasury Ministers regarding the allocation of funding for Wales? OAQ(4)0242(FIN)

3. Mike Hedges (Swansea East): Will the Minister provide a progress update on the creation of a Welsh Treasury? OAQ(4)0237(FIN)

4. Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister make a statement on the overall budget allocation to the Culture and Sport department? OAQ(4)0238(FIN)

5. Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn): Will the Minister outline what discussions she has had with the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport regarding the allocation of capital funding?
OAQ(4)0240(FIN)W

6. Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): What assessment has the Minister made of the impact on the management of Welsh Government resources resulting from the Welsh Government's purchase of Cardiff Airport? OAQ(4)0243(FIN)

7. **Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales):** What recent discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Natural Resources and Food regarding the overall allocation to his portfolio? OAQ(4)0249(FIN)

8. **Joyce Watson (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister update Members on the progress of the National Procurement Service for Wales? OAQ(4)0250(FIN)

9. **Aled Roberts (North Wales):** What discussions has the Minister had with her Cabinet colleagues regarding end-year budgetary positions for their departments? OAQ(4)0246(FIN)W

10. **Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on the establishment of a new Welsh Treasury function? OAQ(4)0247(FIN)

11. **Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy):** Will the Minister make a statement on the overall budget allocation to the Natural Resources and Food portfolio? OAQ(4)0251(FIN)

12. **William Graham (South Wales East):** Will the Minister outline her considerations for providing additional funding for the Health and Social Services portfolio? OAQ(4)0245(FIN)

13. **Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East):** Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's use of the Research and Evaluation Framework Agreement? OAQ(4)0241(FIN)

14. **Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** Will the Minister make a statement on the resources she has allocated to the Health and Social Services portfolio. OAQ(4)0239(FIN)

15. **Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West):** What steps will the Welsh Government take to ensure that good whistleblowing practice is not abused by authorities who claim confidentiality issues. OAQ(4)0248(FIN)

To ask the Minister for Local Government and Government Business

1. Sandy Mewies (Delyn): Will the Minister make a statement on the performance of local authorities in areas of Wales hit by last month's heavy snowfalls? OAQ(4)0264(LG)

2. Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister make a statement on the Revenue Support Grant? OAQ(4)0256(LG)

3. Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): What action will the Minister take during 2013 to tackle domestic violence in Wales?
OAQ(4)0259(LG)

4. Lynne Neagle (Torfaen): Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government efforts to tackle domestic violence?
OAQ(4)0265(LG)

5. Mike Hedges (Swansea East): What advice has the Welsh Government given to local authorities in Wales on implementing a living wage?
OAQ(4)0255(LG)

6. Julie Morgan (Cardiff North): What plans does the Welsh Government have to promote greater openness and transparency within local government? OAQ(4)0260(LG)

7. Russell George (Montgomeryshire): Will the Minister make a statement on the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) funding formula for Welsh local authorities? OAQ(4)0266(LG)

8. Lindsay Whittle (South Wales East): Will the Minister outline examples of best practice in local government services collaboration?
OAQ(4)0262(LG)

9. Christine Chapman (Cynon Valley): What is the Welsh Government doing to increase the diversity of elected representatives in local government in Wales? OAQ(4)0258(LG)

10. Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the delivery of value for money by local authorities in North Wales? OAQ(4)0268(LG)

11. Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr): Will the Minister make a statement on senior officer remuneration in local government? OAQ(4)0261(LG)W

12. Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn): Will the Minister make a statement on the governance of local authorities? OAQ(4)0257(LG)W

13. Sandy Mewies (Delyn): Will the Minister provide an update on how the Welsh Government is supporting households to meet their council tax bills? OAQ(4)0263(LG)

14. Keith Davies (Llanelli): Will the Minister make a statement on the operational responsibilities of fire and rescue services across Wales? OAQ(4)0269(LG)

15. Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales): Will the Minister outline her priorities for improving local government performance in North Wales? OAQ(4)0267(LG)

To ask the Assembly Commission

No questions tabled