

Motions and Amendments for Debate on 11 January 2006

Motions Tabled on 4 January 2006

Short Debate

NDM2755 Peter Black (South Wales West): Core Funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau

NDM2756 Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order 31

1. Welcomes the proposal set out in the motion tabled by Val Lloyd [NDM2535] and debated in plenary on 27th September 2005.
2. Notes the approach recommended in the feasibility report laid in Table Office on 16 December 2005, and the intention to develop secondary legislation to give effect to it.
3. Recommends the National Assembly for Wales proceeds with the proposal.

NDM2757 Glyn Davies (Mid and West Wales); Mike German (South Wales East); Alun Ffred Jones (Caernarfon); Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd); Dai Lloyd (South Wales West); Val Lloyd (Swansea East); Gwenda Thomas (Neath); Brynle Williams (North Wales)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Considers the Local Government and Public Services Committee's Report - Local Government and Public Services Committee Scrutiny of the Electoral Administration Bill 2005 - Final Report sent to the Table Office and Members on 4 January 2006 and;
2. Calls on the UK government to bring forward the following amendments to the Electoral Administration Bill.

Amendments

Part 1 – Co-ordinated on-line record of electors

Part 1 of the Bill proposes the establishment of one or more Co-ordinated on-line record of electors (CORE) schemes.

Amendment 1

Clause 1

Purpose: It is essential that both the Welsh and English languages are treated equally in any CORE scheme which relates to Wales.

Effect: We call for an amendment to the Bill to ensure that any CORE scheme which covers all or part of Wales is bilingual.

Amendment 2

Clause 1

Purpose: The National Assembly for Wales should have the opportunity to state its wishes as to the form and content of any CORE scheme relating to Wales.

Effect: We call for an amendment to the Bill to ensure that the National Assembly for Wales is consulted before a CORE scheme which covers all or part of Wales is established, altered or terminated.

Amendment 3

Clause 6

Purpose: The National Assembly for Wales should have the opportunity to give its approval to the form and content of any CORE scheme relating to Wales.

Effect: We call for an amendment to the Bill which calls for the National Assembly for Wales to approve any order made under Clause 1.

Part 2 – Registration of Electors

Amendment 4

Clause 9

Purpose: To ensure that the registration of electors is made as cost effective as possible.

Effect: We call for an amendment to the Bill which removes the duty placed upon Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), under the proposed section 9A (2)(b) of the *Representation of the People Act 1983* (“the 1983 Act”) to make house to house

inquiries on more than one occasion under Section 10(5) of the 1983 Act.

Amendment 5

Clause 9

Purpose: To ensure that persons with a disability are not discriminated against in the registration of electors.

Effect: We call for an amendment requiring that, where a person with a disability has indicated, in relation to the maintenance of registers, that they wish to be communicated with in a particular format, then the ERO should communicate with them in that format in so far as it is practicable.

Part 3 – Anti-fraud measures

Part 3 proposes the use of personal identifiers (e.g. name, date of birth and signature) to be provided by all electors to help to prevent fraudulent voting. It provides for pilot schemes for personal identifiers to be established.

Amendment 6

Clause 13

Purpose: To ensure that the National Assembly for Wales has the opportunity to state its wishes in relation to the use of personal identifiers in Wales.

Effect: We call for an amendment requiring the National Assembly for Wales to be consulted before the Secretary of State makes any regulations under the proposed Section 10(4C) of the 1983 Act to dispense with the requirement for personal identifiers for any election which covers all or part of Wales.

Amendment 7

Clause 15

Purpose: To ensure that the National Assembly for Wales has the opportunity to state its wishes in relation to the use of personal identifiers in Wales.

Effect: We call for an amendment requiring the National Assembly for Wales to be consulted before the Secretary of State makes any pilot order under Clause 15(2) in relation to all or part of Wales.

Amendment 8

Clause 16

Purpose: To ensure that the National Assembly for Wales is kept informed of the operation of any pilot order in Wales.

Effect: We call for an amendment requiring the Secretary of State to direct the Electoral Commission to report to the National Assembly for Wales on the operation of any pilot order relating to all or part of Wales.

Part 4 – Review of polling places

Amendment 9

Purpose: To produce a formalised scheme for highlighting and addressing issues arising at polling stations on the day of polling. To ensure that persons with disabilities are not discriminated against when casting their vote.

Effect: We call for an amendment requiring all polling station Presiding Officers to produce a report to the appropriate Returning Officer (RO) at the end of each poll outlining any issues (e.g. access, registration) that have occurred during the poll. The appropriate Returning Officer should subsequently be responsible for dealing with the issues raised.

Amendment 10

Purpose: To ensure that persons with a disability are not discriminated against when casting their vote. To ensure that the access requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1995* are met.

Effect: We call for an amendment requiring statutory standards for accessibility to polling stations to be prepared and implemented.

Part 5 – Standing for election

Amendment 11

Clause 23(2)

Purpose: To ensure that non gender specific language is used in describing a Welsh Independent candidate (Annibynnwr is the masculine form of the adjective).

Effect: We call for an amendment to the proposed rule 6B(2)(b) in Schedule 21 of the 1983 Act changing the word to be used to describe an Independent candidate in Wales from Annibynnwr to Annibynnol.

Part 6 – Conduct of Elections

Amendment 12

Clause 33

Purpose: To ensure that the National Assembly for Wales has the opportunity to state its wishes in relation to any Code of Practice for the attendance of observers at elections in Wales.

Effect: We call for an amendment to ensure that the National Assembly for Wales is consulted before the Electoral Commission prepares a Code of Practice on the attendance of observers at elections under the proposed Section 6E of the *Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000* (the “2000 Act”) in so far as it relates to all or part of Wales.

Amendment 13

Clause 36

Purpose: To ensure that documents in Welsh are included in the documents to be translated into other languages at the discretion of the Electoral Returning Officer (ERO).

Effect: We call for an amendment to the proposed Section 199B (2)(b) of the 1983 Act to include documents produced in Welsh to be translated into other languages at the discretion of the ERO.

Part 7 – Regulation of parties

Amendment 14

Clause 49

Purpose: To ensure that the correct equivalent Welsh words are prohibited for use on a candidate registration form.

Effect: We call for an amendment to ensure that the National Assembly for Wales is consulted if the Secretary of State proposes to make an order under the proposed

Section 28A(2)(g) of the 2000 Act prohibiting a word to be used on a candidate registration form or change the number of words permitted in the party description for an election in all or part of Wales.

Part 8 – Miscellaneous

Part 8 provides for the Electoral Commission to set performance indicators for local authorities in Wales.

Amendment 15

Clause 63

Purpose: To ensure that any differences between the way in which electoral services operate in England and Wales in terms of the role of the EROs and ROs are taken into account in the establishment of performance indicators in Wales. To ensure that any performance indicators for local authorities in Wales are produced in line with the National Assembly for Wales' revised Performance Measurement Framework.

Effect: We call for an amendment to ensure that there is a separate set of performance indicators produced for Wales.

Amendment 16

Clause 63

Purpose: To ensure that the National Assembly for Wales has the opportunity to state its wishes in relation to the establishment of performance indicators for local authorities in Wales. To ensure that any performance indicators for local authorities in Wales are produced in line with the National Assembly for Wales' revised Performance Measurement Framework.

Effect: We call for an amendment to ensure that performance indicators for local authorities in Wales are determined in conjunction with the National Assembly for Wales

Amendment 17

Clause 63

Purpose: To ensure that both the Welsh and English languages are treated equally in the setting of performance indicators and in the electoral administration system in Wales.

Effect: We call for an amendment to ensure that performance indicators for the Welsh Language are included in any set of performance indicators for Wales.

An assessment of the costs, benefits and any other implications of the proposed amendments to the Electoral Administration Bill was laid in the Table Office on 4 January 2005

Amendments Tabled on 6 January 2006

To propose that the Assembly resolve to adopt the following amendments to motions:

NDM2757

1. Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

Amend 'Amendment 4' as follows:

Effect: delete "removes" in line 1 and insert "makes" and add at end after "Act" "conditional on the failure of other enquiries".

2. Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

Amend 'Amendment 15' as follows:

Effect: after "Wales" at end add "subject to the proviso that such performance indicators shall not be of a lesser standard than those applying in England."