

BUSINESS PAPERS

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 7th DECEMBER 1999

PART 2 – SECTION H

The session commenced at 2pm

2.00pm

Questions to the First Secretary

The first 6 questions were reached.

2.33pm

Points of Order:

1. Christine Humphreys under SO7.2 raised a point of order on use of discriminatory language in the Chamber.

The Presiding Officer drew Members' attention to Standing Order 7.2 and the Protocol on Conduct in the Chamber. He felt that the comments made last week detracted from the dignity of the Assembly and asked Members to be careful in their use of language in the Chamber.

2. Gareth Jones raised a point of order on Standing Order 9 regarding the status of members of subject committees.

The Presiding Officer reminded members that the Assembly had delegated executive functions to the First Secretary and that in turn he had delegated functions to Assembly Secretaries. Thus Assembly Secretaries have an executive responsibility which is different from other members of a committee. The Presiding Officer considered that the First Secretary and his Cabinet were aware of the balance to be struck as between the Cabinet and Committees. He had received a letter from Jonathon Morgan on the same issue and would publish his response to that letter in due course.

3. David Davies raised a point of order concerning the fact that a letter written to the Secretary for Local Government and the Environment had been responded to by the First Secretary.

The First Secretary said that he had replied because the matter had been raised with him personally at a meeting.

4. Peter Black raised a Point of Order (SO6.11) on the Local Government Finance settlement - why it had been presented as a written statement rather than as an oral statement to a plenary session.

The Secretary for the Environment and Local Government said that this was a preliminary draft statement. The Presiding Officer drew attention to SO19.2 and confirmed that the order would be brought to the Assembly for debate in February. He thought that Members might wish to review the operation of SO19 in due course.

5. Jenny Randerson raised a point of order to request a correction to the Record of Proceedings on 24th November, where her vote on the second amendment on the motion on Sport in Wales was recorded incorrectly as "against" when she had voted for the amendment.

The Presiding Officer confirmed that the correction would be made - but asked that corrections should be brought to the attention of the editor of the record in the first instance - rather than as a point of order.

6. William Graham raised a point of order on the number of questions reached during First Secretary's question time and drew attention to the length of both questions and answers.

Statement: The First Secretary made a statement on "Young Voice" - proposals for the views of young people to be taken into account.

3.05pm

Statement: The First Secretary made a statement on the Cardiff Bay Barrage.

3.38pm

Business Statement: the Business Secretary

3.39pm

Business Statement: Timetable Statement

To propose that the Assembly, in accordance with standing order 5.1 adopts the outline timetable of plenary meetings, times available for committee meetings, meetings of political groups and recesses up to Friday 24 March 2000 laid in the Table Office on 30 November 1999.

A vote was taken:

For 38

Against 0

Abstain 0

Total 38

3.42pm

Minority Party Debate: Plaid Cymru

That "The National Assembly for Wales recognises the need for a second medical school for Wales to be sited in Swansea and calls for urgent consideration of this issue in both Health and Social Services Committee and the Post 16 Education and Training Committee."

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon & Radnorshire) ;

After " recognises the need for ", delete " a second medical school for Wales to be sited in Swansea " and insert " an increase in the number of medical student places in Wales."

Amendment 2 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West) ;

"delete all after "The National Assembly for Wales recognises the need for" and replace with "further increases in medical student numbers in Wales and recognises the importance of building on the expertise which has been developed in the University of Swansea, working in collaboration with the University of Wales Medical School. It calls for a wide debate on how this expansion can best be achieved in a way which balances clinical, educational, budgetary and regional development goals"

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 5

Against 41

Abstain 3

Total 49

The amendment fell

Amendment 2

For 29

Against 20

Abstain 2

Total 51

The motion was agreed

The motion as amended

For 51

Against 0

Abstain 0

Total 51

The motion, as amended was carried

4.42pm

Points of Order

1. Andrew Davies asked the Assembly to agree the following 6 orders without debate due to time constraints.
2. Mick Bates commented that the Food Standards Act 1999 was not available in the Library, as stated in the motion, and therefore any debate on this order should be delayed until the document was made available.
3. Jocelyn Davies confirmed that Plaid Cymru would not agree to the passing of the Food Standards Act 1999 without debate.
4. David Melding stated that the Conservatives had comments to make on the NHS Trusts (Wales) (Dissolution No2) Order 1999

The Business Secretary agreed to investigate why the Food Standards Act 1999 was not available in the Library as stated.

The Presiding Officer asked the Business Secretary to withdraw the motion on Food Standards Act 1999 if it was not to be taken today

The Business Secretary withdrew the motion and confirmed that it would be re-tabled for debate

Food Standards Act 1999

To propose that the Assembly, acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, delegates its functions under the Food Standards Act 1999 to the First Secretary.

Functions under the Food Standards Act 1999 shall be taken to include a reference to any functions of the Assembly included in any instrument having effect under or in relation to that Act.

Motion Withdrawn

4.46pm

Housing Renewal Grants (Prescribed Form and Particulars and Welsh Form and Particulars) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 1999

(a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to the draft Order "The Housing Renewal Grants (Prescribed Form and Particulars) and (Welsh Form and Particulars) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 1999" laid in the Table Office on 30 November 1999;

(b) considers the principle of the draft Order, and

(c) approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 16 November 1999.

A vote was taken:

For 48

Against 0

Abstain 0

Total 48

The motion was agreed

Relocation Grants of Application and (Welsh Form of Application) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 1999

(a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to the draft Order "The Relocation Grants (Form of Application) and (Welsh Form of Application) (Amendment)

(Wales) Regulations 1999", laid in the Table Office on 30 November 1999;

(b) considers the principle of the draft Order, and

(c) approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 16 November 1999

A vote was taken:

For 48

Against 0

Abstain 0

Total 48

The motion was agreed

Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 1999

(a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to the draft Order "The Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 1999", laid in the Table Office on 30 November 1999;

(b) considers the principle of the draft Order, and

(c) approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 16 November 1999

A vote was taken:

For 48

Against 0

Abstain 0

Total 48

The motion was agreed

4.51pm

NHS Trusts (Wales) (Dissolution No2) Order 1999

(a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to the draft Order "The NHS Trusts (Wales) (Dissolution No2) Order 1999", laid in the Table Office on 30 November 1999;

(b) considers the principle of the draft Order, and

(c) approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 23 November 1999

A vote was taken:

For 30

Against 6

Abstain 8

Total 44

The motion was agreed

Cardiff and Vales NHS Trust Establishment Order 1999

(a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to the draft Order "The Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust Establishment Order 1999", laid in the Table Office on 30 November 1999;

(b) considers the principle of the draft Order, and

(c) approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 23 November 1999

A vote was taken:

For 24

Against 0

Abstain 18

Total 42

The motion was agreed

5.00 pm

Topic for Short Debate

John Griffiths (Newport East): Asylum Seekers

The Presiding Officer confirmed that in response to the earlier point of order on the Food Standards Act 1999 the library copy had been removed by a researcher for copying and not returned.

The session concluded at 5.27pm

Papers Laid in the Table Office since the Assembly last met in Plenary Session

Documents Laid on 30 November 1999

Statement of Assembly Funding 2000-01

The County Council of the City and County of Cardiff - Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Designated Places

Legislation Committee Report to the Assembly on the Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust Establishment Order 1999

Legislation Committee Report to the Assembly on the Cardiff and Vale NHS Trusts (Wales) (Dissolution No 2) Order 1999

Legislation Committee Report to the Assembly on the Relocation Grants (Form of Application) and (Welsh Form of Application) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 1999

Legislation Committee Report to the Assembly on the Housing Renewal Grants (Prescribed Form and Particulars) and (Welsh Form and Particulars) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 1999

Legislation Committee Report to the Assembly on the Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 1999

Documents Laid on 2 December 1999

Home-grown Cereals Authority Annual Report and Accounts 98/99

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

2.00 pm on Wednesday, 8TH December 1999

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly

