

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

[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 Rural Affairs

Priorities

9. Andrew R.T. Davies: *Will the Minister make a statement on her Ministerial priorities for the South Wales Central region in the coming months. OAQ(3)1248(RAF)*

The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones): My priorities for South Wales Central include assisting food and drink companies in the region with their efforts to access local markets and making it easier for consumers to buy food and drink produced in Wales, as set out in my local sourcing and food tourism action plans.

Common Agricultural Policy

10. Leanne Wood: *Will the Minister make a statement on the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on Welsh farmers. OAQ(3)1258(RAF)*

Elin Jones: The CAP is essential to the future of the family farm in Wales. It also sustains the environment and stimulates the rural economy. The single payment must be maintained without added complexity.

Glastir Land Management Scheme

11. Nick Ramsay: *Will the Minister make a statement on the Glastir land management scheme. OAQ(3)1254(RAF)*

Elin Jones: I have commissioned an independent review of the practicalities of on-farm implementation of the Glastir all-Wales element. I expect to receive a report containing the review panel's recommendations in March of this year.

Animal Welfare

12. Irene James: *Will the Minister make a statement on animal welfare in Islwyn. OAQ(3)1276(RAF)*

Elin Jones: The baseline data of commercial premises selling or keeping animals, which was gathered under the companion animal welfare enhancement scheme in 2009-10, has been published on the Welsh Assembly Government website. The consultation on proposed new dog breeding legislation closed on 13 January.

Question 13, OAQ(3)1263(RAF), was withdrawn.

Companion Animal Welfare Enhancement Scheme

14. Christine Chapman: *Will the Minister provide an update on the Companion Animal Welfare Enhancement Scheme. OAQ(3)1260(RAF)*

Elin Jones: The baseline data of commercial premises selling or keeping animals, which was gathered in 2009-10, has been published on the Welsh Assembly Government website. CAWES is due to end in March 2011 but will leave an important legacy in terms of improved understanding of companion animal welfare in Wales and informing future actions.

Animal Welfare

15. Lorraine Barrett: *Will the Minister provide an update on what the Welsh Assembly Government is doing to promote animal welfare in Wales. OAQ(3)1286(RAF)*

Elin Jones: The consultation on the proposed Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2011 has now concluded and my officials are analysing the results. The results of the companion animal welfare enhancement scheme baseline data on commercial premises trading or keeping animals for 2009-10 is now on the Welsh Assembly Government website.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Recycling

4. Alun Davies: *Will the Minister make a statement on recycling in Wales. OAQ(3)1527(ESH) Transferred for written answer.*

The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson): The latest provisional figures for July-September 2010 show that Welsh local authorities are collectively recycling 45 per cent of the municipal waste that they collect. The recycling target for 2012-13 is 52 per cent.

Questions 5-8 answered in Plenary.

Marine Conservation Zones

9. Chris Franks: *Will the Minister make a statement on Marine Conservation Zones. OAQ(3)1535(ESH)*

Jane Davidson: The MCZ project Wales has developed site selection guidance that has been published for a period of public comment. The guidance incorporates ecological, social and economic considerations into the selection process and outlines our engagement and consultation arrangements. My officials are analysing the comments received before the guidance is finalised.

Affordable Homes

10. Jenny Randerson: *What assessment has the Minister made of the number of affordable homes to be disposed of by 2011. OAQ(3)1513(ESH)*

The Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration (Jocelyn Davies): No figures are yet available for the total number of homes sold through right to buy and right to acquire during 2010-2011. However, in previous years, homes sold were on an affordable basis and are

meeting housing need.

Recycling Rates

11. Christine Chapman: Will the Minister make a statement on recycling rates in Wales. OAQ(3)1538(ESH)

Jane Davidson: The latest provisional figures for July-September 2010 show that Welsh local authorities are collectively recycling 45 per cent of the municipal waste that they collect. The recycling target for 2012-13 is 52 per cent.

'One Wales' Commitments

12. Angela Burns: Will the Minister provide an update on the progress of the One Wales commitments for which she is responsible. OAQ(3)1523(ESH)

Jane Davidson: I am committed to fulfilling my 'One Wales' commitments. This includes improving flood and coastal defence infrastructure, tackling fuel poverty, improving energy efficiency, and supporting local authorities to deliver their duties for local environmental quality. I am also dedicated to accelerating the transition to a low carbon economy in Wales.

Recycling Targets

13. Lorraine Barrett: Will the Minister provide an update on progress towards meeting Welsh Assembly Government recycling targets. OAQ(3)1540(ESH)

Jane Davidson: The latest provisional figures for July-September 2010 show that Welsh local authorities are collectively recycling 45 per cent of the municipal waste that they collect. The recycling target for 2012-13 is 52 per cent.

Discussions with UK Government

14. Nerys Evans: What recent discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government. OAQ(3)1557(ESH)

Jane Davidson: I frequently correspond and meet with counterparts from the UK Government to discuss various issues relevant to my portfolio. Recent discussions include Wales's contribution to delivery of the climate change agenda, with Chris Huhne, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Priorities

15. Nick Ramsay: Will the Minister make a statement on her priorities for 2011. OAQ(3)1521(ESH)

Jane Davidson: My priority is to ensure that we continue to deliver on our environmental duties to conserve, manage and protect the land and water of Wales. We have already done a huge amount of work to make Wales a sustainable nation and over the coming months will continue to implement our climate change strategy.