

BUSINESS PAPERS

PART 2 – SECTION H

VOTES & PROCEEDINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, 24th MAY 2000

The session commenced at 2pm

Questions to Rosemary Butler, Secretary for Pre-16 Education

The first 6 questions were reached (Question 1 had been withdrawn)

2.15pm

Questions to Christine Gwyther, Secretary for Agriculture & Rural Development

The first 3 questions were reached

2.34pm

Statement: The First Secretary made a statement on his recent trade mission to Rhone Alps

2.48pm

Statement: The First Secretary made a statement on BAE Broughton

3.20pm

Statement: The Business Secretary made a statement on Subordinate Legislation

3.43pm

Point of Order: Phil Williams raised a point of order over his concerns that the Economic Development Committee has no powers other than a scrutiny role. **The Presiding Officer** referred members to Standing Order 9.7 regarding the responsibilities of subject committees.

He added that the matter possibly be referred to the Panel of Chairs and during the debate on the annual reports produced by each subject committee.

3.47pm

Debate on the release of Genetically Modified Organisms in Wales

Further to the No Named Day Motion (NNDM297) the National Assembly resolves that:

The general policy of the National Assembly for Wales in respect of its transferred functions under section 111 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 of determining applications for consent to release genetically modified organisms in to the Welsh environment, is not to grant such consents unless the position is that sufficient information is available to the Assembly to enable it to conclude with confidence that the release is not capable of causing damage to the Welsh environment by harming the health of humans or other living organisms or interfering with their ecological systems.

However, the Assembly will consider any representations as to whether it should give consents in a particular case, even where the position is otherwise.

In addition, the Assembly shall have regard to the above general policy in respect of existing simplified procedure consents under section 111 where the holder of such a consent wishes to add a site in Wales to a programme of development of work

The following amendment was considered:

Amendment 1 - Andrew Davies, Swansea West

First paragraph delete "is not capable of causing damage to the Welsh environment by harming the health of humans or other living organisms or interfering with their ecological systems" and replace with "is safe for human health and the environment".

Second paragraph delete ", even where the position is otherwise".

Amendment 1 was withdrawn.

A vote was taken

The motion, For 54; Abstain 0; Against 0: Total 54

The motion was carried.

4.57pm

Point of Order: Nick Bourne (Standing Order 6.12)

Nick Bourne asked whether this was now official Assembly policy which tied the executive into action.

The Presiding Officer said that any action undertaken by the executive was not a matter for him; but that he would soon publish a list of motions passed by the Assembly so that Members could see where action had or had not been taken.

5pm

**Short Debate:
Brian Hancock (Islwyn); Sub Post Offices**

The session concluded at 5.29pm

WHITSUN RECESS 29TH MAY - 2ND JUNE 2000

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 6th June 2000

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly

