

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 16/03/2011

[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 Business and Budget

Budget Allocation for the Economy and Transport Portfolio

9. Brian Gibbons: *Will the Minister make a statement on the overall budget allocation to the Economy and Transport portfolio. OAQ(3)1345(BB) Trosglwyddwyd i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.*

The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt): Included in the Assembly Government's final budget for 2011-12 is an allocation of over £841 million for the economy and transport portfolio. This was agreed with Cabinet as part of our normal annual planning process.

Question 10, OAQ(3)1333(BB), was answered in Plenary.

Welsh Budget

11. Gareth Jones: *What recent discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government regarding the Welsh budget. OAQ(3)1344(BB)*

Jane Hutt: I have had correspondence in recent weeks with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on end-year flexibility, taking forward the Holtham commission recommendations on fair funding and other matters.

Budgetary Priorities for North Wales

12. Darren Millar: *What are the Minister's budgetary priorities for North Wales. OAQ(3)1336(BB)*

Jane Hutt: One Wales set our priorities for Wales for the duration of this Assembly and has shaped our spending plans. The final budget for 2011-12 sets out how we will continue to deliver our priorities and deliver for the people of Wales.

Funding to the Children, Education and Lifelong Learning Portfolio

13. Paul Davies: *What did the Minister take into consideration when allocating funding to the Children, Education and Lifelong Learning portfolio. OAQ(3)1341(BB)*

Jane Hutt: I held regular discussions with the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning and the Deputy Minister for Children before the final budget was published on 1

February 2011 to understand the nature of the pressures and priorities within this portfolio. The settlement for this portfolio is over £1.8 billion for 2011-12.

Capital Expenditure for Infrastructure Projects

14. Peter Black: *Will the Minister make a statement on how she prioritises capital expenditure across Welsh Assembly Government departments for infrastructure projects. OAQ(3)1348(BB)*

Jane Hutt: Together with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, I set out our priorities for capital investment in 2011-12 in a Cabinet written statement on 15 March.

Capital Investment

15. Brian Gibbons: *Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Assembly Government will promote capital investment in Wales. OAQ(3)1327(BB)*

Jane Hutt: ‘Economic Renewal: a new direction’ set out the Welsh Assembly Government’s approach to economic development, which includes how we are promoting capital investment into Wales.

Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Participation in Sport

11. Eleanor Burnham: *Will the Minister make a statement on levels of participation in sport in Wales. OAQ(3)1451(HER)*

The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones): Sport Wales administers a range of schemes and initiatives that aim to increase the levels of sporting participation in Wales. Our strategic document—‘Creating an Active Wales’—contains actions that the Welsh Assembly Government and our key partners will take over the next five years to increase participation.

Strategies for Libraries

12. Darren Miller: *Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Assembly Government strategies for libraries in Wales. OAQ(3)1443(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: Work is underway in preparing the successor to the highly successful Libraries for Life strategic development programme for Welsh libraries. The Welsh Assembly Government has issued a consultation document entitled, ‘Libraries Inspire: Draft strategic development framework for Welsh libraries 2012-15’. The closing date for responses is 31 March.

Policies Related to Sport

13. Mohammad Asghar: *Will the Minister outline the Welsh Assembly Government’s policies related to sport in Wales. OAQ(3)1449(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: Our policies for sport centre on creating more opportunities for people to engage in sport, to raise participation rates and gain success at international competition. These are complemented by actions contained within ‘Creating an Active Wales’, which has supported the delivery of our ‘One Wales’ Commitments linked to sport.

Cultural Events

14. David Lloyd: *What recent discussions has the Minister had regarding developing Wales' role as a key venue for major cultural events. OAQ(3)1456(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: I recently met a delegation from the World Music Exposition (WOMEX) to promote Wales's bid to host the 2013 event. Our major events strategy supports home grown events such as the Spirit of Llangollen and the Green Man Festival. We also aim to attract major international cultural events such as the MOBO and MTV Awards.

Question 15, OAQ(3)1468(HER), was withdrawn.