



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Y Cofnod Swyddogol)**

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

In the left-hand column, the proceedings are recorded in the language in which they were spoken in the Chamber. In the right-hand column, a translation of those speeches has been included.

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

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

Y Llywydd: Mae cwestiwn 1 (OAQ36223), cwestiwn 2 (OAQ36227) a chwestiwn 4 (OAQ36239) wedi'u tynnu yn ôl. Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 3 (OAQ36324) i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

The Presiding Officer: Question 1 (OAQ36223), question 2 (OAQ36227) and question 4 (OAQ36239) have been withdrawn. Question 3 (OAQ36324) has been transferred for written answer.

Y Grant Tai Cymdeithasol The Social Housing Grant

Q5 Janet Ryder: Will the Minister make a statement on the social housing grant? (OAQ36322)

C5 Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ynghylch y grant tai cymdeithasol? (OAQ36322)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): The social housing grant budget is making a valuable contribution to the provision of affordable housing in Wales, which includes housing for rent and assisted ownership. I am concerned about how the social housing grant programme is delivered and I have asked officials to report on ways to promote more effective delivery of the programme.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Mae cyllideb y grant tai cymdeithasol yn gwneud cyfraniad gwerthfawr i ddarparu tai fforddiadwy yng Nghymru, sy'n cynnwys tai i'w rhentu a pherchenogaeth a gynorthwyr. Pryderaf ynglŷn â sut y mae rhaglen y grant tai cymdeithasol yn cael ei rhoi ar waith ac yr wyf wedi gofyn i swyddogion nodi ffyrdd o sicrhau y caiff y rhaglen ei rhoi ar waith yn wyf effeithiol.

Janet Ryder: I know that you are aware that it is sometimes difficult for counties, or for housing associations through the counties, to use up their annual allocation of social housing grant. There may be problems with projects, which lead to delayed starts. As you are considering the delivery of the social housing programme, will you look at a system where parts of the budget could be rolled over, if the project were certain to go ahead but circumstances had prevented it starting within the time period? Doing so would allow councils and housing associations more flexibility in completing their programmes.

Janet Ryder: Gwn eich bod yn ymwybodol ei bod weithiau'n anodd i siroedd, neu i gymdeithasau tai drwy'r siroedd, ddefnyddio eu dyraniad blynyddol o'r grant tai cymdeithasol. Efallai fod problemau gyda phrosiectau, sy'n arwain at oedi cyn dechrau. Gan eich bod yn ystyried y ffordd y darperir y rhaglen tai cymdeithasol, a ystyriwch system lle y gallai rhannau o'r gyllideb gael eu cario ymlaen, pe bai sicrwydd bod y prosiect yn mynd yn ei flaen ond bod amgylchiadau wedi ei atal rhag dechrau o fewn y cyfnod penodedig? Byddai gwneud hynny yn rhoi mwy o hyblygrwydd i gynghorau a chymdeithasau tai wrth gwblhau eu rhaglenni.

Edwina Hart: I am open to any suggestion about the future development of the social housing programme. It would benefit from a detailed analysis and the consideration of different methods of delivery.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn barod i wrando ar unrhyw awgrym ynghylch datblygiad y rhaglen tai cymdeithasol yn y dyfodol. Byddai'n elwa ar ddadansoddiad manwl ac ar ystyriaeth o ffyrdd gwahanol o'i rhoi ar

waith.

Laura Anne Jones: The social housing grant is meant to support the provision of accommodation linked to projects for the treatment of substance misuse. The number of care homes treating substance misuse patients has halved in recent years. It is clear, Minister, that there is a growing need for more places for the rehabilitation of drug users. These care homes at present are only allowed up to 16 places. We are being far too prescriptive. Why is there no built-in flexibility, as there is in England? Should not care homes with substance misuse provision be allowed to expand if they so wish?

Laura Anne Jones: Diben y grant tai cymdeithasol yw cefnogi'r llety sy'n gysylltiedig â phrosiectau ar gyfer trin pobl sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau. Mae nifer y cartrefi gofal sy'n trin cleifion sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau wedi haneru dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae'n amlwg, Weinidog, fod angen cynyddol am fwy o leoedd i adsefydlu defnyddwyr cyffuriau. Dim ond hyd at 16 o leoedd a ganiateir ar gyfer y cartrefi gofal hyn ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym yn rhy gyfyngol o lawer wrth bennu niferoedd. Pam nad yw'r grant yn caniatáu hyblygrwydd, fel sy'n digwydd yn Lloegr? Oni ddylid caniatáu i gartrefi gofal â darpariaeth ar gyfer pobl sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau ehangu os dymunant?

Edwina Hart: It is important that we have the service we require in terms of the delivery of outcomes with regard to substance misuse. I will look into the points that you have raised.

Edwina Hart: Mae'n bwysig bod gennym y gwasanaeth sydd ei angen arnom o ran cyflawni mewn perthynas â chamddefnyddio sylweddau. Ystyriaf y pwyntiau a godwyd gennych.

Peter Black: Given the historic underspends and problems with spending the social housing grant on a year-on-year basis, have you looked at how we could make use of the grant to supplement the provision given to local authorities to deal with homeless people and whether any specific projects could be funded from the social housing grant?

Peter Black: O gofio'r tanwariant hanesyddol a'r problemau sy'n gysylltiedig â gwario'r grant tai cymdeithasol o flwyddyn i flwyddyn, a ydych wedi ystyried sut y gallem ddefnyddio'r grant i ategu'r cyllid a roddir i awdurdodau lleol ddelio â phobl ddigartref ac a allai unrhyw brosiectau penodol gael eu hariannu o'r grant tai cymdeithasol?

Edwina Hart: I am currently reviewing these areas with my officials. I hope to report back in the autumn about how I will deal with the social housing grant in the future, taking on board any innovative suggestions.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wrthi'n adolygu'r meysydd hyn gyda'm swyddogion. Gobeithiaf gyflwyno adroddiad yn yr hydref ar sut y byddaf yn defnyddio'r grant tai cymdeithasol yn y dyfodol, gan ystyried unrhyw awgrymiadau arloesol.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am fod mor barod ers tro i wrando ar sut y gallwn wella'r drefn ym maes tai cymdeithasol, fel bod rhagor o bobl ifanc yn gallu elwa drwy brynu neu rentu tŷ am bris teg. Mae'r Gweinidog yn gwybod bod yr adran yn edrych ar godi'r nenfwd ar gyfer prynu tai drwy gynllun hawl i brynu. Byddai hynny'n rhyddhau mwy o arian i ragor o bobl ifanc fynd i mewn i'r sector, sydd, oherwydd y codiadau sylweddol diweddar mewn prisiau tai, yn beth anodd i'w wneud. Gan fod y Gweinidog yn fodlon

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I thank the Minister for being so willing, for some time, to listen to how we can improve arrangements for social housing, so that more young people are able to either buy or rent a house at an affordable cost. The Minister knows that the department is considering raising the ceiling for house purchases under the right-to-buy scheme. That would release more money to enable more young people to gain access to the sector following the recent substantial increases in house prices. As the Minister is

edrych ar hynny, a all ddweud wrthym heddiw pryd y gwnaiff gyhoeddiad am hyn?

prepared to consider that, can she tell us today when she will make an announcement on this?

Edwina Hart: Much detailed work needs to be done on this. I am looking at social housing grant distribution with an open mind. I may replace the form of distribution with a bidding process that is based on Assembly priorities. There is a need to look at the issue of affordable housing and what bids people make. I will be doing a lot of detailed work during the summer months with officials. I hope to have a paper ready for the committee by the beginning of September.

Edwina Hart: Mae angen gwneud llawer o waith manwl ar hyn. Yr wyf yn edrych ar ddsbarthiad y grant tai cymdeithasol gyda meddwl agored. Efallai y cyfnewidiaf y broses ddsbarthu â phroses o wneud cynnig a fydd yn seiliedig ar flaenoriaethau'r Cynulliad. Mae angen edrych ar fater tai fforddiadwy a pha gynigion y mae pobl yn eu gwneud. Byddaf yn gwneud llawer o waith manwl dros fisoedd yr haf gyda swyddogion. Gobeithiaf y bydd papur yn barod i'r pwyllgor erbyn dechrau Medi.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 6 (OAQ36224) i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

The Presiding Officer: Question 6 (OAQ36224) has been transferred for written answer.

Y Comisiwn Digartrefedd The Homelessness Commission

Q7 Gwenda Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on what on-going influence the report of the homelessness commission is having on policy development? (OAQ36311)

C7 Gwenda Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ba fath o ddylanwad parhaus y mae adroddiad y comisiwn digartrefedd yn ei gael ar y gwaith o ddatblygu polisi? (OAQ36311)

Edwina Hart: I reported to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee on the 31 March on progress in taking forward the homelessness commission's report. The work of the commission provided the foundation for the national homelessness strategy, and the committee report provided an overview of how the strategy is implemented and reviewed. Therefore, the homelessness commission has an ongoing influence on our work.

Edwina Hart: Cyflwynais adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ar 31 Mawrth ar y cynnydd a wnaed wrth weithredu ar sail adroddiad y comisiwn digartrefedd. Bu gwaith y comisiwn yn sail i'r strategaeth genedlaethol ar ddigartrefedd, a rhoddodd adroddiad y pwyllgor drosolwg o'r modd y caiff y strategaeth ei gweithredu a'i hadolygu. Felly, mae gan y comisiwn digartrefedd ddylanwad parhaus ar ein gwaith.

Gwenda Thomas: Can you confirm that when a review of the homelessness strategy is produced by the Welsh Assembly Government later this year, continuing ring-fenced funding will be made available so that we can ensure the quality of services, including support services, and that the nature of the allocated accommodation best meets the needs of the most socially excluded, particularly 16 and 17-year-olds?

Gwenda Thomas: A allwch gadarnhau, pan gaiff adolygiad o'r strategaeth ar ddigartrefedd ei gynhyrchu gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ddiweddarach eleni, y bydd cyllid wedi ei glustnodi ar gael o hyd fel y gallwn sicrhau ansawdd gwasanaethau, gan gynnwys gwasanaethau cymorth, ac y bydd natur y llety a neilltuir yn diwallu anghenion y rhai sydd wedi eu hallgáu fwyaf, yn arbennig pobl ifanc 16 ac 17 mlwydd oed?

Edwina Hart: It is important that we identify funding for the most vulnerable groups, and I

Edwina Hart: Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn canfod cyllid ar gyfer y grwpiau sydd mwyaf

hope that I can continue to do that in the policies that I develop within the strategy.

David Lloyd: Mae 6,000 o blant yn ddigartref yng Nghymru, yn ôl adroddiad gan Shelter Cymru. Beth a wnewch chi i ymateb i hynny?

Edwina Hart: One of the most worrying aspects of this is the impact of homelessness on children, for whatever reason it occurs. It is important that we consider what resources are available across our portfolios, and how we can clarify policy to ensure that children are not homeless for a long time. We have made tackling homelessness a priority, and it is incumbent upon me to ensure that the necessary funding is available through the budget to ensure that the most vulnerable children are protected.

David Melding: Do you agree that young adults who have been in care at some point in their lives are particularly vulnerable, and that any homeless strategy must get to grips with such people? With effective supported tenancies, those young people can do well, but often they are in inappropriate housing, the situation breaks down and then they are on the street and prey to all sort of influences.

Edwina Hart: I concur with your remarks. We are talking here about a very vulnerable group of people. If we can get the housing strategy right for them, so that they are supported, they can then go on to manage their own homes. We need to recognise that there may be other issues in terms of how they can develop the skills to run their own homes, and it is important that we put all the support mechanisms in place. That is a priority in terms of what I want to identify in my budget.

agored i niwed, a gobeithiaf y gallaf barhau i wneud hynny yn y polisiâu a ddatblygaf fel rhan o'r strategaeth.

David Lloyd: There are 6,000 homeless children in Wales, according to a report by Shelter Cymru. What will you do to respond to that?

Edwina Hart: Un o'r agweddau mwyaf gofidus ar hyn yw effaith digartrefedd ar blant, am ba reswm bynnag y mae'n digwydd. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn ystyried pa adnoddau sydd ar gael ym mhob portffolio, a sut y gallwn wneud polisi yn fwy eglur er mwyn sicrhau nad yw plant yn ddigartref am amser hir. Mae mynd i'r afael â digartrefedd yn flaenoriaeth gennym, ac mae'n ddyletswydd arnaf i sicrhau bod y cyllid angenrheidiol ar gael drwy'r gyllideb i sicrhau y diogelir y plant sydd fwyaf agored i niwed.

David Melding: A gytunwch fod oedolion ifanc sydd wedi bod mewn gofal ar ryw adeg yn eu bywyd yn arbennig o agored i niwed, a bod yn rhaid i unrhyw strategaeth ar ddigartrefedd fynd i'r afael â phobl o'r fath? Gyda thenantiaethau effeithiol a gynorthwyr, gall y bobl ifanc hynny wneud yn dda, ond, yn aml, maent yn byw mewn tai anaddas, mae'r sefyllfa yn chwalu ac yna maent ar y stryd ac yn agored i bob math o ddylanwadau.

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf â'ch sylwadau. Yr ydym yn sôn yma am grŵp o bobl sy'n agored iawn i niwed. Os gallwn lwyddo i sicrhau'r strategaeth dai gywir iddynt hwy, fel y cânt eu cynnal, gallant fynd ymlaen wedyn i gynnal eu cartrefi eu hunain. Mae angen inni gydnabod y gall problemau eraill godi o ran sut y gallant ddatblygu'r sgiliau i gynnal eu cartrefi eu hunain, ac mae'n bwysig ein bod yn rhoi'r holl systemau cymorth ar waith. Mae hynny'n flaenoriaeth ymysg yr hyn yr wyf am ei nodi yn fy nghyllideb.

Annog Agweddau Cyfrifol at Alcohol Encouraging Responsible Attitudes towards Alcohol

Q8 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's approach to encouraging

C8 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ynghylch sut y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn mynd ati i annog

responsible attitudes towards alcohol?
(OAQ36328)

Edwina Hart: A key aim of our substance misuse strategy is to promote sensible drinking in the context of a healthy lifestyle. Each community safety partnership has addressed this important issue in its local substance misuse action plan, and we have been monitoring the delivery of these plans during this year.

Ann Jones: Increasingly, throughout Wales, we see 'buy one, get one free' offers on large cases of lager or alcopops, and some shops will sell alcohol to people who are definitely under the age of 18. That encourages binge drinking, the consequences of which, both for those who are drinking, and the community, are many and varied. What measures can the Assembly, with our partners, take to tighten up on these practices to ensure that our communities are returned to being a safe environment, and that those who want to enjoy a drink can do so safely?

Edwina Hart: The English harm reduction strategy includes many proposals that are in line with our thinking in the Assembly. Some of those proposals include working with licensees to encourage better enforcement of licensing laws, and improving information on safe drinking in pubs. There is a wider issue here to do with the advertising of alcohol, about which we are concerned across the Assembly. 'Happy hours' offers are also of concern to Members in terms of what is happening and what can be done to address it. With the new licensing laws coming in, it is important that licensing authorities take careful cognisance of the impact that anti-social behaviour as a result of drinking has on communities.

William Graham: Minister, you will be well aware that alcohol consumption is often linked to major international events, such as Euro 2004. I am sure that you will be concerned to learn that the South Wales Local Criminal Justice Board estimates that there will be 75,000 attacks on women by

agweddau cyfrifol at alcohol? (OAQ36328)

Edwina Hart: Un o nodau allweddol ein strategaeth ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau yw hyrwyddo yfed yn synhwyrol yng nghydestun ffordd o fyw iach. Mae pob partneriaeth diogelwch cymunedol wedi mynd i'r afael â'r mater pwysig hwn yn ei gynllun gweithredu lleol ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau, ac yr ydym wedi bod yn monitro'r modd y cyflwynir y cynlluniau hyn yn ystod y flwyddyn.

Ann Jones: Yn gynyddol, ledled Cymru, gwelwn gynigion am 'prynwch un, cewch un am ddim' ar gesys mawr o lager neu alcopops, ac mae rhai siopau yn gwerthu alcohol i bobl sy'n bendant o dan 18 oed. Mae hynny'n annog pyliau o oryfed, ac mae canlyniadau hynny, i'r rhai sy'n yfed ac i'r gymuned, yn niferus ac amrywiol. Pa gamau y gall y Cynulliad eu cymryd, gyda'n partneriaid, i dynhau'r arferion hyn er mwyn sicrhau bod ein cymunedau yn lleoedd diogel unwaith eto, ac y gall y rhai sydd am fwynhau diod wneud hynny'n ddiogel?

Edwina Hart: Mae'r strategaeth lleihau niwed yn Lloegr yn cynnwys llawer o gynigion sy'n cyd-fynd â'n meddylfryd ni yn y Cynulliad. Mae rhai o'r cynigion hynny yn cynnwys gweithio gyda thrwyddedigion i sicrhau bod deddfau trwyddedu yn cael eu gorfodi'n well, a gwella gwybodaeth am yfed yn ddiogel mewn tafarndai. Mae mater ehangach yma yn ymwneud â hysbysebu alcohol, ac mae hynny'n fater sydd o bryder i bawb yn y Cynulliad. Mae cynigion 'oriau hapus' hefyd yn achosi pryder i Aelodau o ran yr hyn sy'n digwydd a beth y gellir ei wneud i ymdrin ag ef. Gyda'r deddfau trwyddedu newydd, mae'n bwysig bod awdurdodau trwyddedu yn ystyried yn ofalus yr effaith a gaiff ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol ar gymunedau o ganlyniad i yfed.

William Graham: Weinidog, fe wyddoch fod yfed alcohol yn aml yn gysylltiedig â digwyddiadau rhyngwladol mawr, megis Euro 2004. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai diddordeb gennych wybod bod Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Troseddol Lleol De Cymru yn amcangyfrif y bydd 75,000 o ymosodiadau ar

their partners during this tournament, fuelled by increased alcohol consumption. What measures can we take to reduce the incidences of such attacks in future?

Edwina Hart: You have touched on the whole issue of domestic abuse, and I launched a refuge on behalf of the Black Association of Women Step Out in Newport today, which takes into account the difficulties that women experience in terms of domestic abuse resulting from alcohol. It is incumbent upon all politicians here to take a strong line publicly on these issues, but I think that there are issues in relation to international events—when bars are open, when bars are shut, and the level of policing—that must also be tackled.

2.10 p.m.

Janice Gregory: I know that you are aware of the good work undertaken by Brynawel House Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre in my constituency. Will you join me in congratulating Brynawel House on its latest project, Sober and Safe, in which it has joined forces with the Llanharan Drop-in Centre? Staff go out to schools and youth clubs to provide youngsters with good, solid information on the health problems and anti-social behaviour problems associated with alcohol abuse.

Edwina Hart: I am delighted with the initiatives undertaken across Wales, and particularly with the initiative undertaken at Brynawel House, which I had the privilege of visiting. It is important to take these key messages into schools. The health message is important; when you consider the impact of alcohol on the health service, you realise how difficult an issue this is. In relation to drunkenness, and other similar issues, we need only consider the impact on accident and emergency departments at weekends, and the level of abuse that health service workers have to put up with.

Owen John Thomas: Mae'r Llywodraeth yn San Steffan yn cyfleu dwy neges: y mae'n dweud ei bod yn pryderu bod mwy o bobl yn goryfed, ond ar yr un pryd yn trefnu i roi

ferched gan eu partneriaid yn ystod y gystadleuaeth hon, o ganlyniad i yfed mwy o alcohol. Pa gamau y gallwn eu cymryd i leihau nifer yr ymosodiadau o'r fath yn y dyfodol?

Edwina Hart: Yr ydych wedi cyffwrdd â phroblem gyfan camdriniaeth yn y cartref, a heddiw agorais loches ar ran y Black Association of Women Step Out yng Nghasnewydd, sy'n ystyried yr anawsterau y mae merched yn eu cael o ran camdriniaeth yn y cartref o ganlyniad i alcohol. Mae'n ddyletswydd ar bob gwleidydd yma i arddel safbwynt cryf yn gyhoeddus ar y materion hyn, ond credaf fod materion yn codi mewn perthynas â digwyddiadau rhyngwladol—pryd mae tafarndai ar agor, pryd mae tafarndai ar gau, a lefel y plismona—y mae'n rhaid mynd i'r afael â hwy hefyd.

Janice Gregory: Gwn eich bod yn ymwybodol o'r gwaith da sy'n cael ei wneud gan Ganolfan Adsefydlu Alcohol Tŷ Brynawel yn fy etholaeth. A ymunwch â mi i longyfarch Tŷ Brynawel ar ei brosiect diweddaraf, Sober and Safe, lle y mae wedi ymuno â Chanolfan Galw Heibio Llanharan? Mae staff yn mynd i ysgolion ac i glybiau ieuencid i roi gwybodaeth dda a chadarn i bobl ifanc am y problemau iechyd a'r ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol sy'n gysylltiedig â chamddefnyddio alcohol.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wrth fy modd gyda'r mentrau a gynhelir ledled Cymru, ac yn arbennig gyda'r fenter a gynhelir yn Nhŷ Brynawel, y cefais y fraint o ymweld ag ef. Mae'n bwysig cyflwyno'r negeseuon allweddol hyn mewn ysgolion. Mae'r neges iechyd yn bwysig; pan ystyriwch effaith alcohol ar y gwasanaeth iechyd, fe sylweddolwch pa mor anodd yw'r broblem hon. O ran meddwdod, a materion tebyg eraill, nid oes ond raid ystyried yr effaith ar adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys dros y penwythnos, a'r gamdriniaeth y mae'n rhaid i weithwyr y gwasanaeth iechyd ei dioddef.

Owen John Thomas: The Westminster Government is sending out two messages: it says that it is concerned that more people are drinking too much, but then it moves to allow

caniatâd i dafarndai agor am 24 awr y dydd. Golyga hynny fod landlordiaid yn wynebu mwy o gostau, a'r unig ffordd o'u talu yw drwy werthu mwy o ddiodydd. Beth y mae Llywodraeth San Steffan yn ei wneud?

Edwina Hart: I will not answer for the Westminster Government, but I will answer for the Welsh Assembly Government. I have made strong recommendations, via the Wales Office, on issues relating to how licensing will work under the new licensing laws, and what powers could exist. Within Wales, and with local government, I am exploring the consensus about how licensing laws should operate for the benefit of the public at large, not just those who want to drink a lot.

24-hour opening for public houses. This means that landlords face higher costs, that they will only be able to meet by selling more drinks. What is the Westminster Government doing?

Edwina Hart: Nid atebaf ar ran Llywodraeth San Steffan, ond atebaf ar ran Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Yr wyf wedi gwneud argymhellion cryf drwy Swyddfa Cymru, ar rai materion yn ymwneud â sut y bydd trwyddedu yn gweithio o dan y deddfau trwyddedu newydd, a pha bwerau a allai fodoli. Yng Nghymru, a chyda llywodraeth leol, yr wyf yn ymchwilio i'r consensws ynglŷn â sut y dylai deddfau trwyddedu ddod â budd i'r cyhoedd yn gyffredinol, nid yn unig i'r rhai sy'n yfed llawer.

Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy Communities First in Alyn and Deeside

Q9 Carl Sargeant: Will the Minister make a statement on Communities First in Alyn and Deeside? (OAQ36318)

Edwina Hart: The two Communities First areas in the Alyn and Deeside region in Flintshire are Higher Shotton and Holywell Neighbourhoods, which are sub-ward pockets of deprivation. Preparatory funding totalling more than £400,000 has been awarded to Higher Shotton and more than £800,000 to Holywell Neighbourhoods until March 2007. In December 2003, £215,000 was allocated to Higher Shotton to refurbish play areas and £35,000 to Holywell Neighbourhoods towards the cost of installing closed circuit television cameras. The Communities First Trust Fund has awarded nearly £17,000 to projects in Higher Shotton and more than £3,000 to Holywell Neighbourhoods.

Carl Sargeant: Will you join me in congratulating Lesley Hughes and her team, and the whole community, on successfully developing the Communities First area of Higher Shotton? One of the problems that the community recently faced when it sought to examine community housing good practice in other areas was that it received conflicting advice from the Assembly. In order to prevent this from happening again, what

C9 Carl Sargeant: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ynghylch Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy? (OAQ36318)

Edwina Hart: Y ddwy ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn rhanbarth Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy yn sir y Fflint yw Higher Shotton a Chymdogaethau Treffynnon, sydd yn is-wardiau lle y mae amddifadedd. Dyfarnwyd cyllid gwerth mwy na £400,000 o flaen llaw i Higher Shotton a mwy na £800,000 i Gymdogaethau Treffynnon tan fis Mawrth 2007. Ym mis Rhagfyr 2003, dyrannwyd £215,000 i Higher Shotton i adnewyddu ardaloedd chwarae a £35,000 i Gymdogaethau Treffynnon tuag at y gost o osod camerâu teledu cylch cyfyng. Dyfarnodd Cronfa Ymddiriedaeth Cymunedau yn Gyntaf tua £17,000 i brosiectau yn Higher Shotton a mwy na £3,000 i Gymdogaethau Treffynnon.

Carl Sargeant: A ymunwch â mi i longyfarch Lesley Hughes a'i thîm, a'r gymuned gyfan, ar ddatblygu ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf Higher Shotton yn llwyddiannus? Un o'r problemau a wynebodd y gymuned yn ddiweddar pan geisiodd archwilio arferion da o brosiectau tai cymunedol mewn ardaloedd eraill oedd ei bod wedi cael cyngor croes gan y Cynulliad. Er mwyn atal hyn rhag digwydd eto, pa

action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to standardise the advice and guidance that it issues to Communities First areas?

Edwina Hart: We are trying to standardise advice, and in the main, we give a good standard of advice. There are problems in the system as this is such a vast project. I will do everything that is possible to ensure that consistent advice is given across Communities First partnerships. The trouble is that you cannot legislate for individuals who might interpret a line in a document in a different way to that in which I would interpret it.

Mark Isherwood: As someone who argued publicly for the empowerment of communities to regenerate themselves in the constituency of Alyn and Deeside before Communities First was even announced, I recognise that only local people can deliver sustainable solutions. However, what strategies has the Minister put in place to manage change at local authority level so that this may be achieved? When will due priority be given to housing as the key vehicle to allow for sustainable community regeneration?

Edwina Hart: We already recognise that housing is key to sustainable delivery within communities. Local authorities are contributing fully to the development of the Communities First programme.

gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i safonu'r cyngor a'r canllawiau y mae'n eu rhoi i ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf?

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym yn ceisio safoni cyngor, ac ar y cyfan, rhown gyngor o safon dda. Mae problemau yn y system gan fod hwn yn brosiect mor enfawr. Gwnaf bopeth posibl i sicrhau y rhoddir cyngor cyson ar draws partneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Y drafferth yw na allwch ragweld y bydd unigolion yn dehongli llinell mewn dogfen yn wahanol i'r ffordd y byddwn i yn ei dehongli.

Mark Isherwood: Fel rhywun a ddadleuodd yn gyhoeddus am rymuso cymunedau i adfywio eu hunain yn etholaeth Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy cyn i'r rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf gael ei chyhoeddi hyd yn oed, cydnabyddaf mai dim ond pobl leol all ddarparu atebion cynaliadwy. Fodd bynnag, pa strategaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu rhoi ar waith i reoli newid ar lefel yr awdurdod lleol fel y gellir cyflawni hyn? Pryd y caiff y flaenoriaeth ddyledus ei rhoi i dai fel y cyfrwng allweddol i sicrhau adfywio cymunedol cynaliadwy?

Edwina Hart: Cydnabyddwn eisoes fod tai yn allweddol i adfywio cymunedau yn gynaliadwy. Mae awdurdodau lleol yn cyfrannu'n llawn at ddatblygiad y rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Y Sector Gwirfoddol The Voluntary Sector

Q10 David Melding: What meetings has the Minister had in connection with strengthening the voluntary sector in South Wales Central? (OAQ36233)

Edwina Hart: Since being appointed Minister with responsibility for the voluntary sector, I have met a wide range of voluntary organisations in different parts of Wales, including South Wales Central. I will continue to meet as many organisations as I can because I want a real and ongoing dialogue with the sector at all levels—I stress all levels: from big voluntary sector

C10 David Melding: Pa gyfarfodydd y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael mewn perthynas â chryfhau'r sector gwirfoddol yn ardal Canol De Cymru? (OAQ36233)

Edwina Hart: Ers gael fy mhenodi yn Weinidog â chyfrifoldeb dros y sector gwirfoddol, yr wyf wedi cyfarfod ag amrywiaeth eang o sefydliadau gwirfoddol mewn rhannau gwahanol o Gymru, gan gynnwys Canol De Cymru. Byddaf yn parhau i gyfarfod â chymaint o sefydliadau ag y gallaf oherwydd yr wyf am gynnal trafodaethau gwirioneddol a pharhaus gyda'r

organisations to small ones. I intend to ensure that the Assembly Government supports the needs of the voluntary sector.

David Melding: Do you agree that in community regeneration, the involvement of the voluntary sector is often key to engaging community groups? That is not just to designate the sort of projects that they want, but to deliver services sometimes to people who are in a vulnerable position, and respond to their needs.

Edwina Hart: I concur with you, David. We do not want to underestimate the contribution of the voluntary sector in the development of communities and the services that they deliver. The people involved are usually from that community, therefore they have an excellent understanding of the community's needs and what it requires, and how to deliver them.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 11 (OAQ36230) i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

sector ar bob lefel—pwysleisiaf ar bob lefel: o'r sefydliadau mawr yn y sector gwirfoddol i'r rhai bach. Bwriadaf sicrhau bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn diwallu anghenion y sector gwirfoddol.

David Melding: A gytunwch mai cynnwys y sector gwirfoddol yw'r allwedd yn aml i gynnwys grwpiau cymunedol o ran adfywio cymunedol? Ni wneir hynny er mwyn dynodi'r math o brosiectau a ddymunant yn unig, ond er mwyn darparu gwasanaethau weithiau i bobl sydd mewn sefyllfa ddiameddiffyn, ac ymateb i'w hanghenion.

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf â chi, David. Nid ydym am wneud yn fach o gyfraniad y sector gwirfoddol yn natblygiad cymunedau a'r gwasanaethau a ddarparant. Mae'r bobl sy'n gysylltiedig â hyn yn aml yn dod o'r gymuned honno, felly mae ganddynt ddealltwriaeth ragorol o anghenion y gymuned a'r hyn sydd ei angen arni, a sut i'w diwallu.

The Presiding Officer: Question 11 (OAQ36230) has been transferred for written answer.

Rhaglen Ailddyfeisio Swyddfa'r Post The Post Office Reinvention Programme

C12 Owen John Thomas: Sut y mae rhaglen ailddyfeisio Swyddfa'r Post wedi effeithio ar swyddfeydd post yn ardal Canol De Cymru? (OAQ36303)

Edwina Hart: To date, under the network reinvention programme, 17 post offices have either closed or are due to close in South Wales Central. A decision is still awaited on the future of one office. After consultation, one post office will remain open under the programme, and a brand new post office will open in Ynyshir, in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Owen John Thomas: Oes ffigurau gennyh am nifer y swyddfeydd post sydd yn dal ar agor ar ôl mabwysiadu'r rhaglen ailddyfeisio?

Edwin Hart: As the post office service is not a devolved matter I do not have readily available figures, but I can ask for this

Q12 Owen John Thomas: How has the Post Office reinvention programme affected post offices in the South Wales Central area? (OAQ36303)

Edwina Hart: Hyd yma, o dan y rhaglen ailddyfeisio'r rhwydwaith, mae 17 o swyddfeydd post naill ai wedi cau neu ar fin cau yng Nghanol De Cymru. Yr ydym yn aros am benderfyniad ar ddyfodol un swyddfa bost o hyd. Ar ôl ymgynghori, bydd un swyddfa bost yn aros ar agor o dan y rhaglen, a bydd swyddfa bost newydd yn agor yn Ynyshir, yn Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Owen John Thomas: Do you have any figures on the number of post offices that remain open after the adoption of the reinvention programme?

Edwina Hart: Gan nad yw'r gwasanaeth swyddfeydd post yn fater datganoledig, nid oes ffigurau wrth law gennyf, ond gallaf ofyn

information from the Post Office. If you write to me to ask for the figures, I will take it up with the Post Office.

Jonathan Morgan: From time to time, we hear complaints from Labour Assembly Members about the number of post offices in Wales, and particularly in South Wales Central, that have closed in recent months. Is this not rather hypocritical, considering that it is your party's policies in Westminster which are contributing to the closure of post offices, not only in South Wales Central, but across the nation?

Edwina Hart: I do not want you to talk about hypocrisy, because I do not think that politicians should comment on it. At the end of the day, the Welsh Assembly Government's policy has been to support post offices where we can, and put the necessary financial assistance in place, and we hope to continue to do so.

Buddsoddi mewn Adnewyddu Tai Investing in Housing Renewal

Q13 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Assembly Government is investing in housing renewal in Wales? (OAQ36327)

Edwina Hart: Our wide-ranging plans to improve housing in Wales are set out in our national housing strategy. We introduced a major repair allowance this year to assist local authorities to improve their housing stock, and increased the flexibility authorities have to target resources at the private sector housing.

Ann Jones: Housing renewal areas should be welcomed, and I welcome the announcement of the major repair allowances. An issue has arisen in my constituency, where a housing renewal area was established and it was subsequently discovered that an area further along the road, mistakenly assumed to be completely industrial, includes a residential property in need of repair. Without going into greater detail at this point, will you consider the scope for local authorities to make minor amendments to housing renewal areas where circumstances dictate, and where, if they had known about the properties, the boundaries

i Swyddfa'r Post am y wybodaeth hon. Os ysgrifennwch ataf i ofyn am y ffigurau, codaf y mater gyda Swyddfa'r Post.

Jonathan Morgan: O bryd i'w gilydd, clywn gwynion gan Aelodau Llafur y Cynulliad am nifer y swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru, ac yn arbennig yng Nghanol De Cymru, sydd wedi cau dros y misoedd diwethaf. Onid yw hyn braidd yn rhagrithiol, o gofio mai polisïau eich plaid chi yn San Steffan sy'n cyfrannu at gau swyddfeydd post, nid yn unig yng Nghanol De Cymru, ond ledled y wlad?

Edwina Hart: Peidiwch â siarad am ragrith, oherwydd ni chredaf y dylai gwleidyddion roi eu sylwadau ar hyn. Yn y pen draw, bu'n bolisi gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gefnogi swyddfeydd post lle y gallwn, a rhoi'r cymorth ariannol angenrheidiol ar waith, a gobeithiwn barhau i wneud hynny.

C13 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar sut y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn buddsoddi mewn adnewyddu tai yng Nghymru? (OAQ36327)

Edwina Hart: Nodir ein cynlluniau eang eu cwmpas i wella tai yng Nghymru yn ein strategaeth dai genedlaethol. Cyflwynasom lwfans atgyweiriadau mawr eleni i helpu awdurdodau lleol i wella eu stoc tai, a chynyddu'r hyblygrwydd sydd gan awdurdodau i dargedu adnoddau tuag at y tai yn y sector preifat.

Ann Jones: Dylid croesawu ardaloedd adnewyddu tai, a chroesawaf y cyhoeddiad am y lwfansau atgyweiriadau mawr. Mae mater wedi codi yn fy etholaeth i, lle y sefydlwyd ardal adnewyddu tai a chanfuwyd wedyn fod ardal ymhellach ar hyd y ffordd, y tybiwyd ar gam ei bod yn ardal hollol ddiwydiannol, yn cynnwys eiddo preswyl y mae angen ei atgyweirio. Heb fynd i fanylder mawr ar hyn o bryd, a ystyriwch ei gwneud yn bosibl i awdurdodau lleol wneud mân newidiadau i ardaloedd adnewyddu tai lle y mae amgylchiadau yn mynnu hynny, a lle, pe baent wedi gwybod am yr eiddo, y byddai'r

would have been drawn differently, so that residential properties can be protected?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for drawing this matter to my attention. I would be grateful if you would send me a note on the particular difficulties in your area. This is one of a number of issues that have arisen concerning housing renewal areas, and I will give it further consideration.

William Graham: In terms of rural housing, the homebuy scheme has not been the great success that we hoped for. Can you suggest methods of reinventing it?

Edwina Hart: It has been a success in the areas in which it operates, and for the individuals who have taken up the option. However, there is an issue concerning rural housing, and I am taking this forward in my review of what we are doing on housing, on which I will report to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee in September. Any useful suggestions would be gratefully received.

Mick Bates: One of the difficulties with the homebuy scheme is that the budget is held in the social housing grant line, and there is, therefore, competition between the homebuy budget and the budget for social housing. Will you give a commitment to create a fresh budget line for homebuy, which would then not take money away from housing renewal in the private or rented sector?

Edwina Hart: I am reviewing my major expenditure group and my budget lines to see if I can provide greater transparency, so I will give it some consideration.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr ydych wedi crybwyll yn eich atebion fod problem o ran tai fforddiadwy, yn arbennig mewn ardaloedd gwledig. A ydych yn derbyn bod hawl pobl i gael mynediad at dai yn eu cymunedau eu hunain yn fater o gyfiawnder cymdeithasol?

Edwina Hart: Yes, but it is not only a problem in rural areas—you only need to look at Cardiff and the surrounding area to find people who are unable to get onto the

ffiniau wedi cael eu tynnu'n wahanol, er mwyn diogelu eiddo preswyl?

Edwina Hart: Diolch ichi am dynnu fy sylw at y mater hwn. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe baech yn anfon nodyn ataf ynglŷn â'r anawsterau penodol yn eich ardal chi. Mae hwn yn un o nifer o faterion sydd wedi codi o ran ardaloedd adnewyddu tai, a rhoddaf ystyriaeth bellach iddo.

William Graham: O ran tai gwledig, ni fu'r cynllun prynu cartref mor llwyddiannus ag yr oeddem wedi gobeithio y byddai. A allwch awgrymu dulliau o'i ailddyfeisio?

Edwina Hart: Bu'n llwyddiant yn yr ardaloedd y mae'n gweithredu ynddynt, ac i'r unigolion sydd wedi dewis yr opsiwn. Fodd bynnag, mae problem o ran tai gwledig, ac yr wyf yn gweithredu ar hynny yn fy adolygiad o'r hyn a wnawn o ran tai, a byddaf yn cyflwyno adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ar hyn ym mis Medi. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar i dderbyn unrhyw awgrymiadau defnyddiol.

Mick Bates: Un o anawsterau'r cynllun prynu cartref yw bod y gyllideb yn cael ei chadw yn y llinell grant tai cymdeithasol, ac, felly, mae cystadleuaeth rhwng y gyllideb prynu cartref a'r gyllideb ar gyfer tai cymdeithasol. A wnewch ymrwymo i greu llinell cyllideb newydd ar gyfer y cynllun cymorth prynu cartref, na fyddai wedyn yn mynd ag arian o'r system adnewyddu tai yn y sector preifat neu'r sector rhentu?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn adolygu fy mhrif grŵp gwariant a'm llinellau cyllideb i weld a allaf sicrhau mwy o dryloywder, felly gwnaf ei ystyried.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: You have mentioned in your answers that there is a problem with regard to affordable housing, especially in rural areas. Do you accept that it is a matter of social justice that people should have the right to access housing within their communities?

Edwina Hart: Ydw, ond nid problem mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn unig ydyw—nid oes ond rhaid edrych ar Gaerdydd a'r ardal gyfagos i ddod o hyd i bobl na allant fforddio

housing ladder. It is important that people can live where they want to live. We must apply more lateral thinking in terms of the planning system to determine what counts as social housing. We must also get rid of nimbyism if we are to tackle the problem.

prynu cartref. Mae'n bwysig bod pobl yn gallu byw lle y maent am fyw. Rhaid inni feddwl yn fwy ochrol o ran y system gynllunio er mwyn penderfynu beth sy'n cyfrif fel tai cymdeithasol. Rhaid inni hefyd gael gwared ar feddylfryd y 'NIMBY' os bwriadwn fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon

2.20 p.m.

Troseddau yn erbyn Busnes Business Crime

Jeff Cuthbert: Point of order. Before I ask my question, would you point out to the relevant officials that my constituency is Caerphilly, and not Delyn, as shown in the published list of questions?

Jeff Cuthbert: Pwynt o drefn. Cyn imi ofyn fy nghwestiwn, a wnewch chi ddatgan i'r swyddogion perthnasol mai Caerffili yw fy etholaeth i, ac nid Delyn, fel y dangosir yn y rhestr gyhoedddeg o gwestiynau?

The Presiding Officer: I am pleased to say that I have noted that point and was about to hand over the list of questions to my colleagues to set the matter straight. I would not like you to think that the people of Caerphilly were deprived of your representation.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud fy mod wedi nodi'r pwynt hwnnw ac yr oeddwn ar fin trosglwyddo'r rhestr o gwestiynau i'm swyddogion i unioni'r mater. Nid wyf am ichi feddwl bod pobl Caerffili yn cael eu hamddifadu o'ch cynrychiolaeth.

Q14 Jeff Cuthbert: What measures is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to deal with the issue of business crime? (OAQ36232)

C14 Jeff Cuthbert: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i fynd i'r afael â throseddau yn erbyn busnesau? (OAQ36232)

Edwina Hart: I am committed to tackling business crime as part of the Welsh Assembly Government's overarching commitment to building safer communities. A business crime adviser joined the community safety unit in January 2004 on secondment from South Wales Police. He is currently laying the foundations for better understanding of business crime and developing ways to reduce it.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn ymrwymedig i fynd i'r afael â throseddau yn erbyn busnesau fel rhan o ymrwymiad cyffredinol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i adeiladu cymunedau mwy diogel. Ymunodd cynghorydd troseddau yn erbyn busnes â'r uned diogelwch cymunedol ym mis Ionawr 2004 ar secondiad o Heddlu De Cymru. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n gosod y sylfeini ar gyfer deall troseddau yn erbyn busnesau yn well a datblygu ffyrdd o'u lleihau.

Jeff Cuthbert: Would you join me in welcoming the appointment of the business crime adviser, and do you agree that it is important for businesses to co-operate fully and provide support and co-operation to maximise the effectiveness of the newly-appointed business crime adviser so that best practice can be shared across Wales?

Jeff Cuthbert: A ymunech â mi i groesawu penodiad y cynghorydd troseddau yn erbyn busnesau, ac a gytunwch ei bod yn bwysig i fusnesau gydweithredu'n llawn a rhoi cymorth a chydweithrediad i sicrhau bod y cynghorydd troseddau yn erbyn busnesau sydd newydd ei benodi yn gweithio mor effeithiol â phosibl fel y gellir rhannu arfer gorau ledled Cymru?

Edwina Hart: It is important, and I agree

Edwina Hart: Mae'n bwysig, a chytunaf â

with you that it is a good appointment. He will be able to foster a closer link between the community safety partnership and the business community, which has not always been good in certain areas. He can also promote best practice in relation to retail crime and the reduction of violence against staff in particular, which I know is a big issue from my involvement in the Union of Shops, Distributive and Allied Workers' campaign last year to highlight staff who are attacked in retail premises. Also, he can help to draw up a proper business crime strategy to address the problems of retail crime, which impacts not only on the person serving in the retail outlet, but also the customers who happen to be there at the time.

chi ei fod yn benodiad da. Bydd yn gallu meithrin cysylltiad agosach rhwng y bartneriaeth diogelwch cymunedol a'r gymuned fusnes, na fu'n dda bob amser mewn rhai ardaloedd penodol. Gall hefyd hyrwyddo arfer gorau mewn perthynas â throseddau manwerthu a lleihau trais yn erbyn staff yn arbennig, sydd yn broblem fawr mi wn, o'm hymwneud ag ymgyrch Undeb y Gweithwyr Siopau, Dosbarthu a Gweithwyr Cysylltiedig y llynedd i dynnu sylw at staff yr ymosodir arnynt mewn safleoedd manwerthu. Hefyd, gall helpu i lunio strategaeth troseddau yn erbyn busnesau briodol i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau troseddau manwerthu, sy'n effeithio nid yn unig ar y person sy'n gwasanaethu yn y siop, ond ar y cwsmeriaid hefyd sy'n digwydd bod yno ar y pryd.

Adfywio Trefi yn y Canolbarth The Regeneration of Towns in Mid Wales

Q15 The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): What action is the Minister taking to promote the regeneration of towns in mid Wales? (OAQ36220)

Edwina Hart: Following the review of the local authority's non-matched local regeneration fund, I launched the physical regeneration fund earlier this year. Town centre regeneration is one of its priority themes. Successful town centres in rural and built-up areas are focal points, used by all members of the community.

Nick Bourne: Will you look at particular problems relating to towns in mid Wales, of which I know you are aware? There are particular problems, not just of town centres, but also of affordable housing. Also, there is the matter of tackling the drugs issue in mid Wales, which I know you are sympathetic to and which is sometimes forgotten by some agencies, although not by you, Minister. It is a problem throughout Wales, but particularly in some towns in mid Wales.

Edwina Hart: Officials, through the Assembly's regeneration unit, have had talks with rural authorities, including Powys, about the physical regeneration fund to ensure that

C15 Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i hybu'r broses o adfywio trefi yn y Canolbarth? (OAQ36220)

Edwina Hart: Yn dilyn adolygiad o gronfa adfywio lleol yr awdurdod lleol heb arian cyfatebol, lansiais y gronfa adfywio ffisegol yn gynharach eleni. Adfywio canol trefi yw un o'i themâu blaenoriaethol. Mae canol trefi llwyddiannus mewn ardaloedd gwledig ac adeiledig yn fannau canolog, a ddefnyddir gan bob aelod o'r gymuned.

Nick Bourne: A edrychwch ar broblemau penodol sy'n ymwneud â threfi yn y Canolbarth, y gwn eich bod yn ymwybodol ohonynt? Mae problemau penodol, nid o ran canol trefi yn unig, ond o ran tai fforddiadwy hefyd. Hefyd, mae'r mater o fynd i'r afael â'r broblem cyffuriau yn y Canolbarth, sef rhywbeth yr ydych yn ymwybodol ohono ac y mae rhai asiantaethau, ond nid chi, Weinidog, yn anghofio amdano weithiau. Mae'n broblem ledled Cymru, ond yn arbennig mewn rhai trefi yn y Canolbarth.

Edwina Hart: Mae swyddogion, drwy uned adfywio'r Cynulliad, wedi cael trafodaethau gydag awdurdodau gwledig, gan gynnwys Powys, yn glŷn â'r gronfa adfywio ffisegol i

they have the opportunity to access it. You will appreciate that it is a competitive fund, but I want to ensure that rural authorities know that this fund is for them as well as for urban authorities.

On the matter of drugs, I am always concerned that the emphasis tends to be on south Wales or parts of north Wales. It is important that our policies, and the money to implement them, also impact on rural Wales, particularly Powys.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Minister. You have reached the end of your list. However, I must point out that a number of questions were withdrawn because some colleagues are actively involved in joint working on legislative scrutiny in Westminster today.

sicrhau bod y cyfle ganddynt i'w defnyddio. Byddwch yn gwerthfawrogi bod hon yn gronfa gystadleuol, ond yr wyf am sicrhau bod awdurdodau gwledig yn gwybod bod y gronfa hon ar eu cyfer hwy yn ogystal ag awdurdodau trefol.

O ran cyffuriau, pryderaf bob amser bod y pwyslais yn tueddu i fod ar y De neu rannau o'r Gogledd. Mae'n bwysig bod ein polisiau, a'r arian i'w gweithredu, hefyd yn effeithio ar Gymru wledig, yn arbennig Powys.

Y Llywydd: Diolch ichi, Weinidog. Yr ydych wedi cyrraedd diwedd eich rhestr. Fodd bynnag, rhaid imi ddwyn eich sylw at y ffaith i nifer o gwestiynau gael eu tynnu'n ôl am fod rhai cyd-Aelodau yn rhan o'r cydweithio ar graffu deddfwriaethol yn San Steffan heddiw.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport

Arian Cyfatebol i Awdurdodau Lleol Match Funding to Local Authorities

Q1 Janet Ryder: Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of match funding to local authorities? (OAQ36275)

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): Local authorities obtain match funding for their projects from a variety of public and, sometimes, private sources. These include the local regeneration fund pot of last resort. I am pleased to place on record the fact that authorities claimed £17.838 million of the £33.588 million local regeneration fund budget available to them in 2003-04. This amounts to an underspend of nearly £15 million, or 45 per cent of the total allocation. I have made available up to £10 million in addition to the existing £33.588 million local regeneration fund budget in 2004-05, should this be required.

Janet Ryder: Would you not accept that the low take-up of grant in priority 3 of the Objective 1 areas is a result of the lack of match funding available to them?

C1 Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar yr arian cyfatebol sydd ar gael i Awdurdodau Lleol? (OAQ36275)

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Mae awdurdodau lleol yn cael arian cyfatebol ar gyfer eu prosiectau o amrywiaeth o ffynonellau cyhoeddus ac weithiau, preifat. Yn eu plith mae arian y gronfa adfywio lleol ar gael pan fetho popeth arall. Yr wyf yn falch o gofnodi'r ffaith i awdurdodau hawlio £17.838 miliwn o'r £33.588 miliwn o gyllideb y gronfa adfywio lleol a oedd ar gael iddynt yn 2003-04. Mae hyn yn gyfystyr â thanwariant o bron £15 miliwn, neu 45 y cant o gyfanswm y dyraniad. Yr wyf wedi rhyddhau hyd at £10 miliwn yn ychwanegol at £33.588 miliwn yng nghyllideb y gronfa adfywio lleol yn 2004-05, pe bai angen hynny.

Janet Ryder: Oni fyddech yn derbyn mai'r rheswm pam na fanteisiodd llawer ar y grant ym mlaenoriaeth 3 ardaloedd Amcan 1 yw am nad oedd arian cyfatebol ar gael iddynt?

Andrew Davies: I know that Plaid Cymru Members always find it intellectually challenging to divert from their script—*[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister is answering the question.

Andrew Davies: I have just pointed out that local authorities in Wales have underspent by £15 million. That is 45 per cent of the total allocation. There is no shortage of match funding. The money is there and, clearly, many local authorities have failed to spend their allocation.

Huw Lewis: Would you agree that it is worth underlining the fact that this underspend is at the heart of the problem. I understand that the figures show that Rhondda Cynon Taf, with its outgoing Plaid Cymru administration, is the biggest offender, with a £3.5 million underspend, which means that that authority alone is responsible for 23 per cent of the problem. Do you agree that we should let nothing stand in our way when it comes to regenerating these communities, particularly, to my mind, those in the heads of the Valleys area, and that these local authorities must take a long, hard look at the way in which they are operating this system?

Andrew Davies: The voters on 10 June made their decision about the competence of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. Clearly, its management—*[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order. I will not take additional supplementary questions from anyone.

Andrew Davies: Clearly its management of the Objective 1 programme and the biggest underspend of any local authority in Wales—23 per cent of the total underspend, as you pointed out, Huw—is significant. I remember the opposition parties constantly telling me earlier this year that there was a problem with match funding. I said at the time that there was no such problem. Clearly, the problem is not the alleged lack of match funding; it is the inability of our stakeholders, particularly many local authorities, to spend their

Andrew Davies: Gwn ei bod yn her ddeallusol bob amser i Aelodau Plaid Cymru wyro oddi wrth eu sgript—*[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r Gweinidog yn ateb y cwestiwn.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf newydd nodi bod awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru wedi tanwario o £15 miliwn. Mae hynny'n 45 y cant o gyfanswm y dyraniad. Nid oes prinder arian cyfatebol. Mae'r arian yno ac, yn amlwg, mae llawer o awdurdodau lleol wedi methu â gwario eu dyraniad.

Huw Lewis: A gytunech ei bod yn werth tanlinellu'r ffaith bod y tanwariant hwn wrth wraidd y broblem. Deallaf fod y ffigurau'n dangos mai Rhondda Cynon Taf, gyda gweinyddiaeth ymadawol Plaid Cymru, yw'r un sydd wedi tramgwyddo fwyaf, gyda thanwariant o £3.5 miliwn, sy'n golygu mai'r awdurdod hwnnw ar ei ben ei hun sy'n gyfrifol am 23 y cant o'r broblem. A gytunwch na ddylem adael i unrhyw beth ein rhwystro pan ddaw yn fater o adfywio'r cymunedau hyn, yn enwedig, yn fy marn i, y rhai yn ardal blaenau'r Cymoedd, a bod yn rhaid i'r awdurdodau lleol hyn edrych yn feiriadol iawn ar y ffordd y maent yn gweithredu'r system hon?

Andrew Davies: Gwnaeth y pleidleiswyr ar 10 Mehefin eu penderfyniad hwy ynglŷn â chymhwyster Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf. Yn amlwg, mae'r ffordd y rheolodd—*[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni dderbyniaf unrhyw gwestiynau atodol ychwanegol oddi wrth neb.

Andrew Davies: Yn amlwg, mae'r ffordd y rheolodd raglen Amcan 1 a'r tanwariant mwyaf gan unrhyw awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru—23 y cant o gyfanswm y tanwariant, fel y nodwyd gennych, Huw—yn arwyddocaol. Cofiaf y gwrthbleidiau yn dweud wrthyf yn gyson yn gynharach eleni bod problem gydag arian cyfatebol. Dywedais ar y pryd nad oedd problem o'r fath. Yn amlwg, nid y diffyg arian cyfatebol honedig yw'r broblem; anallu ein rhanddeiliaid, yn arbennig llawer o

allocations. As a prudent Minister, I cannot allow significant underspending on that scale when I have priorities, particularly in some of the poorest communities in Wales. I will be drawing lessons from this, and I will come forward with recommendations on how the money can be spent much more strategically in terms of our priorities as a Government.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): I would not want to be accused of sexing up this story, but will you comment on the letter that I received from the policy and research manager of the Caerphilly local partnership? We must remember that the local partnership is not the local authority. He says that the partnership has had to cope with too many unanticipated changes, which have had a severe impact on its plans in Caerphilly. In summary, the programme will be smaller, the partnership has slowed down and abandoned development of some projects, it is not bringing forward new projects, some projects have been developed but do not have match funding at present, and it will need to switch its development projects so that it has a smaller number of projects, because of the measures that you are introducing. Is the local partnership—not the local authority—in Caerphilly, which is trying to bring forward partnerships to generate jobs in Caerphilly, wrong?

Andrew Davies: I am saying that this is not a one-off problem. There has been a total underspend of over £50 million of indicative allocations by local authorities since the start of the local regeneration fund programme. That is not an annual blip; it is a long-term, underlying problem, and, as Minister, I am determined to sort it out.

Michael German: If you intend to sort the problem out, perhaps you would like to give Caerphilly some money back so that it can get on with developing projects that are now being abandoned. Is it not the case that your report to the Economic Development and Transport Committee stated that you have a problem finding sufficient match funding and that you were moving it from one pot to another over which you have more control, rather than the local authorities—whose

awdurdodau lleol, i wario eu dyfarniadau yw'r broblem. Fel Gweinidog doeth, ni allaf ganiatáu unrhyw danwariant syweddol ar y raddfa honno pan fo blaenoriaethau gennyf, yn arbennig yn rhai o gymunedau tlotaf Cymru. Byddaf yn dysgu gwersi o hyn ac yn cyflwyno argymhellion ar sut y gellir gwario'r arian yn llawer mwy strategol o ran ein blaenoriaethau fel Llywodraeth.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Ni fyddwn am gael fy nghyhuddo o orliwio'r stori hon, ond a wnewch chi roi eich sylwadau ar y llythyr a gefais gan reolwr polisi ac ymchwil partneriaeth leol Caerffili? Rhaid inni gofio nad yr awdurdod lleol yw'r bartneriaeth leol. Dywed fod y bartneriaeth wedi gorfod ymdopi â llawer gormod o newidiadau nas rhagwelwyd, sydd wedi cael effaith ddifrifol ar ei chynlluniau yng Nghaerffili. I grynhoi, bydd y rhaglen yn llai, mae'r bartneriaeth wedi arafu ac wedi rhoi'r gorau i ddatblygu rhai o'r prosiectau, nid yw'n cyflwyno prosiectau newydd, mae rhai prosiectau wedi eu datblygu ond nid oes ganddynt arian cyfatebol ar hyn o bryd, a bydd angen iddi newid ei phrosiectau datblygu fel bod ganddi nifer lai o brosiectau, oherwydd y mesurau yr ydych yn eu cyflwyno. A yw'r bartneriaeth leol—nid yr awdurdod lleol—yng Nghaerffili, sy'n ceisio datblygu partneriaethau i gynhyrchu swyddi yng Nghaerffili, ar fai.

Andrew Davies: Dweud yr wyf nad problem yw hon sy'n codi unwaith yn unig. Bu cyfanswm o dros £50 miliwn o danwariant o ddyraniadau dynodol gan awdurdodau lleol ers dechrau rhaglen y gronfa adfywio lleol. Nid problem flynyddol yw hon; mae'n broblem hirdymor, sylfaenol ac yr wyf fi, fel Gweinidog, yn benderfynol o'i datrys.

Michael German: Os bwriadwch ddatrys y broblem, efallai yr hoffech chi roi peth o'r arian yn ôl i Gaerffili fel y gall fynd ati i ddatblygu prosiectau y rhoddir y gorau iddynt yn awr. Onid yw'n wir i'ch adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth nodi eich bod yn cael anhawster i ddod o hyd i ddigon o arian cyfatebol a'ch bod yn symud yr arian o un gronfa i'r llall, dros ba rai y mae gennych fwy o reolaeth, yn hytrach na gadael i awdurdodau lleol—yr ydych yn mynd â'u

powers you are currently taking away—having democratic control over it? Is it not the case that you have plugged the gap and stopped the rot, which has been caused by central organisations taking the money and not using it properly?

pwerau oddi wrthynt—eu rheoli'n ddemocrataidd? Onid yw'n wir eich bod wedi llenwi'r bwlch ac wedi atal y dirywiad, a achoswyd gan sefydliadau canolog yn mynd â'r arian ac yn methu â'i ddefnyddio'n briodol?

Andrew Davies: Come back to the point, Mike. I have just pointed out that, over the last few years, there has been a total underspend of over £50 million. That is not my responsibility; it is a matter for local authorities which have failed to deliver on their obligations and responsibilities in terms of Objective 1. This is a major underspend, and neither I, nor any other Minister, can afford to allow such significant resources to go unused and unallocated. I will come forward with measures on how to deal with it.

Andrew Davies: Dewch yn ôl at y pwynt, Mike. Yr wyf newydd nodi y bu cyfanswm o £50 miliwn o danwariant dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf. Nid fy nghyfrifoldeb i yw hynny; mater i'r awdurdodau lleol sydd wedi methu â chyflawni eu rhwymedigaethau a'u cyfrifoldebau o ran Amcan 1 ydyw. Mae hwn yn danwariant sylweddol, ac nid wyf fi, nac unrhyw Weinidog arall, yn gallu fforddio caniatáu i'r fath adnoddau sylweddol beidio â chael eu defnyddio a'u dyrannu. Cyflwynaf fesurau ar sut i ddelio â hyn.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 2 (OAQ36278) a chwestiwn 3 (OAQ36291) yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Question 2 (OAQ36278) and question 3 (OAQ36291) have been withdrawn.

2.30 p.m.

Grant Buddsoddi'r Cynulliad Assembly Investment Grant

Q4 Denise Idris Jones: Would the Minister make a statement on the take-up of Assembly investment grant in Conwy? (OAQ36258)

C4 Denise Idris-Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar nifer y busnesau sydd wedi cael grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad yng Nghonwy? (OAQ36258)

Andrew Davies: Since we launched the AIG scheme in April 2002, 26 Assembly investment grants, with a total value of almost £850,000, have been offered to businesses undertaking capital investment projects in Conwy. These projects are expected to lever in £2.4 million of private investment and to create or maintain over 200 jobs.

Andrew Davies: Ers inni lansio cynllun grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad ym mis Ebrill 2002, cynigiwyd 26 o grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, gyda chyfanswm gwerth bron £850,000, i fusnesau sy'n ymgymryd â phrosiectau buddsoddi cyfalaf yng Nghonwy. Disgwylir i'r prosiectau hyn arwain at £2.4 miliwn o fuddsoddiad preifat a chreu neu gynnal dros 200 o swyddi.

Denise Idris Jones: Will you join me in applauding the success of the Assembly investment grant, which has resulted in over £1 million worth of grant being provided for small and medium-sized enterprises in Conwy and which, together with regional selective assistance and Objective 1, has resulted in a 43 per cent fall in unemployment in Conwy since 1999?

Denise Idris Jones: A ymunwch â mi i ganmol llwyddiant grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, sydd wedi arwain at grantiau gwerth mwy nag £1 filiwn ar gyfer busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint yng Nghonwy ac sydd, ynghyd â chymorth dewisol rhanbarthol ac Amcan 1, wedi arwain at ostyngiad o 43 y cant yn y gyfradd ddiweithdra yng Nghonwy ers 1999?

Andrew Davies: I was not able to hear that question because of noise from opposition Members.

The Presiding Officer: In that case, I ask Denise Idris Jones to ask her supplementary question again.

Denise Idris Jones: Will you join me in applauding the success of the Assembly investment grant, which has resulted in over £1 million worth of grant being provided for small and medium-sized enterprises in Conwy and which, together with regional selective assistance and Objective 1, has resulted in a 43 per cent fall in unemployment in Conwy since 1999?

Andrew Davies: The Assembly investment grant and the related RSA grant, as we were able to demonstrate last week in Plenary, has been a phenomenal success in Wales and has made a major contribution, as you said, to the dramatic fall in unemployment. We now have an unemployment rate equal to or just below—depending on the measure that is taken—that for the UK as a whole. I know, from visiting Llandudno earlier this year and Conwy industrial estates and their business units, that small businesses throughout Wales welcome the focused, targeted support that they receive from the Assembly Government and Team Wales.

Brynle Williams: I have been looking at the Assembly investment grants in Wales over the last few years, and I was concerned to read that some companies are waiting far longer than the 20 working days in which companies should receive a decision. What safeguards have you put in place to ensure that decisions are made as soon as practicably possible, and that no companies suffer as a result of the Assembly's delays?

Andrew Davies: If you could write to me with specific examples, I will follow them up. That has not been the experience of most companies in Wales, which find that the streamlined AIG application process is helpful. However, I know that there were problems at one stage, because of the sheer

Andrew Davies: Nid oeddwn yn gallu clywed y cwestiwn hwnnw oherwydd y sŵn o gyfeiriad Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau.

Y Llywydd: Os felly, gofynnaf i Denise Idris Jones ofyn ei chwestiwn atodol eto.

Denise Idris Jones: A ymunwch â mi i ganmol llwyddiant grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, sydd wedi arwain at grantiau gwerth mwy nag £1 filiwn ar gyfer busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint yng Nghonwy ac sydd, ynghyd â chymorth dewisol rhanbarthol ac Amcan 1, wedi arwain at ostyngiad o 43 y cant yn y gyfradd ddiweithdra yng Nghonwy ers 1999?

Andrew Davies: Mae grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad a'r grant RSA cysylltiedig, fel y dangoswyd gennym yr wythnos diwethaf yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, wedi bod yn llwyddiant aruthrol yng Nghymru ac wedi gwneud cyfraniad mawr, fel y dywedasoeh, tuag at ostwng y gyfradd ddiweithdra'n sylweddol. Mae gennym gyfradd ddiweithdra yn awr sy'n cyfateb i'r gyfradd ar gyfer y DU gyfan neu ychydig o dan y gyfradd honno—yn dibynnu ar y mesur a gymerir. Gwn, ar ôl ymweld â Llandudno yn gynharach eleni ac ystadau diwydiannol Conwy a'u hunedau busnes, fod busnesau bach ledled Cymru yn croesawu'r cymorth penodol wedi ei dargedu a gânt gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a Thîm Cymru.

Brynle Williams: Bûm yn edrych ar grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad yng Nghymru dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, ac yr oeddwn yn pryderu i ddarllen bod rhai cwmnïau yn aros llawer hwy na'r 20 diwrnod gwaith y dylai cwmnïau aros i gael penderfyniad. Pa gamau diogelu sydd ar waith gennych i sicrhau y gwneir penderfyniadau mor gyflym ag sy'n ymarferol bosibl, ac nad oes unrhyw gwmnïau yn dioddef o ganlyniad i oedi'r Cynulliad?

Andrew Davies: Os ysgrifennwch ataf gydag enghreifftiau penodol, gwnaf ymchwilio iddynt. Nid hynny fu profiad y mwyafrif o gwmnïau yng Nghymru, y mae'r broses gwneud cais symlach am grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad o gymorth iddynt. Fodd bynnag, gwn i nifer fawr o broblemau godi ar un adeg,

volume of applications, and we had to reallocate staff to deal with the additional demand—we are the victim of our own successful scheme. However, if you write to me with specific examples, I will follow them up.

oherwydd nifer fawr y ceisiadau, a bu'n rhaid inni ailddosbarthu staff i ddelio â'r galw ychwanegol—llwyddiant ein cynllun sy'n achosi'r problemau hyn inni. Fodd bynnag, os ysgrifennwch ataf gydag enghreifftiau penodol, gwnaf ymchwilio iddynt.

Busnesau Bach Small Business

Q5 Mick Bates: What is the Minister doing to encourage and develop small business in Wales? (OAQ36289)

C5 Mick Bates: Beth y mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i annog a datblygu busnesau bach yng Nghymru? (OAQ36289)

Andrew Davies: As well as providing regional selective assistance and Assembly investment grants, the Welsh Assembly Government supports and funds several initiatives to encourage and develop small businesses. Many of these are delivered by Assembly sponsored public bodies and range from general to specialist support to meet the needs of the various sectors. Access to, and information on, all these services is available through Business Eye, the new WDA-managed service.

Andrew Davies: Yn ogystal â rhoi cymorth dewisol rhanbarthol a grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cefnogi ac yn ariannu sawl menter i annog a datblygu busnesau bach. Darperir llawer o'r rhain gan gyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, ac maent yn amrywio o gymorth cyffredinol i arbenigol i ddiwallu anghenion y sectorau amrywiol. Gellir manteisio ar y gwasanaethau hyn i gyd a chael gwybodaeth amdanynt drwy Llygad Busnes, y gwasanaeth newydd a reolir gan y WDA.

Mick Bates: Much of what you mention is successful. However, many small businesses in rural Wales are involved with activities such as pony trekking, canoeing and so on. Those businesses are currently under threat from the massive increase in employer and public liability premiums. Will you undertake to survey these businesses? Their profit margins are often low, and these increases make them unprofitable. This threatens the existence of many businesses in rural Wales. Will you undertake to investigate this and lobby these companies to ensure that they charge reasonable rates?

Mick Bates: Mae llawer o'r hyn a nodir gennych yn llwyddiannus. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o fusnesau bach yng Nghymru wledig yn gysylltiedig â gweithgareddau megis merlota, canŵio ac yn y blaen. Mae'r busnesau hyn o dan fygythiad ar hyn o bryd yn sgîl y cynnydd enfawr mewn premiymau cyflogwyr ac atebolrwydd cyhoeddus. A wnewch chi addo cynnal arolwg o'r busnesau hyn? Mae eu meintiau elw yn aml yn fach, ac mae'r codiadau hyn yn golygu na wnânt elw. Mae hyn yn bygwth bodolaeth llawer o fusnesau yng Nghymru wledig. A wnewch chi addo ymchwilio i hyn a lobio'r cwmnïau hyn i sicrhau eu bod yn codi cyfraddau rhesymol?

Andrew Davies: As you say, this is a problem for activity-based holiday companies. I visited Dan-yr-Ogof caves last week, and the owner, Ashford Price, made the point forcibly that public liability insurance premiums have had a major impact on his business. That is true for a range of activity holidays and visitor attractions. I have discussed this with my ministerial

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedwch, mae hyn yn broblem i gwmnïau gwyliau gweithgareddau. Ymwelais ag ogofâu Dan-yr-Ogof yr wythnos diwethaf, a phwysleisiodd y perchennog, Ashford Price, fod premiymau yswiriant atebolrwydd cyhoeddus wedi cael effaith fawr ar ei fusnes. Mae hynny'n wir am amrywiaeth o wyliau gweithgaredd ac atyniadau i ymwelwyr. Yr

colleague, Alun Pugh, and I will ask the Wales Tourist Board to see what we can do in terms of helping particular companies to maybe shop around for different insurance policies. However, we stand ready to consider any other measure that we can to help companies that have been faced with this steep rise in insurance premiums.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: The Minister will be aware that, in the wake of recent problems, a partnership has been established to regenerate the economy of Anglesey. One way in which it believes that the economy can be revived is by supporting small businesses. The Minister is aware that there is a highly ambitious target within that regeneration package of increasing the island's gross domestic product per capita from 64 per cent of the UK average to 72 per cent by 2015. Does the Minister acknowledge that, in order to achieve that target, the regeneration partnership will require substantial additional financial support from the Welsh Assembly Government?

Andrew Davies: As Ieuan knows, I have made many visits to the island. I have had many meetings there with Ieuan, and I have held meetings at the Assembly with him and other stakeholders, particularly the local authority. We remain committed to increasing prosperity and employment in all parts of Wales, particularly in Anglesey. One of the problems with using GDP per capita as an indicator is that a high proportion of the population of Anglesey is retired and that artificially depresses the GDP per capita figure for the island. Despite that caveat, we remain committed, as I said earlier, to increasing prosperity and employment in Anglesey as in every other part of Wales.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I remind the Minister that when particular problems affected the industrial parts of Wales in relation to the demise of the coal and steel industries, the Government quite rightly put together substantial financial packages to help the communities affected to recover. The Minister is aware that Anglesey faces particular structural problems. Many highly paid manufacturing jobs have been lost: Great

wyf wedi trafod hyn gyda'm cyd-Weinidog, Alun Pugh, a gofynnaf i Fwrdd Croeso Cymru weld beth y gallwn ei wneud i helpu cwmnïau penodol i chwilio am y polisiau yswiriant gorau. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn barod i ystyried unrhyw fesur arall i helpu cwmnïau sydd wedi wynebu'r cynnydd sydyn hwn mewn premiymau yswiriant.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol bod partneriaeth wedi ei sefydlu, yn sgîl problemau diweddar, i adfywio economi Ynys Môn. Un ffordd y cred y gellir adfywio'r economi yw drwy roi cymorth i fusnesau bach. Gŵyr y Gweinidog fod targed uchelgeisiol iawn o fewn y pecyn adfywio hwnnw o gynyddu cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen yr ynys o 64 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU i 72 y cant erbyn 2015. A yw'r Gweinidog yn cydnabod y bydd angen i'r bartneriaeth adfywio gael cymorth ariannol ychwanegol sylweddol gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru er mwyn cyrraedd y targed hwnnw?

Andrew Davies: Fel y gŵyr Ieuan, yr wyf wedi ymweld â'r ynys sawl gwaith. Yr wyf wedi cael sawl cyfarfod yno gyda Ieuan, ac yr wyf wedi cynnal cyfarfodydd yn y Cynulliad gydag ef a rhanddeiliaid eraill, yn arbennig yr awdurdod lleol. Parhawn i fod yn ymrwymedig i gynyddu ffyniant a chyflogaeth ym mhob rhan o Gymru, yn arbennig ar Ynys Môn. Un o broblemau defnyddio CMC y pen fel dangosydd yw bod cyfran uchel o'r boblogaeth yn Ynys Môn wedi ymddeol ac mae hynny'n peri gostyngiad yn ffigur CMC y pen ar gyfer yr ynys. Er gwaetha'r cafeat hwnnw, parhawn i fod yn ymrwymedig, fel y dywedais yn gynharach, i gynyddu ffyniant a chyflogaeth ar Ynys Môn fel ym mhob rhan arall o Gymru.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Atgoffaf y Gweinidog o'r adeg pan effeithiodd problemau penodol ar rannau diwydiannol Cymru mewn perthynas â thranc y diwydiannau glo a dur, ac aeth y Llywodraeth ati i lunio pecynnau ariannol sylweddol er mwyn helpu i adfer y cymunedau yr effeithiwyd arnynt a hynny'n ddigon teg. Gŵyr y Gweinidog fod Ynys Môn yn wynebu problemau strwythurol penodol. Collwyd llawer o swyddi

Lakes Chemical Corporation has closed and Wylfa nuclear power station, where there are currently 400 highly paid, high-quality jobs, will close by 2010. It is asking a great deal of the local partnership to deal with this situation on its own. Will the Minister consider providing a financial package so that the rural community can feel that it is as important as the industrial areas of Wales?

Andrew Davies: I deny that different parts of Wales are treated differently. I would never describe Cardigan or Fishguard as urban areas, and we have supported regeneration there. Through my budget, I have funded the development of a north Wales economic development strategy and, as you know, I take a keen interest in what happens in Anglesey. Regarding the Great Lakes Chemical Corporation, which you mentioned, I have already made the commitment that the repayment of RSA will be invested directly back into communities in Amlwch. I will always consider any proposals that come forward from any part of Wales. However, they must always be balanced against existing resources and priorities.

Nick Bourne: A particular problem in rural Wales, and particularly in Powys, is that jobs are lost to Objective 1 areas. I strongly support the Objective 1 programme, as the Minister knows, but it will not increase the net wealth of Wales if jobs move from one part of the country to another. Can anything be done to address that particular problem? If so, will the Minister take action on that, and, if not, will he consider this issue?

Andrew Davies: I am not aware that jobs are being moved from non-Objective 1 areas to Objective 1 areas. I was in Powys last week visiting an Objective 2 funded programme, Objective 3 programmes and an intermediate labour market project on an industrial estate outside Brecon. If you have any evidence that jobs are being transferred, I will consider it. However, I am not aware of any such problem. Powys has one of the lowest, if not the lowest, unemployment rates in Wales. As I said to Ieuan, I do not take the view that one

gweithgynhyrchu â chyflogau uchel: mae Great Lakes Chemical Corporation wedi cau a bydd gorsaf ynni niwclear yr Wylfa, lle y cyflogir 400 o bobl ar hyn o bryd mewn swyddi da â chyflogau uchel, yn cau erbyn 2010. Mae disgwyl i'r bartneriaeth leol ddelio â'r sefyllfa hon ar ei phen ei hun yn gofyn llawer. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ystyried darparu pecyn ariannol fel y gall y gymuned wledig deimlo ei bod mor bwysig ag ardaloedd diwydiannol Cymru?

Andrew Davies: Gwadaf fod rhannau gwahanol o Gymru yn cael eu trin yn wahanol. Ni fyddwn byth yn disgrifio Aberteifi neu Abergwaun fel ardaloedd trefol, ac yr ydym wedi cefnogi adfywio yno. Drwy fy nghyllideb, yr wyf wedi ariannu datblygiad strategaeth datblygu economaidd y Gogledd, ac, fel y gwyddoch, cymeraf ddi-ddordeb brwd yn yr hyn sy'n digwydd ar Ynys Môn. O ran y Great Lakes Chemical Corporation, a grybwyllasoch, yr wyf eisoes wedi addo y caiff yr ad-daliad RSA ei ailfuddsoddi'n uniongyrchol mewn cymunedau yn Amlwch. Byddaf bob amser yn ystyried unrhyw gynigion a gyflwynir o unrhyw ran o Gymru. Fodd bynnag, rhaid eu pwysu a'u mesur yn erbyn adnoddau a blaenoriaethau presennol bob tro.

Nick Bourne: Problem benodol yng Nghymru wledig, ac yn arbennig ym Mhowys, yw y collir swyddi i ardaloedd Amcan 1. Cefnogaf raglen Amcan 1 yn gryf, fel y gwyr y Gweinidog, ond ni fydd yn cynyddu gwir gyfoeth Cymru os symudir swyddi o un rhan o'r wlad i ran arall. A ellir gwneud rhywbeth i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem benodol honno? Os y gellir, a wnaiff y Gweinidog weithredu ar hynny, ac os na ellir, a wnaiff ystyried y broblem hon?

Andrew Davies: Ni wn am swyddi sy'n cael eu symud o ardaloedd nad ydynt yn rhan o Amcan 1 i ardaloedd Amcan 1. Yr oeddwn ym Mhowys yr wythnos diwethaf yn ymweld â rhaglen a ariannwyd gan Amcan 2, rhaglenni Amcan 3 a phrosiect marchnad lafur canolradd ar ystad ddiwydiannol ar gyrion Aberhonddu. Os oes gennych unrhyw dystiolaeth fod swyddi'n cael eu trosglwyddo, gwnaf ei hystyried. Fodd bynnag, ni wn am unrhyw broblem o'r fath. Mae gan Bowys un o'r cyfraddau diweithdra

part of Wales needs greater emphasis than any other: the regeneration needs of all communities need attention. Levels of economic inactivity are higher in some areas, particularly in the Heads of the Valleys area along the A465, and such areas may need special measures. If there are particular concerns in Powys or any other part of Wales, raise them with me and I will consider them.

isaf, os nad yr isaf, yng Nghymru. Fel y dywedais wrth Ieuan, ni chredaf fod angen canolbwyntio mwy ar un rhan o Gymru na rhan arall: mae angen talu sylw i anghenion adfywio pob cymuned. Mae lefelau anweithgarwch economaidd yn uwch mewn rhai ardaloedd, yn arbennig yn ardal Blaenau'r Cymoedd, ar hyd ffordd yr A465, ac efallai fod angen mesurau arbennig ar ardaloedd o'r fath. Os oes unrhyw bryderon penodol ym Mhowys neu unrhyw ran arall o Gymru, codwch hwy gyda mi a gwnaf eu hystyried.

2.40 p.m.

Nick Bourne: I will do that. Perhaps the Minister would be willing to meet me, Powys officials and the people in the towns concerned, if I could arrange a meeting to discuss the general issue of small businesses because, as the Minister is aware, job losses in small businesses impact heavily on small towns in mid Wales. I am thinking particularly of Mid Wales Yarns in Llandrindod Wells. Therefore, if the Minister is willing, I will set up a meeting to consider this issue as well as others relating to small businesses in the small towns of Powys.

Nick Bourne: Gwnaf hynny. Efallai y byddai'r Gweinidog yn fodlon cyfarfod â mi, swyddogion Powys a phobl yn y trefi dan sylw, pe bawn yn gallu trefnu cyfarfod i drafod mater cyffredinol busnesau bach oherwydd, fel y gŵyr y Gweinidog, mae colli swyddi mewn busnesau bach yn effeithio'n drwm ar drefi bach yn y Canolbarth. Yr wyf yn meddwl yn benodol am Mid Wales Yarns yn Llandrindod. Felly, os yw'r Gweinidog yn fodlon, trefnaf gyfarfod i ystyried y mater hwn yn ogystal â materion eraill yn ymwneud â busnesau bach yn nhrefi bach Powys.

Andrew Davies: I met the director of economic development last week during my visit to the Objective 2 funded Brecon visitor centre project and, as I said, the intermediate labour market project just outside Brecon. Mick Bates is not in the Chamber, but he will know that I spoke to BT, for example—sorry, Mick is in the Chamber—in order to bring broadband services to Llanidloes following the demise of KTH (Wales) Ltd. My record speaks for itself and shows that I am willing to respond to the needs of individual communities. As I said, I am more than happy to meet you and other stakeholders to discuss the issue.

Andrew Davies: Cyfarfûm â chyfarwyddwr datblygu economaidd yr wythnos diwethaf yn ystod fy ymweliad â phrosiect canolfan ymwelwyr Aberhonddu a ariannwyd gan Amcan 2 ac, fel y dywedais, y prosiect marchnad lafur canolradd ar gyrion Aberhonddu. Nid yw Mick Bates yn y Siambr, ond fe ŵyr imi siarad â BT, er enghraifft—mae'n ddrwg gennyf, mae Mick yn y Siambr—er mwyn dod â gwasanaethau band eang i Lanidloes yn dilyn tranc KTH (Wales) Cyf. Mae fy record yn siarad drosti ei hun ac yn dangos fy mod yn fodlon ymateb i anghenion cymunedau unigol. Fel y dywedais, yr wyf yn fwy na bodlon cyfarfod â chi a rhanddeiliaid eraill i drafod y mater.

Grantiau Cymorth Rhanbarthol Dewisol Regional Selective Assistance Grants

Q6 Janice Gregory: Would the Minister give a progress update on regional selective assistance grants and their impact on the economy of Wales? (OAQ36287)

C6 Janice Gregory: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r diweddaraf am hynt y grantiau cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol a'u heffaith ar economi Cymru? (OAQ36287)

Andrew Davies: Since July 1999, the Assembly Government has offered 934 RSA grants worth £540 million for capital investment projects that are expected to lever in almost £2.5 billion of private-sector investment and create or safeguard nearly 65,000 jobs. The RSA refocusing, which I announced and which we discussed last week in Plenary, will build on this huge achievement.

Janice Gregory: That is good news. This morning, I had the pleasure, along with the First Minister, of attending the official opening ceremony of Irvin-GQ's Llangeinor factory in the Garw valley in my constituency. The company, supported by an RSA grant from the Assembly Government, is a major player in the local economy, particularly as this valley has seen many job losses in the past. Will you join me in welcoming Irvin-GQ's commitment to the local economy, particularly as it is doubling its workforce in the Valleys? Will you give a commitment that the Assembly Government will continue to support companies in the Valleys and thus dispel the myth that RSA grants are too heavily concentrated along the M4 corridor and in north-east Wales?

Andrew Davies: I am more than happy to give that commitment. Team Wales has worked closely with Irvin-GQ over many years, and the First Minister has been involved with the company previously. I am delighted at today's announcement, particularly as Llangeinor is a Communities First area. We have demonstrated our commitment to the Valleys, and I am aware that other manufacturers located in other valleys in your constituency have benefited from RSA. I am sure that many Members who represent Valleys constituencies would say that local companies have been supported by Assembly Government financial investment.

David Lloyd: Wrth ichi gyhoeddi y byddai RSA yn cael ei ailffocysu, bu ichi ddweud y byddai'r cymorth yn cael ei dargedu at brosiectau o ansawdd. Beth yw eich diffiniad o brosiect o ansawdd?

Andrew Davies: As I said during last week's

Andrew Davies: Ers Gorffennaf 1999, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cynnig 934 o grantiau RSA gwerth £540 miliwn ar gyfer prosiectau buddsoddi cyfalaf y disgwylir iddynt arwain at bron £2.5 biliwn o fuddsoddiad gan y sector preifat a chreu neu ddiogelu bron 65,000 o swyddi. Bydd y newid yn ffocws RSA, a gyhoeddais ac a drafodwyd gennym yr wythnos diwethaf yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, yn adeiladu ar y cyflawniad enfawr hwn.

Janice Gregory: Mae hynny'n newyddion da. Y bore yma, cefais y ffrain, ynghyd â'r Prif Weinidog, o fynychu seremoni agoriadol swyddogol ffatri Irvin-GQ yn Llangeinor yng nghwm Garw yn fy etholaeth. Mae'r cwmni, gyda chymorth grant RSA gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, yn chwarae rhan fawr yn yr economi leol, yn arbennig gan fod y cwm hwn wedi colli llawer o swyddi yn y gorffennol. A ymunwch â mi i groesawu ymrwymiad Irvin-GQ i'r economi leol, yn arbennig gan ei fod yn dyblu ei weithlu yn y Cymoedd? A wnewch ymrwymiad y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn parhau i gefnogi cwmnïau yn y Cymoedd a chwalu'r gred fod gormod o grantiau RSA yn cael eu rhoi i gwmnïau ar hyd coridor yr M4 ac yn y Gogledd-ddwyrain?

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn fwy na bodlon rhoi'r ymrwymiad hwnnw. Mae Tim Cymru wedi gweithio'n agos gydag Irvin-GQ dros lawer o flynyddoedd, ac mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi bod yn gysylltiedig â'r cwmni o'r blaen. Yr wyf wrth fy modd gyda chyhoeddiad heddiw, yn arbennig am fod Llangeinor yn ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Yr ydym wedi dangos ein hymrwymiad i'r Cymoedd, ac yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod gweithgynhyrchwyr eraill mewn cymoedd eraill yn eich etholaeth wedi elwa ar RSA. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai llawer o Aelodau eraill sy'n cynrychioli etholaethau'r Cymoedd yn dweud bod buddsoddiad ariannol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cefnogi cwmnïau lleol.

David Lloyd: On announcing that RSA was to be refocused, you said that funding would be targeted towards quality projects. What is your definition of a quality project?

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais yn ystod

debate, there is an increasing need for us to focus on higher-value-added jobs, goods and services. RSA has been focused largely on job creation and, as I said in answer to an earlier question, now that we have narrowed, or eliminated, the employment gap between Wales and the rest of the UK, the emphasis will be on higher-value-added jobs. Therefore, emphasis will be placed on, for example, innovation, on higher-paid jobs, with salary levels being taken into account, training, management skills and the other criteria that I discussed on announcing the refocusing. This is the thrust of the refocusing exercise.

Irene James: Will you join me in welcoming Seda UK's decision to develop a new manufacturing facility at Blackwood in my constituency, creating 190 jobs with the support of regional selective assistance? Would you agree that this announcement demonstrates confidence in the Welsh economy and workforce?

Andrew Davies: I very much agree with you. I recently made the announcement about LogicaCMG bringing over 700 jobs to Bridgend; many other manufacturers are also bringing jobs here. They are investing in Wales not only because of the financial and logistical support that they get from Team Wales, but they also remarked that the quality of the Welsh workforce singles us out. That is a huge asset for us to convey to the rest of the world. I am delighted that Seda UK has invested and given its vote of confidence in Wales as a place to do business and to expand.

David Davies: You will be aware that one company is undermining this good policy because of its failure to pay bills to a number of employees around the country. I am sure that you know to which company I refer—I will not name it here. What steps are you taking to ensure that this company, which has just received even more public money, will pay the money that it owes its employees, who worked hard to secure its success?

Andrew Davies: You said that you did not want to name the company, but if it is the one that I assume you are referring to, then it has

dadl yr wythnos diwethaf, mae angen cynyddol inni ganolbwyntio ar swyddi, nwyddau a gwasanaethau ag iddynt fwy o werth ychwanegol. Mae RSA wedi canolbwyntio'n bennaf ar greu swyddi ac, fel y dywedais mewn ateb i gwestiwn yn gynharach, gan ein bod bellach wedi cau neu ddileu'r bwlch cyflogaeth rhwng Cymru a gweddill y DU, bydd y pwyslais ar swyddi ag iddynt fwy o werth ychwanegol. Felly, rhoddir pwyslais, er enghraifft, ar arloesedd, ar swyddi â chyflog uwch, gan ystyried lefelau cyflogau, hyfforddiant, sgiliau rheoli a'r meini prawf eraill a drafodais wrth gyhoeddi'r penderfyniad i newid ffocws. Dyma hanfod y newid ffocws.

Irene James: A ymunwch â mi i groesawu penderfyniad Seda UK i ddatblygu cyfleuster gweithgynhyrchu newydd yn y Coed Duon yn fy etholaeth, gan greu 190 o swyddi gyda chymorth rhanbarthol dewisol? A gytunech fod y cyhoeddiad hwn yn cyfleu hyder yn economi a gweithlu Cymru?

Andrew Davies: Cytunaf yn llwyr â chi. Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddais y byddai LogicaCMG yn dod â mwy na 700 o swyddi i Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr; mae llawer o weithgynhyrchwyr eraill hefyd yn dod â swyddi yma. Maent yn buddsoddi yng Nghymru nid yn unig oherwydd y cymorth ariannol a logistaidd a gânt gan Dîm Cymru, ond cyfeiriwyd hefyd at y ffaith bod ansawdd gweithlu Cymru yn gwneud iddynt ein dewis ni. Mae hynny'n fantais fawr inni ei chyfleu i weddill y byd. Yr wyf yn falch bod Seda UK wedi buddsoddi ac wedi ymddiried yng Nghymru fel lle i wneud busnes ac i ehangu.

David Davies: Fe wyddoch fod un cwmni yn tansilio'r polisi da hwn oherwydd ei fethiant i dalu biliau i nifer o gyflogeion ledled y wlad. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwyddoch at ba gwmni y cyfeiriaf—nid enwaf y cwmni yma. Pa gamau a gymerwch i sicrhau bydd y cwmni hwn, sydd newydd gael hyd yn oed mwy o arian cyhoeddus, yn talu'r arian dyledus i'w gyflogeion a weithiodd mor galed i sicrhau ei lwyddiant?

Andrew Davies: Dywedasoeh nad oeddech am enwi'r cwmni, ond os mai'r un ydyw y tybiaf yr ydych yn cyfeirio ato, yna nid ydyw

not received RSA. To the best of my knowledge, it has received financial support from Finance Wales. We have been in correspondence on this issue, but if you have any additional information to bring to my attention, I will respond accordingly.

wedi derbyn RSA. Hyd eithaf fy ngwybodaeth, cafodd gymorth ariannol gan Gyllid Cymru. Buom yn gohebu ar y mater hwn, ond os oes gennych unrhyw wybodaeth ychwanegol i'w dwyn at fy sylw, gwnaf ymateb yn unol â hynny.

Prosiect Porth Sir y Fflint The Flintshire Gateway Project

Q7 Carl Sargeant: Would the Minister make a statement regarding the Flintshire gateway project? (OAQ36343)

C7 Carl Sargeant: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar brosiect porth sir y Fflint? (OAQ36343)

Andrew Davies: Discussions on a joint approach to the master planning process for the proposed Flintshire northern gateway have been ongoing between the relevant parties. No formal decisions will be made until the future of the Royal Air Force's presence is confirmed by the Ministry of Defence as part of the current strategic defence review.

Andrew Davies: Mae trafodaethau ar ymagwedd ar y cyd tuag at y broses gynllunio fawr ar gyfer porth gogleddol arfaethedig sir y Fflint yn mynd rhagddynt rhwng y partiön perthnasol. Ni wneir penderfyniadau ffurfiol nes bod dyfodol yr Awyrlu Brenhinol wedi ei gadarnhau gan y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn fel rhan o'r adolygiad amddiffyn strategol presennol.

Carl Sargeant: Do you agree that the recent announcement by Corus to invest £11 million in its Shotton plant was a welcome boost for the site at the centre of the Flintshire gateway project area? To ensure its future, the Welsh Assembly Government needs to throw its weight behind the project. The only remaining building land available in Flintshire for major industrial development needs to be served by the appropriate infrastructure. Up to 12,000 potential new jobs are at stake. Can you assure me that you are doing all that is necessary to ensure that the project is successfully carried through and will you join me in further talks with Flintshire County Council and other stakeholders?

Carl Sargeant: A gytunwch fod y cyhoeddiad diweddar gan Corus y bydd yn buddsoddi £11 miliwn yn ei waith yn Shotton yn hwb i'w groesawu i'r safle yng nghanol ardal prosiect porth sir y Fflint? Er mwyn sicrhau ei ddyfodol, mae angen i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gefnogi'r prosiect. Mae angen i'r unig dir adeiladu arall sydd ar gael yn sir y Fflint ar gyfer datblygiad diwydiannol mawr gael ei wasanaethu gan y seilwaith priodol. Mae hyd at 12,000 o swyddi newydd posibl yn y fantol. A allwch fy sicrhau eich bod yn gwneud popeth sydd ei angen i sicrhau y cyflawnir y prosiect yn llwyddiannus ac a ymunwch â mi i gynnal trafodaethau pellach gyda Chyngor Sir y Fflint a rhanddeiliaid eraill?

Andrew Davies: Yes, as ever. I said in earlier replies that I am more than happy to meet with Assembly Members, local authorities and other stakeholders where necessary, and where appropriate. As you know, Carl, I have had several meetings with Flintshire County Council on development issues in the county, particularly, on development land. There is an acute short supply of development land, which is why I referred to it in my initial answer. However, depending on the future of RAF Sealand, that site may well release land and lead to an

Andrew Davies: Gwnaf, fel bob tro. Dywedais mewn atebion cynharach fy mod yn fwy na bodlon cyfarfod ag Aelodau'r Cynulliad, awdurdodau lleol a rhanddeiliaid eraill lle y bo angen, a lle y bo'n briodol. Fel y gwyddoch, Carl, yr wyf wedi cael sawl cyfarfod gyda Chyngor Sir y Fflint ar faterion datblygu yn y sir, yn arbennig, ar dir datblygu. Mae prinder dybryd o dir datblygu, a dyna pam y cyfeiriais ato yn fy ateb cychwynnol. Fodd bynnag, yn dibynnu ar ddyfodol RAF Sealand, gall y safle hwnnw ryddhau tir a chreu cyfle inni ymelwa ar yr

opportunity for us to exploit in that area. As I said, the offer is there.

Mark Isherwood: May I assume, therefore, that you will support proposed economic developments on brownfield sites at Corus under the future Shotton project, and at the RAF Sealand plant, which has the backing of the Ministry of Defence? What consideration has been given to this in the upgrade of the A550 gateway from the M56 and what measures will be undertaken to deliver meaningful consultation with local people to ensure real local partnership because, as you will appreciate, some concerns are being expressed?

Andrew Davies: I will write to you on the transport issues. The major transport corridors in Wales are east-west. In north Wales, the A55 provides the link to the north-west of England's economy. We are investing a significant amount of money in upgrading the road infrastructure around the Drome Corner area, but I will provide you with written examples of that. As I said in my reply to Carl Seargent, I will work with local authorities, the private sector, Corus and RAF Sealand, depending on the outcome of the MOD's defence review, to see what we can do as Team Wales on releasing development land, which is acknowledged as one of the big issues facing Flintshire's economy.

Janet Ryder: What steps will you take to ensure that that prosperity spreads across the whole of the north Wales coast?

Andrew Davies: As I said in response to Ieuan's and Nick Bourne's earlier questions, spreading prosperity to all parts of Wales is one of my major priorities. However, there are financial levers in other parts of north Wales that are not available to Flintshire, namely Objective 1 and RSA, which is at a higher level than is available in Flintshire. Therefore, we will use any financial and any other instruments of influence possible to increase prosperity and employment in other areas of Wales, particularly in the north-west.

2.50 p.m.

ardal honno. Fel y dywedais, mae'r cynnig wedi ei wneud.

Mark Isherwood: A allaf gymryd yn ganiataol, felly, y byddwch yn cefnogi datblygiadau economaidd arfaethedig ar safleoedd tir llwyd yn Corus o dan y prosiect Shotton arfaethedig, ac yng ngwaith RAF Sealand, y mae'r Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn yn ei gefnogi? Pa ystyriaeth a roddwyd i hyn wrth uwchraddio porth yr A550 o'r M56 a pha fesurau a gymerir i ymgynghori'n ystyrllon â phobl leol i sicrhau partneriaeth leol wirioneddol oherwydd, fel y gwerthfawrogwch, mae rhai pryderon yn cael eu mynegi?

Andrew Davies: Byddaf yn ysgrifennu atoch ynglŷn â'r materion trafnidiaeth. Mae'r prif goridorau trafnidiaeth yng Nghymru yn rhedeg o'r dwyrain i'r gorllewin. Yn y Gogledd, yr A55 yw'r cyswllt ag economi ogledd-orllewinol Lloegr. Yr ydym yn buddsoddi swm sylweddol o arian i uwchraddio'r seilwaith ffyrdd o amgylch ardal Drome Corner, ond rhoddaf enghreifftiau ysgrifenedig o hynny i chi. Fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i Carl Sargeant, gweithiaf gydag awdurdodau lleol, y sector preifat, Corus ac RAF Sealand, yn dibynnu ar ganlyniad adolygiad amddiffyn y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn, i weld beth y gallwn ei wneud fel Tîm Cymru i ryddhau tir datblygu, a gydnabyddir fel un o'r problemau mawr sy'n wynebu economi sir y Fflint.

Janet Ryder: Pa gamau a gymerwch i sicrhau bod y ffyniant hwnnw yn lledaenu ar draws arfordir cyfan y Gogledd?

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais mewn ymateb i gwestiynau Ieuan a Nick Bourne yn gynharach, lledaenu ffyniant i bob rhan o Gymru yw un o'm prif flaenoriaethau. Fodd bynnag, mae dulliau eraill o gyflwyno arian i rannau eraill o'r Gogledd nad ydynt ar gael i sir y Fflint, sef Amcan 1 ac RSA, sydd ar lefel uwch na'r hyn sydd ar gael yn sir y Fflint. Felly, byddwn yn defnyddio unrhyw ddulliau ariannol posibl ac unrhyw ddulliau eraill o ddylanwadu i gynyddu ffyniant a chyflogaeth mewn ardaloedd eraill o Gymru, yn arbennig yn y Gogledd-orllewin.

Gwasanaethau Trên yn y Gogledd
Train Services in North Wales

Q8 Eleanor Burnham: Will the Minister make a statement on train services in north Wales? (OAQ36344)

C8 Eleanor Burnham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y gwasanaethau trenau yn y Gogledd? (OAQ36344)

Andrew Davies: Our new 15-year Wales and borders rail franchise ensures a long-term commitment to improving services, particularly those in north Wales. Arriva's initial proposals for the standard pattern timetable have been improved following consultation, and Virgin Trains will be introducing additional services to London.

Andrew Davies: Mae ein masnachfrait rheilffyrdd 15 mlynedd newydd ar gyfer Cymru a'r gororau yn sicrhau ymrwymiad hirdymor i wella gwasanaethau, yn arbennig y rhai yn y Gogledd. Gwellwyd cynigion cychwynnol Arriva ar gyfer yr amserlen patrwm safonol yn dilyn ymgynghori, a bydd Virgin Trains yn cyflwyno gwasanaethau ychwanegol i Lundain.

Eleanor Burnham: From my own experience, and from other passengers' evidence, train services to cross north Wales are not a problem, but there are still enormous problems on the north to south services. What influence can you bring to bear to ensure that our train service is improved for patient passengers, particularly on the north-south links, so that they have a 100 per cent reliable, clean and decent service? For example, two weeks ago, because it was so hot, most of the rolling stock was breaking down, and it took six hours for me and many other patient passengers to get from north to south. That is simply unacceptable. If one is to appear professional, as an Assembly Member for example, or in any other walk of life, it is bad news to turn up at an event 10 minutes after the doors have shut. What are you going to do, Minister, to ensure that the rolling stock actually functions, that the lavatory doors shut, that carriage doors shut and that seats do not fall from beneath you as you sit down, as happened to me this week? Minister, please can you help us? [*Laughter.*]

Eleanor Burnham: O'm profiad i fy hun, a thystiolaeth teithwyr eraill, nid yw gwasanaethau trên i groesi'r Gogledd yn broblem, ond mae problemau enfawr o hyd ar y gwasanaethau o'r Gogledd i'r De. Pa bwysau a allwch ei ddwyn i sicrhau y caiff ein gwasanaeth trên ei wella ar gyfer teithwyr amyneddgar, yn arbennig ar y cysylltiadau o'r Gogledd i'r De, fel eu bod yn cael gwasanaeth glân a safonol y gellir dibynnu arno yn llwyr? Er enghraifft, bythefnos yn ôl, gan ei bod mor dwym, nid oedd y rhan fwyaf o'r cerbydau yn gweithio, a chymerodd chwe awr i mi a llawer o deithwyr amyneddgar eraill i deithio o'r Gogledd i'r De. Nid yw hynny'n dderbyniol. Er mwyn ymddangos yn broffesiynol, fel Aelod Cynulliad er enghraifft, neu mewn unrhyw faes arall, mae cyrraedd digwyddiad 10 munud ar ôl i'r drysau gau yn annerbyniol. Beth yr ydych yn mynd i'w wneud, Weinidog, i sicrhau bod y cerbydau yn gweithio, bod drysau'r toiledau yn cau, bod drysau'r cerbydau yn cau ac nad yw seddau yn torri wrth ichi eistedd arnynt, fel y digwyddodd i mi yr wythnos hon? Weinidog, allwch chi ein helpu? [*Chwerthin.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. The condition of north-south public transport is not a laughing matter.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw cyflwr trafniadaeth gyhoeddus o'r Gogledd i'r De yn beth digrif.

Andrew Davies: I can see that it is a subject that is close to your heart, as it is for the leader of the opposition. If you have specific examples of failings in the service, you must let me know. I have regular meetings with Arriva Trains, and the monitoring of the 15-

Andrew Davies: Gallaf weld ei fod yn fater sy'n agos at eich calon, fel y mae i arweinydd yr wrthblaid. Os oes gennych enghreifftiau penodol o fethiannau yn y gwasanaeth, rhaid ichi roi gwybod i mi. Caf gyfarfodydd rheolaidd ag Arriva Trains, ac mae'r gwaith o

year franchise is a key issue. I will take up specific issues, as well as general ones, with Arriva. We support the north-south rail link, and we are investing significant amounts of money into maintaining those regular services. I want to see those services improve, and we will do anything that we can, within the franchise, to ensure that.

Sandy Mewies: Given the points that have already been made, do you agree that if towns in north Wales are to benefit from improved rail services, improvements to services across the border, including London, must be made? Will you join me in congratulating my Labour colleagues, both on the county council and in Westminster, now that an additional four London trains stop at Flint station? That is of great benefit to the rail travelling public in my constituency, to business and so on.

Andrew Davies: In addition to my meetings with Arriva, I also have regular meetings with the mainline service providers. I will be meeting Chris Green, the chief executive of Virgin Trains shortly. If you, or any other Members, have any specific issues about that service, I will take them on board. I will be reporting on how delighted I am that the frequency of services has been improved, but if there are any other issues to take up with the chief executive, I will do that.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr ydych wedi cyfeirio at y cytundeb newydd gyda chwmni Arriva. A allwch roi enghreifftiau o sut mae'r gwasanaeth trenau rhwng Caerdybi a Chaerdydd wedi gwella ers i'r cytundeb newydd ddod i rym?

Andrew Davies: I will write to you with specific details on any improvements. Clearly, we want to not only improve the service, but also the infrastructure. I know that one of the big issues for rail users in north Wales is the safety and security of stations. We will be looking, with Arriva, at what we can do to improve that, possibly through the additional use of Objective 1 funds. On Bangor and Holyhead rail projects, a transport grant programme is currently supporting the Bangor railway station multi-

fonitro'r fasnachfaint 15 mlynedd yn fater allweddol. Codaf faterion penodol, yn ogystal â rhai cyffredinol, gydag Arriva. Cefnogwn y cyswllt rheilffordd rhwng y Gogledd a'r De, ac yr ydym yn buddsoddi symiau sylweddol o arian i gynnal a chadw'r gwasanaethau rheolaidd hynny. Yr wyf am weld y gwasanaethau hynny yn gwella, a gwnawn unrhyw beth y gallwn, o fewn y fasnachfaint, i sicrhau hynny.

Sandy Mewies: O gofio'r pwyntiau a wnaed eisoes, a gytunwch, er mwyn i drefi yn y Gogledd elwa ar wasanaethau rheilffordd gwell, bod yn rhaid gwella'r gwasanaethau ar draws y ffin, gan gynnwys Llundain? A ymunwch â mi i longyfarch fy nghyd-aelodau Llafur, ar y cyngor sir ac yn San Steffan, gan fod pedwar trên ychwanegol o Lundain bellach yn aros yng ngorsaf y Fflint? Mae hynny'n fanteisiol iawn i'r cyhoedd sy'n teithio ar y rheilffordd yn fy etholaeth i, ac yn fanteisiol i fusnes ac yn y blaen.

Andrew Davies: Yn ogystal â'm cyfarfodydd gydag Arriva, caf gyfarfodydd rheolaidd hefyd â'r darparwyr gwasanaeth prif linell. Byddaf yn cyfarfod â Chris Green, prif weithredwr Virgin Trains cyn bo hir. Os oes gennych chi, neu unrhyw Aelod arall, faterion penodol ynglŷn â'r gwasanaeth hwnnw, fe'u hystyriaf. Byddaf yn nodi pa mor falch yr ydwyf fod amllder y gwasanaethau wedi gwella, ond os oes unrhyw faterion eraill i'w codi gyda'r prif weithredwr, gwnaf hynny.

Alun Ffred Jones: You have referred to the new franchise with Arriva. Will you give examples of how the train service between Holyhead and Cardiff has improved since that new franchise came into force?

Andrew Davies: Ysgrifennaf atoch gyda manylion penodol am unrhyw welliannau. Yn amlwg, yr ydym am wella'r gwasanaeth, yn ogystal â'r seilwaith. Gwn mai un o'r materion o bwys i ddefnyddwyr rheilffyrdd yn y Gogledd yw diogelwch gorsafoedd. Ar y cyd ag Arriva, byddwn yn ystyried beth y gallwn ei wneud i wella hynny, o bosibl drwy'r defnydd ychwanegol o arian Amcan 1. O ran prosiectau rheilffyrdd Bangor a Chaerdybi, mae rhaglen grant trafndiaeth yn cefnogi cynllun cyfnewid amlfoddol gorsaf

modal interchange scheme, which, if it is anything like the improvements at Swansea station, will be a dramatic improvement to the environment around the station, and to services. We also support the Holyhead transport and environmental package that will enhance the environment at Holyhead, which, as a gateway to Wales, will enhance entry to Wales for many people who come from Ireland.

Ann Jones: On travel from north to south Wales, do you agree that Arriva has made a start, but, unfortunately, that the things that go wrong are often out of its control? Arriva now has a system that will inform us why there are delays. That is not to say that Arriva is being complacent about delays, but that it is trying to improve its relationship with its customers. We should work with Arriva at all times to ensure that we have the service that we require from north to south Wales.

Andrew Davies: That is an important point, and that is certainly my experience of Arriva. It is still early days, we are barely into the sixth month of the franchise, but feedback from rail users says that the system is good. Where there have been problems, for example, the consultation on the standard pattern timetable in Pembrokeshire, I know that rail users are complimentary about how Arriva has engaged with them and changed the timetable to reflect the views of local communities. I will certainly feed back that information, and compliment Arriva on how it has performed so far.

Brynle Williams: Will you advise me what talks have taken place between the National Assembly and the Strategic Rail Authority with regard to reducing delays on train services in north Wales by 20 per cent, if a new £45 million signal system is a success?

Andrew Davies: As I said, I have regular meetings with many of the stakeholders in the rail industry, and with the SRA. Alistair Darling's rail review is currently considering the rail industry's structure and I believe that it will report next month; therefore we do not know what the future structure will be. I will discuss issues such as signalling with the SRA, or with whatever new structure

reilffordd Bangor, a fydd, os ydyw'n debyg i'r gwelliannau yng ngorsaf Abertawe, yn welliant mawr i'r amgylchedd o amgylch yr orsaf, ac i wasanaethau. Cefnogwn hefyd y pecyn trafniadaeth a'r amgylchedd ar gyfer Caergybi a fydd yn gwella'r amgylchedd yng Nghaergybi a fydd, fel porth i Gymru, yn gwella'r mynediad i Gymru i lawer o bobl sy'n dod o Iwerddon.

Ann Jones: O ran teithio o'r Gogledd i'r De, a gytunwch fod Arriva wedi cychwyn yn dda, ond, yn anffodus, bod y pethau sy'n mynd o chwith yn aml y tu hwnt i'w reolaeth? Mae gan Arriva system yn awr a fydd yn dweud wrthym pam bod oedi. Nid yw hynny'n golygu bod Arriva yn hunanfodlon ynglŷn ag oedi, ond ei fod yn ceisio gwella ei berthynas â'i gwsmeriaid. Dylem gydweithio ag Arriva bob adeg i sicrhau bod gennym y gwasanaeth sydd ei angen arnom o'r Gogledd i'r De.

Andrew Davies: Mae hynny'n bwynt pwysig, ac yn sicr dyna fy mhrofiad i o Arriva. Mae'n gynnar eto, prin bod chwe mis wedi mynd heibio ers dyddiad cychwyn y fasnachfaint, ond yn ôl yr adborth gan ddefnyddwyr y rheilffyrdd mae'r system yn dda. Lle y bu problemau, er enghraifft, yr ymgynghoriad ar yr amserlen patrwm safonol yn sir Benfro, gwn fod defnyddwyr y rheilffyrdd yn canmol y ffordd y mae Arriva wedi ymgynghori â hwy ac wedi newid yr amserlen i adlewyrchu safbwyntiau cymunedau lleol. Yn sicr, mynegaf hynny i Arriva a'i ganmol ar ei gyflawniad hyd yma.

Brynle Williams: A nodwch pa drafodaethau a fu rhwng y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol o ran lleihau'r oedi ar wasanaethau trên yn y Gogledd 20 y cant, os bydd system signalau £45 miliwn newydd yn llwyddiant?

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais, caf gyfarfodydd rheolaidd â llawer o'r rhanddeiliaid yn y diwydiant rheilffordd, a chyda'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol. Mae adolygiad Alistair Darling o'r rheilffyrdd ar hyn o bryd yn ystyried strwythur y diwydiant rheilffyrdd a chredaf y bydd yn cyflwyno adroddiad y mis nesaf; felly, ni wyddom beth fydd y strwythur yn y

emerges, and with Network Rail, because signalling is an infrastructure issue, and take up any specific complaints or issues that Members have.

dyfodol. Byddaf yn trafod materion megis signalau gyda'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol, neu gyda pha strwythur newydd bynnag sy'n datblygu, a chyda Network Rail gan fod signalau yn fater o seilwaith, a chrybwyllaf unrhyw gwynion neu faterion penodol sydd gan Aelodau.

Datganiad ar Fanylion Diweddaraf Prosiectau'r Gronfa Anghydraddoldebau Iechyd Statement on the Update on Inequalities in Health Fund Projects

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): My statement on the inequalities in health fund covers three parts: a reminder of the fund and its purpose, examples of what the fund is doing to help people to improve their health in communities across Wales, and future development of the fund as a considerable asset in our work to improve health in Wales.

I set up the inequalities in health fund in 2001 to stimulate and support local action to address inequalities in health and the factors that contribute to them, including inequity in access to health services. Coronary heart disease has been the fund's first priority, and it has been extremely successful in providing disadvantaged communities and groups with help at grass-roots level to tackle the risk factors associated with chronic disease. Ninety-six per cent of projects involve local health boards and, with partnership high on the agenda, NHS trusts are partners in 82 per cent of projects. Local authorities are partners in 52 per cent of projects, and voluntary organisations are partners in 37 per cent.

In Wrexham, the travellers project has provided 200 gypsy travellers with risk screening and advice in a form that is accessible and acceptable—over 95 per cent of travellers are now registered with a general practitioner. Also in Wrexham, the hearts and minds project that helps people with mental illness and learning disabilities, has signed up 73 per cent of general practitioner practices and has helped around 700 people. On the Plas Madoc estate, an outreach clinic run by a

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Mae fy natganiad ar y gronfa anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn cwmpasu tair rhan: eich atgoffa o'r gronfa a'i diben, enghreifftiau o'r hyn y mae'r gronfa yn ei wneud i helpu pobl i wella eu hiechyd mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru, a datblygu'r gronfa yn y dyfodol fel ased arwyddocaol yn ein gwaith i wella iechyd yng Nghymru.

Sefydlaes y gronfa anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn 2001 i ysgogi a chefnogi camau gweithredu lleol i ymdrin ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd a'r ffactorau sy'n cyfrannu atynt, gan gynnwys anghydraddoldeb o ran mynediad i wasanaethau iechyd. Clefyd coronaidd y galon fu blaenoriaeth gyntaf y gronfa, a bu'n hynod lwyddiannus wrth ddarparu help i gymunedau a grwpiau difreintiedig ar lawr gwlad fynd i'r afael â'r ffactorau risg sy'n gysylltiedig â chlefyd cronig. Mae 96 y cant o brosiectau yn cynnwys byrddau iechyd lleol a, chyda phartneriaeth yn uchel ar yr agenda, mae ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG yn bartneriaid mewn 82 y cant o brosiectau. Mae awdurdodau lleol yn bartneriaid mewn 52 y cant o brosiectau, ac mae sefydliadau gwirfoddol yn bartneriaid mewn 37 y cant.

Yn Wrecsam, mae'r prosiect crwydriaid wedi darparu prosesau sgrinio risg a chynghor ar ffurf sy'n hygyrch ac yn dderbyniol i 200 o sipsiwn crwydrol—mae dros 95 y cant o grwydriaid bellach wedi'u cofrestru gyda meddyg teulu. Hefyd yn Wrecsam, mae'r prosiect calonnau a meddyliau, sy'n helpu pobl sy'n dioddef o salwch meddwl a phobl ag anabledau dysgu, wedi llwyddo i annog 73 y cant o bractisau meddygon teulu i ymuno â'r prosiect ac wedi helpu tua 700 o

nurse practitioner has seen 1,800 people—21 per cent of the practice list. Of the target group, 40 per cent reported a reduction in smoking, 31 per cent have improved blood pressure control, and 64 per cent have better cholesterol monitoring.

In Flintshire, Prestatyn Town Council's healthy communities project and the heart of Flintshire project have, between them, seen over 3,000 people participating in walking the way to health. Results show a reduction in body mass and an increase in fitness levels. In Gwynedd and Ynys Môn, the calon lân projects have gone from strength to strength.

3.00 p.m.

In Gwynedd, screening has identified 37 per cent of people needing referral, and 4,000 people in Ynys Môn have had the opportunity of help to improve their lifestyle. In mid and west Wales, the Wales cardiac network chose Ceredigion to roll out the autonomous administration of thrombolysis by paramedics as a direct result of the inequalities in health fund project. In Swansea, 12 practices involved in the pilot screening register project have processed a third of their target, having seen over 31,000 patients. In Pembrokeshire, a project has increased accessibility to GP screening clinics by holding them during evenings or at weekends. Local pharmacists will be tackling the issue of hard-to-reach patients using a specially developed package. Powys County Council is running cardiac rehabilitation services in five leisure centres, and the 36-week programme has seen a 94 per cent adherence rate. In Carmarthenshire, a toolkit has been developed to help local GP practices implement the coronary heart disease national service framework. All 26 practices in Carmarthenshire are involved, and the toolkit is now being rolled out to other local health boards. A cardiac rehabilitation project has increased the uptake rates from 11 to 78 per cent in Llandovery and from 15 to 89 per cent in the Amman valley, which compare favourably with the national average of 30 per cent.

bobl. Ar ystad Plas Madoc, mae clinig allgymorth sy'n cael ei redeg gan ymarferydd nyrsio wedi gweld 1,800 o bobl—21 y cant o restr y practis. O'r grŵp targed, nododd 40 y cant ostyngiad mewn cyfraddau ysmegu, mae gan 31 y cant well rheolaeth pwysau gwaed, ac mae gan 64 y cant well dulliau ar gyfer monitro colesterol.

Yn sir y Fflint, mae dros 3,000 o bobl wedi cymryd rhan wrth droedio at iechyd fel rhan o brosiect cymunedau iach Cyngor Tref Prestatyn a phrosiect calon sir y Fflint. Dengys y canlyniadau ostyngiad ym mäs y corff a chynnydd mewn lefelau ffitrwydd. Yng Ngwynedd ac Ynys Môn, mae'r prosiectau calon lân wedi mynd o nerth i nerth.

Yng Ngwynedd, mae prosesau sgrinio wedi nodi bod angen atgyfeirio 37 y cant o bobl, a rhoddwyd cyfle i 4,000 o bobl yn Ynys Môn wella eu ffordd o fyw. Yng nghanolbarth a gorllewin Cymru, dewisodd rhwydwaith cardiaidd Cymru ardal Ceredigion fel lleoliad i gyflwyno'r broses ymreolus o weinyddu thrombolysis gan barafeddygon o ganlyniad uniongyrchol i brosiect y Gronfa Anhydraddoldebau Iechyd. Yn Abertawe, mae 12 o bractisau sy'n rhan o brosiect peilot y gofrestr sgrinio wedi prosesu traean o'u targed, gan weld dros 31,000 o gleifion. Yn sir Benfro, mae prosiect wedi llwyddo i gynyddu nifer y bobl a all fanteisio ar glinigau sgrinio a gynhelir gan feddygon teulu drwy eu cynnal gyda'r nos neu ar benwythnosau. Bydd fferyllwyr lleol yn mynd i'r afael â chleifion sy'n anodd i'w cyrraedd drwy ddefnyddio pecyn a ddatblygwyd yn arbennig. Mae Cyngor Sir Powys yn darparu gwasanaethau adsefydlu cardiaidd mewn pum canolfan hamdden, ac mae gan y rhaglen 36 wythnos gyfraddau presenoldeb parhaus o 94 y cant. Yn sir Gaerfyrddin, datblygwyd pecyn offer i helpu practisau meddygon teulu lleol i weithredu'r fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer clefyd coronaidd y galon. Mae pob un o'r 26 o bractisau yn sir Gaerfyrddin yn rhan o'r prosiect, ac mae'r pecyn offer bellach yn cael ei gyflwyno i fyrddau iechyd lleol eraill. Mae prosiect adsefydlu cardiaidd wedi cynyddu'r cyfraddau cyfranogiad o 11 i 78 y cant yn

Llanymddyfri ac o 15 i 89 y cant yn nyffryn Aman, sy'n cymharu'n ffafriol â'r cyfartaledd cenedlaethol o 30 y cant.

In south Wales, the Cardiff local diabetes services advisory group has adopted the approach developed by a GP-led project as the gold standard for the provision of diabetes services. The barefoot project in Cardiff bay has supported more than 600 people, and in Newport, the dharkan project has developed a blood-pressure monitoring and advice clinic. A clinic was held in a Bangladeshi mosque on worship day, and the service may now be offered to other local mosques.

Yn ne Cymru, mae grŵp cynghori gwasanaethau diabetes lleol Caerdydd wedi mabwysiadu ymagwedd a ddatblygwyd gan brosiect o dan arweiniad meddygon teulu fel y safon euraid ar gyfer darparu gwasanaethau diabetes. Mae'r prosiect troednoeth ym mae Caerdydd wedi rhoi cymorth i fwy na 600 o bobl, ac yng Nghasnewydd, mae prosiect dharkan wedi datblygu clinig monitro a chynghori ar gyfer pwysau gwaed. Cynhaliwyd clinig mewn mosg Bangladeshi ar ddiwrnod addoli, ac mae'n bosibl y caiff y gwasanaeth ei gynnig yn awr i foscgiau lleol eraill.

Rhondda Cynon Taf's heart attack project covers 17 of its most deprived wards and targets a population of 11,000. Blaenau Gwent has six projects. Some 462 people have contacted the smoking cessation service and, four weeks after their personal quit date, 67 of those that attended classed themselves as non-smokers. Participants in an obesity class lost an average of 2.7 kg, with 53 per cent of attendees extending the lifestyle changes to the rest of their families. Also, a cardiac project run by the Royal Glamorgan Hospital resulted in a reduction of 10 per cent in re-admission rates, with average length of stay reduced by three days and a fall in bed occupancy from 7.5 to 5.6 per cent. In Merthyr Tydfil, 12 small firms are improving the health of their employees in a groundbreaking project that utilises the experience of a large private sector employer as a mentor. The project links better health and business improvement. Barry heart health offers lifestyle change advice and a food co-operative, which allows local residents access to fresh and affordable fruit and vegetables. Caerphilly's healthy-eating project has established milk bars in local comprehensive schools, salad bars in local primary schools, and training for 25 school cooks to encourage healthier catering practices.

Mae prosiect trawiad ar y galon Rhondda Cynon Taf yn cwmpasu 17 o'i wardiau mwyaf difreintiedig ac yn targedu poblogaeth o 11,000. Mae gan Flaenau Gwent chwe phrosiect. Mae tua 462 o bobl wedi cysylltu â'r gwasanaeth rhoi'r gorau i ysmegu a, phedair wythnos ar ôl eu dyddiad personol ar gyfer rhoi'r gorau iddi, yr oedd 67 o'r rheini a fynychodd o'r farn nad oeddent yn ysmegu bellach. Llwyddodd y bobl a gymerodd ran mewn dosbarth gordewdra i gollu cyfartaledd o 2.7 kg, gyda 53 y cant o'r rhai a fynychodd yn trosglwyddo'r newidiadau yn eu ffordd o fyw i weddill eu teulu. Hefyd, o ganlyniad i brosiect cardiaidd a gynhaliwyd gan Ysbyty Brenhinol Morgannwg, gwelwyd gostyngiad o 10 y cant yn y cyfraddau aildderbyn, gyda chyfartaledd hyd yr arhosiad yn gostwng dri diwrnod a gostyngiad yn nifer y gwelyau a ddefnyddir o 7.5 i 5.6 y cant. Ym Merthyr Tudful, mae 12 o gwmnïau bach yn gwella iechyd eu cyflogeion drwy brosiect arloesol sy'n defnyddio profiad cyflogwr mawr yn y sector preifat fel mentor. Mae'r prosiect yn cysylltu gwell iechyd a gwella busnes. Mae iechyd y galon y Barri yn cynnig cyngor ar newid ffordd o fyw a chwmmi cydweithredol sy'n gwerthu bwyd, gan gynnig ffrwythau a llysiau ffres a fforddiadwy i drigolion lleol. Mae prosiect bwyta'n iach Caerffili wedi agor bariau llaeth mewn ysgolion cyfun lleol, bariau salad mewn ysgolion cynradd lleol, ac wedi darparu hyfforddiant i 25 o gogyddion ysgol er mwyn annog arferion arlwyyo mwy iach.

The inequalities in health fund and its projects demonstrate how our agenda is working. They strengthen the prevention role of the NHS with other organisations and partners and generate evidence of effectiveness, both of which were emphasised as important by Derek Wanless. The action is happening at grass-roots level, with real help being developed in communities by, and with, people to improve their health, and this should be celebrated. This is exactly the type of action that we want to see delivered as part of 'Health Challenge Wales', as the nation's challenge to work together for better health.

I have given examples today to illustrate the difference that the inequalities in health fund is making in communities. For this reason, I announced in November a two-year extension to projects. Much has already been achieved, but there is still more to do, and the additional time will allow projects to further demonstrate their effectiveness and for local health boards to consider their longer-term funding. As stated in 'Wales: A Better Country', we are committed to extending the fund, and I will be considering how we can build on the fund's success to date.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Croesawaf y gronfa hon a'r rhestr hir o weithgareddau a nodwyd gennych sy'n deillio ohoni. Croesawaf, wrth gwrs, eich cyfeiriadau at sir Gaerfyrddin a dyffryn Aman, sydd yn fy etholaeth. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd pawb sy'n gallu manteisio ar y cyfleoedd hyn yn gwerthfawrogi'r hyn y mae'r gronfa'n ei wneud.

Wedi dweud hynny, Weinidog, o feddwl am gronfa i fynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldeb iechyd yng Nghymru, go brin bod y symiau yr ydych yn sôn amdanynt a'r rhestr o gyflawniadau yr ydych wedi'u rhoi ger ein bron yn mynd i'r afael â'r anghyfartaledd sylfaenol hwnnw, oherwydd ein bod yn sôn am sefyllfa yng Nghymru lle y mae'r bwlch rhwng y cyfoethog a'r tlawd yn tyfu drwy'r amser. Yr ydym yn sôn am draean—*[Torri ar draws.]* Mae'r bwlch yn tyfu, Brif Weinidog. Mae pob sylwebydd annibynnol, ac eithrio llefaryddion swyddogol y Llywodraeth, yn cydnabod—

Mae'r gronfa anghydraddoldebau iechyd a'i phrosiectau yn dangos sut y mae ein hagenda yn gweithio. Maent yn atgyfnerthu rôl ataliol y GIG gyda sefydliadau a phartneriaid eraill ac yn darparu tystiolaeth o effeithiolrwydd, a bwysleisiwyd fel ffactorau pwysig gan Derek Wanless. Mae'r camau gweithredu yn cael eu cymryd ar lawr gwlad, gyda help gwirioneddol yn cael ei ddatblygu mewn cymunedau gan bobl, a chyda phobl, i wella eu hiechyd, a dylid dathlu hyn. Dyma'r union fath o gamau gweithredu yr ydym am eu gweld fel rhan o 'Her Iechyd Cymru', sef her y genedl i gydweithio er gwell iechyd.

Nodais enghreifftiau heddiw i ddangos y gwahaniaeth y mae'r gronfa anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn ei wneud mewn cymunedau. I'r perwyl hwn, cyhoeddais ym mis Tachwedd estyniad dwy flynedd i brosiectau. Mae llawer wedi'i gyflawni eisoes, ond mae mwy i'w wneud o hyd, a bydd yr amser ychwanegol yn galluogi prosiectau i ddangos eu heffeithiolrwydd ymhellach ac i fyrddau iechyd lleol ystyried eu cyllid tymor hwy. Fel y nodwyd yn 'Cymru: Gwlad Well', yr ydym yn ymrwymedig i ehangu'r gronfa, a byddaf yn ystyried sut y gallwn adeiladu ar lwyddiant y gronfa hyd yma.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I welcome this fund and the long list of activities you noted that have emanated from it. I welcome, of course, your references to Carmarthenshire and the Amman valley in my constituency. I am sure that everyone who can take advantage of those opportunities appreciates what the fund is achieving.

Having said that, Minister, in considering a fund to tackle health inequalities in Wales, it is unlikely that the sums that you are talking about or the list of achievements that you have put before us will address that fundamental inequality, because we are talking about a situation in Wales where the gap between the wealthy and the poor is growing all the time. We are talking about a third—*[Interruption.]* The gap is widening, First Minister. Every independent commentator, apart from the official Government spokespeople, acknowledge—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw'n briodol i ymateb i ymyrraethau'r Aelodau o'u heistedd, hyd yn oed gan y Prif Weinidog.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Byddaf yn ceisio eu hosgoi pan fydd ar ei eistedd ac ar ei draed.

Mae'r ffeithiau yn dangos bod y bwlch yn tyfu. Mae traean o blant yn byw o dan y llinell dlodi. Mae traean o'r bobl sydd wedi croesi'r oed pensiwn yn byw mewn tlodi. Go brin y bydd yr hyn yr ydych wedi sôn amdano yn y datganiad hwn yn mynd i'r afael â hynny. Yr ydym i gyd yn ymwybodol bod y ddarpariaeth yn anghyson drwy Gymru—mae'n dibynnu ar eich cod post i raddau helaeth. Nid oes ond eisiau imi sôn am y problemau enfawr sydd yn wynebu llawer o bobl ym mhob rhan o Gymru ynglŷn â'r gallu i weld deintydd ar y gwasanaeth iechyd cenedlaethol.

Felly, yn syml, onid oes angen mwy o bwerau arnoch chi, fel Gweinidog, i fynd i'r afael â'r anghyfartaleddau hyn? Onid oes angen cynllun strategol ar gyfer Cymru gyfan? Soniasoch am yr ymatebion i Wanless. Mae'r gwrthbleidiau wedi eich rhybuddio dro ar ôl tro y bydd yn anodd cael cysondeb os ydych yn caniatáu i'r 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol ymateb.

Soniasoch, ar ddiwedd eich datganiad, am ehangu'r cynllun, ond mae'r arian ar gyfer y gronfa wedi aros yn ei unfan. Sut yr ydych yn bwriadu ehangu'r gronfa hon heb ychwanegu yn ariannol tuag ati?

Croesawn yr hyn sydd yn y datganiad, ond nid yw'n gwneud yr hyn yr ydych yn honni ei fod yn ei wneud, sef mynd i'r afael â'r anghyfartaledd mawr sydd yn bodoli o ran y gallu i gael mynediad i wasanaeth iechyd cenedlaethol yng Nghymru.

Jane Hutt: I was hoping for a positive response. You started well but then slipped in terms of recognising that this is evidence of a national programme, which it is, is it not, Rhodri Glyn? This is a national health inequalities programme for the whole of Wales, engaging partners at a local level.

The Presiding Officer: Order. It is not appropriate to respond to Members' interventions from sedentary positions, even those of the First Minister.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I will try to avoid them when he is sitting and when he is on his feet.

The facts demonstrate that the gap is widening. A third of children live below the poverty line. A third of people of pensionable age are living in poverty. What you have mentioned in this statement, Minister, will hardly address that. We are all aware that the provision is inconsistent throughout Wales—it is a post-code lottery to a great extent. I only have to mention the huge problems facing many people in all parts of Wales with regard to being able to see an NHS dentist.

Therefore, is it not simply the case that you need more powers, as Minister, to tackle these health inequalities? Do we not need a strategic plan for the whole of Wales? You talked about the responses to Wanless. The opposition parties have warned you time and again that, if you allow the 22 local health boards to respond, it will be difficult to achieve consistency.

You talked, at the end of your statement, about expanding the scheme, but the funding for the fund has remained static. How do you intend to expand this fund without adding to it financially?

We welcome the content of your statement, but it does not do what you claim it does, namely tackle the major inequality that exists in terms of the ability to access a national health service in Wales.

Jane Hutt: Yr oeddwn yn gobeithio cael ymateb cadarnhaol. Dechreuasoch yn dda ond wedyn bu ichi fethu â chydabod ei bod yn dystiolaeth o raglen genedlaethol, ac onid dyna ydyw, Rhodri Glyn? Mae hon yn rhaglen anghydraddoldebau iechyd genedlaethol i Gymru gyfan, sy'n cynnwys partneriaid ar lefel leol.

The evidence is clear that this has to come from local communities, with health professionals working in partnership with local government, the voluntary sector, and patients. That will deliver the kind of change that we have identified. Statistics already show, after two years, a reduction in health inequalities as a result of this investment. Yes, it is a comparatively small investment in terms of funding the health service, and I am glad that one point that came out of your contribution was that you want to see an extension of this scheme and more money to go into it. That is useful and comes back to me as an endorsement of the scheme. However, we have other national strategies. A robust weight of evidence from the working group is advising us on the child poverty strategy, which we debated two weeks ago, and I will come back with an action plan on that. Next week, we will debate the Wanless action plan, which, if you recall, is also being steered in terms of how we allocate extra money this year—the extra £13 million—by the Townsend formula and the work that Professor Peter Townsend did to ensure that we are targeting our resources most effectively. That is the message that has come out of this programme, and it is now being reflected in the way in which we take this forward with the Wanless agenda.

This is about ensuring that our resources are targeted at the communities with the worst health, where we know that we must take extra action in terms of positive developments. The health inequalities fund is a part of that, but the whole picture will come through as a result of the Wanless action plans—which we debated last week—the child poverty strategy, and of improving health through our national service frameworks. Do not forget that this is all geared to delivering on our national service framework, in terms of tackling coronary heart disease, and it is demonstrating that it is doing that.

3.10 p.m.

Ann Jones: I welcome this statement,

Noda'r dystiolaeth yn glir fod yn rhaid i hyn ddod o gymunedau lleol, gyda phobl broffesiynol ym maes iechyd yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â llywodraeth leol, y sector gwirfoddol, a chleifion. Bydd hynny yn cyflwyno'r math o newid a nodwyd gennym. Dengys ystadegau eisoes, ar ôl dwy flynedd, ostyngiad mewn anghydraddoldebau iechyd o ganlyniad i'r buddsoddiad hwn. Ie, buddsoddiad cymharol fach ydyw o ran ariannu'r gwasanaeth iechyd, ac yr wyf yn falch ichi nodi yn eich cyfraniad eich bod am weld y cynllun hwn yn cael ei ehangu a mwyo arian yn cael ei fuddsoddi ynddo. Mae hynny'n ddefnyddiol ac yr wyf yn ei gymryd fel cymeradwyaeth i'r cynllun. Fodd bynnag, mae strategaethau cenedlaethol eraill gennym ar waith. Mae tystiolaeth gadarn gan y gweithgor yn ein cyngori ar y strategaeth tloidi plant, a drafodwyd gennym bythefnos yn ôl, a chyflwynaf gynllun gweithredu yn hynny o beth maes o law. Yr wythnos nesaf, byddwn yn trafod cynllun gweithredu Wanless, sydd, os y cofiwch, hefyd yn cael ei lywio o ran sut y dyrannwn arian ychwanegol eleni—y £13 miliwn ychwanegol—drwy ddefnyddio fformiwla Townsend a'r gwaith a wnaeth yr Athro Peter Townsend i sicrhau ein bod yn targedu ein hadnoddau yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol. Dyna'r neges a ddeilliodd o'r rhaglen hon, ac mae yn awr yn cael ei hadlewyrchu yn y ffordd y gweithredwn o ran agenda Wanless.

Mae'r broses yn ymwneud â sicrhau y caiff ein hadnoddau eu targedu tuag at y cymunedau â'r iechyd gwaethaf, lle y gwyddom fod yn rhaid inni gymryd camau ychwanegol o ran datblygiadau cadarnhaol. Mae'r gronfa anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn rhan o hynny, ond cawn weld y darlun cyfan o ganlyniad i gynlluniau gweithredu Wanless—a drafodwyd gennym yr wythnos diwethaf—y strategaeth tloidi plant, a gwell iechyd drwy ein fframweithiau gwasanaeth cenedlaethol. Cofiwch mai prif fwriad hyn oll yw cyflawni ymrwymadau ein fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol, o ran mynd i'r afael â chlefyd coronaidd y galon, ac mae'n dangos ei fod yn gwneud hynny.

Ann Jones: Croesawaf y datganiad hwn,

Minister, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to consider best practice, because we could share information about some of the initiatives that we have seen. I have one minor point—Prestatyn is in Denbighshire, not Flintshire. I do not care if people across borders are working together—that is great and fine. However, I am proud that Prestatyn is in Denbighshire, and I would not want to lose it.

I welcome the fact that you will extend the fund and consider how we can build on its success. That success is self-evident in the numbers as you have recognised. Would you consider ways in which we could perhaps support those parents who have low birth-weight babies, particularly from areas of deprivation—and particularly from the west end of Rhyl, where I have raised this issue many times. Low birth-weight babies are still concentrated in small pockets of deprivation and, together with the work that we are doing on the nutrition strategy and the inequalities in health fund, this is the time when we could perhaps break the cycle and offer those children the level playing field that we are trying to offer others in those deprived areas. Will you consider that as a way forward in the next round?

Jane Hutt: I apologise—I am clear that Prestatyn is not in Flintshire; I realise that I made a mistake. This was the only project that came from a town council, which is interesting. Prestatyn Town Council developed this walking the way to health scheme, which has involved over 1,000 people. However, your point about taking the programme forward is important. I have been considering whether we should, for example, extend it to mental health. A few of the projects that have been funded are hearts and minds projects, which have considered people with mental health needs and learning disabilities, who are more prone to the risk, for example, of heart disease. We can make many connections, particularly regarding low birth-weight babies. There are links to the nutrition strategy and to work, through Children First, in terms of our social care and social services approach. As our local health boards have been carrying out local health, social care and wellbeing needs assessments,

Weinidog, a diolchaf ichi am roi cyfle inni ystyried arfer gorau, oherwydd gallem rannu gwybodaeth am rai o'r mentrau a welsom. Mae gennyf un pwynt bach—mae Prestatyn yn sir Ddinbych, nid sir y Fflint. Ni waeth gennyf os yw pobl yn cydweithio ar draws ffiniau—mae hynny'n dda o beth. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn falch bod Prestatyn yn sir Ddinbych, ac ni fyddwn am ei cholli.

Croesawaf y ffaith y byddwch yn ehangu'r gronfa ac yn ystyried sut y gallwn ddatblygu ei llwyddiant. Mae'r llwyddiant hwnnw yn gwbl amlwg yn y niferoedd fel a gydnabuwyd gennyf. A ystyriwch ffyrdd y gallem efallai gynorthwyo'r rhieni hynny sydd â babanod pwysau geni isel, yn arbennig mewn ardaloedd o amddifadedd—ac yn arbennig ar ochr orllewinol y Rhyl, lle y codais y mater hwn sawl gwaith. Mae babanod pwysau geni isel wedi'u crynhoi o hyd mewn pocedi bach o amddifadedd ac, ynghyd â'r gwaith sy'n mynd rhagddo ar y strategaeth maethiad a'r gronfa anghydraddoldebau iechyd, dyma'r adeg lle y gallem o bosibl dorri'r patrwm cylchol a chynnig yr un cyfleoedd i'r plant hynny ag yr ydym yn ceisio eu cynnig i eraill yn yr ardaloedd difreintiedig hynny. A ystyriwch hynny fel ffordd ymlaen yn y cylch nesaf?

Jane Hutt: Ymddiheuraf—gwn nad yw Prestatyn yn sir y Fflint; sylweddolaf imi wneud camgymeriad. Dyma'r unig brosiect a gyflwynwyd gan gyngor tref, sy'n ddi-ddorol. Datblygodd Cyngor Tref Prestatyn y cynllun troedio at iechyd, a ddenodd dros 1,000 o bobl i gymryd rhan. Fodd bynnag, mae eich pwynt am ddatblygu'r rhaglen yn bwysig. Bûm yn ystyried pa un a ddylem, er enghraifft, ei hehangu i iechyd meddwl. Prosiectau calonnau a meddyliau oedd rhai o'r prosiectau a ariannwyd, a ystyriodd bobl ag anghenion iechyd meddwl ac anabledau dysgu, sy'n fwy agored i risg clefyd y galon, er enghraifft. Gallwn wneud sawl cysylltiad, yn arbennig o ran babanod pwysau geni isel. Ceir cysylltiadau â'r strategaeth maethiad ac â gwaith, drwy Rhoi Plant yn Gyntaf, o ran ein hymagwedd gofal cymdeithasol a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Gan y bu ein byrddau iechyd lleol yn cynnal asesiadau lleol o anghenion iechyd, gofal cymdeithasol a lles, byddwn yn gallu nodi'r prif faterion

we will be able to draw the key issues from them. I will take back the point about low birth-weight babies. However, it cross-cuts many other policy areas.

Jonathan Morgan: I welcome the fact that this scheme will be extended. It is a worthwhile project, and Government—particularly the Assembly Government—is in a position to put money into a scheme that seeks to address inequalities in health. When you consider Wales's demographics, inequalities in health often tie in closely with inequalities in economic performance and social housing—there is the argument about the impact on the health of people in those deprived communities. We accept that.

I have a few questions on the statement. First, and at the risk of making myself unpopular with the Minister—or perhaps even more unpopular than I may be at present—this statement is probably unnecessary. The Health and Social Services Committee met this morning, and this could have been dealt with then. I have always maintained that Cabinet statements to Plenary are useful when seeking to announce new policy or to update Members on future developments of existing policy. This statement does not fall into either of those two categories, although you said at the start of the statement, Minister, that you wish to comment on the future development of the fund as a considerable asset in our work to improve health in Wales. However, I got to the end of the statement and did not see much on how you intend to carry this forward, either in terms of financial commitment or in the way in which the fund will seek to sort out inequalities in health in future. I therefore criticise the process, not what you are trying to achieve, Minister.

I read the statistics with considerable interest. The minor problem in dealing with such statistics is that you cannot put them into context. We know of the health problems that exist in Wales and where there are pockets of real health needs, such as obesity and diabetes in young people in the south Wales

sy'n deillio ohonynt. Tynnaf fy mhwynt ar fabanod pwysau geni isel yn ôl. Fodd bynnag, mae'n gorgyffwrdd â sawl maes polisi arall.

Jonathan Morgan: Croesawaf y ffaith y caiff y cynllun hwn ei ehangu. Mae'n brosiect gwerthfawr, ac mae'r Llywodraeth—yn arbennig Llywodraeth y Cynulliad—yn gallu buddsoddi arian mewn cynllun sy'n ceisio ymdrin ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd. O ystyried demograffeg Cymru, mae anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn aml wedi'u cysylltu'n agos ag anghydraddoldebau o ran perfformiad economaidd a thai cymdeithasol—ceir dadl ynghylch effaith hynny ar iechyd pobl yn y cymunedau difreintiedig hynny. Derbyniwn hynny.

Mae gennyf ychydig gwestiynau am y datganiad. Yn gyntaf, a chan fentro gwneud fy hun yn amhoblogaidd gyda'r Gweinidog—neu efallai hyd yn oed yn fwy amhoblogaidd nag yr wyf eisoes—mae'r datganiad hwn fwy na thebyg yn ddiangen. Cyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol y bore yma, a gellid bod wedi ymdrin â hyn bryd hynny. Bûm o'r farn bob amser bod datganiadau Cabinet i'r Cyfarfod Llawn yn ddefnyddiol wrth geisio cyhoeddi polisi newydd neu i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i Aelodau am ddatblygiadau a wneir yn y dyfodol i bolisiâu sy'n bodoli eisoes. Nid yw'r datganiad hwn yn perthyn i'r naill gategori na'r llall, er ichi ddweud ar ddechrau'r datganiad, Weinidog, eich bod am gyflwyno sylwadau ar sut y caiff y gronfa ei datblygu yn y dyfodol fel ased arwyddocaol yn ein gwaith i wella iechyd yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, darllenais drwy'r datganiad ac ni welais lawer o ran sut y bwriadwch ei datblygu, o ran ymrwymiad ariannol nac o ran y ffordd y bydd yr arian yn cael ei dargedu at ddatrys anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn y dyfodol. Felly beirniadaf y broses, nid yr hyn yr ydych yn ceisio ei gyflawni, Weinidog.

Darllenais yr ystadegau gyda chryn ddiddordeb. Y broblem fach wrth ymdrin ag ystadegau o'r fath yw na allwch eu rhoi yn eu cyd-destun. Gwyddom am y problemau iechyd sy'n bodoli yng Nghymru a lle y ceir pocedi o anghenion iechyd gwirioneddol, megis gordewdra a diabetes ymhlith pobl

Valleys. We know that there is a higher incidence of smoking and poor diet in deprived areas than in well-to-do areas. However, it is difficult to place the statistics in context, particularly the figures that show how the money has been allocated. I know that we have spent the £5 million that you announced in your previous statement, but I would be interested to see a breakdown of how that money was spent and what proportions have been spent by organisations seeking to help patients with cardiac problems, communities that traditionally have poor diets and people who wish to make lifestyle changes, which was mentioned in the context of Ynys Môn. Some parts of the statement are rather vague. You referred, for example, to the fact that a project was funded in Pembrokeshire that sought to increase accessibility to GP screening clinics by holding them on the weekends or in the evenings, which sounds perfectly fine. However, you also say that

‘Local pharmacists will be tackling hard to reach patients using a specially developed package.’

I am sure that the civil servant who wrote that statement understood what he or she was writing. However, for those who are not privy to the background information, can you explain it? My only criticism in that respect is that the statement is rather vague, and it is difficult for the Assembly to place it in context.

On the future use of this fund, which I do not believe this statement covers, do you intend for it to become more focused? I know that health inequalities in Wales are quite substantial, but there is a danger—and I am sure that governments of all political persuasions have fallen into this trap—that this type of fund will be used to try to press every button and to address every concern that could be addressed. As Rhodri Glyn said, there is only a limited amount of money in this fund. Do you not think that, if we had a more focused approach to dealing with the specific problems that we have in Wales, we would perhaps see a greater impact on health inequalities? We know that there are

ifanc yng Nghymoedd y De. Gwyddom fod nifer uwch o bobl yn ysmegu a phobl â diet gwael mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig nac mewn ardaloedd cyfoethog. Fodd bynnag, mae'n anodd rhoi'r ystadegau yn eu cyd-destun, yn enwedig y ffigurau sy'n dangos sut y dyrannwyd yr arian. Gwn ein bod wedi gwario'r £5 miliwn a gyhoeddwyd gennych yn eich datganiad blaenorol, ond byddai'n dda gennyf weld dadansoddiad o'r ffordd y gwariwyd yr arian hwnnw a pha gyfrannau ohono a wariwyd gan sefydliadau sy'n ceisio helpu cleifion â phroblemau cardiaidd, cymunedau a nodir yn draddodiadol fel rhai â diet gwael a phobl sydd am newid eu ffordd o fyw, a grybwyllwyd yng nghyd-destun Ynys Môn. Mae ambell ran o'r datganiad braidd yn amwys. Bu ichi sôn, er enghraifft, am y ffaith bod prosiect wedi'i ariannu yn sir Benfro a oedd yn ceisio cynyddu hygyrchedd clinigau sgrinio a gynhaliwyd gan feddygon teulu drwy eu cynnal ar benwythnosau neu gyda'r nos, sy'n swnio'n iawn. Fodd bynnag, dywedasoeh hefyd

Bydd fferyllwyr lleol yn mynd i'r afael â chleifion sy'n anodd i'w cyrraedd drwy ddefnyddio pecyn a ddatblygwyd yn arbennig.

Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y gwas sifil a ysgrifennodd y datganiad hwnnw yn deall yr hyn yr oedd yn ei ysgrifennu. Fodd bynnag, i'r rheini ohonom nad ydym yn ymwybodol o'r wybodaeth gefndir, a allech ei hegluro? Fy unig feirmiadaeth yn hynny o beth yw bod y datganiad braidd yn amwys, a'i fod yn anodd i'r Cynulliad ei roi yn ei gyd-destun.

O ran defnyddio'r gronfa hon yn y dyfodol, na chredaf iddo gael ei gwmpasu gan y datganiad hwn, a fwriadwch ddarparu ffocws gwell ar ei chyfer? Gwn fod anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn sylweddol yng Nghymru, ond ceir perygl—ac yr wyf yn siŵr bod llywodraethau pob plaid wleidyddol wedi syrthio i'r fagl hon—y caiff y math hwn o gronfa ei defnyddio i geisio pwyso pob botwm ac i ymdrin â phob pryder y gellid ymdrin ag ef. Fel y dywedodd Rhodri Glyn, dim ond swm cyfyngedig o arian sydd yn y gronfa hon. Oni chredwch, pe byddai gennym ymagwedd wedi'i ffocysu'n well tuag at ymdrin â'r problemau penodol sydd gennym yng Nghymru, y byddem o bosibl yn gweld

problems that health professionals are hugely concerned about in various pockets throughout the nation. If we can use resources more specifically, we would see a greater impact, perhaps, on the lives of those who are currently blighted and on the health economy, which would give our health service more of a helping hand.

Jane Hutt: Your last two points highlight the importance of, and need for, this statement. This programme does not hit the headlines. It is important that I tell you about what we are doing and the measures that we are taking to improve health and to tackle health inequalities, which is at the top of my agenda.

You acknowledged the important links to poverty and ill-health and the disparities and differences in terms of health inequalities across Wales. It is important that I give you a full picture, after a two-year period, of the outcomes of this fund—we must consider outcomes and not just nice initiatives. I have given you some robust evidence of the impact that these local projects, which must be considered against a set of national criteria, have had on people's health. The fund was established as a result of a programme that we announced, which was linked to the coronary heart disease national service framework. The criteria had to meet the measures that have been set in the national service framework, particularly in relation to screening, prevention and rehabilitation. Therefore, we have a clear parameter in terms of how we should take this programme forward with allocated funding.

The evidence that we collate from the Welsh health survey, which identifies the particular needs across Wales, and the census is important. The latest census figures indicate where the poorest health is and where we need to focus our activity. That is borne out in the projects that have been approved. Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf have six or seven health inequalities fund projects, but there is only one in my constituency, the Vale of Glamorgan. That shows the differences in

effaith fwy ar anghydraddoldebau iechyd? Gwyddom fod problemau y mae pobl broffesiynol ym maes iechyd yn pryderu'n fawr yn eu cylch mewn amrywiol bocedi ledled y wlad. Os gallwn ddefnyddio adnoddau yn fwy penodol, mae'n bosibl y byddem yn gweld effaith fwy ar fywydau'r rheini sy'n dioddef ar hyn o bryd ac ar yr economi iechyd, a fyddai'n rhoi mwy o help llaw i'n gwasanaeth iechyd.

Jane Hutt: Mae eich dau bwynt olaf yn amlygu pwysigrwydd y datganiad hwn a'r angen amdano. Nid yw'r rhaglen hon yn denu sylw'r wasg. Mae'n bwysig imi eich hysbysu am yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud a'r camau yr ydym yn eu cymryd i wella iechyd ac i fynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd, sydd ar frig fy agenda.

Bu ichi gydnabod y cysylltiadau pwysig â thlodi a salwch a'r anghysondebau a'r gwahaniaethau o ran anghydraddoldebau iechyd ledled Cymru. Mae'n bwysig imi roi'r darlun llawn ichi, ar ôl cyfnod o ddwy flynedd, o ganlyniadau'r gronfa hon—rhaid inni ystyried y canlyniadau ac nid dim ond mentrau dymunol. Cyflwynais dystiolaeth gadarn ichi am yr effaith a gafodd y prosiectau lleol hyn, y mae'n rhaid eu hystyried yn erbyn cyfres o feini prawf cenedlaethol, ar iechyd pobl. Sefydlwyd y gronfa o ganlyniad i raglen a gyhoeddwyd gennym, a oedd wedi'i chysylltu â'r fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer clefyd coronaidd y galon. Yr oedd yn rhaid i'r meini prawf fodloni'r mesurau a bennwyd yn y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol, yn arbennig mewn perthynas â sgrinio, atal ac adsefydlu. Felly, mae gennym baramedr clir o ran sut y dylem ddatblygu'r rhaglen hon gyda'r arian a ddyrennir.

Mae'r dystiolaeth a gasglwn o arolwg iechyd Cymru, sy'n nodi'r anghenion penodol ledled Cymru, a'r cyfrifiad yn bwysig. Noda ffigurau'r cyfrifiad diwethaf leoliad yr iechyd gwaethaf a lle y mae angen inni ganolbwyntio ein gweithgaredd. Mae hynny i'w weld yn y prosiectau a gymeradwywyd. Mae chwech neu saith o brosiectau'r gronfa anghydraddoldebau iechyd wedi'u lleoli ym Mlaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tudful a Rhondda Cynon Taf, ond dim ond un sydd yn fy etholaeth i, sef Bro Morgannwg. Mae

health needs across Wales and where investment is needed. I can give you more information about how the investment has panned out. It is clear that the fund was built on the basis of the national service framework and on clear criteria. The bids came in from across Wales and were approved by an advisory group.

hynny'n dangos y gwahaniaethau o ran anghenion iechyd ledled Cymru a lle y mae angen buddsoddi. Gallaf roi mwy o wybodaeth ichi am ddsbarthiad y buddsoddiad. Mae'n amlwg bod y gronfa wedi datblygu ar sail y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ac ar feini prawf clir. Derbyniwyd ceisiadau o bob cwr o Gymru ac fe'u cymeradwywyd gan grŵp cynghori.

3.20 p.m.

In terms of Ann's point, this has been about identifying best practice and, in the delivery of the national service framework, some schemes have been rolled out across the rest of Wales. All of the health inequalities are being nationally monitored, advised and guided, and some of the packages and innovative policy developments are part of the Wanless agenda. Projects such as the one at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital are contributing to reducing hospital admissions and readmissions. They are also having an impact in terms of smoking cessation, and they provide a multidisciplinary opportunity for dieticians, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and general practitioners to work together.

O ran pwynt Ann, yr oedd a wnelo hyn â nodi arfer gorau ac, wrth gyflwyno'r fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol, cyflwynwyd rhai cynlluniau ar draws gweddill Cymru. Mae'r holl anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn cael eu monitro, eu cynghori a'u tywys yn genedlaethol, ac mae rhai o'r pecynnau a'r datblygiadau polisi arloesol yn rhan o agenda Wanless. Mae prosiectau fel yr un yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Morgannwg yn cyfrannu at leihau derbyniadau ac aildderbyniadau i ysbytai. Maent hefyd yn cael effaith ar y gwaith o annog pobl i roi'r gorau i ysmegu, ac maent yn rhoi cyfle amlddisgyblaethol i ddietygwyr, therapyddion galwedigaethol, ffisiotherapyddion a meddygon teulu gydweithio.

I visited the Heart'ELY project today, which is based in the local leisure centre and the Park View health centre. I met two patients who said that this project had transformed their lives. Heart'ELY provided them with assessment, advice and guidance, which led to their receiving reduced packages and opportunities to improve their health. One of the patients had suffered two heart attacks but now felt that his condition had been stabilised.

Ymwelais â'r prosiect Heart'ELY heddiw, sydd wedi'i leoli yn y ganolfan hamdden leol a chanolfan iechyd Park View. Cyfarfûm â dau glaf a ddywedodd fod y prosiect hwn wedi trawsnewid eu bywydau. Rhoddodd Heart'Ely asesiad, cyngor ac arweiniad iddynt, ac o ganlyniad cawsant becynnau llai a chyfleoedd i wella eu hiechyd. Yr oedd un o'r cleifion wedi dioddef dau drawiad ar y galon ond yr oedd bellach yn teimlo bod ei gyflwr wedi sefydlogi.

The outcomes are clear, and I hope that this statement and your valuable responses will concentrate on how to take this forward and build it into the Wanless programme of tackling health inequalities and improvement.

Mae'r canlyniadau yn amlwg, a gobeithiaf y bydd y datganiad hwn a'ch ymatebion gwerthfawr yn canolbwyntio ar sut i ddatblygu'r gronfa hon a'i chynnwys o fewn rhaglen Wanless ar gyfer mynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd a'u gwella.

Michael German: I commend the scheme's projects. A total of 67 of the 112 projects have commenced. Good work has been undertaken and great progress has been made. Like Jonathan Morgan, I too must comment

Michael German: Cymeradwyaf brosiectau'r cynllun. Mae cyfanswm o 67 o'r 112 o brosiectau wedi dechrau. Gwnaed gwaith da a chynnydd mawr. Fel Jonathan Morgan, mae'n rhaid i minnau hefyd

on the fact that this statement has been made today. The third bullet point relates to the future development of the fund but, on reaching the last page, I found that the only reference to future development related to matters announced last year. That is all well and good, but perhaps a factual statement such as this should have been brought to Members' attention in another way.

This does not decry the work of projects, but it raises a number of questions about the way in which the inequalities fund has been used. The Minister has had to focus on cardiac services and the coronary heart disease framework. An extra £1 million has been invested in the dental and oral health scheme, but the statement does not refer to this additional funding. Therefore, perhaps the Minister could comment on what is being done in that regard.

The programme profile funding starts at £3 million, increases to £5 million and then to £6 million before returning to £5 million until 2007. Is it the Minister's intention to invest extra funding in this work? If so, we would expect to see the profile rising and moving forward from £6 million, rather than returning to £5 million in 2005-06, as is currently the case. Does the Minister intend to make a bid to the Finance Minister for increased funding, and to what level would she expect it to be increased?

A total of 112 bids were made, therefore many projects are standing on the sidelines. If the programme were to be extended, would this be done by returning to those bids and encouraging people to bid once again, or would the Minister turn to other aspects of primary healthcare where she thinks the work would be better focused? Perhaps she could comment on the areas that she considers to be future priorities. This statement is welcome in the context of projects already under way, but it does not tell us anything new about the future. All the information was already in the public domain, and I hope that the Minister will now comment on any future changes and expenditure.

gyflwyno sylw ynghylch y ffaith y gwnaed y datganiad hwn heddiw. Mae a wnelo'r trydydd pwynt bwled â datblygu'r gronfa yn y dyfodol ond, ar ôl cyrraedd y dudalen olaf, canfûm fod yr unig gyfeiriad at ddatblygu yn y dyfodol yn ymwneud â materion a gyhoeddwyd y llynedd. Popeth yn iawn, ond efallai y dylid bod wedi dwyn datganiad ffeithiol fel y datganiad hwn at sylw Aelodau mewn ffordd arall.

Nid yw hyn yn dibrisio gwaith prosiectau, ond mae'n codi nifer o gwestiynau o ran y ffordd y defnyddiwyd y gronfa anghydraddoldebau. Bu'n rhaid i'r Gweinidog ganolbwyntio ar wasanaethau cardiaidd a'r fframwaith ar gyfer clefyd coronaidd y galon. Buddsoddwyd £1 filiwn ychwanegol yn y cynllun iechyd deintyddol a geneuol, ond nid yw'r datganiad yn cyfeirio at yr arian ychwanegol hwn. Felly, efallai y gallai'r Gweinidog gyflwyno sylwadau ar yr hyn sy'n cael ei wneud yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

Mae arian proffil y rhaglen yn dechrau ar £3 miliwn, yn cynyddu i £5 miliwn ac yna i £6 miliwn cyn dychwelyd i £5 miliwn tan 2007. A yw'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu buddsoddi arian ychwanegol yn y gwaith hwn? Os felly, byddem yn disgwyl gweld y proffil yn cynyddu ac yn symud ymlaen o'r £6 miliwn, yn hytrach na dychwelyd i £5 miliwn yn 2005-06, fel y gwna ar hyn o bryd. A yw'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu gwneud cais i'r Gweinidog Cyllid am fwy o arian, ac i ba lefel y byddai'n disgwyl iddo gael ei gynyddu?

Cyflwynwyd cyfanswm o 112 o geisiadau, felly mae llawer o brosiectau yn aros wrth gefn. Pe câi'r rhaglen ei hehangu, a wneid hyn drwy ddychwelyd y ceisiadau hynny ac annog pobl i ailgyflwyno cais, neu a fyddai'r Gweinidog yn troi at agweddau eraill ar ofal iechyd sylfaenol lle y byddai, yn ei barn hi, yn fwy buddiol canolbwyntio'r gwaith? Efallai y gallai gyflwyno sylwadau ar y meysydd a ystyrir yn flaenoriaethau ganddi ar gyfer y dyfodol. Croesewir y datganiad hwn yng nghyd-destun y prosiectau sydd eisoes ar waith, ond ni ddywed unrhyw beth newydd wrthym am y dyfodol. Yr oedd yr holl wybodaeth eisoes ar gael i'r cyhoedd, a gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn awr yn cyflwyno sylwadau ar unrhyw newidiadau a

gwariant yn y dyfodol.

Jane Hutt: On the future development of the fund, it was important that we got through the first two years in order to evaluate the investment in the new health inequalities programme and assess the outcomes. I have given you substantial evidence today of the positive outcomes of the investment that we have already made. We have linked it to implementing our national service framework for tackling coronary heart disease, and it is already making a difference at the various stages of delivering that service, in terms of screening, prevention and rehabilitation.

Jane Hutt: O ran datblygu'r gronfa yn y dyfodol, yr oedd yn bwysig inni gwblhau'r ddwy flynedd gyntaf er mwyn gwerthuso'r buddsoddiad yn y rhaglen anghydraddoldebau iechyd newydd ac asesu'r canlyniadau. Cyflwynais dystiolaeth sylweddol ichi heddiw o ganlyniadau cadarnhaol y buddsoddiad a wnaed gennym eisoes. Yr ydym wedi'i gysylltu â'r gwaith o weithredu ein fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â chlefyd coronaidd y galon, ac mae eisoes yn gwneud gwahaniaeth yn ystod amrywiol gamau darparu'r gwasanaeth hwnnw, o ran sgrinio, atal ac adsefydlu.

You are right, Mike, to say that we allocated some of the money to the dental fissure sealant scheme, whereby parents in Communities First areas have been offered the opportunity to have their children's teeth treated to prevent decay. Interestingly, that scheme—and I have visited projects—is run by the Community Dental Service, which visits schools, engages with the parents and educates children and their parents on oral hygiene. It is a voluntary take-up scheme, which prevents oral decay in children, and take-up has been high in the Communities First areas. It has been positively received by children, schools and parents in those areas.

Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle, Mike, i nodi ein bod wedi dyrannu rhywfaint o'r arian i'r cynllun selio holltau deintyddol, lle y rhoddwyd cyfle i rieni yn ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf gael triniaeth ar ddannedd eu plant i atal pydru. Yn ddiddorol, cynhelir y cynllun hwnnw—ac yr wyf wedi ymweld â phrosiectau—gan y Gwasanaeth Deintyddol Cymunedol, sy'n ymweld ag ysgolion, yn cysylltu â'r rhieni ac yn addysgu plant a'u rhieni am hylendid geneuol. Cynllun gwirfoddol ydyw, sy'n atal pydredd dannedd ymhlith plant, a bu nifer y bobl a fanteisiodd arno yn uchel yn yr ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Cafodd groeso cynnes gan blant, ysgolion a rhieni yn yr ardaloedd hynny.

This is a financial programme, and I would like to extend the resources for it. We received 112 bids, as you said. They did not all meet the criteria—I am not going to back everything; bids have to meet the national service framework criteria and have the potential to result in a deliverable project. However, some of the projects were funded by other means, for example, as a result of the allocation of extra funding through the Townsend formula to those communities with the highest health needs. That funding amounted to £11.1 million last year. This year, there will be £30 million, and, in terms of the focus on health inequalities, in Caerphilly, for example, the funding was used to roll out a project to screen and support people with diabetes. Jeff Cuthbert and I visited one of the practices, and, as a

Rhaglen ariannol yw hon, a hoffwn ehangu'r adnoddau ar ei chyfer. Fel y nodwyd gennych, cafwyd 112 o geisiadau gennym. Nid oedd pob un ohonynt yn bodloni'r meini prawf—ni chefnogaf bopeth; rhaid i geisiadau fodloni meini prawf y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol a dangos potensial i arwain at brosiect y gellir ei gyflawni. Fodd bynnag, ariannwyd rhai o'r prosiectau drwy ddulliau eraill, er enghraifft, o ganlyniad i arian ychwanegol a ddyrannwyd drwy fformiwla Townsend i'r cymunedau hynny â'r anghenion iechyd mwyaf. Daeth yr arian hwnnw i gyfanswm o £11.1 miliwn y llynedd. Eleni, bydd £30 miliwn, ac, o ran y ffocws ar anghydraddoldebau iechyd, yng Nghaerffili, er enghraifft, defnyddiwyd yr arian i gyflwyno prosiect i sgrinio a chynorthwyo pobl â diabetes. Ymwelais i a

result of Townsend formula funding, the scheme is now being rolled out across the whole county.

This is about embedding best practice in the system. We do not just want one-off initiatives. We want to see what works and then get the health service to implement it. That is the next step in taking this forward over the next two years. Managing chronic diseases, such as diabetes, may well be another area for this to cover; I have already mentioned mental health. I want to open this out for discussion—and it was useful to hear the views of Members today—in order to make this a strategic programme to tackle health inequalities. I want to engage with professionals and partners at a local level, then embed good practice in the NHS across Wales and move forward to tackle other issues such as diabetes and mental health.

The Presiding Officer: We are out of time for this statement, but I am anxious to call other Members apart from official spokespeople.

Val Lloyd: I welcome the opportunity to hear more about this fund, because it underpins the important agenda of social justice. I disagree with what previous speakers said about the positioning of the statement, because it is important to raise this issue in Plenary so that all Members, and not just members of the Health and Social Services Committee, have the opportunity to contribute, and to do so in an open forum.

Reducing health inequalities across Wales is paramount if we are to extend the life chances of those in the deprived areas of Wales. The funding for 12 practices in Swansea has already reached 31,000 people, as you said. That has proved worth while, and I welcome the continuation of the project. Therefore, could you tell me if the funding overall, and, in particular the funding for Swansea, will continue exactly as it is now in relation to its amount and how it is targeted?

Jeff Cuthbert ag un o'r practisau, ac, o ganlyniad i arian fformiwla Townsend, mae'r cynllun yn awr yn cael ei gyflwyno ledled y sir.

Mae a wnelo hyn ag ymgorffori arfer gorau i'r system. Nid ydym am weld mentrau unigol na welir mo'u tebyg eto. Yr ydym am weld beth sy'n gweithio ac yna gofyn i'r gwasanaeth iechyd ei roi ar waith. Dyna'r cam nesaf o ran datblygu'r fenter hon yn ystod y ddwy flynedd nesaf. Mae'n bosibl y bydd rheoli clefydau cronig, megis diabetes, yn faes arall y gellid ei gwmpasu; yr wyf eisoes wedi sôn am iechyd meddwl. Yr wyf am gynnal trafodaeth ar y mater –ac yr oedd yn ddefnyddiol clywed safbwyntiau Aelodau heddiw—er mwyn llunio rhaglen strategol i fynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd. Yr wyf am gynnwys pobl broffesiynol a phartneriaid ar lefel leol, wedyn ymgorffori arfer da yn y GIG ledled Cymru a symud ymlaen i fynd i'r afael â materion eraill megis diabetes ac iechyd meddwl.

Y Llywydd: Mae'r amser ar gyfer y datganiad hwn wedi dod i ben, ond yr wyf yn awyddus i alw ar Aelodau eraill ar wahân i lefarwyr swyddogol.

Val Lloyd: Croesawaf y cyfle i glywed mwy am y gronfa hon, gan ei bod yn darparu sylfaen ar gyfer agenda bwysig cyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Anghytunaf â'r hyn a ddywedodd llefarwyr blaenorol am amseru'r datganiad hwn, gan ei fod yn bwysig codi'r mater hwn mewn Cyfarfod Llawn er mwyn rhoi'r cyfle i bob Aelod, ac nid dim ond aelodau'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, gyfrannu, ac i wneud hynny mewn fforwm agored.

Mae lleihau anghydraddoldebau iechyd ledled Cymru yn holl bwysig er mwyn cynyddu cyfleoedd bywyd y rheini sy'n byw yn ardaloedd difreintiedig Cymru. Mae'r arian a ddyrannwyd i 12 o bractisau yn Abertawe eisoes wedi cyrraedd 31,000 o bobl, fel y dywedasoch. Bu hynny'n werthfawr, a chroesawaf barhad y prosiect. Felly, a allech ddweud wrthyf a fydd yr arian yn gyffredinol, ac, yn arbennig yr arian i Abertawe, yn parhau ar yr union lefel o ran y swm a'r ffordd y caiff ei dargedu?

Jane Hutt: Yes, it will continue. Funding has been secured for the next two years, and we are now looking at how we can take this programme forward. However, it will meet the targets that have been laid out and fund the teams that have been supported.

David Melding: This statement reminds me of that famous spoof newspaper headline: 'Shock Revelation: Pope Admits he is a Catholic'. We all think that this work is marvellous, and are glad that it is going as well as we had originally hoped. A written statement on this, or a statement in your monthly report to committee, would have been far better, however, and we could have perhaps then have spent some of this time looking at the inequalities in cardiac treatment between England and Wales and at waiting times. I will ask you a policy question. Will you continue to ensure that funds to address health inequalities are ring-fenced—as a certain party has urged you to do—or will this kind of funding disappear into the Townsend review and its implementation?

3.30 p.m.

Jane Hutt: I have extended this as ring-fenced funding, and, as I said in answer to Mike German, this is a useful way of initiating good practice with regard to tackling health inequalities in the future, and I would therefore be in favour of that.

Jane Hutt: Bydd, bydd yn parhau. Sicrhawyd arian ar gyfer y ddwy flynedd nesaf, ac yr ydym yn awr yn edrych ar ffyrdd i ddatblygu'r rhaglen hon. Fodd bynnag, bydd yn cyflawni'r targedau a osodwyd ac yn ariannu'r timau a gefnogwyd.

David Melding: Mae'r datganiad hwn yn fy atgoffa o'r twyll bennawd papur newydd enwog hwnnw: 'Datgeliad Syfrdanol: Y Pab yn Cyfaddef ei fod yn Gatholig'. Yr ydym oll o'r farn bod y gwaith hwn yn ardderchog, ac yn falch ei fod yn mynd rhagddo cystal â'r disgwyliad gwreiddiol. Fodd bynnag, byddai datganiad ysgrifenedig, neu ddatganiad yn eich adroddiad misol i'r pwyllgor, wedi bod yn llawer gwell, ac efallai wedyn y gallem fod wedi treulio rhywfaint o'r amser hwn yn edrych ar yr anghydraddoldebau rhwng triniaeth gardiaidd yng Nghymru a Lloegr ac ar amseroedd aros. Gofynnaf gwestiwn polisi ichi. A barhewch i sicrhau y caiff cronfeydd i ymdrin ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd eu clustnodi—fel yr erfyniodd un blaid arbennig arnoch i wneud—neu a fydd y math hwn o arian yn diflannu i dalu am adolygiad Townsend a'r broses o'i roi ar waith?

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf wedi ehangu'r arian hwn fel arian wedi'i glustnodi, ac, fel y dywedais wrth ymateb i Mike German, mae'n ffordd ddefnyddiol o ysgogi arfer da o ran mynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn y dyfodol, a byddwn felly o blaid hynny.

Cynnig Cyfansawdd: Cymeradwyo Gorchmynion **Composite Motion: Approval of Orders**

The Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 24.25, this motion is not subject to debate.

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 24.25:

1. a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 15 June 2004 on the draft Order, the Road Traffic (Permitted Parking Area and Special

Y Llywydd: O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25, ni chynhelir dadl ar y cynnig hwn.

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25:

1. a) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Mehefin 2004, mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Traffig Ffyrdd

- Parking Area) (County of Denbighshire) Order 2004; and* (Ardal Barcio a Ganiateir ac Ardal Barcio Arbennig) (Sir Ddinbych) 2004; a
- b) approves the Road Traffic (Permitted Parking Area and Special Parking Area) (County of Denbighshire) Order 2004 is made in accordance with:* *b) yn cymeradwyo bod Gorchymyn Traffig Ffyrdd (Ardal Barcio a Ganiateir ac Ardal Barcio Arbennig) (Sir Ddinbych) 2004 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:*
- i) the draft Orders laid in the Table Office on 25 May 2004; and* *i) y Gorchymynion drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 25 Mai 2004; a*
- ii) regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 25 May 2004;* *ii) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 25 Mai 2004;*
- 2. a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 15 June 2004 on the draft regulations, the Farm Waste Grant (Nitrate Vulnerable Zones) (Wales) Scheme 2004; and* *2. a) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Mehefin 2004, mewn perthynas â'r rheoliadau drafft, Cynllun Grantiau Gwastraff Fferm (Parthau Perygl Nitradau) (Cymru) 2004; a*
- b) approves the Farm Waste Grant (Nitrate Vulnerable Zones) (Wales) Scheme 2004 is made in accordance with:* *b) yn cymeradwyo bod Cynllun Grantiau Gwastraff Fferm (Parthau Perygl Nitradau) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2004 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:*
- i) the draft regulations laid in the Table Office on 26 May 2004; and* *i) y rheoliadau drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 26 Mai 2004; a*
- ii) regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 25 May 2004;* *ii) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 25 Mai 2004;*
- 3. a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 8 June 2004 on the draft Order, the Dyfed Powys Health Authority and Gwent Health Authority (Transfer of Trust Property) Order 2004; and* *3. a) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 8 Mehefin 2004, mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Awdurdod Iechyd Dyfed Powys ac Awdurdod Iechyd Gwent (Trosglwyddo Eiddo Ymddiriedolaeth) 2004; a*
- b) approves the Dyfed Powys Health Authority and Gwent Health Authority (Transfer of Trust Property) Order 2004 is made in accordance with:* *b) yn cymeradwyo bod Gorchymyn Awdurdod Iechyd Dyfed Powys ac Awdurdod Iechyd Gwent (Trosglwyddo Eiddo Ymddiriedolaeth) 2004 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:*
- i) the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 25 May 2004; and* *i) y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 25 Mai 2004; a*
- ii) regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 25 May 2004. (NDM2005)* *ii) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 25 Mai 2004. (NDM2005)*

*Cynnig (NDM2005): O blaid 38, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2005): For 38, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Ffioedd am Gyffuriau
a Chyfarpar) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2004
Approval of the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances)
(Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004**

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 to NDM2006 in the name of Jocelyn Davies. **Y Llywydd:** Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 i NDM2006 yn enw Jocelyn Davies.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I propose that **Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt):** Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales considers the principle of the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004, a copy of *Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Ffioedd am Gyffuriau a Chyfarpar) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2004, y gosodwyd copi*

which was laid in the Table Office on 25 May 2004. (NDM2006)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 8 June 2004 in relation to the draft Order, the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004; and

2. approves that the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 is made in accordance with:

a) the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 25 May 2004; and

b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 25 May 2004. (NDM2007)

I am pleased to commend this motion to the Assembly this afternoon. It is the first in what will be a series of measures working towards the abolition of prescription charges by 2007, as promised in our manifesto. That reduction will change the prescription charge in Wales from £6 to £5 from 1 October this year, and the cost of an annual pre-payment certificate will also be reduced, to £71.83. I reject the amendment to the motion, which suggests that the prescription charge should be abolished more quickly than we had planned. As I said in the Assembly last October, free prescriptions will be introduced for all the people of Wales before the end of this second Assembly. I have been advised by an expert working group, including GPs, pharmacists and community health councils, that we must take a gradual approach to phasing-in this new and radical policy, so that due consideration is given to a whole range of legislative and administrative issues before it is fully implemented.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I propose amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 25 Mai 2004. (NDM2006)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 8 Mehefin 2004, mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Ffioedd am Gyffuriau a Chyfarpar) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2004; a

2. yn cymeradwyo bod Rheoliadau'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Ffioedd am Gyffuriau a Chyfarpar) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2004 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

a) y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 25 Mai 2004; a

b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 25 Mai 2004. (NDM2007)

Mae'n bleser gennyf gymeradwyo'r cynnig hwn i'r Cynulliad y prynhawn yma. Dyma'r cyntaf o gyfres o fesurau sy'n gweithio tuag at gael gwared ar daliadau presgripsiwn erbyn 2007, fel yr addawyd yn ein manifesto. Bydd y gostyngiad hwnnw yn newid y taliad presgripsiwn yng Nghymru o £6 i £5 o 1 Hydref eleni, a bydd cost tystysgrif blaendal blynyddol hefyd yn cael ei ostwng, i £71.83. Gwrthodaf y diwygiad i'r cynnig, sy'n awgrymu y dylid cael gwared ar y taliad presgripsiwn yn gynt na'r hyn a fwriadwyd gennym. Fel y dywedais yn y Cynulliad fis Hydref diwethaf, caiff presgripsiynau am ddim eu cyflwyno i bawb yng Nghymru cyn diwedd yr ail Gynulliad hwn. Fe'm cynghorwyd gan weithgor arbenigol, sy'n cynnwys meddygon teulu, fferyllwyr a chynghorau iechyd cymuned, fod yn rhaid inni gyflwyno'r polisi newydd a radical hwn yn raddol, er mwyn rhoi ystyriaeth briodol i ystod lawn o faterion deddfwriaethol a gweinyddol cyn ei weithredu'n llawn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Cynigiaf welliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

expresses concern at the failure of the Assembly Government to support the principle of abolishing prescription charges during the first term of the Assembly.

Although we welcome this development on prescriptions, I remind the Minister that on 22 March 2000, when an amendment was tabled by the Liberal Democrats to the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Wales) Regulations 2000, that she said at that time,

‘I strongly oppose decoupling the NHS in Wales from the rest of the UK...I am disappointed that we have had this amendment. I urge the Assembly to vote against it’.

You seem to have had some kind of road-to-Damascus experience since 22 March 2000, Minister. Perhaps you could explain that. Perhaps you could also tell us how much this will cost. I remind you of another statement that you made on 29 March 2001. You said that:

‘The cost of ending prescription charges in Wales is likely to be around £50 million a year. We must decide on our priorities. That is the equivalent to the annual cost of a major specialist unit, such as a cancer unit at Felindre Hospital’.

The Damascus experience had not happened by 29 March 2001, but you have now had that experience. I congratulate you on that and wish you well in your new life, Minister, but it would be nice to know exactly why you have decided that money should be spent in this way now, when you were opposed to spending it in that way in 2000 and 2001. Will you tell us how much money will have to be spent on this and where it will come from in your budget? Will you also explain chronic illness to us, because you had great difficulty in defining it the last time that we discussed this issue? Indeed, according to you, that was a major problem in addressing the issue because, in your words, it was impossible to define chronic illness.

yn mynegi pryder am fethiant Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i gefnogi egwyddor cael gwared ar daliadau am bresgripsiynau yn ystod tymor cyntaf y Cynulliad.

Er ein bod yn croesawu'r datblygiad hwn o ran presgripsiynau, atgoffaf y Gweinidog y bu iddi ddweud, ar 22 Mawrth 2000, pan gyflwynwyd diwygiad gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i Reoliadau'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Ffioedd am Gyffuriau ac Offer) (Cymru) 2000,

‘Yr wyf yn gwrthwynebu'n gryf ddatgysylltu'r NHS yng Nghymru oddi wrth weddill y DU...Yr wyf yn siomedig inni gael y gwelliant hwn. Anogaf y Cynulliad i bleidleisio yn ei erbyn.’

Ymddengys eich bod wedi cael rhyw dröedigaeth Ddamascaidd ers 22 Mawrth 2000, Weinidog. Efallai y gallech esbonio hynny. Efallai y gallech hefyd ddweud wrthym faint y bydd hyn yn ei gostio. Fe'ch atgoffaf o ddatganiad arall a wnaethoch ar 29 Mawrth 2001. Dywedasoeh:

‘Mae cost rhoi terfyn ar godi am bresgripsiynau yng Nghymru yn debygol o fod o gwmpas £50 miliwn y flwyddyn. Rhaid inni benderfynu ar ein blaenoriaethau. Mae hynny'n cyfateb i gost flynyddol uned arbenigol fawr fel yr uned ganser yn Ysbyty Felindre.’

Nid oeddech wedi cael tröedigaeth Ddamascaidd erbyn 29 Mawrth 2001, ond yr ydych wedi cael y profiad hwnnw bellach. Hoffwn eich llongyfarch ar hynny a dymuno'n dda ichi yn eich bywyd newydd, Weinidog, ond byddai'n dda gwybod yn union pam yr ydych wedi penderfynu y dylid gwario arian yn y ffordd hon yn awr, pan oeddech yn gwrthwynebu ei wario yn y ffordd honno yn 2000 a 2001. A wnewch ddweud wrthym faint o arian fydd wedi'i wario ar hyn ac o ble y daw yn eich cyllideb? A wnewch hefyd esbonio salwch cronig wrthym, gan y cawsoch anhawster mawr i'w ddiffinio y tro diwethaf inni drafod y mater hwn? Yn wir, dywedasoeh fod hynny'n broblem fawr wrth fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn oherwydd, yn eich geiriau chi, yr oedd yn amhosibl diffinio salwch cronig.

Glyn Davies: Much of what you say seems sensible and, of course, you have professional knowledge of conversions on the road to Damascus—you work on that at the weekend—but amendment 1 seeks to implement this scheme more quickly. Therefore, do you have any idea as to where the £50 million for it will come from?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I can certainly recognise a Damascene conversion when I see one, Glyn, and that is what we have here. We supported the Liberal Democrat amendment in the first place; we have not changed our position on this matter, but the Minister has changed hers dramatically in terms of saying that the money could be spent in a better way.

That is what the Minister said in 2000 and 2001. However, she now tells us that this is the best way to spend the money, and she therefore has an obligation to explain that in the Chamber. This is a large sum of money. This measure will go some way towards addressing the cost of prescription charges, and to help, not the poorest people in our communities, but those who are just above the threshold, who often get penalised in these situations. Although they do not have disposable wealth, those people are expected to pay these kinds of charges. I would be grateful to know, Minister, how, during your Damascus experience, you came upon the definition of chronic illness, which now allows you to do what you said was impossible a few years ago.

The Presiding Officer: Saint Paul? No, it is David Melding.

David Melding: Thank you for that introduction, Presiding Officer, but to be compared with Saint Paul is well beyond what I merit. To try to use some of the great apostle's powers of analysis, this subsidy for the relatively well off—I could say the rich, because some of these people will certainly be rich—is not the best use of resources. The cost of the scheme to end prescription charges is now put at roughly £37.5 million—it would be nearer £50 million had

Glyn Davies: Mae llawer o'r hyn a ddywedwch yn ymddangos yn synhwyrol ac, wrth gwrs, yr ydych yn meddu ar wybodaeth broffesiynol am dröedigaethau Damascaidd—yr ydych yn gweithio ar hynny ar y penwythnos—ond y mae gwelliant 1 yn ceisio rhoi'r cynllun hwn ar waith yn gyflymach. Felly, a oes unrhyw syniad gennyh o ble y daw'r £50 miliwn ar ei gyfer?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yn sicr, gallaf adnabod tröedigaeth Ddamascaidd pan welaf un, Glyn, a dyna'r hyn a welwn yma. Cefnogwyd diwygiad y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol gennym yn y lle cyntaf; nid yw ein safbwynt wedi newid yn hyn o beth, ond mae safbwynt y Gweinidog wedi newid yn sylweddol o ran dweud y gellid gwario'r arian yn well.

Dyna a ddywedodd y Gweinidog yn 2000 a 2001. Fodd bynnag, dywed wrthym yn awr mai dyma'r ffordd orau o wario'r arian, ac felly mae rhwymedigaeth arni i esbonio hynny yn y Siambr. Mae hwn yn swm mawr o arian. Bydd y mesur hwn yn mynd gam o'r ffordd tuag at ymdrin â chost taliadau presgripsiynau, ac yn helpu, nid y bobl dlotaf yn ein cymunedau, ond y rhai sydd ychydig uwchlaw'r trothwy, sy'n aml yn cael eu cosbi yn y sefyllfaoedd hyn. Er nad oes ganddynt incwm gwario, disgwylir i'r bobl hynny dalu'r mathau hyn o daliadau. Byddai'n dda gennyf wybod, Weinidog, sut y bu ichi, yn ystod eich tröedigaeth, daro ar y diffiniad o salwch cronig, sydd yn awr yn caniatáu ichi wneud yr hyn a oedd yn amhosibl, yn eich barn chi, ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl.

Y Llywydd: Sant Paul? Na, David Melding ydyw.

David Melding: Diolch am y cyflwyniad hwnnw, Lywydd, ond mae fy nghymharu â Sant Paul y tu hwnt i'm haeddiant. Gan geisio defnyddio rhai o bwerau dadansoddi'r apostol mawreddog, nid yw'r cymhorthdal hwn i'r rhai sy'n gymharol dda eu byd—gallwn ddweud y cyfoethog, oherwydd bydd rhai o'r bobl hyn yn sicr yn gyfoethog—yn enghraifft o'r defnydd gorau o adnoddau. Amcangyfrifir y bydd cost y cynllun hwn i gael gwared ar daliadau presgripsiynau yn

we not already reduced prescription charges compared with charges in England. This money could fund a major unit, or a fully equipped community hospital. We are trying to improve intermediate care, and we could have one community hospital each and every year, instead of moving resources from relatively poor people to those who are better off. Ron Davies picked up on this in his lecture to the Institute of Welsh Politics in Aberystwyth. He challenged the members of the Labour frontbench as to how on earth they thought that this could be excused as radical policy. I take a prescription for a chronic condition; I am set to make a handsome saving every year and I am grateful for it. It will not quite buy me a bottle of Château Haut Brion 1982, but it will certainly pay a few restaurant bills. If you think that that is an effective use of resources, then support this motion. It is interesting that it takes the Conservative Party to be truly radical concerning the use of public money and to direct it to where it should go—to those most in need.

Michael German: Far be it for me to follow Sir Thomas Aquinas—sorry, Saint Paul; it is Nick Bourne who is Thomas Aquinas, for those who are interested in these matters.

I am fascinated by these last two discussions. We have had a statement on health inequalities in Wales, and we are now considering a policy that would benefit everyone who currently pays prescription charges. Yet 20 of the Assembly Members who sit on the other side of the aisle voted to give the chronically ill free prescriptions as a matter of urgency in February last year. I wonder whether we have got the structure wrong. If it is important that those who are most in need are treated first and given the most assistance—as was the thrust of the statement on health inequalities that we just heard—then surely it would be far better to treat those who are chronically ill first, and to give them free prescriptions, as the Assembly as a whole determined only last year. I will benefit from this, as will most Members, and am grateful for that. However, I do not think that anyone here would describe themselves as being most in need—well, some might be,

£37.5 miliwn—byddai'n agosach at £50 miliwn pe na baem wedi gostwng taliadau presgripsiwn eisoes o gymharu â thaliadau yn Lloegr. Gallai'r arian hwn ariannu uned fawr, neu ysbyty cymunedol ag adnoddau llawn. Yr ydym yn ceisio gwella gofal canolraddol a gallem agor ysbyty cymunedol bob blwyddyn, yn hytrach na throsglwyddo adnoddau o bobl gymharol dlawd i'r rhai sy'n well eu byd. Cyfeiriodd Ron Davies at hyn yn ei ddarlith i Sefydliad Gwleidyddiaeth Cymru yn Aberystwyth. Heriodd aelodau mainc flaen Llafur i esbonio sut ar y ddaear y gallent gredu y gellid esgusodi hwn fel polisi radical. Caf bresgripsiwn ar gyfer cyflwr cronig; byddaf yn arbed cryn dipyn o arian bob blwyddyn ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am hynny. Ni fydd yn prynu potel o Château Haut Brion 1982, ond yn sicr bydd yn talu am rai biliau mewn bwytai. Os credwch fod hynny'n ddefnydd effeithiol o adnoddau, yna cefnogwch y cynnig hwn. Mae'n ddiddorol nodi mai dyletswydd ar y Blaid Geidwadol yw bod yn wirioneddol radical o ran y defnydd o arian cyhoeddus a'i gyfeirio i'r lleoedd priodol—i'r rheini sydd â'r angen mwyaf.

Michael German: Nid fy lle i yw dilyn Syr Thomas Aquinas—mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Sant Paul; Nick Bourne yw Thomas Aquinas, i'r rhai sydd â diddordeb yn y materion hyn.

Mae'r ddwy drafodaeth ddiwethaf hyn wedi fy nghyfareddu. Cawsom ddatganiad ar anghydraddoldebau iechyd yng Nghymru, ac yn awr yr ydym yn ystyried polisi a fyddai o fudd i bawb sy'n talu am bresgripsiynau ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, pleidleisiodd 20 o Aelodau'r Cynulliad sy'n eistedd ar ochr arall yr eil i roi presgripsiynau am ddim ar frys i bobl â salwch cronig ym mis Chwefror y llynedd. Tybed a yw'r strwythur anghywir gennym? Os yw'n bwysig trin y rhai â'r angen mwyaf yn gyntaf a rhoi'r cymorth mwyaf iddynt—sef prif bwyslais y datganiad ar anghydraddoldebau iechyd yr ydym newydd ei glywed—yna oni fyddai'n llawer gwell trin y rhai sydd â salwch cronig yn gyntaf a rhoi presgripsiynau am ddim iddynt, fel y penderfynodd y Cynulliad cyfan dim ond y llynedd. Bydd hyn o fudd i mi, yn ogystal â'r rhan fwyaf o Aelodau, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am hynny. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf y byddai unrhyw un yma yn disgrifio

but, in general, we are not those most in need.

ei hun fel rhywun â'r angen mwyaf—wel, efallai bod rhai, ond, yn gyffredinol, nid ni yw'r rhai â'r angen mwyaf.

3.40 p.m.

However, there are people who would require this: think of people with kidney disease, most of whom receive five prescriptions per month. That is a great drain on their personal resources. They have a chronic, long-term, debilitating illness, and they, not me, should benefit from this first. I am the first to admit that their need is greater than mine.

Fodd bynnag, mae pobl y byddai angen hwn arnynt: meddyliwch am bobl â chlefyd yr arenau, y mae'r rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn cael pum presgripsiwn y mis. Mae hynny'n dreth fawr ar eu hadnoddau personol. Mae ganddynt salwch cronig, hirdymor, gwanhaol, a hwy, nid fi, ddylai elwa ar hyn yn gyntaf. Fi yw'r cyntaf i gyfaddef bod eu hangen hwy yn fwy na'm hangen i.

How could we have done that? Clearly, we could have had regulations before us today that made that proposal. It would be a step towards where you want to go, but it would take a different approach to getting there. You would have expected those with the greatest need, those on several prescriptions per month, to have seen some greater benefit in terms of pre-paid certificates, because that is how those most in need pay for their prescriptions. Those who are most in need in terms of their health would have wanted to see progress made on that. To take that step, I would have liked to see, for example, a half-price pre-paid certificate granted to the chronically ill who take several prescriptions. The money could have been used differently to achieve a greater impact.

Sut y gallem fod wedi gwneud hynny? Yn amlwg, gellid bod wedi cyflwyno rheoliadau ger ein bron heddiw a oedd yn gwneud y cynnig hwnnw. Byddai gam yn agosach at eich nod, ond byddai angen ymagwedd wahanol i gyrraedd y nod. Byddech wedi disgwyl i'r rhai â'r angen mwyaf, y rhai ar sawl presgripsiwn y mis, fod wedi elwa'n fwy o ran tystysgrifau blaendaledig, oherwydd mai dyna'r modd y mae'r rhai â'r angen mwyaf yn talu am eu presgripsiynau. Byddai'r rhai â'r angen mwyaf o ran eu hiechyd wedi dymuno gweld cynnydd yn hynny o beth. I gymryd y cam hwnnw, byddwn wedi dymuno gweld, er enghraifft, dystysgrif flaendaledig hanner pris yn cael ei rhoi i'r bobl â salwch cronig sy'n cael sawl presgripsiwn. Gellid bod wedi defnyddio'r arian yn wahanol i gyflawni mwy.

Minister, you have just made a statement that says that those most in need of help, who experience the greatest inequalities in treatment, should benefit most, yet here we are giving this benefit to all. I thought that helping the most vulnerable was a policy that your party wanted to pursue.

Weinidog, yr ydych newydd wneud datganiad sy'n dweud mai'r rhai â'r angen mwyaf, sy'n profi'r anghydraddoldebau mwyaf o ran triniaeth, ddylai elwa fwyaf, ond dyma ni yn sicrhau bod pawb yn elwa ar hyn. Yr oeddwn yn credu bod helpu'r rhai mwyaf diamddiffyn yn bolisi yr oedd eich plaid am ei fabwysiadu.

If you agree that helping the needy is the best way forward, then I ask you to reflect on the fact that you were going to establish a working group to consider how to define those most in need and the chronically ill. Will you reconstitute that working group, so that we can take a different approach to this matter? Given that your party has a majority, you have the right to put this policy through, but if you are going to make this benefit a

Os credwch mai helpu'r anghenus yw'r ffordd orau ymlaen, yna gofynnaf ichi ystyried y ffaith eich bod wedi bwriadu sefydlu gweithgor i ystyried sut i ddiffinio'r rhai â'r angen mwyaf a'r rhai â salwch cronig. A wnewch ailgynnull y gweithgor hwnnw, er mwyn inni allu dilyn ymagwedd wahanol yn hyn o beth? O ystyried bod gan eich plaid fwyaf, mae gennych yr hawl i gyflwyno'r polisi hwn, ond os ydych yn

universal benefit, for goodness' sake treat those most in need first.

The Presiding Officer: I call the Minister to reply. Sorry, I did not see you standing to speak, Carl.

Carl Sargeant: You could not see me—I appreciate that. [*Laughter.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. Allow me to make my meaning clear. I could not see you on account of a pillar. Following my visit this morning to the site of the new Chamber, I can only pray that the disappearance of these pillars comes as soon as possible.

Carl Sargeant: The opposition hates the fact that we as a Labour administration want to do something positive for the people of Wales. When I say 'the people of Wales', I mean all people in Wales: rich or poor, young or old. We will deliver for them, and the Minister has taken a balanced approach in reducing the prescription charge in stages. We need to get this right, and the legislation is important. The Liberals come up with some wonderful ideas on how we should implement this, but in the elections, they were weighed and were found wanting.

Eleanor Burnham *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. On account of the pillar, Carl, I do not think that you can see that Eleanor Burnham is trying to intervene.

Carl Sargeant: I am coming to an end, so I will not give way.

I support the Minister's approach on prescription charges.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): Rhodri Glyn, I am grateful that you welcome this motion—and I hear that you are a powerful feature in Carmarthenshire. However, we are now living in 2004, not 2000 or 2001. I am the Minister for Health Social Services in 2004, and I am proud of the policy to introduce a 17 per cent cut in prescription charges. The people of Wales are pleased about that and

bwriadu cyflwyno'r budd hwn i bawb, er mwyn y nefoedd ymdriniwch â'r rhai â'r angen mwyaf yn gyntaf.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf ar y Gweinidog i ateb. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ni welais mohonoch chi'n sefyll i siarad, Carl.

Carl Sargeant: Ni allech fy ngweld—gwerthfawrogaf hynny. [*Chwerthin.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Gadewch imi egluro fy hun. Nid oeddwn yn gallu eich gweld oherwydd piler. Yn dilyn fy ymweliad y bore yma i safle'r Siambr newydd, gallaf ond gweddio y bydd y pileri hyn yn diflannu cyn gynted â phosibl.

Carl Sargeant: Mae'r wrthblaid yn casáu'r ffaith ein bod ni fel gweinyddiaeth Lafur am wneud rhywbeth cadarnhaol dros bobl Cymru. Pan ddywedaf 'pobl Cymru', golygaf bawb yng Nghymru: y cyfoethog a'r tlawd, yr hen a'r ifanc. Darparwn ar eu cyfer, ac mae'r Gweinidog wedi cymryd ymagwedd gytbwys wrth ostwng y taliad presgripsiwn yn raddol. Mae angen inni gael hwn yn iawn, ac mae'r ddeddfwriaeth yn bwysig. Caiff y Rhyddfrydwyr rai syniadau gwych ynglŷn â sut y dylem weithredu hwn, ond yn yr etholiadau, cawsant eu pwyso a'u mesur a chanfuwyd eu bod yn ddiffygiol.

Eleanor Burnham *a gododd*—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Oherwydd y piler, Carl, nid wyf yn credu y gallwch weld bod Eleanor Burnham yn ceisio ymyrryd.

Carl Sargeant: Yr wyf bron â gorffen, felly nid ildiaf.

Cefnogaf ymagwedd y Gweinidog tuag at daliadau presgripsiwn.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Rhodri Glyn, yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn croesawu'r cynnig hwn—a chlywaf eich bod yn ddyn pwerus yn sir Gaerfyrddin. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym bellach yn byw yn 2004, nid 2000 neu 2001. Fi yw'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn 2004, ac yr wyf yn falch o'r polisi i gyflwyno gostyngiad o 17 y cant mewn taliadau presgripsiwn. Mae

welcome it. Have you heard from those who suffer from asthma, Crohn's disease or arthritis? We still rely, in the twenty-first century, on a list of exemptions that was drawn up in 1968. No previous Government has had the guts to amend, develop or challenge that list of exemptions. We are doing it here by simply getting rid of prescription charges.

Mike, you know very well that the difficulty was that, when we looked at whether we should extend those chronic conditions, we knew that it would result in more inequalities in terms of who comes into the tent and who is left out of it. We are only talking about a small percentage of people who are not exempt in terms of prescription charges.

Glyn Davies: A few individuals are currently not exempt. Why did you not just make them exempt also? It is a pretty simple issue.

Jane Hutt: That is exactly the point that I have just been making. Mike asked me about the expert working group, which we set up in good faith to start examining whether we could extend the exemptions, because, in terms of those exemptions from 1968, we know that only a small number came into the tent. We wanted to examine how to extend that. It was clear that it would be a bureaucratic tangle, with complex and legally challengeable rules. That is the issue. That is why we moved to the plans for free prescriptions: to sweep away all those bureaucratic and legalistic issues, which would arise if we had just extended the exemptions. We have that working group, Mike, and it is helping us to gradually phase out prescriptions in a balanced—as Carl said—and manageable way. It includes general practitioners, pharmacists—and I met with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on Monday—community health councils and local health boards. We are working together in a managed, responsible and balanced way to achieve what you want to achieve, Mike. I know that the Liberal Democrats support the way in which we are moving forward, because it means a complete ban on prescription charges.

pobl Cymru wedi eu plesio gan hynny ac yn ei groesawu. A ydych wedi clywed gan y rhai sy'n dioddef o asthma, aflwydd Crohn's neu gryd cymalau? Yr ydym, yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, yn dal i ddibynnu ar restr o eithriadau a luniwyd yn 1968. Nid oes yr un Llywodraeth flaenorol wedi bod yn ddigon dewr i ddiwygio, datblygu neu herio'r rhestr honno o eithriadau. Yr ydym ni'n gwneud hynny yma drwy gael gwared ar daliadau presgripsiwn yn syml.

Mike, gwyddoch yn iawn mai'r anhawster, pan edrychom ar ba un a ddylem ehangu'r cyflyrau cronig hynny, oedd ein bod yn gwybod y byddai'n arwain at fwy o anghydraddoldeb o ran pwy sy'n elwa a phwy sydd ar eu colled. Dim ond am ganran fach o bobl nad ydynt wedi'u heithrio o ran taliadau presgripsiwn yr ydym yn sôn.

Glyn Davies: Ar hyn o bryd ceir rhai unigolion nad ydynt wedi'u heithrio. Pam na fu ichi eu heithrio hwy hefyd? Mae'n fater digon syml.

Jane Hutt: Dyna'r union bwynt yr wyf newydd ei wneud. Gofynnodd Mike imi am y gweithgor arbenigol, a sefydlwyd gennym mewn ewyllys da i ddechrau ymchwilio i pa un a allem ehangu'r eithriadau hyn, oherwydd, o ran yr eithriadau hynny o 1968, gwyddom mai dim ond nifer fach oedd yn perthyn i'r grŵp hwnnw. Yr oeddem am ymchwilio i sut i ehangu hynny. Yr oedd yn amlwg y byddai'n anodd yn fiwrocraidd, gyda rheolau cymhleth a chyfreithiol heriol. Dyna'r pwynt. Dyna pam y bu inni newid i'r cynlluniau ar gyfer presgripsiynau am ddim: i gael gwared ar yr holl faterion biwrocraidd a chyfreithiol hynny, a fyddai'n codi pe byddem wedi ehangu'r eithriadau yn unig. Mae'r gweithgor hwnnw yn bodoli, Mike, ac mae'n ein helpu i gael gwared ar daliadau presgripsiwn yn raddol mewn ffordd gytbwys—fel y dywedodd Carl—ac mewn ffordd y gellir ei rheoli. Mae'n cynnwys meddygon teulu, fferyllwyr—a chyfarfûm â Chymdeithas Fferyllol Frenhinol Prydain Fawr ddydd Llun—cynghorau iechyd cymuned a byrddau iechyd lleol. Yr ydym yn cydweithio mewn ffordd gytbwys, cyfrifol a reolir i gyflawni yr hyn yr ydych am ei gyflawni, Mike. Gwn fod y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn cefnogi'r ffordd yr ydym yn

symud ymlaen, oherwydd golyga gael gwared ar daliadau presgripsiwn yn gyfan gwbl.

David, you know that free prescriptions will benefit the whole population. It will improve the health of the nation. We have evidence from surveys done by the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux and the Office of Fair Trading that show that people are deterred from having their prescriptions dispensed, either in part or in their entirety. This results in people then having to use our hospital services because they are not taking their medication. If you talk to people, from Asthma UK, for example, they know that people's asthma is not being managed because they are not taking their medication, and that can result, in the worst extreme, in death. However, it can also result in people not being able to manage their daily lives, which asthma sufferers should be able to do. That will all be stripped away with free prescriptions.

It is also clear in terms of the figures—which are no different, David, from the figures that we have quoted in the past—that we would be spending less than 5 per cent of the total prescription budget to fund this. The worst case scenario in terms of demand might be quoted, but that is why we are gradually phasing out the charges. We are managing this and are examining demand and cross-border issues. We are engaging with pharmacists about how they can deal more effectively with minor ailments, because that is part of the modern community pharmacy role. Therefore, we are promoting a policy that is equitable and fair.

Prescription charges stand in the way of a country that is tackling health inequalities and is moving to full employment, bringing people out of unemployment and into training and jobs, because, often, the fear of having to pay prescription charges, if people have a chronic disease, can put them off in terms of their future opportunities and becoming fully engaged in the workforce. All of these issues are clearly evidenced, and the barrier to health for the most disadvantaged groups and those most in need would be cleared away by this Order. I thank the Assembly for its support in making this important and radical

David, gwyddoch y bydd presgripsiynau am ddim o fudd i'r boblogaeth gyfan. Bydd yn gwella iechyd y genedl. Yn sgîl arolygon gan Gymdeithas Genedlaethol Cyngor ar Bopeth a'r Swyddfa Masnachu Teg mae gennym dystiolaeth bod pobl yn cael eu rhwystro rhag cael eu presgripsiynau, naill ai yn rhannol neu'n gyfan gwbl. O ganlyniad, mae'n rhaid i bobl ddefnyddio gwasanaethau ein hysbytai am nad ydynt yn cymryd eu meddyginiaeth. Os siaradwch â phobl, o Asthma UK, er enghraifft, maent yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith nad yw asthma pobl yn cael ei reoli am nad ydynt yn cymryd eu meddyginiaeth, ac y gall hynny arwain at farwolaeth, yn yr achos gwaethaf. Fodd bynnag, gall hefyd arwain at bobl yn methu ag ymdopi yn eu bywydau bob dydd, sef yr hyn y dylai dioddefwyr asthma allu ei wneud. Caiff hynny oll ei ddileu gyda phresgripsiynau am ddim.

Mae hefyd yn amlwg o ran y ffigurau—nad ydynt yn wahanol, David, i'r ffigurau a nodwyd gennym yn y gorffennol—y byddem yn gwario llai na 5 y cant o gyfanswm y gyllideb presgripsiynau i ariannu hyn. Efallai y cyfeirir at y sefyllfa waethaf bosibl o ran galw, ond dyna pam yr ydym yn cael gwared ar y taliadau yn raddol. Yr ydym yn rheoli hyn ac yn ymchwilio i'r galw a materion trawsffiniol. Yr ydym yn cydweithio â fferyllwyr i drafod sut y gallant ddelio'n fwy effeithiol â mân glefydau, oherwydd mae hynny'n rhan o rôl fferyllfa gymunedol fodern. Felly, yr ydym yn hyrwyddo polisi cyfartal a theg.

Mae taliadau presgripsiwn yn rhwystro gwlad sy'n mynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd ac sy'n symud tuag at gyflogaeth lawn, gan dynnu pobl allan o ddiweithdra ac i mewn i hyfforddiant a swyddi, oherwydd, yn aml, gall yr ofn o orfod talu am bresgripsiynau, os oes gan bobl salwch cronig, eu rhwystro o ran cyfleoedd yn y dyfodol a dod yn rhan gyflawn o'r gweithlu. Ceir dystiolaeth amlwg o'r holl faterion hyn, a byddai'r rhwystr i iechyd ar gyfer y grwpiau mwyaf difreintiedig a'r rhai â'r angen mwyaf yn cael ei ddileu gan y Gorchymyn hwn. Diolchaf i'r Cynulliad am ei gefnogaeth i

new Order for Wales.

wneud y Gorchymyn newydd pwysig a
radical hwn i Gymru.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 13, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.
Amendment 1: For 13, Abstain 0, Against 31.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Jocelyn
German, Michael
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Brynle

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig (NDM2006): O blaid 37, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 7.
Motion (NDM2006): For 37, Abstain 0, Against 7.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John

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

Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Williams, Brynle

Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM2007): O blaid 36, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 7.
 Motion (NDM2007): For 36, Abstain 0, Against 7.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen

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

Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Melding, David
 Williams, Brynle

Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 3.51 p.m.
 The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3.51 p.m.*

Cymunedau yn Gyntaf Communities First

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

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Jonathan Morgan.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): I propose that

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Cynigiad fod

the National Assembly for Wales

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

1. notes the progress made so far under Communities First;

1. yn nodi'r hyn a gyflawnwyd hyd yma o dan y rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf;

2. recognises that there are lessons to be learned from the operation of the programme to date, as set out in the review conducted by the Deputy Minister;

2. yn cydnabod bod gwersi i'w dysgu o'r ffordd yr aed ati hyd yma i redeg y rhaglen, fel y gwelir yn yr adolygiad a gynhaliwyd gan y Dirprwy Weinidog;

3. confirms that the community-based nature of the programme requires a developmental and responsive approach, tailored to the needs of each locality. (NDM2008)

3. yn cadarnhau, gan mai rhaglen ar gyfer y gymuned ydyw, bod angen gweithredu mewn ffordd ymatebol a chanolbwyntio ar ddatblygu, a hynny mewn ffordd sy'n diwallu anghenion pob ardal. (NDM2008)

As you can see from the motion, I recognise that, while we are making progress under Communities First, there is much more to be done. We have overcome many obstacles over the past three years and there are still more to overcome. We must remember that we have embarked on a programme that involves generational change.

Fel y gallwch weld o'r cynnig, cydnabyddaf, er ein bod yn gwneud cynnydd o dan Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, fod llawer mwy i'w wneud. Yr ydym wedi goresgyn llawer o rwystrau dros y tair blynedd diwethaf ac mae rhagor i'w goresgyn o hyd. Rhaid inni gofio ein bod wedi dechrau ar raglen sy'n golygu newid dros genedlaethau.

I am pleased to support the two amendments tabled in the name of Jonathan Morgan. It is particularly important that we acknowledge the bottom-up approach, and also acknowledge that the experience of Communities First areas should be made available to other groups outside those areas. This is happening in some areas, including Caerphilly.

Mae'n bleser gennyf gefnogi'r ddau welliant a gyflwynwyd yn enw Jonathan Morgan. Mae'n arbennig o bwysig ein bod yn cydnabod yr ymagwedd o'r gwaelod i fyny, a hefyd yn cydnabod y dylai profiad ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf fod ar gael i grwpiau eraill y tu allan i'r ardaloedd hynny. Mae hyn yn digwydd mewn rhai ardaloedd, gan gynnwys Caerffili.

We want to see less well-off communities empowered to help themselves, drawing on their tradition of strong community identity and self-help. Our experience as an Assembly Government is that there is tremendous untapped potential in our communities, which can help in their regeneration. There is also enormous commitment among our partners to use their energy and resources for a shared purpose.

Communities First aims to bring together public, voluntary and private sector representatives with the people who are experiencing poverty. This is being done in a way that is already earning praise from people working at ground level. A recently published report on partnerships from the Centre for Local and Regional Government Research noted that, in Communities First areas

‘we see localised partnerships with the community in the driving seat—this is beginning to happen and would not have done so without partnership ideas around ownership’.

The report also stated that:

‘This is the thing that is great about Communities First, which is not the same as other partnerships, there is money available for training, capacity, team building and everything else...it feels fantastic because the Assembly is prepared to put its money where its mouth is’.

There are many areas where excellent work is being undertaken. Ystradgynlais in the Swansea valley is one example. There have been many developments there, including the construction of a skateboard park, which won the youth excellence award in November last year. Communities First in Llanelli has enabled strong links to be made with local schools and private business. Communities First funding has been used towards the running of the Winchestown family centre in Blaenau Gwent, which was converted from four flats under the People in Communities programme. This project secured funding under Objective 1, Corus regeneration

Yr ydym am weld cymunedau llai ffyniannus yn cael eu grymuso i’w helpu eu hunain, gan ddefnyddio eu traddodiad o hunaniaeth gymunedol gref a hunan-gymorth. O’n profiad ni fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad mae llawer iawn o botensial yn ein cymunedau nad ydym yn manteisio arno, a all helpu yn y gwaith o’u hadfywio. Ceir hefyd gryn ymrwymiad ymhlith ein partneriaid i ddefnyddio eu hegri a’u hadnoddau at nod cyffredin.

Nod Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yw dwyn ynghyd gynrychiolwyr o’r sector cyhoeddus, y sector gwirfoddol a’r sector preifat a’r bobl sydd mewn tlodi. Gwneir hyn mewn ffordd sydd eisoes yn cael ei chanmol gan bobl sy’n gweithio ar lawr gwlad. Mewn adroddiad ar bartneriaethau a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar gan Ganolfan Ymchwil Llywodraeth Leol a Rhanbarthol nodwyd, yn ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf,

y gwelwn bartneriaethau lleol gyda’r gymuned yn cymryd yr awenau—mae hyn yn dechrau digwydd ac ni fyddai wedi digwydd heb syniadau am bartneriaeth sy’n cynnwys perchenogaeth.

Nododd yr adroddiad hefyd:

Dyma’r peth da ynglŷn â Chymunedau yn Gyntaf, nad yw’n wir am bartneriaethau eraill, mae arian ar gael ar gyfer hyfforddiant, meithrin gallu, adeiladu timau a phopeth arall ...mae’n deimlad gwych oherwydd mae’r Cynulliad yn barod i roi ei arian ar ei air.

Gwneir gwaith ardderchog mewn sawl ardal. Mae Ystradgynlais yng nghwm Tawe yn un enghraifft. Bu llawer o ddatblygiadau yno, gan gynnwys adeiladu parc sgrialu, a enillodd wobwr rhagoriaeth ieuencid ym mis Tachwedd y llynedd. Mae Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn Llanelli wedi helpu i feithrin cysylltiadau cryf ag ysgolion lleol a busnesau preifat. Defnyddiwyd cyllid Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ar gyfer rhedeg canolfan deuluol Winchestown ym Mlaenau Gwent, a addaswyd o bedair fflat o dan y rhaglen Pobl mewn Cymunedau. Llwyddodd y prosiect hwn i sicrhau arian o dan Amcan 1, rhaglenni adfywio Corus ac oddi wrth National Children’s Home Cymru,

programmes and National Children's Home Cymru, which manages the centre and its staff on a daily basis. The centre offers advice on social exclusion, the New Deal, Drug Aid and health, and gives access to washing machines and tumble dryers, crèche facilities, cookery classes, and many other services that were not available to the community before it opened. That is an example of Communities First working.

Much good work is being undertaken, but I would welcome any suggestions as to how the programme can be improved. As you are aware, my Deputy Minister for Communities, Huw Lewis, who will be replying to the debate, undertook a substantial review of the programme. Communities First is a challenging programme to manage, and it is important that we learn lessons from experience to date. A programme as important and complex as Communities First requires close monitoring and adaptation as necessary, which is what we intend to do.

Huw's report contains 13 recommendations, which address all aspects of Communities First and contribute to the strengthening of the programme. The recommendations cover a wide range of issues, which we are now taking forward. For example, Huw's review found that the Communities First trust fund was a great success. As a result, we have committed £3 million a year to the fund until 2007.

It was also apparent from Huw's review that many partnerships felt isolated, and they commented that they were not getting appropriate support from the Communities First support network and from other organisations. However, there were also areas where the network had done good work. The review recommended that the network should continue to provide programme support from April 2004, but that the role be renegotiated to emphasise the need for a more coherent service that provides equality of access to support throughout Wales.

The programme is also currently being evaluated by Cambridge Policy Consultants to ensure that lessons learnt from the

sy'n rheoli'r ganolfan a'i staff o ddydd i ddydd. Mae'r ganolfan yn cynnig cyngor ar allgáu cymdeithasol, y Fargen Newydd, Cymorth Cyffuriau ac iechyd, ac mae'n darparu peiriannau golchi a pheiriannau sychu dillad, cyfleusterau gwarchod plant, dosbarthiadau coginio, a llawer o wasanaethau eraill nad oeddent ar gael i'r gymuned cyn i'r ganolfan agor. Dyna enghraifft o lwyddiant Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Gwneir llawer o waith da, ond byddwn yn croesawu unrhyw awgrymiadau ynghylch sut y gellir gwella'r rhaglen. Fel y gwyddoch, cynhaliwyd adolygiad helaeth o'r rhaglen gan fy Nirprwy Weinidog dros Gymunedau, Huw Lewis, a fydd yn ymateb i'r ddatl. Mae Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn rhaglen ymestynnol i'w rheoli, ac mae'n bwysig inni ddysgu gwersi o'r profiad hyd yma. Mae rhaglen mor bwysig a chymhleth â Chymunedau yn Gyntaf yn galw am waith monitro manwl ac addasu yn ôl yr angen, sef yr hyn y bwriadwn ei wneud.

Mae adroddiad Huw yn cynnwys 13 o argymhellion, sy'n ymdrin â phob agwedd ar Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ac yn cyfrannu at atgyfnerthu'r rhaglen. Mae'r argymhellion yn cwmpasu amrywiaeth eang o faterion, yr ydym yn gweithredu arnynt yn awr. Er enghraifft, un o ganfyddiadau adolygiad Huw oedd bod cronfa ymddiriedolaeth Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn llwyddiant mawr. O ganlyniad, yr ydym wedi neilltuo £3 miliwn y flwyddyn ar gyfer y gronfa tan 2007.

Yr oedd yn amlwg hefyd o adolygiad Huw fod llawer o bartneriaethau yn teimlo'n ynysig, a'u bod wedi dweud nad oeddent yn cael y cymorth cywir oddi wrth rwydwaith cymorth Cymunedau yn Gyntaf a sefydliadau eraill. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd ardaloedd hefyd lle yr oedd y rhwydwaith wedi gwneud gwaith da. Argymhellodd yr adolygiad y dylai'r rhwydwaith barhau i roi cymorth rhaglen o Ebrill 2004, ond y dylai'r rôl gael ei hail-ystyried i bwysleisio'r angen am wasanaeth mwy cydlynol sy'n rhoi'r un cyfle i gael cymorth ym mhob rhan o Gymru.

Mae'r rhaglen hefyd yn cael ei gwerthuso gan Cambridge Policy Consultants i sicrhau bod y gwersi a ddysgwyd o'r rhaglen yn cael

programme feed into policy development. We have made a commitment in 'Wales: A Better Country' to roll out the Communities First programme, and I will consider this in view of the evaluation's findings.

One of the keys to the programme's success is the mainstreaming of other policies and programmes within Communities First areas. It is important that we harness mainstream budgets, not just regeneration funding, and that policy is focused to reflect the needs of disadvantaged areas. There are already examples of this beginning to happen in the piloting of best practice in Communities First areas prior to rolling it out to the wider community. Water coolers were placed in schools in the most deprived wards and the school breakfast initiative is being piloted in some schools in Communities First areas. In order to ensure that the possibilities are maximised, the Assembly has established an officials group to consider cross-cutting policies that impact on social justice. It comprises the heads of all relevant divisions and is chaired by the director for social justice and regeneration.

I acknowledge that the period between December 2003 and April 2004 was not easy for the programme. However, staffing levels are increasing and four new senior members of staff will be in post shortly. This will allow considerable programme development to take place. For example, work will be taken forward on the legal status of partnerships and on action planning.

This is a living programme that is changing organically, with policy being shaped by developments at a community level. It can therefore be expected that it will continue to develop as policy is shaped by grass-roots experience. That must be acknowledged, as I believe is the case in the Conservative amendments. I believe that this is the first programme of its kind in western Europe. It will work best when the statutory sector, the voluntary sector, business and people in local communities in particular feel that the programme belongs to them. That gives them the empowerment that they need, and that is

eu bwydo i mewn i'r gwaith o ddatblygu polisïau. Yn 'Cymru: Gwlad Well' yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i gyflwyno rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, a byddaf yn ystyried hyn yng ngoleuni canfyddiadau'r gwerthusiad.

Un o'r allweddau i lwyddiant y rhaglen yw prif ffrydio polisïau a rhaglenni eraill o fewn ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn harneisio cyllidebau prif ffrwd, nid yn unig arian adfywio, a bod ffocws polisïau yn adlewyrchu anghenion ardaloedd difreintiedig. Ceir enghreifftiau o hyn yn digwydd eisoes yn yr arfer o dreialu arfer gorau yn ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf cyn ei gyflwyno i'r gymuned ehangach. Gosodwyd cyfarpar oeri dŵr mewn ysgolion yn y wardiau mwyaf difreintiedig ac mae'r fenter brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion yn cael ei threialu mewn rhai ysgolion yn ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Er mwyn manteisio ar bob un o'r posibilïadau i'r eithaf, mae'r Cynulliad wedi sefydlu grŵp o swyddogion i ystyried polisïau trawsbynciol sy'n effeithio ar gyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Mae'n cynnwys penaethiaid pob is-adran berthnasol ac fe'i cadeirir gan gyfarwyddwr cyfiawnder cymdeithasol ac adfywio.

Cydnabyddaf nad oedd y cyfnod rhwng Rhagfyr 2003 ac Ebrill 2004 yn un hawdd i'r rhaglen. Fodd bynnag mae nifer y staff yn cynyddu a bydd pedwar uwch aelod o staff yn dechrau yn eu swyddi cyn hir. Bydd hyn yn ei gwneud yn bosibl i'r rhaglen ddatblygu gryn dipyn. Er enghraifft, bydd gwaith yn cael ei wneud ar statws cyfreithiol partneriaethau ac ar gynllunio gweithredu.

Mae hon yn rhaglen fyw sy'n newid yn organig, gyda datblygiadau yn y gymuned yn dylanwadu ar bolisi. Felly gellir disgwyl y bydd yn parhau i ddatblygu wrth i brofiad ar lawr gwlad ddylanwadu ar bolisiau. Rhaid cydnabod hynny, fel y gwna gwelliannau'r Ceidwadwyr fe gredaf. Credaf mai hon yw'r rhaglen gyntaf o'i bath yng ngorllewin Ewrop. Bydd yn gweithio orau pan fo'r sector gwirfoddol, byd busnes a phobl mewn cymunedau lleol yn enwedig yn teimlo mai hwy piau'r rhaglen. Mae hynny yn eu grymuso fel sydd ei angen, a dyna pam mae'r rhaglen hon yn bwysig.

why this programme is important.

I assure Members that the Assembly Government is continually striving to improve the programme in light of the lessons learned. We will always be open to ideas, and that is why the motion is not self-congratulatory; it recognises the problems, the successes and the future opportunities of Communities First. This programme lives and breathes and we need to learn about everybody's experience in order to improve it.

William Graham: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jonathan Morgan. Amendment 1: add a new point at the end of the motion:

welcomes the 'bottom-up' approach towards ideas arising within communities, together with the emphasis upon 'participation' and not 'achieving every target'.

I propose amendment 2. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

shall ensure that 'what works best' information is shared with community organisations outside the Communities First area.

I am grateful to the Minister for supporting the amendments, which were written in such a way as to make it possible for them to be supported. We attempted to table another amendment, which was not accepted by the Table Office, in which we sought to change the word 'notes' to 'acknowledges' because we wanted to acknowledge that there were good aspects of the programme that deserve wider appreciation and greater acknowledgement for enhancing the quality of life and the environment in certain communities.

We also considered deleting point 3 of the motion, not because we have any objection to the sentiments expressed, but because of its wording. It states that

'the community-based nature of the programme requires a developmental and responsive approach, tailored to the needs of

Rhoddaf sicrwydd i'r Aelodau bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ymdrechu drwy'r amser i wella'r rhaglen yng ngoleuni'r gwersi a ddysgwyd. Byddwn bob amser yn agored i syniadau, a dyna pam nad yw'r cynnig yn un hunanglodforus; mae'n cydnabod problemau a llwyddiannau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ynghyd â'r cyfleoedd a rydd yn y dyfodol. Mae'r rhaglen hon yn fyw ac mae angen inni ddysgu am brofiad pawb er mwyn gwella arni.

William Graham: Cynigiau y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jonathan Morgan. Gwelliant 1: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn croesawu'r ymagwedd 'o'r gwaelod i fyny' tuag at syniadau sy'n codi o fewn cymunedau, ynghyd â phwyslais ar 'gyfranogi' yn hytrach na 'chyrredd pob targed'.

Cynigiau welliant 2. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn sicrhau bod gwybodaeth am 'yr hyn sy'n gweithio orau' yn cael ei rhannu gyda sefydliadau cymunedol y tu allan i ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am gefnogi'r gwelliannau, a ysgrifennwyd yn y fath fodd fel ei bod yn bosibl iddynt gael eu cefnogi. Bu inni geisio cyflwyno gwelliant arall, nas derbyniwyd gan y Swyddfa Gyflwyno, lle y gofynnwyd am newid y gair 'nodi' i 'cydnabod' am ein bod am gydnabod bod agweddau da ar y rhaglen sy'n haeddu cael eu gwerthfawrogi a'u cydnabod yn ehangach am wella ansawdd bywyd a'r amgylchedd mewn rhai cymunedau.

Bu inni hefyd ystyried dileu pwynt 3 y cynnig, nid oherwydd unrhyw wrthwynebiad i'r hyn a fynegwyd, ond oherwydd y ffordd y mae wedi'i eirio. Noda

'gan mai rhaglen ar gyfer y gymuned ydyw, bod angen gweithredu mewn ffordd ymatebol a chanolbwyntio ar ddatblygu, a hynny mewn

each locality'.

This demonstrates how little sympathy there is towards the views of people in our communities. I do not suppose that there were many occasions during the last election campaign when Members were asked to develop a community-based programme requiring a developmental and responsive approach tailored to the needs of each locality. People asked for regeneration and for a cross-cutting approach to issues such as health and education and to providing good, permanent jobs.

We have been delighted to support the main elements of Communities First since its inception. I pay tribute to Huw Lewis for carrying out his review and I endorse his recommendations. However, we have certain reservations. On deprivation, for example, the standard spending assessment formula penalises rural areas by failing to fully account for sparsity and rurality in service provision. The social exclusion and deprivation in many of our communities is not recognised. There are recruitment problems also. In addition to a lack of suitably qualified community workers, many have been taken out of the programme and are employed by local authorities to administer and generate Communities First projects. They are attracted by higher salaries, and this perpetuates the poaching of more highly regarded workers. We would prefer to see the appointment of a project leader being the aim of any project of consequence.

4.00 p.m.

Many Communities First projects can draw upon more than one funding stream, including Objective 1, community regeneration and lottery funding. We need to ensure that there are clearly defined lines of accountability for each stream. This is vital, as any problems will emerge retrospectively and will be exacerbated by high staff turnover.

Communities First needs to become self-sufficient, so that projects are not totally reliable upon funding for their survival. There are many communities outside the

ffordd sy'n diwallu anghenion pob ardal'.

Dengys hyn y diffyg cydymdeimlad â safbwyntiau pobl yn ein cymunedau. Ni chredaf fod llawer o achlysuron yn ystod ymgyrch yr etholiad diwethaf pan ofynnwyd i'r Aelodau ddatblygu rhaglen ar gyfer y gymuned sy'n gofyn am weithredu mewn ffordd ymatebol a chanolbwyntio ar ddatblygu, a hynny mewn ffordd sy'n diwallu anghenion pob ardal. Gofynnodd pobl am adfywio ac am ymagwedd drawsbynciol tuag at faterion megis iechyd ac addysg ac am darparu swyddi da parhaol.

Buom yn falch o gefnogi prif elfennau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ers ei sefydlu. Talaf deyrnged i Huw Lewis am gynnal ei adolygiad a chefnogaf ei argymhellion. Fodd bynnag, mae gennym rai amheuan. O ran amddifadedd, er enghraifft, mae'r fformiwla asesiad o wariant safonol yn cosbi ardaloedd gwledig drwy fethu â rhoi ystyriaeth lawn i ardaloedd tenau eu poblogaeth neu i'w natur wledig o ran darparu gwasanaethau. Ni chydabyddir allgáu cymdeithasol ac amddifadedd mewn llawer o'n cymunedau. Mae problemau recriwtio hefyd. Yn ogystal â phrinder gweithwyr cymunedol â chymwysterau addas, mae llawer wedi cael eu tynnu oddi ar y rhaglen a chânt eu cyflogi gan awdurdodau lleol i weinyddu a chreu prosiectau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Cânt eu denu gan gyflogau uwch, a thrwy hyn parheir â'r arfer o ddwyn gweithwyr â'r parch mwyaf. Byddai'n well gennym weld penodi arweinydd prosiect fel nod unrhyw brosiect mawr.

Mae llawer o brosiectau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn gallu defnyddio mwy nag un ffrwd ariannu, gan gynnwys arian Amcan 1, adfywio cymunedol ac arian y loteri. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod llinellau atebolrwydd penodol ar gyfer pob ffrwd. Mae hyn yn hollbwysig, gan y bydd unrhyw broblemau yn dod i'r golwg yn ddiweddarach a bydd trosiant mawr ymhlith staff yn eu gwaethygu.

Mae angen i Gymunedau yn Gyntaf fod yn hunangynhaliol, fel nad yw prosiectau yn hollol ddibynnol ar arian allanol i barhau. Mae llawer o gymunedau y tu allan i

Communities First areas that will compete for, and receive, resources from these funding streams, thereby drawing money away from projects.

Our support of Communities First arises from the need to empower people to make the decisions that affect their lives. We welcome the move to encourage people to become involved in the decisions that affect the quality of their lives, their neighbourhood and the services provided to their community. This must be a bottom-up, not a top-down or a one-system-suits-all, approach. We wish to see an emphasis upon participation, not on achieving every target. This is an important aspect of Communities First, as people must not have their willingness to participate in the improvement of their neighbourhoods inhibited by having a you-must-fully-succeed mentality. They must learn from perceived failure.

Communities First is an important project that warrants support and requires periodic assessment and more necessary adequate adjustment to focus on common goals.

Rosemary Butler: I thank the Minister for her speech and for her commitment to this excellent scheme. There are six, very different, Communities First projects in my constituency. William referred to untapped potential and the capacity to build experience within communities. Although the projects in my constituency are different, they all deal with the issue that communities have not historically been involved in their own development, thereby resulting in lack of experience. This has led to training implications and to the need to give people confidence in their ability to achieve. The six projects cover areas from the edge of the constituency to the centre of Newport. The project located in the centre of Newport is unique as it is the only city-centre project in Wales.

I am pleased that the Communities First trust fund is to be increased, because this is a useful way of allowing people to decide what they want and to apply for funding themselves. Huw Lewis's excellent report

ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf a fydd yn cystadlu am y ffrydiau ariannu hyn, ac yn cael arian, gan fynd ag arian oddi wrth brosiectau.

Mae ein cefnogaeth i Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn deillio o'r angen i rymuso pobl i wneud y penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio ar eu bywydau. Croesawn yr ymgais i annog pobl i gymryd rhan yn y penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio ar ansawdd eu bywydau, eu cymdogaeth a'r gwasanaethau a roddir i'w cymuned. Rhaid cyflawni hyn o'r gwaelod i fyny, ac nid o'r brig i lawr neu drwy fynnu bod un system yn addas i bawb. Hoffem weld pwyslais ar gyfranogiad, nid ar gyflawni pob targed. Mae hyn yn agwedd bwysig ar Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, gan na ddylai pobl deimlo amharodrwydd i gymryd rhan yn y gwaith o wella eu cymdogaeth oherwydd meddylfryd sy'n mynnu bod yn rhaid ichi lwyddo ym mhob ffordd. Rhaid iddynt ddysgu o fethiant canfyddedig.

Mae Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn brosiect pwysig sy'n haeddu cael cefnogaeth ac sy'n gofyn am iddo gael ei asesu o bryd i'w gilydd a'i addasu'n ddigonol yn ôl yr angen er mwyn canolbwyntio ar nodau cyffredin.

Rosemary Butler: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ei haraith ac am ei hymrwymiad i'r cynllun rhagorol hwn. Fel rhan o Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ceir chwe phrosiect, gwahanol iawn, yn fy etholaeth. Cyfeiriodd William at y potensial na fanteisir arno a'r gallu i ennill profiad o fewn cymunedau. Er bod y prosiectau yn fy etholaeth yn wahanol, mae pob un ohonynt yn ymdrin â'r mater na fu cymunedau yn cymryd rhan yn eu datblygiad yn draddodiadol, ac o'r herwydd nid oes ganddynt brofiad. Bu i hyn oblygiadau o ran hyfforddiant ac mae wedi arwain at yr angen i roi hyder i bobl yn eu gallu i gyflawni. Mae'r chwe phrosiect yn cwmpasu ardaloedd o ymyl yr etholaeth i ganol Casnewydd. Mae'r prosiect yng nghanol Casnewydd yn unigryw gan mai hwn yw'r unig brosiect canol dinas yng Nghymru.

Yr wyf yn falch bod bwriad i gynyddu cronfa ymddiriedolaeth Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, oherwydd mae'n ffordd ddefnyddiol o adael i bobl benderfynu beth y maent yn ei ddymuno ac i wneud cais am arian eu hunain. Noda

states that

‘Communities First exists within a complicated web of other programmes and funding regimes. Involvement and accountability are complicated by the overlapping roles of many participating organisations and individuals. This can slow progress and make communications difficult.’

Prior to today’s debate, I contacted all the Communities First projects in my constituency. While I am sure that all Members could spend hours talking about the good work of such projects, it must be noted that, in talking to project representatives, it became clear to me that the slowness and complexity of the funding process is an issue. I hope that, when the Minister considers this aspect, she finds some way of making the process easier and of increasing its accessibility. Projects are aware that funding is available as they submit applications, but they have to wait months for the money to come through. As the report states, projects therefore make slow progress and, in some cases, the whole impetus disappears.

I congratulate the Government on investing in Communities First. I hope that everyone realises that this is a long-term programme that requires long-term funding because, when capacity has been built and when the professionals move out, we need to ensure that communities continue to receive funding so that they can run the projects themselves. More importantly, I urge the Minister to resolve how funding is delivered.

Leanne Wood: Plaid Cymru has supported the Communities First concept from the outset. The programme is vital to tackling problems in the most deprived communities, and its funding must be carefully targeted so that it is not spread too thinly.

Research recently published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation supports our view that projects are likely to be far more successful and effective if communities, rather than the usual suspects, take the lead. The research

adroddiad ardderchog Huw Lewis

‘Mae Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn bodoli o fewn gwe gymhleth o raglenni a threfniadau cyllido eraill. Mae’r broses o gymryd rhan a bod yn atebol yn cael ei chymhlethu gan swyddogaethau’r amryw sefydliadau ac unigolion sy’n gorgyffwrdd. Gall hyn arafu datblygiadau a’i gwneud hi’n anodd i gyfathrebu.’

Cyn y ddadl heddiw, cysylltais â phob un o brosiectau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn fy etholaeth. Er fy mod yn siŵr y gallai pob Aelod dreulio oriau yn sôn am waith da prosiectau o’r fath, rhaid nodi iddi ddod yn amlwg imi, wrth siarad â chynrychiolwyr prosiectau, fod natur araf a chymhleth y broses ariannu yn achosi problem. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog, pan fydd yn ystyried yr agwedd hon, yn dod o hyd i ryw ffordd o symleiddio’r broses a’i gwneud yn haws i gael arian. Gŵyr prosiectau fod arian ar gael am eu bod yn cyflwyno ceisiadau, ond maent yn gorfod aros am fisoedd i gael yr arian. Fel y nodar adroddiad, araf felly yw cynnydd prosiectau ac, mewn rhai achosion, mae’r holl symbyliad yn diflannu.

Llongyfarchaf y Llywodraeth ar fuddsoddi mewn Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Gobeithiaf fod pawb yn sylweddoli mai rhaglen ar gyfer yr hirdymor ydyw, sy’n gofyn am arian hirdymor oherwydd, ar ôl meithrin gallu ac ar ôl i’r gweithwyr proffesiynol adael, mae angen inni sicrhau bod cymunedau yn parhau i gael arian er mwyn iddynt redeg y prosiectau eu hunain. Yn bwysicach na hynny, apeliam ar y Gweinidog i ddatrys y broblem o ran sut y caiff yr arian ei ddosbarthu.

Leanne Wood: Mae Plaid Cymru wedi cefnogi cysyniad Cymunedau yn Gyntaf o’r cychwyn. Mae’r rhaglen yn allweddol i fynd i’r afael â phroblemau yn y cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig, a rhaid i’r cyllid gael ei dargedu’n ofalus er mwyn sicrhau na chaiff ei ddosbarthu rhwng gormod o brosiectau.

Mae ymchwil a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar gan Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree yn ategu ein barn bod prosiectau yn llawer mwy tebygol o fod yn llwyddiannus ac effeithiol os mai cymunedau, yn hytrach na’r criw arferol, sy’n

highlighted the Gellideg project in Merthyr Tydfil as a success, and many partnerships could learn a lot from that project's bottom-up approach.

We welcome the recommendation regarding the clarification of the facilitative role of local authorities. They clearly have an important role to play in this, but if local people see councillors and bureaucrats trying to run the project, they will invariably be put off and they may not remain involved in the partnerships.

The Minister will be aware that I have raised with her, on a number of occasions, the funding of Communities First projects. I am told that some partnerships are still waiting for project funding. They have received money for staff, but have not received money to run the projects on the ground. They want to know when they will get that money. Can the Minister answer that question today? Communities First funding was meant to be long-term guaranteed funding. The question over funding has led to a great deal of uncertainty and job insecurity on the ground. Too often, unfortunately, deprived communities have been promised things that have not materialised.

If there is a lack of capacity in the civil service to process applications, would the Minister consider increasing the number of civil servants involved? If the reasons are related to the lack of joined-up thinking, as outlined by her deputy minister's review today, what will she do to get the Government's house in order? Wales's most deprived communities urgently need the Communities First programme; we have no option other than to get this right.

Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales will work with you to do whatever it takes to get this right, but the Government must be open with us and the communities involved about the causes of these problems, because only under these conditions can we work together to resolve them.

Peter Law: First, I thank the Minister for this

cymryd yr awenau. Cyfeiriodd yr ymchwil at brosiect Gellideg, ym Merthyr Tudful fel llwyddiant, a gallai llawer o bartneriaethau ddysgu cryn dipyn o'r ffordd y mae'r prosiect wedi gweithredu o'r gwaelod i fyny.

Croesawn yr argymhelliad ynghylch egluro rôl awdurdodau lleol fel hwylusydd. Yn amlwg mae ganddynt ran bwysig i'w chwarae yn hyn o beth, ond os bydd pobl leol yn gweld cynghorwyr a swyddogion yn ceisio rhedeg y prosiect, byddant yn sicr o ddiflasu ac efallai na fyddant yn parhau i gymryd rhan mewn partneriaethau.

Gŵyr y Gweinidog imi godi cyllid prosiectau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf gyda hi sawl gwaith. Dywedir wrthyf fod rhai partneriaethau yn dal i aros am arian prosiect. Maent wedi cael arian ar gyfer staff, ond nid ydynt wedi cael arian i redeg y prosiectau yn y cymunedau. Maent am wybod pryd y cânt yr arian hwnnw. A all y Gweinidog ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw heddiw? Y bwriad oedd bod arian Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn arian hirdymor gwarantedig. Mae'r problemau hyn o ran cyllid wedi creu cryn ofid ac ansicrwydd o ran swyddi yn y cymunedau. Yn rhy aml, yn anffodus, gwnaed addewidion i gymunedau difreintiedig ond nis cadwyd.

Os oes diffyg adnoddau yn y gwasanaeth sifil i ymdrin â cheisiadau, a fyddai'r Gweinidog yn ystyried cynyddu nifer y gweision sifil sy'n ymgymryd â'r gwaith hwn? Os mai diffyg meddwl mewn ffordd gydgyssylltiedig, fel y nodwyd yn adroddiad ei dirprwy weinidog heddiw, yw'r rheswm, beth a wnaiff i unioni pethau o ran y Llywodraeth? Mae angen rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ar gymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig Cymru yn ddybryd; nid oes unrhyw ddewis gennym ond cael hyn yn iawn.

Bydd Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales yn gweithio gyda chi i wneud beth bynnag fo'i angen i gael hyn yn iawn, ond rhaid i'r Llywodraeth fod yn onest gyda ni a'r cymunedau dan sylw ynglŷn â'r rhesymau dros y problemau hyn, oherwydd dim ond o dan yr amodau hyn y gallwn gydweithio i'w datrys.

Peter Law: Yn gyntaf, hoffwn ddiolch i'r

excellent Welsh Assembly Government initiative that is, without doubt, changing the face of deprived communities in Wales. I also compliment the Deputy Minister for his work. He did a good job of the review because he understands the problem of deprivation, as do I, because he lives in a deprived area and sees it every day. When you live in it and witness it, you realise that deprivation is not just wall-to-wall, but is built around further deprivation with even more on top. Someone had to do something about it, which is why this Government is right to take this initiative forward. There is a bit of socialism in this because we are doing something to help poor people in excluded situations.

This initiative is important and it empowers, as other Members have mentioned, people in our communities through a bottom-up approach, the likes of which has never been seen before. Furthermore, I have never seen such enthusiasm in any initiative as there is in my constituency for the work undertaken by the Communities First partnerships. We have got this empowerment, which has never been seen before, because such partnerships are fighting against poverty and exclusion.

I pay tribute, in particular, to the Communities First partnerships in Blaenau Gwent; I have visited most of them and I will visit the others. They do a wonderful job. Their only payment is the enhancement of the quality of life of the communities in which they live, which is vitally important because they make a difference. I was pleased that the Minister mentioned the initiative at Nant-y-Glo, which includes the NCH development at Winchestown. Believe me, you cannot find more deprivation than in that area, which is not far from my home. This initiative has made such a difference to the families in that area. That is certainly empowerment. As well as the major schemes that help, there are further examples of more moderate schemes such as the Christmas lights competition and support for entertainment and cultural organisations, which mean so much for people in deprived communities. There is a

Gweinidog am y fenter ardderchog hon o eiddo Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sydd, yn ddi-os, yn gweddnewid cymunedau difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Llongyfarchaf y Dirprwy Weinidog hefyd am ei waith. Gwnaeth waith da gyda'r adolygiad oherwydd mae'n deall problem amddifadedd, fel minnau, am ei fod yn byw mewn ardal ddifreintiedig ac yn gweld amddifadedd bob dydd. Os ydych yn byw mewn cymuned ddifreintiedig ac yn gweld amddifadedd, yr ydych yn sylweddoli nad un haen o amddifadedd sydd ond trwch ohono gyda rhagor ar ben hynny. Yr oedd yn rhaid i rywun wneud rhywbeth yn ei gylch, a dyna pam mae'r Llywodraeth hon yn iawn i frwr ymlaen â'r fenter hon. Mae ychydig o sosiaeth ynghlwm wrth hyn gan ein bod yn gwneud rhywbeth i helpu pobl dlawd mewn sefyllfaoedd lle mae allgáu.

Mae'r fenter hon yn bwysig ac mae'n grymuso pobl yn ein cymunedau, fel y soniodd Aelodau eraill, o'r gwaelod i fyny, mewn ffordd na welwyd mo'i thebyg o'r blaen. At hynny, nid wyf erioed wedi gweld cymaint o frwdfrydedd dros unrhyw fenter ag a geir yn fy etholaeth am y gwaith a wneir gan bartneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae pobl wedi cael eu grymuso, mewn ffordd nas gwelwyd o'r blaen, am fod partneriaethau o'r fath yn ymladd yn erbyn tlodi ac allgáu.

Talaf deyrnged, yn arbennig, i bartneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ym Mlaenau Gwent; yr wyf wedi ymweld â'r mwyafrif ohonynt a byddaf yn ymweld â'r lleill. Maent yn gwneud gwaith gwych. Yr unig wobr a gânt yw'r wobr o wella ansawdd bywyd y cymunedau lle y maent yn byw, sy'n hollbwysig am eu bod yn gwneud gwahaniaeth. Yr oeddwn yn falch bod y Gweinidog wedi sôn am y fenter yn Nant-y-Glo, sy'n cynnwys datblygiad Cartref Cenedlaethol y Plant yn Winchestown. Credwch chi fi, ni allwch weld mwy o amddifadedd nag sydd yn yr ardal honno, nid nepell o'm cartref. Mae'r fenter hon wedi gwneud cymaint o wahaniaeth i'r teuluoedd yn yr ardal honno. Grymuso yw hynny, yn sicr. Yn ogystal â'r cynlluniau mawr sy'n helpu, ceir enghreifftiau eraill o gynlluniau ar raddfa lai megis cystadleuaeth goleuadau'r Nadolig a'r gefnogaeth i sefydliadau

Communities First shop and office, which provides a focal point where everyone can meet. They take a pride in the community and these partnerships also engender a sense of pride. That is the type of development that I want to see continuing; it is definitely a vibrant policy that is changing the face of all deprived communities.

I looked through the review on which Huw has done an excellent job and I noted some of his recommendations, such as recommendation 3 on implementing a system of accrediting Communities First partnerships. That is a good and useful idea. I notice that he refers to the good work of local authorities and I pay tribute to them. However, I see them as being supportive, but not dominant, which is what we want. What is wonderful about these partnerships is that they are chaired by independent people from different voluntary bodies and industry and so on, and they are working.

4.10 p.m.

They have a contribution to make. I want to thank the Minister for her announcement on the trust fund this afternoon. The £3 million a year until 2007 is vital. Sir Jon Shortridge should be present to listen to that fact and see the reaction, rather than only sitting here for half an hour on a Tuesday. That money makes a difference in the places that we are trying to help. The sum of £3 million a year is now being made available for the trust fund, and I know how many people have applied for it. People say that there is a delay at times and that they are not getting answers or reaching deadlines, and that there is no feedback for unsuccessful applicants—Huw Lewis mentioned these points—so we must tighten the programme up, because these people must be encouraged and supported. That is why I am delighted that the Minister has made the money available—it is a beacon of hope for those people. They know that more money will be available, when it previously acted as a deterrent because they thought that that would be the end of the line for the trust fund. I thank the Minister for that excellent development.

adloniant a diwylliannol, sy'n golygu cymaint i bobl mewn cymunedau difreintiedig. Ceir siop a swyddfa Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, sy'n ganolbwynt lle y mae pawb yn gallu cyfarfod. Maent yn ymfalchïo yn y gymuned ac mae'r partneriaethau hyn hefyd yn hybu balchder. Dyna'r math o ddatblygiad yr wyf am ei weld yn parhau; yn sicr mae'n bolisi egniol sy'n gweddnewid pob cymuned ddifreintiedig.

Yr wyf wedi bwrw golwg dros yr adolygiad y mae Huw wedi gwneud gwaith ardderchog arno a nodais rai o'i argymhellion megis argymhelliad 3 ar weithredu system o achredu partneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae hynny yn syniad da a defnyddiol. Sylwaf ei fod yn cyfeirio at waith da awdurdodau lleol a thalaf deyrnged iddynt. Fodd bynnag, yn fy marn i, maent yn gefnogol, ond nid yn rhy flaenllaw, sef yr hyn yr ydym yn ei ddymuno. Beth sy'n dda am y partneriaethau hyn yw eu bod yn cael eu cadeirio gan bobl annibynnol o fudiadau gwirfoddol gwahanol a diwydiant ac ati, ac maent yn gweithio.

Mae ganddynt gyfraniad i'w wneud. Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Gweinidog am ei chyhoeddiad y prynhawn yma ar y gronfa ymddiriedolaeth. Mae'r £3 miliwn y flwyddyn tan 2007 yn hanfodol. Dylai Syr Jon Shortridge fod yn bresennol i wrando ar y ffaith honno a gweld yr ymateb yn hytrach nag eistedd yma am hanner awr yn unig ar ddydd Mawrth. Mae'r arian hwnnw yn gwneud gwahaniaeth yn y lleoedd yr ydym yn ceisio eu helpu. Daperir y swm o £3 miliwn y flwyddyn ar gyfer y gronfa ymddiriedolaeth yn awr, a gwn fod llawer o bobl wedi gwneud cais amdano. Dywed pobl fod oedi weithiau ac nad ydynt yn cael atebion nac yn cwrdd â dyddiadau terfynol ac nad oes adborth i ymgeiswyr aflwyddiannus—cyfeiriodd Huw Lewis at y pwyntiau hyn—felly rhaid inni wella ar y rhaglen, oherwydd rhaid annog a chefnogi'r bobl hyn. Dyna pam yr wyf yn falch iawn bod y Gweinidog wedi darparu'r arian—mae'n rhoi gobaith i'r bobl hynny. Gwyddant y bydd rhagor o arian ar gael. O'r blaen yr oedd yn atal pobl rhag gweithredu pan oeddent yn meddwl y byddai arian y gronfa ymddiriedolaeth yn dod i ben. Diolchaf i'r

Gweinidog am y datblygiad ardderchog hwnnw.

There is no doubt that suggesting that other organisations, such as Assembly sponsored public bodies, should get involved is also important. They must wake up because they do not all get involved. We also want to see as much mainstream funding as possible to complement the Communities First funding, as has been mentioned. Excellent, dedicated work is being achieved in these partnerships, and we should all salute them today for the major contributions that they are making to our communities. Without doubt, the Minister should feel proud of this great success, on which we will build for the benefit of all Communities First areas in Wales.

Peter Black: I also welcome this report and today's debate. One of the advantages of the report is that it has not been uncritical. The fact that Huw, in writing the report, has been prepared to make constructive criticisms is to be welcomed and shows that the Welsh Assembly Government is prepared to listen and adapt this scheme to fit in with the needs of the communities that it is intended to serve. Like Peter, I welcome the additional money that has been made available to the trust fund, which is a valuable announcement, and it will benefit many people.

I clarify that the concept of Communities First has cross-party support. I support it, and so does my party, and in making my criticisms, I do not want to devalue that scheme. It is clearly well-founded, it has much potential and the ideas behind it can make a huge difference, if we are prepared to adapt as time goes on, and if other partners are prepared to work in partnership on its general principles and deliver the scheme for the communities that need it the most.

However, a number of issues remain, and it is only right that we reflect upon them. I hope that when Huw replies to the debate today, he will be able to indicate how the Welsh Assembly Government will deal with those issues and with the criticisms that he has

Nid oes amheuaeth bod yr awgrym y dylai sefydliadau eraill, megis cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, gymryd rhan yn bwysig hefyd. Rhaid iddynt ddeffro gan nad yw pob un ohonynt yn cymryd rhan. Yr ydym hefyd am weld cymaint o arian prif ffrwd â phosibl er mwyn ategu arian Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, fel y crybwyllwyd. Mae gwaith ardderchog ac ymroddedig yn cael ei wneud yn y partneriaethau hyn a dylem oll dalu teyrnged iddynt heddiw am y cyfraniadau pwysig y maent yn eu gwneud i'n cymunedau. Yn ddi-os, dylai'r Gweinidog ymfalchïo yn y llwyddiant mawr hwn, a fydd yn sylfaen inni adeiladu arni er budd pob ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yng Nghymru.

Peter Black: Croesawaf innau'r adroddiad hwn a'r ddadl heddiw hefyd. Un o fanteision yr adroddiad yw ei fod yn cynnwys sylwadau beirniadol. Mae'r ffaith bod Huw, wrth ysgrifennu'r adroddiad, wedi bod yn barod i wneud beirniadaeth adeiladol i'w chrosawu a dengys fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn barod i wrando ac addasu'r cynllun hwn i gydweddu ag anghenion y cymunedau y bwriedir iddo eu gwasanaethu. Fel Peter, croesawaf yr arian ychwanegol a roddwyd i'r gronfa ymddiriedolaeth, sy'n gyhoeddiad gwerthfawr, a bydd llawer o bobl yn elwa arno.

Cadarnhaf fod cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i gysyniad Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Fe'i cefnogaf, fel y gwna fy mhlaid, ac wrth wneud sylwadau beirniadol am y cynllun hwnnw, nid wyf am ei ddibrisio. Mae'n amlwg wedi'i sefydlu'n dda, mae iddo gryn botensial a gall y syniadau sy'n sail iddo wneud gwahaniaeth enfawr, os ydym yn barod i addasu wrth i amser fynd heibio, ac os yw partneriaid eraill yn barod i weithio mewn partneriaeth ar ei egwyddorion cyffredinol a chyflwyno'r cynllun i'r cymunedau sydd ei angen fwyaf.

Fodd bynnag, erys nifer o broblemau, ac mae'n gwbl briodol inni eu hystyried. Gobeithiaf y bydd Huw, wrth ymateb i'r ddadl heddiw, yn gallu rhoi arwydd o'r ffordd y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ymdrin â'r materion hynny, a chyda'r

included in this report. The first issue is that of the impact of Communities First on neighbouring communities. I know that you must draw a line somewhere, and that was made clear in the early days of Communities First. A limit had to be set and there was only so much money available, which had to be distributed properly to the most deprived communities. However, there are adjoining communities which see the benefits of Communities First. Deprivation spills over into those communities, which is a problem in itself, because they had to have been included in the original Communities First boundary to qualify for funding. The Assembly Government must address how it will deal with that. I know that the coalfields regeneration trust fund has been used in some areas in the past, but there must be recognition of that problem and it must be tackled.

As Huw identified, the implementation of Communities First has varied around Wales. In some areas, a top-down approach has been adopted, and consequently, communities are not as involved and empowered as they need and deserve to be. In other areas, communities have been left to flounder too much. Getting the balance right is always a problem. As we renew this scheme, we may need to review the guidance that is available to local authorities and other partners and draw their attention to good practice to ensure that they can achieve that balance. The report also identified—and it is my experience in my own constituency—that few of these partnerships involve local businesses, which are an important part of community partnerships. If you are to get that prop-up approach, local businesses as well as local people, local organisations and the local authority should be involved at every level. I know that there are problems in engaging them, but that must be looked at.

Programme bending is a big issue, which Huw raised in the report. This is not only an issue for the Assembly Government, although Huw noted that not all ministerial departments are fully on board in terms of bending their programmes towards the

feirniadaeth y mae wedi'i chynnwys yn yr adroddiad hwn. Y mater cyntaf yw effaith Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ar gymunedau cyfagos. Gwn fod yn rhaid ichi dynnu llinell rywle, ac eglurwyd hynny yn nyddiau cynnar Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Yr oedd yn rhaid gosod terfyn a dim ond hyn a hyn o arian oedd ar gael, yr oedd yn rhaid ei ddosbarthu'n briodol i'r cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig. Fodd bynnag, mae cymunedau cyfagos yn gweld manteision Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Ceir amddifadedd yn y cymunedau hynny hefyd, sy'n broblem ynddi'i hun, oherwydd rhaid eu bod wedi'u cynnwys o fewn ffin wreiddiol Cymunedau yn Gyntaf i fod yn gymwys i gael arian. Rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ystyried sut y bydd yn mynd i'r afael â hynny. Gwn fod cronfa ymddiriedolaeth adfywio'r meysydd glo wedi cael ei defnyddio mewn rhai ardaloedd yn y gorffennol, ond rhaid i'r broblem honno gael ei chydabod a rhaid mynd i'r afael â hi.

Fel y nododd Huw, mae'r ffordd y mae cynllun Cymunedau yn Gyntaf wedi cael ei roi ar waith ledled Cymru wedi amrywio. Mewn rhai ardaloedd, mae wedi cael ei roi ar waith o'r brig i lawr, ac o ganlyniad, nid yw cymunedau yn cael eu cynnwys a'u grymuso cymaint ag sydd ei angen ac y maent yn ei haeddu. Mewn ardaloedd eraill, nid yw cymunedau wedi cael digon o gymorth. Mae taro'r cydbwysedd iawn bob amser yn anodd. Wrth inni adnewyddu'r cynllun hwn, efallai y bydd angen inni adolygu'r canllawiau sydd ar gael i awdurdodau lleol a phartneriaid eraill a thynnu eu sylw at arfer da i sicrhau eu bod yn gallu cael y cydbwysedd hwnnw. Nododd yr adroddiad hefyd—ac mae'n cyd-fynd â'm profiad yn fy etholaeth i—mai ychydig o'r partneriaethau hyn sy'n cynnwys busnesau lleol, sy'n rhan bwysig o bartneriaethau cymunedol. Os ydych yn mynd i fabwysiadu ymagwedd gefnogol o'r fath, dylai busnesau lleol chwarae rhan ar bob lefel yn ogystal â phobl leol, sefydliadau lleol a'r awdurdod lleol. Gwn fod problemau o ran ymgysylltu â hwy, ond rhaid ystyried hynny.

Mae addasu rhaglenni yn broblem fawr, a godwyd gan Huw yn yr adroddiad. Mae hyn nid yn unig yn broblem i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, er i Huw nodi nad yw pob adran weinidogol yn hollol gefnogol o ran addasu eu rhaglennu at agenda Cymunedau yn

Communities First agenda. It is also a problem for local councils that do not necessarily bend their programmes in that way. We must give much attention to this matter, in terms of how we take this agenda forward.

If we are to tackle the huge problems in some of the most deprived communities, including anti-social behaviour, poor health and educational achievement, we must provide proper funding and programmes to help them. The £100-million crime-fighting fund, at the last count, only stood at some £78 million; access to education, particularly higher education, is limited by top-up and tuition fees; and health service waiting lists, according to evidence given during a recent Economic Development and Transport Committee meeting, even affect people's ability to stay in work. All these issues must be included as part of this programme-bending agenda. If you do not tackle those issues, communities will remain isolated, effectively deprived, and unable to deal with those matters.

How you measure success in terms of this agenda is another issue. If you invest a lot of money in a community, you need to know when to stop. You must have clear targets and be able to measure success against those targets, so that you know when to stop and move on to other communities. I hope that Huw will address that as part of his reply to this debate.

Catherine Thomas: I thank the Minister for her commitment to this initiative, and thank Huw Lewis for the work that he undertook during the review. I will focus on one area, but, before that, I will say that I believe that the Communities First initiative is much needed. It is exciting, and has real potential to make a huge difference in communities across Wales. I see this in my constituency, Llanelli, where we have four Communities First areas—Llwynhendy, Felinfoel, Tyisha, and Glan y Môr. The co-ordinators and their teams work in true partnership with the partnership boards, and they are starting to

Gyntaf. Mae'n broblem hefyd i gynghorau lleol nad ydynt o reidrwydd yn addasu eu rhaglenni yn y ffordd honno. Rhaid inni roi llawer o sylw i'r mater hwn, o ran sut yr ydym yn bwrw ymlaen â'r agenda hon.

Os ydym am fynd i'r afael â'r problemau mawr mewn rhai o'r cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig, gan gynnwys ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, iechyd a chyflawniad addysgol gwael, rhaid inni ddarparu cyllid priodol a rhaglenni priodol i'w helpu. Yn ôl y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf dim ond oddeutu £78 miliwn sydd yn y gronfa ymladd troseddau o £100 miliwn; cyfyngir ar fynediad i addysg, yn enwedig addysg uwch gan ffioedd ychwanegol a ffioedd dysgu; ac mae rhestrau aros y gwasanaeth iechyd, yn ôl tystiolaeth a roddwyd yn ystod cyfarfod diweddar o'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, hyd yn oed yn effeithio ar allu pobl i aros mewn gwaith. Rhaid cynnwys y materion hyn i gyd fel rhan o'r agenda hon o addasu rhaglenni. Os nad ydych yn mynd i'r afael â'r materion hynny, bydd cymunedau yn dal i fod yn ynysig, yn ddifreintiedig i bob pwrpas, ac mewn sefyllfa lle na allant ymdrin â'r materion hynny.

Mater arall i'w ystyried yw sut yr ydych yn mesur llwyddiant o ran yr agenda hon. Os ydych yn buddsoddi llawer o arian mewn cymuned, mae angen ichi wybod pryd i roi'r gorau iddi. Rhaid bod targedau clir gennych a modd i fesur llwyddiant yn erbyn y targedau hynny, er mwyn ichi wybod pryd y dylech roi'r gorau iddi a symud ymlaen i gymunedau eraill. Gobeithiaf y bydd Huw yn trafod hynny fel rhan o'i ymateb i'r ddadl hon.

Catherine Thomas: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ei hymrwymiad i'r fenter hon, a diolchaf i Huw Lewis am ei waith yn ystod yr adolygiad. Canolbwyntiaf ar un maes, ond, cyn hynny, a gaf ddweud fy mod yn credu bod angen menter Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn ddybryd. Mae'n gyffrous ac mae ganddo botensial gwirioneddol i wneud gwahaniaeth mawr mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru. Gwelaf hyn yn fy etholaeth i, sef Llanelli, lle mae pedair ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf—Llwynhendy, Felinfoel, Tyisha, a Glan y Môr. Mae'r cydlynwyr a'u timau yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth wirioneddol â'r byrddau

make inroads into those communities. They organise a variety of events and projects in these wards and, for the first time, they pay attention to individuals—something that has not been done for a long time. They give individuals in these communities a real voice and get the message across that their voices are important, and that they must be heard.

Some Communities First teams are attracting much interest from members of their respective communities, who had not previously been involved in any positive action. Individuals are starting to come forward who, in the past, have not shown a real sense of community or collective identity. Their sense of community has frequently not extended further than their own street, or sometimes their own front door, for a variety of good reasons. However, there are other wards where there is a strong sense of community spirit among a small group of individuals, who have a long history of tirelessly working for their communities. These individuals tend to form the core membership of the partnership boards, and their contributions are important and extremely valuable, but one of the main challenges facing Communities First is to get on board members of the community who do not usually join in or speak out, and who do not have a history of engaging in the community. These people have been labelled 'not interested' and been told that they do not have a contribution to make. They lack confidence and have felt excluded since they were born or since they were young children. For this reason, the preparation phase and capacity building must be ongoing for the life of the programme and beyond. We must encourage new people to participate for the sake of future generations and to break the cycle of poverty that exists in many families.

4.20 p.m.

Although some wards are attracting new faces, not all are doing so. The quantity of evidence gathered is an important indicator of success, as is the quality of that evidence. That can be measured in the programme's success in attracting and retaining new people

partneriaeth, ac maent yn dechrau gwneud gwahaniaeth yn y cymunedau hynny. Maent yn trefnu amrywiaeth o ddigwyddiadau a phrosiectau yn y wardiau hyn ac, am y tro cyntaf, maent yn rhoi sylw i unigolion—rhywbeth nas gwnaed ers amser maith. Maent yn rhoi llais gwirioneddol i unigolion yn y cymunedau hyn ac yn cyfleu'r neges bod eu lleisiau yn bwysig a rhaid iddynt gael eu clywed.

Mae rhai timau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn ennyn cryn ddiddordeb ymhlith aelodau eu cymunedau, nad ydynt wedi cymryd rhan mewn unrhyw weithredu cadarnhaol o'r blaen. Mae unigolion, nad ydynt yn y gorffennol wedi dangos unrhyw ymdeimlad o gymuned na chyd-hunaniaeth, yn dechrau ymgynnig. Yn aml, nid yw eu hymdeimlad o gymuned wedi ymestyn y tu hwnt i'w stryd eu hunain, neu weithiau y tu hwnt i'w carreg drws eu hunain, am amrywiaeth o resymau da. Fodd bynnag, ceir wardiau eraill lle mae ymdeimlad cryf o gymuned ymhlith grŵp bach o unigolion, a chanddynt hanes hir o weithio'n ddiplino ar ran eu cymunedau. Yr unigolion hyn sy'n tueddu i fod yn aelodau craidd y byrddau partneriaeth, ac mae eu cyfraniadau yn bwysig ac yn hynod werthfawr, ond un o'r prif heriau a wynebier gan Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yw denu aelodau bwrdd o'r gymuned nad ydynt fel arfer yn ymuno neu'n siarad yn gyhoeddus, ac nad oes ganddynt hanes o fod yn rhan o weithgareddau'r gymuned. Cyfeiriwyd at y bobl hyn fel rhai 'heb ddiddordeb' a dywedwyd wrthynt nad oes ganddynt gyfraniad i'w wneud. Nid oes hyder ganddynt a theimlant eu bod wedi cael eu hallgáu ers iddynt gael eu geni neu ers iddynt fod yn blant bach. Am y rheswm hwn, rhaid i'r cam paratoi a'r gwaith o feithrin gallu barhau drwy gydol y rhaglen a thu hwnt. Rhaid inni annog pobl newydd i gymryd rhan er mwyn cenedlaethau'r dyfodol a thorri'r cylch tlodi a geir ymhlith llawer o deuluoedd.

Er bod rhai wardiau yn denu pobl newydd, nid yw pob un ohonynt yn gwneud hynny. Mae maint y dystiolaeth a gesglir yn bwysig i fesur llwyddiant, fel y mae ansawdd y dystiolaeth honno. Gellir mesur hynny drwy lwyddiant y rhaglen i ddenu a chadw pobl

and getting them to really engage with their community.

We have a duty to reach beyond these walls to help those communities to be proactive and not just reactive. This is a matter of getting the whole range of a community's views heard and really empowering individuals, and not about adopting a top-down approach. That is why I believe that Communities First is an ambitious initiative whose true success cannot yet be evaluated—it is far too soon to do so. It has, however, huge potential to make an enormous difference, not just to a few in the community, but to many. This is a long-term programme, but it will really succeed if it secures long-term benefits for the majority within each of these communities.

Helen Mary Jones: As Leanne Wood said, Plaid Cymru—the Party of Wales has always strongly supported the principles underlying the Communities First programme. All Members have, I think, been happy to support the Minister in sticking her neck out to tackle some really difficult and challenging issues. We know that there have been problems, as mentioned by Peter Black, about neighbouring wards where, as highlighted in Huw Lewis's report, there are issues of the focus of a community not necessarily being located in the ward that is technically deprived. We know that there have been difficulties and challenges, but there has already been some real achievement. Given the length of time over which these communities have fallen into their deprived state, the steps taken already in a few short years should be welcome, and I am sure that we do welcome them.

I also welcome the Minister's open approach to this debate. Because a programme is good, we do not have to pretend that it is perfect. Given that this is a long-term, long-haul commitment from the whole Assembly in support of the Government's investment in our poorest communities, we must be ready to learn lessons, and I have found the review report useful in that regard. It honestly faced some of the challenges that remain to be addressed.

newydd a'u cael i gymryd rhan wirioneddol yn eu cymunedau.

Mae dyletswydd arnom i gyrraedd y tu hwnt i'r waliau hyn a helpu'r cymunedau hynny i fod yn rhagweithiol ac nid dim ond yn adweithiol. Mae a wnelo hyn â sicrhau y gwrandewir ar amrywiaeth o safbwyntiau'r gymuned ac y caiff unigolion eu gwir rymuso, yn hytrach na gweithredu o'r brig i lawr. Dyna pam y credaf mai menter uchelgeisiol yw Cymunedau yn Gyntaf na ellir mesur ei llwyddiant gwirioneddol hyd yma—mae'n llawer rhy gynnar i wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae ganddi botensial enfawr i wneud gwahaniaeth enfawr nid yn unig i ychydig yn y gymuned ond i lawer. Rhaglen hirdymor yw hon, ond bydd yn wirioneddol lwyddiannus os bydd yn sicrhau manteision hirdymor i'r mwyafrif o fewn pob un o'r cymunedau hyn.

Helen Mary Jones: Fel y dywedodd Leanne Wood, mae Plaid Cymru—the Party of Wales wedi cefnogi'n gryf egwyddorion sylfaenol rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf o'r cychwyn. Mae pob Aelod, fe gredaf, wedi bod yn fodlon cefnogi'r Gweinidog yn ei hymgais ddewr i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau gwirioneddol anodd a heriol. Gwyddom fod problemau wedi codi ynglŷn â wardiau cyfagos, fel y soniodd Peter Black, lle cyfyd problemau am nad yw ffocws cymuned o reidrwydd yn y ward sy'n ddifreintiedig yn dechnegol, fel yr amlygwyd yn adroddiad Huw Lewis. Gwyddom fod anawsterau a heriau wedi codi ond cafwyd cyflawniadau gwirioneddol eisoes. O gofio dros faint o amser y mae'r cymunedau hyn wedi mynd yn ddifreintiedig, dylid croesawu'r camau a gymerwyd eisoes mewn ychydig flynyddoedd, ac yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod yn eu croesawu.

Croesawaf hefyd ymagwedd agored y Gweinidog tuag at y ddadl hon. Am fod rhaglen yn dda, nid oes rhaid inni esgus ei bod yn berffaith. O gofio mai ymrwymiad hirdymor yw hwn ar ran y Cynulliad cyfan i gefnogi buddsoddiad y Llywodraeth yn ein cymunedau tlotaf, rhaid inni fod yn barod i ddysgu gwersi, ac yn fy marn i, bu adroddiad yr adolygiad yn ddefnyddiol yn hynny o beth. Wynebodd rai o'r heriau y mae'n rhaid eu hwynebu o hyd gyda gonestrwydd.

I will address my comments specifically to two recommendations made in the report: recommendations 3 and 10. Recommendation 3 suggests that the Government needs to monitor techniques and set standards for partnership. That is vital. It is not necessarily easy to do, and the right way to engage communities will vary from community to community. The techniques that work will, of course, vary. We know, however, that the standards of community involvement so far have been variable. There has been some excellent practice, but there has also been some poor practice. The Minister will remember the example of a community that I drew to her attention in my region. There, the participation process was being overseen by a set of consultants who had not even taken the trouble to sit down with the users of the long-standing family centre located slap bang in the middle of the ward, and talk to them about their needs. The consultants proposed the development of an extremely expensive new community building when there were already community buildings that had not been identified. That is an extreme case, but the Minister dealt with that promptly and the situation has now moved on in that particular ward. We must avoid such cases happening in future.

As other Members have said repeatedly, if this programme is to deliver real change, it will do so by full and active participation and by being led by people in the communities themselves. There is much work to do to build people's confidence and capacity, but I believe that that ability exists with those communities. Consider the women in some of those communities who duck and dive. Do not tell me that they lack entrepreneurial spirit; they spend their whole lives robbing Peter to pay Paul just to survive. That capacity is there, and the Communities First programme gives us an important opportunity to harness it. However, we must do that by starting where those people are, and not by introducing a set of professional preconceptions, which has, sadly, sometimes been the case. I am sure that the Minister will take that recommendation on board and ensure that, in the monitoring process, those standards of partnership include rock solid standards of participation.

Bwriadaf drafod dau argymhelliad a wnaed yn yr adroddiad yn benodol: argymhellion 3 a 10. Awgryma argymhelliad 3 fod angen i'r Llywodraeth fonitro technegau a gosod safonau ar gyfer partneriaeth. Mae hynny yn hollbwysig. Nid yw'n beth hawdd i'w wneud o reidrwydd, a bydd y ffordd gywir o ennyn diddordeb cymunedau yn amrywio o gymuned i gymuned. Bydd y technegau sy'n gweithio, yn amrywio, wrth reswm. Fodd bynnag, gwyddom fod safonau o ran cynnwys cymunedau wedi amrywio hyd yma. Bu arferion ardderchog, ond bu arferion gwael hefyd. Bydd y Gweinidog yn cofio'r enghraifft o gymuned yn fy rhanbarth i y tynnais ei sylw ati. Yno, yr oedd grŵp o ymgynghorwyr yn goruchwylio'r broses o gyfranogi heb drafferthu hyd yn oed i gwrdd â defnyddwyr y ganolfan deuluol hirsefydledig yng nghanol y ward a thrafod eu hanghenion gyda hwy. Cynigiodd yr ymgynghorwyr y dylid datblygu adeilad cymunedol newydd hynod gostus er bod adeiladau cymunedol ar gael eisoes nad oeddent wedi'u nodi. Mae hynny yn achos eithafol, ond ymdriniodd y Gweinidog â hynny yn ddiymdroi ac mae'r sefyllfa yn y ward honno wedi newid er gwell erbyn hyn. Rhaid inni geisio atal achosion o'r fath rhag digwydd yn y dyfodol.

Fel y dywedodd Aelodau eraill droeon, os yw'r rhaglen hon yn mynd i gyflwyno newid gwirioneddol, gwna hynny drwy gyfranogiad llawn a brwd a thrwy gael ei harwain gan bobl yn y cymunedau eu hunain. Mae llawer o waith i'w wneud i fagu hyder a gallu pobl, ond credaf fod y gallu hwnnw i'w gael yn y cymunedau hynny. Meddyliwch am y menywod mewn rhai o'r cymunedau hynny sy'n gorfod cyflawni sawl rôl ar yr un pryd. Peidiwch â dweud wrthyf nad ydynt yn meddu ar ysbryd entrepreneuriaidd; maent yn gorfod dwyn o'r un llaw i roi i'r llall byth a beunydd er mwyn cael deuben llinyn ynghyd. Mae'r gallu hwnnw yno, ac mae rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn rhoi cyfle pwysig inni ei harneisio. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni wneud hynny drwy ddechrau ar lefel y bobl hynny, ac nid drwy gyflwyno cyfres o gysyniadau proffesiynol, fel sydd wedi digwydd weithiau yn y gorffennol, gwaetha'r modd. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn ystyried yr argymhelliad hwnnw a sicrhau,

yn y broses fonitro, fod y safonau hynny o bartneriaeth yn cynnwys safonau cadarn iawn o gyfranogiad.

I welcome recommendation 10, with regard to equality of opportunity. I strongly endorse it and will suggest some additions. I have repeatedly raised with the Minister, in the Chamber and elsewhere, the issue of inequalities within, as well as between, communities. We should ensure that young people can participate, but we must do that in the right way. It is an enormous mistake to assume that young people cannot participate in the ordinary way with committees of adults. I have seen that work well where young people have received support. It is a mistake to say that young people need to be put in separate groups; rather they need support, as does everybody sometimes, to work the committee system. We are a great nation of committees, are we not? However, some of us know how to make committees work and some of us do not. We must ensure that everybody knows how to make committees work for them, and particularly young people.

I want the Minister, in considering equality of opportunity issues within Communities First, to ensure that the needs of people from minority ethnic communities, particularly where there are not many such people in a ward or community, are addressed. Specific steps may need to be taken to reach out to communities that have sometimes described themselves to me as having survived by being invisible: 'We have never drawn attention to ourselves or made a fuss, and therefore we have been accepted, we have been okay'. We must find ways of enabling those people to express and address their needs without feeling that, when they are a small part of the community, by making themselves a visible part of that community they put themselves at risk.

The final point that I want to add to the equality of opportunity strand in terms of building on the report—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You need to wind up now.

Croesawaf argymhelliad 10, o ran cyfle cyfartal. Fe'i cefnogaf yn gryf a byddaf yn awgrymu rhai ychwanegiadau. Yr wyf wedi codi mater anghydraddoldebau, o fewn cymunedau yn ogystal â rhwng cymunedau, gyda'r Gweinidog droeon, yn y Siambr ac mewn mannau eraill. Dylem sicrhau y gall pobl ifanc gymryd rhan, ond rhaid inni wneud hynny yn y ffordd gywir. Mae'n gamgymeriad mawr cymryd yn ganiataol na all pobl ifanc gymryd rhan yn y ffordd arferol mewn pwyllgorau oedolion. Yr wyf wedi gweld hynny yn gweithio'n dda lle bo pobl ifanc wedi cael cefnogaeth. Mae'n gamgymeriad dweud bod angen rhoi pobl ifanc mewn grwpiau ar wahân; yn hytrach mae angen iddynt gael cefnogaeth, fel y mae ei angen ar bawb weithiau i weithio gyda'r system bwyllgora. Fel cenedl yr ydym yn hoff iawn o bwyllgora onid ydym? Fodd bynnag, gŵyr rhai sut i wneud pwyllgorau i weithio ond ni wŷr eraill. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod pawb yn gwybod sut i wneud pwyllgorau i weithio iddynt hwy, ac yn enwedig i bobl ifanc.

Yr wyf am i'r Gweinidog, wrth ystyried materion cyfle cyfartal o fewn Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, sicrhau yr ymdrinnir ag anghenion pobl o gymunedau lleiafrifoedd ethnig, yn enwedig lle nad oes llawer o'r bobl hynny mewn ward neu gymuned. Efallai y bydd angen cymryd camau penodol i gyrraedd y cymunedau sydd wedi goroesi drwy fod yn anweladwy, fel y maent wedi disgrifio eu hunain imi weithiau: 'Nid ydym byth wedi tynnu sylw at ein hunain na chreu helynt, ac felly yr ydym wedi cael ein derbyn, yr ydym wedi bod yn iawn.' Rhaid inni ddod o hyd i ffyrdd o alluogi'r bobl hynny i fynegi eu hanghenion ac ymdrin â hwy heb deimlo eu bod yn peryglu eu hunain drwy ddod yn rhan weladwy o'r gymuned, a hwythau ond yn rhan fach o'r gymuned honno.

Y pwynt olaf yr hoffwn ei ychwanegu at y llinyn cyfle cyfartal o ran adeiladu ar yr adroddiad—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae angen ichi ddirwyn i ben yn awr.

Helen Mary Jones: I will briefly ask the Minister to address the capacity of partnerships to work through the medium of Welsh, where that is appropriate. It has been put to me in some bilingual communities that partnerships do not feel able to publish material bilingually, because they feel that it takes money away from front-line projects.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You need to wind up.

Helen Mary Jones: I ask the Minister to ensure that we can move past that and that bilingual working is resourced as well as encouraged.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Another nine people wish to speak, and if I am to get them all in, we must have succinct speeches where possible.

Carl Sargeant: I take this opportunity to celebrate the progress in the single Communities First ward in my constituency of Alyn and Deeside, before raising some recommendations for the programme that have been made locally.

I am happy to use the word 'celebrate' to describe what we are doing today, as Communities First is making a positive contribution to deprived communities throughout Flintshire, including Higher Shotton in my constituency. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Flintshire Communities First staff for their hard work and professional dedication, and those members of the community who have given up time to improve themselves and their local area, without whom there would not be a partnership.

I am pleased to say that, tomorrow, I will be having lunch with Communities First co-ordinators from across north Wales as they converge on Shotton to celebrate the programme. I have been told that those attending will use the opportunity to share good practice, which I am keen to see happen—after all, what works in one area may benefit another. I am sure that the event will be a great success, and I look forward to

Helen Mary Jones: Gofynnaf yn fyr i'r Gweinidog ymdrin â gallu partneriaethau i weithio drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, lle y bo hynny yn briodol. Mae rhai wedi dweud wrthyf nad yw partneriaethau mewn rhai cymunedau dwyieithog yn teimlo eu bod yn gallu cyhoeddi deunydd yn ddwyieithog, am eu bod yn teimlo bod hynny yn mynd ag arian oddi wrth brosiectau rheng flaen.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae angen ichi ddirwyn i ben.

Helen Mary Jones: Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog sicrhau y gallwn oresgyn hynny ac y rhoddir yr adnoddau ar gyfer gweithio'n ddwyieithog yn ogystal â'i annog.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae naw o bobl eraill yn dymuno siarad. Rhaid wrth areithiau cryno lle y bo modd os wyf yn mynd i gael amser i alw ar bob un ohonynt.

Carl Sargeant: Hoffwn achub ar y cyfle hwn i ddathlu'r cynnydd a wneir yn yr unig ward yn fy etholaeth i, sef Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy, sy'n rhan o raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, cyn codi rhai argymhellion ar gyfer y rhaglen a wnaed yn lleol.

Mae'n bleser gennyf ddefnyddio'r gair 'dathlu' i ddisgrifio'r hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud heddiw, gan fod Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn gwneud cyfraniad cadarnhaol i gymunedau difreintiedig ledled sir y Fflint, gan gynnwys Shotton Uchaf yn fy etholaeth i. Manteisiaf ar y cyfle hwn i dalu teyrnged i staff Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn sir y Fflint am eu gwaith caled a'u hymroddiad proffesiynol, a'r aelodau hynny o'r gymuned sydd wedi rhoi o'u hamser i wella eu hunain a'u hardal leol, na fyddai partneriaeth hebddynt.

Mae'n dda gennyf ddweud fy mod yn cael cinio gyda chydlynwyr Cymunedau yn Gyntaf o bob rhan o'r Gogledd yfory wrth iddynt ddod ynghyd yn Shotton i ddathlu'r rhaglen. Dywedwyd wrthyf y bydd y rhai a fydd yn bresennol yn manteisio ar y cyfle i rannu arferion da, ac yr wyf yn awyddus i weld hynny yn digwydd—wedi'r cyfan, gall yr hyn sy'n gweithio mewn un ardal fod o fudd i ardal arall. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y

bringing back any feedback that it may generate.

As I have already mentioned, Higher Shotton is the only Communities First ward in my constituency, but, despite that, much has taken place since 2002 with the £140,000 of Communities First funding that has been paid out so far, which is a significant amount of money.

From the beginning, it was decided that regeneration would be allowed to flourish from the bottom up, and not be dictated from the top down, and the local community decided to invest in sustainable people skills, empowering those who chose to participate. With those skilled individuals in place, roles and responsibilities have been established, and, in many cases, local people have taken forward local Communities First projects.

One such scheme, of which I am proud, is the dream scheme, which is a reward programme for the young people of Higher Shotton. In working to benefit their local community, young people earn rewards, such as ten-pin bowling or a camping trip. Those rewards are often out of the reach of young people from deprived backgrounds. The project, run by those people who have gained the skills, teaches respect and social skills and gives young people pride in their community. I am pleased to say that residents from the estate are reported to have noticed the change in the area, which is important, and can surely be considered a minor victory against the social ills created by poverty and deprivation.

4.30 p.m.

I do not wish to undermine the positive benefits and progress made under Communities First, but some concerns have been expressed to me locally that I wish to bring to the Minister's attention. Although the programme is extremely flexible, a feature which has allowed communities across Wales to innovate and to respond to local problems with local and novel solutions, there are some concerns regarding

digwyddiad yn llwyddiant mawr, ac edrychaf ymlaen at roi unrhyw adborth sy'n codi i'r Cynulliad.

Fel yr wyf wedi sôn eisoes, Shotton Uchaf yw'r unig ward yn fy etholaeth sy'n rhan o raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, ond, er hynny, mae llawer wedi digwydd ers 2002 gyda'r £140,000 o arian Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, a dalwyd hyd yma, sy'n swm sylweddol o arian.

O'r dechrau, penderfynwyd y byddem yn gadael i'r broses adfywio fynd rhagddi o'r gwaelod i fyny, yn hytrach na chael ei llywio o'r brig i lawr, a phenderfynodd y gymuned leol fuddsoddi mewn sgiliau cynaliadwy i bobl, gan rymuso'r rhai a ddewisodd gymryd rhan. Gyda'r unigolion hynny â sgiliau yn eu lle, mae rolau a chyfrifoldebau wedi'u sefydlu, ac mewn sawl achos, mae pobl leol wedi datblygu prosiectau lleol Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Un cynllun o'r fath, sy'n destun balchder imi, yw'r cynllun breuddwydion, sef rhaglen wobrwyo i bobl ifanc Shotton Uchaf. Drwy weithio er budd eu cymuned leol, mae pobl ifanc yn ennill gwobrau, megis bowlïo deg neu gyfle i wersylla. Mae'r gwobrau hynny yn aml y tu hwnt i gyrraedd pobl ifanc o gefndiroedd difreintiedig. Mae'r prosiect, a gynhelir gan y bobl hynny sydd wedi ennill y sgiliau, yn dysgu parch a sgiliau cymdeithasol ac yn gwneud i bobl ifanc ymfalchïo yn eu cymunedau. Mae'n dda gennyf ddweud bod trigolion o'r ystad wedi nodi eu bod wedi sylwi ar y newid yn yr ardal, sy'n bwysig, ac y gellir yn sicr ei ystyried yn fuddugoliaeth fach yn erbyn y problemau cymdeithasol a achosir gan dlodi ac amddifadedd.

Nid wyf am danseilio'r buddiannau cadarnhaol a'r cynnydd a wnaed o dan Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, ond mynegwyd rhai pryderon imi yn lleol yr hoffwn dynnu sylw'r Gweinidog atynt. Er bod y rhaglen yn hynod hyblyg, nodweddd sydd wedi galluogi cymunedau ledled Cymru i arloesi ac ymateb i broblemau lleol drwy atebion lleol a newydd, mae rhai pryderon ynghylch y canllawiau a gyhoeddwyd gan y Cynulliad, y

the guidance issued by the Assembly, which were touched on earlier during questions to the Minister. I will go into a little more detail on that. Higher Shotton missed out recently on a visit to a community housing project in the Netherlands due to conflicting advice over what the funding could be spent on. I am sure that the Minister will address that issue.

The Communities First review recognises the important role that Assembly guidance has to play in shaping community regeneration through the programme, while maintaining a hands-off attitude to the solutions that communities come up with. Even with additional support, I am sure that Communities First will continue to flourish. The Communities First programme is not a short-term solution to deprivation: it is here to stay. This fact is recognised by everyone in Higher Shotton who is participating in the partnership. However, for the programme to last, the concerns of local people need to be addressed in order to build on the unprecedented success that we have already seen in our area.

Mick Bates: I join my colleague, Peter Black, in praising this scheme and the way in which the Minister has handled it, as well as praising the report that Huw Lewis has compiled on it. It embodies all that is good about community development. You must never be afraid of facing the truth of a situation, and the report expresses criticism that is based on experience. That is the background to my remarks.

Many of us have been involved in community work. There are three phases to that work. First, you build the capacity, which often involves building the confidence and leadership skills of people in the community, particularly young people. One must always accept that, at some stage, that capacity may well disappear and that it is an ongoing and dynamic process. You must never lose the continuity of that capacity building. That is a fundamental aspect of where the great benefit of the Government's commitment to Communities First lies. The second phase is particularly important. From ideas that have been built up through developing capacity and the development

cyfeiriwyd atynt yn gynharach yn ystod y cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog. Rhoddaf ychydig ragor o fanylion. Collodd Shotton Uchaf gyfle yn ddiweddar i fod yn rhan o ymweliad â phrosiect tai cymunedol yn yr Iseldiroedd oherwydd cyngor croes ynglŷn â'r hyn y gellid gwario'r arian arno. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwnnw.

Mae'r adolygiad o raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn cydnabod y rhan bwysig y mae canllawiau'r Cynulliad yn ei chwarae i ddylanwadu ar y broses adfywio cymunedol drwy'r rhaglen, tra'n peidio ag ymyrryd yn yr atebion y mae cymunedau yn eu cynnig. Hyd yn oed gyda chymorth ychwanegol, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn parhau i ffynnu. Nid ateb tymor byr i amddifadedd yw rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf: ateb parhaol ydyw. Cydnabyddir y ffaith hon gan bawb yn Shotton Uchaf sy'n rhan o'r bartneriaeth. Fodd bynnag, er mwyn i'r rhaglen barhau, mae angen ymdrin â phryderon pobl leol er mwyn adeiladu ar y llwyddiant dihafal a gawsom eisoes yn ein hardal.

Mick Bates: Ymunaf â'm cyd-Aelod, Peter Black, i ganmol y cynllun hwn a'r ffordd y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ymdrin ag ef, yn ogystal â chanmol yr adroddiad arno a baratowyd gan Huw Lewis. Mae'n ymgorffori popeth sy'n dda o ran datblygu cymunedol. Rhaid ichi bob amser fod yn barod i wynebu gwirionedd sefyllfa, ac mae'r adroddiad yn rhoi beirniadaeth sy'n seiliedig ar brofiad. Dyna'r cefndir i'm sylwadau.

Mae llawer ohonom wedi ymwneud â gwaith cymunedol. Mae tri cham i'r gwaith hwnnw. Yn gyntaf, yr ydych yn meithrin gallu, sydd yn aml yn golygu datblygu hyder a sgiliau arwain pobl yn y gymuned, yn enwedig pobl ifanc. Rhaid ichi bob amser dderbyn y ffaith y gall y sgiliau hynny ddiflannu rywbyrd yn y dyfodol ac mai proses barhaus a deinamig ydyw. Ni ddylech byth golli parhad y broses honno o feithrin gallu. Dyna agwedd sylfaenol o ran budd mawr ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae'r ail gam yn arbennig o bwysig. O'r syniadau sydd wedi datblygu drwy feithrin gallu a'r cam datblygu, y cyflwynwch eich cynllun gweithredu. Y cam olaf, a'r cam

stage, you get your action plan in. The final, and critical, phase is the outcomes. After all the development, people want to see results. Akin to this is the Sure Start programme. That is another long-term programme that is dedicated to improving the quality of people's lives, which this is all about.

I will draw your attention to three issues, Minister. I am a great fan of targeting on the basis of deprivation as the process is undertaken, and I admire your flexible approach in my constituency, where an entire rural area in the Dyfi valley was encompassed, rather than just the single deprived ward that made the area eligible for Communities First. However, increased targeting has a hidden impact. For example, three sporting clubs in my constituency were affected when Sportlot changed its criteria and based them on Communities First criteria. It said that you could not receive large funds through Sportlot unless you were in, or adjacent to, a Communities First area. This process needs to be examined, because those three clubs—Guilsfield football club, Kerry football club and Llanfair Caereinion rugby club—all lost out in the process of changing criteria. When criteria are changed to target and favour areas such as Communities First, applications in process must be assessed according to the old criteria, rather than the applicants suffering as a result of the new criteria. I hope that you will discuss this with the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport to ensure that those clubs, which feel quite bitter about this and which have lost out, have some recompense when criteria change.

Secondly, recommendation 10 notes that there are 100 different funds for communities to access. As someone who has been in this position many times, I know about the complexity and that feeling of, 'Where do I go from here?'. Having built the capacity and done the development, how to fund this becomes the critical question to address. I ask the Government to look for a single funding issue so that there is a single portal for Communities First areas and one number to

hollbwysig, yw'r canlyniadau. Wedi'r holl waith datblygu, mae pobl am weld canlyniadau. Mae rhaglen Cychwyn Cadarn yn debyg yn hyn o beth. Dyna raglen hirdymor arall sy'n ymrwymedig i wella ansawdd bywydau pobl, sef y nod yn y pen draw.

Tynnaf eich sylw at dri mater, Weinidog. Yr wyf yn gefnogwr mawr i dargedu adnoddau ar sail amddifadedd wrth i'r broses fynd rhagddi, ac edmygaf eich hyblygrwydd o ran fy etholaeth i, lle y cwmpaswyd ardal wledig gyfan yn nyffryn afon Dyfi, yn hytrach na'r unig ward ddifreintiedig a oedd yn gwneud i'r ardal fod yn gymwys o dan raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Fodd bynnag, mae mwy o dargedu yn cael effaith gudd. Er enghraifft, effeithiwyd ar dri chlwb chwaraeon yn fy etholaeth i pan benderfynodd Sportlot newid ei feini prawf a'u seilio ar feini prawf Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Dywedodd na allweh gael symiau mawr o arian drwy Sportlot oni bai eich bod yn un o ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf neu'n gyfagos ag un ohonynt. Mae angen ystyried y broses hon, gan fod y tri chlwb hynny—clwb pêl-droed Cegidfa, clwb pêl-droed Ceri a chlwb rygbi Llanfair Caereinion—oll ar eu colled oherwydd y meini prawf newydd. Pan gaiff meini prawf eu newid i dargedu a ffafrio ardaloedd megis ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, rhaid asesu'r ceisiadau sydd ar y gweill yn ôl yr hen feini prawf, yn hytrach na chael sefyllfa lle mae ymgeiswyr ar eu colled oherwydd y meini prawf newydd. Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn trafod hyn gyda'r Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon er mwyn sicrhau bod y clybiau hynny, sy'n teimlo'n bur chwerw ynglŷn â hyn ac sydd ar eu colled o'r herwydd, yn cael rhyw fath o iawndal pan gaiff meini prawf eu newid.

Yn ail, noda argymhelliad 10 fod 100 o wahanol gronfeydd i gymunedau wneud cais iddynt. Fel rhywun sydd wedi bod yn y sefyllfa hon droeon, gwn pa mor gymhleth ydyw ac yr wyf yn gyfarwydd â'r teimlad hwnnw, 'Ble yr af nesaf?'. Ar ôl meithrin gallu a gwneud y gwaith datblygu, sut i ariannu prosiect yw'r cwestiwn allweddol y mae'n rhaid cael ateb iddo. Gofynnaf i'r Llywodraeth ystyried un ffordd o ddsbarthu arian fel bod un porth i ardaloedd

call, as there is for Farming Connect. Behind the scenes is a complex civil service system, which I and community workers in Wales do not need to know about. We do not need to know about those complexities; all we want to see is an outcome. One of the demoralising aspects of these schemes is the complex application process, which frightens people to death. You have to fill in boxes and numbers and people find that demoralising. There should be a single portal and a single fund for people to access.

We need to build on the trust fund concept and establish a community investment bank almost—this a principle that I have supported for some time—so that communities, when they come out of Communities First and have built up capacity and an entrepreneurial spirit, can then turn to a funding source, such as a credit union, which can provide funding at a reduced rate. All too often, high street banks do not help community enterprise.

There is an exit strategy to this programme and it is important to ensure that communities understand that the programme is limited. We do not want to see communities, when they leave the programme, left with high expectations and low outcomes.

Denise Idris Jones: The most important thing that the Assembly can do on behalf of the people of Wales is to bridge the gap between the most deprived and the most affluent communities in Wales. I say that because I taught for many years in a deprived area and I saw the results of deprivation, which were not always the best. This is a key concern throughout Wales, and I am pleased to be speaking today and welcoming the progress made by the Minister thus far with the Communities First programme. This programme is improving the prospects, environment and quality of life in our most deprived communities. My own constituency of Conwy has two Communities First areas—this may surprise people—one in Llandudno, the Tudno ward, and another in Bangor, the Marchog ward. The programme is helping to build confidence and to raise self-esteem in these communities. It is improving health and wellbeing, skills and education, and the

Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ac un rhif i'w ffonio, fel yn achos Cyswllt Ffermio. Yn sail i'r cyfan, mae system gymhleth o weision sifil, nad oes angen imi nac i weithwyr cymunedol yng Nghymru wybod amdani. Nid oes angen inni gael gwybod am y cymhlethdodau hynny; y cyfan yr ydym am ei weld yw canlyniad. Un o'r agweddau diflas ar y cynlluniau hyn yw'r broses ymgeisio gymhleth, sy'n codi braw ar bobl. Rhaid llenwi bylchau a rhoi ffigurau ac mae hynny yn digalonni pobl. Dylai fod un porth ac un gronfa i bobl wneud cais iddi.

Mae angen inni ddatblygu cysyniad y gronfa ymddiriedolaeth a sefydlu banc buddsoddi cymunedol bron—mae hon yn egwyddor yr wyf wedi ei chefnogi ers amser—fel y gall cymunedau, ar ôl gadael Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ac ar ôl meithrin gallu ac ysbryd o fentergarwch, droi wedyn at ffynhonnell o arian megis undeb credyd, a all roi arian ar gyfradd ostyngol. Yn rhy aml, nid yw banciau'r stryd fawr yn helpu mentrau cymunedol.

Mae strategaeth ymadael i'r rhaglen hon ac mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod cymunedau yn deall bod terfyn i'r rhaglen. Nid ydym am weld cymunedau, ar ôl iddynt adael y rhaglen, gyda disgwyliadau mawr a chanlyniadau siomedig.

Denis Idris Jones: Y peth pwysicaf y gall y Cynulliad ei wneud ar ran pobl Cymru yw cau'r bwlch rhwng y cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig a'r cymunedau mwyaf ffyniannus yng Nghymru. Dywedaf hynny gan imi ddysgu am flynyddoedd lawer mewn ardal ddifreintiedig a gwelais ganlyniadau amddifadedd, nad oeddent bob amser yn dda. Mae hyn yn bryder mawr ledled Cymru, ac yr wyf yn falch o gael siarad heddiw a chroesawu'r cynnydd a wnaed gan y Gweinidog hyd yma gyda rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae'r rhaglen hon yn gwella rhagolygon, yr amgylchedd ac ansawdd bywyd yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig. Mae dwy ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn fy etholaeth i fy hun, sef Conwy—efallai y bydd pobl yn synnu at hyn—un yn Llandudno, sef ward Tudno, a'r llall ym Mangor, sef ward Marchog. Mae'r rhaglen yn helpu i godi hyder a hunan-barch yn y cymunedau hyn. Mae'n gwella iechyd a lles,

quality of the local environment, and it is encouraging active citizenship. The programme has provided the resources for people, both young and old, to take the initiative to develop and to enhance their communities. During the short period that I have been the Assembly Member for Conwy, I have seen how, thanks to the Assembly's work, the young people of Maesgeirchen have been empowered to take their community forward and to improve their prospects and self-esteem. The programmes at Maesgeirchen and Tudno are still in their infancy, but they have inspired and encouraged creativity, risk taking and imaginative approaches to regenerating the community. The healthy living centre, which is at the heart of Maesgeirchen, is always full of life. I love going there, because I meet a wide range of people, young and old. It is the hub of community activity and its regeneration.

The work carried out with disaffected young adults at the boxing club in Maesgeirchen is truly inspiring, even though it is held in a small garage. The club has helped to lower crime in the area. I am now working hard to ensure that it has new premises, and we are well on our way to securing that with the help of the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, Alun Pugh. This will further enhance the community, and I look forward to seeing that happen.

I also welcome the recommendations put forward within the review to strengthen the programme, which will increase its impact and its potential to truly make a difference to Wales's poorest communities. I agree that the community-based nature of the programme must be strengthened. It should be tailored to the needs of each locality, and participation from all sections must be developed. By putting people in the driving seat, and with continued financial and cross-cutting support from the Labour Assembly Government across all areas of our work, we can tackle poverty and deprivation and improve the quality of life of the people of Wales. This is social justice in action and the promotion of the Welsh Labour values of prosperity for all and delivering for our poorest communities. This is why I am here.

sgiliau ac addysg ac ansawdd yr amgylchedd lleol, ac mae'n annog dinasyddiaeth weithredol. Mae'r rhaglen wedi rhoi'r adnoddau i bobl, yn hen ac ifanc, i weithredu i ddatblygu a gwella eu cymunedau. Yn y cyfnod byr ers imi fod yn Aelod Cynulliad dros Gonwy, yr wyf wedi gweld sut y mae pobl ifanc Maesgeirchen wedi cael eu grymuso i ddatblygu eu cymuned a gwella eu rhagolygon a chodi eu hunan-barch, diolch i waith y Cynulliad. Megis cychwyn y mae'r rhaglenni ym Maesgeirchen a Thudno, ond maent wedi ysbrydoli ac wedi annog creadigrwydd, mentro a ffyrdd creadigol o adfywio'r gymuned. Mae'r ganolfan byw'n iach, sydd yng nghanol Maesgeirchen, bob amser yn llawn cyffro. Mae bob amser yn braf mynd yno, gan fy mod yn cwrdd ag amrywiaeth mawr o bobl, yn hen ac ifanc. Y ganolfan sydd wrth wraidd gweithgareddau'r gymuned a'r broses o'i hadfywio.

Mae'r gwaith a wneir gydag oedolion ifanc anfoddog yn y clwb paffio ym Maesgeirchen yn wirioneddol galonogol, er mai mewn garej fechan y cynhelir ef. Mae'r clwb wedi helpu i leihau nifer y troseddau yn yr ardal. Yr wyf yn gweithio'n galed ar hyn o bryd i sicrhau safle newydd iddo, ac yr ydym yn gwneud cynnydd da i sicrhau hynny gyda chymorth y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon, Alun Pugh. Bydd hyn yn gwella'r gymuned ymhellach, ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld hynny yn digwydd.

Croesawaf hefyd yr argymhellion a gynigiwyd yn yr adolygiad i atgyfnerthu'r rhaglen, a fydd yn cynyddu ei heffaith a'i photensial i wneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i gymunedau tlotaf Cymru. Cytunaf fod yn rhaid atgyfnerthu'r rhaglen fel rhaglen ar gyfer y gymuned. Dylai gael ei theilwra at anghenion pob ardal leol, a rhaid datblygu cyfranogiad o bob rhan o'r gymuned. Drwy roi'r awenau yn nwylo'r bobl, a chyda chymorth ariannol a thrawsbynciol parhaus Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad ar draws pob maes o'n gwaith, gallwn fynd i'r afael â thlodi ac amddifadedd a gwella ansawdd bywyd pobl Cymru. Dyma gyfiawnder cymdeithasol ar waith a dyma hyrwyddo gwerthoedd Llafur Cymru o ffyniant i bawb a chyflawni dros ein cymunedau tlotaf. Dyma pam yr wyf yma.

4.40 p.m.

Mark Isherwood: As someone who argued publicly for the empowerment of Flintshire communities to regenerate themselves before Communities First was even announced, I recognise that only local people can deliver sustainable solutions within their communities, and I therefore join colleagues in welcoming this report. However, as emphasised during the Flintshire community strategy conference last November, this will not work without effective partnership management and the engagement of communities as a whole, including young people.

This work must be based on joined-up consultation, respect, communication and involvement. As the review states, Communities First is not the answer to poverty, but it gives the hardest-hit communities an edge. After all, it is not poverty alone that predestines people to suffer failure and exclusion, but poverty of ownership over their lives, poverty of ambition and poverty of achievement. Communities First is therefore right in its stated ambition to empower local people, co-ordinate activity with a high degree of local involvement, build the capacity of people to deal with complex issues locally, and combat the consequences of the root causes of poverty.

To achieve this, we will require a real partnership between the public, voluntary and private sectors. This partnership is based on equality, lies outside Government control, and has, dare I say it, always been part of the moral language of Conservatism. Doubts about the sustainable delivery of Communities First rest on concerns that what the Welsh Assembly Government means when it uses the words 'partnership' and 'community' is a worrying degree of state intrusion into every aspect of our social and economic existence. It talks the talk, but does it walk the walk? Labour politicians are, by definition, social engineers rather than libertarians, dogmatically misinterpreting the lessons of history and the needs of humankind. For example, the review

Mark Isherwood: Fel rhywun sydd wedi dadlau'n gyhoeddus dros rymuso cymunedau sir y Fflint er mwyn iddynt adfywio eu hunain cyn i raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf gael ei chyhoeddi hyd yn oed, cydnabyddaf mai dim ond pobl leol a all gynnig atebion cynaliadwy yn eu cymunedau, ac felly ymunaf â'm cyd-Aelodau i groesawu'r adroddiad hwn. Fodd bynnag, fel y pwysleisiwyd yng nghynhadledd strategaeth gymunedol sir y Fflint fis Tachwedd diwethaf, ni fydd hyn yn gweithio oni reolir partneriaethau yn effeithiol ac oni lwyddir i ymgysylltu â chymunedau cyfan, gan gynnwys pobl ifanc.

Rhaid i'r gwaith hwn fod yn seiliedig ar ymgynghori cydgysylltiedig, parch, cyfathrebu a chynnwys pobl. Fel y noda'r adolygiad, nid yw Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn cynnig ateb i dlodi, ond mae'n rhoi mantais i'r cymunedau tlotaf. Wedi'r cyfan, nid diffyg arian yn unig sy'n tyngedu bod pobl yn methu ac yn cael eu hallgáu, ond diffyg perchenogaeth o'u bywydau, diffyg uchelgais a diffyg cyflawniad. Felly mae rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn iawn yn ei huchelgais datganedig i rymuso pobl leol, cydlynu gweithgareddau gan gynnwys pobl leol i raddau helaeth, meithrin gallu pobl i ymdrin â materion cymhleth yn lleol, ac ymladd canlyniadau yr hyn sy'n achosi tlodi.

Er mwyn cyflawni hyn, bydd angen inni gael partneriaeth wirioneddol rhwng y sector cyhoeddus, y sector gwirfoddol a'r sector preifat. Mae'r bartneriaeth hon yn seiliedig ar gydraddoldeb, sydd y tu hwnt i reolaeth y Llywodraeth, ac sydd bob amser wedi bod yn rhan o ieithwedd foesol Ceidwadaeth, os mentraf ddweud hynny. Mae'r amheuan a ellir cyflwyno Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn gynaliadwy yn deillio o bryderon mai'r hyn a olyga Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru pan fydd yn defnyddio'r term 'partneriaeth' a 'cymuned' yw ymyrraeth y wladwriaeth â phob agwedd ar ein bodolaeth gymdeithasol ac economaidd ar raddfa sy'n peri gofid. Mae'n hoffi siarad, ond a yw'n cyflawni? Mae gwleidyddion Llafur, yn ôl eu natur, yn rhai sydd am newid strwythur cymdeithas yn

identifies unofficial Communities First groups as a problem, when the reality is that such groups should be embraced rather than replaced. The real partnership working established by local people in places such as the Holway estate in Holywell should be held up as models of good practice, not hijacked by public sector leviathans. We must also address associated problems such as the denial of assistance to credit unions in Objective 3 areas such as Flintshire.

The review is right to highlight the lack of understanding of the purpose of the programme among key players such as councillors and public sector agencies. If this is allowed to persist, a top-down bureaucracy will do what it has always done, by taking control according to the principles of 'tell, not ask' and 'we know best', thereby further disempowering local people. As the review states

'The balance struck in shaping local authorities' role in relation to communities, more than any other single issue, determines the nature of the programme. It is important that the authorities' facilitative (rather than leadership) role within the programme is emphasised.'

Therefore, dedicated workers on the frontline will not be handicapped by pockets of reactionary local authority leadership. It is therefore vital that the Welsh Assembly Government's determination not to impose strong external controls on local government be overcome, so that effective change management strategies may be implemented and driven forward on an accountable basis. Equally, this programme will be utterly meaningless unless housing is prioritised. It is no exaggeration to say that this issue is reaching crisis point, as illustrated by the decaying concrete-panel housing still in occupation in places such as the Holway estate. Without central intervention and impetus, housing in Wales will never become

hytrach na bod yn rhyddfrydolwyr. Maent yn camddehongli gwersi hanes ac anghenion dynol ryw drwy ddogma. Er enghraifft, mae'r adolygiad yn ystyried grwpiau answyddogol o dan raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn broblem, ond y gwir yw y dylai grwpiau o'r fath gael eu croesawu yn hytrach na'u disodli. Dylid cyfeirio at y gwaith partneriaeth gwirioneddol a wnaed gan bobl leol mewn lleoedd megis ystad Holway yn Nhreffynnon fel model o arfer da, ac ni ddylai gael ei ddwyn gan bwerau mawr y sector cyhoeddus. Rhaid inni hefyd ymdrin â phroblemau cysylltiedig megis y penderfyniad i wrthod rhoi cymorth i undebau credyd yn ardaloedd Amcan 3 megis sir y Fflint.

Mae'n briodol bod yr adolygiad yn tynnu sylw at ddiffyg dealltwriaeth ynglŷn â phwrpas y rhaglen ymhlith pobl allweddol megis cynghorwyr ac asiantaethau'r sector cyhoeddus. Os caniateir i hyn barhau, bydd biwrocratiaeth o'r brig i lawr yn gwneud yr hyn y mae bob amser wedi'i wneud drwy gymryd yr awenau, yn ôl egwyddorion 'dweud, nid gofyn' a 'ni sy'n gwybod orau', a thrwy hynny ddadrymuso pobl leol ymhellach. Fel y noda'r adolygiad

'Y cydbwysedd y cytunir arno wrth lunio rôl awdurdodau lleol mewn perthynas â'r cymunedau, yn anad yr un ffactor arall, sy'n bennaf gyfrifol am benderfynu ar natur y rhaglen. Mae'n bwysig bod rôl yr awdurdodau o hwyluso'r rhaglen (yn hytrach na'u rôl o arwain) yn cael ei phwysleisio.'

Felly, ni chaiff gweithwyr ymroddedig ar y rheng flaen eu hatal gan grwpiau bach o arweinwyr awdurdodau lleol adweithiol. Felly, mae'n hollbwysig goresgyn penderfyniad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i beidio â gosod rheolaethau allanol cryf ar lywodraeth leol, fel y gellir gweithredu strategaethau effeithiol i reoli newid a'u datblygu mewn ffordd atebol. Yn yr un modd, bydd y rhaglen hon yn hollol ddiystyr oni roddir blaenoriaeth i dai. Nid gor-ddweud yw dweud bod y broblem hon yn troi'n argyfwng, fel y dangosir gan y tai â phaneli concriid sy'n dirywio y mae pobl yn dal i fyw ynddynt mewn lleoedd megis ystad Holway. Heb ymyrraeth a hwb o'r canol, ni fydd tai yng Nghymru byth yn gyfrwng ar gyfer

the vehicle for sustainable social and economic regeneration that it can, and should, be. We must dump dogma, adopt best practice and focus on outcomes. If this means getting tough with local authorities, so be it. Labour's housing cuts must be reversed, local tenant involvement must be prioritised, and the expertise available from the mainly mutual financiers and from voluntary, non-profit-making housing associations must be fully utilised.

Social and economic community regeneration will never be sustainable if we fail to address the ongoing concerns raised in the public consultation on the Welsh Assembly Government's social enterprise action plan, in which the Flintshire local voluntary council warned that

'Present business support resource is inadequate currently to support social enterprise let alone any increase that would arise from the development and promotion of the enterprise initiative. Our impression is that such support services are currently over-stretched.'

In conclusion, let me stress my absolute commitment to this programme and to its objectives of equal access to support according to local need, and of ensuring that the maximum resources reach a community level for bottom-up delivery, rather than being channelled elsewhere. However, in order to achieve this, I urge the Government to dump the dogma, turn rhetoric into reality and take positive action to turn the problems that I have identified into deliverable, planned and sustainable solutions that truly put the people first.

Jeff Cuthbert: I pay tribute to those involved for the work undertaken to produce the Communities First review 2003. Its recommendations will do a great deal to enhance and simplify the delivery of the Communities First agenda to Wales's most deprived areas. Tackling social exclusion is essential if Wales is to achieve its full

adfywio cymdeithasol ac economaidd cynaliadwy fel y gallent fod ac y dylent fod. Rhaid inni gael gwared ar ddogma, mabwysiadu arferion gorau a chanolbwyntio ar ganlyniadau. Os yw hynny yn golygu bod yn llym gydag awdurdodau lleol, felly y bo. Rhaid dadwneud toriadau Llafur o ran tai, rhaid rhoi blaenoriaeth i gynnwys tenantiaid lleol, a rhaid gwneud defnydd llawn o'r arbenigedd sydd ar gael oddi wrth y cyllidwyr cydfuddiannol yn bennaf ac oddi wrth cymdeithasau tai gwirfoddol nad ydynt yn gwneud elw.

Ni fydd adfywio cymunedol cymdeithasol ac economaidd byth yn gynaliadwy os methwn â mynd i'r afael â'r pryderon sy'n parhau a godwyd yn yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ar gynllun gweithredu mentrau cymdeithasol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru lle y rhybuddiodd cyngor gwirfoddol lleol sir y Fflint:

bod yr adnoddau presennol ar gyfer cymorth busnes yn annigonol ar hyn o bryd i gefnogi mentrau cymdeithasol heb sôn am unrhyw gynnydd a fyddai'n codi o'r broses o ddatblygu a hyrwyddo mentergarwch. Yr argraff a gawn yw bod gwasanaethau cymorth o'r fath o dan bwysau mawr ar hyn o bryd.

I gloi, gadewch imi bwysleisio fy mod yn hollol ymrwymedig i'r rhaglen hon ac i'w hamcanion sef mynediad cyfartal i gymorth yn ôl angen lleol, a sicrhau bod y nifer fwyaf o adnoddau yn cyrraedd cymunedau ar gyfer cyflawni o'r gwaelod i fyny, yn hytrach na chael eu sianelu i fannau eraill. Fodd bynnag, er mwyn cyflawni hyn, anogaf y Llywodraeth i gael gwared ar ddogma, rhoi rhyddreg ar waith a chymryd camau cadarnhaol i droi'r problemau a nodwyd gennyf yn atebion y gellir eu rhoi ar waith, sydd wedi'u cynllunio, sy'n gynaliadwy ac sy'n rhoi pobl yn gyntaf mewn gwirionedd.

Jeff Cuthbert: Talaf deyrnged i'r rhai sydd wedi bod yn ymwneud â'r gwaith o gynhyrchu adolygiad Cymunedau yn Gyntaf 2003. Bydd ei argymhellion yn gwella ac yn symleiddio gryn dipyn ar sut y caiff agenda Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ei chyflawni yn ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig Cymru. Mae mynd i'r afael ag allgáu cymdeithasol yn

potential as a vibrant society, rich in skills and culture. I say this as a Member who represents 12 of the 100 most deprived electoral divisions in Wales. The most recent local community project in Caerphilly to benefit from Communities First funding is the Senghennydd youth drop-in centre, which was awarded just under £0.5 million to help young people to develop skills and opportunities. It took a while to get there, but we got there in the end. I pay tribute to the centre for its hard work and to the partnership for achieving this significant award, as well as to the civil servants in the Assembly's Communities First unit.

Many people in the most deprived areas of Wales are socially excluded. Key indicators are high unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime, bad health and family breakdown. Tackling these myriad problems is fundamental to building stronger, safer communities across Wales. The Labour Assembly Government has pledged to extend the war on poverty, as last year's Welsh Labour manifesto promised, and to extend the Communities First programme.

Other Assembly Government departments and agencies also help to tackle social disadvantage, as is illustrated by the £20 million annual deprivation grant for local authorities in deprived areas. I agree with the recommendation of the Communities First review that Assembly departments should be encouraged to do more. I would encourage them to consider how programme bending could be used to channel resources, including those from mainstream budgets, into deprived areas throughout Wales.

Lifting young people out of the cycle of unemployment is also one of the key challenges for Education and Learning Wales. It must do more to work in partnership to ensure that the right provision of post-16 education and training is available. That training provision must be open to all, especially those from deprived communities.

hanfodol er mwyn i Gymru gyflawni ei llawn potensial fel cymdeithas hyfyw ag iddi gyfoeth o sgiliau a diwylliant. Dywedaf hyn fel Aelod sy'n cynrychioli 12 o blith y 100 rhanbarth etholiadol mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Y prosiect cymunedol lleol diweddaraf yng Nghaerffili i elwa ar gyllid Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yw canolfan galw i mewn i ieuenctid Senghennydd, y dyfarnwyd ychydig o dan £0.5 miliwn iddo i helpu pobl ifanc i ddatblygu sgiliau a chyfleoedd. Cymerodd beth amser i'w gyflawni, ond cawsom lwyddiant yn y pen draw. Talaf deyrnged i'r ganolfan am ei gwaith caled ac i'r bartneriaeth am lwyddo i ddenu'r dyfarniad hwn, yn ogystal ag i'r gweision sifil yn uned Cymunedau yn Gyntaf y Cynulliad.

Mae llawer o bobl yn ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig Cymru wedi eu hallgáu yn gymdeithasol. Ymysg y dangosyddion allweddol mae diweithdra uchel, sgiliau gwael, incwm isel, tai gwael, cyfraddau troseddu uchel, afiechyd a theuluoedd yn chwalu. Mae mynd i'r afael â'r llw o broblemau hyn yn hollbwysig i adeiladu cymunedau cryfach, mwy diogel ledled Cymru. Mae Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad wedi addo ehangu'r frwydr yn erbyn tlodi, yn unol â'r addewid ym maniffesto Llafur Cymru y llynedd, ac ehangu'r rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Mae adrannau ac asiantaethau eraill Llywodraeth y Cynulliad hefyd yn helpu i fynd i'r afael ag anfantais gymdeithasol, fel y dangosir gan y grant amddifadedd blynyddol gwerth £20 miliwn a roddir i awdurdodau lleol mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig. Cytunaf ag argymhelliad adolygiad Cymunedau yn Gyntaf y dylid annog adrannau'r Cynulliad i wneud mwy. Byddwn yn eu hannog i ystyried sut y gellid addasu'r rhaglen er mwyn sianelu adnoddau, gan gynnwys adnoddau o gyllidebau prif ffrwd, i ardaloedd difreintiedig ledled Cymru.

Mae codi pobl ifanc o'r cylch diweithdra hefyd yn un o'r prif heriau i Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru. Rhaid iddo wneud mwy i weithio mewn partneriaeth i sicrhau'r bod y ddarpariaeth gywir o addysg a hyfforddiant ôl-16 ar gael. Rhaid i'r ddarpariaeth honno o hyfforddiant fod ar gael i bawb, yn arbennig y rhai o gymunedau difreintiedig. Mae'r

The four regional partnerships under the 'Reaching Higher, Reaching Wider' banner are already doing a great deal to remove barriers to higher education.

Partnership working and strategic planning is essential if we are to get the most out of Communities First. Local authorities do not always get it right: the starkest example of this was the former Caerphilly County Council stating that it wanted to close all English-medium sixth forms in the constituency, many of which served Communities First areas.

I also look to the private sector to work in partnership with the Assembly to help it achieve its Communities First targets. Apprenticeships and work-based learning are key methods of providing essential skills and employment to our young people. Unfortunately, some companies ask candidates for four GCSEs, or more, before they can access the course, even though it is not a requirement for the apprenticeship. Such actions clearly unintentionally discriminate against those youngsters with skills and abilities that are not reflected in their academic qualifications. Industry must consider the impact that such decisions have on Wales's most deprived communities. These are unnecessary barriers to those industrious young people who want to become apprentices.

In conclusion, I welcome the progress made by Communities First, as it enables local people to be the drivers of change. I encourage yet more to be done by Assembly Government departments and the private sector to see whether the pace of change can be enhanced, in the hope that social exclusion can, one day, become a thing of the past.

4.50 p.m.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Gwn fod amser yn brin, felly gwnaf dri phwynt yn gyflym. Ategaf bwynt Helen Mary Jones ar ddiwedd ei chyfraniad. Mae'n eithriadol o bwysig fod gan grwpiau lleol y gallu i weithredu'n ddwyieithog o fewn y system. Ni ddylai darpariaeth o'r fath ddod o'r costau

pedair partneriaeth ranbarthol o dan y faner 'Ymgynraedd yn Uwch, Ymgynraedd yn Ehangach' eisoes yn gwneud llawer i chwalu'r rhwystrau i addysg uwch.

Mae gweithio mewn partneriaeth a chynllunio strategol yn hanfodol os ydym am gael y gorau o Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Nid yw awdurdodau lleol bob amser yn gwneud pethau'n iawn: yr enghraifft amlycaf o hyn oedd pan ddatganodd hen Gyngor Sir Caerffili ei fod am gau pob cyfleuster chweched dosbarth cyfrwng Saesneg yn yr etholaeth, yr oedd llawer ohonynt yn gwasanaethu ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Disgwyliaf hefyd i'r sector preifat weithio mewn partneriaeth â'r Cynulliad i'w helpu i gyflawni ei dargedau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae prentisiaethau a dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith yn ddulliau allweddol o ddarparu sgiliau hanfodol a chyflogaeth i'n pobl ifanc. Yn anffodus, mae rhai cwmnïau yn gofyn i ymgeiswyr am bedwar TGAU, neu fwy, cyn y gallant gofrestru ar gyfer y cwrs, er nad yw'n ofyniad ar gyfer y brentisiaeth. Yn amlwg, mae camau o'r fath yn gwahaniaethu yn anfwriadol yn erbyn y bobl ifanc hynny sy'n meddu ar sgiliau a galluoedd na chânt eu hadlewyrchu yn eu cymwysterau academaidd. Rhaid i ddiwydiant ystyried effaith penderfyniadau o'r fath ar gymunedau mwyaf diffreintiedig Cymru. Mae'r rhain yn rhwystrau diangen i'r bobl ifanc weithgar hynny sydd am ddod yn brentisiaid.

I gloi, croesawaf y cynnydd a wnaed gan Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, gan ei fod yn galluogi i bobl leol ysgogi newid. Anogaf adrannau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r sector preifat i wneud mwy byth i weld a ellir cyflymu'r newid, yn y gobaith y gall allgáu cymdeithasol fynd yn angof ryw ddydd.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I know that time is limited, therefore, I will make three brief points. I endorse the point that Helen Mary Jones made at the end of her contribution. It is exceptionally important that local groups are able to operate bilingually within the system. Such provision should not come out

gweithredu. Dylid sicrhau bod costau gweinyddol o fewn y broses er mwyn sicrhau hynny. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o ymrwymiad y Gweinidog i'r iaith Gymraeg, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yn edrych ar ddulliau o geisio cyflawni hynny. Yn ail, cyfeiriaf at enghraifft yn fy etholaeth i o Gymunedau yn Gyntaf yn gweithio'n drawsffiniol. Mae rhan o'r ardal yn y fy etholaeth i, a rhan yn etholaeth Gwenda Thomas, ac mae'n cynnwys dau awdurdod lleol. Credaf fod y sefyllfa hon yn unigryw. Fodd bynnag, mae problemau'n codi oherwydd bod y ddau gyngor sir yn tynnu arian o ffynonellau ariannol gwahanol. Mae hynny'n gallu creu problemau o ran sicrhau arian cyfatebol ac o ran symud y broses ymlaen. A yw'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn ymwybodol o hynny ac yn gallu gwneud rhywbeth yn ei gylch?

Yn olaf, ar ôl ystyried rhai o'r problemau sydd wedi cael eu codi y prynhawn yma—mae'n dda gweld bod y Gweinidog, wrth eirio'r cynnig, wedi cydnabod y problemau a'r sialens sy'n bodoli, ac mae hynny wedi sicrhau ymateb cadarnhaol gan y gwrthbleidiau—a yw'r Dirprwy Weinidog neu'r Gweinidog yn barod i ystyried y problemau sy'n wynebu rhai o'n cymunedau gwledig? Nid yw'r dangosyddion tlodi yn adlewyrchu'r gwir dlodi sy'n bodoli yn rhai o'r cymunedau hynny. A oes lle i ymestyn y cynllun hwn i edrych ar rai enghreifftiau o dlodi gwirioneddol yn yr ardaloedd gwledig?

Croesawaf yn fawr y gwaith a wnaethpwyd, adroddiad ardderchog y Gweinidog a'i Dirprwy, a'r ffaith eu bod yn barod i gydnabod y problemau ac i wynebu'r sialens yn hytrach nag ymateb yn hunanfodhaus.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I am grateful to Members for making succinct speeches. That allows me to call the last speaker. I must call the Minister to reply at 4.53 p.m..

Sandy Mewies: I appreciate the time constraints, and I will keep my contribution brief. I hope that Ministers were listening to Mark Isherwood's plea about ditching political dogma, which was one of the finest examples of the genre that I have ever heard. The four Communities First areas in my

of the operating costs. There should be administrative costs within the process in order to ensure this. I am aware of the Minister's commitment to the Welsh language, and I am sure that she will look at methods of achieving that. Secondly, I refer to an example of Communities First cross-border working in my constituency. Part of the area lies within my constituency and another part is within Gwenda Thomas's constituency, and it covers two local authorities. I believe that this situation is unique. However, problems arise because the two county councils draw finance from two different financial sources. That can create problems in terms of securing match funding and moving the process forward. Is the Deputy Minister aware of that, and can he do something about it?

Finally, having considered some of the problems that have been raised this afternoon—it is good to see that the Minister, in wording the motion, has recognised the problems and the challenge that exists, which has ensured a positive response from the opposition parties—is the Deputy Minister or the Minister willing to consider the problems facing some of our rural communities? Poverty indicators do not reflect the genuine poverty that exists in some of those communities. Is there scope to extend this scheme to look at some examples of real poverty in our rural areas?

I greatly welcome the work that has been done, the excellent report produced by the Minister and her Deputy, and the fact that they are willing to acknowledge problems and face challenges, rather than responding in a self-satisfied manner.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Aelodau am wneud areithiau cryno. Mae hynny'n fy ngalluogi i alw ar y siaradwr olaf. Rhaid imi alw ar y Gweinidog i ateb am 4.53 p.m.

Sandy Mewies: Gwerthfawrogaf y cyfyngiadau amser, a chadwaf fy nghyfraniad yn fyr. Gobeithiaf i'r Gweinidogion wrando ar apêl Mark Isherwood ynglŷn â chael gwared ar ddogma gwleidyddol, a oedd yn un o'r enghreifftiau gwyachaf o'r genre a glywais erioed. Dylid llongyfarch y pedair ardal

constituency of Delyn should be congratulated. Holywell has had some problems, but it is doing well now. I have visited the Holway estate on many occasions, as well as the Bryn Gwalia estate in Mold and Flint Castle in rural north Flintshire. I have taken part in mapping exercises and I have spoken to local residents, and they are working in partnership, which is what we need. Partnership is what will make the biggest difference in closing the gap between the rich and the poor. This is a wonderful idea, and the Minister has been brave in reviewing it. We knew that matters were not going entirely right—the situation needed reviewing and that has been done successfully, and we will be taking this forward. My final point is that Communities First and the principles embodied by it should be embedded in everything we do as an Assembly, not just in terms of social justice, but in terms of every part of our work.

The Deputy Minister for Communities (Huw Lewis): I thank Members for a comprehensive debate. I will attempt to address as many points as possible. I hope that you will understand that it is impossible to address all of them. However, my letterbox is always open. Communities First exemplifies Welsh Labour's commitment to social justice. It is designed to ensure a platform of equity in our most deprived communities, on which people in those communities can stand—a platform of equity and social inclusion which is taken for granted by people elsewhere. There has been great progress so far, and it is heartwarming to hear that that is recognised across the Assembly. To date, 121 partnerships are up and running, and £31 million has been committed so far.

In communities such as New Tredegar in my constituency, the transformation is now becoming visible, shocking and real. It is shocking in the sense that it is unbelievable how far and how fast a local partnership has developed in the time that the community has had to work. This first period of consolidation and getting the communities to work together will soon be over. We will then enter a second period of driving change through the machinery of Government. During this

Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn fy etholaeth i, sef Delyn. Cafodd Treffynnon rai problemau, ond mae pethau'n mynd yn dda yno yn awr. Ymwelais ag ystâd Holway ar sawl achlysur, yn ogystal ag ystâd Bryn Gwalia yn yr Wyddgrug a Chastell y Fflint yng ngogledd sir y Fflint wledig. Yr wyf wedi cymryd rhan mewn ymarferion mapio ac wedi siarad â thrigolion lleol, ac maent yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth, sef yr hyn sydd ei angen arnom. Partneriaeth fydd yn gwneud y gwahaniaeth mwyaf o ran cau'r bwlch rhwng y cyfoethog a'r tlawd. Mae hwn yn syniad gwych, ac mae'r Gweinidog wedi bod yn ddewr yn ei adolygu. Gwyddom nad oedd pethau'n gwbl gywir—yr oedd angen adolygu'r sefyllfa a gwnaethpwyd hynny yn llwyddiannus, a byddwn yn datblygu hyn. Fy mhwynt olaf yw y dylid ymgorffori Cymunedau yn Gyntaf a'i egwyddorion ym mhopeth a wnawn fel Cynulliad, nid dim ond yng nghyd-destun cyfiawnder cymdeithasol, ond ym mhob rhan o'n gwaith.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Gymunedau (Huw Lewis): Diolch i'r Aelodau am ddadl gynhwysfawr. Ceisiaf ymdrin â chymaint o bwyntiau â phosibl. Gobeithiaf y deallwch ei bod yn amhosibl mynd i'r afael â phob un ohonynt. Fodd bynnag, mae fy mlwch llythyrau ar agor bob amser. Mae Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn enghraifft o ymrwymiad Llafur Cymru i gyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Fe'i cynlluniwyd i sicrhau sail gyfartal yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig, y gall pobl yn y cymunedau hynny elwa arni—sail gyfartal a chynhwysiant cymdeithasol y mae pobl mewn mannau eraill yn ei gymryd yn ganiataol. Gwnaed cynnydd mawr hyd yma, ac mae'n galonogol clywed y caiff hynny ei gydnabod ym mhob rhan o'r Cynulliad. Hyd yn hyn, sefydlwyd 121 o bartneriaethau, ac ymrwymwyd £31 miliwn hyd yma.

Mewn cymunedau fel Tredegar Newydd yn fy etholaeth i, mae'r trawsnewidiad yn weladwy, yn frawychus ac yn rhywbeth gwirioneddol erbyn hyn. Mae'n frawychus yn yr ystyr ei fod yn anghredadwy pa mor bell a pha mor gyflym y mae partneriaeth leol wedi datblygu yn yr amser fu gan y gymuned i weithio. Bydd y cyfnod cyntaf hwn o uno a chael cymunedau i gydweithio yn dod i ben cyn bo hir. Byddwn yn dechrau ar ail gyfnod o ysgogi newid drwy gyfrwng y Llywodraeth.

debate, many Members have repeated the spin that the opposition attempted to put on remarks that I made yesterday on the BBC about the Communities First scheme. Let me be clear about the points that I made: a collaborative effort must be brought to bear in order to make a difference in our Communities First areas. The way in which the Labour Assembly Cabinet has gone about this in the early stages is a model of what needs to happen further and wider afield.

The Minister for Health and Social Services has concentrated the health inequalities fund in Communities First areas, and the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning is piloting the free breakfast scheme in Communities First primary schools. Andrew Davies has the needs of Communities First areas as a constant concern, and the spending review, commissioned by the Finance Minister—perhaps the biggest of all, so far—will concentrate on our key social justice objectives. The budget plans that are to be announced in the autumn will ensure that we mainstream Government programmes to support those objectives. Alun Pugh is the Minister who has perhaps gone furthest in terms of changing the culture of Assembly sponsored public bodies, by radically rewriting the remit letters of the Arts Council of Wales and the Sports Council for Wales. I pay tribute to him for that. Also, only this morning, the First Minister announced that Irving GQ would be creating jobs in a Communities First area. These are only a handful of examples of how we are bending our programmes to make a real difference to the poorest communities in Wales. The point that I was making was that this is only the beginning; sustained long-term effort is vital, and Assembly sponsored public bodies cannot be excused from the programme's ideology—yes, Mark, the ideology. I am proud that the Welsh Assembly Government has committed so much, so early, to such an ambitious programme.

I welcome the positive contribution that the Welsh Conservatives made, particularly the recognition that this programme will require

Yn ystod y ddadl hon, mae sawl Aelod wedi ailadrodd y sbin yr ymdrechodd y gwrthbleidiau i'w roi ar sylwadau a wneuthum ddoe ar y BBC ynghylch y cynllun Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Gadewch imi egluro'r pwyntiau a wneuthum: rhaid gwneud ymdrech ar y cyd er mwyn gwneud gwahaniaeth yn ein hardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae'r ffordd y bu i Gabinet Llafur y Cynulliad wneud hyn yn ystod y camau cynnar yn fodel o'r hyn y mae angen iddo ddigwydd mewn manau eraill.

Mae'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi targedu'r gronfa anghydraddoldebau iechyd tuag at ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, ac mae'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn cynnal peilot o'r cynllun brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion cynradd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae anghenion ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn bryder parhaus i Andrew Davies, a bydd yr adolygiad o wariant, a gomisiynwyd gan y Gweinidog Cyllid—y mwyaf ohonynt oll o bosibl, hyd yma—yn canolbwyntio ar ein prif amcanion cyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Bydd cynlluniau'r gyllideb y bwriedir eu cyhoeddi yn yr hydref yn sicrhau ein bod yn prif-ffrydio rhaglenni'r Llywodraeth i gefnogi'r amcanion hynny. Alun Pugh yw'r Gweinidog sydd o bosibl wedi mynd bellaf o ran newid diwylliant cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, drwy ailysgrifennu llythyrau cylch gwaith Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Chyngor Chwaraeon Cymru yn sylweddol. Talaf deyrnged iddo am hynny. Hefyd, dim ond y bore yma, cyhoeddodd y Prif Weinidog y byddai Irving GQ yn creu swyddi mewn ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Dim ond llond dwrn o enghreifftiau yw'r rhain o'r ffordd yr ydym yn addasu ein rhaglenni i wneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i gymunedau tlotaf Cymru. Y pwynt yr oeddwn yn ei wneud oedd mai dim ond man cychwyn yw hwn; mae ymdrech gyson, hirdymor yn hollbwysig, ac ni ellir esgusodi cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad o ideoleg y rhaglen—ie, Mark, yr ideoleg. Yr wyf yn falch bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymrwymo cymaint, mor gynnar, i raglen mor uchelgeisiol.

Croesawaf y cyfraniad cadarnhaol a wnaed gan Geidwadwyr Cymru, yn arbennig o ran cydnabod y bydd y rhaglen hon yn ei gwneud

us to take risks—not all Communities First projects and programmes will succeed. Some risks have been taken and that is necessary in a programme like this, if it is to be of any use. Mark Isherwood, in his ideologically confused remarks, accused Labour Members of being social engineers, but so are all politicians. I do not apologise for the fact that we are all in the business of social engineering. The Conservative Party was responsible for social engineering in the communities that I represent for 20 years, and part of this programme's role is to deal with the consequences of that. We are not embarrassed by it. The key question for the Conservatives is: how would the Communities First scheme survive Michael Howard's 20 per cent public spending cuts, if the Conservatives ever came to power?

Mark Isherwood: First, you know that there is no commitment to cuts of 20 per cent in public spending, and there is an absolute commitment to increase public spending on the key front-line health services. Secondly, I grew up in the 1960s and 1970s, and I remember the culture of rights without responsibilities that turned this nation into the sick man of Europe, which we had to sort out after 1979.

Huw Lewis: Mark 'dump the dogma' Isherwood, we will take on board the points that you made.

Plaid Cymru, in the main I thank you for warmly welcoming today's debate and the review of the Communities First scheme. I especially chimed with your thoughts that the role of local authorities in the programme must be facilitative, not controlling, and we will make that point to them in writing. I take on board your points about project funding, but you will be aware that those problems are now largely solved, and they mostly concerned an appalling bid by the Plaid-Cymru-led administration in Rhondda Cynon Taf. That administration dropped the ball when it came to ensuring that local partnerships received the local authority support that they deserved, and the Assembly officials involved have worked overtime to try to put that right.

yn ofynnol inni gymryd risgiau—ni fydd pob prosiect a rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn llwyddo. Cymerwyd rhai risgiau ac mae hynny'n angenrheidiol mewn rhaglen fel hon, os ydym am gael unrhyw fudd ohoni. Yn ei sylwadau ideolegol-ddryslyd, cyhuddodd Mark Isherwood Aelodau Llafur o geisio newid strwythur cymdeithas, ond mae pob gwleidydd yn gwneud hynny. Nid ymddiheuraf am y ffaith ein bod oll yn anelu at newid strwythur cymdeithas. Yr oedd y Plaid Geidwadol yn gyfrifol am newid strwythur cymdeithasol y cymunedau yr wyf yn eu cynrychioli am 20 mlynedd, a rhan o rôl y rhaglen hon yw ymdrin â chanlyniadau hynny. Nid yw'n codi cywilydd arnom. Y cwestiwn allweddol i'r Ceidwadwyr yw: sut y byddai'r cynllun Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn goroesi o dan doriadau Michael Howard o 20 y cant mewn gwariant cyhoeddus, pe deuai'r Ceidwadwyr byth i rym?

Mark Isherwood: Yn gyntaf, fe wyddoch nad oes ymrwymiad i doriadau o 20 y cant mewn gwariant cyhoeddus, a bod ymrwymiad cadarn i gynyddu gwariant cyhoeddus ar wasanaethau iechyd rheng-flaen allweddol. Yn ail, cefais fy magu yn y 1960au a'r 1970au, a chofiaf y diwylliant o hawliau heb gyfrifoldebau a drodd y genedl hon yn ddyn sâl Ewrop, yr oedd yn rhaid inni ei wella ar ôl 1979.

Huw Lewis: Mark 'dim dogma' Isherwood, ystyriwn y pwyntiau a wnaethoch.

Plaid Cymru, ar y cyfan diolchaf ichi am groesawu'r ddadl heddiw a'r adolygiad o'r cynllun Cymunedau yn Gyntaf mor frwd. Yr oedd eich sylwadau y dylai awdurdodau lleol hwyluso'r rhaglen yn hytrach na'i rheoli yn taro deuddeg, a gwnawn y pwynt hwnnw iddynt yn ysgrifenedig. Ystyriaf eich pwyntiau ynghylch ariannu prosiectau, ond byddwch yn ymwybodol bod y problemau hynny fwy neu lai wedi eu datrys bellach, a'u bod yn ymwneud yn bennaf â chais gwarthus gan y weinyddiaeth o dan arweiniad Plaid Cymru yn Rhondda Cynon Taf. Methodd y weinyddiaeth honno â sicrhau bod partneriaethau lleol yn derbyn y cymorth yr oeddent yn ei haeddu gan awdurdodau lleol, ac mae swyddogion y Cynulliad sydd wedi bod yn ymwneud â hyn wedi gweithio'n ddi-

baid i geisio unioni hynny.

On the rural aspects that several Plaid Cymru Members mentioned, Communities First is built on facts, and on a factual document called the index of multiple deprivation. That document is currently under review. Please engage with that review, as it is important. If you have suggestions as to how Communities First can do better in rural areas, then that is the place to take them. Your input will be welcome.

O ran yr agweddau gwledig y soniodd sawl Aelod Plaid Cymru amdanynt, mae Cymunedau yn Gyntaf wedi ei seilio ar ffeithiau, ac ar ddogfen ffeithiol o'r enw y mynegai amlamddifadedd. Mae'r ddogfen honno yn cael ei hadolygu ar hyn o bryd. Fe'ch anogaf i gymryd rhan yn yr adolygiad hwnnw, gan ei fod yn bwysig. Os oes gennych awgrymiadau ynghylch sut y gall Cymunedau yn Gyntaf weithredu'n well mewn ardaloedd gwledig, yna dyna'r lle i'w lleisio. Croesewir eich cyfraniad.

5.00 p.m.

To the Liberal Democrats again, thanks are due for their underlying support for the Communities First programme and its philosophy. I do not have time to talk about the overspill into other community areas, but it is mentioned in the review.

I'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol eto, estynnaf ddiolch haeddiannol am eu cefnogaeth sylfaenol i raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf a'i athroniaeth. Nid oes amser gennyf i siarad am y sgîl-ffeithiau ar feysydd arall o'r gymuned, ond sonnir am hynny yn yr adolygiad.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You have two seconds to close, otherwise you will talk this debate out.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae gennych ddwy eiliad i gloi, neu bydd yr amser yn dod i ben ar y ddadl hon.

Huw Lewis: Okay, I will stop there. I thank Members for their contributions.

Huw Lewis: Iawn, dof i ben gyda hynny. Diolchaf i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 1: For 43, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred

Jones, Ann
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 2: For 43, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun

Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

Motion NDM2008 as amended:

the National Assembly for Wales

1. notes the progress made so far under Communities First;

2. recognises that there are lessons to be learned from the operation of the programme to date, as set out in the review conducted by the Deputy Minister;

3. confirms that the community-based nature of the programme requires a developmental and responsive approach, tailored to the needs of each locality;

4. welcomes the 'bottom-up' approach towards ideas arising within communities, together with the emphasis upon 'participation' and not 'achieving every target';

5. shall ensure that 'what works best' information is shared with community organisations outside the Communities First area.

Cynnig NDM2008 wedi'i ddiwygio:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn nodi'r hyn a gyflawnwyd hyd yma o dan y rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf;

2. yn cydnabod bod gwersi i'w dysgu o'r ffordd yr aed ati hyd yma i redeg y rhaglen, fel y gwelir yn yr adolygiad a gynhaliwyd gan y Dirprwy Weinidog;

3. yn cadarnhau, gan mai rhaglen ar gyfer y gymuned ydyw, bod angen gweithredu mewn ffordd ymatebol a chanolbwyntio ar ddatblygu, a hynny mewn ffordd sy'n diwallu anghenion pob ardal;

4. yn croesawu'r ymagwedd 'o'r gwaelod i fyny' tuag at syniadau sy'n codi o fewn cymunedau, ynghyd â phwyslais ar 'gyfranogi' yn hytrach na 'chyrredd pob targed';

5. yn sicrhau bod gwybodaeth am 'yr hyn sy'n gweithio orau' yn cael ei rhannu gyda sefydliadau cymunedol y tu allan i ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Amended motion: For 43, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue

German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio.
Amended motion carried.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Achos Robbie Powell: Gwersi ar Gyfiawnder a Bod yn Agored The Robbie Powell Case: Lessons on Openness and Justice

Nick Bourne: This is a truly important issue that will test some of the points on social justice that we have just discussed. I look to the Minister, whom I assume will respond to this debate, as I say that. I welcome Will Powell to the Assembly; he has come down from Ystradgynlais for this debate. I remind the Assembly of the issues behind this short debate, which centres on the tragic death of Robbie Powell, and his family's 14-year fight to discover exactly why their young son died. For those Members not already familiar with the case, I shall try to explain briefly what happened to Robbie Powell, and why his family has been searching for the truth ever since.

Nick Bourne: Mae hwn yn fater gwirioneddol bwysig a fydd yn profi rhai o'r pwyntiau o ran cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yr ydym newydd eu trafod. Edrychaf ar y Gweinidog, y tybiaf y bydd yn ymateb i'r ddadl hon, wrth imi ddweud hynny. Croesawaf Will Powell i'r Cynulliad; mae wedi dod o Ystradgynlais ar gyfer y ddadl hon. Atgoffaf y Cynulliad o'r materion sy'n sail i'r ddadl fer hon, sy'n canolbwyntio ar farwolaeth drasig Robbie Powell, a brwydr ei deulu am bedair blynedd ar ddeg i ganfod pam yn union y bu farw eu mab ifanc. I'r Aelodau hynny nad ydynt eisoes yn gyfarwydd â'r achos, ceisiaf esbonio'n gryno beth ddigwyddodd i Robbie Powell, a pham y mae ei deulu wedi bod yn chwilio am y gwir ers hynny.

In late 1989, before the Assembly was Ar ddiwedd 1989, cyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad ac

established and under, I admit, a Conservative Government, Robbie Powell was first taken to see a general practitioner in Ystradgynlais, in the area that I represent. At this stage, the Powell family was told that there was nothing to worry about, and they went away content that their child was simply suffering from a mild illness. Time and again, the family returned to a number of different doctors. Robbie was seen in Ystradgynlais and at Morryston Hospital in Swansea. In all, there were nine separate chances for Robbie Powell's life to have been saved simply from reading the appropriate medical notes, which suggested testing for Addison's disease. Many doctors were consulted, and, every time, they failed to take the necessary action. Each time, the family was reassured. It was only when Robbie was chronically ill that he was finally admitted to hospital, and the appropriate tests administered, in early 1990, but by then it was too late. These tests revealed exactly what they would have revealed at the start of Robbie Powell's illness: he was suffering from Addison's disease, a rare but, if treated quickly, not fatal illness.

This in itself is a deeply sad story, but if this were not enough, when the family later received Robbie's medical notes, they began to notice certain irregularities. This is the most serious issue that I want to address. It appeared that, in an attempt to exonerate themselves from the charge of neglect, medical staff altered their notes to hide their failure to spot Robbie's illness. This is not just the view of the Powell family or my view, a subsequent investigation by officers of West Midlands Police revealed that there was sufficient evidence of forgery of medical notes—and this has been confirmed in a letter as recently as this month—for the case to go to trial. However, the Crown Prosecution Service concluded that it was not in the public interest to pursue a prosecution. I know from conversations, and from meeting the family, that this, in many ways, is the core of their fight. They accept that sometimes mistakes and negligence happen. We all know that that happens in the medical profession, as in all professions, sometimes with tragic consequences, as is the case here. However, that those involved in positions of trust should then seek to cover up those

o dan Lywodraeth Geidwadol, yr wyf yn cyfaddef, aethpwyd â Robbie Powell i weld meddyg teulu yn Ystradgynlais gyntaf, yn yr ardal a gynrychiolaf. Ar yr achlysur hwn, dywedwyd wrth y teulu nad oedd dim i boeni yn ei gylch, ac aethant oddi yno yn fodlon bod eu mab ond yn dioddef o salwch ysgafn. Dro ar ôl tro, gwelodd y teulu nifer o feddygon gwahanol. Gwelwyd Robbie yn Ystradgynlais ac yn Ysbyty Treforys yn Abertawe. At ei gilydd, cafwyd naw cyfle gwahanol i achub bywyd Robbie Powell drwy ddarllen y nodiadau meddygol priodol yn unig, a oedd yn awgrymu profion ar gyfer clefyd Addison. Ymgynghorwyd â llawer o feddygon, ac, ar bob achlysur, methwyd â chymryd y camau angenrheidiol. Bob tro, sicrhawyd y teulu fod pob dim yn iawn. Dim ond pan ddiodeffodd Robbie salwch cronig y cafodd ei dderbyn i'r ysbyty o'r diwedd, ac y cynhaliwyd y profion priodol, ar ddechrau 1990, ond erbyn hynny yr oedd yn rhy hwyr. Datgelodd y profion hyn yn union beth fyddent wedi'u datgelu ar ddechrau salwch Robbie: yr oedd yn dioddef o glefyd Addison, salwch anghyffredin ond, os caiff ei drin yn gyflym, nid yw'n farwol.

Mae hyn ynddo'i hun yn stori drist ofnadwy, ond yn ychwanegol at hyn, pan dderbyniodd y teulu nodiadau meddygol Robbie yn ddiweddarach, sylwasant ar rai anghysondebau. Dyma'r mater mwyaf difrifol yr wyf am ymdrin ag ef. Ymddengys, mewn ymdrech i ryddhau eu hunain rhag cyhuddiad o esgeulustod, y bu i staff meddygol newid eu nodiadau i guddio eu methiant i ganfod salwch Robbie. Nid dim ond y teulu neu minnau sy'n credu hynny, datgelodd ymchwiliad dilynol gan swyddogion Heddlu Gorllewin Canolbarth Lloegr fod tystiolaeth ddigonol o ffugio'r nodiadau meddygol—a chadarnhawyd hyn mewn llythyr mor ddiweddar â'r mis hwn—i ddwyn yr achos i brawf. Fodd bynnag, daeth Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron i'r casgliad nad oedd er budd y cyhoedd i erlyn. Gwn, o sgysiau ac o ganlyniad i gwrdd â'r teulu, mai dyna, mewn sawl ffordd, yw craidd y frwydr. Maent yn derbyn bod camgymeriadau ac esgeuluster yn digwydd weithiau. Yr ydym oll yn gwybod bod hynny'n digwydd yn y proffesiwn meddygol, fel ym mhob proffesiwn, gyda chanlyniadau trasiig weithiau, fel sydd wedi digwydd yma. Fodd

mistakes and, in doing so, not only abuse their position of trust and faith, but prolong the suffering of those who have suffered enough, is upsetting and inexcusable.

That has been the crux of the family's fight ever since. They want to know why their son died, for those culpable to take responsibility, for lessons to be learned by those whose conduct has contributed to a loss of trust, and for these events not to be repeated for all our sakes. My constituents, William and Diane Powell, are not making an unreasonable request. They are not seeking vengeance; they want a public inquiry so that we can look at all the circumstances—not just those leading up to the death, but, more importantly, events that took place after the death, which could not be the subject of the inquest. All they want is the truth, and, after 14 years of uncertainty, I think that many here would agree that they deserve it. To this end, they are calling for a full public inquiry into all aspects of Robbie's death, including the aftermath and the allegations of the falsification of medical records, of which there is strong evidence. I support that call.

In the years after their son's death, the Powells contacted a number of politicians. Jonathan Evans, the former Member of Parliament for Brecon and Radnor, gave, and has continued to give, consistent support. Rhodri Morgan, initially, did the same. In 1996, he said:

'nothing less than an independent inquiry is probably ever going to really get to the truth'.

That is quotation from a letter that I will happily make available to the Minister. He also said, in another letter in 1993, that there must have been some intention to mislead, if not deceive. Again, Rhodri Morgan wrote in 1995 that this was one of the worst cases of maladministration or deliberate cover up to

bynag, y mae'r ffaith i'r rhai yr ymddiriedir ynddynt geisio celu'r camgymeriadau hynny ac, wrth wneud hynny, nid dim ond camfanteisio ar yr ymddiriedaeth a'r ffydd ynddynt, ond ymestyn dioddefaint y rhai sydd wedi dioddef digon, yn peri gofid ac mae'n anfaddeuol.

Dyna fu craidd brwydr y teulu byth oddi ar hynny. Maent am wybod pam y bu i'w mab farw, i'r rhai a fu'n gyfrifol i gymryd cyfrifoldeb, i'r rhai y mae eu hymddygiad wedi cyfrannu at golli ymddiriedaeth i ddysgu gwersi, ac i sicrhau na fydd y digwyddiadau hyn yn digwydd eto er lles pawb. Nid yw fy etholwyr, William a Diane Powell, yn gwneud cais afresymol. Nid ydynt am ddial; maent am gael ymchwiliad cyhoeddus er mwyn inni allu edrych ar yr holl amgylchiadau—nid dim ond yr amgylchiadau hynny yn arwain at y farwolaeth, ond, yn bwysicach na hynny, digwyddiadau ar ôl y farwolaeth, na allent gael eu trafod yn y cwest. Dim ond y gwirionedd a ddymunant, ac, ar ôl pedair blynedd ar ddeg o ansicrwydd, credaf y byddai llawer yma yn cytuno eu bod yn ei haeddu. I'r perwyl hwn, maent yn galw am ymchwiliad cyhoeddus llawn i bob agwedd ar farwolaeth Robbie, gan gynnwys yr hyn a ddigwyddodd ar ôl iddo farw a'r cyhuddiadau ynghylch ffugio cofnodion meddygol, y ceir tystiolaeth gref ohono. Cefnogaf y galwad hwnnw.

Yn y blynyddoedd ar ôl marwolaeth eu mab, cysylltodd William a Diane Powell â nifer o wleidyddion. Cafwyd cefnogaeth gyson gan Jonathan Evans, cyn-Aelod Seneddol Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed, ac mae'n parhau i'w rhoi. Gwnaeth Rhodri Morgan yr un peth, ar y cychwyn. Yn 1996, dywedodd:

'er mwyn cael y gwirionedd mae'n debyg y bydd yn rhaid cynnal ymchwiliad annibynnol'.

Dyna ddyfyniad o lythyr yr wyf yn barod i'w ddangos i'r Gweinidog. Mewn llythyr arall yn 1993, dywedodd hefyd fod yn rhaid bod rhyw fwriad i gamarwain, os nad twyllo. Unwaith eto, yn 1995, ysgrifennodd Rhodri Morgan mai dyma un o'r achosion gwaethaf erioed o gamweinyddu neu ymgais bwriadol i

ever besmirch the name of the Welsh Office, as it was then. I fully agreed with those words when they were stated, and I agree with them today. Unfortunately, however, in being pressed for a public inquiry, Rhodri Morgan now resists this—at least, I think that he does—but, perhaps the Minister will have news to the contrary; I hope so.

When in opposition in Westminster, Rhodri Morgan was happy to identify this as a dreadful cover up and to press for a full public inquiry. We should have had that. He is now in a position, as are you, Minister, to grant us a full public inquiry that will give us the truth once and for all. In an e-mail in January 2000, Rhodri Morgan said to a fellow Assembly Member:

‘Now I am myself in government it would no longer be proper for me to be involved’.

Between December 1996, the date of the most recent letter that I quoted from, and June 2004, something changed. It was not the grief or the determination of the Powell family, the medical facts, or the allegations and evidence of a cover up: it was the inclination of the First Minister, as he now is, to help the family, and all of us, to understand this tragedy and to learn lessons from it. Not only would this give personal relief to the Powell family, which is important, but it would help us all to address the important issues of trust in the NHS, which we all use, and on which we depend. There are a few professionals who forfeit the trust that we repose in them, and that has to be investigated here, Minister.

This is a deeply personal story, but it has wider implications for all of us who use the health service and for our relationships with medical staff, whom we trust. That is why there is such a strong case for a full, open and independent public inquiry. I cannot think of one good reason why the Assembly Government should not announce a full inquiry into all the circumstances of this

gelu'r gwirionedd i ddwyn anfri ar y Swyddfa Gymreig, fel yr oedd ar y pryd. Cytunais â'r geiriau hynny yn llawn pan y'u dywedwyd, a chytunaf â hwy heddiw. Yn anffodus, fodd bynnag, a phobl yn pwysu arno i gynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus, gwrthwyneba Rhodri Morgan hyn bellach—o leiaf, y credaf ei fod yn wrthwynebus—ond, efallai y bydd y Gweinidog yn gallu dweud nad yw hynny yn wir; dyna fy ngobaith i.

Pan oedd yn aelod o'r wrthblaid yn San Steffan, yr oedd Rhodri Morgan yn fwy na pharod i nodi hyn fel ymgais ofnadwy i gelu'r gwirionedd a galw am ymchwiliad cyhoeddus llawn. Dylem fod wedi'i gael. Mae bellach mewn sefyllfa, fel chithau, Weinidog, i gynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus llawn a fydd yn rhoi'r gwirionedd inni unwaith ac am byth. Mewn neges e-bost yn Ionawr 2000, dywedodd Rhodri Morgan y canlynol wrth gyd-Aelod yn y Cynulliad:

Gan fy mod yn y llywodraeth bellach ni fyddai'n briodol imi fod yn rhan o'r ddadl mwyach.

Rhwng Rhagfyr 1996, sef dyddiad y llythyr mwyaf diweddar y dyfynnais ohono a Mehefin 2004, newidiodd rhywbeth. Nid galar na phenderfyniad y teulu, y ffeithiau meddygol, na'r cyhuddiadau a'r dystiolaeth o ymgais i gelu'r gwirionedd: awydd y Prif Weinidog, fel y mae bellach, i helpu'r teulu, a phob un ohonom, i ddeall y drasiedi hon ac i ddysgu gwersi yn ei sgîl, sydd wedi newid. Byddai hyn nid yn unig yn rhoi rhyddhad i'r teulu, sy'n bwysig, ond byddai'n helpu pob un ohonom i fynd i'r afael â'r materion pwysig sy'n ymwneud ag ymddiriedaeth yn y GIG, y mae pob un ohonom yn ei ddefnyddio, ac yr ydym yn dibynnu arno. Mae rhai gweithwyr proffesiynol yn fforffedu'r ymddiriedaeth y rhown ynddynt, a rhaid ymchwilio i hynny yma, Weinidog.

Mae hon yn stori bersonol iawn, ond mae iddi oblygiadau ehangach i bob un ohonom sy'n defnyddio'r gwasanaeth iechyd ac o ran ein perthynas â staff meddygol, yr ydym yn ymddiried ynddynt. Dyna pam y mae'r ddadl dros ymchwiliad cyhoeddus annibynnol, agored a llawn mor gryf. Ni allaf feddwl am unrhyw reswm da i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad beidio â chyhoeddi ymchwiliad llawn i holl

tragic death. If a reason exists for the First Minister's change of heart, I have yet to hear it. His u-turn has been without justification. The whole of Wales has an interest in this matter, as we all rely on the health service, and we trust and value the professionalism of those who work in the service. There are serious issues of trust here, and they must be examined.

I do not want people to lose sight of the suffering of Will and Diane Powell, but I want people to realise that we all have an interest in having a full, open, independent inquiry.

5.10 p.m.

A recent inquest, in April this year, returned a verdict of death by natural causes, aggravated by neglect, on Robbie's death. That is not the central issue. The Powell family wants us to understand that those who were responsible for the falsification of medical records should be brought to book and that we should learn lessons from that. They have an unanswerable case. A full, independent, public inquiry is needed, Minister. I urge you to act, and to act now.

I have given a minute to Rhodri Glyn Thomas to speak.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch, Nick. Credaf ein bod i gyd yn gwerthafawrogi'r ffaith eich bod wedi codi'r mater hwn. Mae'n achos trist, ac yr ydym fel grŵp yn estyn ein cydymdeimlad â'r teulu oherwydd y cyfan y maent wedi gorfod ei ddioddef dros y blynyddoedd. Cefnogwn yn llwyr yr alwad am ymchwiliad cyhoeddus. Mae gwersi i'w dysgu yma, ac mae'n rhaid inni sicrhau, os gallwn, nad yw digwyddiad o'r fath yn digwydd eto.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I am grateful to Nick for raising this important issue, and I acknowledge that Mr Powell is here in the Assembly today.

This is a tragic and unfortunate case, of

amgylchiadau'r farwolaeth drasig hon. Os oes rheswm pam mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi newid ei feddwl, yr wyf yn aros i'w glywed. Mae wedi newid ei feddwl heb gyfiawnhad. Mae gan Gymru gyfan ddiddordeb yn y mater hwn, gan ein bod oll yn dibynnu ar y gwasanaeth iechyd, ac yn gwerthfawrogi ac yn ymddiried yn natur broffesiynol y rhai sy'n gweithio o fewn y gwasanaeth. Cyfyd materion difrifol o ran ymddiriedaeth, a rhaid eu harchwilio.

Nid wyf am i bobl anghofio dioddefaint Will a Diane Powell, ond yr wyf am i bobl sylweddoli bod gan bob un ohonom ddiddordeb mewn cynnal ymchwiliad annibynnol, agored a llawn.

Yn dilyn cwest diweddar, ym mis Ebrill y llynedd, dygwyd rheithfarn o farwolaeth drwy achosion naturiol, wedi'i gwaethygu gan esgeulustod ar farwolaeth Robbie. Nid dyna'r mater canolog. Mae'r teulu am inni ddeall y dylai'r rhai a fu'n gyfrifol am ffugio cofnodion meddygol ddod o flaen eu gwell ac y dylem ddysgu gwersi o hynny. Mae ganddynt achos anatebol. Mae angen ymchwiliad cyhoeddus annibynnol llawn, Weinidog. Yr wyf yn eich cymell i weithredu, ac i weithredu yn awr.

Yr wyf wedi caniatáu munud i Rhodri Glyn Thomas siarad.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you, Nick. I believe that we all appreciate the fact that you have raised this issue. It is a sad case, and we as a group wish to extend our condolences to the family in all that they have had to suffer over the years. We totally support the call for a public inquiry. There are lessons to be learned here, and we must ensure, if we can, that this kind of incident does not happen again.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Nick am godi'r mater pwysig hwn, a chydabyddaf fod Mr Powell yma yn y Cynulliad heddiw.

Mae hwn yn achos trasig ac anffodus, y bydd

which many of you will be aware. Robbie Powell's death in 1990 was devastating for Mr and Mrs Powell, and my sympathies, and those of other Members, go out to them.

Everyone has agreed that mistakes were made in Robbie's case. The most important thing for the Assembly and the NHS in Wales, in hospital and primary care services, is to ensure that lessons are learned and that procedures are put in place to avoid a repeat of these sad circumstances. The history is complex, with many facets. Therefore, in my response, I hope to set out where lessons have been learned, as well as respond to Nick's points.

Nick has chosen to focus on openness and justice. I know that Mr Powell feels that he has been badly let down by a variety of individuals and public bodies, including the Welsh Office and the Assembly. He has asked for a public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Robbie's death, and I shall refer to that request later.

In general, services and processes have moved on considerably since Robbie's death. As a Government, we are striving to be more accessible, not just because of the various statutory obligations placed upon us, but also because of a genuine desire to open up Government processes to the scrutiny of the people of Wales. Mr Powell has requested and received, under our code of practice and the Data Protection Act 1998, a great deal of the information about his case that is held by the Assembly.

Similarly, the NHS in Wales is seeking to develop a more open culture, with a major emphasis on involving patients and the public in strategic decisions about the health service and the individual care that they receive. Clinical governance arrangements are now an integral part of all NHS organisations, and actively support an open and learning culture at all levels.

Various bodies and individuals have attempted to address many aspects of the case over the 14 years since Robbie's death.

llawer ohonoch yn ymwybodol ohono. Yr oedd marwolaeth Robbie Powell yn 1990 yn ergyd drom i Mr a Mrs Powell, ac estynnaf fy nghydymdeimlad iddynt, ynghyd â chydymdeimlad Aelodau eraill.

Mae pawb yn gytûn y gwnaethpwyd camgymeriadau yn achos Robbie. Y peth pwysicaf i'r Cynulliad a'r GIG yng Nghymru, o ran gwasanaethau ysbytai a gofalf sylfaenol, yw sicrhau y dysgir gwersi ac y sefydlir gweithdrefnau i osgoi ailadrodd yr amgylchiadau trist hynny. Mae'r hanes yn gymhleth, ac mae iddo lawer o agweddau. Felly, yn fy ymateb, gobeithiaf nodi lle y dysgwyd gwersi, yn ogystal ag ymateb i bwyntiau Nick.

Mae Nick wedi dewis canolbwyntio ar gyfiawnder a bod yn agored. Gwn fod Mr Powell o'r farn bod amryw unigolion a chyrrff cyhoeddus wedi'i siomi'n arw, gan gynnwys y Swyddfa Gymreig a'r Cynulliad. Mae wedi gofyn am ymchwiliad cyhoeddus i amgylchiadau marwolaeth Robbie, a chyfeiriaf at y cais hwnnw yn ddiweddarach.

Yn gyffredinol, mae gwasanaethau a phrosesau wedi datblygu'n sylweddol ers marwolaeth Robbie. Fel Llywodraeth, yr ydym yn ceisio bod yn fwy hygyrch, nid dim ond oherwydd y rhwymedigaethau statudol amrywiol sydd arnom, ond hefyd oherwydd dyhead gwirioneddol i alluogi pobl Cymru i graffu ar brosesau'r Llywodraeth. Gwnaethpwyd cais gan Mr Powell am lawer o'r wybodaeth am ei achos a ddelir gan y Cynulliad ac mae wedi cael y wybodaeth honno, o dan ein cod ymarfer a Deddf Diogelu Data 1998.

Yn yr un modd, mae'r GIG yng Nghymru yn ceisio datblygu diwylliant mwy agored, gyda'r prif bwyslais ar gynnwys cleifion a'r cyhoedd wrth wneud penderfyniadau strategol ynglŷn â'r gwasanaeth iechyd a'r gofalf unigol y maent yn ei gael. Mae trefniadau rheolaeth glinigol bellach yn rhan annatod o bob sefydliad GIG ac maent yn ategu diwylliant agored sy'n dysgu ar bob lefel.

Mae cyrrff ac unigolion amrywiol wedi ceisio mynd i'r afael â llawer o agweddau ar yr achos dros y pedair blynedd ar ddeg ers

Attempts range from looking at what went wrong with NHS procedures locally, to the criminal investigations undertaken by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, to the recent inquest. It is to Mr Powell's great credit that he has campaigned so tirelessly in memory of Robbie and I hope that he will take some comfort that, through his efforts, he has been able to influence some positive changes. An example of this is that, following a case brought by Mr Powell to the European Court of Human Rights, the General Medical Council revised its guidance to doctors about the explanations that should be provided to parents about the reason for and the circumstances of a child's death.

On procedures for diagnosing rare conditions such as Addison's disease in children, there have been several changes in paediatric services at Swansea NHS Trust since 1990. A range of significant improvements have been made, including the planned transfer of paediatric services to a dedicated unit at Singleton Hospital, the creation of additional specialist posts, and the employment of additional clinical staff. The way in which cases such as Robbie's are tracked and followed up has also changed.

We are also concerned to ensure that the NHS teams learn general lessons when things go wrong. To this end, last year the director of NHS Wales asked the chief officer of the Association of Community Health Councils to meet Mr Powell to see what had gone wrong from his perspective and to make recommendations on what should be done to improve the situation within the NHS. I hope that Mr Powell was able to derive some reassurance from the fact that many of the recommendations made in the report were already being addressed through work in the Assembly and elsewhere as part of the overall strategy of ensuring more effective public involvement. For example, a more open and independent NHS complaints procedure, which is easier to access, has been developed and implemented and has received the general support of the Assembly. We have also appointed independent advocates to provide support to people who wish to

marwolaeth Robbie. Mae'r ymdrechion yn amrywio o edrych ar yr hyn a aeth o'i le o ran gweithdrefnau lleol y GIG, i'r ymchwiliadau troseddol a gynhaliwyd gan yr heddlu a Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron i'r cwest diweddar. Er clod mawr i Mr Powell mae wedi ymgyrchu yn ddiflino er cof am Robbie a gobeithiaf y bydd yn cael rhywfaint o gysur o'r ffaith ei fod, drwy ei ymdrechion, wedi gallu dylanwadu ar rai newidiadau cadarnhaol. Enghraifft o hyn yw i'r Cyngor Meddygol Cyffredinol, yn dilyn achos a ddygwyd gan Mr Powell i Lys Hawliau Dynol Ewrop, ddiwygio ei ganllawiau i feddygon ynghylch yr esboniadau y dylid eu rhoi i rieni am y rheswm dros farwolaeth eu plentyn a'i hamgylchiadau.

O ran y gweithdrefnau ar gyfer canfod cyflyrau anghyffredin fel clefyd Addison mewn plant, gwnaethpwyd sawl newid i wasanaethau pediatrig Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Abertawe ers 1990. Gwnaethpwyd amrywiaeth o welliannau sylweddol, gan gynnwys trosglwyddo gwasanaethau pediatrig i uned bwrpasol yn Ysbyty Singleton yn ôl y bwriad, creu swyddi arbenigol ychwanegol a chyflogi staff clinigol ychwanegol. Mae'r ffordd y caiff achosion fel un Robbie eu holrhain a'r ffordd y gwneir gwaith dilynol arnynt wedi newid hefyd.

Yr ydym hefyd am sicrhau bod timau'r GIG yn dysgu gwersi cyffredinol pan fydd pethau yn mynd o chwith. I'r perwyl hwn, y llynedd, gofynnodd cyfarwyddwr GIG Cymru i brif swyddog Cymdeithas Cynghorau Iechyd Cymunedol gwrdd â Mr Powell i weld beth aeth o'i le o'i safbwynt ef ac i wneud argymhellion ynghylch yr hyn y dylid ei wneud i wella'r sefyllfa o fewn y GIG. Gobeithiaf y bu'n bosibl i Mr Powell gael rhywfaint o sicrwydd o'r ffaith bod llawer o'r argymhellion yn yr adroddiad yn cael eu gweithredu eisoes drwy waith y Cynulliad a thu hwnt fel rhan o'r strategaeth gyffredinol o sicrhau y caiff y cyhoedd ei gynnwys yn fwy effeithiol. Er enghraifft, datblygwyd system gwyno fwy agored ac annibynnol ar gyfer y GIG, sy'n haws ei defnyddio, sydd wedi'i datblygu a'i rhoi ar waith ac sydd wedi cael cefnogaeth gyffredinol y Cynulliad. Yr ydym hefyd wedi penodi eiriolwyr annibynnol i roi cymorth i bobl sydd am gwyno. Caiff

complain. Other recommendations, such as the right of patients to receive copies of letters sent between clinicians that relate to their care and treatment, are currently being piloted in the service with a view to future implementation. Mr Powell has been sent a copy of all the recommendations together with the Assembly's comments on each.

I am well aware of the recent media publicity into the proceedings and the verdict of the recent inquest into Robbie's death, and that Mr Powell remains dissatisfied with the outcome and the process. Members will appreciate that it would not be appropriate for me to comment on this, as inquest proceedings are outside the Assembly's jurisdiction. I also know that Mr Powell has asked for an Assembly inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Robbie's death and the alleged cover-up of the facts by the various bodies involved, as he believes that this would be the only way that the whole truth about what happened would be examined. Nick, I can assure you and Mr Powell that the First Minister is giving careful consideration to this request, but I cannot pre-empt or influence his final decision.

Nick Bourne: I appreciate that, and I will not press you on the outcome because, if he is currently considering the request, you will not know what the decision is anyway. However, can you give us an indication of when it is likely to be made and whether the Assembly will be sitting when the First Minister reaches his decision so that we can question him about it?

Jane Hutt: The First Minister wrote to Mr Powell recently to tell him that relevant information and advice is being gathered, which is crucial in informing his decision. He has also undertaken to keep Mr Powell informed of his progress. I have listened carefully, with interest and concern, to Nick's points on this issue and on the timescale as well as to Rhodri Glyn's point on this sad case, and I will raise them with the First Minister.

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

argymhellion eraill, fel hawl cleifion i gael copïau o lythyrau a anfonir rhwng clinigwyr sy'n ymwneud â'u gofal a'u triniaeth, eu treialu ar hyn o bryd gyda'r bwriad o'u rhoi ar waith yn y dyfodol. Anfonwyd copi o'r holl argymhellion at Mr Powell ynghyd â sylwadau'r Cynulliad ar bob un.

Yr wyf yn ymwybodol iawn o'r cyhoeddusrwydd diweddar a roddwyd i'r achos a rheithfarn y cwest diweddar i farwolaeth Robbie gan y cyfryngau, a'r ffaith bod Mr Powell yn anfodlon o hyd ar y canlyniad a'r broses. Bydd yr Aelodau yn gwerthfawrogi'r ffaith na fyddai'n briodol imi roi sylw ar hyn, gan fod achos cwest y tu allan i awdurdodaeth y Cynulliad. Gwn hefyd fod Mr Powell wedi gofyn am ymchwiliad gan y Cynulliad i amgylchiadau marwolaeth Robbie a'r ymgais honedig i'r amryw gyrff dan sylw gelu'r ffeithiau, gan ei fod yn credu mai dyma'r unig ffordd o archwilio'r holl ffeithiau ynghylch yr hyn a ddigwyddodd. Nick, gallaf eich sicrhau chi a Mr Powell fod y Prif Weinidog yn ystyried y cais hwn yn ofalus, ond ni allaf achub y blaen ar ei benderfyniad terfynol na dylanwadu arno.

Nick Bourne: Gwerthfawrogaf hynny ac ni phwysaf arnoch o ran hynny oherwydd, os yw'n ystyried y cais ar hyn o bryd, ni wyddoch beth yw'r penderfyniad beth bynnag. Fodd bynnag, a allwch roi syniad inni pryd y mae'n debygol o gael ei wneud a pha un a fydd y Cynulliad yn eistedd pan fydd y Prif Weinidog yn dod i'w benderfyniad er mwyn inni allu ei holi amdano?

Jane Hutt: Ysgrifennodd y Prif Weinidog at Mr Powell yn ddiweddar i ddweud wrtho fod y wybodaeth a'r cyngor perthnasol yn cael eu casglu, sy'n hanfodol i lywio ei benderfyniad. Mae hefyd wedi addo hysbysu Mr Powell am y datblygiadau diweddaraf. Yr wyf wedi gwrando'n ofalus, gyda diddordeb a phryder, ar bwyntiau Nick ar y mater hwn a'r amserlen, yn ogystal ag ar bwynt Rhodri Glyn ar yr achos trist hwn, ac fe'u codaf gyda'r Prif Weinidog.

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

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.17 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.17 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
 Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
 Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
 Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
 Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
 Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Law, Peter (Llafur – Labour)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Marek, John (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
 Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)

Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)