

# Plenary

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Meeting date:  
**Wednesday, 20 November 2013**

Meeting time:  
**13:30**

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



## Votes and Proceedings

(164)

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### **1 Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services**

The item started at 13.30

The first 9 questions were asked. Question 6 was answered by the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

### **2 Questions to the Counsel General**

The item started at 14.15

The question was asked.

### **3 Questions to the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty**

The item started at 14.19

Questions 1–2, 5–6, 8–12 and 14 – 15 were asked. Questions 3, 4, 7 and 13 were withdrawn. Question 11 was answered by the Deputy Minister for Tackling Poverty.

### **4 Motion under Standing Order 10.5 to appoint an acting Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**

The item started at 14.54

**NDM5368**

**Christine Chapman (Cynon Valley)**

**Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Schedule 1, paragraph 4, to the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005 and Standing Order 10.5:

Agrees to nominate Professor Sylvia Margaret Griffiths to Her Majesty for appointment as Acting Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

**The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.**

## **5 Motion to approve the Assembly Commission's Budget 2014/15**

The item started at 14.56

**NDM5361 Angela Burns (Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with Standing Order 20.16:

Agrees the budget of the Assembly Commission for 2014–15, as specified in Table 1 of the “National Assembly for Wales Assembly Commission Budget 2014–15”, laid before the Assembly on 13 November 2013 and that it be incorporated in the Annual Budget Motion under Standing Order 20.26 (ii).

**The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.**

## **6 Welsh Conservatives Debate**

The item started at 15.07

**Voting on the motion and amendments under this item was deferred until Voting Time.**

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

**NDM5363 William Graham (South Wales East)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the Welsh Conservative policy 'A Vision for Welsh Housing';
2. Calls on the Welsh Government to work with the whole market to ensure that a solution to the housing supply crisis is found.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
10	0	38	48

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

**Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Insert as new point 1 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets that decades of failure by Labour and Conservative governments left us with a housing crisis that forced rents higher and higher, left thousands of people with no hope of getting a foot on the property ladder, and resulted in 1.5 million fewer social homes available for rent.

A vote was taken on Amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
4	0	44	48

Amendment 1 was not agreed.

**Amendment 2 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)**

Insert at end of point 1:

'fails to recognise that the most urgent housing issue is the devastating impact of the Bedroom Tax on many social housing tenants thereby affecting social landlords' ability to increase housing supply, and therefore urges the UK Government to repeal the Bedroom Tax'

A vote was taken on Amendment 2:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
33	0	15	48

Amendment 2 was agreed.

**Amendment 3 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets that there are approximately 21,551 long term empty homes in Wales and that the Welsh Government has failed to produce a Wales wide empty homes strategy.

A vote was taken on Amendment 3:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
4	10	34	48

**Amendment 3 was not agreed.**

#### **Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Acknowledges the concern of house builders that bureaucracy within the planning system is a major barrier to the development of new homes and calls on the Welsh Government to use the forthcoming Planning Reform Bill to remove key barriers to the delivery of an effective planning regime.

A vote was taken on Amendment 4:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
22	0	26	48

**Amendment 4 was not agreed.**

#### **Amendment 5 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Welcomes the action being taken by the UK Government to stimulate new house building through equity loans and a mortgage guarantee scheme and calls on the Welsh Government to bring forward a date for the long overdue introduction of Help to Buy Cymru.

A vote was taken on Amendment 5:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
14	0	34	48

**Amendment 5 was not agreed.**

#### **Amendment 6 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Notes that only eleven local councils in Wales still hold council housing stock which restricts the Welsh Conservative vision to rejuvenate a 'Right to Buy' scheme in Wales

and that the power to suspend the Right to Buy for council houses in areas of high demand is a vital tool to help reduce homelessness and a lack of social housing.

A vote was taken on Amendment 6:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
38	0	10	48

**Amendment 6 was agreed.**

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

**NDM5363 William Graham (South Wales East)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the Welsh Conservative policy 'A Vision for Welsh Housing' fails to recognise that the most urgent housing issue is the devastating impact of the Bedroom Tax on many social housing tenants thereby affecting social landlords' ability to increase housing supply, and therefore urges the UK Government to repeal the Bedroom Tax;
2. Notes that only eleven local councils in Wales still hold council housing stock which restricts the Welsh Conservative vision to rejuvenate a 'Right to Buy' scheme in Wales and that the power to suspend the Right to Buy for council houses in areas of high demand is a vital tool to help reduce homelessness and a lack of social housing;
3. Calls on the Welsh Government to work with the whole market to ensure that a solution to the housing supply crisis is found.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
12	0	36	48

**The motion as amended was not agreed.**

## **7 Plaid Cymru Debate**

The item started at 15.59

**Voting on the motion and amendments under this item was deferred until Voting Time.**

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

**NDM5362 Elin Jones (Ceredigion)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes:

- a) the IPCC climate change report's findings that it is 95% certain that human influence on climate caused more than half the observed increase in global average surface temperatures from 1951–2010;
- b) Wales' continuing dependence on fossil fuels for energy, providing some 80% of energy needs;
- c) that control of the exploitation of Wales' shale gas resources, together with control of any benefit deriving from it rests with the UK Government;
- d) the Welsh Government's failure to hit its target of producing 4TWh of electricity from renewables by 2010;
- e) that despite Wales being a net exporter of electricity, bills are higher in Wales than in England or Scotland;

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) develop a detailed 'Route Map' and Action Plan leading to the 2020 renewable energy targets, showing targets for each individual energy type and the actions that will be taken to reach those targets;
- b) put pressure on the UK Government to devolve in full, the energy portfolio and control of Wales' natural resources to the National Assembly;
- c) confirm with Ofgem and the National Grid whether any research has been done into the cost and viability of a submarine cable linking the National Grid between North and south Wales, and if so to provide a copy of that research;
- d) investigate the potential for establishing a publicly-owned, not-for-dividend energy company to invest in energy for the benefit of the people of Wales.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
38	0	10	48

**The motion without amendment was agreed.**

## **8 Stage 3 Standing Order 26.44 debate on the Recovery of Medical Costs for Asbestos Diseases (Wales) Bill**

The item started at 16.55

In accordance with Standing Order 26.36, amendments will be disposed of in the order which the sections and schedules to which they relate, arise in the Bill.

The Amendments have been grouped for the purposes of debate and the groupings will be debated as follows:

**1. Liability**

11, 13

**2. Palliative Care**

4

**3. Excluded Services**

5, 6, 10

**4. Timescale for Recovering Costs**

7

**5. Appeals and waivers**

1, 2, 3

**6. Use of Information**

12

**7. Use of Amounts Reimbursed**

14, 15

**8. Power to Suspend the Act**

8, 9

Voting was taken in the order set out in the Marshalled List of Amendments.

Amendment 11 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

A vote was taken on Amendment 4:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
21	0	26	47

Amendment 4 was not agreed.

A vote was taken on Amendment 5:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
20	0	26	46

Amendment 5 was not agreed.

As amendment 5 was not agreed, amendments 6 and 10 fell.

A vote was taken on Amendment 7:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
12	0	37	49

Amendment 7 was not agreed.

Amendment 1 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 2 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 3 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 12 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 13 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 14 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 15 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

A vote was taken on Amendment 8:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
10	1	37	48

Amendment 8 was not agreed.

As amendment 8 was not agreed, amendment 9 fell.

All sections and schedules of the Bill were deemed agreed, concluding Stage 3 proceedings.

9 Stage 4 Standing Order 26.47 motion to approve the Recovery of Medical Costs for Asbestos Diseases (Wales) Bill

The item started at 17.59



At the conclusion of Stage 3 the Minister may propose that the Bill be passed in accordance with Standing Order 26.47. If the proposition is agreed:

Stage 4 Standing Order 26.47 motion to approve the Recovery of Medical Costs for Asbestos Diseases (Wales) Bill.

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
38	0	10	48

**The motion was agreed.**

### **Voting Time**

The item started at 18.14

### **10Short Debate**

The item started at 18.18

**NDM5360 Keith Davies (Llanelli):** Mandatory state regulation of the hairdressing industry in Wales: a wider public health concern.

The meeting concluded at 18:37

**The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Tuesday, 26 November 2013**