

Forward Look

Relevant supporting documents can be found under "Assembly Business", "Documents Laid" which are usually posted 5 working days ahead of the relevant session.

[Notified by the Business Minister in a statement to the Assembly on Tuesday, 22nd February 2005.]

Tuesday 1 March 2005 & Wednesday 2 March 2005

Tuesday 8 March & Wednesday 9 March 2005

Tuesday 15 March & Wednesday 16 March 2005

Tuesday 1 March 2005

- **First Minister's Question Time (45 mins)**
- **Business Statement (10 mins)**
- **Motion to approve under Standing Orders 25 section 3, 25.13 and 25.14 (1 min)**
- **The Care Standards Act 2000(Relevant Registers of Social Workers) Regulations 2005**

These Regulations, which relate to England and Wales, are made under section 61(2)(b) of the Care Standards Act 2000 and prescribe the registers of social workers maintained under provisions of Scottish and Northern Irish legislation which correspond to the registers maintained by the General Social Care Council and the Care Council for Wales respectively under the Care Standards Act 2000. The purpose of prescribing these registers is to ensure that an individual registered in either of them will not be guilty of an offence under section 61 of the Act if he takes or uses the title "social worker" while working in such a

capacity in either England or Wales. Section 61 is due to be commenced, subject to Assembly approval, from 1 April 2005. These Regulations do not confer any functions on the National Assembly.

- **Motion to approve under Standing Order 24.25 (1 min)**
- **The Education Development Plans (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005**

These Regulations will place a requirement on LEAs to produce an additional year's Supplementary Education Strategic Plan (SESPs) for 2005-06 in place of a requirement to produce a new ESP for the period 2005-08. The requirements for the 2005-06 SESP would be the same as those for SESP for 2004-05, except that the new national curriculum assessment arrangements for 11 year olds would need to be reflected in setting targets for the end of key stage 2.

- **The Smoke Control Area (Exempted Fire Places) (Wales) Order 2005**

Section 18 of the Clean Air Act 1993 (The Act) enables local authorities to declare the whole or part of its area as a smoke control area by making a "Smoke Control Order". Section 20 of the Act, places a general prohibition on the emission of smoke in smoke control areas. In Wales there are currently four partial smoke control areas in Flintshire, Newport, Swansea and Wrexham. Section 21 of the Act further empowers local authorities to exempt, by Order, classes of fireplaces from the provisions of section 20 (prohibition of emissions of smoke in smoke control areas), which are capable of burning unauthorised fuels without producing any or substantial quantities of smoke. This Order adds six further classes of fireplace to those already exempted.

- **The Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (Healthcare Inspections)(Wales) Regulations 2005**

These Regulations make provisions in relation to the healthcare review and investigation functions of the Assembly set out in Chapter 4 of Part 2 of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003. Under section 75 of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003, the Assembly may, by Regulations, require prescribed persons to provide the Assembly, or any person authorised by it, with explanations of any documents or information that the Assembly (or any person so authorised) has obtained in the exercise of its

healthcare review and investigation functions under the Act. It also lists the class of bodies and persons who will be required to give explanations to the Assembly or authorised persons.

- **Motion to approve The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Commencement No6) (Wales) Order 2005 (15 mins)**

This Commencement Order will bring into force the new public right of access to open country and registered common land in Wales. This will give the public a legal right of access on foot to nearly 20% of the land area of Wales

- **Motion to approve the NHS Charges for Drugs and Appliances (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (15 mins)**

The intended effect of these Regulations is to reduce the prescription charge from £5 per item to £4 from 1 April 2005 for patients in Wales. It will also reduce the cost of annual pre-payment certificates from £71.83 to £57.46, and four monthly ones from £26.16 to £20.93 from the same date. It will also, from April 2005, remove the current anomaly whereby patients over 60 can have their medication free of charge, but are having to pay for their wigs and appliances.

Proposal to debate the following 2 items together but with separate votes (30 mins)

- **Motion to approve The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (Transfer of Property, Rights and Liabilities of the Audit Commission for Local Authorities and the National Health Service in England and Wales) Order 2005 under Standing Order 26**

- **Motion to approve The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (Transfer of Property, Rights and Liabilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General) Order 2005 under Standing Order 26**

The intended effect of the Orders is to enable the property, rights and liabilities appropriate to the Auditor General for Wales assuming his extended functions from 1 April 2005 to be vested in him by that date.

- **Motion to approve under Standing Order 24.27 (iv) The Central Rating List (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (15 mins)**

These Regulations update The Central Rating List (Wales) Regulations. They add new companies to the Central Rating List for 2005 and make some technical changes to the way the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) value the

businesses for the central list and makes this process clearer for all concerned. They are in response to changes requested by the VOA to the Regulations for 2005.

- **Plaid Cymru nominated debate (45 mins)**

Wednesday 2 March 2005

- **Finance Questions to Sue Essex, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services (30 mins)**
- **Questions to Carwyn Jones, Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (30 mins)**
- **Debate on OFCOM (60 mins)**

Earlier during this month Ofcom published the third and final report in its review of Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) in television. The report summarises conclusions from Phase 1 and Phase 2, and, in addition, puts forward proposals for the Nations and Regions for public consultation. Of specific interest to Wales are proposals regarding ITV Wales and the future of Welsh language PSB.

- **Motion to amend Standing Order 16 (1 min)**
- **Debate on the Annual Report of the Standards Committee (40 mins)**
- **Short debate (30 mins)**

Tuesday 8 March 2005

- **First Minister's Question Time (45 mins)**
- **Business Statement (10 mins)**
- **Motion to approve under Standing order 24.25 (1 min)**
- **The Products of Animal Origin (3rd Country Imports)(Wales) Regulations 2005**

These Regulations revoke and remake, with changes the Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Wales) Regulations 2004 for reasons of clarity and introduce amendments to give effect to recent changes to EU import requirements.

- **The Diseases of Animals) (Approved Disinfectants) (Amendment)(Wales) Order 2005**

These Regulations update the list of approved disinfectants through an amendment to the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Order 1978 (as last amended in 2001) for reasons of clarity and introduce amendments to give effect to recent changes to the list of disinfectants put forward by the industry. The approved disinfectants are to be used in the control of specific animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth, Swine Vesicular disease, Bovine TB and diseases of Poultry such as Avian Influenza.

- **The Salmonella in Laying Flocks (Survey Powers) (Wales) Regulations 2005**

The making of these Regulations is necessary to enforce a survey of laying hens, provides power of entry and related powers for the purpose of carrying out a survey to ascertain levels of zoonotic (bacterium, virus, parasites or other communicable agents) Salmonella within laying flocks of domestic fowl.

- **The Community Health Councils (Amendment) Regulations 2005**

The intended effect of these Regulations is to tighten up membership terms and provide greater flexibility as well as requiring Community Health Councils to adopt a complaints procedure.

- **The Dairy Produce Quotas (Wales) Regulations 2005**

These Regulations, which are made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972, consolidate and amend The Dairy Produce Quotas (Wales) Regulations 2002 (S.I. 2002/897 (W.103)). They do not introduce any distinct Welsh provisions because the milk quota regime is a UK wide scheme. The Regulations implement certain corrective changes required to implement European legislation, in particular on the method of calculating the butterfat levy and setting deadlines for receipt rather than despatch of documents, a requirement to keep records

of feeding regimes; omitting milk destroyed off farm from the levy calculation; and providing for quota holders to take quota they have purchased in their own right with them at the end of a tenancy

Proposal to debate the following 2 items together with separate votes (30 mins):

- **Motion to approve the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2005.**

Local authorities are required to charge residents for residential accommodation, whether directly provided or arranged with an independent home, with the aim of recovering as much as possible of the costs. The assessment of a person's ability to pay for accommodation is laid down in the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992. The Welsh Assembly Government has made a commitment to restore the capital limits for means testing to their 1996 real term value and to keep them under review. Limits are now reviewed annually to ensure they remain broadly in line with inflation. The intended effect of the amendment to these Regulations is to increase the capital limits for means testing in line with inflation for the upper limit from £20,500 to £21,000 and by a significantly higher amount of 9.2% for the lower limit from £13,500 to £14,750. They also reflect changes to income-related benefits from April 2005, which are linked to these Regulations.

- **Motion to approve the National Assistance (Sums for Personal Requirement) (Wales) Regulations 2005.**

Local authorities are required to charge residents for residential accommodation, whether directly provided or arranged with an independent home, with the aim of recovering as much as possible of the costs. The assessment of a person's ability to pay for accommodation is laid down in The National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992. The effect of the amendment to the National Assistance (Sums for Personal Requirements) Regulations is to increase the weekly sum, which local authorities are to assume that residents in residential or nursing care will need for their personal requirements, from £18.40 to £19.10 from 2005-06.

Proposal to debate the following 2 items together with separate votes (30 mins):

- **Motion to approve The Local Government Best Value Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2005.**

This Order sets the 22 statutory performance indicators that unitary authorities will be required to collect from April 2005 and publish in their Improvement Plans.

- **Motion to approve The Local Government Best Value Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2002 (Revocation) Order 2005.**

This Order revokes the Local Government (Best Value Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2002 that set the 89 statutory indicators that unitary authorities in Wales have been required to collect from 2002 and publish in their Improvement Plans.

- **Motion to approve the Supplementary Budget (30 mins)**
- **Motion to approve a Special Grant Report: Additional School Revenue (15 mins)**

This Special Grant Report will distribute additional revenue funding to all Local Education Authorities in Wales for the purpose of improving school standards, in particular by helping primary schools to reduce or maintain a reduction in the size of Key Stage 2 classes; supporting low performing schools; and providing support to head teachers with significant teaching commitments.

Wednesday 9 March 2005

- **Questions to Brian Gibbons, Minister for Health and Social Services (30 mins)**
- **Questions to Alun Pugh, Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (30 mins)**
- **House Committee Questions (5 mins)**
- **Statement by the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning: The Welsh Assembly Government`s response to the Children`s Commissioner Report (30 mins)**
- **Motion to approve the Senior Salaries Review Board Recommendations (10**

mins)

- **Motion to delegate functions under The Children`s Act 2004 to the First Minister (20 mins)**
- **Debate on the Health and Social Services`s Committee`s Report on the Interface between Health and Social Care (60 mins)**

Following publication of the Review of Health and Social Care in Wales in June 2003 (*the Wanless Report*), the Health and Social Services Committee decided to undertake a policy review of the interface between health and social care. The aims of the review were to evaluate the effectiveness of joint working and co-operation between the health and social care services; to identify good practice and to offer recommendations to improve joint working and co-operation between the key agencies.

- **Short debate (30 mins)**

Tuesday 15 March 2005

- **First Minister`s Question Time (45 mins)**
- **Business Statement (10 mins)**
- **Slot reserved for subordinate legislation (150 mins)**

Wednesday 16 March 2005

- **Local Government Questions to Sue Essex, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services (30 mins)**
- **Questions to Jane Davidson, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (30 mins)**
- **Debate on Clywch (60 mins)**
- **Debate on the Fire and Rescue Services National Framework and Order (60 mins)**
- **Short debate (30 mins)**

