

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 16/02/2011

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

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Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Prostate Cancer

9. David Melding: *Will the Minister make a statement on screening for prostate cancer. OAQ(3)1895(HSS)*

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): Screening services available in Wales, as in the rest of the UK, are based on expert advice provided by the UK National Screening Committee. It considers the evidence, including the balance between the benefit and potential harm of screening programmes, and does not currently recommend screening for prostate cancer.

Policy Priorities

10. Darren Millar: *Will the Minister make a statement on her policy priorities for the Clwyd West for the remainder of the Third Assembly. OAQ(3)1864(HSS).*

Edwina Hart: My policy priorities for Clwyd West for the remainder of the third Assembly are to provide safe and sustainable healthcare services that meet the healthcare needs of its residents.

Question 11, OAQ(3)1882(HSS), was withdrawn

Specialised Tertiary Medical Care

12. Gareth Jones: *Will the Minister make a statement on specialised tertiary medical care for Welsh patients delivered by hospitals outside Wales. OAQ(3)1908(HSS)*

Edwina Hart: The NHS in Wales has arrangements in place so that Welsh residents can be referred to NHS services provided in England when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the patient, which includes specialised tertiary medical care.

Cancer Services

13. David Lloyd: *Will the Minister make a statement on cancer services in Wales. OAQ(3)1878(HSS)*

Edwina Hart: Through our policy document, 'Designed to Tackle Cancer in Wales', we have

set formal goals to achieve incidence and survival rates for cancer that are comparable with the best in Europe by 2015. Local health boards must plan and deliver services to achieve these goals.

Eating Disorders Framework

14. Bethan Jenkins: Will the Minister provide an update on the Eating Disorders Framework. OAQ(3)1904(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Two specialist eating disorder teams have been established to improve diagnosis, care and support. We have invested a recurring £1 million to sustain and develop services. We have invested in new child and adolescent mental health services and adult mental health units to improve in-patient services.

Age Related Macular Degeneration

15. Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on provision for Age Related Macular Degeneration. OAQ(3)1879(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Patients who suffer from the wet form of age related macular degeneration are eligible for NHS treatment if they meet the appropriate clinical criteria. Unfortunately, there is no medical treatment for the dry form of this condition.

Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport

Welsh Exports

9. David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of Welsh exports abroad. OAQ(3)1825(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Promoting exports is integral to our approach. We are working directly with the six priority sectors and their supply chains. More generally, internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises through access to new markets provides direct benefits in increasing sales, competitiveness and further investment. I recently met with the new UK Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Lord Green, and officials from UK Trade and Investment to discuss these and other issues.

‘One Wales’

10. Nick Ramsay: Will the Minister make a statement on progress towards meeting the One Wales commitments in the Economy and Transport portfolio. OAQ(3)1834(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: We have made good progress towards meeting our ‘One Wales’ commitments and we have already delivered on many of them. Progress against individual commitments is reported quarterly in the ‘One Wales’ delivery plan update that is published on the Welsh Assembly Government’s website.

Rail Services

11. Chris Franks: Will the Minister make a statement on rail services in South Wales Central. OAQ(3)1801(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: There has been a large increase in passengers using rail services

in South Wales Central in recent years. Where resources have allowed we have worked with Arriva Trains to increase the frequency of services on some of the busiest routes.

Business Support

12. Brian Gibbons: Will the Minister make a statement on business support in Wales. OAQ(3)1833(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: In implementing ‘Economic Renewal: a new direction’, our aim is to facilitate a stronger and more sustainable economy through investment in infrastructure, skills, research and development, targeted business support and improving the conditions in which all businesses operate.

Bus Regulations

13. Bethan Jenkins: Will the Minister provide an update on bus regulations in Wales. OAQ(3)1836(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: Powers to regulate the bus industry rest with the UK Government and the traffic commissioner is responsible for ensuring compliance. However, the Transport (Wales) Act 2006 and Local Transport Act 2008 provide the Assembly Government with powers to support and fund local bus services in Wales, which we are doing.

Electrification of Welsh Railways

14. Leanne Wood: Will the Minister provide an update on representations he has received regarding the electrification of Welsh railways. OAQ(3)1839(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: There is widespread support across Wales for the electrification of the Great Western main line. I have written to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Wales making this case in the strongest possible terms.

Question 15, OAQ(3)1817(ECT), was withdrawn