

DP 493/03 - 07



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*Answer Lisa*

In Plenary last week you raised questions about Edison Mission Energy and Action Makers in Bala.

On the hydro electric power station the Assembly Government has been in touch with Edison Mission Energy about the position of Blaenau Ffestiniog in relation to the potential sale of some UK based operations. They have told us that, although they would consider offers for assets outside North America, no company has yet come forward to purchase the UK assets (press reports over the weekend confirm that the company would consider any such offers). The company also says that no further job cuts are envisaged at their Welsh operations which have recently seen a substantial growth in generation and the recruitment of two new apprentices. You will no doubt have seen the references in the weekend newspapers to the two pumped storage generating facilities in Snowdonia as the 'jewels in the crown' of the Edison Mission Energy sales package. There is no shortage of bidders in the wings.

Turning to Action Makers, the position is not as negative as you understood it to be. There were job losses at Action Makers when it went into receivership, notwithstanding earlier financial support from the Assembly Government. In April this year the Assembly Government offered RSA to Systems Scaffolding Ltd which took on the assets, some of the business and no doubt employees of the former Action Makers. As I indicated in my answer in the Assembly, the new company is seeing success from a number of improvements which it has made. For instance to qualify for an instalment of RSA grant it needed to reach a target of employing 25 but its performance has enabled it to employ twice that number.

*You different a chyfraniwyd y Tylor!*

*Rhodri*