



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Y Cofnod Swyddogol)

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(The Official Record)

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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 9.05 a.m. gyda'r Llywydd yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 9.05 a.m. with the Presiding Officer in the Chair.*

Cwestiynau ar Ddatblygu Economaidd i Brif Weinidog Cymru Questions on Economic Development to the First Minister

Adfywio Hen Gymunedau Dur The Regeneration of Former Steel Communities

Q1 Lynne Neagle: Will the First Minister make a statement on discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding the regeneration of former steel communities in Wales? (OAQ14149)

The First Minister: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales—your opposite number in a constituency sense, my opposite number in another sense—on a range of issues, including the regeneration of former steel communities, particularly after the job losses at Corus announced earlier this year. The Assembly building in Crickhowell House must be one of the few places in the world where a first minister's office has a direct view of a former steelworks. That helps remind you of your duties to the people who lose jobs in the steel industry. We have discussed the £66 million Team Wales programme that has helped over 850 people who lost their jobs with Corus to secure new employment and 700 to retrain. The ambitious regeneration framework will be complete by December and the Welsh Development Agency has accelerated the development of industrial premises in the affected areas.

Lynne Neagle: Do you agree that if a sustainable future is to be provided for manufacturing in Wales, it is vital to argue strongly for British membership of the euro? Will you pledge to join the Secretary of State for Wales in calling for a yes vote when a referendum is held on the euro in order to ensure that the buoyant economy and positive outlook described by Dafydd Wigley in the *South Wales Echo* this week is sustained?

The First Minister: I was struck as much as you were by the positive note taken in the

C1 Lynne Neagle: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar y trafodaethau a fu rhyngddo ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynghylch adfywio hen gymunedau dur Cymru? (OAQ14149)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Caf drafodaethau rheolaidd ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru—sy'n cyfateb â chi yn yr ystyr etholaethol ac yn cyfateb â mi mewn ystyr arall—ar amrywiaeth o faterion, gan gynnwys adfywio'r hen gymunedau dur, yn enwedig ar ôl diswyddiadau Corus a gyhoeddwyd yn gynharach eleni. Mae'n rhaid mai adeilad y Cynulliad yn Nhŷ Crucywel yw un o'r ychydig lefydd yn y byd lle y gwelir hen waith dur yn glir o swyddfa prif weinidog. Mae hynny yn eich atgoffa o'ch dyletswyddau i'r bobl sy'n colli eu swyddi yn y diwydiant dur. Trafodasom raglen Tîm Cymru gwerth £66 miliwn sydd wedi helpu dros 850 o bobl a gollodd eu swyddi gyda Corus i ddod o hyd i swyddi newydd a helpu 700 i ailhyfforddi. Cwblheir y fframwaith adfywio uchelgeisiol erbyn Rhagfyr ac mae Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru wedi cyflymu'r broses o ddatblygu eiddo diwydiannol yn yr ardaloedd yr effeithiwyd arnynt.

Lynne Neagle: A gytunwch ei bod yn hanfodol dadlau'n gryf y dylai Prydain ymuno â'r ewro er mwyn darparu dyfodol cynaliadwy i weithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru? A rowch addewid i ymuno ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru wrth alw am bleidlais o blaid ymuno, pan gynhelir refferendwm ar yr ewro er mwyn sicrhau y cynhelir yr economi ffyniannus a'r rhagolygon cadarnhaol a ddisgrifiwyd gan Dafydd Wigley yn y *South Wales Echo* yr wythnos hon?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Fe'm trawyd innau gymaint â chithau gan nodyn cadarnhaol cyn

South Wales Echo by the former leader of Plaid Cymru—he is sitting in my seat. [Laughter.]

The Presiding Officer: Order.

The First Minister: I was pleased about that positive note. I would like to see more of that in this Chamber. On the euro, it is important that we go in at the right rate. Different sectors of industry will have different views about whether it should be at 2.80 or 3 deutschmarks—to use the pre-euro currency—to the pound, and so on. That is the difficult issue. If we go in at the right rate, it will stabilise manufacturing and assist manufacturing investment decisions. There is no doubt about that.

Phil Williams: You accept the need for an action plan and regeneration framework for the areas of south east Wales hit by steel closures, so why do you refuse to consider the need for a regional dimension in the economic development strategy? That is urgently needed in north Wales, where the closure at Dolgarrog is a serious blow. Will you now accept Plaid Cymru's proposal for regional economic strategies to meet regional job targets?

The First Minister: It is best not to over specify. On the Economic Development Committee, you and Dafydd Wigley suggested seven regional targets for Wales. That is far too many. We have made our commitments on how we will regenerate the Objective 1 areas of Wales. For the time being, and unless we see evidence that it fails to deliver for the regions outside Objective 1, we should stick to our two regional targets—Objective 1 Wales and the one third of Wales outside Objective 1. If that does not work, I would be happy to consider further regional breakdowns. However, if you break down Wales into regions in such a way as to create an overly rigid framework, in which developments must take place in certain areas, then that becomes difficult to operate.

arweinydd Plaid Cymru yn y *South Wales Echo*—mae'n eistedd yn fy sedd i. [Chwerthin.]

Y Llywydd: Trefn.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr oeddwn yn falch o ddarllen y nodyn cadarnhaol hwnnw. Hoffwn weld mwy o hynny yn y Siambr hon. Ar fater yr ewro, mae'n bwysig inni ymuno ar y gyfradd gywir. Bydd gan wahanol sectorau diwydiant safbwyntiau gwahanol ynglŷn ag a ddylai fod ar gyfradd o 2.80 neu 3 deutschmark—i ddefnyddio arian cyfredol cyn yr ewro—i'r bunt, ac ati. Dyna'r mater anodd. Os ymunwn ar y gyfradd gywir, bydd yn sefydlogi gweithgynhyrchu ac yn cynorthwyo'r broses o wneud penderfyniadau buddsoddi ym maes gweithgynhyrchu. Nid oes amheuaeth am hynny.

Phil Williams: Rydych yn derbyn yr angen am gynllun gweithredu a fframwaith adfywio i ardaloedd y De-ddwyrain yr effeithiwyd arnynt gan y diswyddiadau yn y diwydiant dur, felly paham y gwrthodwch ystyried yr angen am ddimensiwn rhanbarthol yn y strategaeth datblygu economaidd? Mae angen hynny ar fyrder yn y Gogledd, gan fod y diswyddiadau yn Nolgarrog yn ergyd ddifrifol. A dderbyniwch yn awr gynnig Plaid Cymru am strategaethau economaidd rhanbarthol er mwyn cyflawni targedau swyddi rhanbarthol?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'n well peidio â gorfanylu. Yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd bu i chi a Dafydd Wigley awgrymu saith targed rhanbarthol i Gymru. Mae hynny'n ormod o lawer. Rydym wedi gwneud ein hymrwymiaadau ynglŷn â'r modd y byddwn yn adfywio ardaloedd Amcan 1 Cymru. Am nawr, ac oni welwn dystiolaeth nad yw'n llwyddo i gyrraedd y nod ar gyfer y rhanbarthau y tu allan i Amcan 1, dylem barhau â'n dau darged rhanbarthol—Cymru Amcan 1 a'r traean hwnnw o Gymru sydd y tu allan i Amcan 1. Os na fydd hynny'n gweithio, buaswn yn falch o ystyried rhaniadau rhanbarthol pellach. Fodd bynnag, os rhannwch Gymru yn rhanbarthau yn y fath fodd ag y byddai'n creu fframwaith rhy gadarn, lle y byddai'n rhaid i ddatblygiadau ddigwydd mewn ardaloedd penodol, byddai hynny wedyn yn anodd ei weithredu.

**Rhoi Argymhellion yr Astudiaeth ar Gymunedau Dur ar Waith
Implementing the Recommendations of the Steel Communities Study**

Q2 The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Will the First Minister make a statement on the action plan to implement the recommendations of the steel communities study? (OAQ14124)

The First Minister: The recommendations of the steel communities study, commissioned from the Cardiff University Regeneration Institute, have been considered by Assembly policy divisions, the Welsh Development Agency and Education and Learning Wales, and turned into an action plan. That has been approved by the Cabinet working group on Corus and will be made available to the Economic Development Committee shortly. It will then be taken forward by the Assembly Government, its agencies and partners, especially in local government.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Will the Minister ensure that funds released to regenerate former steel communities in Wales will be equally distributed between the areas where the steelworks were located and the areas from which a large proportion of the workforce was drawn?

The First Minister: Phil referred earlier to the fact that we considered a sub-regional framework for areas where most jobs were lost, following the Corus announcement in January or February. We considered a sub-regional framework for Gwent because, although the job losses were in Newport and Ebbw Vale, they greatly affected areas such as Torfaen and large parts of Caerphilly.

Brian Gibbons: An important issue in former steel communities, as they currently exist, is the spending power of the workers and ex-workers. Do you have any information on the progress being made on the iron and steel employees re-adaptation benefit payments?

The First Minister: The payments are being processed. However, I do not have information on whether the money has been paid to individuals. I will write to you, Brian,

C2 Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar y cynllun gweithredu i roi argymhellion yr astudiaeth ar gymunedau dur ar waith? (OAQ14124)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ystyriwyd argymhellion yr astudiaeth ar gymunedau dur a gomisiynwyd gan Athrofa Adfywio Prifysgol Caerdydd gan is-adrannau polisi'r Cynulliad, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru, ac wedi'u troi'n gynllun gweithredu. Cymeradwywyd hynny gan weithgor y Cabinet ar Corus a chaiff ei ryddhau i'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd cyn bo hir. Yna caiff ei roi ar waith gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, ei hasiantaethau a'i phartneriaid, yn enwedig mewn llywodraeth leol.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog sicrhau y caiff yr arian a ryddheir i adfywio hen gymunedau dur yng Nghymru ei ddosbarthu'n gyfartal rhwng yr ardaloedd y lleolwyd y gweithfeydd dur ynddynt a'r ardaloedd y deuai cyfran helaeth o'r gweithlu ohonynt?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cyfeiriodd Phil yn gynharach at y ffaith ein bod wedi ystyried fframwaith is-ranbarthol ar gyfer ardaloedd lle y collwyd mwyafrif y swyddi yn dilyn cyhoeddiad Corus yn Ionawr neu Chwefror. Ystyriwyd fframwaith is-ranbarthol ar gyfer Gwent oherwydd, er mai yng Nghasnewydd a Glynabwy yr oedd y diswyddiadau, roeddent yn effeithio'n fawr ar ardaloedd fel Tor-faen a rhannau helaeth o Gaerffili.

Brian Gibbons: Mater pwysig yn yr hen gymunedau dur, fel y maent ar hyn o bryd, yw grym gwario'r gweithwyr a'r cyn weithwyr. A oes gennych unrhyw wybodaeth ar y cynnydd a wneir ar fudd-daliadau ailaddasu gweithwyr haearn a dur?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'r taliadau yn cael eu prosesu. Fodd bynnag, nid oes gennyf wybodaeth ynghylch pa un a dalwyd yr arian i unigolion. Ysgrifennaf atoch, Brian, ynglŷn

about the progress of the payouts and circulate the information to others in the Assembly with an interest in steel. I do not have those figures with me.

William Graham: There is concern that there seems to be inequality in terms of the treatment of Corus ex-workers, and workers made redundant from other industries. Can you clarify that point?

The First Minister: The Treaty of Paris was signed in 1951, some six or seven years before the Treaty of Rome. It was specific to iron, steel and coal workers and conferred rights and duties on those industries. A turnover tax was placed on the coal and steel industries and the money put into a kitty, which was to be paid out to those industries' employees under certain conditions of job losses. There are no similar schemes for other industries. When the Treaty of Paris expires—it either expired on 31 March this year or will do so on 31 March 2002; I cannot remember which—it will no longer be possible to make those payments in relation to the steel and coal industries. It has never been possible to make such payments in relation to other industries.

Cytundebau Menter ar y Cyd Rhwng Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Chynghorau Lleol Joint Venture Agreements between the WDA and Local Councils

Q3 Peter Black: What work has the First Minister done to review joint venture agreements between the Welsh Development Agency and local councils? (OAQ14098) [R]

The First Minister: None, because the operational details of joint venture agreements between the Welsh Development Agency and local authorities are a matter for the bodies concerned. There is no bar on the WDA working in partnership with local authorities and others in order to undertake comprehensive redevelopment in towns and cities throughout Wales. However, I do not get involved in the detail, therefore have not reviewed a joint venture agreement.

Peter Black: Do you share my concern that the WDA has, effectively, refused to pursue its joint venture agreement with Bridgend County Borough Council in relation to

â hynt y taliadau gan rannu'r wybodaeth ag eraill yn y Cynulliad sydd â diddordeb mewn dur. Nid yw'r ffigurau hynny gennyf.

William Graham: Mae pryder ynglŷn â'r ffaith yr ymddengys fod anghyfartaledd o ran triniaeth cyn weithwyr Corus, a gweithwyr a ddiswyddwyd o ddiwydiannau eraill. A allwch egluro'r pwynt hwnnw?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Llofnodwyd Cytundeb Paris yn 1951, ryw chwe neu saith mlynedd cyn Cytundeb Rhufain. Roedd yn ymwneud yn benodol â gweithwyr haearn, dur a glo gan roi hawliau a dyletswyddau i'r diwydiannau hynny. Rhoddwyd treth trosiant ar y diwydiannau glo a dur a rhoddwyd yr arian o'r neilltu. Roedd yr arian hwnnw i'w dalu i weithwyr y diwydiannau hynny o dan amodau penodol pe collwyd swyddi. Ni cheir cynlluniau tebyg ar gyfer diwydiannau eraill. Pan ddaw Cytundeb Paris i ben—un ai y daeth i ben ar 31 Mawrth eleni neu y daw i ben ar 31 Mawrth 2002; ni allaf gofio pa un—ni fydd yn bosibl wedyn i wneud y taliadau hynny o ran y diwydiannau dur a glo. Ni fu erioed yn bosibl gwneud taliadau o'r fath o ran diwydiannau eraill.

C3 Peter Black: Pa waith y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru wedi'i wneud i adolygu cytundebau menter ar y cyd rhwng Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a chynghorau lleol? (OAQ14098) [R]

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Dim, oherwydd bod manylion gweithredol cytundebau mentrau ar y cyd rhwng Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol yn fater i'r cyrff dan sylw. Nid oes gwaharddiad ar y WDA rhag gweithio mewn partneriaeth ag awdurdodau lleol ac eraill er mwyn ymgymryd â gwaith ailddatblygu cynhwysfawr mewn trefi a dinasoedd ledled Cymru. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf yn ymwneud â'r manylion, felly nid wyf wedi adolygu cytundeb menter ar y cyd.

Peter Black: A rannwch fy mhryder bod y WDA, i bob pwrpas, wedi gwrthod parhau â'i gytundeb menter ar y cyd â Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn

Porthcawl? Bridgend council unilaterally pulled out of that agreement. In doing so, it has left Porthcawl without a regeneration scheme, and in limbo with regard to its future.

9:15 a.m.

The First Minister: Yes. I agree with you regarding the delights of Porthcawl. Only last Sunday I enjoyed a cappuccino on the seafront there as the sun set. It reminded me of what a wonderful place Porthcawl is, and what unexploited tourism potential it has. I think that your question contained its answer. You mentioned Bridgend County Borough Council, having undertaken its consultation exercise, pulling out of the agreement. The WDA's response was to throw its hands up and say 'OK, if our partners in local government do not want to proceed, there is nothing we can do'. Any joint venture scheme must have a democratic base, and if a local referendum results in a strong vote against—I think it was something like 2:1 against—that leaves the WDA in a difficult situation in trying to push a scheme through in the face of what appears to be strong local opinion against it. You must then recognise that a vacuum has been created, and look at other ways of fully exploiting Porthcawl's remarkable tourism potential.

Alun Cairns: I appreciate that the Minister for Economic Development does not usually become involved in joint venture agreements between the WDA and local authorities. However, because of its importance to the National Assembly's tourism strategy, will he show an interest in this? When he considers the details, he will see that part of the reason why the local community rejected the WDA's proposals was that a general, broad-thrust plan was not presented to it. The community felt that it could be voting for a pig in a poke.

The First Minister: I am happy to speak to the chair of the WDA and to Bridgend council about this issue. However, it was only on 17 October that Bridgend council resolved not to sell its land to the WDA to allow for this comprehensive redevelopment.

ymwneud â Phorthcawl? Tynnodd cyngor Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr allan o'r cytundeb hwnnw a hynny'n unochrog. Wrth wneud hynny, mae wedi gadael Porthcawl heb gynllun adfywio, ac yn ansicr ynghylch ei dyfodol.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ydw. Cytunaf â chi ynghylch rhagoriaethau Porthcawl. Ddydd Sul diwethaf, mwynheais cappuccino ar lan y môr yno wrth i'r haul fachlud. Fe'm hatgoffwyd pa mor wych yw Porthcawl a'r potensial o ran twristiaeth sydd yno ond sydd heb ei ddatblygu. Credaf fod yr ateb i'w gael yn eich cwestiwn. Bu ichi grybwyll y ffaith i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, ar ôl ymgynghori, dynnu allan o'r cytundeb. Ymateb y WDA oedd taflu ei freichiau i'r awyr gan ddweud 'Os nad yw'n partneriaid llywodraeth leol am fynd yn eu blaenau, nid oes unrhyw beth y gallwn wneud'. Mae'n rhaid bod gan unrhyw gynllun menter ar y cyd sail ddemocrataidd, ac os mai pleidlais gref yn erbyn fydd canlyniadau refferendwm lleol—credaf mai rhywbeth yn debyg i 2:1 yn erbyn ydoedd—mae hynny'n rhoi'r WDA mewn sefyllfa anodd wrth geisio gwthio cynllun drwyddo yn wyneb yr hyn yr ymddengys fel barn leol gref yn ei erbyn. Rhaid ichi wedyn gydnabod i wactod gael ei greu, ac edrych ar ffyrdd eraill o ddatblygu potensial twristiaeth hynod Porthcawl.

Alun Cairns: Gwn nad yw'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd fel arfer yn ymwneud â chytundebau menter ar y cyd rhwng y WDA ac awdurdodau lleol. Fodd bynnag, oherwydd ei bwysigrwydd i strategaeth twristiaeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, a wnaiff ef ddangos diddordeb yn hwn? Pan fydd yn ystyried y manylion, fe wêl mai rhan o'r rheswm paham y gwrthodwyd cynigion y WDA gan y gymuned leol oedd na chyflwynwyd cynllun cyffredinol, eang ei fwriad iddi. Teimlai'r gymuned y gallai fod yn pleidleisio dros gath mewn cwd.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn fodlon trafod y mater hwn â chadeirydd y WDA ac â chyngor Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Fodd bynnag, dim ond ar 17 Hydref y penderfynodd cyngor Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr beidio â gwerthu ei dir i'r WDA i ganiatáu'r ailddatblygu helaeth hwn.

Therefore, no time has been lost. I will report back to the Assembly, through the Economic Development Committee, perhaps, on the views of the WDA and Bridgend council on what we do now that the mark 1 scheme has been terminated.

Felly, ni wastraffwyd amser. Byddaf yn adrodd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad, drwy'r Pwllgor Datblygu Economaidd, efallai, ar farn y WDA a chyngor Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ar yr hyn y dylid ei wneud gan fod fersiwn 1 y cynllun bellach wedi'i ddiddymu.

Cyflwyno Amrywiadau Ariannol yn Rhai o Ardaloedd Cymru Introducing Fiscal Variations in Areas of Wales

C4 Dafydd Wigley: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddweud beth yw'r newyddion diweddaraf parthed y trafodaethau â Thrysorlys y DU ynghylch y posibilrwydd o gyflwyno amrywiadau ariannol yn rhai o ardaloedd Cymru? (OAQ14107)

Q4 Dafydd Wigley: Will the First Minister give an update on the situation of the discussions with the UK Treasury regarding the possibility of introducing fiscal variations in areas of Wales? (OAQ14107)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Byddaf yn dosbarthu adroddiad PricewaterhouseCoopers ar amrywiadau ariannol—amrywiadau mewn trethi, mewn geiriau eraill—i aelodau'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd ddydd Llun nesaf. Hefyd, byddaf yn cyflwyno papur ar y cynllun gweithredu a seiliwyd ar yr adroddiad.

The First Minister: I will circulate copies of the PricewaterhouseCoopers report on fiscal variations—or in other words, tax variations—to members of the Economic Development Committee on Monday. I will also present a paper on the action plan which was based on the report.

Dafydd Wigley: Pa Weinidog fydd yn cwrdd â'r Trysorlys i drafod y materion hyn? Pa bryd y cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod diwethaf?

Dafydd Wigley: Which Minister will discuss these matters with the Treasury? When was the last meeting held?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid oes gennyf fanylion yma, ond wrth ddisbarthu adroddiad PricewaterhouseCoopers, a'r adroddiad gan swyddogion y Cynulliad, byddaf yn cynnwys gwybodaeth ar pryd y cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod diwethaf.

The First Minister: I do not have those details here, but when I circulate the PricewaterhouseCoopers report, and the report by Assembly officials, I will include information on when the last meeting was held.

Mick Bates: We note from the Chancellor of the Exchequer's last budget statement, that he is prepared to use regional fiscal variations to meet some public policy goals. Hence the announcement on stamp duty exemptions and community investment tax credits for certain deprived communities. Does the First Minister agree that a further regional enhancement for research and development tax credits could assist with Wales's deficit in business research and development?

Mick Bates: Nodwn o ddatganiad diwethaf Canghellor y Trysorlys ar y gyllideb, ei fod yn barod i ddefnyddio amrywiadau ariannol rhanbarthol i gyflawni rhai nodau polisi cyhoeddus. Yn sgîl hynny, cafwyd y cyhoeddiad ar eithriadau'r dreth stamp a chredyd treth ar fuddsoddi cymunedol i rai cymunedau difreintiedig. A gytuna'r Prif Weinidog y gallai cynnydd rhanbarthol pellach o ran credyd treth ar waith ymchwil a datblygu fod o fudd wrth geisio cywiro diffyg Cymru o ran ymchwil a datblygu busnes?

The First Minister: I strongly endorse that view, and would commend it to the Treasury.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cymeradwyaf y farn honno yn gryf, a byddwn yn ei chymeradwyo i'r Trysorlys.

Glyn Davies: My main concern regarding

Glyn Davies: Fy mhrif bryder o ran eich

your national economic development strategy document is that its prosperity growth targets are set so unrealistically high that the strategy lacks credibility and integrity. Do you accept that without the sort of fiscal variations introduced in Ireland over recent years, your NEDS targets are hopelessly unachievable? Will you also tell us who is meeting Treasury Ministers, as Dafydd Wigley asked earlier?

strategaeth datblygu economaidd genedlaethol yw bod ei thargedau twf ffyniant wedi eu gosod mor afrealistig o uchel fel nad yw'r strategaeth yn meddu ar hygrededd nac integredd. A dderbyniwch ei bod yn amhosibl cyrraedd targedau eich strategaeth datblygu economaidd genedlaethol heb y math o amrywiadau cyllidol a gyflwynwyd yn Iwerddon yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf? A ddywedwch wrthym hefyd pwy sy'n cyfarfod â Gweinidogion y Trysorlys, fel y gofynnodd Dafydd Wigley yn gynharach?

The First Minister: The meetings were between our officials and Treasury officials. The meetings have progressed consistently along those lines. That team of officials then reports to the Economic Development Committee on the progress of the discussions. You made a good point about the national economic development strategy document and the targets of halving the prosperity gap between Wales and the UK on average. However, I would put it the other way around. You should set an ambitious, but achievable, target and then ask, 'What do we need to do to achieve gross domestic product per head of 90 per cent of the UK average, instead of the 80 per cent that we currently have?' Among the measures that must be introduced to reach that target could be some form of tax varying powers, such as those Mick Bates mentioned earlier. The right way to look at it is to say that in order to meet a target, the following 20 objectives must be achieved between 2000 and 2010. The one you mentioned could well be one of them.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cynhaliwyd y cyfarfodydd rhwng ein swyddogion ni a swyddogion y Trysorlys. Mae'r cyfarfodydd wedi datblygu'n rheolaidd yn y cyd-destun hwnnw. Yna mae'r tîm hwnnw o swyddogion yn cyflwyno adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd ar gynnydd y trafodaethau. Gwnaethoch bwynt da ynglŷn â'r strategaeth datblygu economaidd genedlaethol a'r targedau i haneru'r bwch ffyniant rhwng Cymru a'r DU ar gyfartaledd. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn ei ddweud mewn ffordd arall. Dylech osod targed uchelgeisiol, ond cyraeddadwy, a gofyn wedyn, 'Beth sydd angen inni ei wneud i gyflawni cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen sydd yn 90 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU, yn lle'r 80 y cant sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd?' Gallai rhyw fath o bwerau amrywio treth, fel y rhai y soniodd Mick Bates amdanynt yn gynharach, fod ymhlith y mesurau y mae'n rhaid eu cyflwyno i gyrraedd y targed hwnnw. Y ffordd gywir o edrych ar hyn yw drwy ddweud bod yn rhaid i'r 20 o amcanion canlynol gael eu bodloni rhwng 2000 a 2010 er mwyn cyrraedd targed. Gallai'r un y bu ichi sôn amdano fod yn un ohonynt.

Memorandwm Dealltwriaeth Memorandum of Understanding

C5 Cynog Dafis: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar y memorandwm cyd-ddealltwriaeth a lofnodwyd yn ddiweddar rhwng Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru? (OAQ14104)

Q5 Cynog Dafis: Will the First Minister make a statement on the memorandum of understanding signed recently between the WDA and Education and Learning Wales? (OAQ14104)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn falch bod y ddau gorff pwysicaf ym maes datblygu economaidd a hyfforddiant wedi cytuno ar y memorandwm cyd-ddealltwriaeth. Bydd hyn

The First Minister: I am delighted that the two key players in economic development and training have agreed the memorandum of understanding. It will ensure that they adopt a

yn sicrhau eu bod yn mabwysiadu partneriaeth wirioneddol i gynyddu i'r eithaf effaith eu gwaith ar economi Cymru. Byddant hefyd yn gwneud yr un peth a wnaeth Iwerddon yn ystod y degawd diwethaf, sef i godi lefel y sgiliau ac i gynyddu'r swyddi sydd angen y sgiliau hynny ar yr un pryd. Nid oes yr un wlad arall yn Ewrop sydd wedi gallu gwneud y ddau beth hynny gyda'i gilydd. Dyna pam mae sefydlu memorandwm cyd-ddealltwriaeth rhwng y ddau gorff hyn ar ddechrau'r degawd ac ar ddechrau cyfnod y cynllun 10 mlynedd mor bwysig.

Cynog Dafis: Yr wyf yn cytuno bod cyd-gysylltu addysg a hyfforddiant â datblygu economaidd yn allweddol os ydym am drawsnewid economi Cymru. A yw'r Prif Weinidog yn cytuno bod creu amgylchiadau a strategaeth a fydd yn denu cynifer â phosibl o'n pobl ifanc ddawnus a gweithgar ni i dderbyn eu haddysg a chreu gyrfa lwyddiannus iddynt eu hunain yng Nghymru, fel y mae cynllun corfforaethol drafft ELWa yn nodi yn flaenoriaeth?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ydw, yr wyf yn derbyn hynny. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf am i hynny gael ei ddehongli mewn un ffordd arbennig. Mae Cynog a minnau wedi cytuno ar bopeth hyd yn hyn, ond efallai y byddem yn anghytuno ar y ffaith bod angen i rai o bobl Cymru fynd y tu allan i Gymru ar gyfer rhwy agwedd ar eu gyrfa neu eu haddysg uwch.

Peter Law: Will the First Minister join me in commending ELWa on agreeing to give ex-Bosal workers parity of treatment with ex-Corus workers in my constituency—an area which has suffered steelworks closures—in applying for retraining grants? ELWa has agreed to do that, because it is a steel closure area and a special case. I thank the First Minister for his support and the encouragement he gave to ELWa to reach that agreement—so there, William.

The First Minister: I am grateful for that commendation of ELWa's excellent work. It has a large budget of some £400 million. The WDA has a large budget of some £200

true partnership to maximise the impact of their work on the Welsh economy. As Ireland has done over the last decade, they will raise skill levels while simultaneously increasing the number of jobs requiring those skills. No other country in Europe has succeeded in doing those two things together. That is why the memorandum of understanding between these two bodies, at the start of the decade and at the beginning of this 10-year scheme, is so important.

Cynog Dafis: I agree that linking education and training to economic development is crucial if we are to transform the Welsh economy. Does the First Minister agree that creating the circumstances and strategy that will attract as many of our talented and hard working young people as possible to receive their education and create a successful career for themselves in Wales, as the ELWa corporate draft plan notes, is a priority?

The First Minister: Yes, I accept that. However, I do not want that to be construed in one particular way. Cynog and I have agreed on everything so far, but we might differ on the fact that some people in Wales may need to go outside Wales for some aspects of their career or higher education.

Peter Law: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ymuno â mi i ganmol ELWa ar gytuno i drin cyn weithwyr Bosal yn yr un ffordd â chyn weithwyr Corus yn fy etholaeth—ardal sydd wedi dioddef o ganlyniad i gau gweithfeydd dur—wrth wneud cais am grantiau ailhyfforddi? Mae ELWa wedi cytuno i wneud hynny, gan ei bod yn ardal lle y caewyd gweithfeydd dur, ac mae'n achos arbennig. Diolchaf i'r Prif Weinidog am y gefnogaeth a'r anogaeth a roddodd i ELWa wrth ddod i'r cytundeb hwnnw—felly dyna ni, William.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i chi am ganmol gwaith rhagorol ELWa. Mae ganddo gyllideb fawr o tua £400 miliwn. Mae gan y WDA gyllideb fawr o tua

million. Therefore, between them, £600 million is being invested in skills development and economic development. That is spent throughout Wales. However, sometimes there are particular problems, such as those in Blaenau Gwent after the closure of the steelworks. Given the narrow economic base which Blaenau Gwent has always suffered from, being almost purely and simply a steel, tinplate and coal area, and its lack of diversity, training to face a wider world of different economic opportunities is crucial—perhaps more so for Blaenau Gwent than for any other area of Wales.

£200 miliwn. Felly, rhyngddynt, caiff £600 miliwn ei fuddsoddi mewn datblygu sgiliau a datblygu economaidd. Caiff y swm hwnnw ei wario ledled Cymru. Fodd bynnag, ceir problemau penodol weithiau, fel y rhai ym Mlaenau Gwent yn sgîl cau'r gweithfeydd dur. O gofio'r sylfaen economaidd gul y mae Blaenau Gwent wedi ei dioddef erioed, o fod yn ardal dur, tunplat a glo i raddau helaeth, ac mae ei diffyg amrywiaeth a hyfforddiant i wynebu byd ehangach o gyfleoedd economaidd gwahanol yn holl bwysig—yn fwy felly i Flaenau Gwent, efallai, nag i unrhyw ardal arall yng Nghymru.

Helpu Busnesau Cymru Helping Businesses in Wales

Q6 The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): What has the First Minister done to help businesses in Wales be innovative, forward thinking, market leaders? (OAQ14116)

The First Minister: Two ideas that excited a great deal of interest following their publication last month in the draft national economic development strategy document were the proposed Welsh centre for manufacturing excellence and the proposal for a technology commercialisation centre. Two tenders for the Welsh centre for manufacturing excellence representing the more favoured joint bids were received by the deadline. These are currently being evaluated by a panel with private sector representation before a final decision is made later this month on taking this forward.

Nick Bourne: Earlier this year, the WDA's mid Wales innovation challenge 2001 awards were announced and I wrote to companies in my own constituency congratulating them. Two of those—and I have written to you with the details—Quantum Software Services Cyf, in Rhaeadr, and Evnatech Cymru Cyf, in Llanarth, have had problems in raising money from banks. Will you join me in urging banks to be more visionary and forward looking in terms of making money available for successful projects?

C6 Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Beth mae Prif Weinidog Cymru wedi'i wneud i helpu busnesau Cymru i fod yn arweinwyr arloesol a blaengar ym maes y farchnad? (OAQ14116)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Y ddau syniad a greodd lawer iawn o ddiddordeb yn dilyn eu cyhoeddiad fis diwethaf yn y ddogfen strategaeth datblygu economaidd genedlaethol ddrafft oedd y ganolfan arfaethedig dros ragoriaeth gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru a'r cynnig ar gyfer canolfan fasnacheiddio technoleg. Derbyniwyd dau dendr erbyn y dyddiad cau ar gyfer y ganolfan dros ragoriaeth gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru a oedd yn cynrychioli'r cynigion ar y cyd mwyaf ffafriedig. Fe'u gwerthusir ar hyn o bryd gan banel o gynrychiolwyr o'r sector preifat cyn gwneud penderfyniad terfynol yn ddiweddarach y mis hwn ar ddatblygu hyn.

Nick Bourne: Yn gynharach eleni, cyhoeddwyd gwobrau her arloesedd 2001 canolbarth Cymru gan y WDA ac ysgrifennais at y cwmnïau yn fy etholaeth i'w llongyfarch. Cafodd dau ohonynt—ac ysgrifennais atoch gyda'r manylion hynny—Quantum Software Services Cyf, yn Rhaeadr Gwy, ac Evnatech Cymru Cyf, yn Llanarth, broblemau i godi arian o'r banciau. A ymunwch â mi i annog y banciau i fod yn fwy gweledigaethol a blaengar o ran sicrhau bod arian ar gael ar gyfer prosiectau llwyddiannus?

9:25 a.m.

The First Minister: Yes. If companies fail to get satisfaction from the regular high street banks, it is possibly worth their while to approach Finance Wales. Some of the onerous terms that high street banks can demand in terms of security for overdrafts can be avoided by going to Finance Wales for expansion capital. It is not a give-away, but it is a much more user-friendly approach for companies that have bright ideas and want to expand.

Christine Champan: Do you agree that Objective 1 is now proving a success and that there is a new spirit of confidence in new innovative businesses in Wales? Do you agree with Mandi Lea Abrahams, the network manager for Wales Fast Growth 50 at Bangor University, who said yesterday,

‘Contrary to the doom and gloom messages coming out from the Confederation of British Industry last week, the word from the fast growth 50 companies in manufacturing and engineering is hang on in there’.

The First Minister: Yes. We all accept that the high pound and the consequences of the events of 11 September for the aerospace industry mean that the situation is tough at present and may remain so through the winter. There is no doubt about that. However, that is when the sheep are separated from the goats. Those companies that have the nous, the new and niche products, aggressive marketing and the ability to do something special that separates them from the crowd, will prosper during what may be a tough next few months for manufacturing.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gwnaf. Os bydd cwmnïau yn methu â chael banciau arferol y stryd fawr i roi arian iddynt, efallai y byddai'n werth iddynt fynd at Cyllid Cymru. Gellir osgoi rhai o'r amodau beichus y gall banciau'r stryd fawr eu mynnu o ran sicrwydd ar gyfer gorddrafft drwy fynd at Cyllid Cymru i gael cyfalaf ehangu. Nid yw'n arian sydd ar gael yn hawdd, ond mae'n ddull llawer mwy hwylus i'r cwmnïau sydd â syniadau da ac sydd am ehangu.

Christine Chapman: A gytunwch fod Amcan 1 yn llwyddo yn awr a bod ysbryd newydd o hyder mewn busnesau arloesol newydd yng Nghymru? A gytunwch gyda Mandi Lea Abrahams, y rheolwraig rhwydwaith ar gyfer Wales Fast Growth 50 ym Mhrifysgol Bangor, a ddywedodd ddoe,

‘Yn groes i gân alarus a digalon Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain yr wythnos diwethaf, neges y 50 o gwmnïau sy'n tyfu gyflymaf ym meysydd gweithgynhyrchu a pheiriannu yw ‘dal dy dir’.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ydw. Mae pob un ohonom yn derbyn bod y bunt uchel a chanlyniadau digwyddiadau 11 Medi i'r diwydiant aerofod yn golygu bod y sefyllfa yn anodd iawn ar hyn o bryd a gall aros felly drwy gydol y gaeaf. Nid oes amheuaeth ynglŷn â hynny. Fodd bynnag, dyna pryd y y didolir y goreuon. Bydd y cwmnïau hynny sydd â'r crebwyll, y cynnyrch newydd ac arbenigol, marchnata grymus a'r gallu i wneud rhywbeth arbennig sy'n eu gwahanu oddi wrth bawb arall, yn ffynnu yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf a allai fod yn anodd i'r diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu.

Creu Awdurdod Buddsoddi Cymunedol Creating a Community Investment Authority

C7 Eleanor Burnham: Pa ddatblygiadau a fu o ran gwireddu addewid y cytundeb partneriaeth i greu awdurdod buddsoddi cymunedol? (OAQ14154)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr ydym wedi bod yn ystyried y posibilrwydd o sefydlu awdurdod buddsoddi cymunedol. Mae datblygiadau diweddar wedi ymdrin â rhai o'r

Q7 Eleanor Burnham: What progress has been made in delivering the partnership agreement pledge to create a community investment authority? (OAQ14154)

The First Minister: We have been considering the possibility of creating a community investment authority. Recent developments have addressed some of the

pryderon ynghylch y cynnig gwreiddiol. Yn y cyfamser, y casgliad yw bod angen inni drafod y dull mwyaf effeithiol o gefnogi datblygiad a thwf yr economi gymdeithasol a busnesau cymunedol gyda'r rhai a fydd yn gysylltiedig â'r mater. Mae swyddogion wrthi'n gweithredu hyn, ac adroddwn yn ôl yn y dyfodol agos.

Eleanor Burnham: A ydych yn croesawu'r gwelliannau, ac a gytunwch y bydd yn ffordd wych o wario arian Ewropeaidd i ddatblygu cymunedau a gweithgarwch mentrau busnes?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ydw. Mae'n hollbwysig i beidio ag anghofio pwysigrwydd yr economi gymdeithasol a busnesau cymunedol. Pan siaradwn am ddiffyg entrepreneuriaeth yng Nghymru, anghofiwn o bryd i'w gilydd bod y sector gwirfoddol a'r busnesau cymunedol yng Nghymru yn sectorau cryf o gymharu â'r rhai mewn ardaloedd eraill o Brydain Fawr.

Helen Mary Jones: Does your answer not show that the community investment authority is yet another example of a coalition commitment that is simply not happening? Is that because you are not interested in pleasing your Liberal Democrat colleagues, or are you just too busy with your many jobs to get on with making it work?

The First Minister: That was a good try, but a bit cheap, Helen Mary. If something is on the way but has not yet been delivered, I do not believe that it is necessary to engage in chit chat of that kind, which is unworthy of backbenchers who previously stood for the leadership of their party, albeit unsuccessfully. [*Laughter.*] If it is on the way, accept that it is on the way.

Peter Rogers: Do you agree that if the authority is to be successful, people will need training on how to successfully run a business? How will you ensure that those two issues tie up?

The First Minister: That issue must be borne in mind. However, the kind of people who become involved in community businesses or the social economy would not

concerns about the original proposal. In the meantime, the conclusion is that we must discuss the most effective way of supporting the development and growth of the social economy and community businesses with those who will be involved. Officials are taking this forward, and we will report back in the near future.

Eleanor Burnham: Do you welcome the improvements, and do you agree that it will be a splendid way of using European funding to develop communities and business initiatives?

The First Minister: Yes. It is vital that we do not forget the importance of the social economy and community businesses. When we talk about the lack of entrepreneurship in Wales, we sometimes forget that the voluntary sector and community businesses in Wales are strong compared to those in other parts of Great Britain.

Helen Mary Jones: Onid yw eich ateb yn dangos bod yr awdurdod buddsoddi cymunedol yn enghraifft arall o ymrwymiad clymbleidiol nad yw'n digwydd? A yw hynny am nad oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn plesio eich cyd-Aelodau ym mhlaid y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, ynteu a ydych yn rhy brysur gyda'ch holl swyddi i wneud iddo weithio?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ymgais dda, ond ychydig yn ddi-werth, Helen Mary. Os oes rhywbeth ar y ffordd, ond heb ei gyflawni hyd yma, ni chredaf fod angen ymgymryd â mân siarad o'r fath, sy'n annheilwng o aelodau meinciau cefn a safodd dros arweinyddiaeth eu plaid yn y gorffennol, er yn anllwyddiannus. [*Chwerthin.*] Os yw ar y ffordd, derbyniwch ei fod ar y ffordd.

Peter Rogers: A gytunwch, os yw'r awdurdod i lwyddo, y bydd angen hyfforddi pobl ar sut i redeg busnes yn llwyddiannus? Sut y gwnewch sicrhau fod y ddau fater hynny yn cyd-fynd?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Rhaid cadw'r mater hwnnw mewn cof. Fodd bynnag, ni fydd y math o bobl a fydd yn ymwneud â busnesau cymunedol neu'r economi gymdeithasol yn

be unwilling to train to be responsible for their sectors. If you are untrained and running a private business which then fails, you have only let down yourself and your family. If you are untrained and running a community business that fails, you are letting your community down. People are conscious of that when they become board members of not-for-profit companies in the social economy sector.

anfodlon hyfforddi i fod yn gyfrifol am eu sectorau. Os nad ydych wedi eich hyfforddi ac yn rhedeg busnes preifat sydd wedyn yn methu, dim ond chi eich hun a'ch teulu yr ydych wedi eu siomi. Os nad ydych wedi eich hyfforddi ac yn rhedeg busnes cymunedol sy'n methu, byddwch yn siomi eich cymuned. Mae pobl yn ymwybodol o hynny pan fyddant yn dod yn aelodau o fyrddau cwmnïau di-elw yn y sector economi gymdeithasol.

Cwestiynau ar Gyllid i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Questions on Finance to the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities

Cost y Tir a Bennwyd ar gyfer y Siambr Newydd
Cost of the Land Designated for a New Chamber

Q1 David Davies: What is the daily cost of the non-use of the land designated for a new Chamber? (OAQ14134)

C1 David Davies: Beth yw'r gost ddyddiol o gadw'r tir a bennwyd ar gyfer y Siambr newydd yn segur? (OAQ14134)

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): There are no direct daily costs attributable to the non-use of the land designated.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Nid oes unrhyw gostau dyddiol uniongyrchol yn deillio o gadw'r tir a bennwyd yn segur.

David Davies: There are costs, because you could take the value of the land and divide it by 365, or you could work out how much the Government could make by leasing out the land on a long-term lease to a company. Therefore there are costs, and you have not chosen to answer the question. The fact of the matter is that, to date, around £6 million has been spent on a big hole in the ground. Is it not time to draw a line under this sorry shambles and ensure that taxpayers' money is better spent in Wales?

David Davies: Mae costau, gan y gallech gymryd gwerth y tir a'i rannu â 365, neu gallech gyfrifo faint y gallai'r Llywodraeth ei ennill drwy osod y tir allan ar brydles hirdymor i gwmni. Felly mae costau, ac nid ydych wedi dewis ateb y cwestiwn. Y ffaith yw bod tua £6 miliwn wedi cael ei wario, hyd yn hyn, ar dwll mawr yn y ddaear. Onid yw'n amser rhoi terfyn ar y llanastr trist hwn a sicrhau y caiff arian y trethdalwr ei wario yn well yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: You obviously did not pay attention to the debate on the building, because it indicated the arrangements for the purchase of the land for a new Assembly building. The land was given to the National Assembly for that purpose.

Edwina Hart: Mae'n amlwg nad oeddech yn talu sylw i'r ddadl ar yr adeilad, gan ei bod yn amlygu'r trefniadau ar gyfer prynu'r tir ar gyfer adeilad newydd y Cynulliad. Rhoddwyd y tir i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i'r diben hwnnw.

Tom Middlehurst: Do you agree that this continued reference to the hole in the ground is demeaning to the National Assembly? It is a travesty of what has taken place. A real

Tom Middlehurst: A gytunwch fod y cyfeiriad parhaus hwn at y twll yn y ddaear yn diraddio'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol? Mae'n gamddarlun o'r hyn sydd wedi digwydd.

investment has been made in the infrastructure, ground works and essential foundations for a new building. If we are to present the National Assembly in a positive light, is it not time that the Tories started to act more maturely in the Chamber?

Edwina Hart: I could not agree with you more, Tom. We have had debates on the new building and the current position is well known. We will build a new Assembly building that is fit for purpose and fit for democracy in Wales.

Dafydd Wigley: Is not the best way of avoiding any costs due to the non-use of the land to get on with the building work as soon as possible?

Edwina Hart: I agree, Dafydd. As you know, that is the administration's intention, and it has the support of the majority of parties in the Assembly.

Rod Richards: I congratulate the Minister on the successful completion of the traffic barrier to the site of the proposed new building. It is a wonderful structure that is aesthetic and pleasing to the eye. Will she consider the possibility of raising money for the site by charging the thousands of people who use the traffic barrier every day?

Edwina Hart: I have given no consideration to that issue.

Gwnaed buddsoddiad gwirioneddol yn yr isadeiledd, y gwaith daearol a'r seiliau hanfodol ar gyfer adeilad newydd. Os ydym am gyflwyno'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol mewn modd llewyrchus, onid yw'n bryd i'r Torïaid ddechrau ymddwyn yn fwy aeddfed yn y Siambr?

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf â chi yn llwyr, Tom. Cawsom ddadleuon ynglŷn â'r adeilad newydd ac mae'r sefyllfa bresennol yn wybyddus. Byddwn yn adeiladu adeilad newydd i'r Cynulliad sy'n addas i'r pwrpas ac yn addas i ddemocratiaeth yng Nghymru.

Dafydd Wigley: Onid y ffordd orau o osgoi unrhyw gostau sy'n deillio o beidio â defnyddio'r tir yw mynd ymlaen â'r gwaith adeiladu cyn gynted â phosibl?

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf, Dafydd. Fel y gwyddoch, dyna fwriad y weinyddiaeth, ac mae ganddi gefnogaeth y mwyaftrif o'r pleidiau yn y Cynulliad.

Rod Richards: Llongyfarchiadau i'r Gweinidog ar gwblhau'r rhwystr traffig i safle'r adeilad newydd arfaethedig yn llwyddiannus. Mae'n strwythur ardderchog sy'n chwaethus ac yn ddymunol i'r llygaid. A wnaiff hi ystyried codi arian ar gyfer y safle drwy godi tâl ar y miloedd o bobl sy'n defnyddio'r rhwystr traffig bob dydd.

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf wedi rhoi ystyriaeth i'r mater hwnnw.

Cynlluniau i Helpu Ardaloedd Gwledig Schemes to Assist Rural Areas

Q2 Peter Black: How is the Minister providing finance for schemes to assist rural areas? (OAQ14113)

Edwina Hart: As you are aware, I am providing £60 million over three years from uncommitted resources elsewhere in the Assembly's budget to fund the rural recovery package. This is in addition to the core Assembly funding.

Peter Black: Do you agree that the money provided by the National Assembly to rural areas, not only the funding to which you referred, but also relief for foot and mouth

C2 Peter Black: Sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn darparu cyllid ar gyfer cynlluniau i helpu ardaloedd gwledig? (OAQ14113)

Edwina Hart: Fel y gwyddoch, yr wyf yn darparu £60 miliwn dros dair blynedd o adnoddau eraill sydd heb eu clustnodi yng nghyllideb y Cynulliad i ariannu'r pecyn adfer gwledig. Mae hynny yn ychwanegol i arian craidd y Cynulliad.

Peter Black: A gytunwch fod yr arian a ddarperir gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar gyfer ardaloedd gwledig, nid yn unig yr arian y cyfeiriasoch ato, ond hefyd arian cymorth

disease and money for rural schools and so on, is a demonstration of the Assembly administration's commitment to the rural areas of Wales?

Edwina Hart: It is a demonstration of our commitment to all of the issues relating to rural Wales. You are right to say that we support many schemes that assist rural Wales, not only in agriculture in particular.

Elin Jones: A ydych o'r farn y byddai buddsoddi mewn ymchwiliad cyhoeddus i glwy'r traed a'r genau wedi bod yn weithred gyfrifol, er mwyn dysgu gwersi a cheisio sicrhau na fydd busnesau Cymru fyth eto yn dioddef i'r un graddau ag y bu iddynt ddioddef eleni? A ydych yn synnu felly fod eich cyd-Aelodau Llafur, a hyd yn oed y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, wedi pleidleisio yn erbyn y fath ymchwiliad ddoe yn y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig?

Edwina Hart: I stand by what my colleagues said yesterday.

Delyth Evans: The homebuy scheme, which is of great benefit to people in rural areas, is proving to be very successful, as you know, thanks to the additional money and support that you have provided. My understanding is that many people are not aware of this scheme and that where they are aware of it, the success rate is high. Will you consider measures to promote using the scheme in areas where it is not well promoted at present?

Edwina Hart: I will actively consider that matter. I will review the success of the scheme, and I have already received representations about additional resources for it.

Nick Bourne: Do you accept that the rural development budget that you are presenting today shows a virtually standstill position on finance for agriculture and rural development, in the year when the agriculture industry and rural Wales were devastated by foot and mouth disease? Despite the protestations of the Liberals—sorry, the Liberal Democrats—about the extra money

clwy'r traed a'r genau ac arian ar gyfer ysgolion gwledig ac yn y blaen, yn dystiolaeth o ymrwymiad gweinyddiaeth y Cynulliad i ardaloedd gwledig Cymru?

Edwina Hart: Mae'n dystiolaeth o'n hymrwymiad i'r holl faterion sy'n ymwneud â Chymru wledig. Yr ydych yn gywir i ddweud ein bod yn cefnogi nifer o gynlluniau sy'n cynorthwyo Cymru wledig, ac nid yn unig amaethyddiaeth yn benodol.

Elin Jones: Do you believe that investing in a public inquiry into foot and mouth disease would have been a wise move, so that we learn lessons and try to ensure that businesses in Wales never again suffer as they have suffered this year? Are you surprised therefore that your Labour colleagues, and even the Liberal Democrats, voted against such an inquiry in yesterday's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee meeting?

Edwina Hart: Glynaf at yr hyn a ddywedodd fy nghyd-Aelodau ddoe.

Delyth Evans: Mae'r cynllun prynu cartref, sydd o fudd mawr i bobl mewn ardaloedd gwledig, yn llwyddiannus iawn, fel y gwyddoch, diolch i'r arian ychwanegol a'r gefnogaeth a ddarparwyd gennych. Yr wyf ar ddeall nad oes llawer o bobl yn ymwybodol o'r cynllun hwn a lle y maent yn ymwybodol ohono, mae'r gyfradd llwyddiant yn uchel. A ystyriwch fesurau i hyrwyddo defnyddio'r cynllun mewn ardaloedd lle na chaiff ei hyrwyddo'n dda ar hyn o bryd?

Edwina Hart: Byddaf yn sicr o ystyried y mater hwnnw. Cynhaliaf arolwg o lwyddiant y cynllun, ac yr wyf eisoes wedi derbyn sylwadau ynglŷn ag adnoddau ychwanegol ar ei gyfer.

Nick Bourne: A dderbyniwch fod y gyllideb datblygu gwledig a gyflwynwch heddiw yn dangos bod y sefyllfa ariannol ar gyfer amaethyddiaeth a datblygu gwledig bron wedi aros yn ei unfan, yn y flwyddyn pan ddifrodwyd y diwydiant amaethyddiaeth a Chymru wledig gan glwy'r traed a'r genau? Er gwaethaf protestiadau'r Rhyddfrydwyr—mae'n ddrwg gennyf, y Democratiaid

for rural schools, will you confirm that your financial commitment has placed a question mark over the future of 13 schools in Pembrokeshire?

Rhyddfrydol—ynglŷn â'r arian ychwanegol ar gyfer ysgolion gwledig, a gadarnhewch fod eich ymrwymiad ariannol wedi creu ansicrwydd ynglŷn â dyfodol 13 o ysgolion yn Sir Benfro?

9:35 a.m.

Edwina Hart: A balance must be struck between the rural schools' needs and what the local authority considers to be the important areas in education development. I do not accept that we have done nothing on the rural agenda. Consider what we have allocated to rural businesses and in particular, the special grants reports. The National Assembly has focused enormously on the needs of rural Wales. I am pleased that we have been able to allocate such resources.

Edwina Hart: Mae'n rhaid cael cydbwysedd rhwng anghenion ysgolion gwledig a'r hyn y cred yr awdurdod lleol sy'n feysydd pwysig mewn datblygiad addysgol. Ni dderbyniaf nad ydym wedi gwneud dim ar yr agenda wledig. Ystyriwch yr hyn a bennwyd gennym i fusnesau gwledig ac yn arbennig, yr adroddiadau grantiau arbennig. Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol wedi canolbwyntio llawer ar anghenion Cymru wledig. Yr wyf yn falch ein bod wedi gallu pennu adnoddau o'r fath.

Eithriadau i Fformiwla Barnett Exceptions to the Barnett Formula

Q3 Janet Davies: What discussions has the Minister had with the Treasury regarding exceptions to the Barnett formula? (OAQ14087)

C3 Janet Davies: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael gyda'r Trysorlys ynghylch eithriadau i fformiwla Barnett? (OAQ14087)

Edwina Hart: None

Edwina Hart: Dim.

Janet Davies: With such a short answer it is lucky that I did not sit down. [*Laughter.*] In his speech in the House of Lords two weeks ago, during the Barnett formula debate, Lord Barnett said:

Janet Davies: Gydag ateb mor fyr mae'n ffodus nad eisteddais i lawr. [*Chwerthin.*] Yn ei araith yn Nhŷ'r Arglwyddi bythefnos yn ôl, yn ystod y ddadl ar fformiwla Barnett, dywedodd Arglwydd Barnett:

'I had always assumed that the arrangement would be temporary until a more sophisticated method could be devised which took account of needs. In fact, not only has there been no change to take account of needs, there have been only minor changes to take account of changes in population.'

Do you accept the need for urgent pressure to be brought to bear to replace the Barnett so-called formula with a needs-based mechanism capable of addressing Wales's deep infrastructural deficit as well as its ongoing public service needs?

A dderbyniwch fod angen pwyso ar fyrder i ddisodli fformiwla Barnett fel y'i gelwir â dull sy'n seiliedig ar anghenion a all fynd i'r afael â diffygion isadeiledd dwfn Cymru yn ogystal â'i hanghenion gwasanaethau cyhoeddus parhaus?

Edwina Hart: I am aware of the debate in the House of Lords, though I do not usually pay attention to discussions in an unelected chamber. On this issue, Lord Barnett is entitled to his opinion and I am entitled to mine. I share the view that there is much

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r ddadl yn Nhŷ'r Arglwyddi, er na fyddaf fel arfer yn talu sylw i drafodaethau mewn siambr anetholedig. Ar y mater hwn, mae gan Arglwydd Barnett hawl i'w farn, ac mae gennyf innau yr hawl i'm un i. Cytunaf â'r

work to be done on the 2001 to 2002 spending review. I am always conscious of needs in Wales. However, I am not certain that reopening discussions on the Barnett formula will bring the necessary benefits to Wales at this time.

farn fod llawer o waith i'w wneud ar arolwg gwariant 2001 i 2002. Yr wyf bob amser yn ymwybodol o anghenion Cymru. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf yn sicr y byddai ailagor y drafodaeth ar fformiwla Barnett yn dod â'r buddion angenrheidiol i Gymru ar hyn o bryd.

Yr Adolygiad Cynhwysfawr o Wariant 2002 The Comprehensive Spending Review 2002

Q4 Janet Ryder: Will the Minister make a statement on her priorities for the 2002 comprehensive spending review? (OAQ14091)

C4 Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ei blaenoriaethau ar gyfer yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant yn 2002? (OAQ14091)

Edwina Hart: The 2002 spending review is a UK Government spending review. I expect the Assembly to be allocated a settlement derived principally from consequential adjustments arising from changes in planned spending on comparable services in England. The settlement for Wales will be allocated to priorities to be identified by the Cabinet that reflect the objectives identified in the 'Plan for Wales'.

Edwina Hart: Adolygiad gwariant Llywodraeth y DU yw adolygiad gwariant 2002. Disgwyliaf i'r Cynulliad dderbyn setliad a ddaw yn bennaf o addasiadau canlyniadol yn deillio o newidiadau yn y gwariant a gynlluniwyd ar gyfer gwasanaethau tebyg yn Lloegr. Caiff y setliad i Gymru ei bennu yn ôl blaenoriaethau a nodir gan y Cabinet sy'n adlewyrchu'r amcanion a nodwyd yn y 'Cynllun ar gyfer Gymru'.

Janet Ryder: In the July meeting of the Local Government Partnership Council, you gave an undertaking to prioritise Communities First within your budget. Will you use any of the possibly new money to enhance the budget for Communities First? Also, will you amalgamate some of the specific grants to form a Communities First budget, and which of those specific grants will you amalgamate?

Janet Ryder: Yng nghyfarfod mis Gorffennaf o'r Cyngor Partneriaeth Llywodraeth Leol, gwnaethoch addewid i flaenoriaethu Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf o fewn eich cyllideb. A ddefnyddiwch unrhyw ran o'r arian newydd posibl i wella'r gyllideb ar gyfer Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf? Hefyd, a gyfunwch rai o'r grantiau penodol i ffurfio cyllideb Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf, a pha rai o'r grantiau penodol hynny y gwnewch chi eu cyfuno?

Edwina Hart: I will consider all those issues when the outcome of the spending review is known when we enter the next budget planning round.

Edwina Hart: Ystyriaif yr holl faterion hynny pan fydd canlyniad yr adolygiad gwariant yn hysbys pan ddown at y cylch nesaf o gynllunio'r gyllideb.

Alun Pugh: Does the Minister agree that the Safe Routes to School initiative has been a great success? The fitness of the Welsh nation can be improved if we cycle and walk more. Will you consider the provision of more safe routes to school in subsequent budgets?

Alun Pugh: A gytuna'r Gweinidog y bu'r fenter Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol yn llwyddiant ysgubol? Byddai'n bosibl gwella ffitrwydd pobl Cymru pe baem i gyd yn beicio a cherdded mwy. A ystyriwch ddarparu mwy o lwybrau diogel i'r ysgol mewn cyllidebau dilynol?

Edwina Hart: The Safe Routes to School initiative has been enormously popular. There

Edwina Hart: Bu menter Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol yn boblogaidd iawn. Mae prosiect

is a Safe Routes to School project in my home village, Gowerton. Sue Essex, as well as local authorities and schools, has been keen on this issue. I will look favourably on any requests on that matter.

David Melding: Will the Minister look at the question of increasing fees to nursing and residential homes and the subsequent required increase in councils' social services budgets?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for raising this issue. I will discuss it with Jane Hutt, the Minister responsible. We are well aware that the proper funding arrangements need to be in place in those areas.

The Presiding Officer: Question 5 (OAQ14115) and question 6 (OAQ14115) have been withdrawn.

Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol yn Nhre-gŵyr, y pentref lle yr wyf yn byw. Mae Sue Essex, yn ogystal ag awdurdodau lleol ac ysgolion, wedi bod yn frwd dros y mater hwn. Edrychaf yn ffafriol ar unrhyw geisiadau yn ymwneud â'r mater hwnnw.

David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog edrych ar fater cynyddu ffioedd cartrefi nyrsio a chartrefi preswyl a'r cynnydd gofynnol dilynol yng nghyllidebau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol cynghorau?

Edwina Hart: Diolch i chi am godi'r mater hwnnw. Trafodaf ef gyda Jane Hutt, y Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb drosto. Yr ydym yn llwyr ymwybodol bod angen gwneud y trefniadau ariannu priodol ar gyfer y meysydd hynny.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 5 (OAQ14115) a chwestiwn 6 (OAQ14115) yn ôl.

Goblygiadau Cyllido Strwythurol Ewrop The Implications of European Structural Funding

Q7 Phil Williams: When did the Minister last discuss with the Secretary of State for Wales the implications for the Assembly budget of European structural funding? (OAQ14094)

Edwina Hart: On 6 November.

Phil Williams: Last year we paid out £68 million in European grants. This was paid to the Treasury, which passed on £21 million and kept £47 million. This year, the Wales European Funding Office estimates that we will pay out £200 million and that the Treasury will only pass on £130 million. Have you pointed out to the Secretary of State for Wales that, if you add to this shortfall the fact that we have not received a penny towards match funding, we are now taking up to £150 million a year from our core funding to maintain the European programme?

Edwina Hart: We are not taking from our core funding, Phil. I raise all the issues concerning the funding priorities with regard to structural funds with the Secretary of State

C7 Phil Williams: Pryd oedd y tro diwethaf i'r Gweinidog drafod gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru oblygiadau cyllido strwythurol Ewrop i gyllideb y Cynulliad? (OAQ14094)

Edwina Hart: Ar 6 Tachwedd.

Phil Williams: Y llynedd talwyd £68 miliwn gennym mewn grantiau Ewropeaidd. Talwyd hyn i'r Trysorlys, a ddsbarthodd £21 miliwn a chadw £47 miliwn. Eleni, mae Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru yn amcangyfrif y byddwn yn talu £200 miliwn ac mai dim ond £130 miliwn y bydd y Trysorlys yn ei ddsbarthu. A ydych wedi nodi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, pe baech yn ychwanegu at y diffyg hwn y ffaith nad ydym wedi derbyn yr un geiniog tuag at arian cyfatebol, ein bod bellach yn cymryd hyd at £150 miliwn y flwyddyn o'n harian craidd i gynnal y rhaglen Ewropeaidd?

Edwina Hart: Nid ydym yn cymryd unrhyw beth o'n harian craidd, Phil. Codaf yr holl faterion yn ymwneud â blaenoriaethau ariannu o safbwynt cronfeydd strwythurol

on a regular basis. On my last budget, I raised concerns, as you know, about the level of expenditure on structural funds. I am encouraged that the budget provision will be spent this year. The Secretary of State takes on board our concerns to ensure the Chancellor's continued goodwill in terms of resources for structural funds in the next comprehensive spending review.

Brian Gibbons: I visited a number of Objective 1 areas during the summer. Do you agree that in Wales we are able to find match funding for our Objective 1 projects in a way that the English regions are unable to do? No special funding for match funding is available to the English regions.

Edwina Hart: I am pleased with the way people have reacted to how we have provided funds for the structural funds programme in Wales. The proof will be seen at the end of the programme when it will have benefited the Objective 1 areas of Wales.

Jonathan Morgan: Minister, you did not answer Phil Williams's question, so let me help you. Do you agree that there is a shortfall in match funding? How will you lobby the Treasury to make up that shortfall?

Edwina Hart: Figures are not some people's strong point. There is no problem with the funding of the structural funds programme in Wales. There have been no difficulties with match funding. Everything is going as we hoped. I cannot abide all this nit-picking. This is a successful programme that has been funded adequately by the UK Government and by the Welsh budget.

Prosiect Adeilad y Cynulliad The Assembly Building Project

Q8 Nick Bourne: How much money has been spent to date on the Assembly's building project? (OAQ14139)

Edwina Hart: We have spent £5.2 million to date, but I estimate that when all outstanding accounts are settled the total will be around £8 million.

gyda'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yn rheolaidd. Yn fy nghyllideb ddiwethaf, fel y gwyddoch, trafodais bryderon ynglŷn â'r lefel o wariant ar gronfeydd strwythurol. Yr wyf yn fodlon y caiff y ddarpariaeth gyllidebol ei gwario eleni. Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol wedi ystyried ein pryderon i sicrhau ewylllys da parhaus y Canghellor yn nhermau adnoddau ar gyfer cronfeydd strwythurol o fewn yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr nesaf o wariant.

Brian Gibbons: Ymwelais â nifer o ardaloedd Amcan 1 yn ystod yr haf. A gytunwch y gallwn ni yng Nghymru ganfod arian cyfatebol ar gyfer ein prosiectau Amcan 1 mewn modd na all rhanbarthau Lloegr ei wneud? Nid oes unrhyw arian arbennig ar gyfer arian cyfatebol ar gael i ranbarthau Lloegr.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn falch o'r ffordd y mae pobl wedi ymateb i'r modd yr ydym wedi darparu arian ar gyfer y rhaglen cronfeydd strwythurol yng Nghymru. Gwelir y dystiolaeth ar ddiwedd y rhaglen pan fydd wedi bod o fudd i ardaloedd Amcan 1 Cymru.

Jonathan Morgan: Weinidog, nid ateboch gwestiwn Phil Williams, felly gadewch imi eich helpu. A gytunwch fod diffyg yn yr arian cyfatebol? Sut y byddwch yn lobbio'r Trysorlys i wneud iawn am y diffyg hwnnw?

Edwina Hart: Nid ffigurau yw cryfder rhai pobl. Nid oes unrhyw broblem gydag ariannu'r rhaglen cronfeydd strwythurol yng Nghymru. Ni fu unrhyw anawsterau gydag arian cyfatebol. Mae popeth yn digwydd fel yr oeddem wedi gobeithio. Ni allaf oddef yr holl hollti blew hyn. Mae hon yn rhaglen lwyddiannus a ariannwyd yn ddigonol gan Lywodraeth y DU a chyllideb Cymru.

C8 Nick Bourne: Faint sydd wedi'i wario hyd yma ar brosiect adeilad y Cynulliad? (OAQ14139)

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym wedi gwario £5.2 miliwn hyd yma, ond amcangyfrifaf y bydd y cyfanswm oddeutu £8 miliwn pan fydd yr holl gyfrifon dyledus wedi eu talu.

Nick Bourne: Sorry to nit-pick, but can you confirm that it is likely that the Richard Rogers Partnership will enter into litigation against the Assembly? How much funding do you have in your contingency budget for this?

Nick Bourne: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf holli blew, ond a allwch gadarnhau ei bod yn debygol y bydd Partneriaeth Richard Rogers yn mynd i gyfraith yn erbyn y Cynulliad? Faint o arian sydd gennych yn eich cyllideb wrth gefn ar gyfer hyn?

Edwina Hart: I will not comment on that, or prejudice the Assembly's position on this issue.

Edwina Hart: Ni wnaaf sylwadau ar hynny, na niweidio sefyllfa'r Cynulliad ar y mater hwn.

Adolygiad Cynhwysfawr o Wariant 2002 The Comprehensive Spending Review 2002

Q9 Jocelyn Davies: Has the Minister held discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales about the 2002 comprehensive spending review? (OAQ14093)

C9 Jocelyn Davies: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi cynnal trafodaethau ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynghylch yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant yn 2002? (OAQ14093)

Edwina Hart: I meet the Secretary of State often and we discuss a range of financial issues affecting Wales.

Edwina Hart: Byddaf yn cyfarfod â'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yn aml a byddwn yn trafod amrywiaeth o faterion ariannol sy'n effeithio ar Gymru.

Jocelyn Davies: A large proportion of the population lack basic skills in numeracy and literacy. This prevents many being economically active adults. Will you ensure that more funds are available to address the special educational needs of those leaving school unable to read and count?

Jocelyn Davies: Mae gan nifer helaeth o'r boblogaeth ddiffygion sylfaenol o ran rhifedd a llythrennedd. Mae hyn yn rhwystro llawer o bobl rhag bod yn oedolion gweithgar yn economaidd. A wnewch chi sicrhau y bydd mwy o arian ar gael i fynd i'r afael ag anghenion addysgol arbennig y rhai sy'n gadael yr ysgol heb allu darllen a chyfrif.

Edwina Hart: I share your concerns about literacy and numeracy skills in Wales. However, I believe that, in consultation with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, I have made the necessary resources available.

Edwina Hart: Rhannaf eich pryderon ynglŷn â sgiliau rhifedd a llythrennedd yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, mewn ymgynghoriad â'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, credaf fy mod wedi sicrhau bod yr adnoddau angenrheidiol ar gael.

The Presiding Officer: Question 10 (OAQ14141) has been withdrawn.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 10 (OAQ14141) yn ôl.

Cyllido Siambr Newydd y Cynulliad Financing the New Assembly Chamber

Q11 Jonathan Morgan: Will the Minister make a statement on what progress has been made in financing the new Assembly Chamber? (OAQ14114)

C11 Jonathan Morgan: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar unrhyw ddatblygiadau o ran cyllido Siambr newydd y Cynulliad? (OAQ14114)

Edwina Hart: The expressions of interest that we have received in response to the *Official Journal of the European Community* advertisement include options for both lump sum and lease agreements. I cannot comment further at this stage in the procurement process, until tenders have been received and evaluated.

Jonathan Morgan: The costs of the new Assembly Chamber have escalated beyond belief and are rapidly approaching £40 million. Will the Government put an upper limit on what it will spend on the new Assembly Chamber? Will it be £40 million, £50 million, or £100 million?

Edwina Hart: The issue of the building is raised in many discussions. I have made our position clear. I sacked Lord Rogers because I was concerned about escalating costs. I advertised for expressions of interest. I indicated that I have received a high number of expressions of interest from companies that would be able to construct the building. At the appropriate time, when the recommendation comes, it will be a matter for the National Assembly.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r datganiadau o ddiddordeb a dderbyniwyd gennym mewn ymateb i'r hysbyseb yn yr *Official Journal of the European Community* yn cynnwys opsiynau ar gyfer cytundebau cyfandaliad a chytundebau prydles. Ni allaf wneud sylw pellach ar y cam hwn yn y broses gaffael, nes y byddwn wedi derbyn tendrau a'u gwerthuso.

Jonathan Morgan: Mae costau Siambr newydd y Cynulliad wedi cynyddu y tu hwnt i bob rheswm ac mae'n anelu'n gyflym tuag at £40 miliwn. A wnaiff y Llywodraeth roi uchafswm ar yr hyn y bydd yn ei wario ar Siambr newydd y Cynulliad? A fydd yn £40 miliwn, £50 miliwn, neu yn £100 miliwn?

Edwina Hart: Caiff mater yr adeilad ei godi mewn llawer o drafodaethau. Gwneuthum ein sefyllfa yn glir. Diswyddais yr Arglwydd Rogers am fy mod yn bryderus ynglŷn â'r costau cynyddol. Hysbysebais am ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb. Soniais fy mod wedi derbyn nifer fawr o ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb gan gwmnïau a fyddai'n gallu codi'r adeilad. Ar yr adeg briodol, pan ddaw'r argymhelliad, mater i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol fydd hwn.

Effeithiau Gofyniad Benthycu'r Sector Cyhoeddus Effects of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement

C12 Cynog Dafis: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi cynnal unrhyw drafodaethau â Thrysorlys y DU ynghylch effeithiau gofyniad benthycu'r sector cyhoeddus ar wariant cyhoeddus yng Nghymru? (OAQ14090)

Q12 Cynog Dafis: Has the Minister held any discussions with the UK Treasury about the effect of the public sector borrowing requirement on Welsh public spending? (OAQ14090)

9:45 a.m.

Edwina Hart: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales about Welsh public spending. My officials have regular discussions with officials from the Treasury. For your information, the level of net borrowing has replaced public sector borrowing requirement as the key indicator of fiscal impact and is set to ensure that the ratio of UK public sector deficit to the UK gross domestic product remains at prudent levels.

Edwina Hart: Caf drafodaethau rheolaidd ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynglŷn â gwariant cyhoeddus yng Nghymru. Bydd fy swyddogion yn cynnal trafodaethau rheolaidd â swyddogion y Trysorlys. Er gwybodaeth i chi, mae lefel y benthyciad net wedi disodli gofyniad benthyc y sector cyhoeddus fel dangosydd allweddol effaith ariannol ac fe'i gosodwyd er mwyn sicrhau bod y gymhareb rhwng diffyg sector cyhoeddus y DU a chynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y DU yn parhau ar lefelau gofalus.

Cynog Dafis: Ni wnaaf esgus fy mod wedi

Cynog Dafis: I will not pretend to have

deall y pwyntiau technegol ar ddiwedd eich ateb, Weinidog. Fodd bynnag, a gytunwch fod y dull o amcangyfrif gofyniad benthycar sector cyhoeddus ym Mhrydain yn achosi trafferthion ac annhegwch o ran gwariant a buddsoddi cyhoeddus, ym maes tai, er enghraifft? A ydych yn fodlon ystyried sut y mae gwledydd eraill yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn amcangyfrif gofyniad benthycar sector cyhoeddus er mwyn gweld a oes ffyrdd gwell o alluogi buddsoddi cyhoeddus synhwyrol? A allwch bwysu ar y Trysorlys i sicrhau bod gennym fodol gwell a fyddai'n fuddiol i Gymru?

Edwina Hart: My position on housing is well known. I have made the appropriate representations on that issue and will continue to do so. However, there are particular issues within housing for public investment.

understood the technical points at the end of your reply, Minister. However, do you agree that the way that the PSBR is calculated in Britain causes problems and inequity in public spending and investment, for example, in housing? Are you prepared to consider how other countries in the European Union calculate their PSBR to see whether there are better ways of facilitating sensible public investment? Can you press the Treasury to ensure that we adopt a better model, which would benefit Wales?

Edwina Hart: Mae fy safiad ar dai yn hysbys. Gwneuthum y sylwadau priodol ar y mater hwnnw a byddaf yn parhau i wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae materion penodol o fewn tai ar gyfer buddsoddi cyhoeddus.

Canllawiau Newydd ar Fuddsoddi mewn Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus New Guidelines for Investment in Public Services

C13 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar unrhyw gyfathrebu a fu rhyngddi a Thrysorlys y DU ynghylch canllawiau newydd ar fuddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus? (OAQ14092)

Q13 David Lloyd: Can the Minister make a statement on any communication with the UK Treasury regarding new guidelines for investment in public services? (OAQ14092)

Edwina Hart: My officials have played an active part in updating the guidance for project appraisals in the public sector.

Edwina Hart: Mae fy swyddogion wedi chwarae rhan weithredol wrth ddiweddarau'r arweiniad ar gyfer arfarnu prosiectau yn y sector cyhoeddus.

David Lloyd: A yw'r cyhoeddiadau diweddar ar ysbytai Porthmadog a'r Rhondda yn golygu diwedd cynlluniau menter cyllid preifat yng Nghymru?

David Lloyd: Do the recent announcements regarding the Porthmadog and Rhondda hospitals mean the end of private finance initiative schemes in Wales?

Edwina Hart: No, as I have indicated to you, I have been working on a consultation document on private finance initiatives. PFI will be a tool available to central and local government. However, the resources for the Rhondda and Porthmadog hospitals were available through normal standard public procurement for building hospitals. The necessary decision was made, which was welcomed by everyone in the Chamber.

Edwina Hart: Nac ydynt, fel y mynegais wrthyech, bum yn gweithio ar ddogfen ymgynghorol ar fentrau cyllid preifat (PFI). Bydd PFI yn offeryn a fydd ar gael i lywodraeth ganolog a llywodraeth leol. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd yr adnoddau ar gyfer ysbytai y Rhondda a Phorthmadog ar gael drwy gaffael cyhoeddus safonol arferol ar gyfer adeiladu ysbytai. Gwnaed y penderfyniad angenrheidiol, a groesawyd gan bawb yn y Siambr.

**Cynyddu Ariannu Craidd ar gyfer y Sector Gwirfoddol
Increasing Core Funding for the Voluntary Sector**

Q14 David Melding: What representations has the Minister received to increase the level of core funding for the voluntary sector? (OAQ14157)

Edwina Hart: The Voluntary Sector Partnership Council has emphasised the need to build the sector's capacity. The year 2001-02 saw increases to county voluntary councils and also a new partnership capacity building fund for voluntary sector members of the council. The strategic review of voluntary sector funding also reached an agreed position on strategic core funding.

David Melding: I welcome your comments, Minister, but do you agree that we must maintain robust increases in the voluntary sector as it is now a key partner in the formulation of public policy as well as in the delivery of services?

Edwina Hart: Yes. As Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities, I have regular discussions with the voluntary sector as part of the voluntary sector partnership agreement. The voluntary sector raises the same points with me. It has also asked me whether I can facilitate discussion between the voluntary sector and Welsh local government on how it can develop a better working relationship with local government and discuss its funding and relations.

C14 David Melding: Pa sylwadau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u derbyn ynghylch cynyddu lefel yr ariannu craidd ar gyfer y sector gwirfoddol? (OAQ14157)

Edwina Hart: Mae Cyngor Partneriaeth y Sector Gwirfoddol wedi pwysleisio'r angen i adeiladu capasiti'r sector. Gwelodd y flwyddyn 2001-02 gynnydd yn y cynghorau gwirfoddol sirol a chronfa adeiladu capasiti partneriaeth newydd ar gyfer aelodau sector gwirfoddol y cyngor. Daeth yr arolwg strategol o ariannu'r sector gwirfoddol hefyd i gytundeb ar strategaeth ariannu craidd.

David Melding: Croesawaf eich sylwadau, Weinidog, ond a gytunwch y dylem gynnal cynnydd iach yn y sector gwirfoddol gan ei fod bellach yn bartner allweddol yn y gwaith o ffurfio polisi cyhoeddus yn ogystal â darparu gwasanaethau?

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf. Fel y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, caf drafodaethau rheolaidd gyda'r sector gwirfoddol yn rhan o gytundeb partneriaeth y sector gwirfoddol. Bydd y sector gwirfoddol yn trafod yr un pwyntiau â mi. Mae hefyd wedi gofyn i mi a allwn hwyluso trafodaeth rhwng y sector gwirfoddol a llywodraeth leol Cymru ar sut y gall ddatblygu gwell perthynas waith gyda llywodraeth leol a thrafod ei ariannu a chysylltiadau.

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Consesiynau Teithio Gorfodol (Trefniadau Ad-dalu)
(Cymru) 2001 a Gorchymyn Consesiynau Teithio (Estyn yr Hawl i'w Cael)
(Cymru) 2001**

**Approval of the Mandatory Travel Concessions (Reimbursement Arrangements)
(Wales) Regulations 2001 and the Travel Concessions (Extension of Entitlement)
(Wales) Order 2001**

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies to the principle of the Order.

The Minister for Environment (Sue Essex): I propose that

the National Assembly considers the principle of the Mandatory Travel

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies i egwyddor y Gorchymyn.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd (Sue Essex): Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Consesiynau Teithio

Concession (Reimbursement Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2001, laid in the Table Office on 23 October 2001. (NDM847)

I propose that

the National Assembly

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee which does not draw the special attention of the Assembly to any matter under Standing Order No. 11.5, in relation to the draft Order, the Mandatory Travel Concessions (Reimbursement Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2001, laid in the Table Office on 6 November 2001;

2. approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 23 October 2001;

3. approves the memorandum of corrections laid in the Table Office on 12 November 2001. (NDM848)

I propose that

the National Assembly considers the principle of the Travel Concessions (Extension of Entitlement) (Wales) Order 2001 laid in the Table Office on 23 October 2001. (NDM849)

I propose that

the National Assembly:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee which does not draw the special attention of the Assembly to any matter under Standing Order No. 11.5, in relation to the draft order, the Travel Concessions (Extension of Entitlement) (Wales) Order 2001, laid in the Table Office on 6 November 2001;

2. approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 23 October 2001.

3. approves the memorandum of corrections laid in the Table Office on 12 November 2001. (NDM850)

I am delighted to propose these regulations,

Gorfodol (Trefniadau Ad-dalu) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 23 Hydref 2001. (NDM847)

Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau, nad yw'n tynnu sylw arbennig y Cynulliad at unrhyw fater o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5, mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Consesiynau Teithio Gorfodol (Trefniadau Ad-dalu) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Tachwedd 2001;

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 23 Hydref 2001;

3. yn cymeradwyo'r memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 12 Tachwedd 2001. (NDM848)

Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Consesiynau Teithio (Estyn yr Hawl i'w Cael) (Cymru) 2001 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 23 Hydref 2001. (NDM849)

Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau, nad yw'n tynnu sylw arbennig y Cynulliad at unrhyw fater o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5, mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Consesiynau Teithio (Estyn yr Hawl i'w Cael) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Tachwedd 2001;

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 23 Hydref 2001;

3. yn cymeradwyo'r memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 12 Tachwedd 2001. (NDM850)

Mae'n bleser gennyf gynnig y rheoliadau

which honour the Labour Party's commitment to concessionary travel in Wales. I am more than delighted, I am proud to propose these regulations. Although this is a measure on transport, in reality it is an act of social responsibility, a way of directly benefiting those members of our society that deserve support and recognition. The Government of Wales has determinedly led the way on concessionary travel, both in regulation and financial support. Concessionary travel is a cornerstone of equality, a tangible act of social inclusion, which turns these abstract words into something meaningful. We made a promise on concessionary travel for pensioners: not only have we honoured that promise, but we have extended the commitment.

The Order places a mandatory requirement on local authorities to provide free concessionary travel on buses to elderly and disabled people from 1 April 2002. They will need to hold a concessionary fare travel pass, issued by local authorities in Wales. As you know, from April 2001, the Assembly has provided additional funding so that these passes are free. An elderly person is defined at present as women aged 60 and over and men aged 65 and over. However, as from 1 April 2003, the definition will extend to men aged between 60 and 65.

The Order goes further still. It places a mandatory requirement on local authorities to guarantee free concessionary bus travel to specified companions of disabled people. The elderly, disabled and, where appropriate, companions of disabled people will be entitled to free bus travel throughout the day, with no time restrictions. I hope that you agree that that is important.

I am aware that there is a lack of sustainable commercial routes in parts of Wales, restricting public access and its ability to take full advantage of the scheme. That is particularly true in rural areas in Wales, but also in some of our valley communities. I was in Ferndale yesterday, and was shocked to hear that 40 per cent of households there

hyn, sy'n cyflawni ymrwymiad y Blaid Lafur i gyflwyno consesiynau teithio yng Nghymru. Teimlaf fwy na phleser, teimlaf falchder o gael cynnig y rheoliadau hyn. Er ei fod yn fesur ar drafnidiaeth, mewn gwirionedd gweithred o gyfrifoldeb cymdeithasol ydyw, sef ffordd o fod o fudd uniongyrchol i'r aelodau hynny o'n cymdeithas sy'n haeddu cymorth a chydabyddiaeth. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi arwain y ffordd yn benderfynol ar gonsesiynau teithio, o ran rheoliadau a chymorth ariannol. Mae consesiynau teithio yn gonglfaen cydraddoldeb, yn weithred wirioneddol o gynhwysedd cymdeithasol, sy'n troi'r geiriau haniaethol hyn yn rhywbeth ystyrllon. Gwnaethom addewid ar gonsesiynau teithio i bensiywyr: yr ydym nid yn unig wedi cadw at yr addewid honno, ond yr ydym hefyd wedi ymestyn yr ymrwymiad.

Mae'r Gorchymyn yn gosod gofyniad gorfodol ar awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu consesiynau teithio am ddim ar fysiau i'r henoed a'r anabl o 1 Ebrill 2002. Bydd angen iddynt gael tocyn mantais bws, a ddsberthir gan awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru. Fel y gwyddoch, o fis Ebrill 2001, mae'r Cynulliad wedi darparu arian ychwanegol fel bod y tocynnau hyn am ddim. Caiff yr henoed eu diffinio ar hyn o bryd fel merched 60 oed a throsodd a dynion 65 oed a throsodd. Fodd bynnag, o 1 Ebrill 2003, bydd y diffiniad yn ymestyn i ddynion rhwng 60 a 65 oed.

Mae'r Gorchymyn yn mynd ymhellach eto. Mae'n gosod gofyniad gorfodol ar awdurdodau lleol i warantu consesiynau teithio am ddim ar fysiau i gyd-deithwyr pobl anabl. Bydd gan yr henoed, pobl anabl a, lle y bo'n briodol, cyd-deithwyr penodol pobl anabl yr hawl i deithio ar fysiau am ddim drwy'r dydd, heb unrhyw gyfyngiadau amser. Gobeithiaf eich bod yn cytuno bod hynny'n bwysig.

Yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod diffyg llwybrau masnachol cynaliadwy mewn rhannau o Gymru, sy'n cyfyngu ar allu'r cyhoedd i ddefnyddio trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus ac i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y cynllun. Mae hynny'n arbennig o wir mewn ardaloedd gwledig yng Nghymru, ond hefyd yn rhai o'n cymunedau yn y cymoedd. Yr oeddwn yng Nglyn

do not have access to cars. This scheme is for groups of people across Wales, where community transport could be useful.

It is important that we give fair accessibility to everybody in Wales, particularly where car ownership levels are low. That is why I have considered how community transport can develop and flourish to fill these gaps. At the recent Community Transport Association annual general meeting in Brecon, I made a commitment to examine how we can extend entitlement to include community transport. However, I cannot support Plaid Cymru's amendment, which requires me to make proposals for a future Order by March 2002. It is not practicable to set a date.

This is a voluntary matter and is complicated. We must seriously consider the structure of community transport. To do that, I have set up a small group from the transport forum, including representatives of the Community Transport Association, which is exploring the role and potential of community transport for extending and sustaining accessibility. It is vital that this collaborative work with the voluntary sector and local government is completed and considered first, so that we can establish sustainable structures throughout Wales. The Community Transport Association empathises with my efforts and supports the approach.

The Environment, Planning and Transport Committee's public transport review noted the merit of extending the concessionary scheme to community transport, subject to value for money considerations. If it will reassure Members, I am happy to report back to the Committee on progress and ideas on developing community transport. I emphasise that we must get the new definition of community transport development in place, so that we can consider how entitlement and concessionary fares can work.

I emphasise that we must first ensure that the scheme runs smoothly for buses. The process and the arrangements are complicated.

Rhedynog ddoe, a chefais fraw o glywed nad oes gan 40 y cant o gartrefi ddefnydd o geir. Mae'r cynllun hwn ar gyfer grwpiau o bobl ledled Cymru, lle gallai trafndiaeth gyhoeddus fod yn ddefnyddiol.

Mae'n bwysig bod y cynllun hwn yn hygyrch i bawb yng Nghymru, yn enwedig lle na fo nifer fawr o bobl yn berchen ar geir. Dyna pam yr wyf wedi ystyried sut y gall trafndiaeth gymunedol ddatblygu a ffynnu i lenwi'r bylchau hyn. Yng nghyfarfod cyffredinol blynyddol y Gymdeithas Drafnidiaeth Gymunedol yn ddiweddar, gwneuthum ymrwymiad i archwilio sut y gallwn ymestyn yr hawl i gynnwys trafndiaeth gymunedol. Fodd bynnag, ni allaf gefnogi gwelliant Plaid Cymru, sy'n gofyn imi wneud cynigion ar gyfer Gorchymyn yn y dyfodol erbyn mis Mawrth 2002. Nid yw'n ymarferol pennu dyddiad.

Mae hwn yn fater gwirfoddol ac yn un cymhleth. Rhaid inni ystyried strwythur trafndiaeth gymunedol o ddifrif. I wneud hynny, yr wyf wedi sefydlu grŵp bach o'r fforwm trafndiaeth, yn cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o'r Gymdeithas Drafnidiaeth Gymunedol, sy'n archwilio rôl a photensial trafndiaeth gymunedol ar gyfer ymestyn a chynnal hygyrchedd. Mae'n hanfodol y caiff y gwaith cydweithredol hwn gyda'r sector gwirfoddol a llywodraeth leol ei gyflawni a'i ystyried yn gyntaf, fel y gallwn sefydlu strwythurau cynaliadwy ledled Cymru. Mae'r Gymdeithas Drafnidiaeth Gymunedol yn cydymdeimlo â'm hymdrechion ac yn cefnogi'r ffordd hon o fynd ati.

Nododd adolygiad Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth o drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus rinweddau ymestyn y cynllun consesiynau i drafnidiaeth gymunedol, yn amodol ar ystyriaethau gwerth am arian. Os bydd yn tawelu meddyliau'r Aelodau, yr wyf yn fodlon adrodd yn ôl i'r Pwyllgor ar gynnydd a syniadau ar ddatblygu trafndiaeth gymunedol. Pwysleisiaf fod rhaid inni nodi'r diffiniad newydd o ddatblygiad trafndiaeth gymunedol, fel y gallwn ystyried sut y gall hawl a thocynnau mantais weithio.

Pwysleisiaf fod yn rhaid inni sicrhau bod y cynllun yn rhedeg yn esmwyth ar gyfer bysiau yn gyntaf. Mae'r broses a'r

Twenty-two local authorities, numerous bus operators and thousands of people are involved in Wales. We must ensure that it works efficiently and assuredly.

I turn to the complications, and particularly to the Mandatory Travel Concessions (Reimbursement Arrangements) Regulations 2001, and their intended effect. Those regulations arrange for local authorities to pay bus operators for running the concessionary fares scheme. Local authorities are required to publish the arrangements at least four months before their intended effect. Every operator affected by the regulations will receive a copy of the proposed arrangements, and no bus operator should lose out from participating in the concessionary fares scheme. If bus operators consider that they will be unfairly affected by the arrangements, they may apply to the Assembly to have them modified.

This instrument has financial implications for local authorities. The Assembly will, therefore, reimburse local authorities in 2002-03 and in future through the local government revenue settlement.

To develop the concessionary travel policy and procedures, a working group has been set up, with local government and industry representatives as core members. The level of funding is in accordance with the estimates of that group.

On resources, I remind you that in 2001-02, I made £1.2 million available for free travel passes. In 2002-03, I will make an additional £16.5 million available, which will increase to £28.4 million for 2003-04: these are substantial sums. That last figure will include £5 million, which is our current estimate of the increased costs for extending the scheme to include men aged between 60 and 65, from 1 April 2003.

There are considerable complications, and I thank those people, particularly in the concessionary travel group, who have put real effort into supporting this laudable idea.

trefniadau'n gymhleth. Mae 22 awdurdod lleol, nifer o gwmnïau bysiau a miloedd o bobl ynghlwm wrth y broses hon yng Nghymru. Rhaid inni sicrhau ei bod yn gweithio'n effeithlon ac yn sicr.

Trof at y cymhlethdodau, ac yn arbennig at y Rheoliadau Consesiynau Teithio Gorfodol (Trefniadau Ad-dalu) 2001, a'r effaith y bwriedir iddynt ei chael. Mae'r rheoliadau hynny'n trefnu i awdurdodau lleol dalu cwmnïau bysiau am redeg y cynllun tocynnau mantais. Gofynnir i awdurdodau lleol gyhoeddi'r trefniadau o leiaf bedwar mis cyn y bwriedir iddynt ddod i rym. Bydd pob cwmni yr effeithir arno gan y rheoliadau'n derbyn copi o'r trefniadau arfaethedig, ac ni ddylai unrhyw gwmni bysiau fod ar ei golled o gymryd rhan yn y cynllun tocynnau mantais. Os cred cwmnïau bysiau y bydd y trefniadau'n effeithio yn annheg arnynt, gallant wneud cais i'r Cynulliad eu diwygio.

Mae i'r offeryn hwn oblygiadau ariannol ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol. Bydd y Cynulliad, felly, yn ad-dalu awdurdodau lleol yn 2002-03 ac yn y dyfodol drwy setliad referniw llywodraeth leol.

Er mwyn datblygu polisi a gweithdrefnau consesiynau teithio, sefydlwyd gweithgor, gyda chynrychiolwyr llywodraeth leol a diwydiant fel aelodau craidd. Mae lefel yr ariannu yn unol ag amcangyfrifon y grŵp hwnnw.

O ran adnoddau, hoffwn eich atgoffa imi ddarparu £1.2 miliwn yn 2001-02 ar gyfer tocynnau teithio am ddim. Yn 2002-03, darparaf £16.5 miliwn arall, a fydd yn cynyddu i £28.4 miliwn ar gyfer 2003-04: mae'r rhain yn symiau sylweddol. Bydd y ffigur olaf hwnnw'n cynnwys £5 miliwn, sef ein hamcangyfrif presennol o'r costau cynyddol ar gyfer ymestyn y cynllun i gynnwys dynion rhwng 60 a 65 oed, o 1 Ebrill 2003.

Mae cymhlethdodau sylweddol, a diolchaf i'r bobl hynny, yn enwedig yn y grŵp consesiynau teithio, sydd wedi rhoi ymdrech wirioneddol i gefnogi'r syniad canmoladwy hwn.

As a councillor I was involved many years ago, when we introduced free travel to those aged over 75 in Cardiff. It was one of our best achievements, and I am delighted that Cardiff has been able to extend that concession. I was also a member of the former Welsh transport advisory group that recommended the extension of concessionary travel to pensioners across Wales. It was not envisaged at that time that extending this concession to other groups, such as disabled people and their companions, would be possible. Perhaps you will appreciate my delight at seeing this whole scheme.

Yr oeddwn yn gynghorydd flynyddoedd maith yn ôl, pan gyflwynwyd teithio am ddim i bobl dros 75 oed yng Nghaerdydd. Yr oedd yn un o'n prif lwyddiannau, ac yr wyf yn hynod falch o nodi bod Caerdydd wedi gallu ymestyn y consesiwn hwnnw. Yr oeddwn hefyd yn aelod o gyn-grŵp ymgynghorol trafndiaeth Cymru a argymhellodd ymestyn consesiynau teithio i bensiynwyr ledled Cymru. Ni ragwelwyd ar y pryd y byddai ymestyn y consesiwn hwn i grwpiau eraill, fel pobl anabl a'u cyd-deithwyr, yn bosibl. Efallai y gwerthfawrogwch fy malchder o weld y cynllun cyfan hwn.

9:55 a.m.

We have received the full co-operation of local authorities and bus operators in ensuring that the scheme will be available throughout Wales with inter-availability of ticketing systems between local authority areas. We are working up proposals to ensure that everyone who is entitled to free travel is aware of its availability. That point is important, because we need to ensure that, as well as putting this scheme into place, it is promoted widely. I know that this measure will be welcomed throughout Wales, and there has been unanimity here among the political parties in pushing this matter forward. I hope that everyone can support it.

Cafwyd cydweithrediad llawn gan awdurdodau lleol a chwmnïau bysiau drwy sicrhau y bydd y cynllun ar gael drwy Gymru gyda systemau ar gyfer darparu tocynnau gwahanol rhwng ardaloedd awdurdodau lleol. Yr ydym yn gweithio ar gynigion i sicrhau bod pawb sy'n gymwys i deithio am ddim yn ymwybodol bod hyn ar gael. Mae'r pwynt hwnnw'n bwysig, am fod angen inni sicrhau, yn ogystal â sefydlu'r cynllun hwn, y caiff ei hyrwyddo'n eang. Gwn y croesewir y mesur hwn drwy Gymru, a bu unfrydedd yma ymysg y pleidiau gwleidyddol wrth symud y mater hwn yn ei flaen. Gobeithiaf y gall pawb ei gefnogi.

Helen Mary Jones: I propose amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies to the principle of the Order. Add a new paragraph at the end of the motion:

Helen Mary Jones: Cynigiaf welliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies i egwyddor y Gorchymyn. Ychwanegu paragraff newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

requests that the Minister review reimbursement arrangements and eligible services with a view to including community transport as an eligible service under a future Order, and requests that the Minister report the result of this review to the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee by March 2002.

Yn gofyn i'r Gweinidog adolygu'r trefniadau ad-dalu a'r gwasanaethau sy'n gymwys gyda golwg ar gynnwys trafndiaeth gymunedol fel gwasanaeth cymwys o dan orchymyn yn y dyfodol, ac yn gofyn i'r Gweinidog roi adroddiad am ganlyniad yr adolygiad hwn i Bwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth erbyn mis Mawrth 2002.

The principle of extending concessionary travel must be welcomed by us all, but Plaid Cymru believes that there are gaps in the current scheme, which need to be addressed urgently.

Rhaid i bawb ohonom groesawu'r egwyddor o ymestyn teithio consensiynol, ond cred Plaid Cymru fod bylchau yn y cynllun presennol, y mae angen mynd i'r afael â hwy ar fyrder.

The Minister for Environment has

Mae'r Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd wedi

acknowledged that in many rural communities, and elsewhere in Wales, there is little or nothing in the way of conventional bus services. Community transport is often the only form of public transport available, and therefore concessionary fares must be extended to cover this also. Concessionary fares will mean little or nothing to pensioners or disabled people in these areas unless the scheme is urgently extended to cover community transport. Likewise, there are many disabled people across Wales who would be confined to their homes if it were not for community transport provision. They are unable to reach the bus stops from which free travel would be available to them and their companions—and I welcome the extension to the companions of disabled people—so if they are unable to get to the bus stop, free travel means nothing. It is iniquitous that their only means of transport should be excluded from the scheme. I accept that the Minister will review this matter, but the question is when will this take place? The principle of including community transport as an eligible service under the scheme has, as the Minister said, been discussed on several occasions at the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee, and is widely supported. Changes to the regulations on eligible services and reimbursement are required for this to occur, and I am sorry that the Minister will not support the amendment to the motion.

If the work of implementing the new travel concessions is prioritised, we believe that the timescale set is reasonable, and given that the Minister will not support this amendment, I trust that she will get on with the work as a matter of urgency. Why should those without access to commercial buses have to wait even longer?

Plaid Cymru will support these regulations, but I have one major concern regarding the reimbursement of local authorities, and I would like the Minister's reassurance on this. The formula for funding, as I understand it, is based on a basic calculation of the eligible population in each local government area. It takes no account of public transport or bus provision, or the current state of local

cydnabod na cheir fawr o wasanaethau bysiau confensiynol, os o gwbl mewn llawer o gymunedau gwledig, ac mewn mannau eraill yng Nghymru. Yn aml, trafndiaeth gymunedol yw'r unig fath o drafndiaeth gyhoeddus sydd ar gael, ac felly rhaid ymestyn tocynnau mantais i gwmpasu hyn hefyd. Ni fydd tocynnau mantais yn golygu fawr ddim i bensiynwyr neu bobl anabl yn yr ardaloedd hyn oni chaiff y cynllun ei ymestyn ar frys i gwmpasu trafndiaeth gymunedol. Yn yr un modd, mae llawer o bobl anabl ledled Cymru a fyddai'n gaeth i'w cartrefi oni bai am ddarpariaeth trafndiaeth gymunedol. Ni allant gyrraedd yr arosfannau bysiau lle byddai trafndiaeth am ddim ar gael iddynt hwy a'u cyd-deithwyr—a chroesawaf yr ymestyniad i gyd-deithwyr pobl anabl—felly os na allant gyrraedd yr arosfan bysiau, nid oes diben cael trafndiaeth am ddim. Mae'n anghyfiawn na chaiff eu hunig ffordd o deithio ei chynnwys yn y cynllun. Derbyniaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn adolygu'r mater hwn, ond y cwestiwn yw pryd y digwydd hyn? Trafodwyd yr egwyddor o gynnwys trafndiaeth gymunedol fel gwasanaeth cymwys o dan y cynllun, fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog, ar sawl achlysur ym Mhwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafndiaeth, a chaiff ei chefnogi'n eang. Gofynnir am newidiadau i'r rheoliadau ar wasanaethau cymwys ac ad-daliadau er mwyn i hyn ddigwydd, ac yr wyf yn gresynu na fydd y Gweinidog yn cefnogi'r gwelliant i'r cynnig.

Os rhoddir blaenoriaeth i'r gwaith o weithredu'r consesiynau teithio newydd, credwn fod yr amserlen a bennwyd yn rhesymol, ac o ystyried na fydd y Gweinidog yn cefnogi'r gwelliant hwn, hyderaf y bydd yn bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith ar fyrder. Pam y dylai'r bobl hynny nad yw bysiau masnachol yn rhedeg yn eu hardal hwy orfod aros yn hirach eto?

Bydd Plaid Cymru yn cefnogi'r rheoliadau hyn, ond mae gennyf un pryder mawr o ran ad-dalu awdurdodau lleol, a hoffwn sicrwydd y Gweinidog ar hyn. Mae'r fformiwla ar gyfer ariannu, fel y'i deallaf, wedi'i seilio ar gyfrifiad sylfaenol o'r boblogaeth gymwys ym mhob ardal llywodraeth leol. Nid yw'n ystyried darpariaeth trafndiaeth gyhoeddus neu fysis, na chyflwr presennol y cynlluniau

concessionary schemes. There are areas which already have highly developed schemes, on which the local authority concerned has been spending for a long time, and there are other areas where the schemes are underdeveloped. There are also areas with high numbers of elderly residents, but almost no buses, and the uptake is likely to be low in these areas. In areas of relative prosperity, older citizens may prefer to continue using their cars, whereas in other areas where older people may make up a lower percentage of the population, many of them may need to use the bus.

What will happen, Minister, if the uptake is higher in some areas than is predicted by the formula? Will the local authorities be reimbursed, or will they have to deprive other vital services to make up the shortfall? Will the additional funding be ongoing and will it be reviewed to take into account the development of the scheme? Like many areas of the Lib-Lab Government of Wales's performance, this is a good idea that has not been fully thought through and delivered—a little bit half-baked, you might say. Those who depend on community transport might well agree. However, it is a good idea and we will not oppose it. I press the Minister again to set a timescale for the inclusion of community transport, and I seek her categorical reassurance on reimbursement for local government.

Tom Middlehurst: I welcome these regulations, which give effect to yet another made-in-Wales Labour Party policy commitment. I am delighted to share Sue Essex's pride this morning. Peter Law, the former Secretary for Local Government and Housing, was equally committed to implementing this policy and he is delighted that Sue Essex is doing so today. This policy has been widely welcomed in my constituency, and Flintshire County Council is positive and enthusiastic about implementing it. The council has been working with bus companies in north-east Wales to improve the bus network. The bus subsidy is particularly important in improving travel opportunities for all people.

consesiynau lleol. Mae ardaloedd a chanddynt gynlluniau wedi'u datblygu eisoes, y bu'r awdurdod lleol dan sylw yn treulio amser hir arno, ac mae ardaloedd eraill lle nad yw'r cynlluniau wedi'u datblygu'n ddigonol. Hefyd mae ardaloedd lle mae niferoedd uchel o drigolion hŷn, ond bron dim bysiau, ac mae'n debygol na fydd llawer yn defnyddio'r cynllun yn yr ardaloedd hyn. Yn yr ardaloedd gweddol lewyrchus, efallai y byddai'n well gan ddinasyddion hŷn barhau i ddefnyddio eu ceir, ond mewn ardaloedd eraill lle bo cyfran uwch o'r boblogaeth yn bobl hŷn, efallai y byddai angen i lawer ohonynt ddefnyddio'r bws.

Beth fydd yn digwydd, Weinidog, os bydd mwy o bobl mewn rhai ardaloedd yn defnyddio'r cynllun nag a ragwelir gan y fformiwla? A ad-delir yr awdurdodau lleol, neu a fydd angen iddynt amddifadu gwasanaethau hanfodol eraill i ddigolledu'r diffyg? A fydd yr arian ychwanegol yn barhaus ac a gaiff ei adolygu i ystyried datblygiad y cynllun? Fel sawl rhan o berfformiad Llywodraeth Ryddfrydol-Lafur Cymru, mae hwn yn syniad da nad yw wedi'i ystyried a'i gyflwyno'n llawn—heb fod ym mhen draw'r ffwrn, dyweder. Efallai y bydd y bobl hynny sy'n dibynnu ar drafnidiaeth gymunedol yn cytuno. Fodd bynnag, mae'n syniad da ac ni fyddwn yn ei wrthwynebu. Pwysaf ar y Gweinidog eto i bennu amserlen ar gyfer cynnwys trafnidiaeth gymunedol, a cheisiaf ei sicrwydd pendant ar ad-dalu llywodraeth leol.

Tom Middlehurst: Croesawaf y rheoliadau hyn, sy'n gweithredu ymrwymiad polisi arall a luniwyd yng Nghymru gan y Blaid Lafur. Yr wyf innau fel Sue Essex y bore yma yn ymfalchïo yn hyn o beth. Yr oedd Peter Law, y cyn-Ysgrifennydd dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai, yr un mor ymrwymedig i weithredu'r polisi hwn ac mae wrth ei fodd bod Sue Essex yn gwneud hynny heddiw. Croesawyd y polisi hwn yn gyffredinol yn fy etholaeth, ac mae Cyngor Sir y Fflint yn gadarnhaol ac yn frwdfrydig ynglŷn â'i weithredu. Bu'r cyngor yn gweithio â chwmnïau bysiau yng ngogledd ddwyrain Cymru i wella'r rhwydwaith bysiau. Mae'r cymhorthdal bysiau yn arbennig o bwysig wrth wella cyfleoedd teithio i bawb. Mae'n siomedig

It is disappointing that Plaid Cymru, again, is trying to turn positive into negative, good news into bad news. This initiative by the National Assembly for Wales will be welcomed.

There is no doubt that some practical issues need to be addressed. My constituency borders with England. The cross-border travel arrangements and the cost consequences may well fall to the host authority. Flintshire County Council has raised that issue with me. Nonetheless, the council is extremely supportive and asks the Minister to address the consequences of the changes in future. Notwithstanding those concerns, it is clear that local government is positive and supportive of this made-in-Wales Labour Party policy.

David Davies: Perhaps I should leave aside whether any Members should declare an interest because of their age groups. If any one wants to intervene, I am more than happy to give way.

The Presiding Officer: Order. If you check your guide to conduct in the Chamber, David, you will see that it is not necessary to declare interests in this case. Otherwise, I am sure that any Member affected would have declared such an interest.

David Davies: I apologise. The Conservative group welcomes these proposals, as does everyone. Leaving aside the internal wrangles of the Labour Party as to whether this is the policy of the Labour group or the Lib-Lab alliance, all political parties in the Assembly support it. These regulations are long overdue. This is one of the first issues that I took up on behalf of a constituent, Mr Tye from Abergavenny.

We will support the regulations. However, I want to raise two points that the management of a leading bus company in Wales have raised with me. First, the company is concerned that, although the reimbursements may cover their basic costs, it will not allow it much room to make a profit. That could affect the viability of certain routes. I hope that the Minister for Environment will take that on board and will perhaps talk to the management of these companies to ensure

bod Plaid Cymru, unwaith eto, yn ceisio troi pethau cadarnhaol yn bethau negyddol, a throi newyddion da yn newyddion drwg. Croesewir y fenter hon gan Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

Nid oes amheuaeth bod angen mynd i'r afael â rhai materion ymarferol. Mae fy etholaeth ar y ffin â Lloegr. Efallai mai'r awdurdod cynnal fydd yn gyfrifol am y trefniadau teithio trawsffiniol a'r goblygiadau o ran cost. Mae Cyngor Sir y Fflint wedi codi'r mater hwnnw gyda mi. Er hyn, mae'r cyngor yn gefnogol dros ben a gofynna i'r Gweinidog ymdrin â goblygiadau'r newidiadau yn y dyfodol. Er y pryderon hyn, mae'n amlwg bod llywodraeth leol yn gadarnhaol ac yn gefnogol i'r polisi hwn a luniwyd yng Nghymru gan y Blaid Lafur.

David Davies: Efallai na ddylwn ofyn a ddylai unrhyw Aelodau ddatgan buddiant oherwydd eu hoedran. Os bydd unrhyw un am ymyrryd, byddaf yn fwy na pharod i ildio.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Os edrychwch ar eich canllaw ymddygiad yn y Siambr, David, gwelwch nad oes angen datgan buddiant yn yr achos hwn. Fel arall, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai unrhyw Aelod yr effeithir arno wedi datgan buddiant o'r fath.

David Davies: Ymddiheuraf. Mae'r grŵp Ceidwadol yn croesawu'r cynigion hyn, fel pawb arall. Ar wahân i'r ddadl o fewn y Blaid Lafur ynghylch pa un ai polisi'r grŵp Llafur ynteu'r glymblaid Ryddfrydol-Lafur ydyw, mae pob plaid wleidyddol yn y Cynulliad yn ei gefnogi. Bu cryn ddisgwyl am y rheoliadau hyn. Dyma un o'r materion cyntaf imi ei godi ar ran un o'm hetholwyr, Mr Tye o'r Fenni.

Cefnogwn y rheoliadau hyn. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn godi dau bwynt a gododd rheolwyr un o'r prif gwmnïau bysiau yng Nghymru gyda mi. I ddechrau, mae'r cwmni'n bryderus, er efallai y bydd yr ad-daliadau'n cwmpasu eu costau sylfaenol, ni fydd yn rhoi llawer o gyfle iddo wneud elw. Gallai hynny effeithio ar ymarferoldeb llwybrau penodol. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd yn ystyried hynny ac efallai'n siarad â rheolwyr y cwmnïau hyn i sicrhau eu

that they are happy with the arrangements.

Janet Ryder: Do you agree that using community transport, which is run by not-for-profit organisations, ensures that all profits made—if any are made—go back into providing these vitally needed services? It is completely different to using private bus companies.

David Davies: With all due respect, you are jumping the gun. I was about to discuss the Plaid Cymru amendment, which we will support. However, I want to discuss reimbursement for bus companies. Not all bus companies are entirely happy with the arrangements. I wanted to throw that out as a note of caution.

Secondly, the biggest issue that concerns bus companies at the moment is the safety of drivers and passengers. I realise that this is not directly related to these regulations. It is good that more elderly people are travelling on buses, but we must ensure that they are safe when they do so. We need to do more to support bus drivers who are under threat and who suffer verbal abuse almost daily in some areas.

We support the Plaid Cymru amendment. Community transport is a good thing, but it must run in conjunction with commercial bus services. Finally, we welcome these regulations. We are glad that it does not take as long for a bus to turn up as it does for Labour to honour its commitments.

10:05 a.m.

Alun Pugh: I welcome these regulations. They fulfil one of Welsh Labour's key election pledges. I am sorry that Plaid Cymru cannot welcome these regulations with an open heart and 100 per cent commitment. If we could fix every flooding problem in Wales, Plaid Cymru would complain about the impact on bucket manufacturers.

There are around 18,000 pensioners in my constituency. We should never forget that many of those pensioners—around 30 per cent—have no access to a car, and that bus fares form a significant part of their weekly

bod yn fodlon ar y trefniadau.

Janet Ryder: A gytunwch fod defnyddio trafndiaeth gymunedol, a gaiff ei darparu gan sefydliadau di-elw, yn sicrhau y caiff pob elw a wneir—os o gwbl—ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer darparu'r gwasanaethau hanfodol hyn? Mae'n hollol wahanol i ddefnyddio cwmnïau bysiau preifat.

David Davies: Gyda phob dyledus barch, yr ydych yn mynd o flaen eich tro. Yr oeddwn ar fin trafod gwelliant Plaid Cymru, y byddwn yn ei gefnogi. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf am drafod ad-daliad i gwmnïau bysiau. Nid yw pob cwmni bysiau yn hollol fodlon â'r trefniadau. Yr oeddwn am eich rhybuddio am hynny.

Yn ail, y mater mwyaf sy'n pryderu cwmnïau bysiau ar hyn o bryd yw diogelwch gyrwyr a theithwyr. Sylweddolaf nad yw hyn yn uniongyrchol gysylltiedig â'r rheoliadau hyn. Mae'n dda bod mwy o bobl hŷn yn teithio ar fysus, ond rhaid inni sicrhau eu bod yn ddiogel pan fyddant yn gwneud hynny. Mae angen inni wneud mwy i gefnogi gyrwyr bysiau sydd dan fygythiad ac yn cael eu sarhau bron bob dydd mewn rhai ardaloedd.

Cefnogwn welliant Plaid Cymru. Mae trafndiaeth gymunedol yn beth da, ond rhaid iddi redeg ochr yn ochr â gwasanaethau bysiau masnachol. Yn olaf, croesawn y rheoliadau hyn. Yr ydym yn falch nad yw'n cymryd cymaint o amser i fys gyrraedd ag y mae i Lafur gadw at ei addewidion.

Alun Pugh: Croesawaf y rheoliadau hyn. Maent yn cyflawni un o addewidion etholiadol allweddol y Blaid Lafur. Mae'n drueni na all Plaid Cymru groesawu'r rheoliadau hyn yn gynnes a chydag ymrwymiad 100 y cant. Pe gallem ddatrys pob problem o ran llifogydd yng Nghymru, byddai Plaid Cymru yn cwyno am yr effaith ar wneuthurwyr bwcedi.

Mae tua 18,000 o bensiynwyr yn fy etholaeth. Ni ddylem fyth anghofio nad oes gan lawer o'r pensiynwyr hyn—tua 30 y cant—ddefnydd o gar, a bod y gost o deithio ar fysiau yn rhan sylweddol o'u cyllideb

budget. The regulations will have a significant impact on pensioner budgets. We all know that pensioners do not take up their full entitlements to any welfare benefits, so I would like an assurance from the Government that there will be an imaginative public information campaign to promote this scheme vigorously.

Finally, will the Minister confirm that pensioners will have access to local buses outside their immediate area? I ask this not because my mother in the Rhondda is contemplating travelling to Clwyd West by linking a series of local buses, but because Colwyn Bay, Abergele and Ruthin pensioners are a mobile lot, and they would like to travel all over north Wales using this scheme.

Pauline Jarman: I declare an interest as a member of Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. I will speak to the Plaid Cymru amendment. I draw Members' attention to the valuable work of Accessible Caring Transport in the Cynon Valley. It currently has nine vehicles with between nine and 16 seats, and transports 2,000 elderly and disabled passengers a month. It is registered under section 19 of the Transport Act 1985, which means that it can pay its drivers but it cannot take fares—it must invoice its customers instead. It is registered and licensed by the transport commissioners' office for south Wales, which, by the way, has moved from Cardiff to Birmingham. As a community transport operator, its customers are denied the service of the concessionary bus fare scheme. It could register under section 22 of the Transport Act, but the drivers would then have to be unpaid volunteers rather than the present arrangements. It would also have to consult with the commercial network operators to see whether it could take fares on the routes that it wished to service. Even then, it would not qualify under these regulations to enable its customers to use its concessionary bus arrangements. The disadvantage of the second arrangement, using voluntary drivers, is that it could affect the service's reliability and, in view of the Government's back to work regulations, I am told that fewer drivers are volunteering.

wythnosol. Bydd y rheoliadau'n effeithio'n sylweddol ar gyllidebau pensïynwyr. Gwyddom oll nad yw pensïynwyr yn hawlio pob budd-dal lles sydd ar gael iddynt, felly hoffwn gael sicrwydd gan y Llywodraeth y bydd ymgyrch gwybodaeth gyhoeddus greadigol i hyrwyddo'r cynllun hwn yn drylwyr.

Yn olaf, a fydd y Gweinidog yn cadarnhau y bydd gan pensïynwyr yr hawl i ddefnyddio bysiau lleol y tu allan i'w cymdogaeth? Gofynnaf hyn nid am fod fy mam yn y Rhondda yn bwriadu teithio i Orllewin Clwyd drwy gysylltu cyfres o fysiau lleol, ond am fod pensïynwyr Bae Colwyn, Abergele a Rhuthun yn griw symudol, ac yr hoffent deithio ledled gogledd Cymru gan ddefnyddio'r cynllun hwn.

Pauline Jarman: Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf. Siaradaf am welliant Plaid Cymru. Tynnaf sylw'r Aelodau at waith gwerthfawr Accessible Caring Transport yng Nghwm Cynon. Ar hyn o bryd mae ganddo naw cerbyd gyda rhwng naw a 16 sedd, ac mae'n cludo 2,000 o deithwyr hyn ac anabl bob mis. Mae wedi'i gofrestru o dan adran 19 Deddf Trafnidiaeth 1985, sy'n golygu y gall dalu ei yrwyr ond na all godi tâl ar y teithwyr—yn hytrach rhaid iddo anfon anfonebau at ei gwsmeriaid. Mae wedi'i gofrestru a'i drwyddedu gan swyddfa comisiynydd trafniadaeth de Cymru sydd, gyda llaw, wedi symud o Gaerdydd i Birmingham. Fel gweithredydd trafniadaeth gymunedol, ni fyd modd i'w gwsmeriaid elwa ar y cynllun tocyn mantais bws. Gallai gofrestru o dan adran 22 y Ddeddf Trafnidiaeth, ond yna byddai'n rhaid i'r gywyr fod yn wirfoddolwyr di-dâl yn hytrach na'r trefniadau presennol. Hefyd byddai'n rhaid iddo ymgynghori â chwmnïau y rhwydwaith masnachol i weld a allai godi tâl ar gyfer y llwybrau yr oedd yn dymuno eu gwasanaethu. Hyd yn oed wedyn, ni fyddai'n gymwys o dan y rheoliadau hyn i alluogi i'w gwsmeriaid ddefnyddio ei drefniadau bysiau consesiynol. Anfantais yr ail drefniant, sef defnyddio gywyr gwirfoddol, yw y byddai'n effeithio ar ddibynadwyedd y gwasanaeth ac, yn sgîl rheoliadau dychwelyd i waith y Llywodraeth, dywedir wrthyf fod llai o yrwyr yn gwirfoddoli.

I make these points to illustrate that this company alone transports 2,000 elderly and disabled people a month who will be disadvantaged because of the type of transport that they use. The concessionary bus passes cannot be used on community transport because of the regulations that I mentioned, and community transport operators will suffer as a consequence. I appeal to the Minister to consider the amendment as a way forward to reinforce an obvious concern in this matter.

Eleanor Burnham: The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome these regulations as they implement another partnership pledge, taking forward another made-in-Wales policy. The benefits of this bus pass scheme to the elderly and disabled, who are often the most excluded groups in society, are immense. Pensioners and disabled people often do not own cars and are on low incomes. They therefore rely on public transport to get around, access services and play a full part in their communities.

However, this is about more than bus passes, it is a challenge that the Assembly faces in bridging the gap in Wales between the provision of public transport and the needs of those who use it. That is why the Liberal Democrats in Wales particularly welcome the Minister's commitment to community transport, which was so evident in her speech. We, like Sue, wholeheartedly support the principle of extending this scheme to reimbursement arrangements for community transport in the future. In rural areas, where bus services are limited, community transport forms a lifeline for many pensioners.

We will not, however, support Jocelyn's amendment because, on the one hand, it is redundant, and on the other, it sets out an unrealistic timetable for achieving what is already a partnership Government objective. In a letter to Mick Bates on 29 October the Minister described in detail the extensive work that she has already undertaken with

Gwnaf y pwyntiau hyn i ddangos bod y cwmni hwn yn unig yn cludo 2,000 o bobl hŷn ac anabl bob mis a fydd dan anfantais oherwydd y math o drafnidiaeth y maent yn ei ddefnyddio. Ni ellir defnyddio'r tocynnau mantais bws ar drafnidiaeth gymunedol oherwydd y rheoliadau a grybwyllais, a bydd cwmnïau trafnidiaeth gymunedol yn dioddef o ganlyniad i hynny. Apeliaf ar y Gweinidog i ystyried y gwelliant fel ffordd ymlaen i atgyfnerthu pryder amlwg yn y mater hwn.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu'r rheoliadau hyn gan eu bod yn gweithredu addewid partneriaeth arall, gan gyflwyno polisi arall a luniwyd yng Nghymru. Mae buddiannau'r cynllun tocynnau bws hwn i'r henoed a phobl anabl, yn aml y grwpiau a gaiff eu hallgáu fwyaf mewn cymdeithas, yn anferth. Yn aml nid yw pensiynwyr a phobl anabl yn berchen ar geir ac maent ar incymau isel. Felly maent yn dibynnu llawer ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus i'w cludo o le i le, i gael gafael ar wasanaethau ac i gymryd rhan lawn yn eu cymunedau.

Fodd bynnag, mae hyn yn ymwneud â mwy na thocynnau bws, mae'n her y mae'r Cynulliad yn ei hwynebu wrth bontio'r bwlch yng Nghymru rhwng y ddarpariaeth o drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus ac anghenion y rhai sy'n ei defnyddio. Dyna pam mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yng Nghymru yn arbennig yn croesawu ymrwymiad y Gweinidog i drafnidiaeth gymunedol, a oedd mor amlwg yn ei haraith. Yr ydym ni, fel Sue, yn llawn gefnogi'r egwyddor o ymestyn y cynllun hwn i drefniadau ad-dalu ar gyfer trafnidiaeth gymunedol yn y dyfodol. Mewn ardaloedd gwledig, lle mae gwasanaethau bysiau yn gyfyngedig, mae trafnidiaeth gymunedol yn achubiaeth i lawer o bensynwyr.

Fodd bynnag, ni chefnogwn welliant Jocelyn oherwydd, ar un llaw, mae'n ddiangen, ac ar y llaw arall, mae'n gosod amserlen afrealistig ar gyfer cyflawni'r hyn sydd eisoes yn amcan Llywodraeth bartneriaeth. Mewn llythyr at Mick Bates ar 29 Hydref disgrifiodd y Gweinidog yn fanwl faint o waith y mae hi eisoes wedi'i wneud gyda'i swyddogion,

her officials, community transport organisations and local authorities to achieve a better-funded, more integrated approach to local transport provision.

Phil Williams *rose—*

The Presiding Officer: Eleanor is not giving way.

Eleanor Burnham: The amendment cuts across that work and fails to recognise the Minister's extensive efforts to achieve this common goal.

Janet Ryder: I will pick up an issue that some Members have raised regarding the development of community transport. Tom talked about the local authority discussing with private bus companies, and David also referred to private bus companies; we know what happened, especially in rural areas, when private bus companies took over bus routes. Many no longer exist, and many people have been left without access to services. That is why it is important that we develop community transport, which can tailor the service to meet the needs of people. However, not all authorities welcome the development of community transport. What discussions is the Minister holding with colleagues in local government to ensure that community transport schemes are written into their service delivery plans?

Sue Essex: First, I reassure David that I do not have to declare an interest as regards free bus passes for the elderly, I may be getting older by the day, and the grey hair showing, but I have not gone that far.

David Davies: I would not have thought so for a minute. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Hear, hear.']

Sue Essex: Thank you. It is nice to see that the Tories still have a bit of the old-world charm, although you could not say that of all them.

Perhaps David will not agree with my next point that many of the bus industry's problems are down to deregulation. I reassure him that I meet the confederation of

sefydliadau trafndiaeth gyhoeddus ac awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau ymagwedd fwy integredig, ac sydd wedi'i hariannu'n well, tuag at ddarpariaeth trafndiaeth leol.

Phil Williams *a gododd—*

Y Llywydd: Nid yw Eleanor yn ildio.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae'r gwelliant yn torri ar draws y gwaith hwnnw ac yn methu â chydabod ymdrechion sylweddol y Gweinidog i gyflawni'r nod cyffredin hwn.

Janet Ryder: Codaf bwynt a gododd rhai Aelodau o ran datblygiad trafndiaeth gymunedol. Soniodd Tom am awdurdodau lleol yn trafod â chwmnïau bysiau preifat, a chyfeiriodd David hefyd at gwmnïau bysiau preifat; gwyddom beth ddigwyddodd, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig, pan ddaeth cwmnïau bysiau preifat yn gyfrifol am y llwybrau bysiau. Nid oes llawer ohonynt yn bodoli bellach, ac mae llawer o bobl heb wasanaethau o gwbl. Dyna pam ei bod yn bwysig ein bod yn datblygu trafndiaeth gymunedol, a all deilwra'r gwasanaeth i ddiwallu anghenion pobl. Fodd bynnag, nid yw pob awdurdod yn croesawu datblygiad trafndiaeth gymunedol. Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cynnal gyda llywodraeth leol i sicrhau y caiff cynlluniau trafndiaeth gymunedol eu cynnwys yn eu cynlluniau darparu gwasanaethau?

Sue Essex: I ddechrau, hoffwn sicrhau David nad oes angen imi ddatgan buddiant o ran tocynnau bws am ddim i'r henoed, efallai fy mod yn heneiddio bob dydd, a bod y gwallt yn britho, ond nid wyf mor hen â hynny.

David Davies: Ni feddyliais hynny erioed. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'Clywch, clywch.']

Sue Essex: Diolch. Mae'n hyfryd gweld bod y Torïaid yn meddu ar ychydig o foesau'r oes a fu, er nad yw hynny'n wir ar gyfer pob un ohonynt.

Efallai na fydd David yn cytuno â'm pwynt nesaf mai dadreoli sydd wrth wraidd llawer o broblemau'r diwydiant bysiau. Gallaf ei sicrhau fy mod yn cwrdd â chydffederasiwn

passenger transport—

Brian Gibbons: As chair of the older people strategy steering group, I take exception to David's suggestion that there are negative connotations to being an older person. We should enjoy and celebrate it, rather than make negative aspersions.

Sue Essex: Thank you, Brian, for that point.

I will address the points made in the debate. As regards Alun Pugh's comment about cross-border arrangements, I am happy to say that they are developing. It is up to the local companies to come together but, as time goes on, those cross-border arrangements will develop. However, we cannot impose it; we can only suggest that they take place. That work is in progress. We must remember that although we can pass these Orders and regulations, you cannot begin to imagine how much hard work has gone into dealing with the nitty-gritty of trying to get consistency between local authorities. Some of them have been operating schemes, others have not. It has been a complicated and difficult process. I sincerely thank the operators, the local authorities and my officials, who have worked hard on this to try to ensure that we get this consistency and, importantly, that people know that this can be delivered. There is no point in people turning up at the bus stop, if they do not know that this can be delivered. It is a matter of taking this scheme through, stage by stage, so that we can establish something that we are confident will work.

As regards the amendment, I say to Plaid Members that you have my commitment, you know where I am coming from and where I want this scheme to go. However, I cannot impose it on community transport. It would be wrong for me to do so. We must put the systems in place.

10:15 a.m.

Helen Mary Jones: Plaid Cymru does not doubt your commitment to this scheme. It is a question of time. This is a good scheme, and we welcome it, but there are elderly and disabled people who will not be able to take

trafnidiaeth i deithwyr—

Brian Gibbons: Fel cadeirydd grŵp llywio strategaeth i bobl hŷn, anghytunaf ag awgrym David fod goblygiadau negyddol i fod yn berson hŷn. Dylem fwynhau a dathlu hyn, yn hytrach na gwneud sylwadau negyddol.

Sue Essex: Diolch, Brian, am y pwynt hwnnw.

Ymdriniaf â'r pwyntiau a wnaed yn y ddadl. O ran sylw Alun Pugh am drefniadau trawsffiniol, mae'n dda gennyf ddweud eu bod yn datblygu. Lle'r cwmnïau lleol yw dod ynghyd ond, wrth i amser fynd yn ei flaen, bydd y trefniadau trawsffiniol hyn yn datblygu. Fodd bynnag, ni allwn orfodi hyn; dim ond awgrymu y dylai hynny ddigwydd. Mae'r gwaith hwnnw'n mynd rhagddo. Rhaid inni gofio er y gallwn basio'r Gorchmynion a'r rheoliadau hyn, na ellir ond dychmygu faint o waith caled sydd wedi'i wneud wrth fynd at wraidd y broblem o geisio cael cysondeb rhwng awdurdodau lleol. Mae rhai ohonynt wedi bod yn gweithredu cynlluniau, ac eraill ddim yn gwneud hynny. Bu'n broses gymhleth ac anodd. Hoffwn ddiolch o galon i'r cwmnïau, yr awdurdodau lleol a'm swyddogion, sydd wedi gweithio'n galed ar hyn i geisio sicrhau ein bod yn cael y cysondeb hwn ac, yn bwysig, bod pobl yn gwybod y gellir darparu hyn. Nid oes pwynt i bobl fynd at yr arosfan bysiau, os na wyddant y gellir cyflenwi hyn. Mae'n fater o gwblhau'r cynllun, gam wrth gam, fel y gallwn sefydlu rhywbeth yr ydym yn hyderus y bydd yn gweithio.

O ran y gwelliant, dywedaf wrth Aelodau Plaid fy mod yn ymrwymedig i hyn, gwyddoch fy marn a sut yr hoffwn i'r cynllun hwn gael ei ddatblygu. Fodd bynnag, ni allaf ei orfodi ar dtrafnidiaeth gyhoeddus. Byddai'n anghywir imi wneud hynny. Rhaid inni roi'r systemau ar waith.

Helen Mary Jones: Nid yw Plaid Cymru yn amau eich ymrwymiad i'r cynllun hwn. Mater o amser ydyw. Mae'n gynllun da, ac yr ydym yn ei groesawu, ond mae pobl hŷn a phobl anabl na fyddant yn gallu manteisio

advantage of it. Are we talking about seeing a resolution to this in six months' time, or in a year's time? No-one underestimates its complexity, but I am sure that you agree that there is a huge will in the community transport community to sort this out. It is concerned, where there is competition, about possibly losing services to commercial services if older people have to pay for using them and do not have to pay for using community buses. Can you give an idea—or if you cannot do so now, will you come back to Committee—of how long this will take? The purpose of this amendment is to tie the regulations to a timescale and to say to people—

The Presiding Officer: Order. That is an additional speech. It is not an intervention.

Helen Mary Jones: We want to know how long this will take.

Sue Essex: I am glad that you admit that this is a good scheme. You must realise that community transport is different to commercial transport. It was set up within the social services mould.

On the transport framework, we are trying to identify gaps in accessibility, and whether we can install community transport schemes that sustain that accessibility so that we can define routes on the ground and implement those linkages. The other issue is that we must then make it clear that funding for schemes must be transparent. Edwina Hart would not want to agree to anything where we could not put our hand on our heart and say that the money is going in the right way and that we are answerable for those sums. That work must be done and put in place.

On having a definite timescale, I cannot give you one because it is unfair for me to do so. We are working in collaboration with the community transport association and Welsh local government. A sub-group is considering how we can take community transport forward in future. Concessionary fares are an important part of that, but we must get the structures right first and, as Pauline said, get the regulations right so that community

arno. A gaiff hyn ei ddatrys ymhen chwe mis, neu ymhen blwyddyn, dywedwch? Mae pawb yn gwerthfawrogi ei fod yn gynllun cymhleth, ond yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn cytuno bod llawer o ewyllys da ymysg pobl sy'n ymwneud â thrafnidiaeth gymunedol i ddatrys hyn. Mae'n pryderu, lle ceir cystadleuaeth, am y posibilrwydd o golli gwasanaethau i wasanaethau masnachol os bydd rhaid i bobl hŷn dalu am eu defnyddio ac os nad oes rhaid iddynt dalu am ddefnyddio bysiau cymunedol. A allwch chi roi syniad—neu os na allwch wneud hynny yn awr, a ddewch yn ôl i'r Pwyllgor—pa mor hir a gymer hyn? Diben y gwelliant hwn yw rhoi amserlen ar gyfer y rheoliadau a dweud wrth bobl—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae hynny'n araith ychwanegol. Nid ymyriad mohono.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr ydym am gael gwybod faint o amser a gymer hyn.

Sue Essex: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn cyfaddef bod hwn yn gynllun da. Rhaid ichi sylweddoli bod trafndiaeth gymunedol yn wahanol i drafnidiaeth fasnachol. Fe'i sefydlwyd ar lun y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol.

O ran y fframwaith trafndiaeth, yr ydym yn ceisio nodi bylchau o ran hygyrchedd, ac a allwn sefydlu cynlluniau trafndiaeth gymunedol a all gynnal yr hygyrchedd hwnnw fel y gallwn ddiffinio llwybrau ar lawr a gweithredu'r cysylltiadau hynny. Y mater arall yw bod rhaid inni wedyn egluro bod rhaid i'r arian ar gyfer y cynlluniau fod yn glir. Ni fyddai Edwina Hart am gytuno ar unrhyw beth lle na allem ddweud ar ein llw bod yr arian yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad cywir a'n bod yn atebol am y symiau hynny. Rhaid gwneud y gwaith hwnnw a'i weithredu.

O ran cael amserlen bendant, ni allaf roi un ichi am na fyddai hynny'n deg. Yr ydym yn gweithio mewn cydweithrediad â'r gymdeithas drafnidiaeth gymunedol a llywodraeth leol Cymru. Mae is-grŵp yn ystyried sut y gallwn ddatblygu trafndiaeth gymunedol yn y dyfodol. Mae tocynnau mantais yn rhan bwysig o hyn, ond rhaid inni gael y strwythurau'n gywir yn gyntaf ac, fel y dywedodd Pauline, sicrhau bod y

transport can operate in a way that perhaps it would not have envisaged five or 10 years ago. We have put money into the system. There are now more people working for community transport in Wales. As soon as the sub-group has done its work, you have my guarantee that it will come back to the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee. I cannot force things on these people. It would be wrong to do that, because they are doing that work as a sub-group for the Assembly. Once that work is done, I will bring that forward and we can see where we are going, and we will have a clearer view.

On concessionary fares and costs, we are funding a study this year to ensure that costs are fair and reasonable to each local authority. We only have the practice of a couple of local authorities to depend upon. We do not know whether that will work out in exact pounds and pence. This year we will see how it works, we will fund the study, and if the formula needs adjusting, we will do so. There is such goodwill to make this available, that everyone has lived with this. I hope that answers some of your questions.

Like Tom, I would like to thank Peter Law, who, as Secretary for Local Government and Housing, supported this scheme well.

Alun Pugh: Can you give an assurance that there will be a vigorous public information campaign for this scheme?

Sue Essex: I will come to that in a minute. I would like to thank Eleanor for her wholehearted support. I appreciate that. She fully backed the scheme. Alun, the last point in my opening speech was that this needs to be promoted so that people across Wales know what their opportunities are. I give that assurance. As we learn more about making this work and making it practical, I hope that the scheme will roll out to reach every community in Wales.

rheoliadau'n gywir fel y gall trafniadaeth gymunedol weithredu mewn modd na fyddem wedi'i ragweld o bosibl tua phum neu 10 mlynedd yn ôl. Yr ydym wedi rhoi arian i'r system. Mae mwy o bobl bellach yn gweithio i drafniadaeth gymunedol yng Nghymru. Cyn gynted ag y bydd yr is-grŵp wedi gwneud ei waith, cewch fy sicrwydd y daw yn ôl i Bwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth. Ni allaf orfodi'r bobl hyn i wneud pethau. Byddai hynny'n anghywir, am eu bod yn gwneud y gwaith hwnnw fel is-grŵp ar gyfer y Cynulliad. Unwaith y bydd y gwaith hwnnw wedi'i wneud, fe'i cyflwynaf a gallwn weld i ble yr ydym yn mynd, a bydd gennym ddarlun cliriach.

O ran tocynnau a chostau mantais, yr ydym yn ariannu astudiaeth eleni i sicrhau bod y costau'n deg ac yn rhesymol i bob awdurdod lleol. Dim ond arfer dau awdurdod lleol sydd gennym i ddibynnu arno. Ni wyddom a fydd hynny'n gweithio allan yn union o ran punnoedd a cheiniogau. Eleni byddwn yn gweld sut mae'n gweithio, byddwn yn ariannu'r astudiaeth ac, os oes angen addasu'r fformiwla, fe wnawn hynny. Mae cymaint o ewyllys da i sicrhau y bydd hwn ar gael, fel bod pawb wedi byw gyda hyn. Gobeithiaf fod hynny'n ateb rhai o'ch cwestiynau.

Fel Tom, hoffwn ddiolch i Peter Law, a oedd, fel yr Ysgrifennydd dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai, wedi cefnogi'r cynllun yn dda.

Alun Pugh: A allwch roi sicrwydd imi y bydd ymgyrch gwybodaeth gyhoeddus drylwyr ar gyfer y cynllun hwn?

Sue Essex: Dof at hynny mewn munud. Hoffwn ddiolch i Eleanor am ei chymorth brwd. Gwerthfawrogaf hynny. Cefnogodd y cynllun yn llwyr. Alun, y pwynt olaf yn fy araith agoriadol oedd bod angen hyrwyddo hyn fel bod pobl ledled Cymru yn gwybod pa gyfleoedd sydd ar gael iddynt. Rhoddaf y sicrwydd hwnnw. Wrth inni ddysgu mwy am sicrhau bod hyn yn gweithio a'i fod yn ymarferol, gobeithiaf y bydd y cynllun hwn yn ymestyn i bob cymuned yng Nghymru.

Y Llywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar y **The Presiding Officer:** We will now vote on the amendment to the principle of the Order.

Gwelliant 1: O blaid 20, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 27
Amendment 1: For 20, Abstain 0, Against 27

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

Bourne, Nick
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Graham, William
 Hancock, Brian
 Jarman, Pauline
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Richards, Rod
 Rogers, Peter
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Phil

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Ron
 Essex, Sue
 Evans, Delyth
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Halford, Alison
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jones, Ann
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.

Y Llywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar y **The Presiding Officer:** We will now vote on the principle of the regulations.

Cynnig: O blaid 48, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 48, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Ron

Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Richards, Rod
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar y cynnig i gymeradwyo'r rheoliadau. **The Presiding Officer:** We will now vote on the motion to approve the regulations.

*Cynnig: O blaid 48, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 48, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian

Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Richards, Rod
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar **The Presiding Officer:** We will now vote on
egwyddor y Gorchymyn. the principle of the Order.

*Cynnig: O blaid 48, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 48, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison

Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Richards, Rod
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar y cynnig
i gymeradwyo'r Gorchymyn.

The Presiding Officer: We will now vote on
the motion to approve the Order.

*Cynnig: O blaid 47, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 47, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann

Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Richards, Rod
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Enseffalopathi Sbyngffurf Defaid a Geifr (Iawndal)
(Diwygio) (Cymru a Lloegr) 2001
Approval of the Draft Sheep and Goats Spongiform Encephalopathy (England
and Wales) (Compensation) (Amendment) Order 2001**

The Minister for Assembly Business Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigaf fod
(**Andrew Davies**): I propose that

the National Assembly, acting under Standing Orders Nos. 22.25, 23.10 and 23.11, approves the draft Sheep And Goats Spongiform Encephalopathy (England and Wales) (Compensation) (Amendment) Order 2001, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 13 November 2001. (NDM851)

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan Reolau Sefydlog Rhifau 22.25, 23.10 a 23.11, yn cymeradwyo'r Gorchymyn drafft, The Sheep and Goats Spongiform Encephalopathy (England & Wales) (Compensation) (Amendment) Order 2001, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 13 Tachwedd 2001. (NDM851)

Y Llywydd: O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25, ni chlynhelir dadl ar y cynnig hwn.

The Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 22.25, this motion is not subject to debate.

*Cynnig: O blaid 47, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 47, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David

Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Richards, Rod
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

The Minister for Assembly Business Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiau fod
(Andrew Davies): I propose that

the National Assembly, under Standing Order No. 6.16, brings forward the no named day motion on the approval of the Presiding Office budget tabled on 15 November 2001. *y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.16, yn dwyn ymlaen y cynnig heb ddydiad trafod ar gymeradwyo cyllideb Swyddfa'r Llywydd a gyflwynwyd ar 15 Tachwedd 2001.*

*Cynnig: O blaid 48, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 48, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter

Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Ron
 Essex, Sue
 Evans, Delyth
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Halford, Alison
 Hancock, Brian
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jarman, Pauline
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Richards, Rod
 Rogers, Peter
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Cyllideb Swyddfa'r Llywydd Approval of the Presiding Office Budget

The Deputy Presiding Officer (John Y Dirprwy Lywydd (John Marek):
Marek): I propose that Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly, acting under Standing Order No. 19.5A, agrees the change in the level of resources allocated to the main expenditure group established for the Office of the Presiding Officer adopted for the office for 2002-03 and provisional allocations for the subsequent two years as set out in the

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 19.5A, yn cytuno â'r newid yn lefel yr adnoddau a ddyrannwyd i'r prif grŵp gwariant a sefydlwyd ar gyfer Swyddfa'r Llywydd a'i fabwysiadu ar gyfer y swyddfa ar gyfer 2002-03 a'r dyraniadau dros dro ar gyfer y ddwy flynedd ddilynol fel

'Presiding Officer Revised Budget for 2002-03 to 2004-05', laid in the Table Office on 14 November 2001. (NNDM845)

y'u nodir yn 'Cyllideb Ddiwygiedig Swyddfa'r Llywydd ar gyfer 2002-03 i 2004-05', a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Tachwedd 2001. (NNDM845)

The Presiding Officer: As there are no speakers on this motion, we proceed to a vote.

Y Llywydd: Gan nad oes unrhyw siaradwyr ar y cynnig hwn, awn ymlaen i bleidleisio.

Cynnig: O blaid 47, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 47, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Richards, Rod
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 10.22 a.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 10.22 a.m.*

**Cymeradwyo'r Gyllideb Derfynol
Approval of the Final Budget**

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): I propose that

the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.3, adopts the final budget for the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, laid in the Table Office on Wednesday 14 November by the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities, Edwina Hart. (NDM852)

I wish, like you, Deputy Presiding Officer, that I could propose the motion, have no speakers and then have the vote in favour—that would be nice. However, I am pleased to present my final budget proposals for 2002-03 and 2003-04. During the debate on the draft budget on 18 October, I gave full details of the various measures that underpin the proposals for the main expenditure groups. I will not repeat them today, but I have written to Nick Bourne, David Davies, Helen Mary Jones, Dafydd Wigley and Phil Williams, responding to the points that they raised during the debate. I have already spoken to Rhodri Glyn Thomas about the Cardiff European Capital of Culture bid, which he raised in that debate. The debate was useful. I have taken careful notes from the comments made in the correspondence that I received from the Chairs of Subject Committees that have been debating the budget proposals during the past month. The relevant spending Ministers will reply to the letters, but I will pick up two or three key issues that have emerged from the correspondence.

10:25 a.m.

Glyn Davies wrote to Carwyn Jones on behalf of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, calling for greater transparency on the funding of the rural

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Cynigiad fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.3, yn mabwysiadu'r gyllideb derfynol ar gyfer y blynyddoedd ariannol 2002-03, 2003-04 a 2004-05, o osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ddydd Mercher 14 Tachwedd gan y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Lleol a Chymunedau, Edwina Hart. (NDM852)

Hoffwn pe bawn i, fel chi, Ddirprwy Lywydd, yn gallu cynnig y cynnig, pe na bai unrhyw siaradwyr, a phe bai'r bleidlais o blaid—byddai'n hynny'n hyfryd. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno fy nghynigion olaf ar gyfer cyllideb 2002-03 a 2003-04. Yn ystod y ddadl ar y gyllideb ddrafft ar 18 Hydref, rhoddais fanylion llawn y mesurau amrywiol sy'n sail i'r cynigion ar gyfer y prif grwpiau gwariant. Nid ailadroddaf hwy heddiw, ond ysgrifennais at Nick Bourne, David Davies, Helen Mary Jones, Dafydd Wigley a Phil Williams, gan ymateb i'r pwyntiau a godwyd ganddynt yn ystod y ddadl. Yr wyf eisoes wedi siarad â Rhodri Glyn Thomas ynglŷn â chais Caerdydd i fod yn Brifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop sef mater a gododd yn y ddadl honno. Yr oedd y ddadl yn ddefnyddiol. Gwneuthum nodiadau gofalus o'r sylwadau a wnaed yn yr ohebiaeth a dderbynais gan Gadeiryddion y Pwyllgorau Pwnc a fu'n trafod y cynigion ar gyfer y gyllideb yn ystod y mis diwethaf. Bydd y Gweinidogion gwario perthnasol yn ateb y llythyrau, ond soniaf am ddau neu dri mater allweddol a ddaeth i'r amlwg yn sgîl yr ohebiaeth.

Ysgrifennodd Glyn Davies at Carwyn Jones ar ran y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig, gan alw am fwy o eglurder ar ariannu'r cynllun adfer gwledig.

recovery plan. I regret that the Committee did not find the tables that I published in advance of my draft budget sufficiently clear on this point, but it was not for the want of trying. As I have explained before, the rural recovery plan is being funded with end year flexibility. Since this is not recurrent expenditure, it does not form part of the main budget proposals. Instead, on 6 December, I will announce to the Assembly the in-year changes to the Assembly's 2001-02 budget. That will give details of how I propose to allocate any additional resources due to be provided by the Assembly by virtue of the winter supplementary estimate. The statement will also include details of changes between budgets. The specific allocation of resources relating to the rural recovery package for the current financial year will be confirmed at that time. I will also publish a table at that time to show how expenditure on the remainder of the package is profiled.

We will be dealing in a similar fashion with the support for the Wales Millennium Centre—a point raised by Rhodri Glyn Thomas in a letter to Jenny Randerson on behalf of the Culture Committee. Richard Edwards wrote to Sue Essex on behalf of the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee. One issue raised in that letter was the Committee's forthcoming report on the investigation into the Nantygwyddon landfill site. I recognise that that may lead to additional resource requirements, and while Members will understand that I am not in a position to make provision for this matter immediately, I am mindful of the issue and will remain in close contact with Sue Essex about the matter.

Turning to education, I am pleased that the discussion of the draft budget proposals in the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee has been broadly favourable. However, I have noted the concerns raised by the Committee in respect of further education and higher education sector pay and unit of resource, as reflected in Cynog Dafis's letter to Jane Davidson. The Assembly is currently dealing with major policy issues in the education and lifelong learning area that may have significant financial implications. These include the implementation of the Rees report

Gresynaf nad oedd y tablau a gyhoeddais cyn y gyllideb ddrafft yn ddigon clir ym marn y Pwyllgor ar y pwynt hwn, ond nid oherwydd diffyg ymdrech yr oedd hyn. Fel yr eglurais o'r blaen, ariennir y cynllun adfer gwledig gyda hyblygrwydd diwedd y flwyddyn. Gan nad yw'n wariant rheolaidd, nid yw'n rhan o gynigion y brif gyllideb. Yn hytrach, ar 6 Rhagfyr, cyhoeddaf i'r Cynulliad y newidiadau i gyllideb 2001-02 y Cynulliad. Rhydd fanylion am sut y bwriadaf ddyrannu unrhyw adnoddau ychwanegol y mae disgwyl i'r Cynulliad eu darparu yn rhinwedd amcangyfrif atodol y gaeaf. Bydd y datganiad hefyd yn cynnwys manylion am y newidiadau rhwng y cyllidebau. Cadarnheir y dyraniad penodol o adnoddau sy'n berthnasol i'r pecyn adfer gwledig ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol bryd hynny. Cyhoeddaf dabl hefyd bryd hynny i ddangos sut y caiff gwariant ar weddill y pecyn ei amlinellu.

Byddwn yn delio â'r gefnogaeth i Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru mewn modd tebyg—pwynt a godwyd gan Rhodri Glyn Thomas mewn llythyr at Jenny Randerson ar ran y Pwyllgor Diwylliant. Ysgrifennodd Richard Edwards at Sue Essex ar ran Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth. Un mater a godwyd yn y llythyr hwnnw oedd adroddiad y Pwyllgor a gyhoeddir yn fuan ar yr ymchwiliad i safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon. Cydnabûm y gall hynny arwain at ofynion ychwanegol o ran adnoddau, a thra bydd yr Aelodau yn deall nad wyf mewn sefyllfa i ddarparu ar gyfer hyn ar unwaith, yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r mater a byddaf yn parhau i gadw mewn cysylltiad agos â Sue Essex yn glân â'r mater hwn.

Gan droi at addysg, yr wyf yn falch bod y drafodaeth o'r cynigion drafft ar gyfer y gyllideb yn y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes wedi bod yn ffafriol i raddau helaeth. Fodd bynnag, nodais y pryderon a godwyd gan y Pwyllgor o ran cyflog ac uned adnoddau y sector addysg bellach ac addysg uwch, fel yr adlewyrchwyd yn llythyr Cynog Dafis at Jane Davidson. Ar hyn o bryd mae'r Cynulliad yn delio â materion polisi pwysig ym maes addysg a dysgu gydol oes y gall fod goblygiadau ariannol mawr iddynt. Yn eu plith mae gweithredu adroddiad Rees a

and the reform of the HE sector. We are currently examining the options in the Rees report and shall deal with higher education in setting out our strategy for HE, taking account of the results of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee's review. The partnership agreement's commitment on adequately funded development and expansion for higher education remains, but I am determined to consider the financial position in the round so that a sustainable position can be achieved for the medium to long-term. My supplementary budget in March provides an opportunity to revisit these matters should it prove necessary. However, I acknowledge that early next year, both HE and FE sectors may wish to devote more resources to recurrent spending than is proposed in the budget. I have agreed appropriate flexibility between capital and revenue provision to meet these pressures as necessary.

I have published tables covering further additions to the budget. These are fairly marginal, but they include additional recurrent allocations totalling nearly £5.8 million for the next two financial years and £4.5 million from end of year flexibility over the same period. However, I take this opportunity to confirm that full provision will be made for new hospitals in Rhondda and Porthmadog. Since I intend to fund these projects from end year flexibility, I will make the necessary resources available when they are needed. In addition to publishing the tables following the final budget plans, I have circulated a table to Assembly Members, detailing the changes that have been made to the draft budget proposals, including the numerous technical transfers in and out of the Assembly's budget and between main expenditure groups. I thank Members who have e-mailed me to ask for clarification on this matter.

In addition to the two new hospitals that I mentioned, a number of specific issues have emerged between the draft and final budgets, which I will highlight. They include the possibility of a beta interferon risk-sharing scheme, in which the drug could be funded

diwygio'r sector addysg uwch. Ar hyn o bryd yr ydym yn archwilio'r opsiynau yn adroddiad Rees a byddwn yn delio ag addysg uwch pan fyddwn yn amlinellu ein strategaeth ar gyfer addysg uwch, gan ystyried canlyniadau adolygiad y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Erys ymrwymiad y cytundeb partneriaeth ar ddatblygu ac ymestyn addysg uwch gan ei hariannu'n ddigonol, ond yr wyf yn benderfynol o ystyried y sefyllfa ariannol yn gyffredinol fel y gellir cyrraedd sefyllfa gynaliadwy yn y tymor canolig i'r hirdymor. Rhydd fy nghyllideb atodol ym mis Mawrth gyfle i aildrafod y materion hyn pe bai angen. Fodd bynnag, cydnabûm y bydd y sectorau addysg uwch ac addysg bellach, yn gynnwys y flwyddyn nesaf efallai, yn dymuno neilltuo mwy o adnoddau ar gyfer gwariant rheolaidd na'r hyn a gynigir yn y gyllideb. Cytunais ar hyblygrwydd priodol rhwng darpariaeth cyfalaf a refeniw i fodloni'r galwadau hynny yn ôl yr angen.

Cyhoeddais tablau sy'n cwmpasu ychwanegiadau pellach i'r gyllideb. Mae'r rhain yn gymharol ymylol, ond maent yn cynnwys dyraniadau rheolaidd ychwanegol o bron £5.8 miliwn ar gyfer y ddwy flynedd ariannol nesaf a £4.5 miliwn o hyblygrwydd diwedd y flwyddyn yn ystod yr un cyfnod. Fodd bynnag, manteisiaf ar y cyfle hwn i gadarnhau y gwneir darpariaeth lawn ar gyfer ysbytai newydd yn y Rhondda a Phorthmadog. Gan fy mod yn bwriadu ariannu'r prosiectau hyn drwy hyblygrwydd diwedd y flwyddyn, sicrhaf fod yr adnoddau ychwanegol ar gael pan fydd eu hangen. Yn ogystal â chyhoeddi'r tablau yn dilyn y cynlluniau ar gyfer y gyllideb derfynol, anfonais dabl at Aelodau'r Cynulliad, yn crybwyll y newidiadau a wnaed i'r cynigion drafft ar gyfer y gyllideb, gan gynnwys y trosglwyddiadau technegol niferus i mewn ac allan o gyllideb y Cynulliad a rhwng y prif grwpiau gwariant. Diolchaf i'r Aelodau a anfonodd e-bost ataf yn gofyn am eglurhad ar y mater hwn.

Yn ogystal â'r ddau ysbyty newydd a grybwyllais, daeth nifer o faterion penodol i'r amlwg rhwng y gyllideb ddrafft a'r gyllideb derfynol, ac fe'u hamlygaf. Yn eu plith mae'r posibilrwydd o gael cynllun rhannu risg beta interferon, lle y gallai'r cyffur gael ei ariannu

for patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. That is currently being discussed with the Department of Health and it is not certain that trials will go ahead. However, following discussions with the Minister for Health and Social Services, I have set aside £1.7 million a year to assist with the funding of such a scheme.

Secondly, a further £1.8 million for transitional grants will ease the impact of the new revenue support grant formula for next year.

Thirdly, one of the targets in 'Plan for Wales 2001' is to ensure that all public bodies in Wales have asset management plans in place, or in preparation, by April 2002. That is important as they will help inform future Assembly capital spending plans, and I shall publish the Assembly's review by the end of November, which confirms that we are on-target to meet that objective.

The Welsh Local Government Association set up a working group, with Assembly representation, which published guidance for the preparation of local government asset management plans in September. I am pleased to announce that for next year, an additional sum of £1 million will be distributed among local authorities to assist them in completing this task.

A sum of £150,000 per annum recurring has also been set aside to fund a chamber orchestra for Wales, with the objective of making performances more accessible to communities. End year flexibility will provide £900,000 to develop the fundamental review of procurement across the Welsh public sector. That is the first time in the United Kingdom that procurement has been reviewed as a cross-cutting issue and, with Welsh public sector expenditure now exceeding £3 billion, it is vital for Wales, its economy and its environment that these issues are tackled.

The review identified potential value for money savings amounting to some £90 million per annum over time. Therefore, we

ar gyfer cleifion â sglerosis ymledol atglafychol. Trafodir hyn ar hyn o bryd gyda'r Adran Iechyd ac nid yw'n sicr eto y caiff y treialon eu cynnal. Fodd bynnag, yn dilyn trafodaethau â'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, neilltuais £1.7 miliwn y flwyddyn i helpu i ariannu cynllun o'r fath.

Yn ail, bydd £1.8 miliwn arall ar gael ar gyfer grantiau trosiannol a fydd yn lleddfu effaith y fformiwla grant cynnal refeniw newydd ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf.

Yn drydydd, un o'r targedau yn 'Cynllun i Gymru 2001' yw sicrhau bod gan bob corff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru gynlluniau rheoli asedion ar waith, neu wrthi'n cael eu paratoi, erbyn Ebrill 2002. Mae hynny'n bwysig, gan y byddant yn helpu i lywio cynlluniau gwariant cyfalaf y Cynulliad yn y dyfodol, a byddaf yn cyhoeddi adolygiad y Cynulliad erbyn diwedd Tachwedd, sy'n cadarnhau y byddwn yn bodloni'r amcan hwnnw ar amser.

Sefydlodd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru weithgor, gyda chynrychiolwyr o'r Cynulliad, a gyhoeddodd arweiniad ar baratoi cynlluniau rheoli asedion llywodraeth leol ym mis Medi. Mae'n bleser gennyf gyhoeddi y caiff swm ychwanegol o £1 filiwn ei ddosbarthu ymhlith awdurdodau lleol y flwyddyn nesaf i'w helpu i gwblhau'r dasg hon.

Neilltuwyd swm o £150,000 y flwyddyn yn rheolaidd hefyd i ariannu cerddorfa siambr i Gymru, gyda'r amcan o wneud perfformiadau yn fwy hygyrch i gymunedau. Bydd yr hyblygrwydd diwedd y flwyddyn yn darparu £900,000 i ddatblygu'r adolygiad sylfaenol o gaffael ar draws y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru. Dyma'r tro cyntaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig i'r broses gaffael gael ei hadolygu fel mater trawsbynciol a, chydawariant yn y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru yn fwy na £3 biliwn erbyn hyn, mae'n holl bwysig ein bod yn mynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn er budd Cymru, ei heconomi a'i hamgylchedd.

Nododd yr adolygiad arbedion gwerth am arian posibl o tua £90 miliwn y flwyddyn dros gyfnod o amser. Felly, yr ydym yn

are investing to save in this vitally important sector. The initiative will be taken forward by a small team of procurement professionals within the Assembly, directed by a supervisory body, which I chair. In addition, the Assembly will part-fund a local government procurement initiative support team to take the initiative forward in local government.

Finally, I want to announce our support for one particular scheme, to which I attach the highest priority. The Assembly is providing the Llanhilleth area regeneration scheme in Blaenau Gwent with £5.5 million. Part of the funding will be delivered from additional sums that I have set aside to deal with the impact of the Corus closures on our steel communities. That is over and above the funding announced by the First Minister on 3 May. When other sources of funding, including Objective 1, Communities First and the Welsh Development Agency are added, this is a £10 million project.

This scheme is important for several reasons. First, it represents our cross-cutting agenda in real terms, as the project involves a new integrated school and institute, which will also be used for adult lifelong learning and community health purposes. In addition, further phases of the project involve regeneration, infrastructure, and business development opportunities.

Secondly, the project started life as a potential private finance initiative, but it did not add up. However, the fact that we are proceeding with it shows that this administration is prepared to examine all funding options when it comes to dealing with essential projects in our most deprived communities.

I also welcome the strong partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council that is driving the project forward. I am particularly grateful to Peter Law for his unstinting support during this difficult period, in terms of negotiating this project. If Members want further details of the project, I urge them to look at the displays on the right-hand side of the neuadd as they leave the

buddsoddi i gynilo yn y sector holl bwysig hwn. Caiff y fenter ei datblygu gan dîm bychan o weithwyr proffesiynol ym maes caffael o fewn y Cynulliad, o dan arweiniad corff goruchwyliol, a gadeirir gennyf fi. Yn ogystal, bydd y Cynulliad yn ariannu tîm cymorth menter caffael llywodraeth leol yn rhannol er mwyn datblygu'r fenter ym maes llywodraeth leol.

Yn olaf, yr wyf am gyhoeddi ein cefnogaeth i un cynllun yn arbennig, y rhoddaf y flaenoriaeth uchaf iddo. Mae'r Cynulliad yn rhoi £5.5 miliwn i gynllun adfywio ardal Llanhilleth ym Mlaenau Gwent. Caiff rhan o'r arian ei darparu o symiau ychwanegol a neilltuais i ddelio ag effaith cau gwaith Corus ar ein cymunedau dur. Mae hynny'n fwy na'r arian a gyhoeddwyd gan Brif Weinidog Cymru ar 3 Mai. Pan ychwanegir ffynonellau arall o arian, gan gynnwys Amcan 1, Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf ac Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, mae hwn yn brosiect gwerth £10 miliwn.

Mae'r cynllun yn bwysig am sawl rheswm. Yn gyntaf, mae'n cynrychioli ein hagenda drawsbynciol mewn termau gwirioneddol, gan fod y prosiect yn cynnwys ysgol a sefydliad newydd integredig, a ddefnyddir hefyd ar gyfer dysgu gydol oes i oedolion ac at ddibenion iechyd cymuned. Yn ogystal, mae camau pellach o'r prosiect yn cynnwys adfywio, seilwaith a chyfleoedd i ddatblygu busnes.

Yn ail, dechreuodd y prosiect ei fywyd fel menter cyllid preifat bosibl, ond nid oedd yn ymarferol. Fodd bynnag, mae'r ffaith ein bod yn mynd ymlaen ag ef yn dangos bod y weinyddiaeth hon yn barod i archwilio pob opsiwn ariannu pan ddaw'r adeg i ddelio â phrosiectau hanfodol yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig.

Croesawaf hefyd y bartneriaeth gref â Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent sy'n datblygu'r prosiect. Yr wyf yn arbennig o ddiolchgar i Peter Law am ei gefnogaeth ddiflino yn ystod y cyfnod anodd hwn, o ran negodi'r prosiect hwn. Os bydd yr Aelodau am wybod mwy o fanylion am y prosiect, fe'u hanogaf i edrych ar yr arddangosfeydd ar ochr dde y neuadd wrth iddynt adael y

Chamber. I want to see many more of this type of innovative project brought forward in the coming months.

To recap on the budget, I underline that this has not been a spending review year. The scope for major increases in budgets has been limited. However, I made it clear when introducing the draft budget on 18 October that these proposals offer a balanced approach, reflecting the priority invested in public services within the scope provided by the Assembly's budgets. Our immediate task is to improve our spending performance and to ensure that all resources reach the front-line services for which they are intended. I made this clear in my statement on 18 October. I invite the National Assembly for Wales to support the motion.

10:35 a.m.

Dafydd Wigley: Nid wyf am wneud araith hir am ddau reswm: yn gyntaf, bob tro yr wyf yn paratoi araith o sylwedd, caf wybod mai dim ond tri munud sydd gennyf i siarad; yn ail, nid oes llawer wedi newid ers y ddadl rhyw fis yn ôl ar ddrafft cyntaf y gyllideb. A wnewch chi gymryd yn ganiataol felly ein bod yn parhau i deimlo'r angen am fwy o gyllid gan y Trysorlys, yn credu y dylid ailwampio fformiwla Barnett, ac yn anfodlon ynglŷn â'r diffyg arian cyfatebol llawn ar gyfer Amcan 1?

Yr wyf am ganolbwyntio ar ein systemau cyllido, ar sut y mae'r Cynulliad yn ceisio rheoli cyllid ac ar y modd y rheolir ac ailgyfeirir tanwariant at ddefnydd derbyniol arall. Cyn hynny, hoffwn arweiniad gennyh, Ddirprwy Lywydd, ar ba un a oes gennyf yr hawl i gyflwyno papurau ffurfiol i'w hystyried yn y Cyfarfod Llawn?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Any Member can table documents if they are statutorily required or, depending on their usefulness to a motion previously tabled, if they will help and inform debate when that motion is debated in Plenary.

Dafydd Wigley: Os felly, a gaf i gyflwyno—

Siembr. Yr wyf am weld llawer mwy o'r math hwn o brosiect arloesol yn cael ei gyflwyno yn y misoedd i ddod.

I grynhoi o ran y gyllideb, tanlinellaf na fu hon yn flwyddyn adolygiad o wariant. Bu'r posibilrwydd o gael cynnydd mawr yn y cyllidebau yn gyfyngedig. Fodd bynnag, eglurais wrth gyflwyno'r gyllideb ddrafft ar 18 Hydref fod y cynigion hyn yn cynnig ymagwedd gytbwys, sy'n adlewyrchu'r flaenoriaeth a roddwyd ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus o fewn y cwmpas a ddarparwyd gan gyllidebau'r Cynulliad. Ein tasg gyntaf yw gwella ein perfformiad o ran gwariant a sicrhau bod yr holl adnoddau yn cyrraedd y gwasanaethau rheng flaen y bwriedir hwy ar eu cyfer. Eglurais hyn yn fy natganiad ar 18 Hydref. Gwahoddaf Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i gefnogi'r cynnig.

Dafydd Wigley: I will not make a long speech for two reasons: first, every time I prepare a speech of substance, I find that I have only three minutes in which to speak; and secondly, nothing much has changed since the debate about a month ago on the first draft of the budget. Will you assume therefore that we are still of the opinion that more funding is needed from the Treasury, that the Barnett formula should be revamped, and are dissatisfied by the lack of full match funding for Objective 1?

I will concentrate on our financial systems, how the Assembly endeavours to control finance and the way in which underspend is controlled and reallocated for other suitable purposes. First, I seek your ruling, Deputy Presiding Officer, on whether I have the right to table formal papers for consideration in Plenary?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gall unrhyw Aelod gyflwyno dogfennau os oes gofyniad statudol amdanynt neu, yn dibynnu ar eu defnyddioldeb i gynnig a gyflwynwyd yn flaenorol, os byddant yn helpu ac yn llywio dadl pan gynhelir dadl ar y cynnig hwnnw mewn Cyfarfod Llawn.

Dafydd Wigley: Therefore, may I table—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You cannot do it here. You must go to the Table Office so that it can judge whether the papers are in order. You cannot give them to me. The Table Office must decide whether the motion has been tabled properly and whether the papers will help Members when it is debated.

Dafydd Wigley: Yr oeddwn yn meddwl mai ateb felly y cawn i gennych. Dyna paham yr wyf wedi rhoi copi o'r papurau i'r pedair plaid eisoes, ac, er mwyn cwrtseisi, teimlais y dylech chi gael copi hefyd. Y rheswm pam y lluniais ddrafft o system—a fyddai'n cael ei defnyddio ym myd diwydiant neu unrhyw sector arall—yw oherwydd bod angen inni ddeall yn iawn yr hyn sydd yn digwydd gyda'n harian. Mae'r ddogfen a roddais i'r Aelodau yn cynnwys system dryloyw sydd yn rhoi darlun llawn o sut y mae tanwario yn digwydd, yn dangos gwerth cronfeydd wrth gefn ac yn pwysleisio'r angen i gael gwybodaeth yn fuan. Mae hyn yn gwbl hanfodol—ac y mae'r Gweinidog a'i staff yn ystyried yr argymhellion ar hyn o bryd—os ydym am sicrhau y defnydd llawnaf posibl o'n hadnoddau yn y modd mwyaf effeithiol.

Ymddiheuraf am drafod mater mor fanwl â hyn mewn Cyfarfod Llawn. Dyma'r math o drafodaeth y dylid ei chynnal mewn pwyllgor cyllid, ond nid oes gennym bwyllgor o'r fath. Dylai fod gennym bwyllgor cyllid a fyddai, yn ddelfrydol, yn cyfarfod yn fisol, ac yn sicr yn chwarterol. Byddai hwn yn bwyllgor trawsbynciol, ac, yn ôl Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, mae gennym yr hawl i sefydlu pwyllgor o'r fath. Gallai'r pwyllgor ystyried y math o ddogfen yr wyf wedi ei pharatoi a chynnal adolygiad bob chwe mis. Derbyniodd y Gweinidog fod hynny'n amserlen resymol, er y byddai'n well gennyf pe bai hynny'n digwydd yn chwarterol. Gobeithiaf y caiff hyn ei ystyried, er mwyn inni weithio'n fwy proffesiynol wrth gadw llygad ar ein cyllid. Dylid defnyddio'r un fformat dadansoddiadol ym mhob pwyllgor pwnc, er mwyn iddynt oruchwylio gwariant yn gyfrifol o fewn cylch gwaith y Gweinidog perthnasol, ac yn arbennig i ailgyfeirio gwariant yn fwy effeithiol.

Y mae gennyf ychydig bwyntiau penodol. Yn gyntaf, a oes digon o arian yn y gyllideb hon

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Ni allwch ei wneud yma. Rhaid ichi fynd i'r Swyddfa Gyflwyno fel y gall farnu a yw'r papurau mewn trefn. Ni allwch eu rhoi i mi. Rhaid i'r Swyddfa Gyflwyno benderfynu a gyflwynwyd y cynnig yn gywir ac a fydd y papurau yn helpu'r Aelodau pan gynhelir dadl arno.

Dafydd Wigley: I had anticipated such a response. That is why I have already provided the four parties with a copy of the papers, and, as a matter of courtesy, I felt that you should also receive a copy. I have drawn up a draft system—which would be used in the world of industry or any other sector—since we need to fully understand what happens to our money. The document that I have distributed to Members outlines a transparent system which gives a comprehensive account of how underspend occurs, shows the value of contingency funds and highlights the need for information to be disseminated promptly. This is crucial—and the Minister and her staff are considering the recommendations at present—if we are to ensure the fullest and most effective use possible of our resources.

I apologise for discussing such a detailed matter in Plenary. This is the type of discussion that should take place in a finance committee, but we do not have such a committee. We should have a finance committee which would, ideally, meet once a month, and certainly every quarter. This would be a cross-cutting committee, which, according to the Government of Wales Act 1998, we have every right to establish. The committee could consider the kind of document that I have prepared and hold six-monthly reviews. The Minister has accepted that that is a reasonable timetable, though I would prefer if it happened every quarter. I hope that consideration is given to this, so that we can look after our finances more professionally. The same analytical format should be used in every subject committee, so that they oversee spending responsibly within the remit of the relevant Minister, and in particular redirect funding more effectively.

I have some specific points. First, are there sufficient funds in this budget to deal with the

ar gyfer y codiadau cyflog i athrawon a ddaw ym mis Chwefror neu fis Mawrth? Byddai gennym achos i bryderu pe bai'r setliad yn uwch na'r hyn a ddarparwyd gan y Gweinidog ar ei gyfer. Gallai hynny arwain at oblygiadau sylweddol i'r Cynulliad a llywodraeth leol.

Yn ail, mae'r cynllun *homebuy* yn fenter ardderchog a gyflwynwyd gan y Gweinidog. Serch hynny, hanner ffordd drwy'r flwyddyn ariannol, nid oes arian ar ôl gan Gyngor Gwynedd ar ei gyfer. Felly mae angen tua £10 miliwn ar gyfer y cynllun yn hytrach na'r £3 miliwn a ddarperir.

Yn drydydd, beth yw gwir sefyllfa cynlluniau PFI yng Nghymru? Croesawn y ffaith na fydd ysbytai ym Mhorthmadog a'r Rhondda yn defnyddio PFI, a chroesawn y datganiad am Flaenau Gwent heddiw. Fodd bynnag, cawsom neges gymysg gan y Prif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid: a yw PFI yn dderbyniol ynteu a ydym am ddefnyddio llai arni, fel y byddwn i'n dymuno ei weld?

Yn olaf, a ydym eisiau symud tuag at osod cyllidebau tair blynedd ymlaen llaw fel bod llywodraeth leol a'r sector gwirfoddol yn gwybod yn union lle maent yn sefyll? Agorodd y Gweinidog y ddadl y bore yma gyda'r geiriau canlynol:

'I am pleased to present my final budget proposals for 2002-03 and 2002-04.'

Mae'r geiriau hynny'n awgrymu ein bod yn symud ymlaen at batrwm o'r fath. Os yw hynny'n wir, yr wyf yn ei groesawu.

Huw Lewis: I congratulate Edwina on her final budget statement. It represents a fine and politically astute balancing act. All finance ministers in her position would be leaned on by all manner of vested interests to produce such a budget. She has not only undertaken it with great skill, but also with an eye for social justice, which is what the Government of Wales is here to ensure. We are talking about record levels of investment in our public services in Wales in my lifetime. I fought for that in my election campaign and I am proud to support it now that I have taken my seat in the Assembly.

increase in teachers' salaries that are due in February or March? We would have cause for concern if the settlement turned out to be higher than the provisions set aside by the Minister. That would have considerable implications for the Assembly and local government.

Secondly, the homebuy scheme is an excellent initiative introduced by the Minister. However, Gwynedd Council, half way through the financial year, has run out of funds for the scheme. Therefore the scheme needs in the region of £10 million rather than the £3 million provided.

Thirdly, what is the real situation as regards PFI projects in Wales? We welcome the fact that hospitals in Porthmadog and Rhondda will not use PFI, and we welcome today's statement about Blaenau Gwent. However, we have heard mixed messages from the First Minister and the Minister for Finance: is PFI acceptable or are we to make less use of it, as I would like to see?

Finally, are we moving towards setting budgets three years in advance so that local government and the voluntary sector know exactly where they stand? The Minister opened the debate this morning with the following words:

'Mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno fy nghynigion olaf ar gyfer cyllideb 2002-03 a 2003-04.'

Those words suggest that we are moving towards such a pattern. If that is true, I welcome it.

Huw Lewis: Hoffwn longyfarch Edwina ar ei datganiad ar y gyllideb derfynol. Mae'n taro cydbwysedd teg a gwleidyddol graff. Byddai pob math o bobl â diddordeb yn hyn yn pwyso ar bob gweinidog cyllid yn ei sefyllfa hi i gynhyrchu cyllideb o'r fath. Mae wedi ymgymryd â'r dasg yn fedrus iawn, ond hefyd gan gadw cyfiawnder cymdeithasol mewn cof, sef yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yma i'w sicrhau. Sôn yr ydym am y lefelau gorau erioed o fuddsoddi yn ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru yn ystod fy mywyd i. Brwydrais dros hynny yn fy ymgyrch etholiadol ac yr wyf yn falch o'i

chefnogi a minnau bellach wedi derbyn fy sedd yn y Cynulliad.

I cannot allow Plaid Cymru's comments on economic proposals to pass without questioning their moral authority to make such comments. Its *raison d'être* is to break up Britain and to remove all prospect of Wales benefiting from social justice policies that affect the 60 million taxpayers in the UK. If Plaid Cymru cannot explain how it would fund these budget strands without the existence of Britain, it has nothing to contribute, except the views of a pressure group. It has no moral authority—

Phil Williams *rose*—

Huw Lewis: I will give way in a moment. Plaid Cymru's real contribution to this debate is no more than aggressive beggary—[PLAID CYMRU ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Oh.']

Phil Williams *rose*—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Are you giving way?

Huw Lewis: I will in a moment.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I will not allow two people to be on their feet at the same time. Phil, sit down, Huw will give way in a moment.

Huw Lewis: Plaid Cymru demands more and more from a British Treasury and more and more redistribution of wealth across Britain, which the Labour Government is attempting to achieve. Plaid Cymru is not sincere in that demand, but uses it as a way to build up resentment between Wales and the rest of Britain.

Phil Williams: From your contribution, am I to understand that you did not read my book on this subject? I gave you a copy. It explains fully how we would fund such a budget, and offers a full analysis of why total Government spending in Wales per head is less than the UK average.

Ni allaf ganiatáu i sylwadau Plaid Cymru ar gynigion economaidd fynd heibio heb gwestiynu eu hawdurdod moesol i wneud sylwadau o'r fath. Ei rheswm gwladwriaethol yw chwalu Prydain a chael gwared ar unrhyw obaith y bydd Cymru yn elwa ar bolisiau cyfiawnder cymdeithasol sy'n effeithio ar 60 miliwn o drethdalwyr yn y DU. Os na all Plaid Cymru egluro sut y byddai'n ariannu'r meysydd cyllideb hyn heb fodolaeth Prydain, nid oes ganddi ddim i'w gyfrannu, heblaw safbwyntiau carfan bwysu. Nid oes ganddi unrhyw awdurdod moesol—

Phil Williams *a gododd*—

Huw Lewis: Fe ildiaf mewn munud. Nid yw cyfraniad gwirioneddol Plaid Cymru i'r ddadl hon yn fwy na chardota ymosodol—[AELODAU PLAID CYMRU O'R CYNULLIAD: 'O.']

Phil Williams *a gododd*—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: A ydych yn ildio?

Huw Lewis: Gwnaf mewn munud.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Ni chaniatâf i ddau berson fod ar eu traed ar yr un pryd. Phil, eisteddwch, bydd Huw yn ildio mewn munud.

Huw Lewis: Mae Plaid Cymru yn galw am fwy a mwy oddi wrth Drysorlys Prydain a mwy a mwy o gyfoeth i gael ei ailddosbarthu ledled Prydain, sef yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth Lafur yn ceisio ei gyflawni. Nid yw Plaid Cymru yn ddiffuant wrth alw am hynny, ond defnyddia hyn fel ffordd o greu drwgdeimlad rhwng Cymru a gweddill Prydain.

Phil Williams: O'ch cyfraniad, a ddeallaf na ddarllenasoch fy llyfr ar y pwnc hwn? Rhoddais gopi i chi. Eglura'n llawn sut y byddem yn ariannu cyllideb o'r fath, a chynigia ddadansoddiad llawn o pam y mae cyfanswm gwariant y Llywodraeth yng Nghymru y pen yn llai'r cyfartaledd yn y DU.

Huw Lewis: Of course I read your book, and I congratulate you on your great imagination, but meanwhile back on earth, the people of Wales continue to be dissatisfied at the ballot box every time Plaid Cymru tries to disassemble its economic policies.

I will leave the subject of Plaid Cymru for the moment—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. This debate is not about Plaid Cymru, but the final budget. I should have called you for being out of order.

Huw Lewis: In her response, will the Minister re-emphasise the importance she placed, in drawing up the final budget, on the principles of social justice on which the Government of Wales has rested its economic and other principles. With that in mind, I will be a little parochial and press her to let us know what progress has been made regarding programmes for regeneration in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney.

10:45 a.m.

Nick Bourne: First, I will deal with some main issues. I agree with Dafydd Wigley that there is no great change in the final budget compared with the draft budget, therefore some of this is old territory.

How will the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities deal with the issue of underspends to ensure that we do not face that serious problem in the current financial cycle? At a time when we are facing the problems of massive waiting lists and waiting times, we do not want to find that, at the end of the year, a significant sum of money—or indeed any money—has not been spent.

Briefly on the Barnett formula, I share the position of the Minister for Finance. We should not revisit the issue of the Barnett formula unless we are convinced that it will deliver a better outcome for Wales. Were I convinced of that, I would be keen to re-open the issue. However, it deserves further

Huw Lewis: Wrth gwrs fe ddarllenais eich llyfr, a hoffwn eich llongyfarch ar eich dychymyg byw, ond yn y cyfamser, yn ôl ar y ddaear, mae pobl Cymru yn parhau i fod yn anfodlon yn y blwch pleidleisio bob tro y mae Plaid Cymru yn ceisio cuddio ei pholisïau economaidd.

Gadawaf bwnc Plaid Cymru am ychydig—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid ymwneud â Phlaid Cymru a wna'r ddadl hon, ond â'r gyllideb derfynol. Dylwn fod wedi galw arnoch am fod allan o drefn.

Huw Lewis: Yn ei hymateb, a wnaiff y Gweinidog ailbwysleisio'r pwysigrwydd a roddodd, wrth lunio'r gyllideb derfynol, ar egwyddorion cyfiawnder cymdeithasol y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gosod ei hegwyddorion economaidd a'i hegwyddorion eraill arni. Gan gadw hynny mewn cof, byddaf ychydig yn blwyfol a phwyso arni i roi gwybod inni pa ddatblygiadau a wnaed o ran rhaglenni adfywio ym Merthyr Tudful a'r Rhymni.

Nick Bourne: Yn gyntaf, byddaf yn delio â rhai o'r prif faterion. Cytunaf â Dafydd Wigley nad oes unrhyw newid mawr yn y gyllideb derfynol o'i chymharu â'r gyllideb ddrafft, felly ailadrodd yw hyn i ryw raddau.

Sut y bydd y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau yn delio â mater tanwario er mwyn sicrhau na wynebwn y broblem ddifrifol honno yn y cylch ariannol presennol? Ar adeg pan wynebwn broblemau o ran rhestrau aros ac amserau aros hirfaith, nid ydym am ddarganfod, ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn, bod swm sylweddol o arian—neu yn wir unrhyw swm o arian—heb gael ei wario.

Yn fyr ar fformiwla Barnett, rhannaf safbwynt y Gweinidog dros Gyllid. Ni ddylem aildrafod mater fformiwla Barnett onid ydym yn argyhoeddedig y bydd yn rhoi gwell canlyniad i Gymru. Pe bawn yn argyhoeddedig o hynny, byddwn yn awyddus i aildrafod y mater. Fodd bynnag, mae'n

attention before we call for this review, or we may be short-changing Wales.

I believe that the administration should come clean on private finance initiative, because there is a strange dichotomy between the First Minister and the Minister for Health and Social Services—not to mention the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities—which I will talk about later. I agree with Huw Lewis that Plaid Cymru must resolve its dichotomy on whether it wants independence from the rest of the United Kingdom, or whether it wants extra money from Westminster. All the handouts in the world, Dafydd, helpful as they may be, do not answer that question. Therefore, I would be grateful to know Plaid Cymru's position on this. I noticed that when Huw Lewis was talking about independence, Rhodri Glyn Thomas was nodding his head, and I assume that it was in agreement rather than nodding off. He may wish to clarify that later.

Regarding the specific details of the budget, we have heard much—and indeed we are hearing much now—from the Liberal Democrats about their influence in the administration. Why then is it the case, with so many Liberal Democrat Members purporting to represent rural Wales, that there is such a poor settlement for agriculture and rural affairs? During this last year, we have had a worsening of the agricultural crisis. We have heard from Huw Lewis on how the Government will help the socially dispossessed, but that is not the case in rural Wales. Farm incomes at the beginning of the year were £4,500 per annum on average, and have now fallen to approximately £2,500 per annum on average in the areas of Wales ravaged by foot and mouth disease, and yet there is a standstill position on this in the budget. There is nothing significant being done for farmers and for rural Wales—and it is not just farmers who are affected, it is the whole rural community, because there is a knock-on effect on tourism and tourism-related businesses. These areas, particularly Powys, have had little assistance.

haeddu sylw pellach cyn inni alw am yr adolygiad hwn, neu efallai y byddwn yn twyllo Cymru.

Credaf y dylai'r weinyddiaeth gyfaddef y cyfan o ran y fenter cyllid preifat, oherwydd mae deuliaeth ryfedd rhwng Prif Weinidog Cymru a'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol—heb sôn am y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau—y siaradaf amdani yn ddiweddarach. Cytunaf â Huw Lewis fod yn rhaid i Blaid Cymru ddatrys ei deuliaeth ar ba un a yw am fod yn annibynnol ar weddill y Deyrnas Unedig, neu a yw am gael arian ychwanegol gan San Steffan. Nid yw'r holl gymorth ariannol yn y byd, Dafydd, er mor ddefnyddiol ydyw, yn ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw. Felly, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe bawn yn cael gwybod beth yw safbwynt Plaid Cymru ar hyn. Sylwais pan oedd Huw Lewis yn sôn am annibyniaeth, fod Rhodri Glyn Thomas yn nodio ei ben, a chymeraf yn ganiataol mai cytuno yr oedd yn hytrach na hepian. Efallai y bydd am egluro hynny yn ddiweddarach.

O ran manylion penodol y gyllideb, clywsom lawer—ac yn wir yr ydym yn clywed llawer yn awr—gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ynglŷn â'u dylanwad yn y weinyddiaeth. Pam felly, gyda chymaint o Aelodau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn honni eu bod yn cynrychioli Cymru wledig, bod cytundeb mor wael ar gyfer amaethyddiaeth a materion gwledig? Yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf hon, bu'r argyfwng amaethyddol yn gwaethygu. Clywsom gan Huw Lewis sut y bydd y Llywodraeth yn helpu'r amddifad yn gymdeithasol, ond nid yw hynny yn wir yng Nghymru wledig. Yr oedd incwm fferm ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn yn £4,500 y flwyddyn ar gyfartaledd, ac mae wedi gostwng erbyn hyn i tua £2,500 y flwyddyn ar gyfartaledd yn yr ardaloedd hynny yng Nghymru a ddinistriwyd gan glwy'r traed a'r genau, ac eto safwn yn stond mewn perthynas â hyn yn y gyllideb. Ni wneir unrhyw beth o bwys i ffermwyr ac i Gymru wledig—ac nid ar ffermwyr yn unig y mae'n effeithio, ond ar y gymuned wledig gyfan, oherwydd caiff effaith ddilynol ar dwristiaeth a busnesau sy'n gysylltiedig â thwristiaeth. Prin iawn fu'r cymorth a gafodd yr ardaloedd hyn, yn arbennig felly Powys.

Brian Gibbons: I agree that it is absurd to expect anyone to live on an annual income of £2,000 or £3,000. Will you quantify how much you would put into the budget to achieve the desirable objectives of which you speak?

Nick Bourne: We would put more in than has been there previously, and we would also ensure that in your specialist area of health—to which I am coming in a moment—our position on PFI was clear. I was reading *Progress*, the Labour magazine, this week—I like to know what you lot are up to—and there was an article by Rhodri Morgan, welcoming PFI for hospital building, yet, at the same time the Minister for Health and Social Services says that she does not want PFI for the hospitals in Porthmadog and Rhondda. I would like to know where the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities stands on this dichotomy of view within the administration. Is Rhodri Morgan right, or is the Minister for Finance right? Also, why is there no provision in the health budget for the restructuring of the NHS? A new finance director, new nursing directors, and so on will incur massive costs.

On education, the vice-chancellors are saying that the higher education settlement is pathetic. There is no doubt that it is a far worse settlement than in England. I would also like to ask the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities whether she will confirm that the cost of abolishing tuition fees would be £40 million in a year, and why does she not do it?

On contingency money, you are raiding the reserves and they have been reduced by 80 per cent, which is not good enough.

Lastly, we are pleased about the additional assistance for Blaenau Gwent. Will you confirm that the decision to send this money to Peter Law's constituency was a Liberal Democrat initiative? I am sure that it is part of the partnership agreement, and that Mike German—who surely is shortly to be canonised for his help to the administration—

Brian Gibbons: Cytunaf ei fod yn wirion disgwyl i unrhyw un fyw ar incwm blynyddol o £2,000 neu £3,000. A wnewch chi feintio faint y byddech yn ei roi yn y gyllideb i gyflawni'r amcanion dymunol yr ydych yn sôn amdanynt?

Nick Bourne: Byddem yn rhoi mwy ynddi nag a fu yno yn y gorffennol, a byddem hefyd yn sicrhau bod ein barn ar y fenter cyllid preifat yn eich maes iechyd arbenigol chi—y siaradaf amdano mewn munud—yn glir. Yr oeddwn yn darllen *Progress*, y cylchgrawn Llafur, yr wythnos hon—yr wyf yn hoffi gwybod beth yw eich cynlluniau—ac yr oedd ynddo erthygl gan Rhodri Morgan, yn croesawu'r fenter ar gyfer adeiladu ysbyty, ac eto, ar yr un pryd dywed y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol nad yw hi eisiau'r fenter cyllid preifat ar gyfer yr ysbytai ym Mhorthmadog a'r Rhondda. Hoffwn wybod beth yw barn y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau ar y ddeuoliaeth barn hon o fewn y weinyddiaeth. Ai Rhodri Morgan sy'n gywir, neu'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid? Hefyd, pam nad oes unrhyw ddarpariaeth yn y gyllideb iechyd ar gyfer ailstrwythuro'r NHS? Bydd cyfarwyddwr cyllid newydd, cyfarwyddwyr nyrsio newydd, ac yn y blaen yn creu costau enfawr.

O ran addysg, dywed yr is-ganghellorion fod y setliad addysg uwch yn druenus. Yn ddiaw mae'n setliad llawer gwaeth na'r un yn Lloegr. Hoffwn ofyn hefyd i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau a wnaiff hi gadarnhau y byddai cost diddymu ffioedd hyfforddiant yn £40 miliwn y flwyddyn, a pham nad yw'n gwneud hynny?

O ran arian wrth gefn, yr ydych yn gwagio'r cronfeydd wrth gefn ac maent wedi gostwng i 80 y cant, ac nid yw hyn yn ddigon da.

Yn olaf, yr ydym yn falch ynglŷn â'r cymorth ychwanegol ar gyfer Blaenau Gwent. A gadarnhewch mai blaengaredd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol oedd yn gyfrifol am y penderfyniad i anfon yr arian hwn i etholaeth Peter Law? Yr wyf yn siŵr bod hyn yn rhan o'r cytundeb partneriaeth, a bod Mike German—a gaiff ei ganoneiddio'n fuan

insisted on that being there. We are supportive of that part of the budget, and we think that Peter has done such a good job that it would be a good idea if the absent quarter of the Cabinet, namely Rhodri Morgan, considered giving him one of his two posts.

Peter Law: I am a bit taken aback by that comment.

We are proud of this budget. I compliment the Minister on this morning's announcements. It is making a difference throughout Wales, for all our people. You must recognise that. It is alright to take political shots now and then—we must live with that—but we are seeing the Assembly move forward and make a difference in the quality of life of people in so many fields. It shows that the Minister is listening and this is another example of her wanting to fight social deprivation throughout Wales. I thank her for her announcement this morning about the new school and regeneration package at Llanhilleth in my constituency, which dovetails into the excellent Communities First initiative. That will come to a deprived community and give children decent, modern school facilities, moving from a Dickensian era to opportunities that others have always had and taken for granted. That will make a difference to us, and I thank her for it. We look forward to that school being built, with conventional finance, which is wonderful news for us in Blaenau Gwent.

When you look at the budget overall, you cannot fail to be impressed by the commitment to Communities First and the way it is rolling out across Wales. We saw some of that in yesterday's Committee, and we know that it is beginning to work. Edwina Hart is projecting that strongly on behalf of the Assembly. It is an exciting concept of which we should be proud.

Let us not forget that we are looking at a record contribution to NHS funding, despite all our difficulties. I was pleased to hear that £1.8 million will be made available to fund the investigation into beta interferon. It is possible that that drug will be made available

am helpu'r weinyddiaeth—wedi mynnu ei fod ynddo. Yr ydym yn gefnogol o'r rhan honno o'r gyllideb, a chredwn i Peter wneud gwaith cystal fel y byddai'n syniad da pe bai'r aelod o'r Cynulliad sy'n absennol, sef Rhodri Morgan, yn ystyried rhoi un o'i swyddi ef iddo.

Peter Law: Fe'm synnwyd ychydig gan y sylw hwnnw.

Yr ydym yn falch o'r gyllideb hon. Hoffwn longyfarch y Gweinidog ar gyhoeddiadau'r bore yma. Mae'n gwneud gwahaniaeth i bob un o'n pobl, ledled Cymru. Rhaid ichi gydnabod hynny. Mae'n iawn gwneud pwyntiau gwleidyddol bob hyn a hyn—rhaid inni fyw gyda hynny—ond yr ydym yn gweld y Cynulliad yn symud ymlaen ac yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i ansawdd bywyd pobl mewn cymaint o feysydd. Dengys fod y Gweinidog yn gwranddo a bod hyn yn enghraifft arall o'i dymuniad i frwydro yn erbyn amddifadedd cymdeithasol ledled Cymru. Diolchaf iddi am ei chyhoeddiad y bore yma ynglŷn â'r ysgol newydd a'r pecyn adfywio yn Llanhilleth yn fy etholaeth i, sy'n asio i greu'r fenter ragorol Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf. Daw hynny i gymuned ddifreintiedig gan roi cyfleusterau ysgol safonol a modern i blant, gan symud o gyfnod Dickensaid i gyfleoedd a fu ar gael ac a gymerwyd yn ganiataol gan bobl eraill erioed. Gwnaiff hynny wahaniaeth i ni, a diolchaf iddi am hynny. Edrychwn ymlaen at weld yr ysgol honno'n cael ei hadeiladu, gyda chyllid confensiynol, sy'n newyddion gwych i ni ym Mlaenau Gwent.

Pan edrychwch ar y gyllideb yn gyffredinol, mae'r ymrwymiad i Roi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf a'r ffordd y caiff y rhaglen ei chyflwyno ledled Cymru yn ddiau yn creu argraff. Gwelsom beth o hynny yn y Pwyllgor ddoe, a gwyddom ei bod yn dechrau gweithio. Mae Edwina Hart yn pwysleisio hynny'n gryf ar ran y Cynulliad. Mae'n gysyniad cyffrous y dylem fod yn falch ohono.

Ni ddylem anghofio ein bod yn edrych ar y cyfraniad gorau erioed i ariannu'r NHS, er gwaethaf ein holl anawsterau. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed y bydd £1.8 miliwn ar gael i ariannu'r ymchwiliad hwnnw i beta interferon. Mae'n bosibl y bydd y cyffur

to our patients. I hope that it will, because we are all aware of that issue.

Alun Cairns: I commend the administration for increasing the health budget, but are you as concerned as I am that waiting lists have officially doubled in the last five years?

Peter Law: The health service is a victim of its own success and you know that. [CONSERVATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Oh.'] While there may be an increase in waiting lists—I am fully aware of that, and I have spoken about it in this Chamber, as everyone acknowledges—you cannot fault this Government on the amount of money it is putting into the health service to deal with the problems. We need the proposed reorganisation to address the problem and to find out why we are unable to deal with patients when massive, record resources are being made available. I have no doubt that Jane Hutt will be able to achieve that.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: If I follow your line of argument, you are saying that the purpose of the health service reorganisation is to reduce waiting lists. Are you suggesting that waiting lists will come down as a result of this reorganisation?

Peter Law: I am not saying that. I am saying that it will be a useful tool in targeting the health service's difficulties. The reorganisation will be beneficial in getting to grips with it.

There is an excellent settlement for local government: we can be pleased with 7.9 per cent, which is the equivalent of a 5.5 per cent increase in the budget, excluding new burdens. It is 7 per cent in real growth above inflation over two years. That will deal with problems in the community, in the front line with our friends in local government, giving them the resources to do the work on our behalf.

Lastly, I will mention concessionary fares. My friend Huw Lewis admitted this morning that he read Phil Williams's book without an anaesthetic, which is an achievement. Plaid

hwnnw ar gael i'n cleifion. Gobeithio y bydd, oherwydd mae pob un ohonom yn ymwybodol o'r broblem honno.

Alun Cairns: Cymeradwyaf y weinyddiaeth am gynyddu'r gyllideb iechyd, ond a ydych mor bryderus â minnau bod y rhestrau aros, yn swyddogol, wedi dyblu yn y pum mlynedd diwethaf?

Peter Law: Mae'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn dioddef yn sgîl ei lwyddiant ei hun a gwyddoch hynny. [AELODAU CEIDWADOL O'R CYNULLIAD: 'O.'] Er bod cynnydd efallai yn y rhestrau aros—yr wyf yn llwyr ymwybodol o hynny, ac yr wyf wedi siarad am hynny yn y Siambr hon, fel y cydnabu pawb—ni allwch feio'r Llywodraeth hon am y swm o arian y mae'n ei fuddsoddi yn y gwasanaeth iechyd i ddelio â'r problemau. Mae angen yr ad-drefnu arfaethedig arnom i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem a chanfod pam na allwn ddelio â chleifion pan fo adnoddau enfawr, y gorau erioed ar gael. Yn ddiaw yn fy marn i, bydd Jane Hutt yn gallu cyflawni hynny.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Os dilynaf eich dadl chi, yr ydych yn dweud mai pwrpas ad-drefnu'r gwasanaeth iechyd yw lleihau rhestrau aros. A awgrymwch y caiff rhestrau aros eu lleihau o ganlyniad i'r ad-drefnu hwn?

Peter Law: Nid wyf yn dweud hynny. Dweud yr wyf y bydd yn ffordd ddefnyddiol o dargedu anawsterau'r gwasanaeth iechyd. Bydd yr ad-drefnu yn fuddiol wrth geisio mynd i'r afael â hyn.

Mae hwn yn setliad rhagorol i lywodraeth leol: gallwn fod yn fodlon ar 7.9 y cant, sy'n cyfateb i gynnydd o 5.5 y cant yn y gyllideb, ac eithrio beichiau newydd. O ran twf gwirioneddol mae'n 7 y cant yn uwch na chwyddiant dros ddwy flynedd. Bydd hynny'n delio â phroblemau yn y gymuned, yn y rheng flaen gyda'n cyfeillion mewn llywodraeth leol, gan roi'r adnoddau iddynt i wneud y gwaith ar ein rhan.

Yn olaf, soniaf am docynnau mantais. Cyfaddefodd fy ffrind Huw Lewis y bore yma iddo ddarllen llyfr Phil Williams heb anesthetig, sydd yn dipyn o gamp. Mae Plaid

Cymru is good at whinging about so many issues. Today Sue Essex announced the concessionary fares, mentioned in this budget, but it was damned with faint praise. I heard Helen Mary say that it was a good idea. I tell you that it is a ground-breaking idea. We are proud that this is a Labour Party commitment from the Welsh general election being realised. [PLAID CYMRU ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'And the Lib Dems.'] No, it is not a Lib Dem policy at all [*Laughter.*] I have told you that the add-ons do not come into it, or even come up for air. Sue Essex has given us that opportunity, therefore, let us not damn it with faint praise. It is groundbreaking and will give inclusion to many people across Wales, as will this budget. I congratulate the Minister again because she is doing what is necessary to give the people of Wales a future.

Cymru yn rhai da am gwyno am gymaint o faterion. Cyhoeddodd Sue Essex heddiw y tocynnau mantais, y soniwyd amdanynt yn y gyllideb hon, ond fe'i damniwyd gyda chanmoliaeth wan. Clywais Helen Mary yn dweud ei fod yn syniad da. Dywedaf wrthyhch ei fod yn syniad arloesol. Yr ydym yn falch mai gwireddu ymrwymiad gan y Blaid Lafur o'r etholiad cyffredinol yng Nghymru yw hyn. [AELODAU PLAID CYMRU O'R CYNULLIAD: 'A'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.'] Na, nid yw'n un o bolisiau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol o gwbl [*Chwerthin.*] Dywedais wrthyhch nad yw'r ychwanegiadau yn bwysig o gwbl. Mae Sue Essex wedi rhoi'r cyfle hwnnw i ni, felly, ni ddylem ei ddamnio gyda chanmoliaeth wan. Mae'n torri tir newydd a bydd yn fodd i gynnwys llawer o bobl ledled Cymru, fel y gwna'r gyllideb hon. Hoffwn longyfarch y Gweinidog eto gan ei bod yn gwneud yr hyn sy'n angenrheidiol i roi dyfodol i bobl Cymru.

10:55 a.m.

David Lloyd: Datganaf fy muddiant fel meddyg teulu ac aelod o Gyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe. Dilynaf y pwyntiau a wnaeth Dafydd Wigley eisoes ynglŷn â thryloywedd a sut y dylem weld i ble yr aiff yr arian. Cawn gyhoeddiadau lu ynglŷn â'r ffaith bod mwy o arian ar gael ar gyfer y gwasanaeth iechyd. Yn naturiol, fe groesawn hwy. Er hynny, mae'n anodd dilyn trywydd yr arian. Croesawn pob dimau goch ychwanegol a ddaw i'r gwasanaeth iechyd ond mae angen tryloywedd i ni allu profi bod yr arian yn cael ei wario ar yr hyn y mae Jane Hutt yn ei gyhoeddi. Oni bai am hynny, bydd pobl yn dechrau meddwl bod y Llywodraeth yn ail gyhoeddi drwy'r amser bod yr un arian ar gael. Credir nad yw'r arian yn cyrraedd gwasanaethau sy'n bodoli er budd y claf. Gwelwn bod rhestrau aros yn codi'n sylweddol. Nid oes amheuaeth ynglŷn â hynny, mae'n ffaith.

David Lloyd: I declare my interest as a GP and a member of the Swansea City and County Council. I follow up the points made by Dafydd Wigley earlier regarding transparency and the need to track funding. We have heard numerous announcements of more funding for the NHS. Naturally, we welcome this. However, it is difficult to follow the funding trail. We welcome every additional penny given to the NHS but we need transparency so that we can prove that the funding goes where Jane Hutt says that it goes. Otherwise, people begin to believe that this Government is continuously re-announcing that the same funding is available. It is believed that the funding does not actually reach the grass roots services that benefit patients. We see that waiting lists are getting ever longer. There is no doubt about that, it is a fact.

Brian Gibbons: In his report to the Health and Social Services Committee on health allocation, Peter Townsend made the important point that health authorities were one of the main reasons for this obscurity regarding funding and that disposing of them would mean a more transparent resources

Brian Gibbons: Yn ei adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ar ddyraniadau iechyd, gwnaeth Peter Townsend y pwynt pwysig mai'r awdurdodau iechyd oedd un o'r prif resymau dros y dryswch ynglŷn ag ariannu ac y byddai eu gwaredu yn golygu system

allocation system in the NHS.

David Lloyd: We should get rid of health authorities, perhaps, but not by replacing them with tier upon tier of structures. However, we will hear more about that next week.

Mae rhestrau aros yn cynyddu ac yn mynd drwy'r to. Mae fy nghyd-feddygon a nyrsys yn cwyno yn gynyddol nad yw pethau sylfaenol yn newid. Yr ydym yn wynebu'r un problemau bob diwrnod. Ni welwn yr adnoddau yn cyrraedd y manau sy'n delio â chleifion.

Gan ein bod yn trafod newidiadau strwythurol, beth am y term *cost-neutral*? Mae Jane Hutt wedi cyhoeddi eisoes nad yw'r newidiadau strwythurol yn mynd i gostio mwy. Dyna ddatganiad anghyffredin o ddewr, sydd yn annhebygol o fod yn gywir. Dylai'r newidiadau gael eu gweithredu ym mis Mawrth 2003, felly, dylai gwybodaeth am linellau ariannu ymddangos yn y gyllideb hon er mwyn paratoi'r ffordd ar gyfer y newidiadau strwythurol enfawr hyn.

Ond, beth fydd cost y newidiadau strwythurol hyn? Ni wyddom. Sut all unrhyw un gyhoeddi, felly, y bydd y broses yn niwtral o ran cost? Ar ôl yr holl ailstrwythuro a fu i'r gwasanaeth iechyd dros y degawd diwethaf, os ydym am ailstrwythuro o gwbl, dylem ddefnyddio'r achlysur hwn i arbed arian ac i sicrhau rhagor o arian i drin ein cleifion. Ni ddylem ailstrwythuro dim ond er mwyn ailstrwythuro. Bydd y strwythurau newydd yn gymhleth a bydd llawer mwy o siawns i ni golli'r arian ar ei daith rhwng y Cynulliad a'r cleifion gan y bydd mwy o strwythurau rhyngom. Mae'r ffeithiau yn eglur, Brian. Efallai nad ydych yn deall beth fydd hynny'n ei olygu, ond bydd 37 corff newydd yn lle pump. Mae fy mathemateg—

Brian Gibbons *a gododd—*

David Lloyd: Yr wyf yn rhedeg allan o amser, Brian. Bydd yn rhaid i chi aros tan yr wythnos nesaf. Mae yna bryder yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Mae'r holl negeseuon a dderbyniais dros yr wythnos diwethaf yn awgrymu y bydd y newidiadau strwythurol hyn yn golygu y caiff yr arian a bennwyd ar

dyrannu adnoddau fwy tryloyw yn yr NHS.

David Lloyd: Dylem gael gwared ar awdurdodau iechyd, efallai, ond nid drwy eu disodli â haen ar ôl haen o strwythurau. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn clywed mwy am hynny yr wythnos nesaf.

Waiting lists are going through the roof. My fellow doctors and nurses are increasingly complaining that things are not changing at grass roots level. We are facing the same problems every day. We do not see the resources reaching the places that deal with patients.

As we are discussing structural changes, what about the term 'cost-neutral'? Jane Hutt has already announced that these changes will lead to additional costs. That is an unusually brave announcement, which is unlikely to be true. These changes should be implemented in March 2003, therefore, information about funding lines should appear in this budget to prepare the way for these huge structural changes.

However, how much will these structural changes cost? We do not know. How can anyone announce, therefore, that the process will be cost-neutral. Following all the NHS restructuring over the past decade, if we have any kind of restructuring, we should take this opportunity to save money and to get more money to treat patients. We should not restructure just for the sake of it. These new structures will be complex and there will be more opportunity for funding to go missing between the Assembly and patients because there will be more structures between us. The facts are clear, Brian. Perhaps you cannot understand what this will mean, but there will be 37 new bodies instead of five. My maths—

Brian Gibbons *rose—*

David Lloyd: I am running out of time, Brian. You must wait until next week. There is concern in the NHS. All the messages that I have received over the last week suggest that these structural changes will divert the money from patient care towards administration.

gyfer gofalu am gleifion ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer gweinyddu.

Peter Black: Much of what needed to be said about this budget has already been said in the debate on the draft budget. As has been mentioned, there are few differences between the two, apart from a few transfers here and there. This budget continues to build on the foundation established last year in the three-year programme, 'Putting Wales First', which saw a substantial increase in funding targeted to match the partnership Government's priorities. This budget ensures that more of the commitments in 'Putting Wales First' will come to fruition, proving yet again that the partnership Government is delivering on its promises. In particular, we are fulfilling our commitment to fund fully the recommendations of the Rees Commission that are within the Assembly's powers. There is also money in the budget to implement our commitment to a policy that will keep small rural schools open. That, again, is welcome.

Underspend has been mentioned, and it is a matter of concern. However, the statements made by the Minister for Finance show that she is getting to grips with that issue. We welcome the investment of £40 million of the underspend resources in much needed equipment and other capital projects this year. The reallocation of this money to meet the Assembly's priorities should also be welcomed. All Members should take on board the Minister's commitment to tackle this problem in the future. The announcement of £1.7 million for the beta interferon scheme is particularly welcome, as it puts Wales at the forefront.

The Minister's announcements on the private finance initiative are also welcome. In terms of the hospitals mentioned in the Minister's speech, we have stated that the Assembly will fund such schemes fully where possible. The further announcement on the bid in Blaenau Gwent is also welcome, as it sends out an important message to public services, especially in the context of the previous announcement that we will fund these schemes directly if possible.

Peter Black: Mae llawer o'r hyn yr oedd angen ei ddweud ynglŷn â'r gyllideb hon eisoes wedi cael ei ddweud yn y ddadl ar y gyllideb ddrafft. Fel y soniwyd, prin yw'r gwahaniaethau rhwng y ddau, ac eithrio ambell i drosglwyddiad yma ac acw. Mae'r gyllideb hon yn parhau i adeiladu ar y sylfaen a sefydlwyd y llynedd yn y rhaglen tair blynedd, 'Rhoi Cymru'n Gyntaf', pan welwyd cynnydd sylweddol yn yr arian a dargedwyd i gyfateb â blaenoriaethau'r Llywodraeth bartneriaeth. Mae'r gyllideb hon yn sicrhau bod mwy o'r ymrwymïadau yn 'Rhoi Cymru'n Gyntaf' yn dwyn ffrwyth, gan brofi unwaith eto bod y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth yn cyflawni ei haddewidion. Yr ydym yn benodol yn cyflawni ein hymrwymiad i ariannu'n llawn argymhellion Comisiwn Rees sydd o fewn pwerau'r Cynulliad. Mae arian yn y gyllideb hefyd i weithredu ein hymrwymiad i bolisi a fydd yn cadw ysgolion gwledig ar agor. Unwaith eto, croesewir hynny.

Soniwyd am danwariant, ac mae'n achosi pryder. Fodd bynnag, dengys y datganiadau a wnaed gan y Gweinidog dros Gyllid ei bod yn ymdopi â'r broblem honno. Croesawn y £40 miliwn o'r adnoddau tanwario a fuddsoddwyd eleni mewn cyfarpar yr oedd ei angen yn ddirfawr a phrosiectau cyfalaf eraill. Mae ailddyrrannu'r arian hwn i fodloni blaenoriaethau'r Cynulliad i'w groesawu hefyd. Dylai pob Aelod ystyried ymrwymiad y Gweinidog i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon yn y dyfodol. Croesewir yn arbennig y cyhoeddiad bod £1.7 miliwn ar gael ar gyfer y cynllun beta interferon, gan ei bod yn rhoi Cymru ar flaen y gad.

Croesewir hefyd gyhoeddiadau'r Gweinidog ar y fenter cyllid preifat. O ran yr ysbytai y soniwyd amdanynt yn araith y Gweinidog, nodwyd y bydd y Cynulliad yn ariannu cynlluniau o'r fath yn llawn lle bo hynny'n bosibl. Croesewir hefyd y cyhoeddiad pellach ar y cais ym Mlaenau Gwent, gan ei fod yn cyfleu neges bwysig i wasanaethau cyhoeddus, yn enwedig yng nghyd-destun yr hyn a gyhoeddassom yn flaenorol sef y byddwn yn ariannu'r cynlluniau hyn yn uniongyrchol os bydd hynny'n bosibl.

Until the Chancellor of the Exchequer changes Treasury borrowing rules, it is likely that we will still need to use some form of private finance. However, I believe that the direction that we are now taking is the right one. We must find more resources for other capital projects, such as a new Welsh-medium comprehensive school in Swansea—to mention a parochial issue—if that is possible.

This budget has been made more difficult by the many crises that the Assembly has faced in the last year, particularly the job losses at Corus, flooding and the foot and mouth disease. The fact that we have found significant extra resources to deal with these crises while still increasing our funding commitments for our key priorities of health and education, as well as finding more money for housing, the Welsh language, rural areas and other key policy areas, is a sign of good management of the Assembly's finances.

Nick Bourne raised the issue of rural areas. The £47 million for the rural recovery plan is a significant commitment by the National Assembly to rural areas, as is the extra money for health, education, housing, economic development and the arts.

Peter Rogers: If the partnership is so effective, why have we not found money for care homes across Wales to ensure that their funding is increased to make up for the effects of measures such as the minimum wage and the care standards that have been introduced?

Peter Black: Peter has clearly not been paying attention, because in at least two meetings of the Health and Social Services Committee, the Minister has announced £8 million for the care sector. She is currently considering how £5 million of that can be spent to help care homes.

Peter Rogers rose—

Alun Cairns: Will the Minister give way?

Hyd nes y bydd Canghellor y Trysorlys yn newid rheolau benthyca'r Trysorlys, mae'n debygol y bydd angen inni ddefnyddio rhyw fath o gyllid preifat o hyd. Fodd bynnag, credaf ein bod yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad iawn yn awr. Rhaid inni ddod o hyd i fwy o adnoddau ar gyfer prosiectau cyfalaf eraill, fel ysgol gyfun newydd Gymraeg ei chyfrwng yn Abertawe—i sôn am fater plwyfol—os yw hynny'n bosibl.

Mae'r holl argyfyngau a wynebwyd gan y Cynulliad y llynedd, yn arbennig y colledion gwaith yn Corus, llifogydd a chlwy'r traed a'r genau wedi gwneud y gwaith o lunio'r gyllideb hon yn fwy anodd. Mae'r ffaith inni ddod o hyd i adnoddau sylweddol ychwanegol i ddelio â'r argyfyngau hyn tra'n parhau i gynyddu ein hymrwymiaadau ariannu ar gyfer ein blaenoriaethau allweddol sef iechedd ac addysg, yn ogystal â dod o hyd i fwy o arian ar gyfer tai, yr iaith Gymraeg, ardaloedd gwledig a meysydd polisi allweddol eraill, yn arwydd o reoli arian y Cynulliad yn dda.

Cododd Nick Bourne fater ardaloedd gwledig. Mae'r £47 miliwn ar gyfer y cynllun adfer gwledig yn ymrwymiad sylweddol gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i ardaloedd gwledig, yn yr un modd ag y mae'r arian ychwanegol ar gyfer iechedd, addysg, tai, datblygu economaidd a'r celfyddydau.

Peter Rogers: Os yw'r bartneriaeth mor effeithiol, pam na ddaethpwyd o hyd i arian ar gyfer cartrefi gofal ledled Cymru i sicrhau y cynyddir eu harian i'w digolledu am effeithiau mesurau fel yr isafswm cyflog a'r safonau gofal a gyflwynwyd?

Peter Black: Yn amlwg nid yw Peter wedi bod yn rhoi sylw, oherwydd mewn dau gyfarfod o leiaf o'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, cyhoeddodd y Gweinidog fod £8 miliwn ar gael i'r sector gofal. Ar hyn o bryd mae'n ystyried sut y gellir gwario £5 miliwn o'r arian hwnnw i helpu cartrefi gofal.

Peter Rogers a gododd—

Alun Cairns: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ildio?

Peter Black: I will not give way. [Interruption.] I will not get into an argument on this. The commitment made by the Minister is clear. For Alun's information, I am speaking as the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on finance, and not as a Minister or even a Deputy Minister. If Alun wants to promote me, he is welcome to do so.

Despite the Conservatives' remarks earlier this morning, there are extra resources for rural areas in this budget, as well as a significant commitment to tackling poverty and deprivation. I am pleased to support the budget, as is the Liberal Democrat group.

David Davies: Many Members have been greatly concerned by the way New Labour in the Assembly has been throwing a lifeline to municipal Labour in the Valleys who, year after year, have failed to control spending levels. This year is not an exception. Despite assurances to the contrary, a huge amount of transitional grant is again being doled out to the usual overspending suspects. Why is it that far from getting rid of the transitional grant, as was suggested would happen, the amount has shot up from under £4 million in the draft budget to over £5 million in this budget? There is no doubt that as a result council tax payers in some areas—and I suspect that Monmouth will be one of them—will be asked to put their hands in their pockets and bail out local authorities that cannot keep their books in order.

11:05 a.m.

Brian Gibbons: Presumably, on that basis you advised Monmouthshire County Council to refuse last year's transitional payment assistance?

David Davies: No, I did not, because Monmouthshire County Council only received a small amount of transitional payment assistance—about £200,000. It was given that because it receives the lowest amount of funding of any local authority in Wales. Instead of asking Monmouthshire to refuse that money, Brian should ask why

Peter Black: Nid ildiaf. [Torri ar draws.] Nid wyf am ddadlau ar hyn. Mae'r ymrwymiad a wnaed gan y Gweinidog yn glir. Er gwybodaeth i Alun, siaradaf fel llefarydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar gyllid, ac nid fel Gweinidog na hyd yn oed fel Dirprwy Weinidog. Os yw Alun am fy nyrchafu, mae croeso iddo wneud hynny.

Er gwaethaf sylwadau'r Ceidwadwyr yn gynharach y bore yma, ceir adnoddau ychwanegol i ardaloedd gwledig yn y gyllideb hon, yn ogystal ag ymrwymiad sylweddol i fynd i'r afael â thlodi ac amddifadedd. Mae'n bleser gennyf i, a grŵp y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, gefnogi'r gyllideb.

David Davies: Bu llawer o'r Aelodau yn gofidio ynglŷn â'r ffordd y bu Llafur Newydd yn y Cynulliad yn rhoi cymorth hanfodol i Lafur fwrdeistrefol yn y Cymoedd sydd, flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn, wedi methu â rheoli gwariant. Nid yw eleni yn wahanol. Er gwaethaf addewidion i'r gwrthwyneb, mae swm enfawr o grant trosiannol yn cael ei rannu ymhlith y drwgdybiedigion sydd fel arfer yn gorwario. Pam mae'r swm, yn hytrach na chael gwared ar y grant trosiannol, fel yr awgrymwyd a fyddai'n digwydd, wedi cynyddu'n sydyn o lai na £4 miliwn yn y gyllideb ddrafft i dros £5 miliwn yn y gyllideb hon? Yn ddiau, gofynnir i rai o dalwyr y dreth gyngor mewn rhai ardaloedd—a thybiaf y bydd Mynwy yn eu plith—fynd i'w pocedi a helpu'r awdurdodau lleol hynny na allant gadw trefn ar eu cyfrifon.

Brian Gibbons: Ar y sail honno, mae'n debyg ichi gynghori Cyngor Sir Fynwy i wrthod cymorth y taliad trosiannol y llynedd?

David Davies: Naddo, ni wneuthum hynny, oherwydd dim ond taliad trosiannol bach a gafodd Cyngor Sir Fynwy—tua £200,000. Fe'i rhoddwyd gan mai Mynwy sy'n cael yr ariannu isaf o'r holl awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru. Yn lle gofyn i Sir Fynwy wrthod yr arian hwnnw, dylai Brian ofyn pam mae rhai awdurdodau lleol, fel Blaenau Gwent, yn

some local authorities, such as Blaenau Gwent, spend far more per head collecting domestic rubbish than large rural areas like Monmouthshire.

Peter Black: David, if you are so opposed to the transitional relief scheme, why was it that when we discussed the formula for local government, you supported the Plaid Cymru amendment to extend the period over which that transitional relief should be paid?

David Davies: I supported it, as you well know, on the basis that some of it would go to Monmouthshire, which was receiving a small amount of money. I point out that Monmouthshire and other local authorities were entitled to that money. When that formula was being drawn up, people such as the Deputy Minister for Local Government, told us that the amount of weighting given to rurality would be fully taken into account. We were led to believe by people such as the Deputy Minister and the former Secretary for Local Government that rural areas like Monmouthshire would receive more money in order to pay for the higher costs of delivering services. When that formula was introduced, the weighting given to rurality was reduced from 8 per cent to 6 per cent, which means that local authorities like Monmouthshire suffered. Why is it that instead of asking about traditional grants—

Peter Law *rose*—

David Davies: Why have Monmouthshire council tax payers been saddled year on year with huge council tax rises in order to bail out local authorities that cannot keep their books in order?

Peter Law: Will you accept that Monmouthshire County Council last year broke the ministerial guidelines by setting council tax rates far above what it should have done? Will you also accept that deprivation in Monmouthshire is insignificant in comparison to that in places such as Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent, because its wards are not among the first 100 wards in the Welsh index of multiple deprivation? Do you accept that?

gwario mwy o lawer y pen yn casglu sbwriel cartrefi nag ardaloedd gwledig mawr fel Sir Fynwy.

Peter Black: David, os ydych yn gwrthwynebu'r cynllun rhyddhad trosiannol gymaint, pam wnaethoch gefnogi gwelliant Plaid Cymru i ymestyn y cyfnod y dylid talu'r rhyddhad trosiannol hwnnw, pan drafodasom y fformiwla ar gyfer llywodraeth leol?

David Davies: Fe'i cefnogais, fel y gwyddoch yn iawn, am y rheswm y byddai peth ohono yn mynd i Sir Fynwy, a oedd yn cael swm bach o arian. Yr oedd gan Sir Fynwy ac awdurdodau lleol eraill hawl i'r arian hwnnw. Pan luniwyd y fformiwla hon, dywedwyd wrthym gan bobl fel y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Lywodraeth Leol y byddai maint y pwysoliad a roddwyd ar gyfer materion gwledig yn cael ei ystyried yn llawn. Fe'n harweiniwyd i gredu gan bobl fel y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r cyn Ysgrifennydd dros Lywodraeth Leol y byddai ardaloedd gwledig fel Sir Fynwy yn cael mwy o arian er mwyn talu costau uwch darparu gwasanaethau. Pan gyflwynwyd y fformiwla honno, gostyngwyd y pwysoliad a roddwyd ar gyfer materion gwledig o 8 y cant i 6 y cant, sy'n golygu bod awdurdodau lleol fel Sir Fynwy wedi dioddef. Pam, yn lle gofyn am grantiau trosiannol—

Peter Law *a gododd*—

David Davies: Pam mae talwyr y dreth gyngor yn Sir Fynwy flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn wedi gorfod talu cynnydd enfawr yn y dreth gyngor i helpu'r awdurdodau lleol hynny na allant gadw trefn ar eu cyfrifon?

Peter Law: A dderbyniwch fod Cyngor Sir Fynwy y llynedd wedi torri canllawiau'r Gweinidogion drwy bennu cyfraddau'r dreth gyngor yn uwch o lawer nag y dylai fod wedi ei wneud? A dderbyniwch hefyd fod ychydig o amddifadedd yn Sir Fynwy o'i gymharu ag amddifadedd mewn lleoedd fel Merthyr Tudful a Blaenau Gwent, gan nad yw ei wardiau ymhlith y 100 o wardiau sydd ar frig mynegrif amddifadedd lluosog Cymru? A dderbyniwch hynny?

David Davies: I would not accept either of those points, because two wards in Monmouthshire are in the top 100 wards; one of which is in the Monmouthshire council area, but not in the constituency. Secondly, there has been a report that shows that people in Monmouthshire have among the lowest average incomes in Wales. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Come off it.'] Yes, that was an independent report. Thirdly, the reason why the council set a higher rate of council tax was because it was not given an adequate amount of money in the settlement.

I will move away from that particular subject for a minute. Will the Minister guarantee that any extra costs incurred as a result of EU legislation on the export of fridges will not be borne by local authorities? The last time I mentioned this people sniggered a bit and wondered what I was talking about. However, people have now begun to realise that this is an important issue, because local authorities across Wales will be saddled with the cost of warehousing fridges, which cannot be exported anymore. I know that Monmouthshire and other local authorities are already looking into the cost of warehousing. It will be extremely expensive and we need a guarantee from the Minister that those costs will not be passed on to council tax payers.

I have about 30 seconds left. The Minister responded to my comments about the road haulage modernisation fund. I asked why, after the fuel protest, Gordon Brown got up in the Houses of Parliament and promised £5 million to Wales for a road haulage modernisation fund. We have not seen any of that money. We might see about £1 million, which will come through in other ways to be spent on slightly different issues. Is it right that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, during a huge, nation-wide protest, can promise money to people and then for us, months later, to be told that the money will not come through? This budget is not good for Wales. This budget is a stealth tax on council tax payers and it is daylight robbery for Welsh hauliers.

Pauline Jarman: Minister, I draw your attention to a major weakness in the Assembly Government's concessionary bus

David Davies: Ni fyddwn yn derbyn un o'r pwyntiau hynny, gan fod dwy ward yn Sir Fynwy ymhlith y 100 uchaf; mae un yn ardal Cyngor Sir Fynwy, ond nid yn yr etholaeth. Yn ail, cynhyrchwyd adroddiad sy'n dangos bod pobl yn Sir Fynwy ymhlith y bobl ar yr incwm isaf ar gyfartaledd yng Nghymru [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'Nonsens llwyr.'] Ie, adroddiad annibynnol oedd hwnnw. Yn drydydd, gosodwyd cyfradd uwch o'r dreth gyngor gan y cyngor gan na chafodd swm digonol o arian yn y setliad.

Yr wyf am adael y pwnc arbennig hwnnw am ychydig. A wnaiff y Gweinidog warantu na chaiff unrhyw gostau ychwanegol a warir o ganlyniad i ddeddfwriaeth yr UE ar allforio rhewgelloedd eu talu gan awdurdodau lleol? Y tro olaf imi sôn am hyn bu pobl yn cilchwerthin ychydig gan feddwl tybed beth yr oeddwn yn siarad amdano. Fodd bynnag, mae pobl wedi dechrau sylweddoli erbyn hyn bod hwn yn fater pwysig, oherwydd caiff awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru eu gadael â chost storio rhewgelloedd na ellir eu hallforio bellach. Gwn fod Sir Fynwy ac awdurdodau lleol eraill eisoes yn ystyried cost y storio. Bydd yn gostus iawn ac mae angen gwarant gan y Gweinidog na chaiff y costau hynny eu trosglwyddo i dalwyr y dreth gyngor.

Mae gennyf tua 30 eiliad ar ôl. Ymatebodd y Gweinidog i'm sylwadau ynglŷn â chronfa moderneiddio cludiant ffordd. Gofynnaf pam, ar ôl y gwrthdystio ynglŷn â thanwydd, y cododd Gordon Brown yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin ac addo £5 miliwn i Gymru ar gyfer cronfa moderneiddio cludiant ffordd. Ni welsom ddim o'r arian hwnnw. Efallai y gwelwn tua £1 filiwn, a ddaw drwy gyfryngau eraill i'w gwario ar faterion ychydig yn wahanol. A yw'n iawn bod Canghellor y Trysorlys, yn ystod gwrthdystiad mawr, ledled y wlad, yn gallu addo arian i bobl ac yna inni, fisoedd yn ddiweddarach, gael gwybod na chawn yr arian hwnnw? Nid yw'r gyllideb hon yn dda i Gymru. Mae'r gyllideb hon yn dreth lechwraidd ar dalwyr y dreth gyngor ac yn lladrad noeth i gludwyr Cymru.

Pauline Jarman: Weinidog, tynnaf eich sylw at wendid mawr yng nghynllun tocynnau mantais bysiau Llywodraeth y

pass scheme, which provides free travel for the elderly. Not enough money has been made available to local authorities to subsidise the scheme, and this will result in major shortfalls in local authorities' budgets as they struggle to meet demands in some areas. At this point, I declare an interest as a member of Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

This is a valuable scheme, which local authorities are proud to support. However, they need sufficient funding to run it. The Assembly Government's estimates are based on figures for the elderly population and not on the number of journeys likely to be made. This is wrong and will lead to significant discrepancies between regions in Wales. Local authorities in rural areas will be better off as there are few buses for pensioners to catch, while urban authorities will struggle to pay the bus operators. By the same token, pensioners in rural areas will be denied maximum use of free travel because of the lack of bus services. The money available is at odds with the Government's commitment to promote public transport and social inclusion. A mechanism should be introduced to allow retrospective adjustment to be made for authorities where the scheme is popular. If this is a national scheme, then it must be fully funded by the National Assembly.

In local government, there are significant changes to existing funding arrangements and new pressures. These include: neutrality of the sixth form transfers; the Department for Work and Pension's preserved rights and residential allowance transfers; inflation and pay increases; funding teachers' threshold payments—a gap still remains; concessionary fares; the cost of Best Value; waste management; costs associated with the modernisation agenda; and progressing the e-government agenda. Most council treasurers are currently trying to separate the facts from the spin. The additional financial pressures placed on each council by Westminster and the National Assembly are immense. However, there are already indications that some councils will find it difficult to deliver on the Minister's expectations.

Cynulliad, sy'n darparu teithiau am ddim i'r henoed. Ni sicrhawyd bod digon o arian ar gael i awdurdodau lleol i sybsideiddio'r cynllun, a bydd hyn yn arwain at ddiffygion mawr yng nghyllidebau awdurdodau lleol wrth iddynt frwydro i ateb y galw mewn rhai ardaloedd. Ar y pwynt hwn, datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Mae hwn yn gynllun gwerthfawr y mae awdurdodau lleol yn falch o'i gefnogi. Fodd bynnag, mae angen digon o arian arnynt i'w redeg. Seilir amcangyfrifon Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar ffigurau poblogaeth yr henoed ac nid ar nifer y teithiau sy'n debygol o gael eu gwneud. Mae hwn yn anghywir a bydd yn arwain at anghysondebau sylweddol rhwng ardaloedd yng Nghymru. Bydd awdurdodau lleol mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn elwa mwy yn ariannol gan fod llai o fysiau ar gael, tra bydd yn anodd i awdurdodau trefol dalu'r gweithredwyr bysiau. Yn yr un modd, ni fydd pensïynwyr mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn gallu manteisio i'r eithaf ar deithiau am ddim oherwydd prinder y gwasanaethau bysiau. Mae'r arian sydd ar gael yn groes i ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i hyrwyddo cludiant cyhoeddus a chynhwysedd cymdeithasol. Dylid cyflwyno gweithdrefn lle y gellir gwneud addasiad ôl-weithredol ar gyfer awdurdodau lle mae'r cynllun yn boblogaidd. Os yw hwn yn gynllun cenedlaethol, rhaid iddo gael ei ariannu'n llawn gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

Mewn llywodraeth leol, mae newidiadau o bwys i'r trefniadau ariannu presennol a phwysau newydd, gan gynnwys: niwtraled trosglwyddiadau'r chweched dosbarth; hawliau cadwedig a throsglwyddiadau lwfans preswyl yr Adran dros Waith a Phensiynau; chwyddiant a chodiadau cyflog; ariannu taliadau trothwy athrawon—erys bwlch o hyd; tocynnau mantais; cost Gwerth Gorau; rheoli gwastraff; costau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r agenda foderneiddio; a datblygu agenda'r e-lywodraeth. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o drysoryddion cynghorau ar hyn o bryd yn ceisio hidlo'r ffeithiau o'r sbin. Mae'r pwysau ariannol ychwanegol a osodir ar bob cyngor gan San Steffan a'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn enfawr. Fodd bynnag, mae rhai arwyddion eisoes y bydd rhai cynghorau yn ei chael hi'n anodd i wireddu disgwyliadau'r Gweinidog.

Other Members have already mentioned that councils are required to manage the intermediate care sector and deliver the National Assembly's policy changes with insufficient financial support from the National Assembly. From representations made by local authorities and other providers, the Assembly should be aware that the intermediate care sector is in crisis. That is due to increased costs, which are significantly affecting the independent and voluntary sector; policy changes that are not fully financially supported; difficulties in recruiting staff to work in the sector; and rising demands for services, resulting in bedblocking in the NHS. If the National Assembly is to improve intermediate care, it must take greater financial responsibility for these services. It must stimulate the market across Wales and encourage, not only local authorities, but new and existing independent and voluntary providers, to offer core care and added-value services for the most vulnerable in our society.

As regards capital funding, Minister, you confirmed in your statement that Porthmadog and Rhondda hospitals are to be funded directly. I welcome that. However, are there exceptions? Will you make clear that, in terms of housing and other capital projects in the public sector—primarily in health and education—the choices are stark? Indeed, there are none. In housing investment, stock transfer, health and education there is only one choice, private finance initiative. On Peter Law's point on the increase in the local government settlement, with respect to Peter, the underlying increase is 5.67 per cent to cover costs such as pay increases for staff and the shortfall in funding for teachers' threshold pay. That will leave little room for growth in the sector. On Huw Lewis's remarks on Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales, I remind him that when Labour lost control of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, the Labour leader in Merthyr asked the Plaid Cymru councillors—whom he described as like-minded socialists—to join with Labour. Huw is clearly out of touch with his colleagues in Merthyr.

I welcome the recent convert, Alun Pugh

Mae Aelodau eraill eisoes wedi dweud y bydd yn ofynnol i gynghorau reoli'r sector gofal canolradd a chyflawni newidiadau polisi'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol heb gefnogaeth ariannol ddigonol gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. O'r sylwadau a wnaed gan awdurdodau lleol a darparwyr eraill, dylai'r Cynulliad fod yn ymwybodol bod y sector gofal canolradd yn wynebu argyfwng a hynny oherwydd y costau cynyddol, a gaiff effaith fawr ar y sector annibynnol a gwirfoddol; newidiadau polisi nas cefnogir yn ariannol yn ddigonol; anawsterau recriwtio staff i weithio yn y sector; a galw cynyddol am wasanaethau, sy'n arwain at brinder gwelyau yn yr NHS. Er mwyn i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol wella gofal canolradd, rhaid iddo gymryd mwy o gyfrifoldeb ariannol dros y gwasanaethau hyn. Rhaid iddo ysgogi'r farchnad ledled Cymru ac annog, nid awdurdodau lleol yn unig, ond darparwyr annibynnol a gwirfoddol newydd a hen, i gynnig gwasanaethau gofal craidd a gwerth ychwanegol i'r bobl fwyaf diamddiffyn yn ein cymdeithas.

O ran arian cyfalaf, Weinidog, gwnaethoch gadarnhau yn eich datganiad y caiff ysbytai Porthmadog a'r Rhondda eu hariannu'n uniongyrchol. Croesawaf hynny. Fodd bynnag, ai eithriadau yw'r rhain? A eglurwch, o ran tai a phrosiectau cyfalaf eraill yn y sector cyhoeddus—yn bennaf mewn ieuchyd ac addysg—fod y dewisiadau yn llwm? Yn wir, nid oes dim. O ran buddsoddi mewn tai, trosglwyddo stoc, ieuchyd ac addysg dim ond un dewis sydd, sef y fenter cyllid preifat. Ar bwynt Peter Law ynglŷn â'r cynnydd yn y setliad llywodraeth leol, gyda phob parch i Peter, y cynnydd sylfaenol yw 5.67 y cant i dalu costau fel codiadau cyflog i staff a'r prinder arian ar gyfer cyflog trothwy athrawon. Ni fydd hynny'n gadael llawer ar gyfer twf yn y sector. O ran sylwadau Huw Lewis am Blaid Cymru—The Party of Wales, hoffwn ei atgoffa, pan gollodd Llafur reolaeth dros Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful, i'r arweinydd Llafur ym Merthyr ofyn i gynghorwyr Plaid Cymru—a ddisgrifiodd fel sosialwyr unfryd—ymuno â Llafur. Mae Huw yn amlwg wedi colli cysylltiad â'i gyfeillion ym Merthyr.

Croesawaf yr un a gafodd droedigaeth yn

AM—

ddiweddar, Alun Pugh AC—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You have had five minutes. I call Brian Gibbons.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Cawsoch bum munud. Galwaf ar Brian Gibbons.

11:15 a.m.

Brian Gibbons: Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer for calling me to speak, especially since you informed me a moment ago that I did not have time. Nick Bourne raised PFI and tried to make out that there were inconsistencies in our position. The main test for PFI is whether it represents good value for money. If a PFI bid does not represent good value for money, then it should not go ahead. That is an entirely consistent position.

Brian Gibbons: Diolch ichi, Ddirprwy Lywydd am fy ngalw i siarad, yn enwedig gan ichi fy hysbysu eiliad yn ôl nad oedd gennyf amser. Cododd Nick Bourne fater y fenter cyllid preifat a cheisiodd egluro bod anghysondebau yn ein safbwynt. Y prif brawf ar gyfer y fenter yw gweld a yw'n werth da am arian. Os nad yw cais am fenter cyllid preifat yn werth da am arian, yna ni ddylai fynd yn ei flaen. Mae hynny'n safbwynt hollol gyson.

Nick Bourne: I sought clarification on what appeared to be a dichotomy of views. Rhodri Morgan, in the answer to which I referred, welcomed PFI for hospital projects, yet we know that the Minister for Health and Social Services has set her stall against it. I sought clarification from the administration on which of those two views is correct.

Nick Bourne: Ceisiais eglurhad ar yr hyn a ymddangosai yn ddeuoliaeth barn. Croesawodd Rhodri Morgan, yn yr ateb y cyfeiriais ato, y fenter cyllid preifat i brosiectau ysbytai, ac eto gwyddom fod y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi penderfynu yn ei herbyn. Ceisiais eglurhad gan y weinyddiaeth ar ba un o'r ddau safbwynt hynny sy'n gywir.

Brian Gibbons: It is clear that the test is whether it is good value in terms of the public purse and services for patients or students in Wales, not the dogmatic point that you are trying to generate.

Brian Gibbons: Mae'n amlwg mai'r prawf yw gweld a yw'n werth da o ran cronfa'r wlad a gwasanaethau i gleifion neu fyfyrwyr yng Nghymru, nid y pwynt dogmataidd yr ydych yn ceisio ei wneud.

Glyn Davies: I accept that, when commenting on the Minister for Finance's budget proposals, we should adopt a responsible attitude to them and recognise that the budget at her disposal is finite. It is largely decided at Westminster by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. That is the basic position. However, it is reasonable for opposition Assembly Members and their parties to point to those areas where more money should be spent. This is particularly relevant in this Assembly because underspending has become a feature of the management of the Assembly budget. Underspending almost ought to be part of the planning process. The figures that we are talking about are so massive that to decide how to spend the money through end year flexibility is probably not the best way. There must be some recognition that there will be

Glyn Davies: Derbyniaf, wrth wneud sylwadau ar gynigion cyllideb y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, y dylem fabwysiadu ymagwedd gyfrifol tuag atynt a chydabod bod y gyllideb sydd at ei defnydd yn derfynol. Penderfynir arni i raddau helaeth yn San Steffan gan Ganghellor y Trysorlys. Dyna'r sefyllfa yn y bôn. Fodd bynnag, mae'n rhesymol i Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau yn y Cynulliad amlygu'r meysydd lle y dylid gwario arian. Mae hyn yn arbennig o berthnasol yn y Cynulliad gan fod tanwario wedi dod yn nodwedd o ddull rheoli cyllideb y Cynulliad. Dylai tanwario fod yn rhan bron o'r broses gynllunio. Mae'r ffigurau y soniwn amdanynt mor enfawr fel nad penderfynu sut i wario'r arian drwy hyblygrwydd diwedd y flwyddyn yw'r ffordd orau. Rhaid cydnabod y bydd tanwario ar raddfa fawr a rhaid archwilio'r rhaglen am ffordd o gyflwyno

major underspend and an examination of the programme for a way to introduce increased spending part way through the year.

There are several issues; I will touch on two. The first is Tir Gofal, which is a massively important scheme. It is currently designed to support individual farms. However, the benefit of the scheme is much wider. It transforms how we support farms from a method that some parts of the community no longer think is right, to supporting agriculture in a way of which everybody—both the urban and rural populations of Wales—approves. It is a scheme that can act as a bridge between rural and urban Wales. All Assembly Members fully support it. However, I have frequently expressed the view that, given current levels of funding, it cannot work. It will finish up being no more than a farm support scheme and it must be more than that. If we are to secure the economic benefits off the farm, and the environmental benefit throughout Wales that this scheme could produce, funding levels must be much higher.

The second issue—which others have already mentioned—is local government funding. The reality is that, since the establishment of the Assembly, there have been massive increases in council tax levels throughout Wales, including double-digit increases over some years. Many of these increases have been as a result of issues that have impacted on local government and were beyond its control.

I have just described the facts. David Davies raised another fact about fridges. He was right to say that it was laughed at, perhaps because of the context within which he raised it. However, it is an important issue that rural councils will have to face. I believe that the way in which the Assembly has supported local government is a back door tax increase, introduced by this Government over a number of years. You should not just tell us in this Chamber of the increases in funding in your proposals, Minister. You should consider the burden that will, for various reasons, fall on local government. That is what will lead to council tax increases. This year, despite what you have said in your

gwariant cynyddol hanner ffordd drwy'r flwyddyn.

Mae nifer o faterion; soniaf am ddau. Y cyntaf yw Tir Gofal, sydd yn gynllun eithriadol o bwysig. Ar ei ffurf bresennol ei nod yw cefnogi ffermydd unigol. Fodd bynnag, mae buddiannau'r cynllun yn fwy o lawer. Mae'n trawsffurfio'r ffordd y cefnogwn ffermydd o ddull nad yw'n iawn ym marn rhai rhannau o'r gymuned bellach i gefnogi amaethyddiaeth mewn ffordd y mae pawb—y boblogaeth wledig a'r boblogaeth drefol yng Nghymru—yn ei chymeradwyo. Mae'n gynllun a all bontio rhwng Cymru wledig a Chymru drefol. Fe'i cefnogir gan bob Aelod o'r Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, mynegais yn aml y farn na all weithio gyda'r lefelau ariannu cyfredol. Yn y pen draw, ni fydd yn ddim mwy na chynllun cefnogi ffermydd a rhaid iddo fod yn fwy na hynny. Os ydym i sicrhau buddiannau economaidd y tu hwnt i'r fferm, a'r budd amgylcheddol ledled Cymru y gallai hyn ei gynhyrchu, rhaid i'r lefelau ariannu fod yn uwch o lawer.

Yr ail fater—y mae eraill wedi ei grybwyll—yw ariannu llywodraeth leol. Y realiti yw, ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad, fod lefelau'r dreth gyngor ledled Cymru, wedi cynyddu'n fawr iawn, gan gynnwys cynnydd mewn rhifau dwbl yn ystod ambell i flwyddyn. Digwyddodd llawer o'r achosion hyn o gynnydd oherwydd materion a effeithiodd ar lywodraeth leol ac a oedd y tu hwnt i'r rheolaeth.

Disgrifio'r ffeithiau a wneuthum. Cododd David Davies ffaith arall am rewgelloedd. Yr oedd yn iawn i ddweud bod hwn yn gwneud i bobl chwerthin, efallai oherwydd y cyddestun y cododd y pwnc ynddo. Fodd bynnag, mae'n fater pwysig y bydd yn rhaid i gynghorau gwledig ei wynebu. Credaf fod y Cynulliad wedi darparu cefnogaeth i lywodraeth leol drwy gyfrwng cynnydd llechwraidd mewn treth, a gyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth hon dros sawl blwyddyn. Ni ddylech ddweud wrthym yn y Siambr hon am y cynnydd ariannol yn eich cynigion, Weinidog. Dylech ystyried y baich a fydd, am amryw o resymau, yn syrthio ar ysgwyddau llywodraeth leol. Dyna beth fydd

opening speech, tax increases will be above the rate of inflation, and when this is added to those other increases that have occurred since you have been in control of this Assembly brief, it is totally unacceptable to local government.

Helen Mary Jones: I am concerned about two aspects of funding for the Countryside Council for Wales. Its budget for protecting sites of special scientific interest remains inadequate. What is the view of the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities on whether the proposed increase in funding for the council will enable it to improve its performance on this, this year? On Tir Gofal, like Glyn Davies, we remain concerned about the inadequate level of funding, and the backlog of over 1,000 farming businesses waiting to join the scheme. I am also concerned about the apparently high percentage of current expenditure spent by the Countryside Council for Wales on administering the scheme, set against the amount that is paid out to participants. I would welcome the Minister's comments on this.

I will make a brief response to some of the comments made about the position of the Party of Wales on budgets and public spending. Huw Lewis's constituents, as well as being confused, as Pauline Jarman has said, must be disappointed at his lack of grasp and ambition. Does he think that Wales will always be so poor, that we will never be able to pay our way? I am disappointed but not surprised that he understands so little about the historic deprivation suffered by our communities, and the reparation to which they are entitled in the short term, and by his lack of ambition for the prosperity and potential self-reliance of our communities in the long term—

Huw Lewis: Will you give way?

Helen Mary Jones: I am not giving way, I do not have enough time. I am sure that you will have an opportunity to respond again, Huw, but we have heard enough from you this morning.

yn arwain at gynnydd yn y dreth gyngor. Eleni, er gwaethaf yr hyn a ddywedasoeh yn eich araith agoriadol, bydd y cynnydd mewn treth yn uwch na chyfradd chwyddiant, a phan ychwanegir hyn at y codiadau eraill a fu ers i chi ddechrau rheoli'r briff hwn yn y Cynulliad, mae'n hollol annerbyniol i lywodraeth leol.

Helen Mary Jones: Pryderaf am ddwy agwedd ar ariannu Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru. Mae ei gyllideb ar gyfer diogelu safleoedd o ddiddordeb gwyddonol arbennig yn annigonol o hyd. Beth yw barn y gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau: a fydd y cynnydd ariannol arfaethedig i'r cyngor yn ei alluogi i wella ei berfformiad ynglŷn â hyn, eleni? O ran Tir Gofal, fel Glyn Davies, parhawn i bryderu am y lefel ariannu annigonol, ac am y 1,000 neu fwy o fusnesau ffermio sydd yn aros i ymuno â'r cynllun. Pryderaf hefyd am y ganran uchel, yn ôl pob tebyg, o'r gwariant presennol a warir gan Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru ar weinyddu'r cynllun, o'i gymharu â'r swm a dalwyd i gyfranogwyr. Byddwn yn croesawu sylwadau'r Gweinidog ar hyn.

Gwnaf ymateb yn fyr i rai o'r sylwadau a wnaed am safbwynt Plaid Cymru ar gyllidebau a gwariant cyhoeddus. Rhaid bod etholwyr Huw Lewis, yn ogystal â bod yn ddryslud, fel y dywedodd Pauline Jarman, yn siomedig gyda'i ddiffyg gafael ar y mater a'i ddiffyg uchelgais. A yw'n credu y bydd Cymru bob amser mor dlawd, fel na fyddwn byth yn gallu talu ein ffordd? Yr wyf yn siomedig ond ni synnaf ei fod yn deall cyn lleied am yr amddifadedd hanesyddol a ddioddefwyd gan ein cymunedau, a'r iawndal y mae ganddynt hawl iddo yn y byrdymor, ac yr wyf yn siomedig gyda'i ddiffyg uchelgais am ffyniant a hunandibyniaeth bosibl ein cymunedau yn yr hirdymor—

Huw Lewis: A ildiwch?

Helen Mary Jones: Nid ildiaf, nid oes gennyf ddigon o amser. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cewch gyfle i ymateb eto, Huw, ond clywsom ddigon gennyf y bore yma.

Nick Bourne unsurprisingly displays a similar historical and economic ignorance. Our position is simple: we want additional resources in the short term to put historical injustice right. Whether those resources come from Europe, as they did for Ireland, from the UK central Government, or from anywhere else, all that matters is that the resources go into our communities. In the longer term we want Wales to be able to stand on its own feet. Now do you understand?

Nick Bourne: Will you give way?

Helen Mary Jones: No, I do not have time Nick. The Assembly rightly prides itself on an open and transparent budgeting process, in sharp contrast to Gordon Brown's secretive, anally retentive annual box of tricks. However, this apparent openness will mean little unless expenditure can be accurately tracked throughout the year, and I hope that the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities will be open to Dafydd Wigley's suggestions in this regard.

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): When people say that more money is required in budget lines, it would be helpful if they could suggest from where the administration should take that money. When I have a call for more money for agriculture—which is currently operating under difficult circumstances—should I take that money from health, education, or transport, for example?

In answer to Helen Mary Jones's comments about the Tir Gofal administration issues, I am holding ongoing discussions with Carwyn Jones on how to minimise these administration costs. On the Countryside Council for Wales, we are all aware of the impact of foot and mouth disease on its work programme. I know that Sue Essex and her officials are discussing these issues with CCW, and we will consider any properly costed proposals that come forward which we are able to fund. We happened to examine CCW's budget line in the middle of a favourable three-year cycle from its point of

Mae Nick Bourne yn amlygu anwybodaeth hanesyddol ac economaidd tebyg ac nid yw hyn yn syndod. Mae ein safbwynt yn syml: yr ydym am gael adnoddau ychwanegol yn y byrdymor i unioni anghyfiawnder hanesyddol. Waeth a ddaw'r adnoddau hynny o Ewrop, fel y gwnaethant ar gyfer Iwerddon, o Lywodraeth ganolog y DU, neu o rywle arall, yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw bod yr adnoddau ar gael i'n cymunedau. Yn y tymor hwy yr ydym am i Gymru allu sefyll ar ei thraed ei hun. A ddeallwch yn awr?

Nick Bourne: A wnewch chi ildio?

Helen Mary Jones: Na, nid oes gennyf amser, Nick. Mae'r Cynulliad yn ymfalchïo yn y ffaith bod ganddo broses gyllidebu agored a thryloyw, mewn gwrthwynebiad llwyr i'r ffordd grintachlyd, gyfrin y mae Gordon Brown yn cyflwyno ei gyllideb bob blwyddyn. Fodd bynnag, ni fydd y natur agored amlwg hon yn golygu llawer oni ellir olrhain gwariant yn gywir ar hyd y flwyddyn, a gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau yn fodlon ystyried awgrymiadau Dafydd Wigley yn hyn o beth.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Pan ddywed pobl fod angen mwy o arian yn llinellau'r gyllideb, byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe baent yn gallu awgrymu o ble y dylai'r weinyddiaeth gymryd yr arian hwnnw. Pan gaf alwad am fwy o arian ar gyfer amaethyddiaeth—sydd ar hyn o bryd yn gweithredu o dan amgylchiadau anodd—a ddylwn gymryd yr arian hwnnw o iechyd, addysg neu drafndiaeth, er enghraifft?

Mewn ateb i sylwadau Helen Mary Jones ar faterion gweinyddol Tir Gofal, yr wyf yn cynnal trafodaethau parhaus gyda Carwyn Jones ar sut i leihau'r costau gweinyddol hyn. O ran Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, gŵyr pob un ohonom am effaith clwy'r traed a'r genau ar ei raglen waith. Gwn fod Sue Essex a'i swyddogion yn trafod y materion hyn â'r Cyngor a byddwn yn ystyried unrhyw gynigion a gyflwynir sydd wedi'u costio'n gywir y gallwn eu hariannu. Gwnaethom ddigwydd archwilio llinell gyllideb y Cyngor ynghanol cylch tair blynedd ffafriol o safbwynt y Cyngor. Bydd ei waelodlin

view. Its rising baseline of 14.2 per cent will allow it to continue its work of monitoring Natura 2000 sites, along with the other issues that the Agricultural and Rural Development Committee is concerned about.

11:25 a.m.

I turn to Glyn Davies's comments on Tir Gofal. His points about the current level of funding for the scheme have been well made in the past. In terms of the budget, he was right to say that Gordon Brown uses the comprehensive spending review to set the Welsh block grant, within which we must then administer our budget. In an ideal world we would like to invest more money in a number of initiatives that would improve the Welsh economy as a whole. However, that has not been possible.

On council tax, you must understand—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Do you accept that Tir Gofal is an opportunity to turn around agriculture and the economy of rural Wales? If the Government was responsible in dealing with the rural economy, it would take that opportunity.

Edwina Hart: Tir Gofal is a good scheme but it must be phased in as resources allow. To make further substantial allocations at this juncture would mean that I would have to reconsider the Assembly's priorities and reallocate money. Members tell me that their priorities are education, health, the economy and European structural funds. Therefore I must get the necessary balance correct.

I turn to Glyn's point about local government funding. Local government acknowledges that last year's settlement, as a result of the comprehensive spending review, was the best for a generation. It is important to recognise that council tax is a matter for local authorities. Ultimately, they will set the rates that they believe are relevant to allow the provision of services in their areas. We have a genuine partnership with local government. We recognise that the Assembly and central Government place burdens on it. We discuss new burdens with local government and try to make the necessary arrangements to deal

gynyddol o 14.2 y cant yn caniatáu iddo barhau i fonitro safleoedd Natura 2000, ynghyd â'r materion eraill y mae'r Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig yn pryderu amdanynt.

Trof at sylwadau Glyn Davies ar Tir Gofal. Gwnaeth bwyntiau da yn y gorffennol ynglŷn â lefel ariannu bresennol y cynllun. O ran y gyllideb, yr oedd yn iawn i ddweud bod Gordon Brown yn defnyddio'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant i osod grant bloc Cymru, y mae'n rhaid inni weinyddu ein cyllideb o'i fewn. Mewn byd delfrydol hoffem pe gallem fuddsoddi mwy o arian mewn nifer o fentrau a fyddai'n gwella economi Cymru yn gyffredinol. Fodd bynnag, ni fu hynny'n bosibl.

O ran y dreth gyngor, rhaid ichi ddeall—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A dderbyniwch fod Tir Gofal yn gyfle i drawsnewid amaethyddiaeth ac economi Cymru wledig? Pe bai'r Llywodraeth yn ymdrin â'r economi wledig yn gyfrifol, byddai'n manteisio ar y cyfle hwnnw.

Edwina Hart: Mae Tir Gofal yn gynllun da ond rhaid ei gyflwyno'n raddol yn ôl yr adnoddau sydd ar gael. Pe bawn yn gwneud dyraniadau sylweddol pellach ar yr adeg hon byddai'n rhaid imi ailystyried blaenoriaethau'r Cynulliad ac ailddyrrannu'r arian. Dywed yr Aelodau wrthyf mai eu blaenoriaethau yw addysg, iechyd, yr economi a chronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop. Felly rhaid imi gadw'r ddysgl yn wastad.

Trof at bwynt Glyn ynglŷn ag ariannu llywodraeth leol. Cydnabu llywodraeth leol mai setliad y llynedd, o ganlyniad i'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant, oedd yr un gorau ers cenhedlaeth. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod mai mater i awdurdodau lleol yw'r dreth gyngor. Yn y pen draw, hwy fydd yn gosod y cyfraddau y credant sy'n berthnasol fel y gellir darparu gwasanaethau yn eu hardaloedd. Mae gennym bartneriaeth wirioneddol â llywodraeth leol. Cydnabyddwn fod y Cynulliad a Llywodraeth ganolog yn gofyn llawer ohoni. Trafodwn ddyletswyddau newydd â

with them. That is why I did not laugh when David Davies raised the issue of refrigerators. Following on from his serious point, there are issues that the WLGA will raise with the Assembly in terms of the additional burdens on local government. I consider such issues when we discuss at the Consultative Forum on Finance how to identify and deal with new burdens. David's other points about local government were not well made.

On the needs of Blaenau Gwent—one of the most socially deprived areas in Wales—we must consider them in terms of how we deal with expenditure. It is not a matter of authorities being profligate; authorities have a difficult job to do. Council tax in Monmouthshire—

Tom Middlehurst: I welcome your commitment to the hard-pressed communities of Blaenau Gwent. I am sure that all Members will do so; my colleague Peter Law has already expressed his appreciation. However, will you give an assurance that all the hard-pressed communities affected by Corus's announcements earlier this year will be recognised in your budget allocations, not least the communities of Shotton, which are suffering a further decline in steel processing as a result of those announcements?

Edwina Hart: I will finish my comments on local government and then answer your question, Tom.

Council tax in Monmouthshire last year was well below the average rate for band B. No large increases were required due to the generosity of the local government settlement. The decisions were made by the local authority. We must recognise that there is no comparison, in terms of real deprivation, between Monmouthshire and Valley areas such as Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil. If we are to deal with these issues, local authorities must take responsibility for the services they deliver and any council tax increases.

David Davies: Monmouthshire had a council

llywodraeth leol a cheisiwn wneud y trefniadau angenrheidiol i ddelio â hwy. Dyna pam na chwaddais pan soniodd David Davies am rewgelloedd. Yn dilyn ei bwynt difrifol, mae materion y bydd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn eu codi gyda'r Cynulliad o ran y dyletswyddau ychwanegol ar lywodraeth leol. Byddaf yn ystyried materion o'r fath yn y Fforwm Ymgynghorol ar Gyllid pan fyddwn yn trafod sut i nodi a delio â dyletswyddau newydd. Nid oedd y pwyntiau eraill a wnaeth David yn rhai da.

O ran anghenion Blaenau Gwent—un o'r ardaloedd mwyaf cymdeithasol-ddifreintiedig yng Nghymru—rhaid inni eu hystyried yn yr un modd ag y deliwn â gwariant. Nid sôn yr ydym am awdurdodau yn ymddwyn yn afrad; mae gan awdurdodau dasg anodd i'w chyflawni. Mae'r dreth gyngor yn Sir Fynwy—

Tom Middlehurst: Croesawaf eich ymrwymiad i gymunedau dirwasgedig Blaenau Gwent. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnaiff pob Aelod yr un peth; eisoes mynegodd fy nghyd-Aelod Peter Law ei werthfawrogiad. Fodd bynnag, a roddwch sicrwydd y bydd yr holl gymunedau dirwasgedig yr effeithiwyd arnynt gan gyhoeddiadau Corus yn gynharach eleni yn cael eu cydnabod yn eich dyraniadau ar gyfer y gyllideb, yn enwedig cymunedau Shotton, sydd yn dioddef dirywiad pellach yn y diwydiant prosesu dur o ganlyniad i'r cyhoeddiadau hyn?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf am orffen fy sylwadau ar lywodraeth leol ac yna fe atebaf eich cwestiwn, Tom.

Yr oedd y dreth gyngor yn Sir Fynwy y llynedd yn is o lawer na'r gyfradd gyfartalog ar gyfer band B. Nid oedd angen unrhyw gynnydd mawr oherwydd haelioni'r setliad llywodraeth leol. Yr awdurdod lleol a wnaeth y penderfyniadau. Rhaid inni gydnabod nad oes unrhyw gymhariaeth, o ran amddifadedd gwirioneddol, rhwng Sir Fynwy ac ardaloedd yn y Cymoedd fel Blaenau Gwent a Merthyr Tudful. Er mwyn delio â'r materion hyn, rhaid i awdurdodau lleol fod yn gyfrifol am y gwasanaethau a ddarparant ac am unrhyw gynnydd yn y dreth gyngor.

David Davies: Bu cynnydd yn y dreth

tax increase of around 24 per cent in the Assembly's first year and about 14 per cent in the second. These are huge increases, way above the rate of inflation. How can you justify that, especially as Monmouthshire receives less money per head than any other local authority in Wales?

Edwina Hart: In terms of Monmouthshire, we must recognise that the council tax decisions were made by the local authority. It is a matter of local democracy and the council will have to face the electorate at the next council elections.

On Tom Middlehurst's question, Flintshire will receive £1 million from the second phase of the Corus package, to use as the local authority sees fit, and probably for local regeneration as a result of the unfortunate closures in north Wales.

Brian Gibbons was right about PFI. It is about taking a pragmatic approach, not about dogma. When PFI is appropriate, we will use it, and when it is inappropriate, we will not. That has been well illustrated—

Brian Gibbons and Geraint Davies *rose—*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Will you give way?

Edwina Hart: No.

—by what we have done with the hospitals in Porthmadog and Rhondda and Llanhilleth school. That is essential. There is no difference of opinion in the administration about what we want to do with PFI; we just want to take a pragmatic approach so that we can ensure the best investment in the public sector.

I understand Pauline Jarman's comments on transport concessionary fares, which were published today. However, we must recognise that concessionary fares are a key Assembly policy. For example, free bus travel for pensioners is one of the National Assembly's key priorities. The funding will

gyngor o tua 24 y cant yn Sir Fynwy yn ystod blwyddyn gyntaf y Cynulliad a thua 14 y cant yn yr ail flwyddyn. Mae hyn yn gynnydd enfawr, sy'n uwch o lawer na chyfradd chwyddiant. Sut y gallwch gyfiawnhau hynny, yn enwedig gan fod Sir Fynwy yn cael llai o arian y pen nag unrhyw awdurdod lleol arall yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: O ran Sir Fynwy, rhaid inni gydnabod mai'r awdurdod lleol a wnaeth y penderfyniadau ar y dreth gyngor. Mae hyn yn fater o ddemocratiaeth leol a bydd y cyngor yn gorfod wynebu'r etholwyr yn yr etholiadau cyngor nesaf.

O ran cwestiwn Tom Middlehurst, bydd Sir y Fflint yn cael £1 filiwn o ail gam pecyn Corus, i'w defnyddio fel y gwêl yr awdurdod lleol orau, ac fe'i defnyddir mae'n debyg ar gyfer y cynllun adfywio lleol o ganlyniad i'r cau gweithfeydd yn y Gogledd, a oedd yn anffodus.

Yr oedd Brian Gibbons yn iawn ynglŷn â'r fenter cyllid preifat. Mae'n ymwneud â mabwysiadu ymagwedd bragmatig, nid â dogma. Pan fo'r fenter yn briodol, fe'i defnyddiwn, a phan fo'n amhriodol, ni chaiff ei defnyddio. Mae'r hyn a wnaethom—

Brian Gibbons a Geraint Davies *a gododd—*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A wnewch chi ildio?

Edwina Hart: Na wnaif.

—gyda'r ysbytai ym Mhorthmadog a'r Rhondda a ysgol Llanhilleth yn enghraifft dda o hynny. Mae hynny'n hanfodol. Nid oes gwahaniaeth barn yn y weinyddiaeth ynglŷn â'r hyn yr ydym am ei wneud gyda'r fenter; yr ydym, yn syml, am fabwysiadu ymagwedd bragmatig fel y gallwn sicrhau y buddsoddiad gorau yn y sector cyhoeddus.

Deallaf sylwadau Pauline Jarman ar docynnau mantais ar gyfer trafniadaeth, a gyhoeddwyd heddiw. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni gydnabod bod tocynnau mantais yn un o bolisiau allweddol y Cynulliad. Er enghraifft, teithiau bws am ddim i bensiywyr yw un o flaenoriaethau allweddol y Cynulliad

be provided by means of the revenue support grant and it reflects the best estimate made by working group that included the Welsh Local Government Association. It is also important to recognise that some authorities have expressed concern about this. If representations are made by the WLGA, they are considered in the distribution sub-group. Therefore, there are mechanisms for dealing with concerns that may arise. I object to the implication in some of those comments that this is all spin. I have not spun anything. I do not repeat announcements that have been made. I am careful in this respect and so is the Assembly administration.

I turn to your points about waste management and e-government. That was covered in my initial budget and I gave additional resources for the delivery of these issues by local authorities. On housing, I fully appreciate the difficulties that local authorities have with the housing agenda. Of course, your local authority, Pauline, has been looking into the issue of stock transfer. Other authorities have looked to me for an innovative approach, perhaps in terms of the community mutual option that we are considering. We must recognise that there is work to be done, but I am confident that we will find a way forward that is acceptable to everyone. Stock transfer will be acceptable in some areas and community mutual options in others. Some local authorities with stock in good condition will not need to do anything with any of these options, but will continue to allow it to remain in the public sector.

I refer to a few other points that have been made—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Please be brief, Edwina.

Edwina Hart: Yes, I will be brief.

I turn to the comments that have been made about underspend. I deal vigorously with underspend and, on this issue, the National Assembly for Wales is one of the best departments in the UK. If one draws a

Cenedlaethol. Darperir yr arian drwy gyfrwng y grant cynnal refeniw ac mae'n adlewyrchu'r amcangyfrif gorau a wnaed gan weithgor a oedd yn cynnwys Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. Mae'n bwysig hefyd ein bod yn cydnabod bod rhai awdurdodau wedi mynegi pryder ynglŷn â hyn. Os gwneir sylwadau gan y gymdeithas, fe'u hystyrir yn yr is-grŵp dosbarthu. Felly, mae dulliau ar gyfer delio â phryderon a all godi. Gwrthwynebaf yr ensyniad yn rhai o'r sylwadau hynny mai sbin yw hyn i gyd. Nid wyf wedi rhoi sbin ar unrhyw beth. Nid wyf yn ailadrodd cyhoeddiadau sydd wedi'u gwneud eisoes. Yr wyf innau a gweinyddiaeth y Cynulliad yn ofalus yn hyn o beth.

Trof at eich pwyntiau ynglŷn â rheoli gwastraff ac e-lywodraeth. Cwmpaswyd hynny yn fy nghyllideb gychwynnol a rhoddais adnoddau ychwanegol i awdurdodau lleol gyflwyno'r materion hyn. O ran tai, yr wyf yn llwyr werthfawrogi'r anawsterau y mae awdurdodau lleol yn eu hwynebu o ran yr agenda tai. Wrth gwrs, bu eich awdurdod lleol chi, Pauline, yn ystyried y mater o drosglwyddo stoc. Mae awdurdodau eraill wedi gofyn imi gyflwyno ymagwedd arloesol, efallai o ran yr opsiwn cydgymunedol yr ydym yn ei ystyried. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod gwaith i'w wneud, ond yr wyf yn hyderus y deugn o hyd i ffordd ymlaen sy'n dderbyniol i bawb. Bydd trosglwyddo stoc yn dderbyniol mewn rhai ardaloedd ac opsiynau cydgymunedol mewn ardaloedd eraill. Ni fydd angen i rai awdurdodau lleol â stoc mewn cyflwr da wneud unrhyw beth gydag unrhyw un o'r opsiynau hyn, ond byddent yn parhau i adael iddo aros yn y sector cyhoeddus.

Cyfeiriaf at rai pwyntiau eraill a wnaed—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Byddwch yn gryno, os gwelwch yn dda, Edwina.

Edwina Hart: Iawn, byddaf yn gryno.

Trof at y sylwadau a wnaed ynglŷn â thanwario. Yr wyf yn delio â thanwariant yn drwyadl ac, ar y mater hwn, Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yw un o'r adrannau gorau yn y DU. Os gwneir cymhariaeth o ran

comparison in departmental terms, the Assembly is the best devolved administration on this issue, and I set a firm target on it. I appreciate your support on the position regarding the Barnett formula, because I do not want Wales to be short-changed in any arrangements that could be entered into.

On rural Wales, one must look at the settlement for agriculture in terms of the additional funds that were allocated, namely £60 million from end-of-year flexibility and £5 million via the reprofiling of the agricultural budget.

On health reforms, there will be a debate next week—

Ron Davies: I listened carefully to your speech and I have only just realised the full implications of your comments on the Barnett formula. Since you are so sure that we are not being short-changed as a result of the operation of the Barnett formula, could you publish the evidence on which you base that statement?

Edwina Hart: I was alluding to the fact that Nick Bourne indicated that we would not want to be short-changed. In that context, I agreed with Nick that we must be certain that we are not being short-changed before any changes are made. I am aware of the issues surrounding the Barnett formula. I know that there are mixed views across the Chamber about what we should do, but I stress the need for caution in this respect. One does not open Pandora's box until one is sure about what one wants to fly out of it.

Geraint Davies *rose*—

Edwina Hart: I will not take another intervention. I will quickly finish—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. There is not much time remaining.

Edwina Hart: I will finish quickly. I want to refer to Dafydd Wigley's points.

Dafydd showed me the form that he showed you, Deputy Presiding Officer. I will work with my officials to consider how we can

adrannau, y Cynulliad yw'r weinyddiaeth ddatganoledig orau ar y mater hwn, a gosodaf darged pendant ar gyfer hyn. Gwerthfawrogaf eich cefnogaeth i'r safbwynt o ran fformiwla Barnett, oherwydd nid wyf am i Gymru gael rhy ychydig o arian mewn unrhyw drefniadau y gellid eu gwneud.

O ran Cymru wledig, rhaid edrych ar y setliad ar gyfer amaethyddiaeth o ran yr arian ychwanegol a ddyrannwyd, sef £60 miliwn o hyblygrwydd diwedd y flwyddyn a £5 miliwn drwy ailbroffilio'r gyllideb amaethyddiaeth.

O ran diwygiadau iechyd, cynhelir dadl yr wythnos nesaf—

Ron Davies: Yr wyf wedi gwrando'n ofalus ar eich araith ac yr wyf newydd sylweddoli goblygiadau llawn eich sylwadau ar fformiwla Barnett. Gan eich bod mor siŵr ein bod yn cael rhy ychydig o arian o ganlyniad i weithredu fformiwla Barnett, a allech gyhoeddi'r dystiolaeth y seilwch y datganiad hwnnw arni?

Edwina Hart: Yr oeddwn yn cyfeirio at y ffaith bod Nick Bourne wedi nodi na fyddem am gael rhy ychydig o arian. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, cytunaf â Nick fod yn rhaid inni fod yn siŵr nad ydym yn cael rhy ychydig o arian cyn gwneud unrhyw newidiadau. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r materion sy'n ymwneud â fformiwla Barnett. Gwn fod safbwyntiau cymysg yn y Siambr ynglŷn â'r hyn y dylem ei wneud, ond pwysleisïaf yr angen i gymryd gofal yn hyn o beth. Nid ydym am agor blwch Pandora nes y byddwn yn siŵr beth yr ydym am ei weld yn hedfan allan ohono.

Geraint Davies *a gododd*—

Edwina Hart: Ni chymeraf ymyriad arall. Gorffennaf yn gyflym—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid oes llawer o amser ar ôl.

Edwina Hart: Gorffennaf yn gyflym. Yr wyf am gyfeirio at bwyntiau Dafydd Wigley.

Dangosodd Dafydd y ffurflen a ddangosodd i chi, Ddirprwy Lywydd, i mi hefyd. Byddaf yn gweithio gyda'm swyddogion I ystyried

outline matters more clearly. There is transparency in the process if you know where to find the figures and then track them. I would not say that it is not transparent.

On the homebuy scheme, my answer to Delyth's question this morning indicates my commitment to what I consider to be an excellent scheme. On private finance initiative schemes, Dafydd will accept that I have been clear in what I have said in response to the debate. One must have certain options that are viable at the time and use the most appropriate ones. I understand your comments on local government and the voluntary sector, in terms of allowing the necessary timing for settlements so that they have a clear understanding of funding.

To make one final point, social justice is integral to this budget, Huw. It always has been and always will be. There is no need to be parochial about New Tredegar. He took me to visit it in the summer. I am pleased to advise you—and I will write to you about this—that the necessary funding has been found to start the project in New Tredegar. It is an innovative project, which allows all the money that is available from various strands to be used to enable those plans to come to fruition. That is how to work in Wales in future and, of course, how to make money work best for the people of Wales. I commend my budget to you on that basis.

sut y gallwn amlinellu materion yn fwy eglur. Mae tryloywder yn y broses os gwyddoch ble i ddod o hyd i'r ffigurau a'u holrhain. Ni fyddwn yn dweud nad yw'n dryloyw.

O ran y cynllun prynu cartref, mae fy ateb i gwestiwn Delyth y bore yma yn dangos fy ymrwymiad i'r hyn a ystyriaf yn gynllun rhagorol. O ran cynlluniau menter cyllid preifat, bydd Dafydd yn derbyn imi fod yn eglur yn yr hyn a ddywedais mewn ymateb i'r ddadl. Rhaid i rywun gael rhai opsiynau penodol sy'n ymarferol ar y pryd gan ddefnyddio'r rhai mwyaf priodol. Deallaf eich sylwadau ar lywodraeth leol a'r sector gwirfoddol, o ran caniatáu'r amseriad angenrheidiol ar gyfer setliadau fel eu bod yn meddu ar ddealltwriaeth glir o'r dull ariannu.

Gwnaf un pwynt arall cyn gorffen. Mae cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn rhan hanfodol o'r gyllideb hon, Huw. Bu erioed ac fe fydd am byth. Nid oes angen bod yn blwyfol ynglŷn â Thredegar Newydd. Aeth â mi i ymweld â'r lle yn ystod yr haf. Mae'n bleser gennyf ddweud wrthyfch—a byddaf yn ysgrifennu atoch mewn perthynas â hyn—y daethpwyd o hyd i'r arian angenrheidiol i ddechrau'r prosiect yn Nhrefdegar Newydd. Mae'n brosiect arloesol, sy'n caniatáu i'r holl arian sydd ar gael o'r meysydd amrywiol gael ei ddefnyddio i alluogi'r cynlluniau hynny i ddwyn ffrwyth. Dyna'r ffordd y dylem weithio yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol, ac wrth gwrs, dyna'r ffordd o sicrhau bod arian yn gweithio orau i bobl Cymru. Cymeradwyaf fy nghyllideb i chi am y rheswm hwnnw.

Cynnig: O blaid 27, Ymatal 12, Yn erbyn 9.

Motion: For 27, Abstain 12, Against 9.

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Graham, William
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Richards, Rod
Rogers, Peter

Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Middlehurst, Tom
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Davies, Geraint
Davies, Jocelyn
Hancock, Brian
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

11:35 a.m.

Adolygiad Pum Mlynedd o Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg Quinquennial Review of the Welsh Language Board

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1 and 2 in the name of Jocelyn Davies.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Jocelyn Davies.

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): I propose that

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly welcomes the completion of the quinquennial review of the Welsh Language Board and the Government of the National Assembly for Wales's response to the review's recommendations. (NDM853)

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn croesawu cwblhau'r adolygiad pum mlynedd o Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ac ymateb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i argymhellion yr adolygiad. (NDM853)

This motion seeks Members' endorsement of the Cabinet's response to the report on the quinquennial review of the Welsh Language Board. This is only the second review that the National Assembly has completed and it shows our determination to place the Welsh Language Board on a sound footing so that it

Mae'r cynnig hwn yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth yr Aelodau i ymateb y Cabinet i'r adroddiad ar yr adolygiad pum mlynedd o Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Dyma'r ail arolwg yn unig i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ei gwblhau ac mae'n dangos ein penderfyniad i roi Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ar dir cadarn fel

can continue to deliver our policies for the language.

Mae gwaith Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn hanfodol bwysig er mwyn gweithredu ein polisiau, ac i ddatblygiad y Gymraeg.

The consultancy firm Newidiem carried out the review of the Welsh Language Board. Newidiem's recommendations and the Cabinet's response have been circulated.

Two main messages have emerged from the report. First, the board is needed. It has made a significant contribution in supporting the Welsh language and raising its status. In doing so, it has maintained high levels of public support, even among those who do not speak Welsh. Secondly, the board must be prepared to deliver the language policies that the Government will put in place following our consideration of the Culture Committee's report on the Welsh language. The board will therefore have a key role in facing the challenges that lie ahead.

I agree with the reviewers that the board can take credit for its positive influence on attitudes towards Welsh. I also agree that the board has undertaken its responsibilities in an efficient and responsible way. However, this does not mean that I will let the board rest on its laurels. There are many challenges ahead and circumstances are changing. I want, therefore, to continue to examine the way the board does business and ensure that it evolves its approach and processes so that they are continually fit for purpose.

In response to the review's findings, the Cabinet accepts 26 of the 29 recommendations. One of the remaining three, recommendation 5, is a matter for the Culture Committee, not the Cabinet. I am anxious not to cut across the Culture Committee's review of the language. We have noted the remaining two recommendations. We will consider recommendation 17, which relates to grants to national cultural bodies previously administered by the Welsh Office. The group on publishing, chaired by my Deputy Minister, Delyth Evans, is already

y gall barhau i ddarparu ein polisiau ar gyfer y Gymraeg.

The Welsh Language Board's work is essential to delivering our policies, and to the development of the Welsh language.

Cwmni ymgynghori Newidiem a gynhaliodd yr adolygiad o Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Dosbarthwyd argymhellion Newidiem ac ymateb y Cabinet.

Cododd dwy brif neges o'r adroddiad. Yn gyntaf, mae angen y bwrdd. Gwnaeth gyfraniad sylweddol wrth gynorthwyo'r Gymraeg a chodi ei statws. Wrth wneud hynny, mae wedi parhau i gael cryn gefnogaeth gan y cyhoedd, hyd yn oed ymysg y rhai nad ydynt yn siarad Cymraeg. Yn ail, rhaid i'r bwrdd fod yn fodlon darparu'r polisiau iaith y bydd y Llywodraeth yn eu cyflwyno ar ôl inni ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Diwylliant ar yr iaith Gymraeg. Felly bydd gan y bwrdd ran allweddol i'w chwarae wrth wynebu'r heriau sydd o'n blaen.

Cytunaf â'r adolygwyr y gall y bwrdd hawlio'r clod am ei ddylanwad cadarnhaol ar agweddau tuag at y Gymraeg. Cytunaf hefyd fod y bwrdd wedi ymgymryd â'i gyfrifoldebau mewn modd effeithlon a chyfrifol. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hyn yn golygu fy mod am adael i'r bwrdd laesu dwylo. Mae nifer o heriau o'n blaenau ac mae amgylchiadau yn newid. Felly, hoffwn barhau i archwilio'r modd y mae'r bwrdd yn cynnal ei fusnes a sicrhau ei fod yn datblygu ei ddulliau gweithredu a'i brosesau fel eu bod bob amser yn addas i'r diben.

Mewn ymateb i ganfyddiadau'r adolygiad, mae'r Cabinet yn derbyn 26 o'r 29 o argymhellion. Mae un o'r tri sy'n weddill, argymhelliad 5, yn fater i'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant, nid i'r Cabinet. Yr wyf yn awyddus i beidio â thorri ar draws adolygiad y Pwyllgor Diwylliant o'r iaith. Yr ydym wedi nodi'r ddau argymhelliad arall. Ystyriwn argymhelliad 17, sy'n cyfeirio at grantiau i gyrff diwylliannol cenedlaethol a arferai gael eu gweinyddu gan y Swyddfa Gymreig. Mae'r grŵp ar gyhoeddi, dan gadeiryddiaeth Delyth Evans, fy Nirprwy Weinidog, eisoes yn ystyried y grant

considering the publishing grant. Recommendation 23 suggests that we increase the levels of delegated authority allowed to the board in dealing with grant distribution, research and staffing. I will consider, on its merits, any case that the board submits for an adjustment to its delegated limits and management statement.

The Cabinet's response makes no commitment with regard to resources. Many of the review's recommendations should be capable of implementation by the Welsh Language Board from within the resources allocated to it by the National Assembly. If the board judges that particular recommendations cannot be implemented without further resources, it would need to submit a well-argued case for such resources during the course of the next budget planning round.

On the amendments in the name of Jocelyn Davies, I cannot support amendment 1, which recommends the Basque Country's strategy for adult language acquisition. To accept it now would be to pre-empt the Culture Committee's conclusions on language policy and its planned visit there. The Committee may decide to base some of its recommendations on practices in other countries.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Er mwyn egluro'r sefyllfa, a oes gennych feddwl agored ynglŷn â chanlyniadau ymweliad y Pwyllgor â Gwlad y Basg, a chanlyniadau'r adolygiad o'r Gymraeg?

Jenny Randerson: I certainly have an open mind on that; I look forward to the recommendations following that visit and to seeing the practice of other countries, in the Basque Country in particular. I do not have a closed mind, but it is too soon for an amendment like amendment 1. While I do not support that amendment, I believe that we need to keep an open mind and be prepared to think about these issues in the future.

I support amendment 2, however. There is cross-party support for the board to receive adequate resources. This review is not about resources but, nevertheless, I seek to ensure

cyhoeddi. Awgryma argymhelliad 23 y dylem roi mwy o awdurdod dirprwyol i'r bwrdd wrth ddelio â dosbarthu grantiau, ymchwil a staffio. Byddaf yn ystyried, yn ôl teilyngdod, unrhyw ddadl a roddir gerbron gan y bwrdd dros newid ei gyfyngiadau dirprwyol a'i datganiad rheolaeth.

Nid yw ymateb y Cabinet yn gwneud unrhyw ymrwymiad ynglŷn ag adnoddau. Dylai Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg fod mewn sefyllfa i weithredu llawer o argymhellion yr adolygiad o fewn yr adnoddau a bennir iddo gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Os yw'r bwrdd o'r farn na ellir gweithredu argymhellion penodol heb adnoddau ychwanegol, byddai angen iddo gyflwyno dadl gref o blaid adnoddau o'r fath yn ystod y cylch nesaf o gynllunio'r gyllideb.

O ran y gwelliannau yn enw Jocelyn Davies, ni allaf gefnogi gwelliant rhif 1, sy'n argymhell strategaeth Gwlad y Basg ar gyfer dysgu'r iaith i oedolion. Byddai ei dderbyn yn awr yn achub y blaen ar gasgliadau'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant ar bolisi iaith a'i ymweliad arfaethedig yno. Mae'n bosibl y bydd y Pwyllgor yn penderfynu seilio rhai o'i argymhellion ar arferion mewn gwledydd eraill.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: In order to clarify the situation, do you have an open mind regarding the outcome of the Committee's visit to the Basque Country, and the results of the review of the Welsh language?

Jenny Randerson: Yn sicr, mae gennyf feddwl agored ynglŷn â hynny; edrychaf ymlaen at yr argymhellion yn dilyn yr ymweliad hwnnw a gweld arferion gwledydd eraill, yn arbennig Gwlad y Basg. Nid yw fy meddwl yn gaeedig, ond mae'n rhy fuan i gyflwyno gwelliant tebyg i welliant 1. Er nad wyf yn cefnogi'r gwelliant hwnnw, credaf y dylem gadw meddwl agored a bod yn barod i ystyried y materion hyn yn y dyfodol.

Cefnogaf welliant 2, fodd bynnag. Mae cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i'r bwrdd gael adnoddau digonol. Nid ymwneud ag adnoddau y mae'r adolygiad hwn, ond, er

that sufficient resources are allocated to the board to enable it to carry out its remit. That is why the board has been given a 10.2 per cent increase this year, which is £646,000, and a 5.1 per cent increase, £404,000, next year. Those figures are well above the rate of inflation. The Culture Committee endorsed the spending decisions in my portfolio during this budget planning round, and that endorsement included the allocation to the Welsh Language Board. The quinquennial review process is about reviewing how an Assembly sponsored public body is working, and whether that work should continue. It is not about making a case for extra resources. The Cabinet response makes it clear that any bid for resources will be considered in the next budget planning round. In this particular case, it will be informed by the Committee's review decision.

In conclusion, I thank the Welsh Language Board's chairman, board members and staff for their positive engagement with the review at each stage. Such reviews are not an easy time for the organisations concerned, but the language board has been unfailingly positive. Many of the points had already been recognised by the board and work is already underway to deal with them. We are now in the final stages of preparing an action plan in consultation with the board and we will monitor its implementation carefully. That action plan will be made public. The review provides the basis for us to send a strong message and give the board our endorsement. I do so wholeheartedly and hope that other Members will join me.

Owen John Thomas: Cynigiaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Gwelliant 1: ychwanegu paragraff newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn croesawu'r gydnabyddiaeth a roddir yn yr adolygiad pum mlynedd i'r strategaeth lwyddiannus ar gyfer dysgu iaith i oedolion yng Ngwlad y Basg ac yn anelu at gael strategaeth sydd yr un mor gadarn ar gyfer Cymru.

hynny, ceisiaf sicrhau y rhoddir adnoddau digonol i'r bwrdd i'w alluogi i gyflawni ei gylch gwaith. Dyna pam y cafodd y bwrdd gynnydd o 10.2 y cant eleni, sef £646,000, a chynnydd o 5.1 y cant, £404,000, y flwyddyn nesaf. Mae'r ffigurau hynny yn llawer uwch na chwyddiant. Cymeradwyodd y Pwyllgor Diwylliant y penderfyniadau gwariant yn fy mhortffolio yn ystod y cylch hwn o gynllunio'r gyllideb, ac yr oedd y gymeradwyaeth honno yn cynnwys y dyraniad ar gyfer Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Mae'r broses adolygiad pum mlynedd yn ymwneud ag adolygu sut y mae corff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad yn gweithio, ac a ddylai'r gwaith hwnnw barhau. Nid yw'n ymwneud â rhoi dadl dros adnoddau ychwanegol. Mae ymateb y Cabinet yn ei gwneud yn amlwg y caiff unrhyw gais am adnoddau ei ystyried yn y cylch nesaf o gynllunio'r gyllideb. Yn yr achos arbennig hwn, caiff ei arwain gan benderfyniad adolygiad y Pwyllgor.

Yn olaf, diolchaf i gadeirydd Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, i aelodau'r bwrdd ac i'r staff am eu hymagwedd gadarnhaol ar bob cam o'r adolygiad. Nid yw adolygiadau o'r fath yn gyfnod hawdd i'r sefydliadau dan sylw, ond bu'r bwrdd iaith yn gadarnhaol gydol y broses. Cydnabuwyd rhai o'r pwyntiau gan y bwrdd eisoes ac mae'r gwaith eisoes yn mynd rhagddo i ymdrin â hwy. Yr ydym bellach ar fin cwblhau cynllun gwaith mewn ymgynghoriad â'r bwrdd a byddwn yn monitro'r ffordd y caiff ei weithredu yn ofalus. Caiff y cynllun gwaith hwnnw ei gyhoeddi. Mae'r adolygiad yn rhoi sail inni anfon neges gref a rhoi ein cymeradwyaeth i'r bwrdd. Gwnaf hynny â'm holl galon a gobeithiaf y bydd yr Aelodau eraill yn ymuno â mi.

Owen John Thomas: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Amendment 1: add a new paragraph at the end of the motion:

welcomes the acknowledgement contained in the quinquennial review of the successful strategy for language acquisition among adults in the Basque country and aspires towards a similarly robust strategy for Wales.

Cynigiau welliant 2. Ychwanegu paragraff newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn pwysleisio bod angen rhoi cymorth digonol i Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg fel y gall gyflawni ei swyddogaethau o ran hybu'r iaith Gymraeg, yn enwedig trwy addysg a hyfforddiant.

Mae adroddiad Newidiam ar adolygiad pum-mlyneddol Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn bendant a manwl. Mae'r 29 o argymhellion gan Newidiam yn cefnogi'r targedau a osodwyd gan y bwrdd yn ei ddogfen 'Yr Iaith Gymraeg: Cenhadaeth a Gweledigaeth ar gyfer 2000-2005'. Rhaid croesawu'r cadarnhad diweddaraf hwn bod bwrdd yr iaith ar y trywydd iawn, ond yr wyf am gynnig dau welliant i gynnig y Llywodraeth, a thrwy hynny roi cyfle i Aelodau'r Cynulliad gymryd cam tuag at wireddu'r amcan o greu Cymru ddwyieithog. Pan oeddwn yng Ngwlad y Basg eleni, cefais gyfle i weld y gwaith brwdfrydig a llwyddiannus a wnaethpwyd i ddysgu'r iaith Fseg i oedolion. Byddai mabwysiadu trefn debyg yn y wlad hon, ar y cyd â'n hysgolion Cymraeg, yn dyblu ein hymdrechion i gryfhau'r iaith. Yng Ngwlad y Basg mae 200 o ganolfannau lle mae 50,000 o oedolion yn dysgu'r iaith yn frwd o dan oruchwyliaeth ac arweiniad uned iaith genedlaethol. Mae'r uned honno'n sicrhau adnoddau addysgu o ansawdd safonol ac yn gosod cyfres o 12 o broffion i ysbarduno a herio'r dysgwyr ar hyd eu taith tuag at fod yn rhugl.

Ar ôl clywed ymateb Jenny i Rhodri Glyn, ei bod yn fodlon cadw meddwl agored ar hynny, yr wyf yn fodlon tynnu gwelliant 1 yn ôl, ond yr oeddwn am i'r Aelodau glywed yn union beth oedd ei fwriad cyn gwneud hynny.

Mae gwelliant 2 yn ymwneud ag arian. Os credwn mewn greu Cymru ddwyieithog, mae'n rhaid buddsoddi yn y gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud dros yr iaith. Fodd bynnag, y realiti yw bod y bwrdd yn cael cynnydd o £500,000 yn unig dros y tair blynedd nesaf, sef cynnydd o 2.4 y cant y flwyddyn yn unig ar gyfartaledd, sydd mwy neu lai yn gyfartal â chwyddiant. Er mwyn cyflawni'r holl dargedau a nodir yn 'Yr Iaith Gymraeg: Cenhadaeth a Gweledigaeth ar gyfer 2001-

I propose amendment 2. Add as new paragraph at end of the motion:

stresses the need for adequate support for the Welsh Language Board to enable it to fulfil its functions with regard to the promotion of the Welsh language, in particular through education and training.

Newidiam's report on the quinquennial review of the Welsh Language Board is decisive and detailed. Newidiam's 29 recommendations support the targets set by the board in its document 'The Welsh Language: A Vision and Mission for 2000-2005'. This latest confirmation that the board is on the right track must be welcomed, but I want to propose two amendments to the Government's motion, and thereby give Assembly Members an opportunity to take a step closer to realising the aim of creating a bilingual Wales. When I was in the Basque Country this year, I had the opportunity to see the enthusiastic and successful work being done to teach the Basque language to adults. Adopting a similar system in this country, together with our Welsh-medium schools, would double our efforts to strengthen the language. There are 200 centres in the Basque Country, where 50,000 adults enthusiastically learn the language under the supervision and leadership of a national language unit. That unit ensures the availability of educational resources of uniform quality and sets a series of 12 tests to stimulate and challenge learners on their journey towards fluency.

In her response to Rhodri Glyn Jenny made it clear that she is willing to keep an open mind on that, I am willing therefore to withdraw amendment 1 but, before doing so, I wanted Members to hear what its aim was.

Amendment 2 deals with funding. If we believe in creating a bilingual Wales, we must invest in the work being done for the language. However, the reality is that the board will receive an increase of only £500,000 over the next three years, an average annual increase of 2.4 per cent, which is more or less in line with inflation. In order to meet all the targets included in 'The Welsh Language: Mission and Vision for 2001-05', a report that was approved by the

05', adroddiad a gafodd sêl bendith Llywodraeth Cymru, mae angen cyllid ychwanegol o £935,000 yn 2001-02, bron i £4 miliwn yn 2002-03 a £4.5 miliwn yn 2003-04, cynnydd cyfanswm o £9.5 miliwn dros y tair mlynedd nesaf. Gellir pwysu a mesur ewyllys da ac ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru tuag at y Gymraeg drwy gymharu'r cynnydd o £500,000 a roddir i fwrdd yr iaith dros y tair blynedd nesaf gyda'r cynnydd o £9.5 miliwn sydd ei angen.

11:45 a.m.

Mae'r targedau a osodir gan fwrdd yr iaith yn ymwneud â hanfodion goroesiad yr iaith. Byddai rhwystro'r bwrdd rhag cyflawni'r targedau pwysig hynny, gan ddweud bod yn rhaid aros am ganlyniad yr arolwg iaith, yn esgeulus ac yn rhagrithiol. Os y credwch yng ngeiriau 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau'—'O bydded i'r heniaith barhau'—byddwch yn cefnogi gwelliant 2.

Delyth Evans: Croesawaf yr adolygiad hwn o waith Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Daeth y bwrdd i fodolaeth yn dilyn Deddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993 ac ers hynny, mae wedi gwneud gwaith da a phellgyrhaeddol iawn o ran cynnal a datblygu'r iaith ledled Cymru. Canmola'r adolygiad effeithiolrwydd y bwrdd ac mae'n casglu y dylai barhau â'i waith. Croesawaf hynny.

Un o gasgliadau mwyaf arwyddocaol yr adroddiad yw y byddai gallu'r bwrdd i gyflawni ei rôl yn cael ei gryfhau pe bai'r Cynulliad yn cymryd perchenogaeth o'r strategaeth iaith ac yn ei mabwysiadu fel strategaeth genedlaethol. Croesawaf y casgliad hwn a chytunaf ag ef. Mae'n hanfodol bod y Cynulliad yn cymryd perchenogaeth o'r strategaeth iaith ac yn gosod ei weledigaeth yn glir—gwelediaeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer dyfodol yr iaith Gymraeg. Yr wyf yn ffyddiog y bydd y broses hon ar waith gydag adolygiad polisi iaith y Pwyllgor Diwylliant ac yr wyf yn cymeradwyo agwedd bositif ac agored y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg at yr adolygiad polisi hwn. Cyfrifoldeb y Cynulliad yn awr yw rhoi arweiniad clir ar ein syniad ni o ddyfodol yr iaith Gymraeg ac yr wyf yn ffyddiog y gallwn wneud hynny yn

Government of Wales, additional funding of £935,000 is needed in 2001-02, nearly £4 million in 2002-03 and £4.5 million in 2003-04, a total increase of £9.5 million over the next three years. We can measure the Government of Wales's goodwill and commitment towards the Welsh language by comparing the increase of £500,000 that will be given to the language board over the next three years with the increase of £9.5 million that is needed.

The targets set by the language board deal with issues essential to the language's survival. Obstructing the board's efforts in meeting those important targets by saying that we must wait for the findings of the language review would be negligent and hypocritical. If you believe in the words of 'Land of my Fathers'—'May the ancient language remain'—you will support amendment 2.

Delyth Evans: I welcome this review of the Welsh Language Board's work. The board was created following the Welsh Language Act 1993 and since then, it has undertaken good and far-reaching work in sustaining and developing the language throughout Wales. The review congratulates the board's effectiveness and it concludes that it should continue with its work. I welcome that.

One of the review's most significant conclusions is that the board's ability to carry out its role would be strengthened were the Assembly to take ownership of the language strategy and adopt it as a national strategy. I welcome this conclusion and agree with it. It is crucial that the Assembly takes ownership of the language strategy and sets out its vision clearly—the Assembly's vision for the Welsh language's future. I am confident that this process will be taken forward by the Culture Committee's language policy review and I applaud the positive and open approach of the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language to this review. It is now up to the Assembly to give clear guidance on what we believe the future of the Welsh language should hold, and I am confident that we can achieve that over the next few months.

y misoedd nesaf.

Glyn Davies: I am a Welshman and intensely proud of being Welsh. I always regret my inability to speak Welsh, a deficiency that I have been working hard to correct over the past 18 months. None of my ancestors were born anywhere except in the heart of Welsh-speaking Wales, and none have ever been unable to speak the language. I could not converse with my nain, who lived in Dolanog, because she only spoke Welsh. I am a living example of what happened to the Welsh language, a product of a well-meaning and conscious decision, all too common 50 years ago, to bring up children solely in the English language. I am also a committed, true blue Conservative and extremely proud of the fact that, during the 1980s and 1990s, it was the Conservative Government that took seriously the need to protect and promote the Welsh language on a statutory basis.

One of the many Conservative initiatives was the Welsh Language Act 1993, which brought the Welsh Language Board into being. We also appointed individuals of great talent to the board, often political opponents, including the Llywydd. Peter Law, who I hope is watching this on television, also served on the board with great distinction and gained valuable experience of working in the public sector. That may well have led to his election as a National Assembly Member. Mr Peter Law's subsequent political career has been much helped by the previous Conservative Governments' politics of inclusion.

The contribution of Conservative Governments was so significant that history will record that Lord Wyn Roberts and Lord Crickhowell were two truly great Welsh politicians. A few days ago, I was appointed Conservative spokesman—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A ydych yn derbyn bod pwysau cynyddol wedi bod ar gymunedau Cymraeg yng Nghymru, a bod nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg wedi gostwng yn ystod cyfnod y Llywodraethau Ceidwadol? Sut allwch feintoli cyfraniad y Gweinidogion Ceidwadol hyn tuag at yr iaith Gymraeg?

Glyn Davies: Yr wyf yn Gymro ac yn falch dros ben o fod yn Gymro. Yr oedd yn edifar gennyf erioed na allwn siarad Cymraeg, diffyg yr wyf wedi gweithio'n galed i'w unioni dros y 18 mis diwethaf. Ganwyd pob un o'm cyndeidiau yng nghanol cadarnleoedd yr iaith Gymraeg, a gallai pob un ohonynt siarad yr iaith. Ni allwn gynnal sgwrs â fy nain a oedd yn byw yn Nolanog, gan mai Cymraeg yn unig a siaradai hi. Yr wyf yn enghraifft fyw o'r hyn a ddigwyddodd i'r iaith Gymraeg, ffrwyth penderfyniad pendant llawn bwriadau da, a oedd mor gyffredin 50 mlynedd yn ôl, i fagu plant yn Saesneg yn unig. Yr wyf hefyd yn Geidwadwr i'r carn ac yn hynod o falch o'r ffaith mai Llywodraeth Geidwadol, yn ystod y 1980au a'r 1990au, a oedd o ddifrif ynglŷn a'r angen i ddiogelu a hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg mewn modd statudol.

Un o fentrau Ceidwadol lu oedd Deddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993, a grëodd Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Penodwyd nifer o unigolion talentog gennym i'r bwrdd hefyd a oedd yn aml yn wrthwynebwyr gwleidyddol, gan gynnwys y Llywydd. Gwasanaethodd Peter Law hefyd—gobeithiaf ei fod yn gwyllo hyn ar y teledu—ar y bwrdd yn rhagorol iawn, ac enillodd brofiad gwerthfawr o weithio yn y sector cyhoeddus. Efallai mai dyna arweiniodd at ei ethol yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Cafodd yrfa wleidyddol ddilynol Mr Peter Law dipyn o hwb gan wleidyddiaeth gynhwysol y Llywodraeth Geidwadol flaenorol.

Yr oedd cyfraniad Llywodraethau Ceidwadol mor arwyddocaol fel y bydd hanes yn cofnodi mai gwleidyddion Cymreig gwirioneddol ragorol oedd yr Arglwydd Wyn Roberts a'r Arglwydd Crucywel. Ychydig ddyddiau yn ôl, fe'm penodwyd yn llefarydd Ceidwadol—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Do you accept that pressure on Welsh speaking communities in Wales increased, and that the number of Welsh speakers decreased during the period of Conservative Governments? How can you quantify these Conservative Ministers' contribution to the Welsh language?

Glyn Davies: Mae'n flin gennyf, Rhodri, ond yr ydych yn siarad yn rhy gyflym imi ddeall popeth a ddywedwch. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wedi deall digon i wybod fy mod yn anghytuno â chi. Pan oedd y Blaid Geidwadol yn llywodraethu yn Llundain, yr oedd yn amser da i'r iaith Gymraeg.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *rose—*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Glyn is not giving way again.

Glyn Davies: A few days ago, I was appointed the Conservative spokesman on culture, sport and the Welsh language. I am pleased to have this early opportunity to put down a marker. I have a vision of a Wales where all who live within her boundaries have a supportive and positive attitude towards the Welsh language and towards those who speak it and those who choose not to speak it. Everyone condemns those who soil our nation's politics with the kind of anti-English rhetoric that we have seen over the summer. The Welsh-speaking people of Wales should be prepared to drink a deserved toast to the Conservative Party, in recognition of its service to the Welsh language—perhaps a drink of champagne on the *maes* at the National Eisteddfod.

We are pleased that the quinquennial review has recognised the value of the Welsh Language Board, but there is much to do. Like the Minister, we wish Mr Rhodri Williams and his board and Mr John Walter Jones and his staff great success and inspiration in the future. This Assembly also has work to do. We must give the WLB support to do the job and encourage the transfer of resources from the production of glossy literature that no one uses or reads to facilitate the opportunity to speak the language in the community where the people of Wales work and socialise. In the recent past, the Welsh language has faced a bleak and declining future. Today, there is hope and much of that hope is invested in the WLB.

John Griffiths: I congratulate the WLB on its important work. We know that language is

Glyn Davies: I am sorry, Rhodri, but you are talking too quickly for me to understand everything that you are saying. However, I understood enough to know that I disagree with you. When the Conservative Party was in Government in London, the Welsh language flourished.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *a gododd*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid yw Glyn yn iddio eto.

Glyn Davies: Ychydig ddyddiau yn ôl, fe'm penodwyd yn llefarydd Ceidwadol dros ddiwylliant, chwaraeon a'r iaith Gymraeg. Yr wyf yn falch o gael y cyfle hwn i osod marc. Mae gennyf weledigaeth o Gymru lle bydd gan bawb sy'n byw o fewn ei ffiniau agwedd gefnogol a chadarnhaol tuag at yr iaith Gymraeg a tuag at y rhai sy'n ei siarad a'r rhai sy'n dewis peidio â'i siarad. Mae pawb yn condemnio'r rhai sy'n pardduo gwleidyddiaeth ein cenedl gyda'r math o rethreg wrth-Seisnig a welwyd dros yr haf. Dylai siaradwyr Cymraeg Cymru fod yn barod i yfed llwncdestun haeddiannol i'r Blaid Geidwadol, mewn cydnabyddiaeth o'i gwasanaeth i'r iaith Gymraeg—llymaid o siampên efallai ar faes yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.

Yr ydym yn falch bod yr adolygiad pum mlynedd wedi cydnabod gwerth Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, ond mae llawer i'w wneud. Fel y Gweinidog, dymunwn bob llwyddiant ac ysbrydoliaeth i Mr Rhodri Williams a'i fwrdd ac i Mr John Walter Jones a'i staff yn y dyfodol. Mae gan y Cynulliad hwn hefyd waith i'w wneud. Rhaid inni roi cymorth i Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg i wneud y gwaith ac annog trosglwyddo adnoddau o gynhyrchu llenyddiaeth loyw nad oes neb yn ei defnyddio na'i darllen i hwyluso'r cyfle i siarad yr iaith yn y gymuned lle mae pobl Cymru yn gweithio ac yn cymdeithasu. Yn y gorffennol diweddar, yr oedd yr iaith Gymraeg yn wynebu dyfodol llwm a dirywiol. Heddiw, mae gobaith ac mae llawer o'r gobaith hwnnw wedi ei fuddsoddi ym Mwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg.

John Griffiths: Yr wyf yn llongyfarch Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ar ei waith pwysig.

central to culture—that is recognised all over the world. Many people in my constituency of Newport feel, as I do, that they were deprived of their heritage as far as the Welsh language is concerned. Around 2 per cent of the population of Newport speak Welsh. Many people, like myself, did not have the opportunity to learn Welsh in school. Happily, that situation has greatly improved and pupils throughout Newport have Welsh language lessons in schools. The younger people of Newport have a much stronger Welsh identity and that is partly because of learning the language in schools. It is pleasing to see that and to see more bilingualism in shops and businesses such as banks and post offices and so on in Newport. There are many encouraging developments, but there are—

Brian Hancock: Will you give way?

John Griffiths: I am sorry, Brian, I have two minutes.

There are many distinctive factors in Newport that must be recognised such as greater support for the teaching of Welsh in schools where there are not many Welsh-speaking teachers and not much reinforcement of Welsh in the community. I sometimes wonder whether money spent on Welsh versions of bulky public service documentation might not be better spent supporting Welsh mother and toddler groups, Welsh playgroup provision and so on. I have an open mind on these matters. Much is being done and achieved, and I hope that we will continue to see that.

Yr wyf yn dysgu Cymraeg ar hyn o bryd a gobeithiaf siarad yn Gymraeg mewn dadleuon yn y dyfodol agos.

11:55 a.m.

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): I will start by responding to individual comments. ‘Vision and Mission’, the report by the Welsh Language Board to which Owen John Thomas referred, was accepted by the former Post-16 Education and Training Committee

Gwyddom fod iaith yn ganolog i ddiwylliant—cydnabyddir hynny dros y byd i gyd. Mae llawer o bobl yn fy etholaeth i yng Nghasnewydd yn teimlo, fel finnau, iddynt gael eu hamddifadu o’u treftadaeth o ran yr iaith Gymraeg. Mae tua 2 y cant o boblogaeth Casnewydd yn siarad Cymraeg. Ni chafodd nifer o bobl, fel finnau, y cyfle i ddysgu Cymraeg yn yr ysgol. Yn ffodus, mae’r sefyllfa wedi gwella llawer ac mae disgyblion ledled Casnewydd yn cael gwersi Cymraeg yn yr ysgolion. Mae gan bobl ifanc Casnewydd hunaniaeth Gymreig llawer cryfach ac mae hynny’n rhannol oherwydd y maent yn dysgu’r iaith yn yr ysgolion. Mae’n hyfyrd gweld hynny ac i weld llawer mwy o ddwyieithrwydd mewn siopau a busnesau megis banciau a swyddfeydd post ac ati yng Nghasnewydd. Mae nifer o ddatblygiadau calonogol, ond mae—

Brian Hancock: A wnewch chi ildio?

John Griffiths: Mae’n ddrwg gennyf, Brian, mae gennyf ddwy funud.

Mae nifer o ffactorau nodweddiadol y dylid eu cydnabod yng Nghasnewydd megis mwy o gefnogaeth i ddysgu Cymraeg mewn ysgolion lle nad oes llawer o athrawon sy’n siarad Cymraeg a lle na chaiff y Gymraeg ei hatgyfnerthu ryw lawer yn y gymuned. Meddyliaf weithiau y byddai’n well gwario’r arian a gaiff ei wario ar fersiynau Cymraeg o ddogfennau swmpus gwasanaeth cyhoeddus ar gynorthwyo grwpiau mam a phlentyn, darparu cylchoedd chwarae ac ati drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae gennyf feddwl agored ar y materion hyn. Caiff llawer ei wneud a’i gyflawni, a gobeithiaf y bydd hynny yn parhau.

I am currently learning Welsh and I hope to speak Welsh in debates in the near future.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a’r Iaith Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson): Dechreuaf drwy ymateb i sylwadau unigol. Derbyniwyd adroddiad Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ‘Cenhadaeth a Gweledigaeth’, y cyfeiriodd Owen John Thomas ati, gan y cyn-Bwyllgor Addysg a

as a basis for language planning, but on condition that it was considered in the light of available resources. We are now well down the road from that regarding our review of the language. Owen John, you have had the advantage of visiting the Basque Country, but I am sure that you recognise that it would not be appropriate for the Assembly to accept a document and view of policy on the Welsh language on your word alone. Therefore, I am glad that you have withdrawn amendment 1. You are wrong about the percentage increase next year—it is 5.1 per cent. Years two and three will be informed by the review's outcome, and I have made that clear. It is a pity that you did not take the opportunity to address the real issues of policy that other speakers touched on, rather than giving us a set of incorrect figures, because there are important issues of policy and choice.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *rose*—

Jenny Randerson: I will not give way yet. We need to consider important policy issues such as the work of the *mentrau iaith*. I agree with Delyth on the importance of ownership of the strategy by the whole Assembly. It will not work if we do not all feel that we own it. Glyn, I regret that you cannot drink champagne on the Eisteddfod *maes*. It is an alcohol-free area, unless you can tell me differently. I have said this before, one of the few things that the Conservatives did well was to take steps at long last to recognise the problems faced by the language and to halt its decline, or to attempt to halt its decline. They did so through two things—the Welsh Language Act 1993, and the introduction of compulsory Welsh teaching in schools—

Glyn Davies: And S4C.

Jenny Randerson: And S4C. You touched on the important issue of how much we translate, Glyn. There is real debate and discussion on that in the Committee as part of our debates on the future of the language. John Griffiths also touched on how we use our resources. Those are the things that we should consider in a debate such as this in the context of the Welsh Language Board's work.

Hyfforddiant Ôl-16 fel sail ar gyfer cynllunio iaith, ond ar yr amod y câi ei ystyried yng ngoleuni'r adnoddau sydd ar gael. Yr ydym bellach wedi teithio ymhell iawn oddi wrth hynny o ran ein hadolygiad o'r iaith. Owen John, mae gennych y fantais o ymweld â Gwlad y Basg, ond yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn cydnabod na fyddai'n briodol i'r Cynulliad dderbyn dogfen a barn o bolisi ar yr iaith Gymraeg ar eich gair chi yn unig. Felly, yr wyf yn falch eich bod wedi tynnu gwelliant 1 yn ôl. Yr ydych yn anghywir ynglŷn â'r cynnydd canrannol y flwyddyn nesaf—5.1 y cant ydyw. Caiff blynyddoedd dau a thri eu harwain gan ganlyniad yr adolygiad, a gwneuthum hynny yn glir. Mae'n drueni na wnaethoch achub ar y cyfle i fynd i'r afael â'r gwir faterion polisi y cyfeiriodd siaradwyr eraill atynt, yn hytrach na rhoi cyfres o ffigurau anghywir inni, gan fod materion pwysig o bolisi a dewis.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *a gododd*—

Jenny Randerson: Nid ildiaf eto. Rhaid inni ystyried materion polisi pwysig megis gwaith y mentrau iaith. Cytunaf â Delyth ynglŷn â phwysigrwydd perchenogaeth y strategaeth gan y Cynulliad cyfan. Ni fydd yn gweithio oni fydd pob un ohonom yn teimlo ein bod yn berchen arni. Glyn, mae'n ddrwg gennyf nodi na allwch yfed siampên ar faes yr Eisteddfod. Mae'n faes di-alcohol, oni allwch ddweud fel arall wrthyf. Dywedais hyn eisoes, un o'r ychydig bethau a wnaeth y Ceidwadwyr yn dda oedd cymryd camau o'r diwedd i gydnabod y problemau oedd yn wynebu'r iaith ac atal ei dirywiad, neu geisio atal ei dirywiad. Gwnaethant hynny drwy ddau beth—Deddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993, a chyflwyno dysgu Cymraeg gorfodol mewn ysgolion—

Glyn Davies: Ac S4C.

Jenny Randerson: Ac S4C. Cyfeiriasoch at y mater pwysig o faint y byddwn yn ei gyfieithu, Glyn. Mae dadl a thrafodaeth ddifrifol ar hynny yn y Pwyllgor fel rhan o'n dadleuon ar ddyfodol yr iaith. Cyfeiriodd John Griffiths hefyd at sut y byddwn yn defnyddio ein hadnoddau. Dyna'r pethau y dylem eu hystyried mewn dadl fel hon o fewn cyd-destun gwaith Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg.

Quinquennial reviews are commissioned by Ministers in consultation with the Subject Committee.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *rose*—

Jenny Randerson: I am happy to give way now. I wanted to get through that bit.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Is it possible that, once the review has been completed, we will consider additional funding for the Welsh Language Board and, indeed, for the Welsh language in terms of next year's comprehensive spending review?

Jenny Randerson: I agree that the comprehensive spending review gives us the opportunity to consider our priorities. I will consider those priorities in consultation with the Committee and in discussion with my colleague, the Minister for Finance. The comprehensive spending review is when we consider priorities for all policy areas.

I want to stress that this process is different from previously. This is open and transparent reviewing, reporting back to either the Committee or Plenary at every stage. This brings ASPBs under new scrutiny in a way that they have not been used to before. It is part of the process of making them much more democratically accountable. When the Culture Committee completes its review of the language, I hope that it will contain recommendations that will have consensus in the Assembly. The board will have a major role to play in the implementation of subsequent policies. It will remain the key body responsible for delivering the Assembly's policy on the Welsh language, and I look forward to continuing to work with Rhodri Williams and the board's members in support of that policy. *Diolch yn fawr*—thank you.

Tynnwyd gwelliant 1 yn ôl.
Amendment 1 withdrawn.

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 42, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 2: For 42, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

Caiff adolygiadau pum mlynedd eu comisiynu gan y Gweinidogion mewn ymgynghoriad â'r Pwyllgor Pwnc.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *a gododd*—

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn fodlon ildio yn awr. Yr oeddwn am gyflwyno'r darn hwnnw.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A yw'n bosibl, unwaith y caiff yr adolygiad ei gwblhau, y cawn ystyried cyllid ychwanegol ar gyfer Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, ac, yn wir, ar gyfer yr iaith Gymraeg, yn nhermau'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant y flwyddyn nesaf?

Jenny Randerson: Cytunaf fod yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant yn gyfle inni ystyried ein blaenoriaethau. Ystyriaf y blaenoriaethau hynny mewn ymgynghoriad â'r Pwyllgor ac mewn trafodaeth â'm cyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog dros Gyllid. Yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant yw'r cyfle inni ystyried blaenoriaethau ar gyfer pob maes polisi.

Hoffwn bwysleisio bod y broses hon yn wahanol i'r arfer. Adolygu agored a thryloyw ydyw, gan adrodd yn ôl naill ai i'r Pwyllgor neu i'r Cyfarfod Llawn ar bob cam. Golyga hyn graffu o'r newydd ar gyrfif cyhoeddus a noddur gan y Cynulliad mewn modd nas gwelwyd o'r blaen. Mae'n rhan o'r broses o sicrhau eu bod yn fwy democrataidd atebol. Pan gwblheir yr adolygiad o'r iaith gan y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, gobeithiaf y bydd yn cynnwys argymhellion a fydd yn cael cydsyniad y Cynulliad. Bydd gan y bwrdd ran bwysig i'w chwarae wrth weithredu polisiâu dilynol. Bydd yn parhau'n gorff allweddol a fydd yn gyfrifol am gyflwyno polisi'r Cynulliad ar yr iaith Gymraeg, ac edrychaf ymlaen at barhau i gydweithio â Rhodri Williams ac aelodau'r bwrdd i gefnogi'r polisi hwnnw. Diolch yn fawr.

The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Ron
 Essex, Sue
 Evans, Delyth
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Halford, Alison
 Hancock, Brian
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Richards, Rod
 Rogers, Peter
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio.
 Amended motion.

The National Assembly welcomes the completion of the quinquennial review of the Welsh Language Board and the Government of the National Assembly for Wales's response to the review's recommendations; and

stresses the need for adequate support for the Welsh Language Board to enable it to fulfil its functions with regard to the promotion of the Welsh language, in particular through education and training.

Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn croesawu cwblhau'r adolygiad pum mlynedd o Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ac ymateb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i argymhellion yr adolygiad; ac

yn pwysleisio bod angen rhoi cymorth digonol i Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg fel y gall gyflawni ei swyddogaethau o ran hybu'r iaith Gymraeg, yn enwedig trwy addysg a hyfforddiant.

*Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 40, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amended motion: For 40, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Richards, Rod
Rogers, Peter
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio.
Amended motion carried.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Cymdeithas y Plant The Children's Society

Ann Jones: It is almost a weekly trip for me to the lectern, so I will buy a Lottery ticket on Saturday. I have agreed that Karen Sinclair, David Melding, Peter Black and Janet Ryder may contribute, if time allows.

Ann Jones: Mae bron yn daith wythnosol i mi i'r ddarllenfwrdd, felly prynaf docyn Loteri ddydd Sadwrn. Yr wyf wedi cytuno y gall Karen Sinclair, David Melding, Peter Black a Janet Ryder gyfrannu, os bydd amser

yn caniatáu hynny.

I am pleased to have secured today's short debate in order to raise the important issue of the Children's Society and its intention to pull out of Wales. The Children's Society in Wales has, for more than 100 years, built a reputation of reliability, credibility, independence and trust in our communities, drawing on its local support bases from its relationship with the Church in Wales. The close partnership has enabled the society to provide valuable services based on moral and social justice guidelines, which gives it a unique position in the field of children's services. Over the years, the Children's Society has received support from countless Christingle and Lenten giving. On occasions, I have given up chocolate for Lent. Those of you who know me know what a hardship that is. However, I have done it to fill collection boxes and, like thousands of others, with a willing heart to assist the Children's Society.

Yr wyf yn falch fy mod wedi sicrhau'r ddadl fer hon heddiw er mwyn codi mater pwysig Cymdeithas y Plant a'i bwriad i dynnu allan o Gymru. Mae Cymdeithas y Plant yng Nghymru wedi adeiladu enw da yn ein cymunedau ers dros 100 mlynedd am fod yn ddibynadwy, yn gredadwy, yn annibynnol ac yn gywir, gan dynnu ar ei chefnogaeth leol drwy ei pherthynas â'r Eglwys yng Nghymru. Mae'r bartneriaeth glos wedi galluogi'r gymdeithas i ddarparu gwasanaethau gwerthfawr yn seiliedig ar ganllawiau moesol a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol, sy'n ei rhoi mewn sefyllfa unigryw ym maes gwasanaethau plant. Dros y blynyddoedd mae Cymdeithas y Plant wedi cael cefnogaeth drwy roddion lu ar adeg Christingle a'r Grawys. Ar brydiau, yr wyf wedi rhoi'r gorau i siocled ar gyfer y Grawys. Mae'r rhai ohonoch sy'n fy adnabod yn gwybod pa mor anodd yw hynny imi. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wedi gwneud hynny i lenwi blychau casglu ac, fel miloedd o bobl eraill, o wirfodd calon i gynorthwyo Cymdeithas y Plant.

Even more substantial support comes from legacies and from covenant giving. This has been a result of the trust built up over the years in the knowledge that such money would be used wisely in the interests of children in Wales. It is no surprise that in the past fortnight alone, a significant number of standing orders in favour of the society have been cancelled by people angered at the society's intention to pull out of Wales. That is why I warmly welcome the Archbishop of Wales's initiative in launching a new interim fund for children here in Wales. The Archbishop's personal commitment to serving vulnerable children in Wales is beyond question. His principled decision to resign as vice president of the society in protest at this awful decision gave an early signal of the reactions throughout Wales to this news.

Daw hyd yn oed mwy o gymorth drwy waddoliadau a rhoddion cyfamod. Bu hyn o ganlyniad i'r ymddiriedaeth a fagwyd dros y blynyddoedd gyda'r sicrwydd y bydd yr arian hwnnw yn cael ei ddefnyddio'n ddoeth er budd plant Cymru. Nid yw'n syndod, yn y pythefnos diwethaf yn unig, fod nifer sylweddol o orchmynion banc o blaid y gymdeithas wedi eu canslo gan bobl sydd wedi eu cythruddo gan fwriad y gymdeithas i dynnu allan o Gymru. Dyna pam y croesawaf yn gynnes fenter Archesgob Cymru wrth lansio cronfa dros dro newydd i blant yma yng Nghymru. Mae ymrwymiad personol yr Archesgob i wasanaethu plant diamddiffyn yng Nghymru yn gwbl ddiffuant. Yr oedd ei benderfyniad egwyddorol i ymddiswyddo fel is-lywydd y gymdeithas mewn protest yn erbyn y penderfyniad ofnadwy hwn yn arwydd cynnar o'r ymatebion ledled Cymru i'r newyddion hwn.

At this point, I mention my own vicar, John Glover, who, in July, was appointed as the first chair of a new Wales advisory committee of the Children's Society. We all believed then that this signalled that the

Yma, cyfeiriai at fy ficer fy hun, John Glover, a benodwyd ym mis Gorffennaf fel cadeirydd cyntaf pwyllgor ymgynghorol newydd Cymru o Gymdeithas y Plant. Bryd hynny, yr oeddem oll yn credu bod hyn yn

society was recognising the new situation in Wales and developing a more Welsh identity. How wrong we were. John has put much time and energy into supporting the Children's Society, not just because he is a vicar, but because, like so many others, he believes in the society's ethos. The Children's Society works with children and families of all faiths and none. However, the Church's ethical and moral framework continues to underpin its values and is highly prized by the staff.

12:05 a.m.

The Children's Society is currently involved in 14 projects in Wales. Most of those concern advocacy and children's rights, but they also have several anti-poverty and community development initiatives, working with children and parents at risk of social exclusion in some of the deprived communities in Wales. One project is the north-east Wales children's rights project, which operates in Wrexham County Borough Council and Flintshire and Denbighshire county councils. It offers an all-round service, including advice, support, advocacy, consultation and participation services to all children and young people in need.

All these projects have had to learn hard lessons from the Waterhouse report, which led directly to the establishment of an independent Children's Commissioner for Wales to ensure that vulnerable children had someone to turn to—someone who was on their side and who was not answerable to other vested interests.

However, the local services run by dedicated, highly trained people from the Children's Society and others, are just as important as the Children's Commissioner for Wales. These local project workers are accessible and, like the children's commissioner, independent of statutory bodies. Through their work in the community, they have won the trust of some of the most vulnerable young people, some who perhaps never thought that they would trust anyone ever again, let alone an adult.

dangos bod y gymdeithas yn cydnabod y sefyllfa newydd yng Nghymru ac yn datblygu hunaniaeth fwy Cymreig. Yr oeddem yn gwbl anghywir. Mae John wedi rhoi llawer o'i amser a'i egni i gynnal Cymdeithas y Plant, nid yn unig am ei fod yn ficer, ond am ei fod yn credu, fel cymaint o bobl eraill, yn ethos y gymdeithas. Mae Cymdeithas y Plant yn gweithio gyda phlant a theuluoedd o bob ffydd a'r rhai sydd heb ffydd. Fodd bynnag, mae fframwaith ethgol a moesol yr Eglwys yn sylfaen i'w gwerthoedd o hyd ac mae'r staff yn gwerthfawrogi hynny'n fawr.

Ar hyn o bryd mae Cymdeithas y Plant yn ymwneud â 14 o brosiectau yng Nghymru. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r rhain yn ymwneud ag eiriolaeth a hawliau plant, ond yn ogystal mae sawl menter gwrthdlodi a datblygu cymuned ar y gweill ganddynt, gan weithio gyda phlant a rhieni sy'n debygol o gael eu heithrio'n gymdeithasol mewn rhai o'r cymunedau difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Un prosiect yw'r prosiect hawliau plant gogledd-ddwyrain Cymru, sy'n gweithredu yng Nghyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam a chynghorau Sir y Fflint a Sir Ddinbych. Mae'n cynnig gwasanaeth cyfan, sy'n cynnwys cyngor, cefnogaeth, eiriolaeth, gwasanaethau ymgynghori a chyfranogi i bob plentyn a pherson ifanc sydd mewn angen.

Mae pob un o'r prosiectau hyn wedi gorfod dysgu gwarsi o adroddiad Waterhouse, a arweiniodd yn uniongyrchol at sefydlu Comisiynydd Plant annibynnol i Gymru i sicrhau bod gan blant diamddiffyn rywun i droi ato—rhywun a oedd o'u plaid ac nad oedd yn atebol i fuddiannau breintiedig eraill.

Fodd bynnag, mae'r gwasanaethau lleol a weithredir gan bobl ymroddedig sydd wedi cael llawer o hyfforddiant gan Gymdeithas y Plant ac eraill, yr un mor bwysig â Chomisiynydd Plant Cymru. Mae modd cael gafael ar y gweithwyr prosiect lleol hyn ac, fel y comisiynydd plant, maent yn annibynnol ar y cyrff statudol. O ganlyniad i'w gwaith yn y gymuned, maent wedi ennill ymddiriedaeth rhai o'r bobl ifanc mwyaf diamddiffyn, rhai efallai na feddyliai y byddent yn ymddiried mewn unrhyw un byth

eto, yn enwedig oedolyn.

The Children's Society's announcement a fortnight ago that it intended to withdraw from its projects in Wales came as a devastating blow—not only to Assembly Members, but to thousands across Wales. More importantly, it shattered the fragile but valuable trust that young people had started to enjoy.

People who have raised funds for the Children's Society through local churches, schools, workplaces and other community organisations, as well as an occasional browse through the local branches of the society's shops, have been left wondering whether it was worth it. The Children's Society has displayed a cavalier attitude in its approach to its supporters and clients in Wales—and this from a society that claims to support Christian values.

The 127 staff of the Children's Society in Wales who learned that they would lose their jobs, must feel hurt and betrayed that a committee in London has taken a blanket decision to axe the projects on which they were working so hard. In spite of the last two weeks' distressing and shattering news, the staff's first thoughts have been for the young people that they are helping. They have put their own anxieties on hold until they reach the privacy of their own homes. I applaud them for that and for their dedication to their vocation. I offer them my full support.

The greatest impact will be felt among those vulnerable children and young people who depend on the Children's Society's services in Wales, and who sadly no longer know whether those services will be provided in six months' time. The process of building relationships and earning the trust of children—particularly those most vulnerable, whose trust in adults has been severely compromised—is lengthy and complex. If the staff who provide these services must leave, they cannot easily be replaced.

In May last year, the Children's Society

Yr oedd cyhoeddiad Cymdeithas y Plant bythefnos yn ôl ei bod yn bwriadu tynnu yn ôl o'i brosiectau yng Nghymru yn ergyd aruthrol—nid yn unig i Aelodau'r Cynulliad, ond i filoedd ledled Cymru. Yn bwysicach na hynny, dinistriodd yr ymddiriedaeth fregus ond gwerthfawr yr oedd pobl ifanc wedi dechrau ei mwynhau.

Mae pobl a fu'n codi arian i Gymdeithas y Plant drwy eglwysi lleol, ysgolion, gweithleoedd a sefydliadau cymunedol eraill, yn ogystal â galw heibio i ganghennau lleol siopau'r gymdeithas, yn amau bellach a fu hyn oll o werth. Bu Cymdeithas y Plant yn ddiotal o'i chefnogwyr a'i chleientiaid yng Nghymru—a hynny gan gymdeithas sy'n honni ei bod yn cynnal gwerthoedd Cristnogol.

Rhaid bod yr 127 o staff Cymdeithas y Plant yng Nghymru y dywedwyd wrthynt y byddent yn colli eu swyddi, yn teimlo wedi eu brifo ac wedi eu bradychu am fod pwyllgor yn Llundain wedi gwneud penderfyniad cyffredinol i waredu'r prosiectau y buont yn gweithio mor galed arnynt. Er gwaethaf newyddion gofidus a thorcalonnus yn ystod y pythefnos diwethaf, mae'r staff wedi rhoi'r bobl ifanc maent yn eu helpu yn gyntaf. Maent wedi rhoi eu pryderon o'r neilltu nes iddynt gyrraedd preifatrwydd eu cartrefi. Cymeradwyaf hwy am hynny ac am eu hymroddiad i'w galwedigaeth. Rhoddaf fy nghefnogaeth lawn iddynt.

Teimlir yr effaith fwyaf ymysg y plant a'r bobl ifanc diamddiffyn hynny sy'n dibynnu ar wasanaethau Cymdeithas y Plant yng Nghymru, ac yn anffodus nad ydynt yn gwybod a gaiff y gwasanaethau hynny eu darparu ymhen chwe mis. Mae'r broses o adeiladu cydberthynasau ac ennill ymddiriedaeth plant—yn enwedig y rhai mwyaf diamddiffyn, yr amharwyd ar eu hymddiriedaeth mewn oedolion yn fawr iawn—yn hir ac yn gymhleth. Os oes rhaid i'r staff sy'n darparu'r gwasanaethau hyn adael, ni fydd yn hawdd llanw eu swyddi.

Ym mis Mai y llynedd, cynhaliodd

conducted a review of its presence in Wales and of the impact of devolution on its activities. It was a wide-ranging review lasting nine months, which sought the views of a number of Assembly Members, children and young people in Wales. It also examined how other voluntary organisations were reacting to devolution, and the wider impact that national identity and the Welsh language were having on delivering services in Wales. The report concluded that the Children's Society should adopt the name 'Children's Society Cymru' to increase its profile in Wales, and that it should have a devolved advisory committee which would oversee an enhanced senior management team. The trustees accepted those proposals, which makes their sudden decision to withdraw from Wales even more bizarre.

How did the society's financial position deteriorate so disastrously in such a brief time? No suggestion of total withdrawal from Wales, or even major cutbacks was considered six months ago. How much information were the trustees given?

I was pleased that Jane Hutt immediately called the society's chief executive to the Assembly to establish the reasons behind the announcement. I understand that the Minister requested that the trustees be recalled to discuss the situation. The trustees will now meet in mid December, and I urge Assembly Members to contact them with their views on why the society should not withdraw its services from Wales.

It might be helpful to ask the trustees what will happen to the £13 million held in reserves. If the decision to pull out of Wales is to stand, they have a moral—if not a legal—obligation to ensure that Wales receives at least £4 million of those reserves. After all, that money was given in good faith to support work with children in both countries. It might cost close to that amount to close down the society in Wales. The society could attempt to restore some faith by making a positive gesture towards a new Welsh organisation that would take over the services.

Cymdeithas y Plant adolygiad o'i bresenoldeb yng Nghymru ac o effaith datganoli ar ei weithgareddau. Yr oedd yn adolygiad eang a barhaodd am naw mis, a geisiodd farn nifer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad, plant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru. Astudiodd hefyd sut yr oedd sefydliadau gwirfoddol eraill yn ymateb i ddatganoli, a'r effaith ehangach yr oedd hunaniaeth genedlaethol a'r iaith Gymraeg yn ei chael ar gyflwyno gwasanaethau yng Nghymru. Daeth yr adroddiad i'r casgliad y dylai Cymdeithas y Plant fabwysiadu'r enw '*Children's Society Cymru*' i godi ei phroffil yng Nghymru, ac y dylai gael pwyllgor ymgynghorol datganoledig a fyddai'n goruchwylio uwch dîm rheoli ehangach. Derbyniodd yr ymddiriedolwyr y cynigion hyn, sy'n gwneud eu penderfyniad sydyn i dynnu allan o Gymru yn fwy rhyfedd fyth.

Sut y gwnaeth sefyllfa ariannol y gymdeithas ddirywio mor enbyd mewn cyfnod mor fyr? Nid ystyriwyd yr awgrym y dylid tynnu allan o Gymru yn gyfan gwbl, neu hyd yn oed gwneud toriadau mawr chwe mis yn ôl. Faint o wybodaeth a roddwyd i'r ymddiriedolwyr?

Yr wyf yn falch bod Jane Hutt wedi galw prif weithredwr y gymdeithas i'r Cynulliad ar unwaith i ganfod y rhesymau y tu ôl i'r cyhoeddiad. Deallaf fod y Gweinidog wedi gofyn i'r ymddiriedolwyr gael eu galw yn ôl i drafod y sefyllfa. Bydd yr ymddiriedolwyr bellach yn cyfarfod yng nghanol Rhagfyr, ac yr wyf yn annog Aelodau'r Cynulliad i gysylltu â hwy gyda'u safbwyntiau ar baham na ddylai'r gymdeithas dynnu ei gwasanaethau o Gymru.

Efallai y bydd yn ddefnyddiol gofyn i'r ymddiriedolwyr beth fydd yn digwydd i'r £13 miliwn a gedwir mewn cronfa wrth gefn. Oni newidir y penderfyniad i dynnu allan o Gymru, mae ganddynt rwymedigaeth foesol—neu gyfreithiol hyd yn oed—i sicrhau bod Cymru yn cael o leiaf £4 miliwn o'r cronfeydd hynny sydd wrth gefn. Wedi'r cwbl, rhoddwyd yr arian hwnnw yn ddiffuant i gefnogi gwaith â phlant yn y ddwy wlad. Efallai y bydd yn costio'n agos at hynny i gau'r gymdeithas yng Nghymru. Gallai'r gymdeithas geisio adfer peth ffydd drwy wneud cyfraniad cadarnhaol tuag at sefydliad newydd yng Nghymru a fyddai'n dod yn

gyfrifol am y gwasanaethau.

Why did the society make no attempt to consult with relevant partners, not just the Assembly but also the Church in Wales? After all, the society's full title is 'The Children's Society, a charity of the Church of England and the Church in Wales'. The fact that the society felt that it could not just cut back but had to completely close down its work in Wales is nothing more than a slap in the face for our country.

I know that, because of financial constraints, the society is going to cut about 20 per cent of its projects in England. That is bad enough. However, it is nowhere near as disastrous as the total shutdown in Wales. It leads me to think that, when push comes to shove, the charity regards children in Wales as less deserving or worthy than those in England. That is a strong statement—and I stand by it—but it is hard to draw any other conclusion.

If the society remains determined, in the face of the united protests of the Assembly, the Church in Wales, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Peter Clarke, and others, we must try to ensure that the essential work in advocacy and anti-poverty activity that it currently performs in Wales is continued.

I warmly welcomed Jane Hutt's statement last week announcing the formation of a taskforce to consider the future of these services. I was honoured to be asked, as temporary Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee, to join that taskforce to ensure that, at a political level, the Assembly remains closely in touch with its work.

A way forward could well be the formation of a new children's society in Wales, run from Wales for children in Wales. That is the aim that the society's staff in Wales and the Church in Wales are currently working towards. They are working furiously to try to create a proper business plan to convince commissioning agencies that such a charity could be sustainable. However, the main question, of course, is money. I am convinced

Pam na wnaeth y gymdeithas unrhyw ymdrech i ymgynghori â phartneriaid perthnasol, nid yn unig y Cynulliad ond hefyd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru? Wedi'r cwbl, teitl llawn y gymdeithas yw 'Cymdeithas y Plant, elusen Eglwys Lloegr a'r Eglwys yng Nghymru'. Mae'r ffaith i'r gymdeithas deimlo na allai gwtogi yn unig ond ei bod yn gorfod rhoi'r gorau i'w gwaith yn gyfan gwbl yng Nghymru yn sarhad ar ein gwlad ni.

Gwn, oherwydd problemau ariannol, fod y gymdeithas yn mynd i dorri tua 20 y cant o'r prosiectau yn Lloegr. Mae hynny'n ddigon gwael. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n agos cynddrwg â rhoi'r gorau i bopeth yng Nghymru. Mae'n fy arwain i gredu bod yr elusen yn y pen draw yn credu bod plant yng Nghymru yn llai haeddiannol na phlant yn Lloegr. Mae hynny yn ddatganiad cryf—ac yr wyf yn glynu wrtho—ond mae'n anodd dod i unrhyw gasgliad arall.

Os yw'r gymdeithas yn parhau'n benderfynol, yn wyneb holl brotestiadau'r Cynulliad, yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, Peter Clarke, ac eraill, rhaid inni geisio sicrhau bod y gwaith hanfodol a wna ym maes eiriolaeth a gwrth-dlodi ar hyn o bryd yng Nghymru yn parhau.

Rhoddais groeso cynnes i ddatganiad Jane Hutt yr wythnos diwethaf yn cyhoeddi ei bod yn sefydlu tasglu i ystyried dyfodol y gwasanaethau hyn. Yr oedd yn anrhydedd i mi gael fy ngwahodd, fel Cadeirydd dros dro y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, i ymuno â'r tasglu hwnnw i sicrhau, ar lefel wleidyddol, bod y Cynulliad yn parhau mewn cysylltiad agos â'i waith.

Un ffordd ymlaen o bosibl fyddai ffurfio cymdeithas plant newydd yng Nghymru, wedi ei rhedeg o Gymru ar gyfer plant Cymru. Dyna'r nod y mae staff y gymdeithas yng Nghymru a'r Eglwys yng Nghymru yn gweithio tuag ato ar hyn o bryd. Maent yn gweithio'n galed iawn i geisio llunio cynllun busnes cywir i argyhoeddi'r asiantaethau comisiynu y gallai elusen o'r fath fod yn gynaliadwy. Fodd bynnag, y prif gwestiwn,

that the Children's Society for England—I believe that that is what it wants to be known as—should not be allowed to cut and run and get off lightly. I repeat again to the trustees—you have a moral obligation to the children of Wales to hand back a proportion of the reserves currently held centrally. I know that the people of Wales will support a new society through their donations. Indeed, the church feels that it would be possible to nearly double its fundraising to around £2 million or £2.5 million a year in order to support a new Welsh children's society.

Aside from the church, there are many other possible funding sources. The new society could submit Objective 1 bids. The projects currently running could qualify for funding from Sure Start, Communities First and Children First. Most important of all would be the response that such an approach would have from people in Wales. I am sure, from the comments that I have heard over the last two weeks, that there are many people who would be happy to dig into their pockets to back a Welsh children's society. However, time is short. Many of the contracts with the society's partners only run until the end of March. Therefore, redundancy notices for these dedicated staff may be sent out over Christmas, which is meant to be a time for celebration. What celebration?

It is imperative that bridging funding is found quickly. Such a solution would be a strong indication that we in Wales can help ourselves, that we do not always simply shrug our shoulders, sit back and shake our heads about how shamefully we have been treated. The National Assembly is a symbol of us in Wales taking our destiny by the scruff of its neck to ensure that it we shape our future, and that nobody does it for us.

A children's society for Wales—*cymdeithas plant Cymru*—would be a similar strong signal that we do not need to hang on to the coat tails of others and that we have the will and the determination to respond to adversity by taking matters into our own hands, creating something new and finding a Welsh

wrth gwrs, yw arian. Yr wyf wedi fy argyhoeddi na ddylid gadael i Gymdeithas Plant Lloegr—credaf mai dyna y mae am gael ei galw—dorri cysylltiad a chael ei thraed yn rhydd. Yr wyf yn ailadrodd eto i'r ymddiriedolwyr—mae gennyh ddyletswydd foesol i blant Cymru i ddychwelyd canran o'r cronfeydd a gedwir yn ganolog ar hyn o bryd. Gwn y bydd pobl Cymru yn cefnogi cymdeithas newydd drwy eu rhoddion. Yn wir, teimla'r eglwys y byddai modd bron dyblu'r arian a godant i oddeutu £2 filiwn neu £2.5 miliwn y flwyddyn er mwyn cefnogi cymdeithas newydd i blant Cymru.

Ar wahân i'r eglwys mae nifer o ffynonellau ariannu eraill posibl. Gallai'r gymdeithas newydd gyflwyno ceisiadau am arian Amcan 1. Gallai'r prosiectau sy'n rhedeg ar hyn o bryd fod yn gymwys ar gyfer arian gan Gychwyn Cadarn, Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf a Phlant yn Gyntaf. Yn fwy pwysig na dim fyddai'r ymateb y byddai ymagwedd o'r fath yn ei chael gan bobl Cymru. Yr wyf yn siŵr, o'r sylwadau yr wyf wedi eu clywed dros y pythefnos diwethaf fod llawer o bobl a fyddai'n fwy na pharod i roi eu dwylo yn eu pocedi i gefnogi cymdeithas plant Cymru. Fodd bynnag, mae amser yn brin. Mae nifer o'r contractau â phartneriaid y gymdeithas yn rhedeg tan ddiwedd mis Mawrth. Felly, efallai y bydd llythyrau diswyddo yn cael eu hanfon at yr aelodau ymroddedig hyn o staff dros y Nadolig, sydd i fod yn amser ar gyfer dathlu. Pa ddathlu?

Mae'n hanfodol y deuir o hyd i arian pontio yn gyflym. Byddai ateb o'r fath yn dystiolaeth gref ein bod ni yng Nghymru yn gallu helpu ein hunain, nad ydym bob tro'n codi ein hysgwyddau, eistedd yn ôl ac ysgwyd ein pennau am ba mor wael yr ydym wedi ein trin. Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn symbol ein bod ni yng Nghymru yn cymryd ein tynged gerfydd ei gwar i sicrhau mai ni sy'n llunio ein dyfodol, ac nad oes unrhyw un yn gwneud hynny drosom.

Byddai sefydlu cymdeithas plant Cymru yn arwydd cryf arall nad oes angen inni ddibynnu ar eraill a bod gennym yr ewyllys a'r penderfyniad i ymateb i adfyd drwy gymryd materion yn ein dwylo ein hunain, creu rhywbeth newydd a dod o hyd i ateb yng Nghymru i broblem yng Nghymru. Credaf,

solution to a Welsh problem. I believe, comrades, that we have the will to walk this rocky road together.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: If four Members want to contribute to this debate, they will have to limit their contributions to 40 seconds.

Karen Sinclair: In order to give time to seek a solution, Jane has given a commitment to seek a solution through the task group. However, a task group alone is not enough, Jane. A cash injection is needed, and the sum of £300,000 has been suggested. This, in my opinion, is a reasonable request at this time, as this money would give time to source other funding. I cannot overemphasise how imperative this money is to achieving a satisfactory outcome. Without this commitment, time is short for the children's rights service in north-east Wales. Already, from its staff of 19, there have been three resignations and a request for a reference from a potential employer has been received for another member of staff. Paid staff are essential to assist volunteers; without them, volunteers cannot deliver. Time is short and on behalf of the young people of Wales, we have an obligation to help—not only with words, but with finance.

12:15 p.m.

Minister, what mechanisms are available to us to ensure the interim finance needed to secure that future work?

David Melding: The Children's Society's decision to axe its operations in Wales is the result of financial incompetence. However, it is a decision that has been sustained by a hard and obdurate heart. Its action is that of the blackest apostasy. It is astonishing that a Christian organisation has adopted this attitude and we should have no part in it. I welcome Ann Jones's contribution, and I wish her luck in her work on the taskforce. The Minister is also working hard to salvage something from this wreckage. It must be done, as we cannot—as an Assembly nor as representatives of the people of Wales—allow a UK organisation to run roughshod over us all.

gyfeillion, y bydd yn rhaid inni gerdded y ffordd galed hon gyda'n gilydd.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Os oes pedwar Aelod am gyfrannu i'r ddadl hon, bydd yn rhaid iddynt beidio â siarad am fwy na 40 eiliad yr un.

Karen Sinclair: Er mwyn rhoi amser i chwilio am ateb, mae Jane wedi ymrwymo i chwilio am ateb drwy'r grŵp gorchwyl. Fodd bynnag, nid yw grŵp gorchwyl ynddo'i hun yn ddigon, Jane. Mae angen arian, ac awgrymwyd y swm o £300,000. Yn fy marn i, mae hwn yn gais rhesymol ar yr adeg hon, gan y byddai'r arian hwn yn rhoi amser i chwilio am ffynonellau ariannu eraill. Ni allaf or-bwysleisio pa mor hanfodol yw'r arian hwn i gyflawni canlyniad boddhaol. Heb yr ymrwymiad hwn, mae amser yn brin ar gyfer gwasanaeth hawliau plant yn y gogledd ddwyrain. Eisoed, o blith ei staff o 19, bu tri o ymddiswyddiadau a derbyniwyd cais am eirida gan gyflogwr posibl ar gyfer aelod arall o staff. Mae staff a gyflogir yn hanfodol i gynorthwyo gwirfoddolwyr; hebddynt, ni all gwirfoddolwyr wneud eu gwaith. Mae amser yn brin ac ar ran pobl ifanc Cymru, mae gennym ddyletswydd i helpu—nid yn unig drwy eiriau, ond trwy roi arian.

Weinidog, pa systemau sydd ar gael inni sicrhau'r arian dros dro sydd ei angen i sicrhau'r gwaith hwnnw ar gyfer y dyfodol?

David Melding: Mae penderfyniad Cymdeithas y Plant i derfynu ei weithrediadau yng Nghymru yn ganlyniad i anallu ariannol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n benderfyniad sydd wedi ei gynnal gan galon galed a chyndyn. Drwy ei weithrediad y mae wedi cefnu ar Gymru yn y ffordd fwyaf sarrug. Mae'n anhygoel bod sefydliad Cristnogol wedi mabwysiadu'r ymagwedd hon ac ni ddylem gael unrhyw ran ynddo. Croesawaf gyfraniad Ann Jones, a dymunaf bob hwyl iddi yn ei gwaith ar y tasglu. Yn ogystal, mae'r Gweinidog yn gweithio'n galed i achub rhywbeth o'r llanastr hwn. Rhaid gwneud hynny, gan na allwn—fel Cynulliad neu fel cynrychiolwyr pobl

Cymru—ganiatáu i sefydliad DU ein sathru dan draed yn y modd hwn.

Peter Black: We were all deeply shocked by the Children's Society's decision to withdraw from Wales. It is now important to have stability quickly. We do not have until June 2002, because we must ensure that we retain the staff who are currently working on these projects. We must give them security of tenure by ensuring that we get the money to keep these projects going, and to give them a future.

Janet Ryder: I endorse the cross-party support, especially regarding the continuation of the advocacy services that are offered. I reinforce what Karen said. The £300,000 is needed to ensure that those services continue, and it needs to be found by the end of December to reach that March 2002 deadline. I hope that the Minister can find the money in her budgets to ensure the short-term rescue of those services.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I am grateful to Ann for her comprehensive and powerful speech, which puts the full scale of the impact of the proposed withdrawal of the Children's Society from Wales into context. She has encapsulated in her speech the feelings that are shared across the Assembly and Wales about the actions of the Children's Society. We share the shock and disappointment about the decision to withdraw from Wales and how it was announced. Above all, we are concerned about the effect on vulnerable children and young people in our communities.

I am also grateful for the way that the taskforce has started its work so promptly. Christine Walby chairs the taskforce, which had a successful meeting earlier this week. Other members have come together in partnership. They are well aware of the short timescale to which we must all work to ensure continuity of services. I am grateful that Ann is there on our behalf—representing the Assembly—to provide that important link, alongside my officials who advise the

Peter Black: Yr oeddem oll wedi ein syfrdanu'n fawr gan benderfyniad Cymdeithas y Plant i dynnu allan o Gymru. Mae bellach yn bwysig cael sefydlogrwydd yn gyflym. Ni allwn aros tan Fehefin 2002, gan ei bod yn angenrheidiol inni sicrhau ein bod yn cadw'r staff sydd ar hyn o bryd yn gweithio ar y prosiectau hyn. Rhaid inni roi diogelwch swyddi iddynt drwy sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi arian i gadw'r prosiectau hyn i fynd, ac i roi dyfodol iddynt.

Janet Ryder: Ategaf y gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol, yn enwedig o ran parhau â'r gwasanaethau eiriolaeth a gynigir. Ategaf yr hyn a ddywedodd Karen. Mae angen y £300,000 er mwyn sicrhau bod y gwasanaethau hynny yn parhau, ac mae angen dod o hyd iddo erbyn diwedd Rhagfyr ar gyfer y dyddiad cau hwnnw ym mis Mawrth 2002. Gobeithiaf y gall y Gweinidog ddod o hyd i'r arian yn ei chyllidebau i sicrhau adfer y gwasanaethau hynny yn y tymor byr.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Ann am ei haraith gynhwysfawr a phwerus, sy'n disgrifio effaith lawn penderfyniad Cymdeithas y Plant i dynnu yn ôl o Gymru yn ei gyd-destun. Mae hi wedi crynhoi yn ei haraith deimladau pobl ar draws y Cynulliad a ledled Chymru ynlgŷn â gweithrediadau Cymdeithas y Plant. Rhannwn y sioc a'r siom am y penderfyniad i dynnu allan o Gymru a sut y cafodd ei gyhoeddi. Yn anad dim, yr ydym yn pryderu am yr effaith ar blant a phobl ifanc ddiameddiffyn yn ein cymunedau.

Yr wyf hefyd yn ddiolchgar am y ffordd y mae'r tasglu wedi dechrau ei waith ar fyrder. Mae Christine Walby yn cadeirio'r tasglu, a gafodd gyfarfod llwyddiannus yn gynharach yr wythnos hon. Mae aelodau eraill wedi dod ynghyd mewn partneriaeth. Maent yn ymwybodol iawn o'r amserlen fyr y mae'n rhaid inni oll gadw ati i sicrhau parhad gwasanaethau. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar bod Ann yno ar ein rhan—yn cynrychioli'r Cynulliad—fel y cyswllt pwysig hwnnw,

taskforce.

Since my statement last week and following my meeting with him, I have written to the chief executive of the Children's Society, enclosing an extract from the official transcript covering our discussions, so that he and the trustees can see our strength of feeling and our consensus. I also referred to my earlier request for a further meeting once the society trustees had considered my views, and asked whether the chief executive was in a position yet to arrange that meeting as a matter of urgency.

I agree with Ann that the people of Wales have an expectation that a fair share of the society's resources should be devoted to ensuring continuity of service, in recognition of the contribution of the people of Wales over so many years. The Archbishop of Wales and I intend to write jointly to reinforce the points made both in my meeting with the chief executive and in my letter to him.

Ann referred to the Children's Society staff's proposal, in conjunction with the Church in Wales, to form a new children's charity in Wales. It is my firm view that if the Children's Society does not change its mind on its decision to abandon Wales, it has a strong moral obligation to assist in ensuring continuity of services. I have indicated that in my letter to the society.

If decisions are to be made on the viability of any new organisation, as Ann said, a business plan must be prepared. Work is already in hand on that. Children in Wales has offered to assist in that process as have the other taskforce partners. I am willing to consider a bid for additional funding for Children in Wales to cover the cost of this assistance.

On assistance, I will indicate the Assembly's current level of support to give some context. The bulk of our support to the Children Society's projects comes from programmes funded by local authorities: Sure Start, Children and Youth Partnership Fund and Children First. The support for families

ochr yn ochr â'm swyddogion sy'n rhoi cyngor i'r tasglu.

Ers fy natganiad yr wythnos diwethaf ac yn dilyn fy nghyfarfod ag ef, yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu at brif weithredwr Cymdeithas y Plant, yn cynnwys dyfyniad o'r trawsgrifiad swyddogol o'n trafodaethau, fel y gall ef a'r ymddiriedolwyr ganfod pa mor gryf yw ein teimladau a'n consensws. Yr oeddwn hefyd wedi cyfeirio at fy nghais cynharach am gyfarfod pellach ar ôl i ymddiriedolwyr y gymdeithas ystyried fy sylwadau, a gofynnais a oedd y prif weithredwr mewn sefyllfa eto i drefnu'r cyfarfod hwnnw ar fyrder.

Cytunaf ag Ann fod pobl Cymru yn disgwyl i gyfran deg o adnoddau'r gymdeithas gael eu neilltuo i sicrhau parhad gwasanaeth, yn gydnabyddiaeth o gyfraniad pobl Cymru dros gymaint o flynyddoedd. Mae Archesgob Cymru a minnau yn bwriadu ysgrifennu ar y cyd i atgyfnerthu'r pwyntiau a wnaethpwyd yn fy nghyfarfod â'r prif weithredwr a'm llythyr ato.

Cyfeiriodd Ann at gynnig staff Cymdeithas y Plant, ar y cyd â'r Eglwys yng Nghymru, i ffurfio elusen newydd i blant yng Nghymru. Fy marn gadarn i yw os nad yw Cymdeithas y Plant yn newid ei meddwl ar ei phenderfyniad i adael Cymru, mae ganddi ddyletswydd foisol gref i helpu i sicrhau parhad gwasanaethau. Yr wyf wedi nodi hynny yn fy llythyr i'r gymdeithas.

Os oes penderfyniadau i'w gwneud ar ddichonolrwydd unrhyw sefydliad newydd, fel y dywedodd Ann, rhaid paratoi cynllun busnes. Mae gwaith eisoes yn digwydd ar hynny. Mae Plant yng Nghymru wedi cynnig cynorthwyo yn y broses honno fel y mae partneriaid eraill y tasglu. Yr wyf yn barod i ystyried cais am arian ychwanegol ar gyfer Plant yng Nghymru i dalu am gost y cymorth hwn.

O ran cymorth, byddaf yn nodi cefnogaeth bresennol y Cynulliad i roi peth cyd-destun. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'n cefnogaeth i brosiectau Cymdeithas y Plant yn dod o raglenni a ariennir gan awdurdodau lleol: Cychwyn Cadarn, Cronfa Plant a Ieuenctid a Phlant yn Gyntaf. Y gefnogaeth ar gyfer teuluoedd

through these programmes, and through the relatively small amount from direct funding is approximately £800,000 in the current financial year. Ann Jones referred to the threat of issuing redundancy notices at the turn of the year—if local authorities' funding for the Children's Society ceases in March—as a number of contracts are due to end. I understand that at the end of yesterday's taskforce meeting, after Ann had left for another engagement, Christine Walby agreed to write to the local authorities concerned to ask them to extend their funding until at least July 2002.

Peter Black, Karen Sinclair, Janet Ryder and David Melding have made practical points about the urgency of the situation. I welcome the cross-party backing from the Assembly. I endorse the comments about how urgent it is to proceed with this issue. I still consider that the main responsibility for a smooth transition rests with the Children's Society, which answers Karen and Janet's points. We must test the Children Society's obligation and say to it that it has a responsibility to secure the continuity of services for the people of Wales. The Children's Society must be put to the test. After it has responded to that test, the Assembly can then consider its responsibilities.

Karen Sinclair: I am worried that, as people apply for other jobs—which is right because they need job security—we will miss a window of opportunity. I am concerned that we are trying to negotiate while people are leaving.

Jane Hutt: The taskforce addressed the urgency of the situation in its meeting earlier this week, and work continues on matters arising from that meeting. Our priority is to get the appropriate response from the Children's Society. We must ensure that we test their moral obligation to the children and young people of Wales. We must not let them off the hook. I get a feeling from the Assembly that that should be the key message. The Assembly is powerful, we speak for the people of Wales. That must be made clear to the Children's Society and its trustees. Today's debate will add to the pressure. I am waiting for a response from

drwy'r rhaglenni hyn, a thrwy'r swm cymharol fach o ariannu uniongyrchol yw tua £800,000 yn y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol. Cyfeiriodd Ann Jones at y bygythiad o anfon llythyrau diswyddo ar droad y flwyddyn—os daw ariannu awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer Cymdeithas y Plant i ben ym mis Mawrth—gan fod nifer o gontractau yn terfynu. Deallaf ar ddiwedd cyfarfod y tasglu ddoe, ar ôl i Ann adael ar gyfer ymrwymiad arall, cytunodd Christine Walby i ysgrifennu at yr awdurdodau lleol dan sylw i ofyn iddynt estyn eu hariannu hyd at o leiaf Gorffennaf 2002.

Mae Peter Black, Karen Sinclair, Janet Ryder a David Melding wedi gwneud pwyntiau ymarferol o ran natur frys y sefyllfa. Croesawaf y gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol gan y Cynulliad. Yr wyf yn ategu'r sylwadau ynglŷn â phwysigrwydd symud ymlaen â'r mater hwn ar frys. Credaf o hyd mai Cymdeithas y Plant fydd yn gyfrifol yn bennaf am drosglwyddiad llyfn. Mae hynny yn ateb pwyntiau Karen a Janet. Rhaid inni brofi dyletswydd Cymdeithas y Plant a dweud wrthi fod cyfrifoldeb arni i sicrhau parhad gwasanaethau ar gyfer pobl Cymru. Rhaid i Gymdeithas y Plant gael ei rhoi ar brawf. Ar ôl iddi ymateb i'r prawf hwnnw, yna gall y Cynulliad ystyried ei gyfrifoldebau.

Karen Sinclair: Yr wyf yn pryderu, wrth i bobl wneud cais am swyddi eraill—sy'n gywir am fod angen diogelwch swydd arnynt—y byddwn yn colli cyfle. Yr wyf yn pryderu ein bod yn ceisio cael trafodaethau tra bod pobl yn gadael.

Jane Hutt: Aeth y tasglu i'r afael â'r sefyllfa frys yn ei gyfarfod yn gynharach yr wythnos hon, ac mae gwaith yn parhau ar faterion a gododd yn y cyfarfod hwnnw. Ein blaenoriaeth yw cael yr ymateb priodol gan Gymdeithas y Plant. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn profi ei dyletswydd foisol i blant a phobl ifanc Cymru. Ni ddylem adael iddi ddianc yn ddiagosb. Caf deimlad o'r Cynulliad mai dyna ddylai fod y neges allweddol. Mae'r Cynulliad yn bwerus, yr ydym yn siarad dros bobl Cymru. Rhaid gwneud hynny'n glir i Gymdeithas y Plant a'i hymddiriedolwyr. Bydd trafodaeth heddiw yn ychwanegu at y pwysau hynny. Yr wyf yn

them, and I am also writing to the Children's Society, along with the Archbishop of Wales, in my capacity as Minister for Health and Social Services and the Minister responsible for children and young people. That is a powerful representation and I expect a response and an obligation. We are behind this taskforce in terms of proceeding with this issue.

I turn to earlier comments about concern for the children and young people who currently receive these services. Many have been badly let down in the adult world. Anne Williams from Children's Society Cymru is aware of the need to communicate with them and to reassure them. I urge the society and the taskforce to do everything it can to listen to their concerns and to keep them informed. That will happen because of the commitment of the Children Society's staff in Wales. Of course, much remains to be done in a short time. You are right to stress the urgency of the situation, Karen. We made a positive start at the first meeting of the taskforce. It will have an intensive work programme over the coming days and weeks. I remain committed to finding a way to continue these vital services for disadvantaged children and communities in Wales.

I thank the Assembly for its support. We can unite to support our children and young people in the Assembly to ensure that the Church in Wales, voluntary organisations and local authorities preserve, keep and enhance these important services for children and young people in Wales.

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

aros am ymateb ganddi, ac yr wyf hefyd yn ysgrifennu at Gymdeithas y Plant, ynghyd ag Archesgob Cymru, yn rhinwedd fy swydd fel Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r Gweinidog yn gyfrifol am blant a phobl ifanc. Mae hynny'n gynrychioliad pwerus a disgwyliaf ymateb ac ymrwymiad. Yr ydym yn cefnogi'r tasglu hwn i'r carn o ran symud ymlaen â'r mater hwn.

Trof at fy sylwadau cynharaf ynglŷn â phryder am y plant a'r bobl ifanc sy'n derbyn y gwasanaethau hyn ar hyn o bryd. Mae nifer wedi eu siomi'n fawr ym myd yr oedolion. Mae Anne Williams o Gymdeithas y Plant Cymru yn ymwybodol o'r angen i gyfathrebu â hwy ac i dawelu eu meddyliau. Anogaf y gymdeithas a'r tasglu i wneud popeth o fewn eu gallu i wrando ar eu pryderon ac i roi'r newyddion diweddaraf iddynt. Bydd hynny'n digwydd oherwydd ymroddiad staff Cymdeithas y Plant yng Nghymru. Wrth gwrs, mae llawer ar ôl i'w wneud mewn amser byr. Yr ydych yn iawn i bwysleisio nartur frys y sefyllfa, Karen. Yr ydym wedi dechrau'n gadarnhaol yng nghyfarfod cyntaf y tasglu. Bydd ganddo raglen waith ddwys dros y diwrnodau nesaf a'r wythnosau nesaf. Yr wyf yn parhau'n ymroddedig i ddod o hyd i ffordd i barhau â'r gwasanaethau hanfodol hyn ar gyfer y plant a'r cymunedau hyn dan anfantaes yng Nghymru.

Diolchaf i'r Cynulliad am ei gefnogaeth. Gallwn uno i gefnogi ein plant a'n pobl ifanc yn y Cynulliad i sicrhau bod yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, sefydliadau gwirfoddol ac awdurdodau lleol yn cadw ac yn ehangu'r gwasanaethau pwysig hyn i blant a phobl ifanc Cymru.

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

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 12.22 p.m.

The session ended at 12.22 p.m.