

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 23/03/2011

[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

'One Wales' Commitments

10. Gareth Jones: What assessment has the Minister made regarding which of the One Wales commitments she has delivered will have the greatest long term impact in Aberconwy. OAQ(3)1956(HSS)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): Our 'One Wales' commitments benefit all of the people of Wales, including your constituents in Aberconwy. These benefits, such as free prescriptions, our rural health plan, tackling child poverty and improving stroke and diabetes services will make a real difference and improve health in Wales now and in the future.

Policy Priorities

11. Darren Millar: Will the Minister make a statement on her policy priorities for North Wales for the remainder of the 3rd Assembly term. OAQ(3)1951(HSS)

Edwina Hart: As I said to Gareth, these are set out in 'One Wales'. The five-year service, workforce and financial strategic framework will support the NHS in Wales to deliver its reform agenda.

NHS Capital Investment

12. Alun Davies: Will the Minister provide an update on NHS capital investment in Wales. OAQ(3)1959(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Over the lifetime of this Assembly Government, we are allocating £1.4 billion of capital resources to the NHS in Wales to bring major improvements in the access to and quality of services provided.

Ophthalmologic Services

13. Helen Mary Jones: What is the Minister doing to ensure that Ophthalmologic services in Wales meet the needs of all patients. OAQ(3)1924(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Our Welsh eye care initiative is recognised as a significant advance in service provision in Wales and has often been quoted as a triumph for devolution. Local health boards

are responsible for healthcare services that meet the needs of their local population.

Joint Working Between the NHS and Local Government

14. Irene James: *Will the Minister make a statement on joint working between the NHS and local government. OAQ(3)1926(HSS)*

Edwina Hart: There are many excellent examples of joint working across Wales. Most local authorities are involved in or currently developing at least one collaborative initiative with their local health board.

Accident and Emergency Departments

15. William Graham: *Will the Minister make a statement on waiting time at A&E units at hospitals in South Wales East. OAQ(3)1961(HSS)*

Edwina Hart: The service has been under significant pressure following the cold weather and a rise in heart attacks, stroke and respiratory diseases over the winter period. Despite the pressures, the majority of patients were seen within target times.

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

Public Transport

10. Christine Chapman: *What is the Minister doing to improve access to public transport in the Cynon Valley. OAQ(3)1873(ECT)*

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): We are taking forward a number of initiatives to improve accessibility to public transport across Wales. This includes schemes such as the recently opened Abercynon park and ride, which provides safe parking facilities and access to Abercynon railway station, improving accessibility to public transport in the area.

Transport Priorities

11. Angela Burns: *What are the Minister's transport priorities for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire. OAQ(3)1888(ECT)*

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I was pleased to attend the opening of the A40 Penblewin to Slebech Park improvement scheme on 16 March, which provides improved journey time reliability and road safety in the area. Further details on my priorities are outlined in the written Cabinet statement on capital spending plans issued last week.

Economic Renewal Plan

12. Darren Millar: *Will the Minister provide an update on the Economic Renewal Plan. OAQ(3)1855(ECT)*

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I provided an update to Enterprise and Learning Committee on 17 February. I will be publishing a further update and a statement on progress before the end of this month.

Question 13, OAQ(3)1849(ECT) was withdrawn.

Promoting Entrepreneurship

14. Gareth Jones: *Will the Minister make a statement on promoting entrepreneurship in Wales. OAQ(3)1885(ECT)*

The Deputy Minister for Science, Innovation and Skills (Lesley Griffiths): We continue to encourage and promote entrepreneurship in order to develop a strong and sustainable economy. Since June 2008, we have supported over 4,000 enterprises to start trading and our youth entrepreneurship strategy action plan will foster an entrepreneurial spirit and can-do attitude in our young people.

Creative Industries

15. William Graham: *Will the Minister make a statement on the Creative Industries in Wales. OAQ(3)1890(ECT)*

Ieuan Wyn Jones: The creative industries make a vital contribution to the Welsh economy as I have recognised in accepting it as a key sector in 'Economic Renewal: a new direction', our new policy to strengthen our economy and to make it more sustainable.