

**BUSINESS PAPERS**

**VOTES & PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2000**

**PART 2 – SECTION H**

**The session commenced at 2pm**

**2.00pm**

**Questions to the First Secretary**

The first 5 questions were reached.

**2.33pm**

**Statement:** The First Secretary made a statement on the Assisted Areas Map

**2.50pm**

**Statement:** The Finance Secretary made a statement on Agricultural Funding

**3.04pm**

**Points of Order**

1. David Davies raised a point of order about offensive language being used against him during the Asylum Seekers debate.

The Presiding Officer explained that he had investigated the matter and considered that Standing Order 7.2 had been complied with. However, he confirmed that this issue will be further considered in plenary tomorrow when approval is sought to a revision paragraph 7 to the Code of Conduct in the Chamber.

2. Ieuan Wyn Jones raised a point of order on the timetable of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Finance Secretary agreed to consider placing a statement on the intranet if this would assist members.

**3.17pm**

**Business Statement: the Business Secretary**

More than ten members objected to the business statement in accordance with SO5.4.

**A vote was taken:**

For 24

Abstain 0

Against 25

Total 49

The business statement was voted against. The Presiding Officer asked the Business Secretary to bring back a revised business statement at the earliest opportunity. The Business Secretary confirmed that he would bring forward a new statement the next day.

**3.28pm**

### **Minority Part Debate: The Conservative Party**

That this Assembly deplores the failure of the Labour administration to protect the rural economy and services in rural Wales.

#### **The following amendments were tabled:**

##### **Amendment 1 - Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr)**

In line 1 delete 'deplores' and add 'is concerned at'

##### **Amendment 2 - Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr)**

Add at the end of the motion:

'which are being undermined by the high value of sterling.'

##### **Amendment 3 - Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire);**

Add at the end of the motion "and directs the Executive to produce appropriate rural economic and quality of life indicators that will allow decisions to be taken in order to reverse the decline in the rural economy and rural services."

A vote was taken

#### **Amendment 1**

For 13

Abstain 0

Against 35

Total 48

The amendment fell.

## **Amendment 2**

For 20

Abstain 7

Against 22

Total 49

The amendment fell.

## **Amendment 3**

For 20

Abstain 27

Against 3

Total 50

The amendment was carried.

## **The motion, as amended**

For 28

Abstain 0

Against 22

Total 50

**The motion, as amended, was carried.**

**4.33pm**

**Point of Order: The Business Secretary** raised a point of order concerning the way in which his amendment o the following motion had been split in to 2 separate amendments. He wished them to be debated and voted upon as a single amendment.

The Presiding Officer agreed that they could be voted on together.

**4.34pm**

### **Minority Part Debate: The Liberal Democrat Party**

This Assembly notes:

- That many people, particularly the elderly, remain in hospitals in Wales even when well enough to be discharged and are therefore denied the opportunity to be cared for in the most appropriate environment
- That there are approximately 600 such "blocked" NHS beds in Wales at any one time
- That keeping people in these "blocked beds" is costing the NHS in Wales an estimated £1.3 million pounds a week
- That by freeing up these "blocked beds", there would be scope for an additional 20,000 people to be admitted each year to Welsh hospitals enabling waiting times to be reduced

This Assembly resolves:

- To ensure that all patients are able to receive care in the most appropriate setting
- To ensure that funding is better directed towards tackling the problem of "bed blocking" by making additional resources directly available to Local Health Groups for commissioning appropriate services from health and social service providers
- To promote joint strategies between health authorities, social service departments and the voluntary sector to deal specifically with the problem of "bed blocking"
- To mandate the Assembly Secretary for Health & Social Services, in conjunction with Health & Social Services Committee, to draw up an action plan within three months to tackle "bed blocking" in Wales.

### **The following amendments have been tabled:**

In accordance with the revised guidance on the Grouping, Selection and Refusal of Amendments, the Presiding Officer has decided to group the amendments as follows for the purposes of debate - but votes will be taken separately:

(1+5)

(2+3+4)

#### **Amendment 1 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West);**

After "This Assembly notes" delete the second, third and fourth bullet points.\_

#### **Amendment 2 - Dai Lloyd (South Wales West);**

**Add at end of bullet point 7:**

,and to urge the Cabinet to give consideration to using some of the additional resources allocated to Health to resource those joint strategies.'

**Amendment 3 - Dai Lloyd (South Wales West);**

Delete full stop at end of bullet point 8 and add ',with a view to eradicating the problem completely by 2003.'

**Amendment 4 -Dai Lloyd (South Wales West);**

Add new bullet point at the end:

'That the Health and Social Services Committee consider a long term strategy to increase NHS beds, staff recruitment and retention.'

**Amendment 5 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West);**

After "This Assembly resolves" delete the second, third and fourth bullet points and replace with:

To promote joint working between health authorities, social services departments, the voluntary and independent sectors to develop a whole-systems approach to the prevention of avoidable hospital admissions, rapid effective treatment, and timely discharge to the most appropriate setting with the right level and mix of support.

To request the Health and Social Services Secretary, in conjunction with the Health and Social Services Committee, to produce within three months a comprehensive plan which deals with these issues.

A vote was taken

**Amendment 2**

For 39

Abstain 6

Against 1

Total 46

The amendment was carried

**Amendment 3**

For 33

Abstain 13

Against 0

Total 46

The amendment was carried.

**Amendment 4**

For 46

Abstain 0

Against 0

Total 46

The amendment was carried.

**Amendment 5 + 1**

For 20

Abstain 0

Against 25

Total 45

The amendment fell.

**The motion, as amended**

For 25

Abstain 21

Against 0

Total 46

**The motion, as amended, was carried.**

**The session concluded at 5.30pm**

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**The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at**

**2.00 pm on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2000**

**J W Lloyd**

**Clerk to the Assembly**

**DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET IN PLENARY**

**DOCUMENTS LAID ON 5 APRIL 2000**

Objective 1 Single Programming Document 2000-2006

Objective 1 Single Programming Document 2000-2006 - Annexes

**DOCUMENTS LAID ON 10 APRIL 2000**

PROTECTING AND CONSERVING THE BUILT HERITAGE IN WALES The Cabinet Of The National Assembly's Response To The Recommendations Of The Audit Committee, Following The Presentation Of Their Report On 10 March 2000.