



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Cofnod y Trafodion**

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

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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynnddi yn y Siambr.
Yn y golofn dde, cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad o'r areithiau hynny.

In the left-hand column, the proceedings are recorded in the language in which they were
spoken in the Chamber. In the right-hand column, a translation of those 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 ar Lywodraeth Leol i'r Gweinidog Cyllid Questions on Local Government to the Finance Minister

Gwella Safonau Gwasanaethau Awdurdodau Lleol Improving Standards in Local Authority Services

Q1 John Griffiths: Will the Minister make a statement on progress in improving standards in local authority services in Wales identified as most in need of improvement? OAQ0662(LGP)

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I am pleased to say that the overall trend is of continued, but sometimes uneven, improvement in service standards. There are strengths and weaknesses within all service areas and authorities. We and our partners will continue to provide support to address those weaknesses.

John Griffiths: In my constituency, like others across Wales, I am sure, I find great disparities between schools in terms of the resources available to them, many of which are based on the socio-economic circumstances of the catchment areas that they serve. These resources include, for example, parental resources. I am pleased that we have been improving standards in education overall, Sue, and impressively so, but what further measures can we take to ensure that those schools in the most deprived situations receive further help to bring their standards up to those of the best?

Sue Essex: You are right to say that we have seen significant improvement in standards, and, by now, over 50 per cent of 15-year-olds are gaining at least five GCSEs with grades A to C. That is important and a credit to the schools and children concerned. As you said, there are children who are not achieving their full potential, and it is important that we give them our attention. Jane Davidson will make a statement this afternoon on how the additional £13 million from Gordon Brown will be distributed. It will be a useful, initial injection of funding to attack the deprivation

C1 John Griffiths: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y cynnydd o ran gwella safonau'r gwasanaethau awdurdodau lleol hynny yng Nghymru y nodwyd eu bod fwyaf angen eu gwella? OAQ0662 (LGP)

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud mai gwelliant parhaus, er yn anghyson ar adegau, yw'r duedd gyffredinol o ran safonau gwasanaeth. Mae gwendidau a chryfderau ym mhob maes gwasanaeth ac awdurdod. Byddwn ni a'n partneriaid yn parhau i roi cymorth i fynd i'r afael â'r gwendidau hynny.

John Griffiths: Yn fy etholaeth i, fel eraill ledled Cymru, yr wyf yn siŵr, gwelaf wahaniaeth mawr rhwng ysgolion o ran yr adnoddau sydd ar gael iddynt, lawer ohonynt yn seiliedig ar amgylchiadau economaidd-gymdeithasol y dalgylchoedd a wasanaethir ganddynt. Ymhlith yr adnoddau hyn, er enghraifft, mae adnoddau i rieni. Yr wyf yn falch inni fod yn gwella safonau ym myd addysg yn gyffredinol, Sue, ac yn gwneud hynny ar raddfa sylweddol. Ond pa gamau pellach y gallwn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod yr ysgolion hynny yn y sefyllfa oedd mwyaf difreintiedig yn cael mwy o help er mwyn codi eu safonau i lefel y rhai gorau?

Sue Essex: Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle pan ddywedwch ein bod wedi gweld gwelliannau sylweddol mewn safonau, ac erbyn hyn mae dros 50 y cant o ddisgyblion 15 oed yn ennill o leiaf bum gradd TGAU gyda graddau A i C. Mae hynny'n bwysig ac yn glod i'r ysgolion a'r plant dan sylw. Fel yr oeddech yn dweud, mae yna blant nad ydynt yn cyflawni eu potensial llawn, ac mae'n bwysig inni roi ein sylw iddynt. Bydd Jane Davidson yn gwneud datganiad y prynhawn yma ar sut y dyrennir y £13 miliwn ychwanegol a roddwyd gan Gordon

that means that many children do not achieve their full potential in their education years and, as a result, find it harder to achieve their full potential during the rest of their lives.

David Lloyd: Un o'r ffactorau pwysicaf wrth feddwl am wella safonau llywodraeth leol yw morâl staff. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, a oes digon o arian wedi'i glustnodi ar gyfer pensiynau gweithwyr llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru?

Sue Essex: You and I are members of the groups that look at the expenditure needs and pressures on local government, which include pressures on the education service. I believe that we have addressed those pressures, in terms of both pay and pensions, over the years. We will keep these under review year in, year out.

David Lloyd: Felly, a ydych chi'n cefnogi safbwynt gweithwyr llywodraeth leol ynghylch y newidiadau yn eu cynllun pensiwn?

Sue Essex: Sorry, I did not catch the first part of your question.

David Lloyd: A ydych chi'n cefnogi safbwynt gweithwyr llywodraeth leol wrth iddynt fynd ar streic o ganlyniad i'r newidiadau yn eu cynllun pensiwn?

Sue Essex: I have made it clear, publicly and to the unions, that I do not want to see a differentiation in standards for public sector employees. I think that differentiation builds resentment and makes it much harder for us to get the joined-up movement that we want to see in the public sector.

David Melding: I am sure that you have had a chance to see the Audit Commission in Wales's excellent themed paper on scrutiny in local government. One way to drive up standards is to have effective scrutiny, but the paper draws the stark conclusion that many scrutiny committees

Brown. Bydd yn swm cychwynnol defnyddiol i fynd i'r afael â'r amddifadedd sy'n golygu bod nifer o blant yn methu cyrraedd eu potensial llawn yn ystod eu blynyddoedd addysg, ac o ganlyniad yn ei chael yn anos cyrraedd eu potensial llawn weddill eu hoes.

David Lloyd: When we think about improving standards in local government, one of the most important factors is the morale of staff. In that context, has adequate funding been allocated for the pensions of local government workers in Wales?

Sue Essex: Yr ydych chi a minnau yn aelodau o'r grwpiau sy'n edrych ar anghenion gwariant llywodraeth leol a'r pwysau arni, sy'n cynnwys pwysau ar y gwasanaeth addysg. Credaf ein bod wedi mynd i'r afael â'r pwysau hynny, o ran cyflogau a phensiynau, dros y blynyddoedd. Byddwn yn parhau i'w hadolygu flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn?

David Lloyd: Therefore, do you support the standpoint of local government workers regarding the changes to their pension scheme?

Sue Essex: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ni chlywais ran gyntaf eich cwestiwn.

David Lloyd: Do you support the standpoint of local government workers who have been on strike because of the changes to their pension scheme?

Sue Essex: Yr wyf wedi'i gwneud yn glir, yn gyhoeddus ac i'r undebau, nad wyf am weld gwahanol safonau ar gyfer cyflogaion y sector cyhoeddus. Credaf fod gwahaniaethu rhyngddynt yn creu drwgdeimlad ac yn ei gwneud lawer yn anos inni sicrhau'r symud unedig yr ydym am ei weld yn y sector cyhoeddus.

David Melding: Mae'n siŵr eich bod wedi cael cyfle i weld papur thema ardderchog y Comisiwn Archwilio ar graffu mewn llywodraeth leol. Un ffordd i sicrhau safonau uwch yw cael proses graffu effeithiol, ond daw'r papur i'r casgliad bod nifer o bwyllgorau craffu

'are wary of challenging the executive'.

'yn ofni herio'r weithrediaeth'.

One of the biggest impediments is that so many councils, which are predominantly Labour councils, do not allow opposition parties to chair scrutiny committees. I know that you have given a lead in terms of the guidance, but do you not need to get your colleagues around a table and get them to accept the good practice that exists in places such as Monmouth and the Vale of Glamorgan, where, of course, there are Conservative administrations?

Un o'r prif rwystrau yw bod cynifer o gynghorau, cynghorau Llafur yn bennaf, nad ydynt yn caniatáu i wrthbleidiau gadeirio pwyllgorau craffu. Gwn eich bod wedi darparu arweiniad ar y canllawiau, ond onid oes angen ichi gasglu eich cyd-Aelodau ynghyd a'u cael i dderbyn yr arfer da sy'n bodoli mewn mannau fel Trefynwy a Bro Morgannwg, lle mae gweinyddiaethau Ceidwadol, wrth gwrs?

Sue Essex: A Conservative administration backed up by Plaid, in the case of the Vale of Glamorgan. I agree with your general point. On your second point, you know that I am doing my best, and that there has been some progress. We have had many discussions in committee on your first point, about effective scrutiny. The committee produced a good paper on this, which included a range of recommendations. This is not seen as a natural process for many people standing for election to a council. We should link it more to performance appraisal and provide the support that is needed. The committee found that, in many cases, it was not necessarily just about challenging the executive; people felt that they did not have the back-up facilities, in terms of officers and research, to ensure that they did a good job. We need to concentrate on that.

Sue Essex: Gweinyddiaeth Geidwadol a gefnogir gan Plaid, yn achos Bro Morgannwg. Cytunaf â'ch pwynt cyffredinol. O ran eich ail bwynt, fe wyddoch fy mod yn gwneud fy ngorau, a chafwyd rhywfaint o gynnydd. Yr ydym wedi cael llawer trafodaeth yn ystod cyfarfodydd y pwyllgor ar eich pwynt cyntaf, ynghylch craffu effeithiol. Lluniodd y pwyllgor bapur da ar hwn, a oedd yn cynnwys amrywiaeth o argymhellion. Nid ystyrir bod hyn yn broses naturiol i lawer o bobl sy'n sefyll mewn etholiadau cyngor. Dylem ei gysylltu'n fwy ag arfarnu perfformiad a rhoi'r cymorth sydd ei angen. Daeth y pwyllgor i'r casgliad nad oedd o reidrwydd, mewn llawer achos, yn ymwneud â herio'r weithrediaeth yn unig; yr oedd pobl yn teimlo nad oedd ganddynt y cyfleusterau cefnogi, o ran swyddogion ac ymchwil, i sicrhau eu bod yn gwneud gwaith da. Mae angen inni ganolbwyntio ar hynny.

I recently found out that there is a centre for scrutiny studies in London, which, I understand, does good work. We are always prepared to learn and see what good examples are to be found. I think that I will visit that centre; I am sure that there are other committee members who would also be interested in hearing what the centre has to say.

Darganfyddais yn ddiweddar fod yna ganolfan ar gyfer astudiaethau craffu yn Llundain sydd, yn ôl a ddeallaf, yn gwneud gwaith da. Yr ydym bob amser yn barod i ddysgu a gweld pa esiamplau da sydd ar gael. Yr wyf yn bwriadu ymweld â'r ganolfan honno; yr wyf yn siŵr fod aelodau eraill o'r pwyllgor a fyddai hefyd yn hoffi clywed yr hyn sydd gan y ganolfan i'w ddweud.

David Melding: We accept your half answer, that, in abstract, you think that scrutiny committees should be chaired by opposition parties, though I think that you need to do a lot more to put that principle into practice. May I suggest another area where scrutiny, once it is effectively developed, could be extended, as is the case in England? That is to give local government a role in overseeing

David Melding: Derbyniwn eich hanner ateb sef, yn gryno, eich bod yn credu y dylai pwyllgorau craffu gael eu cadeirio gan wrthbleidiau, er fy mod yn credu bod angen ichi wneud llawer mwy i roi'r egwyddor honno ar waith. A gaf fi awgrymu maes arall lle y gellid ehangu'r broses graffu, ar ôl ei ddatblygu'n effeithiol, fel y gwneir yn Lloegr? Yr awgrym yw rhoi'r cyfrifoldeb am

and scrutinising health services.

Sue Essex: The recommendation from the committee was that there should be party balance in terms of scrutiny committee chairs, as there is in the Assembly. That is what we accepted. In terms of health, we now have local health boards, which include local authorities. Therefore, there is a direct role for local government. I see no reason why there could not be joint scrutiny, and I can see no reason why local authorities should not take a role—after all, they still have an important role to play in health. Many of the points in Health Challenge Wales and in the health and wellbeing plans are aimed at local authorities.

Personally, I believe that the problem lies in the word ‘scrutiny’. Given the range of performance indicators that we have, if we asked councillors to assess and appraise performance, and then make recommendations, it might appeal to them more. That is just a personal opinion, but I believe that that creates more of an immediate link between what a local authority or health board is doing and what the outcomes are on the ground.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): The council that has been in most need of improvement in recent years is Blaenau Gwent. It is the only council in Wales—and one of only a handful throughout the UK—which has had an improvement board put in place to assist it. Has the improvement board done any work to identify why the council got into such a state? Could you give us some indications as to what lessons could be learned from such an exercise, and which could be used, in general, by other councils in Wales?

Sue Essex: That is a good, interesting question. The improvement board was specifically drawn up because there were two areas of failing. The first was around social services and the other was around that lovely phrase, corporate governance—joined-up thinking and leadership, to ordinary people. The board has been very successful as a model of support, rather than an intervention

oruchwylio a chraffu ar wasanaethau iechyd i lywodraeth leol.

Sue Essex: Yr argymhelliad gan y pwyllgor oedd cael cydbwysedd rhwng y pleidiau o ran cadeirio pwyllgorau craffu, fel y gwneir yn y Cynulliad. Dyna a dderbyniwyd gennym. O ran iechyd, mae gennym fyrddau iechyd lleol bellach, sy'n cynnwys awdurdodau lleol. Felly, mae gan lywodraeth leol ran uniongyrchol. Ni welaf ddim rheswm pam na ellid craffu ar y cyd, ac ni welaf ddim rheswm pam na ddylai awdurdodau lleol chwarae rhan—wedi'r cyfan, mae ganddynt ran bwysig ym maes iechyd o hyd. Mae nifer o'r pwyntiau yn Her Iechyd Cymru ac yn y cynlluniau iechyd a lles yn anelu at awdurdodau lleol.

Yn bersonol, credaf mai'r broblem yw'r gair ‘craffu’. O gofio'r amrywiaeth dangosyddion perfformiad sydd gennym, pe byddem yn gofyn i gynghorwyr asesu ac arfarnu perfformiad, ac yna wneud argymhellion, efallai y byddai'n apelio'n fwy atynt. Dim ond barn bersonol yw hynny, ond credaf fod hynny'n creu cysylltiad mwy uniongyrchol rhwng yr hyn y mae awdurdod lleol neu fwrdd iechyd yn ei wneud a'r canlyniadau ar lawr gwlad.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Y cyngor y bu angen ei wella fwyaf yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf yw Blaenau Gwent. Hwn yw'r unig gyngor yng Nghymru—ac un o blith ychydig yn unig ledled y DU—sydd wedi cael bwrdd gwella i'w gynorthwyo. A yw'r bwrdd gwella wedi gwneud unrhyw waith i nodi pam mae'r cyngor mewn sefyllfa mor druenus? A allech roi rhyw arwydd inni o'r gwersi a allai gael eu dysgu o ymarfer o'r fath, ac a allai gael eu defnyddio, yn gyffredinol, gan gynghorau eraill yng Nghymru?

Sue Essex: Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn da a diddorol. Sefydlwyd y bwrdd gwella yn benodol am fod dau faes diffygiol. Y cyntaf oedd gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a'r llall oedd y term hyfryd hwnnw, llywodraethu corfforaethol—meddwl ac arwain cysylltiedig, i bobl gyffredin. Bu'r bwrdd yn llwyddiannus iawn fel model o gymorth, yn hytrach nag ymyriad fel y cyfryw. Yr

as such. I was looking today at the performance indicators for our policy agreement, in which Blaenau Gwent is leading. Of all Wales's local authorities, Blaenau Gwent is performing best in that respect. So, that is to the credit of the authority.

In terms of lessons learned, the advisory board is still in place, but I know that, in its final sessions, it wants to pick up on lessons learned in general, rather than specifically in relation to Blaenau Gwent. Therefore, we will be able to learn whether or not that system works. I believe that it does, as does the local authority. We will also see whether it could be modified or adapted in any way.

Michael German: Could you tell us, as a result of having the improvement board in place, what other measures, apart from those of working alongside the council, has the Assembly Government been able to provide to specifically support Blaenau Gwent in its exercise of trying to bring itself up to a modern standard of government?

2.10 p.m.

Sue Essex: We have had an involvement in the board, and all Ministers right across the piece have made an effort to give support in all sorts of ways. Just giving encouragement about making the change really helps. Credit is due in particular to John Jones Hopkins and Nigel Daniels, as leader and deputy leader of the council, who have led this, and who have been prepared to face up to past failings and to make changes. It is not easy for members and officers to face instances of what they have not done well, and we have done our best to support them, and to give credit where credit is due. Looking at some of the figures that we are now receiving, I think that they have turned things around for that authority.

oeddw'n yn edrych heddiw ar y dangosyddion perfformiad ar gyfer ein cytundeb polisi, lle mae Blaenau Gwent yn arwain. O'r holl awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru, Blaenau Gwent sy'n perfformio orau yn y maes hwnnw. Felly, mae hynny'n glod i'r awdurdod.

O ran y gwersi a ddysgwyd, mae'r bwrdd cynghori yn bodoli o hyd, ond gwn ei fod, yn ei sesiynau olaf, am ganolbwyntio ar y gwersi a ddysgwyd yn gyffredinol, yn hytrach nag yn benodol mewn perthynas â Blaenau Gwent. Felly, byddwn yn gallu dysgu a yw'r system honno'n gweithio neu beidio. Yr wyf fi'n credu ei bod yn gweithio, fel y mae'r awdurdod lleol. Byddwn hefyd yn gweld a ellid ei diwygio neu ei haddasu mewn unrhyw ffordd.

Michael German: A allech ddweud wrthym, o gael y bwrdd gwella, pa fesurau eraill, ar wahân i gydweithio â'r cyngor, y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gallu eu darparu i helpu Blaenau Gwent yn benodol i gyrraedd safon fodern o lywodraeth?

Sue Essex: Yr ydym wedi ymgysylltu â'r bwrdd, ac mae pob Gweinidog wedi ymdrechu i roi cymorth mewn llawer ffordd wahanol. Mae rhoi anogaeth o ran gwneud y newid yn unig yn help gwirioneddol. Dylid canmol John Jones Hopkins a Nigel Daniels yn benodol, sef arweinydd a dirprwy arweinydd y cyngor, sydd wedi arwain hyn ac wedi bod yn barod i wynebu methiannau'r gorffennol a gwneud newidiadau. Nid yw'n hawdd i aelodau na swyddogion wynebu achosion lle maent wedi methu, ac yr ydym wedi gwneud ein gorau i'w cefnogi, a'u canmol pan haeddant hynny. Wrth edrych ar rai o'r ffigurau yr ydym yn eu cael yn awr, credaf eu bod wedi trawsnewid pethau i'r awdurdod hwnnw.

Trethi Busnes Business Rates

Q2 Jenny Randerson: What discussions has the Minister had with the Federation of Small Businesses regarding business rates?

C2 Jenny Randerson: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cael gyda'r Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach ynghylch trethi

OAQ0688(LGP)

Sue Essex: I have not had discussions with the Federation of Small Businesses. However, my officials have regular contact with the organisation when attending the national and local valuation forum meetings held by the Valuation Office Agency.

Jenny Randerson: As you will know, small businesses pay a great deal more in business rates, as a percentage of their turnover, than large businesses do. The business rate revaluation last year put tremendous pressure on small businesses in some parts of our towns and cities, and I am sure that you would agree that it would be bad if our towns and cities became free of small businesses and were taken over entirely by larger businesses and chains of stores and organisations. Will you bear that in mind when you come to your decision following your consultation on business rate relief, and will you also bear in mind that small businesses in our towns and cities need assistance in this regard?

Sue Essex: The revaluation did pick up what is termed as 'hotspots'. I certainly had many discussions with the Valuation Office Agency on those hotspots, trying to understand why that happened.

On your second point on business rate relief, we have been out to consultation, because this is the first time that small business rate relief has been looked at afresh in Wales. We have had a full response from the Federation of Small Businesses, I am glad to say, and we held four seminars across Wales and had a good response generally. I endorse your comment that small businesses give vitality and life—and identity, in many cases—to many rural and urban communities. It all seems to me to be part of the sustainability agenda. That will be one of the most important principles underpinning our review.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, o ystyried yr hyn yr ydych newydd ei ddweud, a ydych wedi edrych ar y sefyllfa yng Ngweriniaeth

busnes? OAQ0688(LGP)

Sue Essex: Nid wyf wedi cael trafodaethau gyda'r Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach. Fodd bynnag, bydd fy swyddogion yn cysylltu'n rheolaidd â'r sefydliad wrth fynychu cyfarfodydd cenedlaethol a lleol y fforwm prisio a gynhelir gan Asiantaeth y Swyddfa Brisio.

Jenny Randerson: Fel y gwyddoch, mae busnesau bach yn talu llawer mwy mewn ardrethi busnes, fel canran o'u trosiant, na busnesau mawr. Yr oedd y broses o ailbrisio ardrethi busnes y llynedd yn gosod pwysau anferthol ar fusnesau bach mewn rhai rhannau o'n trefi a'n dinasoedd, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno y byddai'n beth gwael pe byddai ein trefi a'n dinasoedd yn colli busnesau bach ac yn cael eu meddiannu gan fusnesau mwy a chadwyni o siopau a sefydliadau. A wnewch ystyried hynny wrth wneud eich penderfyniad yn dilyn eich ymgynghori ar ryddhad ardrethi busnes, ac a fyddwch hefyd yn cofio bod angen cymorth ar fusnesau bach yn ein trefi a'n dinasoedd yn y cyswllt hwn?

Sue Essex: Yr oedd y broses ailbrisio yn n nodi'r hyn a elwir yn 'fannau anodd'. Cefais lawer trafodaeth gydag Asiantaeth y Swyddfa Brisio ynglŷn â'r ardaloedd hyn, er mwyn ceisio deall pam y digwyddodd hynny.

O ran eich ail bwynt ynghylch rhyddhad ardrethi busnes, yr ydym wedi ymgynghori, oherwydd dyma'r tro cyntaf inni edrych ar ryddhad ardrethi busnesau bach o'r newydd yng Nghymru. Cawsom ymateb llawn gan y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach, y mae'n dda gennyf ddweud, a chynhaliwyd pedair seminar gennym ledled Cymru gyfag ymateb da ar y cyfan. Cefnogaf eich sylw y gall busnesau bach fywiogi llawer o gymunedau gwledig a threfol—ynghyd â rhoi hunaniaeth iddynt, mewn llawer achos. Ymddengys i mi ei fod yn rhan o'r agenda cynaliadwyedd. Dyna fydd un o'r egwyddorion pwysicaf a fydd yn sail i'n hadolygiad.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, in light of what you have just said, have you considered the situation in the Republic of

Iwerddon? Mae Iwerddon wedi bod yn effeithiol iawn yn lleihau y baich trethiannol ar fusnesau bach er mwyn creu bywyd newydd mewn pentrefi, trefi a dinasoedd. A ydych wedi edrych ar hynny, neu a ydych yn bwriadu gwneud i weld pa wersi y gallwn eu dysgu?

Sue Essex: We do not have tax-varying powers, as you know. You talked about tax relief, but we do not have that power. That is why we use the business rate relief to support small businesses in Wales. We are certainly happy to look anywhere, and if you have additional information on what happens in the Republic of Ireland, I would be keen to look at it.

I know that the Michael Lyons review is for England, but one thing that we need to stress is how business rates are used and relocalised, as that is an important issue that he is looking at.

Lisa Francis: Minister, a constituent of mine living in Gwynedd rang me this morning about having received a letter from the local authority advising that the Welsh Assembly Government was revising its rural rate relief scheme for 2006-07, and so stating that this may be the last year in which holiday home business owners receive that type of relief. Can you confirm whether that relief will be partly or completely discontinued?

Sue Essex: I cannot understand why anyone, in Gwynedd or elsewhere, would get a letter to say that their business rate relief is being revised this year. There is a discretionary element available to local authorities that refunds almost all of that. If you would like to forward that letter to me, I will take it up with Gwynedd council.

We are out to consultation and we had a good discussion at committee last week. There is no way that I will make a decision here now, because it would not be fair or right, or what I would want to do. We have had a lot of good responses, which we are analysing. There are

Ireland? Ireland has been very effective in reducing the tax burden on small businesses in order to revitalise villages, towns and cities. Have you looked at that, or do you intend to do so to see what lessons can be learned?

Sue Essex: Nid oes gennym bwerau amrywio trethi, fel y gwyddoch. Yr oeddech yn siarad am ryddhad trethi, ond nid oes gennym y pŵer hwnnw. Dyna pam y defnyddiwn y rhyddhad ardrethi busnes i gynorthwyo busnesau bach yng Nghymru. Yr ydym yn sicr yn fodlon edrych mewn unrhyw fan, ac os oes gennych wybodaeth ychwanegol am yr hyn sy'n digwydd yng Ngweriniaeth Iwerddon, byddem yn awyddus i edrych arni.

Gwn fod adolygiad Michael Lyons ar gyfer Lloegr, ond un peth y mae angen inni ei bwysleisio yw sut y caiff ardrethi busnes eu defnyddio a'u hail-leoli, gan fod hynny'n fater pwysig y mae'n edrych arno.

Lisa Francis: Weinidog, cefais alwad ffôn y bore yma gan i un o'm hetholwyr sy'n byw yng Ngwynedd ar ôl cael llythyr gan yr awdurdod lleol yn dweud bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn diwygio'i chynllun rhyddhad ardrethi gwledig ar gyfer 2006-07, ac felly'n nodi efallai mai hon fydd y flwyddyn olaf pan fydd perchnogion busnesau cartrefi gwyliau yn cael y math hwnnw o ryddhad. A allwch gadarnhau a fydd y rhyddhad hwnnw'n dod i ben naill ai'n rhannol neu'n gyfan gwbl?

Sue Essex: Ni allaf ddeall pam y byddai neb, yng Ngwynedd neu rywle arall, yn cael llythyr yn dweud bod ei ryddhad ardrethi busnes yn cael ei ddiwygio eleni. Mae elfen ddewisol ar gael i awdurdodau lleol sy'n addalu hwnnw bron i gyd. Os hoffech anfon y llythyr hwnnw ymlaen ataf, fe'i trafodaf gyda chyngor Gwynedd.

Yr ydym yn ymgynghori ar hyn o bryd, a chawsom drafodaeth dda yn y pwyllgor yr wythnos diwethaf. Yn bendant, ni fyddaf yn gwneud penderfyniad yma yn awr, oherwydd ni fyddai'n deg nac yn iawn, ac nid dyna y byddwn am ei wneud. Cawsom nifer o

no easy answers with regard to a lot of this, but we need to look at where rate relief can be most effective. That is what we determined to do in drawing up a scheme.

ymatebion da, ac yr ydym yn eu dadansoddi. Nid oes atebion hawdd i lawer o hyn, ond mae angen inni edrych ble y gall rhyddhad ardrethi fod fwyaf effeithiol. Dyna yr ydym yn benderfynol o'i wneud wrth lunio cynllun.

**Y Cytundeb Polisi rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Chyngor Sir Penfro
The Policy Agreement between the Welsh Assembly Government and Pembrokeshire
County Council**

Q3 Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister provide an update on the policy agreement between the Welsh Assembly Government and Pembrokeshire County Council? OAQ0724(LGP)

C3 Christine Gwyther: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi diweddariad am y cytundeb polisi rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Chyngor Sir Penfro? OAQ0724(LGP)

Sue Essex: My officials have concluded the first review of the policy agreement between the Assembly Government and Pembrokeshire County Council. The council's performance in 2004-05, the most recent year surveyed, was sufficiently strong for it to receive the second instalment of the performance incentive grant of just over £1.25 million.

Sue Essex: Mae fy swyddogion wedi cwblhau'r adolygiad cyntaf o'r cytundeb polisi rhwng Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a Chyngor Sir Penfro. Yn 2004-05, y flwyddyn ddiweddaraf i gael ei harolygu, yr oedd perfformiad y cyngor yn ddigon cryf iddo gael ail randaliad y grant cymell perfformiad sydd ychydig dros £1.25 miliwn.

Christine Gwyther: Every policy needs staff with high morale to undertake the work that makes that policy a reality. Do you share my dismay that last week, the ruling clique of independent councillors on Pembrokeshire County Council forced through a pay rise for the chief executive of £28,000 per year, which means that he will receive a pension of over £75,000 per year, in direct contrast with the average pension that Pembrokeshire County Council workers will get of less than £4,000 per year? Do you share my dismay that in Pembrokeshire we are seeing the ruling independent group supporting a fat-cat pay rise for its chief executive?

Christine Gwyther: Mae ar bob polisi angen aelodau staff uchel eu hysbryd i wneud y gwaith sy'n troi'r polisi hwnnw'n realiti. A ydych fel finnau yn siomedig fod y criw cynghorwyr annibynnol sy'n rheoli Cyngor Sir Penfro wedi gorfodi penderfyniad yr wythnos diwethaf i roi codiad cyflog o £28,000 y flwyddyn i'r prif weithredwr, sy'n golygu y bydd yn cael dros £75,000 y flwyddyn o bensiwn, sy'n gwrthgyferbynnu'n llwyr â chyfartaledd y pensiwn y bydd gweithwyr Cyngor Sir Penfro yn ei gael o lai na £4,000 y flwyddyn? A ydych chi fel finnau yn siomedig ein bod yn gweld y grŵp annibynnol sy'n rheoli yn sir Benfro yn cefnogi codiad cyflog anferthol i'w brif weithredwr?

Sue Essex: I have no locus in pay settlements in Pembrokeshire County Council. It is very much for the leader of the council and those who make the decision to account to the people of Pembrokeshire for that decision. You are a resident and an Assembly Member, and I am sure that you will be demanding answers.

Sue Essex: Nid oes gennyf ran yn setliadau cyflog Cyngor Sir Penfro. Arweinydd y cyngor a'r rheini sy'n gwneud y penderfyniad sy'n atebol i bobl sir Benfro am y penderfyniad hwnnw. Yr ydych yn un io'r trigolion ac yn Aelod Cynulliad, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn mynnu cael atebion.

Glyn Davies: Will you join me in congratulating Pembrokeshire County

Glyn Davies: A ymunwch â mi i longyfarch Cyngor Sir Penfro am y gwaith eithriadol y

Council on the outstandingly good work that it does on behalf of the people of Pembrokeshire; and will you endorse the comment made by your Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills that Pembrokeshire is leading the way in Wales and, among other local authorities, is making schools fit for the twenty-first century? The council is to be commended for its commitment, both as members and management.

Sue Essex: As I said, we have looked at the council's performance in terms of the policy agreement that we had with it. It is performing well across a number of indicators. For instance, there has been a reduction in the number of children leaving school without a qualification, which is important. Pembrokeshire County Council has exceeded its milestone by some margin in that regard. Therefore, there are many areas where Pembrokeshire is doing quite well. In other areas it is not doing quite as well; it is not meeting its targets, for example, on families housed in bed-and-breakfast accommodation, on homeless people, and on issues in relation to looked-after children. Like many councils in Wales, Pembrokeshire County Council is doing well in many areas and it is to be commended on that. I am also seeking to encourage better performance in those areas where it is not achieving its targets.

Helen Mary Jones: In your answer to Glyn Davies, you referred to the issues around housing and the high percentage of families housed in bed-and-breakfast accommodation in Pembrokeshire. What steps is your Government taking to ensure that that is addressed, in the context of the performance agreements that you have with the authority?

Sue Essex: I know that housing colleagues have been in touch with officials in Pembrokeshire County Council, because we have serious concerns about those figures. Those discussions are ongoing. We are not 100 per cent confident that those figures will change in the way that we want. It is Edwina Hart's department, but I will mention your concern to her.

mae'n ei wneud ar ran pobl sir Benfro; ac a gefnogwch y sylw a wnaeth eich Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau fod sir Benfro yn arwain y ffordd yng Nghymru a'i fod, ynghyd ag awdurdodau lleol eraill, yn sicrhau bod ysgolion yn addas ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain? Mae'r cyngor i'w ganmol am ei ymrwymiad, yn aelodau a rheolwyr.

Sue Essex: Fel y dywedais, yr ydym wedi edrych ar berfformiad y cyngor o ran y cytundeb polisi a oedd gennym gydag ef. Mae'n perfformio'n dda mewn nifer o ddangosyddion. Er enghraifft, bu gostyngiad yn nifer y plant sy'n gadael yr ysgol heb gymhwyster, sy'n fater pwysig. Mae Cyngor Sir Penfro wedi rhagori'n sylweddol ar ei garreg filltir yn hynny. Mae sir Benfro yn gwneud yn dda mewn llawer maes, felly. Mewn meysydd eraill nid yw'n gwneud cystal; nid yw'n cyrraedd ei dargedau, er enghraifft, o ran nifer y teuluoedd mewn llety gwely a brecwast, o ran pobl ddigartref, nac o ran materion yn ymwneud â phlant sy'n cael gofal. Fel nifer o gynghorau yng Nghymru, mae Cyngor Sir Penfro yn gwneud yn dda mewn llawer maes ac y mae i'w ganmol am hynny. Yr wyf hefyd yn ceisio annog gwell perfformiad yn y meysydd hynny lle nad yw'n cyrraedd ei dargedau.

Helen Mary Jones: Yn eich ateb i Glyn Davies yr oeddech yn cyfeirio at y materion yn ymwneud â thai a'r ganran uchel o deuluoedd sydd mewn llety gwely a brecwast yn sir Benfro. Pa gamau y mae eich Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd i sicrhau mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwnnw, yng nghyd-destun y cytundebau perfformiad sydd gennyh gyda'r awdurdod?

Sue Essex: Gwn fod cydweithwyr ym maes tai wedi cysylltu â swyddogion yng Nghyngor Sir Penfro, oherwydd yr ydym yn pryderu'n fawr am y ffigurau hynny. Mae'r trafodaethau hynny'n mynd rhagddynt. Nid ydym yn hollol hyderus y bydd y ffigurau hynny'n newid fel y dymunwn iddynt wneud. Adran Edwina Hart yw honno, ond byddaf yn sôn wrthi am eich pryder.

**Adolygiad Beecham ar Gyflwyno Gwasanaethau'n Lleol
The Beecham Review on Local Service Delivery**

Q4 Alun Cairns: Will the Minister make a statement on the Beecham review on local service delivery? OAQ0716(LGP)

C4 Alun Cairns: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am adolygiad Beecham ar ddarparu gwasanaethau'n lleol? OAQ0716(LGP)

Sue Essex: The review team is now reflecting on the considerable body of evidence that has been collected as part of the consultation process. The final report will be published before the summer recess.

Sue Essex: Ar hyn o bryd mae tîm yr adolygiad yn ystyried y corff sylweddol o dystiolaeth sydd wedi ei gasglu fel rhan o'r broses ymgynghori. Cyhoeddir yr adroddiad terfynol cyn gwyliau'r haf.

2.20 p.m.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful for the Minister's interest in this matter. Will she join me in saying that the private sector should also show a considerable interest in these affairs, because quite often it is the one that delivers many of the services at the sharp end? Will you also join me in regretting the fact that the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee has not quite had the opportunity—for whatever reason—to talk with the private sector and to encourage all parties and all people who have an interest in economic development to make communications with representatives of the Beecham inquiry, to ensure that the private sector is represented?

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am ddiddordeb y Gweinidog yn y mater hwn. A wnaiff ymuno â mi pan ddywedaf y dylai'r sector preifat hefyd ddangos cryn ddiddordeb yn y materion hyn, oherwydd yn aml iawn y sector hwnnw sy'n darparu nifer o'r gwasanaethau yn y rheng flaen? A ymunwch â mi hefyd wrth resynu na roddwyd y cyfle go iawn i'r Pwyllgor Menter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau—am ba bynnag reswm—i siarad â'r sector preifat ac i annog pawb sydd â diddordeb mewn datblygu economaidd i gyfathrebu â chynrychiolwyr ymchwiliad Beecham, er mwyn sicrhau y cynrychiolir y sector preifat?

Sue Essex: I do not know exactly who has responded to Sir Jeremy Beecham and the team, but they have done their best to draw the net widely. We have private sector representations on the board, and Sir Jeremy came to speak to the last meeting a week or two ago. If anyone feels that they have not had a chance to put their views, I would encourage them to put their views in writing; although, officially, they have concluded, I am sure that the team will take those views into account.

Sue Essex: Ni wn yn union pwy sydd wedi ymateb i Syr Jeremy Beecham a'r tîm, ond maent wedi gwneud eu gorau i daflu'r rhwyd yn eang. Mae cynrychiolwyr o'r sector preifat ar y bwrdd, a daeth Syr Jeremy i siarad â'r cyfarfod diwethaf wythnos neu ddwy yn ôl. Os oes unrhyw un yn teimlo nad ydynt wedi cael cyfle i roi eu barn, byddwn yn ei annog i roi ei farn ar bapur; er bod hynny, yn swyddogol, wedi dod i ben, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y tîm yn ystyried y sylwadau hynny.

Janet Ryder: Beecham will be looking at efficiency savings in local government. However, your Government has already carried out a 1 per cent efficiency saving in budgets. You issued the Wales programme for improvement guidance to local counties, which clearly states that

Janet Ryder: Bydd Beecham yn edrych ar arbedion effeithlonrwydd mewn llywodraeth leol. Fodd bynnag, mae eich Llywodraeth chi eisoes wedi gwneud arbediad effeithiolrwydd o 1 y cant mewn cyllidebau. Yr ydych wedi cyhoeddi canllawiau i siroedd lleol ar raglen Cymru ar gyfer gwella, sy'n dweud yn glir bod

'Efficiency gains as planned and reported under the WPI must consist of genuine and substantial changes to business practices which either yield cash savings or allow more or better services'.

It goes on to say that

'Cuts in budgets, including budgets allocated to schools, or other third parties, do not of themselves represent efficiency gains'.

You know that many local authorities have passed that 1 per cent efficiency saving on to school budgets. What will you do about those counties that have ignored your guidance?

Sue Essex: I was speaking to the Welsh Local Government Association this morning about this issue, so that we can have an audit of where local authorities are. I have stressed clearly that we do not say that education is exempt; what we say is that, if there is an expectation that is passed over in terms of reduced budgets, there needs to be proper support to those schools to make those changes. There are many good examples throughout Wales where that is happening, largely, but not exclusively, through procurement, such as joint contracts around energy purchase, and all sorts of other purchasing areas. As you know, energy purchase and energy saving is an important cost to score. Therefore, until I get that thorough analysis, it would be too early to say how many local authorities are doing what you suggested. However, the WPI guidance is clear. It will be audited by the Wales Audit Office, and the findings will be there for everyone to see, and to make comparisons. Until I know the exact picture, and until I know whether there are authorities that have passed the reductions and done them as cuts without proper support, then I could not give you an accurate answer at present.

'Rhaid i welliannau effeithlonrwydd, fel y cânt eu cynllunio a'u nodi dan WPI, gynnwys newidiadau gwirioneddol a chynaliadwy mewn arferion busnes, sydd naill ai'n arbed arian neu'n caniatáu mwy o wasanaethau neu rai gwell'.

Yna maent yn dweud

'Nid yw toriadau yn y gyllideb, gan gynnwys y cyllid a ddyrennir i ysgolion neu i drydydd parti arall, yn cynrychioli gwell effeithlonrwydd'.

Gwyddoch fod nifer o awdurdodau lleol wedi ychwanegu'r arbediad effeithlonrwydd hwnnw o 1 y cant at gyllidebau ysgolion. Beth fyddwch yn ei wneud ynghylch y siroedd hynny sydd wedi anwybyddu eich canllawiau?

Sue Essex: Yr oeddwn yn siarad â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru y bore yma ynghylch y mater hwn, er mwyn inni gael archwiliad o sefyllfa awdurdodau lleol. Yr wyf wedi pwysleisio'n glir nad ydym yn dweud bod addysg yn cael ei heithrio; yr hyn a ddywedwn yw bod angen cefnogaeth briodol ar ysgolion os caiff disgwyliadau eu hanwybyddu o ran cyllidebau llai, er mwyn iddynt wneud y newidiadau hynny. Mae yna nifer o enghreifftiau da ledled Cymru lle mae hynny'n digwydd i raddau helaeth, ond nid yn gyfan gwbl, drwy gaffael, megis contractau ar y cyd yn ymwneud â phrynu ynni, a phob math o feysydd prynu eraill. Fel y gwyddoch, mae prynu ynni ac arbed ynni yn gost bwysig i'w mesur. Felly, nes imi gael y dadansoddiad trylwyr hwnnw, byddai'n rhy gynnar dweud faint o awdurdodau lleol sy'n gwneud yr hyn a awgrymoch. Fodd bynnag, mae canllaw rhaglen Cymru ar gyfer gwella yn eglur. Caiff ei harchwilio gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, a bydd y darganfyddiadau yno i bawb eu gweld, ac i'w cymharu. Nes imi gael yr union ddarlun, a nes imi wybod a oes awdurdodau sydd wedi anwybyddu'r gostyngiadau ac wedi eu gweithredu fel toriadau heb gefnogaeth briodol, ni allwn roi ateb manwl gywir ichi ar hyn o bryd.

Goblygiadau Ailstrwythuro'r Heddlu ar gyfer Talwyr y Dreth Gyngor
The Implications of Police Restructuring for Council Tax Payers

C5 Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cynnal yn ddiweddar gyda Gweinidogion y DU ynghylch goblygiadau ailstrwythuro'r heddlu ar gyfer talwyr y dreth gyngor? OAQ0706(LGP)

Sue Essex: I wrote to Charles Clarke about this matter on 15 February. The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration has written and spoken to Charles Clarke and Hazel Blears on several occasions, and the First Minister also spoke to Charles Clarke in March.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr ydym wedi ei chael yn anodd cael unrhyw ffigur gan y Llywodraeth ynglŷn â'i hamcangyfrif o ran ailstrwythuro; yr ydym wedi gwneud cais o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, ond heb gael ateb hyd yn hyn. Mae un ffigur gan awdurdod yn dweud ei fod yn £77 miliwn; credaf fod ffigur arall o £60 miliwn. Gyda'r math hynny o ffigurau, mae'n siŵr y bydd cynnydd sylweddol i drethdalwyr, yn enwedig yn ardal Awdurdod Heddlu De Cymru, os ydym yn ceisio cael ffigur cyfartalog ar draws y wlad. A allwch roi gwell amcangyfrif inni o beth yw'r gost, a pha mor hyderus ydych y bydd y Llywodraeth yn San Steffan yn talu?

Sue Essex: As I said, Edwina Hart is leading on this issue. Therefore, the question on restructuring would be better put to her. All I know is that there are ongoing discussions. If you have made an application under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am sure that that will be respected and dealt with; I will see that that is the case.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): On that cost and when we will know from the Westminster Government whether or not it is picking up the entire tab, this is an important issue; I appreciate that it impinges on the portfolio of the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, but no doubt you have been discussing this, as it is a financial issue. When can we expect a clear-

Q5 The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): What recent discussions has the Minister held with UK Ministers regarding the implications of police restructuring for council tax payers? OAQ0706(LGP)

Sue Essex: Ysgrifennais at Charles Clarke am y mater hwn ar 15 Chwefror. Mae'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio wedi ysgrifennu at Charles Clarke a Hazel Blears ac wedi siarad â hwy deoeon, a siaradodd y Prif Weinidog â Charles Clarke hefyd ym mis Mawrth.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: We have difficulty obtaining any figures from the Government regarding its estimate of the cost of restructuring; we have made a application under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, but with no response as yet. One figure from an authority says that it is £77 million; I believe there is another figure of £60 million. With those kinds of figures, there is bound to be a significant increase to taxpayers, particularly in the South Wales Police Authority area, if we average the figure across the country. Can you give us a better estimate of the cost, and how confident are you that the Westminster Government will pay?

Sue Essex: Fel y dywedais, Edwina Hart sy'n arwain ar y mater hwn. Byddai'n well gofyn y cwestiwn am ailstrwythuro iddi hi, felly. Y cyfan a wn i yw bod trafodaethau'n mynd ymlaen ar hyn o bryd. Os ydych wedi gwneud cais o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, yr wyf yn siŵr y caiff hynny ei barchu ac yr ymdrinnir ag ef; gwnaf yn siŵr o hynny

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): O ran y gost honno a phryd y cawn wybod gan Lywodraeth San Steffan a yw'n talu'r gost gyfan neu beidio, mae hwn yn fater pwysig; sylweddolaf ei fod yn gorgyffwrdd â phortffolio'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, ond mae'n siŵr eich bod wedi ei drafod, gan ei fod yn fater ariannol. Pryd y gallwn

cut decision on what, if anything, we will be expected to pay? Hopefully, we will not be picking up the tab for this, but when will we know?

Sue Essex: I cannot answer as to when. All I can do is remind you of what Edwina and I have said on several occasions, and have repeated in this arena, which is that the additional costs of restructuring should be fully met by the Home Office, and not by the Welsh Assembly Government or Welsh council tax payers. We have made that clear. I cannot give you a timescale, but I am sure that, as soon as we know, Edwina will report back to Plenary.

Mick Bates: We all appreciate your difficulties, but there are points of detail about which we need to have clarity at this stage. For example, if there is to be one police force in Wales, would it have to pay for new communications equipment and, if it did, would that cost fall on the council tax payer, or would it be picked up by the Home Office?

Sue Essex: You have just heard me say twice that I cannot give you detailed answers on this. There will be costs, as we all know, but there will also be savings. If you bring four organisations together there will be some savings that can be made, perhaps around procurement, whether for uniforms or technology. However, there is no point in our trying to make guesses, and plucking figures out of the air. I am sure that, as soon as we know the details, Edwina will report back.

ddisgwyl penderfyniad pendant ynghylch beth, os o gwbl, y bydd disgwyl inni ei dalu? Gobeithio na fyddwn yn talu'r costau hyn, ond pryd y cawn wybod?

Sue Essex: Ni allaf ateb hynny. Y cyfan y gallaf ei wneud yw eich atgoffa o'r hyn yr wyf fi ac Edwina wedi ei ddweud droeon, ac wedi ei ailadrodd yma, sef mai'r Swyddfa Gartref a ddylai dalu costau ychwanegol ailstrwythuro yn llawn, nid Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru na phobl sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru. Yr ydym wedi gwneud hynny'n eglur. Ni allaf roi amserlen ichi, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y cawn adroddiad gan Edwina yn y Cyfarfod Llawn cyn gynted ag y gwyddom.

Mick Bates: Yr ydym i gyd yn deall eich anawsterau, ond mae yna bwyntiau manylion y mae angen inni fod yn glir yn eu cylch erbyn hyn. Er enghraifft, os bydd un heddlu yng Nghymru, a fyddai'n rhaid iddo dalu am gyfarpar cyfathrebu newydd, a phe bai'n rhaid iddo, a fyddai'r gost honno'n cael ei throsglwyddo i bobl sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor, neu a fyddai'r Swyddfa Gartref yn ei thalu?

Sue Essex: Yr ydych newydd fy nghlywed yn dweud ddwywaith na allaf roi atebion manwl am hyn. Fe fydd costau, fel y gwyddom, ond bydd arbedion hefyd. Os unwch bedwar sefydliad, bydd rhai arbedion y gellir eu gwneud, ym maes caffael efallai, boed gyfer gwisgoedd neu dechnoleg. Fodd bynnag, nid oes diben inni ddyfalu, a thynnu ffigurau o'r awyr. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cawn adroddiad gan Edwina cyn gynted ag y gwyddom y manylion.

Y Dreth Gyngor Council Tax

Q6 Alun Cairns: Will the Minister make a statement on the rise in council tax over recent years? OAQ0723(LGP)

C6 Alun Cairns: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf? OAQ0723(LGP)

Q8 David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on council tax increases since 1997? OAQ0711(LGP)

C8 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am godiadau treth gyngor er 1997? OAQ0711(LGP)

Sue Essex: Council tax increases over the last three years have been the lowest since council tax was introduced.

Sue Essex: Y codiadau yn y dreth gyngor yn ystod y tair blynedd ddiwethaf yw'r isaf ers cyflwyno'r dreth gyngor.

Alun Cairns: I am surprised that your memory does not extend back a little further to the rise over a longer period, perhaps from 1997 or 1999 onwards. Will you join me—*[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order. I cannot hear the question, so I do not know whether it is in order or not.

Alun Cairns: Will you join me in expressing your anger, concern, dismay and frustration at the fact that pensioners—*[Interruption.]* You may mock, but there is a serious point here. On average, pensioners who live in band D properties, on fixed incomes, pay 21 per cent of their income in council tax. If they receive pension credit, they pay 16 per cent of their income in council tax. That is the impact of the increases since 1997 and 1999. Will you join me in expressing concern about that and introduce policies that will lead to a fair deal for council tax payers and local authorities?

Sue Essex: If pensioners are on council tax benefit, they do not pay anything, and, as you well know, we are determined to improve the take-up of council tax benefit so that those who are eligible, whether pensioners or not, benefit from it.

You are on dodgy ground, Alun, in going back into history, because it allows me to remind everyone sitting here and those who might be watching that the biggest increase in council tax occurred during the last year of Tory Government—there was an 18 per cent increase in council tax. People will remember it well, whether they are pensioners or not. I am glad to say that the last three years have seen the lowest increase in council tax. There is no point in shaking your head; the figures are the figures: there was an 18 per cent increase in the last year of the Tory Government, and people have long memories in Wales.

David Lloyd: Mae'r dreth gyngor wedi dwblu yn Abertawe ers 1997, tra bod llawer llai o gynnydd wedi bod mewn pensiynau. A

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn synnu nad yw eich cof yn mynd yn ôl ychydig ymhellach i'r cynnydd dros gyfnod hwy, efallai o 1997 neu 1999 ymlaen. A ymunwch â mi—*[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni allaf glywed y cwestiwn, felly, ni wn a yw mewn trefn ai peidio.

Alun Cairns: A ymunwch â mi i fynegi eich dicter, eich pryder, eich siom a'ch rhwystredigaeth ynghylch y ffaith fod pensiynwyr—*[Torri ar draws.]* Gallwch watwar, ond mae gennyf bwynt difrifol. Ar gyfartaledd, mae pensiynwyr sy'n byw mewn eiddo band D, ar incwm penodol, yn talu 21 y cant o'u hincwm fel treth gyngor. Os cânt gredyd pensiwn, maent yn talu 16 y cant o'u hincwm fel treth gyngor. Dyna effaith y codiadau er 1997 a 1999. A ymunwch â mi i fynegi pryder ynghylch hynny, ac a gyflwynwch bolisiau a fydd yn arwain at fargen deg i bobl sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor ac i awdurdodau lleol?

Sue Essex: Os yw pensiynwyr yn cael budd-dal treth gyngor, ni fyddant yn talu dim, ac fel y gwyddoch yn iawn, yr ydym yn benderfynol o gynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n gwneud cais am fudd-dal treth gyngor er mwyn i'r rheini sy'n gymwys, boed yn bensiynwyr ai peidio, elwa ohono.

Yr ydych ar dir peryglus, Alun, wrth fynd yn ôl mewn hanes, gan fod hynny'n rhoi cyfle imi atgoffa pawb sy'n eistedd yma a'r rhai a all fod yn gwylio mai yn ystod blwyddyn olaf y Llywodraeth Doriaidd y cafwyd y codiad mwyaf yn y dreth gyngor—cafwyd cynnydd o 18 y cant yn y dreth gyngor. Bydd pobl yn cofio hynny'n dda, p'un a ydynt yn bensiynwyr neu beidio. Yr wyf yn falch dweud, yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf, ein bod wedi gweld y cynnydd lleiaf erioed yn y dreth gyngor. Nid oes diben ichi ysgwyd eich pen; y ffigurau yw'r ffigurau: cafwyd cynnydd o 18 y cant ym mlwyddyn olaf y Llywodraeth Doriaidd, ac mae cof hir gan bobl Cymru.

David Lloyd: Council tax has doubled in Swansea since 1997, while there has been far less of an increase in pensions. Is that

yw hynny'n deg?

Sue Essex: As I have said quite often in the Chamber, there is a need to attend to those on low and fixed incomes, who are income-poor, but sometimes asset-rich. I have made that representation to my Government and to Lyons, and will continue to do so, because that is fair.

2.30 p.m.

What we must also recognise is that, in terms of public services now, expectations are going up across the piece, and one of the big conundrums for all of us, whichever political party we are in, is how we finance that in a way in which people think is fair and which secures the services that people want across Wales. Differences between service standards and service provision in local authorities, in what is often referred to as the postcode lottery, are less tolerated now than they were a decade ago.

Mark Isherwood: Referring to your comments about percentage increases in council tax, how would you respond to a retired Shotton steelworker who contacted me to tell me that his council tax last year, after allowing for one year of transitional relief, was equivalent to the total council tax he paid 10 years previously, and that he and his fellow pensioners found references to percentages insulting?

Sue Essex: You are very quick to use percentages when you think it is in your favour, just like Alun did, but you often find that that rebounds on you. What you are actually talking about is the revaluation process, and that process was discussed in 2001 and 2002 in the Local Government and Housing Committee, when Edwina Hart was the Minister responsible. Everyone agreed that if you have a property tax—and it was your party that introduced council tax—you have to have a revaluation. You left it all those years without doing it, but we have done it. It has been difficult for some people,

fair?

Sue Essex: Fel yr wyf wedi ei ddweud yn ddigon aml yn y Siambr, mae angen rhoi sylw i'r rheini sydd ar incwm isel neu incwm penodol, sy'n dlawd o ran incwm, ond weithiau'n gyfoethog o ran asedau. Yr wyf wedi cyflwyno'r sylw hwnnw i'm Llywodraeth ac i Lyons, a byddaf yn parhau i wneud hynny, oherwydd mae hynny'n ddigon teg.

O ran gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn awr, yr hyn y mae'n rhaid inni ei gydnabod hefyd yw bod disgwyliadau'n codi'n gyffredinol, ac un o'r posau mawr i bob un ohonom, pa blaid wleidyddol bynnag yr ydym yn perthyn iddi, yw sut y gallwn ariannu hynny mewn ffordd sy'n deg ym marn y bobl ac sy'n sicrhau'r gwasanaethau y mae pobl am eu cael ledled Cymru. Mae gwahaniaethau rhwng safonau gwasanaeth a darpariaeth gwasanaethau mewn awdurdodau lleol, yn yr hyn y cyfeirir yn aml ato fel loteri codau post, yn llai tebyg o gael eu goddef erbyn hyn nag oeddent ddegawd yn ôl.

Mark Isherwood: Gan gyfeirio at eich sylwadau ynglŷn â chynnydd canrannol yn y dreth gyngor, sut y byddech yn ymateb i weithiwr dur wedi ymddeol o Shotton a gysylltodd â mi i ddweud wrthyf fod ei dreth gyngor y llynedd, ar ôl caniatáu ar gyfer un flwyddyn o ryddhad trosiannol, yn gyfwerth â chyfanswm y dreth gyngor a dalwyd ganddo 10 mlynedd ynghynt, a bod y cyfeiriadau at ganrannau yn sarhaus iddo ef a'i gyd-bensiynwyr?

Sue Essex: Yr ydych yn barod iawn i ddefnyddio canrannau pan gredwch fod hynny o'ch plaid, fel y gwnaeth Alun. Ond gwelwch yn aml fod hynny'n gallu gweithio yn eich erbyn. Yr hyn yr ydych yn siarad amdano, mewn gwirionedd, yw'r broses ailbriso, a thrafodwyd y broses honno yn y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai yn 2001 a 2002, ac Edwina Hart oedd y Gweinidog a oedd yn gyfrifol bryd hynny. Yr oedd pawb yn cytuno os oes gennych dreth eiddo—a'ch plaid chi a gyflwynodd y dreth gyngor—rhaid ichi gael ailbriso. Aeth yr holl flynyddoedd hynny heibio heb ichi wneud

but at least it has been fair, and it has introduced a revaluation. I have found no country in the world—and if someone comes up with a country, I would be interested to know—that has a property tax without a revaluation.

Alun Cairns: England.

Sue Essex: It is happening in England.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: You talk about council tax increases in percentages. I refer you to Carmarthenshire. In 1997, when Labour was elected to Government, band D council tax was £557. This year, it is £988, which is an increase of £431. Is that because the council is offering greater services than it was, or is to make up for shortfalls in its budget because of the settlement from a Labour Government?

Sue Essex: The percentage that we pay as a Government to local authorities has stayed more or less the same. I remind you that we pay a higher percentage in Wales than Government does in England. I gave Dai what I thought was an honest answer. If you look across the piece, more services are being provided by local authorities and people are expecting better services wherever they live in Wales. That is part and parcel of the conundrum that all politicians, including yourself, must face up to. It is just that we are in Government, and are likely to stay in Government, and, therefore, we are the people who have to take the responsibility.

hynny, ond yr ydym ni wedi ei wneud. Mae wedi bod yn anodd i rai pobl, ond o leiaf bu'n deg, a chyflwynwyd ailbrisió yn sgíl hynny. Nid wyf wedi dod o draws unrhyw wlad yn y byd—ac os gall rhywun feddwl am wlad, hoffwn glywed amdani—sydd â threth eiddo heb ailbrisió.

Alun Cairns: Lloegr.

Sue Essex: Mae'n digwydd yn Lloegr.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr ydych yn siarad am gynnydd yn y dreth gyngor mewn canrannau. Fe'ch cyfeiriaf at sir Gaerfyrddin. Yn 1997, pan etholwyd Llafur yn Llywodraeth, £557 oedd y dreth gyngor ym mand D. Eleni, mae'n £988, sy'n gynnydd o £431. Ai'r rheswm dros hynny yw fod y cyngor yn cynnig mwy o wasanaethau nag ydoedd, neu er mwyn gwneud iawn am ddiffygion yn ei gyllideb oherwydd y setliad gan Lywodraeth Lafur?

Sue Essex: Fel Llywodraeth, mae'r ganran a dalwn i awdurdodau lleol wedi aros fwy neu lai yr un fath. Fe'ch atgoffaf ein bod yn talu canran uwch yng Nghymru nag a wnaiff y Llywodraeth yn Lloegr. Rhoddais yr hyn a gredais oedd yn ateb gonest i Dai. Os edrychwch ar hyn yn gyffredinol, darperir mwy o wasanaethau gan awdurdodau lleol, ac mae pobl yn disgwyl gwell gwasanaethau ble bynnag y maent yn byw yng Nghymru. Mae hynny'n rhan o'r pos y mae'n rhaid i bob gwleidydd, gan eich cynnwys chi, ei wynebu. Ond y gwir amdani yw mai ni sydd mewn grym, ac sy'n debygol o aros mewn grym. Felly, ni yw'r bobl sy'n gorfod cymryd y cyfrifoldeb.

Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus dros y Rhyngwrwd yng Nghymru The Delivery of Public Services via the Internet in Wales

Q7 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the delivery of public services via the internet in Wales? OAQ0719(OAQ)

Sue Essex: An increasing number of public services, as you would expect, are accessible via the internet. We must ensure that they are as appropriate and effective as possible in future and that they meet the needs of citizens in Wales. A major proposal will go ahead

C7 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyflwyno gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ar y rhyngwrwd yng Nghymru? OAQ0719(OAQ)

Sue Essex: Fel y byddech yn ei ddisgwyl, mae modd cael nifer cynyddol o wasanaethau cyhoeddus ar y rhyngwrwd. Rhaid inni sicrhau eu bod mor briodol ac effeithiol â phosibl yn y dyfodol ac yn diwallu anghenion dinasyddion yng

fairly soon across the Welsh public sector using broadband connections.

Ann Jones: While I cannot claim to be an expert on technologies, internets or websites, the front page of the new Assembly Government's website looks far more inviting than before. I hope that we will be able to see easier access for all via that website. However, as you rightly point out, many more local councils are turning to their websites as a means of communicating with the public. Do you agree that internet access is vital but that it is just one tool for communicating with people, and that we should make every effort to ensure that the public is aware of what is available via the public services?

Sue Essex: It is an interesting phenomenon in society that more and more people are using the internet as a way of communicating, and there are areas in which it makes a lot of sense to do that. For example, I know that the planning portal, as it is referred to, is up and running, and 16 authorities are already enabling people to apply for planning permission through the internet. If people have busy lives, those kinds of things make sense. However, as you rightly said, there are times when face-to-face contact is important, particularly for the most vulnerable people. I am thinking, for example, of the housing benefits service. I know that people, at times, really need that support and help. Local authorities and public services are duty bound to give that support when needed.

Jonathan Morgan: A few years ago, the Assembly's Education and Lifelong Learning Committee published a report on the use of ICT in schools and how it could be used to deliver the curriculum. Since the publication of that report, what steps has local government taken to assist schools in the implementation of its recommendations?

Sue Essex: I cannot give an exact answer

Nghymru. Bydd prif gynnig yn mynd rhagddo yn weddol fuan ar draws y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru drwy ddefnyddio cysylltiadau band eang.

Ann Jones: Er na allaf honni fy mod yn arbenigwraig ar dechnoleg, y rhyngwyd na gwefannau, mae hafan newydd gwefan Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn edrych lawer yn fwy deniadol nag ydoedd. Gobeithio y bydd yn golygu mynediad haws i bawb drwy'r wefan honno. Fodd bynnag, fel yr oeddech yn pwysleisio, yn gywir ddigon, mae llawer mwy o gynghorau lleol yn troi at eu gwefannau fel ffordd i gyfathrebu â'r cyhoedd. A gytunwch fod gallu troi i'r rhyngwyd yn hanfodol ond mai dim ond un ddyfais ydyw i gyfathrebu â phobl, ac y dylem wneud pob ymdrech i sicrhau bod y cyhoedd yn ymwybodol o'r hyn sydd ar gael drwy'r gwasanaethau cyhoeddus?

Sue Essex: Mae'n ffenomen ddiddorol yn ein cymdeithas fod mwy a mwy o bobl yn defnyddio'r rhyngwyd fel ffordd i gyfathrebu, ac mae yna feysydd lle mae'n gwneud llawer o synnwyr i wneud hynny. Er enghraifft, gwn fod y porth cynllunio, fel y cyfeirir ato, ar waith ac mae 16 o awdurdodau eisoes yn galluogi pobl i wneud cais am ganiatâd cynllunio dros y rhyngwyd. Os yw bywydau pobl yn brysur, mae'r mathau hynny o bethau'n gwneud synnwyr. Fodd bynnag, fel yr oeddech yn dweud, yn gywir ddigon, mae yna adegau pan fydd cyswllt wyneb yn wyneb yn bwysig, yn arbennig i'r bobl fwyaf diamddiffyn. Er enghraifft, yr wyf yn meddwl am y gwasanaeth budd-dal tai. Gwn fod gwir angen y cymorth a'r help hwnnw ar bobl ar adegau. Mae'n ddyletswydd ar awdurdodau lleol a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus i roi'r cymorth hwnnw pan fydd ei angen.

Jonathan Morgan: Rai blynyddoedd yn ôl, cyhoeddwyd adroddiad gan y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar ddefnyddio TGCh mewn ysgolion a sut y gellid ei defnyddio i ddarparu'r cwricwlwm. Ers cyhoeddi'r adroddiad hwnnw, pa gamau a gymerwyd gan lywodraeth leol i gynorthwyo ysgolion wrth roi ei hargymhellion ar waith?

Sue Essex: Ni allaf roi ateb union gywir yn

now. I will confer with my education colleagues so that we know exactly where progress has been made, and I will then write to you, Jonathan. One thing that has been achieved in the education sector is the lifelong learning network. This links all schools across the piece, so that they can connect with each other. I understand that that has been really successful and supportive.

awr. Ymgynghoraf â'm cyd-aelodau ym maes addysg er mwyn inni wybod ble yn union y gwnaed cynnydd, ac yna ysgrifennaf atoch, Jonathan. Un peth a gyflawnwyd yn y sector addysg yw'r rhwydwaith dysgu gydol oes. Mae hyn yn cysylltu pob ysgol ledled y wlad, er mwyn iddynt allu cysylltu â'i gilydd. Deallaf i hynny fod yn llwyddiannus ac yn gefnogol iawn.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau Questions to the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Adeiladau Ysgolion School Buildings

Q1 Leighton Andrews: Will the Minister make a statement on investment in school buildings? OAQ0764(ELL)

C1 Leighton Andrews: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am fuddsoddi mewn adeiladau ysgolion? OAQ0764(ELL)

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): Many local authorities are making good progress with support from Assembly funding, up from £82 million in 2002-03 to £143 million in 2005-06 and annually to 2010. However, I am concerned that some lack strategic plans, and some fail to use appropriate amounts of their own capital resources for investment in schools.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Davidson): Mae nifer o awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud cynnydd da gyda chymorth drwy gyllid y Cynulliad, ac mae'r cyllid hwnnw wedi cynyddu o £82 miliwn yn 2002-03 i £143 miliwn yn 2005-06 ac yn flynyddol hyd at 2010. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn pryderu nad oes gan rai ohonynt gynlluniau strategol, ac mae rhai'n methu â defnyddio symiau priodol o'u hadnoddau cyfalaf eu hunain i'w buddsoddi mewn ysgolion.

Leighton Andrews: Parents at Blaenclydach Infants School in my constituency are understandably angry at the decision to close the school. I recognise that you cannot comment on that beyond the decision notice, Minister, and the parents have certainly not exhausted every option that is open to them. However, can you confirm today that, when schools are closed, it is essential that parents see genuine additional investment being made in the school buildings to which their children may transfer, so that neither children already in those schools nor children moving to them lose out?

Leighton Andrews: Mae rhieni yn Ysgol Fabanod Blaenclydach yn fy etholaeth i, yn naturiol, yn ddig oherwydd y penderfyniad i gau'r ysgol. Yr wyf yn cydnabod na allwch wneud sylw am hynny fwy na'r hysbysiad am y penderfyniad, Weiniidog, ac nid yw'r rhieni, yn sicr, wedi archwilio pob dewis sy'n agored iddynt. Fodd bynnag, a allwch gadarnhau heddiw ei bod yn hanfodol, pan gaiff ysgolion eu cau, i rieni weld buddsoddiad ychwanegol gwirioneddol yn adeiladau'r ysgol y bydd eu plant efallai yn trosglwyddo iddynt, er mwyn sicrhau nad yw plant sydd eisoes yn yr ysgolion hynny na phlant sy'n symud iddynt ar eu colled?

Jane Davidson: We make it absolutely clear in our guidance on proposals for school organisation that the education of children is absolutely paramount. I understand that it is

Jane Davidson: Yr ydym yn ei gwneud yn hollol glir yn ein canllawiau ar gynigion ar gyfer ad-drefnu ysgolion fod addysg plant yn hollbwysig. Deallaf mai rhan o gynllun

part of Rhondda Cynon Taf's plan to demolish three substandard junior classrooms at Cwmclydach Infants School and replace them with a purpose-built, modern classroom block, complete with new toilet facilities. It has submitted a bid for £200,000 from the school buildings improvement grant to support this work.

Janet Ryder: It was in August 2003 that county councils were notified of the £9 million investment announced by your Government in new capital projects. Most county councils made a calculation based on that, and they estimated what their year-on-year capital allowance would be. Council papers show that, in April, a particular council knew that, for 2005-06, it would be allocated just over £1.9 million. It assumed that, for 2006-07, it would be getting roughly £1.5 million. It was not until February this year that it received an e-mail telling it what it would actually be getting. For 2006-07, and indicatively for 2007-08, it is allowed just over £1 million. In its eyes, that is a cut of £0.5 million in its capital programme, cutting into its plans to reach your Government's targets. Minister, how do you answer that Labour council—Caerphilly council—which says that you have cut its budget for capital spend by over £0.5 million this year?

Jane Davidson: The school buildings improvement grant has not been cut. It is in two elements. One is the formula shares to authorities and the other is the £9 million shares for large projects. In fact, it was local authorities across Wales that said that they wanted to have substantial amounts of funding for large projects. The allocations for the £9 million shares from 2006 through to 2009-10 have now been approved. Therefore, authorities have certainty in terms of planning in advance. Some 89 major projects have now received approval and are either under way or in the planning stage.

2.40 p.m.

Rhondda Cynon Taf yw dymchwel tair ystafell ddosbarth iau sy'n is na'r safon yn Ysgol Fabanod Cwmclydach, a rhoi bloc o ystafelloedd dosbarth modern wedi'u hadeiladu at y diben, ynghyd â tholedau newydd, yn eu lle. Cyflwynodd gais am £200,000 o'r grant gwella adeiladau ysgolion i gefnogi'r gwaith hwn.

Janet Ryder: Ym mis Awst 2003 hysbyswyd cynghorau sir am y buddsoddiad o £9 miliwn a gyhoeddwyd gan eich Llywodraeth mewn prosiectau cyfalaf newydd. Gwnaeth y rhan fwyaf o gynghorau sir gyfrifiad yn seiliedig ar hynny, ac amcangyfrifwyd beth fyddai eu lwfans cyfalaf bob yn flwyddyn. Dengys papurau cynghorau ym mis Ebrill fod un cyngor penodol yn gwybod y byddai'n cael ychydig dros £1.9 miliwn ar gyfer 2005-2006. Tybiodd y byddai'n cael tuag £1.5 miliwn ar gyfer 2006-07. Bu'n rhaid iddo aros tan fis Chwefror eleni cyn cael neges e-bost yn dweud wrtho faint y byddai'n ei gael mewn gwirionedd. Ar gyfer 2006-07, ac yn ddangosol ar gyfer 2007-08, dim ond ychydig dros £1 filiwn a ganiateir iddo. O safbwynt y cyngor, mae hynny'n ostyngiad o £0.5 miliwn yn ei raglen gyfalaf, gan lesteirio ei gynlluniau i gyrraedd targedau eich Llywodraeth chi. Weinidog, beth yw eich ateb i'r cyngor Llafur hwnnw—cyngor Caerffili—sy'n dweud eich bod wedi cwtogi ei gyllideb ar gyfer gwariant cyfalaf o fwy na £0.5 miliwn eleni?

Jane Davidson: Ni chwtogwyd y grant gwella adeiladau ysgol. Mae iddo ddwy elfen. Yr elfen gyntaf yw'r cyfranddaliadau fformiwla i awdurdodau, a'r llall yw'r cyfranddaliadau o £9 miliwn ar gyfer prosiectau mawr. Mewn gwirionedd, awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru a ddywedodd eu bod am gael symiau cyllido sylweddol ar gyfer prosiectau mawr. Mae'r dyraniadau ar gyfer y cyfranddaliadau o £9 miliwn o 2006 hyd at 2009-10 wedi'u cymeradwyo bellach. Felly, mae gan awdurdodau sicrwydd o ran cynllunio ymlaen llaw. Mae tuag 89 o brif brosiectau bellach wedi eu cymeradwyo a naill ai'n mynd ymlaen neu'n cael eu cynllunio.

Janet Ryder: Minister, according to the county's papers and many counties' testimonials, those plans are in great jeopardy. They had based their plans on that 2003 announcements and the guarantee that there would be year-on-year capital investment. Let me tell you some more about what was said by Caerphilly's Labour-run county council. It said that the reduction to the annual SBIG amounts will also jeopardise further the Assembly's aspirations to bring all school accommodation up to standard by 2010, and that was unrealistic when the initial announcement was made in any event. Your own, Labour-run council is telling you that your estimates were not realistic. Many of our parents and schools are desperate for that capital investment and they view what you are doing as a cut. When will we get school buildings that are of a decent standard for our children in Wales?

Jane Davidson: I would point out that we have invested more in school buildings than ever before; investment is at the highest possible level and it will continue at that level until 2010. A number of Members in the Chamber have a substantial understanding of these issues and know that the timing of large projects can slip. Sometimes that is because there has been inadequate preparation, but sometimes it is because local authorities have to go through complex compulsory purchase procedures in terms of being able to allocate funding. We are providing investment at a level that has never been known before. As the timing of a number of large projects has slipped, those schemes are utilising more of the £74 million than was anticipated. However, there has been no cut in funding, and that is what everybody needs to fully understand.

In my initial answer, I made it clear that there is the school buildings improvement grant, which is ring-fenced and comes through in terms of the formula allocation and the £9 million allocations, and the authorities' general capital funding. I would point out that officials did warn authorities, in their day-to-day contact with them, that the school buildings improvement grant formula allocations would come under pressure for

Janet Ryder: Weinidog, yn ôl papurau'r sir, a thystebau nifer o siroedd, mae'r cynlluniau hynny mewn perygl mawr. Yr oedd eu cynlluniau'n seiliedig ar y cyhoeddiadau hynny yn 2003 a'r sicrwydd y byddai buddsoddiad cyfalaf bob yn flwyddyn. Gadewch imi ddweud ychydig yn rhagor wrthych am yr hyn a ddywedwyd gan gyngor sir Llafur Caerffili. Dywedodd y bydd y gostyngiad yn symiau'r grant gwella adeiladau ysgolion blynyddol hefyd yn peryglu ymhellach ddyheadau'r Cynulliad i sicrhau bod adeiladau pob ysgol yn cyrraedd y safon erbyn 2010, a bod hynny'n afrealistig pan wnaed y cyhoeddiad cyntaf beth bynnag. Mae eich cyngor chi eich hun, sydd o dan arweiniad Llafur, yn dweud wrthych nad oedd eich amcangyfrifon yn realistig. Mae angen taer am y buddsoddiad cyfalaf hwnnw ar nifer o'n rhieni a'n hysgolion, ac maent yn ystyried mai cwtogi yr ydych yn ei wneud. Pryd y cawn adeiladau ysgolion o safon dderbyniol i'n plant yng Nghymru?

Jane Davidson: Pwysleisiaf inni fuddsoddi mwy mewn adeiladau ysgolion nag erioed o'r blaen; mae buddsoddiad ar y lefel uchaf sy'n bosibl a bydd yn parhau ar y lefel honno tan 2010. Mae gan nifer o Aelodau yn y Siambr ddealltwriaeth sylweddol o'r materion hyn, a gwyddant y gall amseriad prosiectau mawr lithro. Y rheswm am hynny weithiau yw na pharatowyd yn ddigonol, ond ambell waith mae hynny oherwydd bod yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol fynd drwy weithdrefnau prynu gorfodol cymhleth o ran gallu dyrannu cyllid. Yr ydym yn darparu buddsoddiad ar lefel na welwyd erioed o'r blaen. Wrth i amseriad nifer o brosiectau mawr lithro, mae'r cynlluniau hynny'n defnyddio mwy o'r £74 miliwn nag a ragwelwyd. Fodd bynnag, ni fu cwtogiad yn y cyllid, ac mae angen i bawb ddeall hynny'n llawn.

Yn fy ateb cychwynnol, pwysleisiais fod yna'r grant gwella adeiladau ysgolion, sydd wedi'i neilltuo ac sy'n cael ei ddsbarthu drwy'r dyraniad fformiwla a'r dyraniadau o £9 miliwn, a chyllid cyfalaf cyffredinol yr awdurdod. Hoffwn egluro bod swyddogion wedi rhybuddio awdurdodau, yn eu cyswllt â hwy o ddydd i ddydd, y byddai dyraniadau'r fformiwla grant gwella adeiladau ysgol o dan bwysau am y flwyddyn ariannol hon

this financial year because of the big schemes. Where some authorities are seeing slightly less investment, others are clearly seeing more because there has been no cut in the funding whatsoever. We retain capital investment at the highest level of funding that Wales has seen.

William Graham: Minister, you will be well aware that schools have suffered substantial and serious fires, which insurers say are part of an arson epidemic, costing many millions of pounds each year and badly affecting children's education, particularly in Wales. To what extent is the problem of arson considered when investing in schools?

Jane Davidson: There was an interesting article that focused on arson in *The Guardian* education supplement yesterday, which used Penyrheol Comprehensive School as an example, as the most recent example of arson. The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, with her responsibility for the fire and rescue service, and I want to ensure that schools are as resistant to arson as possible. We have had pilot schemes on the use of sprinklers in different parts of Wales, and sprinklers count as eligible expenditure under the school buildings improvement programme. However, they will not provide an answer for all schools, because they cannot necessarily be adequately put in place in some existing buildings, therefore we will have to look at that. We are mindful of these issues, and I am visiting Penyrheol school tomorrow.

William Graham: In the next budget round, will you look particularly at this issue, not only at sprinklers, but at Firecheck walls and other fire retardant materials to be used in schools? That may involve considerable investment, but it may prevent serious damage in the future.

Jane Davidson: You will be aware that my colleague, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, issued a statement on fire safety last week. I can assure you that the Assembly Government is mindful of all the important issues in terms of ensuring that our

oherwydd y cynlluniau mawr. Lle mae rhai awdurdodau yn gweld ychydig llai o fuddsoddiad, mae eraill yn amlwg yn gweld mwy oherwydd na chwtogwyd y cyllid o gwbl. Yr ydym yn cadw buddsoddiad cyfalaf ar y lefel gyllido uchaf a welwyd yng Nghymru.

William Graham: Weinidog, fe wyddoch fod ysgolion wedi dioddef tanau sylweddol a difrifol sydd, yn ôl yswirwyr, yn rhan o epidemig o danau bwriadol. Mae'r rhain yn costio miliynau o bunnau bob blwyddyn ac yn cael effaith wael ar addysg plant, yn arbennig yng Nghymru. I ba raddau yr ystyrir problem tanau bwriadol wrth fuddsoddi mewn ysgolion?

Jane Davidson: Yr oedd erthygl ddiddorol yn atodiad addysg *The Guardian* ddoe, a oedd yn canolbwyntio ar danau bwriadol, gan ddefnyddio Ysgol Gyfun Penyrheol fel yr enghraifft ddiweddaraf o dân bwriadol. Mae'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, gyda'i chyfrifoldeb dros y gwasanaeth tân ac achub, a minnau yn dymuno sicrhau bod ysgolion yn gallu gwrthsefyll tanau bwriadol gymaint â phosibl. Cawsom gynlluniau peilot ar ddefnyddio system chwistrellu mewn gwahanol rannau o Gymru, ac mae systemau chwistrellu yn cyfrif fel gwariant cymwys o dan y rhaglen gwella adeiladau ysgolion. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddant yn ateb i bob ysgol, oherwydd ni allant o reidrwydd gael eu rhoi ar waith yn ddigonol mewn rhai adeiladau presennol. Felly, bydd yn rhaid inni edrych ar hynny. Yr ydym yn ymwybodol o'r materion hyn, a byddaf yn ymweld ag ysgol Penyrheol yfory.

William Graham: Yng nghylch nesaf y gyllideb, a edrychwch yn benodol ar y mater hwn, nid ar systemau chwistrellu'n unig, ond waliau Firecheck a deunyddiau eraill i atal tân i'w defnyddio mewn ysgolion? Gall hynny olygu buddsoddiad sylweddol, ond gall atal difrod difrifol yn y dyfodol.

Jane Davidson: Fe wyddoch fod fy nghyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithas ac Adfywio, wedi cyhoeddi datganiad ar ddiogelwch tân yr wythnos diwethaf. Gallaf eich sicrhau bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ymwybodol o'r

schools are safe for the future.

Peter Black: When your Government came to power, you made two promises in relation to school buildings. The first was that you would spend £560 million over the four-year period and, secondly, that you would ensure that all schools buildings were fit for purpose by 2010. If you look at the outturn in terms of how much money is being spent on the ground, it is significantly less than the £560 million, as profiled in your response to Leighton Andrews. One of the reasons for that seems to be that only a small proportion is earmarked for the school buildings improvement grant. How are you going to go about redressing that balance to get local authorities back on track to deliver the promise that you made—not the promise that they made—in terms of getting school buildings fit for purpose?

Jane Davidson: Our major manifesto commitment, and one of our top-10 manifesto commitments, is that we were to spend at least £560 million in the lifetime of the Assembly. In fact, the total investment to be supported by the Assembly in this period will be £629.372 million, so we are definitely spending more than our initial manifesto commitment.

We are reporting to the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee in July on local authority spend, and I am working with my colleague, the Finance Minister, to look particularly at the issue of local authorities' own general capital spend when there is a notional allocation to education. I am sure that you would strongly support the fact that local authorities should spend their notional allocation on education.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, Minister, but that was the point of my question. When we talk about money for schools, you are quick to talk about outcomes as opposed to inputs, yet you answered my question by referring to inputs as opposed to outcomes. The outcome is quite clear: local authorities are not spending the money that you are allocating to schools. They are

holl faterion pwysig o ran sicrhau bod ein hysgolion yn ddiogel ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Peter Black: Pan ddaeth eich Llywodraeth i rym, gwnaed dau addewid gennyh mewn cysylltiad ag adeiladau ysgolion. Yr addewid cyntaf oedd y byddech yn gwario £560 miliwn dros y cyfnod o bedair blynedd, ac yn ail y byddech yn sicrhau bod yr holl adeiladau ysgolion yn addas at y diben erbyn 2010. Os edrychwch ar yr alldro o ran faint o arian a werir ar lawr gwlad, mae'n llai o lawer na'r £560 miliwn, fel y nodwyd yn eich ymateb i Leighton Andrews. Ymddengys mai un o'r rhesymau dros hynny yw mai cyfran fach yn unig a glustnodir ar gyfer y grant gwella adeiladau ysgolion. Sut y byddwch yn mynd ati i unioni'r sefyllfa i sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn ôl ar y trywydd cywir i gyflawni'r addewid a wnaed gennyh chi—nid yr addewid a wnaed ganddynt hwy—i sicrhau bod adeiladau ysgolion yn addas at y diben?

Jane Davidson: Ein prif ymrwymiad maniffesto, ac un o'n 10 ymrwymiad maniffesto uchaf, oedd ein bod yn bwriadu gwario o leiaf £560 miliwn yn ystod oes y Cynulliad. Mewn gwirionedd, £629.372 miliwn fydd cyfanswm buddsoddiad y Cynulliad yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, felly, yr ydym yn sicr yn gwario mwy na'r ymrwymiad cychwynnol yn ein maniffesto.

Byddwn yn rhoi adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau ym mis Gorffennaf ar wariant awdurdodau lleol, ac yr wyf yn gweithio gyda'm cyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog Cyllid, i edrych yn benodol ar wariant cyfalaf cyffredinol yr awdurdodau lleol eu hunain pan fydd dyraniad tybiannol ar gyfer addysg. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cefnogi'n gryf y ffaith y dylai awdurdodau lleol wario eu dyraniad tybiannol ar addysg.

Peter Black: Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog, ond dyna oedd diben fy nghwestiwn. Pan soniwn am arian ar gyfer ysgolion, yr ydych yn hoff o sôn am ganlyniadau yn hytrach na mewbynnau, ac eto yr oeddech yn ateb fy nghwestiwn drwy gyfeirio at fewbynnau yn hytrach na chanlyniadau. Mae'r canlyniad yn hollol glir: nid yw awdurdodau lleol yn gwario'r arian yr

missing your target and the target to get schools fit for purpose by 2010. It is imperative that that is addressed, and you have little time in which to do so. How will you address that issue?

Jane Davidson: I am just going to repeat my answer, since you have just repeated your question.

The Presiding Officer: Order. It would not be in order, even for this Minister, to repeat that answer. Question 2 from Mike German, please.

Jane Davidson: Well, I will just have to reiterate—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I have just called Mike German to ask question 2.

ydych yn ei roi ar gyfer ysgolion. Maent yn methu cyrraedd eich targed chi a'r targed o sicrhau bod ysgolion yn addas at y diben erbyn 2010. Rhaid mynd i'r afael â hynny, ac nid oes gennych lawer o amser i wneud hynny. Sut y byddwch yn ymdrin â'r mater hwnnw?

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf am ailadrodd fy ateb, gan eich bod chi newydd ailadrodd eich cwestiwn.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni fyddai mewn trefn, hyd yn oed i'r Gweinidog hwn, ailadrodd yr ateb hwnnw. Cwestiwn 2 gan Mike German, os gwelwch yn dda.

Jane Davidson: Wel, rhaid imi ddweud eto—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf newydd alw ar Mike German i ofyn cwestiwn 2.

Coleg Chweched Dosbarth ym Merthyr Tudful A Sixth Form College for Merthyr Tydfil

Q2 Michael German: Will the Minister make a statement on the proposals for the creation of a sixth form college in Merthyr Tydfil? OAQ0796(ELL)

Jane Davidson: As part of the drive to modernise lifelong learning in Merthyr Tydfil, the first stage of the geographic pathfinder consultation is now complete. The next step would be to produce detailed reorganisation proposals and consult publicly on them.

Michael German: I am sure that you are aware of the disquiet felt by three of the four high schools in Merthyr about the loss of their sixth forms. Given that the pathfinder proposals spoke to a grand total of six pupils and six parents, the pupils at Cyfarthfa High School conducted their own survey, and found that 96.25 per cent of years 7, 8 and 9 are opposed to the loss of their sixth form. At present, key stage 3 results in Merthyr, when benchmarked against Wales, are the best in Wales, and that is because they are attracting good staff. How will you keep up the standards in your new proposed sixth form when you intend to abolish these sixth forms, to which teachers are attracted?

C2 Michael German: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y cynigion i greu coleg chweched dosbarth ym Merthyr Tudful? OAQ0796(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Fel rhan o'r ymgyrch i foderneiddio dysgu gydol oes ym Merthyr Tudful, mae'r cam cyntaf yn yr ymgynghori braenaru daearyddol wedi dod i ben erbyn hyn. Y cam nesaf fyddai llunio cynigion addrefnu manwl ac ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd yn eu cylch.

Michael German: Mae'n siŵr eich bod yn gwybod am yr anesmwythyd ymhlith tair o'r pedair ysgol uwchradd ym Merthyr ynglŷn â cholli eu chweched dosbarth. O gofio bod y cynigion braenaru wedi siarad â chwe disgybl a chwe rhiant yn unig, trefnodd disgyblion yn Ysgol Uwchradd Cyfarthfa eu harolwg eu hunain, a'r darganfyddiad oedd bod 96.25 y cant o ddisgyblion blwyddyn 7, 8 a 9 yn gwrthwynebu colli eu chweched dosbarth. Ar hyn o bryd, mae disgyblion cyfnod allweddol 3 ym Merthyr yn cael y canlyniadau gorau yng Nghymru, o'u gosod ochr yn ochr â gweddill Cymru, a'r rheswm am hynny yw eu bod yn denu staff da. Sut y

byddwch yn cynnal y safonau yn eich chweched dosbarth newydd arfaethedig a chithau'n bwriadu diddymu'r chweched dosbarth yn yr ysgolion hyn sy'n atyniadol i athrawon?

Jane Davidson: There are two key points to make in response. In undertaking pathfinders in six parts of Wales, Education and Learning Wales consulted with a range of stakeholders across the piece, including schools, local authorities, colleges, universities, employers, in looking at whether each area had the best kind of education provision to achieve the best kind of learning outcomes for the young people in that area. That is what the pathfinder did; it was not in any way a statutory process. However, the pathfinder in Merthyr then recommended that there should be a further statutory consultation on putting the highest quality provision in place for post 16-year-olds on one site in Merthyr. We are similarly consulting on whether the power that has come from ELWa back to the Assembly should be appropriately delegated to local authorities. Following the consultation, if the outcome is in favour of that proposal, as I know your colleagues would strongly support, I expect that Merthyr borough council may bring proposals forwards to ensure that it has the best quality provision in the area. That would be the beginning of a statutory process and everyone would be able to respond to that.

Huw Lewis: Minister, those of us who are resident in Merthyr are well used to the Liberal Democrats taking an interest in the town as and when they see an electoral advantage in it and a day trip. Do you agree that the pathfinder consultation is an exciting development that needs serious consideration, representing a potential step-change in the post-16 educational offer for the people of Merthyr that is fit for the twenty first century, and do you agree that we will not get that serious consideration from this vote-grabbing, carpet-bagging Liberal Democrat tactic—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Can I have a question, please? This is becoming a tedious question-and-answer session. I deplore long

Jane Davidson: Mae dau bwynt allweddol i'w gwneud wrth ymateb i hynny. Wrth ymgymryd â phrosiectau braenaru mewn chwe rhan o Gymru, ymgynghorodd Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru ag amrywiol randdeiliaid, gan gynnwys ysgolion, awdurdodau lleol, colegau, prifysgolion, cyflogwyr, i weld a oedd gan bob ardal y ddarpariaeth addysg orau i sicrhau'r canlyniadau dysgu gorau i bobl ifanc yn yr ardal honno. Dyna a wnaeth y prosiect braenaru; nid proses statudol ydoedd o gwbl. Fodd bynnag, argymhellodd y prosiect braenaru ym Merthyr wedyn y dylid cael ymgynghori statudol arall ynglŷn â rhoi darpariaeth o'r safon uchaf ar waith ar gyfer pobl ifanc dros 16 oed ar un safle ym Merthyr. Yn yr un modd yr ydym yn ymgynghori i weld a ddylai'r pŵer sydd wedi dod yn ôl i'r Cynulliad o ELWa gael ei ddirprwyo'n briodol i awdurdodau lleol. Os bydd canlyniad yr ymgynghori o blaid y cynnig hwnnw, a gwn y byddai'ch cyd-aelodau yn cefnogi hynny'n gryf, disgwyliaf y gall cyngor bwrdeistref Merthyr gynnig cynigion i sicrhau bod darpariaeth o'r safon uchaf yn yr ardal. Byddai hynny'n ddechrau proses statudol a byddai pawb yn gallu ymateb i hynny.

Huw Lewis: Weinidog, mae'r rhai ohonom sy'n byw ym Merthyr yn hen gyfarwydd â'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn cymryd diddordeb yn y dref pan welant fod mantais etholiadol yn hynny a chyfle am ddiwrnod allan. A gytunwch fod yr ymgynghoriad braenaru yn ddatblygiad cyffrous y mae angen ei ystyried o ddifrif, ac yn newid mawr posibl yn yr addysg ar ôl 16 a gynnigir i bobl Merthyr sy'n addas ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain? Ac a ydych yn cytuno na fydd yr ystryw hon gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i ennill pleidleisiau a mantais bleidiol yn arwain at yr ystyriaeth ddifrifol honno—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A wnewch chi ofyn cwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda? Mae'r sesiwn holi ac ateb hon yn mynd yn ddiflas.

answers and, even more, I deplore supplementary questions that are not questions.

Huw Lewis: I believe that I have asked two questions.

Minister, do you agree that we will not get that serious consideration if this debate descends to that level, as people seek to alarm rather than offer an intelligent view of the situation?

2.50 p.m.

Jane Davidson: As Minister, it is important to note that I could be involved in issues around statutory processes, to talk about the principle. There were six pathfinders in Wales, and Members would do well to look at the recommendations from ELWa's national council, because every pathfinder has a different recommendation. The importance of the pathfinder approach is to look at what is best in a local area. I agree that it is our duty as Members never to look at just protecting the status quo because it is there, but always to ensure that we offer the best kind of learning outcomes for young people in Wales, and I would expect Members to support that.

Mae'n gas gennyf atebion maith, ac yn fwy na hynny, mae'n gas gennyf atodol nad ydynt yn gwestiynau.

Huw Lewis: Credaf fy mod wedi gofyn dau gwestiwn.

Weinidog, a gytunwch na chawn yr ystyriaeth ddifrifol honno os bydd y ddadl hon yn dirywio i'r fath raddau, wrth i bobl geisio codi braw yn hytrach na chynnig barn ddeallus am y sefyllfa?

Jane Davidson: Fel Gweinidog, mae'n bwysig sylwi efallai y byddaf yn ymwneud â materion am brosesau statudol, i sôn am yr egwyddor. Cafwyd chwe phrosiect braenaru yng Nghymru, a byddai'n dda pe bai Aelodau'n edrych ar argymhellion cyngor cenedlaethol ELWa, gan fod argymhelliad gwahanol ar gyfer pob prosiect braenaru. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig am y prosiectau braenaru yw eu bod yn ystyried beth sydd orau mewn ardal leol. Cytunaf fod dyletswydd arnom fel Aelodau i beidio byth â cheisio cadw'r sefyllfa sydd ohoni am mai felly y mae, ond i sicrhau bob amser ein bod yn cynnig y canlyniadau dysgu gorau i bobl ifanc yng Nghymru, a byddwn yn disgwyl i'r Aelodau gefnogi hynny.

Dechrau'n Deg Flying Start

Q3 Leighton Andrews: Will the Minister make a statement on A Flying Start? OAQ0765(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Flying Start will target children from birth to age three in the most deprived communities in Wales, investing intensely based on international evidence. Proposed interventions include free, good-quality childcare for two-year-olds, additional health visiting, and parenting programmes.

Leighton Andrews: I am delighted that the programme will include access to health visitors, childcare and parenting skills. Do you agree that it is essential that we learn from best practice in the schemes that start,

C3 Leighton Andrews: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am Dechrau'n Deg? OAQ0765(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Bydd Dechrau'n Deg yn targedu plant o'u geni hyd at dair blwydd oed yn y cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru, gan fuddsoddi'n ddwys ar sail tystiolaeth ryngwladol. Ymhlith yr ymyriadau arfaethedig mae gofal plant o safon am ddim ar gyfer plant dwyflwydd oed, ymweliadau iechyd ychwanegol, a rhaglenni sgiliau magu plant.

Leighton Andrews: Yr wyf yn falch iawn fod y rhaglen i gynnwys gwasanaethau ymwelwyr iechyd, gofal plant a sgiliau magu plant. A gytunwch ei bod yn hanfodol inni ddysgu o arfer gorau yn y cynlluniau sy'n

and, at the core, that these are integrated services available to people in those communities?

Jane Davidson: You have talked about the On Track scheme previously in Plenary, which uses the incredible years programme, which we have additionally supported under our parenting programme, because it is evidence based and it will deliver.

Owen John Thomas: Wrth gyfeirio at Dechrau'n Deg, mae papur y Llywodraeth yn datgan,

'There is wide evidence that early language development is the most critical factor to deliver the social and economic benefits'.

Mae'n mynd ymlaen i ddweud,

'we mean delivery by trained professionals with a focus on child development and learning through play, in the language of choice'.

Pa gamau a ydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod gan rieni ddewis o ran iaith ar gyfer plant sydd o dan ddwy oed?

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn cytuno â'r datganiad ei bod yn bwysig inni annog mwy o bobl i ddewis addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, a dyna pam y rhoddais £7 miliwn tuag at ddatblygu gweithwyr proffesiynol i gymryd rhan yn y cam sylfaen, er enghraifft. Yr wyf hefyd yn gofyn i awdurdodau lleol ofyn i rieni am eu dewis yn eu hardal leol drwy gyfrwng arolwg. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn falch o glywed hynny ac y byddwch yn croesawu'r arolwg.

dechrau, ac yn y gwraidd y bydd y gwasanaethau integredig hyn ar gael i bobl yn y cymunedau hynny?

Jane Davidson: Yr ydych wedi sôn am y cynllun On Track o'r blaen yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, sy'n defnyddio'r rhaglen blyneddoddedd anhygoel yr ydym hefyd wedi'i chefnogi o dan ein rhaglen sgiliau magu plant, am ei bod yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth ac y bydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth.

Owen John Thomas: In referring to Flying Start, the Government's paper states,

'Ceir llawer o dystiolaeth mai datblygiad ieithyddol cynnar yw'r ffactor mwyaf allweddol er mwyn gwireddu'r manteision cymdeithasol ac economaidd'.

It goes on to say,

'rydym yn golygu darpariaeth gan weithwyr proffesiynol hyfforddedig gyda ffocws ar ddatblygu plant a dysgu trwy chwarae, yn newis iaith y rhieni'.

What steps are you taking to ensure that parents have a choice of language for children under two years old?

Jane Davidson: I agree with the statement that it is important that we encourage more people to choose Welsh-medium education, which is why I have given £7 million towards developing more professionals who can participate in the foundation phase, for example. I am also asking local authorities to ask parents in their local area about their choice by means of a survey. I am sure you will be pleased to hear that and that you will welcome the survey.

Y Gyllideb Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes The Education and Lifelong Learning Budget

Q4 Janet Ryder: Will the Minister make a statement on the education and lifelong learning budget? OAQ0781(ELL)

Jane Davidson: The 2006-07 budget for education and lifelong learning of more than £1.5 billion sees an increase of more than £179 million from the current year, which is a

C4 Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y gyllideb addysg a dysgu gydol oes? OAQ0781(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Yn y gyllideb addysg a dysgu gydol oes ar gyfer 2006-07, sydd dros £1.5 biliwn, mae cynnydd o fwy na £179 miliwn o'i chymharu â'r flwyddyn gyfredol,

growth of 11.6 per cent. The 2007-08 and 2008-09 indicative plans stand at over £1.6 billion, which is an increase in funding of more than 9.1 per cent over that in 2006-07.

Janet Ryder: Can I take you back to the questions that you have already been asked this afternoon about capital investment in schools, and the more than £600 million that you say is coming through in capital investment in schools? That would not be held up by any parents who have children in schools today, whose schools have leaking flat roofs, where the window frames are rotten and the concrete pillars are crumbling. You know that we have an appalling state facing our school buildings in Wales, and we will have to invest a mega amount in that to bring up to standard. However, you persist in blaming local councils for their lack of investment. To take you back to the first answer that you gave me, are you saying that it is Caerphilly County Borough Council's Labour Party that has got it wrong and misunderstood the situation, and that it was wrong to think that it had received a cut in its capital build, and that it will have to reprioritise its programme—

sef twf o 11.6 y cant. Yn ôl cynlluniau dangosol ar gyfer 2007-08 a 2008-9, mae dros £1.6 biliwn, sy'n gynydd o fwy na 9.1 y cant, yn y cyllid o'i gymharu â 2006-07.

Janet Ryder: A gaf fi ddychwelyd at y cwestiynau a ofynnwyd ichi eisoes y prynhawn yma ynglŷn â buddsoddiad cyfalaf mewn ysgolion, a'r swm o fwy na £600 miliwn y dywedwch a gaiff ei wario mewn buddsoddiad cyfalaf mewn ysgolion? Ni fyddai unrhyw rieni sydd â phlant heddiw mewn ysgolion yn ategu hynny, ysgolion lle mae toeau gwastad yn gollwng, lle mae fframiau ffenestri wedi pydru a lle mae pileri concrid yn malurio. Fe wyddoch fod ein hadeiladau ysgol yng Nghymru mewn sefyllfa ofnadwy, a bydd yn rhaid inni fuddsoddi swm anferth i sicrhau eu bod yn cyrraedd y safon. Fodd bynnag, yr ydych yn mynnu beio cyngorau lleol o hyd am eu diffyg buddsoddi. Os caf fynd â chi'n ôl at yr ateb cyntaf a roesoch imi, a ydych yn dweud bod y Blaid Lafur yng Nghyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili wedi cyfeiliorni ac wedi camddeall y sefyllfa, a'i fod ar fai i feddwl bod ei warant adeiladu cyfalaf wedi'i dorri, ac y bydd yn rhaid iddo ail-flaenoriaethu ei raglen—

The Presiding Officer: Order. This is a question time. What is the problem this afternoon? We are having questions that are of inordinate length and the answers are just about beating them. Minister?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Sesiwn gwestiynau yw hon. Beth sy'n bod y prynhawn yma? Yr ydym yn cael cwestiynau hirfaith a'r atebion yn ceisio'u gorau i fod yn hwy. Weinidog?

Jane Davidson: Thank you, Presiding Officer. I have already answered that question.

Jane Davidson: Diolch yn fawr, Lywydd, yr wyf eisoes wedi ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw.

Cyfleoedd Dysgu Gydol Oes yng Nghymoedd y De Lifelong Learning Opportunities in the South Wales Valleys

Q5 Huw Lewis: Will the Minister make a statement on lifelong learning opportunities in the south Wales Valleys? OAQ0791(ELL)

C5 Huw Lewis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyfleoedd dysgu gydol oes yng Nghymoedd y de? OAQ0791(ELL)

Jane Davidson: I am extremely pleased to announce to the Assembly that the First Minister has determined that Merthyr Tydfil College will merge with the University of Glamorgan. This merger will offer substantial benefits for learners, the institutions concerned and the wider Merthyr area, and I hope that all Members will welcome it.

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn falch iawn o ddweud wrth y Cynulliad fod y Prif Weinidog wedi penderfynu y bydd Coleg Merthyr Tudful yn uno â Phrifysgol Morgannwg. Bydd yr uno hwn yn dod â manteision mawr i ddysgwyr, y sefydliadau dan sylw ac i ardal ehangach Merthyr, a gobeithio y bydd pob Aelod yn croesawu

Huw Lewis: I certainly do, Minister. This is tremendous news. Thank you for taking the opportunity to announce it as soon as you could. As you know, I have made my support for the merger clear on numerous occasions. Would you join me in briefly thanking the very hard-working partners—who are too numerous to mention—who have engaged in this work, and would you also join me in recognising this as an important step in a journey towards making Merthyr a university town with a lifelong learning campus that is among the best?

Jane Davidson: I will.

hynny.

Huw Lewis: Yr wyf yn sicr yn croesawu hynny, Weinidog. Mae'n newyddion gwych. Diolch ichi am achub ar y cyfle i'w gyhoeddi mor fuan â phosibl. Fel y gwyddoch, yr wyf wedi mynegi'n groch fy nghefnogaeth i'r uno ar lawer achlysur. A ymunwch â mi i ddiolch i'r partneriaid diwyd iawn—gormod ohonynt i'w henwi—sydd wedi bod yn rhan o'r gwaith hwn, ac a ymunwch â mi i gydnabod bod hyn yn gam pwysig mewn taith tuag at wneud Merthyr yn dref brifysgol gyda champws dysgu gydol oes gyda'r gorau?

Jane Davidson: Gwnaf.

Maint Dosbarthiadau Class Sizes

Q6 Denise Idris Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on class sizes in Wales? OAQ0830(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Since 1999, the Welsh Assembly Government has succeeded in reducing virtually all primary classes to 30 pupils or fewer. This was a unique Wales manifesto commitment to keep down both infant and junior class sizes.

Denise Idris Jones: Thank you for that answer, Minister. Do you agree that smaller infant and junior class sizes, and the continued investment to support the initiative, is making a real difference, particularly among our youngest children, where the impact of closer teacher contact is greatest?

Jane Davidson: Yes, I do. I would also like to say that, in the foundation phase proposals, we ensure that there are better adult-to-pupil ratios. Between the ages of three and five, the ratio is 1:8, and between the ages of five and seven, the ratio is 1:15. We intend to keep qualified adults in the classroom contributing towards children's education.

C6 Denise Idris Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am faint dosbarthiadau yng Nghymru? OAQ0830(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Er 1999, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi llwyddo i leihau bron pob dosbarth cynradd i 30 o ddisgyblion neu lai. Yr oedd hwn yn ymrwymiad maniffesto unigryw i Gymru i reoli maint dosbarthiadau babanod a dosbarthiadau iau.

Denise Idris Jones: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. A gytunwch fod dosbarthiadau babanod neu iau llai, a'r buddsoddiad parhaus i gefnogi'r fenter, yn gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol, yn enwedig ymhlith ein plant ieuengaf, lle mae mwy o gyswllt ag athrawon yn cael yr effaith fwyaf?

Jane Davidson: Cytunaf. Hoffwn ddweud hefyd ein bod yn sicrhau, yn y cynigion ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen, fod cymarebau gwell rhwng oedolion a disgyblion. Rhwng tair a phump oed, y gymhareb yw 1:8, a rhwng pump a saith oed y gymhareb yw 1:15. Bwriadwn gadw oedolion cymwysedig yn yr ystafell ddosbarth i gyfrannu at addysg plant.

Ariannu Dysgu sy'n Seiliedig ar Waith The Funding of Work-based Learning

Q7 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on the funding of work-based learning? OAQ0821(ELL)

C7 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ariannu dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith? OAQ0821(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Education and Learning Wales's budget for the work-based learning programme, as set out in its 2005-06 business plan, was £111.7 million. That funding has enabled the delivery of a wide range of training to equip the workforce with the skills and knowledge required for Wales to compete successfully in the global economy.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, Minister. We have already discussed the problems with work-based learning and Estyn's criticisms of them in the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee. Now that the Assembly Government is directly responsible for the funding of work-based learning, what will you do differently to try to address those problems?

Jane Davidson: It is important to put into context that over half of the provision of work-based learning is judged to be satisfactory, with 40 per cent judged as being good or outstanding, and 4 per cent of work-based learning provision in further education colleges is judged to be below the quality threshold. The work-based learning improvement plan, which we discussed in committee with all stakeholders, will be the basis of our delivery. I have already undertaken to report annually on it.

Jane Davidson: Yr oedd y gyllideb Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru ar gyfer y rhaglen seiliedig ar waith, fel y mae wedi ei gosod allan ei gynllun busnes ar gyfer 2005-06, yn £111.7 miliwn. Mae'r cyllid hwnnw wedi galluogi darparu amrywiaeth mawr o hyfforddiant i roi i'r gweithlu y sgiliau sy'n ofynnol i Gymru gystadlu'n llwyddiannus yn yr economi fyd-eang.

Peter Black: Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Yr ydym eisoes wedi trafod y problemau gyda dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith a beirniadaeth Estyn ohonynt yn y Pwyllgor Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau. Gan fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad bellach yn gyfrifol yn uniongyrchol am gyllido dysgu'n seiliedig ar waith, beth fyddwch yn ei wneud yn wahanol i geisio mynd i'r afael â'r problemau hynny?

Jane Davidson: Mae'n bwysig gosod yn ei gyd-destun fod dros hanner y ddarpariaeth ddysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith yn cael ei hystyried yn foddhaol, a 40 y cant yn cael ei hystyried yn dda neu'n wych, a bernir mai 4 y cant o'r ddarpariaeth ddysgu'n seiliedig ar waith mewn colegau addysg bellach sy'n is na'r safon. Y cynllun gwella dysgu'n seiliedig ar waith, a drafodwyd gennym yn y pwyllgor gyda'r holl randdeiliaid, fydd y sail ar gyfer ein darpariaeth. Yr wyf eisoes wedi cytuno i roi adroddiad blynyddol arno.

Cefnogi Ysgolion yn y Gymru Wledig Supporting Schools in Rural Wales

Q8 Nick Bourne: Will the Minister outline how the Welsh Assembly Government is supporting schools in rural Wales? OAQ0800(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Since 2002-03, additional funding has been made available to local education authorities to support innovation in small and rural schools, the community use of school premises and support for headteachers. The distribution of that grant is heavily weighted towards rurality. A sum of £12.5 million has been distributed to date and £4.1 million gross will be available in 2006-07.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful to you for that

C8 Nick Bourne: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu sut y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cefnogi ysgolion yng Nghymru wledig? OAQ0800(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Er 2002-03, darparwyd cyllid ychwanegol ar gyfer awdurdodau addysg lleol i gefnogi arloesedd mewn ysgolion bach a gwledig, defnyddio adeiladau ysgolion gan y cyhoedd, a chymorth i benaethiaid. Mae'r grant hwnnw'n cael ei ddsbarthu gyda phwysoliad mawr ar gyfer ysgolion gwledig. Dosbarthwyd £12.5 miliwn hyd yma, a bydd £4.1 miliwn gros ar gael yn 2006-07.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am

response, Minister. You will be aware that Powys has slashed a massive £1.53 million off its education budget, because of an unfavourable budget settlement made by the Welsh Assembly Government. This will mean cutbacks in many schools. Trefonnen School, which is in an area of social deprivation, will have to shed a teacher, and that is in addition to some capital problems that it has had, which I have previously brought to your attention. What hope can you hold out to the hard-pressed schools of Powys in light of the poor budget settlement of your Government?

Jane Davidson: I would not accept that it is a poor budget settlement. The overall increase to local authorities was a settlement of 5.1 per cent, so it is double the rate of inflation. Local authorities have a major task in front of them on the basis that there will be 114,000 empty places in our schools by 2013 according to current predictions. We know that rates of unfilled primary places in Powys are very high, at almost 28 per cent at the moment. Clearly, the local authority needs to exercise its role responsibly to ensure that it has the right number of pupils for the right number of schools in the right places.

yr ymateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Fe wyddoch fod Powys wedi gostwng ei chyllideb addysg o £1.53 miliwn, sy'n swm anferth, oherwydd y setliad cyllideb anffafriol a wnaed gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Bydd hyn yn golygu toriadau mewn nifer o ysgolion. Bydd Ysgol Trefonnen, sydd mewn ardal o amddifadedd cymdeithasol, yn gorfod colli athro, a hynny'n ychwanegol at rai problemau cyfalaf a gafodd, problemau yr wyf wedi tynnu'ch sylw atynt o'r blaen. Pa gysur y gallwch ei roi i'r ysgolion ym Mhowys sydd o dan bwysau oherwydd setliad cyllideb gwael eich Llywodraeth?

Jane Davidson: Nid wyf yn derbyn ei fod yn setliad cyllideb gwael. Rhoddwyd cynnydd cyffredinol o 5.1 y cant yn y setliad i awdurdodau lleol, felly, mae'n ddwywaith y gyfradd chwyddiant. Mae awdurdodau lleol yn wynebu tasg fawr oherwydd bydd 114,000 o leodd gwag yn ein hysgolion erbyn 2013 yn ôl y rhagfynegiadau cyfredol. Gwyddom fod cyfraddau'r lleoedd cynradd gwag ym Mhowys yn uchel iawn, bron 28 y cant ar hyn o bryd. Yn amlwg, mae angen i'r awdurdod lleol ymarfer ei ddyletswydd yn gyfrifol i sicrhau bod ganddo'r nifer cywir o ddisgyblion ar gyfer y nifer cywir o ysgolion yn y manau cywir.

3.00 p.m.

Darpariaeth Feithrin Nursery Provision

Q9 Catherine Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on local education authorities' nursery provision in Wales? OAQ0777(ELL)

C9 Catherine Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarpariaeth feithrin awdurdodau addysg lleol yng Nghymru? OAQ0777(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Since September 2005, all local authorities have been under a statutory duty to provide, through a mixed economy of provision, a free, part-time, good-quality early years education place for all three-year-olds. A sum of £24 million in grant funding is available in 2006-07 to support them in meeting this duty.

Jane Davidson: Ers mis Medi 2005, mae'n ddyletswydd statudol ar bob awdurdod lleol i ddarparu, drwy economi gymysg o ddarpariaeth, le rhan amser o safon mewn addysg blynyddoedd cynnar a hynny am ddim i bob plentyn tair oed. Mae arian grant o £24 miliwn ar gael yn 2006-07 i'w cynorthwyo i gyflawni'r ddyletswydd hon.

Catherine Thomas: Do you agree that securing LEA nursery provision is particularly important in areas that suffer from acute socioeconomic problems, such as the many Communities First wards in Wales?

Catherine Thomas: A ydych yn cytuno bod sicrhau darpariaeth feithrin AALl yn arbennig o bwysig mewn ardaloedd sy'n dioddef oherwydd problemau economaidd-gymdeithasol aciwt, fel nifer o wardiau

Bearing that in mind, do you understand the strength of feeling among parents in Felinfoel, a Communities First ward in my constituency, who are lobbying the local authority for an LEA nursery, which should be included in the new school build plans? It is not currently included, so could you comment on that?

Jane Davidson: Local authorities need to calculate, through their children and young people's partnerships, appropriate nursery provision in any area. However, from the Assembly Government's perspective, we would like that to be delivered through the local authority and through the voluntary sector. Therefore, it is a matter for the local authority as to whether that provision is best provided in any local area through the local authority or the voluntary sector.

Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yng Nghymru? O gofio hynny, a ydych yn deall cryfder y teimladau ymhlith rhieni yn Felin-foel, ward Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn fy etholaeth i, sy'n lobbïo'r awdurdod lleol i gael meithrinfa AALI? Dylai honno gael ei chynnwys yn y cynlluniau newydd ar gyfer adeiladau ysgolion, ond nid yw wedi'i chynnwys ar hyn o bryd. Felly, a allwch roi sylwadau am hynny?

Jane Davidson: Mae angen i awdurdodau lleol gyfrifo, drwy eu partneriaethau plant a phobl ifanc, y ddarpariaeth feithrin briodol mewn unrhyw ardal. Fodd bynnag, o safbwynt Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, hoffem weld hynny'n cael ei gyflawni drwy'r awdurdod lleol a thrwy'r sector gwirfoddol. Felly, mater i'r awdurdod lleol yw penderfynu ai drwy'r awdurdod lleol neu drwy'r sector gwirfoddol yw'r ffordd orau i sicrhau'r ddarpariaeth honno mewn unrhyw ardal leol.

Colegau Hyfforddiant Tir Land-based Colleges

Q10 Brynle Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the future provision of land-based colleges in Wales? OAQ0808(ELL)

Jane Davidson: The Assembly Government is committed to maintaining a viable network of land-based provision in Wales, taking into account the recommendations of ELWa's 2003 review. The first stage of implementing its recommendations, concentrating full-time level 3 agricultural provision at two institutions, Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Llysfasi, commenced in September 2004.

Brynle Williams: I am aware that a consultation is currently under way into the proposed mergers of colleges, but will you commit today to safeguarding the dedicated land-based institutions in north Wales?

Jane Davidson: ELWa commissioned an independent review to examine the feasibility of a number of possible merger options. No decision on how to proceed will be taken by us until the review has been concluded, but I will bear your comments in mind.

C10 Brynle Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarparu colegau hyfforddiant tir yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol? OAQ0808(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo i gynnal rhwydwaith dichonadwy o ddarpariaeth tir yng Nghymru, gan ystyried argymhellion adolygiad ELWa yn 2003. Dechreuodd y cam cyntaf i weithredu ei argymhellion, sef crynhoi'r ddarpariaeth amaethyddol lefel 3 amser llawn mewn dau sefydliad, Coleg Sir Gâr a Choleg Llysfasi, ym mis Medi 2004.

Brynle Williams: Gwn fod ymgynghori'n mynd ymlaen ar hyn o bryd i'r cynnig i uno colegau, ond a ymrwymwch heddiw i ddiogelu'r sefydliadau tir penodedig yng ngogledd Cymru?

Jane Davidson: Comisiynwyd adolygiad annibynnol gan ELWa i archwilio ymarferoldeb nifer o ddewisiadau uno posibl. Ni fyddwn yn gwneud unrhyw benderfyniad ynglŷn â sut i symud ymlaen nes bydd yr adolygiad wedi'i gwblhau, ond cadwaf eich sylwadau mewn cof.

Cynnig o Gerydd Censure Motion

Y Llywydd: Gosodir cyfyngiad amser o dri munud ar bob siaradwr ac eithrio ar y sawl sy'n agor a chloi'r ddadl a'r Gweinidog.

The Presiding Officer: A time limit of three minutes will be placed on all speakers, other than on those who open and close the debate and the Minister.

Lisa Francis: I propose the following motion in my name and in the names of Laura Anne Jones, Nick Bourne, Jonathan Morgan, William Graham and Mark Isherwood. I propose that

Lisa Francis: Cynigiau y cynnig canlynol yn fy enw i ac yn enwau Laura Anne Jones, Nick Bourne, Jonathan Morgan, William Graham a Mark Isherwood. Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

censures the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport. (NNDM2989)

yn ceryddu'r Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon. (NNDM2989)

The motion, as it stands, reflects the growing frustration at the Minister's incompetence and arrogance in his handling of the arts in Wales and the Welsh language. At the start of the year, the Arts Council of Wales wrote to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, laying bare its concerns about his handling of the arts. Of the Assembly's reform programme, it wrote that it had hoped to engage the Government in serious dialogue, but reported that, in 14 months, there had been none and that its proposals had been summarily rejected.

Mae'r cynnig, fel y mae, yn adlewyrchu'r rhwystredigaeth gynyddol ynglŷn ag anghymwyster a thrahauster y Gweinidog wrth ymdrin â'r celfyddydau yng Nghymru a'r iaith Gymraeg. Ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn, ysgrifennodd Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru at y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon gan osod allan yn glir ei bryderon ynglŷn â'r ffordd yr oedd yn ymdrin â'r celfyddydau. O ran rhaglen ddiwygio'r Cynulliad, dywedodd ei fod wedi gobeithio cael trafodaeth ddifrifol gyda'r Llywodraeth, ond dywedodd na fu dim trafod mewn 14 mis a bod ei gynigion wedi'u gwrthod yn ddiseremoni.

Later in the month, opposition party plans to block controversial Welsh Assembly Government reforms were subsequently backed by over 20 concerned arts organisations, which held an emergency meeting in Cardiff. Despite the warning signs given by the arts council, the arts sector and opposition party politicians, instead of reassuring, listening and consulting, the Minister has repeatedly sought to degrade the reputation of the arts council and belittle its achievements. This festering mess, which has been the hallmark of this Government's watch over the arts in Wales, has been entirely of his own making.

Yn ddiweddarach yn y mis, cafwyd cefnogaeth dros 20 o sefydliadau celfyddydau pryderus, a drefnodd gyfarfod brys yng Nghaerdydd, i gynlluniau'r gwrthbleidiau i rwystro diwygiadau dadleuol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Er yr arwyddion rhybuddio gan gyngor y celfyddydau, y sector celfyddydau a gwleidyddion y gwrthbleidiau, yn hytrach na rhoi sicrwydd, gwranddo ac ymgynghori, mae'r Gweinidog yn gyson wedi ceisio diraddio enw da cyngor y celfyddydau a bychanu ei lwyddiant. Y Gweinidog ei hun sydd wedi creu'r llanastr hwn, sy'n nodweddiadol o'r ffordd y mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi goruchwylio'r celfyddydau yng Nghymru.

Minister, given that you never intended to reappoint the former arts council chair, you should have been discussing a timetable for appointing a successor as far back as late last summer. However, no advertisements were placed, no procedure was started and no discussion with the arts council undertaken. Only two weeks ago, in the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee meeting, you refused to reveal who you were planning to appoint as the interim chair. The lack of detail and consultation in all of this was, as usual, significant by its absence.

Your actions have caused the arts council and opposition politicians to write with their concerns to the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the Charities Commission and the Wales Audit Office, and we will probably never know how many arts council members were approached to take the interim chair and how many were asked to do so in an ad hoc and irregular fashion before the current appointee accepted the post.

Insofar as the Welsh language is concerned, following the debate of last October, we are still in the dark as to the future position of the Welsh Language Board and the matter of the dyfarnydd, except to say that your special advisers consider that the Welsh Language Board is in its death throes and that no-one voted for it. We still have not received any proper explanation about what prompted that particular outburst. Such ignorant and unchecked comments do nothing to give us confidence that you have no intention of politicising the Welsh language in the future.

Last week, Minister, you said that opposition parties were fixated with process and personalities. It may sound obvious but process and personalities are a large part of what your portfolio is all about. Yet, you have wreaked havoc and chaos with the process and alienated the personalities who, ironically, have all become positively united in their opposition to your extraordinary behaviour and ill-thought actions.

Weinidog, o gofio nad oedd yn fwriad gennych ailbenodi cyn gadeirydd cyngor y celfyddydau, dylech fod wedi trafod amserlen ar gyfer penodi olynnydd cyn belled yn ôl â diwedd yr haf y llynedd. Fodd bynnag, ni welwyd unrhyw hysbysebion, ni chychwynnwyd unrhyw weithdrefn, ac ni chafwyd unrhyw drafodaeth gyda chyngor y celfyddydau. Gwta bythefnos yn ôl, yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon, yr oeddech yn gwrthod datgelu pwy yr oeddech yn bwriadu ei benodi'n gadeirydd dros dro. Yn ôl yr arfer, yr oedd y diffyg manylion a'r diffyg ymgynghori yn hyn i gyd yn arwyddocaol am eu bod yn absennol.

Mae eich gweithredoedd wedi peri bod cyngor y celfyddydau a gwleidyddion y gwrthbleidiau wedi ysgrifennu am eu pryderon at y Comisiynydd Penodiadau Cyhoeddus, y Comisiwn Elusennau a Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru. Nid ydym yn debygol o wybod byth sawl un o aelodau cyngor y celfyddydau y gofynnwyd iddynt fod yn gadeirydd dros dro, a sawl un a wahoddwyd i wneud hynny mewn ffordd ad hoc ac afreolaidd cyn i'r person presennol dderbyn y swydd.

O ran yr iaith Gymraeg, yn dilyn y ddadl fis Hydref diwethaf, yr ydym yn dal yn y tywyllwch ynglŷn â dyfodol Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg a mater y dyfarnydd, heblaw bod eich cynghorwyr arbennig yn ystyried bod Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ar ei wely angau ac na phleideisiodd neb drosto. Yr ydym yn dal i aros am esboniad priodol ynglŷn â'r hyn a ysgogodd y ffrwydrad arbennig hwnnw. Nid yw sylwadau mor anwybodus a diofal yn gwneud dim i'n sicrhau nad oes gennych unrhyw fwriad i wleidyddoli'r iaith Gymraeg yn y dyfodol.

Yr wythnos diwethaf, yr oeddech yn dweud bod gan y gwrthbleidiau obsesiwn gyda phroses a phersonoliaethau. Efallai fod hyn yn swnio'n bwynt amlwg, ond mae proses a phersonoliaethau yn rhan fawr o'ch portffolio chi. Eto, yr ydych wedi creu llanast ac anhrefn gyda'r broses ac wedi dieithrio'r personoliaethau sydd, yn eironig, wedi uno'n gadarnhaol i wrthwynebu eich ymddygiad rhyfeddol a'ch gweithredoedd difeddwl.

Today, the important people—those outside of the Chamber—demand to know how it can be possible for someone to be in charge of so much and yet accountable for so very little.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yn gyntaf, ni chredaf y dylai'r grŵp Ceidwadol fod wedi cyflwyno'r cynnig hwn o gerydd, ond ni ddylai'r Gweinidog gymryd unrhyw gysur o'r ffaith fy mod yn dweud hynny. Os ydym i gael cynnig o gerydd, rhaid i hynny fod ar fater difrifol ac mewn amgylchiadau prin. Efallai fod y Gweinidog hwn wedi bod yn aneffeithiol a haerllug, ond teimlaf fod cynnig o gerydd mewn sefyllfa amhriodol fel hyn yn personoli'r ddadl ym mhersonoliaeth y Gweinidog mewn ffordd na allaf ei chymeradwyo. Byddwn wedi bod yn llawer hapusach yn trafod cynnig yn sôn am bolisi'r Llywodraeth yn hytrach na chynnig personol yn enw'r Gweinidog.

Efallai fod y Gweinidog yn cymryd rhywfaint o gysur o'r ffaith y byddwn yn ymatal ar y cynnig hwn, ond nid oes cysur i'r Gweinidog yn fy sylwadau. Y realiti yw bod y Gweinidog hwn wedi llwyddo i wneud rhywbeth y mae pawb arall wedi methu â'i wneud, sef uno'r gymuned gelfyddydol mewn ffordd arbennig. Mae'n anodd cael cyrff celfyddydol i gydweithio â'i gilydd ond, ar y mater hwn, mae'r Gweinidog hwn, oherwydd y ffordd y mae wedi gweithredu, wedi eu huno mewn ffordd nad wyf wedi'i gweld o'r blaen.

Mae'n rhaid i'r Gweinidog dderbyn bod gwrthwynebiad chwyrn i'r cynllun a roddwyd gerbron ganddo i dynnu cyrff i mewn i'w hariannu drwy'r Llywodraeth. Mae mater o egwyddor yma o safbwynt hyd braich rhwng y Llywodraeth a'r cyrff sy'n cael eu cyllido. Mae hyd yn oed y bobl a oedd â rhywfaint o gydymdeimlad â'r hyn yr oedd yn ceisio ei wneud wedi troi yn ei erbyn. Mae pobl yn dweud, 'Yr oedd gennyf feddwl agored ynglŷn â chynllun y Gweinidog, ond, o ystyried y ffordd y mae'r Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth wedi gweithredu, yr wyf wedi newid fy meddwl. Ni allaf ddweud fod cyllido'r cyrff hyn yn ddiogel yn nwylo'r Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth hon.'

Yn ogystal, mae'r ffordd y mae'r Gweinidog wedi gweithredu o safbwynt Geraint Talfan

Heddiw, mae'r bobl bwysig—y rheini y tu allan i'r Siambr—yn mynnu cael gwybod sut y gall fhywun fod yn gyfrifol am gymaint ac eto'n atebol am gyn lleied.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Firstly, I do not believe the Conservative group should have tabled this censure motion, but the Minister should take no succour from that. If we are to have a censure motion, it should be on an extremely serious issue and in exceptional circumstances. This Minister may have been ineffective and arrogant, but I feel a censure motion in an inappropriate situation such as this personalises the debate around the personality of the Minister in a way that I cannot commend. I would have been much happier to discuss a motion on the Government's policy rather than a personal motion in the name of the Minister.

The Minister may take some comfort from the fact that we will abstain on this motion, but there is no comfort for the Minister in my comments. The reality is that this Minister has succeeded in doing something which everyone else has failed to do. He has united the arts community in a very special way. It is difficult to get arts organisations to collaborate, but on this particular issue this Minister, because of his actions, has united them in a way that I have not seen in the past.

The Minister will have to accept that there is fierce opposition to the plan which he has put forward to bring organisations in to be directly funded by the Government. There is an issue of principle here in terms of the arm's-length relationship between the Government and the funded organisations. Even those people who had some sympathy with what he was attempting to do have now turned against him. People are saying, 'I had an open mind about the Minister's plans, but having looked at the way the Minister and the Government have acted, I have changed my mind. I cannot say that the funding of these organisations is safe in the hands of the Minister and this Government.'

In addition, the way the Minister has acted with regard of Geraint Talfan Davies is

Davies yn gwbl anfaddeuol. Dywedodd wrtho ei fod yn cael ei ddiswyddo ond ni chaniataodd ddigon o amser iddo'i hun i benodi rhywun yn ei le. Rhaid cael cyfnod o chwe mis ac mae'r cyfnod hwnnw'n dod i ben ym mis Mai. Pe bai'r Gweinidog wedi dweud wrth Geraint Talfan Davies ym mis Hydref, byddai ganddo chwe mis, ond mae wedi methu â gwneud hynny.

Mae nifer fawr o bobl yn anhapus â'r ffordd mae'r Llywodraeth wedi gweithredu. Beth bynnag yw ymateb y Gweinidog heddiw, gobeithiaf y bydd yn ddigon rhyddfrydig i ddweud ei fod yn derbyn bod gwersi i'w dysgu a'i fod am weithredu mewn ffordd gwbl wahanol yn y dyfodol.

Michael German: The Welsh Liberal Democrats will not support this censure motion today because we believe that we are here to engage with the business of this Government. I do not think that this motion does that. However, not voting for the censure motion is not an endorsement of this Minister; far from it.

The arts communities are in open revolt and passing this motion today would not give the arts community the stability that it needs. While this motion plays the person, we would prefer to deal with the issues.

3.10 p.m.

It is clear that this Minister did not handle the arts council very well; in fact, he bungled his handling of the council, sacking a popular and effective chair, and failing to be open and transparent in appointing a new chair. He wanted to bring the big six organisations into the Assembly, without a reason that stood up to scrutiny. It is also obvious that the Minister has not planned for the abolition of the Welsh Language Board, leaving the promotion and regulation of the Welsh language in limbo. The future of culture and language policy in Wales is in jeopardy because of his mismanagement. These are the issues that we must address today.

totally unforgivable. He told him he was being sacked but did not allow himself enough time to appoint his replacement. There has to be a period of six months, and that period expires in May. Had the Minister told Geraint Talfan Davies in October, he would have had six months, but he failed to do that.

Many people are dissatisfied with the way the Government has acted. Whatever response the Minister gives today, I hope he will be sufficiently magnanimous to say that he accepts there are lessons to be learnt and that he will act differently in future.

Michael German: Ni fydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cefnogi'r cynnig hwn o gerydd heddiw oherwydd credwn ein bod yma i drafod busnes y Llywodraeth hon. Ni chredaf fod y cynnig hwn yn gwneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r ffaith nad ydym yn pleidleisio o blaid y cynnig hwn o gerydd yn golygu ein bod yn cefnogi'r Gweinidog hwn; ddim o gwbl.

Mae cymunedau'r celfyddydau yn gwrthryfela'n llwyr ac ni fyddai derbyn y cynnig hwn heddiw yn rhoi'r sefydlogrwydd hwnnw y mae ar gymuned y celfyddydau ei angen. Er bod y cynnig hwn yn ymwneud â'r person, byddai'n well gennym ni ddelio â'r materion.

Mae'n amlwg na wnaeth y Gweinidog hwn ddelio â chyngor y celfyddydau yn dda iawn; yn wir, yr oedd y ffordd y deliodd â'r cyngor yn flerwch llwyr, drwy ddiswyddo cadeirydd poblogaidd ac effeithiol, a methu â gweithredu mewn ffordd agored ac eglur wrth benodi cadeirydd newydd. Yr oedd am ddod â'r chwe sefydliad mawr ynghyd i mewn i'r Cynulliad, heb reswm a fyddai'n gwrthsefyll unrhyw graffu. Mae'n amlwg hefyd nad yw'r Gweinidog wedi cynllunio ar gyfer diddymu Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, gan adael y broses o hyrwyddo a rheoleiddio'r iaith Gymraeg yn y fantol. Mae dyfodol polisi diwylliant ac iaith yng Nghymru mewn perygl oherwydd ei gamreoli. Dyna'r materion y mae'n rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â

hwy heddiw.

Last week, we tabled some simple written questions about arts council appointments. They were the sort of simple questions that Ministers answer every day, and are required to answer. The Minister replied that he would consider our request, and respond in due course. We believe that public appointments are supposed to be open and transparent; we should never have had to ask these questions in the first place—they should be a matter of public record.

In the Assembly, in arts organisations across Wales, and among those concerned about the handling of language issues, you would not get a high score on the Welsh clapometer, Minister. However, opportunity knocks today for you to answer some simple questions for the Assembly. I ask you to use your time in front of us to give the answers to the questions that we all want answered.

When did you first contact the Commissioner for Public Appointments about the emergency procedure to make an interim appointment of chair of the arts council? What independent scrutiny of the appointment has there been? Having decided to appoint an interim chair, why did you not consult the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee's appointed nominees?

You told the committee in January that you were advertising for a new chair. You were then just 10 weeks from when that chair would be needed. You said that you were starting the process in January to get a new chair by 1 April. You claimed that you could have completed an appointment process—advertising, sifting applicants, shortlisting, interviewing, and appointing a candidate—and have the successful candidate serving a notice period, taking over with an overlap with the outgoing chair. Therefore, will you reflect again on your answer of 19 January?

Bungle was the star of the children's television programme, *Rainbow*—

Yr wythnos diwethaf, cyflwynwyd rhai cwestiynau ysgrifenedig syml gennym ynglŷn â phenodiadau i gyngor y celfyddydau. Dyna'r math o gwestiynau y bydd Gweinidogion yn eu hateb bob dydd, ac y mae'n ofynnol iddynt eu hateb. Atebodd y Gweinidog y byddai'n ystyried ein cais ac yn ymateb maes o law. Credwn y dylai penodiadau cyhoeddus fod yn agored ac yn eglur; ni ddylem fod wedi gorfod gofyn y cwestiynau hyn yn y lle cyntaf—dylent fod yn fater o gofnod cyhoeddus.

Yn y Cynulliad, mewn sefydliadau'r celfyddydau ledled Cymru, ac ymhlith y rheini sy'n ymwneud ag ymdrin â materion iaith, byddai'r gymeradwyaeth ymhell o fod yn drydanol yng Nghymru, Weinidog. Fodd bynnag, mae cyfle gennych heddiw i ateb rhai cwestiynau syml ar gyfer y Cynulliad. Gofynnaf ichi ddefnyddio eich amser ger ein bron i roi'r atebion i'r cwestiynau yr ydym bob un am weld eu hateb.

Pryd oedd y tro cyntaf ichi gysylltu â'r Comisiynydd Penodiadau Cyhoeddus ynglŷn â'r weithdrefn frys i benodi cadeirydd dros dro i gyngor y celfyddydau? Pa broses graffu annibynnol a wnaed o'r penodiad? Ar ôl penderfynu penodi cadeirydd dros dro, pam na wnaethoch ymgynghori â'r rhai a enwebwyd gan y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon?

Ym mis Ionawr, dywedasoch wrth y pwyllgor eich bod yn hysbysebu am gadeirydd newydd. Ar y pryd, dim ond 10 wythnos oedd nes y byddai angen y cadeirydd hwnnw. Dywedasoch eich bod yn dechrau'r broses ym mis Ionawr er mwyn penodi cadeirydd newydd erbyn 1 Ebrill. Yr oeddech yn honni y gallech fod wedi cwblhau proses penodi—hysbysebu, dethol ymgeiswyr, llunio rhestr fer, cynnal cyfweiliadau, a phenodi ymgeisydd—a sicrhau bod yr ymgeisydd llwyddiannus yn gweithio am gyfnod rhybudd, gan gymryd yr awenau cyn i'r cadeirydd presennol ymadael. Felly, a wnewch chi ailystyried eich ateb ar 19 Ionawr?

Bungle oedd seren y rhaglen deledu i blant, *Rainbow*—

The Presiding Officer: I call Leighton Andrews.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf Leighton Andrews.

Leighton Andrews: I am happy to support the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport today, and I urge the Assembly to reject the motion. It is completely over the top to see a censure motion against this Minister. I speak as someone who has not always agreed with him on every issue to do with arts policy—I do not think that that is a state secret. However, at a time when we are going through a review of arts policy, when we have agreement on the terms of reference for that review of arts and cultural policy, and when we have an interim chair of the arts council, who is leading the council through a difficult period in its development, we should seek to give support to that interim chair. It is disappointing that I have not heard any words of welcome or praise for the new interim chair of the arts council from other parties in the Chamber.

Leighton Andrews: Yr wyf yn hapus i gefnogi'r Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon heddiw, a gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad wrthod y cynnig. Mae gweld cyflwyno cynnig o gerydd yn erbyn y Gweinidog hwn yn mynd dros ben llestri'n llwyr. Siaradaf fel un nad yw bob amser wedi cytuno ag ef ar bob mater yn ymwneud â pholisiau'r celfyddydau—ni chredaf fod honno'n gyfrinach fawr. Fodd bynnag, ar adeg pan ydym yn gwneud adolygiad o bolisiau'r celfyddydau, pan fo gennym gytundeb am y cylch gorchwyl ar gyfer yr adolygiad hwnnw o bolisi celfyddydau a diwylliant, a phan fo gan gyngor y celfyddydau gadeirydd dros dro, sy'n arwain y cyngor drwy gyfnod anodd yn ei ddatblygiad, dylem gefnogi'r cadeirydd dros dro hwnnw. Mae'n siom nad wyf wedi clywed yr un gair o groeso neu ganmoliaeth i gadeirydd dros dro newydd cyngor y celfyddydau gan bartion eraill yn y Siambr.

Owen John Thomas: Had you been the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, which I am sure you would like to have been, and you were returning from the summer recess in mid September, and you were minded to meet the chair of the arts council and tell him that you were going to advertise the job for the second third-year term—not give it to him, but advertise it—you would also have in mind, I would have thought, that you would do that from the beginning of October, which would give you six months up to 31 March. In that way, when one chair went out, another one would be ready to step in. Are those the procedures that you would have followed, or would you have different procedures?

Owen John Thomas: Pe baech chi yn Weinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon, fel yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech wedi'i hoffi, ac yn dychwelyd ar ôl toriad yr haf ganol Medi gyda'r bwriad o gyfarfod â chadeirydd cyngor y celfyddydau a dweud wrtho eich bod am hysbysebu'r swydd am yr ail dymor o dair blynedd—peidio â rhoi'r swydd iddo ef, ond ei hysbysebu—byddech chi hefyd yn credu, byddwn yn tybied, y byddech yn gwneud hynny o ddechrau mis Hydref, a fyddai'n rhoi chwe mis i chi hyd at 31 Mawrth. Fel hynny, pan fyddai un cadeirydd yn ymadael, byddai un arall yn barod i gymryd yr awenau. Ai dyna'r gweithdrefnau y byddech wedi'u dilyn, neu a fyddech wedi dilyn gweithdrefnau gwahanol?

Leighton Andrews: Thank you for letting me intervene on your intervention. This debate, unfortunately, from the point of view of the opposition, appears solely to be about personalities. There are deep and legitimate issues of public policy that neither we nor the arts council have dealt with.

Leighton Andrews: Diolch ichi am adael imi dorri ar draws eich ymyriad. Yn anffodus, mae'r drafodaeth hon, o safbwynt y gwrthbleidiau, fel pe bai'n ymwneud yn gyfan gwbl â phersonoliaethau. Mae yna faterion dwfn a chyfreithlon yn ymwneud â pholisi cyhoeddus nad ydym ni na chyngor y celfyddydau wedi delio â hwy.

They relate to legitimate questions about the

Maent yn ymwneud â chwestiynau

relationship between arts organisations, the Government, the arts council and the committee in what is a small country, and I do not think those issues have been worked out or thought through intellectually, either on a pre-2007 basis for the Assembly, or on a post 2007 basis. I hope that the arts review will do that. I have seen people talk in the Chamber about the need for an arm's-length relationship and then place demands on the Minister to fund this or that of their favourite pet projects. That is not about having an arm's-length relationship, and it is confirmed in my mind that the reality is that most people have not really thought through the complexities of those issues.

I return to one of the issues that has disappointed me. We have not had any words of welcome for the interim chair of the arts council, who is taking on a significant challenge. That is a great credit to him. He is someone of substance in the cultural community in Wales. There have also been some rather snide attacks on the interim chair, not in the Chamber, but outside, because he does not speak Welsh, and that is to be deplored. It is a shame that those comments have not been deplored elsewhere. There has been much snobbery and elitism in this debate over the arts over the last few months; there has been snobbery and elitism in the arts community and some of it has been directed at our Minister. It has been directed at him, at the end of the day, because some people do not believe that the son of a Rhondda miner should be a Minister for culture. That is what we have seen; we have seen disgraceful, elitist attacks on the Minister inside the Chamber and without.

The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh): Opposition Members have the right and responsibility to scrutinise my work as a Minister, as well as to promote and propose alternative policy agendas. We had such an occasion this morning in committee, when Members of all parties engaged in very serious and constructive scrutiny. Members have the further right to take the very serious step of tabling a censure motion, but I am disappointed that the Tories have chosen to do this, in view of the fact that I have, at all times, fully complied with Plenary policy,

cyfreithlon ynglŷn â'r berthynas rhwng sefydliadau'r celfyddydau, y Llywodraeth, cyngor y celfyddydau a'r pwyllgor mewn gwlad fach, ac ni chredaf i'r materion hynny gael eu trafod na'u hystyried mewn ffordd ddeallus, nid ar sail cyn 2007 i'r Cynulliad nac ar sail ar ôl 2007. Gobeithio y bydd yr adolygiad o'r celfyddydau'n gwneud hynny. Yr wyf wedi gweld pobl yn y Siambr yn trafod yr angen am berthynas hyd braich ac wedyn yn galw ar y Gweinidog i ariannu eu hoff brosiectau. Nid mater o berthynas hyd braich yw hynny, ac yr wyf yn sicr yn fy meddwl mai'r gwir amdani yw nad yw'r rhan fwyaf o bobl mewn gwirionedd wedi ystyried natur gymhleth y materion hynny.

Dychwelaf at un o'r materion sydd wedi fy siomi. Nid ydym wedi croesawu cadeirydd cyngor y celfyddydau dros dro, sydd wedi derbyn her sylweddol. Mae hynny'n glod mawr iddo. Mae'n gymeriad pwysig yn y gymuned ddiwylliannol yng Nghymru. Cafwyd ymosodiadau coeglyd ar y cadeirydd dros dro, nid yn y Siambr ond y tu allan iddi, am nad yw'n siarad Cymraeg, ac mae hynny i'w resynu. Mae'n drueni nad yw eraill yn gresynu am y sylwadau hynny. Bu llawer iawn o snobyddiaeth ac elitaeth yn y ddadl hon dros y celfyddydau yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd diwethaf; gwelwyd snobyddiaeth ac elitaeth yn y gymuned gelfyddydol a rhywfaint o hynny'n cyfeirio at ein Gweinidog. Fe'i cyfeiriwyd ato, mewn gwirionedd, am nad yw rhai'n credu y dylai mab glöwr o'r Rhondda fod yn Weiniidog dros ddiwylliant. Dyna a welsom; gwelsom ymosodiadau elitaidd, cywilyddus ar y Gweinidog y tu fewn i'r Siambr a'r tu allan iddi.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon (Alun Pugh): Mae gan Aelodau'r wrthblaid yr hawl a'r cyfrifoldeb i graffu ar fy ngwaith fel Gweinidog, yn ogystal â hyrwyddo a chynnig agendau polisi gwahanol. Cawsom achlysur o'r fath yn y pwyllgor y bore yma, pan fu Aelodau pob plaid mewn proses graffu ddifrifol ac adeiladol iawn. Mae gan Aelodau yr hawl bellach i gymryd y cam difrifol iawn o gyflwyno cynnig o gerydd, ond yr wyf yn siomedig fod y Torïaid wedi dewis gwneud hyn, o gofio fy mod i, bob amser, wedi cydymffurfio'n llwyr â pholisi'r Cyfarfod

Assembly resolutions and our agreed procedures of operation—

Lisa Francis *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. You know my view that interventions before 30 seconds have passed are inappropriate. Give him a chance, for goodness' sake.

Alun Pugh: I made a statement to Plenary last Tuesday on the two key issues of the review of the arts council and the appointment of the arts council chair. In taking forward the review, I am fully complying with the terms of the Assembly resolution of 1 February. I announced the name of the chair of the review last Tuesday, and I announced the names of the other members of the review panel to the committee this morning, having reached a considered agreement with opposition Members. The terms of reference for the review have also been agreed with the committee after constructive discussions with opposition parties. On the chair of the arts council, I have acted in accordance with the terms of the code of practice for ministerial appointments to public bodies. I have continued to make it clear that I had wanted to run a standard public appointments process, complete with public advertisements, but the opposition parties' amendment of 1 February made it too difficult to make that full-term appointment. I therefore announced interim arrangements after we had contacted the Commissioner for Public Appointments, as the code requires. I announced last Tuesday that an eminent member of the council, Professor Dai Smith, a man of substantial academic achievement, would chair the council on that interim basis, and that a full-time appointment would be made once there is clarity in the outcome of the review. This full-term appointment will be made via the usual process, and it will be open to anyone to apply. I have said on a dozen occasions, and I repeat again this afternoon, that I have acted, and will continue to act, in accordance with the code.

With all these details made clear last Tuesday, I find it a little strange that the Conservative Party felt it appropriate to table

Llawn, cynigion y Cynulliad a'n gweithdrefnau gweithredu cytûn—

Lisa Francis *a gododd*—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Gwyddoch fy mod yn teimlo bod unrhyw ymyriadau cyn pen 30 eiliad yn amhriodol. Rhowch gyfle iddo, er mwyn y nefoedd.

Alun Pugh: Gwneuthum ddatganiad yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ddydd Mawrth diwethaf ar ddau fater allweddol, sef yr adolygiad o gyngor y celfyddydau a'r broses o benodi cadeirydd cyngor y celfyddydau. Wrth weithredu'r adolygiad, yr wyf yn cydymffurfio'n llawn â thelerau cynnig y Cynulliad ar 1 Chwefror. Cyhoeddais enw cadeirydd yr adolygiad ddydd Mawrth diwethaf, a chyhoeddais enwau aelodau eraill y panel adolygu yn y pwyllgor y bore yma, ar ôl dod i gytundeb deallus ag Aelodau'r wrthblaid. Cytunwyd ar gylch gwaith yr adolygiad hefyd gyda'r pwyllgor yn dilyn trafodaethau adeiladol gyda'r gwrthbleidiau. O ran cadeirydd cyngor y celfyddydau, gweithredais yn unol â thelerau'r cod ymarfer ar gyfer penodi gan weinidogion i gyrff cyhoeddus. Fe'i gwneuthum yn glir bob amser fy mod yn awyddus i weithredu proses safonol ar gyfer penodiadau cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys hysbysebion cyhoeddus, ond o ganlyniad i welliant y gwrthbleidiau ar 1 Chwefror, yr oedd yn rhy anodd gwneud y penodiad tymor llawn hwnnw. Felly, cyhoeddais y trefniadau dros dro ar ôl inni gysylltu â'r Comisiynydd Penodiadau Cyhoeddus, fel sy'n ofynnol dan y cod. Cyhoeddais ddydd Mawrth diwethaf y byddai aelod blaenllaw o'r cyngor, yr Athro Dai Smith, dyn o gyraeddiadau academiaidd sylweddol, yn cadeirio'r cyngor ar y sail interim honno, ac y byddai penodiad llawn amser yn cael ei wneud pan fydd canlyniad yr adolygiad yn hysbys. Gwneir y penodiad tymor llawn hwn drwy'r broses arferol, a bydd hawl gan unrhyw un i wneud cais. Dywedais ddwsin o weithiau, ac ailadroddaf hynny eto y prynhawn yma, fy mod wedi gweithredu, ac y byddaf yn parhau i weithredu, yn unol â'r cod.

Gan imi egluro'r holl fanylion hyn ddydd Mawrth diwethaf, mae'n syndod braidd fod y Blaid Geidwadol yn teimlo'i bod yn briodol

a censure motion the very next day. I am disappointed but, frankly, it says more about the Tories than it does about me. This is the seventh time that they have tabled a censure motion in the short life of this Assembly. Such serious procedures should not be used as party political knockabout.

3.20 p.m.

There is a widespread view that the appointment of the new chair of the arts council is a good one. Dai Smith has already embraced his new role, and has met the arts council staff. When we met last night, we had a wide-ranging discussion, covering English-language theatre, co-operation in arts marketing, social exclusion and the arts, and the current vacancy of vice chair. My concern is that, once again, we have used the precious time of Plenary to focus on process rather than on more substantial items.

There is general agreement on the way forward with regard to the review, and I look forward to meeting the review panel shortly. There also seems to be broad agreement on our policy of access and excellence. There is little evidence that the Tories have a considered, coherent and distinct arts policy that is different from that which we are pursuing.

I will now deal with the Welsh language. My party is entirely committed to a bilingual Wales, this Government is committed to a bilingual Wales, and I am committed to a bilingual Wales. Our plans for the Welsh Language Board are entirely consistent with improving democratic accountability. [Interruption.] The detail will be in the consultation paper, Owen John, which you will get tomorrow, and there will be plenty of opportunity, on the floor of this Assembly, in committee, and in individual meetings—I offered this morning to have a further meeting with you, a third meeting—to take these detailed matters forward. It is a genuine consultation and there are some genuine issues of detail that we are happy to discuss and to bring forward. Let us focus on the real agenda, which is about how we bring the

cyflwyno cynnig o gerydd y diwrnod canlynol. Yr wyf yn siomedig, ond a dweud y gwir, mae'n dweud mwy am y Toriaid nag amdanaf fi. Dyma'r seithfed tro iddynt gyflwyno cynnig o gerydd yn ystod oes fer y Cynulliad hwn. Ni ddylid defnyddio gweithdrefnau difrifol o'r fath fel gêm wleidyddiol.

Y farn gyffredinol yw fod y cadeirydd newydd a benodwyd i gyngor y celfyddydau yn un da. Mae Dai Smith eisoes wedi ymgymryd yn frwd â'i rôl newydd, ac wedi cyfarfod â staff cyngor y celfyddydau. Pan gawsom gyfarfod neithiwr, cawsom drafodaeth eang, yn cwmpasu theatr Saesneg, cydweithredu ym maes marchnata'r celfyddydau, allgáu cymdeithasol a'r celfyddydau, a swydd wag y dirprwy gadeirydd. Unwaith eto, yr wyf yn pryderu ein bod wedi defnyddio amser prin y Cyfarfod Llawn i ganolbwyntio ar broses yn hytrach nag eitemau pwysicach.

Mae cytundeb cyffredinol am y ffordd ymlaen o ran yr adolygiad, ac edrychaf ymlaen at gyfarfod â phanel yr adolygiad yn fuan. Ymddengys hefyd fod cytundeb bras am ein polisi mynediad a rhagoriaeth. Nid oes llawer o dystiolaeth i ddangos bod gan y Toriaid bolisi ystyrllon, cydlynus a phenodol ar y celfyddydau sy'n wahanol i'r polisi yr ydym ni'n ei ddilyn.

Ymdriniaf yn awr â'r Gymraeg. Mae fy mhlaid wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr i Gymru ddwyieithog, mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi ymrwymo i Gymru ddwyieithog, ac yr wyf fi wedi ymrwymo i Gymru ddwyieithog. Mae ein cynlluniau ar gyfer Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn gwbl gyson â gwella atebolrwydd democrataidd. [Torri ar draws.] Bydd y manylion yn y papur ymgynghori, Owen John, a gewch yfory, a bydd digon o gyfle, ar lawr y Cynulliad hwn, yn y pwyllgor, ac mewn cyfarfodydd unigol—cynigiatis gyfarfod ychwanegol ichi y bore yma, trydydd cyfarfod—i drafod y materion manwl hyn. Mae'n ymgynghoriad dilys ac mae yna rai manylion dilys yr ydym yn fodlon eu trafod a'u cyflwyno. Gadewch inni ganolbwyntio ar yr agenda go iawn, sef sut y gallwn ddod â buddiannau'r buddsoddiad

benefits of the substantial—indeed, record—public investment to every corner of this nation, especially those where participation rates are lowest. Let us allow the new chair of the arts council to get on with his work, and let us allow the review team to get on with its work. I urge the Assembly to vote against the motion.

Nick Bourne: First, I have some words on what this motion is not about in response to the only person to have personalised this debate at all—it is not in any way an attack on the son of a Rhondda miner. As the grandson of a train driver, that is not something in which I would ever wish to indulge. This censure motion is the first that has been tabled in this second Assembly. It has been used sparingly; let us make that absolutely clear. This censure motion is not about the budget of the Minister. He told us about the investment that he is making; he has tried that tactic before. You can be an incompetent Minister with a large budget, and you can be a competent Minister with a small budget—it has nothing to do with the budget. Nor does it have anything to do with access. We are committed to access to the arts, and want it increased. I do not think that anyone has fairly said that Geraint Talfan Davies did not have that agenda—he clearly did. The Arts Council of Wales has that agenda, therefore this is not about access either.

It is about issues of competence, it is about the handling, or mishandling, of the arts community and of the Welsh language. For the past year and a half, the Minister has lurched from one crisis to another, alienating the arts community and jeopardising progress on the Welsh language. We feel that enough is enough. We do not believe that we will get this censure motion carried today. We know that that will not be the case, but that does not mean that there is no point in focusing attention on the incompetence, as we see it, that has happened.

This censure motion is not about party political differences on arts policy. Of course,

cyhoeddus sylweddol—yn wir, y mwyaf erioed—i bob cwr o'r wlad hon, yn arbennig i'r ardaloedd hynny lle mae cyfraddau cyfranogiad ar eu hisaf. Gadewch inni roi cyfle i gadeirydd newydd cyngor y celfyddydau fynd ymlaen â'i waith, a gadewch inni roi cyfle i dîm yr adolygiad fynd ymlaen â'i waith. Erfyniaf ar y Cynulliad i bleidleisio yn erbyn y cynnig.

Nick Bourne: Yn gyntaf, hoffwn sôn am yr hyn nad yw'r cynnig hwn yn ymwneud ag ef mewn ymateb i'r unig un sydd wedi personoleiddio'r ddadl hon o gwbl—nid yw'n ymosodiad mewn unrhyw ffordd ar fab i lowr o'r Rhondda. Fel wŷr i yrrwr trên, nid yw hynny'n rhywbeth y byddem am ei wneud byth. Y cynnig o gerydd hwn yw'r cynnig cyntaf o'r fath i'w gyflwyno yn ystod yr ail Gynulliad hwn. Prin y mae wedi ei ddefnyddio; gadewch inni wneud hynny'n hollol glir. Nid oes a wnelo'r cynnig o gerydd hwn â chyllideb y Gweinidog. Dywedodd wrthym am ei fuddsoddiad; mae wedi rhoi cynnig ar y dacteg honno o'r blaen. Gallwch fod yn Weindog anghymwys gyda chyllideb fawr, a gallwch fod yn Weindog cymwys gyda chyllideb fach—nid yw'n ymwneud o gwbl â'r gyllideb. Nid yw'n ymwneud ychwaith â mynediad. Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i fynediad i'r celfyddydau, ac yr ydym am gynyddu'r mynediad hwnnw. Ni chredaf fod neb wedi dweud yn deg nad oedd gan Geraint Talfan Davies yr agenda honno—yr oedd hynny'n amlwg. Mae gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yr agenda honno, felly, nid yw'n ymwneud â mynediad ychwaith.

Mae yn ymwneud â materion medrusrwydd, mae'n ymwneud â thrin, neu gam-drin, y gymuned gelfyddydol a'r Gymraeg. Ers blwyddyn a hanner, mae'r Gweinidog wedi gwegian o'r naill argyfwng i'r llall, gan ddieithrio'r gymuned gelfyddydol a rhoi cynnydd ar y Gymraeg yn y fantol. Teimlwn mai digon yw digon. Nid ydym yn credu y caiff ein cynnig o gerydd ei dderbyn heddiw. Gwyddom nad dyna fydd yn digwydd, ond nid yw hynny'n golygu nad oes pwynt tynnu sylw at yr anfedrusrwydd sydd wedi digwydd, fel y gwelwn ni bethau.

Nid oes a wnelo'r cynnig hwn o gerydd â gwahaniaethau pleidiau ar bolisi'r

we will have differences with the Government party; we know that. It is not about bringing the big six in-house. We disagree with that, but it is not about that. It is specifically about two major and important issues—one relating to the arts and one to the Welsh language—that we believe go to the root of handling valuable communities that are integral to Wales.

I turn first to the arts council. The bungling way in which the interim chair has been appointed has been dreadful. I wish that I had spoken before that Member because I was going to say that of course we wish the interim chair the very best. However, that does not mean that the handling of this key issue has been carried forward with any sense at all.

Leighton Andrews: Will you give way?

Nick Bourne: I will not give way; other Members have not and time is short. I know that the Member knows that, generally, I do take interventions.

On the way that this has been handled, when the Minister told Geraint Talfan Davies just before Christmas that he would not be reappointed—effectively sacking him, because competent chairs are reappointed—there was no process put in place to appoint a new chair. This must have happened quickly. He was not in a position to have a new chair appointed, therefore the idea that this is the opposition's fault, which he has sought to say before, is ridiculous. There is no way that a new chair would have been in post before the end of March.

The entire arts council came along in the meantime and asked for Geraint Talfan Davies to be reappointed. Indeed, the bulk of the arts community wanted that. What did the Minister do? He refused to reappoint him and, in the process, he united the arts community as never before. It is a very diverse community and, as we all know, it is difficult to unite arts communities on anything. If the Minister has done one thing,

celfyddydau. Wrth gwrs, bydd gwahaniaeth barn rhyngom a phlaid y Llywodraeth; gwyddom hynny. Nid yw'n fater o ddod â'r chwe phrif sefydliad o dan adain y Llywodraeth. Yr ydym yn anghytuno â hynny, ond nid yw'n ymwneud â hynny. Mae'n ymwneud yn benodol â dau brif fater pwysig—y naill yn gysylltiedig â'r celfyddydau a'r llall â'r Gymraeg—sydd yn ein barn ni wrth wraidd trin cymunedau gwerthfawr sy'n hollbwysig i Gymru.

Trof yn gyntaf at gyngor y celfyddydau. Mae'r ffordd ddi-drefn o benodi'r cadeirydd dros dro wedi bod yn warth. Trueni na fyddwn wedi siarad cyn yr Aelod hwnnw, oherwydd yr oeddwn wedi bwriadu dweud wrth gwrs ein bod yn dymuno'n dda i'r cadeirydd dros dro. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny'n golygu bod y mater allweddol hwn wedi ei drin yn synhwyrol mewn unrhyw ffordd.

Leighton Andrews: A ildiwch?

Nick Bourne: Nid wyf am ildio; nid yw Aelodau eraill wedi ildio ac mae'r amser yn brin. Gwn fod yr Aelod yn gwybod fy mod, yn gyffredinol, yn derbyn ymyriadau.

O ran y ffordd y deliwyd â'r mater hwn, pan ddywedodd y Gweinidog wrth Geraint Talfan Davies cyn y Nadolig na fyddai'n cael ei ailbenodi-gan ei ddiswyddo i bob pwrpas, oherwydd caiff cadeiryddion cymwys eu hailbenodi-ni roddwyd proses ar waith i benodi cadeirydd newydd. Rhaid bod hyn wedi digwydd yn gyflym. Nid oedd mewn sefyllfa i benodi cadeirydd newydd, felly, mae'r syniad mai bai'r wrthblaid ydyw, fel y ceisiodd ei awgrymu o'r blaen, yn wirion. Byddai wedi bod yn amhosibl cael cadeirydd newydd yn ei swydd cyn diwedd mis Mawrth.

Yn y cyfamser, daeth y cyngor cyfan ato i ofyn iddo ailbenodi Geraint Talfan Davies. Yn wir, dyna oedd y rhan fwyaf o'r gymuned gelfyddydol yn ei ddymuno. Beth a wnaeth y Gweinidog? Gwrthododd ei ailbenodi, a thrwy wneud hynny llwyddodd i uno'r gymuned gelfyddydol mewn ffordd na welwyd erioed o'r blaen. Mae'n gymuned amrywiol iawn, ac fel y gwyddom bob un, mae'n anodd uno cymunedau celfyddydol ar

he has succeeded in doing that.

I turn to the Welsh language, which is the other key issue. The Minister is responsible for these two important areas. What could be more important than the handling of the Welsh language? We still do not know where we are on the dyfarnydd. That is a key issue that has not really been touched upon, but which it is central to this motion of censure. The motion is not just about the handling of the arts, but the Welsh language as well. We might not have tabled it had there been one area of concern alone, but there are two key issues that have to be addressed by the Minister. I hope that today, after this vote, he will address those issues, because they are vital. Let us be clear about that.

I have written to the Minister and the First Minister about comments made by a special adviser—whom I will not name—attacking the Welsh Language Board in an absolutely unforgivable way, attacking public servants who cannot defend themselves. We would certainly not have entered into that and I am surprised and disappointed that neither the Minister, nor the First Minister, have distanced themselves publicly from the intolerable comments made by that special adviser about the Welsh Language Board and our precious language. It was absolutely unforgivable. For those two reasons, we have proposed this motion today. I urge people to vote for it. It has not been proposed in a light-hearted way; we considered the matter seriously before putting it forward.

unrhyw beth. Os yw'r Gweinidog wedi gwneud un peth, mae wedi llwyddo i wneud hynny.

I droi at y Gymraeg, sef y mater allweddol arall. Mae'r Gweinidog yn gyfrifol am y ddau faes pwysig hyn. Beth allai fod yn bwysicach nag ymdrin â'r Gymraeg? Ni wyddom eto beth yw'r sefyllfa o ran y dyfarnodd. Mae hynny'n fater allweddol nad yw wedi ei drafod yn iawn mewn gwirionedd, ond mae'n ganolog i'r cynnig hwn o gerydd. Nid mater o ddelio â'r celfyddydau'n unig yw'r cynnig, ond â'r Gymraeg hefyd. Efallai na fyddem wedi'i gyflwyno pe baem y pryderu am un maes yn unig, ond mae yma ddau fater allweddol y mae'n rhaid i'r Gweinidog ymdrin â hwy. Gobeithio heddiw, ar ôl y bleidlais hon, y bydd yn ymdrin â'r materion hynny, gan eu bod yn hanfodol. Gadewch inni fod yn glir ynglŷn â hynny.

Ysgrifennais at y Gweinidog a'r Prif Weinidog ynghylch sylwadau a wnaed gan gynghorydd arbennig—nad wyf am ei enwi—yn ymosod ar Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg mewn ffordd gwbl anfaddeuol, gan ymosod ar weision sifil na allant amddiffyn eu hunain. Yn sicr, ni fyddem wedi bod yn rhan o hynny, ac yr wyf yn synnu ac yn siomedig nad yw'r Gweinidog, na'r Prif Weinidog, wedi dweud yn gyhoeddus nad oeddent yn gysylltiedig â'r sylwadau annioddefol a wnaed gan y cynghorydd arbennig hwnnw am Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg a'n hiaith werthfawr. Yr oedd yn gwbl anfaddeuol. Am y ddau reswm hwnnw, yr ydym wedi cynnig y cynnig hwn heddiw. Erfyniaf ar bobl i bleidleisio o'i blaid. Nid yw wedi ei gynnig yn ysgafn; buom yn ystyried y mater yn ddwys cyn ei gyflwyno.

Cynnig (NDM2989): O blaid 11, Ymatal 13, Yn erbyn 29.

Motion (NDM2989): For 11, Abstain 13, Against 29.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody, Tamsin

Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

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
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Davies, Janet
German, Michael
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion defeated.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 3.28 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3.28 p.m.*

Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ar yr Adolygiad o Gamddefnyddio Sylweddau The Report of the Social Justice and Regeneration Review of Substance Misuse

Janice Gregory: I propose that

the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 6.6 and 9.9, notes the report of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee entitled 'Substance Misuse: Part 1—Treatment Services' which was laid in the Table Office on 24 March 2006. (NDM2988)

When it completed its policy review into housing for older people in September 2004,

Janice Gregory: Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhifau 6.6 a 9.9, yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio sy'n dwyn y teitl 'Camddefnyddio Sylweddau: Rhan 1—Gwasanaethau Triniaeth', a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 24 Mawrth 2006. (NDM2988)

Ar ôl cwblhau ei adolygiad polisi o dai ar gyfer pobl hŷn ym mis Medi 2004,

the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee determined that its next review should be on substance misuse and that the committee should include alcohol as well as classified drugs in its considerations.

Even in the early days, the committee was well aware that it was undertaking a huge task. The size of that task, however, surprised even us. Importantly, the committee recognised that consideration of the subject should be broken down into tranches and that the first of those should concentrate on the treatment services available. Issues surrounding prevention and the criminological aspects of this subject were placed on the back burner for the time being.

The essence of the committee's report on treatment services was completed in July 2005, but, as Members will appreciate, our attention was then diverted by the need to examine the effects of the Home Secretary's proposals for restructuring the constabulary. We were therefore only able to return to the substance misuse report earlier this term. I do not believe that the end product is any the worse for that delay, indeed, it has enabled Members of the committee to reflect on the substantial body of evidence that was collected in response to our written consultation, in oral sessions and in visits by committee members to various organisations.

3.30 p.m.

The committee received 51 responses to its written consultation, it received 17 oral presentations, and it visited 13 projects. This large body of evidence forms the basis of the committee's findings and recommendations. In considering the evidence, the committee noted that practitioners in the field welcomed the fact that, over the last few years, more money had been allocated to the treatment of substance misuse, resulting in more people being treated.

Significant gaps, of course, remain. Equality of access to treatment for all people remains a target. The committee saw many examples of

penderfynodd y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio y dylai ei adolygiad nesaf ymwneud â chamddefnyddio sylweddau ac y dylai'r pwyllgor gynnwys alcohol yn ogystal â chyffuriau dosbarthedig yn ei drafodaethau.

Hyd yn oed yn gynnar, yr oedd y pwyllgor yn gwbl ymwybodol ei fod yn ymgymryd â thasg enfawr. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd maint y dasg honno yn syndod hyd yn oed i ni. Yn bwysig, cydnabu'r pwyllgor y dylid rhannu'r broses o ystyried y pwnc yn haenau penodol, ac y dylai'r haen gyntaf ganolbwyntio ar y gwasanaethau triniaeth sydd ar gael. Rhoddwyd materion yn ymwneud ag atal ac agweddau troseddegol y pwnc hwn o'r neilltu am y tro.

Cwblhawyd corff adroddiad y pwyllgor ar wasanaethau triniaeth ym mis Gorffennaf 2005, ond fel y bydd yr Aelodau yn sylweddoli, yr oedd yr angen am archwilio effeithiau cynigion yr Ysgrifennydd Cartref i ailstrwythuro'r heddlu wedyn yn mynnu ein sylw. Felly, dim ond yn gynharach yn ystod y tymor hwn y llwyddwyd i ddychwelyd at yr adroddiad ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau. Ni chredaf fod y cynnyrch terfynol wedi dioddef oherwydd yr oedi hwnnw. Yn wir, mae wedi rhoi cyfle i Aelodau'r pwyllgor fyfyrion ar y dystiolaeth sylweddol a gasglwyd mewn ymateb i'n hymgyngoriad ysgrifenedig, mewn sesiynau llafar ac mewn ymweliadau gan aelodau'r pwyllgor ag amrywiol sefydliadau.

Cafodd y pwyllgor 51 o ymatebion i'w ymgynghoriad ysgrifenedig, gwnaed 17 o gyflwyniadau llafar, ac ymwelodd â 13 o brosiectau. Y dystiolaeth sylweddol hon yw sail darganfyddiadau ac argymhellion y pwyllgor. Wrth ystyried y dystiolaeth, sylwodd y pwyllgor fod ymarferwyr yn y maes yn croesawu bod mwy o arian wedi ei ddyrannu yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf i drin pobl sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau, gan olygu bod mwy o bobl yn cael eu trin.

Wrth gwrs, mae yna fylchau sylweddol o hyd. Mae sicrhau bod yr un driniaeth ar gael i bawb yn dal yn darged. Gwelodd y pwyllgor

good practice, and, arguably, one of the report's more significant recommendations is that the Assembly Government should identify and promote good innovative practices so that they can be developed throughout Wales. It is a fact that many people were concerned when responsibility for tackling substance misuse in Wales was transferred out of the health portfolio to that now represented by the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration. They were, and some remain, concerned that the move emphasised the criminological aspect of the problem without tackling the source of the problem and its treatment. To those people, I point to the benefits.

By financing substance misuse through the community safety partnerships, resources made available for innovative projects may be ring-fenced. In the health service, such allocations have to compete against all the other worthy projects that have no connection to substance misuse. Community safety partnerships may finance more schemes that, in the short term, may grow and develop so that they can prove their value and, hopefully, be mainstreamed in the local NHS trusts. Short-term funding, as provided by community safety partnerships, may not be the long-term solution, but it has allowed many imaginative projects to get off the ground and, as I have already stated, since the transfer of responsibility, more resources have been targeted at the treatment of substance misuse than was the case previously. It has also enabled resources to be allocated to areas and projects where they are most needed. If the committee learned one thing during its deliberations, it is that, in the world of substance misuse, one size does not fit all.

I understand that, in many areas of Britain, crack cocaine has taken over as the preferred drug among users. In those areas, treatment services clearly need to be geared to tackle this particular problem. However, in its evidence, the local trust in Carmarthen assured the committee that heroin remained the No. 1, illicitly used drug in that area. Treatment services have to be adapted

nifer o enghreifftiau o arfer da, ac yn sicr un o argymhellion pwysicaf yr adroddiad yw y dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad nodi a hyrwyddo arferion arloesol da er mwyn eu datblygu ledled Cymru. Mae'n ffaith fod nifer o bobl yn pryderu pan drosglwyddwyd y cyfrifoldeb am ddelio â chamddefnyddio sylweddau yng Nghymru o'r portffolio iechyd i'r hyn a gynrychiolir bellach gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio. Yr oeddent yn pryderu y byddai'r trosglwyddiad hwnnw'n pwysleisio agwedd droseddegol y broblem, heb fynd i'r afael â tharddiad y broblem a sut i'w thrin, ac mae rhai'n dal yn bryderus. Er mwyn y bobl hynny, yr wyf am dynnu sylw at y manteision.

Drwy ariannu camddefnyddio sylweddau drwy bartneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol, gall adnoddau a ddarparwyd ar gyfer prosiectau arloesol gael eu neilltuo. Yn y gwasanaeth iechyd, rhaid i ddyraniadau felly gystadlu â'r holl brosiectau teilwng eraill nad oes ganddynt gysylltiad â chamddefnyddio sylweddau. Gall partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol ariannu mwy o gynlluniau a all dyfu a datblygu yn y tymor byr er mwyn iddynt brofi eu gwerth a, gobeithio, gael eu prif-ffrydio yn yr ymddiriedolaethau GIG lleol. Efallai nad ariannu tymor byr, fel y darperir gan bartneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol, yw'r ateb ar gyfer yr hirdymor, ond bu'n fodd i nifer o brosiectau llawn dychymyg weld golau dydd. Ac fel yr wyf eisoes wedi dweud, ers trosglwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb mae mwy o adnoddau wedi eu targedu i drin pobl sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddol nag a wnaed gynt. Mae hefyd wedi galluogi dyrannu adnoddau mewn ardaloedd a phrosiectau lle mae'r angen mwyaf. Os yw'r pwyllgor wedi dysgu un peth yn ystod ei ystyriaethau, mae wedi dysgu nad yw un ateb yn addas ar gyfer popeth ym maes camddefnyddio sylweddau.

Deallaf mai cocên crac yw'r hoff gyffur ymhlith defnyddwyr cyffuriau mewn sawl rhan o Brydain. Yn yr ardaloedd hynny, mae'n amlwg bod angen sicrhau y gall gwasanaethau triniaeth fynd i'r afael â'r broblem benodol hon. Fodd bynnag, yn ei thystiolaeth yr oedd yr ymddiriedolaeth leol yng Nghaerfyrddin yn sicrhau'r pwyllgor mai heroin oedd y prif gyffur anghyfreithlon a

accordingly. Small local projects are likely to meet local requirements.

I have spoken so far about illegal drugs. However, the evidence received from all quarters and from all parts of Wales is that by far the greatest problem in relation to the misuse of substances is not class A drugs or those illegal drugs considered by some to be less harmful, but is, of course, alcohol. The first-quarter report from the Welsh national database for April to June 2005 indicated that alcohol was the main problem substance in 53 per cent of treatment services. At that time, heroin accounted for 21 per cent of such referrals. The report showed that while younger people are most likely to misuse several substances, older people are more likely to present with alcohol-related problems.

In undertaking this review, the committee realised that the factors behind substance misuse are complex and variable and that people respond differently to the various types of treatment and styles adopted. The committee's report contains 38 recommendations, which, to a large extent, reflect the complexity of, and inherent tensions associated with, the problem. The recommendations are aimed at ensuring that there is equality of access to appropriate and effective treatment services for all those in need of them. The committee's recommendations are designed to devise, improve and evaluate commissioning mechanisms, improve the effectiveness, availability, adequacy and sustainability of funding, remove the barriers that can prevent or deter people from accessing appropriate treatment services, support capacity building in the treatment sector and ensure that good practices are shared. I believe that the report achieves these aims.

I conclude by recognising all those who provided evidence to our review. Without their co-operation, our deliberations would have come to nothing, so I thank them all. I also pay special tribute to Denise Rogers from the Members' research service. Denise

dddefnyddid yn yr ardal honno. Rhaid addasu gwasanaethau triniaeth yn unol â hynny. Mae prosiectau bach lleol yn debygol o fodloni gofynion lleol.

Hyd yn hyn yr wyf wedi sôn am gyffuriau anghyfreithlon. Fodd bynnag, dengys y dystiolaeth a gafwyd o bob rhan o Gymru nad cyffuriau dosbarth A na'r cyffuriau anghyfreithlon hynny a ystyrir gan rai yn llai niweidiol yw'r broblem fwyaf o bell ffordd o ran camddefnyddio sylweddol, ond, wrth gwrs, alcohol. Dangosodd yr adroddiad chwarter cyntaf gan gronfa ddata genedlaethol Cymru am fis Ebrill i fis Mehefin 2005 mai alcohol oedd y prif sylwedd a oedd yn achosi problem mewn 53 y cant o'r gwasanaethau triniaeth. Bryd hynny, yr oedd heroin yn cyfrif am 21 y cant o atgyfeiriadau felly. Dangosodd yr adroddiad, er bod pobl iau yn fwy tebygol o gamddefnyddio nifer o sylweddau, fod pobl hŷn yn fwy tebygol o fod â phroblemau sy'n gysylltiedig ag alcohol.

Wrth ymgymryd â'r adolygiad hwn, sylweddolodd y pwyllgor fod y ffactorau sydd wrth wraidd camddefnyddio sylweddau yn gymhleth ac amrywiol, a bod pobl yn ymateb yn wahanol i'r amrywiol fathau o driniaeth a'r dulliau a ddefnyddir. Mae adroddiad y pwyllgor yn cynnwys 38 o argymhellion sydd, i raddau helaeth, yn adlewyrchu cymhlethdod y broblem a'r tensiynau sylfaenol sy'n gysylltiedig â hi. Mae'r argymhellion yn anelu at sicrhau bod gwasanaethau triniaeth priodol ac effeithiol ar gael i bawb y mae arnynt eu hangen. Nod argymhellion y pwyllgor yw dyfeisio, gwella a gwerthuso mecanweithiau comisiynu, gwella effeithiolrwydd, argaeledd, digonolrwydd a chynaliadwyedd ariannu, dileu rhwystrau a all atal pobl rhag cael gwasanaethau triniaeth priodol, cefnogi'r gwaith o feithrin gallu yn y sector triniaeth, a sicrhau rhannu arferion da. Credaf fod yr adroddiad yn cyflawni'r nodau hyn.

Dof i ben drwy gydnabod pawb a ddarparodd dystiolaeth ar gyfer ein hadolygiad. Heb eu cydweithrediad hwy byddai ein hystyriaethau yn ofer, felly, diolchaf iddynt bob un. Hoffwn ddiolch yn arbennig i Denise Rogers o wasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau. Mae gan

has a background of working in the field of drug and alcohol misuse, and her expertise proved invaluable in guiding us through the review process. As our expert adviser, she was able to identify the issues, problems, personnel and organisations that could assist us in providing a meaningful report. I thank her very much.

I also thank the clerking team of Roger Chaffey, Claire Griffiths and Alun Davidson for their work in preparing the report. Organising evidence sessions and arranging committee visits to the various projects is not an easy task.

Finally, I thank my fellow committee members who have worked very hard over a long period in producing this report. Each has made an excellent contribution, and I look forward to continuing with our review of substance misuse when we concentrate on prevention over the next few months.

I commend the report to the Assembly, and I trust that, after consideration, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration will be able to respond positively to most, if not all, of its recommendations.

Laura Anne Jones: I welcome the report, which is the first stage of our review into substance misuse. I hope that the outcomes of this review will have a positive impact on the lives of many people in Wales. I joined the committee halfway through the first stage of the review, but I recognise that there is a dire need to address the issue of equality of access to treatment services.

It is a much-needed review, as recent reports have suggested that one in five secondary school children took illegal substances last year. According to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, a quarter of children aged 11 to 15 have been offered cannabis, and 12 per cent said that they had tried it. Cocaine use in this age group has increased from 1.4 per cent in 1994 to 1.9 per cent in 2005. One third of 15-year-olds said that they had taken drugs in the last year. It is no wonder that, earlier this year, the schools

Denise brofiad o weithio ym maes camddefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol, ac yr oedd ei harbenigedd yn hynod werthfawr wrth ein tywys drwy'r broses adolygu. Fel ein cynghorwr arbenigol, llwyddodd i nodi'r materion, y problemau, y personél a'r sefydliadau a allai ein helpu i baratoi adroddiad ystyrlon. Hoffwn ddiolch yn fawr iawn iddi.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r tîm clercod Roger Chaffey, Claire Griffiths ac Alun Davidson am eu gwaith wrth baratoi'r adroddiad. Nid tasg hawdd yw trefnu sesiynau tystiolaeth a threfnu ymweliadau pwyllgor â'r amrywiol brosiectau.

Yn olaf, diolch i'm cyd-aelodau ar y pwyllgor a fu'n gweithio'n galed iawn am gyfnod hir i gynhyrchu'r adroddiad hwn. Gwnaeth pawb gyfraniad gwych, ac edrychaf ymlaen at barhau ein hadolygiad o gamddefnyddio sylweddau pan fyddwn yn canolbwyntio ar atal yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf.

Cymeradwyaf yr adroddiad i'r Cynulliad, a hyderaf y gall y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ymateb yn gadarnhaol i'r rhan fwyaf o'i argymhellion, os nad y cyfan, ar ôl ei ystyried.

Laura Anne Jones: Yr wyf yn croesawu'r adroddiad, sef y cam cyntaf yn ein hadolygiad o gamddefnyddio sylweddau. Gobeithio y caiff canlyniadau'r adolygiad hwn effaith gadarnhaol ar fywydau llawer o bobl yng Nghymru. Ymunais â'r pwyllgor hanner ffordd drwy gam cyntaf yr adolygiad, ond yr wyf yn sylweddoli bod angen taer sicrhau bod gwasanaethau triniaeth ar gael i bawb.

Mae angen gwirioneddol am yr adroddiad hwn, gan fod adroddiadau'n ddiweddar wedi awgrymu bod un o bob pum plentyn ysgol uwchradd wedi cymryd sylweddau anghyfreithlon y llynedd. Yn ôl y Ganolfan Gwybodaeth Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol, mae chwarter y plant 11 oed i 15 oed wedi cael cynnig cannabis, a dywedodd 12 y cant ohonynt eu bod wedi rhoi cynnig arno. Mae nifer y plant yn y grŵp oed hwn sy'n defnyddio cannabis wedi codi o 1.4 y cant yn 1994 i 1.9 y cant yn 2005. Dywedodd traean

inspection body, Estyn, called for more information in our schools about substance issue. Too many young people are accepting that binge drinking and experimentation with drugs are just a normal part of their everyday lives. We need to focus on education—it is key—for these young people about the services and help available to them.

I have been disappointed to discover, throughout this review, that services for children who misuse substances in Wales are very limited. Children identified as having a substance misuse problem are generally referred to the child and adolescent mental health services. That is not always appropriate, and it is something that we need to think about. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support recommendation 21, which states that

‘The Assembly Government should assess the needs of children who misuse substances and evaluate whether current service provision is adequate and appropriate, in conjunction with the Children’s Commissioner as appropriate.’

We must also welcome the work done by Youthlink Wales, and look to secure the future of such worthwhile organisations.

However, it can be just as difficult for adults to access services. Recommendation 5 is vital, and we need to assess the potential impact of the abolition of section 64 funding on service provision.

It is important for us to focus on the barriers that prevent or deter people from accessing substance misuse treatment services. In committee, we received evidence from people who live in Valley and rural communities, particularly those which are not well served by public transport. Those people, therefore, find it more difficult to access a range of treatment services. Aside from being able to access substance misuse assistance, many of my constituents from rural areas have problems accessing many

y bobl ifanc 15 oed eu bod wedi cymryd cyffuriau yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Nid yw’n syndod bod Estyn, y corff arolygu ysgolion, wedi galw am ragor o wybodaeth yn ein hysgolion am gamddefnyddio cyffuriau. Mae gormod o bobl ifanc yn derbyn bod goryfed achlysurol ac arbrofi â chyffuriau yn rhan arferol o’u bywyd pob dydd. Mae angen inni ganolbwyntio ar addysg—mae’n allweddol—i’r bobl ifanc hyn am y gwasanaethau a’r cymorth sydd ar gael iddynt.

Yn ystod yr adolygiad hwn, cefais fy siomi i ddarganfod bod gwasanaethau i blant sy’n camddefnyddio sylweddau yng Nghymru yn brin iawn. Fel arfer, caiff plant y nodir bod ganddynt broblem camddefnyddio sylweddau eu cyfeirio’n gyffredinol at wasanaethau iechyd meddwl plant a’r glasoed. Nid yw hynny’n briodol bob amser, ac mae’n rhywbeth y mae angen inni feddwl amdano. Felly, cefnogaf argymhelliad 21 i’r carn, sy’n dweud

‘Dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad asesu anghenion plant sy’n camddefnyddio sylweddau ac arfarnu a yw’r ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau presennol yn ddigonol ac yn briodol ar eu cyfer, mewn cydweithrediad â’r Comisiynydd Plant, fel bo’n briodol.’

Rhaid inni hefyd groesawu’r gwaith a wneir gan Gyswllt Ieuenctid Cymru, a cheisio diogelu dyfodol mudiadau gwerthfawr o’r fath.

Fodd bynnag, gall fod lawn mor anodd i oedolion gael gwasanaethau. Mae argymhelliad 5 yn hanfodol, ac mae angen inni asesu effaith bosibl dileu ariannu adran 64 ar ddarparu gwasanaeth.

Mae’n bwysig inni ganolbwyntio ar y rhwystrau sy’n atal pobl rhag defnyddio gwasanaethau triniaeth am gamddefnyddio sylweddau. Yn y pwyllgor, cawsom dystiolaeth gan bobl sy’n byw mewn cymunedau yn y Cymoedd ac mewn cymunedau gwledig, yn enwedig y rheini lle nad oes cludiant cyhoeddus da. Felly, mae’r bobl hynny yn ei chael yn anos cyrraedd amrywiaeth o wasanaethau triniaeth. Yn ogystal â chael anhawster i gael cymorth gyda chamddefnyddio sylweddau, mae

services in general. We have discussed geographical factors, and we have agreed that they can, and do, limit service availability. In light of this, one success story has been the Kaleidoscope project in Newport, which operates a comprehensive treatment service, including supervised consumption of substitute medication without waiting lists. However, it has been acknowledged that a service that requires users to attend on a daily basis is not necessarily accessible to those who live outside Newport. Therefore, more projects such as this would be welcome in other areas. I understand that ways of addressing this issue are currently being explored, and I hope that a solution can be found to benefit more rural communities.

llawer o'm hetholwyr o ardaloedd gwledig yn wynebu problemau wrth geisio cael nifer o wasanaethau'n gyffredinol. Yr ydym wedi trafod ffactorau daearyddol, ac yr ydym wedi cytuno eu bod yn gallu cyfyngu'r gwasanaethau sydd ar gael ac yn gwneud hynny. Yng ngoleuni hyn, mae'r prosiect Kaleidoscope yng Nghasnewydd wedi bod yn llwyddiant, prosiect sy'n gweithredu gwasanaeth triniaeth cynhwysfawr, gan gynnwys cymryd meddyginiaeth amgen o dan oruchwyliaeth heb restrau aros. Fodd bynnag, cydnabuwyd nad yw gwasanaethau sy'n gofyn i ddefnyddwyr fynychu bob dydd o reidrwydd yn hwylus i bobl sy'n byw y tu allan i Gasnewydd. Felly, byddai mwy o brosiectau fel hwn yn cael eu croesawu mewn ardaloedd eraill. Deallaf fod ffyrdd i fynd i'r afael â'r mater yn cael eu hastudio ar hyn o bryd, a gobeithio y gellir dod o hyd i ateb a fydd o fudd i gymunedau mwy gwledig.

3.40 p.m.

To this end, we all agree that substance misuse is a problem in Wales and that it can affect people from every walk of life. We need to ensure that the people of Wales can access help where they need to, no matter what their age or where they happen to live. I look forward to discussing this subject further in committee, particularly as we go on to discuss preventative measures.

I'r perwyl hwn, yr ydym i gyd yn cytuno bod camddefnyddio sylweddau'n broblem yng Nghymru ac y gall effeithio ar bobl o bob cefndir. Mae angen inni sicrhau y gall pobl Cymru gael cymorth lle mae ei angen arnynt, waeth beth fo'u hoed, waeth ble maent yn byw. Edrychaf ymlaen at drafod y mater hwn ymhellach yn y pwyllgor, yn enwedig wrth inni fynd ati i drafod mesurau ataliol.

Karen Sinclair: I welcome the report and thank the committee for its work. It is clear from the report that the structure of treatment in Wales needs to be improved. I would like to concentrate on two main areas in the report. The first of these is improving access to and the availability of safer injecting facilities for those who need them. As the Health Protection Agency highlighted in a recent report, the number of injecting drug users infected with HIV and other diseases is sadly on the increase. The number of HIV infections through infected needles has nearly doubled since 1992, with the spread of other infections such as hepatitis C also on the increase. Clear evidence exists to suggest that services that provide clean needles and syringes, offer information and advice on safer injecting, and provide guidance on the use of equipment to prevent virus

Karen Sinclair: Croesawaf yr adroddiad a diolchaf i'r pwyllgor am ei waith. Mae'n amlwg o'r adroddiad fod angen gwella strwythur triniaeth yng Nghymru. Hoffwn ganolbwyntio ar ddau brif faes yn yr adroddiad. Y cyntaf yw gwneud cyfleusterau chwistrellu mwy diogel yn gyfleus i'r rheini y mae arnynt eu hangen a darparu mwy ohonynt. Fel yr oedd yr Asiantaeth Diogelu Iechyd yn tynnu sylw mewn adroddiad yn ddiweddar, mae nifer y bobl sy'n chwistrellu cyffuriau ac sydd â HIV a chlefydau eraill ar gynydd yn anffodus. Mae nifer yr heintiadau HIV drwy ddefnyddio nodwyddau wedi eu heintio wedi dyblu bron er 1992, ac mae heintiadau eraill fel hepatitis C hefyd ar gynydd. Mae tystiolaeth glir yn awgrymu y gall y gwasanaethau sy'n darparu nodwyddau a chwistrellau glân, yn cynnig gwybodaeth a chyngor sut i chwistrellu'n fwy diogel, ac

transmissions as well as testing for common infections can significantly help in the fight against the spread of such infections. That is why I welcome the recommendations contained in chapter 1 of the report, which highlights the need to introduce the national commissioning of such services, joining up such provision and establishing national minimum standards for the availability and quality of provision.

Leanne Wood: An organisation in Cardiff has taken a multi-agency approach to try to look at a safe injecting facility by using a bus to visit different communities to promote needle exchange, working along the lines that you just mentioned. Government support for that project would be a great help for that multi-agency group. Would you be prepared to support a call for the Government to support such a facility?

Karen Sinclair: As you know, Leanne, we have talked about this before, and I would support that call as I think that we have to have a mature debate about how we crack the health problems that are compounded by bad practice.

At the moment, innovative and, often, creative practice exists in Wales with regard to developing such services. However, as the report points out, this remains restricted to pockets of patchy local provision. This is why I would strongly support any move to insist on a nationwide standard of service provision. It should be introduced as a priority in Wales.

My second point relates to ensuring that we provide services to tackle substance misuse among homeless people in our communities, as they make up one of the most vulnerable groups that would benefit from such a service. From my work as a member of the Health and Social Services Committee, and from my discussions with homeless groups, it seems clear that not all LHBs hold figures on the exact proportion of homeless people residing in their areas. Here again, we see

sy'n rhoi arweiniad sut i ddefnyddio offer er mwyn atal trosglwyddo feirysau yn ogystal â phrofi am heintiadau cyffredin, fod o gymorth mawr yn y frwydr yn erbyn lledaenu heintiadau o'r fath. Dyna pam yr wyf yn croesawu'r argymhellion ym mhennod 1 o'r adroddiad, sy'n tynnu sylw at yr angen i gomisiynu gwasanaethau o'r fath yn genedlaethol, gan uno darpariaeth o'r fath a sefydlu safonau gofynnol cenedlaethol ar gyfer argaeledd ac ansawdd darpariaeth.

Leanne Wood: Mae sefydliad yng Nghaerdydd wedi dod â nifer o asiantaethau ynghyd i geisio edrych ar gyfleuster chwistrellu diogel, drwy ddefnyddio bws i ymweld â gwahanol gymunedau i hyrwyddo cyfnewid nodwyddau, gan weithio ar hyd y llinellau yr oeddech yn sôn amdanynt. Byddai cefnogaeth y Llywodraeth i'r prosiect yn fuddiol iawn i'r grŵp aml-asiantaeth hwnnw. A fydddech yn barod i gefnogi'r galw am i'r Llywodraeth gefnogi cyfleuster o'r fath?

Karen Sinclair: Fel y gwyddoch, Leanne, yr ydym wedi trafod hyn o'r blaen, a byddwn yn cefnogi'r galw hwnnw oherwydd credaf fod yn rhaid inni gael trafodaeth aeddfed am y ffordd y gallwn fynd i'r afael â'r problemau iechyd sy'n cael eu cymhlethu gan arfer gwael.

Ar hyn o bryd, mae arferion arloesol, a chreadigol, yn aml, ar gael yng Nghymru o ran datblygu gwasanaethau o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, fel y mae'r adroddiad yn dangos, dim ond mewn rhai ardaloedd y mae darpariaeth a honno'n anghyson. Dyma pam y byddwn yn cefnogi'n gryf unrhyw ymgais i fynnu cael safon genedlaethol ar gyfer darpariaeth gwasanaethau. Dylai hyn fod yn flaenoriaeth yng Nghymru.

Mae a wnelo fy ail bwynt â sicrhau ein bod yn darparu gwasanaethau i fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio sylweddau ymhlith pobl ddigartref yn ein cymunedau, gan eu bod yn un o'r grwpiau sydd fwyaf agored i niwed ac a fyddai'n elwa o wasanaeth o'r fath. O'm gwaith fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ac o'm trafodaethau gyda grwpiau o bobl ddigartref, mae'n amlwg nad oes gan bob BILl ffigurau am union gyfran y bobl ddigartref sy'n byw

patchy local variations with regard to provision and knowledge of who is there. This has knock-on implications in relation to how effective local health boards can be.

Other barriers to service provision and take-up also need to be examined, such as details regarding how effectively we are delivering community detox facilities or outreach facilities for homeless groups, including the services, for example, of specialist community nurses. I know that there is a particularly good nurse working in the Cardiff area. A good example of the need to improve such services comes when we look at the way that homeless people typically access healthcare. Studies have found that, often, one of the first points of contact for homeless people with any form of healthcare is through accident and emergency services. This is clearly not the most efficient way to use resources in the NHS, and I hope that improving the issues surrounding GP contact with vulnerable homeless groups will be one of the issues that the Minister will consider and take forward.

There is still a huge amount of work to be done to improve access to help with substance misuse. I have focused on homeless people, but I agree with other speakers that there is a huge amount to do across the board. Therefore, I welcome the report as a starting point.

Peter Black: Mick Bates is the main social justice spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats, and he will hopefully have an opportunity to say his piece later on. I would like to make a few points as I was a member of the committee when this review began.

The review has gone on long enough, and quite a few Members have passed through the committee in that time, but, as Janice said, the delay is no fault of hers or of the committee. That is due to the various circumstances that have occurred. This is a very important review and its conclusions are valid and worthwhile. The way in which they analyse the existing provision in terms of

yn eu hardaloedd. Unwaith eto, gwelwn amrywiadau lleol yn y ddarpariaeth a'r wybodaeth am y rhai sydd yno. Mae i hyn oblygiadau o ran effeithiolrwydd byrddau iechyd lleol.

Mae angen astudio pethau eraill sy'n rhwystro darparu a defnyddio gwasanaethau, megis manylion am ein heffeithiolrwydd wrth ddarparu cyfleusterau dadwenwyno cymunedol neu gyfleusterau cymorth i grwpiau digartref, gan gynnwys gwasanaethau nyrsys cymunedol arbenigol, er enghraifft. Gwn fod nyrs arbennig o dda yn gweithio yn ardal Caerdydd. Gwelwn enghraifft dda o'r angen am wella gwasanaethau o'r fath pan edrychwn ar y ffordd y mae pobl ddigartref yn cael gofal iechyd fel rheol. Mae astudiaethau wedi dangos mai un o'r pwyntiau cyswllt cyntaf yn aml i bobl ddigartref o ran unrhyw fath o ofal iechyd yw'r gwasanaethau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Yn amlwg, nid dyma'r ffordd fwyaf effeithlon i ddefnyddio adnoddau yn y GIG, a gobeithio y bydd gwella cysylltiadau rhwng meddygon teulu a grwpiau pobl ddigartref sy'n agored i niwed yn un o'r materion y bydd y Gweinidog yn eu hystyried a'u datblygu.

Mae llawer iawn o waith i'w wneud o hyd i'w gwneud yn haws cael cymorth gyda chamddefnyddio sylweddau. Yr wyf wedi canolbwyntio ar bobl ddigartref, ond cytunaf â siaradwyr eraill fod llawer o waith i'w wneud yn gyffredinol. Felly, croesawaf yr adroddiad fel man cychwyn.

Peter Black: Mick Bates yw'r prif siaradwr dros gyfiawnder cymdeithasol ar ran y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a gobeithio y caiff gyfle i ddweud ei ddweud yn nes ymlaen. Hoffwn i wneud rhai pwyntiau gan fy mod yn aelod o'r pwyllgor pan ddechreuodd yr adolygiad hwn.

Mae'r adolygiad wedi para'n ddigon hir, ac mae cryn nifer o Aelodau wedi bod yn aelodau o'r pwyllgor yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw. Ond fel y dywedodd Janice, nid ei bai hi na'r pwyllgor yw'r oedi. Mae hynny o ganlyniad i'r amrywiol amgylchiadau sydd wedi dgiwydd. Mae hwn yn adolygiad pwysig iawn ac mae ei gasgliadau'n ddilys ac yn werthfawr. Mae'r ffordd y maent yn

substance misuse has identified several areas that the Minister needs to address and which, hopefully, she will address and take on board as part of the change that has happened over the last few years in how the Assembly deals with substance misuse.

There were problems in the early years with getting to grips with this agenda, getting the money and treatment out there and ensuring that people could access that treatment properly. To a large extent, that has started to be addressed by what the Minister has done. The committee has identified further work that she can take on board to try to build on that success.

The report also highlights two worrying trends, which need to be tackled in the near future. The first was referred to in Janice's introduction, namely how the action on and particularly the funding for substance misuse is driven by criminal activity and by the funding provided by the Home Office towards that work. This is very much a health agenda in many aspects. The people who are victims of substance misuse require treatment in health facilities. It is not right that only those who are identified as being involved in criminal activity should be prioritised for that treatment. We also need to be able to identify people and get them into the system through other avenues. We have to be able to deal with the Home Office on this so that we can ensure that the money that it puts into substance misuse is not driven entirely by criminal activity and by people being arrested or found through arrest referral schemes and sent on to deal with their drug problem.

The other issue with Home Office funding is that that money is very much centred on drugs—although, an element is reserved for alcohol misuse—certainly in terms of drug testing orders and providing treatment for people that way. However, the evidence, as Janice and others have indicated, shows that the majority of abuse is related to alcohol,

dadansoddi'r ddarpariaeth bresennol o ran camddefnyddio sylweddau wedi nodi nifer o feysydd y mae angen i'r Gweinidog fynd i'r afael â hwy, a gobeithio y bydd yn mynd i'r afael â hwy ac yn gweithredu arnynt fel rhan o'r newid sydd wedi digwydd dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf yn y ffordd y mae'r Cynulliad yn ymdrin â chamddefnyddio sylweddau.

Cafwyd problemau yn ystod y blynyddoedd cyntaf wrth fynd i'r afael â'r agenda hon, darparu'r arian a'r driniaeth, a sicrhau y gallai pobl gael y driniaeth honno'n briodol. I raddau helaeth, mae'r hyn y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i wneud wedi dechrau mynd i'r afael â hynny. Mae'r pwyllgor wedi nodi rhagor o waith y gall weithredu arno i geisio adeiladu ar y llwyddiant hwnnw.

Mae'r adroddiad hefyd yn tynnu sylw at ddwy duedd sy'n peri gofid, ac mae angen mynd i'r afael â hwy yn y dyfodol agos. Cyfeiriwyd at y cyntaf yng nghyflwyniad Janice, sef y ffordd y mae'r camau gweithredu ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau, ac yn arbennig yr arian ar gyfer hynny, wedi'u hysgogi gan weithgarwch troseddol a chan yr arian a ddarperir gan y Swyddfa Gartref i gyflawni'r gwaith hwnnw. Agenda iechyd yw hon i raddau. Mae angen triniaeth mewn cyfleusterau iechyd ar y bobl sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau. Nid yw'n iawn mai dim ond y bobl hynny y nodir eu bod yn gysylltiedig â gweithgarwch troseddol ddylai gael eu blaenoriaethu ar gyfer y driniaeth honno. Mae angen inni hefyd allu nodi pobl a'u cyflwyno i'r system drwy lwybrau eraill. Rhaid inni allu delio â'r Swyddfa Gartref ar hyn er mwyn inni allu sicrhau na chaiff yr arian y mae'n ei fuddsoddi ym maes camddefnyddio sylweddau ei ysgogi'n gyfan gwbl gan weithgarwch troseddol, a chan bobl sy'n cael eu harestio neu eu darganfod drwy gynlluniau atgyfeirio ar ôl arestio, a'u hanfon ymlaen i ymdrin â'u problem gyffuriau.

Y mater arall o ran arian y Swyddfa Gartref yw bod yr arian hwnnw'n canolbwyntio i raddau helaeth ar gyffuriau—er y cedwir elfen o'r neilltu ar gyfer camddefnyddio alcohol—yn sicr o ran gorchmynion profi cyffuriau a darparu triniaeth i bobl fel hynny. Fodd bynnag, dengys y dystiolaeth, fel y dywedodd Janice ac eraill, fod y mwyafrif o'r

particularly among older people. It seems that they are falling through the system's net because of that onus on drugs. This Government's priorities should be in terms of treating alcohol and drug abuse on a par and using a level playing field; they should not reflect how Home Office funding reaches this area through other avenues. That needs to be addressed, and we need to tackle the Home Office on that issue.

Finally, there is an impressive range of statistics at the back of this report, giving the numbers of people referred to agencies according to geographical area; in fact, virtually any combination that you wish to posit on that. However, the one missing statistic—and we need to address this in the medium term—is that which indicates how many people are waiting for treatment and how long they have to wait for it. For example, we need comparable statistics with those that you get in the health service on how long someone has to wait for cancer treatment or heart surgery. You do not have the comparable treatment on a consistent basis across Wales or the statistics to indicate how long people have to wait for substance misuse treatment, rehabilitation and so on. That must be addressed, and we need to get those statistics in place. Once they are in place, we will then be able to monitor more effectively how this money is spent, and we will be able to establish our own judgment of where that money could be better spent and whether it gets to where it is most needed.

John Griffiths: I add my congratulations to Janice, as Chair of the committee, and to the committee staff on producing this report, which is undoubtedly important. I also join Laura Anne in praising the work of Kaleidoscope, which provides services in my constituency of Newport East. I have visited its premises on several occasions and it has expanded due to its good work. It provides an impressive, non-judgmental and holistic service in providing training to get people back into employment, for example, providing support for a settled lifestyle, and work to try to get people out of the cycle of

achosion o gamddefnyddio yn ymwneud ag alcohol, yn arbennig ymysg pobl hŷn. Ymddengys eu bod yn syrthio drwy rwyd y system oherwydd y pwysau hynny ar gyffuriau. Dylai'r Llywodraeth hon roi'r un flaenoriaeth i achosion o gamddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau gan sicrhau triniaeth gyfartal; ni ddylent adlewyrchu'r modd y bydd arian y Swyddfa Gartref yn cyrraedd y maes hwn drwy lwybrau eraill. Mae angen mynd i'r afael â hynny, ac mae angen inni holi'r Swyddfa Gartref ynglŷn â'r mater hwnnw.

Yn olaf, mae yna amrywiaeth helaeth o ystadegau yng nghefn yr adroddiad hwn, sy'n rhoi niferoedd y bobl a gyfeiriwyd at asiantaethau yn ôl ardal ddaearyddol; yn wir, bron pob cyfuniad yr hoffech ei ragdybio ar hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae un ystadegyn ar goll—ac mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â hyn yn y tymor canolig—sef yr un sy'n dangos faint o bobl sy'n aros am driniaeth ac am ba hyd y mae'n rhaid iddynt aros amdani. Er enghraifft, mae arnom angen ystadegau tebyg i'r rheini a gewch yn y gwasanaeth iechyd am yr amser y mae'n rhaid i rywun aros i gael triniaeth am ganser neu lawdriniaeth ar y galon. Nid oes triniaeth debyg ar gael yn gyson ledled Cymru na'r ystadegau i nodi am ba hyd y mae'n rhaid i bobl aros am driniaeth am gamddefnyddio sylweddau, adsefydlu ac ati. Rhaid mynd i'r afael â hynny, ac mae angen inni sicrhau bod yr ystadegau hynny ar waith. Pan fyddant ar waith, byddwn wedyn yn gallu monitro'n fwy effeithiol sut y caiff yr arian hwn ei wario, a byddwn yn gallu llunio ein barn ein hunain ble y gellid gwario'r arian hwnnw'n well ac yw'n cael ei wario lle mae'r angen mwyaf.

John Griffiths: Hoffwn longyfarch Janice, fel Cadeirydd y pwyllgor, a staff y pwyllgor am baratoi'r adroddiad hwn, sy'n ddiarnheul yn bwysig. Ymunaf â Laura Anne hefyd i ganmol gwaith Kaleidoscope, sy'n darparu gwasanaethau yn fy etholaeth i yn Nwyrain Casnewydd. Yr wyf wedi ymweld â'i swyddfeydd droeon ac mae wedi ehangu o ganlyniad i'w waith da. Mae'n darparu gwasanaeth nodedig, anfarnol a chyfannol i ddarparu hyfforddiant i bobl ddychwelyd i'r gwaith, er enghraifft, rhoi cymorth i sicrhau ffordd sefydlog o fyw a gweithio er mwyn ceisio torri'r cylch lle bydd pobl yn dwyn er

committing theft to buy illegal drugs. All of that is in addition to the services and treatment that are available there, including the provision of methadone for people who were heroin users. All of that is done in a non-judgmental way. It takes the harm-reduction approach to reduce the risk for those who continue to take illegal drugs and to help them to stop taking illegal drugs if that is their aim.

3.50 p.m.

All of this has been effective and it has an evidence-based approach, which enables it to retain clients once clients come to them. As an organisation, it has realistic expectations and a non-punitive approach. In my experience, all of that is effective. Given the fact that heroin accounts for 20 per cent of the referrals for treatment and is the most common class-A drug involved, this is important work indeed.

The other voluntary organisation that I visited recently, which provides relevant services in my constituency, is the Gwent Alcohol Project. Again, it is an impressive organisation that provides highly confidential services—counselling, support, advice and treatment—in a non-judgmental way, staffed by people who have a great deal of expertise and experience garnered over many years, which they put to good effect.

I add my voice to those that say that alcohol, in many ways, is the most serious problem that we face when we talk about substance misuse. Fifty per cent of referrals to treatment services are for alcohol problems. I know from my own experience—when I was a solicitor dealing in criminal law, for example, and a range of other matters—that an awful lot of violent crime results from people drinking too much alcohol, as does an awful lot of anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, and marital breakdown. On top of that are all the problems of physical and mental ill health.

mwyn prynu cyffuriau anghyfreithlon. Mae hynny i gyd yn ychwanegol at y gwasanaethau a'r driniaeth sydd ar gael yno, gan gynnwys darparu methadon ar gyfer pobl a arferai gymryd heroin. Gwneir hynny i gyd heb feirniadu. Mae'n mabwysiadu'r dull o leihau niwed er mwyn lleihau'r risg i'r rheini sy'n parhau i gymryd cyffuriau anghyfreithlon, a'u helpu i roi'r gorau i gymryd cyffuriau anghyfreithlon os dyna yw eu bwriad.

Mae hyn i gyd wedi bod yn effeithiol ac mae iddo ymagwedd yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth, sy'n ei alluogi i gadw cleientiaid ar ôl i gleientiaid ddod ato. Fel sefydliad, mae ganddo ddisgwyliadau realistig a threfn o beidio â chosbi. O brofiad, mae hynny i gyd yn effeithiol. O gofio mai heroin sy'n cyfrif am 20 y cant o'r achosion a atgyfeirir am driniaeth ac mai hwnnw yw'r cyffur dosbarth A mwyaf cyffredin dan sylw, mae hwn yn waith pwysig iawn.

Y sefydliad gwirfoddol arall yr ymwelais ag ef yn ddiweddar ac sy'n darparu gwasanaethau perthnasol yn fy etholaeth i yw Prosiect Alcohol Gwent. Unwaith eto, mae'n sefydliad nodedig sy'n darparu gwasanaethau cyfrinachol iawn—cwnsela, cymorth, cyngor a thriniaeth—mewn modd anfeiriadol. Caiff ei staffio gan bobl sydd â llawer iawn o arbenigedd a phrofiad sydd wedi crynhoi dros nifer o flynyddoedd ac a ddefnyddir ganddynt yn effeithiol.

Ategaf farn y bobl hynny a ddywed mai alcohol, mewn llawer ffordd, yw'r broblem fwyaf difrifol sy'n ein hwynebu wrth drafod camddefnyddio sylweddau. Mae hanner yr atgyfeiriadau i wasanaethau triniaeth am broblemau'n ymwneud ag alcohol. Gwn o'm profiad fy hun—pan oeddwn yn gyfreithiwr yn ymdrin â chyfraith trosedd, er enghraifft, ac amrywiol faterion eraill—fod llawer iawn o droseddau treisgar yn digwydd am fod pobl yn yfed gormod o alcohol. Felly hefyd lawer iawn o achosion o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, trais yn y cartref a phriodasau'n chwalu. Ar ben hynny, mae'r holl broblemau sy'n ymwneud â salwch corfforol a salwch meddwl.

Therefore, it is a priority and, in that light, I support recommendation 8 in the report, namely that the Welsh Assembly Government looks again at the balance of funding, which currently shows a funding bias in favour of illegal drug misuse over alcohol abuse. Given the great deal of problems and the great amount of social harm that comes from alcohol abuse, it is right to look at that balance again, as recommendation 8 recommends, and that we then take notice of what the commissioners and service providers have been saying: alcohol is the biggest and most common problem for the people who use their services.

My major point to the Minister is that we should look again, as recommendation 8 suggests, at that balance of funding, recognising the huge amount of problems caused by alcohol misuse.

William Graham: I was privileged to be a member of the committee at the beginning of this report. I greatly welcome its publication today.

In welcoming the report, I particularly give emphasis to recommendation 2, which indicates a need to encourage and facilitate the connected commissioning of treatment services, and also to recommendation 13. I particularly remember going with Huw Lewis to meet former addicts in Merthyr Tydfil, realising the problems that they were having with their general practitioners. I hope that the new contract will now facilitate their treatment. Recommendation 2 mirrors the theme of the short debate that I proposed last year on substance abuse—a failure of joined-up Government. I used the word ‘failure’ not to direct blame but to highlight how many portfolios had a direct influence upon policies to tackle substance abuse and yet they did not often work in harmony.

I have repeatedly outlined my concerns that we have not yet reached the starting line in our efforts to eradicate what has rapidly become one of the largest social behavioural problems that we face today. The recognition

Felly, mae'n flaenoriaeth ac yn hynny yr wyf yn cefnogi argymhelliad 8 yn yr adroddiad, sef y dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru edrych unwaith eto ar y cydbwysedd cyllid, sy'n dangos tuedd ar hyn o bryd o blaid gamddefnyddio cyffuriau anghyfreithlon dros gamddefnyddio alcohol. O gofio'r nifer fawr o broblemau a'r niwed cymdeithasol sy'n deillio o gamddefnyddio alcohol, mae'n briodol ailystyried y cydbwysedd hwnnw, fel yr argymhellir yn argymhelliad 8, ac i ninnau wedyn gymryd sylw o'r hyn y mae'r comisiynwyr a darparwyr gwasanaethau wedi bod yn ei ddweud: alcohol yw'r broblem fwyaf a mwyaf cyffredin i'r rheini sy'n defnyddio'u gwasanaethau.

Fy mhrif bwynt i'r Gweinidog yw y dylem ailystyried, fel yr awgryma argymhelliad 8, y cydbwysedd cyllid hwnnw, gan gydnabod y nifer fawr o broblemau a achosir gan gamddefnyddio alcohol.

William Graham: Cefais y fraint o fod yn aelod o'r pwyllgor ar ddechrau'r adroddiad hwn. Yr wyf yn croesawu'n fawr ei gyhoeddi heddiw.

Wrth groesawu'r adroddiad, rhoddaf sylw arbennig i argymhelliad 2, sy'n nodi bod angen annog a hwyluso'r broses o gomisiynu gwasanaethau triniaeth mewn modd cysylltiedig, a hefyd i argymhelliad 13. Cofiaf yn arbennig fynd gyda Huw Lewis i gwrdd â phobl a arferai fod yn gaeth i gyffuriau ym Merthyr Tudful, a sylweddoli'r problemau yr oeddent yn eu cael gyda'u meddygon teulu. Gobeithio y bydd y contract newydd yn awr yn hwyluso'u triniaeth. Mae argymhelliad 2 yn adlewyrchu thema'r ddadl fer a gynigiais y llynedd ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau—methiant Llywodraeth gydgyssylltiedig. Defnyddiais y gair ‘methiant’ nid er mwyn beio neb yn benodol, ond er mwyn tynnu sylw at faint o bortffolios a ddylanwadodd yn uniongyrchol ar bolisiau i fynd i'r afael ag achosion o gamddefnyddio sylweddau ac eto, yn aml, nid oeddent yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd.

Yr wyf wedi amlinellu fy mhryderon drosodd a thro nad ydym hyd yma wedi cyrraedd y llinell gychwyn yn ein hymdrechion i ddileu'r hyn sydd wedi dod yn un o'r problemau mwyaf a wynebwn heddiw o ran

in this report is that we need to encourage and facilitate the fully connected commissioning of treatment services. There is still a wide perception that substance abuse is about only drug abuse. We know that alcohol and tobacco-related addictions tend to be forgotten, yet these have the greatest impact on individuals, their families and the wider community.

Substance abuse diverts precious resources from our hospitals, social services and police forces, away from lifting the quality of life for everyone within our communities. It is therefore vital that we do not waste these resources, and to achieve this we must have a fully co-ordinated approach to solving this major social issue.

I hope that the implementation of the report's recommendations will combine all agencies, departments and organisations in the connected approach required to combat the problem. We need to focus more on the families who face substance abuse in their daily lives. A recent Joseph Rowntree Trust study indicated that the most common family response to this situation is utter confusion and panic, often in a context of profound naiveté about drugs, their effects and consequences, together with an often-felt shame of having a family member with a drug problem, which drives an impulse to contain the problem within the family. At best, they may consult their GP, but mostly they attempt to contain the problem within the family, and resolve it without recourse to external agencies. The report notes particularly that more than 60 per cent of cocaine users are less than 30 years old.

We need to create the much-needed links to these rehabilitation treatment support agencies wherever the problem is first realised—by a doctor, a teacher, a police officer, or a social or health worker. More recently, I have met with police officers who detect and pursue drug abusers and drug traffickers, with pharmacists who supervise safe-use facilities and needle exchanges, with

ymddygiad cymdeithasol. Cydnabyddir yn yr adroddiad hwn fod angen inni annog a hwyluso'r broses o gomisiynu gwasanaethau triniaeth mewn modd cwbl gysylltiedig. Canfyddir yn eang o hyd fod camddefnyddio sylweddau'n ymwneud â chamddefnyddio cyffuriau'n unig. Gwyddom fod tueddiad i anghofio am bobl sy'n gaeth i alcohol a thybaco, ac eto y problemau hyn sy'n cael yr effaith fwyaf ar unigolion, eu teuluoedd a'r gymuned ehangach.

Mae camddefnyddio sylweddau'n tynnu adnoddau gwerthfawr oddi wrth ein hysbytai, ein gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a'n heddluoedd, ac oddi wrth y gwaith o wella ansawdd bywyd pawb yn ein cymunedau. Mae'n hollbwysig, felly, inni beidio â gwastraffu'r adnoddau hyn, ac er mwyn cyflawni hyn rhaid inni fabwysiadu ymagwedd gwbl gydgysylltiedig tuag at ddatrys y broblem gymdeithasol bwysig hon.

Gobeithio y bydd gweithredu argymhellion yr adroddiad yn cyfuno'r holl asiantaethau, yr adrannau a'r sefydliadau yn yr ymagwedd gysylltiedig sy'n ofynnol i drechu'r broblem, Mae angen inni ganolbwyntio mwy ar y teuluoedd sy'n wynebu achosion o gamddefnyddio sylweddau yn eu bywyd bob dydd. Yr oedd astudiaeth yn ddiweddar gan Ymddiriedolaeth Joseph Rowntree yn dangos mai dryswch a phanig llwyr yw ymateb mwyaf cyffredin teuluoedd i'r sefyllfa hon, yn aml am eu bod yn naïf iawn o ran cyffuriau, eu heffeithiau a'u canlyniadau, ynghyd â chywilydd yn aml am fod gan aelod o'r teulu broblem gyffuriau, sy'n eu sbarduno i gynnwys y broblem o fewn y teulu. Ar y gorau, maent yn ymgynghori â'u meddyg teulu hwyrach. Ond gan amlaf ceisiant gynnwys y broblem o fewn y teulu a'i datrys heb ddefnyddio asiantaethau allanol. Dywed yr adroddiad yn benodol fod mwy na 60 y cant o ddefnyddwyr cocên dan 30 oed.

Mae angen inni greu'r cysylltiadau y mae eu hangen yn ddirfawr â'r asiantaethau cymorth triniaeth adsefydlu hyn ble bynnag y gwelir y broblem gyntaf—gan feddyg, athro, swyddog yr heddlu, neu weithiwr cymdeithasol neu ieuchyd. Yn fwy diweddar, yr wyf wedi cwrdd â swyddogion yr heddlu sy'n darganfod pobl sy'n camddefnyddio cyffuriau a phobl sy'n masnachu mewn cyffuriau ac yn mynd ar eu

teachers, who confirm the increased availability of drugs and alcohol to schoolchildren, and with those with experience of drug addiction. With every meeting, I encounter another view of how to approach this problem, together with a further emphasis on wide-ranging policies.

There are major issues that require urgent action, particularly the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the wider provision of rehabilitation services. I trust that the Minister will confirm the appropriate action in presenting this most valuable report today.

Leanne Wood: Unfortunately, I was on maternity leave while much of the evidence was taken for part of this review. However, as I used to work as a probation officer, I have some experience of the issues that were raised.

I have recently discovered a piece of research that was conducted in 1998 for the former Welsh Office. That research looked into substance misuse provision across Wales; it considered barriers to access, and made recommendations about how to address the problem. That research was conducted six years ago, but none of the issues have changed. The service providers are saying exactly the same things, and I am sure that service users would also say the same things, had they been given an opportunity to contribute to that review. One glaring omission from this committee review is the lack of a service-user perspective. I am glad that that point has been taken on board for the next stage of the review, which will look into prevention services.

One weakness of the review is that it is focused on those presenting for treatment, so we have no idea about all those people out there who are not presenting for treatment. You could argue that that group of people needs specific attention. We need to

trywydd, â fferyllwyr sy'n goruchwylio cyfleusterau defnyddio diogel a chyfnewidfeydd nodwyddau, ag athrawon sy'n cadarnhau bod mwy a mwy o gyffuriau ac alcohol ar gael i blant ysgol, ac â phobl sydd â phrofiad o fod yn gaeth i gyffuriau. Bob cyfarfod, clywaf farn arall am y ffordd y dylid mynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon, ynghyd â phwyslais pellach ar bolisiau eang.

Mae problemau mawr y mae angen gweithredu arnynt ar fyrder, yn arbennig o ran hybu ffyrdd iach o fyw a darparu gwasanaethau adsefydlu yn ehangach. Hyderaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn cadarnhau'r camau gweithredu priodol wrth gyflwyno'r adroddiad gwerthfawr hwn heddiw.

Leanne Wood: Yn anffodus, yr oeddwn ar gyfnod mamolaeth pan gasglwyd y rhan fwyaf o'r dystiolaeth ar gyfer rhan o'r adolygiad hwn. Fodd bynnag, gan fy mod yn arfer gweithio fel swyddog prawf, mae gennyf ryw faint o brofiad o'r materion a godwyd.

Deuthum ar draws darn o waith ymchwil yn ddiweddar a wnaed yn 1998 ar gyfer yr hen Swyddfa Gymreig. Yr oedd yr ymchwil honno yn ymchwilio i ddarpariaeth camdefnyddio sylweddau ledled Cymru; yr oedd yn ystyried rhwystrau wrth allu cael darpariaeth o'r fath, a chynigiad argymhellion sut i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem. Gwnaed y gwaith ymchwil hwnnw chwe blynedd yn ôl, ond nid oes yr un o'r materion wedi newid. Mae'r darparwyr gwasanaethau yn dweud yn union yr un pethau, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai defnyddwyr gwasanaethau yn dweud yr un pethau hefyd, pe baent wedi cael cyfle i gyfrannu at yr adolygiad hwnnw. Un peth amlwg na chynhwyswyd yn yr adolygiad pwyllgor hwn yw diffyg safbwynt defnyddwyr gwasanaethau. Yr wyf yn falch fod y pwynt hwnnw wedi'i ystyried ar gyfer cam nesaf yr adolygiad, a fydd yn ymchwilio i wasanaethau atal.

Un o wendidau'r adolygiad yw ei fod yn canolbwyntio ar y rhai sy'n gofyn am driniaeth. Felly, ni wyddom am yr holl bobl hynny nad ydynt yn gofyn am driniaeth. Gallech ddadlau bod angen rhoi sylw penodol i'r grŵp hwnnw o bobl. Mae angen

understand the answers to questions such as why young people with alcohol problems see alcohol services as catering only for older drinkers. Why do young people who binge drink not consider that to be problematic drinking at all? We also need to know the answer to the question that Peter Black asked: how many people are waiting for treatment? By not talking to those people with experience of substance misuse problems, the committee has missed an opportunity to identify gaps in service provision, which are undoubtedly there.

One of the other problems identified in the 1998 research was the lack of core funding and stability for the voluntary sector's substance misuse providers. That same issue was reiterated by providers giving evidence to this review. This issue has been around for a long time. It is long overdue that the Government gets to grips with this problem. The voluntary sector picks up where public sector provision stops, yet there is no specific and strategic funding for substance misuse in the health budget, though it is undoubtedly a health issue.

I have raised concerns in committee about the commissioning of services. Several of those giving evidence said that the community safety partnerships were not the best organisations to provide substance misuse services. Their targets are concentrated on criminal justice outcomes and not on health. Therefore, I would favour the community safety partnerships being taken out of the equation where commissioning services are concerned, because the criminal justice focus to this community safety partnership work gives the wrong message.

4.00 p.m.

Substance misusers with problems should be treated as patients, not criminals, and while they are within community safety partnerships, they are considered as criminals. Ironically, substance misuse

inni ddeall yr atebion i gwestiynau megis pam mae pobl ifanc sydd â phroblemau alcohol yn ystyried bod y gwasanaethau alcohol yn darparu ar gyfer yfwrwr hŷn yn unig. Pam nad yw pobl ifanc sy'n goryfed mewn pyliau yn ystyried bod gwneud hynny'n gyfystyr â phroblem yfed? Mae angen inni wybod hefyd yr ateb i'r cwestiwn a ofynnodd Peter Black: faint o bobl sy'n aros am driniaeth? Drwy beidio â siarad â'r bobl hynny sydd â phrofiad o broblemau camddefnyddio sylweddau, mae'r pwyllgor wedi colli cyfle i nodi bylchau yn y ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau, sydd yn bodoli, yn ddiâu.

Un o'r problemau eraill a nodwyd yng ngwaith ymchwil 1998 oedd y diffyg arian craidd, a sefydlogrwydd ar gyfer darparwyr camddefnyddio sylweddau yn y sector gwirfoddol. Ailadroddwyd yr un mater hwnnw gan ddarparwyr a roddodd dystiolaeth i'r adolygiad hwn. Mae hon yn hen broblem. Mae'n hen bryd i'r Llywodraeth fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon. Mae'r sector gwirfoddol yn cymryd yr awenau lle bydd darpariaeth y sector cyhoeddus yn dod i ben, ond nid oes arian penodol na strategol yn y gyllideb iechyd ar gyfer camddefnyddio sylweddau, er ei fod yn sicr yn fater iechyd.

Yr wyf wedi mynegi pryderon yn y pwyllgor ynglŷn â chomisiynu gwasanaethau. Dywedodd nifer o'r bobl hynny a roddodd dystiolaeth nad partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol oedd y sefydliadau gorau i ddarparu gwasanaethau camddefnyddio sylweddau. Mae eu targedau hwy'n canolbwyntio ar ganlyniadau cyfiawnder troseddol, nid ar iechyd. Felly, byddwn o blaid peidio â chynnwys y partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol wrth gomisiynu gwasanaethau, gan fod ffocws gwaith y partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol ar gyfiawnder troseddol yn cyfleu'r neges anghywir.

Dylid trin pobl sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau ac sydd â phroblemau fel cleifion, nid fel troseddwyr, a thra byddant mewn partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol, cânt eu hystyried yn droseddwyr. Yn eironig, ystyrir

services for offenders are considered to be quite good and people can now be fast-tracked into those services. However, it is perverse that people have to consider committing offences in order to access substance misuse treatment, but that is the reality of some people's lives.

I particularly welcome recommendations 7 and 8 because they address the criminal justice bias, and also the bias towards drug services over alcohol service, which is a point that has been picked up by many Members already. Wales is the worst in terms of statistics in both drugs and alcohol, but with regard to young people and alcohol, we top the league for the whole of Europe. Alcohol causes much more problems than drugs in our society in terms of people's family lives. Much alcohol overuse is not associated with crime, but most crime is related to alcohol use.

To conclude, I would like the Minister to consider the following three points. First, I would like her to consider how substance misuse service users can be involved more in the planning and commissioning of substance misuse services. They are the experts in this field and they should be right at the heart of the service. Secondly, the issues outlined in recommendations 7 and 8, as I have already said, are vital. Alcohol services need to be prioritised, and the commissioning of services should not be dependent on criminal justice outcomes. Finally, the issue of projectitis needs to be resolved. Fantastic work is going on in projects run by the voluntary sector, but these services must be core funded. We cannot keep relying on goodwill. There will be greater demand on these services as central Government policies on binge drinking come into force, and I am sure that we will see more young people going through the criminal justice system as a result of that. Those services need to be geared up and ready to fill the gap that is currently being filled by the voluntary sector.

bod gwasanaethau camddefnyddio sylweddau ar gyfer troseddwr yn gymharol dda, a gall pobl bellach ddilyn llwybr carlam i gael y gwasanaethau hyn. Fodd bynnag, mae'n wrthun fod pobl yn gorfod ystyried cyflawni troseddau er mwyn cael triniaeth am gamddefnyddio sylweddau, ond dyna yw realiti bywydau rhai pobl.

Croesawaf argymhellion 7 ac 8 yn arbennig am eu bod yn ymdrin â rhagfarn y system cyfiawnder troseddol, a hefyd y duedd o roi mwy o sylw i wasanaethau cyffuriau nag i wasanaethau alcohol, sy'n bwynt y mae nifer o Aelodau eisoes wedi'i wneud. Yng Nghymru y mae'r ystadegau gwaethaf o ran cyffuriau ac alcohol, ond mewn perthynas â phobl ifanc ac alcohol, ni sydd â'r ffigurau gwaethaf drwy Ewrop gyfan. Mae alcohol yn achosi llawer mwy o broblemau na chyffuriau yn ein cymdeithas o ran bywydau teuluol pobl. Yn aml, nid oes cysylltiad rhwng gorddefnyddio alcohol a throseddau, ond mae yna gysylltiad rhwng y rhan fwyaf o droseddau ag alcohol.

I gloi, hoffwn i'r Gweinidog ystyried y tri phwynt canlynol. I ddechrau, hoffwn iddi ystyried sut y gellir cynnwys defnyddwyr gwasanaethau camddefnyddio sylweddau yn fwy yn y broses o gynllunio a chomisiynu gwasanaethau camddefnyddio sylweddau. Hwy yw'r arbenigwyr yn y maes hwn, a dylent fod wrth wraidd y gwasanaeth. Yn ail, mae'r materion a amlinellwyd yn argymhellion 7 ac 8, fel y dywedais eisoes, yn hanfodol. Mae angen rhoi blaenoriaeth i wasanaethau alcohol, ac ni ddylai'r broses o gomisiynu gwasanaethau ddibynnu ar ganlyniadau cyfiawnder troseddol. Yn olaf, mae angen datrys mater prosiectitis. Gwneir gwaith ardderchog ar brosiectau a redir gan y sector gwirfoddol, ond rhaid darparu arian craidd ar gyfer y gwasanaethau hyn. Ni allwn ddibynnu ar ewyllys da o hyd. Bydd mwy o alw am y gwasanaethau hyn wrth i bolisiau Llywodraeth ganolog ar oryfed mewn pyllau ddod i rym, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwn yn gweld mwy o bobl ifanc yn mynd drwy'r system cyfiawnder troseddol o ganlyniad i hynny. Mae angen gwella'r gwasanaethau hynny a sicrhau eu bod yn barod i lenwi'r bwlch sy'n cael ei lenwi ar hyn o bryd gan y sector gwirfoddol.

Mark Isherwood: I also express my thanks to the committee Chair for her patience and endurance and to the committee clerk and his team for all their hard work.

As recommendations 1 and 2 state, the Assembly Government should establish mechanisms for the commissioning of services on a joined-up basis at a national level, subject to national standards for local delivery. No-one wants their children to find dirty needles in playground or addicts on their streets, so we must tackle the causes as well as the symptoms of the problems. This must include in-patient detoxification, needle exchange and supervised consumption services. We must break the link between crime and addiction and expand drug and alcohol treatment and education programmes. I have worked with several projects involving ex-prisoners and ex-offenders. As recommendations 7 and 8 emphasise, we must also redress the current bias towards crime reduction outcomes and interventions aimed at illegal drug misuse rather than alcohol misuse.

The report highlights concern about the impact of Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales regulations, where elements of substance misuse personal care, such as the value of room-sharing and the importance of boundaries, are not reflected under current arrangements. However, if residential services deregister, social services departments in Wales cease to purchase regular services from them. I refer here to Tyddyn Bach, the last HIV/AIDS respite centre in England and Wales, of which I am a patron, and to Tŷ Gwyn, the only UK civilian centre for ex-service personnel with post-traumatic stress disorder and related substance misuse problems. They both provide a unique and invaluable service, but neither of these north Wales-based organisations receives referrals from Wales, despite huge demand. Tŷ Gwyn is now closed, and contrary to initial assurances by

Mark Isherwood: Hoffwn i hefyd ddiolch i Gadeirydd y pwyllgor am ei hamynedd a'i dygnwch, ac i glerc y pwyllgor a'i dîm am eu holl waith caled.

Fel y dywed argymhellion 1 a 2, dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad bennu dulliau ar gyfer comisiynu gwasanaethau ar y cyd ar lefel genedlaethol, yn amodol ar safonau cenedlaethol ar gyfer darpariaeth leol. Nid oes unrhyw un am i'w plant ddod o hyd i nodwyddau budr yn y cae chwarae na phobl sy'n gaeth i gyffuriau neu alcohol ar eu strydoedd, felly rhaid inni ymdrin ag achosion y problemau yn ogystal â'r symptomau. Rhaid i hyn gynnwys derbyn cleifion mewnol ar gyfer cyfnodau dadwenwyno, gwasanaethau cyfnewid nodwyddau a gwasanaethau defnyddio cyffuriau dan oruchwyliaeth. Rhaid inni dorri'r cysylltiad rhwng troseddau a bod yn gaeth i gyffuriau neu alcohol ac ehangu rhaglenni trin cyffuriau ac alcohol a rhaglenni addysg. Yr wyf wedi gweithio gyda sawl prosiect sy'n cynnwys cyn garcharorion a chyn droseddwyr. Fel y pwysleisia argymhellion 7 ac 8, rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â'r tueddiad presennol i roi mwy o sylw i ganlyniadau ac ymyriadau gostwng troseddau sydd wedi'u hanelu at bobl sy'n camddefnyddio cyffuriau anghyfreithlon yn hytrach na phobl sy'n camddefnyddio alcohol.

Mae'r adroddiad yn amlygu pryder ynghylch effaith rheoliadau Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru, lle na chaiff elfennau o ofal personol camddefnyddio cyffuriau, fel gwerth rhannu ystafell a phwysigrwydd ffiniau, eu hadlewyrchu o dan y trefniadau presennol. Fodd bynnag, os bydd gwasanaethau preswyl yn datgofrestru, bydd adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yng Nghymru yn rhoi'r gorau i brynu gwasanaethau rheolaidd ganddynt. Cyfeirir yma at Dyddyn Bach, y ganolfan gofal seibiant HIV/AIDS olaf yng Nghymru a Lloegr, yr wyf yn un o'i noddwyr, ac at Dŷ Gwyn, yr unig ganolfan i ddinasyddion y DU ar gyfer cyn-filwyr ag anhwylder straen wedi trawma a phroblemau camddefnyddio sylweddau cysylltiedig. Mae'r ddau le yn darparu gwasanaeth unigryw a gwerthfawr, ond nid oes unrhyw gleifion o Gymru'n cael eu cyfeirio i'r canolfannau hyn a leolir yn y gogledd, er

Brian Gibbons that Combat Stress could treat these vulnerable service users, many have contacted me directly or via their Members of Parliament, to state that this is not the case. Planning and Healthcare Consultants Ltd. told me that it was forced to close Tŷ Gwyn through lack of funding and that this service had worked in areas not provided for by Combat Stress.

The lack of dual diagnosis treatment in Wales extends beyond this group to the wider population, as one of my own recent cases, involving a young man suffering both mental health problems and severe alcohol abuse, can testify. Recommendations 10 and 20 refer to funding of, and access to, buildings and mobile units, and we must note that the north Wales harm reduction team_mobile service stressed the need for funding decisions to be based on qualitative rather than quantitative measures, because outcomes for its highly vulnerable and excluded client group are almost impossible to quantify.

Recommendation 5 refers to the need for an assessment to be made of the potential impact of the abolition of section 64 funding on service provision. This has been highlighted by YouthLink Wales, the only national organisation that works exclusively on prevention among young people in areas such as substance misuse. It has been funded by Government since 1985, but has told me that it will have to shut up shop in a few weeks, because section 64 funding has stopped. The Minister has suggested that the withdrawal of funding was a recommendation made by an independent review, but the review's author has stated that he had been specifically instructed not to review YouthLink Wales. The Minister has stated that YouthLink Wales was offered advice, but it categorically states that this was not the case, adding that the section 64 funds administrator said that he had been instructed not to talk to YouthLink Wales under any circumstances.

gwaethaf y galw anferth. Mae Tŷ Gwyn wedi cau bellach, ac er gwaethaf y sicrwydd cychwynnol gan Brian Gibbons y gallai Combat Stress drin y defnyddwyr gwasanaeth diamddiffyn hyn, mae llawer ohonynt wedi cysylltu â mi yn uniongyrchol neu drwy eu Haelodau Seneddol, i nodi nad yw hyn yn wir. Dywedodd Planning and Healthcare Consultants Ltd. wrthyf ei fod wedi gorfod cau Tŷ Gwyn oherwydd diffyg arian a bod y gwasanaeth hwn wedi gweithio mewn ardaloedd nad oedd Combat Stress yn eu cwmpasu.

Mae'r diffyg triniaeth diagnosis ddeuol yng Nghymru yn mynd y tu hwnt i'r grŵp hwn i'r boblogaeth ehangach, fel y noda un o'm hachosion diweddar i, sy'n ymwneud â gŵr ifanc sy'n dioddef o broblemau iechyd meddwl a phroblemau camddefnyddio alcohol difrifol. Cyfeiria argymhellion 10 ac 20 at ariannu adeiladau ac unedau symudol, a chael mynediad atynt, a rhaid inni nodi bod gwasanaeth symudol tîm lleihau niwed y gogledd wedi pwysleisio'r angen i benderfyniadau ariannu fod yn seiliedig ar fesurau ansoddol yn hytrach na meintiol, gan ei bod bron yn amhosibl mesur y canlyniadau ar gyfer y grŵp cleient hwn sydd wedi'i eithrio ac sy'n ddiamddiffyn iawn.

Cyfeiria argymhelliad 5 at yr angen i gynnal asesiad o effaith bosibl diddymu arian adran 64 ar y gwasanaethau a ddarperir. Amlygwyd hyn gan Gyswllt Ieuentid Cymru, yr unig sefydliad cenedlaethol sy'n gweithio'n benodol ar gamau atal gyda phobl ifanc mewn meysydd fel camddefnyddio sylweddu. Fe'i hariannwyd gan y Llywodraeth ers 1985, ond dywedwyd wrthyf y bydd yn rhaid iddo gau mewn ychydig wythnosau, gan fod arian adran 64 wedi dod i ben. Awgrymodd y Gweinidog fod dod â'r arian i ben yn argymhelliad a wnaed gan adolygiad annibynnol, ond nododd awdur yr adolygiad iddo dderbyn cyfarwyddiadau penodol i beidio ag adolygu Cyswllt Ieuentid Cymru. Nododd y Gweinidog y cynigiwyd cyngor i Gyswllt Ieuentid Cymru, ond noda'n bendant nad dyma oedd yr achos, gan ychwanegu i weinyddwr arian adran 64 ddatgan ei fod wedi cael cyfarwyddiadau i beidio â siarad â Chyswllt Ieuentid Cymru o dan unrhyw amgylchiadau.

Recommendation 6 highlights the need to provide evaluation and business support services to substance misuse treatment services, a need emphasised by Touchstone 12, the only abstinence-based project in north Wales. It finds itself in a catch-22 position on funding. It asked me to ask the Minister for a meeting with her or her officials, so that matters could be clarified and appropriate help provided, but the Minister stated that this would be inappropriate. As it says,

‘political leaders speak about all this partnership working...when...in the frontline, the only thing that is real is that you get no help from the powers that be’.

Recommendations 15 and 16 refer to the need for joined-up working arrangements between different agencies, and the report refers to the Choose Life programme in Liverpool prison. This involves former substance-misusing prisoners delivering education and information to young people in north Wales. Some 80 per cent of the prison population in Liverpool prison is class-A drug users, and we must support initiatives that help young people to choose a different path for themselves. I have also held discussions with staff and north Wales prisoners at Altcourse prison, where drug rehabilitation is delivered in partnership with the drug and alcohol agency, CAIS. However, this organisation has been affected by the need to try to fill the void created by the closure of Tŷ Gwyn, to which I referred earlier, and by cuts in detoxification beds at Hafan Wen in Wrexham, which it believes will leave the region with inadequate provision.

These are the realities and the challenges facing us today. I urge the Minister to respond positively to the reports and the recommendations and to the real concerns raised by front-line service providers, some of which I have referred to today.

Mick Bates: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu rhan 1 o adolygiad y

Amlyga argymhelliad 6 yr angen i ddarparu gwasanaethau gwerthuso a chymorth busnes i wasanaethau triniaeth camddefnyddio sylweddau, angen a ategwyd gan Touchstone 12, yr unig brosiect sy'n seiliedig ar ymatal yn y gogledd. Mae mewn sefyllfa lle na all ennill mewn perthynas ag arian. Gofynnodd imi ofyn i'r Gweinidog am gyfarfod gyda hi neu ei swyddogion, fel y gellir egluro materion a rhoi cymorth priodol, ond nododd y Gweinidog na fyddai hyn yn briodol. Fel y mae'n dweud,

mae arweinwyr gwleidyddol yn sôn am weithio mewn partneriaeth...ond...ar y rheng flaen, yr unig beth sy'n wir yw na fyddwch yn cael unrhyw help gan yr awdurdodau.

Mae argymhelliad 15 ac 16 yn cyfeirio at yr angen am drefniadau gweithio ar y cyd rhwng asiantaethau gwahanol, ac mae'r adroddiad yn cyfeirio at y rhaglen Choose Life yng ngharchar Lerpwl. Fel rhan o'r rhaglen hon, mae cyn garcharorion oedd yn camddefnyddio sylweddau yn darparu addysg a gwybodaeth i bobl ifanc yn y gogledd. Mae tua 80 y cant o'r carcharorion yng ngharchar Lerpwl yn defnyddio cyffuriau dosbarth-A, a rhaid inni gefnogi mentrau sy'n helpu pobl ifanc i ddewis llwybr gwahanol. Yr wyf hefyd wedi cynnal trafodaethau gyda staff a charcharorion o'r gogledd yng ngharchar Altcourse, lle darperir rhaglenni adsefydlu cyffuriau mewn partneriaeth â'r asiantaeth cyffuriau ac alcohol, CAIS. Fodd bynnag, effeithiwyd ar y sefydliad hwn gan yr angen i geisio llenwi'r bwlch a grëwyd drwy gau Tŷ Gwyn, y cyfeiriais ato'n gynharach, a thrwy leihau nifer y gwelyau dadwenwyno yn Hafan Wen yn Wrecsam, a fydd, yn ei farn ef, yn golygu na fydd darpariaeth ddigonol ar gael yn y rhanbarth.

Dyma'r gwirionedd a'r heriau sy'n ein hwynebu heddiw. Anogaf y Gweinidog i ymateb yn gadarnhaol i'r adroddiadau a'r argymhellion ac i'r pryderon gwirioneddol a godwyd gan ddarparwyr gwasanaeth rheng flaen, yr wyf wedi cyfeirio at rai ohonynt heddiw.

Mick Bates: The Welsh Liberals Democratic welcome part 1 of the committee's review.

pwyllgor. Yr ydym yn teimlo'n gyfforddus gyda'r ffordd y mae'r pwyllgor wedi talu sylw priodol i fater eang gwasanaethau triniaeth. Fodd bynnag, mae nifer o faterion sydd angen sylw yn argymhellion yr adroddiad.

I first turn to recommendation 8, which refers to,

'the funding bias which favours interventions aimed at illegal drug misuse rather than alcohol misuse'.

This theme has arisen time and again from the evidence and in the debate today, and, from the statistics, we see that treatment of misuse relies heavily on referrals from the criminal justice system. This is perpetuated by the funding bias in favour of illegal drug misuse. The report highlights that commissioners and service providers repeatedly report that alcohol is by far the most commonly misused substance among service users. The statistics for April to June 2005 show that over half of the referrals were in that section. It is important, however, that this problem is tackled without reducing the vital funding available for tackling illegal substance misuse. The committee urges the Government to look closely at how those with alcohol-abuse problems get access to quality treatment services in their area.

Any data collected during the review gives us some indication of who in our society is suffering from drug or alcohol misuse. It does not, however, tell us whom we might be failing to reach. Establishing what barriers exist in Wales to accessing the services on offer is fundamental for their improvement. I urge the Government to investigate the barriers of accessing services, as recommended by the committee, inviting particularly those who have been through the system to contribute; this would then include a valuable section of society in effecting change in Wales, but it would also gain first-hand knowledge that would enable us, in

We feel comfortable with the way that the committee has paid due attention to the broad issue of treatment services. However, there are a number of issues that need to be addressed in the report's recommendations.

Trof i ddechrau at argymhelliad 8, sy'n cyfeirio at y,

'tuedd cyllido sy'n ffafrio ymyriadau i helpu'r camddefnydd o gyffuriau anghyfreithlon yn hytrach na chamddefnydd o alcohol'.

Mae'r thema hon wedi codi dro ar ôl tro o'r dystiolaeth ac yn y ddadl heddiw, ac, o'r ystadegau, gwelwn fod trin achosion o gamddefnyddio yn dibynnu'n helaeth ar gyfeiriadau gan y system cyfiawnder troseddol. Mae'r sefyllfa hon yn parhau oherwydd y tueddiad i roi mwy o arian i drin achosion o gamddefnyddio cyffuriau anghyfreithlon. Amlyga'r adroddiad fod comisiynwyr a darparwyr gwasanaethau yn nodi dro ar ôl tro mai alcohol yw'r sylwedd a gaiff ei gamddefnyddio fwyaf ymysg defnyddwyr gwasanaethau. Dengys yr ystadegau ar gyfer Ebrill i Fehefin 2005 fod dros hanner o'r cyfeiriadau yn yr adran honno. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig fod y broblem hon yn cael ei thrin heb leihau'r arian hanfodol sydd ar gael ar gyfer ymdrin ag achosion o gamddefnyddio sylweddau anghyfreithlon. Mae'r pwyllgor yn annog y Llywodraeth i edrych yn ofalus ar sut y mae'r rhai â phroblemau camddefnyddio alcohol yn cael gafael ar wasanaethau triniaeth o ansawdd yn eu hardal.

Mae unrhyw ddata a gesglir yn ystod yr adolygiad yn rhoi syniad inni o bwy sy'n dioddef o ganlyniad i gamddefnyddio cyffuriau neu alcohol yn ein cymdeithas. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n dweud wrthym pwy y gallem fod yn methu â'u cyrraedd. Mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn cadarnhau pa rwystrau sy'n bodoli yng Nghymru mewn perthynas â chael gafael ar y gwasanaethau sydd ar gael er mwyn gallu eu gwella. Anogaf y Llywodraeth i ymchwilio i'r rhwystrau sy'n atal pobl rhag cael gafael ar wasanaethau, fel yr argymhellir gan y pwyllgor, gan estyn gwahoddiad penodol i'r rhai sydd wedi bod drwy'r system i gyfrannu; byddai hyn wedyn

future, to tailor our services to the specific needs of individuals.

4.10 p.m.

Not long ago, I visited Inroads, a substance misuse treatment centre in Cardiff. As well as learning about the good work that it does in treating people in Cardiff, I learnt a lot about what its staff would do if they were in Government. They were keen on taking a big-brother approach to treatment, which would mean seeing people through their treatment at the centre, then housing them together so that they could support each other as they adapt back into the working world around them. This may not sound like, or indeed be, the best way to deal with substance misuse, but the people who suggested that idea work on the front line, each day. While I was there, I was also reminded that many such organisations need capital funding to ensure that their premises are fit for purpose.

The review demonstrated clearly the importance of commissioning joined-up treatment services, and many have mentioned this. The need for a closer joint-working relationship is patently obvious, given the number of such recommendations in the report. Establishing a national minimum standard for the availability and quality of service treatment is absolutely necessary to ensure parity of treatment throughout Wales. Also, as recommended by the committee, there is a need for voluntary and statutory agencies to work closely together to increase the accessibility and effectiveness of services. It is common sense that the various professionals qualified to treat substance misuse should work in partnership. That would provide a seamless service for users and those affected by substance misuse. I hope that the Government will take these steps to create a better partnership in Wales.

yn cynnwys rhan werthfawr o'r gymdeithas wrth sicrhau newid yng Nghymru, ond byddai hefyd yn darparu gwybodaeth o lygad y ffynnon a fyddai'n ein galluogi i deilwra ein gwasanaethau tuag at anghenion penodol unigolion yn y dyfodol.

Ychydig yn ôl, ymwelais ag Inroads, canolfan triniaeth camddefnyddio sylweddau yng Nghaerdydd. Yn ogystal â dysgu am y gwaith da a wna wrth drin pobl yng Nghaerdydd, dysgais lawer am yr hyn y byddai'r staff yno yn ei wneud pe byddent yn rhan o'r Llywodraeth. Yr oeddent yn awyddus i gymryd ymagwedd brawd mawr tuag at driniaeth, a fyddai'n golygu bod pobl yn cael eu triniaeth yn y ganolfan, yna'n cael eu lletya gyda'i gilydd fel y gallent gynorthwyo ei gilydd wrth iddynt addasu yn ôl i'r byd go iawn o'u hamgylch. Efallai nad yw hon yn swnio fel y ffordd orau o ymdrin ag achosion o gamddefnyddio sylweddau, ac efallai nad hon yw'r ffordd orau, ond mae'r bobl a awgrymodd y syniad hwn yn gweithio ar y rheng flaen, bob dydd. Yn ystod fy ymweliad, cefais fy atgoffa hefyd fod angen i lawer o sefydliadau o'r fath gael arian cyfalaf er mwyn sicrhau bod eu heiddo yn addas at y diben.

Dangosodd yr adolygiad yn glir bwysigrwydd comisiynu gwasanaethau triniaeth cydgysylltiedig, ac mae sawl un wedi nodi hyn. Mae'r angen i gael cydberthynas gydweithio agosach yn amlwg iawn, o ystyried nifer yr argymhellion o'r fath yn yr adroddiad. Mae'n hollol angenrheidiol ein bod yn sefydlu safon ofynnol genedlaethol ar gyfer argaeledd ac ansawdd triniaeth gwasanaeth er mwyn sicrhau cydraddoldeb triniaeth ledled Cymru. Hefyd, fel yr argymhellwyd gan y pwyllgor, mae angen i asiantaethau gwirfoddol a statudol gydweithio'n agos er mwyn gwella hygyrchedd ac effeithiolrwydd gwasanaethau. Mae'n synnwyr cyffredin y dylai'r gweithwyr proffesiynol amrywiol sy'n gymwys i drin pobl sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau weithio mewn partneriaeth. Byddai hynny'n darparu gwasanaeth di-dor i ddefnyddwyr a'r rhai y mae camddefnyddio sylweddau yn effeithio arnynt. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Llywodraeth yn cymryd y camau hyn

i greu partneriaeth well yng Nghymru.

Finally, I congratulate the team who compiled the report, especially given the demands on the committee at the moment, and the Chair for the way in which she has led the committee through what has been a busy time.

Janice Gregory: I will try to gallop through and try to make some sense of the points that have been made. I thank everyone for welcoming the report and for recognising that a huge amount of work fell to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee, which was extremely interesting, thought provoking and, at times, extremely upsetting. I think that that is a good way to describe it. The visits that I made, and the evidence that I listened to, left a huge mark on me and I realised, at the start of the review, how little I knew about the issues surrounding substance misuse.

It was remiss of me at the beginning not to thank, most sincerely, the former members of the committee who did a huge amount of work on the review. Leanne's substitute while she was on maternity leave, Jocelyn Davies, also contributed greatly to the review.

Laura read out some statistics. We were quite used to statistics in committee, but the more that you read into them, the more that you realise just how frightening the figures are and I think that Laura highlighted that. Laura and John mentioned Kaleidoscope. I went with William Graham to visit Kaleidoscope and I was impressed by the work of its staff, and especially impressed with the non-judgmental way in which they deal with the people who go in through the doors. The one aspect that came to mind when I went there, and I am sure that William will agree, concerned a young couple, to whom we spoke, who had a child. As a mother, I was convinced that they were going there because they had had this baby, only to be told that the only reason that they were both there—both of whom were drug users—was because they were required to be there and to undertake the programme as a result of a court appearance that they had both made. That brought the issues home to William and

Yn olaf, llongyfarchaf y tîm a luniodd yr adroddiad, yn enwedig o ystyried y gofynion ar y pwyllgor ar hyn o bryd, a'r Cadeirydd am y ffordd y bu'n arwain y pwyllgor drwy gyfnod prysur iawn.

Janice Gregory: Ceisiaf frysio a cheisio gwneud synnwyr o'r pwyntiau a wnaed. Diolchaf i bawb am groesawu'r adroddiad ac am gydnabod baich gwaith y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, a oedd yn ddiddorol iawn, yn ein hannog i feddwl ac, ar brydiau, yn dorcalonnus. Credaf fod hynny'n ffordd dda o'i ddisgrifio. Creodd fy ymweliadau, a'r dystiolaeth a glywais, argraff fawr arnaf a sylweddolais, ar ddechrau'r adolygiad, cyn lleied yr oeddwn yn ei wybod am y materion sy'n gysylltiedig â chamddefnyddio sylweddau.

Maddeuwch imi ar y dechrau am beidio â diolch o waelod calon i gyn aelodau'r pwyllgor a wnaeth lawer o waith ar yr adolygiad. Yn ogystal, cyfrannodd Jocelyn Davies, dirprwy Leanne tra y bu ar gyfnod mamolaeth, yn helaeth i'r adolygiad.

Darllenodd Laura rai ystadegau. Yr oeddem yn gymharol gyfarwydd ag ystadegau yn y pwyllgor, ond po fwyaf y byddwch yn darllen, y mwyaf y byddwch yn sylweddoli pa mor ddychrynlyd yw'r ffigurau a chredaf i Laura amlygu hynny. Soniodd Laura a John am Kaleidoscope. Euthum gyda William Graham i ymweld â Kaleidoscope a chreodd gwaith ei staff argraff dda arnaf, yn enwedig y modd y maent yn delio â'r bobl sy'n dod drwy'r drysau heb eu barnu. Un agwedd a ddaeth i'm meddwl pan euthum yno, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd William yn cytuno, oedd achos cwpwl ifanc, y gwnaethom siarad â hwy, yr oedd ganddynt blentyn. Fel mam, yr oeddwn yn siŵr eu bod yn mynd yno am eu bod wedi cael y babi, ond dywedwyd wrthyf mai'r unig reswm eu bod ill dau yn mynd yno—yr oedd y ddau ohonynt yn defnyddio cyffuriau—oedd am ei bod yn ofynnol iddynt fynd yno a dilyn y rhaglen o ganlyniad i'r ffaith bod y ddau ohonynt wedi ymddangos yn y llys. Amlygodd hynny'n problemau

me.

Karen, obviously the committee considered safe injecting facilities, but when we considered them, we were advised that the legislation rests with the Home Office and that therefore our review could not extend to take that in. We looked at that, but we could not do anything about it because we do not have the powers.

Peter mentioned the length of the review, and it was a long review. However, as Chair, I knew from the outset that we could not conclude this review within three months and that it would require a long time to cover the enormity of the subject. As I said in my opening remarks, we did not cover everything that we thought we would at the start of this review.

In terms of alcohol, recommendations 7 and 8 seem to be at the top of the recommendation chart this afternoon, and quite rightly so. I am the patron of Brynawel House Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre—as all committee members will know, as they are constantly told—and I know that the funding that has been put in place by the Welsh Assembly Government is hugely appreciated there and will make a significant impact on those who pass through its doors. There is recognition, therefore, of the problems associated with alcohol misuse.

I accept Peter's comment about the missing statistic, and the committee will take that on board.

The committee looked at needle exchange programmes and thought them a good idea, and we also looked at many associated issues. I also visited a pharmacy that undertakes this work. I wonder sometimes about the positioning of these pharmacies because, if they were in a Valleys village in my constituency, I am sure that the woman who works there would know the grandmother of the person going there. There are, therefore, issues that we need to look at in terms of confidentiality.

I expected a long list of issues from you, Leanne, and I will not touch on the three that

cysylltiedig i William a minnau.

Karen, mae'n amlwg i'r pwyllgor ystyried cyfleusterau chwistrellu diogel, ond wrth eu hystyried, cawsom ein cynghori mai'r Swyddfa Gartref sy'n gyfrifol am y ddeddfwriaeth ac felly na allai ein hadolygiad gael ei ymestyn i ystyried hynny. Bu inni edrych ar hynny, ond ni allem wneud unrhyw beth gan nad oes gennym y pwerau.

Crybwyllodd Peter hyd yr adolygiad, ac yr oedd yn adolygiad hir. Fodd bynnag, fel Cadeirydd, gwyddwn o'r cychwyn na allem gwblhau'r adolygiad hwn o fewn tri mis ac y byddai'n gofyn am gyfnod hir i fynd i'r afael â maint y pwnc. Fel y dywedais yn fy sylwadau agoriadol, ni wnaethom gwmpasu popeth yr oeddem wedi disgwyl ei wneud ar ddechrau'r adolygiad hwn.

O ran alcohol, ymddengys fod argymhellion 7 ac 8 ar frig y siart argymhellion y prynhawn yma, a hynny'n gywir. Fi yw noddwr Canolfan Adsefydlu Alcohol Tŷ Brynawel—fel y gŵyr holl aelodau'r pwyllgor, oherwydd dywedir wrthynt yn gyson—a gwn fod y Ganolfan yn gwerthfawrogi'r arian a neilltuwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn fawr ac y bydd yn cael effaith sylweddol ar y rhai sy'n defnyddio'r Ganolfan. Ceir cydnabyddiaeth, felly, o'r problemau sy'n gysylltiedig â chamddefnyddio alcohol.

Derbyniaf sylw Peter am yr ystadegyn coll, a bydd y pwyllgor yn ystyried hynny.

Edrychodd y pwyllgor ar raglenni cyfnewid nodwyddau a daethpwyd i'r casgliad eu bod yn syniad da, a buom hefyd yn edrych ar nifer o faterion cysylltiedig. Ymwelais â fferyllfa hefyd sy'n ymgymryd â'r gwaith hwn. Mae gennyf amheuan weithiau am leoliad y fferyllfeydd hyn, oherwydd pe baent mewn pentref yn y Cymoedd yn fy etholaeth i, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'r fenyw sy'n gweithio yno yn adnabod mam-gu'r sawl sy'n mynd yno. Mae materion y mae'n rhaid inni eu hystyried felly o ran cyfrinachedd.

Yr oeddwn yn disgwyl rhestr faith o faterion gennych, Leanne, ac ni fyddaf yn trafod y tri

you asked the Minister to take on board. She has sat through the debate and I am sure that she heard everything you said.

There were strong feelings expressed with regard to the community safety partnerships—everyone had an opinion on the matter—but we cannot get away from the fact that criminality is associated with illegal drug use. While some believe that substance misuse is a health issue and should be in the health portfolio, others believe—and this was the evidence that we received—that it is a criminal issue that needs to rest with the community safety partnerships. I know that Leanne does not agree with me, as she is shaking her head.

I take Leanne's point on board about those whom we missed out. Anybody who has been involved in the beginning of a review will know that you wake up at 3 a.m. in the morning and write down on a pad who you think should come to give evidence. We have tried to involve the world and his dog in this. It is difficult, however, because you cannot always have everyone who you want to come to give evidence. We tried everything that we could, and I, as Chair, always invite Members to come to me with suggestions as to who they would like to give evidence, or, indeed, who they would like us to visit, and that was certainly the case at that time. Everybody was asked where we should go. I accept that perhaps we missed some of the most important, and that there were groups that we could perhaps have invited in to talk to us about their experiences. If I am given that information, I will see whether we can get those groups in to give evidence on prevention.

Mick, as a committee member, I appreciate your comments. I know that you contributed to the whole debate.

Mark, thank you for your comments and for your compliment. It is no surprise that, once again, we have had a north Wales surgery this afternoon, during what was a serious debate about substance misuse. I am disappointed by that, but I thank you all for your comments.

mater yr oeddech yn gofyn i'r Gweinidog eu hystyried. Mae wedi eistedd drwy'r ddadl ac yr wyf yn siŵr ei bod wedi clywed popeth yr ydych wedi'i ddweud.

Mynegwyd teimladau cryf o ran y partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol—yr oedd gan bawb farn ar y mater—ond ni allwn anwybyddu'r ffaith bod troseddolrwydd yn gysylltiedig â defnydd anghyfreithlon o gyffuriau. Er bod rhai pobl o'r farn mai mater iechyd yw camddefnyddio sylweddau ac y dylai fod yn rhan o'r portffolio iechyd, cred eraill—a dyma'r dystiolaeth a dderbyniasom—ei fod yn fater troseddol y mae angen i bartneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol fod yn gyfrifol amdano. Gwn nad yw Leanne yn cytuno â mi, am ei bod yn ysgwyd ei phen.

Derbyniaf bwynt Leanne ynglŷn â'r rhai nad ydym wedi'u cynnwys. Bydd unrhyw un sydd wedi bod yn gysylltiedig â dechrau adolygiad yn gwybod eich bod yn diuno am 3 y bore ac yn ysgrifennu ar ddarn o bapur pwy ddylai ddod i roi tystiolaeth yn eich barn chi. Yr ydym wedi ceisio cynnwys pawb yn y byd yn y broses hon. Mae'n anodd, fodd bynnag, oherwydd na allwch bob amser gael pawb yr ydych am eu cael i ddod i roi tystiolaeth. Rhoddwyd cynnig ar bopeth, ac yr wyf fi, fel Cadeirydd, bob amser yn gwahodd Aelodau i roi awgrymiadau imi pwy yr hoffent iddynt roi tystiolaeth, neu, yn wir, pwy yr hoffent inni ymweld â hwy, a dyma'n sicr oedd yn wir bryd hynny. Gofynnwyd i bawb ble y dylem fynd. Derbyniaf ein bod efallai wedi methu â chynnwys rhai o'r bobl bwysicaf, a bod grwpiau y gallem hwyrach fod wedi eu gwahodd i siarad â ni am eu profiadau. Os caf y wybodaeth honno, ceisiaf weld a allwn wahodd y grwpiau hynny i roi tystiolaeth ar dduilliau atal.

Mick, fel aelod o'r pwyllgor, yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi eich sylwadau. Gwn eich bod wedi cyfrannu at y ddadl gyfan.

Mark, diolch i chi am eich sylwadau a'ch geiriau caredig. Nid yw'n syndod ein bod, unwaith eto, wedi rhoi sylw i'r Gogledd y prynhawn yma, lle bu dadl ddifrifol am gamddefnyddio sylweddau. Yr wyf yn siomedig ynglŷn â hynny, ond diolch i chi i

gyd am eich sylwadau.
Cynnig (NDM2988): O blaid 50, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2988): For 50, Abstain 0, Against 0.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Janet
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
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
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Wood, Leanne

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.

4.20 p.m.

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Craffu ac Atebolrwydd y Llywodraeth Government Scrutiny and Accountability

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I ask those Members who are leaving the Chamber to do so quietly.

Alun Cairns: In line with convention, I have agreed to offer a minute each to Jenny Randerson and a member of Plaid Cymru, should they wish to contribute their views at the end of my address.

My prime reason for choosing this as a subject for discussion is my concern over what I consider to be a risk that faces the Assembly, which could have a wider implication for other public bodies in Wales. In essence, it is a risk that could undermine the very principles of devolution. Much of the rationale behind devolution was to provide policies for Wales that were more appropriate than those developed on a UK-wide basis. This was to be achieved through having a distinct Welsh agenda, but also through additional scrutiny and accountability, which is crucial to any democracy. I wish to focus on this scrutiny and accountability.

Transparency of Government comes from questioning and debating the main thrusts of Government policy as well as policy details. This is the key to better decision-making and better and good Government. This is primarily the role of opposition Members, although backbenchers of the governing party also have a part to play. *[Interruption.]* However, in the current climate, Members of the Government party often appear to act as cheerleaders for Ministers' policies, and rarely publicly speak out against policies with which they disagree. In committee, we often see committee Chairs closing down lines of questioning that may embarrass the Minister. *[Interruption.]* It is the joint pressures of politicians and of public opinion that keep the Government of the day in check. *[Interruption.]* I seek your guidance, Dirprwy Lywydd, on the noises in the background that are interrupting my speech.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gofynnaf i'r Aelodau hynny sy'n gadael y Siambr wneud hynny'n dawel.

Alun Cairns: Yn unol â thraddodiad, yr wyf wedi cytuno i gynnig munud yr un i Jenny Randerson ac aelod o Blaid Cymru, os hoffent roi eu sylwadau ar ddiwedd fy anerchiad.

Fy mhrif reswm dros ddewis hwn fel pwnc trafod yw fy mhryder ynglŷn â'r hyn a ystyriaf yn risg sy'n wynebu'r Cynulliad, a allai gael goblygiadau ehangach ar gyfer cyrff cyhoeddus eraill yng Nghymru. Yn ei hanfod, mae'n risg a allai danseilio union egwyddorion datganoli. Yr oedd llawer o'r rhesymeg a oedd yn sail i ddatganoli yn ymwneud â darparu polisiau ar gyfer Cymru a oedd yn fwy priodol na'r rhai a ddatblygwyd ar draws y DU. Bwriadwyd cyflawni hyn drwy gael agenda yn ymwneud yn benodol â Chymru, ond hefyd drwy ddulliau craffu ac atebolrwydd ychwanegol, sy'n hanfodol i unrhyw ddemocratiaeth. Dymunaf ganolbwyntio ar y dull craffu ac atebolrwydd hwn.

Daw eglurder Llywodraeth o gwestiynu a thrafod hanfodion polisi'r Llywodraeth yn ogystal â manylion polisiau. Dyma'r allwedd i wneud penderfyniadau yn well a chael Llywodraeth well ac effeithiol. Dyma'n bennaf yw rôl Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau, er bod gan aelodau meinciau cefn y blaid lywodraethol ran i'w chwarae hefyd. *[Torri ar draws.]* Fodd bynnag, yn yr hinsawdd presennol, ymddengys fod Aelodau plaid y Llywodraeth yn aml yn ymddwyn fel cefnogwyr polisiau Gweinidogion, ac yn anaml yn dweud gair croes yn gyhoeddus am bolisiau y maent yn anghytuno â hwy. Yn y pwyllgor, byddwn yn aml yn gweld Cadeiryddion pwyllgor yn rhoi terfyn ar gwestiynau a allai achosi cywilydd i'r Gweinidog. *[Torri ar draws.]* Pwysau ar y cyd gan wleidyddion a barn y cyhoedd sy'n cadw Llywodraeth y dydd dan reolaeth. *[Torri ar draws.]* Ceisiaf eich arweiniad,

Ddirprwy Lywydd, ar y synau yn y cefndir sy'n torri ar draws fy araith.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I do not know what is going on. Keep going—we are all listening.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Ni wn beth sy'n digwydd. Ewch yn eich blaen—yr ydym i gyd yn gwranddo.

Alun Cairns: As I said, we often see committee Chairs closing down lines of questioning that may embarrass the Minister. In the Government of Wales Bill, which is currently going through the House of Commons, the role of Deputy Minister is included. That will, effectively, put the majority of the largest party, assuming that it has 30 Members, on the payroll, so the First Minister has the opportunity—*[Interruption.]*

Alun Cairns: Fel y dywedais, bydwn yn aml yn gweld Cadeiryddion pwyllgor yn rhoi terfyn ar gwestiynau a allai beri cywilydd i'r Gweinidog. Ym Mesur Llywodraeth Cymru, sydd ar ei hynt drwy Dŷ'r Cyffredin ar hyn o bryd, caiff rôl Dirprwy Weinidog ei chynnwys. Bydd hynny, i bob diben, yn rhoi mwyafrif y blaid fwyaf, a bwrw bod ganddi 30 o Aelodau, ar y gyflogres, felly bydd gan y Prif Weinidog y cyfle—*[Torri ar draws.]*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: We will adjourn the meeting for a while.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gohiriwn y cyfarfod am ychydig.

*Gohiriwyd y Cyfarfod Llawn am 4.23 p.m.
Plenary was adjourned at 4.23 p.m.*

*Ailymgynullodd y Cynulliad am 4.26 p.m.
The Assembly reconvened at 4.26 p.m.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I apologise for that interruption. We will investigate the matter. You will have additional time, if necessary, Alun. We want to hear what you have to say.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Ymddiheuraf am yr ymyriad hwnnw. Byddwn yn ymchwilio i'r mater. Cewch amser ychwanegol, os bydd ei angen, Alun. Yr ydym am glywed beth sydd gennych i'w ddweud.

Alun Cairns: Thank you, Dirprwy Lywydd, for your understanding. I was not sure whether we were in Cardiff international airport or the National Assembly for Wales for a minute.

Alun Cairns: Diolch ichi, Ddirprwy Lywydd, am eich dealltwriaeth. Nid oeddwn yn siŵr am funud a oeddem ym maes awyr rhyngwladol Caerdydd neu yng Nghynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

I would like to make some points regarding Government scrutiny that are of concern to me, and, I would hope, to the wider public. It is the joint pressures of politicians and of public opinion that keep the Government of the day in check. Therefore, exposure and scrutiny through the press and media is critical, as this raises public awareness of the Government's plans and decisions. Political commentators also inform and help to crystallise opinion; they have an extremely important role to play. That is what happens every day on the UK stage. Let us examine recent pressures on some UK Ministers. One newspaper may break a story, which is then developed and extended by other Fleet Street

Hoffwn wneud rhai pwyntiau ynglŷn â dulliau craffu'r Llywodraeth sy'n peri pryder i mi, ac i'r cyhoedd yn fwy cyffredinol, gobeithio. Pwysau ar y cyd gan wleidyddion a barn y cyhoedd sy'n cadw Llywodraeth y dydd dan reolaeth. Felly, mae sylw a chraffu drwy'r wasg a'r cyfryngau yn hanfodol, gan fod hyn yn cynyddu ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd o gynlluniau a phenderfyniadau'r Llywodraeth. Mae sylwebyddion gwleidyddol hefyd yn rhoi gwybodaeth ac yn helpu crisialu barn; mae ganddynt rôl bwysig iawn. Dyma beth sy'n digwydd bob dydd ar lwyfan y DU. Gadewch i ni archwilio'r pwysau'n ddiweddar ar rai o Weinidogion y DU. Gall un papur newydd gyflwyno stori

papers. Political commentators express their views, some of which are supportive, and some less so. Eventually, the Minister will either win through or be forced to climb down and possibly resign, and there may be a resulting shift in Government policy. Although ruthless, the process remains an important part of democracy.

That same political dynamic does not exist in Wales, and that could undermine the principle of devolution should the superior, dominant position of the largest or the governing party be abused. To demonstrate this, I will highlight a few examples. I hope that they will be received in the way that they are intended to be, and not in a party-political way.

Some weeks ago, a debate was proposed seeking to reconcile statements made by the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks with information obtained under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The papers clearly referred to a cut in budgets, which the Minister denied. A fair interpretation could have been that the Minister had been less than truthful, and yet absolutely nothing happened. Various Ministers have also been under pressure in relation to public appointments. There was the non-appointment of the Counsel General; the recent appointment of the acting chair of the arts council has come in for criticism; and the appointment of the chair of the Welsh Language Board was also criticised publicly. These simply led to a bad headline in the *Western Mail* or the *Daily Post*, and perhaps a comment on the radio or television, but nothing more. Not a word was said by the backbench Members of the largest party, who privately expressed concern.

To underline these points, Wales has the second longest waiting lists in western Europe, and there is widespread concern about this among the public. I strongly believe that if the same level of waiting lists existed in England, the widespread reporting and judgment cast by political commentators would have motivated significant policy changes very early on. For example, when

am y tro cyntaf, a chaiff ei datblygu a'i hymestyn wedyn gan bapurau eraill Fleet Street. Bydd sylwebyddion gwleidyddol yn mynegi eu safbwyntiau, y bydd rhai ohonynt yn gefnogol, ac eraill yn llai cefnogol. Yn y pen draw, bydd y Gweinidog naill ai'n ennill neu'n cael ei orfodi i newid ei farn ac ymddiswyddo o bosibl, ac efallai bydd newid o ganlyniad ym mholisi'r Llywodraeth. Er ei bod yn ddiostur, mae'r broses yn parhau i fod yn rhan bwysig o ddemocratiaeth.

Nid yw'r un deinameg gwleidyddol hwnnw yn bodoli yng Nghymru, a gallai hynny danseilio egwyddor datganoli pe camddefnyddiwyd safle'r blaid fwyaf neu'r blaid lywodraethol. I ddangos hyn, cyfeiriai at rai enghreifftiau. Gobeithio y cânt eu derbyn fel y bwriadwyd, nid mewn ffordd wleidyddol.

Ychydig wythnosau'n ôl, cynigiwyd dadl a oedd yn ceisio cysoni datganiadau a wnaed gan y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydeithiau â gwybodaeth a gafwyd o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000. Cyfeiriodd y papurau yn amlwg at dorri cyllidebau, a wadwyd gan y Gweinidog. Gellid bod wedi dehongli hyn yn deg drwy ddweud na fu'r Gweinidog yn hollol onest, ac eto ni ddigwyddodd dim. Bu amryw Weinidogion o dan bwysau hefyd o ran penodiadau cyhoeddus. Cafwyd yr achos o beidio â phenodi'r Cwnsler Cyffredinol; beirniadwyd y broses o benodi cadeirydd dros dro i gyngor y celfyddydau'n ddiweddar; a beirniadwyd y broses o benodi cadeirydd Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn gyhoeddus hefyd. Y cyfan a wnaeth hyn oedd arwain at bennawd gwael yn y *Western Mail* neu'r *Daily Post*, a sylw o bosibl ar y radio neu'r teledu, ond dim byd mwy. Ni chafodd gair ei ddweud gan Aelodau meinciau cefn y blaid fwyaf, a fynegodd bryder yn breifat.

I danlinellu'r pwyntiau hyn, Cymru sydd â'r rhestrau aros hiraf ond un yng ngorllewin Ewrop, ac mae pryder yn gyffredinol am hyn ymhlith y cyhoedd. Credaf yn gryf, pe bai'r un lefel o restrau aros yn bodoli yn Lloegr, y byddai mwy o sylw a beirniadaeth gyffredinol gan sylwebyddion gwleidyddol wedi ysgogi newidiadau sylweddol mewn polisiau yn gynnar iawn. Er enghraifft, pan

Radio 2's Jeremy Vine show focused on the NHS in Wales, he simply could not believe the length of the waiting lists and the fact that there had not been wider reporting about them on a UK level. Had that length of waiting lists existed in England, the Minister would either have had to go or there would have been a major shift in Government policy. Similarly, a shift in Government policy on free care for disabled people would have been trumpeted across all media for days, if not weeks, if what happened in Wales had happened at a UK-level or in England.

There has been widespread concern about the wind-up of the Welsh Development Agency. Ministers have failed to answer questions on pensions and staffing arrangements. I and other Members and colleagues are told that we are merely confusing the issue, and that it is business as usual, except it was not business as usual.

4.30 p.m.

The effect on enterprise agencies is not business as usual. Venture Wales, Coda Business Management, Business in Focus, Entrepreneur Action and Newport and Gwent Enterprise among others have all had their budgets slashed. Agencies were only informed 10 days before the new contracts were due to come into force. No public announcement was made about this, and when Members sought to scrutinise the Minister at the last Economic Development and Transport Committee meeting on this shift in policy, and on the timing of the implementation, the Minister simply said that he did not have the details. Therefore, the discussion could not go any further.

A strong committee would have lambasted the Minister for making such a decision without prior notice, even if it had agreed the rationale and disagreed with the timing. Clearly, Members were not questioning the Minister on that basis. If the UK Government had dared to act in the same way, the UK press would have had a field day, and the story, or any of the issues that I have highlighted, would have run and run until the

ganolbwyntiodd rhaglen Jeremy Vine ar Radio 2 ar y GIG yng Nghymru, yr oedd yn methu'n deg â chredu hyd y rhestrau aros a'r ffaith na roddwyd mwy o sylw i'r sefyllfa ledled y DU. Pe bai rhestrau aros o'r hyd hynny wedi bodoli yn Lloegr, naill ai byddai'r Gweinidog wedi gorfod gadael ei swydd neu byddai newid mawr wedi bod ym mholisi'r Llywodraeth. Yn yr un modd, byddai newid ym mholisi'r Llywodraeth ar ofal am ddim i bobl anabl wedi ei gyhoeddi ar draws y cyfryngau i gyd am ddyddiau, os nad wythnosau, pe bai'r hyn a ddigwyddodd yng Nghymru wedi digwydd yn y DU neu yn Lloegr.

Cafwyd pryder cyffredinol ynglŷn â diddymu Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru. Mae Gweinidogion wedi methu ag ateb cwestiynau ar bensiynau a threfniadau staffio. Dywedir wrthyf fi ac Aelodau a chydweithwyr eraill ein bod yn cymhlethu'r mater, ac mai busnes fel arfer ydyw, ond y gwir yw nad busnes fel arfer ydoedd.

Nid busnes fel arfer yw'r effaith ar asiantaethau menter. Mae cyllidebau Menter Cymru, Coda Business Management, Business in Focus, Entrepreneur Action a Newport and Gwent Enterprise ymysg eraill wedi cael eu torri. Dim asiantaethau wybod 10 diwrnod yn unig cyn i'r contractau newydd ddod i rym. Ni wnaed unrhyw gyhoeddiad am hyn, a phan geisiodd yr Aelodau holi'r Gweinidog am y newid hwn mewn polisi yn ystod cyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, ynghyd ag amseriad y broses o roi hyn ar waith, y cyfan a ddywedodd y Gweinidog oedd nad oedd y manylion ganddo. Felly, nid oedd yn bosibl trafod ymhellach.

Byddai pwyllgor cryf wedi lambastio'r Gweinidog am wneud penderfyniad o'r fath heb rybudd ymlaen llaw, hyd yn oed pe bai wedi cytuno â'r rhesymeg ac anghytuno â'r amseriad. Yn amlwg, nid oedd yr Aelodau yn holi'r Gweinidog ar y sail honno. Pe bai Llywodraeth y DU wedi meiddio ymddwyn yn yr un modd, byddai'r wasg Brydeinig wedi ei dweud hi, a byddai'r stori, neu unrhyw rai o'r materion y soniais amdanynt,

press, political commentators or the public at large felt that they had a scalp. It is that ruthlessness, fair or otherwise, that helps to maintain high standards of Government.

The Welsh Assembly Government claims to be one of the most open in western Europe, but we can see from written questions that we have tabled that that is simply not the case. I have arranged for identical questions to be tabled at Westminster. The lack of information and detail from Assembly Government responses is quite alarming. Direct comparisons can be presented. We often receive the answers that we will 'receive a response in due course' and 'the information will be published on the internet or intranet'. That is often a question of timing to help the Minister, when we are asking for simple, factual information.

A recent example was a question tabled on the amount of public funds being used to support the Wales Rally GB. The answer stated that that was commercially confidential. However, press releases issued by the Government in previous years highlighted how much public money was being used. It cannot be confidential now if it has been made known previously. That inconsistency would not occur in Westminster or Scotland.

This means that AMs have to depend on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to gain information that they require, which demonstrates an arrogance that questions are nothing but interference from elected politicians who do not, in the Government's view, matter. Although, in many of these cases, a Minister may well have been placed under pressure in the Assembly Chamber and reported on the radio and television and in the *Western Mail* and the *Daily Post*, but the political pressure of public opinion has not been as apparent, partly because most of the people in Wales read the London-based press, which generally does not report Welsh political or social matters.

The *Western Mail*, *Daily Post* and evening

wedi parhau i gael sylw nes byddai'r wasg, sylwebyddion gwleidyddol neu'r cyhoedd yn teimlo bod rhywun wedi cael ei ddwyn i gyfrif. Y gallu hwnnw i fod yn ddidostur, p'un a yw'n deg neu beidio, sy'n helpu cynnal safonau Llywodraeth uchel.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn honni ei bod yn un o'r rhai mwyaf agored yng ngorllewin Ewrop, ond gwelwn o'r cwestiynau ysgrifenedig a gyflwynwyd gennym nad yw hynny'n wir. Yr wyf wedi trefnu i gwestiynau tebyg gael eu cyflwyno yn San Steffan. Mae'r diffyg gwybodaeth a manylion a ddaw o ymatebion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn frawychus. Gellir gwneud cymariaethau uniongyrchol. Byddwn yn aml yn cael yr ymateb y byddwn yn 'cael ateb maes o law' a 'chyhoeddir y wybodaeth ar y rhyngwrwyd neu'r fewnwrwyd'. Mae hynny yn aml yn fater o amseru er mwyn helpu'r Gweinidog, er ein bod yn gofyn am wybodaeth syml, ffeithiol.

Un enghraifft yn ddiweddar oedd cwestiwn a gyflwynwyd am faint o arian cyhoeddus a ddefnyddiwyd i gefnogi Rali Cymru Prydain Fawr. Dywedodd yr ateb fod hynny'n gyfrinach fasnachol. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd datganiadau i'r wasg a gyhoeddwyd gan y Llywodraeth mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol yn dweud faint o arian cyhoeddus a oedd yn cael ei ddefnyddio. Ni all fod yn gyfrinachol yn awr os oedd yn hysbys yn y gorffennol. Ni fyddai'r anghysondeb hwnnw wedi digwydd yn San Steffan nac yn yr Alban.

Golyga hyn fod ACau yn gorfod dibynnu ar Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000 i gael y wybodaeth y mae arnynt ei hangen, sy'n dangos rhyw drahauster nad yw cwestiynau'n ddim ond ymyriadau gan wleidyddion etholedig nad ydynt yn bwysig, ym marn y Llywodraeth. Er ei bod yn bosibl, mewn nifer o'r achosion hyn, fod Gweinidog wedi ei roi o dan bwysau yn Siambr y Cynulliad gyda sylw ar y radio a'r teledu ac yn y *Western Mail* a'r *Daily Post*, ond nid yw pwysau gwleidyddol y farn gyhoeddus wedi bod mor amlwg, yn rhannol am fod mwyafrif pobl Cymru yn darllen papurau Llundain nad ydynt, ar y cyfan, yn rhoi sylw i faterion gwleidyddol na chymdeithasol Cymru.

Mae'r *Western Mail*, *Daily Post* a'r papurau

papers such as the *South Wales Evening Post* do a good job of reporting activities, but they do not have the resources of national dailies. Investigative journalism is extremely expensive and, barring some exceptions, there are few fully resourced reporters to pick up and follow lines, particularly some of the controversial examples that have been highlighted. The BBC's unique position generally prevents it from giving views and commenting on situations in the same way that newspapers can. The situation in Scotland is very different because they have Scottish versions of *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Sun* as well as its own strong newspapers.

The lack of scrutiny could be abused by any Government. If that is the case under the current arrangements, surely this threat will only increase with greater powers. The sad fact is that any controversial political situation is merely seen as a bad news day that will rarely last for more than 24 hours. Those are the words of one of the Assembly Government's special advisers.

I can offer one saving grace, namely the Assembly's Audit Committee and the excellent Auditor General for Wales, Jeremy Colman. His role, however, is to focus on financial propriety rather than political propriety, which are very different things. Provided that funds have not been abused, a Minister has the right to do as he or she sees fit. If that is contrary to a stated policy, the Minister has to accept political accountability, and it is the lack of such accountability that I seek to highlight in today's debate.

Therefore, where do we go from here? Clearly, all Members of all parties—and I have sought to make this speech a non-party-political one—have a greater responsibility to challenge the Government. The Government has a responsibility to accept its dominant position in the absence of large-scale press scrutiny and commentary. There is a need for the greater independence of Assembly Members from all parties, with Members diverting from the official line according to

hwyrol megis y *South Wales Evening Post* yn gwneud gwaith da wrth roi sylw i weithgareddau, ond nid oes ganddynt yr un adnoddau â'r papurau dyddiol cenedlaethol. Mae newyddiaduraeth ymchwiliol yn gostus iawn, ac ychydig iawn o newyddiadurwyr, ac eithrio ambell un, sydd â'r adnoddau llawn i afael mewn stori a'i dilyn, yn arbennig rhai o'r enghreifftiau dadleuol sydd wedi eu hamlinellu. Mae sefyllfa unigryw'r BBC ar y cyfan yn ei rwystro rhag rhoi barn a chyflwyno sylwadau am sefyllfaoedd yn yr un modd â'r papurau newyddion. Mae'r sefyllfa yn yr Alban yn wahanol iawn oherwydd bod ganddynt fersiynau'r Alban o *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Sun* yn ogystal â'i phapurau newyddion cryfion ei hun.

Gallai unrhyw Lywodraeth gamddefnyddio diffyg craffu. Os hynny sy'n digwydd dan y trefniadau presennol, mae'n siŵr mai dim ond cynyddu a wnaiff y bygythiad hwnnw gyda mwy o bwerau. Y ffaith drist yw bod unrhyw sefyllfa wleidyddol ddadleuol yn cael ei hystyried yn ddiwrnod o newyddion drwg yn unig na fydd prin byth yn para mwy na 24 awr. Dyna eiriau un o gynghorwyr arbennig Llywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Gallaf gynnig un rhinwedd, sef Pwyllgor Archwilio'r Cynulliad ac Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru, Jeremy Colman. Ei rôl ef, fodd bynnag, yw canolbwyntio ar briodoldeb ariannol yn hytrach phriodoldeb gwleidyddol, sy'n hollol wahanol i'w gilydd. Ar yr amod nad yw arian wedi cael ei gamddefnyddio, mae gan Weinidog yr hawl i wneud fel y mynn. Os yw hynny'n groes i bolisi a gyhoeddwyd, rhaid i'r Gweinidog dderbyn cyfrifoldeb gwleidyddol, a dyna'r math o ddiffyg atebolrwydd yr hoffwn dynnu sylw ato yn y ddadl heddiw.

Felly, beth nesaf? Yn amlwg, mae mwy o gyfrifoldeb ar bob Aelod o bob plaid—ac yr wyf wedi ceisio gwneud yr araith hon yn un nad yw'n cynnwys gwleidyddiaeth bleidiol—i herio'r Llywodraeth. Mae'n gyfrifoldeb ar y Llywodraeth i dderbyn ei bod mewn sefyllfa gref os nad oes proses graffu a sylwadaeth yn y wasg ar raddfa eang. Mae angen i Aelodau'r Cynulliad o bob plaid fod yn fwy annibynnol, gydag Aelodau'n gwrthod y farn swyddogol yn ôl yr hyn maent yn ei gredu

what they genuinely believe. Assembly Members and committee Chairs need improved skills in this regard. There is a need for an open and honest approach from each Assembly Member and each Minister, and particularly from those who scrutinise.

The Assembly will face enormous changes over the next 12 months or so. An enormous risk will face the Assembly if these comments are merely cast aside as being from an elected Member who does not really matter. I have no doubt that the Government may well have different views, but simply ignoring such comments and the scrutiny deficit that exists will lead to an enormous scandal sooner or later. Unless the situation and culture changes, I would predict a fantastic scandal in five or 10 years' time, which will undermine the principles and the purpose of devolution and the National Assembly for Wales.

Jenny Randerson: I thank Alun for allowing me a little of his time to contribute. In the long run, the greater the transparency of government, the stronger the government. In the short term, when you are in government, the danger is that you feel that you are under threat when embarrassing information becomes public. However, by having transparency, you prevent real crises from occurring and prevent disastrous inefficiencies from being unmasked.

I will illustrate my point with one simple piece of information. Over the past year or so, I have made a few data requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have made the same request of the Assembly Government, the Wales Tourist Board, the Welsh Development Agency and Cardiff council at various times, and one thing that struck me was that, without fail, the other organisations always gave me far more information than the Government. It is that culture of closing things down and of secrecy that is the problem.

There has been concern that, on occasion, Government civil servants have refused to give full information to those in the Members' research service when we ask questions. I think that we need to be concerned about that, because research via

mewn gwirionedd. Mae angen gwella sgiliau Aelodau'r Cynulliad a Chadeiryddion pwyllgorau yn hyn o beth. Mae angen ymagwedd agored a gonest gan bob Aelod Cynulliad a phob Gweinidog, ac yn arbennig gan y rhai sy'n craffu.

Bydd y Cynulliad yn wynebu newidiadau mawr dros y 12 mis nesaf. Bydd y Cynulliad yn wynebu risg anferth os caiff y sylwadau hyn eu hanwybyddu fel sylwadau gan Aelod etholedig nad yw o bwys mewn gwirionedd. Nid wyf yn amau o gwbl nad yw barn y Llywodraeth yn wahanol, ond bydd anwybyddu sylwadau o'r fath a'r diffyg craffu sy'n bodoli yn achosi sgandal fawr yn y pen draw. Oni fydd y sefyllfa a'r diwylliant yn newid, byddwn yn rhagweld sgandal enfawr ymhen 5 neu 10 mlynedd, a fydd yn tanseilio egwyddorion a diben datganoli a Chynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

Jenny Randerson: Diolch i Alun am roi ychydig o'i amser i mi gyfrannu. Yn y pen draw, po fwyaf eglur yw llywodraeth, y mwyaf nerthol ydyw. Yn y tymor byr, pan fyddwch yn llywodraethu, y perygl yw eich bod yn teimlo o dan fygythiad pan gaiff gwybodaeth annifyr ei chyhoeddi. Fodd bynnag, drwy fod yn eglur, yr ydych yn atal argyfyngau mawr rhag digwydd ac yn atal aneffeithlonrwydd trychinebus rhag cael ei ddatgelu.

Egluraf fy mhwynt gydag un darn syml o wybodaeth. Yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, yr wyf wedi gwneud rhai ceisiadau am ddata o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000. Yr wyf wedi gwneud yr un cais i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, Bwrdd Croeso Cymru, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a chyngor Caerdydd ar wahanol adegau, ac un peth a oedd yn amlwg imi, yn ddi-ffael, oedd bod y sefydliadau eraill bob amser yn rhoi llawer mwy o wybodaeth imi na'r Llywodraeth. Y diwylliant hwnnw o gau drysau a chadw cyfrinachau yw'r broblem.

Mynegwyd pryder, ambell dro, bod gweision sifil y Llywodraeth wedi gwrthod rhoi gwybodaeth lawn i wasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau pan fyddwn yn gofyn cwestiynau. Credaf y dylem fod yn bryderus ynglŷn â hynny am fod gwaith ymchwil drwy

our Members' research service is a key way in which we, in opposition, can get information, and information is power.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I was quite intrigued to know how Alun would be taking forward what I think is a very good topic for debate: Government scrutiny and accountability. We should, of course, be holding this debate, and it will be strengthened by the opportunities provided by the Government of Wales Bill as it comes forward. Alun, you have made many good points about the need for us to ensure good governance by having strong scrutiny and accountability. For me—going back to why I entered politics in the first place—this is about ensuring that governments are as close as possible to the people whom they serve and represent and, in delivery, openness and transparency, as you say, Jenny, is of the essence. If we have greater transparency, we will have greater accountability.

4.40 p.m.

We have an opportunity to showcase our record as the Government of Wales. We have always been clear that the underlying purpose of the Assembly was to bring government closer to the people of Wales. We are doing this in many ways: through openness, in terms of freedom of information; through the merger of Assembly sponsored public bodies; through the delivery of public services, which has seen us develop unique partnerships with local government, the voluntary sector, and business; and through the proposals that will take us forward in the Government of Wales Bill. However, we can only bring government closer to the people of Wales if we have this effective two-way communication, which you touched on in terms of opportunities, so that the people of Wales, via our elected Members, can scrutinise our actions and hold us to account. We have that extra dimension of partnership, whether it is with the voluntary sector, local government, or business, and you have a constituency, therefore we have direct contact and accountability with those important sectors of civil society in Wales.

wasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau yn ffordd allweddol y gallwn ni, fel gwrthbleidiau, gael gwybodaeth, ac mewn gwybodaeth mae nerth.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Yr oedd gennyf gryn ddiddordeb gwybod sut y byddai Alun yn cyflwyno'r hyn sydd, yn fy marn i, yn bwnc da iawn i'w drafod: craffu ac atebolrwydd y Llywodraeth. Dylem, wrth gwrs, fod yn cynnal y ddatl hon, a chaiff ei chryfhau gan y cyfleoedd a roddir gan Fesur Llywodraeth Cymru wrth iddo gael ei gyflwyno. Alun, gwnaethoch lawer o bwyntiau da am yr angen inni sicrhau llywodraethu da drwy gael dulliau craffu ac atebolrwydd cryf. I mi—i fynd yn ôl at y rheswm pam y penderfynais fynd yn wleidydd yn y lle cyntaf—mae'n ymwneud â sicrhau bod llywodraethau mor agos â phosibl at y bobl y maent yn eu gwasanaethu a'u cynrychioli, ac wrth eu gwasanaethu, mae bod yn agored ac eglur, fel y dyweddech, Jenny, yn hanfodol. Os bydd mwy o eglurder, bydd gennym fwy o atebolrwydd.

Mae gennym gyfle i ddangos ein record fel Llywodraeth Cymru. Yr ydym wedi bod yn glir o'r cychwyn mai diben sylfaenol y Cynulliad oedd dod â llywodraeth yn nes at bobl Cymru. Yr ydym yn gwneud hyn mewn sawl ffordd: drwy fod yn agored, o ran rhyddid gwybodaeth; drwy uno cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad; drwy ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, lle yr ydym wedi datblygu partneriaethau unigryw â llywodraeth leol, y sector gwirfoddol a busnesau; a thrwy'r cynigion ym Mesur Llywodraeth Cymru a fydd yn ein symud ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, dim ond gyda chyfathrebu dwyffordd effeithiol fel hyn y cyfeirich ato o ran cyfleoedd y gallwn ddod â llywodraeth yn nes at bobl Cymru, fel y gall pobl Cymru, drwy ein Haelodau Etholedig, graffu ar ein gweithredoedd a'n dwyn i gyfrif. Mae gennym y dimensiwn ychwanegol hwnnw o bartneriaeth, boed gyda'r sector gwirfoddol, llywodraeth leol, neu fusnesau, ac mae gennych chi etholaeth,. Felly, mae gennym gysylltiad uniongyrchol â'r rhannau pwysig hynny o gymdeithas ddinesig Cymru ac yr ydym yn atebol iddynt.

Jenny and Alun mentioned freedom of information. It is extraordinary that they did not give us the credit for our resolve in extending the opportunities way beyond what the law requires of us in the second edition of our code of practice on public access to information. We introduced that back in May 2001, and it enables people to request access to any information that they want. We continue to provide greater openness than the law requires of us through the substantial harm test, which is embedded in our code.

We can be proud of the lead that we have taken on freedom of information. Our well-respected publication scheme, our publication of Cabinet minutes and papers, our publication of the facts and analysis behind ministerial decisions, and the substantial amount of information that has been released in response to requests are visible examples of the progress that we have made.

We have received over 1,000 requests since 1 January 2005, and many champions of open government continue to recognise the Welsh Assembly Government as an exemplar of good practice. We have been praised by the Campaign for Freedom of Information, journalists, academics and the information commissioner on our record in relation to openness and freedom of information. Does that not mean something to you, Alun?

Alun Cairns: I do give credit to the policy as it is written. However, I question whether this may well not be the responsibility of the Assembly Government, because it may well be the responsibility of officials in not following the letter and the spirit of the guidance that has been issued. With the 21-working-day notice period, why is it that, for example, on day 19, an official seeks clarification of the original question that was tabled, thus starting the 21-working-day period again? This is the reason for the scepticism that comes from this side of the Chamber—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You have made your speech once—this is an intervention.

Soniodd Jenny ac Alun am ryddid gwybodaeth. Mae'n rhyfeddol iddynt beidio â'n canmol am ein penderfyniad i ymestyn cyfleoedd ymhellach y tu hwnt i'r hyn sydd yn ofynnol inni yn ôl y gyfraith yn ail argraffiad ein cod ymarfer ar ganiatáu i'r cyhoedd weld gwybodaeth. Cyflwynwyd hynny ym mis Mai 2001, ac mae'n galluogi pobl i wneud cais i gael gweld unrhyw wybodaeth a ddymunant. Yr ydym yn parhau i fod yn fwy agored nag sy'n ofynnol yn ôl y gyfraith drwy'r prawf niwed sylweddol, sy'n ganolog i'n cod.

Gallwn fod yn falch o'r arweiniad yr ydym wedi ei roi o ran rhyddid gwybodaeth. Mae ein cynllun cyhoeddi sy'n uchel ei barch, y ffaith ein bod yn cyhoeddi cofnodion a phapurau'r Cabinet, y ffaith ein bod yn cyhoeddi'r ffeithiau a'r dadansoddiad y tu ôl i benderfyniadau gan weinidogion, ynghyd â'r wybodaeth sylweddol sydd wedi ei ryddhau mewn ymateb i geisiadau, yn enghreifftiau amlwg o'r cynnydd a wnaed gennym.

Cawsom dros 1,000 o geisiadau er 1 Ionawr 2005, ac mae nifer o hyrwyddwyr llywodraeth agored yn parhau i gydnabod bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn esiampl o arfer da. Mae'r Ymgyrch dros Ryddid Gwybodaeth, newyddiadurwyr, academyddion a'r comisiynydd gwybodaeth wedi canmol ein record o ran bod yn agored a rhyddid gwybodaeth. Onid yw hynny'n golygu rhywbeth ichi, Alun?

Alun Cairns: Cymeradwyaf y polisi fel y mae wedi ei ysgrifennu. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn amau nad cyfrifoldeb Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yw hyn, oherwydd mae'n ddigon posibl mai cyfrifoldeb swyddogion ydyw am beidio â dilyn geiriau ac ysbryd y canllawiau a gyhoeddwyd. Gyda'r cyfnod rhybudd o 21 diwrnod, pam y mae swyddog, er enghraifft, ar ddydd 19, yn ceisio cael eglurhad o'r cwestiwn gwreiddiol a gyflwynwyd, a thrwy hynny ail-ddechrau'r cyfnod o 21 diwrnod eto? Dyna'r rheswm dros yr amheuaeth yr ochr hon i'r Siambr—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Yr ydych wedi gwneud eich araith unwaith—ymyriad yw hyn.

Alun Cairns: How would you reconcile the differences between answers given in Westminster and answers given in the Assembly?

Jane Hutt: One important point is that, for example, in relation to protecting information, which we do in certain circumstances—we use exemptions sparingly and carefully, and that has been recognised outside the Assembly—we explain why it is justified. On delivery, there is no question that timing is crucial. We know that access to information through oral and written questions is key, and through ministerial correspondence. You know that we seek to deliver within those timescales, and we are recognised for doing that. I go back to the 1,000 requests on which we have delivered since 1 January.

The ASPB mergers have provided an opportunity to improve scrutiny and accountability. You will know that, as a result of the mergers—and this is an important week to have your debate; I am sure that that is one reason why you proposed the topic now—we have streamlined Government structures in Wales. The new arrangements will be much more effective and will remove the organisational divide between policy and delivery.

There must be robust challenge of how we take this forward. We know, for example, that the directors of the new departments—the Department for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks, and the Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills—will attend each subject committee meeting with the relevant Minister, to ensure scrutiny. That was not the case with the former chief executives of the merged bodies, who would come to committee perhaps twice a year, as and when requested.

Now they will be there with the Minister accountable, and we will have that external advice through the advisory panels, which will play a key role.

Those panels will provide Ministers with that

Alun Cairns: Sut y byddech yn egluro'r gwahaniaethau rhwng yr atebion a roddir yn San Steffan a'r atebion a roddir yn y Cynulliad?

Jane Hutt: Un pwynt pwysig yw ein bod, er enghraifft, o ran diogelu gwybodaeth, sy'n rhywbeth a wnawn mewn rhai amgylchiadau—fe ddefnyddiwn eithriadau yn gynnil ac yn ofalus, ac mae hynny wedi ei gydnabod y tu allan i'r Cynulliad—yn esbonio pam y gallwn ei gyfiawnhau. O ran cyflwyno gwybodaeth, nid oes amheuaeth nad yw amseru'n bwysig iawn. Gwyddom fod gallu cael gwybodaeth drwy gwestiynau llafar ac ysgrifenedig yn allweddol, a thrwy ohebu â gweinidogion. Gwyddoch ein bod yn anelu at ddarparu'r wybodaeth o fewn yr amseroedd hynny, ac y cawn ein cydnabod am wneud hynny. Dychwelaf at y 1,000 o geisiadau yr ydym wedi ymateb iddynt er 1 Ionawr.

Mae'r broses o uno Cyrff Cyhoeddus a Noddir gan y Cynulliad wedi bod yn gyfle i wella'r broses o graffu ac atebolrwydd. Fe wyddoch, o ganlyniad i'r uno—ac mae hon yn wythnos bwysig i gynnal eich dadl; yr wyf yn siŵr mai dyna un rheswm pam yr ydych wedi cyflwyno'r pwnc yn awr—ein bod wedi symleiddio strwythurau Llywodraeth yng Nghymru. Bydd y trefniadau newydd lawer yn fwy effeithiol ac yn dileu'r gwahaniaeth trefniadaeth rhwng polisi a darpariaeth.

Rhaid herio'n gadarn sut yr ydym yn cyflwyno hyn. Gwyddom, er enghraifft, y bydd cyfarwyddwyr yr adrannau newydd—yr Adran Menter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau a'r Adran Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau—yn mynychu pob cyfarfod pwyllgor pwnc gyda'r Gweinidog perthnasol, er mwyn sicrhau craffu. Nid oedd hyn yn wir am brif weithredwyr blaenorol y cyrff sydd wedi uno, a fyddai'n dod i gyfarfodydd hwyrach ddwywaith y flwyddyn, a hynny ar gais.

Bellach byddant yno gyda'r Gweinidog yn atebol, a chawn y cyngor allanol hwnnw drwy'r paneli cynghori, a fydd yn chwarae rhan allweddol.

Bydd y paneli hynny'n rhoi'r cyngor

all-important advice on development and policies and will play a key role in challenging, informing and shaping future plans. The recruitment of those ministerial advisory panels is under way, and will be appointed by May 2006. There will be a cross-departmental panel on skills, for example. This is about joined-up Government and I know that Alun is committed to that in relation to the importance of joining up enterprise, innovation, skills and networks. That will also be delivered in terms of that external challenge and scrutiny.

However, not all the benefits of the merger can be derived from day 1. We are already tracking financial and non-financial benefits, and this is again transparent and in the public domain. The majority will be seen from 2007, but some will be delivered from now.

I will briefly touch again on the wider aspect of openness and engaging with the public in terms of our public services. You will know that 'Making the Connections', our vision for delivering better services for Wales, will provide a clear direction and ensure better delivery. We want to empower the citizen and place the citizen at centre stage in the delivery of responsive public services.

Finally, the Government of Wales Bill will mean a big step forwards for democratic accountability here in Wales. We need to work out the specific arrangements and details of scrutiny and accountability, and that is a real opportunity for us in our new Standing Orders. However, the general principles are clear; the Bill provides that clarity between the Government or the Executive, and the legislature. We will have the governmental arm and the parliamentary arm. That is where we must get our act right, and it is right that you have given us that challenge. It is a challenge that we all need to embrace in the separation. We must get it right in terms of scrutiny and accountability.

It will be the Government's responsibility to make decisions about policies and to bring legislative proposals forwards in support of those policies, and it will be the job of the

hollbwysig hwnnw i'r Gweinidogion ar ddatblygiad a pholisïau, a bydd ganddynt ran allweddol wrth herio, hysbysu a llunio cynlluniau'r dyfodol. Mae recriwtio'r paneli cynghori gweinidogol hynny ar waith, a chânt eu penodi erbyn mis Mai 2006. Bydd panel ar draws adrannau ar sgiliau, er enghraifft. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â Llywodraeth gydgysylltiedig, a gwn fod Alun wedi ymrwymo i hynny o ran pwysigrwydd cydgysylltu menter, arloesedd, sgiliau a rhwydweithiau. Caiff hynny ei ddarparu hefyd o ran yr her a'r craffu allanol.

Fodd bynnag, ni ddaw holl fanteision yr uno o'r diwrnod cyntaf. Yr ydym eisoes yn olrhain manteision ariannol ac anariannol, ac eto mae hyn yn eglur ac ar gael yn gyhoeddus. Bydd y mwyafrif i'w gweld o 2007, ond caiff rhai eu darparu o'r funud hon.

Soniaf yn fyr unwaith eto am yr agwedd ehangach ar onestrwydd ac ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd yn ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Byddwch yn gwybod bod 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau', ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer cyflwyno gwell gwasanaethau i Gymru, yn rhoi cyfeiriad clir ac yn sicrhau gwell darpariaeth. Yr ydym am rymuso'r dinesydd a'i roi wrth wraidd cyflwyno gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ymatebol.

Yn olaf, bydd Mesur Llywodraeth Cymru yn golygu cam mawr ymlaen i atebolrwydd democrataidd yma yng Nghymru. Mae angen inni drafod y trefniadau penodol a manylion craffu ac atebolrwydd, ac mae hynny'n gyfle gwirioneddol inni yn ein Rheolau Sefydlog newydd. Fodd bynnag, mae'r egwyddorion cyffredinol yn amlwg; mae'r Mesur yn rhoi'r eglurder hwnnw rhwng y Llywodraeth neu'r Weithrediaeth, a'r corff deddfwriaethol. Bydd gennym y gangen lywodraethol a'r gangen seneddol. Dyna pam mae'n rhaid inni wneud popeth yn gywir, ac mae'n iawn eich bod wedi rhoi'r her honno inni. Mae'n her y mae angen i bob un ohonom ei derbyn yn y gwahaniad. Rhaid inni ei chael yn iawn o ran craffu ac atebolrwydd.

Cyfrifoldeb y Llywodraeth fydd gwneud penderfyniadau am bolisïau a chyflwyno cynigion deddfwriaethol i gefnogi'r polisïau hynny, a gwaith y corff deddfwriaethol fydd

legislature to scrutinise those decisions when the legislation is put before the new Assembly. That will be our real challenge. It is the people of Wales who will ultimately hold us to account—as they do now—at the ballot box, but we have a record of delivery of which we are proud.

The most recent figures show that gross value added is rising faster in Wales than it is in the UK as a whole. Prescription charges were reduced to £4 in August 2005 and to £3 only this week. There has been a continued reduction in NHS waiting lists. There were no top-up fees during the second Assembly term, and 19 out of the 22 authorities have participated in the free school breakfast initiative. Extending reduced and free bus travel will see community transport expanding across the board. That is what the people of Wales want to see in their everyday lives. There are now 150 Safe Routes to School schemes.

Lisa Francis *rose*—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister is not giving way.

Jane Hutt: In conclusion, this Government fears no scrutiny. Our value and vision is about openness and transparency, and your so-called ‘ruthless’ approach backfired today, Alun, with the censure motion against a Minister who is delivering. It was a failed and miserable censure motion. Let us all learn, Government and opposition, the way forwards.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today’s proceedings to a close.

craffu ar y penderfyniadau hynny pan roddir y ddeddfwriaeth gerbron y Cynulliad newydd. Dyna fydd ein her wirioneddol. Pobl Cymru fydd yn ein dwyn i gyfrif—fel y gwnânt yn awr—mewn etholiadau, ond mae gennym record o gyflwyno yr ydym yn ymfalch ynddi.

Mae’r ffigurau diweddaraf yn dangos bod gwerth gros ychwanegol yn codi’n gyflymach yng Nghymru nag yn y DU yn gyffredinol. Gostyngodd tâl presgripsiwn i £4 ym mis Awst 2005 ac i £3 dim ond yr wythnos hon. Gwelwyd lleihad cyson yn rhestrau aros y GIG. Nid oedd ffioedd atodol yn ystod ail dymor y Cynulliad, ac mae 19 o’r 22 awdurdod wedi cymryd rhan yn y fenter brechwast am ddim mewn ysgolion. Bydd ymestyn teithio ar fws am brisiau is ac am ddim yn golygu bod cludiant cymunedol yn ehangu’n gyffredinol. Dyna y mae pobl Cymru am ei weld yn eu bywydau beunyddiol. Erbyn hyn mae 150 o gynlluniau Llwybrau Diogel i’r Ysgol.

Lisa Francis *a gododd*—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid yw’r Gweinidog yn ildio.

Jane Hutt: I gloi, nid yw’r Llywodraeth hon yn ofni craffu. Mae ein gwerthoedd a’n gweledigaeth yn ymwneud â gonestrwydd ac eglurder, ac mae eich ymgais i fod yn ‘ddidostur’ wedi methu heddiw, Alun, gyda’r cynnig o gerydd yn erbyn Gweinidog sy’n gwneud gwahaniaeth. Yr oedd yn gynnig o gerydd aflwyddiannus a thruenus. Gadewch inni bob un, y Llywodraeth a’r gwrthbleidiau, ddysgu’r ffordd ymlaen.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 4.48 p.m.
The meeting ended at 4.48 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)
 Law, Peter (Annibynnol – Independent)
 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)