

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 9 October 2013

Meeting time:
13:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Agenda (154)v2

1 Questions to the Minister for Natural Resources and Food (45 mins)

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration (45 mins)

[View Questions](#)

3 Welsh Conservatives Debate (120 mins)

NDM5323 William Graham (South Wales East)

National Assembly for Wales:

1. Recognises the equal value of vocational and academic education;
2. Believes a thriving economy benefits from well-rounded students; and
3. Calls on the Welsh Government to consult and work with industry stakeholders to design a vocational curriculum which encourages parity with academic education in Wales.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Notes that the UK Coalition Government has created 1.2 million apprenticeships in England since 2010, while in Wales the number of people on apprenticeship placements fell by nearly 30% between 2006 and 2012.

Amendment 2 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Add as new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Welcomes the Plaid Cymru budget agreement to create over 5,500 apprenticeships and particularly over 2,500 higher apprenticeships.

Amendment 3 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

In point 3, delete ‘vocational curriculum which encourages parity’ and replace with:

‘skills strategy which encourages parity of esteem and opportunity’

Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to examine ways to widen access to apprenticeships and overcome the practical and perceptual barriers that prevent young people from seeking and applying for an apprenticeship programme in Wales.

4 Plaid Cymru Debate (60 mins)

NDM5324 Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Condemns the UK Government’s intention to privatise Royal Mail;
2. Recognises that privatisation opens the door for future threats to postal services in rural and urban Wales;

3. Notes the importance of Royal Mail to the Post Office network;

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) make representations to the UK Government on the importance of publicly accountable postal services to the Welsh economy and to Welsh communities; and

b) consider Plaid Cymru's proposal for the devolution of postal services in order to preserve a universal, affordable service.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1) Notes the UK Government's intention to privatise Royal Mail.

2) Recognises that:

a) privatisation will protect the universal service, enable Royal Mail to raise money like its competitors and give Royal Mail's 150,000 employees free shares; and

b) a privatised Royal Mail will remain legally obliged to deliver to every address, whether urban or rural, under the minimum requirements of the Universal Service.

3) Acknowledges the importance of Royal Mail to the Post Office network, that the Post Office is not for sale, and that there will be no Post Office closure plan under this UK Government.

4) Regrets the closure of 7,000 Post Offices under the last UK Labour Government.

5) Calls on the Welsh Government to work with the UK Government on its £1.34 billion programme to maintain a network of at least 11,500 Post Office branches across the UK.

[If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 2 will be de-selected]

Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

In point 1 replace ‘Condemns’ with ‘Notes’.

Amendment 3 – Lesley Griffiths (Wrexham)

Insert as new point 2 and re-number accordingly:

Shares the concern of the trade unions over the potential threat to the Royal Mail workforce in Wales;

[If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 4 will be de-selected]

Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Delete point 2 and replace with:

Welcomes the UK Government transfer of the historic liabilities of around £37.5 billion from the Royal Mail Pension Plan to the new Royal Mail Statutory Pension Scheme.

Amendment 5 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Welcomes the UK Government commitment to a universal six day a week postal service as protected by law in the Postal Services Act 2011.

The Postal Services Act 2011 is available on the following link:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/5/contents>

[If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 6 will be de-selected]

Amendment 6 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert at the end of point 3:

‘and that the proposed privatisation excludes the Post Office.’

Amendment 7 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 4, and renumber accordingly:

Notes the Labour Party’s repeated attempts at privatisation of the Royal Mail up to 2009 and the Post Office closure programme that saw 216 post offices in Wales close under Labour between October 2007 and January 2009;

Amendment 8 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 4, and renumber accordingly:

Welcomes that no post offices have closed since 2010 as a result of UK Coalition Government policy.

[If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 9 will be de-selected]

Amendment 9 – Lesley Griffiths (Wrexham)

Delete sub-point 4b.

[If amendment 1 is agreed or amendment 9 is moved, amendment 10 will be de-selected]

Amendment 10 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Delete sub point 4(b).

Voting Time

5 Short Debate (30 mins)

NDM5320 Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): Positive Choices – equipping young people with the skills and experience to build a career.

6 Short Debate – Re-scheduled from 2 October 2013 (30 mins)

NDM5322 Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Rural Bus Services in Wales – On the Road to Nowhere

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Tuesday, 15 October 2013

Oral Assembly Questions tabled on 2 October 2013 for answer on 9 October 2013

R – Signifies the Member has declared an interest.

W – Signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

(Self identifying Question no. shown in brackets)

To ask the Minister for Natural Resources and Food

1. Julie Morgan (Cardiff North): What progress has been made in Wales in tackling climate change? OAQ(4)0056(NRF)

2. Jenny Rathbone (Cardiff Central): What steps can the Welsh Government take to promote healthy, locally produced food? OAQ(4)0059(NRF)

3. Russell George (Montgomeryshire): Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's policy to develop hydropower schemes in Wales? OAQ(4)0058(NRF)

4. William Graham (South Wales East): Will the Minister provide an update on the progress to combat Ramorum disease in larch trees in Wales? OAQ(4)0055(NRF)

5. Lynne Neagle (Torfaen): Will the Minister provide an update on Glastir? OAQ(4)0060(NRF) WITHDRAWN

6. Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister make a statement on what the Welsh Government is doing to support farmers in reducing red tape? OAQ(4)0051(NRF)

7. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East): Will the Minister make a statement on efforts to improve energy efficiency? OAQ(4)0065(NRF)

8. Keith Davies (Llanelli): What discussions has the Welsh Government had regarding underground coal gasification in Llanelli and the surrounding area? OAQ(4)0062(NRF)

9. Peter Black (South Wales West): Will the Minister make a statement on his assessment of the environmental impacts of unconventional gas extraction? OAQ(4)0052(NRF)

10. Dafydd Elis-Thomas (Dwyfor Meirionnydd): Will the Minister make a statement on the progress made in establishing a joint department for marine and fisheries policy? OAQ(4)0053(NRF)W

11. Sandy Mewies (Delyn): Will the Minister make a statement on how the work of Natural Resources Wales is progressing since its formation in April? OAQ(4)064(NRF)

12. Christine Chapman (Cynon Valley): What is the Welsh Government doing to improve animal welfare in the Cynon Valley?
OAQ(4)0054(NRF)

13. Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Will the Minister outline Welsh Government support to aid energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty?
OAQ(4)0063(NRF)

14. Elin Jones (Ceredigion): What progress has been made in providing increased flood protection in areas affected by floods last year?
OAQ(4)0061(NRF)

15. Russell George (Montgomeryshire): What impact assessments has the Welsh Government made on the effects that onshore wind farm developments have on local communities in Wales? OAQ(4)0057(NRF)

To ask the Minister for Housing and Regeneration

1. Alun Ffred Jones (Arfon): Will the Minister make a statement on the timescale for publishing the revised TAN 20? OAQ(4)0304(HR)W

2. **Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on what the Welsh Government is doing to support the regeneration of towns in Wales? OAQ(4)0293(HR)
3. **Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East):** Will the Minister make a statement on progress in implementing the Welsh Government's housing strategy? OAQ(4)0306(HR)
4. **Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd):** Will the Minister outline what the Welsh Government is doing to combat homelessness? OAQ(4)0301(HR)
5. **Julie Morgan (Cardiff North):** What plans does the Welsh Government have to tackle homelessness? OAQ(4)0300(HR)
6. **Mick Antoniw (Pontypridd):** Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Housing Finance Grant Scheme will help people in the Pontypridd constituency? OAQ(4)0294(HR) WITHDRAWN
7. **Leighton Andrews (Rhondda):** How much private funding has been raised by individual large scale voluntary transfers since 2007? OAQ(4)0296(HR)
8. **Suzy Davies (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on the role the Welsh language will play in the new Planning Bill? OAQ(4)0297(HR)
9. **William Graham (South Wales East):** Will the Minister outline the Welsh Government policies to support homebuyers in Wales? OAQ(4)0305(HR)
10. **Mark Isherwood (North Wales):** What actions does the Minister plan to take to stimulate the housing market in Wales? OAQ(4)0298(HR)
11. **Gwyn Price (Islwyn):** Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of smaller properties for households affected by benefit changes? OAQ(4)0302(HR)

12. Mohammad Asghar (South Wales East): What is the Welsh Government doing to help first time buyers in South Wales East? OAQ(4)0299(HR)

13. Mike Hedges (Swansea East): Will the Minister outline the number of houses that are planned to be built by local authorities in the 2014–2015 period? OAQ(4)0295(HR)

14. Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on the applicability of the UK Government Mortgage Guarantee Scheme to Wales? OAQ(4)0307(HR)

15. Llyr Gruffydd (North Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of new homes in Wales? OAQ(4)0303(HR)W