

BUSINESS PAPERS

Part 1- Section E

WRITTEN STATEMENTS OF OPINION TABLED ON

7 December 1999

R Signifies the Member has declared an interest

OPIN-1999-0039 An Annual Welsh Public Holiday on St David's Day, March 1st

Raised on 1 October 1999 by

Nicholas Bourne – Mid and West Wales, Alun Cairns – South Wales West , David Davies – Monmouth, Glyn Davies – Mid and West Wales

5 Subscribers

Phil Williams – South Wales East
Peter Rogers – North Wales
David Melding – South Wales Central
Jonathan Morgan – South Wales Central
Peter Black – South Wales West

The Assembly demands the replacement of the May Day Holiday with an annual public holiday on St David's Day, March 1st. This would underline Wales'unique identity within the UK and allow all Welsh people to celebrate our Welsh culture, history and tradition.

Amendments – AO1

Raised on 25 November 1999 by

John Griffiths – Newport East, Owen John Thomas – South Wales Central

4 Subscribers

Gareth Jones - Conwy
Cynog Dafis – Mid and West Wales
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Jocelyn Davies – South Wales East

Delete the words: "the replacement of the May Day Holiday"

OPIN-1999-0045 Millennium Pardon for Dic Pendryn

Raised on 15 Oct 1999 by

Huw Lewis - Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

28 Subscribers

Jocelyn Davies – South Wales East

Elin Jones - Ceredigion

Cynog Dafis – Mid and West Wales

Michael German - South Wales East

Janet Davies - South Wales West

Phil Williams - South Wales East

Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen East & Dinefwr

Peter Black – South Wales West

Karen Sinclair – Clwyd South

Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire

Ann Jones – Vale of Clwyd

Gwenda Thomas – Neath

Alun Pugh – Clwyd West

Geraint Davies - Rhondda

Kirsty Williams - Brecon & Radnorshire

Brian Hancock - Islwyn

Lynne Neagle - Torfaen

Alison Halford - Delyn

Janice Gregory - Ogmere

Ron Davies - Caerphilly

Val Feld – Swansea East

Christine Chapman – Cynon Valley

John Griffiths – Newport East

Brian Gibbons FRCGP - Aberavon

Carwyn Jones - Bridgend

Lorraine Barrett – Cardiff South and Penarth

Richard Edwards - Preseli Pembrokeshire

Owen John Thomas - South Wales Central

The National Assembly calls upon the Home Secretary to offer a 'Millennium Pardon' to Dic Pendryn, the first Welsh working class martyr. Dic Pendryn was hanged for his part in the Merthyr Rising of 1831, based on unreliable and unsafe evidence, as an example to other working class people in South Wales who might have been driven to protest at the appalling injustices they suffered. The Assembly calls on the Home Secretary to make this civic gesture to the people of

Merthyr Tydfil and to right a miscarriage of justice from the past in time to celebrate the Millennium.

OPIN – 1999-0053 Llandudno General Hospital Bone Scanner Service

Raised on 4 November by

Gareth Jones - Conwy

Christine Humphreys -North Wales

Peter Rogers - North Wales

3 Subscribers

Nicholas Bourne – Mid and West Wales

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli

The National Assembly believes that the bone scanner facility at Llandudno hospital should not only be maintained, but improved upon, so that a readily accessible service is available to the residents of North Wales. We call upon the North Wales Health Authority to give immediate priority to this need within its strategic planning and funding.

OPIN 1999-0058 Wildlife Protection and Access to Open Countryside Legislation

Raised on 10 November 99 by

Sue Essex – Cardiff North

17 Subscribers

Val Feld – Swansea East

Phil Williams - South Wales East

Karen Sinclair – Clwyd South

Brian Gibbons - Aberavon

Janice Gregory - Ogmore

Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central

Gareth Jones - Conwy

Michael German – South Wales East

Ron Davies - Caerphilly

Carwyn Jones – Bridgend

Lorraine Barrett – Cardiff South & East

Christine Chapman – Cwm Cynon

Alison Halford - Delyn

Richard Edwards – Preseli Pembrokeshire

Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central

John Griffiths – Newport East

Peter Black – South Wales West

This Assembly supports new legislation to give better protection to wildlife and to enhance quiet enjoyment of countryside life.

OPIN-1999-0061 Labour Government's refusal to help Wales' deprived communities

Raised on 19 November by

Geraint Davies – Rhondda

Helen Mary Jones- Llanelli

2 Subscriber

Gareth Jones - Conwy

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

The National Assembly draws attention to the crisis hitting small farms and in particular tenant farmers; regrets the Labour government refuses to tackle the hardship being endured by rural Wales and that the Government continues to drag its feet over compensation payments to miners suffering from Bronchitis and Chronic Emphysema; calls on everyone in Wales to rally round farmers facing the loss of their work and home, calls in particular on the government to take urgent steps to resolve the dire economic problems facing our rural and former coal mining communities.

OPIN-1999-0062 Exclusion of Barry from Objective 2 Funding

Raised on 22 November by

David Melding – South Wales Central

Jonathon Morgan – South Wales Central

Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central

Owen Jon Thomas – South Wales Central

13 Subscribers

Janice Gregory - Ogmore

Richard Edwards – Preseli Pembrokeshire

Val Feld - Swansea East

Phil Williams - South Wales East

Gareth Jones – Conwy

Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central

Cynog Dafis – Mid & West Wales

Nicholas Bourne – Mid & West Wales

Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli

Glyn Davies – Mid & West Wales

Alun Cairns – South Wales West

William Graham – South Wales East

Peter Black – South Wales West

This National Assembly for Wales opposes the recommendation of the Assembly Cabinet that Barry be excluded from the Objective 2 funding map. This funding is greatly needed in the town because it has wards with high levels of social exclusion and a waterfront project that needs further resources for development. This Assembly calls on the Cabinet to reconsider its recommendation to exclude Barry from the Objective 2 map.

Amendments –A10

Raised on 25 November by

John Griffiths – Newport East

No Subscribers

Delete after "Wales" and insert:

*"welcomes the achievements of the Assembly in negotiating with DTI as the lead UK Government Department an envelope of 270.000 population to be included in Objective 2, in addition to the 1.9 million in Objective 1;
regrets the near-miss areas, whose inclusion in the Objective 2 area proposal would have taken the total population over the 270.000 ceiling;
draws attention to the availability of transitional funding assistance to areas covered by Objective 2 and 5b today, and recognises that the new Objective 3 programme will also assist areas not getting objective 1 and 2 assistance."*

OPIN-1999-0063 Jubilee 2000 and the G7

Raised on 22 November by

Rhodri Glyn Thomas – East Carmarthen and Dinefwr

6 Subscribers

Gareth Jones - Conwy

Phil Williams - South Wales East

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

Geraint Davies - Rhondda

Mick Bates Montgomeryshire

Michael German - South Wales East

The National Assembly for Wales declares its support for Jubilee 2000's campaign for the write off of poor countries debts and calls on Prime Minister Blair and the UK Government to match President Clinton's announcement of a new United States policy on debt cancellation.

OPIN-1999-0064 Arts Council for Wales

Raised on 24 Nov 1999

John Griffiths – Newport East, Lynne Neagle – Torfaen

9 Subscribers

Cynog Dafis – Mid and West Wales

Janice Gregory - Ogmore

Christine Chapman - Cynon Valley

Janice Gregory - Ogmore

Karen Sinclair – Clwyd South

Gareth Jones- Conwy
Alison Halford – Delyn
Richard Edwards – Preseli- Pembrokeshire

Ron Davies - Caerphilly

The National Assembly for Wales notes the quality and professionalism of Gwent Theatre's work over many years and has grave concern regarding the Arts Council for Wales' decision to cease funding Gwent Theatre after the current financial year. The Assembly calls upon the Arts Council for Wales to make their decision-making process open and transparent and to hold talks with Gwent Theatre regarding these matters and the way forward.

OPIN-1999-0071 Prescription Charge Exemption for Adult Cystic Fibrosis Sufferers

Raised on 7 Dec 1999 by

Brian Gibbons – Aberavon

No Subscribers

Today many Cystic Fibrosis sufferers are growing into adulthood and undergoing long-term treatments involving many different drugs. We believe that the National Assembly for Wales should make representations to allow adult Cystic Fibrosis patients to be exempt from prescription charges.

OPIN-1999-0072 Sub Post Offices and Automated Benefit Payments

Raised on 7 Dec 1999 by

Brian Gibbons – Aberavon

No Subscribers

This Assembly is concerned that the present proposals to increase the uptake of automated

benefit payments could reduce the financial viability of many sub-post offices in both urban, valley and rural Wales. We therefore believe that these proposals should not be proceeded with until their full impact on social exclusion is assessed.

OPIN-1999-0073 Gwynedd County Council - Inappropriate behaviour by Plaid Cymru Councillors

Raised on 7 Dec 1999 by

Peter Black – South Wales West, Christine Humphreys – North Wales

No Subscribers

This Assembly deplores the actions of three Plaid Cymru members of Gwynedd County Council criticised in a District Audit report for not declaring their interests in companies of which they were directors when discussing the allocation of public funds to those companies. It further expresses its disappointment that those implicated have failed to apologise for their action and regret that the Council appears to be defending them. We call on the Assembly to implement a full and independent inquiry into this matter and for the Council to suspend those involved until that inquiry has reported.