

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 15/03/2011

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

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

Contents

Questions to the First Minister

Trade Unions

11. Chris Franks: What discussions has the Welsh Assembly Government had with Trade Unions representing local government workers. OAQ(3)3480(FM)

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): I meet quarterly with the trade unions at the workforce partnership council. We met last on 20 December 2010.

Community Cohesion Policies

12. Leanne Wood: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's community cohesion policies. OAQ(3)3469(FM)

The First Minister: The community cohesion strategy for Wales' was launched in 2009 as part of the 'One Wales' commitments. Its delivery has been underpinned by a strategic approach, where local authorities and their partners have decided upon priorities that are relevant to the local context. A fund of £5 million between 2009-2012 has supported this approach.

Older People

13. Eleanor Burnham: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's policies for older people. OAQ(3)3470(FM)

The First Minister: Wales has led the way with our strategy for older people. Through this strategy we will continue to challenge poverty and exclusion. The social services paper that we launched on 17 February will transform social services to deliver our ambition for Wales to be the best place to grow older.

Bank Cheques

14. Rosemary Butler: What discussions has the First Minister had with the UK Government about the proposed phasing out of bank cheques. OAQ(3)3482(FM)

The First Minister: This is a matter for the Payments Council, not the UK Government. My officials have had discussions with the council raising concerns such as the potential impact on older people and charities and the need for suitable alternatives to be in place before the abolition of cheques in 2018.

Councillors' Declarations of Interests

15. Bethan Jenkins: Will the First Minister provide an update on local government rules regarding Councillors declarations of interest. OAQ(3)3477(FM).

The First Minister: Rules governing councillors' declarations of interest are contained within the local government members' code of conduct published by the Assembly Government in 2008.