

BUSINESS PAPERS

Part 1- Section E

WRITTEN STATEMENTS OF OPINION TABLED ON

3 December 1999

R Signifies the Member has declared an interest

OPIN-1999-0010 Higher Education Fees - Establishment of a Committee of Inquiry

Raised on 21 Jun 1999 by Jocelyn Davies, Sue Essex, Jonathan Morgan

18 Subscribers:

Phil Williams - South Wales East
Janet Ryder - North Wales
Pauline Jarman - South Wales Central
Michael German OBE - South Wales East
William Graham JP - South Wales East
Peter Rogers - North Wales
David Melding - South Wales Central
Rhodri Glyn Thomas - Carmarthen & East Dinefwr
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Glyn Davies - Mid & West Wales
Alun Cairns - South Wales West
Gareth Jones - Conwy
Nicholas Bourne - Mid & West Wales
Dai Lloyd - South Wales West
Peter Black - South Wales West
Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central
Karen Sinclair - Clwyd South
Kirsty Williams - Brecon & Radnorshire

The National Assembly declares its support for the establishment of a Committee of Inquiry into the consequences of the imposition of tuition fees on higher education students in Wales. This Committee should be modelled on the Committee of Inquiry that is being set up, by the First Minister of Scotland, Donald Dewar. The Committee should report within six months, and its membership should consist of independent academics, lay people and student representatives.

OPIN-1999-0017 Status of Charities

Raised on 29 Jun 1999 by Cynog Dafis - Mid and West Wales

42 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East
Huw Lewis – Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
Ieuan Wyn Jones - Ynys Mon
Peter Rogers - North Wales
David Davies - Monmouth
Glyn Davies - Mid and West Wales
Jocelyn Davies - South Wales East
Rhodri Glyn Thomas - Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Jonathan Morgan - South Wales Central
Gwenda Thomas - Neath
Alison Halford - Delyn
Sue Essex - Cardiff North
Brian Hancock - Islwyn
Alun Cairns - South Wales West
Lynne Neagle - Torfaen
Alun Pugh - Clwyd West
Janet Ryder - North Wales
Janice Gregory - Ogmore
Owen John Thomas MA - South Wales Central
Val Feld – Swansea East
John Griffiths LLB - Newport East
Nicholas Bourne LLB LLM - Mid and West Wales
Brian Gibbons FRCGP - Aberavon
Pauline Jarman - South Wales Central
Christine Chapman - Cynon Valley
Karen Sinclair - Clwyd South

Dai Lloyd MBBCh MRCGP Dip.Ther - South Wales West
Richard Edwards - Preseli Pembrokeshire
Michael German OBE - South Wales East
Janet Davies - South Wales West
Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire
Christine Humphreys - North Wales
Gareth Jones - Conwy
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Lorraine Barrett - Cardiff South and Penarth
Peter Black - South Wales West
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Elin Jones - Ceredigion
Carwyn Jones LLB - Bridgend
Ann Jones - Vale of Clwyd
Ron Davies - Caerphilly
Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central

This Assembly notes that the law does not prevent competent crooks from registering or acquiring registered charities; and that official advice on how to prevent fraudulent collections at supermarkets, stations and pubs has for many years proved ineffective; urges all owners of such premises to insist beforehand on a recommendation from a first class source on each collecting charity, along the lines of the Charity Check system; and hopes that all fraudulent collections can thus be soon eliminated throughout Wales, so that the splendid tradition whereby owners allow charitable collections can safely continue.

OPIN-1999-0022 City Status for Newport

Raised by John Griffiths LLB on 08 July 1999

18 Subscribers:

Phil Williams
Lynne Neagle
William Graham JP
Glyn Davies
Geraint Davies
Brian Hancock
Jocelyn Davies
Gwenda Thomas
Brian Gibbons FRCGP

Huw Lewis
Ron Davies
Sue Essex
Janice Gregory
Christine Chapman
Carwyn Jones LLB
Owen John Thomas MA
Gareth Jones
Rosemary Butler

The National Assembly for Wales recognises the strength of Newport's bid for city status. The Assembly believes Newport should be granted city status and wishes to place on the record its support for Newport's bid.

OPIN-1999-0023 British Sign Language (BSL)

09 Jul 1999 Raised by
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Peter Black- South Wales West
Michael German OBE - South Wales East

29 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East
David Melding – South Wales Central
John Griffiths- Newport East
Christine Chapman – Cynon Valley
Sue Essex – Cardiff North
Nick Bourne – Mid and West Wales
Huw Lewis – Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
Janice Gregory – Ogmore
David Rhys Lloyd – South Wales West
Alison Halford - Delyn
Val Feld - Swansea East
John Marek - Wrexham
Alun Cairns - South Wales West
Janet Ryder - North Wales
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Lorraine Barrett - Cardiff South and Penarth
Rhodri Glyn Thomas - Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Glyn Davies - Mid and West Wales
William Graham JP - South Wales East
Jonathan Morgan - South Wales Central
Brian Gibbons FRCGP - Aberavon
Christine Humphreys - North Wales
Karen Sinclair - Clwyd South
Pauline Jarman - South Wales Central
Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire
Jocelyn Davies - South Wales East
Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central
Richard Edwards - Preseli Pembrokeshire

The Assembly notes 4,000 people attended the British Sign Language (BSL) march in London on 27 June. Despite European legislation passed 10 years ago, the Government has not recognised BSL users as a linguistic minority although 62,000 people in the UK use BSL as their first language.

The Assembly hopes that BSL receives official recognition, as this will give deaf people equal access to information, health care and employment opportunities in their preferred language. It will entitle Deaf children to the quality of education that hearing children enjoy and allow them to develop their own language skills during their formative years.

OPIN-1999-0030 Arts Council for Wales - Drama Strategy

Raised on 22 July by Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central

20 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East
Cynog Dafis – Mid & West Wales
Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Alun Cairns – South Wales West
Kirsty Williams - Brecon & Radnorshire
Jonathon Morgan – South Wales Central
David Davies - Monmouth
Gareth Jones - Conwy
Nicholas Bourne – Mid & West Wales
Rodri Glyn Thomas - Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Jocelyn Davies - South Wales East

Janet Ryder - North Wales
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Owen John Thomas MA - South Wales Central
Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire
Christine Humphreys - North Wales
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Michael German OBE - South Wales East
Peter Black - South Wales West

This Assembly believes that the Arts Council for Wales should defer its decision on its proposed Drama Strategy until after the Assembly has completed its own review of the Arts. We believe that if the Arts Council for Wales proceeds with its new strategy at this stage, it could run counter to the Assembly's priorities.

OPIN-1999-0036 Local Health Groups

Raised on 22 Sept by Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire

15 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Cynog Dafis – Mid & West Wales
Gareth Jones - Conway
Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Nicholas Bourne LLB LLM - Mid and West Wales
Janet Davies - South Wales West
Peter Black - South Wales West
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Dai Lloyd MBBCh MRCP Dip.Ther - South Wales West[R]
Christine Humphreys - North Wales
Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central
Michael German OBE - South Wales East
Peter Black - South Wales West
Geraint Davies - Rhondda

This Assembly recognises the vital role that nurses have in developing and contributing to local health services in our communities. It is essential therefore that nurses are given a seat on Local Health Group Executive Committees so that their expertise can be used fully in the process of commissioning, and improving the health of the population.

OPIN-1999-0038 Funding of the Open University in Wales

Raised on 29 Sep 1999 by

Christine Humphreys - North Wales

7 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire

Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire

Peter Black - South Wales West

Michael German OBE - South Wales East

Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central

This Assembly recognises that the Council of the Open University has expressed support for the transfer of funding for the OU in Wales from the Higher Education Funding Council for England to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. The Assembly supports such a transfer and urges that it takes place in a way which will ensure maximum benefit for students and is based on maintenance or improvement of existing funding per student.

OPIN-1999-0040 Wales Anti-Poverty Network

Raised on 06 Oct 1999 by

Alison Halford – Delyn

27 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East

Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West

Geraint Davies - Rhondda

Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

Janet Ryder - North Wales
Christine Humphreys - North Wales
Val Feld- Swansea East
Lynne Neagle - Torfaen
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Janice Gregory - Ogmere
Richard Edwards - Preseli Pembrokeshire
Huw Lewis - Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
Ann Jones – Vale of Clwyd
Brian Gibbons FRCGP - Aberavon
Karen Sinclair - Clwyd South
Gwenda Thomas - Neath
John Marek - Wrexham
Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central
Lorraine Barrett - Cardiff South and Penarth
Ron Davies - Caerphilly
Peter Black - South Wales West
Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire
Owen John Thomas MA - South Wales Central
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Michael German OBE - South Wales East
Janet Davies - South Wales West
John Griffiths LLB - Newport East

The National Assembly for Wales recognises and applauds the work and aims of the Wales Anti-Poverty Network. We wish them well in their pursuit of the eradication of poverty in Wales and highlighting the destructive effects of poverty. We further signal our agreement that those who live in poverty should be empowered and invited to fully participate in schemes designed to improve their quality of life

OPIN-1999-0043 Global Cultural Diversity Congress 2000

Raised on 12 Oct 1999 by Lorraine Barrett - Cardiff South and Penarth

22 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East
David Melding – South Wales Central
Owen John Thomas - South Wales Central
Christine Chapman – Cynon Valley

Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Janet Ryder - North Wales
Lynne Neagle - Torfaen
Janice Gregory - Ogmore
Richard Edwards - Preseli Pembrokeshire
Brian Gibbons FRCGP - Aberavon
Val Feld - Swansea East
Huw Lewis - Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
John Griffiths LLB - Newport East
Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Jocelyn Davies - South Wales East
Cynog Dafis - Mid and West Wales
Michael German OBE - South Wales East
David Rhys Lloyd – South Wales West
Karen Sinclair - Clwyd South
Alison Halford - Delyn

This Assembly welcomes and gives its full support and endorsement to the Global Cultural Diversity Congress 2000 to be hosted in Cardiff from March 20-23rd. The Assembly recognises that the Congress is likely to be the first major global event of the new millennium to be held in Wales and an ideal opportunity to promote the practical understanding of cultural diversity necessary in a modern and multicultural society

OPIN-1999-0044 Campaign by Cofeb Tryweryn for National Monument

Raised on 12 Oct 1999 by

Ron Davies - Caerphilly
John Marek - Wrexham

21 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East
Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Kirsty Williams - Brecon & Radnorshire
Brian Hancock - Islwyn

Ieuan Wyn Jones – Ynys Mon
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire
Christine Chapman – Cynon Valley
Val Feld – Swansea East
Carwyn Jones - Bridgend
Elin Jones - Ceredigion
Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Cynog Dafis - Mid and West Wales
Janet Ryder - North Wales
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
David Rhys Lloyd – South Wales West
Owen John Thomas – South Wales Central
Karen Sinclair – Clwyd South
Gareth Jones - Conwy
Michael German OBE– South Wales East
Alison Halford - Delyn

*The Assembly will recall the flooding of the Welsh Village of Capel Celyn in 1957 by the Liverpool Corporation to provide water for its own development. The Assembly commends the 35 of the then 36 Welsh MP's who unsuccessfully opposed the flooding thereby demonstrating the need for Wales to have it's own national voice.
The Assembly supports the campaign by Cofeb Tryweryn to establish a permanent national monument on the shores of Llyn Tryweryn to commemorate this significant moment in Welsh history.*

OPIN-1999-0045 Millennium Pardon for Dic Pendryn

Raised on 15 Oct 1999 by

Huw Lewis - Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

24 Subscribers

Michael German - South Wales East
Janet Davies - South Wales West
Phil Williams - South Wales East
Rhodri 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 - Ogmore
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-1999-0049 Credit Union Movement

21 Oct 1999 Raised by

Lorraine Barrett, Peter Black, Jocelyn Davies, John Griffiths LLB

26 Subscribers:

Phil Williams - South Wales East
Brian Gibbons – Aberavon
Karen Sinclair – Clwyd South
Cynog Dafis – Mid & West Wales

Gareth Jones – Conwy
Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West
Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central
Christine Chapman – Cynon Valley
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Michael German – South Wales East
Kirsty Williams - Brecon & Radnorshire
Val Feld – Swansea East
Ieuan Wyn Jones – Ynys Mon
Lynne Neagle - Torfaen
Huw Lewis - Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
Brian Hancock - Islwyn
Janet Ryder – North Wales
Owen John Thomas – South Wales Central
Ron Davies - Caerphilly
Mick Bates – Montgomeryshire
Richard Edwards - Preseli Pembrokeshire
Rhodri Glyn Thomas - Carmarthen & East Dinefwr
Janice Gregory - Ogmore
Elin Jones - Ceredigion
Carwyn Jones – Bridgend

The National Assembly wishes today on International Credit Union Day (October 21 1999) to celebrate the Credit Union movement by supporting the contribution it makes to the economic and social life of Wales. The National Assembly for Wales will help launch its latest reports today. We call on members of the Assembly to support the main recommendations in the reports to ensure the continued evolution of the credit union movement in Wales. We wish the credit union movement in Wales continued success and hope to see it play a major part in the continued development of Welsh life.

OPIN-1999-0050 Repeal of Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988

Raised on 29 October by

Jenny Randerson – Cardiff Central

16 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East
Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central (R)
Dr David Lloyd – South Wales West
Cynog Dafis – Mid & West Wales
Geraint Davies - Rhondda
Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Carmarthen East & Dinefwr
Gareth Jones – Conwy
Janet Davies – South Wales West
Helen Mary Jones - Llanelli
Elin Jones – Ceredigion
Jocelyn Davies – South Wales East
Michael German – South Wales East
Christine Humphries – North Wales
Mick Bates – Montgomeryshire
Kirsty Williams – Brecon & Radnorshire
Peter Black – South Wales West

This Assembly believes that Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 unfairly discriminates against gay men, lesbians and bisexuals, and is a significant obstacle, preventing schools from dealing with homophobic bullying. We believe that the forthcoming Local Government legislation provides an ideal opportunity to repeal this measure.

OPIN-1999-0051 Therapeutic Work and the Minimum Wage

02 Nov 1999 Raised by

Geraint Davies, Helen Mary Jones

13 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East
Pauline Jarman – South Wales Central
Dr David Lloyd- South Wales West
Gareth Jones - Conwy
David Melding – South Wales Central
Ieuan Wyn Jones – Ynys Mon
Brian Gibbons - Aberavon
Janet Ryder – North Wales
Owen John Thomas – South Wales Central
Janet Davies - South Wales West

Elin Jones Ceredigion
Jocelyn Davies - South Wales East
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire

This Assembly believes that the UK Government should reconsider the definition of an 'employed person' for the purposes of the National Minimum Wage. At present those with severe disability undertaking a limited amount of work as therapy (with the express permission of the Benefit Agency) are not exempt from the application of the National Minimum Wage. As a result their entitlement to benefits is at risk and indeed the very provision of the employment as they may no longer be considered by their to be economically viable due to their level of productivity.

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

Raised on 10 November 99 by

Sue Essex – Cardiff North

16 Subscribers

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-1992-0062 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

10 Subscribers

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.

OPIN-1999-0063 Jubilee 2000 and the G7

Raised on 22 November by

Rhodri Glyn Thomas – East Carmarthen and Dinefwr

5 Subscribers

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 November by

John Griffiths – Newport East

Lynne Neagle – Torfaen

6 Subscribers

Christine Chapman - Cynon Valley

Janice Gregory - Ogmore

Karen Sinclair – Clwyd South

Gareth Jones- Conwy

Alison Halford – Delyn

Richard Edwards – Preseli- Pembrokeshire

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-1999-0066 An Annual Welsh Public Holiday on St. David's Day, March 1st

Amendments raised on 25 November by

Owen John Thomas – South Wales Central

John Griffiths – Newport East

Helen Mary Jones – Llanelli

3 Subscribers

Phil Williams - South Wales East
Jocelyn Davies – South Wales East
Gareth Jones - Conwy

The Assembly demands 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.

OPIN-1999-0068 Northern Ireland

Raised on 30 November by

Alun Pugh – Clwyd West

2 Subscriber

Janice Gregory - Ogmore
Karen Sinclair – Clwyd South

The National Assembly applauds the leadership shown in Northern Ireland; welcomes the setting up of devolved government in Northern Ireland and calls upon all parties to fulfil their obligations under the Good Friday Agreement.

The Assembly notes with approval the huge contribution made by the current Secretary of State for Wales during his period at the Northern Ireland Office.