

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 11 October 2017

Meeting time: 13.30

94(v3)

1 Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Cabinet Secretary after question 2.

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Counsel General (30 mins)

[View Questions](#)

3 Topical Questions (0 mins)

No topical questions were selected.

4 90 Second Statements (5 mins)



5 Debate on the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee report: Taming the traffic: The impact of Congestion on Bus Services

(60 mins)

NDM6524 [Russell George \(Montgomeryshire\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the report of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee on its inquiry into the impact of congestion on bus services which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 28 July 2017.

Note: The response by the Welsh Government was [laid](#) on 4 October 2017.

6 Debate on the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee's report on the implications of Brexit for Welsh ports

(60 mins)

NDM6525 [David Rees \(Aberavon\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the report of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee on its inquiry into the implications of Brexit for Welsh ports, which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 4 August 2017.

Note: The response by the Welsh Government was [laid](#) on 4 October 2017.

7 United Kingdom Independence Party debate

(60 mins)

NDM6526 [Caroline Jones \(South Wales West\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Believes that:

a) small businesses constitute the economic and social heart of the Welsh high street but that the current business rates regime significantly disadvantages retailers in small towns and cities;

b) business rates are inherently inequitable because they bear little, if any, relation to business profitability and they have a chilling effect on town centres by adding significant costs to the establishment of new businesses;

c) reducing the impact of business rates would help businesses survive the challenges posed by internet shopping and give a significant boost to the high street.

2. Resolves that:

a) as an interim measure, pending the replacement of business rates by a tax related to ability to pay, business premises with a rateable value below £15,000 should be exempt and the rates of business properties within the band of £15,000 – £50,000 are reduced by 20%;

b) Welsh local authorities should encourage local trade by offering at least 60 minutes free parking in their town centre car parks;

c) out-of-town shopping developments should bear a greater but reasonable share of the burden of business rates, and such rates should apply to their car parks, to help revive town centres.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1. [Jane Hutt \(Vale of Glamorgan\)](#):

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Recognises the importance of micro, small and medium-sized businesses to the success of communities and the wider Welsh economy.
2. Notes the vital importance of cross-government policies that support businesses on Welsh high streets to thrive and grow.
3. Recognises the Welsh Government's commitment to supporting high street retailers and other businesses by providing more than £200 million of funding in 2017–18 to support around three-quarters of ratepayers in Wales through rates relief.
4. Acknowledges that in 2017–18, more than half of all businesses across Wales pay no rates at all.
5. Notes the Welsh Government's intention to put in place a permanent small business rate relief scheme which is simpler, fairer and better targeted towards growing businesses in Wales from April 2018.

[If amendment 1 is agreed, amendments 2 and 3 will be de-selected]

Amendment 2. [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#):

Delete point 2 and replace with:

Welcomes the full devolution of business rates to the Welsh Government and the potential this unlocks.

[If amendment 2 is agreed, amendment 3 will be de-selected]

Amendment 3. [Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#):

Delete point 2 and replace with:

Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) abolish business rates for all businesses with a rateable value of less than £10,000 per year, and provide tapered relief for businesses whose rateable value is between £10,000 and £20,000;
- b) make all businesses during their first year of operation exempt from paying any rates in order to encourage new start-ups across Wales;
- c) introduce a split multiplier for small and large businesses as is the case in Scotland and England; and
- d) explore replacing business rates altogether with alternative forms of taxation which do not discourage employment, town centre regeneration and investment in plant and machinery.

Amendment 4. [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#):

Add as new point at end of motion:

Regrets that the Welsh Government has presided over the highest high street vacancy rate in Great Britain in 2017, at 14.5 per cent.

Amendment 5. [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#):

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) abolish business rates for all small businesses with rateable values of up to £15,000; and
- b) reform the business rates system and explore splitting the Welsh multiplier to increase the competitiveness of smaller businesses.

Amendment 6. [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#):

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes that the Welsh Government should extend the funding available to support free parking pilot schemes in Wales.

8 Voting Time

9 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM6522 [Dai Lloyd \(South Wales West\)](#)

Protecting and developing regional centres of medical excellence

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 17 October 2017

Agenda Item 1

Oral Assembly Questions tabled on 4 October 2017 for answer on 11 October 2017

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 [Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure](#)

1. [Dai Lloyd \(South Wales West\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on what plans the Welsh Government has to improve Wales's international connectivity? (OAQ51151)
2. [Jayne Bryant \(Newport West\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the growth of the gig economy in Wales? (OAQ51143)
3. [Eluned Morgan \(Mid and West Wales\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the Welsh Government's plans to drive forward the Welsh economy? (OAQ51162)
4. [Leanne Wood \(Rhondda\)](#): How does the Welsh Government intend to improve the public transport network of Wales? (OAQ51161)
5. [Steffan Lewis \(South Wales East\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on rail infrastructure in Gwent? (OAQ51140) **WITHDRAWN**
6. [Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#): What plans does the Welsh Government have to note the 300th anniversary of the birth of William Williams Pantycelyn this year? (OAQ51142W)
7. [Jenny Rathbone \(Cardiff Central\)](#): What consideration does the Cabinet Secretary give to sustainability when taking decisions in relation to transport? (OAQ51165)
8. [Jeremy Miles \(Neath\)](#): What role does the Welsh Government have in supporting Welsh businesses to trade with one another? (OAQ51157)
9. [Mark Reckless \(South Wales East\)](#): What is the Welsh Government doing to maximise the economic development benefits that will flow to south-east Wales following the UK Government's confirmation that the Severn bridge tolls will be abolished during 2018? (OAQ51158)
10. [Janet Finch-Saunders \(Aberconwy\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on Welsh Government support for the tourism industry? (OAQ51150) **WITHDRAWN**

11. [David Rees \(Aberavon\)](#): What published evidence is available in relation to the economic benefits that will come to Port Talbot if the Ministry of Justice goes ahead with plans to build a prison on Baglan industrial park? (OAQ51160)

12. [Janet Finch-Saunders \(Aberconwy\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the Wales and Borders rail franchise? (OAQ51149)

WITHDRAWN

13. [Angela Burns \(Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire\)](#): What is the Welsh Government doing to support small and medium-sized enterprises in west Wales? (OAQ51155)

14. [Adam Price \(Carmarthen East and Dinefwr\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary outline what new policies the Welsh Government plans to bring forward to support medium-sized businesses? (OAQ51148)

15. [Nick Ramsay \(Monmouth\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the impact of the abolition of the Severn bridge tolls on traffic levels on the M4? (OAQ51146)

To ask the [Counsel General](#)

1. [Simon Thomas \(Mid and West Wales\)](#): What discussions has the Counsel General held with law officers regarding appointments to the Supreme Court? (OAQ51164W)

2. [Eluned Morgan \(Mid and West Wales\)](#): What is the Counsel General's assessment of the constitutional implications of the Sewel Convention on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill? (OAQ51159)

3. [Jayne Bryant \(Newport West\)](#): What discussions has the Counsel General held regarding the implementation timetable for the Wales Act 2017? (OAQ51144)

4. [Hefin David \(Caerphilly\)](#): What discussions has the Counsel General held regarding increasing diversity in representations to the Supreme Court? (OAQ51152)

5. [Simon Thomas \(Mid and West Wales\)](#): What discussions has the Counsel General held regarding the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill? (OAQ51163W)

6. [Neil Hamilton \(Mid and West Wales\)](#): What are the implications for Wales of adopting a distinctive justice system which is truly representative of Welsh needs? (OAQ51154)