

BUSINESS PAPERS

Part 1- Section E

WRITTEN STATEMENTS OF OPINION TABLED ON

30 November 1999

R Signifies the Member has declared an interest

OPIN-1999-0001 National 50 Metre Swimming Pool

Raised on 17 May 1999 by

Peter Black [R] - South Wales West

1 Subscriber

Dr David Lloyd - South Wales West

Congratulates Swansea on winning the competition to locate the new 50 metre swimming pool in that city.

OPIN-1999-0002 NUS Wales

Raised on 17 May 1999 by

Peter Black – South Wales West

1 Subscriber

Dr David Lloyd - South Wales West

The proposed relocation of the NUS Wales Office to Cardiff after 25 years of being in Swansea is unnecessary and undesirable. It will amount to a further centralisation of Welsh Institutions

in the capital city and have an adverse effect on staff and their families. The relocation, if it goes ahead, will not be a cost effective use of public funds.

OPIN-1999-0003 Railways in Wales

Raised on 24 May 1999 by

Michael German OBE – South Wales East

3 Subscribers

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central

Peter Black – South Wales West

This Assembly is deeply concerned that more than half of the poorest train services are in Wales, and that none of the Welsh Rail Services achieved a top grade A from the Rail Franchise Director. Of particular concern is the bottom grade placing of Cardiff Railways, one of the three worst companies for punctuality and reliability. This Assembly should press the UK Government to establish an All Wales Passenger Transport Executive, covering the Wales and the Marches, to provide leadership for an integrated approach to rail improvements.

OPIN-1999-0004 Concern about Education Spending

Raised on 24 May 1999 by

Peter Black – South Wales West

Michael German OBE – South Wales East

Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central [R]

1 Subscriber

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

This Assembly expresses its concern at Audit Commission figures released last week which reveal a larger percentage of primary school children in classes over 30 in 1997/98 compared with 1996/97, and also reveal that spending per primary pupil (adjusted for inflation) has fallen in each of the last 4 years. We believe that the education of children in Wales is so important for our future that we must do all in our power to raise investment in education to at least a

level comparable with England.

OPIN-1999-0006 Review of University Lecturers' Pay and Conditions required

Raised on 7 June by

Peter Black – South Wales West
Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central [R]

1 Subscriber

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

This Assembly recognises the importance of the Universities in Cardiff to our capital City and their contribution to the economic and cultural strength of Wales as a whole. We regret that lecturers in Cardiff and elsewhere feel so demoralised by declining conditions of service and the failure of their pay to keep pace with that of similar occupations that many of them took strike action on 25th May. We, therefore, believe there is a need for an urgent review of salaries and conditions within our universities if Wales is to continue to have a thriving university sector.

OPIN-1999-0011 Mental Health in the workplace

Raised on 23 June by

Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Peter Black- South Wales West
Michael German OBE -South Wales East
Jenny Randerson -Cardiff Central
Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire
Christine Humphreys - North Wales

3 Subscribers:

Dr David Lloyd

John Marek - Wrexham
Gareth Jones - Conwy

The National Assembly recognises that one person in four experiences mental Health problems at some point during their working life. The Assembly believes that every effort should be made to enable those facing mental health difficulties to seek appropriate medical help and receive adequate levels of support from their employers and colleagues. The Assembly condemns any form of discrimination against those suffering from mental illness at work, as strongly as it would against those suffering from other physical ailments or disabilities.

OPIN-1999-0012 Discrimination and Employment best practices

Raised on 23 June by

Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire

Peter Black- South Wales West
Michael German OBE -South Wales East
Jenny Randerson -Cardiff Central
Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire
Christine Humphreys - North Wales

3 Subscribers:

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West
John Marek - Wrexham
Gareth Jones - Conwy

The National Assembly strongly condemns discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, sexuality or disability and will seek to pursue the best possible employment practices in all its dealings with colleagues and staff.

OPIN-1999-0013 Independence of Assembly Committees

Raised on 23 June by

Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire

Peter Black- South Wales West
Michael German OBE -South Wales East
Jenny Randerson -Cardiff Central
Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire
Christine Humphreys - North Wales

3 Subscribers:

Dr David Lloyd
John Marek - Wrexham
Gareth Jones - Conwy

The National Assembly welcomes the completed election of members to the Assembly's committees and looks forward to their developing role, where appropriate as powerful vehicles of policy formation. The Assembly also recognises the pivotal position these committees occupy in balancing the powers of the Executive and holding Assembly Secretaries to account. The Assembly believes that upholding both these roles is in the best interests of the open and inclusive Government to which the Assembly aspires. Accordingly, the Assembly will not accept any attempt by the Executive to diminish or undermine the powers, stature or independence of the Assembly Committees.

OPIN-1999-0028 Pardon for Dic Penderyn/Richard Lewis

Raised on 20 Jul by

Brian Gibbons FRCGP - Aberavon

2 Subscribers

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West
Richard Edwards - Preseli Pembrokeshire

The Assembly supports the campaign for the posthumous pardon from the Home Office of Dic Penderyn/Richard Lewis, the first martyr for the workers in Wales.

OPIN-1999-0030 Arts Council for Wales - Drama Strategy

Raised on 22 Jul by Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central

18 Subscribers

Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Alun Cairns – South Wales West
Kirsty Williams - Brecon & Radnorshire
Jonathon Morgan – South Wales Central
David Davies - Monmouth
Gareth Jones - Conwy
Nicholas Bourne – Mid & West Wales
Rodri Glyn Thomas - Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Jocelyn Davies - South Wales East
Janet Ryder - North Wales
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Owen John Thomas MA - South Wales Central
Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire
Christine Humphreys - North Wales
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Michael German OBE - South Wales East
Peter Black - South Wales West

This Assembly believes that the Arts Council for Wales should defer its decision on its proposed Drama Strategy until after the Assembly has completed its own review of the Arts. We believe that if the Arts Council for Wales proceeds with its new strategy at this stage, it could run counter to the Assembly's priorities.

OPIN-1999-0038 Funding of the Open University in Wales

Raised on 29 Sep 1999 by

Christine Humphreys - North Wales

6 Subscribers

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Peter Black - South Wales West
Michael German OBE - South Wales East
Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central

This Assembly recognises that the Council of the Open University has expressed support for the transfer of funding for the OU in Wales from the Higher Education Funding Council for England to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. The Assembly supports such a transfer and urges that it takes place in a way which will ensure maximum benefit for students and is based on maintenance or improvement of existing funding per student.

OPIN-1999-0040 Wales Anti-Poverty Network

Raised on 06 Oct 1999 by

Alison Halford – Delyn

26 Subscribers

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Janet Ryder - North Wales
Christine Humphreys - North Wales
Val Feld- Swansea East
Lynne Neagle - Torfaen
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Janice Gregory - Ogmore
Richard Edwards - Preseli Prembrokshire
Huw Lewis - Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
Ann Jones – Vale of Clwyd
Brian Gibbons FRCGP - Aberavon
Karen Sinclair - Clwyd South
Gwenda Thomas - Neath
John Marek - Wrexham
Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central
Lorraine Barrett - Cardiff South and Penarth
Ron Davies - Caerphilly
Peter Black - South Wales West

Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire
Owen John Thomas MA - South Wales Central
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Michael German OBE - South Wales East
Janet Davies - South Wales West
John Griffiths LLB - Newport East

The National Assembly for Wales recognises and applauds the work and aims of the Wales Anti-Poverty Network. We wish them well in their pursuit of the eradication of poverty in Wales and highlighting the destructive effects of poverty. We further signal our agreement that those who live in poverty should be empowered and invited to fully participate in schemes designed to improve their quality of life

OPIN-1999-0044 Campaign by Cofeb Tryweryn for National Monument

Raised on 12 Oct 1999 by

Ron Davies - Caerphilly
John Marek - Wrexham

20 Subscribers

Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Kirsty Williams - Brecon & Radnorshire
Brian Hancock - Islwyn
Ieuan Wyn Jones – Ynys Mon
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Christine Chapman – Cynon Valley
Val Feld – Swansea East
Carwyn Jones - Bridgend
Elin Jones - Ceredigion
Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Cynog Dafis - Mid and West Wales
Janet Ryder - North Wales
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
David Rhys Lloyd – South Wales West

Owen John Thomas – South Wales Central
Karen Sinclair – Clwyd South
Gareth Jones - Conwy
Michael German OBE – South Wales East
Alison Halford - Delyn

The Assembly will recall the flooding of the Welsh Village of Capel Celyn in 1957 by the Liverpool Corporation to provide water for its own development. The Assembly commends the 35 of the then 36 Welsh MP's who unsuccessfully opposed the flooding thereby demonstrating the need for Wales to have it's own national voice.

The Assembly supports the campaign by Cofeb Tryweryn to establish a permanent national monument on the shores of Llyn Tryweryn to commemorate this significant moment in Welsh history.

OPIN-1999-0046 Using Welsh for Adults - A Level Qualification

Raised on 19 Oct 1999 by

Cynog Dafis - Mid and West Wales
Christine Humphreys - North Wales
Gareth Jones - Conwy

3 Subscribers

Dr David Loyd – South Wales West
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

The Assembly declares its appreciation of the A Level qualification in Using Welsh for Adults which includes a strong element of social activity through the medium of Welsh and an emphasis on practical skills; is concerned about the future of the qualification following ACCAC's request to create their own Second Language Welsh A Level qualification; and calls on ACCAC and the Government of Wales to be flexible in order to safeguard the Using Welsh for Adults A Level qualification, which has proved to be an innovative, successful and popular course.

OPIN-1999-0048 Teacher Training

21 Oct 1999 Raised by

Gareth Jones, John Marek, Jonathan Morgan, Jenny Randerson

14 Subscribers:

Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Ieuan Wyn Jones – Ynys Mon
Cynog Dafis – Mid and West Wales
Phil Williams – South Wales East
Brian Hancock – Islwyn
Michael German – South Wales East
Janet Ryder – North Wales
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Owen John Thomas – South Wales Central
Kirsty Williams – Brecon & Radnorshire
Elin Jones - Ceredigion
Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen & East Dinefwr

This Assembly believes there is a serious crisis in recruitment to secondary teacher training in Wales which is endangering the supply of high quality teachers to our secondary schools and so calls for a co-ordinated programme of action developed in Wales and relevant to specific needs of Wales to reverse this trend and build on the potential that exists in Wales.

OPIN-1999-0049 Credit Union Movement

21 Oct 1999 Raised by

Lorraine Barrett, Peter Black, Jocelyn Davies, John Griffiths LLB

21 Subscribers:

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West
Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central
Christine Chapman – Cynon Valley
Geraint Davies - Rhondda

Michael German – South Wales East
Kirsty Williams - Brecon & Radnorshire
Val Feld – Swansea East
Ieuan Wyn Jones – Ynys Mon
Lynne Neagle - Torfaen
Huw Lewis - Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
Brian Hancock - Islwyn
Janet Ryder – North Wales
Owen John Thomas – South Wales Central
Ron Davies - Caerphilly
Mick Bates – Montgomeryshire
Richard Edwards - Preseli Pembrokeshire
Rhodri Glyn Thomas - Carmarthen & East Dinefwr
Janice Gregory - Ogmore
Elin Jones - Ceredigion
Carwyn Jones – Bridgend

The National Assembly wishes today on International Credit Union Day (October 21 1999) to celebrate the Credit Union movement by supporting the contribution it makes to the economic and social life of Wales. The National Assembly for Wales will help launch its latest reports today. We call on members of the Assembly to support the main recommendations in the reports to ensure the continued evolution of the credit union movement in Wales. We wish the credit union movement in Wales continued success and hope to see it play a major part in the continued development of Welsh life.

OPIN-1999-0050 Repeal of Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988

Raised on 29 October by

Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central

15 Subscribers

Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central (R)
Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West
Cynog Dafis – Mid & West Wales

Geraint Davies - Rhondda

Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen East & Dinefwr
Gareth Jones – Conwy
Janet Davies – South Wales West
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Elin Jones – Ceredigion
Jocelyn Davies – South Wales East
Michael German – South Wales East
Christine Humphries – North Wales
Mick Bates – Montgomeryshire
Kirsty Williams – Brecon & Radnorshire
Peter Black – South Wales West

This Assembly believes that Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 unfairly discriminates against gay men, lesbians and bisexuals, and is a significant obstacle, preventing schools from dealing with homophobic bullying. We believe that the forthcoming Local Government legislation provides an ideal opportunity to repeal this measure.

OPIN-1999-0051 Therapeutic Work and the Minimum Wage

02 Nov 1999 Raised by

Geraint Davies, Helen Mary Jones

12 Subscribers

Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Dr David Lloyd- South Wales West
Gareth Jones - Conwy
David Melding – South Wales Central
Ieuan Wyn Jones – Ynys Mon
Brian Gibbons - Aberavon
Janet Ryder – North Wales
Owen John Thomas – South Wales Central
Janet Davies - South Wales West
Elin Jones Ceredigion
Jocelyn Davies - South Wales East
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire

This Assembly believes that the UK Government should reconsider the definition of an 'employed person' for the purposes of the National Minimum Wage. At present those with

severe disability undertaking a limited amount of work as therapy (with the express permission of the Benefit Agency) are not exempt from the application of the National Minimum Wage. As a result their entitlement to benefits is at risk and indeed the very provision of the employment as they may no longer be considered by their to be economically viable due to their level of productivity.

OPIN-1999-0052 Blood Donation

Raised on 3 November by

Carwyn Jones Bridgend

15 Subscribers

Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

Michael German – South Wales East

John Griffiths – Newport East

Val Feld – Swansea East

Lorraine Barrett – Cardiff South & Penarth

Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central

Brian Gibbons - Aberavon

Huw Lewis - Merthyr and Rhymney

Lynne Neagle Torfaen

Richard Edwards – Preseli - Pembrokeshire

Brian Hancock - Islwyn

Janice Gregory - Ogmore

Karen Sinclair – Clwyd South

Nick Bourne – Mid & West Wales

The Assembly recognises the importance of blood donation to the National Health Service and calls on members to give blood when they can.

OPIN – 1999-0053 Llandudno General Hospital Bone Scanner Service

Raised on 4 November by

Gareth Jones - Conwy

Christine Humphreys -North Wales
Peter Rogers - North Wales

2 Subscribers

Dr David Llyod – South Wales West
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli

The National Assembly believes that the bone scanner facility at Llandudno hospital should not only be maintained, but improved upon, so that a readily accessible service is available to the residents of North Wales. We call upon the North Wales Health Authority to give immediate priority to this need within its strategic planning and funding.

OPIN- 1999-0054 Contribution of the Chartist Movement

Raised on 10 November 99 by

John Griffiths - Newport East
Lynne Neagle – Torfaen
Michael German – South Wales East
Jocelyn Davies – South Wales East

17 Subscribers

Dr David Llyod – South Wales West
Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Brian Hancock – Islwyn
Gareth Jones - Conwy
Christine Chapman – Cynon Valley
Ron Davies – Caerphilly
Lorraine Barrett – Cardiff South & East
Val Feld – Swansea East
Brian Gibbons – Aberavon
Phil Williams – South Wales East
Alison Halford – Delyn
Elin Jones - Ceredigion
Richard Edwards – Preseli Pembrokeshire
Carwyn Jones - Bridgend

Owen John Thomas- South Wales Central

November 1999 saw the 160th anniversary of the Chartist Uprising in Newport. The National Assembly for Wales recognises and pays tribute to the important contribution of those Chartists and the movement in general to democracy and social justice in Britain.

OPIN-1999-0055 Pensioners

Raised on 11 November by Brian Hancock – Islwyn

10 Subscribers

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West
Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Gareth Jones – Conwy
Kirsty Williams - Brecon & Radnorshire
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Michael German - South Wales East
Owen John Thomas – South Wales Central
Peter Black – South Wales West
Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central

The National Assembly for Wales believes that the UK Government should treat pensioners with honour and dignity. In the budget the link should be restored between pensioners and average earnings and lift the level of basic pension, compared to average earnings, to 20% (its 1979 level)

OPIN 1999-0058 Wildlife Protection and Access to Open Countryside Legislation

Raised on 10 November 99 by

Sue Essex – Cardiff North

12 Subscribers

Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Gareth Jones - Conwy
Michael German – South Wales East

Ron Davies - Caerphilly
Carwyn Jones – Bridgend
Lorraine Barrett – Cardiff South & East
Christine Chapman – Cwm Cynon
Alison Halford - Delyn
Richard Edwards – Preseli Pembrokeshire
Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central
John Griffiths – Newport East
Peter Black – South Wales West

This Assembly supports new legislation to give better protection to wildlife and to enhance quiet enjoyment of countryside life.

OPIN-1999-0061 Labour Government's refusal to help Wales' deprived communities

Raised on 19 November by

Geraint Davies – Rhondda
Helen Mary Jones- Llanelli

1 Subscriber

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

The National Assembly draws attention to the crisis hitting small farms and in particular tenant farmers; regrets the Labour government refuses to tackle the hardship being endured by rural Wales and that the Government continues to drag its feet over compensation payments to miners suffering from Bronchitis and Chronic Emphysema; calls on everyone in Wales to rally round farmers facing the loss of their work and home, calls in particular on the government to take urgent steps to resolve the dire economic problems facing our rural and former coal mining communities.

OPIN-1992-0062 Exclusion of Barry from Objective 2 Funding

Raised on 22 November by

David Melding – South Wales Central
Jonathon Morgan – South Wales Central

Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central
Owen Jon Thomas – South Wales Central

8 Subscribers

Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Cynog Dafis – Mid & West Wales
Nicholas Bourne – Mid & West Wales
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Glyn Davies – Mid & West Wales
Alun Cairns – South Wales West
William Graham – South Wales East
Peter Black – South Wales West

This National Assembly for Wales opposes the recommendation of the Assembly Cabinet that Barry be excluded from the Objective 2 funding map. This funding is greatly needed in the town because it has wards with high levels of social exclusion and a waterfront project that needs further resources for development. This Assembly calls on the Cabinet to reconsider its recommendation to exclude Barry from the Objective 2 map.

OPIN-1999-0063 Jubilee 2000 and the G7

Raised on 22 November by

Rhodri Glyn Thomas – East Carmarthen and Dinefwr

4 Subscribers

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Mick Bates Montgomeryshire
Michael German - South Wales East

The National Assembly for Wales declares its support for Jubilee 2000's campaign for the write off of poor countries debts and calls on Prime Minister Blair and the UK Government to match President Clinton's announcement of a new United States policy on debt cancellation.

OPIN-1999-0064 Arts Council for Wales

Raised on 24 November by

John Griffiths – Newport East

Lynne Neagle – Torfaen

2 Subscribers

Alison Halford – Delyn

Richard Edwards – Preseli- Pembrokeshire

The National Assembly for Wales notes the quality and professionalism of Gwent Theatre's work over many years and has grave concern regarding the Arts Council for Wales' decision to cease funding Gwent Theatre after the current financial year. The Assembly calls upon the Arts Council for Wales to make their decision-making process open and transparent and to hold talks with Gwent Theatre regarding these matters and the way forward.

OPIN-1999-0068 Northern Ireland

Raised on 30 November by

Alun Pugh – Clwyd West

No Subscribers

The National Assembly applauds the leadership shown in Northern Ireland; welcomes the setting up of devolved government in Northern Ireland and calls upon all parties to fulfil their obligations under the Good Friday Agreement. The Assembly notes with approval the huge contribution made by the current Secretary of State for Wales during his period at the Northern Ireland Office.

OPIN-1999-0069 Clwyd Theatr Cymru

Raised on 30 November by

Alison Halford – Delyn

No Subscribers

The National Assembly for Wales esteems Clwyd Theatr Cymru's long record of quality and professionalism, and has grave concern regarding the Arts Council for Wales' decision to cease funding its youth project after the current financial year. The Assembly calls upon the Arts Council for Wales to make their decision-making process open and transparent and, as a matter of urgency, to hold talks with Clwyd Theatr regarding these matters and the way forward.