

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 09/02/2011

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.  
[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

### Contents

- 1 Questions to the Minister for Business and Budget
- 2 Questions to the Minister for Heritage

## Questions to the Minister for Business and Budget

### Education Funding Gap

**3. Jenny Randerson:** *What consideration is the Minister giving to addressing the increased primary education funding gap between England and Wales in setting the final budget for the Welsh Assembly Government. OAQ(3)1316(BB) Transferred for written answer.*

**The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt):** The final budget for 2011-12 was published on 1 February 2011 and, despite the difficult decisions that we have had to make, our budget proposals demonstrate our commitment to protecting education in Wales through our education department and the funds that we release to schools through local authorities.

*Questions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were answered in Plenary.*

### Census

**10. William Graham:** *What plans does the Minister have to issue information promoting the importance of the Census in Wales. OAQ(3)1317(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** The Office for National Statistics is responsible for promoting the census in England and Wales. A bilingual Wales press pack will shortly be published, with contributions from the First Minister and the Assembly Government's chief statistician.

### Priorities

**11. Andrew R.T. Davies:** *Will the Minister make a statement on his priorities for South Wales Central for the remainder of the Third Assembly. OAQ(3)1294(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** We are committed to delivering better outcomes for people and communities across the whole of Wales. The Assembly Government remains committed to delivering our 'One Wales' agenda, maximising resources to ensure effective and efficient public services that deliver value for money.

### End Year Flexibility

**12. Brian Gibbons:** *Will the Minister make a statement on End Year Flexibility. OAQ(3)1298(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** We strongly disagree with the UK Government's plan to take away almost £400 million voted to us by Parliament. This money would help support our economic recovery. I

have raised this with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and am awaiting his response. Finance Ministers of all the devolved administrations will expect discussion about end-year flexibility to be at the top of the agenda when they next meet Treasury Ministers.

### **Priorities**

*13. Nerys Evans: Will the Minister make a statement on her priorities for West Wales. OAQ(3)1312(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** ‘One Wales’ set our priorities for Wales for the duration of this Assembly and has shaped our spending plans. The final budget for 2011-12 sets out how we will continue to deliver our priorities and deliver for the people of Wales.

### **Private Finance Initiatives**

*14. Brian Gibbons: Will the Minister make a statement on the funding of Private Finance Initiative. OAQ(3)1297(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** We have no intention of returning to the outmoded PFI model. However, when considering the use of any private funding, decisions are taken based on a number of factors, including value for money, the quality of service delivery and the impact on people working within the service area.

### **Discussions with the UK Government**

*15. David Lloyd: What recent discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government. OAQ(3)1296(BB)*

**Jane Hutt:** I have met with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury regularly, most recently on 22 November in Cardiff after his appearance before the Finance Committee. I correspond regularly with him also on matters of interest to Wales, and published a written statement in January on our most recent discussions.

### **Questions to the Minister for Heritage**

#### **Support Libraries**

*11. Ann Jones: Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to support libraries in Wales. OAQ(3)1416(HER)*

**The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones):** The Welsh Assembly Government has invested a record £10.5 million in its Libraries for Life programme to develop Welsh libraries. I am looking forward, on 23 February, to officially reopening Rhyl Library, which has been modernised following a £300,000 grant provided as part of the Libraries for Life programme.

#### **Live Performance**

*12. David Melding: What has the Welsh Assembly Government done to promote live performance in Wales. OAQ(3)1436(HER)*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** Promotion of live performance, both in Wales and on the world stage, is principally the domain of the Arts Council of Wales, and its overall revenue funding in the current financial year is £31.6 million. Our major events strategy also includes support for live performance events in Wales.

## **Tourism Industry**

*13. Nerys Evans: Will the Minister make a statement regarding the support offered by the Welsh Assembly Government to the tourism industry in West Wales. OAQ(3)1438(HER) W*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** We have allocated £710,000 to South West Wales Tourism Partnership for 2010-11 for the promotion and development of its regional tourism priorities, which are aligned to our national priorities.

## **Priorities**

*14. David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on his priorities for South Wales West for the remainder of this Assembly term. OAQ(3)1410(HER) W*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** I am committed to fulfilling my 'One Wales' commitments across Wales. These include securing a thriving future for the Welsh language, encouraging more physical activity for better health, increased tourism by maximising the economic value of our heritage, and modernising the public library network.

## **Welsh Culture**

*15. Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of Welsh culture through theatre. OAQ(3)1433(HER)*

**Alun Ffred Jones:** I am delighted with the public and critical response to the new National Theatre Wales, which will shortly complete its first full year of productions. NTW, a 'One Wales' commitment, has shown itself, in its choice of work, casting and venues to be playing a significant part in promoting Welsh culture.