

# Plenary

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Meeting date:  
**Wednesday, 14 January 2015**

Meeting time:  
**13.30**

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



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## Agenda

(239)v2

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

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

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

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

### **Motion to elect Members to committees**

#### **NDM5666 Rosemary Butler (Newport West)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Jocelyn Davies (Plaid Cymru) as a Member of the Public Accounts Committee in place of Alun Ffred Jones (Plaid Cymru).

### **3 Debate on the Public Accounts Committee Report on Senior Management Pay (60 mins)**

**NDM5664 Darren Millar (Clwyd West)**

The National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the Report of the Public Accounts Committee – Senior Management Pay, which was laid in the Table Office on 6 November 2014.

Note: The Welsh Government's response to the report was laid in the Table Office on 7 January 2015.

Supporting Documents

[Public Accounts Committee's Report](#)

[Welsh Government's Response](#)

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

**NNDM5630**

**Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales)**

**Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West)**

**Jenny Rathbone (Cardiff Central)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that:

a) women have made a huge contribution to the working life of Wales and continue to be a vital part of the Welsh economy;

b) it is nearly 100 years since women got the vote and nearly 40 years since the Equal Pay Act;

c) the Welsh Government has an important part to play in ensuring that there is not institutional discrimination present in the workplace.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government not to award any procurement contracts or Welsh Government grant monies to any company that does not have any female directors

on their board.

## **5 Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins)**

**NDM5665 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that:

a) the Welsh Government is providing small business rate relief until March 2015;

b) the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his Autumn Statement of 3 December 2014 that the Welsh Government will have full control of business rates in March 2015.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to extend business rate support for small businesses.

3. Further calls on the Welsh Government to help strengthen ties between higher education institutions and the business community to create a more dynamic economy.

**The following amendments have been tabled:**

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

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

universities can play a vital role in creating high-value business start-ups such as by adding 261 new spin-off companies to the Welsh economy in 2012/13.

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

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

the only Welsh city in the UK's top 20 cities for business start-ups is Cardiff.

### **Amendment 3 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Calls on the Welsh Government to assess options to ensure that business rate valuations more accurately track the market and ameliorate future large increases in rate bills.

### **Amendment 4 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)**

Delete point 2 and replace with:

Calls on the Welsh Government to renew the current small business rate relief scheme for another year.

### **Amendment 5 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)**

Insert as new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Calls on the Welsh Government to extend the eligibility criteria for the small business rate relief scheme from April 2015 onwards to reach all businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or less.

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

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to establish a successor to the POWIS scheme to encourage partnership working and the development of spin-out companies in Welsh HEIs.

## **6 Voting Time**

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

**NDM5663 Lynne Neagle (Torfaen)**

The Price of Coal – The impact of opencast in Varteg and the implications for

communities beyond

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 20 January 2015

# Agenda Item 1

## Oral Assembly Questions tabled on 7 January 2015 for answer on 14 January 2015

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 Education and Skills

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

- 1. Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales):** Will the Minister outline what support is in place to help safeguard the welfare of teachers in North Wales? OAQ(4)0509(ESK)
- 2. Gwyn Price (Islwyn):** What steps is the Welsh Government taking to promote teaching as a career? OAQ(4)0516(ESK)
- 3. William Graham (South Wales East):** Will the Minister outline how the Welsh Government co-ordinates the provision of medical education? OAQ(4)0519(ESK)
- 4. Gwenda Thomas (Neath):** Will the Minister provide an update on efforts to improve primary school attendance? OAQ(4)0521(ESK)
- 5. Lynne Neagle (Torfaen):** Will the Minister provide a progress update on plans to deliver equitable provision of post-16 education in Torfaen? OAQ(4)0517(ESK)
- 6. Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of music education services in Wales? OAQ(4)0510(ESK)
- 7. Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister outline plans to improve educational outcomes in 2015 for pupils in South Wales Central? OAQ(4)0518(ESK)
- 8. Leanne Wood (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister make a statement about the importance of teaching IT in schools? OAQ(4)0515(ESK)
- 9. Dafydd Elis-Thomas (Dwyfor Meirionnydd):** Will the Minister make a statement on progress in relation to the implementation of 14-19 Learning Pathways over the last year? OAQ(4)0512(ESK)W
- 10. Mark Isherwood (North Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on funding for schools in Wales? OAQ(4)0523(ESK)

**11. Keith Davies (Llanelli):** Will the Minister make a statement on school catchment areas? OAQ(4)0511(ESK)W

**12. Jenny Rathbone (Cardiff Central):** Will the Minister provide an update on how the national school categorisation system is operating in practice? OAQ(4)0524(ESK)

**13. Suzy Davies (South Wales West):** Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Government's priorities for Welsh-language education during 2015? OAQ(4)0514(ESK)

**14. Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Government is improving education in Pembrokeshire? OAQ(4)0506(ESK)

**15. Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire):** Will the Minister provide an update regarding progress on the consultations that are currently underway in the education department? OAQ(4)0508(ESK)

## **To ask the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport**

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

**1. John Griffiths (Newport East):** Will the Minister make a statement on the support that the Welsh Government has given to Newport for the growth of businesses in the city centre in recent years? OAQ(4)0513(EST)

**2. Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales):** What submissions is the Minister considering for control period six of the Network Rail investment in the Wales and Borders franchise? OAQ(4)0500(EST)W

**3. William Powell (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on progress towards the delivery of the A483/A489 Newtown bypass? OAQ(4)0501(EST)

**4. Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy):** What discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government regarding the current drink-drive limit in Wales? OAQ(4)0509(EST)

**5. Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** Will the Minister make a statement on transport links between north Wales and the north west of England? OAQ(4)0496(EST)

**6. Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy):** Will the Minister make a statement on the franchising of the Wales and Borders rail routes? OAQ(4)0510(EST)

**7. Julie Morgan (Cardiff North):** What assessment has the Minister made of the impact of cheaper energy on industry in Wales?  
OAQ(4)0507(EST)

**8. Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** Will the Minister make a statement on the trunk road maintenance and improvement programme?  
OAQ(4)0495(EST)

**9. Julie Morgan (Cardiff North):** What is the likely outcome for science policy in Wales as a result of the research excellence framework published last month? OAQ(4)0505(EST)

**10. William Powell (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister provide an update on the recent reform of the blue badge parking scheme in Wales? OAQ(4)0502(EST)

**11. Jeff Cuthbert (Caerphilly):** Will the Minister make a statement on the importance of social enterprises to the Welsh economy?  
OAQ(4)0506(EST)

**12. Llyr Gruffydd (North Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on the future of libraries in Wales? OAQ(4)0512(EST)W

**13. Alun Ffred Jones (Arfon):** Will the Minister make a statement on the future of local libraries in Wales? OAQ(4)0497(EST)W

**14. William Graham (South Wales East):** What assessment has the Minister made of the economic benefits for Wales arising from the development of the Heathrow Hub? OAQ(4)0511(EST)

**15. Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East):** What plans does the Minister have to reform business rates in Wales in 2015?  
OAQ(4)0498(EST)