

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 29 April 2015

Meeting time:
13.30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Agenda

(261)v2

1 Questions to the Minister for Finance and Government Business (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Minister for Public Services (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

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3 Debate on the Finance Committee's report on Best Practice Budget Process Part 2 – Planning and implementing new budget procedures (60 mins)

NDM5748 Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

The National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the report of the Finance Committee on its inquiry into Best Practice Budget Process Part 2 – Planning and implementing new budget procedures, which was laid in the Table Office on 9 March 2015.

Note: The Welsh Government's response to the report was laid in the Table Office on 22 April 2015.

Supporting Documents

[Finance Committee's Report](#)
[Welsh Government's Response](#)

4 Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins) **NDM5747 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the importance of rural Wales to the Welsh economy;
2. Recognises the challenges facing the agricultural sector in Wales;
3. Calls for measures contained in the Localism Act 2011 to be fully enacted in Wales so that communities can bid for local assets such as post offices and pubs that are threatened with closure;
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to provide a timetable for the rollout of the remainder of the Superfast Cymru project, which is affecting businesses and residents in rural communities; and
5. Regrets the closure of high street banks in rural Wales and calls on the Welsh Government to facilitate discussions on a community banking model to ensure that over-the-counter services continue to be viable in rural Wales.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Welcomes the announcement in the 2015 UK Government Budget to extend the period that self-employed farmers can average their profits for income tax purposes from 2 years to 5 years, helping over 3,000 individual farmers in Wales to plan for

the future.

Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Welcomes that funding for Welsh Young Farmers' Clubs has been reinstated and calls on the Welsh Government to work with the YFC to secure a long-term sustainable solution.

Amendment 3 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Calls on the Welsh Government to help rural areas thrive by promoting share farming and succession planning.

Amendment 4 – Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

Delete point 3 and replace with:

Recognises the need to develop a Welsh-specific approach to community assets that reflects Welsh needs and is based on wide consultation in Wales.

[If amendment 4 is agreed, amendment 5 will be de-selected]

Amendment 5 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

In point 3, delete 'contained in the Localism Act 2011 to be fully enacted in Wales' and replace with 'to be put in place'.

5 Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate (60 mins)

NDM5746 Aled Roberts (North Wales)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the sudden closure of the Welsh Government's flagship yet ineffective Jobs Growth Wales scheme, without any replacement.

2. Notes that the 2014 interim evaluation report on Jobs Growth Wales found that:

- a) 73% of young people would have found employment without the scheme;
- b) there were significant failures to target those young people most in need of help to find work; and
- c) scheme participants were shown to be trapped on low wages, earning only 67% of the average for their age group.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to focus future European Social Fund employment schemes on improving skill levels, increasing the number of apprenticeships and developing work-based training opportunities, which would support young people most at risk of long-term unemployment and give them the skills and opportunities to help build a stronger economy to enable them to get on in life.

[The 2014 'Jobs Growth Wales: Interim evaluation report' is available here:](#)

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

Add as new point 1 and renumber accordingly:

- 1. Acknowledges that a strong UK economy:
 - a) creates the conditions for growth in job opportunities for our young people;
 - b) challenges schools, further and higher education institutions, governments and employers to identify and meet skills required in the growth employment market; a
 - c) allows young entrepreneurs to seize the opportunities of economic growth.

Amendment 2 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Delete point 1 and replace with:

Notes the sudden closure of the Welsh Government's flagship Jobs Growth Wales scheme and calls for the swift reinstatement of an equivalent programme.

6 Voting Time

7 Short Debate – Postponed (0 mins)

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 5 May 2015

Agenda Item 1

Oral Assembly Questions tabled on 22 April 2015 for answer on 29 April 2015

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 Finance and Government Business

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

1. Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement regarding the use of EU funding in Wales? OAQ(4)0545(FIN)

2. Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales): What steps is the Minister taking to prepare for obtaining income tax-raising powers?
OAQ(4)0551(FIN)W

3. Sandy Mewies (Delyn): Will the Minister provide an update on the activities she undertook during her visit to Brussels last month?
OAQ(4)0549(FIN)

4. Julie Morgan (Cardiff North): What assessment has the Minister made of the impact of any future UK Government budget on the operation of devolved taxes? OAQ(4)0553(FIN)

5. Peter Black (South Wales West): What discussions has the Minister had with businesses regarding public sector procurement rules?
OAQ(4)0541(FIN)

6. Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr): What discussions has the Minister had regarding investment in capital projects? OAQ(4)0555(FIN)

7. Gwenda Thomas (Neath): Will the Minister make a statement on approved structural funding projects in Neath? OAQ(4)0546(FIN)

8. Mike Hedges (Swansea East): Will the Minister make a statement on invest-to-save? OAQ(4)0539(FIN)

9. Suzy Davies (South Wales West): How does the Welsh Government ensure value for money from its grants and funding programmes?

OAQ(4)0548(FIN)

10. Jenny Rathbone (Cardiff Central): What European funding is available for infrastructure projects in the Cardiff capital region?

OAQ(4)0542(FIN)

11. Llyr Gruffydd (North Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on developing a Welsh Treasury function? OAQ(4)0550(FIN)W

12. Keith Davies (Llanelli): Will the Minister provide an overview of the impact that cuts in the block grant will have on the funding available to Welsh Government departments? OAQ(4)0554(FIN)W

13. Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd): Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of capital projects in north Wales? OAQ(4)0544(FIN)

14. Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on the allocation of capital funding to the economy, science and transport budget? OAQ(4)0547(FIN)

15. Julie Morgan (Cardiff North): What assessment has the Minister made of the impact of the possible devolution of the Severn Bridge tolls on the Welsh Government's budget? OAQ(4)0552(FIN)

To ask the Minister for Public Services

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

1. Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr): Will the Minister make a statement on community safety priorities?

OAQ(4)0562(PS)

2. Lynne Neagle (Torfaen): Will the Minister provide an update on plans to establish a public services staff commission? OAQ(4)0561(PS)

3. Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd): Will the Minister make a statement on firefighter fitness in Wales? OAQ(4)0549(PS)

- 4. Jenny Rathbone (Cardiff Central):** What role does the Welsh Government play in improving the management of female offenders? OAQ(4)0554(PS)
- 5. Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on guidelines provided to local authorities on decisions relating to the use of community facilities? OAQ(4)0552(PS)
- 6. Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales):** What is the Welsh Government's policy on the devolution of the administration of justice? OAQ(4)0555(PS)W
- 7. Gwenda Thomas (Neath):** Will the Minister make a statement on the importance of councils working together? OAQ(4)0560(PS)
- 8. Llyr Gruffydd (North Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on the role of community and town councils in Wales? OAQ(4)0556(PS)W
- 9. Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on providing equal levels of public services across Wales? OAQ(4)0548(PS)
- 10. Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central):** Will the Minister provide an update regarding local government reorganisation in south Wales? OAQ(4)0550(PS)
- 11. Joyce Watson (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on the use of zero hours contracts in public services in Wales? OAQ(4)0557(PS)
- 12. Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy):** Will the Minister make statement on council tax payable in Wales? OAQ(4)0553(PS)
- 13. Julie Morgan (Cardiff North):** Will the Minister provide an update on the implementation of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Bill? OAQ(4)0558(PS)
- 14. William Graham (South Wales East):** Will the Minister make a statement on his discussions with the emergency services concerning incidents of deliberate fires? OAQ(4)0551(PS)

