

# Plenary

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Meeting date:  
**Wednesday, 28 January 2015**

Meeting time:  
**13.30**

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru  
National  
Assembly for  
Wales



## Votes and Proceedings

(243)

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### **1 Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services**

The item started at 13.30

The first 8 questions were asked.

Questions 1, 5 and 7 were answered by the Deputy Minister for Health.

The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after Question 2.

### **2 Questions to the Counsel General**

The item started at 14.30

Both questions were asked.

### **3 Legislative Consent Motion on the Serious Crime Bill (Memorandum No. 2)**

The item started at 14.40

**NDM5673 Leighton Andrews (Rhondda)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 29.6 agrees that provisions in the Serious Crime Bill relating to controlling or coercive behaviour in intimate or family relationships, in so far as they fall within the legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

A Legislative Consent Memorandum has been laid in Table Office on 16 January 2015 in accordance with Standing Order 29.2(iii).

**The Motion was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.**

#### **4 Questions to the Assembly Commission**

The item started at 14.45

Both questions were asked.

#### **5 Welsh Conservatives Debate**

The item started at 14.51

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

**A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:**

**NDM5675 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Welcomes the recent agreement between the Welsh Government and UK Government on rail electrification, which could reduce traffic levels on the M4.
2. Believes the Welsh economy needs an efficient, considered and structured transport project that delivers value for money, and that this must be put into effect at the earliest opportunity in order to alleviate chronic congestion on the M4 around Newport.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to commission a full and swift review of all options, including giving the blue route equal consideration, with the principal aim of improving M4 capacity for the benefit of motorists and businesses.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
12	0	40	52

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments have been tabled:

**Amendment 1 – Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)**

Delete point 3 and replace with:

Notes the joint commitment of the Welsh Government and Welsh Liberal Democrats to a detailed Environmental Impact Study on the Welsh Government's preferred route, and that no construction of the M4 relief road will begin before the next Assembly election.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 1:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	27	53

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the amendment. Therefore, the amendment was not agreed.

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

Delete point 3 and replace with:

Calls on the Welsh Government to give full and equal consideration to the Blue Route as it continues to develop its proposals for the M4 corridor around Newport.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 2:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
9	0	43	52

Amendment 2 was not agreed.

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

Delete point 3 and replace with:

Calls on the Welsh Government to improve the A48 southern distributor road and A4810 steelworks access road near Newport's Llanwern steelworks, as part of an integrated transport strategy for south-east Wales incorporating investment in public transport, rail freight infrastructure and the improvement of strategic local routes.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 3:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
5	0	47	52

**Amendment 3 was not agreed.**

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

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that its wider transport infrastructure expenditure plan results in a fair distribution of resources and investment throughout the country, not just around the M4 in Newport.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 4:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
52	0	0	52

**Amendment 4 was agreed.**

**A vote was taken on the motion as amended:**

**NDM5675 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Welcomes the recent agreement between the Welsh Government and UK Government on rail electrification, which could reduce traffic levels on the M4.
2. Believes the Welsh economy needs an efficient, considered and structured transport project that delivers value for money, and that this must be put into effect at the earliest opportunity in order to alleviate chronic congestion on the M4 around Newport.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to commission a full and swift review of all options, including giving the blue route equal consideration, with the principal aim of improving M4 capacity for the benefit of motorists and businesses.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that its wider transport infrastructure expenditure plan results in a fair distribution of resources and investment throughout the country, not just around the M4 in Newport.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	27	53

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the motion as amended. Therefore, the motion as amended was not agreed.

## 6 Plaid Cymru Debate

The item started at 15.50

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

### NDM5678 Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Regrets the impact the policy of austerity has had on communities throughout Wales, which has resulted in:

a) the loss of over £1 billion to the Welsh economy in cuts to social protection;

b) an increase in the dependency of people on food banks;

c) cuts to local government spending which has resulted in closure of community assets and the withdrawal of services;

d) an increase in the wealth gap between the richest and poorest; and

e) the continuation of economic imbalance with a continued over-dependency on financial services and a concentration of wealth in one corner of the British state.

2. Calls for:

a) an end to austerity economics;

b) a rebalancing of power and wealth within the British state;

c) the adoption of economic policies that will result in new jobs in sustainable sectors;

d) an increase of the minimum wage to that of the living wage;

e) an end to the dismantling of the welfare state;

f) financial parity for Wales with Scotland; and

g) the devolution of fiscal levers to the National Assembly for Wales.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
9	0	43	52

**The motion without amendment was not agreed.**

**The following amendments have been tabled:**

**Amendment 1 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)**

Delete all and replace with:

Recognises the need for prudent economic management by Governments at all levels and the need to deliver economic security for the people of Wales and the UK.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 1:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
12	9	31	52

**Amendment 1 was not agreed.**

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

Delete all and replace with:

1. Notes that the UK Coalition Government inherited the largest peacetime deficit in history.

2. Welcomes that thanks to the Liberal Democrats in the UK Government:

a) the budget deficit has been halved;

b) public sector net investment is higher as a proportion of GDP than it was between 1997 and 2010;

c) 1.8 million jobs have been created;

d) income tax has been cut by £800 for 1.2 million low and middle income Welsh workers by raising the income tax threshold to £10,500, taking 153,000 people out of paying income tax altogether;

e) the world's first Green Investment Bank has been established;

f) employers receive £2,000 cash back on the tax they pay on their employees; and

g) plans to pay Welsh public sector workers less for simply living outside London and south-east England have been scrapped;

h) The rate of employment is at a record high of 30.8 million, according to Office of National Statistics figures;

i) Regular pay is up 1.8 per cent and private sector pay is up 2.2 per cent, representing above inflation wage increases for workers' pay, according to Office of National Statistics figures.

3. Believes that:

a) a progressive agenda cannot be delivered by a bankrupt Government;

b) that demanding additional funding from the Westminster Government would not be possible in the context of an independent Wales; and

c) we should balance the budget by 2018, cut taxes for low and middle earners and ensure decent public services, creating opportunity for everyone.

4. Calls for:

- a) fair deficit reduction through ensuring high earners and the wealthiest pay their share, including through the introduction of a banded mansion tax;
- b) new fiscal rules to balance the budget while allowing for productive investment;
- c) a further cut of £400 on income tax for low and middle earners;
- d) full implementation of the Silk Part 1 proposals on financial powers for Wales; and
- e) fair funding for Wales, by increasing the Welsh block grant to an equitable level over a Parliament and address the imbalance by immediately entrenching a Barnett floor set at a level which reflects the need for Wales to be funded fairly.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 2:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
5	12	35	52

**Amendment 2 was not agreed.**

**Amendment 3 – Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)**

In point 1c) delete 'cuts to local government spending' and replace with 'the unprecedented £1.5bn cut by the UK Government to the Welsh Government Block Grant';

**A vote was taken on Amendment 3:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	27	53

**As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the amendment. Therefore, the amendment was not agreed.**

**Amendment 4 – Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)**

Delete point 2f) and replace with:

a fair funding settlement urgently for Wales with the implementation of a funding floor, leading to greater financial parity with Scotland and the rest of the UK;

**A vote was taken on Amendment 4:**



For	Abstain	Against	Total
28	12	11	51

Amendment 4 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

**NDM5678 Elin Jones (Ceredigion)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Regrets the impact the policy of austerity has had on communities throughout Wales, which has resulted in:

a) the loss of over £1 billion to the Welsh economy in cuts to social protection;

b) an increase in the dependency of people on food banks;

c) cuts to local government spending which has resulted in closure of community assets and the withdrawal of services;

d) an increase in the wealth gap between the richest and poorest; and

e) the continuation of economic imbalance with a continued over-dependency on financial services and a concentration of wealth in one corner of the British state.

2. Calls for:

a) an end to austerity economics;

b) a rebalancing of power and wealth within the British state;

c) the adoption of economic policies that will result in new jobs in sustainable sectors;

d) an increase of the minimum wage to that of the living wage;

e) an end to the dismantling of the welfare state;

f) a fair funding settlement urgently for Wales with the implementation of a funding floor, leading to greater financial parity with Scotland and the rest of the UK; and

g) the devolution of fiscal levers to the National Assembly for Wales.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
9	0	43	52

The motion as amended was not agreed.

## 7 Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

The item started at 16.50

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

**A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:**

### **NDM5676 Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that access to financial capital for Welsh businesses is essential to encourage growth in the private sector.
2. Notes that up skilling the Welsh population is crucial to increasing productivity and putting the Welsh economy at a competitive advantage.
3. Notes that our rurality and geography mean that innovative and radical proposals are needed to grow our economy and improve connectivity.
4. Believes that there are many strengths that will help build the Welsh economy such as our proximity to UK and EU markets, existing pockets of innovation and excellence, and training capacity.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to deliver a balanced, integrated, export-led economic strategy and address Wales's underdevelopment with a long-term commitment to investing in Wales's people, business and infrastructure, including by:
  - a) creating a Welsh development bank;
  - b) developing networks of advisors to provide professional business support;

c) embedding wider skills such as entrepreneurship, leadership and management into the curriculum;

d) decentralising more powers over economic development from Cardiff Bay, directly to communities;

e) improving our transport infrastructure by supporting electrification of the North Wales Coast Main Line, developing passenger transport authorities to regulate public transport and ensure suitable provision; and funding a feasibility study into reinstating the rail links between Aberyswyth and Carmarthen to link up with the existing network; and

f) launching a radical and systematic review of the way that business rates are run in Wales.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
5	0	47	52

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments have been tabled:

**Amendment 1 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)**

Insert as a new point 1 and renumber accordingly:

Acknowledges that a successful private sector, including social enterprises, is vital for sustainable economic growth throughout Wales and the enhancement of public service provision.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 1:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
52	0	0	52

Amendment 1 was agreed.

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

In subpoint 5(e), insert after 'North Wales Coast Main Line':

'and the Wales Marches Line'.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 2:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	27	53

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the amendment. Therefore, the amendment was not agreed.

**Amendment 3 – Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)**

In point 5e) delete 'developing passenger transport authorities to regulate public transport and ensure suitable provision' and replace with 'developing a not-for-dividend model as a key part of delivering an integrated transport system'.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 3:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
35	0	17	52

Amendment 3 was agreed.

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

Add as new sub-point at end of point 5:

extending the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme to give all businesses with a Rateable Value of £10,000 or less 100% relief and tapered relief for those with a Rateable Value between £10,001 and £15,000.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 4:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
21	0	31	52

Amendment 4 was not agreed.

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

Add as new sub-point at end of point 5:

establishing a new body to work alongside UKTI to build trading relationships between Welsh businesses and the international community.

**A vote was taken on Amendment 5:**

For	Abstain	Against	Total
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9	0	43	52
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**Amendment 5 was not agreed.**

**A vote was taken on the motion as amended:**

**NDM5676 Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Acknowledges that a successful private sector, including social enterprises, is vital for sustainable economic growth throughout Wales and the enhancement of public service provision.
2. Notes that access to financial capital for Welsh businesses is essential to encourage growth in the private sector.
3. Notes that up skilling the Welsh population is crucial to increasing productivity and putting the Welsh economy at a competitive advantage.
4. Notes that our rurality and geography mean that innovative and radical proposals are needed to grow our economy and improve connectivity.
5. Believes that there are many strengths that will help build the Welsh economy such as our proximity to UK and EU markets, existing pockets of innovation and excellence, and training capacity.
6. Calls on the Welsh Government to deliver a balanced, integrated, export-led economic strategy and address Wales's underdevelopment with a long-term commitment to investing in Wales's people, business and infrastructure, including by:
  - a) creating a Welsh development bank;
  - b) developing networks of advisors to provide professional business support;
  - c) embedding wider skills such as entrepreneurship, leadership and management into the curriculum;
  - d) decentralising more powers over economic development from Cardiff Bay, directly to communities;

e) improving our transport infrastructure by supporting electrification of the North Wales Coast Main Line, developing a not-for-dividend model as a key part of delivering an integrated transport system; and funding a feasibility study into reinstating the rail links between Aberyswyth and Carmarthen to link up with the existing network; and

f) launching a radical and systematic review of the way that business rates are run in Wales.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
40	0	12	52

The motion as amended was agreed.

## 8 Voting Time

The item started at 17.47

## 9 Short Debate

The item started at 17.55

### **NDM5679 Mark Isherwood (North Wales)**

Supporting the establishment of a Co-production Network for Wales

Building on the best of our traditions of cooperation and community to transform Wales into a society that places co-production principles at the heart of its public services, its communities, and the lives of its citizens.

The meeting concluded at 18.16

**The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 3 February 2015**