

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 20 January 2016

Meeting time: 13.30

(309)v2

1 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](#)

2 Questions to the Counsel General

(15 mins)

[View Questions](#)

3 Questions to the Assembly Commission

(0 mins)

No questions tabled.

4 Debate on the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee's report on Making Laws in Wales

(60 mins)

NDM5922 David Melding (South Wales Central)

The National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the report of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee on its inquiry into Making Laws in Wales, laid in the Table Office on 8 October 2015.



The Welsh Government's response to the report was laid in the Table Office on 13 January 2016.

The Assembly Commission's response to the report was laid in the Table Office on 13 January 2016.

Supporting Documents

[Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee's report](#)

[Welsh Government's response](#)

[Assembly Commission's response](#)

[Business Committee's response](#)

5 Welsh Conservatives Debate

(60 mins)

NDM5920 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the findings from the interim report into the Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance Arrangements in Wales, which states the existing system is "not sustainable", echoing calls from Universities Wales, the Learned Society of Wales and University and College Union;
2. Recognises the need, identified by the interim report, for the Welsh Government to "revisit the tuition fee grant policy" in Wales;
3. Believes the Welsh Government should remodel higher education funding in Wales, implementing a more sustainable policy and offering greater priority to a progressive system of living cost support.

[Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance Arrangements](#)

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Notes the Welsh Liberal Democrat 2013 policy report 'Fairness and Freedom in Higher Education' which calls for a student living support grant, to shift the focus of government assistance from tuition fee debt relief to support for living costs, as a fairer and more effective way of ensuring finance is not a barrier to higher education.

[Fairness and Freedom in Higher Education](#)

Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Notes the National Union of Students' policy report, 'Pound in Your Pocket', which found that 58 per cent of students regularly worry about not having enough money to meet their basic living expenses such as rent or utility bills.

[Pound in Your Pocket](#)

Amendment 3 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

At end of point 3, insert:

'such as by the introduction of a student living support grant.'

Amendment 4 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Condemns the severe cut to HEFCW's funding in the draft budget 2016–2017, which comes as a direct consequence of the Welsh Government's current fees policy. Believes that this is likely to lead to damaging cuts in support for part time students, research, high cost subjects and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

6 Welsh Conservatives Debate

(60 mins)

NDM5923 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that communities across Wales have been devastated by flooding in recent weeks; and pays tribute to the work of all of those who have provided vital support to those communities;
2. Recognises the importance of thorough, collaborative engagement with stakeholders across Wales in the development of a robust, flood prevention strategy; and
3. Calls on the Welsh Government to take immediate, tangible action to support flood-hit communities, including:
 - a) exploring the viability of providing rate relief to impacted businesses;
 - b) reviewing how the Trunk Road Agency responds to adverse weather conditions, and in particular assessing the management of the A55 in relation to flooding;
 - c) providing additional freedoms to farmers and landowners to undertake any necessary clearance of ditches, drains and agricultural channels; and
 - d) assessing how the Rural Development Programme can better support flood prevention schemes for communities affected by flooding.

[Rural Development Programme](#)

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets the failure of the UK Government to apply for EU solidarity funds for flood relief.

Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets the decision of the UK Government to cut support for clean energy projects, which threatens our ability to tackle climate change and will increase the risk of extreme weather conditions and flooding in the future.

Amendment 3 – Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

At start of sub-point 3c), insert:

'reviewing the evidence for'

Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

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

Promoting schemes to alleviate flood risk through innovative land management including by planting trees and vegetation to slow run-off, restoring wetland areas, and creating safe flood reservoirs.

Amendment 5 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to strengthen the planning guidance regarding development on land susceptible to flooding.

Amendment 6 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to make more use of the natural environment in its management of flood risk.

7 Voting Time

8 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM5924 Lynne Neagle (Torfaen)

A national dementia strategy for Wales – responding to the health challenge of our time.

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 26 January 2016

Agenda Item 1

Oral Assembly Questions tabled on 13 January 2016 for answer on 20 January 2016

R - Signifies the Member has declared an interest.

W - Signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

(Self identifying Question no. shown in brackets)

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

To ask the Minister for the Economy, Science and Transport

- 1. Elin Jones (Ceredigion):** What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact that proposed cuts to funding to support book publishing is likely to have on the publishing and printing industry? OAQ(4)0661(EST)W
- 2. Gwenda Thomas (Neath):** What is the Welsh Government doing to facilitate museums in achieving accreditation status? OAQ(4)0655(EST)
- 3. Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement about actions taken to assist the development of businesses in Port Talbot? OAQ(4)0660(EST)
- 4. Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** Will the Minister make a statement on winter preparedness across the Welsh transport infrastructure? OAQ(4)0659(EST)
- 5. Nick Ramsay (Monmouth):** Will the Minister make a statement on the safety of the A466 link road at Chepstow? OAQ(4)0658(EST)
- 6. Keith Davies (Llanelli):** Will the Minister provide an update on the Swansea Bay city region? OAQ(4)0669(EST)
- 7. Altaf Hussein (South Wales West):** What action is the Welsh Government taking to support the steel industry in Wales? OAQ(4)0666(EST)
- 8. Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the effectiveness of enterprise zones in South Wales Central? OAQ(4)0662(EST)
- 9. Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales):** What discussions has the Minister held regarding developing the economy of Carmarthen town? OAQ(4)0668(EST)W
- 10. Mike Hedges (Swansea East):** Will the Minister make a statement on the SA1 development in Swansea? OAQ(4)0657(EST)

11. Julie Morgan (Cardiff North): Will the Minister make a statement on the development of science policy in Wales? OAQ(4)0665(EST)

12. Gwyn Price (Islwyn): Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Government's support for small businesses? OAQ(4)0663(EST)

13. William Graham (South Wales East): Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of the maritime economy in Wales? OAQ(4)0667(EST)

14. Mike Hedges (Swansea East): Will the Minister make a statement on transport infrastructure within the Swansea bay region? OAQ(4)0656(EST)

15. Gwyn Price (Islwyn): Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Government support for active travel in Wales? OAQ(4)0664(EST)

To ask the Counsel General

1. Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales): What discussions has the Counsel General had with other law officers regarding the legal implications to Wales of the Trade Union Bill? OAQ(4)0091(CG)W

2. Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales): What meetings has the Counsel General held with other law officers regarding the 'necessity test' in the draft Wales Bill? OAQ(4)0092(CG)W

3. Mick Antoniw (Pontypridd): What discussions has the Counsel General had with members of the legal profession regarding the inclusion of responsibility for fixed-odds gambling machines within the draft Wales Bill? OAQ(4)0089(CG)

4. Mick Antoniw (Pontypridd): What discussions has the Counsel General had with counterparts in Northern Ireland and Scotland regarding the Trade Union Bill? OAQ(4)0090(CG)