

## Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 19/01/2011

[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

#### Adverse Weather Conditions

*8. Leanne Wood: What discussions have been held to improve the ability of hospital trusts to cope with adverse weather conditions. OAQ(3)1850(HSS)*

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** Daily conference calls between Assembly officials, local health board unscheduled care executive leads and the ambulance service's regional directors will continue throughout the winter period. The calls, which continued over the holiday period, enhance the capability of senior NHS decision makers to manage demand and contingency at times of increased pressure.

#### Policy Priorities

*9. Jonathan Morgan: Will the Minister make a statement on her policy priorities for the next four months. OAQ(3)1818(HSS)*

**Edwina Hart:** My priorities for the next four months are laid out in the five-year service, work and financial strategic framework. The framework will help and support the NHS to deliver its reform agenda and realise the savings it is required to make over the next few years.

#### Health Provision in Mid and West Wales

*10. Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on health provision in Mid and West Wales. OAQ(3)1814(HSS)*

**Edwina Hart:** The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to the development of safe, integrated and sustainable health care services in Mid and West Wales, which meet the healthcare needs of our residents as close to their homes as possible.

#### Patient Transport Services

*11. Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on patient transport services. OAQ(3)1841(HSS)*

**Edwina Hart:** Following the patient transport review and consultation, the NHS is piloting short-term projects to explore different approaches to non-emergency patient transport and provide a more patient-centred service.

#### Retaining Skills in the NHS

**12. Bethan Jenkins:** *Will the Minister make a statement on retaining skills in the NHS. OAQ(3)1824(HSS)*

**Edwina Hart:** One of the core areas of focus of the five-Year service, workforce and financial strategic framework is equipping clinical and non-clinical staff with the tools to lead change and provide quality care. Organisations have been asked to review skill mix to ensure that staff have the right competencies to deliver excellent care.

#### **Neo-Natal Services**

**13. Val Lloyd:** *Will the Minister make a statement on neo-natal services in Wales. OAQ(3)1808(HSS)*

**Edwina Hart:** I issued a written Cabinet statement on 10 December to report on the recent progress in respect of improving neonatal services across Wales.

#### **NHS Estate**

**14. Veronica German:** *Will the Minister make a statement on the NHS estate. OAQ(3)1812(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.

#### **Priorities**

**15. Nick Ramsay:** *Will the Minister make a statement on her priorities for the National Health Service. OAQ(3)1836(HSS)*

**Edwina Hart:** My priorities for the remainder of the third Assembly are laid out in the five-year service, work and financial strategic framework. The framework will help and support the NHS to deliver its reform agenda and realise the savings that it is required to make over the next few years.

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

#### **Rail Services**

**9. Christine Chapman:** *Will the Minister provide an update on what is being done to improve rail services in Wales. OAQ(3)1787(ECT)*

**The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones):** The national transport plan sets out our plans to improve rail services in Wales.

#### **Broadband Access**

**10. Joyce Watson:** *Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to improve broadband access in Wales. OAQ(3)1758(ECT)*

**The Deputy First Minister:** We are on track to bring next generation broadband to all businesses in Wales by 2016 and to all households by 2020. We are starting the procurement next month and expect to award a contract in early Spring 2012. The broadband support

scheme is also progressing well.

### **Road Network in the Vale of Clwyd**

*11. Ann Jones: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to improve the road network in the Vale of Clwyd. OAQ(3)1785(ECT)*

**The Deputy First Minister:** We completed the £6.5 million improvement works on the A55 carriageway and slip roads at junction 27, St Asaph, in October, bringing to an end major restrengthening and carriageway widening improvement works.

### **Brownfield Sites**

*12. Rosemary Butler: Will the Minister make a statement on future plans to develop brownfield sites in Newport West to attract new investment to the city. OAQ(3)1775(ECT)*

**The Deputy First Minister:** The Assembly Government controls approximately 140 acres of land designated for employment use close to junction 28 off the M4. An updated masterplan has recently been completed and this important brownfield site continues to be presented for further investment opportunities. Major occupiers are Quinn Radiators and Next Generation Data Ltd.

*Question 13, OAQ(3)1791(ECT) was withdrawn*

### **Flights between Cardiff and Manchester**

*14. Jenny Randerson: What representations has the Minister made about increasing the number of flights between Cardiff and Manchester. OAQ(3)1751(ECT)*

**The Deputy First Minister:** None.

### **Policy Priorities**

*15. Jonathan Morgan: Will the Minister make a statement on his policy priorities for the next four months. OAQ(3)1773(ECT)*

**The Deputy First Minister:** My priorities are set out in our policy direction and document, 'Economic Renewal: a new direction'.