



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Cofnod y Trafodion**

**The National Assembly for Wales
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 3 Mai 2006
Wednesday, 3 May 2006**

Cynnwys
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Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y lefarwyd hwy ynnddi yn y Siambr. Yn ogystal,
cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad Saesneg o eiriau a lefarwyd yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the Chamber. In
addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches has been included.

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 2 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 2 p.m. with the Presiding Officer in the Chair.*

Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 1, **The Presiding Officer:** Question 1, OAQ1473(FM), yn ôl. OAQ1473(FM), has been withdrawn.

Polisi Chwaraeon Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru The Welsh Assembly Government Policy for Sport

Q2 John Griffiths: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government policy for sport? OAQ1487(FM)

C2 John Griffiths: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am bolisi chwaraeon Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru? OAQ1487(FM)

The First Minister: I join other Assembly Members in sending our congratulations to Gareth Jenkins on his new job as Welsh national rugby coach, and to Glamorgan Cricket Club on winning the right to host an Ashes test match three years' hence. We expect to see the publication shortly of the action plan that will give implementation details for our strategy, 'Climbing Higher', which outlines our policies to develop sport and physical activity in Wales over the next 20 years.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ymunaf ag Aelodau eraill y Cynulliad i longyfarch Gareth Jenkins ar ei swydd newydd fel hyfforddwr rygbi cenedlaethol Cymru, a Chlwb Criced Morgannwg ar ennill yr hawl i gynnal un o gemau prawf Cyfres y Llundw ymhen tair blynedd. Disgwylwn i'r cynllun gweithredu gael ei gyhoeddi'n fuan a fydd yn rhoi manylion gweithredu ein strategaeth, 'Dringo'n Uwch', sy'n amlinellu ein polisiau i ddatblygu gweithgareddau chwaraeon ac ymarfer corff yng Nghymru yn ystod yr 20 mlynedd nesaf.

John Griffiths: Would you agree that Newport City Council should be congratulated on its achievements in developing sport in the city, with the coming of the Ryder Cup in 2010, the development of the sports village at Spitty, which includes the Wales National Velodrome indoor cycling track, and the many major road-cycling championship events that it has hosted in recent years? Would you agree that that has great cross-cutting benefits for the people of Newport, and that the Welsh Assembly Government should work closely with Newport City Council to maximise the benefits of these sporting developments in the years to come?

John Griffiths: A gytunech y dylid llongyfarch Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd ar ei lwyddiannau yn datblygu chwaraeon yn y ddinas, gyda dyfodiad Cwpan Ryder yn 2010, datblygiad y pentref chwaraeon yn Spitty, sy'n cynnwys trac beicio dan do Felodrom Cenedlaethol Cymru, a'r llu o ddigwyddiadau pencampwriaeth beicio ar y ffordd a gynhaliwyd yno yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf? A gytunech fod hynny'n dwyn trawsdoriad o fuddiannau i bobl Casnewydd, ac y dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru weithio'n agos gyda Chyngor Dinas Casnewydd er mwyn gwneud y gorau o'r buddiannau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r datblygiadau chwaraeon hyn yn y blynyddoedd i ddod?

The First Minister: I agree with you about the remarkable concentration of different practice and playing facilities in the Spitty district of Newport, just east of the river Usk,

Y Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf â chi o ran y crynodiad trawiadol o wahanol gyfleusterau ymarfer a chwarae sydd yn ardal Spitty yng Nghasnewydd, i'r dwyrain o afon Wysg,

which I visited some years ago with Rosemary Butler. It is important to realise that that remarkable concentration of sports facilities, combined with the existence of the Celtic Manor Resort, could be of relevance if we could persuade a big team from a long way away from Europe to use them for acclimatisation training in preparation for the London Olympic Games in 2012.

Owen John Thomas: You will be aware that the Olympic Lottery will be starting in a few years' time, and that it has been estimated that a large proportion of the lottery funding that sport in Wales receives will be lost as a result. What steps are you taking to ensure that other funding will be available so that support for sport in Wales does not decline during that three or four year period?

The First Minister: I am sure that that will be covered in the action plan, on which we are working with the Sports Council for Wales at the moment and which we hope to see published. I do not think that one should, in any way, regret the coming of the Olympic Games to London in 2012; that is of immense benefit to Britain as a whole. It will provide role models and a concentration on sport and physical activity, and it will bring benefits for some of the reasons that I mentioned in my answer to John Griffiths.

Ann Jones: When making the Welsh Assembly Government's sport policy will you include all types of sport across Wales? That includes football from the grass roots up. On that point, we are grateful that the Racecourse ground in Wrexham appears to have been saved, but we ought to be looking at ways in which we, as a Government, can ensure that such facilities are not lost in north Wales.

The First Minister: That has been a matter of enormous concern to the citizens of Wrexham and north Wales in general, given the prospect of their league club becoming homeless following its financial difficulties and its relegation as a result of going into administration. However, luckily, it now appears that it has new owners and that the ground is saved. We can, hopefully, look

ardal yr ymwelais â hi rai blynyddoedd yn ôl gyda Rosemary Butler. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn sylweddoli y gallai'r crynodiad trawiadol hwnnw o gyfleusterau chwaraeon, ynghyd â Gwesty'r Celtic Manor, fod yn berthnasol pe gallem ddarbwyllo tîm mawr o wlad ymhell o Ewrop i'w defnyddio ar gyfer hyfforddiant ymaddasu i baratoi ar gyfer Gemau Olympaidd Llundain yn 2012.

Owen John Thomas: Byddwch yn gwybod y bydd y Loteri Olympaidd yn dechrau mewn ychydig flynyddoedd, a bod amcangyfrifon yn awgrymu y bydd cyfran helaeth o'r arian loteri y mae chwaraeon Cymru yn ei gael yn diflannu o ganlyniad. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau y bydd arian arall ar gael fel na fydd y gefnogaeth i chwaraeon yng Nghymru yn dirywio yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw o dair i bedair mlynedd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn siŵr yr ymdrinnir â hynny yn y cynllun gweithredu yr ydym yn gweithio arno gyda Chyngor Chwaraeon Cymru ar hyn o bryd ac yr ydym yn gobeithio y caiff ei gyhoeddi. Nid wyf yn credu y dylid ystyried dyfodiad y Gemau Olympaidd i Lundain yn 2012 fel peth drwg o gwbl; bydd o fudd enfawr i Brydain gyfan. Bydd yn creu rôl-fodelau ac yn peri i bobl ganolbwyntio ar chwaraeon ac ymarfer corff, a bydd yn dod â buddiannau am rai o'r rhesymau a grybwyllais yn fy ateb i John Griffiths.

Ann Jones: Pan fyddwch yn llunio polisi chwaraeon Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a gynhwyswch bob math o chwaraeon ledled Cymru? Mae hynny'n cynnwys pêl-droed o lawr gwlad i fyny. Ar y pwynt hwnnw, yr ydym yn ddiolchgar bod y Cae Ras yn Wrecsam wedi ei achub i bob golwg, ond dylem fod yn edrych ar ffyrdd y gallwn ni, fel Llywodraeth, sicrhau na cholllir cyfleusterau o'r fath yn y gogledd.

Y Prif Weinidog: Bu hwnnw'n fater o bryder enfawr i ddinasyddion Wrecsam a'r gogledd yn gyffredinol, o ystyried y posibilrwydd y byddai eu clwb cynghrair yn colli ei gartref yn dilyn ei drafferthion ariannol a'r ffaith ei fod wedi disgyn yn y gynghrair ers iddo fynd i ddwylo'r gweinyddwyr. Fodd bynnag, yn ffodus, ymddengys fod ganddo berchnogion newydd

forward to exciting developments for Wrexham football club and for the Racecourse ground, which is so much part of north Wales's sporting history.

erbyn hyn a bod y cae wedi ei achub. Gobeithio y gallwn edrych ymlaen at ddatblygiadau cyffrous i glwb pêl-droed Wrecsam a'r Cae Ras, sy'n rhan mor bwysig o hanes chwaraeon y gogledd.

Cyfres Adroddiadau Ddiweddaraf Prif Swyddog Meddygol Cymru The Most Recent Chief Medical Officer for Wales's Report Series

Q3 Irene James: Will the First Minister make a statement on the most recent Chief Medical Officer for Wales's report series and how it is influencing Welsh Assembly Government policy? OAQ1491(FM)

C3 Irene James: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am gyfres adroddiadau ddiweddaraf Prif Swyddog Meddygol Cymru a sut y mae'n dylanwadu ar bolisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru? OAQ1491 (FM)

The First Minister: I have just had my first meeting with the new chief medical officer, Dr Tony Jewell. I am sure that we all welcome him to his post, and I am sure that he will be interested in new cures for laryngitis, which will be of interest to you, Irene, given your current problem.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf newydd gael fy nghyfarfod cyntaf â'r prif swyddog meddygol newydd, Dr Tony Jewell. Yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod i gyd yn ei groesawu i'w swydd, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd ganddo ddiddordeb mewn dulliau newydd o wella dolur gwddf, a fydd o ddiddordeb i chi, Irene, o ystyried eich problem bresennol.

The report produced last year by the acting chief medical officer, Dr David Salter, showed how health and wellbeing varies between the 22 local health board and local authority areas of Wales. We need to know why that happens and what we can do about it. That is the inevitable consequence of getting that accurate mapping, provided for us by Dr David Salter's work.

Dangosodd yr adroddiad a gynhyrchwyd y llynedd gan y prif swyddog meddygol dros dro, Dr David Salter, gymaint y mae iechyd a lles yn amrywio rhwng 22 ardal bwrdd iechyd lleol ac awdurdod lleol Cymru. Mae angen inni wybod pam fod hynny'n digwydd a beth y gallwn ei wneud yn ei gylch. Dyna ganlyniad anochel cael y mapio cywir hwnnw, a gawsom yng ngwaith Dr David Salter.

Jonathan Morgan: The Royal College of Nursing has expressed concern that NHS trusts in Wales and across the UK will seek to make efficiency savings by not advertising vacancies in the nursing profession when they arise. Are you aware of any NHS trust in Wales that is in that position? If not, will you ask the Minister for Health and Social Services to investigate?

Jonathan Morgan: Mae'r Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol wedi mynegi pryder y bydd ymddiriedolaethau GIG yng Nghymru a ledled y DU yn ceisio gwneud arbedion effeithlonrwydd drwy beidio â hysbysebu swyddi gwag yn y proffesiwn nyrsio pan fyddant yn codi. A wyddoch am unrhyw ymddiriedolaeth GIG yng Nghymru sydd yn y sefyllfa honno? Os na wyddoch, a ofynnwch i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ymchwilio?

The First Minister: I am not aware of any, but I will certainly ask the health Minister to write to you on that subject.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni wn am unrhyw ymddiriedolaeth o'r fath, ond yn sicr gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog iechyd ysgrifennu atoch ar y pwnc hwnnw.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Brif Weinidog, mae'n siŵr bod llawer o bethau yn dylanwadu ar bolisi y Llywodraeth, ond a yw

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: First Minister, I am sure that many matters influence Government policy, but do the recent statements of your

datganiadau diweddar eich aelodau chi yn sir Gaerfyrddin, yn beirniadu byrddau iechyd lleol ac yn dweud eu bod llawer yn rhy fach i gomisiynu, yn ei ddylanwadu? Yn hytrach na chynllunio ar gyfer oes, dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ganolbwyntio ar yr angen i uno byrddau iechyd lleol, hwyrach gyda'r ymddiriedolaethau. Ai dyna eich syniad mawr newydd chi ar gyfer iechyd, gan mai eich hen un oedd creu'r byrddau iechyd yn y lle cyntaf?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym bob amser wedi dweud bod rhyddid gan fyrddau iechyd ac ymddiriedolaethau i roi cais busnes ger ein bron yn gofyn am iddynt gael eu huno. Yr ydym wedi dweud hynny ers rhyw ddwy flynedd, ond nid ydym wedi cael cais o'r fath, fel mae'n digwydd. Er hynny, mae pob hawl ganddynt a phob croeso iddynt wneud cais busnes os ydynt yn meddwl mai dyna'r ffordd orau o fwrw ymlaen, gan wneud yr hyn y mae Powys wedi ei wneud yn barod, a lle mae ffiniau'r bwrdd a'r awdurdod yr un peth. Byddem yn hapus i ystyried cais o'r fath.

Swyddogaeth Ysbytai Cymuned The Function of Community Hospitals

Q4 Mark Isherwood: Will the First Minister make a statement on the function of community hospitals in Wales?
OAQ1486(FM)

The First Minister: I think that we would all agree that the future of the NHS in Wales, as elsewhere, will move many services closer to local populations and away from the classic *Holby City* model—or Llanholby City model if you watch S4C. Community hospitals are part of that future and, as with all parts of the health service, what individual hospitals provide will change and develop to meet changing needs and circumstances.

Mark Isherwood: Proposed local treatment centres have been described to me as 'community hospitals without beds', albeit covering a wider area. At the request of Prestatyn campaigners, and on behalf of campaigners who have approached me and colleagues across Wales, you may be aware

own members in Carmarthenshire, criticising local health boards and claiming that they are far too small to commission, influence it at all? Rather than designing for life, the Government of Wales should concentrate on the need to merge local health boards, possibly by merging them with the health trusts. Is that your new big idea for health, given that your last one was to create the local health boards in the first place?

The First Minister: We have always said that local health boards and trusts are free to submit a business case to us asking for them to be merged. We have been saying that for some two years, but we have not received such a case, as it happens. However, they have every right, and are perfectly welcome, to make a business case if they think that that is the best way forward, by doing what has already been done in Powys, and provided that the health board's and the authority's boundaries are the same. We would be happy to consider such a case.

C4 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am swyddogaeth ysbytai cymuned yng Nghymru?
OAQ1486(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Credaf y byddem i gyd yn cytuno y bydd y GIG yng Nghymru, fel ym mhobman arall, yn y dyfodol yn symud llawer o wasanaethau yn nes at boblogaethau lleol ac yn bellach oddi wrth fodel clasurol *Holby City*—neu fodel Llanholby City os ydych yn gwyllo S4C. Mae ysbytai cymuned yn rhan o'r dyfodol hwnnw ac, fel gyda phob rhan o'r gwasanaeth iechyd, bydd yr hyn y mae ysbytai unigol yn ei ddarparu yn newid ac yn datblygu i ddiwallu anghenion ac amgylchiadau cyfnewidiol.

Mark Isherwood: Clywais y canolfannau trin lleol arfaethedig yn cael eu disgrifio fel 'ysbytai cymuned heb welyau', heblaw eu bod yn gofalu am ardal fwy. Ar gais ymgyrchwyr ym Mhrestatyn, ac ar ran ymgyrchwyr sydd wedi dod ataf i a chyd-Aelodau ledled Cymru, efallai y gwyddoch fy

that I am setting up a Welsh branch of CHANT—community hospitals acting nationally together—which is a cross-party campaign group first established in Westminster to lobby Ministers and to raise awareness of the nationwide threat to local community hospitals. Will you encourage your party members in the Assembly to become patrons of the all-party CHANT Cymru group?

The First Minister: I am not sure whether it is a proper function of mine to tell Assembly Members whether they should or should not become patrons of individual causes. I am sure that they are well able to make their own minds up on that issue.

On the more general issue of community hospitals, change will impact on community hospitals as it will on district general hospitals, because healthcare is being moved closer to the individual. We would all like our own homes to act as a community hospital when we need it. If we cannot have the medical treatment and rehabilitation that we need at home, we want it to be as close to home as possible, and that will usually be in a community hospital. If it cannot be, because our needs are too great, then it will be in a district general hospital until we can move out to a community hospital. Community hospitals have a major backbone role to play in the future of the NHS in Wales.

Alun Ffred Jones: Ar yr un trywydd, Brif Weinidog, mae'r adroddiad diweddar am ad-drefnu ysbytai gogledd Cymru yn argymhell canoli'r prif weithgaredd yn y tri phrif ysbyty. Y cwestiwn sy'n codi wedyn yw beth fydd hanes yr ysbytai cymuned. Yr ydych newydd ddweud y byddant â rhan ganolog yng ngwasanaeth iechyd y dyfodol, ac eto, yr hyn a welwn ar hyd a lled Cymru, yn enwedig yn y Gymru wledig, yw ymddiriedolaethau lleol yn cynnig cau yr union ysbytai hynny. Sut ydych chi'n cysoni'r ddau osodiad hynny?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn rhwydd iawn. Yr ydym yn gobeithio gweld cleifion sy'n ddifrifol wael yn mynd i ysbytai aciwt, yn aros yno am y cyfnod byrraf y mae'n bosibl i

mod yn sefydlu cangen CHANT—ysbytai cymuned yn gweithredu'n genedlaethol gyda'i gilydd— i Gymru, sef grŵp ymgyrchu trawsbleidiol a sefydlwyd yn San Steffan yn wreiddiol er mwyn lloŷo Gweinidogion ac i godi ymwybyddiaeth ynghylch y bygythiad cenedlaethol i ysbytai cymuned lleol. A anogwch aelodau eich plaid yn y Cynulliad i gefnogi grŵp trawsbleidiol CHANT Cymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw'n briodol imi ddweud wrth Aelodau'r Cynulliad pa un a ddylent gefnogi achosion unigol ai peidio. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gallant benderfynu ar y mater hwnnw drostynt eu hunain.

O ran ysbytai cymuned fel mater mwy cyffredinol, bydd newid yn effeithio ar ysbytai cymuned fel y bydd yn effeithio ar ysbytai cyffredinol dosbarth, oherwydd mae gofal iechyd yn cael ei symud yn nes at yr unigolyn. Fe hoffem i gyd pe bai ein cartrefi yn gweithredu fel ysbyty cymuned pan fo angen ysbyty arnom. Os na allwn gael y driniaeth feddygol a'r gwasanaeth adsefydlu y mae eu hangen arnom yn ein cartrefi, yr ydym am eu cael mor agos â phosibl at ein cartrefi, ac mewn ysbyty cymuned y bydd hynny fel arfer. Os na all hynny fod, gan fod ein hanghenion yn rhy fawr, bydd hynny mewn ysbyty cyffredinol tan y gallwn symud allan i ysbyty cymuned. Mae rôl fawr gan ysbytai cymuned i'w chwarae yn y dyfodol fel agwrn cefn i'r GIG yng Nghymru.

Alun Ffred Jones: Along the same lines, First Minister, the recent report on the reorganisation of hospitals in north Wales recommends concentrating the main activity in the three major hospitals. The question that then arises is what happens to the community hospitals. You have just said that they will have a central role to play in the future of the health service, and yet what we see throughout Wales, especially in rural Wales, is local trusts proposing to close precisely those hospitals. How do you reconcile those two statements?

The First Minister: Very easily. We hope to see patients who are seriously ill being admitted to acute hospitals, staying there for the shortest period that it is possible for

feddygon a nyrsys ei drefnu, ac wedyn yn mynd i ysbyty cymuned i wella, lle mae ymwelwyr a theulu yn gallu ymweld ar adegau sy'n gyfleus iddynt hwy. Bydd hynny yn helpu cleifion i wella oherwydd cariad eu teulu ac ati. Felly, dylai cleifion wella mewn ysbytai cymuned os nad ydynt yn ddigon cryf i fynd adref.

2.10 p.m.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): Given the threat to some community hospitals, and some district general hospitals in west Wales—Withybush and Bronglais come to mind—from your Government, do you welcome the statement from two of your Members—a Deputy Minister and a backbencher—that the number of local health boards should be reduced? Of course, they supported having 22 when the vote was taken.

The First Minister: With your policy of shifting blame, you state that everything must be the fault of the Assembly Government. You made a particular point, which is not a fact, and I ask you to rethink it, that the Assembly Government is proposing these changes. However, it is the local health community—the trusts, boards and community health councils in the area—that is proposing these changes. You should take that back, and be more factual. Do backbenchers have views on the numbers of boards and trusts? They may well have. As I have said before, it is entirely open to boards and trusts to come forward with plans for mergers, most especially when they have the same boundaries, and we have welcomed that from day one. So far, apart from Powys, we have not had any bids to do that.

Nick Bourne: On whose proposal it is, I cannot remember whether you were in the Chamber when I put the question to Brian Gibbons before the recess, but I asked him whether he supported this and he did not distance himself from these proposals. Perhaps you would like to do so now, if you, like me, feel that they are unworkable. You will recall that the Conservative Party has

doctors and nurses to arrange, and then going to a community hospital to recuperate, with visitors and family able to visit at times most convenient for them. That will help patients to recover, because of the care of their loved ones and so on. Therefore, patients should recuperate in community hospitals if they are not well enough to go home.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): O ystyried y bygythiad o du eich Llywodraeth i rai ysbytai cymuned, a rhai ysbytai cyffredinol yn y gorllewin—daw Llwyn Helyg a Bronglais i'r meddwl—a ydych yn croesawu'r datganiad gan ddau o'ch Aelodau—Dirprwy Weinidog a meinciwr cefn—y dylid lleihau nifer y byrddau iechyd lleol? Wrth gwrs, yr oeddent o blaid cael 22 pan bleidleisiwyd ar y mater.

Y Prif Weinidog: Gyda'ch polisi o drosglwyddo'r bai, honnwyd mai bai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yw popeth. Gwnaethoch bwynt penodol, nad yw'n ffaith, a gofynnaf ichi ei ailystyried, mai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad sy'n cynnig y newidiadau hyn. Fodd bynnag, y gymuned iechyd leol—yr ymddiriedolaethau, y byrddau a'r cynghorau iechyd cymuned yn yr ardal—sy'n cynnig y newidiadau hyn. Dylech gymryd hynny'n ôl, a chadw at ffeithiau. A oes barn gan y meincwyr cefn ynghylch niferoedd y byrddau a'r ymddiriedolaethau? Mae'n bosibl iawn bod ganddynt. Fel yr wyf wedi dweud o'r blaen, mae pob rhyddid i fyrddau ac ymddiriedolaethau gyflwyno cynlluniau ar gyfer uno, yn arbennig pan fydd yr un ffiniau ganddynt, ac yr ydym wedi croesawu hynny o'r cychwyn cyntaf. Hyd yma, ac eithrio Powys, nid ydym wedi cael ceisiadau i wneud hynny.

Nick Bourne: O ran cynnig pwy ydyw, ni allaf gofio pa un a oeddech yn y Siambr pan ofynnais y cwestiwn i Brian Gibbons cyn y toriad, ond gofynnais iddo pa un a gefnogai hyn ac nid ymbellhaodd oddi wrth y cynigion hyn. Efallai yr hoffech wneud hynny yn awr, os credwch, fel finnau, nad oes modd eu gweithredu. Fe gofiwch fod y Blaid Geidwadol wedi bod yn gadarn yn erbyn cael

been steadfastly against the 22 local health boards—we saw them as bureaucratic, and spiralling out of control with massive costs. We were against them. I put it to you again that two of your own Members—a backbencher and a Deputy Minister—have spoken out against them. Is that your policy or just theirs? One of those Members is a part of your administration.

The First Minister: I am glad that you have now withdrawn what you said in your original question, which was that these were Assembly Government proposals. I think that you accept that you were completely wrong about that and I am pleased to have that on record. As regards what individual backbenchers have said about boards and trusts merging, it has been our policy from the start that if a board and trust have the same boundaries—and that is particularly relevant in the Dyfed area—and want to come forward with a business plan that demonstrates that they would work better if they merged, then we will look at it. Indeed, we would do so sympathetically.

Nick Bourne: The First Minister should listen carefully. I certainly did not retract what I said. As far as I can tell, this is your policy. You have not distanced yourself from it, nor has the Minister for Health and Social Services. I will ask you the question for a third time. Do you agree—and it was not the policy at the time, or you would not have proposed having 22 local health boards—that it makes sense to scale back the number of local health boards to cut back on the bureaucratic nightmare and the spiralling costs that are cutting into real healthcare? Two of your Members—one in the administration and one on the back benches—now see that.

The First Minister: You have done a double flip-flop now, Nick. Even David Cameron does not do that in the space of five minutes. Clearly, the Assembly Government has encouraged the local health community to put forward proposals. They are not our proposals. It is up to the local health

22 o fyrddau iechyd lleol—yr oeddem yn credu eu bod yn fiwrocraataidd, a bod eu costau anferthol yn mynd y tu hwnt i bob rheolaeth. Yr oeddem yn eu herbyn. Dywedaf wrthy ch eto fod dau o'ch Aelodau chi—meinciwr cefn a Dirprwy Weinidog—wedi datgan eu bod yn eu herbyn. Ai eich polisi chi yw hynny neu eu polisi hwy yn unig? Mae un o'r Aelodau hynny yn rhan o'ch gweinyddiaeth.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod bellach wedi tynnu'r hyn a ddywedaso ch yn eich cwestiwn gwreiddiol yn ôl, sef mai cynigion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad oedd y rhain. Credaf eich bod yn derbyn eich bod yn hollol anghywir ynghylch hynny ac yr wyf yn falch bod hynny yn y cofnod. O ran yr hyn y mae meincwyr cefn unigol wedi ei ddweud ynghylch uno byrddau ac ymddiriedolaethau, bu'n bolisi gennym o'r cychwyn, os yw bwrdd ac ymddiriedolaeth yn rhannu'r un ffiniau—ac mae hynny'n arbennig o berthnasol yn ardal Dyfed—a'u bod am gyflwyno cynllun busnes sy'n dangos y byddent yn gweithio'n well pe byddent yn uno, yna byddem yn ystyried hynny. Yn wir, byddem yn gwneud hynny gyda chydymdeimlad.

Nick Bourne: Dylai'r Prif Weinidog wrando'n ofalus. Yn sicr ni thynnais fy ngeiriau yn ôl. O'r hyn a welaf, eich polisi chi ydyw. Nid ydych wedi ymbellhau oddi wrtho, ac nid yw'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi gwneud hynny ychwaith. Gofynnaf y cwestiwn ichi am y trydydd tro. A gytunwch—ac nid oedd yn bolisi ar y pryd, neu ni fydech wedi cynnig cael 22 o fyrddau iechyd lleol—y byddai lleihau nifer y byrddau iechyd lleol yn gwneud synnwyr, er mwyn cwtdogi ar yr hunllef fiwrocraataidd a'r costau cynyddol sy'n cael effaith andwyol ar ofal iechyd gwirioneddol? Mae dau o'ch Aelodau—un yn y weinyddiaeth ac un ar y meinciau cefn—yn gweld hynny erbyn hyn.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych newydd newid eich safbwynt ddwywaith, Nick. Nid yw hyd yn oed David Cameron yn gwneud hynny mewn llai na phum munud. Yn amlwg, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi annog y gymuned iechyd leol i gyflwyno cynigion. Nid ein cynigion ni ydynt. Penderfyniad y

community to make these proposals. There is no point your trying to point the finger at the Assembly Government. Do you or do you not accept that these proposals have come from the local health community—the boards, the trusts and the community health councils? You are wrong, Nick, to try to put the blame on the Assembly Government. On the other issue, it is a matter for the boards and trusts. We believe in the ability of those bodies to put forward a business case for that. So far, we have not had a business case from the Dyfed area, but because the boundaries are the same, we would welcome sympathetically any proposals for mergers that come forward.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): I noted that in answer to an earlier question you talked about healthcare being as close to the individual as possible. You will recall that last year there was a debacle in parts of Wales when out-of-hours services were first introduced. In your view, is cutting the number of primary healthcare centres in Gwent by half an appropriate way to ensure that people get the out-of-hours care from their GPs that you would expect, close to the individual?

The First Minister: Everybody in the health service, and all consumers of it, as we all are, would want to see the impossible combination of a full range of services in the street next to your house. We know that we cannot have that. It is not possible, and therefore someone has to have the judgment of Solomon and decide how large a population is needed to justify a certain range of services. I am not clear as to your specific point about primary care centres in Gwent. Perhaps you would like to write to me about that, and Brian Gibbons or I will respond to the detail behind your question.

Michael German: I will give you some of the detail. The local health boards and the Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust are proposing to close the primary care centres in Aberbeeg, Griffithstown and Chepstow. That means that people will have to travel to the centres in Newport, Abergavenny and Ystrad Mynach

gymuned iechyd leol yw cyflwyno'r cynigion hyn. Nid oes diben ichi geisio beio Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. A ydych yn derbyn bod y cynigion hyn wedi dod o'r gymuned iechyd leol – y byrddau, yr ymddiriedolaethau a'r cynghorau iechyd cymuned—ai peidio? Yr ydych ar fai, Nick, am geisio beio Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. O ran y mater arall, mater i'r byrddau a'r ymddiriedolaethau ydyw. Credwn yng ngallu'r cyrff hynny i gyflwyno achos busnes dros hynny. Hyd yma, ni chawsom achos busnes o ardal Dyfed, ond gan fod y ffiniau yr un fath, byddem yn croesawu ac yn cydymdeimlo ag unrhyw gynigion i uno a gyflwynir.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Sylwais eich bod wrth ateb cwestiwn cynharach wedi sôn am gael gofal iechyd mor agos â phosibl at yr unigolyn. Fe gofiwch ei bod yn draed moch mewn rhannau o Gymru y llynedd pan gyflwynwyd gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau am y tro cyntaf. Yn eich barn chi, a yw haneru nifer y canolfannau gofal iechyd sylfaenol yng Ngwent yn ffordd briodol o sicrhau bod pobl yn cael y gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau y byddech yn ei ddisgwyl gan eu meddygon teulu, yn agos at yr unigolyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddai pawb yn y gwasanaeth iechyd, a'i holl ddefnyddwyr, gan ein cynnwys ni i gyd, am weld cyfuniad amhosibl ystod lawn o wasanaethau yn y stryd y drws nesaf i'ch tŷ. Gwyddom na all hynny fod. Nid yw'n bosibl, ac felly mae angen doethineb Solomon ar rywun i benderfynu ar faint y boblogaeth y mae ei hangen er mwyn cyfiawnhau ystod benodol o wasanaethau. Nid wyf yn deall eich pwynt penodol ynghylch canolfannau gofal sylfaenol yng Ngwent. Efallai yr hoffech ysgrifennu ataf ynglŷn â hynny, a gall Brian Gibbons neu minnau ymateb i fanylion eich cwestiwn.

Michael German: Rhoddaf rai manylion i chi. Mae'r byrddau iechyd lleol ac Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gofal Iechyd Gwent yn cynnig cau'r canolfannau gofal sylfaenol yn Aber-big, Griffithstown a Chas-gwent. Mae hynny'n golygu y bydd yn rhaid i bobl deithio i'r canolfannau yng Nghasnewydd, y

if they want to see a doctor at the weekend or out of hours. For someone who lives in Abersychan, Abertillery or Chepstow, that is a long way to travel. Will you tell me whether that equates with the service provision that you talked about earlier, which is that primary care should be as close to the individual as possible? Does cutting the number by half, which means that half the population will have to travel twice the distance, correlate with the decision to provide primary healthcare services as closely as possible to the people, which is what you believe to be right?

The First Minister: They need to be as close as possible given the efficacy of the treatment being provided. You have not responded to the two irreconcilable objectives. We would all like a district general hospital that provides a full range of services at the end of every street, but we know that we will not get that. We would like to have a GP at the end of every street, but we know that we will not get that. We would also like to have an out-of-hours facility providing services on a Saturday and Sunday at the end of every street, but we know that we will not get that. This all depends on the range of services required and the population required to justify that range of services being made available on an out-of-hours basis. I do not know what is behind your question, and I would be grateful if you would write to me or to Brian Gibbons so that you have a full and detailed reply.

Michael German: It is certainly a very long street from Abertillery to Newport, or from Abertillery to Abergavenny, yet people in Abertillery are being directed to Newport and Abergavenny if they need a doctor in the evening or on a Saturday or a Sunday. These proposals come from the healthcare trust and the local health boards, who say that they cannot find enough GPs to support the service as it stands. If the GP is part of your primary healthcare team, surely to goodness you would expect to find one at least within your county at night or within the area around your county.

Fenni ac Ystrad Mynach os ydynt am weld meddyg ar y penwythnos neu y tu allan i oriau. I rywun sy'n byw yn Abersychan, Abertillery neu Gas-gwent, mae hynny'n bellter hir i deithio. A allwch ddweud wrthyf pa un a yw hynny'n cyfateb i'r ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau y bu ichi sôn amdani yn gynharach, sef y dylai gofal sylfaenol fod mor agos â phosibl i'r unigolyn? A yw haneri'r rhif, sy'n golygu y bydd yn rhaid i hanner y boblogaeth deithio ddwywaith y pellter, yn cyfateb i'r penderfyniad i ddarparu gwasanaethau gofal iechyd sylfaenol mor agos â phosibl i'r bobl, sef yr hyn sy'n gywir yn eich barn chi?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae angen iddynt fod mor agos â phosibl o ystyried effeithiolrwydd y driniaeth a ddarperir. Nid ydych wedi ymateb i'r ddau amcan anghyson. Byddai pob un ohonom yn dymuno gweld ysbyty cyffredinol dosbarth sy'n darparu ystod lawn o wasanaethau ar ddiwedd pob stryd, ond gwyddom nad yw hynny'n bosibl. Byddem yn hoffi gweld meddyg teulu ar ddiwedd pob stryd, ond gwyddom nad yw hynny'n bosibl. Hoffem weld cyfleuster y tu allan i oriau hefyd sy'n darparu gwasanaethau ar ddydd Sadwrn a dydd Sul ar ddiwedd pob stryd, ond gwyddom nad yw hynny'n bosibl. Mae hyn oll yn dibynnu ar yr amrywiaeth o wasanaethau sydd ei angen a'r boblogaeth sydd ei hangen i gyfiawnhau'r ystod o wasanaethau sydd ar gael y tu allan i oriau. Ni wn beth sydd y tu ôl i'ch cwestiwn, a byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi pe baech yn ysgrifennu ataf i neu at Brian Gibbons i gael ateb llawn a manwl.

Michael German: Yn sicr, mae'n stryd hir iawn o Abertillery i Gasnewydd, neu o Abertillery i'r Fenni, ond eto mae pobl yn Abertillery yn cael eu cyfeirio i Gasnewydd a'r Fenni os oes angen meddyg arnynt gyda'r nos neu ar ddydd Sadwrn neu ddydd Sul. Daw'r cynigion hyn gan yr ymddiriedolaeth gofal iechyd a'r byrddau iechyd lleol, sy'n datgan na allant ddod o hyd i ddigon o feddygon teulu i gynnal y gwasanaeth presennol. Os yw'r meddyg teulu yn rhan o'ch tîm gofal iechyd sylfaenol, does bosib y byddech yn disgwyl canfod un o leiaf o fewn eich sir gyda'r nos neu o fewn yr ardal o angylch eich sir.

The First Minister: Yes, but this depends on the distances and on the range of services provided on an out-of-hours basis. It is difficult to take this question further without more detail from you as to what lies behind it. Apart from your one observation about the difficulty in recruiting doctors willing to work out of hours, I do not know the basis for making these proposals. Therefore, I would welcome a letter providing that detail, so that we can get a reply that will deal with the basis of the decision that you describe.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hynny'n wir, ond mae hyn yn dibynnu ar y pellteroedd a'r amrywiaeth o wasanaethau a ddarperir y tu allan i oriau. Mae'n anodd rhoi ymateb pellach i'r cwestiwn hwn heb fwy o fanylion gennych chi o ran yr hyn sydd y tu ôl iddo. Ar wahân i'ch un sylw ynglŷn â'r anhawster o ran recriwtio meddygon sy'n fodlon gweithio y tu allan i oriau, ni wn beth yw'r sail dros gyflwyno'r cynigion hyn. Felly, byddwn yn croesawu llythyr sy'n nodi'r manylion hynny, fel y gallwn gael ateb a fydd yn ymdrin â'r sail dros y penderfyniad a ddisgrifir gennych.

Hepatitis C

Q5 Jenny Randerson: Are there any plans for a public inquiry into those infected with hepatitis C from contaminated blood products before 1991? OAQ1478(FM)

C5 Jenny Randerson: A oes unrhyw gynlluniau i gynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus i'r rhai yr effeithiwyd arnynt gan hepatitis C drwy gynhyrchion gwaed halogedig cyn 1991? OAQ1478(FM)

The First Minister: No. While we understand that people infected with hepatitis C through NHS infected blood or blood products want to understand what happened and whether infection could have been prevented, the evidence is already in the public domain, therefore a public inquiry would not be justified.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nac oes. Er ein bod yn deall bod pobl a gafodd eu heintio â hepatitis C drwy waed neu gynhyrchion gwaed heintiedig y GIG am ddeall beth ddigwyddodd a pha un a ellid bod wedi rhwystro'r haint, mae'r dystiolaeth eisoes yn wybodaeth gyhoeddus, felly ni ellid cyfiawnhau ymchwiliad cyhoeddus.

Jenny Randerson: That is an interesting reason and a variation on the numerous reasons given by governments over the years why there should not be a public inquiry. This scandalous injustice has gone on for over a quarter of a century. Infected blood products were supplied to haemophiliacs after the NHS became aware of the dangers and even after the then Minister for health, Dr David Owen, set aside money to deal with the problem.

Jenny Randerson: Mae hynny'n rheswm diddorol ac yn amrywiad ar y rhesymau niferus a roddwyd gan lywodraethau dros y blynyddoedd o ran pam na ddylid cynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus. Mae'r anghyfiawnder gwarthus hwn wedi'i weld ers dros chwarter canrif. Cyflenwyd cynhyrchion gwaed heintiedig i hemoffiligion ar ôl i'r GIG ddod yn ymwybodol o'r peryglon a hyd yn oed ar ôl i'r Gweinidog dros iechyd ar y pryd, Dr David Owen, neilltuo arian i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem.

This is one of the longest running injustices in the recent history of the NHS. As this drags on, more and more of the victims die, and more of their infected partners also die without getting financial compensation or recognition of their plight. Will you agree to take a more positive line on this, First Minister, in place of the very disappointing reply that you gave, to press the UK Government in the strongest possible terms

Dyma un o'r anghyfiawnderau hiraf yn hanes diweddar y GIG. Wrth i'r anghyfiawnder hwn barhau, mae mwy a mwy o ddiodefwrwr yn marw, ac mae mwy o'u partneriaid sydd wedi'u heintio hefyd yn marw heb gael iawndal ariannol na chydabyddiaeth o'u cyflwr. A wnewch chi gytuno i gymryd llinell fwy cadarnhaol ar hyn, Brif Weinidog, yn lle'r ateb siomedig iawn a roddwyd gennych, i bwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU

to hold a public inquiry? Even better, will you agree to follow Ireland's example by holding your own inquiry in Wales, bringing justice to Welsh victims if to no others?

The First Minister: I think that you are confusing the question of financial assistance with that of a public inquiry. We believe that it is right to give financial assistance to help those who became ill. However, in relation to a public inquiry, we must ask what it would uncover that is not already in the public domain. Our advice is that all the information that is relevant to this case is, in fact, already in the public domain.

2.20 p.m.

David Melding: This is a most troubling issue, and much of the original mistake was made in an attempt to improve the treatment given to people. There is no doubt that it is a most deserving group. Given medical advances, they are now living longer, which provides a lot of additional challenges in terms of income and relationships, including new relationships. We need to consider a whole package of care for these people, and ensure that it is updated regularly.

The First Minister: I certainly accept that. There is a particular problem with the bereavement of widows, widowers and other dependents. There is currently no provision, as I understand it, for bereaved dependents to receive such financial assistance. However, the group that I think that you were talking about that needs to have priority is that group of people who have hepatitis C through no fault of their own, and through the inadequate pre-screening practices of the NHS. What happened is absolutely dreadful, but the issue is whether a public inquiry will add to the total of human knowledge about this. According to all the advice that I have received, all the information on the science involved and the mistakes made appears to be in the public domain already.

gymaint â phosibl i gynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus? Hyd yn oed yn well, a wnewch chi gytuno i ddilyn esiampl Iwerddon drwy gynnal eich ymchwiliad eich hun yng Nghymru, gan sicrhau cyfiawnder i ddiodefswyr yng Nghymru os nad i unrhyw ddiodefswyr eraill?

Y Prif Weinidog: Credaf eich bod yn drysu rhwng y cwestiwn o roi cymorth ariannol a chynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus. Credwn ei fod yn iawn rhoi cymorth ariannol i helpu'r rheini a fu'n sâl. Fodd bynnag, o ran ymchwiliad cyhoeddus, mae'n rhaid inni ofyn beth fyddai'n cael ei ddarganfod nad yw eisoes yn wybodaeth gyhoeddus. Ein cyngor ni yw bod yr holl wybodaeth sy'n berthnasol i'r achos hwn, mewn gwirionedd, eisoes yn wybodaeth gyhoeddus.

David Melding: Mae hwn yn fater sy'n pericrynnu anhawster, a gwnaethpwyd y camgymeriad gwreiddiol i raddau helaeth mewn ymgais i wella'r driniaeth a roddwyd i bobl. Yn ddiaw, mae'n grŵp teilwng. O ystyried datblygiadau meddygol, maent bellach yn byw'n hirach, sy'n golygu llawer o heriau ychwanegol o ran incwm a chydberthnasau, gan gynnwys cydberthnasau newydd. Mae angen inni ystyried pecyn cynhwysfawr o ofal i'r bobl hyn, a sicrhau ei fod yn cael ei ddiweddarau'n rheolaidd.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn sicr. Mae problem benodol o ran profedigaeth gwŷr gweddw, gwagedd gweddw a dibynyddion eraill. Nid oes unrhyw ddarpariaeth ar hyn o bryd, yn ôl yr hyn a ddeallaf, ar gyfer dibynyddion mewn profedigaeth i dderbyn cymorth ariannol o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, y grŵp y credaf y bu ichi sôn amdano ac y mae angen rhoi blaenoriaeth iddo yw'r grŵp o bobl â hepatitis C a gawsant heb iddynt wneud unrhyw beth o'i le, a thrwy arferion cyn-sgrinio annigonol y GIG. Mae'r hyn a ddigwyddodd yn ofnadwy, ond y mater dan sylw yw pa un a fydd ymchwiliad cyhoeddus yn dod â mwy o wybodaeth i law ynglŷn â hyn. Yn ôl y cyngor a dderbyniwyd gennyf, ymddengys fod yr holl wybodaeth ar y wyddoniaeth gysylltiedig a'r camgymeriadau a wnaed eisoes yn wybodaeth gyhoeddus.

Uwchraddio'r Isafswm Cyflog Cenedlaethol Uprating the National Minimum Wage

Q6 Gwenda Thomas: What discussions has the First Minister had regarding uprating the national minimum wage for Wales? OAQ1477(FM)

The First Minister: I have discussed the benefits that the national minimum wage regularly brings to Wales on many occasions and with many audiences. The current rate of £5.05 per hour for adults will rise again on 1 October 2006, to around £5.35 an hour, in line with the recommendations of the independent Low Pay Commission.

Gwenda Thomas: You will, therefore, agree that, thanks to the uprating of the national minimum wage, 80,000 people in Wales will be better off. Families with young children will be better off, as salary sacrifice schemes and schemes for childcare vouchers will not count towards the minimum wage. This uprating will, therefore, contribute to achieving the Labour Welsh Assembly Government's target of reducing child poverty.

The First Minister: Child poverty has already reduced further and faster in Wales than in any other part of the United Kingdom, according to the evidence of the Rowntree trust. If there was one thing that pleased me and my Cabinet more than almost anything else, it was that statement from the Rowntree trust. The minimum wage is one factor; the increasing employment rate in Wales is another. As we have a higher proportion of people on the minimum wage in Wales than elsewhere, when the minimum wage is increased, it inevitably has a bigger impact here.

Leanne Wood: You will be aware that the national minimum wage discriminates against younger workers, because they receive a lower wage than adult workers. New equality legislation aims to prevent discrimination on the grounds of age. There is also clear discrimination against young people within the benefits system. I understand that these issues are not devolved, but they impact heavily on young people in

C6 Gwenda Thomas: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi eu cynnal ynglŷn ag uwchraddio'r isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol yng Nghymru? OAQ1477(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf wedi trafod y buddiannau rheolaidd i Gymru yn sgîl yr isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol ar nifer o achlysuron a chyda nifer o gynulleidfaoedd. Bydd y gyfradd bresennol o £5.05 yr awr i oedolion yn codi eto ar 1 Hydref 2006, i tua £5.35 yr awr, yn unol ag argymhellion y Comisiwn Cyflog Isel annibynnol.

Gwenda Thomas: Yr ydych yn cytuno, felly, diolch i'r broses o uwchraddio'r isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol, y bydd 80,000 o bobl yng Nghymru yn well eu byd. Bydd teuluoedd â phlant bach yn well eu byd, gan na fydd cynlluniau aberthu cyflog a chynlluniau ar gyfer talebau gofal plant yn cyfrif tuag at yr isafswm cyflog. Bydd y broses uwchraddio hon, felly, yn cyfrannu at gyflawni targed Llywodraeth Lafur Cynulliad Cymru o leihau tlodi plant.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae tlodi plant eisoes wedi lleihau ymhellach ac yn gyflymach yng Nghymru nag yn unrhyw ran arall o'r Deyrnas Unedig, yn ôl tystiolaeth ymddiriedolaeth Rowntree. Os rhoddod un peth fwy o bleser imi a'm Cabinet nag unrhyw beth arall bron, y datganiad gan ymddiriedolaeth Rowntree oedd hwnnw. Mae'r isafswm cyflog yn un ffactor ac mae'r gyfradd gyflogaeth gynyddol yng Nghymru yn ffactor arall. Gan fod gennym gyfran uwch o bobl ar yr isafswm cyflog yng Nghymru o gymharu â mannau eraill, pan gaiff yr isafswm cyflog ei gynyddu, bydd hyn yn ddiau yn cael mwy o effaith yma.

Leanne Wood: Fel y gwyddoch, mae'r isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol yn gwahaniaethu yn erbyn gweithwyr iau, oherwydd eu bod yn derbyn cyflog is na gweithwyr sy'n oedolion. Nod y ddeddfwriaeth newydd ar gydraddoldeb yw rhwystro gwahaniaethu ar sail oedran. Mae gwahaniaethu amlwg hefyd yn erbyn pobl ifanc o fewn y system budd-daliadau. Deallaf nad yw'r materion hyn wedi'u datganoli, ond

Wales. Will you therefore agree to make representations to Ministers in Westminster to end this blatant discrimination against young people?

The First Minister: There are three rates, but whether that constitutes discrimination is a matter on which everyone should make up their own minds. There is a rate for 16 to 17-year-olds, a rate for 18 to 21-year-olds, and a rate for everyone who is 22 years old and over. Young people are not delighted about that, but I am not sure whether I accept that that constitutes discrimination, as you put it.

In general, the successful introduction of the national minimum wage was in the teeth of opposition from the Conservative Party and business interests, all of which have turned tail on this. David Cameron, obviously and inevitably as a flip-flop expert, now says that the national minimum wage is a good thing, although previously he attacked it on so many different occasions that I lost count. He said that it would create unemployment; it clearly has not. However, it is the Low Pay Commission that makes the recommendations, which the Government accepts, about the three different rates. It has been a major success. It was in Labour's first manifesto 100 years ago. It was a very good thing that was introduced in 1997, and its introduction has been a remarkable success in all three respects.

William Graham: You referred earlier to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation; its comment report, 'Central and East European migrants in low wage employment in the UK', highlights how migrant workers are undertaking employment that is physically demanding, sometimes dangerous, and poorly paid. Would you use your best offices to make sure that the minimum wage applies to them?

The First Minister: We have discussed this on several occasions. We are not to act as bloodhounds in this area because that is not

maent yn cael effaith fawr ar bobl ifanc yng Nghymru. A wnewch chi felly gytuno i gyflwyno sylwadau i Weinidogion yn San Steffan er mwyn dod â'r gwahaniaethu digywilydd hwn yn erbyn pobl ifanc i ben?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae tair cyfradd, ond mae pa un a yw hynny'n gyfystyr â gwahaniaethu yn fater y dylai pawb benderfynu arno drostynt hwy eu hunain. Mae cyfradd ar gyfer pobl ifanc 16 – 17 oed, cyfradd ar gyfer pobl ifanc 18 i 21 oed, a chyfradd ar gyfer pawb sy'n 22 oed a throsodd. Nid yw pobl ifanc yn hapus iawn ynglŷn â hynny, ond nid wyf yn siŵr pa un a allaf dderbyn fod hynny'n gyfystyr â gwahaniaethu, fel y dywedaso.

Yn gyffredinol, cyflwynwyd yr isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol yn llwyddiannus er gwaethaf gwrthwynebiad gan y Blaid Geidwadol a buddiannau busnes, y mae pob un ohonynt wedi newid eu safbwynt ynglŷn â hyn. Mae David Cameron, yn amlwg ac yn anochel fel arbenigwr fflip-fflop, yn datgan yn awr bod yr isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol yn beth da, er iddo ymosod arno gymaint o weithiau nes imi golli cyfrif. Dywedodd y byddai'n creu diweithdra; yn amlwg nid yw wedi gwneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, y Comisiwn Cyflog Isel sy'n gwneud yr argymhellion ynglŷn â'r dair gyfradd wahanol ac mae'r Llywodraeth yn eu derbyn. Bu'n llwyddiant mawr. Roedd yn rhan o fanifesto cyntaf Llafur 100 mlynedd yn ôl. Roedd yr hyn a gyflwynwyd yn 1997 yn beth da iawn, ac mae'r broses o gyflwyno pob un o'r tair cyfradd wedi bod yn llwyddiant nodedig.

William Graham: Bu ichi gyfeirio'n gynharach at Ymddiriedolaeth Joseph Rowntree; mae ei hadroddiad sylwadau, 'Central and East European migrants in low wage employment in the UK', yn amlgu sut mae gweithwyr mudol yn ymgymryd â gwaith sy'n anodd yn gorfforol, weithiau'n beryglus, am gyflog isel. A wnewch chi ddefnyddio eich cymwynasgarwch i sicrhau bod yr isafswm cyflog yn berthnasol iddynt hwy?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym wedi trafod y mater hwn ar sawl achlysur. Ni allwn ymddwyn fel ditectifs yn y maes hwn

our job, but we are certainly to act as watchdogs to try to find any credible evidence that migrant workers are being paid less than the minimum wage and that that is why they are being employed. There is possibly some anecdotal evidence that something of this sort may be going on, through the accumulation of the wage minus housing costs, arranged by the employer or the agency. We would deprecate that practice and we have had discussions with the Inter Faith Council and the trade union movement to try to find not merely anecdotal evidence, but real, credible evidence, which we could then suggest is accurate.

oherwydd nid dyna ein gwaith ni, ond yn sicr, gallwn weithredu fel rhai sy'n gwarchod er mwyn ceisio dod o hyd i unrhyw dystiolaeth gredadwy sy'n dangos bod gweithwyr mudol yn cael cyflog sy'n llai na'r isafswm cyflog a dyna pam eu bod yn cael eu cyflogi. Efallai bod rhywfaint o dystiolaeth anecdotaidd bod rhywbeth fel hyn yn digwydd, drwy gronni'r cyflog llai costau tai, a drefnir gan y cyflogwr neu'r asiantaeth. Byddem yn gwrthwynebu'r arfer hwnnw ac yr ydym wedi cynnal trafodaethau gyda'r Cyngor Rhydd-ffydd a'r mudiad undebau llafur i geisio dod o hyd, nid i dystiolaeth anecdotaidd, ond tystiolaeth real, gredadwy, y gallwn wedyn awgrymu sy'n gywir.

Ailddatblygu Economiâu Canol Trefi The Economic Redevelopment of Town Centres

Q7 Carl Sargeant: Will the First Minister make a statement on what action the Assembly is taking to economically redevelop town centres in Wales? OAQ1483(FM)

C7 Carl Sargeant: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am y camau y mae'r Cynulliad yn eu cymryd i sicrhau ailddatblygiad economaidd canol trefi yng Nghymru? OAQ1483(FM)

The First Minister: Town centres that have boarded-up shops are an inevitable disincentive to investment in the area, and local people are discouraged from using unattractive town centres that have not been redeveloped. That is why we have the town improvement scheme, which has brought considerable improvements to some of the town centres that have not benefited from the retail boom. As I understand it, two of those are in your area of Alyn and Deeside—Shotton and Queensferry—but there are many others, including Bangor, Caernarfon, Holyhead, Colwyn Bay, Rhyl and Wrexham. Those towns have also benefited and that is only in north Wales.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn ddi-au, nid yw canol trefi â siopau gwag yn cymell pobl i fuddsoddi yn yr ardal, ac mae pobl leol yn penderfynu peidio â defnyddio canol trefi anneniadol nad ydynt wedi'u hailddatblygu. Dyna'r rheswm dros y cynllun gwella trefi, sydd wedi arwain at welliannau sylweddol i rai o'r canol trefi nad ydynt wedi elwa ar y ffyniant adwerthu. Yn ôl yr hyn a ddeallaf, mae dau o'r cynlluniau hyn yn eich ardal chi, Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy—Shotton a'r Fferi Isaf—ond mae llawer mwy ohonynt, gan gynnwys Bangor, Caernarfon, Caergybi, Bae Colwyn, y Rhyl a Wrecsam. Mae'r trefi hynny hefyd wedi elwa a dim ond yn y gogledd y mae hynny.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf arweinydd yr wrthblaid.

The Presiding Officer: I call the leader of the opposition.

I am sorry; first, we will have the supplementary question.

Ymddiheuraf; yn gyntaf, cawn y cwestiwn atodol.

Carl Sargeant: Thank you, Presiding Officer. In 'Wales: A Vibrant Economy', we acknowledge that maintaining and building a strong economy is possible only if people want to live and work in an area. In the Wales spatial plan, we made a commitment

Carl Sargeant: Diolch i chi, Lywydd. Yn 'Cymru: Economi yn Ffynnu', yr ydym yn cydnabod bod cynnal ac adeiladu economi gref ond yn bosibl os yw pobl am fyw a gweithio mewn ardal. Yng nghynllun gofodol Cymru, bu inni wneud ymrwymiad i wella

to enhance the attractiveness of town centres and reduce disincentives. What initiatives has the Assembly put in place in my constituency, Alyn and Deeside, to enhance shopping and town centres?

The First Minister: I walked up and down Shotton high street with your predecessor, Tom Middlehurst, on one notable occasion and you could see clearly that it could do with refurbishment. On the one hand, unemployment was quite low, but on the other, you could see that people were not spending their money on that high street. Their proximity to Chester is a particular problem for areas such as Shotton and Queensferry, which is why both towns have been included in the town improvement grant scheme. Indeed, I understand that £43,000 was spent on Shotton in the financial year 2005-06, which has just finished. I hope that that will kick-start a process by which traders themselves will realise the potential of keeping the people of Flintshire shopping in Flintshire, and not over the border in Chester as they have probably done for centuries.

The Presiding Officer: May I apologise? In my anxiety to get to question 11, I was rather discourteous to you, Carl Sargeant.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): He may be the leader of the opposition after 2007. [*Laughter.*]

Yr wyf yn siŵr bod dyfodol canol tref fel Llangefni yn dibynnu ar gael cwmnïau hyfyw yn yr ardal i wasanaethu'r dref. A yw'r Prif Weinidog yn rhannu fy mhryder y bydd colli 200 o swyddi o gwmni Grampian Country Food yn Llangefni yn cael effaith ddifrifol ar economi'r dref ac, yn wir, yr ynys? Pa gymorth a all y Prif Weinidog ei gynnig heddiw i bobl Llangefni sy'n wynebu colled enfawr o golli'r swyddi hyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae Grampian Country Food yn gwmni hollbwysig yng Nghymru, nid dim ond yn Llangefni. Mae'n cyflogi miloedd o bobl ym Merthyr ac yn Sandycroft ger Wrecsam mewn rhyw hanner dwsin o leoedd gwahanol, a hynny yn y sectorau cig coch a chig gwyn. Mae'n dristwch mawr i'r cwmni gyhoeddi heddiw na fydd yn gallu

apêl canol trefi a lleihau anghymhellion. Pa fentrau y mae'r Cynulliad wedi'u rhoi ar waith yn fy etholaeth i, Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy, i wella siopa a chanol trefi?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cerddais i fyny ac i lawr y stryd fawr yn Shotton gyda'ch rhagflaenydd, Tom Middlehurst, ar un achlysur penodol ac yr oeddech yn gallu gweld yn amlwg bod angen ei hailwampio. Ar yr un llaw, roedd diweithdra yn eithaf isel, ond ar y llaw arall, gallech weld nad oedd pobl yn gwario eu harian ar y stryd fawr honno. Mae eu hagosatwydd at Gaer yn broblem arbennig i ardaloedd fel Shotton a'r Fferi Isaf, a dyna pam mae'r ddwy dref wedi'u cynnwys yn y cynllun grant gwella trefi. Yn wir, deallaf fod £43,000 wedi'i wario ar Shotton yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol 2005-06, sydd newydd ddod i ben. Gobeithiaf y bydd hynny'n cychwyn proses a fydd yn gweld y masnachwyr eu hunain yn sylweddoli'r potensial sy'n gysylltiedig â chadw pobl Sir y Fflint yn siopa yn Sir y Fflint, ac nid ar draws y ffin yng Nghaer fel y maent wedi'i wneud am ganrifoedd fwy na thebyg.

Y Llywydd: A allaf ymddiheuro? Yn sgîl fy awydd i gyrraedd cwestiwn 11, bûm yn anghwrtais i chi, Carl Sargeant.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Efallai mai ef fydd arweinydd yr wrthblaid ar ôl 2007. [*Chwerthin*]

I am sure that the future of a town centre such as Llangefni depends on having viable companies in the area to serve the town. Does the First Minister share my concern that the loss of 200 jobs at Grampian Country Food in Llangefni will have a detrimental effect on the economy of the town and, indeed, the island? What assistance can the First Minister offer today to the people of Llangefni who will face a great loss when these jobs go?

The First Minister: Grampian Country Food is an all-important company for Wales, not only for Llangefni. It employs thousands of people in Merthyr and in Sandycroft near Wrexham in some half a dozen different places, working in the red and white meat sectors. It is sad that the company has announced today that, because of the massive

parhau i gyflogi cymaint o bobl oherwydd y cynnydd enfawr a fu yn allforion ieir, ac felly bydd yn torri un sifft a chaiff 200 o swyddi eu colli yn y ffatri prosesu ieir yn Llangefni. Dim ond heddiw y mae'r newyddion wedi torri ac felly rhaid i ni weithio gyda'r cwmni i weld beth y gellir ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf am geisio addo y gallwn wrthod y mewforion ychwanegol o Ffrainc oherwydd y colledion y mae proseswyr a chynhyrchwyr bwyd o ffowls a ieir yno. Maent hwy wedi colli eu marchnad oherwydd H5N1 a'r pryderon iechyd yn Ffrainc ynglŷn â bwyta ffowls. Felly, maent yn gorfod anfon eu hieir i'r wlad hon. Nid oes modd cyfreithiol o stopio'r cynnydd hwnnw mewn mewforion o Ffrainc. Na allwch wneud rhywbeth am y ffaith bod H5N1 wedi dod ac wedi achosi llawer mwy o bryder yn Ffrainc nag yn y farchnad yn y wlad hon.

2.30 p.m.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Hoffwn bwysleisio, Brif Weinidog, os na allwch wneud rhywbeth i rwystro mewforion, mae pethau y gallwch eu gwneud i helpu'r cwmni Grampian yn Llangefni. Cydnabyddaf bwysigrwydd y cwmni, sydd wedi cyflogi cannoedd o bobl ar Ynys Môn, nid yn unig ar safle Llangefni, ond ar safle cig coch yng Ngaerwen. Gofynnaf eto pa gymorth uniongyrchol gall y Llywodraeth ei roi i ddod dros y problemau tymor byr hyn ac i sicrhau parhad y cwmni yn y tymor hir, gan ei fod mor bwysig i economi'r ynys. A wnewch addo y bydd y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau yn cydweithio â'r cyngor sir i sicrhau y bydd yn gwneud popeth o fewn ei allu i helpu'r cwmni hwn oresgyn y problemau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddwn yn gwneud popeth cyfreithiol i helpu Grampian, gan ei fod yn gwmni holl bwysig i Gymru cyfan, nid i Ynys Môn yn unig. Mae'n bwysig cofio bod gan Carwyn Jones ac Andrew Davies swyddogaethau i helpu'r cwmni, ond helpu cwmni â phroblemau dros dro, yn hytrach na buddsoddi cyfalaf, yw'r peth anoddaf. Mae'r systemau sydd gennym i helpu cwmnïau wedi'u seilio ar yr egwyddor o helpu neu roi cymhorthdal ar ffurf buddsoddiad cyfalaf, ac nid helpu gyda cholledion refeniw dros dro pan fo rhyw aflerwch o'r math hwn yn

increase in chicken exports, it cannot continue to employ so many people and so it will discontinue one shift, resulting in the loss of 200 jobs in the chicken processing factory at Llangefni. The news broke only today and so we now have to work with the company to see what can be done. However, I will not promise that we can refuse additional imports from France because of the losses that processors and producers in the poultry sector there. They have lost their market because of H5N1 and the health concerns in France about eating poultry. Therefore, they have to send their poultry to this country. There is no legal means of preventing that increase in imports from France. You cannot do anything about the fact that H5N1 has come in and caused much greater concern in France than it has in the market in this country.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I emphasise, First Minister, that if you cannot do anything to restrict imports, there are things that you can do to help the Grampian company in Llangefni. I acknowledge the importance of the company, which has employed hundreds of people in Anglesey, not just at the Llangefni site, but at the red meat site at Gaerwen. I ask again what direct support the Government can give to surmount these short-term problems and to ensure that the company continues in the long term, as it is so important to the island's economy. Will you promise that the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks will work with the county council to ensure that he does everything in his power to help the company overcome the problems?

The First Minister: We will do everything that we lawfully can to help Grampian, because it is a company that is vital to the whole of Wales, not just Anglesey. It is important to remember that Carwyn Jones and Andrew Davies have functions to assist the company, but helping a company with short-term problems, rather than capital investment, it is the hardest thing to do. Our systems for providing companies with assistance are based on the principle of providing assistance or subsidy in the form of capital investment, and not on providing

digwydd yn y farchnad, fel sydd wedi digwydd yn sgîl H5N1 yn Ffrainc, a achosodd gymaint o bryder i brynwyr bwyd yno. Mae'n anffodus dros ben, ond ni allwn gael gwared ar y broblem nad yw prynwyr yn Ffrainc yn fodlon prynu cyw iâr ar hyn y bryd. Mae'r cynnyrch nad yw pobl Ffrainc yn ei brynu yn gorlifo i mewn i Brydain Fawr oherwydd nad oes gan ein prynwyr nid yr un pryder ynghylch fflw adar.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Although the First Minister says that nothing can be done in the short term, the trade unions at the plant are saying that it appears that the French are giving considerable support to their industry in direct subsidies to their plants. Why cannot we have similar provision for Welsh workers in Llangefni? Also, on a wider issue, he realises, I am sure, that a rural area such as Anglesey depends largely on agriculture, food and food processing, and any devastating loss like this will have a much wider impact than the 200 jobs directly involved. There will be a wider impact in terms of the chicken farms that are on the island, as Grampian employs many people on those farms as well, and a loss of confidence in the food sector. Will the First Minister recognise that not only does the company need short-term help, but that we also need investment so that the wider economy can be more diverse and can therefore be much more robust in dealing with short-term pressures like this?

The First Minister: I agree with all of that. With regard to the allegation that French Government is providing support to its poultry industry, it is rare for a closure of this kind, caused by a market disturbance, to occur without there being an allegation at least that a foreign government is subsidising companies in its country. Sometimes it is, and sometimes it is not. I assure you that we will look into the matter, and if there is any way of getting legal redress for anything underhand that is going on that does not comply with European rules with regard to these excess exports of French poultry, as well as, I think, some Italian poultry, which is causing this market disturbance and, therefore, the job losses in Llangefni, we will find that out and seek the proper redress.

assistance with short-term revenue losses when some anomaly of this nature happens in the market, as has happened following H5N1 in France, which has caused so much concern to food buyers there. It is extremely unfortunate, but we cannot eliminate the problem of French consumers' reluctance to buy chicken at the moment. The produce that the French are not buying is overflowing into Great Britain because our consumers do not share those concerns with regard to bird flu.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Er bod y Prif Weinidog yn dweud na ellir gwneud unrhyw beth yn y tymor byr, dywed yr undebau llafur ar y safle ei bod yn ymddangos bod Ffrainc yn rhoi cymorth sylweddol i'w diwydiant drwy roi cymorthdaliadau uniongyrchol i'w safleoedd. Pam na allwn gael darpariaeth debyg i weithwyr Cymreig yn Llangefni? Hefyd, ar fater ehangach, sylweddola, yr wyf yn siŵr, bod ardal wledig fel Ynys Môn yn dibynnu'n helaeth ar amaethyddiaeth, bwyd a phrosesu bwyd, ac y caiff unrhyw golled ddinistriol fel hon effaith lawer ehangach na'r 200 o swyddi sydd yn uniongyrchol gysylltiedig. Bydd effaith ehangach o ran y ffermydd dofednod sydd ar yr ynys, gan fod Grampian yn cyflogi llawer o bobl ar y ffermydd hynny hefyd, a cheir diffyg hyder yn y sector bwyd. A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog gydnabod bod angen nid yn unig cymorth tymor byr ar y cwmni, ond bod angen buddsoddi hefyd fel y gall yr economi ehangach fod yn fwy amrywiol ac felly'n fwy cadarn wrth ymdrin â phwysau tymor byr fel hyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf â hynny oll. O ran yr honiad bod Llywodraeth Ffrainc yn darparu cymorth i'w diwydiant dofednod mae'n anghyffredin i safle gau o dan amgylchiadau o'r fath, sef o ganlyniad i ansicrwydd y farchnad, heb glywed rhyw honiad bod llywodraeth dramor yn rhoi cymorthdaliadau i gwmmiâu yn ei gwlad. Weithiau mae hynny'n wir, weithiau nid yw hynny'n wir. Gallaf eich sicrhau y byddwn yn ymchwilio i'r mater, ac os bydd unrhyw ffordd o gael iawndal cyfreithiol ar gyfer unrhyw weithredoedd twyllodrus nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â rheolau Ewrop o ran yr achos hwn o allforio nifer sylweddol o dofednod o Ffrainc, yn ogystal ag dofednod o'r Eidal, mi gredaf, sy'n achosi'r ansicrwydd hwn yn y farchnad, ac, felly, y

diswyddiadau yn Llangefni, deawn at wraidd hynny ac awn ar drywydd iawndal priodol.

As regards what else can be done, given the nature of the Anglesey economy, and remembering the time when Grampian's predecessor originally moved to Anglesey some 40 years ago, when it was part of Unilever, as I recall, the company said that it wanted to move to Anglesey because it thought it would be free of the risk of any kind of bird flu or any other infectious bird disease, because it is an island. It is perhaps a sad irony that it is the bird flu in France that is causing the job losses in Llangefni after 40 years ago of very good employment and trading on the island, following Unilever's original investment decision. It is important that we recognise the need for the diversification of the Anglesey economy, but, on the other hand, the food processing industry will always be important. Grampian is far bigger than any other meat processing company in Wales, and, as far as we are aware, no other plant Wales is affected.

O ran beth arall y gellir ei wneud, o ystyried natur economi Ynys Môn, ac o gofio'r amser pan symudodd rhagflaenydd Grampian i Ynys Môn yn wreiddiol ryw 40 mlynedd yn ôl, pan oedd yn rhan o Unilever, fel y cofiaf, dywedodd y cwmni ei fod am symud i Ynys Môn gan ei fod o'r farn y byddai'n gallu osgoi perygl unrhyw fath o ffliw adar neu unrhyw glefyd adar heintus arall, am mai ynys ydyw. Efallai mai eironi trist yw'r ffaith mai'r ffliw adar yn Ffrainc sy'n achosi'r diswyddiadau yn Llangefni ar ôl 40 mlynedd o gyflogaeth a masnachu da iawn ar yr ynys, yn dilyn penderfyniad buddsoddi gwreiddiol Unilever. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cydnabod yr angen i arallgyfeirio economi Ynys Môn, ond, ar y llaw arall, bydd y diwydiant prosesu bwyd bob amser yn bwysig. Mae Grampian yn llawer mwy nag unrhyw gwmni prosesu bwyd arall yng Nghymru, ac, hyd y gwyddom, nid effeithiwyd ar unrhyw safle arall yng Nghymru.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 8 (OAQ1495(FM)) yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Question 8 (OAQ1495(FM)) has been withdrawn.

Hyrwyddo Ardaloedd Arfordirol Gogledd Cymru The Promotion of the North Wales Coastal Region

Q9 Denise Idris Jones: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to promote north Wales coastal regions? OAQ1492(FM)

C9 Denise Idris Jones: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i hyrwyddo ardaloedd arfordirol Gogledd Cymru? OAQ1492(FM)

The First Minister: We are providing Tourism Partnership North Wales with funding of £1.15 million this financial year to promote and develop tourism in the region to enable the partnership to continue to fund marketing activities that benefit the coastal regions of north Wales. This includes the west coastal resorts of Llandudno and Colwyn Bay and the east coastal resorts of Rhyl and Prestatyn, and the adjoining resorts.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn darparu Partneriaeth Twristiaeth Gogledd Cymru gyda chyllid o £1.15 miliwn yn y flwyddyn ariannol hon er mwyn hyrwyddo a datblygu twristiaeth yn yr ardal er mwyn galluogi'r bartneriaeth i barhau i ariannu gweithgareddau marchnata sydd o fudd i ardaloedd arfordirol y gogledd. Mae hyn yn cynnwys cyrchfannau Llandudno a Bae Colwyn a chyrchfannau arfordirol dwyreiniol y Rhyl a Phrestatyn, a'r cyrchfannau cyffiniol.

Denise Idris Jones: Would you agree that, despite an increasingly diverse tourism economy in north Wales, which is extending the economic benefits of tourism beyond the traditional summer season, as we saw last

Denise Idris Jones: A gytunech, er gwaethaf economi dwristiaeth gynyddol amrywiol y gogledd, sy'n ymestyn buddiannau economaidd twristiaeth y tu hwnt i dymor traddodiadol yr haf, fel y gwelwyd y

weekend when we had the Victorian Extravaganza in Llandudno, the north Wales coast remains a key geographical asset to the area?

The First Minister: I agree, and I had the great pleasure of opening the new sea lion pool in the Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay. The sea lions are an incredible attraction when the weather is not quite nice enough to go to the beach. There have to be other things to do, such as going to the Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay. If you have not seen the sea lions, please go—they are incredible and magnificent creatures. We must have those diverse attractions that cover periods of good and bad weather, and which extend the shoulders of the tourist season well beyond the traditional five or six weeks of the summer holiday.

Mark Isherwood: Strong local opposition to the proposed Gwynt y Môr offshore windfarm is based upon concern that it would be environmentally unsustainable and economically damaging for north Wales coastal regions, which are dependent upon tourism. We know that the Scarweather Sands offshore windfarm has been delayed, and I am told that this is because city financiers have got cold feet after further environmental and technological costs were identified, and that they will not proceed without further investment from the UK Government. What is the position with regard to the proposed Gwynt y Môr offshore windfarm?

The First Minister: North Hoyle has gone ahead, and Scarweather Sands, although it has received permission, is not proceeding for the time being. As regards Gwynt y Môr, it is being tested, but I am not sure where it has reached in the planning process as regards whether it will be called in or whether there will be a public inquiry. As these issues are legally sensitive, either I or the Minister responsible will write to you on that.

Alun Ffred Jones: Dwy dref arfordirol yng Ngwynedd yw Bangor a Chaernarfon, ac maent yn cynnwys wardiau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Yn y trefi hynny, mae canolfan Byw

penwythnos diwethaf pan gynhaliwyd Digwyddiad Fictoraidd Llandudno, fod arfordir y gogledd yn parhau i fod yn ased daearyddol allweddol i'r ardal?

Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf, ac yr oedd yn bleser gennyf agor y pwll newydd i'r morlewod yn Sŵ Mynydd Cymru ym Mae Colwyn. Mae'r morlewod yn atyniad anhygoel pan nad yw'r tywydd yn ddigon braf i fynd i'r traeth. Mae'n rhaid sicrhau bod pethau eraill i'w gwneud, fel mynd i Sŵ Mynydd Cymru ym Mae Colwyn. Os nad ydych wedi gweld y morlewod, ewch yno—maent yn greaduriaid anhygoel a rhyfeddol. Rhaid inni gael yr atyniadau amrywiol hynny sy'n cwmpasu cyfnodau o dywydd teg a thywydd gwael, ac sy'n ymestyn cyfnod tymor y twristiaid ymhell y tu hwnt i'r pum neu chwe wythnos draddodiadol yn ystod gwyliau'r haf.

Mark Isherwood: Mae'r gwrthwynebiad lleol cryf i'r fferm wynt alltraeth arfaethedig, Gwynt y Môr, yn seiliedig ar bryder na fyddai'n gynaliadwy yn amgylcheddol ac y byddai'n niweidiol yn economaidd i ardaloedd arfordirol y gogledd, sy'n dibynnu ar dwristiaeth. Gwyddom fod y gwaith o godi fferm wynt alltraeth Scarweather Sands wedi ei ohirio, a chlywais mai'r rheswm dros hyn oedd bod arianwyr y ddinas wedi cael traed oer ar ôl i gostau amgylcheddol a thechnolegol pellach gael eu nodi, ac na fyddant yn parhau heb fuddsoddiad pellach gan Lywodraeth y DU. Beth yw'r sefyllfa o ran fferm wynt alltraeth arfaethedig Gwynt y Môr?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae gwaith yng Ngogledd Hoyle wedi mynd rhagddo, ac nid yw'r gwaith yn Scarweather Sands, er iddo gael caniatâd, yn mynd rhagddo am y tro. O ran Gwynt y Môr, mae'n cael ei brofi, ond nid wyf yn siŵr beth yw ei sefyllfa o ran y broses gynllunio o ran pa un a gaiff ei alw i mewn neu pa un a fydd ymchwiliad cyhoeddus. Gan eu bod yn gyfreithiol sensitif, byddaf i neu'r Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am y mater yn ysgrifennu atoch parthed y materion hyn.

Alun Ffred Jones: Bangor and Caernarfon are two coastal towns in Gwynedd, and include Communities First wards. In those towns, there is a Healthy Living centre and a

yn Iach a chanolfan Cychwyn Cadarn wedi cychwyn gydag arian gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Er hynny, nid oes sicrwydd ariannol cyllidol i'r cynlluniau hynny, ac mae un o'r cynlluniau yn wynebu diswyddo pobl ddiwedd y mis hwn. A ydych yn derbyn fod diffyg sicrwydd cyllid cyson i gynlluniau mor bwysig yn beryglus, ac y dylech adolygu'r trefniant hwnnw?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn siŵr o'r manylion, ond pe byddech yn ysgrifennu ataf cewch ateb manwl gennyf i neu Andrew Davies. Pan fo cyrff gwirfoddol yn cael eu sefydlu, maent yn cael eu hariannu fel arfer am dair blynedd i ddechrau, ac maent wedyn yn symud i'r sector cyhoeddus gwirioneddol, a dyna'r ateb yn y pen draw i'r broblem yr ydych yn cyfeirio ati. Fodd bynnag, os ydych yn siarad am arian Amcan 1, yr ydym yn gwybod y bydd chwe blynedd ychwanegol o arian Amcan 1, yn dechrau o 1 Ionawr y flwyddyn nesaf, ar gael i geisio amdano. Yr wyf yn derbyn eich pwynt ynghylch yr ansicrwydd yn y cyfnod pan fo'r arian sydd gan sefydliadau felly yn rhedeg allan ac maent yn aros am ganlyniad unrhyw gais y maent wedi ei gyflwyno am adnewyddu eu hariannu.

2.40 p.m.

Gwasanaethau'r GIG ar gyfer Menywod yn y Canolbarth a'r Gorllewin NHS Services for Women in Mid and West Wales

Q10 Lisa Francis: Will the First Minister make a statement on NHS services for women in mid and west Wales?
OAQ1485(FM)

The First Minister: NHS services in mid and west Wales are subject to a consultation that presents a range of options for consideration, and the local health community, as I mentioned earlier, is leading that consultation. I do not believe that it would be appropriate for me to comment at present on any specific matters.

Lisa Francis: You will know that a report into the provision of maternity services in west Wales was commissioned by NHS trusts and local health boards in the region. Many people have been under the mistaken impression that the review was put together,

Sure Start centre that have been established with funding from the Welsh Assembly Government. However, there is no long-term funding security for those schemes, and one of the schemes faces the prospect of making people redundant at the end of this month. Do you accept that a lack of assured regular funding for such important schemes is risky, and that you should review that arrangement?

The First Minister: I am not certain of the details, but if you write to me you will receive a detailed reply from me or Andrew Davies. When voluntary bodies are established, they are usually funded on a three-year basis initially, and they then move into the true public sector, which would be the ultimate solution to the problem to which you have referred. However, if you are talking about Objective 1 funding, we know that there will be an additional six years of Objective 1 funding, starting from 1 January next year, available to bid for. I accept your point about the uncertainty in the period when the money that such bodies have is running out and they are waiting for the result of any application that they may have made for a renewal of funding.

C10 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau'r GIG ar gyfer menywod yn y canolbarth a'r gorllewin?
OAQ1485(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae gwasanaethau'r GIG yn y canolbarth a'r gorllewin yn destun ymgynghoriad sy'n cyflwyno amrywiaeth o opsiynau i'w hystyried, a'r gymuned iechyd leol, fel y soniais yn gynharach, sy'n arwain yr ymgynghoriad hwnnw. Ni chredaf y byddai'n briodol imi roi sylwadau ar unrhyw faterion penodol ar hyn o bryd.

Lisa Francis: Gwyddoch i adroddiad ar y ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau mamolaeth yn y gorllewin gael ei gomisiynu gan ymddiriedolaethau GIG a byrddau iechyd lleol yn yr ardal. Cafodd llawer o bobl y camagraff mai Coleg Brenhinol yr

or written, by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Royal College of Midwives and the Royal College of Nursing. Professor Shaun O'Brien of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has written to your Government to complain that this review categorically does not represent the view of that college and does not carry its endorsement. What will you be doing to set this record straight?

The First Minister: I am very interested to hear about this letter. I have not seen it and I was not aware of its existence and, in the light of what you have said, we had better look into this matter very carefully and we will see what the appropriate response is and why he is seeking to put the record straight, which he is worried about. The general issue is that we are accepting the recommendation that a maternity board should be set up to cover the three trusts and boards of the county of Dyfed, but, as far as I am aware, they have not come forward with any proposals as yet.

Elin Jones: Yr wythnos diwethaf, gwnaeth doctoriaid, ymgynghorwyr a bydwagedd ddatganiad cyhoeddus yn ardal Aberystwyth ynglŷn â symud ymgynghorwyr obstetreg a phediatrig o Ysbyty Cyffredinol Dosbarth Bronglais i Ysbyty Glangwili, yn dweud y byddai hynny yn peryglu bywyd, yn enwedig bywydau mamau a phlant. Gwn na wnaethant y datganiadau hynny yn ysgafn. Ynglŷn â'r amcan amser o ran trosglwyddo cleifion brys, a fyddai'n cynnwys menywod beichiog mewn argyfwng, mae'n debyg y byddai'n cymryd o leiaf tair awr i fynd o Bronglais i Glangwili. Mae rheolwyr y GIG yn ardal Dyfed yn awgrymu canoli gwasanaethau yn Ysbyty Glangwili. A ydych yn cytuno ei fod yn bwysig ac yn gyfrifoldeb ar reolwyr ac aelodau byrddau i fod yn gwrando ar lais cyfrifol doctoriaid, ymgynghorwyr, nyrsys a bydwagedd yn Ysbyty Bronglais?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mor belled ag ydwyf yn ei ddeall, yr ydych o flaen y gad gyda'ch gosodiadau ynglŷn â'r dyfodol. Ni chredaf ei fod wedi cyrraedd y pwynt lle y gallwch wneud gosodiadau o'r fath. Y peth pwysig yw ein bod yn gwrando ar bob un sydd â chyfraniad allweddol i'w wneud ynglŷn â

Obstetregwyr a'r Gynaecolegwyr, Coleg Brenhinol y Bydwagedd a Choleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys a greodd, neu a ysgrifennodd yr adolygiad. Mae'r Athro Shaun O'Brien o Goleg Brenhinol yr Obstetregwyr a'r Gynaecolegwyr wedi ysgrifennu at eich Llywodraeth i gwyno nad yw'r adolygiad hwn yn cyflwyno barn y coleg hwnnw mewn unrhyw ffordd ac nad yw wedi ei gymeradwyo. Beth fyddwch yn ei wneud i unioni'r camagraff hwn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae gennyf ddiddordeb mawr clywed am y llythyr hwn. Nid wyf wedi'i weld ac nid oeddwn yn ymwybodol o'i fodolaeth ac, o ystyried yr hyn a ddywedoch, mae'n well inni ymchwilio i'r mater hwn yn ofalus iawn gan ystyried beth yw'r ymateb priodol a pham ei fod yn ceisio unioni'r camagraff, sy'n achosi pryder iddo. Y mater cyffredinol yw ein bod yn derbyn yr argymhellad y dylid sefydlu bwrdd mamolaeth i gwmpasu'r tair ymddiriedolaeth a'r tri bwrdd yn Nyfed, ond, hyd y gwn i, nid ydynt wedi cyflwyno unrhyw gynigion hyd yn hyn.

Elin Jones: Last week, doctors, consultants and midwives made a public statement in the Aberystwyth area about the moving of obstetrics and paediatric consultants from Bronglais District General Hospital to Glangwili Hospital, saying that it would endanger life, especially the lives of mothers and children. I know that they did make those statements lightly. On the estimated time for the transfer emergency patients, which would include pregnant women in crises, it appears that it would take at least three hours to go from Bronglais to Glangwili. NHS managers in the Dyfed area recommend centralising services in Glangwili Hospital. Do you agree that it is important and a responsibility of managers and board members to listen to the responsible voices of doctors, consultants, nurses and midwives in Bronglais Hospital?

The First Minister: As far as I understand it, you are ahead of yourself with your assertions regarding the future. I do not believe that it has reached the point where such statements could be made. The important thing is that we listen to everyone who has a key contribution to make as

darparu gwasanaethau sydd yn ddiogel ac yn fodern ac sydd ar gael mor gyfleus ag sydd yn bosibl ac yn ymarferol. Dyna beth mae pawb am gael. Mae pawb yn derbyn ei fod yn anodd i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau hynny gan fod y boblogaeth yn isel ac nad yw nifer y plant sydd yn cael eu geni mor uchel â hynny. Mae agweddau anodd o ran y ffactorau hynny, ond yr ydym yn gorfod gwrando ar bawb er mwyn dod ymlaen â chynllun sydd yn gynaliadwy, diogel a phroffesiynol at y dyfodol.

regards the provision of services that are safe, modern and available as conveniently and practicably as possible. That is what everyone wants. Everyone accepts that it is difficult to provide those services because of the low density of population and because the number of births is not that high. There are difficult aspects in terms of those factors, but we have to listen to everyone in order to bring forward a sustainable, safe and professional plan for the future.

Gwaharddiad ar Ysmygu mewn Mannau Cyhoeddus yng Nghymru Ban on Smoking in Public Places in Wales

Q11 Peter Black: When does the Assembly Government intend to introduce the ban on smoking in public places in Wales? OAQ1482(FM)

C11 Peter Black: Pryd mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn bwriadu cyflwyno'r gwaharddiad ar ysmygu mewn mannau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru? OAQ1482(FM)

The First Minister: The steps are as follows: the Health Bill will soon receive Royal Assent, draft regulations for Wales will be published, and they will then be subject to public consultation and scrutiny by this body. The UK Government has indicated that it plans to bring the ban into force in England during the summer of next year. We would envisage a similar timescale for Wales.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r camau fel a ganlyn: bydd y Mesur Iechyd yn derbyn Cydsyniad Brenhinol maes o law, cyhoeddir rheoliadau drafft ar gyfer Cymru, ac yna byddant yn destun ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus a phroses graffu gan y corff hwn. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi nodi ei bod yn bwriadu dod â'r gwaharddiad i rym yn Lloegr yn ystod haf y flwyddyn nesaf. Byddem yn rhagweld amserlen debyg ar gyfer Cymru.

Peter Black: There has been some speculation that, despite the Assembly's being in the forefront of aiming for this ban, we might well end up introducing it after England and after Scotland, where it has already been introduced. Can you give us an assurance that that will not be the case and that we will get it in place at about the same time as, or before, the English ban comes into effect?

Peter Black: Bu rhywfaint o sôn, er gwaethaf y ffaith y bu gan y Cynulliad ran flaenllaw yn yr ymgyrch i gyflwyno'r gwaharddiad hwn, y byddem yn ei gyflwyno ar ôl Lloegr ac ar ôl yr Alban, lle y cafodd ei gyflwyno eisoes. A allwch roi sicrwydd inni nad dyna fydd yr achos ac y byddwn yn rhoi'r gwaharddiad ar waith tua'r un pryd ag y daw gwaharddiad Lloegr i rym, neu cyn hynny?

The First Minister: The record will show that we were the first part of the British Isles to propose and carry a motion to bring in a ban on smoking in enclosed public places, following Alun Pugh's proposal under Standing Order No. 31, if it was called that back then. I do not think that there is any question of our being behind England; whether we will be in front of England is another question because the convenience factor of introducing the Bill after full consultation with the hospitality industry, so

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd y cofnod yn dangos mai ni oedd rhan gyntaf Ynysydd Prydain i gyflwyno a phasio cynnig i wahardd ysmygu mewn mannau cyhoeddus caeedig, yn dilyn cynnig Alun Pugh o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31, os mai dyna y'i gelwid bryd hynny. Ni chredaf fod unrhyw amheuaeth y byddwn y tu ôl i Loegr; mae pa un a gaiff ei gyflwyno gennym cyn y caiff ei gyflwyno yn Lloegr yn fater arall gan fod cyfleustra cyflwyno'r Mesur ar ôl ymgynghori'n llawn â'r diwydiant lletygarwch, er mwyn gallu ei

that it can be introduced as smoothly as possible, is an advantage to everyone.

It would be nice if it could be done before this Assembly reaches the end of the road in early April 2007, but we do not want to think about just putting a mark up and saying, 'We achieved that during the life of the Assembly' if it is more practical to achieve it a few months later when the weather is finer.

Val Lloyd: The Committee on Smoking in Public Places recommended setting up a steering group with the main stakeholders, such as the Welsh Local Government Association, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, trade unions and others. The idea was to ensure that there was a common understanding and presentation of the issues surrounding a ban. Can you tell me the position, either formally or informally, regarding establishing such a steering group?

The First Minister: We are on board with the purpose of a steering group, because, after the consultation during the autumn of this year and once the regulations have been passed and properly scrutinised by this body and the relevant committees, it is necessary to consider issues such as staff awareness and awareness-raising among local businesses. We have to train local authorities in the area of enforcement, and they will need staff to enforce the ban. All of that has to be done smoothly and professionally, otherwise the whole thing goes off half-cocked, and the public loses faith with governmental processes. This has to be done with great care and sensitivity. Finally, when you have done all of that, the ban can be introduced. We hope that it will be introduced smoothly, in a similar way to that which has happened in Scotland, which has seen the hospitality industry gaining turnover. It has had no big problems in the area of enforcement. That is what we want to see when we introduce the ban in Wales.

David Lloyd: Cyfrinach y llwyddiant yw'r gwaith caled rhagarweiniol a wnaed cyn i'r gwaharddiad ddod i rym. Beth sy'n digwydd o fewn uned hybu iechyd y Cynulliad i baratoi ar gyfer y gwaharddiad ar ysmegu yng Nghymru?

gyflwyno mor ddiraffferth â phosibl, o fantais i bawb.

Byddai'n braf pe gellid ei wneud cyn i'r Cynulliad hwn ddod i ddiwedd ei daith ddechrau mis Ebrill 2007, ond nid mater syml o allu datgan 'Fe'i cyflawnwyd yn ystod oes y Cynulliad' mohono pe byddai'n fwy ymarferol ei gyflawni ychydig fisoedd yn ddiweddarach pan fydd y tywydd yn well.

Val Lloyd: Argymhellodd y Pwyllgor ar Ysmegu mewn Mannau Cyhoeddus y dylid sefydlu grŵp llywio gyda'r prif randdeiliaid, megis Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, Sefydliad Siartredig Iechyd yr Amgylchedd, undebau llafur ac eraill. Y syniad oedd sicrhau bod dealltwriaeth gyffredin ac y câr'r materion cysylltiedig eu cyflwyno mewn ffordd gyffredin. A allwch fy hysbysu o'r sefyllfa, naill ai'n ffurfiol neu'n anffurfiol, o ran sefydlu grŵp llywio o'r fath?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn cytuno â diben grŵp llywio, oherwydd ar ôl yr ymgynghoriad yn ystod yr hydref eleni ac unwaith y bydd y rheoliadau wedi'u pasio ac y bydd y corff hwn a'r pwyllgorau perthnasol wedi craffu'n briodol arnynt, bydd angen ystyried materion megis ymwybyddiaeth staff a chodi ymwybyddiaeth ymhlith busnesau lleol. Rhaid inni hyfforddi awdurdodau lleol ym maes gorfodi, a bydd angen staff arnynt i orfodi'r gwaharddiad. Rhaid i hynny oll gael ei wneud mewn ffordd ddiraffferth a phroffesiynol, neu bydd llanastr, a bydd y cyhoedd yn colli ffydd ym mhrosesau'r llywodraeth. Rhaid gwneud hyn mewn ffordd ofalus a sensitif. Yn olaf, ar ôl gwneud hynny i gyd, gellir cyflwyno'r gwaharddiad. Gobeithiwn y caiff ei gyflwyno'n ddiraffferth, yn yr un ffordd ag a ddigwyddodd yn yr Alban, lle y mae trosiant y diwydiant lletygarwch wedi cynyddu. Ni welodd unrhyw broblemau mawr o ran gorfodi. Dyna yr ydym am ei weld pan gyflwynwn y gwaharddiad yng Nghymru.

David Lloyd: The secret of the success is the considerable preliminary work undertaken before the introduction of the ban. What is being done by the Assembly's health promotion unit to prepare for the ban on smoking in Wales?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym wedi rhoi £350,000 ychwanegol eleni i'r gwasanaeth Cymru-gyfan sy'n cynorthwyo pobl i roi'r gorau i ysmegu er mwyn iddo gyflogi chwe swyddog ychwanegol i helpu a chynghori pobl ar sut i roi'r gorau i ysmegu. Yn ogystal, mae cytundebau wedi'u llunio ar yr ochr greadigol, o ran cysylltiadau cyhoeddus, er mwyn hysbysebu'r hyn fydd yn digwydd cyn bo hir. Mae cwestiwn hefyd ynglŷn â sut i hyfforddi'r swyddogion a fydd yn gwneud y gwaith gwahardd, sy'n waith sensitif, er mwyn sicrhau bod y gwaharddiad yn cael ei gyflwyno gyda chyn lleied o ffwdan ag y bo modd.

Jonathan Morgan: Bearing in mind the large numbers of children who are admitted to hospital every year because of respiratory problems caused by second-hand smoke, do you plan to expand the range of smoking-cessation programmes that are available to smokers in Wales, especially for parents?

The First Minister: I guess that that would be covered by the answer that I just gave to Dai Lloyd. This year, we will hire, at a cost of £350,000 for staff salaries and the work costs, six additional smoking cessation councillors; there will be a new national co-ordinator post for the service, and some additional administrative support. We accept that nicotine is a very addictive substance. I am told that it is more addictive than heroin, so to tell people to stop smoking is not enough; you have to take them through the programme and advise them how to do it. There are successful methods of doing so, but it requires some willpower on the part of those giving up smoking. That would certainly cover parents, as the last thing that you want is more smoking at home, or more damage done to children at home, if their parents are spending more time at home than in the pub, club, restaurant or bar.

The First Minister: We have provided an additional £350,000 this year to the all-Wales smoking-cessation service in order for it to employ six additional officers to help and advise people on how to stop smoking. In addition, contracts have been put in place on the creative, public relations, side in order to advertise what will happen in the near future. There is also a question of how to train the officers who will be doing the enforcement work, which is sensitive work, in order to ensure that the ban comes into force with as little fuss as possible.

Jonathan Morgan: Gan gofio'r nifer uchel o blant a gaiff eu derbyn i'r ysbyty bob blwyddyn o ganlyniad i broblemau anadlu a achosir gan fŵg ail law, a fwriadwch ehangu'r ystod o raglenni rhoi'r gorau i ysmegu sydd ar gael i ysmegwyr yng Nghymru, yn arbennig i rieni?

Y Prif Weinidog: Tybiaf fod hynny wedi'i gwmpasu gan yr ateb a roddais i Dai Lloyd. Eleni, byddwn yn hurio chwe chynghorydd ychwanegol ar gyfer rhaglenni rhoi'r gorau i ysmegu, a hynny ar gost o £350,000 ar gyfer cyflogau staff a chostau'r gwaith; bydd swydd cydlynnydd cenedlaethol newydd ar gyfer y gwasanaeth, a rhywfaint o gymorth gweinyddol ychwanegol. Derbyniwn fod nicotin yn sylwedd caethiwus iawn. Dywedir wrthyf ei fod yn fwy caethiwus na heroin, felly nid yw'n ddigon dweud wrth bobl i roi'r gorau i ysmegu; rhaid ichi eu tywys drwy'r rhaglen a'u cynghori sut i wneud hynny. Mae yna ddulliau llwyddiannus o wneud hynny, ond mae angen rhywfaint o rym ewyllys ar ran y sawl sy'n rhoi'r gorau i ysmegu. Byddai hynny yn sicr yn cynnwys rhieni, gan mai'r peth olaf y byddech am ei weld fyddai mwy o ysmegu yn y cartref, neu fwy o niwed yn cael ei wneud i blant yn y cartref, am fod eu rhieni yn treulio mwy o amser gartref nag yn y dafarn, clwb, bwyty neu far.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

Allgáu Cymdeithasol Social Exclusion

Q1 Leighton Andrews: What is the Minister doing to ensure that all forms of social exclusion are tackled? OAQ0687(SJR)

C1 Leighton Andrew: Beth mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i sicrhau yr eir i'r afael â phob math o allgáu cymdeithasol? OAQ0687(SJR)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): Tackling social exclusion in Wales lies at the heart of the Assembly Government's agenda. Our social justice annual report 2005 sets out how we are improving access to jobs, skills, training, healthcare, housing, the safety of people in our communities and the regeneration of our communities.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Mae mynd i'r afael ag allgáu cymdeithasol yng Nghymru wrth wraidd agenda Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Noda adroddiad blynyddol 2005 ar gyfiawnder cymdeithasol sut yr ydym yn gwella mynediad i swyddi, sgiliau, hyfforddiant, gofal iechyd, tai, diogelwch pobl yn ein cymunedau a'r broses o adfywio ein cymunedau.

2.50 p.m.

Leighton Andrews: Do you agree that one of the important assets often required by communities which seek to fight social exclusion, is a proper base in the community for community activities to take place? Therefore, will you join me in congratulating the community in Clydach Vale for finally completing the purchase of its community centre? I know that you have been involved in that saga, which goes back some two and a half years. That has now been made a reality following the support that the community has enjoyed from the Communities First programme.

Leighton Andrews: Oni chytunwch fod sail briodol yn y gymuned lle y gellir cynnal gweithgareddau cymunedol yn un o'r asedau pwysig sydd ei angen yn aml ar gymunedau sy'n ceisio trechu allgáu cymdeithasol? Felly, a ymunwch â mi i longyfarch cymuned Cwm Clydach am lwyddo o'r diwedd i gwblhau'r broses o brynu ei chanolfan gymunedol? Gwn ichi fod yn rhan o'r saga honno, a ddechreuodd ryw ddwy flynedd a hanner yn ôl. Mae hynny bellach yn realiti yn dilyn y gefnogaeth a gafodd y gymuned gan raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Edwina Hart: I concur with your comments and I certainly congratulate the residents of Clydach Vale. I am sure that the centre will be put to excellent use.

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf â'ch sylwadau ac yn sicr, hoffwn longyfarch trigolion Cwm Clydach. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwneir defnydd rhagorol o'r ganolfan.

Leanne Wood: You claim that the Communities First programme is designed to tackle social exclusion; could you, therefore, tell us why you are allowing the closure of schools in Communities First areas?

Leanne Wood: Yr ydych yn honni bod rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf wedi'i chynllunio i fynd i'r afael ag allgáu cymdeithasol; a allech, felly, ddweud wrthym pam yr ydych yn caniatáu i ysgolion mewn ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf gael eu cau?

Edwina Hart: School closures are a matter for individual education authorities.

Edwina Hart: Mater i awdurdodau addysg unigol yw'r penderfyniad i gau ysgolion.

Leanne Wood: I have been working with the friends of Blaenclydach Infant School, a school in a Communities First area, which has worked closely with a Communities First partnership to get £50,000 for a new school yard. Yet, the local authority has decided to close that school and your Government has recently rubber-stamped the decision. Does that example not make a mockery of your claims that your Government is operating in a joined-up way?

Edwina Hart: Those are matters for local education authorities, local government and for the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills.

Mark Isherwood: Social inclusion work at Llangollen youth hostel with some of the most disadvantaged young people has been highly successful and has turned the hostel around from a position of deficit to one of operational surplus. However, it has been threatened with closure and, last week, four AMs from four parties met with the Youth Hostel Association and others to express our concerns. We were told that the barrier to the survival of the hostel is the high capital costs involved in preparing and modernising the building. What action will you take with your colleague, Andrew Davies, who sent a representative to the meeting, to provide the necessary support that will allow this vital work to continue?

Edwina Hart: I will discuss this issue with my colleague, Andrew Davies.

Jenny Randerson: The people on pensions and benefits who are most socially excluded are often those who are not able to have a bank account. As such, they rely, to a great extent, on the post office card account, which, as you will know, we recently heard is to be phased out. What representations have you made to the UK Government on the impact on those who are most vulnerable in our society, who do not want to open a bank account or who are not able to do so and at what time were you first told that the post office card account would be phased out?

Leanne Wood: Bûm yn gweithio gyda chyfeillion Ysgol Fabanod Blaenclydach, ysgol mewn ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, sydd wedi gweithio'n agos â phartneriaeth Cymunedau yn Gyntaf i gael £50,000 ar gyfer iard ysgol newydd. Eto, mae'r awdurdod lleol wedi penderfynu cau'r ysgol honno ac yn ddiweddar fe gymeradwyodd eich Llywodraeth chi y penderfyniad hwnnw. Onid yw'r enghraifft honno yn gwbl groes i'ch honiadau bod eich Llywodraeth yn gweithredu mewn ffordd gydgysylltiedig?

Edwina Hart: Materion i awdurdodau addysg lleol, llywodraeth leol a'r Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau yw'r rheini.

Mark Isherwood: Bu gwaith cynhwysiant cymdeithasol yn hostel ieuencid Llangollen gyda rhai o'r bobl ifanc fwyaf difreintiedig yn llwyddiannus iawn gan lwyddo i droi'r hostel o sefyllfa o ddiffyg ariannol i sefyllfa o warged gweithredol. Fodd bynnag, mae'r hostel o dan fygythiad o'i chau ac, yr wythnos diwethaf, cyfarfu pedwar AC o bedair plaid â Chymdeithas yr Hostelaau Ieuencid ac eraill i fynegi ein pryderon. Dywedwyd wrthym mai'r rhwystr sy'n atal yr hostel rhag aros ar agor yw'r costau cyfalaf uchel sydd ynghlwm â pharatoi a moderneiddio'r adeilad. Pa gamau a gymerwch gyda'ch cyd-Aelod, Andrew Davies, a anfonodd gynrychiolydd i'r cyfarfod, i ddarparu'r cymorth angenrheidiol a fydd yn caniatáu i'r gwaith hanfodol hwn barhau?

Edwina Hart: Trafodaf y mater hwn gyda'm cyd-Aelod, Andrew Davies.

Jenny Randerson: Yn aml, y bobl ar bensynau a budd-daliadau a gaiff eu hallgáu fwyaf yn gymdeithasol yw'r rheini na allant agor cyfrif banc. O ganlyniad, maent yn dibynnu, i raddau helaeth, ar gyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post a fydd, fel y gwyddoch, yn cael ei ddiddymu'n raddol. Pa sylwadau a gyflwynwyd gennych i Lywodraeth y DU ar yr effaith ar y rheini sy'n fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas, nad ydynt am agor cyfrif banc neu na allant wneud hynny a phryd y dywedwyd wrthyhych gyntaf y byddai cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post yn cael ei ddiddymu?

Edwina Hart: I will have to check on the dates, Jenny, because they are not in front of me now, and I will respond to you. I made representations early on when direct payments into bank accounts were introduced. I was pleased about the establishment of the post office card account and I will make further representations on the current situation.

Edwina Hart: Bydd yn rhaid imi edrych i weld y dyddiadau, Jenny, gan nad ydynt gennyf ar hyn o bryd, ac fe ymatebaf ichi. Gwneuthum sylwadau yn gynnar pan gyflwynwyd taliadau uniongyrchol i gyfrifon banc. Yr oeddwn yn falch bod cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post yn cael ei sefydlu ac fe wnaif sylwadau pellach ar y sefyllfa bresennol.

Rôl y Sector Gwirfoddol The Voluntary Sector's Role

Q2 David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on the voluntary sector's role in promoting the Welsh Assembly Government's social justice objectives in Wales? OAQ0638(SJR)

C2 David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am rôl y sector gwirfoddol o ran hyrwyddo amcanion cyfiawnder cymdeithasol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yng Nghymru? OAQ0638(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Our social justice annual report 2005 sets out how we are improving access to skills training, healthcare and housing in our communities. The voluntary sector makes an important contribution to that.

Edwina Hart: Noda adroddiad blynyddol 2005 ar gyfiawnder cymdeithasol sut yr ydym yn gwella mynediad i hyfforddiant sgiliau, gofal iechyd a thai yn ein cymunedau. Gwna'r sector gwirfoddol gyfraniad pwysig yn hynny o beth.

David Melding: Do you share my view that if the role of the voluntary sector in delivering services, particularly those based at a community level, were increased, we would see a more effective and quicker achievement of social objective measures?

David Melding: A rannwch fy marn pe cynyddwyd rôl y sector gwirfoddol wrth gyflwyno gwasanaethau, yn arbennig gwasanaethau ar lefel gymunedol, y byddai mesurau ag amcanion cymdeithasol yn cael eu cyflawni yn fwy effeithiol ac yn gyflymach?

Edwina Hart: I am picking up issues across Wales on the role of the voluntary sector in delivering services and the fact that it does so cost-effectively in some areas, which is of an additional benefit to communities. However, I am concerned that some sectors in Wales are particularly adversely affected in terms of some of their agreements with local government in that they seem to be losing elements of funding that was helping them with their services.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn ystyried materion o bob cwr o Gymru o ran rôl y sector gwirfoddol wrth gyflwyno gwasanaethau a'r ffaith ei fod yn gwneud hynny mewn ffordd mor gost effeithiol mewn rhai ardaloedd, sydd o fudd ychwanegol i gymunedau. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn pryderu am yr effaith andwyol a gaiff rhai o'r cytundebau gyda llywodraeth leol ar rai sectorau yng Nghymru, gan ei bod yn ymddangos fel petaent yn colli elfennau o'r cyllid a oedd yn eu helpu gyda'u gwasanaethau.

David Lloyd: What are the prospects for secure long-term funding for New Pathways' abuse counselling service in Merthyr Tydfil and Swansea as it looks to expand its services?

David Lloyd: Beth yw'r rhagolygon ar gyfer sicrhau cyllid hirdymor i wasanaeth cwnsela yn sgîl cam-drin New Pathways ym Merthyr Tudful ac Abertawe wrth iddo geisio ehangu ei wasanaethau?

Edwina Hart: Obviously we have to look at

Edwina Hart: Yn amlwg rhaid inni ystyried

funding applications as they come in. I will give further thought to the work of these valuable organisations.

ceisiadau am gyllid wrth iddynt gael eu cyflwyno. Rhoddaf ystyriaeth bellach i waith y sefydliadau gwerthfawr hyn.

Tai Housing

Q3 Leanne Wood: Will the Minister make a statement on the implications of housing stock transfers on social housing? OAQ0662(SJR)

C3 Leanne Wood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am oblygiadau trosglwyddo stoc tai ar dai cymdeithasol? OAQ0662(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Current Welsh Assembly Government policy is to promote the achievement of the Welsh housing quality standard with its associated environmental and regeneration benefits for tenants. Housing stock transfer generates the necessary additional investment for authorities unable to meet the standard from within their own resources.

Edwina Hart: Ar hyn o bryd, polisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yw hybu'r gwaith o gyflawni safon ansawdd tai Cymru â'i buddiannau amgylcheddol ac adfywio cysylltiedig i denantiaid. Mae trosglwyddo stoc tai yn cynhyrchu'r buddsoddiad ychwanegol angenrheidiol i awdurdodau na allant fodloni'r safon gan ddefnyddio eu hadnoddau eu hunain.

Leanne Wood: On the matter of the standard, Minister, I refer you to the recommendations of the housing task and finish group. Recommendation 2.3 calls for a review of the standard, to define the elements that can be measured, and recommendation 2.4 refers to stock transfer in one community, presumably on a council-ward level. Will you tell us about progress on those two recommendations?

Leanne Wood: O ran y safon, Weinidog, fe'ch cyfeirïaf at argymhellion y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar dai. Mae argymhelliad 2.3 yn galw am i'r safon gael ei hadolygu, er mwyn diffinio'r elfennau y gellir eu mesur, ac mae argymhelliad 2.4 yn cyfeirio at drosglwyddo stoc mewn un gymuned, fwy na thebyg ar lefel wardiau cyngor. A ddywedwch wrthym am y cynnydd a wnaed mewn perthynas â'r ddau argymhelliad hwnnw?

Edwina Hart: I will provide a full report on these recommendations to the next meeting of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee.

Edwina Hart: Darparaf adroddiad llawn ar yr argymhellion hynny yng nghyfarfod nesaf y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio.

Leighton Andrews: Do you agree that it is essential that councils achieve the Welsh quality housing standard and that the process of housing stock transfer, where it uses the Assembly community mutual housing proposal, is one way of doing that? It is important that an honest debate is had about those proposals and that lies are not spread by opposition parties.

Leighton Andrews: A gytunwch ei bod yn hanfodol i gynghorau gyflawni safon ansawdd tai Cymru a bod y broses o drosglwyddo stoc tai, pan fydd yn defnyddio cynnig tai cydfuddiannol cymunedol y Cynulliad, yn un ffordd o wneud hynny? Mae'n bwysig cynnal dadl onest am y cynigion hyn gan sicrhau na fydd y gwrthbleidiau yn lledaenu celwyddau.

Edwina Hart: It is important to have an honest debate about how we will achieve the Welsh housing quality standard. A lot of misinformation is given out; it is important that we get the correct information out to communities so that, when they come to be

Edwina Hart: Mae'n bwysig cynnal dadl onest am sut y byddwn yn cyflawni safon ansawdd tai Cymru. Dosberthir llawer o wybodaeth gamarweiniol; mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod y wybodaeth gywir yn cael ei rhoi i gymunedau er mwyn sicrhau, pan

balloted, they can make the decision that is right for them. The community mutual option is a good one.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I appreciate that the last comment was a generalised smear and not specifically directed at an individual Member. I hope that we can turn the volume down between now and the Assembly elections.

William Graham: Given that you have said that stock transfer is the only way that Welsh councils will meet the standards by 2010, what actions have you taken to make the option of new social landlords more attractive?

Edwina Hart: It is quite clear that it is the only option for some local authorities—that has come from their own plans. My officials are conducting more discussions with local authorities to see how they will progress some of the issues. In order to achieve the Welsh housing quality standard by 2010, they have a lot of work to do in some areas. We try to give as much help as we can from the Assembly and we are looking at other issues that might help local authorities, such as an honest broker to say what the issues are, so that publicity can be given to tenants. Therefore, there is a lot of ongoing work in this area.

Janice Gregory: You will be aware that Bridgend County Borough Council transferred its whole housing stock to the Valleys to Coast Housing Association some three years ago. The association is investing over £70 million in refurbishment and renewal during the first five years of its operation. Importantly for local communities, the core objective of Valleys to Coast Housing Association is community regeneration in action. Do you agree that the stock transfer for Bridgend has been a win-win situation? Investment has not only delivered improvements in the housing stock but, through such initiatives as the procurement of local labour, it is also acting as the driver for regeneration.

Edwina Hart: Yes; we have to acknowledge that stock transfer has been successful in

gynhelir pleidlais, y gallant wneud y penderfyniad sy'n iawn iddynt hwy. Mae'r opsiwn cydfuddiannol cymunedol yn un da.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Gwerthfawrogaf mai beirmiadaeth gyffredinol oedd y sylw olaf ac nad oedd wedi'i chyfeirio'n benodol at Aelod unigol. Gobeithiaf y gallwn dawelu rhwng yn awr ac etholiadau'r Cynulliad.

William Graham: O ystyried ichi ddweud mai dim ond drwy drosglwyddo stoc y bydd cynghorau yng Nghymru yn bodloni'r safonau erbyn 2010, pa gamau a gymerwyd gennych i sicrhau bod yr opsiwn landlordiaid cymdeithasol newydd yn fwy deniadol?

Edwina Hart: Mae'n gwbl amlwg mai dyna'r unig ddewis i rai awdurdodau lleol—mae hynny i'w weld yn eu cynlluniau hwy eu hunain. Mae fy swyddogion yn cynnal mwy o drafodaethau gydag awdurdodau lleol i weld sut y byddant yn gweithredu ar rai o'r materion. Er mwyn cyflawni safon ansawdd tai Cymru erbyn 2010, mae ganddynt lawer o waith i'w wneud mewn rhai meysydd. Yr ydym yn ceisio rhoi cymaint o help ag y gallwn o'r Cynulliad ac yr ydym yn ystyried materion eraill a allai helpu awdurdodau lleol, megis brocer gonest i amlygu'r materion, fel y gellir rhoi cyhoeddusrwydd i denantiaid. Felly, mae llawer o waith yn mynd rhagddo yn y maes hwn.

Janice Gregory: Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr wedi trosglwyddo ei stoc tai cyfan i Gymdeithas Tai Valleys to Coast ryw dair blynedd yn ôl. Mae'r gymdeithas yn buddsoddi dros £70 miliwn i ailwampio ac adnewyddu yn ystod pum mlynedd gyntaf ei chynllun gweithredu. Yn bwysig i gymunedau lleol, amcan craidd Cymdeithas Tai Valleys to Coast yw rhoi adfywio cymunedol ar waith. A gytunwch fod y penderfyniad i drosglwyddo stoc ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr er budd i bawb? Mae'r buddsoddiad nid yn unig wedi cyflawni gwelliannau yn y stoc tai ond, drwy fentrau fel y fenter caffael llafur lleol, mae hefyd yn ysgogi gwaith adfywio.

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf; rhaid inni gydnabod y bu'r penderfyniad i drosglwyddo stoc yn

Bridgend. That is seen in the fact that the tenants have enjoyed the success of it. Most importantly, we have to recognise the people in this discussion, not the views of political parties or individual politicians, in terms of what benefits might accrue to tenants and to the local economy. That has been the case in the Bridgend.

llwyddiannus ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Mae'r ffaith bod y tenantiaid wedi mwynhau ei lwyddiant yn brawf o hynny. Yn anad dim, rhaid inni gydnabod y bobl yn y drafodaeth hon, yn hytrach na safbwyntiau pleidiau gwleidyddol neu wleidyddion unigol, o ran pa fuddiannau y gellid eu cyflwyno i denantiaid ac i'r economi leol. Dyna a ddigwyddodd ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Rhaglen Cyfleusterau a Gweithgareddau Cymunedol Community Facilities and Activities Programme

Q4 Lorraine Barrett: Will the Minister provide a progress report on the community facilities and activities programme? OAQ0654(SJR)

C4 Lorraine Barrett: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad cynnydd ar y rhaglen cyfleusterau a gweithgareddau cymunedol? OAQ0654(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The community facilities and activities programme remains an extremely popular grant scheme which has successfully awarded £33.518 million to 406 community and voluntary projects across Wales since its launch in 2002. This includes over £1 million in projects in Cardiff South and Penarth.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r rhaglen cyfleusterau a gweithgareddau cymunedol yn parhau'n gynllun grant poblogaidd sydd wedi llwyddo i ddyfarnu £33.518 miliwn i 406 o brosiectau cymunedol a gwirfoddol ledled Cymru ers ei lansio yn 2002. Mae hyn yn cynnwys dros £1 filiwn i brosiectau yn Ne Caerdydd a Phenarth.

Lorraine Barrett: Thank you for that funding in my constituency. I know that you are aware of the excellent work done by the Butetown History and Arts Centre and I am grateful for your recent correspondence relating to its unsuccessful application for funding. Can you offer any advice as to where Butetown History and Arts Centre can access any core funding to ensure that it continues the much-valued work that it does?

Lorraine Barrett: Diolch ichi am y cyllid hwnnw yn fy etholaeth. Gwn eich bod yn ymwybodol o'r gwaith ardderchog a wneir gan Ganolfan Hanes a Chelfyddydau Butetown ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich gohebiaeth ddiweddar o ran ei chais aflwyddiannus am gyllid. A allwch gynnig unrhyw gyngor o ran lle y gall Canolfan Hanes a Chelfyddydau Butetown gael unrhyw gyllid craidd i sicrhau y gall barhau â'r gwaith hynod werthfawr a wnaiff?

Edwina Hart: I am sorry that the centre's application was not successful. The scheme is oversubscribed and many valuable projects in Wales that are not funded. We could put as much money as possible into that particular budget line; I hope that the Finance Minister is listening. I understand that the centre is formally trying to gain museum status at present which might open up other possible grants. I would be happy for representatives from the Butetown History and Arts Centre to meet my officials to discuss funding possibilities.

Edwina Hart: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf na fu cais y ganolfan yn llwyddiannus. Mae'r cynllun yn derbyn gormod o geisiadau ac ni chaiff llawer o brosiectau gwerthfawr yng Nghymru eu hariannu. Gallem roi cymaint o arian â phosibl yn y llinell arbennig honno yn y gyllideb; gobeithiaf fod y Gweinidog dros Gyllid yn gwrandao. Yr wyf ar ddeall bod y ganolfan wedi cyflwyno cais ffurfiol i gael statws amgueddfa ar hyn o bryd a allai ei gwneud yn gymwys ar gyfer grantiau posibl eraill. Buaswn yn fwy na pharod i gynrychiolwyr o Ganolfan Hanes a Chelfyddydau Butetown i gyfarfod â'm swyddogion i drafod y posibiladau o ran cyllid.

3.00 p.m.

Owen John Thomas: Llanrumney, as you know, was part of a regeneration project a couple of years ago. The whole scheme was going well and there was a lot of involvement from local people—over 50 people regularly attended meetings. Then, all of a sudden, the local authority removed its funding. What benefits are to be seen in Llanrumney as a result of the scheme? Is there some way in which we can access records that show how this is being monitored and funded?

Owen John Thomas: Yr oedd Llanrhymini, fel y gwyddoch, yn rhan o brosiect adfywio rai blynyddoedd yn ôl. Yr oedd y cynllun cyfan yn mynd rhagddo'n dda ac yr oedd pobl leol yn cymryd rhan flaenllaw—yr oedd dros 50 o bobl yn dod i gyfarfodydd yn rheolaidd. Wedyn sydyn iawn, tynnwyd y cyllid yn ôl gan yr awdurdod lleol. Pa fuddiannau a welir yn Llanrhymini o ganlyniad i'r cynllun? A oes modd inni gael gafael ar y cofnodion sy'n dangos sut yr oedd hwn yn cael ei fonitro a'i ariannu?

Edwina Hart: I obviously cannot comment on what the local authority has done, but I will look to see whether there are any monitoring records or any other information that may be of assistance to you.

Edwina Hart: Yn amlwg ni allaf wneud sylwadau ar yr hyn y mae'r awdurdod lleol wedi'i wneud, ond ceisiaf ganfod a oes unrhyw gofnodion monitro neu unrhyw wybodaeth arall a allai fod o gymorth ichi.

Adfywio Canol Trefi Regenerating Town Centres

Q5 Catherine Thomas: What is being done under the Minister's portfolio to regenerate town centres? OAQ0673(SJR)

C5 Catherine Thomas: Beth sy'n cael ei wneud dan bortffolio'r Gweinidog i adfywio canol trefi? OAQ0673(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The physical regeneration fund 2004-06 has committed over £33 million to regeneration projects across Wales, £30.2 million of which has been allocated to town centres. The final implementation round will be held in September 2006, with funding for approved projects available up to March 2010.

Edwina Hart: Mae cronfa adfywio ffisegol 2004-06 wedi neilltuo dros £33 miliwn ar gyfer prosiectau adfywio ledled Cymru, y mae £30.2 miliwn o'r swm hwnnw wedi cael ei ddyrannu i ganol trefi. Cynhelir y cylch gweithredu terfynol ym mis Medi 2006, a bydd cyllid ar gyfer prosiectau a gymeradwywyd ar gael hyd at fis Mawrth 2010.

Catherine Thomas: During your recent visit to my constituency you visited Llanelli House, which I am sure you will agree is a wonderful example of a Georgian townhouse. I take this opportunity to thank you for the financial support that you have given to Llanelli House. Do you agree that due to the location of the house right in the heart of the town it is vital that funds continue to be secured for its complete restoration as it will play a significant role in the overall regeneration of Llanelli?

Catherine Thomas: Yn ystod eich ymweliad diweddar â'm hetholaeth, bu ichi ymweld â Thŷ Llanelli, sy'n enghraifft wych, fe gytunwch, mae'n siŵr, o dŷ tref Sioraidd. Hoffwn achub ar y cyfle hwn i ddiolch ichi am y cymorth ariannol a roesoch i Dŷ Llanelli. A gytunwch ei bod yn hollbwysig, oherwydd lleoliad y tŷ yng nghanol y dref, bod cyllid yn parhau i gael ei sicrhau er mwyn cwblhau ei adnewyddu gan y bydd yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn y broses adfywio gyffredinol yn Llanelli?

Edwina Hart: I think that Llanelli has been quite successful in terms of the physical regeneration fund. Nearly £123,000 was

Edwina Hart: Credaf fod Llanelli wedi bod yn eithaf llwyddiannus o ran y gronfa adfywio ffisegol. Dyfarnwyd bron £123,000 i

awarded for the Llanelli town centre regeneration strategy, which is a central part of the development of Llanelli House. Llanelli has also received quite a lot of European Objective 1 money, under priority 6 measure 3, as part of the £6.1 million regeneration of the town. However, the regeneration of Llanelli is essential if we are to deliver in terms of what is a very beautiful Georgian house.

Alun Cairns: The Conservative Party has long called for support to help the regeneration of town centres. Infrastructure is one part of that support on which little progress has been made in some areas. Do you recognise that, in order for private enterprises on high streets and in town centres to flourish and expand, it would be useful if they had some sort of business rate relief support in order to help them in a sustainable way over a much longer period rather than having nice pavements in front of shops that are boarded up?

Edwina Hart: I see enormous improvements in some of the town centres that I visit in Wales. I see new businesses and great innovation within the private sector in developing those particular areas.

I am sure that my colleague, Sue Essex, has heard your point regarding business rate relief.

strategaeth adfywio canol tref Llanelli, sy'n rhan ganolog o ddatblygiad Tŷ Llanelli. Mae Llanelli hefyd wedi cael swm eithaf mawr o arian Ewropeaidd Amcan 1, o dan flaenoriaeth 6, mesur 3, fel rhan o brosiect gwerth £6.1 miliwn i adfywio'r dref. Fodd bynnag, mae adfywio Llanelli yn hanfodol os ydym yn mynd i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y tŷ Sioraidd godidog hwn.

Alun Cairns: Mae'r Blaid Geidwadol wedi galw am gymorth i helpu i adfywio canol trefi ers amser maith. Mae seilwaith yn un rhan o'r cymorth hwnnw na wnaed fawr ddim cynnydd yn ei chylch mewn rhai ardaloedd. A gydnabyddwch y byddai'n ddefnyddiol, er mwyn i fentrau preifat ar y stryd fawr ac yng nghanol trefi ffynnu ac ehangu, pe baent yn cael rhyw fath o ryddhad ardrethi busnes er mwyn eu helpu mewn ffordd gynaliadwy dros gyfnod llawer hwy yn hytrach na chael palmentydd cain o flaen siopau gwag?

Edwina Hart: Gwelaf welliannau mawr yng nghanol rhai o'r trefi yr wyf yn ymweld â hwy yng Nghymru. Gwelaf fusnesau newydd ac arloesi mawr yn y sector preifat wrth ddatblygu'r ardaloedd penodol hynny.

Yr wyf yn siŵr bod fy nghyd-Weinidog, Sue Essex, wedi clywed eich pwynt ynglŷn â'r rhyddhad ardrethi busnes.

Mudiadau Sector Gwirfoddol Voluntary Sector Organisations

Q6 Irene James: Will the Minister make a statement on funding for voluntary sector organisations in Wales? OAQ0683(SJR)

Edwina Hart: We recognise the many challenges presented by increased partnership working and have introduced core funding, linked to a partnership agreement with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, county voluntary councils and volunteer bureaux. This sets out a range of outcomes and performance targets that they will be required to meet in exchange for stable, long-term funding.

Irene James: I would particularly like to

C6 Irene James: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyllid ar gyfer mudiadau sector gwirfoddol yng Nghymru? OAQ0683(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Cydnabyddwn yr heriau liaws a godwyd oherwydd mwy o weithio mewn partneriaeth ac yr ydym wedi cyflwyno cyllid craidd, yn gysylltiedig â chytundeb partneriaeth â Chyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru, cynghorau gwirfoddol sirol a chanolfannau gwirfoddol. Mae hwn yn amlinellu nifer o ganlyniadau a thargedau perfformiad y bydd angen iddynt eu cyflawni er mwyn cael cyllid sefydlog yn yr hirdymor.

Irene James: Hoffwn groesawu'n arbennig y

welcome the funding for projects in Caerphilly county borough, which includes the £100,000 for the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations over three years to support community and voluntary organisations to regenerate local areas, and the £65,000 for the Hollybush residents' association to build a new community centre. Do you agree that such projects demonstrate the contribution and dedication of voluntary sector organisations in Islwyn to regenerating local communities and that their continued support for such activities is key if we are to tackle local deprivation?

Edwina Hart: Without the voluntary sector, Wales would be a much poorer place. We have to ensure that we support volunteers and voluntary organisations as much as possible.

Eleanor Burnham: I visited the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham last week—many people think that we do nothing during recess—and it was an interesting visit. I commend the voluntary organisations in Wrexham because they are all hard working. However, while we have heard some wonderful stories, they are concerned that they are receiving insufficient funding. They are totally oversubscribed, and they would like to know whether you could possibly consider giving them more response time when you hold consultations, so that it is not just a fait accompli? For example, AVOW often worries that much of its funding is tied up in contracts and therefore has a lack of flexibility. How can you address these issues, Minister, because I, like you probably, would like to ensure that AVOW and other wonderful voluntary organisations across north Wales have some fair play?

Edwina Hart: There is, generally, fair play across Wales, but there will always be examples where things have not worked out quite as anticipated. If you want to send me the full details of your visit and the problems raised, I would be pleased to consider them. Ann Jones chairs the sub-committee of the voluntary sector council, and she is eager to look at breaches of the code regarding

cyllid ar gyfer prosiectau ym mwrdeistref sirol Caerffili, sy'n cynnwys £100,000 ar gyfer Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Gwent dros dair blynedd i helpu mudiadau cymunedol a gwirfoddol i adfywio ardaloedd lleol, a £65,000 ar gyfer cymdeithas trigolion Llwynceilyn i adeiladu canolfan gymunedol newydd. A gytunwch fod prosiectau o'r fath yn dangos cyfraniad ac ymroddiad mudiadau'r sector gwirfoddol yn Islwyn i adfywio cymunedau lleol a bod eu cefnogaeth i weithgareddau o'r fath yn y dyfodol yn allweddol os ydym am fynd i'r afael ag amddifadedd lleol?

Edwina Hart: Heb y sector gwirfoddol, byddai Cymru yn lle tlotach o lawer. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi cymaint o gymorth â phosibl i wirfoddolwyr a mudiadau gwirfoddol.

Eleanor Burnham: Ymwelais â Chymdeithas y Mudiadau Gwirfoddol yn Wrecsam yr wythnos diwethaf—mae llawer o bobl yn meddwl nad ydym yn gwneud dim byd yn ystod y toriad—ac yr oedd yn ymweliad diddorol. Cymeradwyaf y mudiadau gwirfoddol yn Wrecsam am eu bod oll mor weithgar. Fodd bynnag, er inni glywed am rai pethau gwych, maent yn pryderu nad ydynt yn cael digon o gyllid. Mae llawer mwy o alw am eu gwasanaethau nag sydd ganddynt adnoddau, a hoffent wybod a fydech yn fodlon ystyried rhoi mwy o amser ymateb iddynt pan fyddwch yn cynnal ymgynghoriadau, fel na chaiff penderfyniadau eu gwneud heb yn wybod iddynt? Er enghraifft, mae AVOW yn aml yn poeni bod llawer o'i chyllid wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer contractau ac felly nad yw'n hyblyg. Sut y gallwch ymdrin â'r materion hyn, Weinidog, oherwydd hoffwn innau, fel chithau fwy na thebyg, sicrhau bod AVOW a mudiadau gwirfoddol gwych eraill ledled y Gogledd yn cael chwarae teg?

Edwina Hart: Yn gyffredinol mae chwarae teg i bawb ledled Cymru, ond bydd bob amser enghreifftiau lle nad yw pethau wedi datblygu fel y rhagwelwyd. Os hoffech anfon manylion llawn eich ymweliad a'r problemau a godwyd ataf, byddai'n bleser gennyf eu hystyried. Ann Jones sy'n cadeirio is-bwyllgor cyngor y sector gwirfoddol, ac mae'n awyddus i edrych ar achosion o dorri'r

funding arrangements. Therefore, they can be referred to her.

William Graham: I know that you will join me in acknowledging the wonderful work that St John Ambulance and Red Cross volunteers do at many events throughout Wales. Could you consider ways of assisting them with campaigns to attract new members, particularly for wider social involvement?

Edwina Hart: We are trying to encourage volunteers from the Assembly and Assembly Members' staff, and I would be delighted to consider that issue. I am aware that there are problems sometimes with volunteers, particularly for St John Ambulance, who are so useful in the way that they deal with events. I will report back to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee on any progress that I might make.

Jocelyn Davies: I am sure that you would agree, Minister, that voluntary organisations often deliver Government policy, and do not just enrich Welsh lives. I am thinking specifically of things such as the heart rehabilitation clubs across Wales, including Heartbeat, which is based at Caldicott leisure centre and which will assist heart patients in regaining good health. What is your Government doing to assist these groups in accessing lottery funding that will ensure their survival?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for raising that point. Like Eleanor Burnham, I was also busy during recess, as many voluntary organisations raised issues with me regarding their funding. I would be delighted to consider the lottery issue and come back to you.

cod o ran trefniadau ariannu. Felly, gallwch eu cyfeirio ati hi.

William Graham: Gwn y byddwch yn ymuno â mi i gydnabod y gwaith gwych y mae gwirfoddolwyr Ambiwlans San Ioan a'r Groes Goch yn ei wneud mewn llawer o ddigwyddiadau ledled Cymru. A allech ystyried sut y gellir eu helpu gydag ymgyrchoedd i ddenu aelodau newydd, yn enwedig o ran ymwneud cymdeithasol ehangach?

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym yn ceisio cael pobl o'r Cynulliad ac o blith staff Aelodau'r Cynulliad i wirfoddoli a byddwn yn fwy na pharod i ystyried y mater hwnnw. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod problemau yn codi weithiau o ran gwirfoddolwyr, yn enwedig i Ambiwlans San Ioan, sydd mor ddefnyddiol yn y ffordd y maent yn ymdrin â digwyddiadau. Byddaf yn rhoi adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ar unrhyw gamau a gymeraf.

Jocelyn Davies: Fe gytunech, mae'n siŵr, Weinidog, fod mudiadau gwirfoddol yn aml yn cyflawni polisiau'r Llywodraeth, ac nid dim ond cyfoethogi bywydau pobl Cymru. Yr wyf yn meddwl yn benodol am bethau megis clybiau adsefydlu ar gyfer clefyd y galon ledled Cymru, gan gynnwys Heartbeat, sydd wedi'i leoli yng nghanolfan hamdden Caldicott ac a fydd yn helpu cleifion â chlefyd y galon i wella. Beth y mae'ch Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i helpu'r grwpiau hyn i gael arian y loteri a fydd yn sicrhau eu parhad?

Edwina Hart: Diolch ichi am godi'r pwynt hwnnw. Fel Eleanor Burnham yr oeddwn innau hefyd yn brysur yn ystod y toriad, gan fod llawer o fudiadau gwirfoddol wedi codi materion gyda mi o ran eu cyllid. Byddwn yn fwy na pharod i ystyried y mater ynglŷn â'r loteri a rhoi ateb ichi.

Gwasanaethau Triniaethau Cyffuriau Drug Treatment Services

Q7 Karen Sinclair: Will the Minister make a statement on drug treatment services in Wales? OAQ0679(SJR)

Edwina Hart: By 2008-09, I will have increased the substance misuse action fund

C7 Karen Sinclair: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau triniaethau cyffuriau yng Nghymru? OAQ0679(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Erbyn 2008-09, byddaf wedi cynyddu'r gronfa gweithredu ar

by 600 per cent from the 2003-04 provision. This additional funding includes the establishment of a capital grant scheme of £15.3 million over four years. These resources are being used to improve and enhance a range of substance misuse treatment facilities.

Karen Sinclair: A recent report by Homeless Link Cymru highlights the obstacles that homeless people currently experience in accessing drug and alcohol support services in Wales. The report draws attention to long waiting lists for drug treatment, with a wait of over six months for substance misuse appointments at present. It also highlights that there is little support for homeless people in keeping prearranged appointments and that follow-up programmes are inadequate. Given the problems outlined in the report, what can the Assembly Government do to improve access to drug and alcohol services for homeless people in Wales, because, often, they need instant access, and once they have gone away, it is difficult to bring them back?

Edwina Hart: Brian Gibbons and I are well aware of this issue, and we have had several representations on it. Wrexham is benefiting from £0.5 million for an adult drop-in centre for homeless people with substance misuse problems. This will be available for those in the Clwyd South area. From the £1.1 million allocated to north Wales as part of the drug intervention programme, there is to be a multi-agency building in Wrexham that will provide health and wraparound services for drug-misusing offenders. Vehicles have also been purchased to transport people who have difficulty in getting to the centre. Therefore, a range of solutions is being targeted at these problems, but I will hold further discussions on this and come back to you. Immediate access for homeless people when they make up their mind that they want to do something about the problem is an ongoing issue, and we must get the treatment there.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pan wnaeth y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac

gamddefnyddio sylweddau 600 y cant o'i chymharu â'r ddarpariaeth yn 2003-04. Bydd y cyllid ychwanegol hwn yn cynnwys sefydlu cynllun grant cyfalaf gwerth £15.3 miliwn dros bedair blynedd. Defnyddir yr adnoddau hyn i wella nifer o gyfleusterau trin camddefnyddio sylweddau.

Karen Sinclair: Mae adroddiad diweddar gan Homeless Link Cymru yn tynnu sylw at y rhwystrau y mae pobl ddigartref yn eu hwynebu ar hyn o bryd i gael gwasanaethau cymorth cyffuriau ac alcohol yng Nghymru. Mae'r adroddiad yn tynnu sylw at y rhestrau aros hir am driniaeth cyffuriau, lle mae pobl yn gorfod aros dros chwe mis ar hyn o bryd am apwyntiadau ar gyfer camddefnyddio sylweddau. Noda hefyd nad oes fawr ddim cymorth i helpu pobl ddigartref i gadw apwyntiadau a drefnwyd ymlaen llaw a bod y rhaglenni dilynol yn annigonol. O ystyried y problemau a amlinellwyd yn yr adroddiad, beth y gall Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ei wneud i'w gwneud yn haws i bobl ddigartref gael gwasanaethau cyffuriau ac alcohol, oherwydd, yn aml, mae angen cymorth arnynt ar unwaith, ac ar ôl iddynt adael, mae'n anodd eu cael yn ôl?

Edwina Hart: Mae Brian Gibbons a minnau yn ymwybodol iawn o'r broblem hon, ac yr ydym wedi cael nifer o sylwadau yn ei chylch. Mae Wrecsam yn cael £0.5 miliwn ar gyfer canolfan galw heibio i bobl ddigartref sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau. Bydd hon ar gael i bobl yn ardal De Clwyd. Gyda'r £1.1 miliwn a ddyrannwyd i'r gogledd, fel rhan o'r rhaglen ymyriadau cyffuriau, bwriedir codi adeilad amlasiantaethol yn Wrecsam a fydd yn darparu gwasanaethau iechyd a gofal cofleidiol i droseddwr sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau. Mae cerbydau hefyd wedi cael eu prynu i gludo pobl sy'n ei chael yn anodd i gyrraedd y ganolfan. Felly, mae nifer o atebion yn cael eu targedu at y problemau hyn, ond byddaf yn cynnal rhagor o drafodaethau ar hyn, a rhoi ateb ichi. Erys problem o hyd o ran sicrhau bod pobl ddigartref yn cael gwasanaethau ar unwaith ar ôl penderfynu eu bod am wneud rhywbeth ynglŷn â'r broblem, a rhaid inni sicrhau bod y driniaeth ar gael.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: When the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee carried

Adfywio arolwg o gamddefnyddio sylweddau, gan ymweld â gwahanol sefydliadau ledled Cymru, death yn amlwg bod llawer ohonynt yn elusennau a oedd yn gweithredu'n wirfoddol oherwydd bod unigolion, yn aml, wedi cael gweledigaeth ynglŷn â'r gwasanaethau hynny. Oherwydd hynny, mae'r gwasanaethau yn anghyson ac yn wahanol yn y ffordd y maent yn gweithredu. A gredwch fod lle i gynnig cyfeiriad yn ganolog i'r gwasanaethau hyn? A oes lle hefyd i gomisiynu'n uniongyrchol ac yn genedlaethol wasanaethau ar gyfer pobl sy'n dioddef o alcoholiaeth, oherwydd maent yn aml yn isel ar restr flaenoriaethau y byrddau iechyd lleol sy'n comisiynu gwasanaethau?

3.10 p.m.

Edwina Hart: Thank you for raising this point, Rhodri. I will be giving a substantive response to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee's substance misuse review in the early part of June and, as part of that response, I can certainly look at the issues that you have raised with me today. It is important that we explore all avenues and do not get hide-bound in current arrangements if we believe that there are better arrangements out there that will help people.

out a review of substance misuse, it became evident from our visits to various organisations throughout Wales that many of them were charities working voluntarily because, often, individuals had had a vision regarding those services. As a result, the services are inconsistent and diverse in their methods of working. Do you believe that there is scope for these services to be led from the centre? Is there also room for the direct and national commissioning of services for people suffering from alcoholism, because they are often low on the priority lists of the commissioning local health boards?

Edwina Hart: Diolch ichi am godi'r pwynt hwn, Rhodri. Byddaf yn rhoi ymateb ffurfiol i adolygiad y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio o gamddefnyddio sylweddau ddechrau mis Mehefin, ac fel rhan o'r ymateb hwnnw, gallaf yn sicr edrych ar y materion a godwyd gennych heddiw. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn ystyried pob ateb posibl ac nad ydynt yn mynnu glynu wrth y trefniadau presennol os credwn fod trefniadau gwell ar gael a fydd yn helpu pobl.

Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn Shotton Uchaf Communities First in Higher Shotton

Q8 Carl Sargeant: Will the Minister make a statement on the Communities First initiative in Higher Shotton? OAQ0643(SJR)

C8 Carl Sargeant: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y cynllun Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn Shotton Uchaf? OAQ0643(SJR)

Edwina Hart: To date, Higher Shotton has been awarded over £600,000 from the Communities First programme. The partnership has a co-ordinator, a community development worker and an administrative assistant, and the Communities First team has recently moved into new premises. Very good progress is being made in this particular Communities First partnership because it is engaging exceptionally well in the programme.

Edwina Hart: Hyd yma, mae £600,000 wedi'i ddyfarnu i Shotton Uchaf o dan raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae gan y bartneriaeth gydlynnydd, gweithiwr datblygu cymunedol a chynorthwydd gweinyddol ac mae'r tîm Cymunedau yn Gyntaf wedi symud i'w swyddfa newydd yn ddiweddar. Gwneir cynnydd da iawn gan y bartneriaeth hon o dan Cymunedau yn Gyntaf am ei bod yn ymgysylltu'n arbennig o dda â'r rhaglen.

Carl Sargeant: We will never forget the dark days of the 1980s, when, under a Conservative administration, 13,000 jobs

Carl Sargeant: Ni fyddwn byth yn anghofio cyfnod tywyll yr 1980au, pan gollwyd 13,000 o swyddi yng ngwaith dur Glannau Dyfrdwy

were lost in the Deeside steelworks. Communities First has turned that around today, and residents in Shotton are indications of its success. The funding round is due to come to an end in 2008. Will the Minister suggest when the future of the funding of Communities First will be decided, and when will the agencies know?

Edwina Hart: We will be looking at our review of Communities First in our Social Justice and Regeneration Committee meeting in July. I will also have discussions in that committee meeting about how I will deal with the index of deprivation, and decisions will be taken in the future. However, those who are part of the original programme are guaranteed 10-year funding. The Higher Shotton programme has been very successful, and other programmes such as Sure Start are now being introduced there. The credit unions also make a difference in Communities First areas.

Mark Isherwood: Record inward investment in Deeside during the 1980s and early 1990s turned it into one of the most successful economies in Wales. Returning to the question about Communities First, will you join me in congratulating Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch Association on its becoming a dual award winner this year for community safety work, which included campaigns and safety initiatives involving residents of all ages in the Higher Shotton area?

Edwina Hart: I will, of course, congratulate the association. They are all excellent organisations.

Janet Ryder: To take you back to your original point about the review of Communities First areas, many areas are facing the possibility of the 10-year funding will come to an end. As the Communities First funding has a major effect on other Government grants that go to the communities concerned, will you consider that very carefully before you decide to alter the communities, especially some of the most

o dan lywodraeth Geidwadol. Erbyn heddiw mae Cymunedau yn Gyntaf wedi gweddnewid y sefyllfa, ac mae trigolion Shotton yn dyst i'w llwyddiant. Daw'r cylch cyllid i ben yn 2008. A wnaiff y Gweinidog awgrymu pryd y caiff dyfodol cyllid Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ei benderfynu, a phryd y bydd yr asiantaethau yn gwybod?

Edwina Hart: Byddwn yn ystyried ein hadolygiad o Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn ein cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ym mis Gorffennaf. Byddaf hefyd yn cael trafodaethau yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor hwnnw ynglŷn â sut y byddaf yn ymdrin â'r mynegai amddifadedd a chaiff penderfyniadau eu gwneud yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, gwarantir cyllid am 10 mlynedd i'r rhai sy'n rhan o'r rhaglen wreiddiol. Bu rhaglen Shotton Uchaf yn llwyddiannus iawn, ac mae rhaglenni eraill megis Cychwyn Cadarn yn cael eu cyflwyno yno erbyn hyn. Mae'r undebau credyd hefyd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth yn ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Mark Isherwood: Daeth Glannau Dyfrdwy yn un o'r economïau mwyaf llwyddiannus yng Nghymru yn sgîl y mewnfuddsoddiad mwyaf erioed yn ystod yr 1980au a dechrau'r 1990au. Gan ddychwelyd at y cwestiwn ynglŷn â Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, a wnewch ymuno â mi i longyfarch Cymdeithas Gwarchod Cymdogaeth Sir y Fflint ar ennill dwy wobwr eleni am waith diogelwch cymunedol, a oedd yn cynnwys ymgyrchoedd a mentrau diogelwch a oedd yn cynnwys trigolion o bob oedran yn ardal Shotton Uchaf?

Edwina Hart: Llongyfarchaf y gymdeithas, wrth gwrs. Maent i gyd yn fudiadau rhagorol.

Janet Ryder: Gan ddychwelyd at eich pwynt gwreiddiol ynglŷn â'r adolygiad o ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, mae sawl ardal yn wynebu'r posibilrwydd y daw'r cyllid 10 mlynedd i ben. Gan fod cyllid Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn cael effaith fawr ar grantiau eraill y Llywodraeth a roddir i'r cymunedau dan sylw, a wnewch ystyried hynny'n ofalus iawn cyn i chi benderfynu newid y cymunedau, yn enwedig y cymunedau

deprived communities in north Wales that might be taken off the list?

Edwina Hart: I certainly will, Janet. My concern is that people would have liked me to have made more decisions quickly, and I have been consulting with people in Communities First areas who are concerned about their futures and the impact of the new index. When I make my decisions, I will have to make them with my colleagues because of the very point that you made about how this affects other programmes. Once we have all the information, it will be a difficult decision, but we must ensure that it is the right one.

mwyaf difreintiedig yn y gogledd a allai gael eu tynnu oddi ar y rhestr?

Edwina Hart: Gwnaf, yn sicr, Janet. Y pryder sydd gennyf yw y byddai pobl wedi dymuno imi wneud mwy o benderfyniadau'n gyflym, ac yr wyf wedi bod yn ymgynghori â phobl yn ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf sy'n pryderu am eu dyfodol ac effaith y mynegai newydd. Pan fyddaf yn gwneud fy mhenderfyniadau, bydd yn rhaid imi eu gwneud ar y cyd â'm cyd-Weinidogion oherwydd yr union bwynt a wnaethoch ynglŷn â sut y bydd hyn yn effeithio ar raglenni eraill. Ar ôl inni gael y wybodaeth, bydd yn benderfyniad anodd, ond rhaid inni sicrhau mai dyna'r un cywir.

Effaith y Cynnydd mewn Prisiau Ynni Impact of the Rise in Energy Prices

Q9 Mick Bates: What assessment has the Minister made of the impact of the rise in energy prices on those with low incomes in Wales? OAO0650(SJR)

C9 Mick Bates: Pa asesiad mae'r Gweinidog wedi ei wneud ynglŷn ag effaith y cynnydd mewn prisiau ynni ar y bobl hynny sydd ar incwm isel yng Nghymru? OAO0650(SJR)

Edwina Hart: 'Living in Wales' indicates that, in 2004, 130,000 households in Wales were in fuel poverty. As a result of energy price rises, we estimate that another 30,000 households were in fuel poverty by the end of 2005. I have commissioned models to assess the impact of future energy price changes.

Edwina Hart: Noda 'Byw yng Nghymru' fod 130,000 o gartrefi yng Nghymru mewn tloedi tanwydd yn 2004. O ganlyniad i gynnydd mewn prisiau ynni, amcangyfrifwn fod 30,000 o gartrefi eraill mewn tloedi tanwydd erbyn diwedd 2005. Yr wyf wedi comisiynu modelau i asesu effaith newidiadau mewn prisiau ynni yn y dyfodol.

Mick Bates: I hope that those models will reduce the number in fuel poverty. However, when we see a 25 per cent increase in gas prices, and see companies like Centrica making a profit of £1.5 billion in six months, I am certain that we need Government lobbying to try to control these incredible rises in energy prices. What actions are you taking, through your contacts in Westminster, to try to control the price increases that we have seen recently?

Mick Bates: Gobeithiaf y bydd y modelau hynny yn lleihau nifer y cartrefi mewn tloedi tanwydd. Fodd bynnag, pan welwn gynnydd o 25 y cant mewn prisiau nwy, a phan welwn gwmnïau fel Centrica yn gwneud elw o £1.5 biliwn mewn chwe mis, yr wyf yn siŵr bod angen inni lobbïo'r Llywodraeth i geisio rheoli'r cynnydd anhygoel hwn mewn prisiau ynni. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd, drwy'ch cysylltiadau yn San Steffan i geisio rheoli'r cynnydd mewn prisiau a welwyd yn ddiweddar?

Edwina Hart: As you know, the regulation of the energy markets is a non-devolved area and it the responsibility of the UK Government and the energy regulator, Ofgem. The UK Government is undertaking an energy review, but I note your comments, as I am sure does my colleague, Andrew

Edwina Hart: Fel y gwyddoch, mater sydd heb ei ddatganoli yw rheoleiddio'r marchnadoedd ynni. Cyfrifoldeb Llywodraeth y DU a'r rheoleiddiwr ynni, Ofgem, ydyw. Mae Llywodraeth y DU yn cynnal adolygiad ynni, ond nodaf eich sylwadau, fel y gwna fy nghyd-Weinidog,

Davies, because of the impacts that these fuel costs have on industry.

Mick Bates: I am pleased that some lobbying is taking place. It is essential that good advice reaches these 160,000 homes that are now in fuel poverty. Only last night, I heard from the Mid Wales Energy Agency about the importance of providing funding for people to go to knock on doors, particularly in rural areas, because so many people do not see the adverts.

Personal contact is an important way of assisting people to get out of fuel poverty. What moneys have you allocated so that people can go into small rural communities and find those people who are in fuel poverty?

Edwina Hart: As you know, I recently announced that a mapping exercise will be undertaken in 2006 to examine what other organisation provides help to householders—I think that that is the point that you were getting at—because maximising income is an important tool in helping households that are vulnerable to fuel poverty. All households now applying to the home energy efficiency scheme will be offered a benefits entitlement check to help them to identify whether they are entitled to any benefits of which they are not in receipt. I will examine the issues that you have raised with me as part of this overall discussion, because the additional resources that Sue Essex allocated to this budget are very welcome, but they have to be spent well.

Mick Bates: That was a useful answer, and I look forward to seeing more people out on the streets.

In rural areas, we can assist the local economy through such schemes as HEES by encouraging the use of renewable fuels in the HEES programme. Hitherto, the take-up has been slow. What discussions have you had to try to encourage the use of renewable fuels under HEES with the Minister for economic development, particularly in light of his microgeneration strategy?

Edwina Hart: Andrew has taken the lead on

Andrew Davies, mae'n siŵr, oherwydd effaith y costau tanwydd ar ddiwydiant.

Mick Bates: Yr wyf yn falch bod lobiö yn mynd rhagddo. Mae'n hanfodol bod cyngor da yn cyrraedd y 160,000 o gartrefi sydd bellach mewn tlodi tanwydd. Dim ond neithiwr, clywais gan Asiantaeth Ynni Canolbarth Cymru am bwysigrwydd darparu cyllid i bobl gnocio ar ddrysau, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig, gan fod cymaint o bobl yn colli'r hysbysebion.

Mae cyswllt personol yn ffordd bwysig o gynorthwyo pobl i ddianc o dlodi tanwydd. Pa arian yr ydych wedi'i ddyrannu er mwyn i bobl allu mynd i gymunedau bach gwledig a dod o hyd i'r bobl hynny sy'n dioddef o dlodi tanwydd?

Edwina Hart: Fel y gwyddoch, yn ddiweddar cyhoeddais y cynhelir ymarfer mapio yn 2006 i archwilio pa sefydliad arall sy'n rhoi cymorth i ddeiliaid tai—credaf mai dyna'r pwynt yr oeddech yn ceisio ei wneud—oherwydd mae cynyddu incwm i'r eithaf yn ffordd bwysig o helpu cartrefi sy'n agored i dlodi tanwydd. Cynigir archwiliad o hawl i gael budd-daliadau i bob cartref sy'n gwneud cais i'r cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni ar hyn o bryd i'w helpu i nodi pa un a oes ganddynt hawl i gael unrhyw fudd-daliadau nad ydynt yn eu cael ar hyn o bryd. Byddaf yn archwilio'r materion a godwyd gennych fel rhan o'r drafodaeth gyffredinol hon, oherwydd croesewir yr adnoddau ychwanegol a ddyrannodd Sue Essex i'r gyllideb hon, ond rhaid eu gwrario'n dda.

Mick Bates: Yr oedd hwnnw'n ateb defnyddiol, ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld mwy o bobl allan ar y strydoedd.

Mewn ardaloedd gwledig, gallwn gynorthwyo'r economi leol drwy gynlluniau fel HEES drwy annog y defnydd o danwydd adnewyddadwy yn rhaglen HEES. Hyd yma, nid oes llawer wedi cofrestru â'r cynllun. Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch i geisio annog y defnydd o danwydd adnewyddadwy o dan HEES gyda'r Gweinidog dros ddatblygu economaidd, yn enwedig o ystyried ei strategaeth ficrogynhyrchu?

Edwina Hart: Mae Andrew wedi cymryd yr

the microgeneration strategy, and we continue to have discussions on these issues.

Glyn Davies: At last. The best way to limit the impact of energy price rises for everyone, including those on low incomes, is to reduce energy use. This year's Assembly budget has included money to improve the insulation of houses, but what steps, if any, have you taken to increase the awareness of people on low incomes of the way in which they can reduce energy use and, as such, the burden of energy price increases?

Edwina Hart: I do not recall that I have done anything specific in that area, Glyn, but I will certainly look at it, and I will pick up the points that you have made when we are producing new literature and so on.

Tai Cymdeithasol Fforddiadwy Affordable Social Housing

C10 Owen John Thomas: Beth mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i annog awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu mwy o dai cymdeithasol fforddiadwy? OAQ0652(SJR)

Edwina Hart: In addition to the increased resources that we are providing from the social housing grant programme, we consulted last year on a comprehensive package of measures. We have just published the finished version of our local housing market assessment guide, and will be issuing the remaining parts of the package later this month.

Owen John Thomas: In Cardiff, an average of 470 houses a year are sold under the right to buy scheme, and the total council stock has fallen dramatically over the last few years. As a result, 7,000 applicants are on the rehousing waiting list in the city, and many of them are families living in cramped bed-and-breakfast accommodation. In light of this situation, do you not agree that the Government's efforts in this field are clearly insufficient?

Edwina Hart: As you know, I have lobbied

awenau ar y strategaeth ficrogynhyrchu, ac yr ydym yn parhau i gynnal trafodaethau ar y materion hyn.

Glyn Davies: O'r diwedd. Y ffordd orau o gyfyngu effaith cynnydd mewn prisiau ynni i bawb, yn cynnwys y rhai hynny ar incwm isel, yw lleihau'r defnydd o ynni. Mae cyllideb y Cynulliad eleni yn cynnwys arian i wella'r broses o inswleiddio tai, ond pa gamau a gymerwyd gennych, os o gwbl, i gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth pobl ar incwm isel o'r ffordd y gallant leihau'r defnydd o ynni ac, fel y cyfryw, baich y cynnydd mewn prisiau ynni?

Edwina Hart: Ni chofiaf imi wneud unrhyw beth penodol yn y maes hwnnw, Glyn, ond byddaf yn ystyried hyn yn bendant, a byddaf yn cyfeirio at y pwyntiau a wnaethoch pan fyddwn yn cynhyrchu llenyddiaeth newydd ac ati.

Q10 Owen John Thomas: What is the Government doing to encourage local authorities to provide more affordable social housing? OAQ0652(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Yn ogystal â'r adnoddau ychwanegol yr ydym yn eu darparu o dan y rhaglen grant tai cymdeithasol, cynhaliwyd ymgynghoriad y llynedd ar becyn cynhwysfawr o fesurau. Yr ydym newydd gyhoeddi fersiwn terfynol ein canllaw asesu'r farchnad dai leol, a byddwn yn cyhoeddi'r rhannau o'r pecyn sy'n weddill yn ddiweddarach yn ystod y mis hwn.

Owen John Thomas: Yng Nghaerdydd, gwerthir 470 o dai y flwyddyn ar gyfartaledd o dan y cynllun hawl i brynu, ac mae cyfanswm stoc y cyngor wedi lleihau yn ddramatig dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf. O ganlyniad, mae 7,000 o ymgeiswyr ar y rhestr aros i gael eu hailgartrefu yn y ddinas, ac mae llawer ohonynt yn deuluoedd sy'n byw mewn llety gwely a brechwast annigonol. O ystyried y sefyllfa hon, oni chytunwch ei bod yn amlwg bod ymdrechion y Llywodraeth yn y maes hwn yn annigonol?

Edwina Hart: Fel y gwyddoch, bûm yn

hard for us to have the right to buy arrangement suspended in local authorities, and for us to have legislative powers on this in the Assembly, and I will continue to do so. As far as I am concerned, one of the first acts that we should take in terms of legislation in 2007—if we are back here—is to deal with the issues on right to buy. It is of fundamental importance, because it is distorting the market and it needs to be stopped in certain key areas.

Lisa Francis: What is your Government doing to encourage stronger agreements between local authorities and developers to provide affordable housing within mixed packages of market and social housing, in order to meet a wider range of housing needs and demands, particularly in rural areas?

Edwina Hart: There are several issues here, particularly on the planning side, which I have discussed with my colleague, Carwyn Jones. We now have the affordable housing toolkit for looking at planning issues. I think that there is a way forward, but it is important that local authorities examine their existing powers and what they can do, particularly in terms of section 106 agreements, and particularly how they define the curtilage of a village and whether they would be prepared to put some social housing on its edge and so on. It is important that planners look innovatively at this and that local councillors encourage them.

Tai Cymdeithasol Social Housing

Q11 Glyn Davies: What policies does the Minister have to increase the amount of social housing in Wales? OAQ0677(SJR)

Edwina Hart: In addition to the increased resources that we are providing in the social housing grant, we consulted last year on a comprehensive package of measures.

Glyn Davies: We all agree that good housing is fundamental to lifestyle; it has an impact on health and on education. Many people cannot access affordable housing, so the availability and supply of rented housing is

lobïo'n galed inni gael atal trefniant yr hawl i brynu mewn awdurdodau lleol, a chael pwerau deddfu ar hyn yn y Cynulliad, a byddaf yn parhau i wneud hynny. Yn fy marn i, un o'r gweithredoedd cyntaf y dylem eu gwneud o ran deddfu yn 2007—os byddwn yn dychwelyd yma—yw delio â'r materion ynglŷn â'r hawl i brynu. Mae hyn yn hollbwysig, oherwydd ei fod yn gwyrdroi'r farchnad ac mae angen ei rwystro mewn rhai ardaloedd allweddol.

Lisa Francis: Beth mae eich Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i annog cytundebau cryfach rhwng awdurdodau lleol a datblygwyr i ddarparu tai fforddiadwy mewn pecynnau cymysg o dai'r farchnad agored a thai cymdeithasol, er mwyn diwallu mwy o anghenion o ran tai ac ateb y galw am dai, yn arbennig mewn ardaloedd gwledig?

Edwina Hart: Mae sawl mater yn codi yn hyn o beth, yn benodol ar yr ochr gynllunio, yr wyf wedi'u trafod â'm cyd-Weinidog, Carwyn Jones. Mae gennym becyn cymorth tai fforddiadwy bellach ar gyfer edrych ar faterion cynllunio. Credaf fod ffordd ymlaen, ond mae'n bwysig bod awdurdodau lleol yn archwilio eu pwerau presennol a'r hyn y gallant ei wneud, yn enwedig o ran cytundebau adran 106, ac yn enwedig sut y maent yn diffinio cwrtil pentref a pha un a fyddent yn barod i roi rhywfaint o dai cymdeithasol ar y cyrion ac ati. Mae'n bwysig bod cynllunwyr yn edrych mewn ffordd arloesol ar hyn a bod cynhorwyr lleol yn eu hannog.

C11 Glyn Davies: Pa bolisiau sydd gan y Gweinidog i gynyddu nifer y tai cymdeithasol yng Nghymru? OAQ0677(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Yn ogystal â'r adnoddau ychwanegol yr ydym yn eu darparu yn y grant tai cymdeithasol, cynhaliwyd ymgynghoriad y llynedd ar becyn cynhwysfawr o fesurau.

Glyn Davies: Mae pob un ohonom yn cytuno bod tai da yn hanfodol i ffordd o fyw; mae effeithio ar iechyd ac ar addysg. Nid yw tai fforddiadwy ar gael i lawer o bobl, felly mae argaeledd a chyflenwad tai i'w rhentu yn

particularly crucial. What steps are you taking to increase the number of rented properties supplied by social housing landlords? What steps are you taking to harness the capacity of the private sector to play its part in meeting what has become a housing crisis in many parts of Wales?

3.20 p.m.

Edwina Hart: We have a range of measures in place, including rural housing enablers. In rural Wales, we have provided the funding for them through the social housing management grant programme, which will enable them to work closely with community councils, local authorities and registered social landlords to help to assess housing needs, identify sites and tackle the barriers to affordable housing provision. I think that that is a very practical step.

We are also funding a short-term project that is developing a framework to establish a national network of rural housing enablers, so that there will be a co-ordinated service to look at those issues. I will give some support from my community purposes programme for a two-year project to pilot three community land trusts, which I think are also crucial to this matter. We are also looking at how Assembly and ASPB-owned land can be used. You will also be aware of what is going on with the Forestry Commission's land in Wales. Preliminary findings suggest that approximately 15 small sites from the proposals could be developed in that area for housing. Therefore, a lot is going on to try to tackle the matter.

allweddol iawn. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i gynyddu nifer yr eiddo i'w rentu a ddarperir gan landlordiaid tai cymdeithasol? Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i fanteisio ar allu'r sector preifat i chwarae ei ran i wynebu'r hyn sy'n argyfwng tai mewn sawl rhan o Gymru erbyn hyn?

Edwina Hart: Mae amrywiaeth o fesurau ar waith, yn cynnwys swyddogion galluogi ym maes tai gwledig. Yng Nghymru wledig, yr ydym wedi darparu'r arian iddynt drwy'r rhaglen grant rheoli tai cymdeithasol, a fydd yn eu galluogi i weithio'n agos gyda chynghorau cymuned, awdurdodau lleol a landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig i'w helpu i asesu anghenion tai, nodi safleoedd ac ymdrin â'r rhwystrau i ddarparu tai fforddiadwy. Credaf fod hwnnw'n gam ymarferol iawn.

Yr ydym hefyd yn ariannu prosiect tymor byr sy'n datblygu fframwaith i sefydlu rhwydwaith cenedlaethol o swyddogion galluogi ym maes tai gwledig, fel y bydd gwasanaeth wedi'i gydlynu i edrych ar y materion hyn. Rhoddaf rywffaint o gymorth o'm rhaglen dibenion cymunedol i brosiect dwy flynedd i dreialu tair ymddiriedolaeth tir gymunedol, sydd hefyd yn allweddol i'r broblem hon yn fy marn i. Hefyd yr ydym yn edrych ar sut y gellir defnyddio tir sy'n eiddo i'r Cynulliad a CCNCau. Byddwch hefyd yn ymwybodol o'r hyn sy'n digwydd gyda thir y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth yng Nghymru. Mae canfyddiadau rhagarweiniol yn awgrymu y gellid datblygu tua 15 o safleoedd bach o'r cynigion yn yr ardal honno ar gyfer tai. Felly, mae llawer yn digwydd i geisio ymdrin â'r mater.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau Questions to the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks

Gwneud Gorsafoedd Rheilffordd yn Fwy Diogel Improving Safety at Railway Stations

Q1 Eleanor Burnham: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to improve safety at railway stations? OAQ0783 (EIN)

C1 Eleanor Burnham: Pa gamau gweithredu y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i wneud gorsafoedd rheilffordd yn lleoedd mwy diogel? OAQ0783 (EIN)

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): I have invested £6 million over three years to improve facilities at certain stations across Wales, including installing safety and security measures, and to provide on-train closed circuit television on all Arriva Trains Wales trains. I have also invested in a significant increase in British Transport Police manpower across Wales.

Eleanor Burnham: As a regular rail traveller, I am concerned on behalf of fellow passengers about comfort and safety. I also chair a small voluntary group called Making Tracks, which is based in Colwyn Bay. We have the advantage of voluntary activity from the transport police as well as Arriva and Network Rail, but I am concerned that insufficient work is being done. Since 1998, the Department for Transport has run the Secure Stations scheme in the UK. Do you believe that we are doing enough on this and are you, in the Welsh Assembly Government, putting enough funding into that scheme?

Andrew Davies: I would never claim that we have done enough, but as I have already indicated, significant investment is going into improving passenger safety and comfort, as well as the important related issue of the safety of staff working on the trains. In addition to having closed circuit television—both forward-looking and on-train—on all the trains, there is £2.5 million for station improvements to 47 stations across south and mid Wales, and £1.5 million for station improvements to 11 stations in north Wales. I know that there has been a particular issue regarding north Wales's stations.

More recently, I announced funding, with the British Transport Police and Arriva Trains Wales, for the employment of an additional 21 community support officers to work with the British Transport Police. That is an increase of 30 per cent in the staff numbers of the British Transport Police. As I said, while I would not claim that we have done everything, or even done enough, we have certainly made significant improvements.

Y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau (Andrew Davies): Yr wyf wedi buddsoddi £6 miliwn dros dair blynedd i wella'r cyfleusterau mewn rhai gorsafoedd ledled Cymru, yn cynnwys gosod mesurau diogelwch, a gosod teledu cylch cyfyng ar holl drenau Arriva Trains Wales. Yr wyf hefyd wedi buddsoddi mewn cynnydd sylweddol yn nifer swyddogion Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain ledled Cymru.

Eleanor Burnham: Fel rhywun sy'n teithio ar drenau'n rheolaidd, yr wyf yn bryderus ar ran cyd-deithwyr ynghylch pa mor gyfforddus a diogel yw'r gwasanaethau. Yr wyf hefyd yn cadeirio grŵp gwirfoddol bach o'r enw Making Tracks, a leolir ym Mae Colwyn. Gallwn fanteisio ar weithgareddau gwirfoddol yr heddlu trafndiaeth yn ogystal ag Arriva a Network Rail, ond yr wyf yn bryderus nad oes digon o waith yn cael ei wneud. Ers 1998, mae'r Adran Drafndiaeth wedi bod yn rhedeg y cynllun Secure Stations yn y DU. A gredwch ein bod yn gwneud digon ynghylch hyn ac a ydych chi, yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, yn buddsoddi digon o arian yn y cynllun hwnnw?

Andrew Davies: Ni fyddwn fyth yn honni ein bod wedi gwneud digon, ond fel y nodais eisoes, gwneir buddsoddiad sylweddol mewn gwneud teithwyr yn fwy diogel a chyfforddus, yn ogystal â gwella'r broblem gysylltiedig o ddiogelwch staff sy'n gweithio ar y trenau. Yn ogystal â gosod teledu cylch cyfyng—yn edrych ymlaen ar y rheilffordd ac ar y trefnau—ar yr holl drenau, ceir £2.5 miliwn ar gyfer gwelliannau i 47 o orsafoedd ledled y de a'r canolbarth, a £1.5 miliwn ar gyfer gwelliannau i 11 o orsafoedd yn y gogledd. Gwn fod problem benodol gyda gorsafoedd y gogledd.

Yn fwy diweddar, cyhoeddais y byddem yn dyrannu arian, gyda Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain ac Arriva Trains Wales, i gyflogi 21 o swyddogion cymorth cymunedol ychwanegol i weithio gyda Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain. Mae hynny yn gynydd o 30 y cant yn nifer staff Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain. Fel y dywedais, er na fyddwn yn honni ein bod wedi gwneud popeth, nac wedi gwneud digon hyd yn oed, yr ydym yn bendant wedi gwneud gwelliannau sylweddol.

Denise Idris Jones: I think that you have partly answered my question. I am sure that you would agree that safety at railway stations and on trains is vital if we are to encourage the greater public use of train services in Wales. I recently heard from a constituent of an alcohol-related act of violence on a train and the struggle to find official assistance when contacting the authorities. I was going to ask you, but I think that you have given the answer, how are you working with train operators—

Denise Idris Jones: Credaf ichi ateb fy nghwestiwn yn rhannol. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno bod diogelwch mewn gorsafoddd rheilffordd ac ar drenau yn hanfodol er mwyn annog mwy o'r cyhoedd i ddefnyddio gwasanaethau trenau yng Nghymru. Yn ddiweddar, clywais gan un o'm hetholwyr am ymddygiad treisgar yn gysylltiedig ag alcohol ar drên a'r drafferth a gafwyd i ddod o hyd i gymorth swyddogol wrth gysylltu â'r awdurdodau. Yr oeddwn am ofyn ichi, ond credaf eich bod wedi ateb, sut yr ydych yn gweithio gyda gweithredwyr trenau—

The Presiding Officer: Order. If a question has already been answered, it does not really need to be asked.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Os yw cwestiwn wedi'i ateb eisoes, nid oes angen ei ofyn.

Denise Idris Jones: It might not have been answered exactly, so may I ask the question?

Denise Idris Jones: Efallai nad yw wedi'i ateb yn union, felly a gaf ofyn y cwestiwn?

The Presiding Officer: Yes, I would like to hear a question.

Y Llywydd: Cewch, hoffwn glywed cwestiwn.

Denise Idris Jones: Minister, how are you working with train operators to improve assistance in emergent safety issues?

Denise Idris Jones: Weinidog, sut yr ydych yn gweithio gyda gweithredwyr trenau i wella cymorth mewn problemau diogelwch brys sy'n codi?

Andrew Davies: I am working not only with Arriva Trains Wales, but also with First Great Western and Virgin Trains in north Wales. I have regular meetings with all the train operating companies. I am aware that the UK Parliament's Transport Select Committee is undertaking a review of the safety of railway stations, and I certainly intend to make a submission. I look forward to that investigation by the select committee.

Andrew Davies: Yn ogystal â gweithio gydag Arriva Trains Wales, yr wyf hefyd yn gweithio gyda First Great Western a Virgin Trains yn y gogledd. Caf gyfarfodydd rheolaidd gyda'r holl gwmnïau gweithredu trenau. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod Pwyllgor Dethol Senedd y DU ar Drafnidiaeth yn cynnal adolygiad o ddiogelwch gorsafoddd rheilffordd, ac yr wyf yn bendant yn bwriadu gwneud cyflwyniad. Edrychaf ymlaen at yr archwiliad hwnnw gan y pwyllgor dethol.

Janet Davies: You said that you are putting in £6 million over three years, so, after three years, what percentage of stations will still require upgrading, and how many is that in absolute numbers?

Janet Davies: Dywedasoeh eich bod yn buddsoddi £6 miliwn dros dair blynedd, felly, ar ôl tair blynedd, pa ganran o orsafoedd y bydd angen eu huwchraddio o hyd, a faint o orsafoedd yn union yw hynny?

Andrew Davies: I do not have the figures to hand, Janet, but I will write to you giving you that information.

Andrew Davies: Nid yw'r ffigurau gennyf wrth law, Janet, ond ysgrifennaf atoch gyda'r wybodaeth honno.

Leighton Andrews: You will be aware that we have had specific issues and incidents at

Leighton Andrews: Byddwch yn ymwybodol ein bod wedi cael problemau a

stations in my constituency, including at Treorchy. I welcome your investment, particularly in extending the numbers of community support officers with the British Transport Police and Arriva. That is an important development, and I was pleased to see two of them at Trehafod station on Friday. The investment in CCTV is also important. Can you guarantee that you intend to continue that investment in future? With the rise in passenger numbers on these trains, it will be a service that passengers will want to see for the future.

Andrew Davies: It is clearly a crucial factor, and it is not just about the frequency, reliability or comfortableness of trains; it is actually a matter of station and train safety and security, particularly for women. Recent surveys show that being on a station late at night is a frightening prospect for the overwhelming majority of women, and I am committed to anything that we can do to reduce that fear for their personal safety. However, it is not something that we can just do on our own, as the train operators also have a role to play, as do the British Transport Police and local authorities.

David Melding: Will you continue to work with your colleague, the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, as it seem that schools close to railway stations are a key to improving safety? Unfortunately, young people, in their overexuberance, often forget how dangerous railway tracks are. I am afraid that I often see schoolchildren jumping across the tracks on the Barry line. That really is potentially lethal conduct.

Andrew Davies: I could not agree with you more on that. It is a problem, and the train operating companies and the British Transport Police regularly tell me that that is an issue. One advantage of rolling out closed circuit television on all trains is that one of the cameras will be looking forwards—that is not only for the train driver, but also so that there will be a record of any trespassing on the lines, and so that any potential vandalism can be identified. Therefore, yes, I certainly

digwyddiadau penodol mewn gorsafoedd yn fy etholaeth, yn cynnwys yn Nhreorci. Croesawaf eich buddsoddiad, yn enwedig o ran cynyddu nifer y swyddogion cymorth cymunedol gyda Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain ac Arriva. Mae hynny'n ddatblygiad pwysig, ac yr oeddwn yn falch o weld dau ohonynt yng ngorsaf Trehafod ddydd Gwener. Mae'r buddsoddiad mewn teledu cylch cyfyng hefyd yn bwysig. A allwch sicrhau eich bod yn bwriadu parhau â'r buddsoddiad hwnnw yn y dyfodol? Gyda'r cynnydd yn nifer y teithwyr ar y trenau hyn, bydd yn wasanaeth y bydd teithwyr am ei weld yn y dyfodol.

Andrew Davies: Mae'n amlwg yn ffactor hanfodol, ac nid dim ond o ran pa mor aml, dibynadwy neu gyfforddus yw'r trenau; mae'n ymwneud â diogelwch gorsafoedd a threnau, yn enwedig i fenywod. Dengys arolygon diweddar fod bod mewn gorsaf yn hwyr yn y nos yn brofiad dychrynlyd i'r mwyafrif llethol o fenywod, ac yr wyf yn ymroddedig i unrhyw beth y gallwn ei wneud i leihau'r ofn hwnnw dros eu diogelwch personol. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n rhywbeth y gallwn ei wneud ein hunain, oherwydd mae gan y gweithredwyr trenau hefyd ran i'w chwarae, yn ogystal â Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain ac awdurdodau lleol.

David Melding: A fyddwch yn parhau i weithio gyda'ch cyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, oherwydd ymddengys fod ysgolion sy'n agos at orsafoedd rheilffordd yn allweddol i wella diogelwch? Yn anffodus, mae pobl ifanc, pan fyddant yn llawn afiaith, yn aml yn anghofio pa mor beryglus yw traciau rheilffordd. Yn anffodus gwelaf blant ysgol yn neidio ar draws y traciau ar linell y Barri yn aml. Mae hwnnw'n ymddygiad a allai arwain at farwolaeth.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn cytuno'n llwyr â chi o ran hynny. Mae'n broblem, ac mae'r cwmnïau gweithredu trenau a Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain yn dweud wrthyf yn aml ei bod yn broblem. Un o fanteision gosod teledu cylch cyfyng ar yr holl drenau yw y bydd un o'r camerâu yn edrych ymlaen o flaen y trên—mae hyn nid yn unig yn cynorthwyo'r gyrrwr trên, ond mae hefyd yn gofnod o unrhyw dresbasu ar y llinellau, ac fel y gellir nodir unrhyw fandaliaeth bosibl.

think that this is important, and I will take it up with the education Minister to see what we can do to enhance that.

Janice Gregory: Minister, I have written to you about my concerns over the removal of the staffed signal box at Pencoed. I have been supported by Pencoed Town Council, and I am sure that you will be pleased to join me in welcoming the mayor and members of the town council, who are in the public gallery today on their first visit to the new Assembly building.

Safety in stations, as other Members have said, is of paramount importance to those who use the trains, and many stations, especially those in Valleys communities and the communities that I represent, are in an appalling physical state, which perpetuates further vandalism and crime. Given that train passengers pay to travel on the trains, do you agree that they should all benefit from having welcoming and safe stations? Do you also agree that it is the responsibility of the train operating companies to ensure that their stations are fit to serve a twenty-first century rail network?

Andrew Davies: This is certainly something that I express regularly in my meetings with Arriva Trains Wales—although it does not own the stations, as most are owned by Network Rail and are leased to Arriva. I raise this matter regularly with the company. We have a rolling programme, as I said in response to Janet Davies, but there is a significant backlog of investment. I will look for any source of investment to which we can have access, to improve safety and security at stations.

John Griffiths: It is clear from what we have heard in the supplementary questions on this matter that the perception of fear and lack of security and the fear of crime are important potential deterrents to people using our rail services. In that context, will you join me in welcoming the recognition that Newport railway station achieved last week when it

Felly, credaf ei fod yn fater pwysig, a byddaf yn ei godi gyda'r Gweinidog dros Addysg er mwyn gweld beth y gallwn ei wneud i wella hynny.

Janice Gregory: Weinidog, yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu atoch ynghylch fy mhryderon am y penderfyniad i dynnu'r blwch signal wedi'i staffio ym Mhencoed. Yr wyf wedi cael cefnogaeth Cyngor Tref Pencoed, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn barod i ymuno â mi i groesawu'r maer ac aelodau cyngor y dref, sydd yn yr oriel gyhoeddus heddiw ar eu hymweliad cyntaf ag adeilad newydd y Cynulliad.

Mae diogelwch mewn gorsafoedd, fel y dywedodd Aelodau eraill, yn hollbwysig i'r rhai sy'n defnyddio'r trenau, ac mae llawer o orsafoedd, yn enwedig y rhai yng nghymunedau'r Cymoedd a'r cymunedau yr wyf yn eu cynrychioli, mewn cyflwr gwarthus, sy'n arwain at ragor o fandaliaeth a throseddau. O ystyried bod teithwyr yn talu i deithio ar y trenau, a gytunwch y dylai fod gorsafoedd dymunol a diogel i bawb? A gytunwch hefyd mai cyfrifoldeb y cwmnïau gweithredu trenau yw sicrhau bod eu gorsafoedd yn addas ar gyfer gwasanaethu rhwydwaith rheilffordd yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain?

Andrew Davies: Mae hyn yn bendant yn rhywbeth yr wyf yn ei godi'n rheolaidd yn fy nghyfarfodydd gydag Arriva Trains Wales—er nad ydynt yn berchen ar y gorsafoedd, gan mai Network Rail sy'n berchen ar y rhan fwyaf ohonynt ac maent yn cael eu prydlesu i Arriva. Yr wyf yn codi'r mater hwn yn rheolaidd â'r cwmni. Mae gennym raglen dreigl, fel y dywedais mewn ymateb i Janet Davies, ond mae ôl-groniad sylweddol o ran buddsoddiad. Edrychaf am unrhyw ffynhonnell o fuddsoddiad y gallwn ei defnyddio, i wella diogelwch mewn gorsafoedd.

John Griffiths: Mae'n amlwg o'r hyn a glywyd yn y cwestiynau atodol ar y mater hwn y gallai'r canfyddiad o ofn a diffyg diogelwch ac ofn troseddau atal pobl rhag defnyddio ein gwasanaethau rheilffordd. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, a ymunwch â mi i groesawu'r gydnabyddiaeth a gafodd gorsaf reilffordd Casnewydd yr wythnos diwethaf

won a national award for passenger security and safety from the Department for Transport and British Transport Police, recognising the ticket-gated entry, improved use of CCTV and the highly visible staff presence on the station.

3.30 p.m.

Andrew Davies: I am more than happy to join you in congratulating those who have made that possible. Newport railway station is the gateway, in railway terms, to Wales and south Wales, and there are exciting plans with Newport Unlimited to develop that gateway. We have been working closely with the local authority and Newport Unlimited to release potential at Newport, but security on the existing platform is important, and I commend those who have made it possible.

pan enillodd wobwr genedlaethol am ddiogelwch teithwyr gan yr Adran Drafnidiaeth a Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain, gan gydnabod y gatiâu tocynnau, y defnydd gwell o deledu cylch cyfyng a phresenoldeb amlwg iawn staff yn yr orsaf.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn fwy na pharod ymuno â chi i longyfarch y rhai a wnaeth hynny'n bosibl. Gorsaf reilffordd Casnewydd yw'r porth, o ran y rheilffordd, i Gymru a de Cymru, ac mae cynlluniau cyffrous ar y gweill gyda Newport Unlimited i ddatblygu'r porth hwnnw. Yr ydym wedi bod yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r awdurdod lleol a Newport Unlimited i ryddhau'r potensial yng Nghasnewydd, ond mae diogelwch ar y plattform presennol yn bwysig, a chymeradwyaf y rhai sydd wedi gwneud hynny'n bosibl.

Y Seilwaith Drafnidiaeth (Dwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr) The Transport Infrastructure (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr)

C2 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y seilwaith drafnidiaeth yn Nwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr? OAQ0796(EIN)

Q2 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on transport infrastructure in Carmarthen East and Dinefwr? OAQ0796(EIN)

Andrew Davies: The Welsh Assembly Government is continuing to invest in transport infrastructure throughout Wales, including in Carmarthen East and Dinefwr. I am determined to maintain that investment, which is why I have made available over £125 million to local authorities in 2006-07, including just under £5.7 million to Carmarthenshire County Council.

Andrew Davies: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn parhau i fuddsoddi mewn seilwaith drafnidiaeth ledled Cymru, gan gynnwys Dwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr. Yr wyf yn benderfynol o barhau â'r buddsoddiad hwnnw, a dyna pam yr wyf wedi sicrhau bod dros £125 miliwn ar gael i awdurdodau lleol yn 2006-07, gan gynnwys ychydig o dan £5.7 miliwn i Gyngor Sir Caerfyrddin.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Mae'r arian hynny i'w groesawu, ond a yw'n ddigonol i ddatrys y problemau dirfawr yn Nwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr ac mewn siroedd eraill, lle mae ansawdd yr heolydd yn aml yn atal datblygu economaidd? A yw hyn yn eich poeni, neu a yw eich Llywodraeth yn benderfynol o ddatblygu'r economi ar hyd coridorau'r M4 ac A55 yn unig?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: That funding is to be welcomed, but is it sufficient to solve the dire problems in Carmarthen East and Dinefwr and other counties, where the quality of the roads often hinders economic development? Does this concern you, or is your Government determined only to develop the economy along the M4 and A55 corridors?

Andrew Davies: I apologise to Rhodri Glyn—I pressed the wrong button so I missed the first part of the translation. Will

Andrew Davies: Ymddiheuraf i Rhodri Glyn—pwysais y botwm anghywir felly methais ran gyntaf y cyfieithiad. A wnewch

you repeat that, please?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: On the quality of roads in Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, is the sum of money that you have given to local authorities—although it is to be welcomed—sufficient, and do you accept that the quality of the roads sometimes reduces the opportunities for economic regeneration?

Andrew Davies: As I said in my answer on investment in railway stations, there are, not unlimited, but very substantial, demands for funding in these areas, and as Ministers we must make decisions about where we invest. There has been very significant investment in Carmarthenshire, as in all local authorities in Wales. One key new initiative will be the Ammanford distributor road, the first phase of which has a total cost of £7.5 million. The detailed design of the scheme has been substantially completed, as have the land acquisition procedures, and I understand that construction is due to start by the middle of this month. That is just one example of where we as a Government and I as a Minister have worked with the local authority to improve transport infrastructure in a key area, which will have a major impact on that area of Carmarthenshire in terms of economic development.

Lisa Francis: Can you report on the progress of repairs to the A483 north of Cynghordy, because that has been ongoing for a long time? When do you envisage that scheme being completed?

Andrew Davies: I do not have that information to hand; I will write to you.

chi ailadrodd hynny, os gwelwch yn dda?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: O ran ansawdd y ffyrdd yn Nwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr, a yw'r arian a roddwyd gennych i awdurdodau lleol—er ei fod i'w groesawu—yn ddigonol, ac a ydych yn derbyn bod ansawdd y ffyrdd weithiau yn lleihau'r cyfleoedd ar gyfer adfywio economaidd?

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais yn fy ateb ar fuddsoddi mewn gorsafoedd rheilffordd, mae galw sylweddol iawn, ond nid diderfyn, am gyllid yn y meysydd hyn, ac fel Gweinidogion, rhaid inni benderfynu lle i fuddsoddi. Bu buddsoddiad sylweddol iawn yn sir Gaerfyrddin, fel ym mhob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru. Un fenter newydd allweddol fydd ffordd ddosbarthu Rhydaman, y mae'r cam cyntaf ohoni wedi costio cyfanswm o £7.5 miliwn. Mae dyluniad manwl y cynllun wedi ei gwblhau fwy neu lai, fel y mae'r gweithdrefnau caffael tir, a deallaf y bwriedir i'r gwaith adeiladu ddechrau erbyn canol y mis. Dyna un enghraifft yn unig o ble yr ydym ni fel Llywodraeth ac yr wyf fi fel Gweinidog wedi gweithio gyda'r awdurdod lleol i wella seilwaith drafnidiaeth mewn ardal allweddol, a gaiff effaith fawr ar y ran honno o sir Gaerfyrddin o ran datblygu economaidd.

Lisa Francis: A allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am y cynnydd yn y gwaith atgyweirio i'r A483 i'r gogledd o Gynghordy, gan fod hynny wedi bod yn mynd rhagddo ers amser maith? Pryd yr ydych yn rhagweld y caiff y cynllun hwnnw ei gwblhau?

Andrew Davies: Nid yw'r wybodaeth honno gennyf wrth law; fe ysgrifennaf atoch.

Tocynnau Teithio Rhad ar Gludiant Cyhoeddus Concessionary Fares for Public Transport

C3 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am docynnau teithio rhad ar gludiant cyhoeddus? OAQ0797(EIN)

Andrew Davies: Free local bus travel for those eligible is hugely popular. More than 530,000 free passes have been issued, and the free bus travel scheme has turned around a decline in bus passenger journeys. We are

Q3 David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on concessionary fares for public transport? OAQ0797(EIN)

Andrew Davies: Mae teithiau bws lleol am ddim i'r rhai sy'n gymwys yn boblogaidd iawn. Mae dros 530,000 o basys am ddim wedi eu rhoi, ac mae'r cynllun teithiau bws am ddim wedi atal gostyngiad yn nifer y bobl

testing a half-fare scheme for 16 to 18-year-olds on buses in two pilot areas, one in Wrexham in north Wales, and the other in Bridgend in south Wales.

David Lloyd: What prospects are there for the provision of concessionary taxi tokens for those disabled pensioners who are unable to use a bus, and therefore unable to take advantage of the free bus pass?

Andrew Davies: That is a matter for local authorities, which manage the concessionary fare scheme for older people and the disabled. If they feel that they are able to extend that to either rail or taxi travel, they can. I know that in my constituency taxis are a preferred mode of transport to buses for many people. We are looking at that in terms of greater flexibility in the scheme, but as I said in answers to two different questions earlier, there may well be funding implications to widening the scheme. However, I am considering this, because if we are to have a truly integrated transport system, we have to look at all modes of transport, including taxis.

sy'n teithio ar fysiau. Yr ydym yn profi cynllun hanner pris i bobl ifanc 16 i 18 oed ar fysiau mewn dwy ardal beilot, y naill yn Wrecsam yn y gogledd, a'r llall ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn y de.

David Lloyd: Pa bosibilrwydd sydd o ddarparu tocynnau mantais taci ar gyfer y pensïynwyr anabl hynny na allant ddefnyddio'r bws, ac na allant, felly, fanteisio ar y pas bws am ddim?

Andrew Davies: Mater i'r awdurdodau lleol, sy'n rheoli'r cynllun tocynnau mantais ar gyfer pobl hŷn a'r anabl, yw hynny. Os ydynt o'r fant y gallant ymestyn hynny i naill ai deithio ar y trŷn neu mewn taci, mae hynny'n bosibl. Gwn mai taci, yn hytrach na'r bws, yw'r ffordd orau o deithio i lawer o bobl yn fy etholaeth i. Yr ydym yn edrych ar hynny o ran mwy o hyblygrwydd yn y cynllun, ond fel y dywedais wrth ateb dau gwestiwn gwahanol yn gynharach, efallai y bydd goblygiadau ariannu yn gysylltiedig ag ehangu'r cynllun. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn ystyried hyn, oherwydd, er mwyn inni gael system drafnidiaeth wirioneddol integredig, rhaid inni edrych ar bob modd o deithio, gan gynnwys taci.

Hyrwyddo Cymru fel Cyrchfan Dwristiaeth Promoting Wales as a Tourism Destination

Q4 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of Wales as a tourism destination? OAQ0775(EIN)

Andrew Davies: The 'Big Country' marketing campaign takes a new, creative approach to promoting the real Wales for visitors, and will continue as integral part of our post-merger tourism and marketing activity. The new Tourism and Marketing Department will manage future marketing campaigns, taking forward what the 'Big Country' campaign has achieved.

Peter Black: As you will be aware, next Tuesday, 9 May, is the fiftieth anniversary of Gower's becoming the first area of outstanding natural beauty in Britain. Will you be able to make use of that event to promote Swansea and Gower and the wider

C4 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hyrwyddo Cymru fel cyrchfan dwristiaeth? OAQ0775(EIN)

Andrew Davies: Mae ymgyrch farchnata 'Mawredd Mawr' yn mabwysiadu ymagwedd greadigol, newydd tuag at hyrwyddo'r gwir Gymru i ymwelwyr, a bydd yn parhau i fod yn rhan annatod o'n gweithgarwch twristiaeth a marchnata wedi'r uno. Bydd yr Adran Dwristiaeth a Marchnata newydd yn rheoli ymgyrchoedd marchnata'r dyfodol, gan ddatblygu'r hyn a gyflawnwyd gan ymgyrch 'Mawredd Mawr'.

Peter Black: Fel y gwyddoch, mae dydd Mawrth nesaf, 9 Mai, yn dynodi hanner can mlynedd ers i Wŷr gael ei dynodi'n ardal o harddwch naturiol eithriadol, sef yr ardal gyntaf o'r fath ym Mhrydain. A fyddwch yn gallu defnyddio'r achlysur hwnnw i

area to tourists in Britain?

Andrew Davies: My understanding is that the local authority and the south-west Wales regional tourism partnership, which has responsibility for marketing locally, have plans in terms of celebrating, marketing and promoting the fiftieth anniversary of Gower's becoming an area of outstanding natural beauty. I have not received any detailed information about that, but it is a significant milestone, which we should all celebrate.

Val Lloyd: Tourist destinations are used by those on daytrips, one or two-week holidays and, increasingly, weekend breaks. Pleasingly, the Swansea area recently scored very highly in a poll on weekend breaks, and the National Waterfront Museum received its one hundred thousandth visitor on Easter Monday. Will you join me in welcoming this excellent news, which proves that the work done to market Wales as a whole and its individual localities as tourist destinations is paying dividends?

Andrew Davies: I congratulate all those who have made that possible. Recent surveys of tourism operators have shown—there have been two already this year: one over the Easter period and one since; there are five planned altogether—that 90 per cent of those operators expect this to be a very good year for their business and for tourism in general. We have beautiful countryside, great visitor attractions, such as, as you said, the National Waterfront Museum—and I am delighted that that has quickly reached that 100,000 visitor milestone, which is well merited—great hotels and restaurants, and a very significantly improved offer in tourist and visitor terms. I am sure that the tourism industry will continue to benefit from the excellent marketing that was previously undertaken by the Wales Tourist Board, and which will now be undertaken by my department.

Alun Cairns: I listened carefully to your answer about Gower's celebration of its being 50 years since it became the first area

hyrwyddo Abertawe a Gŵyr a'r ardal ehangach i dwristiaid ym Mhrydain?

Andrew Davies: Deallaf fod gan yr awdurdod lleol a phartneriaeth dwristiaeth ranbarthol y de-orllewin, sy'n gyfrifol am farchnata'n lleol, gynlluniau o ran dathlu, marchnata a hyrwyddo hanner can mlynedd ers i Wyr gael ei dynodi'n ardal o harddwch naturiol eithriadol. Nid wyf wedi derbyn unrhyw wybodaeth fanwl am hynny, ond mae'n garreg filltir bwysig y dylai pob un ohonom ei dathlu.

Val Lloyd: Defnyddir cyrchfannau twristiaeth gan y rhai sydd ar wibdaith, gan y rhai sydd ar wyliau wythnos neu bythefnos ac yn fwyfwy ar gyfer gwyliau penwythnos. Yr oedd yn bleser gweld bod ardal Abertawe wedi gwneud yn dda iawn mewn arolwg diweddar o ran gwyliau penwythnos, ac ymwelodd y can milfed ymwelydd ag Amgueddfa Genedlaethol y Glannau ddydd Llun y Pasg. A wnewch ymuno â mi i groesawu'r newyddion ardderchog, sy'n profi bod y gwaith a wneir i farchnata Cymru gyfan a'i hardaloedd unigol fel cyrchfannau gwyliau yn dechrau talu ar ei ganfed?

Andrew Davies: Llongyfarchaf bawb sydd wedi gwneud hynny'n bosibl. Mae arolygon diweddar o weithredwyr twristiaeth wedi dangos—cafwyd dau eisoes eleni: un dros gyfnod y Pasg ac un arall ers hynny; mae cyfanswm o bump wedi eu cynllunio—bod 90 y cant o'r gweithredwyr hynny yn disgwyl y bydd hon yn flwyddyn dda iawn ar gyfer eu busnesau a thwristiaeth yn gyffredinol. Mae gennym gefn gwlad hyfryd, atyniadau twristiaeth gwych, megis fel y dywedasoeh, Amgueddfa Genedlaethol y Glannau—ac yr wyf yn falch ei bod wedi cyrraedd y garreg filltir honno yn gyflym, sef bod 100,000 o ymwelwyr wedi ymweld â hi, sy'n haeddiannol—gwestai a thai bwyta gwych, a chynnig llawer gwell o ran twristiaid ac ymwelwyr. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y diwydiant twristiaeth yn parhau i gael budd o'r marchnata ardderchog a wnaeth Bwrdd Croeso Cymru yn y gorffennol, ac a fydd bellach yn cael ei wneud gan fy adran i.

Alun Cairns: Gwrandewais yn astud ar eich ateb ynglŷn â'r ffaith bod Gŵyr yn dathlu hanner can mlynedd ers iddi gael ei dynodi'n

of outstanding natural beauty in the United Kingdom, but do you not think that the former Wales Tourist Board, the Welsh Assembly Government and, ultimately, you, as the Minister responsible for the former organisation and the Minister responsible in the Welsh Assembly Government for tourism, have missed a trick here in terms of promoting this celebration throughout the rest of the United Kingdom? I listened to your answer about the regional tourism partnership and the local authority, but it is their responsibility to market this locally. Is it not up to the Welsh Assembly Government and the Wales Tourist Board to sell Gower and this fantastic celebration throughout the rest of the country?

Andrew Davies: The division of responsibility in terms of tourism marketing was clear under the Wales Tourist Board. The tourist board was responsible for marketing Wales as a destination overseas, for example, as well as in other parts of the United Kingdom. The promotion of local events or offers was decentralised to the regional tourism partnerships. I felt that that was a robust system; it served the tourism operators well and they certainly welcomed it. That division of responsibilities or labour will continue in my new department.

Alun Cairns: With the greatest respect, Minister, that was a weak answer, because the Wales Tourist Board is responsible for marketing Wales within the United Kingdom, because it is the British Tourist Authority that primarily leads in terms of marketing Wales throughout the rest of Europe and the rest of the world. They will quite happily support Big Pit and the botanical gardens—which should be supported—but Gower, as the first area of outstanding natural beauty, deserves the same level of promotion in order to support the tourism industry in Swansea and the Gower peninsula.

3.40 p.m.

Andrew Davies: I stand by the answer that I gave earlier. It was accepted by the tourist board under the previous arrangements that that local offer would be promoted by the

ardal o harddwch naturiol eithriadol, sef yr ardal gyntaf o'r fath yn y Deyrnas Unedig, ond onid ydych yn credu fod yr hen Fwrdd Croeso Cymru, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a chi, yn y pen draw, fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am yr hen sefydliad a'r Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol o fewn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am dwristiaeth, wedi colli cyfle yma o ran hyrwyddo'r dathliad hwn yng ngweddill y Deyrnas Unedig? Gwrandewais ar eich ateb am y bartneriaeth dwristiaeth ranbarthol a'r awdurdod lleol, ond eu cyfrifoldeb hwy yw marchnata hyn yn lleol. Onid cyfrifoldeb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Bwrdd Croeso Cymru yw gwerthu Gŵyr a'r dathliad ardderchog hwn i weddill y wlad?

Andrew Davies: Yr oedd y rhaniad yn y cyfrifoldebau o ran marchnata ym maes twristiaeth yn glir o dan y bwrdd croeso. Y bwrdd croeso oedd yn gyfrifol am farchnata Cymru fel cyrchfan dramor, er enghraifft, yn ogystal ag mewn rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig. Datganolwyd y gwaith o hyrwyddo digwyddiadau neu gynigion lleol i'r partneriaethau twristiaeth rhanbarthol. Teimlwn fod honno'n system gadarn; gwasanaethodd y gweithredwyr twristiaeth yn dda ac yr oeddent yn bendant yn croesawu hynny. Bydd y rhaniad hwnnw o ran cyfrifoldebau neu waith yn parhau yn fy adran newydd.

Alun Cairns: Gyda phob parch, Weinidog, yr oedd hwnnw'n ateb gwan, am fod y bwrdd croeso yn gyfrifol am farchnata Cymru o fewn y Deyrnas Unedig, am mai Awdurdod Twristiaeth Prydain sy'n arwain yn bennaf o ran marchnata Cymru i weddill Ewrop a gweddill y byd. Maent yn fwy na pharod i gefnogi'r Pwll Mawr a'r gerddi botaneg—y dylid eu cefnogi—ond mae Gŵyr, fel yr ardal gyntaf o harddwch naturiol eithriadol, yn haeddu cael ei hyrwyddo i'r fath raddau er mwyn cefnogi'r diwydiant twristiaeth yn Abertawe a Gŵyr.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn glynu wrth yr ateb a roddais yn gynharach. Derbyniodd y bwrdd croeso o dan y trefniadau blaenorol y byddai'r partneriaethau twristiaeth

regional tourism partnerships. They received significant investment, which would allow them to do that. Nevertheless, if there are lessons to be learned from this, then we will do so.

Alun Cairns: I ask you to reconsider the answer. It is the Wales Tourist Board's responsibility to promote Gower within the United Kingdom. Has it done so? Yes or no? Is not the answer 'no'?

Andrew Davies: I have said that, with regard to the marketing operation for Wales, there is a division of responsibility. The promotion of Wales as a destination was done by the Wales Tourist Board, and local or regional marketing was undertaken by the regional tourism partnerships. That was the division of responsibility under the old regime. As I said, this arrangement has served the industry well and will continue to do so. Even if the tourist board were still in operation, it would be far too late to promote an event that is happening this week. That would be true of my department now. If I told my marketing department to promote the fiftieth anniversary of Gower's becoming an area of outstanding national beauty, it would be considered to be too late to do so at this stage. As I have said, we will review this, as we review all of our activities, and if it is felt that there are lessons to be learned and that we need to change emphasis, then we will do so. However, the responsibility lies in the first case with the local authority and the regional tourism partnership.

Busnesau Bach a Chanolig eu Maint (Gogledd Cymru) Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (North Wales)

Q5 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on support for indigenous small and medium-sized enterprises in north Wales? OAQ0768(EIN)

Andrew Davies: We are committed to supporting indigenous small and medium-sized enterprises, which are vital to the north Wales economy. Support provided by the enterprise team includes general business and specialist support, mentoring and account management, property solutions and financial support. Specific support is also provided to key sectors, including optronics, advanced

rhanbarthol yn hyrwyddo'r cynnig lleol hwnnw. Cawsant fuddsoddiad sylweddol, a fyddai'n eu galluogi i wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, os oes gwersi i'w dysgu o hyn, yna fe wnawn hynny.

Alun Cairns: Gofynnaf ichi ailystyried yr ateb. Cyfrifoldeb y bwrdd croeso yw hyrwyddo Gŵyr o fewn y Deyrnas Unedig. A ydyw wedi gwneud hynny? Ydyw ynteu nac ydyw? Onid 'nac ydyw' yw'r ateb?

Andrew Davies: Fe ddywedais, o ran y gweithgareddau marchnata ar gyfer Cymru, bod rhaniad cyfrifoldeb. Y bwrdd croeso oedd yn hyrwyddo Cymru fel cyrchfan, a phartneriaethau twristiaeth rhanbarthol oedd yn marchnata'n lleol neu'n rhanbarthol. Dyna oedd y rhaniad cyfrifoldeb o dan yr hen drefn. Fel y dywedais, mae'r trefniadau hyn wedi bod o fudd i'r diwydiant a bydd yn parhau felly. Hyd yn oed pe bai'r bwrdd croeso yn dal i weithredu, byddai'n llawer rhy hwyr i hyrwyddo digwyddiad a gynhelir yr wythnos hon. Byddai hynny'n wir o ran fy adran i yn awr. Pe byddwn yn dweud wrth fy adran farchnata i hyrwyddo hanner can mlynedd ers i Wyr gael ei dynodi'n ardal o harddwch naturiol eithriadol, y farn fyddai ei bod yn rhy hwyr i wneud hynny erbyn hyn. Fel y dywedais, byddwn yn adolygu hyn, fel yr ydym yn adolygu ein holl weithgareddau, ac os mai'r farn yw bod gwersi i'w dysgu a bod angen inni newid pwyslais, yna fe wnawn hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr awdurdod lleol a'r bartneriaeth dwristiaeth ranbarthol sy'n gyfrifol am hyn yn y lle cyntaf.

C5 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gefnogaeth i fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint cynhenid yn y gogledd? OAQ0768(EIN)

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym yn ymrwymedig i cefnogi busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint cynheni, sy'n hanfodol i economi'r gogledd. Mae'r cymorth a roddir gan y tîm mentergarwch yn cynnwys cymorth busnes cyffredinol ac arbenigol, mentora a rheoli cyfrifon, atebion o ran eiddo a chymorth ariannol. Rhoddir cymorth penodol hefyd i sectorau allweddol, gan gynnwys optroneg,

computer software, and marine science.

Ann Jones: It is pleasing to see that there are so many initiatives to help small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly with regard to their role across north Wales. Can I ask you to consider the procurement rules that we are looking at in 'Making the Connections'? Many indigenous small and medium-sized enterprises have approached me saying that they feel that the playing field could be altered, and that they may not be able to tender because of the threshold. Will you look at whether there will be a level playing field in terms of small and medium-sized enterprises being able to tender for Government contracts in the future?

Andrew Davies: We have been reviewing our procurement processes, not only in the Assembly Government, but also more generally in the public sector. There has been significant progress. For example, the website Sell2Wales has been established. This allows small companies in particular to register their interest in providing goods and services to local authorities, the Assembly Government and other public bodies, including the health service. A substantial amount of work is being done. However, there is a lot more that we need to do. I established the business procurement taskforce to look at ways of streamlining our procurement processes to enable small companies to access public sector contracts. There has also been a series of workshops and seminars. I attended one only a few weeks ago that was set up by the Ethnic Business Support Programme and targeted black and minority ethnic businesses to raise awareness and facilitate understanding of procurement processes.

Alun Ffred Jones: O ran y rhaglen Amcan 1 yng Ngwynedd, un o'r cynlluniau mwyaf llwyddiannus oedd y cynllun datblygu busnes. Sefydlwyd 132 o gwmnïau newydd a chrëwyd 240 o swyddi newydd. A ydych yn fodlon ystyried ehangu'r cynllun hwn o dan y rhaglen newydd o gronfeydd Ewropeaidd drwy Gymru gyfan neu drwy'r ardaloedd yng Nghymru fydd yn derbyn yr arian hwn?

meddalwedd gyfrifiadurol ddatblygedig a gwyddoniaeth forol.

Ann Jones: Mae'n bleser gweld bod cymaint o fentrau ar gael i helpu busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint, yn arbennig o ran eu rôl ar draws y gogledd. A wnewch ystyried y rheolau caffael yr ydym yn edrych arnynt yn 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau'? Mae llawer o fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint cynhenid wedi cysylltu â mi gan ddweud y gallai'r amodau gael eu newid, yn eu barn hwy, a'i bod yn bosibl na allant dendro oherwydd y trothwy. A wnewch ystyried a fydd tegwch o ran gallu busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint i dendro am gontractau'r Llywodraeth yn y dyfodol?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym wedi bod yn adolygu ein prosesau caffael, nid yn unig yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ond hefyd yn fwy cyffredinol yn y sector cyhoeddus. Gwnaed cynnydd sylweddol. Er enghraifft, sefydlwyd y wefan gwerthwchigymru. Mae hyn yn galluogi cwmnïau bach yn benodol i gofnodi eu diddordeb mewn darparu nwyddau a gwasanaethau i awdurdodau lleol, Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, a chyrrff cyhoeddus eraill, gan gynnwys y gwasanaeth iechyd. Mae llawer o waith yn cael ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni wneud llawer mwy. Sefydlais y tasglu caffael busnes i edrych ar ffyrdd o symleiddio ein prosesau caffael er mwyn galluogi cwmnïau bach i dendro am gontractau'r sector cyhoeddus. Cynhaliwyd cyfres o weithdai a seminarau hefyd. Mynychais un ychydig wythnosau yn ôl a sefydlwyd gan y Rhaglen Cefnogi Busnes Ethnig a oedd yn targedu busnesau pobl dduon a lleiafrifoedd ethnig i godi ymwybyddiaeth a meithrin dealltwriaeth o brosesau caffael.

Alun Ffred Jones: In terms of the Objective 1 programme in Gwynedd, one of the more successful programmes was the business development programme. Some 132 companies were established and 240 new jobs were created. Are you willing to consider extending this scheme under the new programme of European funds throughout Wales or in those areas of Wales that will receive this money?

Andrew Davies: I am more than happy to give a commitment to have a look at that to see whether it can be extended and the implications of doing so.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i roi ymrwymiad i edrych ar hynny i weld a yw'n bosibl ei ymestyn a'r goblygiadau yn sgîl gwneud hynny.

Alun Ffred Jones: A ymunwch â mi i longyfarch partneriaeth economaidd Gwynedd, ei phartneriaid ac Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, ar eu llwyddiant yn cynyddu'r cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth yn ystod cyfnod rhaglen Amcan 1? Mae'r cynnydd yng Ngwynedd wedi bod gyda'r uchaf yng Nghymru; efallai bod gwersi i'w dysgu ar gyfer gweddill Cymru o'r ffordd y mae pethau wedi'u gwneud yng Ngwynedd.

Alun Ffred Jones: Will you join me in congratulating the Gwynedd economic partnership, its partners and the Welsh Development Agency, on their success in increasing GDP during the period of the Objective 1 programme? The increase in Gwynedd has been among the highest in Wales; there may be lessons for the rest of Wales in terms of how things have been done in Gwynedd.

Andrew Davies: As I said in my replies to earlier questions, I am always more than happy to look at lessons that can be learned from success as well as from failure. Clearly, we have worked very closely with Gwynedd on a whole range of development issues under my portfolio, under Jane Davidson's portfolio in terms of the skills agenda and under Edwina Hart's portfolio in terms of community regeneration. I am delighted to be able to say that the example in Gwynedd has been successful, having worked in partnership with Gwynedd Council and with a wide range of public and private partners.

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais yn fy atebion i gwestiynau cynharach, yr wyf bob amser yn fwy na pharod i ystyried y gwersi y gellir eu dysgu o lwyddiant yn ogystal ag o fethiant. Yn amlwg, yr ydym wedi gweithio'n agos iawn gyda Gwynedd ar ystod eang o faterion datblygu o dan fy mhorthffolio, o dan bortffolio Jane Davidson o ran yr agenda sgiliau ac o dan bortffolio Edwina Hart o ran adfywio cymunedol. Yr wyf yn falch iawn o allu dweud y bu'r enghraifft yng Ngwynedd yn llwyddiannus iawn, yn sgîl gweithio mewn partneriaeth â Chyngor Gwynedd ac ystod eang o bartneriaid cyhoeddus a phreifat.

Cymorthdaliadau ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Trên Lleol Subsidies for Local Train Services

Q6 Janet Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on subsidies for local train services? OAQ0801(EIN)

C6 Janet Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gymorthdaliadau ar gyfer gwasanaethau trên lleol? OAQ0801(EIN)

Andrew Davies: Since 1 April, the Welsh Assembly Government has been responsible for making subsidy payments to Arriva Trains Wales for Welsh services under the Wales and borders franchise. The latest published figure for the average subsidy per passenger kilometre on the Wales and borders network is 11p.

Andrew Davies: Ers 1 Ebrill, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi bod yn gyfrifol am wneud taliadau cymhorthdal i Drenau Arriva Cymru ar gyfer gwasanaethau yng Nghymru o dan fasnachfaint Cymru a'r gororau. 11c yw'r ffigur diweddaraf a gyhoeddwyd ar gyfer y cymhorthdal fesul cilomedr y teithiwr ar gyfartaledd ar rwydwaith Cymru a'r gororau.

Janet Davies: I am not quite sure what that will amount to in a year and I do not expect that you are either. What steps are you taking to ensure value for money for the Assembly contribution?

Janet Davies: Nid wyf yn hollol siŵr beth fydd cyfanswm hynny mewn blwyddyn ac nid wyf yn disgwyl i chi fod yn siŵr ychwaith. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau gwerth am arian ar gyfer cyfraniad y Cynulliad?

Andrew Davies: For 2006-07, the subsidy will be £141 million. That is as a result of the franchise being transferred from the Department for Transport to the Assembly Government and me.

On value for money, the long-term franchise was negotiated between the DfT and Arriva Trains Wales, so we inherited that. Clearly, we are always looking at, and measuring, performance, as I indicated to the committee this morning, and we are evaluating Arriva's performance. I am delighted to say that there has been significant improvement since what the company regarded as under-performance before and after Christmas. The latest figures show that there has been a very significant improvement, particularly on the Valleys lines. However, we are always evaluating and monitoring performance under all the franchises in Wales. Under the 15-year franchise arrangements, there are five-year breaks for review of performance and I know that Arriva, like any other company, takes those periodic reviews extremely seriously.

Leighton Andrews: I welcome your previous announcement on the funding for the feasibility of six-car coaches on the Treherbert line. However, will you welcome a subsidy from perhaps a surprising source, the Heritage Lottery Fund, which is providing support for the remarkable mosaic, entitled 'From Pit to Port' at Trehafod railway station, developed by pupils at Porth County Community School and Hafod Primary School? When you next visit events at the Heritage Park or the Heritage Park Hotel, I urge you to stop off at that station and see that mosaic for yourself.

Andrew Davies: I am more than happy to give that commitment. As a regular rail user, I look forward to going up to the Rhondda on the train next time and stopping at that station.

William Graham: Will you consider a subsidy for the Peter Law memorial railway line between Ebbw Vale and Newport when it comes into operation?

Andrew Davies: £141 miliwn fydd y cymhorthdal ar gyfer 2006-07. Daw hynny yn sgîl trosglwyddo'r fasnachfrait o'r Adran Drafnidiaeth i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ac i mi.

O ran gwerth am arian, negodwyd y fasnachfrait hirdymor rhwng yr Adran Drafnidiaeth a Threnau Arriva Cymru, felly bu inni etifeddu hynny. Yn amlwg, yr ydym bob amser yn edrych ar berfformiad ac yn mesur perfformiad, fel yr awgrymais wrth y pwyllgor y bore yma, ac yr ydym yn gwerthuso perfformiad Arriva. Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud inni weld gwelliant sylweddol ers yr hyn a ystyriwyd fel tanberfformiad gan y cwmni cyn ac ar ôl y Nadolig. Dengys y ffigurau diweddaraf y bu gwelliant sylweddol iawn, yn enwedig ar reilffyrdd y Cymoedd. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym bob amser yn gwerthuso ac yn monitro perfformiad o dan bob un o'r masnachfreiniau yng Nghymru. O dan y trefniadau masnachfrait 15 mlynedd, mae toriadau pum mlynedd ar gyfer adolygu perfformiad a gwn fod Arriva, fel unrhyw gwmni arall, yn ystyried yr adolygiadau cyfnodol hyn yn ddifrifol iawn.

Leighton Andrews: Croesawaf eich cyhoeddiad blaenorol ar ariannu dichonoldeb trenau chwe cherbyd ar reilffordd Treherbert. Fodd bynnag, a wnewch chi groesawu cymhorthdal o ffynhonnell annisgwyl o bosibl, sef Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri, sy'n darparu cymorth ar gyfer y mosaic rhyfeddol sy'n dwyn yr enw 'From Pit to Port' yng ngorsaf reilffordd Trehafod ac a ddatblygwyd gan ddisgyblion o Ysgol Gymunedol Sirol y Porth ac Ysgol Gynradd Hafod? Y tro nesaf y byddwch yn ymweld â digwyddiadau yn y Parc Treftadaeth neu westy'r Heritage Park, fe'ch anogaf i alw draw yn yr orsaf honno i weld y mosaic.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i roi'r addewid hwnnw. Fel rhywun sy'n defnyddio'r rheilffordd yn aml, edrychaf ymlaen at fynd i'r Rhondda ar y trên y tro nesaf ac aros yn yr orsaf honno.

William Graham: A ystyriwch gymhorthdal ar gyfer llinell reilffordd goffa Peter Law rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd pan ddaw'n weithredol?

Andrew Davies: Sorry, did you say the Ebbw Vale line?

William Graham: Yes, the Peter Law memorial line.

Andrew Davies: The subsidy that was negotiated as part of the Wales and the border franchise was historic for the DfT and Arriva Trains, for which we are now responsible. Therefore, that was negotiated in advance of us taking on this responsibility. Clearly, our commitment to opening up passenger services is well-known. Last year, we opened passenger services on the Vale of Glamorgan line for the first time since the Beeching cuts and I look forward to doing the same next year. That would not have been possible without direct funding from the Assembly Government, Objective 1 and the Corus regeneration money. The level of subsidy needed will be negotiated between us and Arriva Trains Wales as part of the overall subsidy.

The Presiding Officer: I call the Liberal Democrat substitute, and I extend our good wishes to the AM for whom he is about to substitute, namely Kirsty Williams and her family.

3.50 p.m.

Michael German: Thank you, Presiding Officer; everything is well.

Minister, you have just told us about the subsidies that you have provided. Given that the comfort of passengers travelling on railway lines is so important, and that we have suffered in Wales from poor rolling stock, will you tell us where you are with negotiations on the nature of the rolling stock on the new Ebbw Vale railway line? What level of subsidy do you intend to put into it? Will the passengers who intend to travel on it do so in new trains?

Andrew Davies: We have been working with Arriva Trains Wales to identify the business case for improved rolling stock. Whether that is to be new or leased older rolling stock, or purchased rather than leased,

Andrew Davies: Mae'n flin gennyf, a ddywedsoch rheilffordd Glynebwy?

William Graham: Do, rheilffordd goffa Peter Law.

Andrew Davies: Yr oedd y cymhorthdal a negodwyd fel rhan o fasnachfaint Cymru a'r gororau yn hanesyddol ar gyfer yr Adran Drafnidiaeth a Threnau Arriva ac yr ydym bellach yn gyfrifol amdano. Felly, negodwyd hynny cyn inni ymgymryd â'r cyfrifoldeb hwn. Yn amlwg, gŵyr pawb am ein hymrwymiad i ehangu gwasanaethau i deithwyr. Y llynedd, agorwyd gwasanaethau i deithwyr ar reilffordd Bro Morgannwg am y tro cyntaf ers toriadau Beeching ac edrychaf ymlaen at wneud yr un peth y flwyddyn nesaf. Ni fyddai hynny wedi bod yn bosibl heb arian uniongyrchol gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, Amcan 1 ac arian adfywio Corus. Caiff swm y cymhorthdal y bydd ei angen ei negodi rhyngom ni a Threnau Arriva Cymru fel rhan o'r cymhorthdal cyffredinol.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf ar eilydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ac estynnaf ein dymuniadau gorau i'r AC y mae'n eilio ar ei gyfer, sef Kirsty Williams a'i theulu.

Michael German: Diolch, Lywydd, mae popeth yn iawn.

Weinidog, yr ydych newydd sôn wrthym am y cymorthdaliadau yr ydych wedi'u darparu. O gofio bod cysur y teithwyr sy'n teithio ar y rheilffyrdd mor bwysig a'n bod ni, yng Nghymru, wedi dioddef oherwydd cerbydau gwael, a ddywedwch wrthym beth yw'r sefyllfa ddiweddaraf o ran negodiadau ar natur y cerbydau ar reilffordd newydd Glynebwy? Pa lefel o gymhorthdal yr ydych yn bwriadu ei rhoi? A fydd y teithwyr sy'n bwriadu teithio ar y rheilffordd honno yn gallu gwneud hynny mewn trenau newydd?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym wedi bod yn gweithio gyda Threnau Arriva Cymru i nodi'r achos busnes dros gerbydau gwell. P'un a fydd hynny'n gerbydau newydd neu gerbydau hŷn ar brydles, neu'n gerbydau

is something that we are actively considering. A business case has been presented to my officials and it is currently being considered. Talk about any level of Assembly Government funding at this stage is premature. However, you can rest assured, Mike, that as soon as there is an announcement to be made I will report to the Assembly or to the committee on what will be a significant development.

Michael German: I take it, therefore, that you are considering a subsidy because Arriva has clearly made a business case to you. If we are to keep people travelling by public transport, it is important that they are comfortable in doing so and are not shaken around like milk bottles. I am sure that you can accept that.

The case for getting people to transfer is not as easy as it looks, unless you have good quality rolling stock. Wales has suffered from other people's leftovers and from having stock transferred from other parts of the country. Surely, we should be looking at doing what the Scottish Executive has done, which is to invest in new rolling stock, giving Welsh passengers a real opportunity to commute on comfortable trains; they have not been accustomed to doing so. Perhaps we ought to take that as a key initiative for this Government.

Andrew Davies: Passenger comfort is one important factor but it is not the only one. As I said in answer to an earlier question, passenger safety and security are other important factors. The main factor is the frequency and reliability of services. I am delighted that Arriva has significantly improved its performance. As I said earlier, we will be looking at the business case presented by Arriva. The rolling stock was inherited as part of the former franchise and leasing arrangements with the rolling stock companies. I will be looking seriously at the business case for new or improved rolling stock, whether that is leased or purchased directly. At present, it is premature to say what those arrangements might be if we were to take that route.

wedi'u prynu yn hytrach na'u prydlesu, mae hynny'n rhywbeth yr ydym wrthi'n ei ystyried. Cyflwynwyd achos busnes i'm swyddogion ac y mae o dan ystyriaeth ar hyn o bryd. Mae'n rhy gynnar sôn am lefel o ariannu gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, gallaf eich sicrhau, Mike, cyn gynted ag y bydd cyhoeddiad yn yr arfaeth, byddaf yn annerch y Cynulliad neu'r pwyllgor ar yr hyn a fydd yn ddatblygiad arwyddocaol.

Michael German: Cymeraf, felly, eich bod yn ystyried cymhorthdal gan ei bod yn amlwg i Arriva gyflwyno achos busnes i chi. Er mwyn inni sicrhau bod pobl yn parhau i deithio ar gludiant cyhoeddus, mae'n bwysig iddynt fod yn gysurus wrth wneud hynny yn hytrach na chael eu hysgwyd o gwmpas fel poteli llaeth. Dichon y gallwch dderbyn hynny.

Nid yw'r achos dros annog pobl i drosglwyddo mor hawdd ag yr ymddengys, oni bai bod gennych gerbydau o safon. Mae Cymru wedi gorfod derbyn sborion pobl eraill a stoc sydd wedi'i throsglwyddo o rannau eraill o'r wlad. Ond odid na ddylwn ystyried gwneud yr hyn y mae Gweithrediaeth yr Alban wedi'i wneud, sef buddsoddi mewn cerbydau newydd, gan roi cyfle gwirioneddol i deithwyr yng Nghymru deithio ar drenau cyfforddus; nid ydynt wedi bod yn gyfarwydd â gwneud hynny. Efallai y dylwn fabwysiadu hynny fel menter allweddol i'r Llywodraeth hon.

Andrew Davies: Mae cysur y teithwyr yn ffactor pwysig ond nid hwnnw yw'r unig un. Fel y dywedais mewn ateb i gwestiwn cynharach, mae diogelwch teithwyr yn ffactor pwysig arall. Y prif ffactor yw amllder a dibynadwyedd y gwasanaethau. Yr wyf yn falch bod Arriva wedi gwella ei berfformiad yn sylweddol. Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, byddwn yn edrych ar yr achos busnes a gyflwynwyd gan Arriva. Etifeddwyd y cerbydau fel rhan o'r fasnachfaint flaenorol a threfniadau prydlesu gyda chwmnïau cerbydau. Byddaf yn edrych o ddifrif ar yr achos busnes dros gerbydau newydd neu well, p'un a fyddent yn gerbydau ar brydles neu gerbydau a brynir yn uniongyrchol. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n rhy gynnar rhagweld y trefniadau hynny petawn yn dewis y llwybr

hwnnw.

Cwestiynau i'r Trefnydd ar ei Chyfrifoldebau heblaw am Fusnes
Questions to the Business Minister on her Responsibilities other than for
Business

Gwella Cyfle Cyfartal Ymhlith Pobl Hŷn
Improving Equal Opportunities for Older People

Q1 Jenny Randerson: What is the Minister doing to improve equal opportunities for older people? OAQ0225(BM)

C1 Jenny Randerson: Beth mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i wella cyfle cyfartal ymhlith pobl hŷn? OAQ0225(BM)

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): Our strategy for older people in Wales challenges ageism and discrimination against older people. The commissioner for older people for Wales will have an important role in tackling age discrimination, promoting positive images of ageing and giving older people a stronger voice.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Mae ein strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn yng Nghymru yn herio rhagfarn ar sail oed a gwahaniaethu yn erbyn pobl hŷn. Bydd gan y comisiynydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn yng Nghymru rôl bwysig wrth fynd i'r afael â gwahaniaethu ar sail oed, hybu delweddau cadarnhaol o heneiddio a rhoi llais cryfach i bobl hŷn.

Jenny Randerson: I am sure that many older people would agree that what really matters to them is not words, and perhaps it is not the commissioner—to whom they would only turn in dire straits—but day-to-day services. Will you tell us your views about the abandonment of your promise of free homecare for the disabled—a situation that applies to many older people—by your successor, the current Minister for Health and Social Services?

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai llawer o bobl hŷn yn cytuno mai gwasanaethau bob dydd sy'n bwysig iddynt ac nid geiriau, ac efallai nad y comisiynydd ydyw ychwaith—rhywun y byddant ond yn troi ato mewn cyfyng gyngor. A ddywedwch wrthym eich barn ar y ffaith i'ch olynydd, y Gweinidog presennol dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol roi'r gorau i'ch addewid i ddarparu gofal cartref am ddim i'r anabl—sefyllfa sy'n berthnasol i lawer o bobl hŷn?

Jane Hutt: I hope that you will now move on, Jenny, to recognise the significant investment that has been taking place as a result of the Minister for Health and Social Services' announcement in February, to not only reduce charges but also to improve services. As you say, for elderly people, it is crucial that they should be able to remain independent in their homes. Support such as the special grant for carers of people suffering from Alzheimer's disease, telecare, and equipment will make a difference to the services that help to keep elderly people independent.

Jane Hutt: Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn awr, Jenny, yn symud ymlaen i gydnabod y buddsoddiad sylweddol sydd wedi bod yn digwydd o ganlyniad i gyhoeddiad y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ym mis Chwefror i wella gwasanaethau yn ogystal â lleihau taliadau. Fel y dywedwch, mae'n hanfodol i bobl hŷn eu bod yn gallu aros yn annibynnol yn eu cartrefi. Bydd cymorth, fel y grant arbennig ar gyfer gofalwyr pobl sy'n dioddef o glefyd Alzheimer, teleofal ac offer, yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i'r gwasanaethau sy'n helpu i gadw pobl hŷn yn annibynnol.

Jenny Randerson: The people concerned tell me that they remain deeply disappointed and disillusioned by the abandonment of what was a clear promise. Can you explain

Jenny Randerson: Yn ôl y bobl dan sylw, maent yn parhau'n siomedig iawn ac wedi'u dadrithio gan y ffaith eich bod wedi rhoi'r gorau i'r hyn a oedd yn addewid amlwg. A

how you will introduce your substitute policy, which, although weak, is to be welcomed, of introducing fair charging throughout Wales? How long will it take before fair charging is introduced? How are you going to carry out the review? What is likely to be the impact on those areas where the charges are highest?

Jane Hutt: It was a significant investment, worth £76 million, in improving services and reducing the impact of charges. Brian Gibbons's officials met with representatives from Coalition on Charging at the end of March with an open agenda. Issues of concern were raised. As a result of that meeting, they have agreed to participate in a working group to take this forward. We need to move forward in terms of raising the buffer to reduce the impact of charging on the least well-off and considering disability-related expenditure and how that should be treated in terms of charging. That is going to be taken forward by the working group, which will now be considering these issues.

Lisa Francis: Surveys show that people have a stronger opinion on mandatory retirement in Wales than anywhere else in the UK. A significant 95 per cent say that employees should be able to continue working past the age of retirement if they are capable of doing so. What are you doing to ensure that companies in Wales are fully aware of the age-discrimination regulations that are to be introduced later on this year?

Jane Hutt: This will be a significant development in terms of promoting equal opportunities for the elderly and brings in the age-related regulations, as you say. I was interested in the recent report published by the Welsh Consumer Council and the Equal Opportunities Commission, which points to the fact that this new legislation will give greater freedom to older people. We will be publicising this and raising awareness among the business, private, public and voluntary sectors.

allwch egluro sut y byddwch yn cyflwyno'ch polisi amgen, sydd, er yn wan, i'w groesawu, sef cyflwyno taliadau teg ledled Cymru? Pa mor hir a gymerir cyn y cyflwynir taliadau teg? Sut yr ydych yn bwriadu cynnal yr adolygiad? Beth fydd yr effaith debygol ar yr ardaloedd hynny sydd â'r taliadau uchaf?

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd yn fuddsoddiad sylweddol, gwerth £76 miliwn, o ran gwella gwasanaethau a lleihau effaith y taliadau. Cyfarfu swyddogion Brian Gibbons â chynrychiolwyr y Coalition on Charging ar ddiwedd Mawrth gydag agenda agored. Codwyd pryderon. O ganlyniad i'r cyfarfod hwnnw, maent wedi cytuno i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgor i ddwyn hyn yn ei flaen. Mae angen inni symud hyn ymlaen o ran lleihau effaith y taliadau ar y lleiaf cefnog ac ystyried gwariant sy'n gysylltiedig ag anabledd a'r modd y dylid trin hynny yng nghyd-destun taliadau. Bydd y gweithgor a fydd yn ystyried y materion hyn yn datblygu hynny.

Lisa Francis: Dengys arolygon fod gan bobl farn gryfach ar ymddeoliad gorfodol yng Nghymru nag yn unman arall yn y DU. Mae ffigur sylweddol, 95 y cant, yn dweud y dylai cyflogeion allu parhau i weithio y tu hwnt i oedran ymddeol os ydynt yn gallu gwneud hynny. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod cwmnïau yng Nghymru yn gwbl ymwybodol o reoliadau sy'n ymwneud â gwahaniaethu ar sail oed sydd i'w cyflwyno'n ddiweddarach eleni?

Jane Hutt: Bydd hyn yn ddatblygiad sylweddol o ran hyrwyddo cyfle cyfartal i'r henoed ac yn cyflwyno'r rheoliadau sy'n gysylltiedig ag oed fel y bu ichi sôn. Yr oedd gennyf ddiddordeb yn yr adroddiad diweddar a gyhoeddwyd gan Gyngor Defnyddwyr Cymru a'r Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal, sy'n amlinellu'r ffaith y bydd y ddeddfwriaeth newydd hon yn rhoi mwy o ryddid i bobl hŷn. Byddwn yn rhoi cyhoeddusrwydd i hyn ac yn codi ymwybyddiaeth ymhlith y sectorau busnes, preifat, cyhoeddus a gwirfoddol.

**Gwella Amodau Byw y Plant Mwyaf Agored i Niwed
Improving Conditions for the Most Vulnerable Children**

Q2 Jenny Randerson: What cross-cutting policies does the Minister have to improve conditions for the most vulnerable children in Wales? OAQ0226(BM)

Jane Hutt: I was pleased to receive the report published by Gwenda Thomas's safeguarding vulnerable children review, 'Keeping Us Safe'. I will be making a statement on that following questions today and will be considering this significant report at the meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people on Monday.

Jenny Randerson: Autistic children are among the most vulnerable in Wales. We have been waiting a long time for a strategy which, I hope, will encompass health services and deal with education services for those children. Given the importance of good services for autistic children and swift diagnosis, will you comment on the threat to the tertiary autism service in Cardiff, which serves not only children in Cardiff, but those throughout the whole of south Wales and parts of mid Wales?

Jane Hutt: This issue was raised during my previous questions session, when I gave assurances that we would ask local health boards to consider this issue with trusts in terms of healthcare providers. I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that the funding for the children's specialist tertiary service at St David's Hospital has been extended for a further three months in order for discussions to take place on how this service can be taken forward.

Mark Isherwood: I have been advised that Conwy, which is only one example, has seen an increase up to 31 March 2006 of 20 per cent in the number of looked-after children, and that across England and Wales the increase has been closer to 25 per cent. What action are you taking to address this?

Jane Hutt: Officials are working on this issue, which has been the subject of debates in the Chamber and discussions in meetings of the Cabinet sub-committee on children and

C2 Jenny Randerson: Pa bolisiau trawsbynciol sydd gan y Gweinidog i wella amodau byw y plant mwyaf agored i niwed yng Nghymru? OAQ0226(BM)

Jane Hutt: Yr oeddwn yn falch o dderbyn yr adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd gan adolygiad Gwenda Thomas o ddiogelu plant sy'n agored i niwed, 'Ein Cadw'n Ddiogel'. Byddaf yn gwneud datganiad am hynny yn dilyn cwestiynau heddiw ac yn ystyried yr adroddiad arwyddocaol hwn yng nghyfarfod yr is-bwyllgor Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc ddydd Llun.

Jenny Randerson: Mae plant awtistig ymhlith y plant fwyaf agored i niwed. Buom yn aros am amser maith am strategaeth a fydd, gobeithiaf, yn cwmpasu gwasanaethau iechyd ac yn ymdrin â gwasanaethau addysg i'r plant hynny. O gofio pwysigrwydd gwasanaethau da i blant awtistig a diagnosis prydlon, a wnewch chi sylw ar y bygythiad i'r gwasanaeth awtistiaeth trydyddol yng Nghaerdydd, sy'n gwasanaethu plant y de a rhannau o'r Canolbarth yn ogystal â phlant Caerdydd?

Jane Hutt: Codwyd y mater hwn yn ystod fy sesiwn cwestiynau blaenorol, pan roddais sicrwydd y byddem yn gofyn i fyrddau iechyd lleol ystyried y mater hwn gydag ymddiriedolaethau yng nghyd-destun darparwyr gofal iechyd. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn falch o glywed i'r gwasanaeth trydyddol arbenigol i blant yn Ysbyty Dewi Sant gael ei ymestyn am dri mis arall er mwyn cynnal trafodaethau ar y modd o ddatblygu'r gwasanaeth hwn.

Mark Isherwood: Fe'm cynghorwyd y bu cynnydd o 20 y cant, hyd at 31 Mawrth 2006, yn nifer y plant sy'n derbyn gofal yng Nghonwy, sy'n un enghraifft yn unig, ac y bu'r cynnydd yn agosach at 25 y cant ledled Cymru a Lloegr. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i fynd i'r afael â hyn?

Jane Hutt: Mae swyddogion yn gweithio ar y mater hwn a fu'n destun dadl yn y Siambr a thrafodaethau mewn cyfarfodydd o'r is-bwyllgor Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc er

young people, in order to understand the factors that are leading to this increase in the number of looked-after children. I think that the latest figures show that numbers are now stabilising. However, I was pleased that the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills announced before the recess that £1 million would go towards meeting the educational needs of looked-after children.

Mark Isherwood: In addition to an increase in the numbers—I look forward to confirmation of the reasons for that—I have been told that the Welsh Assembly Government is passing on obligations applying to looked-after children to local authorities without providing the resources required. Again, in Conwy's case, the additional cost is estimated at something like £300,000 each year—money which it does not have. What action do you propose to address that?

4.00 p.m.

Jane Hutt: That is not the case, Mark. I have just mentioned an extra £1 million for consideration of the important educational needs of looked-after children. We have spent over £150 million of extra funding under the Children First programme, made available to local authorities since 1999, and a further £47 million in specific grants and revenue support for implementation. That very much focuses on the needs of looked-after children, as well as children in need.

mwyn deall y ffactorau sy'n arwain at y cynnydd hwn yn nifer y plant sy'n derbyn gofal. Credaf i'r ffigurau diweddaraf ddangos bod y niferoedd bellach yn sefydlogi. Fodd bynnag, yr oeddwn yn falch i'r Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau gyhoeddi cyn y toriad y byddai £1 filiwn yn mynd tuag at ddiwallu anghenion plant sy'n derbyn gofal.

Mark Isherwood: Yn ogystal â chynnydd yn y niferoedd—edrychaf ymlaen at dderbyn cadarnhad o'r rhesymau dros hynny—yr wyf ardeall fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn trosglwyddo cyfrifoldebau sy'n gymwys i blant sy'n derbyn gofal i awdurdodau lleol heb ddarparu'r adnoddau sydd eu hangen. Unwaith eto, yn achos Conwy, amcangyfrifir bod y gost ychwanegol yn rhywbeth fel £300,000 y flwyddyn—arian nad oes ganddo. Pa gamau y bwriadwch eu cymryd i fynd i'r afael â hynny?

Jane Hutt: Nid felly y mae, Mark. Yr wyf newydd sôn am £1 filiwn ychwanegol i ystyried anghenion addysgol pwysig plant sy'n derbyn gofal. Yr ydym wedi gwario dros £150 miliwn o arian ychwanegol o dan y rhaglen Plant yn Gyntaf, sydd wedi bod ar gael i awdurdodau lleol ers 1999, a £47 miliwn arall mewn grantiau penodol a chymorth refeniw i'w gweithredu. Mae hynny'n canolbwyntio llawer ar anghenion plant sy'n derbyn gofal, yn ogystal â phlant mewn angen.

Cyflog Cyfartal i Fenywod yng Nghymru Equal Pay for Women in Wales

Q3 Rosemary Butler: Will the Minister make a statement about equal pay for women in Wales? OAQ0224(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Assembly Government is committed to addressing the gender pay gap as a priority. Following our equal pay summit last autumn, we are actively engaged with all public sector organisations to deliver the third phase of the Close the Pay Gap campaign.

Rosemary Butler: I recognise your personal

C3 Rosemary Butler: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyflog cyfartal i fenywod yng Nghymru? OAQ0224(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ymrwymedig i fynd i'r afael â'r bwlch cyflog rhwng y rhywiau fel blaenoriaeth. Yn dilyn ein huwchgynhadledd ar gyflog cyfartal yr hydref diwethaf, yr ydym yn ymgysylltu â'r holl sefydliadau yn y sector cyhoeddus i gyflwyno trydydd cam yr ymgyrch Cau'r Bwlch Cyflog.

Rosemary Butler: Cydnabyddaf eich

commitment to equal pay for women and the positive approach that you took recently to move on to phase 3, as you said. However, I would be interested to hear your comments on the progress made to date on job evaluation projects by local government.

Jane Hutt: This is key. The focus on local government and the public sector in phase 3 is essential, because women make up nearly 70 per cent of the public sector workforce. I am pleased that the cross-party working group on equal pay has been re-established and is considering these issues. There is a lot of activity around job evaluations, but we know that there is variation in local authorities across the board, and we are actively working to address this with a secondee and working directly with the Welsh Local Government Association.

Alun Cairns: The level of entrepreneurship among women has stagnated, as was highlighted by Dylan Jones-Evans's Global Entrepreneurship Monitor report, which is widely recognised as an effective tool of measuring success. Given that the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks has chosen to salami-slice and cut back business support, do you believe that this is an effective way of seeking to re-engage some new enthusiasm into entrepreneurship among women, which would help bridge the pay gap?

Jane Hutt: I recognise a political name being dropped into that so-called evidence, which I have not received in terms of a decrease in entrepreneurship among women. That is not what I recognise, and it is not what I recognise from, for example, the successful Vale of Glamorgan businesswomen's network in my constituency, which is going from strength to strength.

ymrwymiad personol i gyflog cyfartal i fenywod a'r ymagwedd gadarnhaol a fabwysiadwyd gennych yn ddiweddar i symud ymlaen i gam 3, fel y dywedasoeh. Fodd bynnag, byddai diddordeb gennyf i glywed eich sylwadau ar y cynnydd a wnaed hyd yma ar brosiectau gwerthuso swyddi gan lywodraeth leol.

Jane Hutt: Dyma'r allwedd. Mae'r canolbwynt ar lywodraeth leol a'r sector cyhoeddus yng nghanam 3 yn hanfodol, oherwydd menywod yw bron 70 y cant o'r gweithlu yn y sector cyhoeddus. Yr wyf yn falch bod y gweithgor trawsbleidiol ar gyflog cyfartal wedi cael ei ailsefydlu ac yn ystyried y materion hyn. Mae cryn weithgarwch ynghylch gwerthusiadau swyddi, ond gwyddom fod amrywiaethau rhwng awdurdodau lleol yn gyffredinol, ac yr ydym yn gweithio'n galed i fynd i'r afael â hyn gyda seondai ac yn gweithio'n uniongyrchol gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru.

Alun Cairns: Mae lefel yr entrepreneuriaeth ymhlith menywod wedi aros yn yr unfan, fel yr amlygwyd gan adroddiad Monitro Entrepreneuriaeth Fyd-eang Dylan Jones-Evans, a gydnabyddir yn gyffredinol fel dull effeithiol o fesur llwyddiant. O gofio bod y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau wedi dewis lleihau'n raddol a chwtogi ar gymorth busnes, a gredwch fod hon yn ffordd effeithiol o geisio ailennyn rhywfaint o frwdfrydedd newydd mewn entrepreneuriaeth ymhlith menywod, a fyddai'n helpu i bontio'r bwlch cyflog?

Jane Hutt: Gwelaf fod enw gwleidyddol yn cael ei gynnwys yn y dystiolaeth fondigrybwyll honno, nad wyf wedi ei derbyn o ran lleihad mewn entrepreneuriaeth ymhlith menywod. Nid dyna a welaf, ac nid dyna a welaf, er enghraifft, yn rhwydwaith menywod busnes llwyddiannus Bro Morgannwg yn fy etholaeth, sy'n mynd o nerth i nerth.

Polisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer Plant a Phobl Ifanc Welsh Assembly Government Policy for Children and Young People

Q4 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the development of Welsh Assembly Government policy for children

C4 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddatblygu polisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer plant a phobl

and young people? OAQ0218(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Children Act 2004 strengthens partnership planning for services to children and young people. It provides a statutory basis for co-operation between local authorities and key partner agencies and will establish a single strategic children and young people's plan to agree joint action and priority need.

Ann Jones: When we consider partnerships, Minister, will you consider the issue of play? Play is important to children's development; play in a structured format is important, as is open access to unstructured play facilities. This is often not available in deprived communities. Will you ensure that any project put forward that looks for a mixture of structured and unstructured play, and which allows open access for every child, will be given as much priority as any other project?

Jane Hutt: It was good that we launched the play strategy in February this year, following consultation on how we can implement play policy principles across Wales. We were the first administration in the UK to have developed a play strategy of this kind. I was pleased last week to join the Big Lottery Fund, which is now consulting on a new programme that will focus exactly on what you describe as child's play, including open access and unstructured play settings. That partnership will take us forward, with extra funding and additional outlets across Wales.

Jonathan Morgan: The report published today on safeguarding vulnerable children refers to the low morale among key professionals who have contact with vulnerable children in Wales. It refers to paediatricians, social workers and teachers. Do you agree that we need to start valuing the excellent work of these key individuals in Wales, who do a lot of work in trying to ensure that these vulnerable children have a future?

ifanc? OAQ0218(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae Deddf Plant 2004 yn cryfhau gwaith cynllunio partneriaethau ar gyfer gwasanaethau i blant a phobl ifanc. Mae'n darparu sail statudol ar gyfer cydweithredu rhwng awdurdodau lleol ac asiantaethau partner allweddol a bydd yn sefydlu cynllun plant a phobl ifanc strategol i gytuno ar gydweithredu ac angen blaenoriaethol.

Ann Jones: Pan fyddwn yn ystyried partneriaethau, Weinidog, a ystyriwch fater chwarae? Mae chwarae yn bwysig i ddatblygiad plant, mae chwarae mewn fformat strwythuredig yn bwysig, fel y mae mynediad agored i gyfleusterau chwarae nad ydynt yn strwythuredig. Nid yw hyn yn aml ar gael mewn cymunedau difreintiedig. A sicrhewch y caiff unrhyw brosiect a gyflwynir sy'n edrych fel cymysgedd o chwarae strwythuredig a chwarae nad yw'n strwythuredig, ac sy'n caniatáu mynediad agored i bob plentyn, gymaint o flaenoriaeth ag unrhyw brosiect arall?

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd yn dda inni lansio'r strategaeth chwarae ym mis Chwefror eleni, yn dilyn ymgynghoriad ar sut y gallwn weithredu egwyddorion polisi chwarae ledled Cymru. Ni oedd y weinyddiaeth gyntaf yn y DU i ddatblygu strategaeth chwarae o'r math hwn. Yr oeddwn yn falch yr wythnos diwethaf o ymuno â'r Gronfa Loteri Fawr, sy'n ymgynghori yn awr ar raglen newydd a fydd yn canolbwyntio'n union ar yr hyn a ddisgrifiwch fel chwarae plant, gan gynnwys mynediad agored a lleoliadau chwarae nad ydynt yn strwythuredig. Bydd y bartneriaeth honno yn datblygu'r gwaith, gydag arian ychwanegol a lleoliadau ychwanegol ledled Cymru.

Jonathan Morgan: Mae'r adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd heddiw ar ddiogelu plant sy'n agored i niwed yn cyfeirio at y morâl isel ymhlith gweithwyr proffesiynol allweddol sy'n dod i gysylltiad â phlant sy'n agored i niwed yng Nghymru. Mae'n cyfeirio at bediatregwyr, gweithwyr cymdeithasol ac athrawon. A gytunwch fod angen inni ddechrau gwerthfawrogi gwaith rhagorol yr unigolion allweddol hyn yng Nghymru, sy'n gwneud llawer o waith i geisio sicrhau bod

gan y plant hyn sy'n agored i niwed ddyfodol?

Jane Hutt: That is one of the most profound and important recommendations arising from 'Keeping Us Safe', which will be discussing in a few minutes. It is important that the children's workforce is a key agenda item for our Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people's. The care council is taking this forward and looking very carefully at the report on the social service profession and workforce, particularly in relation to children. Implementing the recommendations of 'Keeping Us Safe' will be a measure of our commitment as an Assembly Government to this issue.

Jane Hutt: Dyna un o'r argymhellion mwyaf dwfn a phwysig sy'n deillio o 'Ein Cadw'n Ddiogel', y byddwn yn ei drafod mewn ychydig funudau. Mae'n bwysig bod gweithlu'r plant yn eitem allweddol ar yr agenda ar gyfer ein his-bwyllgor Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc. Mae'r cyngor gofal yn datblygu hyn ac yn edrych yn ofalus iawn ar yr adroddiad ar y proffesiwn a'r gweithlu gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, yn arbennig mewn perthynas â phant. Bydd gweithredu argymhellion 'Ein Cadw'n Ddiogel' yn fesur o'n hymrwymiad fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i'r mater hwn.

Gwella Ansawdd Bywyd Pobl Anabl yng Nghymru Improving the Quality of Life for Disabled People in Wales

Q5 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on Assembly Government initiatives to improve the quality of life for disabled people in Wales? OAQ0219(BM)

C5 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynlluniau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i wella ansawdd bywyd pobl anabl yng Nghymru? OAQ0219(BM)

Jane Hutt: This week is Deaf Awareness Week, and I have just met the first set of British Sign Language apprentice interpreters, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government as part of the pioneering BSL Futures initiative.

Jane Hutt: Mae'n Wythnos Ymwybyddiaeth o'r Byddar, ac yr wyf newydd gyfarfod â'r grŵp cyntaf o dehonglwyr prentis Iaith Arwyddion Prydain, wedi eu hariannu gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru fel rhan o fenter arloesol Dyfodol BSL.

Ann Jones: As you rightly say, this week is Deaf Awareness Week, and that is something that we should be highlighting to the many people who now consider their deafness to be a disability, and to those people who are not accessing the services that we are providing. You mentioned the BSL interpreters. Do they come from across Wales, and how many of them will be able to offer services across north Wales?

Ann Jones: Fel y dywedasoeh a hynny'n briodol, Wythnos Ymwybyddiaeth o'r Byddar ydyw, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth y dylem fod yn ei amlygu i'r bobl niferus sydd bellach yn ystyried bod eu byddardod yn anabledd, ac i'r bobl hynny nad ydynt yn cael y gwasanaethau a ddarperir gennym. Bu ichi sôn am ddehonglwyr BSL. A ydynt yn dod o bob rhan o Gymru, a faint ohonynt fydd yn gallu cynnig gwasanaethau ar draws y Gogledd?

Jane Hutt: I was pleased to welcome 10 apprentice interpreters and tutors, two of which came from north Wales, two or three came from the Swansea and Neath area, and the rest came from the Cardiff, Newport and Valleys areas. This first tranche of apprentice interpreters is representative of the whole of Wales. Llandrillo college is the key college that is pioneering BSL interpretation teaching, and we must remember that north

Jane Hutt: Yr oeddwn yn falch o groesawu 10 dehonglwr prentis a thiwrtoriaid, yr oedd dau ohonynt yn dod o'r Gogledd, dau neu dri o ardal Abertawe a Chastell-nedd, a'r gweddill o ardaloedd Caerdydd, Casnewydd a'r Cymoedd. Mae'r gyfran gyntaf hon o ddehonglwyr prentis yn gynrychioliadol o Gymru gyfan. Coleg Llandrillo yw'r coleg allweddol sy'n arloesi'r gwaith o ddysgu dehonglwyr BSL, a rhaid inni gofio'r

Wales connection.

cysylltiad hwnnw yn y Gogledd.

The Presiding Officer: Question 6, OAQ0213(BM), has been withdrawn. Question 7, OAQ0221(BM), has been transferred for written answer.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 6, OAQ0213(BM), yn ôl. Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 7, OAQ0221(BM), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

Hybu Cydraddoldeb yng Nghymru The Promotion of Equality in Wales

Q8 David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of equality in Wales? OAQ0222(BM)

C8 David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hybu cydraddoldeb yng Nghymru? OAQ0222(BM)

Jane Hutt: In addition to the vigorous promotion of our Close the Pay Gap campaign and the consultation on our accessible venues guidance, work is currently ongoing to produce gender and disability equality schemes to complement our exemplar race equality scheme.

Jane Hutt: Yn ogystal â hyrwyddo ein hymgyrch Cau'r Bwlch Cyflog a'r ymgynghoriad ar ein canllawiau ar leoliadau hygyrch, mae gwaith yn mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd i gynhyrchu cynlluniau cydraddoldeb o ran rhyw ac anabledd i ategu ein cynllun cydraddoldeb hiliol rhagorol.

David Melding: You may know that the Commission for Racial Equality has a duty to promote good race relations, and this is often done through local race equality councils. When the new integrated equality body is in place, this grass-roots positive work, rather than the more disciplinary work of dealing with breaches in various strands of equality practice, is something that will be encouraged. However, many people in the voluntary sector and in communities around Wales are concerned as to where this aspect of the work will rest once the new commission is with us.

David Melding: Efallai y gwyddoch fod gan y Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb Hiliol ddyletswydd i hyrwyddo cysylltiadau hiliol da, a gwneir hyn yn aml drwy gynghorau cydraddoldeb hiliol lleol. Pan fydd y corff cydraddoldeb integredig newydd ar waith, bydd y gwaith cadarnhaol hwn ar lawr gwlad, yn hytrach na'r gwaith mwy disgyblaethol o ymdrin â thoriadau mewn meysydd amrywiol o arfer cydraddoldeb, yn rhywbeth a gaiff ei annog. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o bobl yn y sector gwirfoddol ac mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru yn pryderu ynghylch pwy fydd yn gyfrifol am yr agwedd hon ar y gwaith unwaith y bydd y comisiwn newydd ar waith.

Jane Hutt: The coalition for equality and human rights brings together the voluntary sector organisations, and I have met it regularly to discuss these issues. Our equality reference group is paving the way for the new commission for equality and human rights. This is key; we must recognise that we do not have a good baseline in Wales in terms of, for example, advice giving. I am sure that that has been brought to your attention, and I am working hard with my colleagues in the UK Government to ensure that we get sufficient resources and consult on the appropriate vehicles to deliver that key grass-roots work.

Jane Hutt: Mae'r gynghair ar gyfer cydraddoldeb a hawliau dynol yn dwyn sefydliadau'r sector gwirfoddol ynghyd, ac yr wyf wedi cyfarfod â hwy yn gyson i drafod y materion hyn. Mae ein grŵp cyfeirio cydraddoldeb yn paratoi'r ffordd ar gyfer y comisiwn newydd ar gydraddoldeb a hawliau dynol. Mae hyn yn allweddol; rhaid inni gydnabod nad oes gennym linell sylfaen dda yng Nghymru, er enghraifft, o ran rhoi cyngor. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod hynny wedi cael ei ddwyn at eich sylw, ac yr wyf yn gweithio'n galed gyda'm cyd-aelodau yn Llywodraeth y DU i sicrhau y cawn ddigon o adnoddau a'n bod yn ymgynghori ar y cyfryngau priodol i gyflawni'r gwaith allweddol hwnnw ar lawr gwlad.

Gweithredu Strategaethau Llywodraethol sy'n Effeithio ar Blant
The Implementation of Governmental Strategies Affecting Children

C9 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pa drafodaethau diweddar y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cynnal gydag aelodau'r Cabinet ynghylch gweithredu strategaethau llywodraethol sy'n effeithio ar blant? OAQ0215(BM)

Jane Hutt: Recent discussions in the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people, which I chair, have included evaluation of the Cymorth grant scheme, consulting with children and young people on Government policy, the common assessment framework and information sharing.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Gwrandewais yn astud ar eich ateb i gwestiwn Jenny Randerson ynglŷn â gwasanaethau i blant a phobl ifanc ag awtistiaeth. A ydych yn gallu dweud wrthym pryd yn union yr ymgynghorir ar y strategaeth? Yr ydym wedi bod yn disgwyl ers mis Hydref am hynny. A yw'r cyfraniadau a wnaed gan Autism Cymru a Chymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth yng Nghymru wrth lunio'r strategaeth ddrafft wedi'u cynnwys yn y strategaeth a fydd yn mynd allan i ymgynghoriad? O ran y gwasanaethau pwysig a gynigir yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru, a ydych yn teimlo bod lle i'r Llywodraeth gamu i mewn a chomisiynu'r gwasanaethau hyn yn uniongyrchol, o gofio'r perygl na fydd yr un bwrdd iechyd lleol yn barod i gomisiynu gwasanaeth a fydd yn mynd ar draws rhanbarthau neu bron â bod yn genedlaethol?

4.10 p.m.

Jane Hutt: My earlier answer to Jenny Randerson indicated that the concerns that were raised with Ministers and Assembly Members have resulted in consideration of the children's specialist tertiary autistic services offered at St David's Hospital. To return to your first point, the consultation exercise on the draft autistic spectrum disorder action plan for Wales will take place in June. We acknowledge the excellent work already being undertaken by the National Autistic Society and Autism Cymru, and recognise that their input has been crucial in taking this forward.

Q9 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What recent discussions has the Minister held with Cabinet Ministers on the implementation of governmental strategies affecting children? OAQ0215(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae'r trafodaethau diweddar yn is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc, a gadeiriais, wedi cynnwys gwerthusiad o'r cynllun grant Cymorth, ymgynghori â phlant a phobl ifanc ar bolisi'r Llywodraeth, y fframwaith asesu cyffredin a rhannu gwybodaeth.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I listened carefully to your answer to Jenny Randerson's question on services for children and young people with autism. Are you in a position to tell us when exactly the strategy will be out for consultation? We have been waiting since October for that. Are the contributions made by Autism Cymru and the National Autistic Society in Wales in formulating the draft strategy included in the strategy that will go out for consultation? In terms of the important services offered in the University Hospital of Wales, do you feel that there is scope for the Government to step in and commission these services directly, given the danger that no local health board will be prepared to commission a service that will cross regions or a service that could be a national one?

Jane Hutt: Yn fy ateb cynharach i Jenny Randerson nodais fod y pryderon a godwyd gan Weinidogion ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad wedi arwain at ystyried y gwasanaethau awtistig trydyddol arbenigol i blant a gynigir yn Ysbyty Dewi Sant. Gan ddychwelyd at eich pwynt cyntaf, bydd yr ymarfer ymgynghori ar gynllun gweithredu drafft anhwylder yn y sbectrw m awtistig i Gymru yn cael ei gynnal ym mis Mehefin. Cydnabyddwn y gwaith rhagorol a wneir eisoes gan y Gymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth ac Awtistiaeth Cymru, a chydnabyddwn fod eu cyfraniad hwn wedi

bod yn hollbwysig i ddatblygu hyn.

Mark Isherwood: I am delighted to hear that we have a date, at last, for the publication of the consultation document, which will be in June. Will there be money attached to it, as the original working group assumed?

Mark Isherwood: Yr wyf yn falch iawn o glywed bod gennym ddyddiad, o'r diwedd, ar gyfer cyhoeddi'r ddogfen ymgynghori, sef mis Mehefin. A fydd arian ynghlwm wrth hyn, fel y tybiwyd gan y gweithgor gwreiddiol?

Jane Hutt: Clearly, the autistic spectrum disorder action plan cannot stand alone; it has to be looked at in the context of existing strategies and the considerable resources that have already been made available by the Assembly Government. We need to start, however, with the consultation and consider how we can then place responsibilities at a national and local level to deliver the specific actions that result.

Jane Hutt: Yn amlwg, ni all y cynllun gweithredu anhwylder yn y sbectwm awtistig sefyll ar ei ben ei hun; rhaid edrych arno yng nghyd-destun strategaethau presennol a'r adnoddau sylweddol a ryddhawyd eisoes gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae angen inni ddechrau, fodd bynnag, gyda'r ymgynghoriad ac ystyried sut y gallwn wedyn osod cyfrifoldebau ar lefel genedlaethol a lleol i gyflawni'r camau penodol sy'n deillio o hyn.

Mark Isherwood: I will take that as a 'no'. In addition, when the draft document was first made available to consultees last summer, concerns were raised by the National Autistic Society and Autism Cymru in relation to support and services during transition from child services to adult services, and whether the original working group recommendations around youth and criminal justice, mental health and ethnic minorities would be included. Can you assure us that these matters will be addressed, now that you have had a further year to consider what will be in the document when it is published?

Mark Isherwood: Felly cymeraf mai 'na' yw'r ateb. Yn ogystal, pan ryddhawyd y ddogfen drafft am y tro cyntaf i ymgynghoreion yr haf diwethaf, codwyd pryderon gan y Gymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth ac Awtistiaeth Cymru mewn perthynas â chymorth a gwasanaethau yn ystod y cyfnod pontio rhwng gwasanaethau i blant a gwasanaethau i oedolion, ac a fyddai argymhellion gwreiddiol y gweithgor ynghylch cyfiawnder ieuenctid a throeddol, iechyd meddwl a lleiafrifoedd ethnig yn cael eu cynnwys. A allwch ein sicrhau yr ymdrinnir â'r materion hyn, gan eich bod bellach wedi cael blwyddyn arall i ystyried beth fydd yn y ddogfen pan gaiff ei chyhoeddi?

Jane Hutt: We think that the action plan will be exciting and pioneering and, in terms of its impact and its outcomes—and the outcomes are what are most important for children and young people—we can see that it will have an impact on our budget planning rounds and our priorities. It enables us to look at that lifespan, which is key, particularly in taking into account the issues related to transition, which, as you said, is particularly difficult for people who suffer from autism. We recognise that this strategy could really bridge the gap that, in the experience of young people in that position, has been faulty in many respects.

Jane Hutt: Credwn y bydd y cynllun gweithredu yn gyffrous ac arloesol ac, o ran ei effaith a'i ganlyniadau—a'r canlyniadau yw'r pethau pwysicaf i blant a phobl ifanc—gallwn weld y caiff effaith ar ein cylchoedd cynllunio'r gyllideb a'n blaenoriaethau. Mae'n ein galluogi i edrych ar y rychwant oes hwnnw, sy'n allweddol, yn arbennig gan ystyried y materion yn ymwneud â phontio sydd, fel y dywedaso, yn arbennig o anodd i bobl sy'n dioddef o awtistiaeth. Cydnabyddwn y gallai'r strategaeth hon bontio'r bwch sydd, ym mhrofiad pobl ifanc yn y sefyllfa honno, wedi bod yn wallus ar sawl cyfrif.

Rhwymedigaethau Awdurdodau Lleol i Bobl Anabl
Local Authorities' Obligations to Disabled People

Q10 Peter Black: What assistance is the Welsh Assembly Government giving to local authorities to help them meet their obligations to disabled people?
OAQ0214(BM)

Jane Hutt: Local authorities must meet their duties and obligations to disabled people under the Disability Discrimination Act. They can obtain support and advice from the Welsh Local Government Association equalities unit, the Disability Rights Commission and other sources.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, Minister. The new disability equality duties require public sector bodies to pay due regard to promoting equality for disabled people in their areas of work. How much extra resource is your Government making available to local authorities to enable them to meet this duty, and how are you prioritising your Government's resources in terms of the Welsh Assembly Government's obligations?

Jane Hutt: We intend to produce an exemplar disability equality scheme. Everyone in the public sector has to do that by December this year. As with the race equality scheme, if the Welsh Assembly Government—and we have set up a team to deliver this—can do this, then we can be an exemplar and a guide to local government. This week, we have two consultation events in Cardiff on the disability equality duty. Indeed, one will take place tomorrow in the Assembly building.

In addition, I have met representatives from across the local authorities, and from the Disability Rights Commission and the Welsh Local Government Association, to examine how they can take on and deliver their responsibilities. They have known that they have this legal duty, and we are supporting them in this way to deliver on that duty.

C10 Peter Black: Pa gymorth y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei roi i awdurdodau lleol i'w helpu i gwrdd â'u rhwymedigaethau i bobl anabl?
OAQ0214(BM)

Jane Hutt: Rhaid i awdurdodau lleol gyflawni eu dyletswyddau a'u rhwymedigaethau i bobl anabl o dan y Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar Sail Anabledd. Gallant gael cymorth a chynghor gan uned cydraddoldebau Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, y Comisiwn Hawliau Anabledd a ffynonellau eraill.

Peter Black: Diolch i chi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Mae'r dyletswyddau newydd o ran cydraddoldeb i bobl anabl yn galw ar gyrff sector cyhoeddus i roi ystyriaeth briodol i hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb i bobl anabl yn eu meysydd gwaith hwy. Faint o adnoddau ychwanegol a gaiff eu rhyddhau gan eich Llywodraeth i awdurdodau lleol i'w galluogi i gyflawni'r ddyletswydd hon, a sut yr ydych yn blaenoriaethu adnoddau eich Llywodraeth o ran rhwymedigaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru?

Jane Hutt: Bwriadwn gynhyrchu cynllun enghreifftiol o ran cydraddoldeb i bobl anabl. Rhaid i bawb yn y sector cyhoeddus wneud hynny erbyn mis Rhagfyr eleni. Fel gyda'r cynllun cydraddoldeb hiliol, os yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru—ac yr ydym wedi sefydlu tîm i gyflawni hyn—yn gallu gwneud hyn, yna gallwn fod yn esiampl ac yn arweiniad i lywodraeth leol. Yr wythnos hon, mae gennym ddau ddigwyddiad ymgynghori yng Nghaerdydd ar y ddyletswydd cydraddoldeb i bobl anabl. Yn wir, cynhelir un yfory yn adeilad y Cynulliad.

Yn ogystal, yr wyf wedi cyfarfod â chynrychiolwyr o'r awdurdodau lleol, ac o'r Comisiwn Hawliau Anabledd a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, i weld sut y gallant ymgymryd â'u dyletswyddau a'u cyflawni. Maent yn ymwybodol bod ganddynt y ddyletswydd gyfreithiol hon, ac yr ydym yn eu cefnogi yn y modd hwn i gyflawni'r

ddyletswydd honno.

The Presiding Officer: Question 11, OAQ0217(BM), has been withdrawn.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 11, OAQ0217(BM), yn ôl.

Polisiau ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Plant Policies for Children's Services

C12 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, a wnewch chi ateb y cwestiwn fel y mae wedi'i osod ger eich bron?

Q12 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, will you answer the question as it was laid before you?

Y Llywydd: Nid yw hynny yn hollol mewn trefn. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn barod i gynorthwyo'r parchedig ŵr drwy ddarllen y cwestiwn fy hun.

The Presiding Officer: That was not totally in order. However, I am prepared to assist the reverend gentleman by reading the question myself.

A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y mae hi'n cydlynu polisiau'r Llywodraeth ar gyfer gwasanaethau plant? OAQ0216(BM)

Will the Minister make a statement on how she is co-ordinating the Government's policies for children's services? OAQ0216(BM)

Jane Hutt: As well as chairing the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people, I have also, on behalf of Cabinet colleagues, co-ordinated activities in policy areas such as food and fitness, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and services for looked-after children.

Jane Hutt: Yn ogystal â chadeirio is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc, yr wyf hefyd, ar ran cyd-Weinidogion, wedi cydlynu gweithgareddau mewn meysydd polisi megis bwyd a ffïtrwydd, Confensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn a gwasanaethau ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A yw'n peri consŷrn i chi fod nifer o adroddiadau bellach am ordewdra ymysg plant a phobl ifanc yn sôn nad ydynt yn cael digon o gyfleoedd ar gyfer ymarfer corff? A ydyw o gonsŷrn i chi fod hen feysydd chwarae yn diflannu yng Nghymru ac yn aml rhoddir caniatâd cynllunio i adeiladu arnynt? A wnewch chi roi ymrwymiad y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn sicrhau bod yr asedau pwysig hyn yn cael eu diogelu ar gyfer y dyfodol er mwyn rhoi cyfleoedd i blant a phobl ifanc i'w defnyddio ar gyfer chwarae?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Does it concern you that many reports on obesity among children and young people have mentioned the fact that they do not have enough opportunities to do physical exercise? Does it concern you that old playing fields are disappearing in Wales and that planning permission is often granted to build on them? Will you give a commitment that the Welsh Assembly Government will ensure that these important assets are protected for the future to ensure that children and young people have the opportunity to use them for play?

Jane Hutt: These issues are the responsibility of local authorities, but I am sure that the Climbing Higher strategy on promoting physical activity among children and young people and the food and fitness action plan, which will be published at the end of June, will touch on them.

Jane Hutt: Cyfrifoldeb awdurdodau lleol yw'r materion hyn, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y strategaeth Dringo'n Uwch ar hyrwyddo gweithgarwch corfforol ymhlith plant a phobl ifanc a'r cynllun gweithredu bwyd a ffïtrwydd, a gyhoeddir ar ddiwedd mis Mehefin, yn cyfeirio atynt.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 13 OAQ0220(BM) i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

The Presiding Officer: Question 13 OAQ0220(BM) has been transferred for

written answer.

Hybu Cydraddoldeb The Promotion of Equality

Q14 David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of equality in South Wales Central? OAQ0223(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Assembly Government is committed to promoting equality for all throughout the whole of Wales, including South Wales Central, with two consultation events being held this week in Cardiff on the new disability equality duty for the statutory and voluntary sectors.

David Melding: The new equality body will not initially have responsibility for promoting racial equality, which will stay with the Commission for Racial Equality for two years. Some of us are concerned that, whatever the devolved structure will be, for two years, the integrated body in Wales will perhaps not be taking on board the need to consider these responsibilities in readiness for when they come on stream. While separating them out for two years may be one way of ensuring that race remains a top priority, it will eventually have to be delivered by the new integrated body and that body needs to be involved from day 1, even if many of the functions will still be delivered by the CRE.

Jane Hutt: That is an important point and, in fact, the CRE is fully involved in the external reference group that is paving the way for the introduction of the Equality Act 2006 and the new commission for equality and human rights. That group certainly wants to be engaged fully from day 1, while obviously recognising that the new commission will not formally be brought in until 2008. I also think that the Assembly's Committee on Equality of Opportunity can play an important role in involving the standing advisers that come from the CRE, the Equal Opportunities Commission, Stonewall Cymru and the other strands that are coming on board. We can play a role, but, as Minister, I will ensure that that is the case, in consultation with the UK Government.

C14 David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hybu cydraddoldeb yng Nghanol De Cymru? OAQ0223(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ymrwymedig i hybu cydraddoldeb i bawb ledled Cymru, gan gynnwys Canol De Cymru, a chynhelir dau ddigwyddiad ymgynghori yr wythnos hon yng Nghaerdydd ar y ddyletswydd newydd i sicrhau cydraddoldeb i bobl anabl ar gyfer y sector statudol a'r sector gwirfoddol.

David Melding: Ni fydd gan y corff cydraddoldeb newydd gyfrifoldeb i ddechrau dros hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb hiliol, a fydd yn gyfrifoldeb i'r Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb Hiliol am ddwy flynedd arall. Mae rhai ohonom yn pryderu, beth bynnag fo'r strwythur datganoledig, am ddwy flynedd, na fydd y corff integredig yng Nghymru efallai yn derbyn yr angen i ystyried y cyfrifoldebau hyn er mwyn paratoi ar eu cyfer. Er ei bod yn bosibl bod eu gwahanu am ddwy flynedd yn ffordd o sicrhau y parheir i roi blaenoriaeth i hil, bydd yn rhaid i'r corff integredig newydd wneud hyn yn y pen draw ac mae angen i'r corff hwnnw ymwneud â'r gwaith o'r diwrnod cyntaf, hyd yn oed os caiff llawer o'r swyddogaethau eu cyflawni gan y Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb Hiliol o hyd.

Jane Hutt: Mae hwnnw'n bwynt pwysig ac, mewn gwirionedd, mae'r Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb Hiliol yn cymryd rhan lawn yn y grŵp cyfeirio allanol sy'n paratoi ar gyfer cyflwyno Deddf Cydraddoldeb 2006 a'r comisiwn cydraddoldeb a hawliau dynol newydd. Yn ddi-au, mae'r grŵp am gymryd rhan lawn o'r diwrnod cyntaf, tra'n cydnabod, wrth gwrs, na chaiff y comisiwn newydd ei gyflwyno'n ffurfiol tan 2008. Credaf hefyd y gall Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal y Cynulliad chwarae rhan bwysig i gynnwys y cynghorwyr sefydlog a ddaw o'r Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb Hiliol, y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal, Stonewall Cymru a'r meysydd eraill fydd yn cymryd rhan. Gallwn ninnau chwarae rhan, ond, fel Gweinidog, byddaf yn sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd, mewn

ymgyngoriad â Llywodraeth y DU.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Minister, for answering all the questions that have been put to you today.

Y Llywydd: Diolch, Weinidog, am ateb yr holl gwestiynau a ofynnwyd ichi heddiw.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Krupp Camford Pressings Cyf (Colli Swyddi) Krupp Camford Pressings Ltd, Llanelli (Job Losses)

Alun Ffred Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the proposed job losses at Krupp Camford Pressings in Llanelli? EAQ0825(EAQ)

Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y colli swyddi arfaethedig yn Krupp Camford Pressings yn Llanelli? EAQ0825(EAQ)

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): I am sure that Members will share my concern at hearing the news from Krupp Camford and our thoughts will be with those affected by this announcement. The business has been in Llanelli for 43 years and has gone from having over 900 employees to having around 160. The company, in its letter to me today, is stressing that a final decision to close the Llanelli site has not yet been taken.

Y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau (Andrew Davies): Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Aelodau yn rhannu fy mhryder wrth glywed y newyddion gan Krupp Camford a byddwn yn meddwl am y rhai y mae'r cyhoeddiad hwn yn effeithio arnynt. Bu'r busnes yn Llanelli ers 43 o flynyddoedd ac mae wedi mynd o fod â thros 900 o gyflogwyr i fod â thua 160. Mae'r cwmni, yn ei lythyr ataf heddiw, yn pwysleisio nad oes penderfyniad terfynol i gau'r safle yn Llanelli wedi'i wneud eto.

I have met Krupp Camford with the First Minister on many occasions, with the trade unions and, more recently, with the local Assembly Member, Catherine Thomas. As in the past, I stand ready to help the company and the workforce. As a consequence, I have asked officials to assist the company in exploring all its options and I have been in touch with the Transport and General Workers' Union today, following the announcement.

Yr wyf wedi cyfarfod â Krupp Camford gyda'r Prif Weinidog sawl gwaith, gyda'r undebau llafur ac, yn fwy diweddar, gydag Aelod lleol y Cynulliad, Catherine Thomas. Fel yn y gorffennol, yr wyf yn barod i helpu'r cwmni a'r gweithlu. O ganlyniad, yr wyf wedi gofyn i swyddogion helpu'r cwmni i archwilio ei holl opsiynau ac yr wyf wedi cysylltu ag Undeb y Gweithwyr Trafnidiaeth a Chyffredinol heddiw, yn dilyn y cyhoeddiad.

Alun Ffred Jones: Manufacturing job losses in Llanelli between 2000 and 2004 total 1,400, which is about 20 per cent of the original total. There has been a corresponding increase in the public sector jobs in the area, but the 200 jobs that are endangered make the situation that much more difficult.

Alun Ffred Jones: Cyfanswm y swyddi gweithgynhyrchu a gollwyd yn Llanelli rhwng 2000 a 2004 yw 1,400, sef tua 20 y cant o'r cyfanswm gwreiddiol. Bu cynnydd cyfatebol mewn swyddi yn y sector cyhoeddus yn yr ardal, ond mae'r 200 o swyddi sydd mewn perygl o gael eu colli yn gwneud y sefyllfa yn llawer iawn anos.

4.20 p.m.

Against the background of the information

Yng nghyd-destun y wybodaeth a roddwyd

that you gave this morning's committee meeting, that the index for production for Wales fell over 6 per cent over the last four quarters, this indicates that there are serious difficulties in this sector in Wales and probably across the UK. You have indicated some of the actions that you have already taken, but what specific steps can be taken by the Government or its agencies to try to alleviate this situation?

Is this also not just another example of how the New Labour Government's policy on employment law has contributed to the demise of the Peugeot plant in the midlands, which is consequently a threat to jobs in Llanelli? Would you say that that has a bearing on the situation?

Andrew Davies: No, I would not, actually. Employment in manufacturing throughout the advanced industrial world—in America and other parts of the European Union, as well as the UK—has fallen, and that is because of the threat that comes largely from areas of lower-cost production. A few years ago, that threat came predominantly from eastern and central Europe, such as the Czech Republic; more recently, it is from the phenomenal growth of China as a manufacturing location. Although there has been a decline in manufacturing jobs in Wales, that decline has been less than that seen in the rest of the UK on average. I think that that is down to the proactive policies that we have pursued in helping the manufacturing sector generally, but key sectors in particular—in this case, the automotive sector.

One initiative was the Accelerate Wales programme. Over the years, the companies in the sector and the trade unions have been complementary in helping companies such as Krupp Camford to diversify and to become more efficient and cost effective. For example, when MG Rover first experienced difficulties some four or five years ago, through the Accelerate Wales programme, we helped many component manufacturers and suppliers to diversify. Krupp Camford was one of them. We have also helped Krupp Camford with regional selective assistance

gennych i gyfarfod y pwyllgor y bore yma, i fynegai cynhyrchu Cymru ostwng dros 6 y cant yn ystod y pedwar chwarter diwethaf, noda hyn fod anawsterau difrifol yn y sector hwn yng Nghymru a ledled y DU, fwy na thebyg. Yr ydych wedi nodi rhai o'r camau yr ydych wedi'u cymryd eisoes, ond pa gamau penodol y gall y Llywodraeth neu ei hasiantaethau eu cymryd er mwyn ceisio gwella'r sefyllfa hon?

Onid yw hon hefyd yn enghraifft arall o sut y mae polisi'r Llywodraeth Llafur Newydd ar gyfraith cyflogaeth wedi cyfrannu at gau safle Peugeot yng nghanolbarth Lloegr, sydd o ganlyniad yn fygythiad i swyddi yn Llanelli? A ddywedech fod hynny'n effeithio ar y sefyllfa?

Andrew Davies: Ni ddywedwn hynny, mewn gwirionedd. Mae cyflogaeth ym maes gweithgynhyrchu ar draws y byd diwydiannol datblygedig—yn America a rhannau eraill o'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, yn ogystal ag yn y DU—wedi lleihau, a'r prif reswm dros hynny yw'r bygythiad o ardaloedd cynhyrchu cost is. Ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl, daeth y bygythiad hwnnw o ddwyrain a chanol Ewrop yn bennaf, megis y Weriniaeth Tsiec; yn ddiweddarach, daw o dwf aruthrol Tsieina fel lleoliad gweithgynhyrchu. Er bod gostyngiad wedi'i weld mewn swyddi gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru, bu'r gostyngiad hwnnw yn llai na'r gostyngiad a welwyd yng ngweddill y DU ar gyfartaledd. Credaf mai'r rheswm dros hynny yw ein polisiau rhagweithiol wrth helpu'r sector gweithgynhyrchu yn gyffredinol, ond sectorau allweddol yn arbennig—yn yr achos hwn, y sector modurol.

Un fenter oedd y rhaglen Accelerate Cymru. Dros y blynyddoedd, mae'r cwmnïau yn y sector a'r undebau llafur wedi cydweithio i helpu cwmnïau megis Krupp Camford i arallgyfeirio a dod yn fwy effeithlon a mwy cost-effeithiol. Er enghraifft, pan wynebodd MG Rover anawsterau gyntaf ryw bedair neu bum mlynedd yn ôl, drwy'r rhaglen Accelerate Wales, bu inni helpu'r gweithgynhyrchwyr a chyflenwyr cydrannau ceir niferus i arallgyfeirio. Yr oedd Krupp Camford yn un ohonynt. Yr ydym hefyd wedi helpu Krupp Camford drwy roi cymorth

and other forms of assistance, through the Welsh Development Agency, as it was, and through the Assembly Government.

Although this is indeed sad news, we will work with the company and the trade unions to try to keep the plant open. It has not formally announced its closure. Brian Francis, the group managing director, said in his letter to me that no final decision has been made. We will work with the company to identify ways in which we can keep it operating in Llanelli.

Catherine Thomas: As the local Member, I have been in regular talks with senior shop stewards at Krupp Camford since the announcement yesterday and since I also received Brian Francis's letter today. As you know, shop stewards and the workforce that they represent are deeply concerned following the announcement, and, on their behalf, I welcome your words of support. When I meet them tomorrow, I will convey those words and assurances to them.

I take this opportunity to request a meeting with you and your officials, following my meeting tomorrow at the plant, to discuss the situation in greater detail. As you have done, I too stress that the final decision is yet to be taken on the future of the plant, and that is a crucial and important point to take on board. With this in mind, do you agree that we all have a real responsibility to be sensitive to the delicacy of the situation, and to ensure that no action is taken or words spoken that may jeopardise the plant's future and the jobs of 165 extremely loyal and hard-working employees, whom I have the honour to represent?

Andrew Davies: As elected representatives, we all have a duty not only to do good, but also to do no harm. Anything that raises anxiety among those affected by this announcement falls in the category of doing harm, and I urge all elected representatives, wherever they are, to ensure that they do not exacerbate the situation.

I am more than happy to meet you and

rhanbarthol dewisol a mathau eraill o gymorth, drwy Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, fel yr oedd, a thrwy Lywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Er bod hyn yn wir yn newyddion trist, byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r cwmni a'r undebau llafur i geisio cadw'r safle ar agor. Nid yw wedi cyhoeddi'n ffurfiol y bydd yn cau. Dywedodd Brian Francis, rheolwr gyfarwyddwr y grŵp, yn ei lythyr ataf nad oes penderfyniad terfynol wedi'i wneud. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r cwmni i nodi ffyrdd o sicrhau ei fod yn parhau i weithredu yn Llanelli.

Catherine Thomas: Fel yr Aelod lleol, yr wyf wedi cynnal trafodaethau rheolaidd gydag uwch swyddogion undeb yn Krupp Camford ers y cyhoeddiad ddoe ac ers imi gael llythyr Brian Francis heddiw hefyd. Fel y gwyrddoch, mae swyddogion undeb a'r gweithlu y maent yn ei gynrychioli yn pryderu'n fawr ar ôl y cyhoeddiad, ac, ar eu rhan, croesawaf eich geiriau o gefnogaeth. Pan gyfarfyddaf â hwy yfory, byddaf yn cyfleu'r geiriau hynny a'r sicrwydd hwnnw iddynt.

Hoffwn achub ar y cyfle hwn i ofyn am gyfarfod gyda chi a'ch swyddogion, yn dilyn fy nghyfarfod yfory yn y safle, i drafod y sefyllfa yn fanylach. Fel yr ydych chi wedi'i wneud, pwysleisïaf innau hefyd nad yw'r penderfyniad terfynol wedi'i gymryd eto ar ddyfodol y safle, ac mae hwnnw'n bwyt hollbwysig. O gofio hynny, a gytunwch fod gan bob un ohonom gyfrifoldeb gwirioneddol i ystyried sensitifrwydd y sefyllfa, ac i sicrhau na chymerir unrhyw gamau ac na ddywedir unrhyw beth a allai beryglu dyfodol y safle a swyddi'r 165 o gyflogaion teyrngar a gweithgar tu hwnt, y mae'n ffrainnt gennyf eu cynrychioli?

Andrew Davies: Fel cynrychiolwyr etholedig, mae gan bob un ohonom ddyletswydd, nid yn unig i wneud daioni, ond hefyd i beidio â pheri niwed. Mae unrhyw beth sy'n peri pryder ymhlith y rhai y mae'r cyhoeddiad hwn yn effeithio arnynt yn y categori hwn o beri niwed, ac anogaf bob cynrychiolydd etholedig, ble bynnag y bônt, i sicrhau nad ydynt yn gwaethygu'r sefyllfa.

Yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i gyfarfod â chi a

representatives of the trade unions and the company, Catherine. As I said, I have met company officials on at least four occasions over the past three years, and I have been in touch with the Transport and General Workers' Union again today to offer all assistance. We stand ready to help the company to identify any opportunity that we can to keep the plant in operation, and to keep as many of those jobs as possible in full employment.

Michael German: This is grim news for the company and the workers at Krupp Camford Pressings Ltd. Will the Minister reflect on the position of motor vehicle component manufacturers in Wales as a whole? Accelerate Wales was designed as a series of Government interventions to try to assist companies in their quest to try to alter their current position, placing themselves in a new marketplace where the threat from cheaper developers elsewhere would not be so strong. What action has your Government taken to assist this company, particularly in its role of adaptation and restructuring? If we have a company that needs to reform itself to meet the problems that first became apparent in 1999 when workers were asked to take a pay cut—and we have had subsequent job losses—and if that has not been recognised by the company, what advice or assistance have you given it to recognise this threat, which is not exactly a new threat, and is one that you would have observed had you looked at the issue dispassionately?

Responding to this particular problem in Llanelli is perhaps the first major test of your new department. If it is a test, are you now in a better position to respond than you were before, as your new reformed department should be quicker and more able? Perhaps you could indicate the changes made in your department and how you can respond to this problem.

Andrew Davies: As I said earlier, there are major challenges to manufacturing globally, particularly with the rise of China as a low-cost destination for manufacturing and for high-volume, low value-added goods. The

chynrychiolwyr yr undebau llafur a'r cwmni, Catherine. Fel y dywedais, yr wyf wedi cyfarfod â swyddogion y cwmni o leiaf bedair gwaith dros y tair blynedd diwethaf, ac yr wyf wedi cysylltu ag Undeb y Gweithwyr Trafnidiaeth a Chyffredinol eto heddiw i gynnig pob cymorth. Yr ydym yn barod i helpu'r cwmni i nodi unrhyw gyfle posibl i sicrhau bod y safle yn parhau i weithredu, ac i gadw cymaint o'r cyflogaion hynny â phosibl mewn cyflogaeth lawn.

Michael German: Mae hwn yn newyddion gwael i'r cwmni a'r gweithwyr yn Krupp Camford Pressings Cyf. A wnaiff y Gweinidog sôn am sefyllfa gweithgynhyrchwyr cydrannau cerbydau yng Nghymru yn gyffredinol? Cynlluniwyd Accelerate Wales fel cyfres o ymyriadau'r Llywodraeth i geisio helpu cwmnïau yn eu hymgais i geisio newid eu sefyllfa bresennol, gan eu rhoi eu hunain mewn marchnad newydd lle na fyddai'r bygythiad o ddatblygwyr rhatach mewn mannau eraill gymaint. Pa gamau y mae eich Llywodraeth wedi'u cymryd i helpu'r cwmni hwn, yn arbennig yn ei rôl addasu ac ailstrwythuro? Os oes gennym gwmni y mae angen iddo newid ei hun er mwyn datrys y problemau a ddaeth i'r amlwg gyntaf yn 1999 pan ofynnwyd i'r gweithwyr dderbyn gostyngiad cyflog—ac mae swyddi wedi'u colli yn dilyn hynny—ac os nad yw'r cwmni wedi cydnabod hynny, pa gyngor neu gymorth a roddwyd gennych iddo i gydnabod y bygythiad hwn, nad yw'n fygythiad newydd o bell ffordd, ac yn un y byddech wedi'i weld pe byddech wedi ystyried y mater yn wrthrychol?

Efallai mai ymateb i'r broblem benodol hon yn Llanelli yw her fawr gyntaf eich adran newydd. Os yw'n her, a ydych mewn sefyllfa well i ymateb yn awr nag yr oeddech o'r blaen, oherwydd dylai eich adran ar ei newydd wedd fod yn gyflymach ac yn fwy medrus? Efallai y gallech nodi'r newidiadau a wnaed yn eich adran a sut y gallwch ymateb i'r broblem hon.

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, mae heriau mawr yn wynebu'r maes gweithgynhyrchu yn fyd-eang, yn arbennig o gofio twf Tsieina fel cyrchfan cost isel ar gyfer gweithgynhyrchu a nwyddau

challenge for many manufacturing companies, particularly in the automotive sector, is to identify opportunities for producing high value-added goods, particularly in low-volume, high value-added or niche operations.

As I said in response to Alun Ffred, through the Accelerate Wales programme, part of what is being attempted with companies is the identification of ways in which they could reduce their cost base to apply lean manufacturing principles, and of opportunities for them to diversify. For example, back in 2000, many companies were exposed when MG Rover experienced difficulties.

Krupp Camford has been a beneficiary of the Accelerate Wales programme and regional selective assistance, which was taken up on one or two occasions. So, the offer is still there on the table. I understand that the last offer made in 2004 has been partially drawn down by the company. I have held four meetings with the company to explore a range of options, not only financial assistance and the help provided by Accelerate Wales, but also, given the fact that Krupp Camford occupies a small part of what was a very large estate, the possibilities of realising the land values of that larger estate. We stand ready to work with the company on identifying any ways in which we can help, as I said in response to Catherine Thomas.

With my new department, I am confident that we will be able to offer any help that the company wishes to take up. As a private company, it is entirely a matter for it whether to take up those offers, but all parts of my department stand ready, as does Jane Davidson's department, to help the company to identify any ways of keeping the operation going in Llanelli.

Alun Cairns: There has undoubtedly been a tortuous history behind Krupp Camford in Llanelli: in 1999, the workers agreed to take a pay cut in order to save their jobs and to offer a longer term future. I am sure that it was the right thing to do, because it has given many of them employment until this stage.

cyfeintiau mawr nad ydynt yn ychwanegu llawer o werth. Yr her i lawer o gwmnïau gweithgynhyrchu, yn arbennig yn y sector modurol, yw nodi cyfleoedd i gynhyrchu nwyddau sy'n ychwanegu gwerth sylweddol, yn enwedig gweithrediadau cyfeintiau bach sy'n ychwanegu gwerth sylweddol neu arbenigol.

Fel y dywedais mewn ymateb i Alun Ffred, drwy'r rhaglen Accelerate Cymru, rhan o'r hyn a gaiff ei geisio o ran cwmnïau yw nodi ffyrdd o leihau eu costau er mwyn cymhwyso egwyddorion gweithgynhyrchu darbodus, a chyfleoedd iddynt arallgyfeirio. Er enghraifft, yn ôl yn 2000, wynebodd llawer o gwmnïau broblemau pan gafodd MG Rover anawsterau.

Mae Krupp Camford wedi manteisio ar y rhaglen Accelerate Wales a chymorth rhanbarthol dewisol, a dderbyniwyd unwaith neu ddwy. Felly, mae'r cynnig yno o hyd. Deallaf fod y cwmni wedi manteisio'n rhannol ar y cynnig olaf a wnaed yn 2004. Yr wyf wedi cynnal pedwar cyfarfod gyda'r cwmni i archwilio amrywiaeth o opsiynau, nid yn unig cymorth ariannol a'r help a ddarperir gan Accelerate Cymru, ond hefyd, o gofio'r ffaith bod Krupp Camford yn rhan fach o'r hyn a oedd yn ystad fawr iawn, y posibilrwydd o wireddu gwerthoedd tir yr ystad fwy honno. Yr ydym yn barod i weithio gyda'r cwmni i nodi unrhyw ffyrdd y gallwn helpu, fel y dywedais yn fy ymateb i Catherine Thomas.

O ran fy adran newydd, yr wyf yn hyderus y byddwn yn gallu cynnig unrhyw gymorth y mae'r cwmni am ei gael. Fel cwmni preifat, ei ddewis ef yw derbyn y cynigion hynny ai peidio, ond mae pob rhan o'm hadran yn barod, fel y mae adran Jane Davidson, i helpu'r cwmni i nodi ffyrdd o sicrhau bod y gwaith yn parhau yn Llanelli.

Alun Cairns: Yn ddi-au, mae Krupp Camford wedi cael hanes anodd iawn: yn 1999 cytunodd y gweithwyr i dderbyn gostyngiad cyflog er mwyn achub eu swyddi a chynnig dyfodol tymor hwy. Yr wyf yn siŵr mai hwnnw oedd y peth cywir i'w wneud, gan ei fod wedi rhoi gwaith i lawer

Let us hope that this latest crisis of the company can be resolved without job losses, but the worst case would mean the closure of the site. We support the management, you, and the unions, in seeking to resolve this.

4.30 p.m.

However, I press you on the wider implications and the implications of some of the answers that you gave earlier about job losses in manufacturing being slower in Wales than in England. However, as I highlighted to you in committee this morning, the index of manufacturing and manufacturing output is dropping much faster in Wales than in England, which would suggest that the jobs that remain are more vulnerable because they are less productive. Productivity rates are dropping even further. Therefore, given the economies in eastern Europe and in the far east, we are not as productive as we should be and we are less productive than England. The trend is that this is not the end: there will be many more manufacturing job losses along these lines. What is the reason behind the decline in productivity and the widening gap in the manufacturing index between Wales and England? Why is manufacturing output falling faster in Wales than it is in England and why are exports falling faster in Wales than in England?

Andrew Davies: I repeat what I said in committee this morning. Manufacturing is a proportion of the economy and its contribution to wealth is greater in Wales than in any other part of the UK. As I said in response to Alun Ffred, job losses in manufacturing have been fewer in Wales than in other parts of the United Kingdom.

On the one hand, you have a company such as Krupps Camford Pressings, to which we have made various offers of assistance, both financial and otherwise, whether through Accelerate Wales, or my Invest Wales officials and department, and, on the other, you have a company just down the road in the Llanelli constituency, which was

ohonynt tan yr adeg hon. Gadewch inni obeithio y gellir datrys argyfwng diweddaraf y cwmni heb golli swyddi, ond byddai'r sefyllfa waethaf yn golygu cau'r safle. Cefnogwn y rheolwyr, chi a'r undebau, wrth geisio datrys hyn.

Fodd bynnag, pwysaf arnoch o ran goblygiadau ehangach a goblygiadau rhai o'r atebion a roddwyd gennych yn gynharach ynglŷn â'r ffaith bod colli swyddi ym maes gweithgynhyrchu yn arafach yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr. Fodd bynnag, fel y bu imi ei amlygu ichi yn y pwyllgor y bore yma, mae'r mynegai gweithgynhyrchu a'r cynnyrch gweithgynhyrchu yn lleihau yn llawer cyflymach yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr, a fyddai'n awgrymu bod y swyddi sy'n weddill yn fwy bregus gan eu bod yn llai cynhyrchiol. Mae'r cyfraddau cynhyrchiant yn lleihau ymhellach fyth. Felly, o gofio'r arbedion yn nwyrain Ewrop ac yn y dwyrain pell, nid ydym mor gynhyrchiol ag y dylem fod ac yr ydym yn llai cynhyrchiol na Lloegr. Y duedd yw nad dyma'r diwedd: bydd llawer mwy o swyddi yn cael eu colli ym maes gweithgynhyrchu ar hyd y llinellau hyn. Beth yw'r rheswm dros y dirywiad mewn cynhyrchiant a'r bwch sy'n tyfu yn y mynegai gweithgynhyrchu rhwng Cymru a Lloegr? Pam mae cynnyrch gweithgynhyrchu yn lleihau yn gyflymach yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr a pham mae allforion yn lleihau yn gyflymach yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr?

Andrew Davies: Ailadroddaf yr hyn a ddywedais yn y pwyllgor y bore yma. Mae gweithgynhyrchu yn gyfran o'r economi ac mae ei gyfraniad at gyfoeth yn fwy yng Nghymru nag mewn unrhyw ran arall o'r DU. Fel y dywedais mewn ymateb i Alun Ffred, collwyd llai o swyddi ym maes gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru nag mewn rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig.

Ar y naill law, mae gennych gwmni megis Krupps Camford Pressings, yr ydym wedi cynnig cymorth iddo ar sawl achlysur, yn gymorth ariannol ac fel arall, boed drwy Accelerate Cymru, neu drwy fy swyddogion a'm hadran Buddsoddi Cymru, ac, ar y llaw arall, mae gennych gwmni o fewn tafliad carreg yn etholaeth Llanelli, sef INA Bearing

formerly INA Bearing Company Ltd, now Schaeffler (UK) Ltd, which is a model company. It is in a similar situation: it is a car component manufacturer, faced with disinvestment by the parent company. However, the management, unions and workforce undertook a joint programme of change and have turned the company around. It invested, in its people above all else, and improved the efficiency and operation of the plant.

There is only so much that the Government and public sector can do. We will work with companies such as Krupps Camford Pressings, Schaeffler (UK) Ltd and others to improve their efficiency and to help them to diversify and improve the way they operate. However, ultimately it is the decision of individual companies and sectors as to whether they seek to work with us or to move operations overseas, as some companies have done.

Company Cyf gynt, neu Schaeffler (DU) Cyf bellach, sy'n gwmni enghreifftiol. Mae mewn sefyllfa debyg: gweithgynhyrchydd cydrannau ceir ydyw sy'n wynebu dadfuddsoddiad gan y rhiant-gwmni. Fodd bynnag, ymgwymerodd y rheolwyr, yr undebau a'r gweithlu â rhaglen ar y cyd o newid ac maent wedi chwyldroi'r cwmni. Bu iddo fuddsoddi yn ei bobl yn anad dim, gan wella effeithlonrwydd a gweithrediad y safle.

Mae terfyn i'r hyn y gall y Llywodraeth a'r sector cyhoeddus ei wneud. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda chwmnïau megis Krupps Camford Pressings, Schaeffler (DU) Cyf ac eraill i wella eu heffeithlonrwydd a'u helpu i arallgyfeirio a gwella'r ffordd y maent yn gweithredu. Fodd bynnag, yn y pen draw penderfyniad y cwmnïau a'r sectorau unigol yw pa un a ydynt am weithio gyda ni neu'n symud gweithrediadau dramor, fel y mae rhai cwmnïau wedi ei wneud.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I have two changes to report to this week's business. In order to accommodate today's additional items, the motions to approve the Education (Parenting Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006 and the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (Commencement No. 5) (Wales) Order 2006 have been postponed until Wednesday, 10 May. Business for the next three weeks is as set out on the draft statement, which will be available to Members on the agenda.

It has been determined that the following items of subordinate legislation need not be referred to a subject committee for extended consideration. They are the Transport (Wales) Act 2006 (Commencement) Order 2006, the National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006, the Cattle Compensation (Wales) Order 2006 and the Registration of Fish Buyers and Sellers and Designation of Fish Auction Sites (Wales) Regulations 2006.

Y Llywydd: A oes gwrthwynebiad i'r

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Mae gennyf ddau newid i'w nodi i fusnes yr wythnos hon. Er mwyn darparu ar gyfer yr eitemau ychwanegol heddiw, gohiriwyd y cynigion i gymeradwyo Rheoliadau Addysg (Gorchmynion Rhianta) (Cymru) 2006 a Gorchymyn Deddf Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol 2003 (Cychwyn Rhif 5) (Cymru) 2006 tan ddydd Mercher nesaf, 10 Mai. Mae'r busnes ar gyfer y tair wythnos nesaf wedi'i nodi yn y datganiad drafft, a fydd ar gael i Aelodau ar yr agenda.

Penderfynwyd nad oes angen cyfeirio'r eitemau canlynol o is-ddeddfwriaeth at bwyllgor pwnc i'w hystyried yn estynedig. Yr eitemau hyn yw Gorchymyn Deddf Trafnidiaeth (Cymru) 2006 (Cychwyn) 2006, Rheoliadau'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Treuliau Teithio a Pheidio â Chodi Tâl) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2006, Gorchymyn Iawndal Gwartheg (Cymru) 2006 a Rheoliadau Cofrestru Prynwyr a Gwerthwyr Pysgod a Dynodi Safleoedd Arwerthu Pysgod (Cymru) 2006.

The Presiding Officer: Are there any

datganiad busnes drafft? Gwelaf nad oes. A oes sylwadau arno?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, you will be aware that, as a party, we asked for a debate on NHS finances in Wales. We are surprised and disappointed that you are refusing to table that debate, as there is general concern throughout Wales about the finances of the NHS. You will know that the Royal College of Nursing intends to lobby the Assembly on this issue because it has fears about job losses and that trusts and several local health boards in Wales are facing financial difficulties. It is, therefore, difficult to understand your reasoning for not having a debate. We need an informed debate so that we can be told exactly what the situation is and that information can be relayed to the people in Wales who are concerned about it. Secondly, we asked for a debate on the future of local health boards in Wales because Members of your own party—although it was your big idea for the health service, Minister—do not agree with you, because they are now calling for the amalgamation of some of those LHBs, and amalgamation with the trusts. It would be nice to know what the policy of the Government of Wales is. What is the big idea? It was the LHBs, and it now seems to be super LHBs. You are dismantling a restructuring that you brought about, and which cost £50 million.

Lisa Francis: Minister, you will know that yesterday we reiterated our request for a debate on the document ‘Designed to Deliver’, and its implications that for hospital services in west Wales. I know that you will have noted this request, especially following your colleagues on the Labour benches expressing a wish to head off any proposals to downgrade district general hospitals in the area. You must accept that management needs to address the question of geography. This has not been done. The building of a new super-hospital at Whitland would result in patients from Tywyn in Gwynedd, for example, having to travel 96.5 miles, a journey of two and a half hours. That is surely unacceptable and it needs to be properly discussed.

objections to the draft business statement? I see that there are none. Are there any comments on it?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, fe wyddoch i ni, fel plaid, ofyn am ddatl ar gyllid y GIG yng Nghymru. Fe'n syfrdanwyd a'n siomwyd eich bod yn gwrthod cyflwyno'r ddatl honno, gan fod pryder cyffredinol ledled Cymru ynglŷn â chyllid y GIG. Fe wyddoch fod Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys yn bwriadu llobio'r Cynulliad ar y mater hwn am ei fod yn pryderu ynglŷn â cholli swyddi a'r ffaith bod ymddiriedolaethau a nifer o fyrddau iechyd lleol yng Nghymru yn wynebu anawsterau ariannol. Felly, mae'n anodd deall eich rhesymau dros beidio â chynnal dadl. Mae angen dadl hyddysg arnom er mwyn inni gael gwybod yn union beth yw'r sefyllfa ac er mwyn gallu cyfleu'r wybodaeth honno i'r bobl yng Nghymru sydd â phryderon yn ei chylch. Yn ail, bu inni ofyn am ddatl ar ddyfodol byrddau iechyd lleol yng Nghymru gan nad yw Aelodau o'ch plaid chi eich hun—er mai eich syniad chi ydoedd ar gyfer y gwasanaeth iechyd, Weinidog—yn cytuno â chi, gan eu bod bellach yn galw am gyfuno rhai o'r BILlau hynny, ac am gyfuno â'r ymddiriedolaethau. Braf fyddai gwybod beth yw polisi Llywodraeth Cymru. Beth yw'r syniad mawr? Byrddau Iechyd Lleol ydoedd, ac ymddengys mai uwch Fyrddau Iechyd Lleol ydyw bellach. Yr ydych yn chwalu proses ailstrwythuro a gyflwynwyd gennych chi, ac a gostiodd £50 miliwn.

Lisa Francis: Weinidog, fe wyddoch inni ailadrodd ein cais am ddatl ar y ddogfen ‘Cynllunio i Gyflenwi’ ddoe, a'i goblygiadau o ran gwasanaethau ysbyty yn y gorllewin. Gwn y byddwch wedi nodi'r cais hwn, yn arbennig ar ôl i'ch cyd-Aelodau ar y meinciau Llafur fynegi eu dymuniad i rwystro unrhyw gynigion i israddio ysbytai cyffredinol dosbarth yn yr ardal. Rhaid ichi dderbyn bod angen i reolwyr fynd i'r afael â daearyddiaeth. Ni wnaed hyn. Byddai adeiladu uwch-ysbyty newydd yn Hendy-gwyn ar Daf yn golygu y byddai'n rhaid i gleifion o Dywyn yng Ngwynedd, er enghraifft, deithio 96.5 milltir, sef taith o ddwy awr a hanner. Rhaid bod hynny'n annerbyniol ac mae angen ei drafod yn briodol.

On the issue of the 1,000 or so foreign prisoners who have been released instead of being considered for deportation, we think that it is only reasonable that you offer a statement on how many of them are in Wales, and the impact that this will have.

Finally, we asked you for a statement on the impact of the two-day strike by civil servants working in jobcentres, call centres and the Child Protection Agency. There have been concerning reports about delays in processing essential forms leading to frustration, and, in some cases, violence, not to mention the serious impact in terms of poverty, ill health and mental breakdown. I do not think that a statement is too much to ask for, and I ask again that you consider a statement on those issues.

Peter Black: I support Rhodri Glyn Thomas's request for a debate on NHS funding. I think it essential that we have this debate at some stage. I understand that you have a rescheduling nightmare following the postponement of business this week, but I think that it would be useful if we could schedule a debate. On 'Designed to Deliver', it is important that we have a debate, a statement and an opportunity to scrutinise the proposals, as the Minister will be making a decision on this. However, I understand that there is a consultation, and we need to allow people to have their say before a decision is taken. It is a shame that other Government Ministers do not take this view, particularly in relation to proposals on schools and so on. However, it is important that we have that debate at some time. Finally, I thank you, Minister, for offering a statement on the dental contracts. Perhaps you can give an indication of when that statement is likely to be made.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): Rhodri Glyn and Peter, you will know that we made a statement on NHS finances on 15 February, and there was an action point in the Health and Social Services Committee meeting on 8 March noting that the Minister for Health and Social Services would provide a note for the committee detailing the local health boards' actual and cumulative debts in due course. That commitment will be delivered. Once

O ran y 1,000 o garcharorion tramor, fwy neu lai, a ryddhawyd yn hytrach na chael eu hystyried ar gyfer alltudiaeth, credwn ei bod yn gwbl resymol ichi gynnig datganiad am faint ohonynt sydd yng Nghymru, a'r effaith y bydd hyn yn ei chael.

Yn olaf, bu inni ofyn ichi am ddatganiad am effaith y streic ddau ddiwrnod gan weithwyr sifil sy'n gweithio mewn canolfannau gwaith, canolfannau galwadau a'r Asiantaeth Amddiffyn Plant. Cafwyd adroddiadau sy'n achosi pryder ynglŷn ag oedi cyn prosesu ffurflenni hanfodol gan arwain at rwystrdigaeth ac, mewn rhai achosion, at drais, heb sôn am yr effaith ddifrifol o ran tloedi, salwch a gwaeledd meddwl. Ni chredaf fod datganiad yn ormod i ofyn amdano, a gofynnaf ichi unwaith eto ystyried datganiad am y materion hynny.

Peter Black: Cefnogaf gais Rhodri Glyn Thomas am ddadl ar gyllid y GIG. Credaf ei bod yn hanfodol ein bod yn cynnal y ddadl hon ar ryw adeg. Deallaf eich bod yn wynebu hunllef o ran aildrefnu busnes yn dilyn gohirio busnes yr wythnos hon, ond credaf y byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe gallem drefnu dadl. O ran 'Cynllunio i Gyflenwi', mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cynnal dadl ac yn cael datganiad a chyfle i graffu ar y cynigion, gan y bydd y Gweinidog yn gwneud penderfyniad ar hyn. Fodd bynnag, deallaf fod ymgynghoriad, ac mae angen inni alluogi pobl i leisio eu barn cyn gwneud penderfyniad. Mae'n drueni nad yw Gweinidogion eraill y Llywodraeth yn rhannu'r farn hon, yn arbennig o ran cynigion ar ysgolion ac ati. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cynnal y ddadl honno ar ryw bryd. Yn olaf, diolchaf ichi, Weinidog, am gynnig datganiad am y contractau deintyddol. Efallai y gallwch roi arwydd o ba bryd y bydd y datganiad hwnnw yn debygol o gael ei wneud.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Rhodri Glyn a Peter, fe wyddoch ein bod wedi gwneud datganiad am gyllid y GIG ar 15 Chwefror, ac yr oedd pwynt gweithredu yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ar 8 Mawrth yn nodi y byddai'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn rhoi nodyn i'r pwyllgor maes o law yn manylu ar ddyledion gwirioneddol a chronol y byrddau

that action point has been discharged, that will be the appropriate time for us to think of making time available in Plenary for further discussion.

On the issue of 'Designed for Life' and 'Designed to Deliver', things are clearly coming out as a result of that consultation with the health policy community, which is happening as we speak. There is a lot of mischief in what you are bringing forward in terms of options, ideas, and suggestions with regard to local health boards and trusts in that particular health community. However, at the appropriate time, when the consultation is finished, I will discuss with the Minister for Health and Social Services how we deal with this in terms of Plenary time and consideration.

Lisa, neither of the other two matters that you raised are for the Assembly or this Government.

*Derbyniwyd y datganiad busnes.
Business statement adopted.*

4.40 p.m.

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I **Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt):** Cynigiau fod propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, under Standing Order No. 6.21(iii), extends Plenary to 6.30 p.m..

iechyd lleol. Cyflawnir yr ymrwymiad hwnnw. Ar ôl cyflawni'r pwynt gweithredu hwnnw, bydd hynny'n amser priodol inni feddwl am neilltuo amser mewn Cyfarfod Llawn i drafod y mater ymhellach.

O ran 'Cynllun Oes' a 'Chynllunio i Gyflenwi', mae'n sicr bod pethau yn dod i'r amlwg o ganlyniad i'r ymgynghoriad hwnnw â'r gymuned polisi iechyd, a gynhelir wrth inni siarad. Mae llawer o ddrygioni yn perthyn i'r hyn yr ydych yn ei gyflwyno o ran opsiynau, syniadau ac awgrymiadau mewn perthynas â byrddau iechyd lleol ac ymddiriedolaethau yn y gymuned iechyd benodol honno. Fodd bynnag, ar yr adeg briodol, pan fydd yr ymgynghoriad wedi dod i ben, byddaf yn trafod gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol y modd y byddwn yn ymdrin â hyn o ran amser ac ystyriaeth mewn Cyfarfodydd Llawn.

Lisa, nid cyfrifoldeb y Cynulliad na'r Llywodraeth hon yw'r un o'r ddau fater a godwyd gennych.

*Cynnig: O blaid 35, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 8.
Motion: For 35, Abstain 0, Against 8.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Essex, Sue

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Butler, Rosemary
Gregory, Janice
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Lewis, Huw
Neagle, Lynne
Sinclair, Karen
Wood, Leanne

Francis, Lisa
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.40 p.m.
 The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.40 p.m.*

Datganiad ar Adroddiad ar Ddiogelu Plant sy'n Agored i Niwed Statement on the Safeguarding Vulnerable Children Report

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I am very pleased to announce that I have received the final report of the safeguarding vulnerable children review. The First Minister and I commissioned the review in December 2003. We did so not in response to any particular incident, but out of the Assembly Government's commitment to ensuring that our investment in children's policies and programmes was being fully realised and that we were delivering on the ambitions that we all hold for Wales's children. I am pleased to say that the report provides a great deal of evidence of the progress that has been made in safeguarding vulnerable children.

I fully acknowledge that the report also confronts us with some significant challenges. It was always our intention that it should. The far-reaching nature of the report and the sheer volume of evidence and opinion that it contains will repay our careful attention and my ministerial colleagues and

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Pleser o'r mwyaf yw cyhoeddi fy mod wedi cael yr adroddiad terfynol ar yr adolygiad diogelu plant sy'n agored i niwed. Bu i'r Prif Weinidog a minnau gomisiynu'r adolygiad ym mis Rhagfyr 2003. Bu inni wneud hynny, nid mewn ymateb i unrhyw ddigwyddiad penodol, ond yn sgîl ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i sicrhau bod ein buddsoddiad mewn polisiau a rhaglenni plant yn cael ei gyflawni'n llawn a'n bod yn gweithredu ar yr uchelgeisiau sydd gennym ni oll ar gyfer plant yng Nghymru. Mae'n bleser gennyf ddweud bod yr adroddiad yn rhoi cryn dystiolaeth o'r cynnydd a wnaed i ddiogelu plant sy'n agored i niwed.

Cydnabyddaf yn llawn fod yr adroddiad yn cyflwyno rhai heriau mawr inni hefyd ac yr oeddem bob amser yn bwriadu iddo wneud hynny. Bydd natur bell-gyrhaeddol yr adroddiad a'r holl dystiolaeth a barn a geir ynddo yn gwobrwyo ein sylw gofalus ac mae fy nghyd-Weinidogion a'u swyddogion

their officials have already begun work on preparing a formal Government response. It is my intention that there should be a further debate on the detailed recommendations of the report and on the response before the end of this term. That debate will provide an opportunity to discuss in detail the content of the report.

The report calls attention to the tapestry of ideals, commitment, excellent initiatives and sheer hard work at all levels that the review has encountered and makes it clear that there is much to be celebrated, supported and built upon. As the review notes, it is important that those working directly with children and young people receive the recognition that is their due. Too often, the opportunity is taken to undermine the energy, creativity and enthusiasm that professionals, volunteers and parents bring to their work with children by focusing only on those isolated incidents when something has gone wrong. That can have a serious effect on morale and make what can sometimes be very stressful and challenging work seem almost impossible.

As well as the recognition of the work of our partners in delivering services directly to children, the Assembly Government's commitment to children's participation and our unique commitment to developing policy and practice in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are given special mention in the report. Many specific initiatives also draw praise from the review, including the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services, the Children First initiative, the all-Wales youth offending strategy, the parenting action plan and the all-Wales play strategy. I am confident that more recent initiatives such as Flying Start and RAISE—raising attainment and individual standards in education in Wales—will also contribute significantly to meeting the challenges that the report sets out for us.

We also recognise the need for consolidation and we share with the review team a commitment to ensuring that all of future work is based on the best available evidence of what works, although it must always be

eisoes wedi dechrau paratoi ymateb ffurfiol gan y Llywodraeth. Fy mwriad i yw y dylid cynnal dadl arall ar argymhellion manwl yr adroddiad ac ar yr ymateb cyn diwedd y tymor hwn. Bydd y ddadl honno yn gyfle i drafod cynnwys yr adroddiad yn fanwl.

Mae'r adroddiad yn tynnu sylw at y cyfoeth o ddelfrydau, ymrwymiad, mentrau rhagorol a gwaith caled ar bob lefel y mae'r adolygiad wedi dod ar ei draws ac mae'n egluro bod gennym lawer i'w ddathlu, i'w gefnogi ac i adeiladu arno. Fel y noda'r adolygiad, mae'n bwysig bod y rhai sy'n gweithio'n uniongyrchol gyda phlant a phobl ifanc yn cael cydnabyddiaeth briodol. Yn rhy aml, manteisir ar y cyfle i danseilio egni, creadigrwydd a brwdfrydedd gweithwyr proffesiynol, gwirfoddolwyr a rhieni yn eu gwaith gyda phlant drwy ganolbwyntio'n unig ar y digwyddiadau unigol hynny lle bydd rhywbeth wedi mynd o chwith. Gall hynny gael effaith ddifrifol ar forâl a gall beri i waith a all fod yn anodd ac yn heriol iawn weithiau ymddangos yn amhosibl bron.

Yn ogystal â chydabod gwaith ein partneriaid wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau yn uniongyrchol i blant, cyfeirir yn arbennig at ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i gyfranogiad plant a'n hymrwymiad unigryw i ddatblygu polisïau ac arferion yn unol â Chonfensiwn y Cenedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn yn yr adroddiad. Mae llawer o fentrau penodol hefyd yn cael eu canmol gan yr adolygiad, gan gynnwys y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer plant, pobl ifanc a'r gwasanaethau mamolaeth, menter Plant yn Gyntaf, strategaeth troseddwr ifanc Cymru gyfan, y cynllun gweithredu rhianta a strategaeth chwarae Cymru gyfan. Hyderaf y bydd mentrau mwy diweddar megis Dechrau'n Deg a Rhagori—codi cyrhaeddiad a safonau addysgol unigolion yng Nghymru—hefyd yn cyfrannu'n sylweddol at ateb yr heriau a nodir ar ein cyfer yn yr adroddiad.

Cydnabyddwn hefyd yr angen i atgyfnerthu a rhannwn ymrwymiad y tîm adolygu i sicrhau bod yr holl waith yn y dyfodol yn seiliedig ar y dystiolaeth orau sydd ar gael o'r hyn sy'n gweithio, er bod yn rhaid cydnabod bob

acknowledged that sometimes there is less consensus on what works than one would like.

I want to make it clear at this early stage that we are already committed to taking forward some of the report's recommendations. In particular, in my role as Minister for children, I have taken responsibility, through the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people, for improving the co-ordination and harmonisation of children's policies and programmes across the range of ministerial responsibilities. We are in the process of consulting on a substantially revised scheme for the delivery of advocacy services for children. We are developing new approaches to children's budgeting and we are committed to further developing the children's workforce in Wales. Some of the report's recommendations, including the matter of internet safety and the presentation of children in the media will need to be taken forward with colleagues in Government departments across the UK.

In receiving this report, I pay tribute to the work of the review team and in particular to the chair of the review, Gwenda Thomas. Gwenda has steered this review with great determination, wisdom and good humour. She has successfully brought a focus to what was a very demanding task. She has chaired a team drawn from a wide range of interests and constituencies of opinion, including the voluntary sector, local authority interests, legal and academic fields and which included an observer from the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

In all, the review team considered over 50 written submissions and conducted some 25 sessions where oral evidence was taken. I gave evidence to the review team on behalf of my Cabinet colleagues and I can assure you that the review team was very determined to scrutinise in fine detail all of the evidence and information presented to it.

The review has been particularly scrupulous in ensuring that the voices of children have been at the forefront. It was young people who supplied the review team with the title of the report, 'Keeping Us Safe'. In

amser bod llai o gytundeb ar yr hyn sy'n gweithio nag y byddem yn ei ddymuno weithiau.

Yr wyf am egluro ar y cam cynnar hwn ein bod eisoes yn ymrwymedig i weithredu ar rai o argymhellion yr adroddiad. Yn arbennig, fel rhan o'm rôl fel y Gweinidog dros blant, yr wyf wedi cymryd cyfrifoldeb, drwy is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc, am wella'r modd y caiff polisïau a rhaglenni plant eu cydlynu a'u cysoni ar draws yr amrywiaeth o gyfrifoldebau gweinidogol. Yr ydym wrthi'n ymgynghori ar gynllun sydd wedi'i ddiwygio'n sylweddol ar gyfer darparu gwasanaethau eiriolaeth i blant. Yr ydym yn datblygu ymagweddau newydd tuag at gyllidebu ar gyfer plant ac yr ydym yn ymrwymedig i ddatblygu'r gweithlu plant yng Nghymru ymhellach. Bydd angen gweithredu ar rai o argymhellion yr adroddiad, gan gynnwys diogelwch y rhyngwyd a chyflwyno plant yn y cyfryngau gyda swyddogion mewn adrannau o'r Llywodraeth ledled y DU.

Wrth dderbyn yr adroddiad hwn, talaf deyrnged i waith y tîm adolygu ac yn arbennig i gadeirydd yr adolygiad, Gwenda Thomas. Mae Gwenda wedi llywio'r adolygiad hwn gyda chryn benderfyniad, doethineb a hiwmor. Mae wedi llwyddo i roi ffocws i'r hyn a oedd yn dasg hynod anodd. Bu'n gadeirydd ar dîm a oedd yn cynnwys ystod eang o fuddiannau a barn, gan gynnwys y sector gwirfoddol, buddiannau awdurdodau lleol, meysydd cyfreithiol ac academiaidd ac a oedd yn cynnwys arsyllwr o Swyddfa Comisiynydd Plant Cymru.

Ar y cyfan, ystyriodd y tîm adolygu dros 50 o gyflwyniadau ysgrifenedig a chynhaliwyd tua 25 o sesiynau lle y rhoddwyd tystiolaeth ar lafar. Rhoddais dystiolaeth i'r tîm adolygu ar ran fy nghyd-Aelodau o'r Cabinet a gallaf eich sicrhau bod y tîm adolygu yn benderfynol iawn o graffu'n fanwl iawn ar yr holl dystiolaeth a'r wybodaeth a gyflwynwyd iddo.

Bu'r adolygiad yn fanwl iawn wrth sicrhau y rhoddir prif flaenoriaeth i leisiau plant. Pobl ifanc a roddodd deitl yr adroddiad i'r tîm adolygu, sef 'Ein Cadw'n Ddiogel'. Wrth gydnabod pa mor ganolog yw cyfraniad plant

recognising the centrality of children's participation in the process, the review team and the Assembly Government are of like mind.

The right to participate in decisions made about you is a fundamental right that extends to everyone, including children. Participation is the foundation of an informed democracy and is the basis of active citizenship. Moreover, one of the best protections that we can offer to children is the opportunity to be heard. Where children and young people can articulate their ambitions and present their experiences to an audience that will listen and take careful note of what they have to say, we can have confidence that those children and young people are taken seriously, respected and valued. Where children are taken seriously, respected and valued we can be more confident that they will be safe.

I am grateful to Gwenda and her team for reinforcing that message and for providing us with such a comprehensive and challenging set of proposals to help take this vital agenda forward.

Janet Ryder: This review shows that, unfortunately, no-one can absolutely guarantee the safety of children. We can never completely protect them, no matter how much we may want to. However, that does not allow Government, at any level, to become complacent about the measures that they are putting in place to deal with those children and to ensure that all strategies, projects and initiatives that are developed work together across all Government departments, which is something that we would like to see you taking a firmer lead on in the Assembly Government. I know that you are now Minister with responsibility for children, but children's issues come under many of your Cabinet colleagues' portfolios. It is not always clear to the general public, when they have a children's issue, which Minister they need to go to. We need to have that clarified.

That also needs to filter down to local government. Both in the Assembly and in local government, we have had successive

yn y broses, mae'r tîm adolygu a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o'r un meddylfryd.

Mae'r hawl i gyfranogi mewn penderfyniadau a wneir amdanoch chi yn hawl sylfaenol sy'n ymestyn i bawb, gan gynnwys plant. Cyfranogiad yw sylfaen democratiaeth ddeallus a sail dinasyddiaeth weithredol. At hynny, un o'r mesurau amddiffyn gorau y gallwn ei gynnig i blant yw'r cyfle i gael eu clywed. Lle y gall plant a phobl ifanc fynegi eu huchelgeisiau a chyflwyno eu profiadau i gynulleidfa a fydd yn gwrandao ac yn ystyried yr hyn a ddywedant yn ofalus, gallwn fod yn hyderus y caiff y plant a'r bobl ifanc hynny eu hystyried o ddifrif, eu parchu a'u gwerthfawrogi. Lle y caiff plant eu hystyried o ddifrif, eu parchu a'u gwerthfawrogi, gallwn fod yn fwy hyderus y byddant yn ddiogel.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Gwenda a'i tîm am atgyfnerthu'r neges honno ac am gyflwyno cyfres o gynigion mor gynhwysfawr a heriol inni er mwyn helpu i weithredu ar yr agenda hanfodol hon.

Janet Ryder: Dengys yr adolygiad hwn, yn anffodus, na all unrhyw un warantu diogelwch plant yn llwyr. Ni allwn fyth eu diogelu'n gyfan gwbl, waeth cymaint y byddem am wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny'n caniatáu i'r Llywodraeth, ar unrhyw lefel, fynd yn hunanfodlon am y mesurau y maent yn eu rhoi ar waith i ddelio â'r plant hynny ac i sicrhau bod yr holl strategaethau, prosiectau a mentrau a ddatblygir yn cydweithio ar draws holl adrannau'r Llywodraeth, ac mae'n rhywbeth yr hoffem ichi ei arwain yn gadarnach yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Gwn eich bod bellach yn Weinidog â chyfrifoldeb dros blant, ond daw materion plant o dan lawer o bortffolios eich cyd-Aelodau o'r Cabinet. Nid yw bob amser yn glir i'r cyhoedd, pan fydd ganddynt fater sy'n ymwneud â phlant, gyda pha Weinidog y dylent gysylltu. Mae angen inni egluro hynny.

Mae hynny'n berthnasol i lywodraeth leol hefyd. Yn y Cynulliad ac o fewn llywodraeth leol, rydym wedi cael adroddiadau dilynol o

reports as a result of major issues—like Waterhouse and Clywch—making similar recommendations. Yet, because one happened in a social services department and one happened in an education department, local government did not quite get the message across departments.

Some counties are now looking at developing children's services departments—one department that goes right across the board in children's services. However, they are still not sure whether they will get Government approval and support for that move. I ask you, Minister, to consider carefully how you support those counties that have decided to have children's departments responsible for social services, children's issues, education issues and everything else that touches upon children. Local government needs firm guidance on that.

Other areas on which we need clarification include the need to improve the stability of the workforce, particularly in social services departments, in terms of those who work with children. We know that there is a great shortage of social service workers—particularly those who can stay in such demanding jobs. What direct initiatives will the Government introduce to take a lead on those issues?

Financing the many projects that have been developed to protect children and to keep them safe often depends on two or three-year funding. Is that long enough to guarantee their success?

Finally, on the important aspect of the public perception of young people, they are either portrayed as precious beings that need protecting or as absolute demons. You touched on that when you said that we have to combat that view in society as a whole. What kind of initiatives will you bring forward to do that?

4.50 p.m.

Jane Hutt: As I said, this review provides evidence of the challenge that we face of

ganlyniad i faterion pwysig—fel Waterhouse a Clywch—sy'n gwneud argymhellion tebyg. Eto, oherwydd i un ohonynt ddigwydd mewn adran gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a'r llall mewn adran addysg, ni lwyddodd llywodraeth leol i gyfleu'r neges ar draws adrannau.

Mae rhai siroedd bellach yn edrych ar ddatblygu adrannau gwasanaethau plant—un adran sy'n ymdrin yn gyffredinol â gwasanaethau plant. Fodd bynnag, maent yn parhau i fod yn ansicr pa un a gânt gymeradwyaeth a chefnogaeth y Llywodraeth ar gyfer y cam hwnnw. Gofynnaf ichi, Weinidog, ystyried yn ofalus sut y byddwch yn cefnogi'r siroedd hynny sydd wedi penderfynu sefydlu adrannau plant sy'n gyfrifol am wasanaethau cymdeithasol, materion plant, materion addysg a phopeth arall sy'n effeithio ar blant. Mae angen i lywodraeth leol gael canllawiau cadarn ar hynny.

Ymhlith y meysydd eraill y mae angen inni gael eglurhad yn eu cylch mae'r angen i wella sefydlogrwydd y gweithlu, yn enwedig mewn adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, o ran y rheini sy'n gweithio gyda phlant. Gwyddom fod prinder mawr o ran gweithwyr gwasanaethau cymdeithasol—yn enwedig y rheini sy'n gallu aros mewn swyddi llafurus o'r fath. Pa fentrau uniongyrchol y bydd y Llywodraeth yn eu cyflwyno i arwain y blaen ar y materion hynny?

Mae ariannu'r prosiectau niferus a ddatblygwyd i amddiffyn plant ac i'w cadw'n ddiogel yn aml yn dibynnu ar ddarparu arian am ddwy neu dair blynedd. A yw hynny'n ddigon hir i warantu eu llwyddiant?

Yn olaf, o ran agwedd bwysig canfyddiad y cyhoedd o bobl ifanc, fe'u portreadir naill ai fel bodau gwerthfawr y mae angen eu hamddiffyn neu fel cythreuliaid llwyr. Bu ichi gyfeirio at hynny pan ddywedasoch fod angen inni fynd i'r afael â'r safbwynt hwnnw mewn cymdeithas yn gyfan gwbl. Pa fath o fentrau y byddwch yn eu cyflwyno i wneud hynny?

Jane Hutt: Fel y dywedais, mae'r adolygiad hwn yn darparu tystiolaeth o'r her a

delivering joined-up Government. The Welsh Assembly Government has to be the exemplar if we are going to expect our partners to deliver at local-authority level. The Children Act 2004 provides the opportunity and the statutory obligation to have lead members and officers, not only joined up within local government, but joined up with health. We have that opportunity here through our Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people, with the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, who all have key statutory responsibilities, working together and with me in my role as chair. The First Minister also plays a key role on that sub-committee.

Therefore, we have to deliver that joined-up agenda and raise this as a priority in terms of Government programmes, planning and budgeting and in terms of the children's workforce. It is good that one of the challenges is to improve the levels of ability, confidence, competence, support and job satisfaction among those working with children. This came up during my questions session. Work is now being taken forward on this particular recommendation by the Welsh Assembly Government and its partners. The Care Council for Wales is also co-ordinating a network of all those organisations with an interest in children's workforce issues. The network's work in consulting on a workforce strategy will contribute to the achievement of this objective. That is crucial in terms of confidence and morale and the support that clearly comes through this report.

Your final point was about public perception. We recognise the importance of this in terms of the vision and the strategy. It is also important to recognise that there is a role for the media as well as for Government; the media must recognise the impact that it has. I am pleased with recommendation 3.6 under challenge 3, which states that relevant unions and sections of the media should consider the content and tone of some public statements made when, for example, the prosecutions of staff fail or decisions are not taken to proceed

wynebwn wrth ddarparu Llywodraeth gydgysylltiedig. Rhaid i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ddangos esiampl os ydym yn mynd i ddisgwyl i'n partneriaid ddarparu ar lefel awdurdod lleol. Mae Deddf Plant 2004 yn darparu'r cyfle a'r rhwymedigaeth statudol i gael aelodau a swyddogion arweiniol, nid yn unig yn gydgysylltiedig o fewn llywodraeth leol, ond yn gydgysylltiedig ag iechyd. Mae gennym y cyfle hwnnw yma drwy ein his-bwyllgor Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc, gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau a'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, y mae ganddynt oll gyfrifoldebau statudol allweddol, yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd a chyda minnau yn fy rôl fel cadeirydd. Mae'r Prif Weinidog hefyd yn chwarae rhan allweddol ar yr is-bwyllgor hwnnw.

Felly, rhaid inni ddarparu'r agenda gydgysylltiedig honno a rhoi mwy o flaenoriaeth i hyn o ran rhaglenni'r Llywodraeth, cynllunio a chyllidebu ac o ran gweithlu'r plant. Mae'n beth da mai un o'r heriau yw gwella lefelau gallu, hyder, cymhwysedd, cymorth a boddhad swydd ymhlith y rheini sy'n gweithio gyda phlant. Cododd hyn yn ystod fy sesiwn cwestiynau. Mae'r gwaith bellach yn mynd rhagddo ar yr argymhelliad penodol hwn gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'i phartneriaid. Mae Cyngor Gofal Cymru hefyd yn cydgysylltu rhwydwaith o'r holl sefydliadau hynny sydd â diddordeb mewn materion gweithlu plant. Bydd gwaith y rhwydwaith wrth ymgynghori ar strategaeth gweithlu yn cyfrannu at gyflawni'r amcan hwn. Mae hynny'n hanfodol o ran hyder a morâl a'r gefnogaeth a ddaw'n amlwg drwy'r adroddiad hwn.

Yr oedd a wnelo eich pwynt olaf â chanfyddiad y cyhoedd. Cydnabyddwn bwysigrwydd hyn o ran y weledigaeth a'r strategaeth. Mae hefyd yn bwysig cydnabod bod rôl ar gyfer y cyfryngau yn ogystal ag ar gyfer y Llywodraeth; rhaid i'r cyfryngau ystyried yr effaith sydd ganddynt. Yr wyf yn fodlon ar argymhelliad 3.6 o dan her 3, sy'n datgan y dylai undebau ac adrannau perthnasol o'r cyfryngau ystyried cynnwys a thôn rhai datganiadau cyhoeddus a wnaed, er enghraifft, pan fydd y broses o erlyn staff yn

with criminal prosecution. That is addressed to the unions and the media, but I am also the Minister for communications, so I intend to take that further forward in terms of the way in which we address those challenges and recommendations. We must also recognise that if we engage and empower children and young people through participation, we will really challenge that public perception. They have been fully engaged in this review.

Mark Isherwood: I welcome this report and thank Gwenda Thomas and her team for all their hard work. Wales needs clear and robust policies and practices for safeguarding children. This will require effective multi-agency working and a systematic appreciation of the risks and opportunities involved. When the First Minister announced this review, he stated that he wanted the review team to see the extent to which services on the front line match up to the policies and guidance set out and the investment made. Now that this report has been published, it is clear that although many initiatives deserve praise, better national and local co-ordination is needed. It states that many children's services were sound but were delivered in an uneven and unsustainable way. There is evidence of inconsistency and inadequate planning and delivery.

The Welsh Assembly Government, therefore, now needs to tell us what action it plans to take to address these points. How will it protect children in penal custody from violence and provide safe, secure accommodation for them in, or close to, their home region in Wales, wherever that may be? The children's commissioner highlighted the concern about the lack of safeguards that are in place for children and young people in specialist facilities located far away from their families. What action is proposed to address this? What action is proposed to review whistleblowing policies to ensure that the concerns of children are heard? What action is proposed to ensure real independence in terms of the advocacy services available to children and young

methu neu pan na chymerir penderfyniadau i gymryd camau erlyn troseddol. Cyfeirir hynny at yr undebau a'r cyfryngau, ond yr wyf hefyd yn Weinidog dros gyfathrebu, felly bwriadaf weithredu ymhellach ar hynny o ran y ffordd yr awn i'r afael â'r heriau a'r argymhellion hynny. Rhaid inni hefyd gydnabod os byddwn yn ymgysylltu â phlant a phobl ifanc ac yn eu grymuso drwy gyfranogiad, y byddwn yn herio'r canfyddiad cyhoeddus hwnnw yn wirioneddol. Yr oeddent yn gwbl gysylltiedig â'r adolygiad hwn.

Mark Isherwood: Croesawaf yr adroddiad hwn a diolchaf i Gwenda Thomas a'i tîm am eu holl waith caled. Mae angen polisiau ac arferion clir a chadarn ar Gymru ar gyfer amddiffyn plant. Bydd hyn yn gofyn am waith aml-asiantaeth effeithiol a gwerthfawrogiad systematig o'r risgiau a'r cyfleoedd sy'n gysylltiedig. Pan gyhoeddodd y Prif Weinidog yr adolygiad hwn, bu iddo ddatgan ei fod am i'r tîm adolygu weld i ba raddau yr oedd y gwasanaethau ar y rheng flaen yn cyd-fynd â'r polisiau a'r canllawiau a nodwyd a'r buddsoddiad a wnaed. Yn awr bod yr adroddiad hwn wedi'i gyhoeddi, mae'n amlwg, er bod llawer o fentrau yn haeddu canmoliaeth, bod angen gwell cydgysylltiad yn genedlaethol ac yn lleol. Mae'n datgan bod llawer o wasanaethau plant yn gadarn ond iddynt gael eu darparu mewn ffordd anghytwys ac anghynaliadwy. Ceir tystiolaeth o anghysondeb a dull annigonol o gynllunio a darparu.

Yr hyn y mae angen i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei wneud yn awr felly, yw dweud wrthym pa gamau y mae'n bwriadu eu cymryd i fynd i'r afael â'r pwyntiau hyn. Sut y bydd yn amddiffyn plant sydd yn y ddalfa rhag trais a darparu llety diogel iddynt yn ardal eu cartref, neu yn agos ati, yng Nghymru, neu ble bynnag y bo hynny? Amlygodd y comisiynydd plant bryder ynglŷn â'r diffyg mesurau amddiffyn sydd ar waith i blant a phobl ifanc mewn cyfleusterau arbenigol sydd wedi'u lleoli ymhell i ffwrdd oddi wrth eu teuluoedd. Pa gamau y bwriedir eu cymryd i fynd i'r afael â hyn? Pa gamau y bwriedir eu cymryd i adolygu polisiau chwythu'r chwiban er mwyn sicrhau y caiff pryderon plant eu clywed? Pa gamau y bwriedir eu cymryd i sicrhau annibyniaeth go

people? The children's commissioner expressed concern, again, about the degree of real independence and stated that none of the young people who contacted his office about their leaving care plans felt that their personal advisers had represented their views.

What action is being proposed to address the concern expressed by the children's commissioner about the level of funding required to deliver the national service framework for children and young people? With regard to the concern about internet safety and the misuse of new technologies for bullying and for the grooming of children by abusive adults, what information programmes are proposed to provide children and young people with education on the safe use of new technologies and the risks arising from internet use and abuse?

Teachers, social workers, health professionals and the police are all professionals in regular working contact with children and young people, but what is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to ensure that their training courses reflect the important role that they play in safeguarding and protecting the most vulnerable children and people in society? What action will be taken to address the mental health and additional learning needs of the many young people entering the youth justice and criminal system?

As I said earlier, I am advised that Conwy alone saw a 20 per cent increase in the number of looked-after children over the last year to March 2006, and I referred to the average rise across the UK over that period. Despite the Minister's response, I am advised that the front-line experience is that the Welsh Assembly Government is not fully funding the obligations that it is passing on to local authorities in that respect. Therefore, I urge the Minister to address this issue, and perhaps engage local authorities that are raising these concerns.

iawn o ran y gwasanaethau eiriolaeth sydd ar gael i blant a phobl ifanc? Mynegodd y comisiynydd plant bryder, unwaith eto, am y lefel o annibyniaeth go iawn a nododd nad oedd un o'r bobl ifanc a gysylltodd â'i swyddfa ynglŷn â'u cynlluniau gadael gofal yn teimlo bod eu cynghorwyr personol wedi cynrychioli eu safbwyntiau.

Pa gamau y bwriedir eu cymryd i fynd i'r afael â'r pryder a fynegwyd gan y comisiynydd plant ynglŷn â lefel yr arian sydd ei hangen i ddarparu'r fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc? O ran y pryder ynglŷn â diogelwch ar y rhyngwrwyd a chamddefnyddio technolegau newydd ar gyfer bwlio ac ar gyfer paratoi plant gan oedolion treisgar, pa raglenni gwybodaeth a fwriedir i ddarparu addysg i blant a phobl ifanc ar ddefnyddio technolegau newydd yn ddiogel ac ar y risgiau sy'n deillio o ddefnyddio a chamddefnyddio'r rhyngwrwyd?

Mae athrawon, gweithwyr cymdeithasol, gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol a'r heddlu oll yn bobl broffesiynol sydd mewn cysylltiad rheolaidd â phlant a phobl ifanc, ond beth y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod eu cyrsiau hyfforddi yn adlewyrchu'r rôl bwysig y maent yn ei chwarae i amddiffyn a diogelu'r plant a'r bobl sy'n fwyaf agored i niwed yn y gymdeithas? Pa gamau a gymerir i fynd i'r afael ag anghenion iechyd meddwl ac anghenion dysgu ychwanegol llawer o bobl ifanc sy'n dod yn rhan o'r system cyfiawnder ieuentid a'r system troseddau ieuentid?

Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, fe'm cynghorir bod Conwy yn unig wedi gweld 20 y cant o gynnydd yn nifer y plant sy'n derbyn gofal dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf hyd at fis Mawrth 2006, a chyfeiriais at y cynnydd cyfartalog ar draws y DU dros y cyfnod hwnnw. Er gwaethaf ymateb y Gweinidog, fe'm cynghorir mai profiad y rheng flaen yw nad yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ariannu'r rhwymedigaethau y mae'n eu trosglwyddo i awdurdodau lleol yn llawn yn hynny o beth. Felly, anogaf y Gweinidog i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn, ac efallai i ymgysylltu â'r awdurdodau lleol sy'n mynegi'r pryderon hyn.

Finally, how will the Welsh Assembly Government respond to recent statements made to me regarding victims of abuse, and those falsely accused and subsequently cleared of abuse, that documents were withheld from the Waterhouse inquiry? As the report states, the Welsh Assembly Government has started a process that could have long-term implications.

Jane Hutt: You know that we can only produce an initial response today, and our response is to welcome this. As I said, as Ministers, we will discuss this report on Monday at our Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people; we will have a debate, and a full Government response, I hope, before the end of this session—that is what we are aiming for. We are already acting on many of the recommendations and challenges that are coming through, but we can learn and build on these recommendations in order to deliver most effectively. Therefore, your points on what has come out of the most recent children's commissioner's report, as well as previous reports, and our debates on those reports, are relevant. An observer from the children's commissioner's office was on the review team. The links have been made in terms of evidence coming from children and young people.

I am particularly interested in and pleased with the recommendations regarding the importance of the independence of advocacy. We are committed to improving complaints and advocacy services. There are NHS issues that the Minister for Health and Social Services will consider, and it is important that the national minimum standards for children's advocacy services and social care were introduced in 2002. They are highly regarded, and have been adapted for use in some health and education settings. However, we will consult later this year on the new framework for the provision of advocacy services for children. In that, looking at, for example, the opportunities for regional partnerships to develop, and streamlining processes, the collaborative regional model is important. That is the way in which we are moving forward, particularly linking to our other drives to improve standards in public services, such as through 'Making the

Yn olaf, sut y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ymateb i'r datganiadau diweddar a wnaed imi o ran dioddefwyr trais, a'r rhai a gyhuddwyd ar gam ac a gliriwyd rhag trais yn dilyn hynny, bod dogfennau wedi'u cadw'n ôl rhag ymchwiliad Waterhouse? Fel y dywed yr adroddiad, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi dechrau proses y gallai fod iddi oblygiadau hirdymor.

Jane Hutt: Gwyddoch mai dim ond ymateb cychwynnol y gallwn ei roi heddiw, a'n hymateb yw croesawu hyn. Fel y dywedais, fel Gweinidogion, byddwn yn trafod yr adroddiad hwn ddydd Llun yn ein hisbwyllgor Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc; cawn ddadl ac ymateb llawn gan y Llywodraeth, gobeithiaf, cyn diwedd y sesiwn hon—dyna yw ein nod. Yr ydym eisoes yn gweithredu ar lawer o'r argymhellion a'r heriau sy'n dod i'r amlwg, ond gallwn ddysgu ac adeiladu ar yr argymhellion hyn er mwyn darparu yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol. Felly, mae eich pwyntiau o ran yr hyn a ddeilliodd o adroddiad diweddaraf y comisiynydd plant, yn ogystal ag adroddiadau blaenorol, a'n dadleuon ar yr adroddiadau hynny, yn berthnasol. Roedd arsyllwr o swyddfa'r comisiynydd plant ar y tîm adolygu. Gwnaed y cysylltiadau o ran tystiolaeth a geir gan blant a phobl ifanc.

Mae gennyf ddiddordeb arbennig yn yr argymhellion o ran pwysigrwydd annibyniaeth eiriolaeth ac yr wyf yn fodlon arnynt. Yr ydym yn ymrwymedig i wella gwasanaethau cwyno ac eiriolaeth. Mae materion y GIG y bydd y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn eu hystyried, ac mae'n bwysig bod y safonau gofynnol cenedlaethol ar gyfer gwasanaethau eiriolaeth plant a gofal cymdeithasol wedi'u cyflwyno yn 2002. Maent yn uchel eu parch, ac fe'u haddaswyd i'w defnyddio mewn rhai lleoliadau iechyd ac addysg. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn ymgynghori yn hwyrach eleni ar y fframwaith newydd ar gyfer darparu gwasanaethau eiriolaeth i blant. O ran hynny, gan edrych, er enghraifft, ar y cyfleoedd ar gyfer datblygu partneriaethau rhanbarthol, a symleiddio prosesau, mae'r model rhanbarthol cydweithredol yn bwysig. Dyna'r ffordd yr ydym yn symud ymlaen, yn enwedig gan gysylltu â'n hymgyrchoedd

Connections’.

However, it also relates to commissioning arrangements—it is not just about advocacy services, but also commissioning for children and young people at the sharp end. That is where we see the context of our youth justice and youth offending strategy, and the work that is being done by the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration. The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has now come on board, so we have a holistic arrangement. We are trying to ensure that children and young people can be looked after and provided with independent living support in Wales, as near to home as possible.

You mentioned the new risks that come under challenge 7. That is key, and we are working with the Home Office on internet safety, as its initiatives cover England and Wales. We will ensure that we take account of developments; I know, for example, that the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills will be looking at the Department for Education and Skills’ resource packs, which are mentioned as part of the recommendations. We will also consider how we can strengthen links with the new Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. However, we are also working with Barnardo’s, supporting the scoping study on commercial sexual exploitation in Wales.

Therefore, across the board—I have already mentioned the workforce—we are addressing and, I hope, extending our response as a result of the challenges in today’s review. It is a long-term strategy and a long-term vision that we must take forward.

5.00 p.m.

Jenny Randerson: Thank you for your statement. The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome the work that has been done on this and we give our thanks to all those involved, particularly the Chair. I will briefly highlight

eraill i wella safonau mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, megis drwy ‘Creu’r Cysylltiadau’.

Fodd bynnag, mae hefyd yn ymwneud â threfniadau comisiynu—nid dim ond gwasanaethau eiriolaeth, ond hefyd comisiynu ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc sydd yn y rheng flaen. Dyna lle y gwelwn gyddestun ein strategaeth cyfiawnder ieuencid a throseddwyd ifanc, a’r gwaith sy’n cael ei wneud gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio. Mae’r Gwasanaeth Cynghori a Chynorthwyo Llys i Blant a Theuluoedd wedi ymuno yn awr, felly mae gennym drefniant cyfannol. Yr ydym yn ceisio sicrhau y gellir gofalu am blant a phobl ifanc a rhoi cymorth iddynt fyw’n annibynnol yng Nghymru, mor agos at eu cartref â phosibl.

Bu ichi grybwyll y risgiau newydd sy’n dod o dan her 7. Mae hynny’n allweddol, ac yr ydym yn gweithio gyda’r Swyddfa Gartref ar ddiogelwch ar y rhyngryd, gan fod ei mentrau yn cwmpasu Cymru a Lloegr. Byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn ystyried datblygiadau; gwn, er enghraifft, y bydd y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau yn edrych ar becynnau adnoddau’r Adran Addysg a Sgiliau, a grybwyllir fel rhan o’r argymhellion. Byddwn hefyd yn ystyried sut y gallwn atgyfnerthu’r cysylltiadau â’r Ganolfan Camfanteisio ar Blant a’u Hamddiffyn Ar-lein newydd. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym hefyd yn gweithio gyda Barnardo’s, yn cynorthwyo’r astudiaeth gwmpasu ar gam-fanteisio rhywiol masnachol yng Nghymru.

Felly, yn gyffredinol—yr wyf eisoes wedi crybwyll y gweithlu—yr ydym yn mynd i’r afael â’n hymateb, a, gobeithio, yn ei ymestyn o ganlyniad i’r heriau yn adolygiad heddiw. Mae’n strategaeth hirdymor ac yn weledigaeth hirdymor y mae’n rhaid inni fwrw ymlaen â hwy.

Jenny Randerson: Diolch ichi am eich datganiad. Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu’r gwaith a wnaed ar hwn a diolchwn i bawb a fu’n cymryd rhan, yn enwedig y Cadeirydd. Tynnaf sylw yn fyr at

a small process issue. This is a very long and detailed report, and I was interested to read in the paper this morning its contents and, therefore, set out trying to find it. Neither your office, Minister, the Table Office nor the Library were able to provide information on when it would be published. I understand the issues associated with co-ordinating publication, but when something has appeared in the press first, which demonstrates that the press clearly has a copy of it, and when we know that there is a ministerial statement on the agenda, we should, at the very least, be told when a report is going to be published and where it will be available.

I now turn to the content of the report. I highlight the key issues of lack of co-ordination and the patchiness of services for children. All children are vulnerable. This is aimed at vulnerable children but, by definition, all children are vulnerable to all sorts of threats in our society. One of the key issues that this report emphasises is staff turnover. It also highlights the low morale of social workers, teachers and paediatricians. Looking back, it is interesting to note that paediatricians have only recently suffered from this problem, and they have suffered directly as a result of events that have taken place. However, the low morale of social workers goes back for decades. It is very closely linked, as the report says, with media coverage of cases that social workers have been involved with. It is important that, in this very difficult job, these unsung heroes—as they are in very many cases—are given proper support. A report last year called for a proper career and pay structure for social workers throughout Wales, and I would be interested, Minister, in knowing what progress has been made on that with local authorities. Until you have a proper career structure and a proper and equitable pay structure, you are not going to get over the patchiness of services, the lack of staffing and the low morale in relation to social work. To a certain extent, the issue of low morale also applies in some cases to teachers, but they do not suffer as a result of not having a career and pay structure.

fater proses bach. Mae hwn yn adroddiad hir a manwl iawn, ac yr oedd diddordeb gennyf ddarllen ei gynnwys yn y papur y bore yma ac, felly, ceisiais ddod o hyd iddo. Nid oedd eich swyddfa, Weinidog, y Swyddfa Gyflwyno na'r Llyfrgell yn gallu rhoi gwybodaeth am pryd y câi ei gyhoeddi. Deallaf y materion sy'n gysylltiedig â chydlynu cyhoeddi, ond pan fydd rhywbeth wedi ymddangos yn y wasg yn gyntaf, sy'n dangos yn glir fod gan y wasg gopi ohono, a phan wyddom fod datganiad gan y gweinidog ar yr agenda, dylid, o leiaf, ddweud wrthym pryd y mae adroddiad yn mynd i gael ei gyhoeddi a ble y bydd ar gael.

Trof yn awr at gynnwys yr adroddiad. Amlygaf y materion allweddol o ddiffyg cydgysylltu ac anghysondeb y gwasanaethau i blant. Mae pob plentyn yn agored i niwed. Anelir hwn at blant sy'n agored i niwed, ond, drwy ddiffiniad, mae pob plentyn yn agored i bob math o fygythiadau yn ein cymdeithas. Un o'r materion allweddol y mae'r adroddiad hwn yn ei bwysleisio yw trosiant staff. Mae hefyd yn amlygu morâl isel y gweithwyr cymdeithasol, athrawon a'r pediatregwyr. Wrth edrych yn ôl, mae'n ddiddorol nodi mai dim ond yn ddiweddar y mae pediatregwyr wedi dioddef o'r broblem hon, a'u bod yn dioddef yn uniongyrchol o ganlyniad i ddigwyddiadau a fu. Fodd bynnag, mae morâl isel y gweithwyr cymdeithasol yn mynd yn ôl ddegawdau. Fe'i cysylltir yn agos, fel y dywed yr adroddiad, â sylw yn y wasg i achosion y bu'r gweithwyr cymdeithasol yn ymwneud â hwy. Mae'n bwysig felly, yn y swydd anodd iawn hon, y rhoddir y cymorth priodol i'r arwyr di-glod hyn—fel y gwneir mewn llawer iawn o achosion. Galwodd adroddiad y llynedd am strwythur gyrfa a chyflog priodol i weithwyr cymdeithasol ledled Cymru, a byddai diddordeb gennyf, Weinidog, i wybod pa gynnydd a wnaed ar hynny gydag awdurdodau lleol. Hyd nes y bydd strwythur gyrfa priodol a strwythur cyflog priodol a theg ar gael, ni fyddwch yn goresgyn anghysondeb y gwasanaethau, y prinder staff a'r morâl isel o ran gwaith cymdeithasol. I ryw raddau, mae'r mater o forâl isel yn gymwys hefyd mewn rhai achosion i athrawon, ond nid ydynt yn dioddef o ganlyniad i beidio â chael strwythur gyrfa a chyflog.

I have felt very strongly for a long time about the media portrayal of young people, and I am pleased to see that problem recognised in this report. I fear that this could be a mountain of a task for us—taking on Fleet Street, as it used to be called, or the tabloids, could be beyond the Assembly. We live in a society where the issue of dealing with our most vulnerable young people is registered on a kind of tabloid ASBOs scale, and success in dealing with these problems is measured according to the number of ASBOs issued. To my mind, issuing ASBOs is a sign of failure, and I cite the chief constable of South Wales Police as a supporter; indeed, she said it first. It will take us a long time to tackle the media portrayal of young people.

I have some issues about which I would like to raise a query. The idea of a cross-cutting committee on children's issues is worth while, but, as a practical person, and looking forward to the post-2007 scenario with only 60 AMs, I must ask where we will get the people to do the job. I am one of those who would like to have 80 Members, and then we could have a cross-cutting committee, but I fear that we will not be able to do it with just 60 of us. Therefore, I would like to know whether your Government will look at alternative ways of tackling the need for that cross-cutting approach.

I also want to raise what I fear is a potential for confusion between the proposed one-stop shop for children's complaints and the role of the children's commissioner. They are not, by any means, necessarily the same thing, but I am sure that, by definition, there will be a lot of crossover in people's minds. If that approach is to be taken, there must be some kind of clarity as to the role of the children's commissioner is and the role of the one-stop shop.

Finally, I draw your attention to the very good part of this report that refers to the issue of timescales in children's minds. Fast action is so important for young people, from the point of view of their getting a response and of adults intervening to assist them when required. I remind you that the children's commissioner has been saying for three years

Yr wyf wedi teimlo'n gryf iawn ers amser maith am bortread y cyfryngau o bobl ifanc, ac yr wyf yn falch o weld i'r broblem gael ei chydabod yn yr adroddiad hwn. Ofnaf y gallai hwn fod yn dasg enfawr inni—gallai herio Fleet Street, fel yr arferid ei galw, neu'r tabloidau, fod y tu hwnt i allu'r Cynulliad. Yr ydym yn byw mewn cymdeithas lle y cofnodir y mater o ymdrin â'n pobl ifanc sydd fwyaf agored i niwed ar fath o raddfa ASBOs tabloid, a mesurir llwyddiant wrth ymdrin â'r problemau hyn yn ôl nifer yr ASBOs a roddir. Yn fy marn i, mae rhoi ASBO yn arwydd o fethiant, a dyfynnaf prif gwnstabl Heddlu De Cymru fel cefnogwr, yn wir, hi a ddywedodd hyn yn gyntaf. Bydd yn cymryd amser hir inni fynd i'r afael â phortread y cyfryngau o bobl ifanc.

Mae gennyf rai materion yr hoffwn ofyn cwestiwn yn eu cylch. Mae'r syniad o bwyllgor trawsbleidiol ar faterion plant yn bwysig, ond, fel person ymarferol, a chan edrych ymlaen at y sefyllfa ar ôl 2007 gyda 60 AC yn unig, rhaid imi ofyn o ble y cawn y bobl i wneud y gwaith. Yr wyf yn un o'r rheini a hoffai gael 80 o Aelodau, ac yna gallem gael bwyllgor trawsbleidiol, ond ofnaf na fyddwn yn gallu gwneud hyn gyda dim ond 60 ohonom. Felly, hoffwn wybod a fydd eich Llywodraeth yn edrych ar ffyrdd amgen o fynd i'r afael â'r angen am yr ymagwedd drawsbleidiol honno.

Hoffwn godi hefyd yr hyn yr ofnaf sy'n bosibilrwydd am ddryswech rhwng y siop un stop arfaethedig ar gyfer cwynion plant a rôl y comisiynydd plant. Nid ydynt, o bell ffordd, o reidrwydd yr un peth, ond yr wyf yn siŵr, drwy ddiffiniad, y bydd llawer o bobl yn cysylltu'r ddau beth. Os dewisir yr ymagwedd honno, rhaid cael rhyw fath o eglurder o ran rôl y comisiynydd plant a rôl y siop un stop.

I orffen, tynnaf eich sylw at ran dda iawn o'r adroddiad hwn sy'n cyfeirio at y mater o amserlenni ym meddyliau plant. Mae gweithredu'n gyflym mor bwysig i bobl ifanc, yn yr ystyr eu bod yn cael ymateb a bod oedolion yn ymyrryd i'w cynorthwyo pan fo angen. Fe'ch atgoffaf i'r comisiynydd plant ddweud ers tair blynedd bod

that child and adolescent mental health services in Wales are in a dire situation. This is again referred to in this report, and we await some prompt timescales from the Government in relation to doing something about that problem after such a long period of time.

Jane Hutt: I apologise for access issues in relation to the report. This is the starting point for ensuring that all parts of the Government are involved not only in terms of delivery, but of scrutiny, consideration, consultation and debate, and the Government's response will be issued during this session. That is important for the children and young people who have participated, as is your last point about them wanting to see action and outcomes. We should address this, and the whole Assembly will, I know, take this review seriously as a high priority.

You raised the key challenges in relation to the workforce and the public. I think that you mentioned in terms of the workforce—I have already commented in response to Mark Isherwood on our work with the care council—the recommendation that refers to the important report, 'Social Work in Wales: A Profession to Value'. We are taking those issues on board, and work is in hand to implement the recommendations made by all partners. The issue about image, public information and raising awareness about children is that it is not just about raising awareness about the needs of children or getting the sympathy vote, but it is about children and young people. It goes back to the heart of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and this was embraced in the children's commissioner's report in relation to his call for respect for children and young people.

One of the recommendations is that we should address the confused and conflicting attitudes towards children in our society, and that we should introduce and develop a public information strategy. We can only do that with children and young people and, with tonight's launch, you will see that the review team has produced its own version of this report, entitled 'Keeping Us Safe'. They coined the title and produced this version,

gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasoed mewn sefyllfa arswydus. Cyfeirir at hyn eto yn yr adroddiad hwn, a disgwyliwn amserlenni prydlon gan y Llywodraeth o ran gwneud rhywbeth am y broblem honno ar ôl cyfnod mor hir o amser.

Jane Hutt: Ymddiheuraf am faterion mynediad o ran yr adroddiad. Dyma'r man cychwyn i sicrhau bod pob rhan o'r Llywodraeth yn cymryd rhan, nid o ran cyflwyno yn unig, ond ran craffu, ystyried, ymgynghori a thrafod, a chyhoeddir ymateb y Llywodraeth yn ystod y sesiwn hon. Dyna sydd yn bwysig i'r plant a'r bobl ifanc a gymerodd ran, fel y mae eich pwynt diwethaf sy'n nodi eu bod am weld gweithredu a chanlyniadau. Dylem fynd i'r afael â hyn, a gwn y bydd y Cynulliad cyfan yn cymryd yr adolygiad hwn o ddifrif fel ac yn rhoi'r flaenoriaeth iddo.

Bu ichi godi'r heriau allweddol o ran y gweithlu a'r cyhoedd. Credaf ichi sôn o ran y gweithlu—yr wyf eisoes wedi gwneud sylwadau mewn ymateb i Mark Isherwood ar ein gwaith gyda'r cyngor gofal—yr argymhelliad sy'n cyfeirio at yr adroddiad pwysig, 'Gwaith Cymdeithasol Yng Nghymru: Proffesiwn Gwerth Chweil'. Yr ydym yn ystyried y materion hynny, ac mae gwaith ar y gweill i weithredu'r argymhellion a wnaed gan yr holl bartneriaid. Plant a phobl ifanc sydd wrth wraidd y mater am ddelwedd, gwybodaeth i'r cyhoedd a chodi ymwybyddiaeth am blant, ac nid codi ymwybyddiaeth am anghenion plant neu gydymdeimlo a hwy yn unig. Mae'n dychwelyd at wraidd Confensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn, a chroesawyd hyn yn adroddiad y comisiynydd plant o ran ei gais am barch i blant a phobl ifanc.

Un o'r argymhellion yw y dylem fynd i'r afael â'r ymagweddau dryslyd ac anghyson tuag at blant yn ein cymdeithas, a dylem gyflwyno a datblygu strategaeth gwybodaeth i'r cyhoedd. Dim ond gyda phlant a phobl ifanc y gallwn wneud hynny, a chyda lansiad heno, byddwch yn gweld i dîm yr adolygiad gynhyrchu ei fersiwn ei hun o'r adroddiad hwn, sef 'Ein Cadw'n Ddiogel'. Lluniwyd y teitl a chynhyrchwyd y fersiwn hwn

which contains clear and succinct challenges for us about the issues that they are facing in their everyday lives. I want to involve children and young people in the public information strategy, and that is something that I can get on with now. Local authorities, the new local self-guarding children's boards and the voluntary sector will all have a role as far as taking that forward is concerned.

5.10 p.m.

I will quickly comment on your questions, which are matters for debate, about a cross-cutting committee and the opportunity for scrutiny. We hope to have new opportunities post 2007 to look more imaginatively at how the Assembly might want to take this forward, and we will not be restricted in the way that we are now by the Government of Wales Act 1998. As an Assembly, we need to look creatively at how we could have such a cross-cutting committee, as we already have one at Cabinet level.

On your point about the role of the children's commissioner and the opportunity for a one-stop shop, which is advocated in the report, independence is, of course, key. In terms of the one-stop shop for children's individual complaints and concerns across all public services, there has to be a first port of call for children and young people, and not everything can go to the children's commissioner. If we have a robust system for children's complaints and advocacy, across all public services, which is a recommendation in itself, I believe that that kind of approach, in terms of the one-stop shop, but also the regional collaboration that I mentioned earlier, could address that. The children's commissioner is there for the times when things go wrong, but also to help us in our task of raising awareness of these issues.

Gwenda Thomas: Croesawaf ddatganiad y Gweinidog yn fawr iawn a'i hymrwymiad i fwrw ymlaen â rhai o'r argymhellion yn ddi-oed. Yr wyf yn falch fod y Gweinidog wedi amlygu'r ffaith fod yr adroddiad hwn yn tynnu sylw at sawl esiampl bositif o'r cynnydd a wnaed gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wrth ddatblygu gwasanaethau i blant.

ganddynt, sy'n cynnwys heriau clir a chryno inni am y materion y maent yn eu hwynebu yn eu bywydau beunyddiol. Hoffwn gynnwys plant a phobl ifanc yn y strategaeth gwybodaeth i'r cyhoedd, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth y gallaf fwrw ati i'w wneud yn awr. Bydd gan awdurdodau lleol, y byrddau plant hunan-warchod lleol newydd a'r sector gwirfoddol i gyd rôl o ran datblygu hynny.

Gwnaf sylwadau yn gyflym ar eich cwestiynau, sy'n faterion i'w trafod, am bwyllgor trawsbleidiol a'r cyfle i graffu. Gobeithiwn gael cyfleoedd newydd ar ôl 2007 i edrych gyda mwy o ddychymyg ar sut yr hoffai'r Cynulliad ddatblygu hyn, ac ni chawn ein cyfyngu yn y modd y cawn yn awr gan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998. Fel Cynulliad, mae angen inni edrych ar sut y gallem gael pwyllgor trawsbleidiol o'r fath yn greadigol, gan fod un gennym eisoes ar lefel Cabinet.

O ran eich pwynt am rôl y comisiynydd plant a'r cyfle am siop un stop, a hyrwyddir yn yr adroddiad, mae annibyniaeth, wrth gwrs, yn allweddol. O ran y siop un stop ar gyfer cwynion unigol plant a phryderon ar draws yr holl wasanaethau cyhoeddus, mae'n rhaid cael man cyswllt cyntaf i blant a phobl ifanc, ac ni all y cyfan fynd at y comisiynydd plant. Os oes gennym system gadarn ar gyfer cwynion plant ac eiriolaeth, ar draws yr holl wasanaethau cyhoeddus, sy'n argymhelliad ynddo'i hun, credaf y gallai'r math hwnnw o ymagwedd, o ran y siop un stop, ond hefyd o ran y cydweithrediad rhanbarthol y soniais amdano ynghynt, fynd i'r afael â hynny. Mae'r comisiynydd plant ar gael ar gyfer yr adegau pan fydd rhywbeth yn mynd o'i le, ond hefyd i'n helpu ni gyda'n tasg o godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r materion hyn.

Gwenda Thomas: I warmly welcome the Minister's statement and her commitment to taking forward some of the recommendations immediately. I am pleased that the Minister has highlighted the fact that this report draws attention to many positive examples of the progress made by the Assembly Government in developing children's services.

Yr wyf hefyd am bwysleisio'r cyfraniad enfawr a wnaethpwyd gan blant a phobl ifanc i'r adolygiad, ac yr wyf yn falch fod rhai ohonynt yn bresennol yma heddiw. Carwn hefyd ddiolch iddynt hwythau am ddewis enw i'r adroddiad, sef 'Ein Cadw'n Ddiogel'.

Our focus throughout has been on outcomes for children, not on what Ministers and managers say that they are aiming to do. This has prompted the review to highlight many important issues that need further attention, not least the fact that we need to be better at making sure that all vulnerable children, wherever they may live, have equal access to good services and responses. The story for too many children is 'too little, too late'. The Minister has acknowledged that the report lays down some significant challenges, many, but not all, of which are for politicians—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I allow a little bit of latitude to frontbench opposition speakers, but this is a statement, which should be scrutinised. I wonder whether you could ask questions of the Minister.

Gwenda Thomas: Unlike what has been said in the contributions made so far—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Statements are to be questioned and scrutinised.

Gwenda Thomas: Will the Minister acknowledge that the report lays down some significant challenges, many, but not all, of which are for politicians? I sincerely hope that each and every one of us, as Members of the Assembly, when we come to debate the report, will have had the opportunity to consider it in depth. I acknowledge, as I am sure that you do, Minister, that it is a detailed and complex piece of work and I welcome the fact that colleagues will have had some time to reflect upon it and to consider their responses. I would also urge you, Minister—and I am sure that you will urge colleagues—to consider the challenges as part of a total package of necessary actions. Taken together and responded to effectively, and preferably with political consensus, these could make a

I also want to emphasise the great contribution made by children and young to the review, and I am pleased that some of them are able to be present today. I would also like to thank them for choosing the name of the report, which is 'Keeping Us Safe'.

Mae ein ffocws drwy'r cyfan wedi bod ar ganlyniadau i blant, nid ar yr hyn y mae Gweinidogion a rheolwyr yn dweud eu bod yn bwriadu ei wneud. Mae hyn wedi ysgogi'r adolygiad i amlygu llawer o faterion pwysig y mae angen rhoi sylw pellach iddynt, sef yn bennaf y ffaith bod angen inni fod yn well am sicrhau bod gan bob plentyn sy'n agored i niwed, ble bynnag y mae'n byw, fynediad cyfartal i wasanaethau ac ymatebion da. Y stori i ormod o blant yw 'rhy ychydig, yn rhy hwyr'. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi cydnabod bod yr adroddiad yn gosod rhai heriau sylweddol, y mae llawer, ond nid pob un ohonynt, ar gyfer gwleidyddion—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf yn caniatáu ychydig o ryddid i siaradwyr meinciau blaen y gwrthbleidiau, ond mae hwn yn ddatganiad a dylid craffu arno. Tybed a allech ofyn cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog.

Gwenda Thomas: Yn wahanol i'r hyn a ddywedwyd yn y cyfraniadau hyd yn hyn—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Rhaid cwestiynu datganiadau a chraffu arnynt.

Gwenda Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog gydnabod bod yr adroddiad yn gosod rhai heriau sylweddol, y mae llawer ohonynt, ond nid pob un ohonynt, ar gyfer gwleidyddion? Gobeithiaf yn fawr y caiff pob un ohonom, fel Aelodau o'r Cynulliad, pan ddown i drafod yr adroddiad, y cyfle i'w ystyried yn drwyadl. Cydnabyddaf, fel yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod chi, Weinidog, ei fod yn ddam manwl a chymhleth o waith a chroesawaf y ffaith bod cyd-aelodau wedi cael peth amser i fyfyrion arno ac i ystyried eu hymatebion. Byddwn hefyd yn eich annog, Weinidog—ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn annog y cyd-aelodau—i ystyried yr heriau fel rhan o becyn cyfan o gamau angenrheidiol. Gyda'i gilydd ac o ymateb iddynt yn effeithiol, ac o ddewis gyda chonsensws gwleidyddol,

huge difference to the lives of vulnerable children in Wales, too many of whom we continue to fail despite the undoubted progress that has been made. Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer.

Jane Hutt: This is an unusual situation concerning an Assembly Member, Gwenda Thomas, who has extraordinary experience and who has made a significant contribution, and it is only right that she be given the opportunity to share in this statement and be given time by the Assembly. I will move on to answer—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. It is not a matter of moving on, Minister. You can give her time with a named-day motion in your business statement if you want to. At the moment, this is a statement by you, and it is being questioned according to the normal rules of the Assembly.

Jane Hutt: I will now respond to the important points and challenges that Gwenda Thomas put before us today. As you say, Gwenda, this must not be about managerial or ministerial process; this must be about outcomes for children. That is the strongest message to come over to me, and I am sure that it comes over to all Members present here. This not about our repeating a mantra as to what Ministers and managers are doing, or what strategies and initiatives we have in place; this is a real challenge as to how we will deliver better outcomes in safeguarding children. That is why the First Minister and I initiated this review in December 2003, and that is why we are so pleased today with the outcome of that review in 'Keeping Us Safe'.

As you said, you have put children and young people at the forefront, and not only in terms of their role and the evidence that they gave. Members will be able to read the depth of that evidence in the report, and will see how children and young people informed these challenges, as they have informed the accompanying report published by children and young people.

Finally, as chair of the review, Gwenda, you

gallent wneud gwahaniaeth mawr i fywydau plant sy'n agored i niwed yng Nghymru, yr ydym yn methu â rhoi cymorth i ormod ohonynt o hyd er gwaethaf y cynnydd diamheuol a wnaed. Diolch ichi, Ddirprwy Lywydd.

Jane Hutt: Mae hon yn sefyllfa anghyffredin o ran Aelod Cynulliad, Gwenda Thomas, sydd â phrofiad hynod ac sydd wedi gwneud cyfraniad sylweddol, ac mae ond yn iawn y rhoddir cyfle iddi rannu yn y datganiad hwn a chael amser gan y Cynulliad. Symudaf ymlaen i ateb—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid yw'n fater o symud ymlaen, Weinidog. Gallwch roi amser iddi gyda chynnig â dyddiad trafod yn eich datganiad busnes pe dymunwch. Ar hyn o bryd, datganiad gennych chi yw hwn a chaiff ei gwestiynu yn unol â rheolau arferol y Cynulliad.

Jane Hutt: Ymatebaf yn awr i'r pwyntiau pwysig a'r heriau y mae Gwenda Thomas wedi'u cyflwyno inni heddiw. Fel y dywedwch Gwenda, rhaid i hyn ganolbwyntio ar ganlyniadau i blant ac nid ar brosesau rheoli neu weinidogol. Dyna'r neges gryfaf imi ac yr wyf yn siŵr, y neges gryfaf i bob Aelod sy'n bresennol yma. Nid oes a wnelo hyn ag ailadrodd mantra o ran yr hyn y mae Gweinidogion a rheolwyr yn ei wneud, neu pa strategaethau a mentrau sydd gennym ar waith; mae hon yn her wirioneddol o ran y modd y byddwn yn sicrhau gwell canlyniadau wrth ddiogelu plant. Dyna paham y bu i'r Prif Weinidog a minnau ddechrau'r adolygiad hwn yn Rhagfyr 2003 a dyna paham ein bod mor falch heddiw â chanlyniad yr adolygiad hwnnw yn 'Ein Cadw'n Ddiogel'.

Fel y dywedasoch, yr ydych wedi rhoi sylw blaenllaw i blant a phobl ifanc ac nid yn unig o ran eu rôl a'r dystiolaeth a gyflwynwyd ganddynt. Caiff Aelodau ddarllen dyfnder y dystiolaeth honno yn yr adroddiad a chânt weld sut y bu cyfraniad plant a phobl ifanc yn sail i'r heriau hynny yn yr un modd ag y buont yn sail i'r adroddiad sy'n cyd-fynd ag ef a gyhoeddwyd gan blant a phobl ifanc.

Yn olaf, fel cadeirydd yr adolygiad, Gwenda,

urged me to see this as part of a total package, and that is the key message for us. This is a total package. We, the Welsh Assembly Government, will be judged according to how we deliver against, and respond to, these challenges. It is the first item on our agenda at Monday's meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people. All Ministers will be there with the First Minister and me to respond in that way. This is a total package that can deliver real and positive outcomes for children. Referring back to Jenny's point, Ministers and managers must recognise that this requires robust scrutiny, and the debate will enable that to happen, after which we, as a Government, will be held to account when we come back with our formal response. I therefore look forward to the launch at the end of today's proceedings of this important report, 'Keeping Us Safe'.

David Lloyd: Fel y clywsom eisoes, yr ydym wedi bod yma o'r blaen. Bu nifer o adroddiadau dros y blynyddoedd yn olrhain anawsterau a diffygion gwasanaethau i blant, a bu'r ymateb bob amser fel ymateb heddiw: mae'r Llywodraeth yn ymateb i ba argymhellion bynnag ac yn gwneud ei gorau. Beth yn benodol fydd yn newid yng ngwasanaethau plant yn awr yn sgîl datganiad heddiw?

Jane Hutt: In terms of delivering on the recommendations and making the response, I have already answered quite a lot of points today. What should change today is that the whole Assembly will welcome the publication of 'Keeping Us Safe', and will hold the Welsh Assembly Government to account for positive outcomes as a result of responding to those challenges.

bu ichi fy annog i weld hwn fel rhan o becyn cyflawn a dyna'r neges allweddol inni. Mae hwn yn becyn cyflawn. Cawn ni, Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ein barnu yn ôl y modd y byddwn yn ymateb i'r heriau hyn ac yn gweithredu yn unol â hynny. Hon yw eitem gyntaf ein hagenda yng nghyfarfod is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc ddydd Llun. Bydd pob Gweinidog yno gyda'r Prif Weinidog a minnau i ymateb yn y modd hwnnw. Mae hwn yn becyn cyflawn a all sicrhau canlyniadau gwirioneddol a chadarnhaol i blant. Gan gyfeirio yn ôl at bwynt Jenny, mae'n rhaid i Weinidogion a rheolwyr gydnabod bod gofyn craffu gofalus, a bydd y ddadl yn caniatáu i hynny ddigwydd. Yn dilyn hynny, byddwn ni, fel Llywodraeth, yn atebol pan ddown yn ôl â'n hymateb ffurfiol. Felly, edrychaf ymlaen at lansio'r adroddiad pwysig hwn. 'Ein Cadw'n Ddiogel' ar ddiwedd trafodion heddiw.

David Lloyd: As we have already heard, we have been here before. Numerous reports over the years have traced the difficulties and failings of children's services, and the response to them has been the same as the response today: the Government is responding to whatever the recommendations are and is doing its best. What specifically will change in children's services this time, following today's statement?

Jane Hutt: O ran gweithredu ar yr argymhellion ac ymateb iddynt, yr wyf eisoes wedi ateb nifer o bwyntiau heddiw. Yr hyn ddylai newid heddiw yw y bydd y Cynulliad cyfan yn croesawu cyhoeddi 'Ein Cadw'n Ddiogel' a bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn atebol iddynt am ganlyniadau cadarnhaol o ganlyniad i ymateb i'r heriau hynny.

Dirprwyo Swyddogaethau o dan Ran 3 o Ddeddf Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol 2003 i'r Prif Weinidog

Delegation of Functions under Part 3 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 to the First Minister

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Davidson): Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu dan adran 62(1)(b) Ddeddf

Wales Act 1998,

resolves to delegate the functions of the National Assembly under sections 19 to 21 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, save those which by law cannot be so delegated. (NDM3001)

Llywodraeth Cymru 1998,

yn penderfynu dirprwyo swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a gynhwysir dan adrannau 19 i 21 Deddf Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol 2003, ac eithrio'r rhai na ellir, yn ôl y gyfraith, eu dirprwyo yn y modd hwnnw. (NDM3001)

Leanne Wood: I welcome the delegation of these functions, even though many will be aware that I have opposed anti-social behaviour legislation generally. However, I believe that we have a real opportunity here to move away from the punitive direction that the UK Government has taken on its so-called 'respect' agenda. Parenting orders can be the opportunity for a family to turn a difficult situation around, but they can also be a threat that will further stigmatise vulnerable families, and I hope that that point will be taken on board.

Leanne Wood: Croesawaf ddirprwyo'r swyddogaethau hyn, er y gŵyr nifer fy mod wedi gwrthwynebu deddfwriaeth ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn gyffredinol. Fodd bynnag, credaf fod gennym gyfle gwirioneddol yma i symud oddi wrth y cyfeiriad cosbedigol y mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi'i gymryd ar ei hagenda 'parch' fondigrybwyll. Gall gorchmynion rhianta fod yn gyfle i deulu wyrdroi sefyllfa anodd, ond gallant hefyd fod yn fygythiad a fydd yn gwarthnodi teuluoedd sy'n agored i niwed ymhellach a gobeithiaf y caiff y pwynt hwnnw ei ystyried.

5.20 p.m.

I opposed the anti-social behaviour legislation for several reasons. It has already been pointed out that the numbers of orders issued are rising quickly, and that this is being considered a success by the UK Government. Forty three per cent of anti-social behaviour orders are served on people younger than 17, and there are concerns that a high proportion of these are people with learning difficulties or mental health problems. The children's commissioner has raised concerns about the respect agenda, as I have on previous occasions. I sincerely hope that the delegation of these functions will give us the chance to do things differently, more progressively and less punitively in Wales.

Gwrthwynebais y ddeddfwriaeth ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol am sawl rheswm. Nodwyd eisoes fod nifer y gorchmynion a gaiff eu cyhoeddi yn cynyddu'n gyflym ac mae hwn yn llwyddiant ym marn Llywodraeth y DU. Caiff 43 y cant o'r gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol eu cyflwyno i bobl ifanc o dan 17 oed, a cheir pryderon bod cyfran fawr o'r bobl hyn yn bobl ag anawsterau dysgu neu broblemau iechyd meddwl. Mae'r comisiynydd plant wedi mynegi pryderon ynglŷn â'r agenda parch, fel ag yr wyf innau wedi gwneud ar achlysuron blaenorol. Gobeithiaf yn fawr y bydd dirprwyo'r swyddogaethau hyn yn rhoi cyfle inni wneud pethau'n wahanol, mewn modd mwy blaengar a llai cosbedigol yng Nghymru.

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): Thank you for your contribution, Leanne. We have looked at this issue in some detail in the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee. The parenting order is a civil order imposed by the magistrates' court, but parenting contracts are two-sided formal written agreements between a parent and either the local education authority or the governing

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Davidson): Diolch am eich cyfraniad Leanne. Yr ydym wedi edrych ar y mater hwn yn fanwl yn y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Mae'r gorchymyn rhianta yn orchymyn sifil wedi'i orfodi gan lys yr ynadon, ond mae contractau rhianta yn gytundebau ysgrifenedig ffurfiol dwy ochrog rhwng rhiant ac un ai awdurdod addysg lleol neu gorff llywodraethu ysgol.

body of a school. We see that approach as really important in finding the right kind of support for parents in Wales. Ystyriwn fod y dull hwn o weithio yn bwysig iawn wrth ddod o hyd i'r math cywir o gymorth i rieni yng Nghymru.

*Cynnig (NDM3001): O blaid 42, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3001): For 42, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Deddfwriaeth o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25 Approval of Legislation under Standing Order No. 24.25

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 24.25, this motion is not subject to debate. **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25, ni chynhelir dadl ar y cynnig hwn.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 24.25:

I(a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 28 March 2006 on the draft Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006; and

(b) approves that the Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 are made in accordance with:

(i) the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 14 March 2006;

(ii) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 14 March 2006;

2a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 28 March 2006 on the draft the Plant Breeders' Rights (Discontinuation of Prior Use Exemption) (Wales) Order 2006; and

b) approves that the Plant Breeders' Rights (Discontinuation of Prior Use Exemption) (Wales) Order 2006 are made in accordance with:

(i) the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 14 March 2006;

(ii) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 14 March 2006. (NDM2990)

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25:

I(a) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 28 Mawrth 2006 ynghylch y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Addysg (y Diwrnod Ysgol a'r Flwyddyn Ysgol) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2006; a

(b) yn cymeradwyo bod y Rheoliadau Addysg (y Diwrnod Ysgol a'r Flwyddyn Ysgol) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2006 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

i) y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Mawrth 2006;

(ii) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Mawrth 2006;

2a) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 28 Mawrth 2006 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Hawliau Bridwyr Planhigion (Dirwyn i Ben Esemptiad o Ddefnydd Blaenorol) (Cymru) 2006; a

b) yn cymeradwyo bod Gorchymyn Hawliau Bridwyr Planhigion (Dirwyn i Ben Esemptiad o Ddefnydd Blaenorol) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:

i) y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Mawrth 2006;

(ii) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Mawrth 2006. (NDM2990)

*Cynnig (NDM2990): O blaid 45, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2990): For 45, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary

Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Dadl o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31: Cynnig gan Alun Ffred Jones
 Debate under Standing Order No. 31: Proposal by Alun Ffred Jones**

Motion (NDM2986): to propose that

Cynnig (NDM2986): cynnig bod

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 31.2:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 31.2:

supports in principle legislation to bring forward a development order to require retail impact assessments to accompany planning applications for retail developments with floor space of over 1,000 sq m, and for those assessments to be prepared by an independent person agreed by the applicant and the local planning authority.

yn cefnogi mewn egwyddor ddeddfwriaeth i gyflwyno gorchymyn datblygu a fyddai'n ei gwneud hi'n ofynnol i gynnwys asesiadau effaith adwerthu gyda cheisiadau cynllunio ar gyfer datblygiadau adwerthu gydag arwynebedd llawr o dros 1,000 metr sgwâr, ac i'r asesiadau hynny gael eu paratoi gan berson annibynnol a ddewisir drwy gytundeb y ceisydd a'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol.

Amendment 1 in the name of Kirsty Gwelliant 1 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

Williams. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

The development order should require the retail impact assessment to take account of the impact on general retailing in town centres, not solely food retailing, and should also include a full assessment on any potential environmental impact.

Amendment 2 in the name of Kirsty Williams. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

The development order should also require general retail and environmental impact assessments when retail developments of over 1,000 sq m add a mezzanine floor.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1 and 2 in the name of Kirsty Williams.

Alun Ffred Jones: Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 31.2:

yn cefnogi mewn egwyddor ddeddfwriaeth i gyflwyno gorchymyn datblygu a fyddai'n ei gwneud hi'n ofynnol i gynnwys asesiadau effaith adwerthu gyda cheisiadau cynllunio ar gyfer datblygiadau adwerthu gydag arwynebedd llawr o dros 1,000 metr sgwâr, ac i'r asesiadau hynny gael eu paratoi gan berson annibynnol a ddewisir drwy gytundeb y ceisydd a'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol. (NDM2986)

There was a cartoon in a recent edition of the *New Statesman* in which a representative of a leading supermarket company was talking to a local planning officer. The planning officer says, 'Build one, and build another one free'. That is the impression at large nowadays: anything the big supermarket companies want, they get. My proposal will not revolutionise this relationship—I am fully aware of that—but it might serve as a catalyst to restore some balance in the marketplace and planning system dominated by the large retailers.

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Dylai'r gorchymyn datblygu ei gwneud hi'n ofynnol bod yr asesiad effaith adwerthu yn ystyried yr effaith ar adwerthu cyffredinol mewn canol trefi, nid dim ond adwerthu bwyd, a dylai hefyd gynnwys asesiad llawn o unrhyw effaith bosibl ar yr amgylchedd.

Gwelliant 2 yn enw Kirsty Williams. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Dylai'r gorchymyn datblygu hefyd ei gwneud hi'n ofynnol cael asesiadau effaith adwerthu ac amgylcheddol cyffredinol pan fydd datblygiadau adwerthu dros 1,000 metr sgwâr yn ychwanegu llawr mesanîn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

Alun Ffred Jones: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 31.2:

supports in principle legislation to bring forward a development order to require retail impact assessments to accompany planning applications for retail developments with floor space of over 1,000 sq m, and for those assessments to be prepared by an independent person agreed by the applicant and the local planning authority. (NDM2986)

Yr oedd cartŵn mewn rhifyn diweddar o'r *New Statesman* lle'r oedd cynrychiolydd o gwmni archfarchnad blaenllaw yn siarad â swyddog cynllunio lleol. Meddai'r swyddog cynllunio, 'Adeiladwch un, ac adeiladwch un arall am ddim'. Dyna'r argraff gyffredinol y dyddiau hyn: caiff cwmnïau'r archfarchnadoedd mawr bopeth a fynnant. Ni fydd fy nghynnig yn chwyldroi'r berthynas hon—deallaf hynny'n iawn—ond gall weithredu fel sbardun i adfer rhywfaint o gydbwysedd yn y farchnad a'r system gynllunio lle y mae'r adwerthwyr mawr yn drech na phawb.

You may well ask whether that is a bad thing. After all, the majority of people shop at supermarkets—and I should declare an interest, as I also do some of my shopping in supermarkets. However, I do not want to be totally reliant on them for my needs. I certainly do not want to end up in that Wal-Mart American hell, where somewhere has one large superstore on the edge of town and a few expensive boutiques shops for the rich on the main street, or, indeed, Poundstretcherland.

Ironically, it was Andrew Simms, the head of public affairs for Asda, who recently told a fringe meeting at the Labour Party conference that he was calling for,

‘local competition legislation to increase the diversity of high street retail’.

You can see where he was coming from. It is not just the small shops that are being closed down now; the big ones are also eating each other up. He went on to say that,

‘current planning policy does not take competition into account’.

The leading retailer already has a 30 per cent share of the UK grocery market. If that company developed all of the supermarket sites that it owns in the UK, it would add 4.5 million sq ft. I am not sure what 4.5 million sq ft entail—it is probably half the size of Wales or something—but it could give it some 45 per cent share of the grocery market. Is that healthy? I suggest that we need to act quickly or we will watch our town centres become ever shabbier and our smaller producers driven out of business. There are vast estates and whole villages in Wales where you can not buy a single piece of fresh food, and then we bang on here in the Assembly about the unwholesome eating habits of our youngsters. What do we expect?

I am not in favour of poorly run businesses, locally owned or not, but I do value my local bakery, local butcher and a grocery shop that may sell local potatoes and carrots when in

Mae’n eithaf posibl eich bod yn gofyn a yw hynny’n ddrwg o beth. Wedi’r cyfan, mae’r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn siopa mewn archfarchnadoedd—a dylwn ddatgan buddiant, gan fy mod innau hefyd yn siopa rhywfaint mewn archfarchnadoedd. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf am fod yn gwbl ddbynnol arnynt am fy anghenion. Yn sicr, nid oes arnaf eisiau inni fod mewn sefyllfa lle y bydd gennym yn y pen draw uffern Americanaidd Wal-Mart, lle y ceir un archfarchnad enfawr ar gyrion tref yn rhywle ac ychydig o siopau drudfawr i’r cyfoethog ar y stryd fawr, neu yn wir stryd o siopau Poundstretcher.

Yn eironig ddigon, Andrew Simms, pennaeth materion cyhoeddus Asda, a ddywedodd wrth gyfarfod ymylol yng nghynhadledd y Blaid Lafur yn ddiweddar ei fod yn galw am

ddeddfwriaeth ynghylch cystadleuaeth yn lleol i gynyddu amrywiaeth yn siopau’r stryd fawr.

Gallwch ddeall yr hyn a’i hysgogodd. Bellach nid siopau bach yn unig sy’n cael eu cau; mae’r siopau mawr hwythau hefyd yn llyncu’i gilydd. Aeth yn ei flaen i ddweud,

nid yw’r polisi cynllunio presennol yn ystyried cystadleuaeth.

Mae gan y prif adwerthwr eisoes 30 y cant o’r farchnad fwyd yn y DU. Pe byddai’r cwmni hwnnw’n datblygu pob un o’r safleoedd ar gyfer archfarchnadoedd sy’n eiddo iddo yn y DU, byddai’n ychwanegu 4.5 miliwn o droedfeddi sgwâr. Ni wn faint yw 4.5 miliwn o droedfeddi sgwâr—hanner arwynebedd Cymru neu rywbeth felly mae’n siŵr—ond gallai hynny olygu y byddai ganddo 45 y cant o’r farchnad fwyd. A yw hynny’n beth iach? Awgrymaf fod yn rhaid inni weithredu’n gyflym neu byddwn yn gweld canol ein trefi’n dirywio ymhellach a’n cynhyrchwyr bach yn mynd i’r wal. Mae ystadau mawr a phentrefi cyfan yng Nghymru lle na allwch brynu tamaid o fwyd ffres, ac yna, yn y Cynulliad, yr ydym yn cwyno am arferion bwyta gwael ein hieuenctid. Pa ryfedd?

Nid wyf o blaid busnesau a gaiff eu rheoli’n wael, boed yn fusnesau lleol ai peidio, ond yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi fy mhobydd, fy nghigydd a’m siop fwyd leol a all werthu

season. One in five independent stores in the UK closed between 2001 and 2005, and a further 40 per cent of small independent grocery stores are predicted to be lost by 2015. If that is the society that we want to create, let us do nothing. Let us find excuses to sit on our hands.

We, in Plaid Cymru, value diversity, and we also understand the dynamics of our communities. If we strip business people out of our own towns—and the process of centralisation has already done that with the downgrading of bank branches, post office closures and so on—we are weakening the fabric of communities, we lose potential leaders and we eventually disempower those localities. It was disturbing to hear of a market town near Cardiff with a reputation for good shops and locally sourced produce having a supermarket foisted upon it slap bang in the middle of the high street.

To achieve the low prices, and cheap food and goods that we so value in supermarkets, someone somewhere down the line pays, be that because of aggressive anti-union policies, squalid sweatshops, a family store built up over generations being driven out of business, quickly followed by the producers. In Wales, that often means the farmers, who are hate figures to some in here, I know.

We talk a lot about locally sourced food but that is hardly the priority for supermarkets that need to increase profitability year in, year out. The buying power of the multinationals has distorted the market. The only logical end now is ranch-like farming—monoculture—and, as in America, the big retailers gradually buying up the means of production. If you do not believe me, read that fascinating and frightening book, *Fast Food Nation*. If you want to end up in a country like that, that is fine by me, but we, in Plaid Cymru, certainly do not. That process has also undermined slaughterhouses in Wales, for example, in my own town of Caernarfon, and thrown people out of work

tatws a moron lleol pan fydd y rheini ar gael. Bu i un o bob pump o siopau annibynnol yn y DU gau rhwng 2001 a 2005 a rhagwelir y bydd 40 y cant arall o siopau bwyd annibynnol bach yn cau erbyn 2015. Os mai dyna'r math o gymdeithas yr ydym am ei chreu, gadewch inni beidio â gwneud dim. Gadewch inni ddod o hyd i esgusion i beidio â gwneud dim.

Yr ydym ni, ym Mhlaid Cymru, yn gwerthfawrogi amrywiaeth. Yr ydym hefyd yn deall deinameg ein cymunedau. Os tynnwn y bobl fusnes o'n trefi—ac mae'r broses o ganoli eisoes wedi gwneud hynny wrth i ganghennau banciau gael eu hisraddio ac wrth i swyddfeydd post gau ac yn y blaen—yr ydym yn gwanhau gwedd ein cymunedau, yr ydym yn colli arweinwyr posibl ac yn y pen draw yr ydym yn difreinio'r cymdogaethau hynny. Yr oedd yn peri pryder clywed am godi archfarchnad yng nghanol stryd fawr tref farchnad ger Caerdydd ac iddi enw da am siopau da a chynnyrch lleol.

Er mwyn sicrhau'r prisiau isel a'r bwydydd a'r nwyddau rhad sydd mor ddeniadol inni mewn archfarchnadoedd, mae rhywun yn rhywle yn talu'r pris, boed oherwydd polisïau gwrthundebol, slafdai truenus, siop deuluol sydd wedi'i datblygu ers cenedlaethau yn mynd i'r wal, a'r cynhyrchwyr wedyn cyn pen dim. Yng Nghymru, yr hyn y mae hynny'n ei olygu yn aml yw'r ffermwyr, sy'n wrthun i rai yma, fe wn.

Siaradwn lawer am fwyd lleol ond prin bod hynny'n flaenoriaeth i archfarchnadoedd sy'n gorfod cynyddu proffidoldeb o flwyddyn i flwyddyn. Mae pŵer prynu'r cwmnïau rhyngwladol wedi ystumio'r farchnad. Yr unig ganlyniad rhesymegol bellach yw ffermio ar ffurf ransys—ffermio ungnwd—ac, fel yn America, bydd yr adwerthwyr mawr yn prynu'r moddion cynhyrchu yn raddol. Os nad ydych yn fy nghredu, darllenwch y llyfr rhyfeddol ac arswydus hwnnw, *Fast Food Nation*. Os ydych am fyw mewn gwlad o'r fath, boed felly, ond nid ydym ni yn Plaid Cymru am wneud hynny. Mae'r broses honno hefyd wedi tansellio lladd-dai yng Nghymru, er enghraifft, yn fy nhref i, Caernarfon ac wedi rhoi pobl ar y clwt.

A report commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has recently been published, called the 'Impact of Large Foodstores on Market Towns and District Centres'. I am not sure whether the Deputy Prime Minister has had time to read it yet. It says,

'In common with local authorities, retailers do not consider that the planning system provides a satisfactory basis for assessing the scope for, and impact of new large foodstores on market towns and district centres. However, there is some disagreement between retailers and local authorities as to who should provide background information on floorspace data and household interview surveys'.

5.30 p.m.

Yn ei hanfod, mae'r cynnig sydd ger ein bron heddiw yn syml. Mae'n dweud y dylai'r Cynulliad greu deddfwriaeth fydd yn mynnu fod angen asesiad effaith adwerthu gyda phob cais cynllunio am ddatblygiad adwerthu dros 1,000 metr sgwâr. Mae hi'n bosibl dadlau ynglŷn â'r 1,000 metr sgwâr, a gellid amrywio hyn. Yr egwyddor sy'n bwysig. Dylai'r asesiad hwnnw gael ei wneud gan berson neu gwmni annibynnol ar ôl cytundeb rhwng yr ymgeisydd a'r awdurdod cynllunio.

Mae'n deg gofyn beth yw'r bwriad wrth greu deddfwriaeth fel hyn. Fy marn i, a barn llefarydd Asda mae'n amlwg, yw bod angen rhoi mwy o arfau yn nwylo cynllunwyr i sicrhau amrywiaeth yn y ddarpariaeth adwerthu yn ein cymunedau. Ar hyn o bryd, ni chewch wrthwynebu datblygiad archfarchnad ar sail y ffaith bod siopau tebyg yn bod yn barod—mae'n rhaid profi y byddai dyfodiad archfarchnad yn niweidio busnesau eraill yn anochel. Wrth gwrs, hyd yn oed gydag asesiad felly, gallai awdurdod cynllunio benderfynu bod cael archfarchnad yn werth y risg, neu yn bwysicach, ond o leiaf byddai'n gwneud hynny gyda rhywfaint o sail. Byddai'r asesiad hefyd yn rhoi cyfle i sectorau arbenigol ddadlau eu hachos a chyfrannu at y broses o greu amodau ar y caniatâd.

Y bwriad wrth geisio sicrhau rhyw elfen o

Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddwyd adroddiad a gomisiynwyd gan Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, 'Impact of Large Foodstores on Market Towns and District Centres'. Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wedi cael amser i'w ddarllen eto. Dywed,

Nid yw adwerthwyr, na'r awdurdodau lleol, yn credu bod y system gynllunio'n rhoi sail foddhaol ar gyfer asesu a oes lle i siopau bwyd mawr newydd a'r effaith a gânt ar drefi marchnad a chanolfannau ardaloedd. Er hynny, mae rhywfaint o anghydweld rhwng adwerthwyr ac awdurdodau lleol ynghylch pwy a ddylai ddarparu gwybodaeth gefndirol ynglŷn â data arwynebedd llawr ac arolygon cyfweiliadau aelwydydd.

In essence, the motion before us today is simple. It states that the Assembly should draft legislation that would require a retail impact assessment with every planning application for retail developments over 1,000 sq m. You could argue over the 1,000 sq m, and this could be varied. It is the principle that is important. That assessment should be prepared by an independent person or company agreed by the applicant and the planning authority.

It is fair to ask what the aim of creating legislation of this kind is. My view, and that of the Asda spokesperson, apparently, is that there is a need to give the planners more power to ensure that diversity in the retail provision in our communities. At the moment, you cannot oppose a supermarket development on the basis that similar shops already exist—you have to prove that the supermarket would inevitably damage other businesses. Of course, even with an assessment of that kind, a planning authority could decide that having a supermarket is worth the risk, or is more important, but at least there would be some basis to the decision. The assessment would also give specialist sectors the opportunity to argue their case and contribute to the process of creating conditions on the consent.

The aim of trying to ensure an element of

annibyniaeth yn yr asesiad yw osgoi sefyllfa lle mae'r ymgeisydd yn cytundebu ei hoff gwmi asesu bob tro. Yr wyf yn rhagweld y dylid comisiynu arbenigwyr—adrannau colegau Prifysgol Cymru efallai—i lunio patrwm fframwaith i'r asesiadau hyn, er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn gyson ac yn drwyadl.

Yr wyf wedi cael fy nghynghori nad yw canllawiau polisi cynllunio yn dod o fewn diffiniad Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 31.2, ond nid oes dwywaith nad oes angen diwygio'r canllawiau hynny a'u cryfhau. Cyfeiriaf yn benodol at adran 10 o 'Polisi Cynllunio Cymru'. Mae digon yn yr adran honno sy'n cefnogi'r cais hwn heddiw. Er enghraifft, mae cyfeiriad at y ffaith y dylai awdurdod cynllunio ystyried a oes angen y ddarpariaeth ychwanegol wrth ystyried cais am archfarchnad. Mae hynny'n dda iawn. Fodd bynnag, pwy sydd am gasglu'r wybodaeth a sicrhau bod methodoleg gyson i sicrhau bod yr adroddiad yn un teg a gwrthrychol? Sonir yn is-adran 10.3.6 na ddylid caniatáu archfarchnadoedd bwyd y tu allan i ganolfannau os yw darparu'r rhain yn debygol o arwain at golli adwerthu bwyd cyffredinol yng nghanol y trefi. Fodd bynnag, dyna sy'n digwydd o dan y drefn bresennol, a dyna fydd yn digwydd oni bai ein bod yn cryfhau'r canllawiau. Dyna pam y dylai'r adroddiad effaith adwerthu fod yn rhan hanfodol o'r cais cynllunio.

O ran gwelliannau Kirsty Williams, mae'r gwelliant cyntaf yn amherthnasol, oherwydd nid wyf yn cyfeirio at adwerthu bwyd yn unig yn y cynnig, ac felly nid yw'r gwelliant yn gywir ac nid oes ei angen. Cefnogaf yr ail welliant; byddai cael asesiad ychwanegol os oes ehangu mawr ar archfarchnad yn synhwyrol. Dyna sy'n digwydd. Unwaith y mae archfarchnad yn ei le, y peth cyntaf y mae'r cwmni yn ceisio ei wneud, os yw'n llwyddiannus, yw ei ehangu, a'r hyn sy'n digwydd o ganlyniad yw bod siopau eraill yn cau.

Deallaf yn iawn nad yw'r cynnig hwn heddiw yn mynd i chwyldroi'r broses gynllunio. Nid yw Mr Sainsbury na theulu'r Walton yn debyg o golli cwsg os caiff hwn ei dderbyn. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd y ffarmwr wrth

independence in the assessment is to avoid a situation in which the applicant contracts its favourite assessment company every time. I foresee that experts should be commissioned—perhaps college departments of the University of Wales—to draw up a framework pattern for these assessments, in order to ensure that they are consistent and thorough.

I have been advised that planning policy guidance does not come within the definition of Standing Order No 31.2, but there is no doubt that the guidance needs to be amended and strengthened. I refer specifically to section 10 of 'Planning Policy Wales'. There is enough in that section to support this request today. For example, reference is made to the fact that planning authorities should consider whether additional provision is needed when considering an application for a supermarket. That is very good. However, who will collect the information and ensure a consistent methodology so that the report is fair and objective? Subsection 10.3.6 notes that out-of-town food supermarkets should not be permitted outside of town centres if they are likely to lead to the loss of general food retailers in town centres. However, that is what is happening under the present system, and it will continue to happen unless we strengthen the guidelines. That is why the retail impact assessment should be an essential part of the planning application.

In terms of Kirsty Williams's amendments, the first amendment is irrelevant, because I do not refer only to food retailing in the motion, so the amendment is incorrect and is not necessary. I support the second amendment; having an additional assessment if there is considerable expansion of a supermarket would be sensible. That is what happens. Once a supermarket is in place, the first thing that the company tries to do, if it is successful, is to expand it, and that results in the closure of other shops.

I understand perfectly that this motion will not revolutionise the planning process. Neither Mr Sainsbury nor the Walton family is likely to lose sleep if this is carried. However, as the farmer said to his son, who

y mab a oedd wedi cael y gwaith o ddigaregu cae go fawr, a hwnnw'n gofyn yn anobeithiol, 'Lle ydw i fod i ddechrau?': 'Wrth dy draed, fachgen'. Credaf y dylem heddiw ddechrau wrth ein traed a gwneud rhywbeth i geisio sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi rhywfaint o rym i gymunedau lleol wrth ymateb i rym a dylanwad ein harchfarchnadoedd.

Mick Bates: I propose the following amendments in the name of Kirsty Williams. Amendment 1: add a new point at the end of the motion:

The development order should require the retail impact assessment to take account of the impact on general retailing in town centres, not solely food retailing, and should also include a full assessment on any potential environmental impact.

Amendment 2: add a new point at the end of the motion:

The development order should also require general retail and environmental impact assessments when retail developments of over 1,000 sq m add a mezzanine floor.

Thank you, Alun, for your remarks. In a moment, I will discuss in detail why I think that the first amendment is still relevant. The Welsh Liberal Democrats will support this proposal. I think that there is a general consensus, despite the fact that you may lose the proposal for this piece of legislation, that it is important that sizeable new retail developments do not undermine existing local businesses, particularly those in town centres, local centres or villages. Those who have had experience of sitting on local planning authorities when large applications for retail supermarkets come in, know it is often quite a difficult decision. All I would ask is that the Government ensures that this process is transparent and equitable. The essence of this proposed legislation is achieving transparency and equity, because there has to be a recognition that this is not benign and that once large, dominant and, in some cases, very arrogant retailers enter the market, they have a massive impact. We have to see that impact stated clearly before local

had been given the work of clearing stones from a field and who asked in desperation, 'Where should I start?': 'At your feet, boy'. I believe that we should start at our feet today and do something to try to ensure that we give some power to local communities to respond to the power and influence of our supermarkets.

Mick Bates: Cynigaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Kirsty Williams. Gwelliant 1: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Dylai'r gorchymyn datblygu ei gwneud hi'n ofynnol bod yr asesiad effaith adwerthu yn ystyried yr effaith ar adwerthu cyffredinol mewn canol trefi, nid dim ond adwerthu bwyd, a dylai hefyd gynnwys asesiad llawn o unrhyw effaith bosibl ar yr amgylchedd.

Gwelliant 2: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Dylai'r gorchymyn datblygu hefyd ei gwneud hi'n ofynnol cael asesiadau effaith adwerthu ac amgylcheddol cyffredinol pan fydd datblygiadau adwerthu dros 1,000 metr sgwâr yn ychwanegu llawr mesanîn.

Diolch, Alun, am eich sylwadau. Mewn munud, trafodaf yn fanwl pam yr wyf o'r farn bod y gwelliant cyntaf yn dal yn berthnasol. Bydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru'n cefnogi'r cynnig hwn. Credaf fod cytundeb cyffredinol, er gwaethaf y ffaith y gallech golli'r cynnig ar gyfer y ddeddfwriaeth hon, ei bod yn bwysig nad yw datblygiadau adwerthu newydd sylweddol eu maint yn tanseilio busnesau lleol sy'n bodoli eisoes, yn arbennig y busnesau hynny yng nghanol trefi, canolfannau lleol neu bentrefi. Gwyr y rhai sydd â phrofiad o eistedd ar awdurdodau cynllunio lleol pan geir ceisiadau mawr ar gyfer archfarchnadoedd adwerthu, ei fod yn aml yn benderfyniad eithaf anodd. Yr hyn yr wyf yn gofyn amdano yw bod y Llywodraeth yn sicrhau bod y broses hon yn dryloyw ac yn deg. Hanfod y ddeddfwriaeth arfaethedig hon yw cyflawni tryloywder a thegwch, gan fod yn rhaid cydnabod nad yw hyn yn sefyllfa iach a bod adwerthwyr mawr, sy'n tra-arglwyddiaethu ac, mewn rhai achosion, yn drahaus iawn, yn cael effaith aruthrol wedi

planning committees.

iddynt ymuno â'r farchnad. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod yr effaith honno'n gwbl glir i bwyllgorau cynllunio lleol.

Amendment 1, to which you referred and rejected, states clearly that

Mae gwelliant 1, y bu ichi gyfeirio ato a'i wrthod, yn datgan yn glir y

'the development order should require the retail impact assessment to take account of the impact on general retailing in town centres, not solely food retailing, and should also include a full assessment on any potential environmental impact.'

'dylai'r gorchymyn datblygu ei gwneud hi'n ofynnol bod yr asesiad effaith adwerthu yn ystyried yr effaith ar adwerthu cyffredinol yng nghanol trefi, nid dim ond adwerthu bwyd, a dylai hefyd gynnwys asesiad llawn o unrhyw effaith bosibl ar yr amgylchedd.'

Out-of-town supermarkets no longer concentrate solely on food retailing. They can lead to the loss of many small stores—newsagents, clothes retailers and electrical goods stores—there is a whole list of those affected. There is a weakness in the interim planning policy statement published in 2005. The statement gives guidance on the loss of general food retailing in the centre of small towns, but general retailing in town centres needs to be part of the equation and should be considered. That is why the amendment is there—to bring home the need for any impact assessments undertaken to recognise the impact on the retail sector as a whole.

Nid yw archfarchnadoedd y tu allan i drefi bellach yn canolbwyntio ar adwerthu bwyd yn unig. Gallant arwain at golli llawer o siopau bach—siopau papurau newydd, adwerthwyr dillad a siopau nwyddau trydanol—mae rhes faith o rai yr effeithir arnynt. Mae gwendid yn y datganiad polisi cynllunio interim a gyhoeddwyd yn 2005. Rhydd y datganiad ganllawiau ar golli adwerthwyr bwyd cyffredinol yng nghanol trefi bach, ond mae angen i adwerthwyr cyffredinol yng nghanol trefi fod yn rhan o'r drafodaeth a dylid eu hystyried. Dyna pam y cyflwynwyd y gwelliant—er mwyn pwysleisio'r ffaith bod angen i unrhyw asesiadau effaith a gynhelir gydnabod yr effaith ar y sector adwerthu cyfan.

The TAN 4 impact assessment guidance only talks of assessment of any significant environmental impacts, whereas the Welsh Liberal Democrats believe that there should be a full assessment of any potential environmental impact and that that should be carried out as a matter of course. That would include assessments of the impact of congestion and pollution. We would also like to see a requirement that supermarkets have to commit to a recycling point for a planning application to be even considered. We are all aware of our problems with waste, particularly plastic waste, and sometimes I think that we would do ourselves a lot of good if we all went down to one of the large retailers and dumped the plastic that we purchase when we buy goods there—as Alun said, we all buy goods there.

Dim ond am asesu effeithiau sylweddol ar yr amgylchedd y sonnir yng nghanllawiau asesu effaith TAN 4, ond cred Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru y dylid cynnal asesiad llawn o unrhyw effaith bosibl ar yr amgylchedd ac y dylid gwneud hynny fel mater o drefn. Byddai hynny'n cynnwys asesiadau o effaith tagfeydd a llygredd. Byddem hefyd yn hoffi gweld gofyniad yn nodi bod yn rhaid i archfarchnadoedd ymrwymo i ddarparu pwynt ailgylchu cyn y caiff cais cynllunio ei ystyried hyd yn oed. Yr ydym oll yn ymwybodol o'n problemau o ran gwastraff, yn arbennig gwastraff plastig, a byddaf yn meddwl weithiau y byddem yn gwneud llawer o les pe byddai pob un ohonom yn mynd at un o'r adwerthwyr mawr ac yn gadael y plastig a brynwn pan fyddwn yn prynu nwyddau yno—fel y dywedodd Alun, mae pob un ohonom yn prynu nwyddau ganddynt.

There are other issues that I would like to

Mae rhai materion eraill yr hoffwn

extend here. Some of you will know that in Ireland when you pay for your goods at the supermarket checkout, your bill tells you how much money you have spent to assist the local economy. There are issues that we should be promoting on the back of this. Some of the supermarkets are very arrogant and, at times, they will not give us a way of supporting them. Most people will travel a long way to get a bargain and if that bargain is to be had in the supermarket, then they will go there.

I thank Alun Ffred for his support for amendment 2. To return again to the ministerial interim planning policy statement of December 2005, it does not mention the change of a range of goods at edge-of-centre and out-of-centre retail developments. It considers the possible addition of mezzanine floors, but rather weakly states that

‘conditions might be appropriate to prevent the development from being sub-divided into a large number of shops, limit the range of goods sold or restrict the amount of floor space.’

We strongly believe that that needs to be beefed-up and I am pleased that your party has accepted that.

It is vital that we retain economically viable centres at the hubs of our communities. Once retailers are driven out of these areas, not only do local people without transport find it difficult to access retail goods, but the whole area cannot attract new business, leisure facilities and so on. Therefore, we see the point of this. I hope that we will be given some indication in the Government’s response of what it is willing to accept, and that it will move forward with positive policies that will assist our local economy while recognising that transparency and equity are the key features of this planning policy.

5.40 p.m.

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): First, the Government cannot support today’s motion

ymhelaethu arnynt. Gwŷr rhai ohonoch pan fyddwch yn talu am eich nwyddau yn yr archfarchnad yn Iwerddon, fod eich bil yn nodi faint o’r arian a wariwyd gennych fydd yn cynorthwyo’r economi leol. Mae materion y dylem fod yn eu hyrwyddo yn sgîl hyn. Mae rhai o’r archfarchnadoedd yn drahaus iawn ac, ar adegau, ni roddant gyfle inni eu cefnogi. Bydd y rhan fwyaf o bobl yn teithio’n bell i gael bargaen ac os bydd y fargaen honno i’w chael yn yr archfarchnad, yna fe ânt yno.

Diolchaf i Alun Ffred am gefnogi gwelliant 2. Gan ddychwelyd eto at ddatganiad polisi cynllunio interim y Gweinidog ym mis Rhagfyr 2005, nid yw’n sôn am y newid o ran ystod y nwyddau sydd i’w cael mewn datblygiadau adwerthu ar gyrion canol trefi a’r tu allan i ganol trefi. Mae’n ystyried y posibilrwydd o ychwanegu llooriau mesanîn, ond mae’n datgan yn llipa braidd y

gallai’r amodau fod yn briodol i rwystro’r datblygiad rhag cael ei isrannu’n nifer mwy o siopau llai, cyfyngu ar ystod y nwyddau sy’n cael eu gwerthu neu gyfyngu ar yr arwynebedd llawr.

Credwn yn gryf fod angen cryfhau hynny ac yr wyf yn falch bod eich plaid wedi derbyn hynny.

Mae’n hanfodol inni gadw canolfannau sy’n hyfyw yn economaidd yng nghanol ein cymunedau. Wedi i adwerthwyr gael eu gorfodi i adael yr ardaloedd hyn, bydd yn anodd i bobl leol heb gerbyd brynu nwyddau adwerthu, ac yn ogystal â hynny bydd yr ardal gyfan yn methu â denu busnesau newydd, cyfleusterau hamdden ac yn y blaen. Felly, gwelwn ddiben hyn. Gobeithiaf y cawn ryw fath o arwydd yn ymateb y Llywodraeth o ran yr hyn y mae’n barod i’w dderbyn, ac y bydd yn symud ymlaen gyda pholisiau cadarnhaol a fydd yn cynorthwyo ein heconomi leol ac yn cydnabod mai tryloywder a thegwch yw nodweddion allweddol y polisi cynllunio hwn.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Yn gyntaf, ni all y Llywodraeth gefnogi’r

or amendments. However, there is another way forward that we can offer. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Oh.'] The problem with the motion is that it will not achieve what it is meant to achieve. TAN 4 already provides for retail developments of over 2,500 sq m to be supported by an impact assessment. However, it also states that such assessments may also be necessary for some smaller developments; for instance, those that are likely to have a large impact on a smaller town or district centre. The technical advice note already sets out what the planning guidance should be.

I understand that the motion wishes to strengthen that and to go beyond what the technical advice note states and insert it into the general permitted development order. However, you cannot apply the logic of what might happen in a rural town in Powys or Gwynedd to Cardiff, for example. It would be nonsense to have retail impact assessments for every store in Cardiff that has floor space of over 1,000 sq m, because Cardiff has lots of such stores. For example, Cardiff library has a footprint of 1,000 sq m. It is a smallish development in terms of the size of Cardiff, Swansea and our bigger cities.

Do we really want to say, with regard to amendment 2 from the Liberal Democrats, that if a big department store in Cardiff inserts a mezzanine floor, it has to have a retail impact assessment? That clearly cannot be right. That is why a one-size-fits-all approach, which is what this motion proposes, would not work across the whole of Wales. I have sympathy with much of what Alun Ffred said about the supermarkets. I read the *New Statesman* article that he referred to, and I read *The Observer* food monthly on Sunday, which discussed Asda once again. However, these are issues of fair trading that the Office of Fair Trading has to look at. They are not issues that the planning system can necessarily deal with. I look forward to hearing what the Office of Fair Trading will say about the practices of the supermarkets and I note that its interim statement has already been published.

cynnig na'r gwelliannau heddiw. Fodd bynnag, gallwn gynnig ffordd arall ymlaen. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'O.'] Y broblem gyda'r cynnig yw na fydd yn cyflawni'r hyn y bwriedir iddo'i gyflawni. Mae TAN 4 eisoes yn nodi y dylid cynnal asesiad effaith ar gyfer datblygiadau adwerthu sydd dros 2,500 o fetrau sgwâr. Fodd bynnag, mae'n datgan hefyd y gallai fod angen cynnal asesiadau o'r fath ar gyfer rhai datblygiadau llai; er enghraifft, y rhai sy'n debygol o gael effaith fawr ar ganol tref neu ddosbarth llai. Mae'r nodyn cyngor technegol eisoes yn nodi'r canllawiau cynllunio y dylid eu dilyn.

Deallaf fod y cynnig yn ceisio atgyfnerthu hynny gan fynd ymhellach na'r hyn y mae'r nodyn cyngor technegol yn ei ddatgan a'i gynnwys o fewn y gorchymyn datblygu cyffredinol a ganiateir. Fodd bynnag, ni allwch gymhwyso rhesymeg yr hyn a allai ddigwydd mewn tref wledig ym Mhowys neu Wynedd at Gaerdydd, er enghraifft. Byddai'n wirion cynnal asesiad effaith adwerthu ar gyfer pob siop yng Nghaerdydd sydd ag arwynebedd llawr o dros 1,000 o fetrau sgwâr gan fod llawer o siopau o'r fath yng Nghaerdydd. Er enghraifft, mae gan lyfrgell Caerdydd ôl-troed o 1,000 o fetrau sgwâr. Datblygiad gweddol fach ydyw o ystyried maint Caerdydd, Abertawe a'n dinasoedd mwy.

A ydym mewn gwirionedd am ddatgan, o ran gwelliant 2 gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, os bydd siop adrannol fawr yng Nghaerdydd yn ychwanegu llawr mesanîn, fod yn rhaid iddi gynnal asesiad effaith adwerthu? Mae'n amlwg nad oes dim posibl i hynny fod yn iawn. Dyna pam na fyddai dull un-rheol-i-bawb, sef yr hyn a gynnigir gan y cynnig hwn, yn gweithio ledled Cymru. Yr wyf yn cydymdeimlo â llawer o'r hyn a ddywedodd Alun Ffred am yr archfarchnadoedd. Darllenais yr erthygl yn y *New Statesman* y cyfeiriodd ati, a darllenais yr eitem fisol ar fwyd yn *The Observer* ddydd Sul, a oedd yn trafod Asda unwaith eto. Fodd bynnag, materion yw'r rhain yn ymwneud â masnachu teg y mae'n rhaid i'r Swyddfa Masnachu Teg eu hystyried. Nid ydynt o reidrwydd yn faterion y gall y system gynllunio ymdrin â hwy. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed barn y Swyddfa Masnachu Teg am arferion yr archfarchnadoedd a nodaf ei bod eisoes wedi

cyhoeddi ei datganiad interim.

Perversely, were this motion carried as it stands, it would require all proposed retail developments with a floor space of more than 1,000 sq m to have a retail impact assessment—and it is all retail developments, not just food retail developments, as Alun Ffred rightly said. That means that developments under 1,000 sq m would not need a retail impact assessment. Technical advice note 4 makes it clear that there may be circumstances where that is needed. Perversely, it would mean that, potentially, retail impact assessments would no longer be required for developments with floor space of under 1,000 sq m.

Pe derbynnid y cynnig hwn fel y mae, byddai'n sefyllfa afresymol, gan y byddai'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol i bob datblygiad adwerthu arfaethedig ag arwynebedd llawr o fwy na 1,000 o fetrau sgwâr gael asesiad effaith adwerthu—a hynny'n cynnwys pob datblygiad adwerthu, nid datblygiadau adwerthu bwyd yn unig, fel y dywedodd Alun Ffred ac yntau yn llygad ei le. Golyga hynny na fyddai angen asesiad effaith adwerthu ar ddatblygiadau o dan 1,000 o fetrau sgwâr. Mae nodyn cyngor technegol 4 yn datgan yn glir y gallai amgylchiadau godi lle y byddai angen asesiad o'r fath. Byddai'n sefyllfa afresymol, gan y byddai'n golygu, o bosibl, na fyddai angen asesiadau effaith adwerthu bellach ar gyfer datblygiadau ag arwynebedd llawr o dan 1,000 o fetrau sgwâr.

The best way of dealing with this issue is for each local council to look at the situation in its own area. There is no point in pretending that what is right in terms of retail in Cardiff will necessarily be right in a smaller rural town elsewhere in Wales. I will suggest a possibility that local authorities have not yet used, but which is an option open to them. It is possible for local authorities, via local development orders, to require retail impact assessments to be made on premises of any size. They can do so now. All they have to do is ask for the order. It has to be approved by the Assembly, but it is possible for local planning authorities, in looking at circumstances in their own area, to ask for a local development order that would require retail impact assessments to be made on premises of any size, as long as they can justify it. That goes beyond what the technical advice note states. Surely, that is a more sensible way forward. It means that each local authority can look at its own circumstances. Local authorities have not applied for local development orders. As far as I can recall, Gwynedd has not applied for a local development order suggesting this. The local authority may want to look at that. However, it cannot possibly be right that you try to apply a system that would mean retail impact assessments in a city of the size of Cardiff that would affect many shops—the effect would be minimal and it would be an obstacle to the development of town centres,

Y ffordd orau o ymdrin â'r mater hwn fyddai i bob cyngor lleol edrych ar y sefyllfa yn eu hardal hwy. Nid oes diben honni y bydd yr hyn sy'n briodol o ran adwerthu yng Nghaerdydd o reidrwydd yn briodol mewn tref wledig lai yn rhywle arall yng Nghymru. Awgrymaf bosibilrwydd nad yw'r awdurdodau lleol eto wedi'i ddefnyddio, ond sy'n opsiwn iddynt. Mae'n bosibl i awdurdodau lleol, drwy orchmynion datblygu lleol, ei gwneud yn ofynnol cynnal asesiadau effaith adwerthu ar adeiladau o unrhyw faint. Gallant wneud hynny yn awr. Y cyfan sy'n rhaid iddynt ei wneud yw gofyn am y gorchymyn. Rhaid i'r Cynulliad ei gymeradwyo, ond mae'n bosibl i awdurdodau cynllunio lleol, wrth ystyried amgylchiadau eu hardal hwy, ofyn am orchymyn datblygu lleol a fyddai'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol cynnal asesiadau effaith adwerthu ar adeilad o unrhyw faint, ar yr amod y gallant gyfiawnhau hynny. Mae hynny'n mynd y tu hwnt i'r hyn a ddatgenir yn y nodyn cyngor technegol. Onid yw hynny'n ffordd fwy synhwyrol ymlaen? Drwy hynny, gall pob awdurdod lleol ystyried ei amgylchiadau ei hun. Nid yw awdurdodau lleol wedi gwneud cais am orchmynion datblygu lleol. Hyd y cofiaf, nid yw Gwynedd wedi gwneud cais am orchymyn datblygu lleol yn awgrymu hyn. Efallai yr hoffai'r awdurdod lleol ystyried hynny. Fodd bynnag, nid oes dim posibl iddi fod yn iawn ichi geisio gweithredu system a fyddai'n golygu cynnal

whereas the opposite might be the case in some towns elsewhere in Wales.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Let us assume, for argument's sake, that one local authority decides to do what he says but the neighbouring local authorities do not, for other reasons. Is the Minister saying that a patchwork of development orders, with different councils in different parts of Wales making different decisions, and supermarkets piling into areas without development orders, is a sensible option? Does the Minister not recognise that this is needed all over Wales—although a distinction needs to be made between larger and smaller towns—and is a much better option?

Carwyn Jones: That is precisely the distinction that is made. Local planning authorities are the elected authorities that are meant to deal with planning applications. It is a matter for local planning authorities, which are answerable to their electors, to ensure that they bring forward local development orders. One size will not fit all. It is not sensible to have this kind of policy in Cardiff city centre; it would hold it back. It may be sensible to have it in other parts of Wales, but that is a matter for local authorities to decide upon and to investigate, if they so wish.

Many references to supermarkets have been made. I should point out that it is possible—and even if this motion were passed, it would not affect this situation—for any company to take over existing premises or two adjoining premises without needing to make a planning application, as long as they are within the same use class. It would be possible, therefore, for a supermarket to take over premises within the same use class without a retail assessment being carried out because there is no need for a planning application. I take the reference to Tesco Extra and so on, but many of those stores cover more than 1,000 sq m. Therefore, they would not be caught up in the motion as proposed.

asesiadau effaith adwerthu mewn dinas o faint Caerdydd a fyddai'n effeithio ar lawer o siopau—prin fyddai'r effaith a byddai'n atal canol trefi rhag datblygu, pryd y gallai'r gwrthwyneb fod yn wir mewn trefi mewn mannau eraill yng Nghymru.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Gadewch inni dybio, er mwyn y ddadl, fod un awdurdod lleol yn penderfynu gwneud yr hyn a ddywed ond nad yw'r awdurdodau lleol cyfagos yn gwneud hynny, am resymau eraill. A yw'r Gweinidog yn dweud bod cybolfa o orchmynion datblygu, gyda chynghorau gwahanol mewn rhannau gwahanol o Gymru yn gwneud penderfyniadau gwahanol, ac archfarchnadoedd yn tyrru i ardaloedd heb orchmynion datblygu, yn opsiwn synhwyrol? Onid yw'r Gweinidog yn cydnabod bod ei angen ledled Cymru—er bod angen gwahaniaethu rhwng trefi mawr a threfi bach—a bod hynny'n opsiwn llawer gwell?

Carwyn Jones: Dyna'r union wahaniaeth a wneir. Awdurdodau cynllunio lleol yw'r awdurdodau etholedig sydd â'r dasg o ddelio â cheisiadau cynllunio. Mater i awdurdodau cynllunio lleol, sy'n atebol i'w hetholwyr, yw sicrhau eu bod yn cyflwyno gorchmynion datblygu lleol. Ni fydd un ateb yn addas i bawb. Nid yw'n synhwyrol cyflwyno'r math hwn o bolisi yng nghanol dinas Caerdydd; byddai'n ei lyffetheirio. Efallai ei bod yn synhwyrol gweithredu'r polisi mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru, ond mater i'r awdurdodau lleol benderfynu arno ac ymchwilio iddo yw hwn, os dymunant wneud hynny.

Cafwyd cyfeiriadau lu at archfarchnadoedd. Dylwn nodi ei bod yn bosibl—a hyd yn oed pe bai'r cynnig hwn yn cael ei dderbyn, ni fyddai'n effeithio ar y sefyllfa hon—i unrhyw gwmni feddiannu adeiladau sy'n bodoli eisoes neu ddau adeilad cyfagos heb fod angen iddynt gyflwyno cais cynllunio, cyn belled â'u bod yn yr un dosbarth defnydd. Byddai'n bosibl, felly, i archfarchnad feddiannu adeilad o fewn yr un dosbarth defnydd heb i asesiad adwerthu gael ei gynnal oherwydd nad oes angen cais cynllunio. Nodaf y cyfeiriad at Tesco Extra ac yn y blaen, ond mae llawer o'r siopau hyn dros 1,000 metr sgwâr. Felly, ni fyddai'r cynnig arfaethedig yn berthnasol iddynt.

In terms of out-of-town developments, again, if local planning authorities feel that such developments would be detrimental to town centres, they should ensure that protection is in place in their development plans. The whole point of those plans is to ensure that local authorities allocate land. If authorities decide that land should not be allocated for retail uses because of the effect that that might have on town centres, they are perfectly free to do that as part of the development plan process.

Janet Davies: You must realise that, although a local authority may decide to include that in its plan, it may be overruled by a planning inspector. Therefore, that relates back to the Assembly.

Carwyn Jones: Again, planning inspectors are guided by the ministerial interim planning policy statement and the technical advice note. The statement is as strong as it could be in terms of discouraging out-of-town developments where they would be inappropriate and would have an inappropriate effect on developments in towns. That is inevitably the case and the statement says that. We know that development plans, this document and the technical advice note carry tremendous weight with planning inspectors.

We have to realise that having retail impact assessments does not necessarily mean that developments would be stopped. It would simply mean that there was an assessment on the table; the development could still go ahead. It is also important to realise that local authorities, which are the local planning authorities and are in the best position to decide what is right for their own areas, are already in a position to consider a local development order that would require retail impact assessments for developments of over 1,000 sq m, or even for smaller developments.

Mark Isherwood: I wanted to pick up on your point that, if an assessment is made, it may not take priority over the decision to go ahead with a development. As you are aware, I think, Flintshire council commissioned a report by independent consultants, which stated that the proposed extension of

O ran datblygiadau ar gyrion trefi, unwaith eto, os yw awdurdodau cynllunio lleol yn teimlo y byddai datblygiadau o'r fath yn niweidiol i ganol trefi, dylent sicrhau bod camau diogelu ar waith yn eu cynlluniau datblygu. Diben y cynlluniau hynny yw sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn dyrannu tir. Os yw awdurdodau yn penderfynu na ddylid dyrannu tir at ddefnydd adwerthu oherwydd yr effaith y gallai hynny ei chael ar ganol trefi, mae perffaith hawl ganddynt i wneud hynny fel rhan o broses y cynllun datblygu.

Janet Davies: Er y gall awdurdod lleol benderfynu cynnwys hynny yn ei gynllun, rhaid ichi sylweddoli y gallai arolygydd cynllunio ei ddiystyru. Felly, mae hynny'n cyfeirio'n ôl at y Cynulliad.

Carwyn Jones: Unwaith eto, caiff arolygwyr cynllunio eu harwain gan ddatganiad polisi cynllunio interim y Gweinidog a'r nodyn cyngor technegol. Mae'r datganiad mor gryf ag y gallai fod o ran peidio â chefnogi datblygiadau ar gyrion trefi pan na fyddent yn briodol a phan fyddent yn cael effaith amhriodol ar ddatblygiadau mewn trefi. Hynny sy'n digwydd yn anochel ac mae'r datganiad yn dweud hynny. Gwyddom fod arolygwyr cynllunio yn rhoi pwys mawr ar gynlluniau datblygu, y ddogfen hon a'r nodyn cyngor technegol.

Rhaid inni sylweddoli nad yw cael asesiadau effaith adwerthu yn golygu o reidrwydd y byddai datblygiadau'n cael eu hatal. Yn syml, byddai'n golygu bod asesiad ar gael; gallai'r datblygiad fynd rhagddo beth bynnag. Mae'n bwysig sylweddoli hefyd fod awdurdodau lleol, sef yr awdurdodau cynllunio lleol sydd yn y sefyllfa orau i benderfynu beth sydd orau i'w hardaloedd eu hunain, eisoes yn gallu ystyried gorchymyn datblygu lleol a fyddai'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol cynnal asesiadau effaith adwerthu ar gyfer datblygiadau dros 1,000 metr sgwâr, neu hyd yn oed ar gyfer datblygiadau llai.

Mark Isherwood: Yr oeddwn am drafod eich pwynt na fyddai asesiad, pe bai un yn cael ei gynnal, yn cael blaenoriaeth o reidrwydd dros y penderfyniad i fwrw ymlaen â datblygiad. Fel y gwyddoch, fe gredaf, comisiynodd cyngor sir y Fflint adroddiad gan ymgynghorwyr annibynnol, a

Broughton retail park would divert trade away from town centre shops, in places such as Deeside and as far away as Wrexham. Despite that report and the principled action taken by members of the planning committee, including members of your party, the recommendations of the planners took priority and the application was passed. Although I support the principle and will be voting for it, we have to be aware that the impact assessment alone—

nododd y byddai'r estyniad arfaethedig i barc adwerthu Brychdyn yn peri bod masnach yn mynd i leoedd heblaw siopau canol trefi, mewn mannau fel Glannau Dyfrdwy ac mor bell i ffwrdd â Wrecsam. Er gwaethaf yr adroddiad hwnnw a'r camau egwyddorol a gymerwyd gan aelodau o'r pwyllgor cynllunio, gan gynnwys aelodau o'ch plaid chi, rhoddwyd blaenoriaeth i argymhellion y cynllunwyr a chafodd y cais ei dderbyn. Er fy mod yn cefnogi'r egwyddor ac y byddaf yn pleidleisio o'i phlaid, rhaid inni fod yn ymwybodol na fydd yr asesiad effaith ar ei ben ei hun—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. This is not a speech. The Minister has also run out of time. I ask you to wind up, Minister.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid araith yw hon. Mae amser y Gweinidog ar ben hefyd. Gofynnaf ichi orffen, Weinidog.

Carwyn Jones: I will simply say that, in terms of amendment 1, we already have provision for environmental impact assessments in the planning system. A lot of work, as Mick suggested, is outside land use. On amendment 2 on mezzanines, one-size-fits-all is not going to work, although there are proposals under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to consider how mezzanines might be brought more effectively into the planning system.

Carwyn Jones: Yn syml, dywedaf, o ran gwelliant 1, fod gennym ddarpariaeth ar gyfer asesiadau effaith amgylcheddol yn y system gynllunio eisoes. Fel yr awgrymodd Mick, mae llawer o waith y tu allan i ddefnydd tir. O ran gwelliant 2 ar fesaninau, nid oes ateb sy'n addas i bob sefyllfa, er bod cynigion o dan Ddeddf Cynllunio a Phrynu Gorfodol 2004 i ystyried sut y gellir dod â mesaninau i mewn i'r system gynllunio mewn modd mwy effeithiol.

I hear what Alun Ffred says about supermarket power and what they can do with their market strength, but those are matters for the Office of Fair Trading and not for the planning system directly. In any event, local planning authorities can already require retail impact assessments for developments of 1,000 sq m or less. It is a matter for them to explain to their electors if they choose not to do so.

Yr wyf yn deall yr hyn sydd gan Alun Ffred i'w ddweud ynglŷn â phŵer archfarchnadoedd a'r hyn y gallant ei wneud gyda'u cryfder yn y farchnad, ond materion i'r Swyddfa Masnachu Teg yw'r rheini ac nid i'r system gynllunio yn uniongyrchol. Beth bynnag, gall awdurdodau cynllunio lleol eisoes ei gwneud yn ofynnol cynnal asesiadau effaith adwerthu ar gyfer datblygiadau 1,000 metr sgwâr neu lai. Mater iddynt hwy yw esbonio i'w hetholwyr os byddant yn dewis peidio â gwneud hynny.

5.50 p.m.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: This debate must finish at 6 p.m., and I must call Alun Ffred at 5.55 p.m.. Three speakers have indicated.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Rhaid i'r ddadl hon orffen am 6 p.m., a rhaid imi alw Alun Ffred am 5.55 p.m.. Mae tri Aelod wedi dweud eu bod yn dymuno siarad.

Elin Jones: Caf fy atgoffa y prynhawn yma o'r ddadl a gyflwynais, fel yr Aelod cyntaf i gyflwyno deddfwriaeth, ar gynllunio yn ôl yn 1999, a chaf fy atgoffa gan ymateb y

Elin Jones: I am reminded this afternoon of the debate that I tabled, as the first Member to introduce legislation, on planning back in 1999, and this Minister's response reminds

Gweinidog hwn o ymateb y Gweinidog bryd hynny, Sue Essex, i'm cynnig i newid deddfwriaeth gynllunio ar weithdai gwledig: ni fyddai'r hyn a fyddai'n gweithio yng Ngheredigion neu yng Ngwynedd yn gweithio ym Mro Morgannwg neu mewn ardal fwy trefol. Saith mlynedd yn ddiweddarach, yr ydym yn cael yr un ddatl oddi wrth Weinidog â chyfrifoldeb dros gynllunio.

Os nad yw'r system hon yn gweithio ar hyn o bryd i ddiogelu trefi marchnad yn fy etholaeth i, neu yn etholaeth Alun Ffred Jones—os nad yw'r *one-size-fits-all* presennol yn gweithio—mae'n bwysig bod yn hyblyg o ran polisiau cynllunio ac arweiniad gwleidyddol ar lefel genedlaethol, i ganiatáu i awdurdodau lleol deimlo'n ddigon hyderus i allu gwrthwynebu ceisiadau cynllunio oddi wrth archfarchnadoedd.

Gwyddom fod gan archfarchnadoedd y grym, yr adnoddau a'r arian i gynnig cylchfan newydd, neu beth bynnag, mewn unrhyw gais cynllunio. Gwneud penderfyniadau ar ddyfodol datblygiadau busnes yw'r un cyfle sydd gan bwyllgor cynllunio; dyna'r unig le y mae gan ddemocratiaeth bwerau, bellach, dros gyfalafiaeth. Mae angen sicrhau bod y penderfyniadau hynny yn cael eu gwneud â gwybodaeth lawn a chytbwys gan gynghorwyr, er mwyn iddynt allu gwneud penderfyniad ac asesiad heb wynebu apêl bosibl, a chostau yn erbyn yr awdurdod.

Pe câi'r ddeddfwriaeth hon ei chyflwyno, byddai o ddefnydd mawr i dref fel Aberteifi yn fy etholaeth i. Mae stryd fawr y dref yn dal i fod yn llawn siopau annibynnol, lleol. Mae Tesco yn gweithredu yn y dref eisoes, ond mae cais yn awr i ehangu'r busnes yn sylweddol i werthu pob math o nwyddau yn ogystal â bwyd. Bydd hynny'n peryglu'r stryd fawr. Mae Tesco yn mynd am safle sydd y tu allan i'r cynllun datblygu unedol sydd wedi cael ei drafod yng Ngheredigion dros y chwe blynedd diwethaf. Mae Tesco yn dweud ei fod eisieu safle maes glas y tu allan i'r cynllun datblygu unedol, ac mae'n cynnig pob math o fanteision, gan gynnwys arian ar gyfer Tesco *junction* newydd yn Aberteifi.

me of the response that I was given by the Minister at that time, Sue Essex, to my proposal to change planning legislation on rural workshops: what would work in Ceredigion or Gwynedd would not work in the Vale of Glamorgan or in a more urban area. Seven years later, we are having the same argument from the Minister with responsibility for planning.

If this system is not working at present to safeguard market towns in my constituency, or in Alun Ffred Jones's constituency—if the current one-size-fits-all does not work—it is important to be flexible in planning policies and political guidance on a national level, to ensure that local authorities feel confident enough to be able to oppose planning applications made by supermarkets.

We all know that supermarkets have the power, the resources and the money to offer a new roundabout, or whatever, as part of a planning application. It is in making decisions on the future of business developments that the only opportunity exists for a planning committee; that is the only arena in which democracy has powers, these days, over capitalism. We need to ensure that those decisions are taken with the full balance of information provided to councillors, so that they are able to make decisions and assessments without facing the prospect of appeal, and costs against the authority.

If this legislation were introduced, it would be of great benefit to a town such as Cardigan in my constituency. The town's high street is still lined with independent, local stores. There is a Tesco in the town already, but there is an application now to extend the business substantially to sell all sorts of other goods as well as food. That would be a threat to the high street. Tesco is going for a site outside the unitary development plan that has been discussed in Ceredigion over the past six years. Tesco says that it wants a greenfield site outside the unitary development plan, and it is offering all sorts of benefits, including funding for a new Tesco junction in Cardigan.

Fodd bynnag, byddai gosod rheidrwydd i gael asesiad effaith adwerthu lleol yn fantais fawr i sicrhau bod gwybodaeth lawn ar gael i'r cynghorwyr a fydd yn gwneud y penderfyniad yn y pen draw. Beth fydd yr effaith ar ganol tref Aberteifi o greu tref newydd, i bob pwrpas, o dan do ar gyrion y dref farchnad honno? Mae gwarchod annibyniaeth asesiad o'r math hwn yn allweddol hefyd. Byddai llwyddiant neu fethiant cynnig Alun Ffred yn dibynnu ar ba mor annibynnol a thryloyw y gallai asesiadau o'r math hyn fod.

Felly, y pŵer sydd gan ddemocratiaeth o hyd yw'r grym dros benderfyniadau cynllunio. Efallai heddiw, drwy gefnogi'r mesur hwn, y gallwn roi ychydig mwy o rym yn ôl yn nwylo democratiaeth leol, ac ychydig yn llai i gyfalafiaeth ac unffurfiaeth fyd-eang.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I am sorry, but I cannot call any other speakers.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf yn siomedig yn ymateb y Gweinidog, ond nid wyf yn rhyfeddu, a dweud y gwir. Mae'n fy atgoffa o'r diweddar Tom Jones, Llanuwchllyn, cyn-arweinydd Cyngor Gwynedd. Pan fyddai'n cael cynnig na fyddai'n hoff iawn ohono, dywedai wrth ei ffrindiau, 'Peidiwch â phoeni, mi foddwn hwn mewn dŵr cynnes'—dywedai ei fod yn gynnig neis iawn, ond bod rhesymau dros wneud dim amdano. Dyna'r hyn y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ei wneud heddiw.

Y gwir amdani yw ei fod yn ceisio dweud dau beth—bod y pwerau yno'n barod, ac nid oes angen gwneud dim byd beth bynnag. Mae Iwerddon wedi gweld y perygl, ac mae rheolau caeth yno sy'n cyfyngu ar faint archfarchnadoedd—dyna'r lleiaf y gallai Cymru ei wneud. Dywedodd y Gweinidog y dylid rhoi'r cyfrifoldeb ar lywodraeth leol. Dyna'r union beth a ddywedodd am dai fforddiadwy, fel na pe bai ganddo ef a'r Llywodraeth unrhyw gyfrifoldeb o gwbl. Ond mae cyfrifoldeb ar y Llywodraeth i roi arweinaid yn y maes hwn, fel yn unrhyw faes arall.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r hyn yr wyt wedi'i ddweud ynglŷn â datganiad y Gweinidog. A wyt yn rhannu fy

However, creating a requirement to undertake a local retail impact assessment would be of great benefit in ensuring that the councillors who ultimately make the decision have all the information available. What will be the impact on Cardigan town centre of creating what would be, in effect, a new indoor town on the outskirts of this market town? Safeguarding the independence of such assessments is also essential. The success or failure of Alun Ffred's motion would depend on how independent and transparent any assessments of this kind could be.

Therefore, the power that democracy still has is the power over planning decisions. By supporting this measure today, we could, perhaps, give some power back to local democracy, and take a little away from global capitalism and uniformity.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ond nid oes modd galw siaradwyr eraill.

Alun Ffred Jones: I am disappointed in the Minister's response, but, to be honest, I am not surprised. It reminds me of the late Tom Jones, Llanuwchllyn, the former leader of Gwynedd Council. When he received proposals that he did not like, he would tell his friends, 'Do not worry, we will drown this in warm water'—he would say that it was a very nice proposal, but that there were reasons for doing nothing about it. That is what the Minister has done today.

The truth is that he is trying to say two things—that the powers already exist, and that we do not need to do anything anyway. Ireland has seen the danger and it has restrictive rules on the size of supermarkets—that is the very least that Wales could do. The Minister said that local government should be given this responsibility. That is exactly what he said about affordable housing, as if he and the Government had no responsibility at all. But the Government has a responsibility to provide guidance in this respect, as in any other area.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I agree entirely with what you have said about the Minister's statement. Do you share my concern that a

mhryder bod neges glir iawn yn cael ei hanfon gan y Gweinidog nad yw'n poeni dim am archfarchnadoedd yn datblygu ledled Cymru, nac am effaith hynny ar yr amrywiaeth o siopau sy'n bodoli mewn trefi marchnad ledled Cymru? Dyna'r union neges a gawsom ynglŷn â thai fforddiadwy. Pe bai'n cytuno i weithredu'r cynnig hwn, byddai'n anfon neges wahanol; wrth wrthod, yr hyn y mae'n ei ddweud yw ei fod, fel Gweinidog yn Llywodraeth Cymru, yn plygu i ddymuniaidau archfarchnadoedd.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae'n ymddangos mai dyna mae'n ei ddweud. Er ei fod wedi cydnabod bod pryderon ynglŷn ag archfarchnadoedd, yn y bôn mae'n cefnogi gwneud dim byd—mae'r *status quo* yn iawn. Ond, gwyddom y bydd y *status quo* yn arwain at ddirywiad yn ein trefi. Yr oedd yn ddiddorol i'r Prif Weinidog ei hun ddweud:

'boarded up shops in town centres are a disincentive to economic regeneration.'

Nid oes pwynt dweud hynny a gwneud dim am yr hyn sy'n creu'r broblem yn y lle cyntaf. Dylai fod arweiniad cyffredinol, cenedlaethol yn y mater hwn. Cydnabyddaf rym ei ddatl ynglŷn â chanolfannau fel Caerdydd, ac eraill ar hyd a lled Cymru, ond dylid gwneud eithriadau o'r rheini; ni ddylid rhoi'r cyfan ar ysgwyddau llywodraeth leol. Soniodd hefyd am y perygl gwirioneddol arall o archfarchnadoedd yn symud i'r stryd fawr ac yn cymryd siopau drosodd. Nid yw hwnnw'n fater y gall cynllunio ddelio gydag ef yn hawdd dan y rheoliadau presennol, ac ni allwn wneud dim byd i'r perwyl hwnnw. Mae hwnnw'n fater i'r Swyddfa Masnachu Teg. O ran perygl datblygiadau y tu allan i'r dref, yr wyf yn sicr erbyn hyn fod y perygl yn llawer iawn mwy drwy ddatblygu archfarchnadoedd mawr yng nghanol trefi, yn enwedig trefi llai. Yr wyf yn siomedig, Weinidog, eich bod yn dewis gwneud dim i newid y sefyllfa.

Ailadroddaf fy mhwynt ynglŷn â'r gwelliannau. Nid yw gwelliant 1 yn gwneud synnwyr, gan nad wyf yn cyfeirio at adwerthu bwyd yn y cynnig. Derbynias welliant 2, er mai academaidd yw hynny ar hyn o bryd. Yr wyf yn siomedig iawn bod y Gweinidog wedi methu ag ymateb yn fwy

very clear message is being sent out by the Minister that he is not at all concerned about supermarkets developing across Wales and the effect that that would have on the variety of shops in market towns across Wales? Exactly the same message was given on affordable housing. If he agreed to implement this motion, it would send out a different message; by refusing, what he is doing, as a Minister in the Government of Wales, is bowing to the wishes of supermarkets.

Alun Ffred Jones: That is what he seems to be saying. Although he has acknowledged that there are concerns about supermarkets, he is basically supporting doing nothing—the status quo is fine. But, we know that the status quo will lead to a decline in our towns. It was interesting that the First Minister himself said:

nid yw canol trefi sydd â siopau gwag yn cymell adfywiad economaidd.

There is no point saying that and then doing nothing about the cause of the problem. There should be general, national guidance on this matter. I acknowledge the strength of his argument about centres such as Cardiff, and others across Wales, but they should be made the exceptions; this should not all be placed on the shoulders of local authorities. He also mentioned the other real danger of supermarkets moving into the high street and taking over shops. That is not a matter that planning can deal with very easily under the current regulations, and I could not do anything in that respect. That is a matter for the Office of Fair Trading. In terms of the threat of out-of-town developments, I am now certain that the danger is much greater by developing large supermarkets in town centres, particularly in smaller towns. I am disappointed, Minister, that you have chosen to do nothing to change the situation.

I repeat my point about the amendments. Amendment 1 does not make sense, as I do not refer to food retailing in the motion. I accept amendment 2, although it is academic at present. I am very disappointed that the Minister has not responded more positively to a motion which, ultimately, has the interests

cadarnhaol i gynnig sydd, yn y pen draw, er of our towns and communities at heart.
lles ein trefi a'n cymunedau.

Gwelliant 1: O blaid 7, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 41.

Amendment 1: For 7, Abstain 0, Against 41.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Randerson, Jenny
Wood, Leanne

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.

Gwelliant 2: O blaid 14, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 33.

Amendment 2: For 14, Abstain 0, Against 33.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Janet

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun

Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

Motion (NDM2986): to propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 31.2:

supports in principle legislation to bring forward a development order to require retail impact assessments to accompany planning applications for retail developments with floor space of over 1,000 sq m, and for those assessments to be prepared by an independent person agreed by the applicant and the local planning authority.

Cynnig (NDM2986): cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 31.2:

yn cefnogi mewn egwyddor ddeddfwriaeth i gyflwyno gorchymyn datblygu a fyddai'n ei gwneud hi'n ofynnol i gynnwys asesiadau effaith adwerthu gyda cheisiadau cynllunio ar gyfer datblygiadau adwerthu gydag arwynebedd llawr o dros 1,000 metr sgwâr, ac i'r asesiadau hynny gael eu paratoi gan berson annibynnol a ddewisir drwy gytundeb y ceisydd a'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol.

*Cynnig (NDM2986): O blaid 19, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.
Motion (NDM2986): For 19, Abstain 0, Against 29.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Glyn

Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
 Motion defeated.*

6.00 p.m.

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Dyfodol Is-swyddfeydd Post yng Nghymru The Future of Sub-post Offices in Wales

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Before Ieuan starts, we will wait for the noise to subside. Jenny, if you are staying, will you sit down? Thank you.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf yn falch iawn o'r cyfle i gynnal y drafodaeth hon ar ddyfodol swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru. Mae Jocelyn Davies, Mick Bates, Christine Chapman a Mark Isherwood wedi gofyn am gyfle i gyfrannu, felly yr wyf yn gobeithio cyfyngu fy sylwadau'n ddigonol er mwyn caniatáu i bawb ddweud gair yn y ddadl bwysig hon. Yr wyf yn falch bod cymaint o Aelodau wedi aros i wrando ar y ddadl, er ei bod yn hwyr yn y dydd.

Mae'n amserol ein bod yn trafod dyfodol swyddfeydd post, oherwydd mae'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau yn Llundain wedi cadarnhau bellach fod y cardiau swyddfa bost a gyflwynwyd dair neu bedair blynedd yn ôl, ac sy'n caniatáu i bensiynwyr a phobl eraill sy'n derbyn budd-daliadau ddefnyddio cerdyn i dderbyn eu pensiwn neu fudd-dâl, yn dod i ben yn 2010. Mae'r ddadl hon yn

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Cyn i Ieuan ddechrau, arhoswn nes y bydd wedi distewi. Jenny, os ydych yn bwriadu aros, a wnewch eistedd? Diolch.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am very pleased to have this opportunity to hold a debate on the future of post offices in Wales. Jocelyn Davies, Mick Bates, Christine Chapman and Mark Isherwood have asked to contribute, therefore I hope to limit my contribution sufficiently to allow everyone to comment in this important debate. I am pleased that so many Members have stayed to listen, even though it is late in the day.

A discussion on the future of post offices is timely, because the Department for Work and Pensions in London has now confirmed that the post office card account scheme that was introduced three or four years ago, which allows pensioners and other people who claim benefits to use a card to claim their pensions or benefits, is to come to an end in 2010. This is an important debate because if

bwysig oherwydd os bydd y cynllun hwnnw yn dod i ben yn 2010, bydd llawer o swyddfeydd post yn colli busnes, a bydd hynny'n golygu bod llawer ohonynt yn cau. Caedd nifer yn 2003 yn sgîl y newidiadau gwreiddiol, ac mae'n amlwg y bydd mwy yn gorfod cau os daw cynllun y cerdyn i ben.

Daw cyfran sylweddol o incwm swyddfeydd post o'r defnydd a wneir o'r cerdyn. Mae gwahaniaethau o ardal i ardal; mae gwahaniaethau rhwng ardaloedd gwledig a threfol, ac mae gwahaniaethau hyd yn oed mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Fodd bynnag, y realiti yw bod cyfran sylweddol o incwm swyddfeydd post yn dod o'r cerdyn.

Mae'n rhaid nodi o'r dechrau bwysigrwydd swyddfeydd post i gymaint o'n cymunedau yng Nghymru. Mae llawer o'n cymunedau, boed yn drefol neu yn wledig, wedi colli nifer fawr o'u gwasanaethau uniongyrchol yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, gan gynnwys nifer o ganghennau banciau. Mewn nifer o ardaloedd gwledig, y swyddfa bost leol yw'r unig wasanaeth sydd yn bodoli. Mae'n cynnig gwasanaethau swyddfa bost ynghyd â rhai siop leol, ac, wrth gwrs, mae'n derbyn papurau newydd, cylchgronau ac yn y blaen.

Drwy orfodi pawb i dderbyn taliad i'r cyfrif banc, bydd yr adran yn Llundain yn ei gwneud yn fwy anodd byth i nifer o bensiynwyr gael gafael ar eu harian. Mewn ardal wledig, nid oes canghennau banc ar gael chwaith, a golyga hynny fod yn rhaid i'r pensiynwr deithio i'r dref agosaf i gael gafael ar ei arian pensiwn. Pan fo angen gwneud y daith honno ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus, mae'n mynd yn anghyfleus i lawer.

Mae'n bwysig dweud y rhoddwyd addewid yn 2003 y byddai gan bobl yr opsiwn i ddefnyddio'r cerdyn i gasglu eu pensiwn yn lle gorfod mynd i'r banc i wneud hynny. Er bod nifer o swyddfeydd post wedi colli busnes ar ôl 2003, yr oedd nifer yn gallu parhau ar y sail y byddai cynllun y cerdyn yn parhau. Erbyn hyn, fodd bynnag, ymddengys fod yr adran yn Llundain wedi camarwain swyddfeydd post a'r cyhoedd ynglŷn â'r cerdyn. Cadarnhawyd y bydd y cytundeb i gadw'r cerdyn yn parhau tan 2010 yn unig ac y daw'r cynllun i ben bryd hynny, a dim ond drwy ddefnyddio cyfrif banc neu *giro* y gall

that card scheme comes to an end in 2010, then many post offices will lose their business, and that will lead to the closure of many. Many post offices closed in 2003 because of the original changes, and it is obvious that more will have to close if the card scheme comes to an end.

A large proportion of the income of post offices is generated by the use of the card. It varies from one area to another; it varies between rural and urban areas, and even within rural areas. However, the reality is that a large proportion of post offices' income comes from the card scheme.

We have to emphasise from the outset the importance of post offices to so many of our communities in Wales. A great many of our communities, be they rural or urban, have lost many services that were directly available to them in recent years, including several bank branches. In many rural areas, the local post office is the only existing service. It offers post office services and acts as the local shop, and, of course, it stocks newspapers, magazines and so on.

By insisting on direct payment into a bank account, the department in London will make it even more difficult for many pensioners to get hold of their money. In rural areas, banks do not have local branches either, which means that pensioners have to travel to the nearest town to get hold of their pension. When that journey has to be made by public transport, it becomes extremely inconvenient for many.

It is important to note that a pledge was made in 2003 to give people the option of using their card to collect their pension rather than having to go to the bank to do so. Although a number of post offices lost business after 2003, a number were able to continue on the basis that the card scheme would remain. It appears by now, however, that the department in London has misled post offices and the public in relation to the card. It has been confirmed that the card agreement will be in place only until 2010, at which time the scheme will be wound up, and people will only be able to receive their benefits or

pobl dderbyn eu budd-daliadau neu bensïwn.

It came as a bit of a shock to everyone that the post office card, which was introduced with great fanfare in 2003, will end in 2010. It is remarkable that, in the House of Commons, the Minister was forced to admit that, when the card was introduced, the Government gave the impression that that would be a permanent system. I have looked up this remarkable answer, given in the House of Commons. He was asked, 'Why did you not tell people that it was a temporary system in 2003?'. He said, 'If, when my department was accused of putting in place all sorts of barriers to discourage people from taking up the card, we had been saying that, of course, it was a temporary arrangement, that would have been interpreted as another barrier to discourage people from taking up the account'. However, surely it is as misleading to pretend that it was a permanent arrangement when patently it was not. All of us have been misled; even the MPs who took part in the debate did not know that it was going to be a temporary card. It was only when the Minister quoted from the contract that had been signed by the Post Office and the Government that people realised. It is remarkable that the Minister refused to publish the full details of that contract during that debate.

The reality is that people from all sides, from all political parties and all walks of life, are angry that they have been misled. The sub-post offices are also angry that the Department for Work and Pensions is trying to persuade people who have a card to transfer to a bank. Those customers are getting letters asking them to transfer to a bank. I had a call from a distressed elderly constituent who said that she had received a letter from the DWP that was virtually forcing her to use a bank. Of course, I was able to intervene on her behalf and she continues to use the post office. However, how many thousands of pensioners have felt intimidated by that kind of letter and who are switching to the bank?

The Department for Work and Pensions is conducting three pilot schemes to try to

pension through either a bank account or giro.

Cafodd pawb dipyn o sioc o ddeall y bydd cerdyn swyddfa'r post, a gyflwynwyd gyda llawer o ffanfer yn 2003, yn dod i ben yn 2010. Mae'n rhyfeddol bod y Gweinidog, yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin, wedi cael ei gorfodi i gyfaddef, pan gyflwynwyd y cerdyn, fod y Llywodraeth wedi rhoi'r argraff y byddai'n system parhaol. Yr wyf wedi edrych ar yr ateb anhygoel hwn, a roddwyd yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin. Gofynnwyd iddo, 'Pam na ddywedasoch wrth bobl mai system dros dro ydoedd yn 2003?'. Meddai, 'Pan gyhuddwyd fy adran o gyflwyno pob math o rwystrau i annog pobl i beidio â defnyddio'r cerdyn, pe baem wedi dweud mai trefniant dros dro ydoedd, wrth gwrs, byddai hynny wedi'i ddehongli fel rhwystr arall i annog pobl i beidio â defnyddio'r cyfrif'. Fodd bynnag, onid yw yr un mor gamarweiniol esgus ei fod yn drefniant parhaol, a hithau'n amlwg nad oedd yn drefniant parhaol? Cawsom oll ein camarwain; nid oedd hyd yn oed yr ASau a gymerodd ran yn y ddadl yn gwybod mai cerdyn dros dro ydoedd. Dim ond pan fu i'r Gweinidog ddyfynnu o'r contract a lofnodwyd gan Swyddfa'r Post a'r Llywodraeth y sylweddolodd pobl. Mae'n anhygoel bod y Gweinidog wedi gwrthod cyhoeddi manylion llawn y contract hwnnw yn ystod y ddadl honno.

Y realiti yw bod pawb o bob carfan, o bob plaid wleidyddol ac o bob cefndir, yn ddig eu bod wedi'u camarwain. Mae'r is-swyddfeydd post hefyd yn ddig bod yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau yn ceisio darbwyllo pobl sydd â cherdyn i drosglwyddo i fanc. Mae'r cwsmeriaid hynny'n cael llythyron yn gofyn iddynt drosglwyddo i fanc. Bu i etholwr hŷn gofidus fy ffonio i ddweud ei bod wedi cael llythyr gan yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau a oedd i bob pwrpas yn ei gorfodi i ddefnyddio banc. Wrth gwrs, bu imi allu ymyrryd ar ei rhan ac mae'n parhau i ddefnyddio swyddfa'r post. Fodd bynnag, faint o filoedd o bensiynwyr sydd wedi eu dychryn gan lythyr o'r fath ac yn newid i'r banc?

Mae'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau'n cynnal tri chynllun peilot i geisio darbwyllo pobl i

persuade people to give up the card option. In the first scheme, new claimants are not being given the card option. In the second, where the department is aware that a customer has a bank account, the department is demanding details of that account and telling that customer to use it to receive his or her pension. In the third pilot scheme, where the claimant is in receipt of one benefit using the card, but another is paid into the bank, without giving any notice, the department is telling them, 'From now on, all your benefits will be paid into your bank account'. Therefore, people do not even have a choice any longer.

I can tell the Minister that these letters are causing immense distress to many elderly claimants and concern to post offices. Of course, it was not easy to get the card in the first place. According to one MP who spoke in the House of Commons, 22 hurdles were put in front of you. You applied for the card, then you were asked, 'Would it not be better for you to have a bank account?'. Then you applied again saying, 'No, I want the card', before receiving a letter asking, 'What about the bank account as an option?'. Eventually, after 22 interventions, some people got their card, and it is getting much more difficult for people to get hold of that card.

I have a question for the Minister, and I am sure that this will be on her mind as well. The Assembly is paying out grants, which is an excellent system, to sub-post offices to help them to make their businesses more attractive and more available to more customers, in order to make their businesses more viable. I am told that £4.1 million has been paid in such grants. One sub-postmaster asked me, 'What is the point of the Assembly giving me money with one hand to improve my post office, while the Department for Work and Pensions is taking away my livelihood with the other hand? If I have to close my business within three years of getting the Assembly grant, I have to pay back that grant, but I will have had to close my post office because of the actions of the Department for Work and Pensions'. You can understand why people feel angry and let down.

roi'r gorau i ddefnyddio'r cerdyn. Yn y cynllun cyntaf, ni chaiff hawlwy'r newydd gyfle i ddewis y cerdyn. Yn yr ail, lle y mae'r adran yn ymwybodol bod gan gwsmer gyfrif banc, mae'r adran yn mynnu cael manylion y cyfrif hwnnw ac yn dweud wrth y cwsmer hwnnw am ei ddefnyddio i gael ei bensiwn neu ei phensiwn. Yn y trydydd cynllun peilot, lle y mae'r hawliwr yn cael un budd-dal drwy ddefnyddio'r cerdyn, ond bod un arall yn cael ei dalu i'r banc, heb roi dim rhybudd, mae'r adran yn dweud wrtho, 'O hyn ymlaen, telir eich holl fudd-daliadau i'ch cyfrif banc'. Felly, nid oes gan bobl ddewis mwyach hyd yn oed.

Gallaf ddweud wrth y Gweinidog fod y llythyron hyn yn peri gofid mawr i lawer o hawlwy'r oeddrannus ac yn peri pryder i swyddfeydd post. Wrth gwrs, nid oedd yn hawdd cael y cerdyn yn y lle cyntaf. Yn ôl un AS a siaradodd yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin, rhoddwyd 22 o rwystrau o'ch blaen. Yr oeddech yn gwneud cais am y cerdyn, yna gofynnid ichi, 'Oni fyddai'n well pe byddai gennych gyfrif banc?'. Yna yr oeddech yn gwneud cais arall gan ddweud, 'Na, hoffwn gael y cerdyn', cyn cael llythyr yn gofyn, 'Beth am y cyfrif banc fel opsiwn?'. Yn y diwedd, ar ôl 22 o ymyriadau, cafodd rhai pobl eu cerdyn, ac mae'n dod yn llawer anos i bobl gael y cerdyn hwnnw.

Hoffwn ofyn cwestiwn i'r Gweinidog, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd hyn ar ei meddwl hithau hefyd. Mae'r Cynulliad yn talu grantiau, sy'n system ardderchog, i is-swyddfeydd post i'w helpu i wneud eu busnesau'n fwy deniadol ac yn fwy hygyrch i fwy o gwsmeriaid, er mwyn gwneud eu busnesau'n fwy hyfyw. Dywedir wrthyf fod £4.1 miliwn wedi'i dalu mewn grantiau o'r fath. Gofynnodd un is-bostfeistr imi, 'Pa ddiben sydd i'r Cynulliad roi arian imi gydag un llaw er mwyn gwella fy swyddfa bost, tra bod yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau'n dwyn fy mywoliaeth gyda'r llaw arall? Os oes rhaid imi gau fy musnes o fewn tair blynedd wedi cael grant y Cynulliad, mae'n rhaid imi dalu'r grant hwnnw'n ôl, ond oherwydd yr hyn y mae'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau'n ei wneud y byddaf wedi gorfod cau fy swyddfa bost'. Gallwch ddeall pam mae pobl yn teimlo'n ddig a'u bod wedi'u siomi.

We have to be absolutely clear here today: if the card is removed in 2010, many more post offices will close, thus removing a vital service from our communities. There are things that we can all do. Why can we not persuade our councils, for example, to make sure that the post offices are available to collect rents and the rates and so on? We can do that, and I am sure that the Minister will use whatever powers she has to persuade local authorities to do it. I understand that this is not a devolved issue, but I hope that the Minister, on behalf of all Assembly Members from all parties represented in this debate, will send a clear message to her colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions that we in the Assembly want the card system to remain. If it means that the Welsh Assembly Government has to take a different line to that taken in Westminster, so be it.

6.10 p.m.

It is time for us in the Assembly, in all parties, to stay together on this matter. Tell the DWP, 'Keep your hands off our post offices, and stop intimidating pensioners to give up the card'. We want the network of post offices to remain, and I ask the Minister for help to persuade the DWP to change its mind.

Jocelyn Davies: Sadly, I recently received notification that my local sub-post office at Newbridge is to close temporarily as no replacement can be found for the retiring postmistress. That 'temporarily' is almost bound to turn into a permanent closure, I suppose. That situation will not improve with the latest news that post offices have now lost the contract to sell television licences, and that comes on top of all the other attacks on their profitability, as outlined by Ieuan. Perhaps the Minister will therefore tell us whether she feels that post offices may no longer be seen as attractive investments in the free market without Government intervention, and whether the vital services that they offer will be lost to us for ever.

Mick Bates: Thank you for making this

Rhaid inni fod yn gwbl glir yma heddiw: os caiff y cerdyn ei ddileu yn 2010, bydd llawer mwy o swyddfeydd post yn cau, gan olygu mynd â gwasanaeth hanfodol o'n cymunedau. Gall pob un ohonom wneud rhywbeth. Pam na allwn ddarbwylo ein cynghorau, er enghraifft, i sicrhau bod y swyddfeydd post ar gael i gasglu rhenti a'r ardrethi ac yn y blaen? Gallwn wneud hynny, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn defnyddio pa bwerau bynnag sydd ganddi i ddarbwylo awdurdodau lleol i wneud hynny. Deallaf nad yw hwn yn fater datganoledig, ond gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog, ar ran pob Aelod o'r Cynulliad o bob plaid a gynrychiolir yn y ddadl hon, yn anfon neges glir at ei chyd-aelodau yn yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau ein bod ni yn y Cynulliad am i system y cerdyn barhau. Os yw'n golygu bod yn rhaid i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ddilyn polisi gwahanol i San Steffan, boed felly.

Mae'n bryd i ni yn y Cynulliad, ymhob plaid, gytuno ar y mater hwn. Dywedwch wrth yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, 'Cadwch eich dwylo oddi ar ein swyddfeydd post, a rhowch y gorau i ddychryn pensïynwyr i beri iddynt roi'r gorau i'r cerdyn'. Yr ydym am i'r rhwydwaith o swyddfeydd post barhau, a gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog am help i ddarbwylo'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau i newid ei meddwl.

Jocelyn Davies: Yn anffodus, cefais fy hysbysu yn ddiweddar fod fy is-swyddfa bost leol yn Nhrecelyn yn cau dros dro am na ellir dod o hyd i olynydd i'r bostfeistres sy'n ymddeol. Mae'r 'dros dro' hwnnw'n siŵr o newid i gau'n barhaol, mae'n debyg. Ni fydd y sefyllfa honno'n gwella yn sgîl y newyddion diweddaraf bod swyddfeydd post bellach wedi colli'r contract i werthu trwyddedau teledu, a daw hynny ar ben yr holl ymosodiadau eraill ar eu proffidioldeb, fel yr amlinellwyd gan Ieuan. Efallai y gall y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym felly a yw'n teimlo na fydd swyddfeydd post efallai yn cael eu gweld fel buddsoddiadau deniadol mwyach yn y farchnad rydd heb ymyriad y Llywodraeth, ac a gollir y gwasanaethau hanfodol a gynigir ganddynt am byth.

Mick Bates: Diolch am wneud y mater hwn

matter the topic of your short debate, and for the statement of opinion on account cards, which I am sure every Member will want to sign up to.

The key point was brought home to me when I visited a little post office run by Mrs Morgan in a place called Llwydiarth. While I was there, in that tiny place, a gentleman from some rich part of England who had bought a property up in the hills came in, and he wanted to use the facilities of the post office. Another dimension that I want to draw attention to in the minute that I have is that many people in rural areas want to use post offices. Therefore, it is a matter, Minister, of ensuring that you draw a line, support this and say, 'Here is a vision for all the services'. If you were to go to Llwydiarth post office—which was runner up, by the way, for the best rural post office in Wales—you would see that Mrs Morgan offers as many services as possible. All too often we see a reduction in services, so let us draw a line and have a vision to put more services into our post offices in order to keep them and build confidence in them so that they can flourish for us all.

Christine Chapman: I thank Ieuan for bringing forward this debate. As are other Members, I am concerned about the future of sub-post offices. They play an important role in communities, not just in rural areas, but in urban areas also. I know that there is anxiety among sub-postmasters about the discontinuation of the post office card account after the current contract ends in 2010, and about the BBC's decision to switch to PayPoint for collection of the licence fee. This will mean that the service will be taken away from post offices from July this year. I am to hold a meeting with representatives of Cynon valley post offices next week to discuss this matter.

We would all welcome public services becoming more efficient and saving money, but where such services perform an important role in the community, we have to try to strike a balance between what is good use of

yn destun eich dadl fer, ac am y datganiad barn am gardiau cyfrif, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd pob Aelod am ei lofnodi.

Tanlinellwyd y pwynt allweddol pan ymwelais â swyddfa bost fach a gaiff ei rhedeg gan Mrs Morgan mewn lle o'r enw Llwydiarth. Tra oeddwn yno, yn y lle bach hwnnw, daeth gŵr o ryw ran gyfoethog o Loegr a oedd wedi prynu eiddo i fyny yn y brynau i mewn, ac yr oedd am ddefnyddio cyfleusterau'r swyddfa bost. Dimensiwn arall yr hoffwn dynnu sylw ato yn y funud sydd gennyf yw bod pobl mewn ardaloedd gwledig am ddefnyddio swyddfeydd post. Felly, Weinidog, mae a wnelo â sicrhau eich bod yn tynnu llinell, yn cefnogi hyn ac yn dweud, 'Dyma weledigaeth ar gyfer yr holl wasanaethau'. Pe byddech yn mynd i swyddfa bost Llwydiarth—a ddaeth yn ail, gyda llaw, yng nghystadleuaeth y swyddfa bost wledig orau yng Nghymru—byddech yn gweld bod Mrs Morgan yn cynnig cynifer o wasanaethau â phosibl. Yn rhy aml o lawer gwelwn lai o wasanaethau'n cael eu cynnig, felly gadewch inni dynnu llinell a chael gweledigaeth i alluogi ein swyddfeydd post i ddarparu rhagor o wasanaethau er mwyn eu cadw a meithrin hyder ynddynt fel y gallant ffynnu er mwyn pob un ohonom.

Christine Chapman: Hoffwn ddiolch i Ieuan am gyflwyno'r ddadl hon. Fel Aelodau eraill, yr wyf yn pryderu am ddyfodol is-swyddfeydd post. Maent yn chwarae rhan bwysig mewn cymunedau, nid yn unig mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ond mewn ardaloedd trefol hefyd. Gwn fod is-bostfeistri'n pryderu ynghylch dod â chyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post i ben ar ôl i'r contract presennol orffen yn 2010, ac ynghylch penderfyniad y BBC i newid i PayPoint i gasglu ffi'r drwydded. Bydd hyn yn golygu na fydd swyddfeydd post yn darparu'r gwasanaeth o fis Gorffennaf eleni ymlaen. Bwriadaf gynnal cyfarfod gyda chynrychiolwyr swyddfeydd post Cwm Cynon yr wythnos nesaf i drafod y mater hwn.

Byddai pob un ohonom yn croesawu gweld gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn dod yn fwy effeithlon ac yn arbed arian, ond pan fo gwasanaethau o'r fath yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn y gymuned, rhaid inni geisio

public money and what is good for local communities. I think that we have some sort of consensus on the importance of post offices in Wales, and we must act to support their long-term future. We are doing this in the Assembly through the post office development fund, and this is the right policy, but, as I said, it is also a matter of supporting the good things that we have in post offices.

Mark Isherwood: I declare an interest in that my wife manages a sub-post office.

Time is short, so I will quote from a letter from Mrs Hooker, who is sub-postmistress in Lixwm, near Holywell in Flintshire. She says,

‘My customers actively chose to have the POCA’—

the post office card account—

‘despite the fact that the DWP wanted all pensions and allowances paid into bank accounts...It was only then that the POCA was introduced, for which we had to fight hard. There was no mention at that time that the POCA had a limited life span...Many of my customers do not drive, and the bus service is not good enough’.

She goes on to say that

‘Most card account customers pay rent, council tax, electricity, phone and other bills here free of charge and also buy savings stamps for television licence fees and other bills. I am a pensioner and a POCA holder. I would find it difficult to pay my bills if my card account was abolished, as would my customers...Sub-postmasters co-operated with the Government with the introduction of new products and services. We worked hard to make the switch to direct payment. I personally had to fill in a large proportion of application forms for POCA, as the process was so involved and forms would be rejected on the slightest pretext...Show your support for local Post Offices—or is it the

sicrhau cydbwysedd rhwng yr hyn sy’n ddefnydd da o arian cyhoeddus a’r hyn sy’n lles i gymunedau lleol. Credaf fod gennym ryw fath o gonsensws ynghylch pwysigrwydd swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru, a rhaid inni weithredu er mwyn cefnogi eu dyfodol hirdymor. Yr ydym yn gwneud hyn yn y Cynulliad drwy’r gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post, a dyma’r polisi iawn, ond, fel y dywedais, mae a wnelo hefyd â chefnogi’r pethau da sydd gennym mewn swyddfeydd post.

Mark Isherwood: Datganaf fuddiant oherwydd bod fy ngwraig yn rheoli is-swyddfa bost.

Mae amser yn brin, felly dyfynnaf o lythyr gan Mrs Hooker, sy’n is-bostfeistres yn Lixwm, ger Treffynnon yn sir y Fflint. Dywed,

Dewisodd fy nghwsmeriaid gael y POCA—

cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa’r post—

er gwaethaf y ffaith bod yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau am i bob pensiwn a lwfans gael ei dalu i gyfrifon banc...Wedi hynny y cyflwynwyd y POCA a bu’n rhaid inni frwydro’n galed amdano. Ni soniwyd y pryd hynny mai dim ond am ryw hyd y byddai’r POCA yn bodoli...Nid yw llawer o’r cwsmeriaid yn gyrru, ac nid yw’r gwasanaeth bws yn ddigon da.

Mae’n mynd ymlaen i ddweud

Mae’r rhan fwyaf o gwsmeriaid cyfrif cerdyn yn talu’r rhent, y dreth gyngor, ac am y trydan a’r ffôn a biliau eraill yma am ddim ac maent hefyd yn prynu stampiau cynilo ar gyfer ffioedd trwydded deledu a biliau eraill. Yr wyf yn bensiynwraig ac mae gennyf POCA. Byddai’n anodd imi dalu fy miliau pe byddai fy nghyfrif cerdyn yn cael ei ddileu, a byddai’n anodd i’r cwsmeriaid hefyd...Cydweithiodd is-bostfeistri â’r Llywodraeth wrth gyflwyno cynhyrchion a gwasanaethau newydd. Bu inni weithio’n galed i newid i daliad uniongyrchol. Bu’n rhaid imi lenwi cyfran fawr o ffurflenni cais yn bersonol ar gyfer POCA, am fod y broses mor gymhleth a byddai ffurflenni’n cael eu

Government's intention to close all small offices?'

We must have sustainable communities, and sustainable communities need their post offices. Therefore, let us all call on our Westminster colleagues to sign early-day motion 1531, and assure the Assembly's Minister that, if she took the matter up with the Westminster Minister, she would have all-party support.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): I am pleased to say that I have always enjoyed cross-party support in the actions that I have taken to try to protect post offices across Wales in my correspondence, especially with the Department for Work and Pensions. I must emphasise that I have always taken active steps to represent the views of the Assembly on matters relating to post offices in Wales, despite the fact that the postal service is not a devolved matter. The comments that I will make reflect that fact, but you should be aware that I first queried the move to bank accounts. The Assembly was very concerned that people should be moving towards having bank accounts, when we held the discussions on the post office card account. We had the ludicrous position of sub-postmasters and mistresses not being able to advertise the fact that the post office card was available. We also wrote about those various issues, and I continue to write to the DWP expressing my concerns. In response to Jenny Randerson today, I indicated that I would write once again about the post office card account, because it is very important.

Post offices are not an urban or a rural issue; they are a Wales issue. People need to use them or lose them, and it is important to recognise the needs of communities that are isolated within urban as well as rural areas. Post offices are also essential in terms of social development, social issues and needs, because people ask for advice on other issues when they go to post offices, particularly if they are older. They have a sense of security

gwrthod oherwydd yr esgus lleiaf...Cefnogwch eich Swyddfeydd Post lleol—neu a yw'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu cau pob swyddfa fach?

Rhaid inni gael cymunedau cynaliadwy, ac mae angen eu swyddfeydd post ar gymunedau cynaliadwy. Felly, gadewch inni alw ar ein cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan i lofnodi cynnig cynnar-yn-y-dydd 1531, a sicrhau Gweinidog y Cynulliad pe byddai'n cyflwyno'r mater i Weinidog San Steffan, y byddai'n cael cefnogaeth gan bob plaid.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud fy mod bob amser wedi cael cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol o ran yr hyn yr wyf wedi'i wneud i geisio diogelu swyddfeydd post ledled Cymru yn fy ngohebiaeth, yn enwedig gyda'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau. Rhaid imi bwysleisio fy mod bob amser wedi cymryd camau i gynrychioli barn y Cynulliad o ran materion yn ymwneud â swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru, er nad yw'r gwasanaeth post yn fater sydd wedi'i ddatganoli. Bydd y sylwadau a wnaif yn adlewyrchu'r ffaith honno, ond dylech fod yn ymwybodol fy mod wedi cwestiynu newid i gyfrifon banc yn y lle cyntaf. Yr oedd y Cynulliad yn pryderu'n fawr y byddai pobl yn symud tuag at gael cyfrifon banc, pan gynhaliwyd y trafodaethau ar gyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post. Cafwyd sefyllfa chwerthinllyd lle nad oedd yn bosibl i is-bostfeistri nac is-bostfeistresi hysbysebu'r ffaith bod cerdyn swyddfa'r post ar gael. Ysgrifenasom hefyd am y materion amrywiol hynny, ac yr wyf yn parhau i ysgrifennu at yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau i fynegi fy mhryderon. Mewn ymateb i Jenny Randerson heddiw, nodais y byddem yn ysgrifennu unwaith eto ynghylch cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post, am ei fod yn bwysig iawn.

Nid mater yn ymwneud â'r dref nac â chefn gwlad yw swyddfeydd post; maent yn fater sy'n berthnasol i Gymru. Mae angen i bobl eu defnyddio neu eu colli, ac mae'n bwysig cydnabod anghenion cymunedau ynysig mewn ardaloedd trefol yn ogystal ag ardaloedd gwledig. Mae swyddfeydd post hefyd yn hanfodol o ran datblygu cymdeithasol, a materion ac anghenion cymdeithasol, oherwydd y mae pobl yn gofyn

in that good advice, and they value what they have in their local post office. I see this as being an essential part of sustainable communities, and the way in which we feel about communities, particularly in Wales.

It is also important for us to recognise the points that Ieuan made, particularly about the post office development fund. The fund has been extremely successful, and Ieuan is quite right in saying that it has given about £4.1 million to 106 post offices across Wales. The fund has had to be reviewed, because we must consider why Welsh Assembly Government money is going into the postal service when the DWP has taken decisions in the other direction. We want to encourage sub-postmasters and mistresses to improve their businesses with the post office development fund. I can understand how they feel, and their frustration has been vented to me on a number of recent occasions when they have asked, 'Are you going to claw back the money, and what are you going to do about the DWP's attitude?'.

As an Assembly Government, my officials have been involved very early on in the battles on some of these issues. It was the Assembly that alerted the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Office, and we now have the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and others on board to discuss the value of post offices within our various communities. We must continue to plug this line. When the Post Office issues consultation documents during the summer on various issues, we must ensure that we respond fully across political parties and across Wales to tell it what we want from the postal service in the future.

To touch on the point about television licences, I am disappointed that the post office did not win the contract, but it was a commercial matter for the BBC, which has a duty to its licence holders to achieve value for money for its licence fee income. It is

am gyngor ar faterion eraill pan fyddant yn mynd i swyddfeydd post, yn enwedig os ydynt yn hŷn. Maent yn ymddiried yn y cyngor da hwnnw, ac maent yn gwerthfawrogi'r hyn sydd ganddynt yn eu swyddfa bost leol. Gwelaf hyn fel rhan hanfodol o gymunedau cynaliadwy, a'r ffordd yr ydym yn teimlo ynghylch cymunedau, yn enwedig yng Nghymru.

Mae'n bwysig hefyd inni gydnabod y pwyntiau a wnaed gan Ieuan, yn enwedig ynghylch cronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post. Mae'r gronfa wedi bod yn llwyddiannus dros ben, ac mae Ieuan yn llygad ei le pan ddywed ei bod wedi rhoi tua £4.1 miliwn i 106 o swyddfeydd post ledled Cymru. Bu'n rhaid adolygu'r gronfa, oherwydd y mae'n rhaid inni ystyried pam mae arian Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cael ei fuddsoddi yn y gwasanaeth post pan fo'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau wedi gwneud penderfynidau sy'n mynd i'r cyfeiriad arall. Yr ydym am annog is-bostfeistri ac is-bostfeistresi i wella eu busnesau drwy gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post. Gallaf ddeall sut y maent yn teimlo, ac maent wedi mynegi eu rhwystredigaeth sawl gwaith yn ddiweddar wrth iddynt ofyn, 'A ydych yn mynd i adennill yr arian, a beth yr ydych yn mynd i'w wneud ynghylch agwedd yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau?'.

Fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, mae fy swyddogion wedi ymwneud yn gynnar iawn â'r brwydrau ynghylch rhai o'r materion hyn. Y Cynulliad a dynnodd sylw Gweithrediaeth yr Alban a Swyddfa Gogledd Iwerddon at hynny, ac erbyn hyn mae Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig ac eraill wrthi'n trafod gwerth swyddfeydd post o fewn ein cymunedau amrywiol. Rhaid inni barhau i wneud hyn. Pan fydd Swyddfa'r Post yn cyhoeddi dogfennau ymgynghori yn ystod yr haf ar faterion amrywiol, rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn ymateb yn llawn ar draws y pleidiau gwleidyddol a ledled Cymru er mwyn dweud wrthi beth yr ydym am i'r gwasanaeth post ei gynnig yn y dyfodol.

O sôn am y pwynt ynghylch trwyddedau teledu, yr wyf yn siomedig nad enillodd swyddfa'r post y contract, ond mater masnachol ydoedd i'r BBC, sydd â dyletswydd tuag ei ddeiliaid trwydded i sicrhau gwerth am arian oddi wrth ei incwm

currently not a matter in which the UK Government or the Department for Culture, Media and Sport can intervene, but it was another reason to go there. It is important for us to recognise that it is not just about the post office card accounts, but about other business that you transact around it. That footfall helps the businesses to stay alive within communities; they are the only store in any shape or form that is also providing some other goods and other stuff, and which has been able to diversify.

I take on board your point about local authorities. I have been advised that one local authority has decided that it will no longer allow people to pay their rents and so on through the post office. I think that the post office is a valuable tool for local authorities to allow people to pay for services. If you are on a tight budget—and I remember my grandmother doing this years ago—you have a different pot to keep money for this, that and the other in it. You can do all those type of transactions in the post office. You can pay your electricity bill there now that the SWALEC contract has come back to the post offices. Therefore, we must ensure that local government has a full role to play in providing services that people can access in that way.

6.20 p.m.

When you look at the very successful project that has been undertaken with Dyfed-Powys Police where it has a presence in post offices, you can see how post offices can be utilised far better to help our communities.

I am also pleased that Ieuan chose to raise this issue today; it is opportune. I will be writing a letter once again on the post office card account and, as soon as we have consultation documents on various other post office matters, I will immediately draw them to Members' attention. I will ask Janice Gregory, the Chair of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee, whether the committee could perhaps formally respond to some of these consultation documents when they are out in the summer.

o ffi'r drwydded. Ar hyn o bryd, ni all Llywodraeth y DU na'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon ymyrryd mewn perthynas â'r mater hwn, ond yr oedd yn rheswm arall dros fynd yno. Mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod nad oes a wnelo hyn â chyfrifon cerdyn swyddfa'r post yn unig, ond mae a wnelo â busnes arall a drafodir yn gysylltiedig â hynny. Mae'r cwsmeriaid hynny'n helpu'r busnesau i barhau o fewn cymunedau; hwy yw'r unig siop o unrhyw fath sydd hefyd yn darparu nwyddau eraill a phethau eraill, ac sydd wedi gallu arallgyfeirio.

Derbyniat eich pwynt ynghylch awdurdodau lleol. Fe'm hysbyswyd bod un awdurdod lleol wedi penderfynu na fydd yn gadael i bobl dalu eu rhent ac yn y blaen mwyach yn swyddfa'r post. Credaf fod swyddfa'r post yn gyfrwng defnyddiol a ddefnyddir gan awdurdodau lleol i alluogi pobl i dalu am wasanaethau. Os yw arian yn brin—a chofiaf fy mam-gu'n gwneud hyn flynyddoedd yn ôl—mae gennych bot gwahanol i gadw arian ar gyfer hyn a'r llall. Gallwch wneud yr holl drafodion hynny yn swyddfa'r post. Gallwch dalu eich bil trydan yno yn awr gan fod contract SWALEC wedi dychwelyd i'r swyddfeydd post. Felly, rhaid inni sicrhau bod llywodraeth leol yn chwarae rhan lawn o ran darparu gwasanaethau y gall pobl gael mynediad atynt yn y ffordd honno.

Pan edrychwch ar y prosiect llwyddiannus iawn a gynhaliwyd gan Heddlu Dyfed-Powys lle y mae'n bresennol mewn swyddfeydd post, gallwch weld sut y gellir defnyddio swyddfeydd post yn llawer gwell er mwyn helpu ein cymunedau.

Yr wyf finnau hefyd yn falch bod Ieuan wedi dewis codi'r mater hwn heddiw; mae'n amserol. Byddaf yn ysgrifennu llythyr unwaith eto ynghylch cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post a, chyn gynted ag y byddwn wedi cael dogfennau ymgynghori ar faterion amrywiol eraill sy'n ymwneud â swyddfa'r post, byddaf yn tynnu sylw'r Aelodau atynt ar unwaith. Gofynnaf i Janice Gregory, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, tybed a allai'r pwyllgor ymateb yn ffurfiol i rai o'r

dogfennau ymgynghori hyn pan gyhoeddir hwy yn yr haf.

I thank you for the opportunity to discuss this issue. I think that there is unanimity across the political parties that it is important to recognise that post offices are the lifeblood of some communities. It is there that people go to chat, to socialise and to do business. It is important that we keep those services alive because not everyone can afford to travel miles to make their transactions in larger towns.

There are wider issues with the post office. We had to battle to ensure that there was a Crown post office left in Cardiff. There are big issues with the way in which the post office deals with matters. I regard the post office as a public service. It has to have economies of scale, it has to be productive, and it has to have the best way of dealing with its business, but, at the end of the day, it is a public service and it should be protected.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That concludes business for this afternoon.

Hoffwn ddiolch ichi am y cyfle i drafod y mater hwn. Credaf fod y pleidiau gwleidyddol yn gytûn ei bod yn bwysig cydnabod mai swyddfeydd post yw enaid rhai cymunedau. Yno yr aiff pobl i sgwrsio, i gymdeithasu ac i wneud busnes. Mae'n bwysig inni gadw'r gwasanaethau hynny'n fyw oherwydd ni all pawb fforddio teithio milltiroedd i wneud eu trafodion mewn trefi mwy.

Ceir materion ehangach sy'n ymwneud â swyddfa'r post. Bu'n rhaid inni frwydro i sicrhau bod un o swyddfeydd post y Goron yn parhau yng Nghaerdydd. Mae cwestiynau mawr yn ymwneud â'r ffordd y mae swyddfa'r post yn ymdrin â materion. I mi, mae swyddfa'r post yn wasanaeth cyhoeddus. Rhaid iddi sicrhau arbedion maint, rhaid iddi fod yn gynhyrchiol, a rhaid iddi ymdrin â'i busnes yn y ffordd orau, ond, yn y pen draw, mae'n wasanaeth cyhoeddus a dylid ei ddiogelu.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.22 p.m.
The meeting ended at 6.22 p.m.*

Aelodau a'u Pleidiau Members and their Parties

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)

Dunwoody, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
 Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Marek, John (Cymru Ymlaen – Forward Wales)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
 Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)