

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 11 February 2015

Meeting time:
13.30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Votes and Proceedings

(247)

1 Questions to the Minister for Education and Skills

The item started at 13.30

The first 8 questions were asked

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

2 Questions to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport

The item started at 14.18

All 15 questions were asked. Questions 2, 3 and 13 were answered by the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism.

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

Urgent Question

The item started at 15.02

Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the future of obstetrics and gynaecological ward at Glan Clwyd Hospital, following yesterday's announcement that consultant-led care at the hospital has been suspended for 18 months?

3 Debate by Individual Members under Standing Order 11.21(iv)

The item started at 15.12

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NNDM5683 Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes:

a) Bite the Ballot's national voter registration day on 5 February and the nationwide week of action between 2 and 8 February;

b) 'The quality of the 2014 electoral registers in Great Britain' report by the Electoral Commission, which found that 49% of 16–17 year olds are not registered to vote;

c) the 'Analysis of the confirmation live run in England and Wales' Electoral Commission progress report, which found that the individual electoral registration match-rate for 16 to 17 year olds has declined from 86% to 52%; and

d) the success of the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland's 'Schools Initiative' in adding 57,000 young people (approximately 50% of the age group) to the register.

2. Regrets that turnout in Assembly elections has been decreasing and supports action to encourage active, engaged participation of young people in democracy.

3. Calls for steps to empower electoral registration officers to improve data-sharing, increase the number of people registered from under-represented groups – especially young and student electors – and ensure greater participation of young people.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
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15	0	32	47
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The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the UK Government to agree that the carrying forward of registered persons included in the previous register, who had not registered individually, should apply to the 2016 register as it did for 2015.

A vote was taken on Amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
38	0	10	48

Amendment 1 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NNDM5683 Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes:

a) Bite the Ballot's national voter registration day on 5 February and the nationwide week of action between 2 and 8 February;

b) 'The quality of the 2014 electoral registers in Great Britain' report by the Electoral Commission, which found that 49% of 16–17 year olds are not registered to vote;

c) the 'Analysis of the confirmation live run in England and Wales' Electoral Commission progress report, which found that the individual electoral registration match–rate for 16 to 17 year olds has declined from 86% to 52%; and

d) the success of the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland's 'Schools Initiative' in adding 57,000 young people (approximately 50% of the age group) to the register.

2. Regrets that turnout in Assembly elections has been decreasing and supports action to encourage active, engaged participation of young people in democracy.

3. Calls for steps to empower electoral registration officers to improve data-sharing, increase the number of people registered from under-represented groups – especially young and student electors – and ensure greater participation of young people.

4. Calls on the UK Government to agree that the carrying forward of registered persons included in the previous register, who had not registered individually, should apply to the 2016 register as it did for 2015.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
38	0	9	47

The motion as amended was agreed.

4 Welsh Conservatives Debate

The item started at 15.52

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM5687 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that, in Wales, over 138,000 people have benefitted from the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire.

2. Regrets:

a) the Welsh Government's intention to end the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire in Wales;

b) that the Welsh Government has failed to deliver an appropriate supply of new affordable housing in Wales; and

c) that the number of social housing units has decreased since the Welsh Government has had responsibility for housing.

3. Calls for a comprehensive housing reform programme to increase housing supply and alleviate problems of affordability

For	Abstain	Against	Total
10	0	38	48

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Notes that local councils already have an option to apply to the Welsh Government to suspend the right to buy.

A vote was taken on Amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
47	0	1	48

Amendment 1 was agreed.

Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Delete point 2a) and renumber accordingly.

A vote was taken on Amendment 2:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
38	0	10	48

Amendment 2 was agreed.

Amendment 3 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to consider the suspension of the right to buy for new build social housing whilst retaining rights for existing tenants.

A vote was taken on Amendment 3:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
28	10	10	48

Amendment 3 was agreed.

Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to set targets for the number of affordable homes to be built in Wales during an Assembly term within six months of the Assembly election, and reported on annually to the National Assembly for Wales.

A vote was taken on Amendment 4:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
38	9	0	47

Amendment 4 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM5687 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that, in Wales, over 138,000 people have benefitted from the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire.
2. Notes that local councils already have an option to apply to the Welsh Government to suspend the right to buy.
3. Regrets:
 - a) that the Welsh Government has failed to deliver an appropriate supply of new affordable housing in Wales; and
 - b) that the number of social housing units has decreased since the Welsh Government has had responsibility for housing.
4. Calls for a comprehensive housing reform programme to increase housing supply and alleviate problems of affordability.

5. Calls on the Welsh Government to consider the suspension of the right to buy for new build social housing whilst retaining rights for existing tenants.

6. Calls on the Welsh Government to set targets for the number of affordable homes to be built in Wales during an Assembly term within six months of the Assembly election, and reported on annually to the National Assembly for Wales.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
4	10	34	48

The motion as amended was not agreed.

5 Plaid Cymru 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:

NDM5695 Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Calls on Welsh Government to prepare a new 10 year national workforce plan for the NHS, which includes actions to train and recruit 1,000 additional doctors, to ensure the NHS is able to deliver health services in all parts of Wales.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
10	0	38	48

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Delete all after 'a new 10 year national workforce plan for the NHS,' and replace with 'which ensures action is taken to train and recruit sufficient doctors, nurses and other health care professionals to ensure that health and social care across Wales is ready for the future'.

A vote was taken on Amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
28	0	20	48

Amendment 1 was agreed.

As amendment 1 was agreed, amendment 2 was de-selected.

Amendment 3 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

Adds as new point at end of motion:

Regrets that successive Welsh Governments have failed to plan effectively for the workforce needs of the Welsh NHS.

A vote was taken on Amendment 3:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
23	0	25	48

Amendment 3 was not agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM5695 Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Calls on Welsh Government to prepare a new 10 year national workforce plan for the NHS, which ensures action is taken to train and recruit sufficient doctors, nurses and other health care professionals to ensure that health and social care across Wales is ready for the future.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
48	0	0	48

The motion as amended was agreed.

6 Voting Time

The item started at 17.49

7 Short Debate

The item started at 17.54

NDM5688 Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West)

Re-open the Rhondda Tunnel

Proposals to re-open this disused railway tunnel between Blaengwynfi and Blaencwm provide a big opportunity for people-led regeneration in the Valleys and the starting point for wider improvements led by those communities.

The meeting concluded at 18.11

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 24 February 2015