

# Plenary

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Meeting date:  
**Wednesday, 4 December 2013**

Meeting time:  
**13:30**

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



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## Agenda

(168)v3

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### **1 Questions to the Minister for Education and Skills (45 mins)**

[View Questions](#)

### **2 Questions to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport (45 mins)**

[View Questions](#)

### **3 Statement by the First Minister: Operation Jasmine (30 mins)**

### **4 Debate by Individual Members under Standing Order 11.21(iv) (60 mins)**

**NNDM5358**

**Joyce Watson (Mid and West Wales)**

**Mark Isherwood (North Wales)**

**Suzy Davies (South Wales West)**

**Jenny Rathbone (Cardiff Central)**

**Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes with grave concern:

a) the targeting of vulnerable children for sexual exploitation by criminals;

- b) that children missing from care are at particular risk of sexual exploitation;
- c) evidence that local authorities in Wales are not yet fully implementing Welsh Government guidelines to protect children who go missing from care;
- d) that the practice of out of area placements can put looked after children at greater risk of abuse and exploitation.

2. Commends the work of the Gwent Missing Children Project and notes the need for comparable, consistent and reliable data on cases of looked after children who go missing from children's homes and foster care.

**5 Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins)**  
**NDM5380 William Graham (South Wales East)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Recognises:

- a) the importance of the BBC, in Welsh life as part of a pluralistic media;
- b) the need for charter renewal which reflects the current and developing devolution settlement; and
- c) the innovative contribution that the BBC and other public service broadcasters make to Welsh culture, the Welsh language and the economy.

**The following amendments have been tabled:**

**NDM5380**

**Amendment 1 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)**

Add a new sub-point at end of point 1:

the need to safeguard appropriate funding for S4C.

**Amendment 2 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)**

Add as new sub-point at end of point 1:

the need for further devolution of powers over broadcasting to Wales.

### **Amendment 3 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)**

Add a new point at end of motion:

Invites BBC Wales to give yearly evidence to the National Assembly on how it is serving the interests of the people of Wales, and how it is reflecting the current and changing devolved settlement.

### **Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes the Welsh Government should be responsible for the appointment of Welsh members of the BBC and Ofcom.

### **Amendment 5 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes the Welsh Government should have greater involvement in appointments for senior positions within S4C.

### **Amendment 6 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes community radio licensing should be devolved to Wales.

### **6 Plaid Cymru Debate (60 mins)**

#### **NDM5379 Elin Jones (Ceredigion)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

## 1. Notes:

- a) that the estimated funding gap between the demand for finance from Welsh businesses and the current supply from the banking sector is £500 million;
- b) that non-domestic rates account for a significant proportion of operating costs for micro and small businesses;
- c) that a 1% increase in the rate of public sector procurement contracts that go to Welsh businesses creates 2,000 new jobs; and
- d) that Wales' natural resources offer significant potential for economic benefit.

## 2. Regrets:

- a) that Welsh GVA per capita is the lowest of all UK nations at 75.2% of the UK;
- b) that macro-economic levers remain in the hands of MPs in the UK Parliament but recognises that the Welsh Government has a significant role to play in growing the Welsh economy;
- c) the absence of up-to-date economic indicators for Wales;
- d) the failure of Welsh Government to tackle unemployment and underemployment; and
- e) the failure of public sector bodies to implement Welsh Government policy on procurement.

## 3. Calls on the Welsh Government:

- a) to publish a comprehensive and long-term plan for growing the Welsh economy;
- b) to impress upon the Office for National Statistics the need to provide regular and frequent economic indicators for Wales;
- c) to adopt the Party of Wales' policy to extend small business rate relief to all businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or less; and

d) to explore the benefits of establishing a publicly-owned, arm's length, not-for-distributable-profit business development bank.

**The following amendments have been tabled:**

**Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Insert as new sub-point 1 a) and renumber accordingly:

the growth in the UK's Gross Domestic Product in 2013;

**Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Insert as new sub-point 1 a) and renumber accordingly:

that 29.8% of people in Wales are employed in the public sector, above the 23.5% average for the UK;

**Amendment 3 – William Graham (South Wales East)**

Insert as new sub-point at the end of point 1:

that the UK economy experienced 0.8% growth in the third quarter of 2013, highlighting the success of the UK Government's economic policy.

**Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Insert as new sub-point 2a) and renumber accordingly:

that around 200,000 SMEs in Wales are struggling to get funding, according to the Stage 1 report of the 'Access to Finance Review' by Professor Dylan Jones-Evans.

The 'Access to Finance Review' can be accessed at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/publications/accesstofinance/?lang=en>

**Amendment 5 – William Graham (South Wales East)**

Delete sub-point 2b) replace with:

the failure of the Welsh Government to use the significant economic levers at its disposal to stimulate growth in the Welsh economy;

#### **Amendment 6 – William Graham (South Wales East)**

Delete sub-point 2e).

#### **Amendment 7 – William Graham (South Wales East)**

Delete sub-point 3c) and replace with:

to adopt the Welsh Conservative policy to extend small business rate relief to all businesses with a rateable value of up to £12,000, and provide tapered relief for those up to £15,000;

*[If amendment 7 is agreed, amendment 8 will be de-selected]*

#### **Amendment 8 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Delete sub-point 3c) and replace with:

to extend business rate relief to all businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or less and more community facilities such as post offices, pubs and independent shops; and

#### **Amendment 9 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Insert as new sub-point 3d) and renumber accordingly:

to enable local authorities to retain a proportion of the business rates they collect, in order to incentivise local economic growth;

#### **Amendment 10 – William Graham (South Wales East)**

Delete sub-point 3d) and replace with:

to respond as soon as possible to the Access to Finance Review Stage 2 report and examine the case for the development of regional business banks as outlined in 'Invest Wales'.

The 'Access to Finance Review Stage 2' report can be accessed at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/131121accesstofund2en.pdf>

'Invest Wales' can be accessed at:

[http://www.welshconservatives.com/sites/www.welshconservatives.com/files/invest\\_wales.pdf](http://www.welshconservatives.com/sites/www.welshconservatives.com/files/invest_wales.pdf)

#### **Amendment 11 – William Graham (South Wales East)**

Add as new sub-point at end of point 3:

to explore the possibility of splitting the Welsh multiplier into small and large businesses which would ensure fairness in the business rates system and bring Wales in line with England and Scotland.

#### **Amendment 12 – William Graham (South Wales East)**

Add as new sub-point at end of point 3:

to ensure that government policy simplifies our public sector procurement processes and regulations.

#### **Amendment 13 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Add as new sub-point at end of point 3:

to support smaller businesses and social enterprises and enable them to grow by unbundling public sector contracts into more manageable parts, making it easier for these businesses to bid and compete.

#### **Amendment 14 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Add as new sub-point at end of point 3:

to work to increase awareness amongst businesses of existing opportunities for finance, and listen to the business community on ways to improve support.

## **Voting Time**

### **7 Short Debate (30 mins)**

**NDM5378 Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales):** The national “selfie”: why a national Welsh dictionary helps define the nation

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Tuesday, 10 December 2013