



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Cofnod y Trafodion**

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

**Dydd Mercher, 25 Hydref 2006
Wednesday, 25 October 2006**

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

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

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

Cwestiynau ar Lywodraeth Leol i'r Gweinidog Cyllid Questions on Local Government to the Finance Minister

Dyrannu Arian Allocating Funding

C1 Alun Ffred Jones: Pa drafodaethau diweddar mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cynnal gyda llywodraeth leol parthed y fformiwla ar gyfer dyrannu arian i awdurdodau lleol? OAQ0949(LGP)

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I have regular discussions with the Welsh Local Government Association, which include discussions on funding issues. The consultative forum on finance, on which Dai Lloyd represents Plaid Cymru, received a report at its meeting in July on formula changes. A copy of that report is available in the Members' Library.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mewn trafodaethau diweddar gyda Chyngor Gwynedd, yr wyf yn credu i chi gael trafodaeth ar y fformiwla. Un peth a ddaeth yn amlwg yn y drafodaeth ddoe yw ein bod yn tueddu i weld brwydr rhwng yr ardaloedd gwledig ac ardaloedd trefol, ond, mewn gwirionedd, yr hyn sydd yn bwysig—fel yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno—yw beth sydd yn gyrru gwariant neu gostau. Nid oes perthynas rhwng y fformiwla sydd yn dyrannu arian ar gyfer datblygu economaidd a lefel cyfoeth y gwahanol siroedd. Nid oes, er enghraifft, berthynas rhwng lefelau gwerth ychwanegol crynswth ym Môn, sydd ymhlith yr isaf ym Mhrydain, a'r fformiwla sydd yn dyrannu arian iddi. A ydych yn cytuno bod angen ailedrych ar y fformiwla arbennig hon yn wyneb y wybodaeth honno?

Sue Essex: I agree that we do not want polarisation, with urban versus rural areas. Many parts of Wales do not neatly fit within those definitions in any case. I hope that we can put that to one side. On the formula as it relates to economic development, the first time that I heard of Gwynedd's concerns was

Q1 Alun Ffred Jones: What recent discussions has the Minister had with local government regarding the formula for allocating funding to local authorities? OAQ0949(LGP)

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Byddaf yn cael trafodaethau'n rheolaidd gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, sy'n cynnwys trafodaethau ar faterion cyllid. Cafodd y fforwm ymgynghorol ar gyllid y mae Dai Lloyd yn cynrychioli Plaid Cymru arno adroddiad yn ei gyfarfod ym mis Gorffennaf ar newidiadau yn y fformiwla. Mae copi o'r adroddiad hwnnw ar gael yn Llyfrgell yr Aelodau.

Alun Ffred Jones: In recent discussions with Gwynedd Council, I believe you discussed the formula. One thing which was obvious from yesterday's discussion was that we tend to see a struggle between urban and rural areas, but in reality, what is important—as I am sure you would agree—is what drives expenditure or costs. There is no relationship between the formula that distributes money for economic development and the level of wealth in the various counties. For example, there is no relationship between the level of gross value added in Anglesey, which is among the lowest in Britain, and the formula that allocates money to it. Do you agree that we need to reconsider this formula in the light of that information?

Sue Essex: Cytunaf nad ydym am weld polareiddio a brwydr rhwng ardaloedd trefol ac ardaloedd gwledig. Mae llawer rhan o Gymru nad yw'n gweddu'n ddestlus i'r diffiniadau hynny beth bynnag. Gobeithio y gallwn roi hynny o'r neilltu. O ran y fformiwla, gan ei fod yn ymwneud â

when I went up on my usual summer tour. I think that it was in September that I met Richard Parry Hughes and Harry Thomas, the chief executive. I am sure that Harry will not mind my recalling that during the time that he was indisposed with a football injury he started looking at some figures and playing with his computer. That is when he came up with graphs suggesting that Gwynedd has been done down. I agreed to look at the issue, and it is not quite as he says. In fairness, this was discussed at the consultative forum on finance. Gwynedd has a representative on the distribution sub-group, so throughout the summer, when work was being done on the formula, Gwynedd had someone on the group. It was not an authority that did not have a representative.

By September, the changes to the formula had been agreed. In fairness to Gwynedd—and I have said this to every authority—if it is not happy, as long as everyone else on the consultative forum on finance agrees, we are prepared to look at it. That is what is happening. We have agreed that that will be included in the work programme for next year, and Gwynedd must feel reasonably happy that that is what has emerged from the discussions.

Glyn Davies: To broaden the subject a little, if we go back to the fairly early days of the Assembly, the formula was changed to reduce the weight given to sparsity, and to increase that given to need. Clearly, that would have the effect of moving funding away from rural areas, or at least one would have expected that. What research have you done to assess to what extent that did happen, and what the implications of it were? Is that also an issue that you might revisit?

Sue Essex: Previously, the formula was only weighted according to what is called sparsity, or the dispersal of population. When the Assembly was established, a weighting for deprivation was introduced; it was specifically called 'deprivation'. There can be many arguments about whether the weighting is right and proper, so we have said that we will have a fundamental look at both. Work is

datblygu economaidd, y tro cyntaf imi glywed am bryderon Gwynedd oedd yn ystod fy nhaith arferol yn yr haf. Credaf mai ym mis Medi y cyfarfûm â Richard Parry Hughes a Harry Thomas, y prif weithredwr. Yr wyf yn siŵr na fydd Harry yn gwrthwynebu os soniaf am yr adeg pan ddechreuodd edrych ar rai ffigurau a chwarae â'i gyfrifiadur ar ôl cael ei anafu yn chwarae pêl-droed. Dyna pryd y lluniodd rhai graffiau'n awgrymu bod Gwynedd ar ei cholled. Cytunais i edrych ar y mater, ac nid yw'n union fel y mae'n dweud. I fod yn deg, trafodwyd hyn yn ystod cyfarfod y fforwm ymgynghorol ar gyllid. Mae gan Wynedd gynrychiolydd ar yr is-grŵp dyrannu, felly, drwy gydol yr haf, pan wnaed gwaith ar y fformiwla, yr oedd gan Wynedd rywun ar y grŵp. Nid oedd yn awdurdod heb gynrychiolydd.

Erbyn mis Medi, cytunwyd ar y newidiadau yn y fformiwla. Er tegwch â Gwynedd—ac yr wyf wedi dweud hyn wrth bob awdurdod—os nad yw'n hapus, cyhyd ag y bydd pawb arall ar y fforwm ymgynghorol ar gyllid yn cytuno, yr ydym yn barod i edrych arno. Dyna beth sy'n digwydd. Yr ydym wedi cytuno y caiff hynny ei gynnwys yn y rhaglen waith ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, a rhaid bod Gwynedd yn teimlo'n gymharol hapus mai dyna sydd wedi deillio o'r trafodaethau.

Glyn Davies: I ehangu'r pwnc ychydig, os awn yn ôl i ddyddiau cymharol gynnar y Cynulliad, newidiwyd y fformiwla i leihau'r pwys a roddwyd ar deneurwydd, a chynyddu'r hyn a roddwyd ar angen. Yn amlwg, byddai hynny'n arwain at roi'r gorau i ariannu ardaloedd gwledig, neu o leiaf byddai rhywun wedi disgwyl hynny. Pa ymchwil a wnaed gennych i asesu i ba raddau y digwyddodd hynny, ynghyd â'i oblygiadau? A yw hynny hefyd yn fater y gallech ailedrych arno?

Sue Essex: YCâir' fformiwla ei bwysoli gynt yn ôl yr hyn a elwir yn deneurwydd, neu wasgariad y boblogaeth, yn unig. Pan sefydlwyd y Cynulliad, cyflwynwyd pwysoliad ar gyfer amddifadedd; galwyd hynny'n 'amddifadedd' yn benodol. Gellir cyflwyno sawl dadl ynghylch a yw'r pwysoliad yn gywir, felly, yr ydym wedi dweud y byddwn yn edrych yn sylfaenol ar y

ongoing on sparsity, looking at two elements. The first is defining those elements that are dispersed, and some work has been done on that by an organisation called Pion Economics. The second element is, as you say, about how much more it costs to deliver services as a result.

That is always a changing feast, because the way in which we deliver services has changed over time. To give you an example—and I have had this discussion with Gwynedd Council, incidentally—if a change in services for the elderly means that more services will be delivered in the home than in a residential care-home setting, the costs of delivering those services may well change. It is areas such as those that make you realise that policy is never static. We must keep pace with changes, and ensure that the weighting is right, proper and fair.

Finally, the last census showed that we are getting more concentration of population in Wales. You asked whether money has moved from rural areas to urban areas. Although we have not introduced this change in this funding formula, because there are still questions around sparsity, if you look at how the population has changed between one census and the next, you will see that there is more concentration of population. That is bound to have an impact on the cost of service delivery and on the distribution of finance.

Kirsty Williams: You said that you were willing to look at the situation of Gwynedd Council again. Due to the formula changes that are coming into play, Powys County Council will be down by approximately £6 million with regard to its standard spending assessment—about £4.8 million in cash. That is a big change for a council to absorb. Will you look again at Powys, along with Gwynedd? I know that you are trying hard to get the formula right, and you say that there are further questions to be asked about sparsity, following the results of work previously undertaken, but can you give us a timetable for when you expect to make some progress on sparsity in the formula?

ddau. Mae gwaith yn mynd yn ei flaen ar deneurwydd, gan edrych ar ddwy elfen. Yr elfen gyntaf yw diffinio'r elfennau hynny sy'n wasgaredig, a gwnaed ychydig waith ar hynny gan sefydliad o'r enw Pion Economics. Yr ail elfen, fel y dywedwch, yw faint yn fwy y mae'n ei gostio i ddarparu gwasanaethau o ganlyniad i hynny.

Mae hynny'n newid drwy'r amser, oherwydd mae'r ffordd yr ydym yn darparu gwasanaethau wedi newid gydag amser. Er enghraifft—ac yr wyf wedi cael y drafodaeth hon gyda Chyngor Gwynedd, gyda llaw—os yw newid yng ngwasanaethau'r henoed yn golygu y caiff mwy o wasanaethau eu darparu yn y cartref yn hytrach nag mewn cartref gofal preswyl, gallai costau darparu'r gwasanaethau hynny newid. Meysydd fel hynny sy'n gwneud ichi sylweddoli nad yw polisi byth yn statig. Rhaid inni gadw i fyny â newidiadau, a sicrhau bod y pwysoli'n gywir ac yn deg.

Yn olaf, dangosodd y cyfrifiad diwethaf fod mwy o grynhoad poblogaeth yng Nghymru. Yr oeddech yn gofyn a yw arian wedi symud o ardaloedd gwledig i ardaloedd trefol. Er nad ydym wedi gweithredu'r newid hwn yn y fformiwla ariannu hon, gan fod cwestiynau ynghylch teneurwydd o hyd, os edrychwch ar y ffordd y mae'r boblogaeth wedi newid rhwng un cyfrifiad a'r nesaf, fe welwch fod mwy o grynhoad poblogaeth. Mae'n anochel fod hynny'n cael effaith ar gost darparu gwasanaethau a dyrannu arian.

Kirsty Williams: Yr oeddech yn dweud eich bod yn fodlon edrych ar sefyllfa Cyngor Gwynedd eto. O ganlyniad i'r newidiadau sy'n cael eu cyflwyno yn y fformiwla, bydd gan Gyngor Sir Powys tua £6 miliwn yn llai yn ei asesiad o wariant safonol—tua £4.8 miliwn mewn arian parod. Mae hynny'n newid mawr i gyngor ddygymod ag ef. A wnewch chi edrych ar Bowys eto, ynghyd â Gwynedd? Gwn eich bod yn ymdrechu'n galed i gael y fformiwla'n iawn, a dywedwch fod angen gofyn mwy o gwestiynau am deneurwydd, yn dilyn canlyniadau gwaith a wnaed eisoes, ond a allwch roi amserlen inni pryd y disgwylwch wneud cynnydd gyda theneurwydd yn y fformiwla?

Sue Essex: I would hope that those elements could come in, certainly within the next year, and be ready for the three-year settlements. Work is also ongoing on deprivation, because what I said about sparsity also relates to deprivation. What needs to be spent in order to tackle deprivation? That is the fundamental question, and it needs to be applied to particular service areas.

Sue Essex: Fe fyddwn yn gobeithio y gallai'r elfennau hynny gael eu cyflwyno, yn bendant o fewn y flwyddyn nesaf, a bod yn barod ar gyfer y setliadau tair blynedd. Mae gwaith hefyd yn dal i fynd rhagddo ar amddifadedd, oherwydd mae'r hyn a ddywedais am deneurwydd hefyd yn wir am amddifadedd. Faint y mae angen ei wario i fynd i'r afael ag amddifadedd? Dyna'r cwestiwn sylfaenol, ac mae angen ei ddefnyddio mewn meysydd gwasanaeth penodol.

Powys may well feel that it is affected by the point that Alun Ffred raised on the economic development indicator. It has not just been me working on this; a group has been working on this, with full political representation. Mike is on the group, as a representative of the Liberal Democrats, and local authority members represent the different parts of Wales and political parties. We have tried to implement changes in the formula—and there were a huge number of indicators—when people feel happy that they are as accurate as possible. That is the first test. We then model that to see what impact it has on local authorities. We reached an agreement that, if the impact was to be severe—you will remember that a few years ago there were severe changes due to the census—those changes should be phased in. In many cases—it is a case of swings and roundabouts—it tends to equalise over time. Many changes to the formula have been phased in, such as the learning disability element in education—I believe that that is what it is called. I understand, Kirsty, that it is difficult for authorities like Powys when it goes the wrong way. We have tried to be sensitive to those changes.

Efallai fod Powys yn teimlo bod y pwynt a godwyd gan Alun Ffred am y dangosydd datblygu economaidd yn effeithio arno. Nid fi yw'r unig un sydd wedi bod yn gweithio ar hyn; mae grŵp wedi bod yn gweithio ar hyn, gyda chynrychiolaeth wleidyddol lawn. Mae Mike ar y grŵp, fel cynrychiolydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, ac mae aelodau awdurdodau lleol yn cynrychioli'r gwahanol rannau o Gymru a phleidiau gwleidyddol. Yr ydym wedi ceisio newid y fformiwla—a bu nifer fawr o ddangosyddion—pan fydd pobl yn hapus bod y newidiadau hynny mor gywir â phosibl. Dyna'r prawf cyntaf. Yna, yr ydym yn llunio model o hynny i weld pa effaith a gaiff ar awdurdodau lleol. Cytunwyd, er mwyn cael effaith fawr—fe gofīwch y newidiadau mawr a wnaed yn y cyfrifiad rai blynyddoedd yn ôl—y dylid cynnwys y newidiadau hynny. Mewn llawer achos—ac mae yna fanteision ac anfanteision—mae'n dueddol o ddod yn gyfartal ymhen amser. Cyflwynwyd nifer o newidiadau yn y fformiwla, megis yr elfen anableded dysgu mewn addysg—credaf mai dyna yw'r term. Deallaf, Kirsty, ei bod yn anodd i awdurdodau fel Powys pan fydd yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad anghywir. Yr ydym wedi ceisio bod yn sensitif i'r newidiadau hynny.

2.10 p.m.

Gwella Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus (Ceredigion) Improving Public Services (Ceredigion)

C2 Elin Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei chynlluniau i wella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Ngheredigion? OAQ0937(LGP)

Q2 Elin Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on her plans to improve public services in Ceredigion? OAQ0937(LGP)

Sue Essex: We welcomed the Beecham review and accepted its thrust. We will respond later in the autumn, outlining how

Sue Essex: Croesawyd adolygiad Beecham gennym a derbyniwyd ei fyrdrwn. Byddwn yn ymateb yn ddiweddarach yn yr hydref, gan

we will take forward the next phase of our public service reform. Together with this, we have supported the delivery of services to Ceredigion with the provision of £89 million for 2006-07, which is an increase of 5.6 per cent on the previous year.

Elin Jones: Mae'r ffaith bod awdurdodau lleol a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn gyffredinol yn gorfod gwneud arbedion effeithlonrwydd o 1 y cant wedi arwain at broblemau cyllido mewn ysgolion, fel a drafodwyd ddoe, a hynny yng Ngheredigion hefyd. Mae hynny'n arwain at awdurdodau lleol yn creu cytundebau tendro sydd llawer yn fwy nag oeddent yn y gorffennol, gan gau allan rhai cwmnïau lleol rhag medru cystadlu amdanynt. Mae gennyf achos yng Ngheredigion, er enghraifft, o gwmni deunydd ysgrifennu lleol yn Aberystwyth, sydd wedi colli tendrau gydag awdurdodau lleol am nad yw'n gallu cystadlu oherwydd maint y cytundebau bellach, a chollwyd y cytundebau i gwmni rhyngwladol o Birmingham. A ydych yn credu bod hynny'n sgîl-ffaith derbyniol o'ch ymgais i arbed 1 y cant?

Sue Essex: We have not been sitting on the sidelines doing nothing on this; we realised some time ago that many small companies may have been at a disadvantage when it came to large tendering contracts. Andrew Davies leads a taskforce that has been operating through Value Wales, specifically trying to look at how small companies can come together to make a bid. Much of that involves co-operative groups coming together, so you may have a co-operative of a few companies, which can then tender. There are also some advantages to being local, which could be reflected in the bid. I would be grateful if you would write to me with the details of that example, so that I can look into it further. A bid is a bid, of course, and no-one can guarantee the outcome, but we do not want local firms to feel that they are at a disadvantage.

Lisa Francis: Have you had any discussions with the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding a new cardiac monitoring

amlinellu sut y byddwn yn cyflwyno cam nesaf y broses o ddiwygio gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Ynghyd â hyn, yr ydym wedi cefnogi darparu gwasanaethau i Geredigion drwy ddyrannu £89 miliwn ar gyfer 2006-07, sy'n gynydd o 5.6 y cant o'i gymharu â'r flwyddyn flaenorol.

Elin Jones: The fact that local authorities and public services in general have to make efficiency savings of 1 per cent has led to funding problems in schools, as was discussed yesterday, which affects Ceredigion as well. That means that local authorities are creating tendering contracts which are far greater than in the past, meaning that some local companies have been excluded from being able to compete for them. I have a case in Ceredigion, for example, of a local stationery firm in Aberystwyth which has lost out in local authority tenders because it can no longer compete, given the size of the contracts. It lost out on the contracts to an international company from Birmingham. Do you believe that is an acceptable side-effect of your attempt to ensure savings of 1 per cent?

Sue Essex: Nid ydym wedi bod yn eistedd ar y cyrion yn gwneud dim mewn perthynas â hyn; sylweddolwyd gryn amser yn ôl y gallai nifer o gwmnïau bach fod dan anfantais wrth dendro am gontractau mawr. Mae Andrew Davies yn arwain tasglu sydd wedi bod yn gweithredu drwy Werth Cymru, i geisio edrych yn benodol ar y ffordd y gall cwmnïau bach ddod at ei gilydd i wneud cynnig. Mae cryn lawer o'r gwaith hwnnw'n golygu bod grwpiau cydweithredol yn dod at ei gilydd, felly, fe allech gael cydweithrediaeth o ychydig gwmnïau a all wedyn dendro. Hefyd, mae rhai manteision ynghlwm â bod yn lleol a allai gael eu hadlewyrchu yn y cynnig. Byddem yn ddiolchgar pe byddech yn ysgrifennu ataf gyda manylion yr enghraifft honno, fel y gallaf edrych arni'n fanylach. Cynnig yw cynnig, wrth gwrs, ac ni all neb sicrhau'r canlyniad, ond nid ydym am i gwmnïau lleol deimlo eu bod dan anfantais.

Lisa Francis: A ydych wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ynghylch yr

unit at Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth? Building work was due to commence last summer and it was to be completed by spring 2007. You may be aware that, this year, for the first time in many years, the Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust failed to meet all its statutory financial targets because it was required to make further efficiency savings of £0.5 million in addition to those delivered over the past few years. Have you had any discussions with the Minister for Health and Social Services about ensuring that the cardiac monitoring unit is finished on time, and that the trust is in a position to pay the health professionals required to staff the unit? If so, could you reveal the conclusions of those discussions?

Sue Essex: I have not had any such discussions, and you would not expect me to do so. Brian Gibbons is sitting here listening to your points, and I am sure that he will respond to you on those issues.

uned newydd yn Ysbyty Bron-glais yn Aberystwyth i fonitro'r galon? Yr oedd y gwaith adeiladu i fod dechrau yr haf diwethaf ac i gael ei orffen erbyn y gwanwyn 2007. Efallai y gwyddoch fod Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Ceredigion a'r Canolbarth eleni, am y tro cyntaf ers llawer blwyddyn, wedi methu cyrraedd ei thargedau ariannol statudol am fod angen iddi wneud arbedion effeithlonrwydd pellach o £0.5 miliwn yn ogystal â'r rhai a wnaed yn yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf. A ydych wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ynghylch sicrhau bod uned monitro'r galon yn cael ei chwblhau mewn pryd, a bod yr ymddiriedolaeth mewn sefyllfa i dalu'r gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol y mae eu hangen i staffio'r uned? Os felly, a allech ddatgelu casgliadau'r trafodaethau hynny?

Sue Essex: Nid wyf wedi cael trafodaethau o'r fath, ac ni fydddech yn disgwyl imi wneud. Mae Brian Gibbons yn eistedd yma yn gwrandao ar eich pwyntiau, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yn ymateb ichi ar y materion hynny.

Prif Lwyddiannau ym maes Llywodraeth Leol (Sir y Fflint) Main Achievements in Local Government (Flintshire)

Q3 Carl Sargeant: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's main achievements in the field of local government in Flintshire? OAQ0900(LGP)

Sue Essex: In 2005-06, Flintshire demonstrated a performance of a satisfactory level and received its performance incentive grant of nearly £1.5 million. My officials are currently assessing performance for the 2006-07 grant. It is particularly worth alluding to the indicator on looked-after children, on which Flintshire came out as the best in Wales.

Carl Sargeant: In September, I was delighted when the Welsh Assembly Government announced that the local authorities across Wales would share £32 million, during 2006-07, to meet the Assembly's tough targets on recycling and composting waste. Minister, will you join me in congratulating Flintshire County Council on its excellent recycling record? In 2005-06,

C3 Carl Sargeant: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am brif lwyddiannau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ym maes llywodraeth leol yn sir y Fflint? OAQ0900(LGP)

Sue Essex: Yn 2005-06, perfformiodd sir y Fflint yn foddhaol, a chafodd ei grant cymell perfformiad o bron i £1.5 miliwn. Mae fy swyddogion wrthi ar hyn o bryd yn asesu perfformiad ar gyfer grant 2006-07. Mae'n werth crybwyll yn arbennig y dangosydd ar gyfer plant sy'n cael gofal, gan mai sir y Fflint oedd y gorau yng Nghymru yn y maes hwnnw.

Carl Sargeant: Ym mis Medi, yr oeddwn yn falch tu hwnt pan gyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru y byddai'r awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru yn rhannu £32 miliwn, yn ystod 2006-07, i gyrraedd targedau uchel y Cynulliad ar gyfer ailgylchu a chompostio gwastraff. Weinidog, a ymunwch chi â mi i longyfarch Cyngor Sir y Fflint am ei berfformiad ardderchog ym maes ailgylchu?

it was already a year ahead of achieving our targets. Last month, it celebrated its highest ever monthly recycling figure: a massive 39.5 per cent. I am sure that many local authorities would like to learn lessons from Flintshire council in how it deals with its recycling.

Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of regional waste strategies across local authority areas?

Sue Essex: Going back to the policy agreement, Flintshire achieved 16 out of the 22 measures, so that was a pretty high percentage. It has always been very keen on recycling. When I was the Minister for environment, I spent a lot of time up there with the cabinet member, as I knew that the council was extremely committed. That figure of 39.5 per cent—almost 40 per cent—is brilliant, and, if there are lessons to be learned, I am sure that other authorities will learn them.

In terms of progress on the regional waste front, we have put £17 million towards increasing those regional waste collaborations. Either I or Carwyn Jones, I am sure, will get back to you and give you more details.

Mark Isherwood: I am also an active participant in the blue box scheme in Flintshire, which I applaud. I also applaud the fact that Flintshire is one of two authorities that has not passed on the 1 per cent so-called efficiency savings to schools. However, last week saw the suspension of yet another Flintshire County Council officer, adding to the growing army of people who have been suspended, who are taking early retirement, or who are going on long-term sick leave. Meanwhile, concerns raised by an independent member that financial, human and material resources are being wasted due to poor management, poor control, poor communication and party-political machinations, has led to a scrutiny committee report, which I have here, which shows that the cost of hiring agency staff has doubled since 2002, and reached almost £5 million last year. To what extent is it an achievement for the Welsh Assembly Government to be

Yn 2005-06, yr oedd eisoes flwyddyn ar y blaen o ran cyrraedd ein targedau. Fis diwethaf, dathlodd ei ffigur misol uchaf erioed am ailgylchu, sef 39.5 y cant, sy'n ffigur anferthol. Yr wyf yn siŵr yr hoffai llawer i awdurdod lleol ddysgu gwersi gan Gyngor Sir y Fflint am y ffordd y mae'n ymdrin â'i ailgylchu.

A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hynt strategaethau gwastraff rhanbarthol ym mhob ardal awdurdod lleol?

Sue Essex: I fynd yn ôl at y cytundeb polisi, cyflawnodd sir y Fflint 16 allan o 22 o fesurau, felly, yr oedd hynny'n ganran eithaf uchel. Mae erioed wedi bod yn frwd iawn dros ailgylchu. Pan oeddwn yn Weinidog dros yr amgylchedd, treuliais lawer o amser yno gydag aelod y cabinet, gan fy mod yn gwybod bod y cyngor wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr. Mae'r ffigur hwnnw o 39.5 y cant—40 y cant bron â bod—yn ardderchog, ac os oes gwersi i'w dysgu, yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnaiff awdurdodau eraill eu dysgu.

O ran cynnydd gyda gwastraff rhanbarthol, yr ydym wedi neilltuo £17 miliwn tuag at fwy o gydweithio ar hyn. Bydd Carwyn neu finnau, yr wyf yn siŵr, yn cysylltu â chi i roi rhagor o fanylion ichi.

Mark Isherwood: Yr wyf fi hefyd yn cymryd rhan yn y cynllun blwch glas yn sir y Fflint, a chymeradwyaf y cynllun hwnnw. Cymeradwyaf hefyd y ffaith fod sir y Fflint yn un o ddau awdurdod nad ydynt wedi trosglwyddo'r arbedion effeithlonrwydd o 1 y cant, fel y'u gelwir, i ysgolion. Fodd bynnag, yr wythnos diwethaf cafodd swyddog arall o Gyngor Sir y Fflint ei wahardd dros dro, gan ychwanegu at y nifer cynyddol sydd wedi'u gwahardd dros dro, neu sy'n ymddeol yn gynnar, neu sy'n absennol oherwydd salwch maith. Yn y cyfamser, mae pryderon a fynegwyd gan aelod annibynnol fod adnoddau ariannol, dynol a materol yn cael eu gwastraffu oherwydd rheoli gwael, cyfathrebu gwael a chynllwynion gwleidyddol, wedi arwain at adroddiad gan y pwyllgor craffu, sydd gennyf wrth law. Mae'n dangos bod y gost o hurio staff asiantaeth wedi dyblu er 2003, gan gyrraedd bron £5 miliwn y llynedd. I ba raddau y

turning a blind eye to local government in Flintshire over so many years?

The Presiding Officer: Order. I do not expect the Minister to answer the questions relating to the staffing of Flintshire County Council. I have made it quite clear, over many instances of this kind, that I deplore the attempt to use this place as a surrogate local authority chamber. Local authorities are authorities in their own right. Questions about the relationship between Ministers and local authorities are appropriate, but we must leave to the independent action of elected councillors what happens in their authorities.

Sue Essex: Thank you. I will just pick up the issue about the performance incentive grant and the policy agreement. That is the relationship between us and Flintshire. We have signed up to that together in terms of additional money, as Carl said, in order to secure policy and performance outcomes, which is what I was referring to. In Flintshire, 16 of the 22 measures have been achieved, which is a credible performance in the total sweep of 22 authorities.

Eleanor Burnham: I will guard how I question, Minister. The leader of Flintshire County Council is unwell—and I commiserate with him—and it has no chief executive. Can you tell me when it hopes to have a new chief executive?

The Presiding Officer: Order. That has nothing to do with the Minister. Everyone should have a new chief executive whenever they want one, as far as local government is concerned.

mae'n llwyddiant i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru fod yn anwybyddu llywodraeth leol yn sir y Fflint am gynifer o flynyddoedd?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid wyf yn disgwyl i'r Gweinidog ateb y cwestiynau sy'n ymwneud â staff Cyngor Sir y Fflint. Gydag enghreifftiau o'r fath, yr wyf wedi pwysleisio droeon fy mod yn gresynu at yr ymgais i ddefnyddio'r lle hwn fel is-siambwr awdurdod lleol. Mae awdurdodau lleol yn awdurdodau ynddynt eu hunain. Mae cwestiynau am y berthynas rhwng Gweinidogion ac awdurdodau lleol yn briodol, ond cyfrifoldeb cyngorwyr etholedig yw'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn eu hawdurdodau.

Sue Essex: Diolch. Gwnaf un sylw am y mater sy'n ymwneud â'r grant cymell perfformiad a'r cytundeb polisi. Dyna yw'r berthynas rhyngom ni a sir y Fflint. Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i hynny gyda'n gilydd o ran arian ychwanegol, fel y dywedodd Carl, er mwyn sicrhau canlyniadau polisi a pherfformiad, a dyna yr oeddwn yn cyfeirio ato. Yn sir y Fflint, cyflawnwyd 16 o'r 22 o fesurau, sy'n berfformiad credadwy o edrych ar bob un o'r 22 awdurdod.

Eleanor Burnham: Byddaf yn ofalus wrth ofyn fy nghwestiwn, Weinidog. Mae arweinydd Cyngor Sir y Fflint yn sâl—ac yr wyf yn cydymdeimlo ag ef—ac nid oes prif weithredwr gan Gyngor Sir y Fflint. A allwch ddweud wrthyf pryd y mae'n gobeithio cael prif weithredwr newydd?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid oes a wnelo hynny ddim â'r Gweinidog. O ran llywodraeth leol, rhydd i bawb gael prif weithredwr pan fyddant yn dymuno cael un.

Setliadau Tair Blynedd ar gyfer Llywodraeth Leol Three-year Settlements for Local Government

Q4 David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's proposals for three-year settlements for local government? OAQ0929(LGP)

Q9 David Melding: What discussions has the Minister held with the Secretary of State for Wales on the Welsh Assembly

C4 David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynigion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer setliadau tair blynedd i lywodraeth leol? OAQ0929(LGP)

C9 David Melding: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ar gynigion Llywodraeth

Government's proposals for three-year settlements for local government? OAQ0926(LGP)

Sue Essex: Papers on the action plan for introducing three-year settlements were presented and agreed at the consultative forum on finance meeting on 28 September. This was discussed at the Local Government and Public Services Committee meeting on 4 October.

David Melding: Minister, the move to a three-year cycle is an excellent policy, on which I would warmly commend you if I thought that it was going to be put into practice. However, we are already seeing you shift to a two-year settlement, probably at the behest of your officials and your colleagues in Westminster, but we should have the ambition to go for a three-year cycle, and not to have a two-year cycle with one year, in effect, under review. Can you assure us that it is still your ambition to have a functioning three-year cycle?

Sue Essex: It is a three-year cycle. We have had long debates with local government, trying to get this right, as you know. Scotland has done this for many years and, in its experience, there have been problems when information changes. There has been less certainty than it anticipated. That is why we have come up with this pattern of two years of fixed funding, and a third year in which the quantum is fixed. This corresponds to the Chancellor's comprehensive spending review. However, in terms of what might happen with regard to the distribution, we have used the word 'presumptive'. We um-ed and ah-ed for a long time about what word we should use. We cannot use 'fixed', because that would mislead people; it cannot be 100 per cent fixed.

2.20 p.m.

On the other hand, we cannot use 'indicative', because it is much stronger than that. Therefore, we have used the word 'presumptive', which enables local authorities to plan comprehensively and consistently, but it does not mean to say that

Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer setliadau tair blynedd i lywodraeth leol? OAQ0926(LGP)

Sue Essex: Cyflwynwyd papurau ar y cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer cyflwyno setliadau tair blynedd, a chytunwyd arnynt yng nghyfarfod y fforwm ymgynghorol ar gyllid ar 28 Medi. Trafodwyd hyn yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus ar 4 Hydref.

David Melding: Weinidog, mae'r symudiad at gylch tair blynedd yn bolisi rhagorol, a byddem yn eich cymeradwyo'n fawr pe bawn yn credu y câi ei weithredu. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym eisoes yn eich gweld yn symud i drefniant dwy flynedd, o bosibl ar gais eich swyddogion a'ch cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan. Ond dylem osod uchelgais o sicrhau cylch tair blynedd, yn hytrach na chylch dwy flynedd gydag un flwyddyn, i bob pwrpas, yn destun adolygiad. A allwch roi sicrwydd inni mai cael cylch tair blynedd ar waith yw eich nod o hyd?

Sue Essex: Cylch tair blynedd ydyw. Fel y gwyrddoch, cawsom ddadleuon hir gyda llywodraeth leol i geisio sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud hyn yn gywir. Mae'r Alban wedi gwneud hyn ers llawer blwyddyn, ac yn ôl profiad yr Alban cafwyd problemau pan fydd gwybodaeth yn newid. Yn yr Alban, bu llai o sicrwydd nag a ragwelwyd. Dyna pam yr ydym wedi cyflwyno'r patrwm hwn o ariannu sefydlog am ddwy flynedd, a thrydedd flwyddyn lle bydd cwantwm sefydlog. Mae hyn yn cyfateb i adolygiad cynhwysfawr y Canghellor o wariant. Fodd bynnag, o ran yr hyn a allai ddigwydd gyda'r dosbarthiad, yr ydym wedi defnyddio'r gair 'rhagdybiol'. Buom yn pwysu a mesur am amser hir pa air y dylem ei ddefnyddio. Ni allwn ddefnyddio 'sefydlog' oherwydd byddai hynny'n camarwain pobl; ni all fod 100 y cant yn sefydlog.

Ar y llaw arall, ni allwn ddefnyddio 'dangosol' oherwydd mae'n gryfach o lawer na hynny. Felly, yr ydym wedi defnyddio'r gair 'rhagdybiol', sy'n galluogi awdurdodau lleol i gynllunio'n gynhwysfawr ac yn gyson, ond nid yw'n golygu y gallwn roi sicrwydd

they are guaranteed that there will not be one iota of change. I believe that local authorities see that as being fair—they understand that.

David Melding: There has to be some flexibility in any system, but you will be scrutinised on that point. However, I come back to my original comments that you would be generally congratulated if you were able to implement this reform. Could this be extended to other parts of the public service?

Sue Essex: To give some degree of certainty is enormously important. We all know—certainly, if you have been in local government—that to go from year to year is not particularly helpful. When we get into the area of pooled budgets, and we will be discussing that with the Beecham review, that will require the same degree of certainty around the other budgets. If you are going to move forward and employ staff, and have a rolling programme of activity, then you need all the partners that are coming into that budget to have a degree of certainty. Therefore, the Beecham agenda will be interesting in terms of how it rolls this issue out.

David Melding: Do you agree that, if we have an effective three-year cycle, it will give a golden opportunity to local authorities to pass this practice on, because they commission many of their services from the independent and voluntary sector? Do you also agree that we would see an end to year-on-year commissioning, which can often be abruptly halted, through no fault of voluntary organisations, for instance, delivering social services? Is it your ambition that they pass it on?

Sue Essex: Absolutely. You and I have been involved in the voluntary sector, which operates on a yearly basis. Again, it is the same thing—it is about contracts for staff, which make it difficult to employ people for longer than a year; the whole process gets undermined. As we roll out Beecham, it will be a revolution from that aspect. Jane Davidson has made the commitment that this will be followed through for three-year

idddnt na fydd dim newid o gwbl. Credaf fod awdurdodau lleol yn gweld bod hynny'n deg—maent yn deall hynny.

David Melding: Rhaid sicrhau bod rhywfaint o hyblygrwydd mewn unrhyw system, ond cewch eich holi ar y pwynt hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, dychwelaf at fy sylwadau gwreiddiol, sef y byddech yn cael eich llongyfarch yn gyffredinol pe gallech weithredu'r diwygiad hwn. A oes modd ymestyn hyn i rannau eraill o'r gwasanaeth cyhoeddus?

Sue Essex: Mae rhoi rhywfaint o sicrwydd yn eithriadol o bwysig. Gywddom i gyd—yn sicr, os ydych wedi bod mewn llywodraeth leol—nad yw gweithio o flwyddyn i flwyddyn yn arbennig o ddefnyddiol. Pan ddechreuwn drafod cyllidebau cyfun, a byddwn yn trafod hynny gydag adolygiad Beecham, bydd angen yr un faint o sicrwydd am y cyllidebau eraill. Os ewch ati i gyflogi staff, a datblygu rhaglen dreigl o weithgarwch, yna mae angen rhoi rhywfaint o sicrwydd i'r holl bartneriaid a fydd yn rhan o'r gyllideb honno. Felly, bydd agenda Beecham yn ddiddorol o ran y ffordd y bydd yn cyflwyno'r mater hwn.

David Melding: Os bydd gennym gylch tair blynedd effeithiol, a gytunwch y bydd yn gyfle euraid i awdurdodau lleol drosglwyddo'r arfer hwn, gan eu bod yn comisiynu nifer o'u gwasanaethau gan y sector annibynnol a gwirfoddol? A gytunwch hefyd y byddem yn gweld yr arfer o gomisiynu blwyddyn i flwyddyn yn dod i ben, rhywbeth sy'n aml yn gallu cael ei atal yn sydyn, heb fai ar fudiadau gwirfoddol, er enghraifft, cyflwyno gwasanaethau cymdeithasol? Ai eich nod chi yw y byddant yn ei drosglwyddo?

Sue Essex: Yn sicr. Buoch chi a minnau'n rhan o'r sector gwirfoddol, sy'n gweithredu ar sail flynyddol. Unwaith eto, yr un peth ydyw—mae'n ymwneud â chontractau i staff, sy'n ei gwneud yn anodd cyflogi pobl am fwy na blwyddyn; tanseilir y broses gyfan. Wrth inni gyflwyno Beecham, bydd yn chwyldro yn hynny o beth. Mae Jane Davidson wedi gwneud yr ymrwymiad i gyflwyno cyllidebau tair blynedd i ysgolion;

budgets for schools; it will be a major change.

David Lloyd: Turning to another looming challenge for local government settlements, namely backpay, can you detail how local authorities are to pay for implementing the equal pay job evaluation situation if their allocated revenue support grant is insufficient, particularly as they are prevented from borrowing money to this end?

Sue Essex: You have to make a distinction between that and equal pay, for which we have put something like £54 million—the increase in baseline will be £54 million from next year, so no-one can say that we have not passed over the money to support this important initiative. There is also an element of that that local authorities have been able to use to accumulate funds to deal with backpay. Backpay is extremely complicated, as you know, Dai; we have discussed this many times. It varies considerably from authority to authority. Authorities are currently doing detailed work, and I know that my colleague, Jane Hutt, is having discussions with local authorities, as I am. There will be an element of borrowing and capitalisation, and some of that will go forward. We are discussing with the Treasury how we might be able to use that, and be more free with it, but, until we know all the details, I cannot give you anything further than that. However, I know that some authorities are getting more advanced, and are giving us a clearer picture.

David Lloyd: You will recall that there are various worrying examples from local authorities about the financial situation regarding backpay. I am thinking especially of the £350 million, I believe, that it cost North Cumbria NHS for failing to implement job evaluation by a set deadline. Therefore, with that in mind, can I press you further on whether you are able to detail the number of local authorities in Wales that are likely to miss the 1 April deadline next year as regards job evaluation? What assessment has been made of anticipated financial penalties, and the impact on the funding and delivery of local services?

bydd yn newid sylweddol.

David Lloyd: I droi at her arall sy'n wynebu setliadau llywodraeth leol, sef ôl-gyflog, a allwch ddweud wrthym sut y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn talu am weithredu'r sefyllfa gwerthuso swyddi cyflog cyfartal os na fydd y grant cynnal refeniw a ddyrennir iddynt yn ddigonol, yn arbennig gan eu bod wedi'u hatal rhag benthyg arian i'r perwyl hwn?

Sue Essex: Mae'n rhaid ichi wahaniaethu rhwng hynny a chyflog cyfartal, ac yr ydym wedi neilltuo tua £54 miliwn ar gyfer hynny—£54 miliwn fydd y cynnydd yn y llinell sylfaen o'r flwyddyn nesaf, felly, ni all neb ein cyhuddo o beidio â throsglwyddo'r arian i gefnogi'r fenter bwysig hon. Yn ogystal, mae yna elfen o'r hyn y mae awdurdodau lleol wedi gallu ei ddefnyddio i gronni arian i fydn i'r afael ag ôl-gyflog. Mae ôl-gyflog yn eithriadol o gymhleth, fel y gwyddoch, Dai; yr ydym wedi trafod hyn droeon. Mae'n amrywio'n sylweddol o awdurdod i awdurdod. Ar hyn o bryd mae awdurdodau'n gwneud gwaith manwl, a gwn fod fy nghyd-Weinidog, Jane Hutt, yn cael trafodaethau gydag awdurdodau lleol, fel finnau. Bydd elfen o fenthyg a chyfalafu, a bydd rhywfaint o hynny yn mynd rhagddo. Yr ydym yn trafod gyda'r Trysorlys sut y galledd ddefnyddio hynny, a bod yn fwy rhydd yn hynny, ond nes inni wybod yr holl fanylion, ni allaf roi rhagor o wybodaeth ichi. Fodd bynnag, gwn fod rhai awdurdodau'n tynnu at derfyn y gwaith ac yn rhoi darlun cliriach inni.

David Lloyd: Byddwch yn cofio bod yna amrywiol enghreifftiau gan awdurdodau lleol sy'n achosi pryder ynglŷn â'r sefyllfa ariannol o ran ôl-gyflog. Yr wyf yn meddwl yn arbennig am y £350 miliwn, mi gredaf, a bu'n rhaid i GIG Gogledd Cumbria ei dalu am fethu â gweithredu gwerthusiad swyddi erbyn terfyn amser penodol. Felly, gan gofio hynny, a allaf bwysu arnoch ymhellach i ddweud a allwch roi manylion am nifer yr awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru sy'n debygol o fethu'r terfyn amser ar gyfer gwerthuso swyddi am y flwyddyn nesaf, sef 1 Ebrill? Pa asesiad a wnaed o'r cosbau ariannol a ddisgwylir, a'r effaith ar ariannu a darparu

gwasanaethau lleol?

Sue Essex: As I say, Jane Hutt, as the Minister with responsibility for equality, is taking the lead on this. As Jane and I have gone around talking to local authorities about this, we have seen that it is looking much more positive, because we are getting some important movements from local authorities. I cannot give you an exact number, and no-one could at present, because it is changing all the time.

A major conference will be held next week which both Jane and I will attend, and I expect that many of the issues that you have discussed today will come up. I would advise that—and this has become more clear as I have had these discussion over the three years or so that I have been chasing equal pay—you can never read across from one authority to another. You quoted Cumbria, but you cannot read across from one NHS trust to another, although there is more consistency in the NHS, and you certainly cannot read across from one local authority to another. As I have gone around Wales, I have seen that it depends on the contracts that they entered into many years ago. Some of those contracts are difficult to find information on, and some of the details are in people's heads and not written down, so it is highly complex. There is no norm out there that you can apply everywhere.

Sue Essex: Fel y dywedais, Jane Hutt, fel y Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros gydraddoldeb, sy'n arwain ar hyn. Gan fod Jane a minnau wedi siarad ag awdurdodau lleol ynglŷn â hyn, gwelsom fod y sefyllfa lawer yn fwy cadarnhaol, gan ein bod yn cael rhai symudiadau pwysig gan awdurdodau lleol. Ni allaf roi union ffigur ichi, ac ni allai neb wneud hynny ar hyn o bryd, gan ei fod yn newid drwy'r amser.

Cynhelir cynhadledd fawr yr wythnos nesaf a bydd Jane a minnau'n bresennol. Disgwyliaf y bydd nifer o'r materion a drafodwyd gennych heddiw yn codi. Byddwn yn cynghori—a daeth hyn yn gliriach wrth imi gael y trafodaethau hyn dros y tair blynedd y bûm yn ceisio sicrhau cyflog cyfartal—nad yw'r hyn sy'n berthnasol i un awdurdod yn berthnasol i awdurdod arall. Soniwyd am Cumbria, ond nid yw'r hyn sy'n berthnasol i un ymddiriedolaeth GIG yn berthnasol i ymddiriedolaeth arall, er bod mwy o gysondeb yn y GIG. Ac yn sicr nid yw'r hyn sy'n berthnasol i un awdurdod lleol yn berthnasol i awdurdod lleol arall. Wrth imi deithio ledled Cymru, yr wyf wedi gweld bod hyn yn dibynnu ar y contractau a luniwyd ganddynt flynyddoedd maith yn ôl. Mae'n anodd cael gwybodaeth am rai o'r contractau hynny, ac mae rhai o'r manylion ym mhennau pobl, nid yn ysgrifenedig, felly mae'n gymhleth iawn. Nid oes norm y gallwch ei ddefnyddio ym mhob sefyllfa.

Pwysau Ariannol yng Nghanol De Cymru Financial Pressures in South Wales Central

Q5 Leanne Wood: Will the Minister make a statement on the financial pressures of local authorities in South Wales Central? OAQ0932(LGP)

Sue Essex: For Wales as a whole, it is the role of the expenditure sub-group—which is part and parcel of the partnership council—to collect the pressures that are faced by local authorities. I have responded to this by putting a 4.3 per cent increase in the revenue support grant, and, later this afternoon, we will announce the distribution of that in the provisional local government settlement.

C5 Leanne Wood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y pwysau ariannol sy'n wynebu awdurdodau lleol yng Nghanol De Cymru? OAQ0932(LGP)

Sue Essex: I Gymru gyfan, rôl yr is-grŵp gwariant—sy'n rhan annatod o'r cyngor partneriaeth—yw ystyried y pwysau sy'n wynebu awdurdodau lleol. Yr wyf wedi ymateb i hyn drwy roi cynnydd o 4.3 y cant yn y grant cynnal refeniw, ac yn ddiweddarach y prynhawn yma byddwn yn cyhoeddi sut y caiff hynny ei ddosbarthu yn y setliad dros dro i lywodraeth leol.

Leanne Wood: This Government has repeatedly claimed its commitment to developing homecare services. Given that the Government reneged on its pledge to abolish homecare charges, that is a difficult commitment to believe. There is a reported £7 million deficit for social services in Cardiff, which will lead to massive cuts in social services, and, in particular, in homecare services. There are also problems in the Vale of Glamorgan. The councils say that the deficits are due to additional responsibilities being passed on to them without the cost being met by the Government. What action are you taking to assess the difficulties for local authorities to invest in social services?

Sue Essex: Once again, social services are primarily a matter for Brian Gibbons, but if the councils are saying that responsibilities are being passed on without money, they need to write and demonstrate that. I have asked a number of times, and I specifically asked at a consultative forum on finance meeting some time ago, whether I have kept the pledge that I made with Harry Jones some three years ago that we would not pass on new responsibilities without money. I have asked whether that pledge has been kept and the answer has been 'yes'. Local government has said 'yes'.

In terms of pressure on social services, I have spent the last two or three years talking with local authorities, trying to ensure that their social-care budgets were increased, because we all know how demography is working in this country. I am glad to say that local authorities have responded to that. In terms of the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff, it is up to them to manage their budgets. Going back to the point that the Presiding Officer made, they are autonomous, elected authorities. They must manage their budgets in the same way that I had to manage the budget in Cardiff when I was leader of the council. They must manage and monitor those budgets. They have been put under scrutiny by their councillors and outside organisations as to the management of their in-year

Leanne Wood: Drosodd a thro, mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi honni ei bod wedi ymrwymo i ddatblygu gwasanaethau gofal cartref. O ystyried bod y Llywodraeth wedi torri ei haddewid i ddiddymu ffioedd gofal cartref, anodd yw credu'r ymrwymiad hwnnw. Dywedir bod diffyg o £7 miliwn ar gyfer gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yng Nghaerdydd, a fydd yn arwain at doriadau anferth mewn gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, ac yn arbennig, mewn gwasanaethau gofal cartref. Mae problemau hefyd ym Mro Morgannwg. Dywed y cynghorau fod y diffygion yn codi oherwydd bod cyfrifoldebau ychwanegol yn cael eu trosglwyddo iddynt heb i'r Llywodraeth dalu cost hynny. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i asesu'r anawsterau i awdurdodau lleol wrth fuddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau cymdeithasol?

Sue Essex: Unwaith eto, mater i Brian Gibbons yn bennaf yw gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, ond os yw cynghorau'n dweud bod cyfrifoldebau'n cael eu trosglwyddo heb arian, mae angen iddynt ysgrifennu a rhoi prawf o hynny. Yr wyf wedi gofyn droeon, a gofynnais yn benodol yn un o gyfarfodydd y fforwm ymgynghorol ar gyllid beth amser yn ôl, a ydwyf wedi cadw'r addewid a wnaed gyda Harry Jones ryw dair blynedd yn ôl na fyddem yn trosglwyddo cyfrifoldebau newydd heb arian. Yr wyf wedi gofyn a yw'r addewid hwnnw wedi'i gadw, a'r ateb fu 'ydw'. Dyna a ddywedwyd gan lywodraeth leol.

O ran pwysau ar wasanaethau cymdeithasol, yr wyf wedi treulio'r ddwy neu dair blynedd diwethaf yn siarad ag awdurdodau lleol, gan geisio sicrhau bod cynnydd yn eu cyllidebau gofal cymdeithasol, oherwydd gwyddom i gyd sut mae demograffeg yn gweithio yn y wlad hon. Mae'n bleser gennyf ddweud bod awdurdodau lleol wedi ymateb i hynny. O ran Bro Morgannwg a Chaerdydd, eu cyfrifoldeb hwy yw rheoli eu cyllidebau. I ddychwelyd at y pwynt a wnaed gan y Llywydd, maent yn awdurdodau annibynnol ac etholedig. Rhaid iddynt reoli eu cyllidebau yn yr un ffordd ag yr oedd yn rhaid imi reoli'r gyllideb yng Nghaerdydd pan oeddwn yn arweinydd y cyngor. Rhaid iddynt reoli a monitro'r cyllidebau hynny. O ran rheoli eu cyllidebau yn ystod y flwyddyn, mae eu

budgets. Finally, we have also responded to those extra costs in the budgets of previous years. This year, we have responded to the expenditure identified by the sub-group—not only in full, but we have given a bit more. Therefore, I do not think that anyone can accuse us of not responding.

Jonathan Morgan: One of the great pressures, particularly in Cardiff, is the recruitment of social workers. You will know, not just in your role as the Minister for public services, but also as the Member for Cardiff North, that the Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust has recently expressed concern that it is unable to reduce the problems of bedblocking because it sometimes takes more than three weeks to assign a social worker to a patient. Bearing in mind the financial pressures on local government, and the impact that the recruitment of social workers will have on the health service, is it not time that you and the Minister for Health and Social Services sat down with the Welsh Local Government Association and with the county councils where there are problems, to try to resolve some of these issues?

2.30 p.m.

Sue Essex: Ann Lloyd, as head of the NHS, has been sitting down with the Cardiff Local Health Board and will continue to do so to support it on this. There is an issue with social workers across Wales, and I have done my best as Minister for public services. I know that Brian Gibbons, and Jane Hutt before him, tried to work to increase the capacity of social services in local authorities. There is also an issue in that every local authority has to look at why they might be finding it particularly difficult to attract staff; I am sure that Cardiff is looking at that. I am hopeful that this issue will be resolved because, as you rightly say, bedblocking wastes NHS resources and the hospital is not the best place for those patients to be. Like you, I feel extremely strongly about seeing this situation resolved in Cardiff.

cynghorwyr a sefydliadau allanol wedi craffu ar hynny. Yn olaf, yr ydym hefyd wedi ymateb i'r costau ychwanegol hynny yng nghyllidebau blynyddoedd blaenorol. Eleni, yr ydym wedi ymateb i'r gwariant a nodwyd gan yr is-grŵp—nid yn unig yn llawn, ond yr ydym wedi rhoi ychydig yn rhagor. Felly, ni chredaf y gall neb ein cyhuddo o beidio ag ymateb.

Jonathan Morgan: Un o'r problemau mawr, yn arbennig yng Nghaerdydd, yw recriwtio gweithwyr cymdeithasol. Fe wyddoch, nid yn unig yn eich rôl fel y Gweinidog dros wasanaethau cyhoeddus, ond hefyd fel yr Aelod dros Ogledd Caerdydd, fod Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Caerdydd a'r Fro wedi mynegi pryder yn ddiweddar nad yw'n gallu lleihau problemau blocio gwelyau oherwydd ei bod weithiau'n cymryd mwy na thair sesiwn i bennu gweithiwr cymdeithasol i glaf. Gan gofio'r pwysau ariannol ar lywodraeth leol, a'r effaith a gaiff recriwtio gweithwyr cymdeithasol ar y gwasanaeth iechyd, onid yw'n bryd i chi a'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol gael trafodaeth gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a chyda'r cynghorau sir lle mae yna broblemau, i geisio datrys rhai o'r materion hyn?

Sue Essex: Mae Ann Lloyd, fel pennaeth y GIG, wedi bod yn trafod gyda Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Caerdydd, a bydd yn parhau i wneud hynny i'w gynorthwyo gyda hyn. Mae yna broblem gyda gweithwyr cymdeithasol ledled Cymru, ac yr wyf wedi gwneud fy ngorau fel y Gweinidog dros wasanaethau cyhoeddus. Gwn fod Brian Gibbons, a Jane Hutt cyn hynny, wedi gweithio'n galed i gynyddu adnoddau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol mewn awdurdodau lleol. Cyfyd problem hefyd yn yr ystyr bod yn rhaid i bob awdurdod lleol ystyried pam y mae'n arbennig o anodd denu staff; yr wyf yn siŵr fod Caerdydd yn ystyried hynny. Yr wyf yn obeithiol y caiff y broblem hon ei datrys oherwydd, fel y dywedwch yn gywir ddigon, mae blocio gwelyau yn gwastraffu adnoddau'r GIG, ac nid yr ysbyty yw'r lle gorau i'r cleifion hynny. Fel chithau, teimlaf yn gryf iawn ynglŷn â datrys y sefyllfa hon yng Nghaerdydd.

Jenny Randerson: Going back to the pressure on the adult services budgets, Minister, if you had one or two local authorities with a problem, you would be entirely right to say that it is their issue to manage; however, when you have problems throughout Wales, it means that there is a general trend that no Government should ignore. Councils throughout Wales have expressed concern about their adult services budgets, so much so that the Welsh Local Government Association has asked for a meeting with the Labour Assembly Government. Have you or the Minister for Health and Social Services met the WLGA to discuss this issue yet, and, if so, what was the outcome? If not, when do you intend to do so and what do you intend to say to them?

Sue Essex: I will repeat what I said before. I have spent all the years that I have been in this job meeting local authorities across Wales, talking to them about the pressures in adult social care and persuading them to put more money in adult social care and children's care. Of course, the work of the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales has also underlined that. There has been a hugely positive response from local government to that, backed up by money that we have put in.

If you look at the expenditure sub-group report, at what it describes as pressures and at what we are responding to, you will see that the only difference is that we have put in slightly more money than it asked for. You cannot say that we are not responding. I talk to the WLGA frequently; in fact, we are due to meet next week. I know that Brian also meets his counterparts regularly. It is question of money and anticipating the changes in demography and health structures. Some of these questions about moving care around are extremely difficult, particularly when it is capital asset care, because then you are talking about time. We have really worked with Welsh local government on this area. You will know that Meryl Gravell, the social services spokesman for the WLGA, has worked to put together a team that goes

Jenny Randerson: I ddychwelyd at y pwysau ar gyllidebau gwasanaethau oedolion, Weinidog, pe bai gan un neu ddau awdurdod lleol broblem, byddech yn gwbl gywir i ddweud mai eu problem hwy yw ei datrys; fodd bynnag, pan yw'r problemau i'w gweld ledled Cymru, golyga fod tuedd gyffredinol na ddylai unrhyw Lywodraeth ei anwybyddu. Mae cynghorau ledled Cymru wedi mynegi pryder am gyllidebau eu gwasanaethau i oedolion, i'r fath raddau fel bod Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru wedi gofyn am gael cyfarfod gyda Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad. A ydych chi neu'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi cyfarfod â CLILC i drafod y mater hwn eto, ac os felly, beth oedd y canlyniad? Os nad ydych, pryd y bwriadwch wneud hynny a beth a fwriadwch ei ddweud wrth CLILC?

Sue Essex: Ailadroddaf yr hyn a ddywedais o'r blaen. Yn ystod yr holl flynyddoedd imi fod yn y swydd hon, yr wyf wedi cyfarfod ag awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru, yn trafod y pwysau ym maes gofal cymdeithasol i oedolion a'u darbwylllo i fuddsoddi mwy o arian mewn gofal cymdeithasol i oedolion a gofal plant. Wrth gwrs, mae gwaith Arolygiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru hefyd wedi tanlinellu hynny. Cafwyd ymateb cadarnhaol iawn gan lywodraeth leol i hynny, gyda chefnogaeth arian wedi ei ddarparu gennym ni.

Os edrychwch ar adroddiad yr is-bwyllgor gwariant, ar yr hyn a ddisgrifia fel pwysau a'r hyn yr ydym yn ymateb iddo, fe welwch mai'r unig wahaniaeth yw ein bod wedi buddsoddi rhywfaint mwy o arian nag y gofynnwyd amdano. Ni allwch ddweud nad ydym yn ymateb. Byddaf yn trafod gyda CLILC yn rheolaidd; yn wir, yr ydym wedi trefnu cyfarfod yr wythnos nesaf. Gwn fod Brian yn cyfarfod â'i gymheiriaid yn rheolaidd hefyd. Mae'n fater o arian a rhagweld y newidiadau mewn demograffiaeth a strwythurau iechyd. Mae rhai o'r cwestiynau hyn sy'n ymwneud â symud gofal o gwmpas yn anodd iawn, yn enwedig os yw'n ofal asedau cyfalaf, oherwydd yr ydych yn sôn am amser bryd hynny. Yr ydym wedi gweithio gyda llywodraeth leol Cymru o ddifrif yn y maes hwn. Fe wyddoch fod

out, advises local authorities and works with them. There can be no doubt that we are trying our best to deal with what is—to use a euphemism—a challenging problem. However, I can assure you that I put this at the top of my agenda. The Wanless extra care money, which is important capital provision to provide homes largely for an ageing population, is yet another indication of how seriously I am treating this issue.

Meryl Gravell, llefarydd gwasanaethau cymdeithasol CLILC, wedi gweithio i sefydlu tîm sy'n cynghori awdurdodau lleol ac yn gweithio gyda hwy. Nid oes dim amheuaeth nad ydym yn gwneud ein gorau i ymdrin â'r hyn sydd—a defnyddio gair teg—yn broblem heriol. Fodd bynnag, gallaf eich sicrhau fy mod yn rhoi'r mater hwn ar frig fy agenda. Mae arian gofal ychwanegol Wanless, sy'n ddarpariaeth gyfalaf bwysig yn bennaf i roi cartrefi i boblogaeth sy'n heneiddio, yn dangos unwaith eto fy mod yn trin y mater hwn o ddifrif.

Islwyn

Q6 Irene James: Will the Minister outline achievements within her portfolio for the Islwyn constituency? OAQ0915(LGP)

C6 Irene James: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r llwyddiannau yn ei phortffolio ar gyfer etholaeth Islwyn? OAQ0915(LGP)

Sue Essex: As you know well, Islwyn is mostly served by Caerphilly County Borough Council. I concluded a policy agreement with Caerphilly in 2004 setting out the improvements that it will deliver by 2007. Caerphilly has recently received an increase of 5 per cent. In terms of public events, I was particularly pleased to open the Chartist bridge in your constituency, in the Sirhowy valley—you were also there that day—and that provides excellent value for money.

Sue Essex: Fel y gwyddoch yn iawn, caiff Islwyn ei wasanaethu'n bennaf gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili. Cytunais ar gytundeb polisi gyda Chaerffili yn 2004 i osod allan y gwelliannau y bydd yn eu cyflawni erbyn 2007. Yn ddiweddar, mae Caerffili wedi cael cynnydd o 5 y cant. O ran digwyddiadau cyhoeddus, yr oeddwn yn falch iawn cael agor Pont y Siartwyr yn eich etholaeth chi, yn nyffryn Sirhywi—ac yr oeddech chi hefyd yn bresennol y diwrnod hwnnw—ac mae hynny'n werth rhagorol am yr arian.

Irene James: Do you agree that Assembly funding of £15 million for Caerphilly council to improve the road access to the new Caerphilly hospital demonstrates the Assembly Government's commitment to working with local authorities to maximise the impact of public service improvements for the people in Wales's most deprived communities?

Irene James: A gytunwch fod cyllid gwerth £15 miliwn gan y Cynulliad i gyngor Caerffili i wella'r ffordd fynediad i ysbyty newydd Caerffili yn dangos ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i gynyddu effaith gwelliannau gwasanaethau cyhoeddus i'r eithaf i bobl yng nghymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig Cymru?

Sue Essex: The figures in Caerphilly, and particularly in your constituency, show that there are high levels of deprivation there, and that is why the formula works well for your constituency, as it reflects those needs. Going back to Glyn Davies's question at the beginning, those needs are particularly reflected through the weighting on deprivation. I am pleased also, as you have said, that there are major capital projects that can take place. The Sirhowy bridge was one

Sue Essex: Mae'r ffigurau yng Nghaerffili, ac yn enwedig yn eich etholaeth chi, yn dangos bod cryn amddifadedd yno, a dyna pam mae'r fformiwla'n gweithio'n dda i'ch etholaeth, am ei bod yn adlewyrchu'r anghenion hynny. I ddychwelyd at gwestiwn Glyn Davies ar y dechrau, caiff yr anghenion hynny eu hadlewyrchu'n benodol drwy'r pwysoli ar amddifadedd. Yr wyf yn falch hefyd fod yna brosiectau cyfalaf mawr y gellir eu rhoi ar waith, fel yr oeddech yn ei

that I was involved with, but there are other schemes that will mean that local people can access the services that they need.

Jocelyn Davies: In light of the level of grant that Islwyn's local authority, Caerphilly County Borough Council, receives from your Government—and you have just expanded on that—do you think that it can justify the above-inflation council tax increase of 4.9 per cent, the second biggest increase in Wales?

Sue Essex: That is up to Caerphilly council to decide; it was within the guidelines that I gave. It is a democratically elected authority, and I find it surprising that you are trying to undermine that. The council has set that level, and it also has a very good record on performance, scoring 19 out of the 22 measures that we set. That is probably at the top, or near the top, of the league of local authorities in terms of policy agreements. Therefore, it is also delivering on public services. The 4.9 per cent increase was within the 5 per cent increase that I stated. As a local authority, I am sure that it is able with all of its members to ask the right questions on that figure, and it is not for me to interfere any more.

William Graham: You say that it is not for you to interfere, but you know full well the amount of grants and expenditure in general that you can make available to Caerphilly County Borough Council. You will also know that, in that period, the council tax has increased to higher than the Welsh average, yet £60 million has been identified by the council for road repairs. Something is wrong somewhere. Would you care to illuminate us as to what?

Sue Essex: We come back to the fundamental point that we are elected to the Assembly, and councillors are elected to local authorities. We cannot take away the democratic rights and responsibilities of those councils to manage their budgets and to ask questions. Whatever political party is in power, it is there to ask questions and to oversee that process. It is a question that you

ddweud. Bùm yn ymwneud â'r gwaith ar bont Sirhywi, ond mae cynlluniau eraill ar droed a fydd yn golygu y gall pobl leol gael y gwasanaethau y mae arnynt eu hangen.

Jocelyn Davies: Yng ngoleuni lefel y grant y mae awdurdod lleol Islwyn, sef Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, yn ei chael gan eich Llywodraeth—ac yr ydych newydd sôn am hynny—a gredwch y gall gyfiawnhau'r cynnydd o 4.9 y cant yn y dreth gyngor sy'n uwch na chwyddiant, sef y cynnydd mwyaf ond un yng Nghymru?

Sue Essex: Penderfyniad cyngor Caerffili yw hynny; yr oedd o fewn y canllawiau a roddais. Mae'n awdurdod a etholwyd yn ddemocrataidd, a synnaf glywed eich bod am danseilio hynny. Y cyngor sydd wedi pennu'r lefel honno, ac mae ganddo record dda iawn o ran perfformiad, gan sgorio 19 allan o'r 22 o fesurau a osodwyd gennym. Mae'n debyg fod hynny ar frig, neu'n agos at frig, cynghrair yr awdurdodau lleol o ran cytundebau polisi. Felly, mae hefyd yn cyflawni o ran gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Yr oedd y cynnydd o 4.9 y cant o fewn y cynnydd o 5 y cant a bennais. Fel awdurdod lleol, yr wyf yn siŵr, gyda'i holl aelodau, y gall ofyn y cwestiynau cywir am y ffigur hwnnw, ac nid fy lle i yw ymyrryd ddim rhagor.

William Graham: Yr ydych yn dweud nad eich lle chi yw ymyrryd, ond fe wyddoch yn iawn faint o grantiau a gwariant yn gyffredinol y gallwch eu rhoi i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili. Fe wyddoch hefyd, yn y cyfnod hwnnw, fod y dreth gyngor wedi codi'n uwch na'r ganran gyfartalog yng Nghymru, ond eto mae'r cyngor wedi clustnodi £60 miliwn ar gyfer atgyweirio ffyrdd. Mae rhywbeth o'i le rywle. A allwch roi unrhyw oleuni inni ar hyn?

Sue Essex: Dychwelwn at y pwynt sylfaenol, sef ein bod ni'n cael ein hethol i'r Cynulliad a chynghorwyr yn cael eu hethol i awdurdodau lleol. Ni allwn ddileu hawliau democrataidd a chyfrifoldebau'r cynghorau hynny i reoli eu cyllidebau a gofyn cwestiynau. Pa blaid wleidyddol bynnag sydd mewn grym, ei gwaith hi yw gofyn cwestiynau a goruchwylio'r broses honno.

need to put to some of the Caerphilly councillors. It is not for me to get involved in trying to question or undermine details of the management of Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Mae'n gwestiwn y mae angen ichi ei ofyn i rai o gynghorwyr Caerffili. Nid fy nghyfrifoldeb i yw ceisio cwestiynu neu danseilio manylion am reolaeth Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili.

Y Dreth Gyngor Council Tax

Q7 William Graham: Will the Minister outline her considerations on directing local authorities on the level of council tax to be levied for 2007-08? OAQ0925(LGP)

C7 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei hystyriaethau ar gyfarwyddo awdurdodau lleol ar lefel y dreth gyngor a godir ar gyfer 2007-08? OAQ0925(LGP)

Sue Essex: That was very good timing. Local authorities are responsible for setting their own budgets for next year. To assist them in that process, I will be publishing details later today of the provisional local government finance settlement for 2007-08.

Sue Essex: Yr oedd hynny'n amseru da iawn. Mae awdurdodau lleol yn gyfrifol am bennu eu cyllidebau eu hunain ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf. I'w helpu yn y broses honno, byddaf yn cyhoeddi manylion yn ddiweddarach heddiw am setliad cyllid llywodraeth leol dros dro ar gyfer 2007-08.

William Graham: Thank you for your reply, and we look forward to receiving that information. May I draw you on John Prescott's admission that last year's council tax revaluation in Wales was little more than a covert means of raising revenue? What is your opinion of the new domestic rates in Northern Ireland, which are worrying people particularly in that province?

William Graham: Diolch am eich ateb, ac edrychwn ymlaen at gael y wybodaeth honno. A gaf fi dynnu'ch sylw at gyfaddefiad John Prescott fod ailbrisió'r dreth gyngor y llynedd yng Nghymru yn ddim mwy na ffordd lechwraidd o godi refeniw? Beth yw eich barn am y cyfraddau domestig newydd yng Ngogledd Iwerddon, sy'n poeni pobl yn y dalaith honno yn benodol.

Sue Essex: I represent Cardiff North, and I do not think that I need to go across the sea. On the council tax revaluation, the figures are the figures. We have gone ahead and done it; it was difficult to do, but, in retrospect, most people think that it was the right thing to do, because you have to revalue any property tax at some stage. Was it a way of raising revenue? No, it was not. As I have said previously, the council tax yield is comparable to what we have seen in previous years. The last couple of years have seen the lowest council tax levels in Wales. I have asked local authorities to be reasonable in their council tax setting, and I am glad to say that they have been, and that is what the public in Wales wants to see happening.

Sue Essex: Yr wyf yn cynrychioli Gogledd Caerdydd, ac ni chredaf fod angen imi fynd dros y dŵr. O ran ailbrisió'r dreth gyngor, y ffigurau yw'r ffigurau. Yr ydym wedi bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith o ailbrisió; yr oedd yn anodd, ond o edrych yn ôl, cred y mwyafrif mai dyna oedd y peth cywir i'w wneud, am fod rhaid ichi ailbrisió unrhyw dreth eiddo rywbyrd. A oedd yn ffordd o godi refeniw? Nac oedd. Fel y dywedais o'r blaen, mae'r incwm o'r dreth gyngor yn debyg i'r hyn a welwyd yn y gorffennol. Gwelwyd yr incwm isaf o'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i awdurdodau lleol fod yn rhesymol wrth bennu eu treth gyngor, ac yr wyf yn falch dweud iddynt fod yn rhesymol, a dyna y mae'r cyhoedd am ei weld yn digwydd.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Yr wyf wedi synnu braidd gan eich ateb i gwestiwn 6, lle yr oeddech ar y naill

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I am slightly stunned by your response to question 6, in which you said, on

law yn dweud mai mater i awdurdodau lleol yw gosod lefel y dreth gyngor, ond yr oeddech ar y llaw arall yn anfon llythyrau at yr awdurdodau lleol y llynedd yn gofyn iddynt fod yn rhesymol oherwydd yr ailfandio. Ni allwch ei chael hi y ddwy ffordd, Weinidog. Yr ydych naill ai yn gadael i awdurdodau lleol godi'r dreth gyngor neu yr ydych yn ymyrryd, a rhaid ichi gydnabod y bu ichi ymyrryd y llynedd. Mae nifer o awdurdodau lleol, yn enwedig yr awdurdodau llai, yn dweud y byddant yn gorfod cynyddu'r dreth gyngor y flwyddyn nesaf oherwydd bod nifer o wasgfeydd ariannol arnynt. Nid wyf yn ymddiheuro am ddychwelyd at yr hyn yr oeddwn yn eich holi yn ei gylch ddoe, yn ystod y drafodaeth ar y gyllideb, sef yr arbedion effeithlonrwydd sy'n cael eu gorfodi ar awdurdodau lleol flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn. Yr oeddech yn dweud ddoe nad ydych yn derbyn y byddant yn arwain at gwtogiadau yng nghyllidebau ysgolion. Pe baem yn gallu rhoi tystiolaeth uniongyrchol ichi fod hynny'n digwydd, a fydddech yn fodlon ailystyried eich ateb?

2.40 p.m.

Sue Essex: On your first point, we have put a 4.3 per cent growth in the budget for the revenue support grant. Other elements go into that deprivation grant, such as the performance incentive grant, which we have discussed today, and local authority business grants initiative money. There is a range of special grants. Therefore, I think that it is premature for any local authority, or you, to be talking about huge increases in council tax. In the past, I have used the word 'reasonable', and I think that the 5 per cent, twice the rate of inflation, has been seen as reasonable by everyone. As you know, I do not enjoy trying to limit local authorities, but I have asked them to be reasonable and they have responded.

On the 1 per cent efficiency agenda, you are missing the fact that we have not just gone out there and said, 'We want a 1 per cent cash saving on improved efficiency'; we have put a range of support mechanisms in place to help local authorities and others to achieve that. Sums of money have gone through to allow local authorities and others

the one hand, that it is a matter for local authorities to set the level of council tax, and yet, on the other hand you sent letters to local authorities last year asking them to be reasonable, because of the rebanding exercise. You cannot have it both ways, Minister. Either you let local authorities increase the council tax or you intervene, and you must admit that you did intervene last year. Many local authorities, especially the smaller ones, say they will have to increase council tax levels next year because they face a number of financial pressures. I make no apology for returning to what I quizzed you about yesterday, during the discussion on the budget, namely the efficiency savings that are being forced on local authorities year on year. You said yesterday that you do not accept they will lead to cuts in school budgets. If we were able to furnish you with direct evidence that that is happening, would you then be prepared to reconsider your response?

Sue Essex: O ran eich pwynt cyntaf, yr ydym wedi rhoi 4.3 y cant yn ychwanegol yn y gyllideb ar gyfer y grant cynnal refeniw. Caiff elfennau eraill eu cynnwys yn y grant amddifadedd hwnnw, fel grant cymell perfformiad, a drafodwyd gennym heddiw, ac arian mentrau grantiau busnes gan awdurdodau lleol. Mae yna amrywiaeth o grantiau arbennig. Felly, credaf ei bod yn rhy gynnar i unrhyw awdurdod lleol, na chithau, sôn am gynnydd anferthol yn y dreth gyngor. Yn y gorffennol, yr wyf wedi defnyddio'r gair 'rhesymol', a chredaf fod y 5 y cant, sef dwywaith cyfradd chwyddiant, yn rhesymol ym marn pawb. Fel y gwyddoch, nid wyf yn mwynhau ceisio cyfyngu ar awdurdodau lleol, ond yr wyf wedi gofyn iddynt fod yn rhesymol ac maent wedi ymateb.

O ran yr agenda effeithlonrwydd o 1 y cant, yr ydych yn anghofio'r ffaith nad ydym wedi mynnu hyn drwy ddweud, 'Yr ydym am arbed 1 y cant drwy wella effeithlonrwydd'; yr ydym wedi rhoi nifer o ddulliau cymorth ar waith i helpu awdurdodau lleol ac eraill i gyflawni hynny. Rhoddwyd symiau arian i alluogi awdurdodau lleol ac eraill i wneud

to make sensible savings. Those sensible savings go back to the front line. We do not physically take any money from anyone; that money goes back to the front line. Of course, you are free to send me whatever you want to send me, and I will do my best to respond.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): I heard your replies to question 6 and compared them with your replies to question 7. In response to question 6, you say that local authorities are free to set their own tax base; in response to question 7, you say that, if they overstep the mark, you may introduce some punitive measures against them, as you started to do in previous years. Can you tell us what bar you have set in your mind to restrict local authority tax rises next year?

Sue Essex: The question on whether it was reasonable was linked to the rise in Caerphilly of 4.9 per cent, which—unless my mathematics are wrong—comes within the 5 per cent that we said was reasonable last year. Therefore, I do not know why anyone would try to condemn Caerphilly for coming within that. I then suggested that it was up to the local authority members, who sit there and who are part and parcel of the council that determines a budget level, to ask those questions. You need to consider the context of each question. I have also said that the days of excessive council tax rises are gone. I want to challenge you, because you think that it is right and proper to challenge me. Are you not content to sign up to reasonable council tax rises this year? If so, I would be very surprised. That is what the public of Wales wants. I am clear as a politician that people find excessive rises and the volatility of council tax rises unacceptable. They cannot understand the reasons for them, and it means that they cannot plan their budgets. I think that a rise of 4.3 per cent in the revenue support grant is reasonable, and has been welcomed as such by the WLGA. I hope that local authorities will be able to plan on that basis.

Michael German: I am sure, Minister, that you realise that it is not your job to ask me

arbedion synhwyrol. Mae'r arbedion synhwyrol hynny'n dod yn ôl i'r rheng flaen. Nid ydym yn gorfforol yn cymryd unrhyw arian oddi wrth neb; aiff yr arian hwnnw'n ôl i'r rheng flaen. Wrth gwrs, mae croeso ichi anfon beth bynnag a fyynnwch ataf, a gwnaf fy ngorau i ymateb.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Clywais eich atebion i gwestiwn 6 a'u cymharu â'ch atebion i gwestiwn 7. Mewn ymateb i gwestiwn 6, dywedwch fod awdurdodau lleol yn rhydd i bennu eu sylfaen treth eu hunain; mewn ymateb i gwestiwn 7, dywedwch, os byddant yn mynd yn rhy bell, y byddwch yn cyflwyno mesurau cosbi yn eu herbyn o bosibl, fel y dechreuasoch ei wneud yn y gorffennol. A allwch ddweud wrthym pa ffigur yr ydych wedi'i bennu yn eich meddwl i gyfyngu codiadau treth gyngor awdurdodau lleol y flwyddyn nesaf?

Sue Essex: Yr oedd y cwestiwn a oedd yn rhesymol yn gysylltiedig â'r cynnydd o 4.9 y cant yng Nghaerffili, sydd—oni bai bod fy symiau'n anghywir—o fewn y 5 y cant y dywedasom ei fod yn rhesymol y llynedd. Felly, ni wn pam y byddai neb am gondemnio Caerffili am ddod o fewn hynny. Yna, awgrymais mai cyfrifoldeb aelodau'r awdurdod lleol, sy'n eistedd yno ac sy'n rhan annatod o'r cyngor sy'n pennu lefel cyllideb, yw gofyn y cwestiynau hynny. Mae angen ichi ystyried cyd-destun pob cwestiwn. Yr wyf hefyd wedi dweud fod y dyddiau o gynnydd eithafol yn y dreth gyngor wedi darfod. Yr wyf am eich herio chi, am eich bod yn credu ei bod yn iawn ac yn briodol fy herio i. Onid ydych yn fodlon pennu cynnydd rhesymol yn y dreth gyngor eleni? Byddwn yn synnu'n fawr os ydych. Dyna y mae'r cyhoedd yng Nghymru am ei gael. Yr wyf yn sicr fel gwleidydd fod pobl yn credu bod cynnydd eithafol yn y dreth gyngor a'i natur gyfnewidiol yn annerbyniol. Ni allant ddeall y rhesymau drostynt, ac mae'n golygu na allant gynllunio'u cyllidebau. Credaf fod cynnydd o 4.3 y cant yn y grant cynnal refeniw yn rhesymol, ac mae CLILC wedi'i groesawu. Gobeithio y gall awdurdodau lleol gynllunio ar y sail honno.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn siŵr, Weinidog, eich bod yn sylweddoli nad eich

questions, though I am quite happy to answer them outside the Chamber. Within this Chamber, it is our job to ask you the questions. The question that I asked you—and I think that I have heard an answer, but perhaps you would like to confirm it—was whether you expect all local authorities to meet the 5 per cent threshold. Is that your bar? Perhaps we can then ask you subsequent questions about whether you will impose that. My simple question was, what is your bar? If it is 5 per cent, as you seem to be saying, then let us hear that that is the case.

Sue Essex: First, I am not saying any figure, because this is a provisional local government settlement on which there will be consultation. We will see where we are at the end of that. It is far too premature to say. It is perfectly reasonable for me, and other Members, to ask questions of you, because you hide behind local government democracy. I am not saying that it should be in this Chamber, but maybe you would like to think about this, and answer these questions outside the Chamber.

Many of you like to have it both ways. You like to say that you are the defenders of low council tax, and you like to tell your local government colleagues that they have complete freedom and that you, as Liberals, will stand up for that freedom. You need to make it clear to the public what side of the fence you are on. I have been clear, over the last few years, that I do not like putting in limits, but I felt that I needed to give some guidance to local authorities on what the level should be, as well as to the police, as police precepts can be quite volatile in some authorities. Therefore, I am being clear. I have not set a limit yet, because it is still early days, but I repeat that it is a reasonable settlement and I think that, in the light of that, the public—the council tax payers—would expect a reasonable response in terms of the council tax levels set by their local authorities.

dyletswydd chi yw gofyn cwestiynau i mi, er fy mod yn ddigon bodlon eu hateb y tu allan i'r Siambr. Yn y Siambr hon, ein dyletswydd ni yw gofyn y cwestiynau i chi. Y cwestiwn a ofynnais ichi—a chredaf imi glywed yr ateb, ond efallai yr hoffech ei gadarnhau—oedd a ydych yn disgwyl i bob awdurdod lleol gyrraedd y trothwy o 5 y cant. Ai dyna eich llinyn mesur? Efallai y gallwn ofyn cwestiynau dilynol ichi a fyddwch yn gosod hynny. Fy nghwestiwn syml oedd beth yw eich llinyn mesur? Os 5 y cant ydyw, fel yr ymddengys eich bod yn ei ddweud, gadewch inni glywed hynny.

Sue Essex: Yn gyntaf, nid wyf am roi ffigur o gwbl, oherwydd setliad llywodraeth leol dros dro yw hyn y byddwn yn ymgynghori arno. Cawnn weld beth fydd y sefyllfa ar ôl hynny. Mae hi lawer yn rhy gynnar i ddweud. Mae'n gwbl resymol imi, ac Aelodau eraill, ofyn cwestiynau ichi, gan eich bod yn cuddio y tu ôl i ddemocratiaeth llywodraeth leol. Nid wyf yn dweud mai yn y Siambr hon y dylaid gwneud hynny, ond efallai yr hoffech ystyried hyn, ac ateb y cwestiynau hyn y tu allan i'r Siambr.

Mae nifer ohonoch am ei chael y ddwy ffordd. Yr ydych yn hoff o ddweud mai chi yw amddiffynwyr treth gyngor isel, ac yr ydych yn hoff o ddweud wrth eich cyd-aelodau mewn llywodraeth leol fod ganddynt rwydd hynt ac y byddwch chi, fel Rhyddfrydwyr, yn amddiffyn y rhyddid hwnnw. Mae angen ichi egluro wrth y cyhoedd ar ba ochr i'r clawdd yr ydych chi'n sefyll. Yr wyf fi wedi egluro, dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, nad wyf yn hoffi gosod terfynau, ond yr oeddwn yn teimlo bod angen imi roi rhywfaint o arweiniad i awdurdodau lleol am yr hyn y dylai'r lefel fod, yn ogystal ag i'r heddlu, gan fod praeseptau'r heddlu yn gallu bod yn ddigon cyfnewidiol mewn ambell awdurdod. Felly, yr wyf yn egluro fy safbwynt. Nid wyf wedi gosod terfyn eto, oherwydd mae hi'n dal yn gynnar, ond ailadroddaf ei fod yn setliad rhesymol, a chredaf, yn sgîl hynny, y byddai'r cyhoedd—a phobl sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor—yn disgwyl ymateb rhesymol am lefelau'r dreth gyngor a bennir gan eu hawdurdodau lleol.

Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

Michael German: Can you confirm, Presiding Officer, that it is the job of Assembly Members to scrutinise the Minister, and not the job of the Minister to scrutinise Assembly Members? If we have it wrong, perhaps you could advise us accordingly. If any Assembly Member wants to ask me questions, I am perfectly willing to be asked them outside of the Chamber, as I explained.

The Presiding Officer: I entirely agree that it is the job of Assembly Members to ask questions of the Minister, but I believe that the Minister is able, and that it would be in order, to sometimes reply to questions with a rhetorical question, as I believe that it is called. This is an ancient device in philosophy, and I think that it might be permitted in this Chamber although not, perhaps, for as long as 45 minutes—but I know that that is partly my fault.

Michael German: A allwch gadarnhau, Lywydd, mai gwaith Aelodau'r Cynulliad yw craffu ar waith y Gweinidog, ac nad gwaith y Gweinidog yw craffu ar waith Aelodau'r Cynulliad? Os nad yw hynny'n gywir, efallai y gallech ein cyngori am hynny. Os hoffai unrhyw Aelod o'r Cynulliad ofyn cwestiynau imi, yr wyf yn fwy na pharod iddynt ofyn y cwestiynau hynny imi y tu allan i'r Siambr, fel yr esboniais.

Y Llywydd: Cytunaf yn llwyr mai gwaith Aelodau'r Cynulliad yw gofyn cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog, ond credaf y gall y Gweinidog ymateb i gwestiynau weithiau drwy ofyn cwestiwn rhethregol, fel y'i gelwir, mi gredaf, ac y byddai hynny mewn trefn. Dyfais hynafol ym maes athroniaeth yw hon, a chredaf y gellid ei chaniatáu yn y Siambr hon er nad efallai am 45 munud—ond gwn mai fy mai i yn rhannol yw hynny.

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

Gweithgareddau Cronfa Ddysgu Undebau Cymru Activities of the Wales Union Learning Fund

Q1 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the activities of the Wales union learning fund? OAQ1065(ELL)

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): The Wales union learning fund has supported a significant programme of union learning in Wales. It has provided over £4.6 million for 104 projects in a variety of unions across Wales. Another round of bids will be submitted shortly and I will announce the successful projects in the new year.

Ann Jones: Thank you for the encouraging answer. I am sure that you will join me in celebrating the outstanding success of the union learning fund. My experience, prior to the union learning fund, was that the Fire Brigades Union gave me my second chance at education and my chance to learn while

C1 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am weithgareddau cronfa ddysgu undebau Cymru? OAQ1065(ELL)

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Davidson): Mae cronfa ddysgu undebau Cymru wedi cefnogi rhaglen sylweddol o ddysgu undebau yng Nghymru. Mae'r rhaglen wedi darparu dros £4.6 miliwn ar gyfer 104 o brosiectau mewn amrywiaeth o undebau ledled Cymru. Cyflwynir cylch arall o geisiadau yn fuan, a byddaf yn cyhoeddi'r prosiectau llwyddiannus yn y flwyddyn newydd.

Ann Jones: Diolch ichi am yr ateb calonogol. Yr wyf yn siŵr yr ymunwch â mi i ddatlu llwyddiant ysgubol y gronfa ddysgu undebau. Fy mhrofiad i, cyn sefydlu'r gronfa ddysgu undebau, oedd fod Undeb y Frigâd Dân wedi rhoi cyfle imi ddychwelyd at addysg a chyfle i ddysgu tra oeddwn yn

being a union official. It is encouraging to see that many union learning representatives now are people who have never been union representatives before, the majority of whom are women, which is good.

I recently attended the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers' national conference, at which I heard how it is helping members through the union learning fund. It currently has a £96,000 project across USDAW workplaces in Wales. Together with its partners, Sainsburys, it is offering training in areas such as information technology, literacy and numeracy, and is delivering some impressive initial results. Do you agree that rather than axing the union learning fund, as the Tories proposed in the last general election, we should be aiming to build on its success and the workforce development and move forward to ensure that we get more people, who may not have taken up formal learning previously, signed up through that learning route?

Jane Davidson: The Wales union learning fund is important to us for two reasons. First, it provides real opportunities for second-chance learning. Secondly, it is one of our most successful vehicles in tackling issues around literacy, numeracy and information technology. Therefore, I intend to warmly support the Wales union learning fund in future, and I am sure that we all look forward to the next round of successful projects, reflecting our contribution of £1 million per year.

Janet Ryder: One of the aims of that fund, as you quite rightly said, is to encourage adults back into learning, and many of those learners are part-time learners, therefore the Graham review is incredibly important. It was hoped, when the Graham review was published, that we would be able to establish a new regime for part-time students in the same academic year in which the new regime for full-time students will come in, that is, the 2007-08 academic year. As yet, although we have discussed it in committee, I do not think that we have had a firm response from you as to which recommendation you are going to support—albeit there was a great deal of

swyddog gyda'r undeb. Mae'n galonogol gweld bod nifer o gynrychiolwyr dysgu undebau bellach yn bobl nad ydynt erioed wedi bod yn gynrychiolwyr undeb o'r blaen, a'r mwyafrif yn ferched, sy'n beth da.

Bûm yng nghynhadledd genedlaethol yr Undeb Gweithwyr Siopau, Dosbarthu a Gwaith Perthynol yn ddiweddar a chlywais sut y mae'n helpu aelodau drwy'r gronfa ddysgu undebau. Ar hyn o bryd, mae prosiect gwerth £96,000 ar waith yng ngweithleoedd yr Undeb yng Nghymru. Ar y cyd â'i bartneriaid, Sainsburys, mae'n cynnig hyfforddiant mewn meysydd fel technoleg gwybodaeth, llythrennedd a rhifedd, ac mae'n cael rhai canlyniadau cychwynnol ardderchog. A gytunwch, yn hytrach na chael gwared ar y gronfa ddysgu undebau, fel y cynigiodd y Torïaid adeg yr etholiad cyffredinol diwethaf, y dylem fod yn anelu at adeiladu ar lwyddiant y gronfa a gwaith datblygu'r gweithlu, a bwrw ati i sicrhau bod mwy o bobl, nad ydynt efallai wedi dilyn llwybr dysgu ffurfiol yn flaenorol, yn dilyn y llwybr dysgu hwnnw?

Jane Davidson: Mae cronfa ddysgu undebau Cymru yn bwysig inni am ddau reswm. Yn gyntaf, mae'n rhoi ail gyfle gwirioneddol i ddysgu. Yn ail, mae'n un o'n dulliau mwyaf llwyddiannus i fynd i'r afael â materion llythrennedd, rhifedd a thechnoleg gwybodaeth. Felly, yr wyf yn bwriadu cefnogi cronfa ddysgu undebau Cymru yn frwd yn y dyfodol, ac yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod i gyd yn edrych ymlaen at y cylch nesaf o brosiectau llwyddiannus, gan adlewyrchu ein cyfraniad o £1 filiwn y flwyddyn.

Janet Ryder: Un o nodau'r gronfa honno, fel yr oeddech yn ei ddweud yn gywir ddigon, yw annog oedolion i ddechreio i ddysgu. Mae nifer o'r dysgwyr hynny'n ddysgwyr rhan amser, ac felly mae adolygiad Graham yn bwysig iawn. Y gobaith, pan gyhoeddwyd adolygiad Graham, oedd y byddem yn gallu sefydlu system newydd ar gyfer myfyrwyr rhan amser yn yr un flwyddyn academaidd ag y bydd y system newydd ar gyfer myfyrwyr llawn amser yn cael ei chyflwyno, hynny yw, y flwyddyn academaidd 2007-08. Hyd yma, er inni drafod hynny yn y pwyllgor, ni chredaf ein bod wedi cael ymateb cadarn gennych am ba argymhelliad y bwriadwch ei

support for one recommendation—and how you are going to action the recommendations in that report. At what stage is the report now? Will we see a new regime introduced by the next academic year?

gefnogi—er bod llawer iawn o gefnogaeth i un argymhelliad—na sut y bwriadwch weithredu'r argymhellion yn yr adroddiad hwnnw. Ble mae'r adroddiad yn sefyll yn awr? A fyddwn yn gweld cyflwyno system newydd erbyn y flwyddyn academaidd nesaf?

2.50 p.m.

Jane Davidson: My intention is to bring the Government response to the report to the next ministerial report to the committee in November.

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn bwriadu cynnwys ymateb y Llywodraeth i'r adroddiad yn yr adroddiad gweinidogol nesaf i'r pwyllgor ym mis Tachwedd.

Janet Ryder: May I press you further on that? It is fine to include the response in your ministerial report, but, given the amount of weight and time that was given to the Rees review on full-time students, surely, as 41 per cent of students in Wales are part-time students—and in order to encourage people into part-time learning—they deserve just as much time from the Assembly and to be considered to be just as relevant. Do you intend to bring the report to Plenary for debate before the end of the term, so that we can support, and perhaps boost, the interest in part-time learning?

Janet Ryder: A allaf bwysu arnoch ymhellach ar hynny? Mae'n iawn cynnwys yr ymateb yn eich adroddiad gweinidogol, ond o gofio'r pwys a roddwyd ar adolygiad Rees ar fyfyrwyr llawn amser a'r amser a neilltuwyd iddo, gan fod 41 y cant o fyfyrwyr yng Nghymru yn fyfyrwyr rhan amser—ac er mwyn annog pobl i ddysgu'n rhan amser—onid ydynt yn haeddu'r un faint o amser gan y Cynulliad a chael eu hystyried yr un mor berthnasol? A ydych yn bwriadu cyflwyno'r adroddiad gerbron Cyfarfod Llawn i'w drafod cyn diwedd y tymor, fel y gallwn gefnogi'r diddordeb mewn dysgu rhan amser ac efallai roi hwb iddo?

Jane Davidson: You must remember that this Government set up the Graham review. We were very happy to endorse in principle the outcome of the recommendations, we worked with the committee to ensure that there were ample opportunities to debate the report in committee, we have allocated provisional funding for it, and, as I said, I will bring forward the Government response to the recommendations in my next ministerial report to the committee.

Jane Davidson: Rhaid ichi gofio mai'r Llywodraeth hon a sefydlodd adolygiad Graham. Yr oeddem yn fodlon iawn cefnogi egwyddor canlyniad yr argymhellion, buom yn gweithio gyda'r pwyllgor i sicrhau bod digon o gyfleoedd i drafod yr adroddiad yn y pwyllgor, yr ydym wedi neilltuo arian dros dro ar ei gyfer, ac fel y dywedais, byddaf yn cyflwyno ymateb y Llywodraeth i'r argymhellion yn fy adroddiad gweinidogol nesaf i'r pwyllgor.

Ansawdd Addysg Uwchradd The Quality of Secondary Education

Q2 Gwenda Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on the quality of secondary education in Wales? OAQ1073(ELL)

C2 Gwenda Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ansawdd addysg uwchradd yng Nghymru? OAQ1073(ELL)

Jane Davidson: The quality of secondary education in Wales is good and consistently improving. At GCSE, 53 per cent of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at A* to C in 2006, up 6 percentage points since 1998-99. At A-level, 68 per cent of pupils achieved

Jane Davidson: Mae ansawdd addysg uwchradd yng Nghymru yn dda ac yn gwella'n gyson. Ar lefel TGAU, enillodd 53 y cant o ddisgyblion bum TGAU graddau A* i C neu fwy yn 2006, cynnydd o 6 phwynt canran er 1998-99. Ar lefel Safon Uwch,

two or more A to C passes, up more than 6 percentage points since 2000-01.

Gwenda Thomas: Will the Minister join me in congratulating Neath Port Talbot local education authority and its secondary schools, which, according to David Reynolds, the professor of education at the University of Plymouth, writing in a recent article in the *Times Educational Supplement*, provide the best education in Wales? The article looked at the value added by secondary schools, enabling pupils to achieve more than predicted, despite their schools being located in one of the most deprived areas in Wales. I am sure that you will agree that this illustrates the effective partnership between local schools and the local education authority.

Jane Davidson: It is certainly true to say that the results of Neath and Port Talbot are extremely impressive. I pay tribute to all those involved—the councillors, the teachers and the local education authority for its support, which has always been rated very well by Estyn. The results are impressive: the authority is the fourth best in Wales, in terms of pupils achieving two or more A-levels; the fifth best in Wales, in terms of core subject indicator at GCSE; and the sixth best in Wales at achieving grades A* to C. It demonstrates that an authority that is absolutely committed to tackling issues around disadvantage is able to perform very well. It is a lesson from which other local authorities can learn.

William Graham: Do you agree that, once again, we must examine ways to improve standards in mathematics and science in order that we do not fall too far behind the standards set by the rest of the United Kingdom?

Jane Davidson: We must always look at all our subjects, and not just mathematics and science, when considering how to take forward our curriculum. At key stage 2, we perform ahead of other parts of the UK in all subjects. Therefore, you might wish to be more precise about your particular concern.

enillodd 68 y cant o ddisgyblion ddwy radd A i C neu fwy, cynnydd o fwy na 6 phwynt canran er 2000-01.

Gwenda Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ymuno â mi i longyfarch awdurdod addysg lleol Castell-nedd Port Talbot a'i ysgolion uwchradd sydd, yn ôl David Reynolds, yr athro addysg ym Mhrifysgol Plymouth, mewn erthygl yn ddiweddar yn y *Times Educational Supplement*, yn darparu'r addysg orau yng Nghymru? Edrychai'r erthygl ar y gwerth a ychwanegir gan ysgolion uwchradd, sy'n galluogi disgyblion i gyflawni mwy nag a ragwelir, er bod eu hysgolion yn un o'r ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch fod hyn yn dangos y bartneriaeth effeithiol rhwng ysgolion lleol a'r awdurdod addysg lleol.

Jane Davidson: Yn ddiau, mae'n gywir dweud bod y canlyniadau yng Nghastell-nedd a Phort Talbot yn ardderchog. Hoffwn roi teyrnged i bawb a oedd yn gysylltiedig â hwy—y cynghorwyr, yr athrawon a'r awdurdod addysg lleol, sydd wedi cael ymateb da iawn gan Estyn bob amser, am ei gymorth. Mae'r canlyniadau'n ardderchog: yr awdurdod yw'r pedwerydd awdurdod gorau yng Nghymru o ran nifer y disgyblion sy'n cael dwy Safon Uwch neu fwy; y pumed awdurdod gorau yng Nghymru o ran dangosydd pynciau craidd ar lefel TGAU; a'r chweched awdurdod gorau yng Nghymru o ran ennill graddau A* i C. Mae'n dangos bod awdurdod sydd wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr i fynd i'r afael â materion anfantais yn gallu perfformio'n dda iawn. Mae'n wers y gall awdurdodau lleol eraill ddysgu ohoni.

William Graham: A gytunwch fod yn rhaid inni, unwaith eto, ystyried ffyrdd o wella safonau mewn mathemateg a gwyddoniaeth er mwyn sicrhau nad ydym ar ei hôl hi'n ormodol o'n cymharu â'r safonau a osodir gan weddill y Deyrnas Unedig?

Jane Davidson: Rhaid inni bob amser ystyried pob un o'n pynciau, nid mathemateg a gwyddoniaeth yn unig, wrth ystyried sut i ddatblygu ein cwricwlwm. Yr ydym yn perfformio'n well na rannau eraill o'r DU ym mhob pwnc yng nghyfnod allweddol 2. Felly, efallai yr hoffech roi mwy o fanylion am eich

pryder penodol.

William Graham: On a similar theme, do you agree that the number of children leaving school in Wales without qualifications is at odds with your assertion that secondary education is improving?

William Graham: Ar hyd yr un llinellau, a gytunwch fod nifer y plant sy'n gadael yr ysgol yng Nghymru heb gymwysterau yn groes i'ch honiad fod addysg uwchradd yn gwella?

Jane Davidson: My assertion that secondary education is improving is borne out by the improved results year on year, and by the chief inspector's report. We remain concerned about the number of young people leaving school without qualifications, and we have already given our commitment in committee and to the Assembly to dealing with people who are not in employment, education or training post 16. That commitment will be reiterated in 'The Learning Country: Vision into Action', which we are launching tomorrow.

Jane Davidson: Caiff fy honiad fod addysg uwchradd yn gwella ei profi gan y gwelliant mewn canlyniadau flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn, a chan adroddiad y prif arolygydd. Yr ydym yn dal i bryderu am nifer y bobl ifanc sy'n gadael yr ysgol heb gymwysterau, ac yr ydym eisoes wedi rhoi ein hymrwymiad i'r pwyllgor ac i'r Cynulliad y byddwn yn mynd i'r afael â phobl nad ydynt mewn gwaith, addysg na hyfforddiant ar ôl 16. Caiff yr ymrwymiad hwnnw ei ailadrodd yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu: Gweledigaeth ar Waith' y byddwn yn cael ei lansio yfory.

Peter Black: You say that you rely on the results as an indicator of how secondary education is improving, and yet is not that over-reliance on the results one reason why vocational education at secondary level is losing parity with academic education? How can you raise the esteem of those children who are studying vocational subjects, and increase their importance?

Peter Black: Dywedwch eich bod yn dibynnu ar y canlyniadau i ddangos sut mae addysg uwchradd yn gwella, ac eto onid yw'r orddibyniaeth honno ar y canlyniadau yn un rheswm pam nad yw addysg alwedigaethol yn cael ei hystyried yn gydradd ag addysg academaidd ar lefel uwchradd? Sut y gallwch godi hunan-barch y plant hynny sy'n astudio pynciau galwedigaethol, a chynyddu eu pwysigrwydd?

Jane Davidson: There are three key ways to do that: first is through the Welsh baccalaureate, the roll-out of which we announced last week. That demonstrates unequivocally our support for vocational qualifications, alongside and with equal parity to GCSEs or A-levels under the credit and qualifications framework.

Jane Davidson: Mae tair ffordd allweddol i wneud hynny: y cyntaf yw drwy fagloriaeth Cymru, y cyhoeddwyd y broses o'i chyflwyno yr wythnos diwethaf. Mae hynny'n dangos yn glir ein bod yn cefnogi cymwysterau galwedigaethol, ochr yn ochr â chymwysterau TGAU neu Safon Uwch, ac yn gydradd â hwy, o dan y fframwaith credydau a chymwysterau.

Secondly, we can ensure that new vocational courses are available, and the 14-19 learning pathways, with its substantial extra investment from 2007-08, is looking at making new vocational opportunities available throughout Wales. Thirdly, we must work with employers on ensuring that they recognise the vocational qualifications. They have already told us that they want to see an improvement in key skills, such as literacy and numeracy. They want young people who can solve problems and who can work

Yn ail, gallwn sicrhau bod cyrsiau galwedigaethol newydd ar gael, ac mae'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19, gyda'r buddsoddiad ychwanegol sylweddol o 2007-08, yn ceisio sicrhau bod cyfleoedd galwedigaethol newydd ar gael ledled Cymru. Yn drydydd, rhaid inni weithio gyda chyflogwyr i sicrhau eu bod yn cydnabod y cymwysterau galwedigaethol. Maent wedi sôn wrthym eisoes eu bod am weld gwelliant mewn sgiliau allweddol, fel llythrennedd a rhifedd. Maent am gael pobl ifanc sy'n gallu datrys

independently, and that is why all of those aspects are included in the mainstream of the Welsh baccalaureate.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer. The Welsh baccalaureate is clearly important, but most secondary schools still concentrate on academic subjects. Those who try to take on vocational subjects find it costly, and difficult to get into the culture of the school. Should you work in partnership with local government to stress the importance of vocational education and to try to get some secondary schools to take this more seriously?

Jane Davidson: We work closely with local government on this issue and I discussed it at a previous meeting with Assembly Government officials and all the cabinet members and directors of education. However, it is also important that secondary schools do not try to reinvent the wheel. They work closely with colleges, which can offer vocational provision. That is why our funding for 14 to 19-year-olds will also fund those collaborative agendas to ensure that young people in Wales have greater vocational opportunities. The review by Professor Pring from Oxford University, which is part of the Nuffield review of education for 14 to 19-year-olds, pays tribute to the Welsh approach in terms of the baccalaureate and the collaborative activity designed to achieve outcomes in vocational education.

problemau a gweithio'n annibynnol, a dyna pam mae pob un o'r agweddau hynny wedi'u cynnwys ym mhrif ffrwd bagloriaeth Cymru.

Peter Black: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. Mae bagloriaeth Cymru yn amlwg yn bwysig, ond mae'r rhan fwyaf o ysgolion uwchradd yn dal i ganolbwyntio ar bynciau academaidd. Mae'r rhai sy'n ceisio cynnig pynciau galwedigaethol yn cael bod hynny'n gostus, ac yn cael anhawster i'w cynnwys yn niwylliant yr ysgol. A ddylech weithio mewn partneriaeth â llywodraeth leol i bwysleisio pwysigrwydd addysg alwedigaethol a cheisio sicrhau bod rhai ysgolion uwchradd yn ystyried hyn yn fwy o ddifrif?

Jane Davidson: Yr ydym yn cydweithio'n agos â llywodraeth leol ar y mater hwn, a thrafodais y mater mewn cyfarfod blaenorol gyda swyddogion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, pob aelod o'r cabinet a phob cyfarwyddwr addysg. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig hefyd nad yw ysgolion uwchradd yn ceisio ailddyfeisio'r olwyn. Maent yn cydweithio'n agos â cholegau, sy'n gallu cynnig darpariaeth alwedigaethol. Dyma pam y bydd ein harian ar gyfer pobl ifanc 14 i 19 oed hefyd yn ariannu'r agendâu cydweithredol hynny er mwyn sicrhau bod pobl ifanc yng Nghymru yn cael mwy o gyfleoedd galwedigaethol. Mae'r adolygiad gan yr Athro Pring o Brifysgol Rhydychen, sy'n rhan o adolygiad Nuffield o addysg i bobl ifanc 14 i 19 oed, yn rhoi teyrnged i'r dull yng Nghymru o ran y fagloriaeth a'r gweithgarwch cydweithredol sydd wedi'i gynllunio i sicrhau canlyniadau ym maes addysg alwedigaethol.

Oedolion sy'n Dysgu Cymraeg Adults Learning Welsh

C3 Eleanor Burnham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am niferoedd yr oedolion sy'n dysgu Cymraeg? OAQ1046(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Mae'r data mwyaf diweddar yn dangos bod dros 25,000 o bobl wedi cofrestru ar gyfer cyrsiau Cymraeg i oedolion. Mae gan y cynllun Cymraeg i oedolion rôl arbennig o bwysig i'w chwarae wrth wireddu ein gweledigaeth o Gymru ddwyieithog, ac yr ydym yn wrthi'n

Q3 Eleanor Burnham: Will the Minister make a statement on the numbers of adults learning Welsh? OAQ1046(ELL)

Jane Davidson: The most recent data shows that over 25,000 people have registered on Welsh for adults courses. The Welsh for adults scheme has a very important role to play in achieving our vision of a bilingual Wales, and we are currently restructuring in order to significantly increase the number of

ailstrwythuro er mwyn cynyddu'n sylweddol y nifer o ddysgwyr rhugl.

Eleanor Burnham: Hoffwn gymeradwyo'r gwaith diwyd y mae'r mentrau iaith yn eu gwneud. Fodd bynnag, mae wastad lle i wella ac yr wyf yn dod ar draws llawer o bobl sydd yn methu cael mynediad i wersi. Hoffwn wybod yn union faint o fuddsoddiad yr ydych yn ei wneud mewn addysg i oedolion a faint o adnoddau sydd ar gael ar gyfer oedolion. Faint yn fwy y gallwch ei ddarparu er mwyn sicrhau bod mwy o oedolion yn cael gwell cyfle—nid yn unig i ddilyn cyrsiau ffurfiol, ond i ddysgu iaith bob dydd?

Jane Davidson: Gweithiaf yn agos gyda'r fenter iaith yn fy ardal i. Credaf fod rôl y mentrau iaith ledled Cymru yn bwysig. Mae £2.7 miliwn ar gael i ddatblygu addysg Gymraeg i oedolion ac y mae £5.6 miliwn hefyd ar gael ar gyfer 31 o ddarparwyr i sicrhau bod cyrsiau ar gael.

3.00 p.m.

Leanne Wood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ymuno â mi wrth ganmol yr athrawon Cymraeg arbennig sydd gennym yng Nghymru, yn enwedig y rhai hynny sy'n dysgu oedolion? Hefyd, a wnaiff y Gweinidog ganmol gwaith da y diweddar Chris Rees, a sefydlodd y cwrs Wlpan yn y Barri yn 1973? Yn sgîl llwyddiant y cwrs hwnnw, pa gynlluniau sydd ganddi i ymestyn ei fformat ar draws Cymru ar gyfer oedolion a phlant?

Jane Davidson: Llongyfarchiadau, Leanne, ar ofyn cwestiwn yn Gymraeg. Yr wyf yn hapus i sôn am etifeddiaeth Chris Rees, gan mai ef oedd yr athro ar fy nghwrs Wlpan i yn 1981. Yr oedd yn athro ysbrydoledig, ac fe'm cefnogodd i ddatblygu digon o hyder i ddefnyddio'r iaith. Yr wyf yn bwriadu gweithio'n agos gyda'r canolfannau newydd ar gyfer Cymraeg i oedolion, i wneud yn siŵr bod mwy o ddewis ledled Cymru, yn dilyn y cyhoeddiad am y trefniadau newydd.

Lisa Francis: It is important to congratulate the work of the mentrau iaith in this field. However, how is the Minister and the Government monitoring the situation in terms of keeping records, not only on the number of

fluent learners.

Eleanor Burnham: I should like to applaud the hard work done by the mentrau iaith. However, there is always room for improvement, and I come across many people who are unable to access lessons. I should like to know exactly how much investment you are making in adult education and how much resources are available for adults. How much more can you provide to ensure that more adults have better opportunities—not only to undertake formal courses, but to learn everyday language?

Jane Davidson: I work closely with the menter iaith in my area. I believe the role of mentrau iaith across Wales is important. A sum of £2.7 million is available to develop Welsh education for adults, and £5.6 million is also available for 31 providers to ensure that courses are available.

Leanne Wood: Will the Minister join me in praising the work of the excellent Welsh teachers we have in Wales, especially those who teach Welsh for adults? Also, will the Minister praise the work done by the late Chris Rees, who established the Ulpan course in Barry in 1973? Based on the success of that course, what plans does she have to extend its format across Wales for both adults and children?

Jane Davidson: Congratulations, Leanne, on asking a question in Welsh. I am happy to talk about Chris Rees's legacy, as he was the teacher on my Ulpan course in 1981. He was an inspirational teacher, and supported me in developing the confidence to use the language. I intend to co-operate closely with the new Welsh for adults centres, to ensure that there is more choice throughout Wales, following the announcement about the new arrangements.

Lisa Francis: Mae'n bwysig llongyfarch gwaith y mentrau iaith yn y maes hwn. Fodd bynnag, sut mae'r Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth yn monitro'r sefyllfa o ran cadw cofnodion, nid yn unig am nifer y bobl sy'n

people who undertake this activity, but also to what level and competency they learn the language, on what motivated them to do so in the first place, on how many teachers are required for this purpose and on what resources need to be channelled into acquiring more Welsh language for adults teachers?

Jane Davidson: We have seen a dramatic increase in numbers, from 15,900 in 1994-95, to nearly 25,500 enrolments 10 years later. Therefore, it is a huge increase and a welcome one, as I am sure that you agree. One reason why we reorganised the Welsh for adults provision is that it was patchy across Wales, and we wanted to ensure that there were similar quality standards operating across Wales; that is why we now have six dedicated centres. Although you would not, in a sense, see change on the ground today, you will do so by 2007. We are formally launching the six centres on 17 November, at what will also be a training event for tutors and an opportunity for best practice to be shared. That will drive this agenda forward.

ymgymryd â'r gweithgaredd hwn, ond hefyd i ba lefel a chymhwysedd y maent yn dysgu'r iaith, beth a'u cymhellodd i wneud hynny yn y lle cyntaf, faint o athrawon y mae eu hangen i gyflawni'r diben hwn, a pha adnoddau y mae angen eu sianelu i gael mwy o athrawon Cymraeg i oedolion?

Jane Davidson: Gwelsom gynnydd dramatig mewn niferoedd, o 15,900 yn 1994-95 i bron i 25,500 o gofrestriadau 10 mlynedd yn ddiweddarach. Felly, mae'n gynnydd enfawr ac i'w groesawu, fel yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch. Un rheswm pam yr ad-drefnwyd y ddarpariaeth Cymraeg i oedolion gennym yw ei bod yn anghyson ledled Cymru, ac yr oeddem am sicrhau bod yna safonau ansawdd tebyg ledled Cymru; dyna pam mae gennym bellach chwe chanolfan benodol. Er na fydddech, i bob pwrpas, yn gweld newid ar lawr gwlad heddiw, fe'i gwelwch erbyn 2007. Byddwn ydym yn lansio'r chwe chanolfan yn ffurfiol ar 17 Tachwedd, mewn digwyddiad a fydd hefyd yn ddigwyddiad hyfforddi i diwtoriaid ac yn gyfle i rannu arfer gorau. Bydd hynny'n rhoi'r agenda hon ar waith.

Prif lwyddiannau Sir y Fflint Main Achievements in Flintshire

Q4 Carl Sargeant: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's main achievements in the field of education and lifelong learning in Flintshire? OAQ1050(ELL)

C4 Carl Sargeant: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am brif lwyddiannau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ym maes addysg a dysgu gydol oes yn sir y Fflint? OAQ1050(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Flintshire, like all other areas of Wales, is benefiting from the implementation of our key policies for education and lifelong learning, as set out in 'The Learning Country' and other related policy documents. These policies provide a strong foundation for everyone in Wales to achieve their potential.

Jane Davidson: Mae sir y Fflint, fel pob ardal arall yng Nghymru, yn elwa o weithredu ein polisiâu allweddol ym maes addysg a dysgu gydol oes, fel y maent wedi eu gosod allan yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu' a dogfennau polisi cysylltiedig eraill. Mae'r polisiâu hyn yn darparu sylfaen gadarn i bawb yng Nghymru gyflawni eu potensial.

Carl Sargeant: As you are aware, Flintshire and other unitary authorities will now have to report on any decision that they make to fund above or below the indicative baseline assessment figure on education funding. The formula used to allocate funding to authorities does not favour Flintshire at all, and it turns out that it is one of the lowest

Carl Sargeant: Fel y gwyddoch, bydd yn rhaid i sir y Fflint ac awdurdodau unedol eraill yn awr gyflwyno adroddiad ar unrhyw benderfyniad a wnânt i ariannu ar lefel sy'n uwch neu'n is na ffigur yr asesiad sylfaenol dangosol ar gyfer ariannu addysg. Nid yw'r fformiwla a ddefnyddir i ddyrannu cyllid i awdurdodau o unrhyw fantais i sir y Fflint, ac

funded authorities in Wales. Given that the authority has also democratically agreed to fund below the IBA, how can you ensure that pupils in Alyn and Deeside do not lose out as a result of the way in which the formula is distributed throughout Wales, given its anomalies?

Jane Davidson: Fundamentally, there are two issues here. My colleague, Sue Essex, is undertaking her overarching review of elements within the local government settlement. That is important, because it is that funding that goes in an unhypothecated way to local authorities, and it is up to local authorities how they then spend that money. From the education side, in order to make the education funding more transparent—as you know, and as you and headteachers in your area have warmly welcomed—we have indicated the amount of funding notionally in that settlement for education, but it is up to local authorities to determine whether or not they spend to that level. That is based on their local needs and priorities, which are local decisions taken by those who are democratically elected.

We responded positively to the recommendation of the Committee on School Funding that we should ask local authorities, on an interim basis—between moving from some of the historic needs issues to actual needs issues—to look at the IBA as an interim target. That now means that Flintshire, and other local authorities, if they choose to set the budget for education below IBA again, will need to make their reasons absolutely clear to the school budget forum, to the local authority, and to the Welsh Assembly Government. Therefore, to reassure the pupils of Alyn and Deeside, we are putting the appropriate rigour in place; we have put more funding in place, notionally, for education than the authority has chosen to use historically. It is accountable through its local, democratic responsibilities in terms of providing answers.

Mark Isherwood: You will know that, until

ymddengys ei fod ymhlith yr awdurdodau sy'n cael leiaf o arian yng Nghymru. O gofio bod yr awdurdod hefyd wedi cytuno'n ddemocrataidd i ariannu ar lefel sy'n is na'r asesiad, sut y gallwch sicrhau na fydd disgyblion yn Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy ar eu colled oherwydd y ffordd y caiff y fformiwla ei dosbarthu ledled Cymru, o gofio am ei hanghysondebau.

Jane Davidson: Mae dau fater sylfaenol yma. Mae fy nghyd-Aelod, Sue Essex, wrthi'n gwneud ei hadolygiad trawsbynciol o elfennau o fewn y setliad llywodraeth leol. Mae hynny'n bwysig, gan mai'r arian hwnnw sy'n cael ei ddyrannu mewn ffordd heb ei neilltuo i awdurdodau lleol, a dewis yr awdurdodau lleol yw sut y byddant wedyn yn gwario'r arian hwnnw. O ran addysg, er mwyn sicrhau bod cyllid addysg yn fwy tryloyw—fel y gwyddoch, ac fel yr ydych chi a phenaethiaid yn eich ardal wedi croesawu'n frwd—yr ydym wedi nodi swm y cyllid tybiannol yn y setliad hwnnw ar gyfer addysg, ond cyfrifoldeb awdurdodau lleol yw penderfynu a fyddant yn gwario hyd at y lefel honno. Mae hynny'n seiliedig ar eu hanghenion a'u blaenoriaethau lleol, sef penderfyniadau lleol a wneir gan y rheini sy'n cael eu hethol yn ddemocrataidd.

Rhoddyd ymateb cadarnhaol gennym i argymhelliad y Pwyllgor ar Ariannu Ysgolion y dylem ofyn i awdurdodau lleol, ar sail interim—rhwng symud o rai o'r materion anghenion hanesyddol i faterion sy'n gysylltiedig ag anghenion gwirioneddol—i ystyried yr asesiad fel targed interim. Mae hynny bellach yn golygu y bydd angen i sir y Fflint, ac awdurdodau lleol eraill, os byddant yn dewis pennu'r gyllideb addysg yn is na'r asesiad eto, egluro'u rhesymau yn gwbl glir wrth y fforwm cyllidebau ysgolion, yr awdurdod lleol, a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Felly, er mwyn rhoi tawelwch meddwl i ddisgyblion Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy, yr ydym yn gweithredu gyda chadernid priodol; yr ydym wedi rhyddhau mwy o arian, yn dybiannol, i faes addysg nag y mae'r awdurdod wedi dewis ei ddefnyddio yn hanesyddol. Mae'n atebol drwy ei gyfrifoldebau democrataidd, lleol o ran rhoi atebion.

Mark Isherwood: Byddwch yn ymwybodol,

this year, Flintshire has always put an above-average proportion of its total budget into education, and an above-average proportion of its education budget into delegated money to schools. However, despite that, it had the lowest funding per pupil in Wales, with a per capita sum of £900 in primary schools. How would you respond to the Flintshire primary school pupil—and this was a young child—who, in a recent video link with the Assembly, asked me why pupils in Flintshire got less funding than anyone else in Wales? How do you respond to concerns raised this week by the local press in Flintshire that schools will now have to start performing badly before anything is done about this?

Jane Davidson: On the first point, I refer you to my answer to Carl Sargeant, the local Member. On the second point, anyone who made any suggestion to a local paper that the overarching formula funding for schools is based on the outcome of results in the local authority has misinformed them.

tan eleni, fod sir y Fflint bob amser wedi dyrannu cyfran uwch na'r cyfartaledd o gyfanswm ei chyllideb i faes addysg, a chyfran uwch na'r cyfartaledd o'i chyllideb addysg i arian a ddirprwyir i ysgolion. Fodd bynnag, er gwaethaf hynny, sir y Fflint oedd â'r lefel isaf o gyllid fesul disgybl yng Nghymru, gyda swm y pen o £900 mewn ysgolion cynradd. Sut y byddech yn ymateb i'r disgybl ysgol gynradd o sir y Fflint—a phlentyn ifanc ydoedd—a ofynnodd imi, mewn cyswllt fideo â'r Cynulliad yn ddiweddar, pam mae disgyblion yn sir y Fflint yn cael llai o arian nag unrhyw un arall yng Nghymru? Sut yr ydych yn ateb pryderon a godwyd yr wythnos hon gan y wasg leol yn sir y Fflint y bydd yn rhaid i ysgolion yn awr ddechrau perfformio'n wael cyn y gwneir dim ynglŷn â hyn?

Jane Davidson: Ar y pwynt cyntaf, hoffwn eich cyfeirio at fy ateb i Carl Sargeant, yr Aelod lleol. Ar yr ail bwynt, mae unrhyw un sydd wedi awgrymu o gwbl wrth bapur lleol fod y broses gyllido ysgolion yn ôl fformiwla drawsbynciol yn seiliedig ar ganlyniadau yn yr awdurdod lleol wedi ei gamarwain.

Addysg Anghenion Arbennig Special Needs Education

C5 Owen John Thomas: Faint o arian sydd wedi cael ei ymrwymo gan y Gweinidog i baratoi addysg anghenion arbennig i blant anabl? OAQ1087(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Mater i bob awdurdod yw pennu, o'i setliad refeniw nad yw wedi'i neilltuo, ei wariant ar ddarpariaeth AAA. Mae cyfanswm y gwariant a gyllidebwyd ar gyfer darpariaeth AAA yn 2006-07 yn £288 miliwn. Cynigiwyd £6 miliwn yn ychwanegol ar gyfer 2007-08 yn y gyllideb ddrafft a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar.

Owen John Thomas: Gan fod 20 y cant o blant Cymru yn derbyn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, byddai'n deg ystyried y dylai cyfran debyg gael ei gwario ar AAA i blant anabl mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg. Beth yw'r swm sy'n cael ei wario yn yr ysgolion hynny ar AAA i blant anabl?

Jane Davidson: Mae pob awdurdod lleol yn trafod gyda'r Gweinidog Cyllid, a chyd

Q5 Owen John Thomas: How much funding has the Minister allocated to provide special needs education for disabled children? OAQ1087(ELL)

Jane Davidson: It is a matter for each authority to determine, from its unhypothecated revenue settlement, its spending on SEN provision. The total expenditure on SEN provision in 2006-07 is budgeted to be £288 million. The recently published draft budget proposed an additional £6 million for 2007-08.

Owen John Thomas: Given that 20 per cent of children in Wales receive Welsh-medium education, it would be fair to think that a similar share should be spent on SEN for disabled children in Welsh-medium schools. What sum is spent in those schools on SEN for disabled children?

Jane Davidson: All local authorities discuss needs across Wales with the Finance

swyddogion, yr anghenion ledled Cymru. Mae awdurdodau lleol yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd i ofyn am fwy o arian os bydd tystiolaeth am yr angen hwnnw. Dyna pam mae'r gyllideb ddrafft yn cynnig £6 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer 2007-08. Nid oes gennyf ffigurau ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg, gan bod hynny'n rhan o gyllideb awdurdodau lleol.

Alun Cairns: The funding formula that you use to finance out-of-county placement for further or higher education for SEN is crude, to say the least. It is simply a third to the local health board, a third to the Assembly Government's Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, and a third to the local authority. Do you agree that that is crude, and do you believe that a much more comprehensive settlement, based on need and on the evidence of what students need, would be much fairer to the individuals, the local authorities, and the local health boards concerned?

3.10 p.m.

Jane Davidson: I do not agree that you have accurately represented it. The issue is whether or not any application for post-16 funding is primarily education funding or whether it is education funding allied to social care or health funding, or both. Each individual case is tested on its merits, because there is different legislation in place in terms of where the Assembly can offer the education element, and where it falls to local authorities, for example, to offer the social care element. [*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I have had to draw attention on a number of times to people who have loud voices—usually men—who tend to mutter or even make a statement in response to the Minister's answer. Everything can be heard in the Chamber. When I have called a Member on a supplementary question, that is it, unless he or she happens to have the respectful role of a party spokesperson, in which case they will be called twice; party leaders are called many more times. Those are our traditions and I would be grateful if they were respected; otherwise, you will not be called at all.

Minister, and with officials. Local authorities work together to ask for more money if there is evidence of need. That is why the draft budget offers an additional £6 million for 2007-08. I do not have figures at the moment for Welsh-medium schools, since that is part of local authority budgets.

Alun Cairns: Mae'r fformiwla ariannu a ddefnyddir gennych i ariannu lleoliadau y tu allan i'r sir ar gyfer addysg bellach neu uwch ym maes AAA yn sylfaenol, a dweud y lleiaf. Rhoddir traean i'r bwrdd iechyd lleol, traean i Adran Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, a thraean i'r awdurdod lleol. A gytunwch ei fod yn sylfaenol, ac a gredwch y byddai setliad llawer mwy cynhwysfawr, ar sail angen ac ar y dystiolaeth o'r hyn y mae ar fyfyrwyr ei angen, lawer yn decach i'r unigolion, yr awdurdodau lleol, a'r byrddau iechyd lleol dan sylw?

Jane Davidson: Nid wyf yn cytuno eich bod wedi ei gynrychioli'n gywir. Y mater yw ai cyllid addysg yn bennaf yw unrhyw gais am gyllid ôl-16, neu a yw'n gyllid addysg wedi'i gysylltu â chyllid gofal cymdeithasol neu iechyd, neu'r ddau. Caiff pob achos unigol ei brofi yn ôl ei haeddiant, gan fod deddfwriaeth wahanol mewn grym o ran ble y gall y Cynulliad gynnig yr elfen addysg, a ble y mae'n gyfrifoldeb i awdurdodau lleol, er enghraifft, gynnig yr elfen gofal cymdeithasol. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf wedi gorfod tynnu sylw droeon at bobl sydd â lleisiau uchel—dynion fel arfer—sy'n tueddu i fwmian neu hyd yn oed wneud datganiad mewn ymateb i ateb y Gweinidog. Gellir clywed popeth yn y Siambr. Pan fyddaf wedi galw ar Aelod fel rhan o gwestiwn atodol, dyna ni, oni bai ei fod ganddo ef neu hi swydd barchus fel llefarydd y blaid, pan elwir arnynt ddwywaith; gelwir ar arweinyddion y pleidiau lawer yn amlach. Dyna yw ein traddodiadau, a byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe byddent yn cael eu parchu; fel arall, ni chewch eich galw o gwbl.

Jenny Randerson: Several councils are struggling to cope with a significant increase in the numbers of pupils who do not have English or Welsh as a first language and who, in addition, have significant and often complex special educational needs. This is true of a much higher proportion of some ethnic groups than you would expect. Many of these children are from other European Union countries and, therefore, are unable to benefit from asylum-seeker funding. The financial problems faced by the councils concerned are complicated by the retrospective nature of the ethnic minority achievement grant and the late date when it comes through to local authorities. Minister, what do you intend to do to try to assist these authorities? I am sure that you are already aware of the issue, as I know that it has been raised before.

Jane Davidson: I need to disinter your questions, because, in terms of the issues around children with special educational needs, that funding comes through the local authority settlement, and a review of the formula used to allocate SEN funding to local education authorities is currently under way. We are currently looking at the ethnic minority achievement grant, which is a completely separate grant and is not predicated on children with special educational needs, in terms of whether or not it would be better to combine it with funding for asylum seekers and Travellers. We will make a proposition on that shortly. However, those are two separate issues.

Jenny Randerson: Mae sawl cyngor yn ei chael hi'n anodd ymdopi â chynnydd sylweddol yn nifer y disgyblion nad yw'r Gymraeg na'r Saesneg yn mamiaith iddynt ac sydd, yn ychwanegol at hynny, ag anghenion addysgol arbennig sylweddol sy'n aml yn gymhleth. Mae hyn yn wir am gyfran lawer uwch mewn rhai grwpiau ethnig nag y byddech yn ei ddisgwyl. Daw nifer o'r plant hyn o wledydd eraill yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, ac felly ni allant wneud cais am gyllid ceiswyr lloches. Mae'r problemau ariannol a wynebir gan y cyngorau dan sylw yn gymhleth o ganlyniad i natur adolygol y grant cyrhaeddiad lleiafrifoedd ethnig a'r ffaith ei fod yn cael ei drosglwyddo i awdurdodau lleol yn hwyr. Weinidog, beth y bwriadwch ei wneud i geisio cynorthwyo'r awdurdodau hyn? Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod eisoes yn ymwybodol o'r mater, oherwydd gwn iddo gael ei godi o'r blaen.

Jane Davidson: Mae angen imi ddatgladdu eich cwestiynau, oherwydd, o ran problemau phlant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig, daw'r arian hwnnw drwy'r setliad awdurdod lleol, ac mae adolygiad o'r fformiwla a ddefnyddir i ddyrannu arian AAA i awdurdodau addysg lleol yn digwydd ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym wrthi ar hyn o bryd yn ystyried grant cyrhaeddiad lleiafrifoedd ethnig, sy'n grant cwbl ar wahân ac nad yw i'w briodoli i blant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig, o ran a fyddai'n well ei gyfuno ag arian i geiswyr lloches a Theithwyr. Byddwn yn cyflwyno cynnig ar hynny'n fuan. Fodd bynnag, dau fater ar wahân yw'r rheini.

Prydau Ysgol am Ddim Free School Meals

C6 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am brydau ysgol am ddim? OAQ1091(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Mae prydau ysgol, yn enwedig prydau ysgol am ddim i'r rhai sydd yn gymwys i'w cael, yn agwedd bwysig ar strategaeth gwrthdlodi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Mae'r ddarpariaeth mewn ardaloedd o amddifadedd, lle mae'r rhan fwyaf o brydau ysgol yn rhai am ddim, yn gosod y safon ar gyfer y gwasanaeth cyfan.

Q6 David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on free school meals? OAQ1091(ELL)

Jane Davidson: School meals, especially the free school meals provided to those who are entitled to them, are an important aspect of the Welsh Assembly Government's anti-poverty strategy. Their provision in deprived areas, where the majority of school meals are free, sets the standard for the whole service.

David Lloyd: Mae gennyf esiamplau etholaethol lle nad yw plant mewn teuluoedd sydd yn derbyn credyd treth i deuluoedd sy'n gweithio yn gymwys i gael prydau ysgol am ddim. Dyna'r rheol. Pa resymeg sydd yn gwrthod plant o deuluoedd tlawd fel hyn rhag derbyn prydau ysgol am ddim? Onid yw hyn yn tansilio'r defnydd o brydau ysgol am ddim fel dangosydd o dlodi?

Jane Davidson: Yr un cymwyseddau ar gyfer prydau am ddim sydd i'w cael ledled Prydain.

Those criteria are income support, income-based jobseekers' allowance, support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, child tax credit—provided that they are not entitled to a working tax credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £14,155—and the guarantee element of state pension credit. Children who receive income support or the income-based jobseekers' allowance in their own right are also eligible to receive free school lunches. In fact, free school meals are predicated absolutely on those with the lowest incomes.

Janice Gregory: We are often told that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, whether it is free or not. You mentioned the anti-poverty strategy and deprived communities in your reply to Dai Lloyd and I am sure, therefore, that you will be surprised to learn that, in the Ogmore constituency, only four schools have introduced the free school breakfast scheme. Do you share my concern, Minister, about the quality of the information available, and do you agree that the engagement with the Liberal Democrat-led Bridgend County Borough Council would go some way towards explaining the difficulties that I have in my constituency at the moment?

Jane Davidson: We are pleased that even before the Healthy Breakfast Week 612 primary schools had signed up to the breakfast initiative, which accounts for 38 per cent of the total number of primary schools in Wales. We always encourage authorities to learn from each other, and Bridgend may

David Lloyd: I have constituency examples where children whose families are in receipt of working families tax credit are not eligible for free school meals. That is the rule. What is the reason for refusing free school meals to these children from poor families? Does this not undermine the use of free school meals as a poverty indicator?

Jane Davidson: Eligibility criteria for free school meals are the same throughout Britain.

Y cymwyseddau hynny yw cymhorthdal incwm, lwfans ceisio gwaith yn seiliedig ar incwm, cymorth o dan Ran VI o'r Ddeddf Lloches a Mewnfudo 1999, credyd treth plant—ar yr amod nad ydynt yn gymwys i gael credyd treth gwaith ac nad yw eu hincwm blynyddol, fel y caiff ei asesu gan Gyllid a Thollau EM, yn fwy na £14,155—a'r elfen warantedig yng nghredyd pensiwn y wladwriaeth. Mae plant sy'n cael cymhorthdal incwm neu'r lwfans ceisio gwaith yn seiliedig ar incwm yn eu rhinwedd eu hunain hefyd yn gymwys i gael cinio ysgol am ddim. Mewn gwirionedd, mae prydau ysgol am ddim yn gwbl seiliedig ar y rheini sydd â'r incwm isaf.

Janice Gregory: Dywedir wrthym yn aml mai brechwast yw pryd pwysicaf y dydd, p'un a yw am ddim ai peidio. Soniech am y strategaeth yn erbyn tlodi a chymunedau difreintiedig yn eich ateb i Dai Lloyd, ac yr wyf yn siŵr, felly, y byddwch yn synnu clywed mai pedair ysgol yn unig, yn etholaeth Ogwr, sydd wedi cyflwyno'r cynllun brechwast ysgol am ddim. A ydych chi, fel finnau, Weinidog, yn pryderu am ansawdd y wybodaeth sydd ar gael, ac a gytunwch y byddai'r ymwneud â Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr o dan arweiniad y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn helpu rhywfaint i egluro'r anawsterau sydd gennyf yn fy etholaeth ar hyn o bryd?

Jane Davidson: Hyd yn oed cyn yr Wythnos Brechwast Iach, yr oeddem yn falch fod 612 o ysgolion cynradd wedi ymrwymo i'r fenter brechwast, sy'n 38 y cant o gyfanswm yr ysgolion cynradd yng Nghymru. Yr ydym bob amser yn annog awdurdodau i ddysgu gan ei gilydd, ac efallai y bydd Pen-y-bont

wish to talk to Swansea or Anglesey, which have some of the highest take-up levels in terms of free school breakfasts. Anglesey is determined to bring all its school on board.

Alun Cairns: Minister, to the credit of Bridgend County Borough Council, it has invested significant sums in improving the quality and nutrition of lunchtime meals; so much so that it has spent well in excess of the money that was made available for that purpose. Given that the UK Government made a significant issue of the so-called Jamie Oliver funding, what allocation went to local authorities in Wales to improve the quality of nutrition? Given that the principles are the same, do you not think that, if there were an underspend in the breakfast budget, it would be sensible to make that funding available to improve the quality of nutrition of lunchtime meals?

Jane Davidson: I welcome the efforts of any local authority to improve the quality of its food, and I am glad that we are seeing this across Wales. Of course, the consultation on the 'Appetite for Life' document of the food in schools working group finishes at the end of this month. You have fundamentally misunderstood the breakfast scheme if you think that its worth is purely in terms of nutrition. It is nutrition at that point in the day that is the point, and that is what the schools that participate in the scheme fully recognise. The Assembly Government has and always will stand by our initiatives for whole food issues in schools; we will not just look at issues with food in the middle of the school day. You are as capable as anyone of looking at the budget proposals, which were laid and discussed yesterday, on the allocation of funding for nutrition.

Mick Bates: It was interesting to listen to your previous answer to Alun Cairns, Minister. I am also concerned about the nutritional value of free school meals and school meals in general, and their local economic impact. In that context, I recommend that you look at the work of the Mid Wales Food and Land Trust Ltd, which aims to promote sustainable regeneration by supplying local food to local schools, such as Welshpool High School. What are you doing

am drafod gydag Abertawe neu Ynys Môn, sydd â rhai o'r niferoedd mwyaf o blant sy'n cael brecwast ysgol am ddim. Mae Ynys Môn yn benderfynol o gynnwys ei holl ysgolion.

Alun Cairns: Weinidog, er clod i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, mae wedi buddsoddi symiau mawr i wella ansawdd a maeth prydau amser cinio; cymaint felly fel ei fod wedi gwario llawer mwy na'r arian a oedd ar gael at y diben hwnnw. O gofio bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi rhoi cryn sylw i arian Jamie Oliver, fel y'i gelwir, pa ddyraniad aeth i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru i wella ansawdd maeth? O gofio bod yr egwyddorion yr un fath, oni chredwch, pe bai tanwariant yn y gyllideb brecwast, y byddai'n ddoeth sicrhau bod yr arian hwnnw ar gael i wella ansawdd maeth prydau amser cinio?

Jane Davidson: Croesawaf ymdrechion unrhyw awdurdod lleol i wella ansawdd ei fwyd, ac yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn gweld hyn ledled Cymru. Wrth gwrs, bydd yr ymgynghori am ddogfen 'Blas am Oes' gan y gweithgor bwyd mewn ysgolion yn dod i ben ddiwedd y mis hwn. Yr ydych wedi camddeall y cynllun brecwast yn y bôn os credwch mai mewn maeth yn unig y mae ei werth. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw mai maeth ar yr adeg honno o'r dydd ydyw, a dyna y mae'r ysgolion sy'n cymryd rhan yn y cynllun yn ei gydnabod yn llawn. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cytuno â'n mentrau ar gyfer materion bwyd cyfan mewn ysgolion, a bydd bob amser yn gwneud hynny; nid materion bwyd ganol diwrnod ysgol yn unig y byddwn yn eu hystyried. Yr ydych mor alluog â neb i edrych ar gynigion y gyllideb, a osodwyd gerbron ac a drafodwyd ddoe, ar gyfer dyrannu arian ar gyfer maeth.

Mick Bates: Yr oedd yn ddiddorol gwranddo ar eich ateb blaenorol i Alun Cairns, Weinidog. Yr wyf fi hefyd yn pryderu am werth maethol prydau ysgol am ddim a phrydau ysgol yn gyffredinol, a'u heffaith economaidd leol. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, argymhellaf y dylech edrych ar waith Ymddiriedolaeth Bwyd a Thir Canolbarth Cymru Cyf, sy'n anelu at hyrwyddo adfywio cynaliadwy drwy gyflenwi bwyd lleol i ysgolion lleol, megis Ysgol Uwchradd y

to promote the use of local food in schools, perhaps even by growing food on site, where possible?

Jane Davidson: We prioritised the local procurement of food in our sustainable development action plan. I warmly welcome such initiatives, and I was delighted that I was able to open, in my constituency, in Rhondda Cynon Taf, a new garden to serve the school premises. I am particularly pleased that we are seeing this kind of initiative across Wales.

Trallwng. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i hyrwyddo defnyddio bwyd lleol mewn ysgolion, efallai hyd yn oed drwy dyfu bwyd ar y safle, lle mae'n bosibl?

Jane Davidson: Rhoddwyd blaenoriaeth gennym i gaffael bwyd yn lleol yn ein cynllun gweithredu ar ddatblygu cynaliadwy. Yr wyf yn croesawaf mentrau felly yn gynnes, ac yr oeddwn yn falch o allu agor gardd newydd i wasanaethu safle'r ysgol yn fy etholaeth i yn Rhondda Cynon Taf. Yr wyf yn arbennig o falch ein bod yn gweld y math hwn o fenter ledled Cymru.

Cyllideb RAISE The RAISE Budget

C7 Alun Ffred Jones: Pa drafodaethau mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cael gyda Chyngor Gwynedd ynghylch y gyllideb codi cyrhaeddiad a safonau addysgol unigolion yng Nghymru? OAQ1093(ELL)

Q7 Alun Ffred Jones: What discussions has the Minister had with Gwynedd Council regarding the budget for raising attainment and individual standards in education in Wales? OAQ1093(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Cynhaliwyd trafodaethau â'r awdurdodau lleol ynghylch RAISE drwy gyfrwng Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a Chymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru yn bennaf.

Jane Davidson: Discussions with local authorities about RAISE have generally been conducted through the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Education in Wales.

3.20 p.m.

Yr oedd RAISE ar yr agenda yn ein cyfarfod diweddar â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, lle cyfarfûm ag aelodau cabinet awdurdodau lleol sy'n gyfrifol am addysg, a'u cyfarwyddwyr addysg.

RAISE was on the agenda of our recent meeting with the Welsh Local Government Association, when I met the cabinet members of local authorities responsible for education and their directors of education.

Alun Ffred Jones: Bu swyddogion ac aelodau Cyngor Gwynedd yn feirniadol iawn o'r fformiwla hon. Mae dwy ysgol gynradd yn fy etholaeth, sef Ysgol Maesincla yng Nghaernarfon ac Ysgol Tal-y-sarn, yn cael arian drwy'r fformiwla hon. Fodd bynnag, pan mae'r plant hynny yn cyrraedd 11 oed ac yn symud i'r ysgolion uwchradd, sef Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen yng Nghaernarfon ac Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle, yn sydyn, ymddengys nad oes angen cefnogaeth arnynt ar ôl yr oed hynny, er, yn achos Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen, mae'r ysgol o fewn dim i fod yn gymwys ar gyfer cael arian RAISE. Beth felly yw'r cyfiawnhad addysgol dros roi arian i helpu plant o dan 11 oed, ond peidio â rhoi'r arian i'w cefnogi ar ôl 11 oed?

Alun Ffred Jones: Members and officials of Gwynedd Council have been extremely critical of this formula. Two primary schools in my constituency, namely Ysgol Maesincla in Caernarfon and Ysgol Tal-y-sarn, receive funding under this formula. However, when those children attain the age of 11 and move to the local secondary schools, namely Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen in Caernarfon and Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle, it suddenly appears as though they no longer need any support after that age, although, in the case of Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen, it is a hair's breadth away from qualifying for RAISE funding. What is the educational rationale behind giving money to help children younger than 11 but not to give money to support them after that age?

Jane Davidson: Nid yw'r sir wedi codi unrhyw faterion am RAISE gyda mi. RAISE yw'r fenter arbennig ar gyfer pobl mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig. Pan fyddant yn mynd o ysgolion cynradd i ysgolion uwchradd, rhaid i'r ysgolion gydweithio ar y cynllun trosglwyddo. Nid yw'r cynllun ar gael yn yr Alban nac yn Lloegr, dim ond yng Nghymru, ac mae'n rhaid i ysgolion gydweithio ar y cynllun trosglwyddo i sicrhau bod safonau plant ysgolion cynradd yn cael eu cefnogi yn yr ysgol uwchradd.

Brynle Williams: I recognise the value of the new RAISE funding scheme and the importance of it in supporting disadvantaged students, especially looked-after children. However, do you accept that the threshold for a minimum of 50 students unfairly excludes disadvantaged students in small rural primary schools, and puts them at a disadvantage when compared with some of the urban students?

Jane Davidson: I do not accept that, because the overarching budget for local authority education comes in at around £1.5 billion a year, and so we are talking about a budget of £16 million. We already have a separate budget of £3.5 million or maybe even £4 million this year for small schools. Therefore, small schools are already being disproportionately given greater support, and that is why RAISE does not replicate and duplicate money that is already given to small schools.

Jane Davidson: The county has not raised any issues with me about RAISE. RAISE is a specific initiative aimed at people in disadvantaged areas. When they go from primary school to secondary school, those schools must collaborate on a transitional plan. Such a scheme is not available in Scotland or in England, only in Wales, and schools have to work together on the transitional plan to ensure that the standards of primary school children are supported at the secondary school.

Brynle Williams: Yr wyf yn cydnabod gwerth cynllun ariannu newydd RAISE a'i bwysigrwydd wrth gefnogi myfyrwyr difreintiedig, yn enwedig plant sy'n cael gofal. Fodd bynnag, a dderbyniwch fod y trothwy ar gyfer isafswm o 50 o fyfyrwyr yn allgáu plant difreintiedig yn annheg mewn ysgolion cynradd gwledig bach, ac yn eu rhoi dan anfantais o'u cymharu â rhai plant trefol?

Jane Davidson: Nid wyf yn derbyn hynny, oherwydd mae'r gyllideb gyffredinol ar gyfer addysg awdurdodau lleol tua £1.5 biliwn y flwyddyn, ac felly yr ydym yn sôn am gyllideb o £16 miliwn. Eisoes mae gennym gyllideb ar wahân o £3.5 miliwn, neu efallai hyd yn oed £4 miliwn eleni, ar gyfer ysgolion bach. Felly, mae ysgolion bach eisoes yn cael mwy o gymorth a hynny mewn modd anghyfartal, a dyna pam nad yw RAISE yn atgynhyrchu ac yn dyblygu arian a roddir eisoes i ysgolion bach.

Bagloriaeth Cymru The Welsh Baccalaureate

Q8 Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh baccalaureate? OAQ1082(ELL)

Jane Davidson: On 18 October, following positive independent evaluation of the post-16 pilot programme, I announced the staged roll-out of the Welsh baccalaureate at intermediate and advanced levels, in post-16 education, from September 2007. This September, the piloting of a foundation baccalaureate at 14-19, alongside the intermediate-level model, began in 18 schools and colleges.

C8 Christine Gwyther: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am fagloriaeth Cymru? OAQ1082(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Ar 18 Hydref, yn dilyn gwerthusiad annibynnol cadarnhaol o'r rhaglen beilot ôl-16, cyhoeddais y bydd bagloriaeth Cymru yn cael ei chyflwyno bob yn gam ar y lefelau canolradd ac uwch, mewn addysg ôl-16, o fis Medi 2007. Ym mis Medi eleni dechreuwyd treialu bagloriaeth sylfaen ar gyfer 14-19 oed, ochr yn ochr â model lefel ganolradd, mewn 18 o ysgolion a cholegau.

Christine Gwyther: We already know that employers value the Welsh baccalaureate because of the breadth of study that it encompasses, including work experience and community involvement. However, there is still some public concern that not all Welsh universities recognise the Welsh baccalaureate to the extent that we would wish. How are you getting over that difficulty for the students of the future?

Jane Davidson: All Welsh universities have signed up to the Welsh baccalaureate, and the overarching statement from the majority of universities across the UK is that they also welcome it. It is a remarkable achievement considering that we are talking about a qualification from a small country, piloted in just 31 schools and colleges. You are right to say that when I ask business about creating a qualification that includes all those key skills, enhanced work experience and independent investigation, they all say 'Yes, please'. Now that we have determined the roll-out, we must work with businesses and higher education institutions on the fact that all of that is now contained in the Welsh baccalaureate, available at three levels. However, we are commencing marketing in a major way, and I am delighted that all of the schools, colleges, universities and, yesterday, *The Guardian* newspaper are saying that Wales is leading the way, not to mention the endorsement of Professor Pring from the University of Oxford of what we are doing on 14-19 education, including the Welsh baccalaureate.

Glyn Davies: Christine Gwyther has raised an interesting point. The reality is that one is constantly reading reports of universities and employers, to some extent, being suspicious about the Welsh baccalaureate. How much time do you spend finding out the background to those concerns, and what precise steps are you taking to address those concerns directly, rather than simply following a path that you have decided is the right one?

Jane Davidson: Suggesting that it is a path that I consider to be the right one is an

Christine Gwyther: Gwyddom eisoes fod cyflogwyr yn gwerthfawrogi bagloriaeth Cymru am ei bod yn cynnwys maes astudio eang, gan gynnwys profiad gwaith ac ymwneud â'r gymuned. Fodd bynnag, mae rhywfaint o bryder o hyd ymhlith y cyhoedd nad yw pob prifysgol yng Nghymru yn cydnabod bagloriaeth Cymru gymaint ag y byddem yn ei ddymuno. Sut yr ydych yn goresgyn yr anhawster hwnnw ar gyfer myfyrwyr y dyfodol?

Jane Davidson: Mae pob prifysgol yng Nghymru wedi ymrwymo i fagloriaeth Cymru, a'r datganiad cyffredinol gan y rhan fwyaf o brifysgolion yn y DU yw eu bod hwy hefyd yn ei chroesawu. Mae'n llwyddiant aruthrol o gofio ein bod yn sôn am gymhwyster gan wlad fechan, wedi ei dreialu mewn 31 o ysgolion a cholegau yn unig. Yr ydych yn iawn i ddweud, pan ofynnaf i fusnesau ynglŷn â chreu cymhwyster sy'n cynnwys yr holl sgiliau allweddol hynny, profiad gwaith gwell ac ymchwiliad annibynnol, eu bod i gyd yn dweud 'Ie, plis'. Gan ein bod bellach wedi penderfynu sut y caiff ei chyflwyno, rhaid inni weithio gyda busnesau a sefydliadau addysg uwch ar y ffaith fod hyn i gyd bellach wedi ei gynnwys ym magloriaeth Cymru, ar dair lefel. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn dechrau marchnata ar raddfa eang, ac yr wyf yn falch fod yr ysgolion, y colegau a'r prifysgolion i gyd, a phapur newydd *The Guardian* ddoe, yn dweud bod Cymru'n arwain y ffordd, heb sôn am gefnogaeth yr Athro Pring o Brifysgol Rhydychen i'r hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud o ran addysg 14-19, gan gynnwys bagloriaeth Cymru.

Glyn Davies: Mae Christine Gwyther wedi codi pwynt diddorol. Y gwir yw bod rhywun yn darllen adroddiadau'n gyson sy'n dweud bod prifysgolion a chyflogwyr, i ryw raddau, yn amheus am fagloriaeth Cymru. Faint o amser a dreuliwch yn ymchwilio i gefndir y pryderon hynny, a pha gamau penodol a gymerwch i fynd i'r afael â'r pryderon hynny'n uniongyrchol, yn hytrach na dilyn yr hyn sydd yn eich barn chi yn llwybr cywir?

Jane Davidson: Mae awgrymu ei fod yn llwybr yr wyf fi'n ei ystyried yn llwybr cywir

important point, because my undertaking, as Minister, was to pilot the Welsh baccalaureate to see whether it was fit for purpose. Following an internal evaluation led by the University of Bath and an external evaluation led by the University of Nottingham, the 31 schools and colleges that piloted it, including some of the highest performers in Wales, said not only that the Welsh baccalaureate is good in terms of its core activities, which are the kinds of things contained in the international baccalaureate and have switched students on, but that it was also starting to demonstrate that students were also having better results at GCSE and A-level, and we will have to follow that longitudinally. Where the press coverage has been absolutely incorrect and fundamentally misleading is in reporting that it is a replacement for A-levels or GCSEs, when it is not. It includes all those skills that employers say that they want, and we are putting it together with an overarching qualification that still keeps GCSEs, the vocational qualifications that Peter Black referred to, or A-levels in the mix.

Now that we have decided to roll out on the basis of all that independent evidence—and we are delighted to do so—we are now going full steam ahead, having dialogue with employers, through the sector skills councils, through the Confederation of British Industry and other organisations, and with universities through the higher education advisory team, which is currently working across the UK giving advice to universities. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service allocated the equivalent score of an 'A' grade at A-level to the core of the Welsh baccalaureate alongside the individual A-level subject. Therefore, it is a high-quality qualification, and I hope that you will all be able to get behind it. I was delighted that William Graham, in committee, said that the evidence was starting to look good. We should all be looking at the evidence.

This is not my initiative, as Minister, but I am proud to lead the charge when we have all of this external evidence demonstrating the value of the baccalaureate.

Jeff Cuthbert: I am sure that you agree that

yn bwynt pwysig, oherwydd fy ymrwymiad i, fel Gweinidog, oedd treialu bagloriaeth Cymru i weld a oedd yn addas at y diben. Yn dilyn gwerthusiad mewnol o dan arweiniad Prifysgol Caerfaddon a gwerthusiad allanol o dan arweiniad Prifysgol Nottingham, dywedodd y 31 o ysgolion a cholegau a dreialodd y fagloriaeth, gan gynnwys rhai o'r perfformwyr gorau yng Nghymru, fod bagloriaeth Cymru nid yn unig yn dda o ran ei gweithgareddau craidd, sef y mathau o bethau a gynhwysir yn y fagloriaeth ryngwladol ac sydd wedi tanio diddordeb myfyrwyr, ond ei bod hefyd yn dechrau dangos bod myfyrwyr yn cael canlyniadau TGAU a safon uwch gwell, a bydd yn rhaid i ni ddilyn hynny ar ei hyd. Yr oedd y sylw yn y wasg yn hollol anghywir a chamarweiniol yn y bôn wrth ddweud ei bod yn rhywbeth sy'n disodli safon uwch neu TGAU, pan nad yw hynny'n wir. Mae'n cynnwys yr holl sgiliau hynny y mae cyflogwyr yn dweud bod eu hangen arnynt, ac yr ydym yn ei llunio gyda chymhwyster cyffredinol sy'n parhau i gadw TGAU, y cymwysterau galwedigaethol y cyfeiriodd Peter Black atynt, neu safon uwch.

Gan ein bod bellach wedi penderfynu cyflwyno hyn ar sail yr holl dystiolaeth annibynnol honno—ac yr ydym yn falch o wneud hynny—yr ydym yn prysuro ymlaen, yn trafod gyda chyflogwyr, drwy'r cynghorau sgiliau sector, drwy Gydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain a sefydliadau eraill, a chyda phrifysgolion drwy'r tîm cynghori addysg uwch, sy'n gweithio ar hyn o bryd ledled y DU yn rhoi cyngor i brifysgolion. Rhoddodd Gwasanaeth Derbyn y Prifysgolion a'r Colegau y sgôr gyfartalog o radd 'A' mewn safon uwch i graidd bagloriaeth Cymru ochr yn ochr â'r pwnc safon uwch unigol. Felly, mae'n gymhwyster o safon, a gobeithio y bydd pob un ohonoch yn gallu ei gefnogi. Yr oeddwn yn falch fod William Graham wedi dweud, yn y pwyllgor, fod y dystiolaeth yn dechrau edrych yn dda. Dylai i gyd fod yn edrych ar y dystiolaeth.

Nid fy menter i yw hon, fel Gweinidog, ond yr wyf yn falch o arwain y gad a ninnau wedi cael yr holl dystiolaeth allanol sy'n dangos gwerth y fagloriaeth.

Jeff Cuthbert: Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch

it is not surprising, given the early stage of this new and probably revolutionary qualification, that some university admission officers and some employers will not understand it properly. However, we will address that. Do you agree that, especially with the six key skills at the heart of the core of the Welsh baccalaureate, it will go a long way towards achieving our target of getting parity of esteem between academic and vocational qualifications?

Jane Davidson: We have previously reported in Plenary and in committee the extremely impressive results from Wales on key skills acquisitions, namely the qualifications. We are talking about 29 per cent of the whole of the UK's key skills qualifications, for example, being at numeracy at level 3—the A-level equivalent. These are important statistics. The Welsh baccalaureate will help us to drive forward that pronounced need. We want to ensure that young people have the skills to go on to university and to employment. Our job now is to persuade the 9,000 admissions advisers in individual subjects in the universities of its worth. We have won the overarching battle and, now, the centres are also being extremely active in talking to departments about what the baccalaureate offers. On the back of that, we have seen universities changing offers to include the baccalaureate once people understand what it means.

3.30 p.m.

Anrhifogrwydd ac Anllythrennedd Innumeracy and Illiteracy

Q9 John Griffiths: Will the Minister make a statement on progress in tackling innumeracy and illiteracy levels in Wales?
OAQ1078(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Our strategy for basic literacy and numeracy skills, 'Words Talk—Numbers Count', sets out a comprehensive and unique all-age approach to tackling this serious issue. It is already delivering good results, and we have recently commissioned a major and ongoing evaluation of the strategy to assess its long-term impact.

nad yw'n syndod, o gofio bod y cymhwyster newydd a chwyldroadol hwn yn ei blentyndod, na fydd rhai swyddogion derbyn mewn prifysgolion a rhai cyflogwyr yn ei ddeall yn iawn. Fodd bynnag, awn i'r afael â hynny. A gytunwch, yn enwedig gyda'r chwe sgil allweddol sydd wrth wraidd craidd bagloriaeth Cymru, y bydd yn gwneud llawer i gyflawni ein targed o sicrhau parch cyfartal rhwng cymwysterau academiaidd a chymwysterau galwedigaethol?

Jane Davidson: Yn y gorffennol yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ac yn y pwyllgor yr ydym wedi sôn am y canlyniadau trawiadol iawn o Gymru mewn sgiliau allweddol, sef y cymwysterau. Mae 29 y cant o gyfanswm cymwysterau sgiliau allweddol y DU, er enghraifft, ym maes rhifedd ar lefel 3—sy'n cyfateb i safon uwch. Mae'r rhain yn ystadegau pwysig. Bydd bagloriaeth Cymru yn ein helpu i ddatblygu'r angen amlwg hwnnw. Yr ydym am sicrhau bod gan bobl ifanc y sgiliau i fynd ymlaen i brifysgol ac i gyflogaeth. Ein gwaith yn awr yw darbwyllo'r 9,000 o gynghorwyr derbyn mewn pynciau unigol yn y prifysgolion o'i gwerth. Yr ydym wedi ennill y frwydr gyffredinol, ac mae'r canolfannau bellach yn weithgar iawn yn siarad ag adrannau am yr hyn y mae'r fagloriaeth yn ei gynnig. Yn dilyn hynny, yr ydym wedi gweld prifysgolion yn newid cynigion i gynnwys y fagloriaeth pan fydd pobl yn deall yr hyn y mae'n ei olygu.

C9 John Griffiths: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y cynnydd a wnaethpwyd i fynd i'r afael ag anrhifogrwydd ac anllythrennedd yng Nghymru?
OAQ1078(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Mae ein strategaeth ar gyfer sgiliau llythrennedd a rhifedd sylfaenol, 'Geiriau'n Galw—Rhifau'n Cyfri', yn gosod allan ddull cynhwysfawr ac unigryw ar gyfer pob oedran wrth fynd i'r afael â'r broblem ddifrifol hon. Mae'n darparu canlyniadau da eisoes, ac yn ddiweddar comisiynwyd gwerthusiad mawr parhaus gennym o'r

strategaeth er mwyn asesu ei heffaith hirdymor.

John Griffiths: Literacy and numeracy are the basic building blocks of education, and there is still substantial progress to be made. As with so many areas of public services, spreading best practice is very important. In my area, I know of several examples of good practice in dealing with those important literacy and numeracy issues. What further steps could be taken to improve strategy and mechanisms in Wales to spread that all-important best practice?

John Griffiths: Llythrennedd a rhifedd yw sylfeini addysg, ac mae angen gwneud cynnydd sylweddol o hyd. Fel gyda chynifer o feysydd mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, mae lledaenu arferion gorau yn bwysig iawn. Yn fy ardal i, gwn am lawer enghraifft o arferion da wrth fynd i'r afael â'r materion pwysig hynny sy'n ymwneud â llythrennedd a rhifedd. Pa gamau pellach y gellid eu cymryd i wella strategaeth a dulliau yng Nghymru i ledaenu'r arferion gorau hollbwysig hynny?

Jane Davidson: When we launched 'Words Talk—Numbers Count' in April last year, it contained a range of new targets, including 80 per cent of working-age adults having at least level 1 literacy skills and 55 per cent having at least level 1 numeracy skills by 2010. We would like to see higher figures, but the targets are a challenging stepping stone, given that the figures for 2004 were 75 per cent and 47 per cent respectively. We surveyed Wales in 2004, and we will need to do so again on the same basis, because one of the issues is ensuring that we compare like with like. We continue to wish to see our schools being 100 per cent behind the basic skills quality mark. Newport has performed particularly well in this regard. Our figures are far higher than those for England in this context, and we must ensure that basic skills are not something that we address in a deficit arrangement with adults, but something that we address throughout our schooling system.

Jane Davidson: Pan lanswyd 'Geiriau'n Galw—Rhifau'n Cyfri' gennym fis Ebrill y llynedd, yr oedd yn cynnwys ystod o dargedau newydd, gan gynnwys sicrhau bod gan 80 y cant o oedolion o oed gweithio sgiliau llythrennedd lefel 1 o leiaf, ac y bydd gan 55 y cant sgiliau rhifedd lefel 1 o leiaf erbyn 2010. Hoffem weld ffigurau uwch, ond mae'r targedau'n gerrig milltir heriol, o gofio mai 75 y cant a 47 y cant oedd y ffigurau ar gyfer 2004 yn y drefn honno. Gwnaed arolwg yng Nghymru yn 2004, a bydd angen gwneud hynny eto ar yr un sail, am mai un o'r problemau yw sicrhau ein bod yn cymharu tebyg â thebyg. Yr ydym yn dal i ddymuno gweld pob un o'n hysgolion yn gwbl gefnogol i'r nod ansawdd sgiliau sylfaenol. Perfformiodd Casnewydd yn arbennig o dda mewn perthynas â hyn. Mae ein ffigurau ni lawer yn uwch na'r rhai ar gyfer Lloegr yn y cyd-destun hwn, a rhaid inni sicrhau nad yw sgiliau sylfaenol yn rhywbeth yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â hwy mewn trefniant negyddol gydag oedolion, ond yn hytrach yn rhywbeth yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael ag ef ar draws ein cyfundrefn addysg.

Jocelyn Davies: A quarter of all adults in Wales have literacy problems, and more than half are functionally innumerate. On top of that, I think that you would have to admit that a significant proportion of school leavers today lack these vital basic skills. When do you envisage that all pupils who have the capacity will be able to read and do maths by the time that they leave school?

Jocelyn Davies: Mae gan chwarter holl oedolion Cymru broblemau llythrennedd, ac mae mwy na hanner yn anrhifog. Ar ben hynny, credaf fod yn rhaid ichi gyfaddef nad yw cyfran sylweddol o'r rheini sy'n gadael yr ysgol heddiw yn meddu ar y sgiliau sylfaenol hanfodol hyn. Pryd y rhagwelwch y bydd pob disgybl sydd â'r gallu i wneud hynny yn gallu darllen a gwneud mathemateg erbyn iddynt adael yr ysgol?

Jane Davidson: I already answered that in

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf eisoes wedi ateb

response to John before you read out your question, which shows that you were either unable to listen to the answer or unable to hear what I said. We want 100 per cent of schools to get behind the basic skills quality mark, which means that they are looking to ensure that their pupils have the basic skills. At the moment, the figures are 93 per cent of primary schools, 91 per cent of secondary schools, and 80 per cent of post-16 education providers. We have given ourselves targets for 2010, as I said in answer to John, and those are laid out in the strategy that we published last year, as I also said in answer to John.

Laura Anne Jones: How are you addressing the specific needs of those with learning disabilities and mental health problems with regard to tackling literacy and numeracy skills?

Jane Davidson: With regard to adults and children with learning disabilities, we aim, through the education system, to give them the right support to enable them to develop to their full potential. Some mental health problems can be associated with feelings of frustration related to a lack of sufficient basic skills. That is why, in addition to the work in schools and colleges, we provide courses for people returning to education so that they can have more confidence in moving forward, perhaps for job opportunities in future.

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister referred to Members reading questions. I would prefer that Members do not read their questions, but I also have a view about Ministers who read long answers.

hynny wrth ymateb i John cyn i chi ddarllen eich cwestiwn, sy'n dangos naill ai eich bod yn methu gwrandao ar yr ateb neu'n methu clywed yr hyn a ddywedais. Yr ydym am weld pob un o'n hysgolion yn cefnogi'r nod ansawdd sgiliau sylfaenol, sy'n golygu eu bod am sicrhau bod eu disgyblion yn meithrin y sgiliau sylfaenol. Ar hyn o bryd, y ffigurau yw 93 y cant o ysgolion cynradd, 91 y cant o ysgolion uwchradd, ac 80 y cant o ddarparwyr addysg ôl-16. Yr ydym wedi pennu targedau i ni ein hunain ar gyfer 2010, fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i John, ac mae'r rheini wedi eu gosod allan yn y strategaeth a gyhoeddwyd gennym y llynedd, fel y dywedais hefyd yn fy ateb i John.

Laura Anne Jones: Sut yr ydych yn mynd i'r afael ag anghenion penodol pobl sydd ag anableddau dysgu a phroblemau iechyd meddwl wrth fynd i'r afael â sgiliau llythrennedd a rhifedd?

Jane Davidson: Mewn perthynas ag oedolion a phlant ag anableddau dysgu, ein nod, drwy'r gyfundrefn addysg, yw rhoi'r cymorth cywir iddynt i'w galluogi i ddatblygu i'w potensial llawn. Gellir cysylltu rhai problemau iechyd meddwl â theimladau o rwystredigaeth sy'n gysylltiedig â diffyg sgiliau sylfaenol digonol. Dyna pam yr ydym, yn ogystal â'r gwaith mewn ysgolion a cholegau, yn darparu cyrsiau ar gyfer pobl sy'n dychwelyd i fyd addysg fel y gallant fod yn fwy hyderus wrth symud ymlaen, efallai ar gyfer cyfleoedd swyddi yn y dyfodol.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog at Aelodau'n darllen cwestiynau. Byddai'n well gennyf pe na byddai Aelodau'n darllen eu cwestiynau, ond mae gennyf farn hefyd ynglŷn â Gweinidogion sy'n darllen atebion maith.

Datganiad am Haint Clostridium Difficile Statement on the Clostridium Difficile Superbug

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I welcome the opportunity to make this statement to Plenary. On 11 October, the National Public Health Service published data on the number of Clostridium difficile cases identified in Wales between 1 January 2005 and 31

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Croesawaf y cyfle i wneud y datganiad hwn yn y Cyfarfod Llawn. Ar 11 Hydref, cyhoeddodd y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol ddata am nifer yr achosion o Clostridium difficile a nodwyd yng Nghymru

December 2005. This was the first time that data on a trust-by-trust basis for *Clostridium difficile* infections have been presented in Wales. The data show that on average in 2005, for every 1,000 patients aged 65 and over admitted to hospitals in Wales, just under 15 developed the infection. The results varied between hospitals, showing that the risk of infection depends on many local factors, which is something that we have emphasised in relation to all healthcare-associated infections. Similar levels of infection were recorded among male and female patients, but the rate of infection was generally higher among the more elderly patients and those undergoing treatment for kidney disease.

Clostridium difficile can be a serious infection and I am committed to tackling it as part of our wider campaign against all healthcare-associated infections, which is a policy that is beginning to pay dividends. The publication of the NPHS data is the result of a surveillance programme that has been running since January 2005, which is aimed at monitoring the level of *Clostridium difficile* in our hospitals. This surveillance scheme is a significant aspect of 'Healthcare Associated Infections: A Strategy for Hospitals in Wales', which was launched in 2004 and aims to help NHS trusts to reduce the burden of all healthcare-associated infections in Wales. By undertaking this surveillance, NHS trusts and the NPHS are able to monitor the effectiveness of infection management strategies and highlight potential areas for further investigation and action. I made a commitment to the publication of this data, along with other surveillance schemes, in October last year, which led to the inclusion of healthcare-associated infections as one of our annual service and financial framework targets.

Members may be aware of the recent media interest in a relatively new strain of *Clostridium difficile*, type 027. This strain was associated with the outbreaks at Aylesbury's Stoke Mandeville Hospital

rhwng 1 Ionawr 2005 a 31 Rhagfyr 2005. Hwn oedd y tro cyntaf i ddata am heintiau *Clostridium difficile* gael eu cyflwyno fesul ymddiriedolaeth yng Nghymru. Dengys y data fod ychydig yn llai na 15 o bob 1,000 o gleifion 65 oed a hŷn a dderbyniwyd i ysbytai yng Nghymru wedi datblygu'r haint ar gyfartaledd yn 2005. Yr oedd y canlyniadau'n amrywio rhwng ysbytai, sy'n dangos bod y risg o gael yr haint yn dibynnu ar nifer o ffactorau lleol, sy'n rhywbeth yr ydym wedi'i bwysleisio mewn perthynas â phob haint sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd. Cofnodwyd lefelau tebyg o'r haint ymhlith dynion a menywod, ond yr oedd cyfradd yr haint ar y cyfan yn uwch ymhlith cleifion hŷn a chleifion a oedd yn cael triniaeth am glefyd yr arenau.

Gall *Clostridium difficile* fod yn haint difrifol, ac yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i fynd i'r afael â hyn fel rhan o'n hymgyrch ehangach yn erbyn pob haint sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd. Mae'r polisi'n dechrau talu ar ei ganfed. Cyhoeddwyd data'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol o ganlyniad i raglen wyliadwriaeth a fu'n rhedeg ers mis Ionawr 2005, sydd â'r nod o fonitro lefel y *Clostridium difficile* yn ein hysbytai. Mae'r cynllun gwylidwriaeth hwn yn agwedd bwysig ar 'Heintiau sy'n Gysylltiedig â Gofal Iechyd: Strategaeth ar gyfer Ysbytai yng Nghymru', a lansiwyd yn 2004, a'i nod yw helpu ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG i leihau baich yr holl heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd yng Nghymru. Drwy wneud y gwaith gwylidwriaeth hwn, gall ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG a'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol fonitro effeithiolrwydd strategaethau rheoli heintiau a thynnu sylw at feysydd posibl i'w harchwilio ymhellach ac i weithredu arnynt. Gwneuthum ymrwymiad i gyhoeddi'r data hwn, ynghyd â chynlluniau gwylidwriaeth eraill, ym mis Hydref y llynedd, ac arweiniodd hynny at gynnwys heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd fel un o'n targedau blynyddol ar gyfer y fframwaith gwasanaethau a chyllid.

Efallai y bydd Aelodau'n ymwybodol o'r diddordeb yn ddiweddar gan y cyfryngau mewn math cymharol newydd o *Clostridium difficile*, sef math 027. Yr oedd y math hwn yn gysylltiedig â'r achosion yn Ysbyty Stoke

between October 2003 and June 2005. Data from the anaerobe reference laboratory in Cardiff show that, in England, this type has spread to over 80 hospitals in recent years. Surveillance from the NPHS has shown that type 027 has been detected in Wales at very low levels and, to date, it has not been associated with any outbreaks. It will continue to be closely monitored by the NPHS, which hosts the UK's anaerobe reference unit. As I have said, reducing healthcare-associated infections is a priority. We are working closely with the NPHS to increase awareness of all healthcare-associated infections, including *Clostridium difficile*, and infection-control procedures among staff in the NHS. The recently launched e-learning package provides training in infection control for all NHS staff who have direct contact with patients.

The data published by the NPHS do not allow a direct comparison with other UK countries. However, last week saw the release of interim results of the 2006 UK prevalence of infection survey by the Hospital Infection Society at its international conference in Amsterdam. During the early part of 2006, the society led a significant survey into the prevalence of healthcare-associated infections in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, with the NPHS leading the management of the programme within every trust in Wales. This is such an important survey that we have made it mandatory for every trust in Wales to take part. This will allow us to gain a comprehensive picture. While, as I said, the recent *Clostridium difficile* data do not allow comparisons with other countries, the prevalence survey does. It shows that for those aged over 65 in Wales, the rate of *Clostridium difficile* infection is the lowest in the UK, albeit that Scotland is still to publish its results. For those aged under 65, a smaller group of patients, Wales has the second-lowest rate behind Northern Ireland. Other results from the survey are equally positive for Wales.

Mandeville yn Aylesbury rhwng mis Hydref 2003 a mis Mehefin 2005. Dengys data o'r labordy cyfeiriadau anerob yng Nghaerdydd fod y math hwn wedi lledaenu i fwy na 80 o ysbytai yn Lloegr yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Dengys gwaith gwylidwriaeth gan y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol fod math 027 wedi'i ddarganfod yng Nghymru ar lefelau isel iawn, a hyd yma ni fu'n gysylltiedig ag unrhyw achosion. Bydd yn parhau i gael ei fonitro'n agos gan y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol, sy'n cynnal uned cyfeiriadau anerob y DU. Fel y dywedais, mae lleihau nifer yr heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd yn flaenoriaeth. Yr ydym yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol i gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth o'r holl heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd, gan gynnwys *Clostridium difficile*, a gweithdrefnau rheoli heintiau ymysg staff yn y GIG. Mae'r pecyn e-ddysgu a lanswyd yn ddiweddar yn darparu hyfforddiant ar reoli heintiau i holl staff y GIG sy'n dod i gysylltiad uniongyrchol â chleifion.

Ni ellir cymharu'r data a gyhoeddwyd gan y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol yn uniongyrchol â gwledydd eraill y DU. Fodd bynnag, yr wythnos diwethaf cyhoeddwyd canlyniadau dros dro yr arolwg o nifer yr achosion o heintiau yn y DU yn 2006 gan y Gymdeithas Heintiau Ysbytai yn ei chynhadledd ryngwladol yn Amsterdam. Yn ystod dechrau 2006, arweiniodd y gymdeithas arolwg pwysig o nifer yr achosion o heintiau yn gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd yn y DU a Gweriniaeth Iwerddon, a'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol yn arwain y gwaith o reoli'r rhaglen ym mhob ymddiriedolaeth yng Nghymru. Mae hwn yn arolwg mor bwysig fel ein bod wedi ei gwneud yn ofynnol i bob ymddiriedolaeth yng Nghymru gymryd rhan ynddo. Bydd hyn yn ein galluogi i gael darlun cynhwysfawr. Fel y dywedais, er nad yw'r data diweddar am *Clostridium difficile* yn caniatáu cymharu â gwledydd eraill, mae'r arolwg o nifer yr achosion o heintiau yn ein galluogi i wneud hynny. Dengys mai cyfradd yr haint *Clostridium difficile* mewn pobl dros 65 oed yng Nghymru yw'r isaf yn y DU, er nad yw'r Alban wedi cyhoeddi ei chanlyniadau eto. Ar gyfer pobl dan 65 oed, grŵp llai o gleifion,

Cymru sydd â'r gyfradd isaf ond un ar ôl Gogledd Iwerddon. Mae canlyniadau eraill o'r arolwg yr un mor gadarnhaol i Gymru.

The prevalence rate for the UK has fallen from 9 per cent in the previous survey, which was conducted in 1993 to 1994, to 7.6 per cent in the recent survey. For Wales, the rate for all healthcare-associated infections is 6.3 per cent. This is lower than the 8.2 per cent recorded in England and less than the 7.6 per cent average prevalence rate for the UK and Republic of Ireland, which is good news for Wales and shows that the infection reduction strategies that we are putting in place are having a positive effect.

Mae nifer yr achosion o heintiau yn y DU wedi gostwng o 9 y cant yn yr arolwg blaenorol, a wnaed rhwng 1993 a 1994, i 7.6 y cant yn yr arolwg diweddar. Ar gyfer Cymru, y gyfradd ar gyfer pob haint sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd yw 6.3 y cant. Mae hyn yn llai na'r 8.2 y cant a gofnodwyd yn Lloegr ac yn llai na nifer yr achosion o heintiau ar gyfartaledd yn y DU a Gweriniaeth Iwerddon, sef 7.6 y cant, sy'n newyddion da i Gymru ac sy'n dangos bod y strategaethau yr ydym yn eu rhoi ar waith i leihau nifer yr achosion o heintiau yn cael effaith gadarnhaol.

3.40 p.m.

From this recent prevalence survey, the same picture can be painted for MRSA. Of the 6.3 per cent of infections in Wales, the data suggest that around 13 per cent were associated with MRSA. That equates to a prevalence rate for newly-acquired MRSA in our hospitals of less than 1 per cent and is further support for our continued attack on all aspects of healthcare-associated infections.

O'r arolwg diweddar hwn o nifer yr achosion o heintiau, mae'r un peth yn wir am MRSA. O'r 6.3 y cant o heintiau yng Nghymru, awgryma'r data fod tuag 13 y cant yn gysylltiedig ag MRSA. Mae hynny'n cyfateb i gyfradd o lai nag 1 y cant ar gyfer nifer yr achosion newydd o MRSA yn ein hysbytai, ac mae'n gefnogaeth bellach i'n hymgyrch barhaus yn erbyn pob agwedd ar heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd.

It is clear that we are seeing a real reduction in healthcare-associated infections, but it is equally clear that we could still do more. The key will be to continue down the same path, encouraging others to confront their local infection problems, and working with partners to identify and deliver solutions. Education is the key to realising all our expectations—of the public as well as professionals. Through increasing awareness we will continue to deliver solutions that will improve the care of patients through a reduction of infection.

Mae'n amlwg ein bod yn gweld lleihad gwirioneddol yn nifer yr heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd, ond mae'r un mor glir y gallewneud mwy o hyd. Yr allwedd fydd parhau i wneud yr un peth, gan annog eraill i ymdrin â'u problemau heintiau lleol, a gweithio gyda phartneriaid i nodi a darparu atebion. Addysg yw'r ateb i wireddu ein holl ddisgwyliadau—disgwyliadau'r cyhoedd yn ogystal â disgwyliadau gweithwyr proffesiynol. Drwy gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth byddwn yn parhau i ddarparu atebion a fydd yn gwella gofal cleifion drwy leihau nifer yr achosion o heintiau.

Finally, therefore, we must avoid the knee-jerk, hunt-the-headline, latest-super-bug media scare story. It is important that we do not unduly alarm patients to the extent that they deprive themselves of the benefits of modern healthcare. However, healthcare infection is a serious issue and we are committed to further reducing the figures,

Yn olaf, felly, rhaid inni osgoi'r straeon difeddwl yn y cyfryngau sy'n codi braw ynghylch yr heintiau diweddaraf. Mae'n bwysig inni beidio â dychryn cleifion yn ddiangen i'r graddau eu bod yn peidio â manteisio ar ofal iechyd modern. Fodd bynnag, mae heintiau gofal iechyd yn fater difrifol, ac yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i ostwng

building on the good practice that we already have in Wales.

Helen Mary Jones: I am pleased to hear you reiterate that further reducing infections remains a priority for the Government. It is good news that Wales is doing comparatively well, but I am sure that you would agree that there is no room for complacency. I endorse what you have said about not being alarmist, and I think that some headlines are unhelpful, but that said, the situation is serious and continues to require action.

You stated that education is key to this, and I am sure that that is true, but it is not the only factor. Do you accept, for example, that staff who are under pressure, working on understaffed wards, are more likely to be at risk of paying less attention than necessary to hygiene measures? What steps can you take with the trusts to ensure that staffing pressures do not adversely affect hygiene? Do you accept that it may be harder to maintain standards in particular wards when temporary staff are extensively used? We have seen, in some trusts, an increase in the use of agency nurses, which, I know, you will not welcome any more than any of us would. Are you taking steps to work with the nursing agencies to ensure that agency and temporary staff are kept up-to-speed with best practice in the same way as full-time NHS staff? Furthermore, do you acknowledge that hygiene management improves when staff with cleaning and cleansing responsibilities are an integral part of ward teams and when they can, for example, be directed by senior nurses? If you do, what are you doing with trusts to promote this approach to managing cleanliness in hospitals?

Brian Gibbons: Thank you for your positive comments. It is important that we do not unduly alarm and scare patients. I was a little perturbed to see the title of this statement, which was, I think, 'the Clostridium difficile superbug update' or words to that effect. That potentially contributes to the unnecessary alarm that exists.

y ffigurau ymhellach, gan adeiladu ar yr arferion da sydd gennym eisoes yng Nghymru.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf yn falch o'ch clywed yn ailddweud bod lleihau nifer yr achosion o heintiau yn dal yn flaenoriaeth i'r Llywodraeth. Mae'n newyddion da fod Cymru yn gwneud yn gymharol dda, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno na ddylid llaesu dwylo. Cefnogaf yr hyn a ddywedech ynghylch peidio â dychryn pobl, a chredaf nad yw rhai penawdau yn helpu. Ond wedi dweud hynny, mae'r sefyllfa'n ddifrifol ac mae angen gweithredu o hyd.

Yr oeddech yn dweud mai addysg yw'r ateb i hyn, ac yr wyf yn siŵr fod hynny'n wir, ond nid dyna'r unig ffactor. A dderbyniwch, er enghraifft, fod staff sydd o dan bwysau, yn gweithio ar wardiau lle nad oes digon o staff, yn fwy tebygol o fod mewn perygl o roi llai o sylw i fesurau hylendid nag sy'n ofynnol? Pa gamau y gallwch eu cymryd gyda'r ymddiriedolaethau i sicrhau nad yw pwysau ar staff yn effeithio'n andwyol ar hylendid? A dderbyniwch y gallai fod yn anos cynnal safonau mewn wardiau penodol lle y defnyddir nifer o staff dros dro? Mewn rhai ymddiriedolaethau, gwelwyd cynnydd mewn defnyddio nyrsys asiantaeth, a gwn na fyddech chi, fel ninnau, yn croesawu hyn. A ydych yn cymryd camau i weithio gyda'r asiantaethau nyrsio i sicrhau bod staff asiantaeth a staff dros dro yn cael gwybodaeth am yr arferion gorau diweddaraf yn yr un modd â staff llawn amser y GIG? Yn ogystal, a ydych yn cydnabod bod rheolaeth hylendid yn gwella pan fydd staff sydd â chyfrifoldebau glanhau yn rhan annatod o dimau wardiau a phan all nyrsys hŷn, er enghraifft, eu cyfarwyddo? Os felly, beth yr ydych yn ei wneud gydag ymddiriedolaethau i hyrwyddo'r dull hwn o reoli glendid mewn ysbytai?

Brian Gibbons: Diolch am eich sylwadau cadarnhaol. Mae'n bwysig inni beidio â dychryn cleifion yn ddiangen. Synnais ychydig o weld teitl y datganiad hwn, sef 'y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am yr haint Clostridium difficile', neu rywbeth tebyg. Mae'n bosibl bod hynny'n cyfrannu at y dychryn diangen sy'n bodoli.

You are right that staff under pressure might try to take short-cuts, but that is not an acceptable excuse. Some changes have been introduced, such as the use of alcohol gel at the entrance to wards, but, in most hospitals today, that gel has now been placed at the end of beds, so the excuses for short-cuts are becoming fewer and fewer.

The use of agency nurses in the NHS in Wales is decreasing quite dramatically. There might have been a case for using agency nurses three or four years ago, but nurses are now beginning to come out of the training funded by the Assembly Government.

The Assembly Government has implemented a 50 per cent increase in nurse training, and there is a 20 to 30 per cent increase in nursing numbers that are available to the NHS. Clearly, trusts that are routinely resorting to agency nurses have questions to answer about their employment practices. Equally, you will be aware that the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales has a special responsibility to monitor nursing agencies as part of its regulatory duty. Its annual report shows that it is reasonable happy with what it found in its work with agency nursing. I agree with you that all members of staff who work on wards are part of the clinical team; that includes people who distribute food and clean the wards. It is important that people who are in charge of any clinical area, whether it is out-patient area or a ward, should be able to direct staff in that area, in order to ensure that proper standards are maintained.

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister referred to the title of this statement; I do not think that it has anything to do with us on the presiding bench. It probably emanated from the Government, as this is a Government statement. Therefore, the remedy is in the Minister's own hands, so to speak.

Jonathan Morgan: Minister, I welcome this statement and thank you for the fact that this work builds on the publication of the report into how hospitals should be combating hospital-based infections, which was published, as I understand, in 2004. We are

Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle y gallai staff sydd o dan bwysau geisio chwilio am ffyrdd cyflymach i wneud pethau er mwyn arbed amser, ond nid yw hynny'n esgus derbyniol. Cyflwynwyd rhai newidiadau, fel defnyddio gel alcohol wrth fynedfeydd wardiau, ond yn y rhan fwyaf o ysbytai heddiw, mae'r gel hwnnw ar waelod gwelyau bellach, felly, mae'r esgusodion yn lleihau.

Mae defnyddio nyrsys asiantaeth yn y GIG yng Nghymru yn gostwng yn ddigon sylweddol. Efallai fod achos dros ddefnyddio nyrsys asiantaeth dair neu bedair blynedd yn ôl, ond mae nyrsys yn awr yn dechrau gorffen yr hyfforddiant sy'n cael ei ariannu gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gweithredu cynnydd o 50 y cant yn hyfforddiant nyrsys, ac mae cynnydd o 20 i 30 y cant yn nifer y nyrsys sydd ar gael i'r GIG. Yn amlwg, mae gan ymddiriedolaethau sy'n defnyddio nyrsys asiantaeth yn rheolaidd gwestiynau i'w hateb ynghylch eu harferion cyflogaeth. Yn yr un modd, fe wyddoch fod gan Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru gyfrifoldeb arbennig i fonitro asiantaethau nyrsio fel rhan o'i dyletswydd reoliadol. Dengys ei hadroddiad blynyddol ei bod yn rhesymol o fodlon â'r hyn a welodd yn ei gwaith gyda nyrsys asiantaeth. Cytunaf â chi fod pob aelod o staff sy'n gweithio ar wardiau yn rhan o'r tîm clinigol; mae hynny'n cynnwys pobl sy'n dosbarthu bwyd ac yn glanhau'r wardiau. Mae'n bwysig i bobl sy'n gyfrifol am unrhyw faes clinigol, boed yn faes cleifion allanol neu'n ward, allu cyfarwyddo staff yn y maes hwnnw, er mwyn sicrhau cynnal safonau priodol.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog at deitl y datganiad hwn; ni chredaf mai mater i ni ar y fainc lywyddu yw hynny o gwbl. Mae'n debygol mai'r Llywodraeth a oedd yn gyfrifol amdano, gan mai datganiad y Llywodraeth ydyw. Felly, mae'r ateb yn nwylo'r Gweinidog ei hun, fel petai.

Jonathan Morgan: Weiniog, yr wyf yn croesawu'r datganiad hwn, a diolch ichi am y ffaith fod y gwaith hwn yn adeiladu ar y broses o gyhoeddi'r adroddiad ar y ffordd y dylai ysbytai fod yn atal heintiau mewn ysbytai, a gyhoeddwyd yn 2004, yn ôl a

pleased that the data is being collected by the national public health service, and we note the figures that have been published up until the end of 2005. According to the NPHS, in 1999 there were 1,488 reported cases of *Clostridium difficile*, which rose last year to 2,136—although that figure has not been confirmed figures as yet. Can you confirm the accuracy of those figures, and can you also confirm the figures up until the mid point of this year? While I am aware that the figures tend to be ever changing, due to reports coming through, are more recent figures available, taking this year into account?

Secondly, we know for a fact that *Clostridium difficile* is resistant to most disinfection methods and that it is very difficult to eradicate. Therefore, what discussions have you had with NHS trusts about the strategies that they have put in place to deal with patients who have been identified with this bacterium? That is important, bearing in mind how quickly it could spread.

Thirdly, you pointed out that surveillance work is being done with regard to patients over the age of 65. Is there any scope to widen the surveillance to patients below the age of 65? I know that you said in your statement that we anticipate that only a small number of people below the age of 65 could be classed as having the infection, but it might be useful, in future years, for the NPHS to widen the scope of the surveillance to include people under the age of 65.

The data that has been published by the NPHS forms part of one of the recommendations of the report that was published in 2004. What future work is being planned by the NPHS, bearing in mind that this is the first publication of a set of data that was recommended by the chief medical officer and the chief executive of the NHS in their report, called 'Healthcare Associated Infections: a Strategy for Hospitals in Wales'?

In your statement you mentioned that type 027 has been detected in Wales at very low levels, as you announced in July 2006. What

ddeallaf. Yr ydym yn falch fod y data yn cael eu casglu gan y gwasanaeth iechyd cyhoeddus cenedlaethol, a nodwn y ffigurau a gyhoeddwyd tan ddiwedd 2005. Yn ôl y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol, roedd 1,488 o achosion o *Clostridium difficile* wedi'u cofnodi yn 1999, a chododd hwnnw y llynedd i 2,136—er nad yw'r ffigur hwnnw wedi'i gadarnhau hyd yma. A allwch gadarnhau cywirdeb y ffigurau hynny, ac a allwch hefyd gadarnhau'r ffigurau hyd at ganol y flwyddyn hon? Er fy mod yn gwybod bod y ffigurau'n tueddu i newid o hyd, am fod adroddiadau newydd yn dod allan, a oes ffigurau diweddarach ar gael, sy'n ystyried eleni?

Yn ail, gwyddom i sicrwydd fod *Clostridium difficile* yn gallu gwrthsefyll y rhan fwyaf o'r dulliau diheintio a'i bod yn anodd iawn cael gwared ar yr haint. Felly, pa drafodaethau yr ydych wedi eu cael gydag ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG am y strategaethau a roddwyd ar waith ganddynt i ymdrin â chleifion y nodwyd bod ganddynt y bacteriwm hwn? Mae hynny'n bwysig o gofio mor gyflym y gallai ledaenu.

Yn drydydd, soniech fod gwaith arolygu yn mynd rhagddo gyda chleifion dros 65 oed. A oes unrhyw le i ehangu'r gwaith arolygu hwn i gleifion dan 65 oed? Gwn ichi ddweud yn eich datganiad ein bod yn rhagweld mai nifer fach yn unig o bobl dan 65 oed y gellid eu dosbarthu fel pobl â'r haint hwn, ond gallai fod yn ddefnyddiol, yn y dyfodol, i'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol ehangu cwmpas y gwaith arolygu i gynnwys pobl dan 65 oed.

Mae'r data a gyhoeddwyd gan y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol yn rhan o un o argymhellion yr adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd yn 2004. Pa waith a gaiff ei gynllunio gan y Gwasanaeth hwn yn y dyfodol, o gofio mai hwn yw cyhoeddiad cyntaf set o ddata a argymhellwyd gan y prif swyddog meddygol a phrif weithredwr y GIG yn eu hadroddiad, 'Heintiau sy'n Gysylltiedig â Gofal Iechyd: Strategaeth i Ysbytai yng Nghymru'?

Yn eich datganiad, dywedech fod math 027 wedi'i ddarganfod yng Nghymru ar lefelau isel iawn, fel y cyhoeddwyd gennych ym mis

is the level of detection, because you said that, in terms of hospital-acquired infections, we have an overall detection of around 6.3 per cent, but that 15 per cent of that is classed as MRSA? What proportion of that 6.3 per cent of the detection rate of hospital-acquired infections is *Clostridium difficile*, compared with the rates of MRSA? You have not been clear in the report as to the rate of *Clostridium difficile* as a proportion of the rate of hospital-acquired infections.

3.50 p.m.

On the crucial part of your report, which mentions education being a key factor, chapter six of the report that was published by the chief medical officer and the chief executive of the NHS, said that there were several process indicators that would be valuable in the context of intervention and performance indicators. One of those was the percentage of staff trained in infection control. Are you now able to tell us, since the publication of that report in 2004, how many staff have been trained in infection control, specifically in relation *Clostridium difficile*?

One of the other recommendations, or suggestions, in the report was that the use of outcome measures as performance indicators would be strongly recommended, but that there were problems with this. One problem was that we had a weak evidence base in terms of the rates of infection that might be anticipated in a hospital, and that, as a result, it would be difficult to see outcome indicators as targets, because they could be seen as speculative, simply because of the weakness of the evidence base. I accept that the national public health service published its data from 2005 for the first time, but I would like an assurance that more work will be done by the NPHS in publishing outcome data on hospital infections. Unless we get the outcome data from the NPHS, it will be difficult to satisfy one of those key recommendations in the joint report from the chief medical officer and the chief executive of the NHS.

Gorffennaf 2006. Pa lefel a welwyd, oherwydd yr oeddech yn dweud, o ran heintiau a geir yn yr ysbyty, fod gennym gyfradd ddarganfod gyffredinol o tua 6.3 y cant, ond bod 15 y cant o'r gyfradd honno yn achosion o MRSA? Pa gyfran o'r 6.3 y cant hwnnw o gyfradd ddarganfod heintiau a geir yn yr ysbyty sydd yn *Clostridium difficile*, o'r chymharu â chyfraddau MRSA? Nid ydych wedi bod yn eglur yn yr adroddiad am gyfradd y *Clostridium difficile* fel cyfran o gyfradd yr heintiau a geir yn yr ysbyty.

Ynglŷn â'r rhan hollbwysig yn eich adroddiad sy'n sôn bod addysg yn ffactor allweddol, yr oedd pennod chwech yn yr adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd gan y prif swyddog meddygol a phrif weithredwr y GIG yn dweud bod yna nifer o ddangosyddion proses a fyddai'n werthfawr yng nghyd-destun ymyriad a dangosyddion perfformiad. Un o'r rheini oedd canran y staff a oedd wedi eu hyfforddi ym maes rheoli heintiau. A allwch ddweud wrthym yn awr, ers cyhoeddi'r adroddiad hwnnw yn 2004, faint o staff sydd wedi eu hyfforddi ym maes rheoli heintiau, yn arbennig mewn perthynas â *Clostridium difficile*?

Un o'r argymhellion, neu'r awgrymiadau, eraill yn yr adroddiad oedd y byddai defnyddio mesurau canlyniadau fel dangosyddion perfformiad yn cael ei argymhell yn gryf, ond bod problemau gyda hyn. Un broblem oedd bod gennym sylfaen dystiolaeth wan o gyfraddau'r heintiau y gellid eu rhagweld mewn ysbyty, ac o ganlyniad y byddai'n anodd gweld dangosyddion canlyniadau fel targedau, oherwydd gellid ystyried eu bod yn ddamcaniaethol, yn syml oherwydd bod y sylfaen dystiolaeth yn wan. Derbyniaf fod y gwasanaeth iechyd cyhoeddus cenedlaethol wedi cyhoeddi ei ddata o 2005 am y tro cyntaf, ond hoffwn gael sicrwydd y gwneir mwy o waith gan y gwasanaeth hwnnw ar gyhoeddi data ar ganlyniadau heintiau mewn ysbytai. Oni fydd y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol yn rhoi'r data ar ganlyniadau inni, bydd yn anodd bodloni un o'r argymhellion allweddol hynny yn yr adroddiad ar y cyd gan y prif swyddog meddygol a phrif weithredwr y GIG.

There is a huge amount of work to be done, although I welcome the fact that we are making some progress. However, we need further clarity as to the exact numbers of patients who have been recorded as having *Clostridium difficile*, and on how *Clostridium difficile* compares as a proportion of overall hospital infection rates, compared with other hospital infections, such as MRSA.

Brian Gibbons: As I said in the statement, the overall prevalence rate for *Clostridium difficile* is 14.64 per 1,000 admissions. If we say that MRSA was 1 per cent of all hospital admissions—I am struggling to do the mental arithmetic; maybe we can leave it for the Record of Proceedings to work out the precise rate. However, it is difficult to give you the trend over time, because last year was the first year in which we have a full year's data. That will be for the future rather than the past; we will have to accept that data collection in the past would not be anything like as comprehensive as the surveillance process that we have in place at present.

Some of the basic strategies for responding are what needs to be done already, in terms of hand-washing and basic preventive medicine, which apply to all healthcare-acquired infection. The only slight difference with *Clostridium difficile* is that it can survive in a spore form, and, consequently, unlike some other organisms that do not survive well outside the body, the spore can persist. Therefore, the mechanical work of cleaning is that little bit more important for *Clostridium difficile*, compared with other organisms, and the physical cleansing of toilets, washbasins, and so on, would be that little bit more important, compared with some other organisms that are spread from person to person.

However, the basic essentials are still the same, and it would be a mistake to pretend that things are different. Much of the guidance in how to respond has been outlined in the report that followed the Stoke Mandeville outbreak. Many of the lessons from that outbreak were that management did

Mae llawer iawn o waith i'w wneud, er fy mod yn croesawu'r ffaith ein bod yn gwneud rhywfaint o gynnydd. Fodd bynnag, mae angen rhagor o eglurder am union nifer y cleifion y cofnodwyd bod *Clostridium difficile* arnynt, ac am y modd y mae *Clostridium difficile* yn cymharu fel cyfran o gyfraddau cyffredinol heintiau mewn ysbytai, o'i gymharu â heintiau eraill mewn ysbytai, megis MRSA.

Brian Gibbons: Fel y dywedais yn y datganiad, 14.64 am bob 1,000 o dderbyniadau yw'r gyfradd gyffredinrwydd gyffredinol ar gyfer *Clostridium difficile*. Os dywedwn fod 1 y cant o'r holl gleifion a dderbynnir i'r ysbyty yn cael MRSA—yr wyf yn cael trafferth gwneud y rhifydddeg pen; efallai y gallwn adael i Gofnod y Trafodion weithio allan yr union gyfradd. Fodd bynnag, mae'n anodd rhoi'r duedd ichi dros amser, oherwydd y llynedd oedd y flwyddyn gyntaf inni gael data am flwyddyn lawn. Bydd hynny'n rhywbeth i'r dyfodol yn hytrach na'r gorffennol; bydd yn rhaid inni dderbyn na fyddai'r broses o gasglu data yn y gorffennol agos mor gynhwysfawr â'r broses arolygu sydd ar waith gennym ar hyn o bryd.

Mae rhai o'r strategaethau sylfaenol ar gyfer ymateb yn bethau y mae angen eu gwneud eisoes, o ran golchi dwylo a meddygaeth ataliol sylfaenol, sy'n berthnasol i bob haint a geir wrth gael gofal iechyd. Yr unig fân wahaniaeth gyda *Clostridium difficile* yw y gall barhau ar ffurf sbôr, ac o ganlyniad, yn wahanol i rai organebau eraill nad ydynt yn goroesi'n dda y tu allan i'r corff, gall y sbôr barhau. Felly, mae'r gwaith mecanyddol o lanhau fymryn yn bwysicach ar gyfer *Clostridium difficile*, o'i gymharu ag organebau eraill, a byddai'r gwaith ffisegol o lanhau toiledau, basnau ymolchi, ac ati, fymryn yn bwysicach, o'i gymharu â rhai organebau eraill a gaiff eu lledaenu o berson i berson.

Fodd bynnag, mae'r hanfodion sylfaenol yn dal yr un fath, a byddai honni bod pethau'n wahanol yn gamgymeriad. Mae nifer o'r canllawiau ar y modd i ymateb wedi'u hamlinellu yn yr adroddiad a ddaeth yn sgîl yr achosion yn Stoke Mandeville. Nifer o'r gwersi a ddysgwyd yn sgîl yr achosion hynny

not take the condition seriously enough, early enough, in the outbreak, and there were criticisms in relation to isolation policies, and so on. There is a long list of detailed recommendations from the Stoke Mandeville outbreak.

On statistics, we monitor all cases of *Clostridium difficile*. The figure that I gave on the prevalence was the overall prevalence for *Clostridium difficile*—about 80 per cent of infections occur in people aged over 65, so it is predominantly there, but all the data is collected for all age groups, regardless. In terms of ongoing learning, you are right; that is one of the reasons why we ensured that all the people working in the NHS, in a clinical setting, were supplied with the e-learning package. That was made available in the last three to four months, and should have been available to every person working in the NHS. I understand that there is a self-assessment tool as part of that electronic learning package, which was made available to everyone. Linked to that, we have established clinical leads who are not necessarily ward sisters, but people in the clinical area, to take a lead role on infection. They will have the additional role of monitoring how their clinical team works in relation to infection control and they will have expertise in that.

The evidence is becoming increasingly robust and if people want to see a lot of this evidence, they should look at the national public health service website. It is a little opaque at the beginning, but once you begin to negotiate your way around it, it becomes more intuitive. There is a tremendous amount of information on that website, and while, as I said, the navigation is a little difficult, the presentation of the information is fairly good. For people who are interested in this subject, it is a good place to start to get more detailed information.

Jenny Randerson: I will not repeat some questions that I had that were similar to Jonathan's. However, I welcome this statement—we welcome all data on hospital-acquired infections, particularly as we

oedd fod y rheolwyr heb gymryd y cyflwr yn ddigon difrifol, yn ddigon cynnar, a bu beirniadaeth am bolisiau ynysu, ac ati. Mae rhestr faith o argymhellion manwl yn dilyn yr achosion yn Stoke Mandeville.

O ran ystadegau, yr ydym yn monitro pob achos o *Clostridium difficile*. Y ffigur a roddais ar gyffredinrwydd oedd y cyffredinrwydd cyffredinol ar gyfer *Clostridium difficile*—mae tuag 80 y cant o heintiau'n digwydd mewn pobl dros 65 oed, felly, mae'n fwyaf cyffredin ymhlith yr oedran hwnnw, ond caiff yr holl ddata eu casglu ar gyfer pob grŵp oedran, doed a ddelo. O ran dysgu parhaus, yr ydych yn llygad eich lle; mae hwnnw'n un o'r rhesymau dros sicrhau bod y pecyn e-ddysgu wedi ei roi i bawb sy'n gweithio yn y GIG, mewn lleoliad clinigol. Cyhoeddwyd y pecyn hwnnw yn ystod y tri neu bedwar mis diwethaf, a dylasai fod ar gael i bawb sy'n gweithio yn y GIG. Deallaf fod offeryn hunanasesu yn rhan o'r pecyn dysgu electronig hwnnw, a oedd ar gael i bawb. Yn gysylltiedig â hynny, mae gennym arweinwyr clinigol sefydledig nad ydynt o reidrwydd yn brif nyrsys ward, ond yn bobl yn y meysydd clinigol, i gyflawni swyddogaeth arwain ym maes heintiau. Bydd ganddynt y swyddogaeth ychwanegol o fonitro'r modd y mae eu tîm clinigol yn gweithio mewn perthynas â rheoli heintiau, a bydd ganddynt arbenigedd yn hynny.

Mae'r dystiolaeth yn mynd yn fwyfwy cadarn, ac os yw pobl yn dymuno gweld llawer o'r dystiolaeth hon, dylent droi i wefan y gwasanaeth iechyd cyhoeddus cenedlaethol. Mae hi ychydig yn aneglur i ddechrau, ond ar ôl ichi ddechrau llywio o'i hamgylch, mae'n dod yn fwy sythweledol. Mae gwybodaeth ryfeddol ar gael ar y wefan honno, ac er bod y broses lywio ychydig yn anodd, fel y dywedais, mae'r wybodaeth wedi ei chyflwyno'n gymharol dda. I bobl sy'n ymddiddori yn y pwnc hwn, mae'n fan cychwyn da i gael gwybodaeth fanylach.

Jenny Randerson: Nid ailadroddaf rai o'r cwestiynau a oedd gennyf, gan eu bod yn debyg i rai Jonathan. Fodd bynnag, croesawaf y datganiad hwn—croesawn bob data am heintiau a geir yn yr ysbyty, yn arbennig o

struggled for so long to get the Labour Assembly Government to reveal those figures. One of the clear messages that comes out of this is the danger to older people, in particular, of healthcare-associated infections, and the importance, therefore, of ensuring that we minimise hospital stays, especially for older people. With the problems of bedblocking and delayed transfers of care being so significant at the moment, has your Government done any estimate of the total cost to the NHS in Wales of healthcare-associated infections, in terms, for example, of the number of additional days or weeks spent in hospital by patients who acquire those infections? It seems that that would be a perfectly reasonable task to undertake on a Wales-wide scale, because we are not talking about many hundreds of patients—thank goodness. I wonder if such a calculation has been done, because it is important that we see the health economy as a whole and that we see the importance of releasing funds to ensure that people can be transferred into the community at the first possible opportunity, in order to reduce the dangers of *Clostridium difficile* and other associated infections.

I was pleased that the 027 type is still at very low levels in Wales. However, I have a very specific question, which is on the statement that the data published by the NPHS does not allow direct comparison with other UK countries. Can you explain to us why we do it differently in Wales? I am not saying that we should not do it differently, but there are obviously advantages in being able to compare across the UK, in statistical terms. It may well be that you have good reasons for doing it differently, but it would be interesting to know why that is so.

Finally, I mention the clear importance of educating the public and professionals. I emphasise that, as far as I can tell, this is down to ensuring that simple steps are undertaken. Having alcohol gel at the foot of beds has made a dramatic difference at the University Hospital of Wales compared with when it was just at the entrance to the ward. That step alone has made a big difference to hospital hygiene.

gofio ein bod wedi brwydro cyhyd i sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad yn datgelu'r ffigurau hynny. Un o'r negeseuon clir sy'n deillio o hyn yw'r perygl y mae heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd yn ei beri i bobl hŷn, yn arbennig, a phwysigrwydd sicrhau, felly, ein bod yn lleihau cyfnodau aros yn yr ysbyty, yn enwedig i bobl hŷn. Gyda phroblemau blocio gwelyau ac oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal mor sylweddol ar hyn o bryd, a yw eich Llywodraeth wedi amcangyfrif cyfanswm cost heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd, er enghraifft, o ran nifer y dyddiau neu wythnosau ychwanegol a dreulir yn yr ysbyty gan gleifion sy'n cael yr heintiau hyn, i'r GIG yng Nghymru? Ymddengys y byddai hynny'n dasg berffaith resymol i ymgymryd â hi ledled Cymru, oherwydd nid ydym yn sôn am gannoedd o gleifion—diolch byth. Tybed a wnaed cyfrifiad o'r fath, oherwydd mae'n bwysig inni ystyried yr economi iechyd yn gyfan ac yn gweld pwysigrwydd rhyddhau arian i sicrhau y gellir trosglwyddo pobl i'r gymuned mor fuan â phosibl, er mwyn lleihau peryglon *Clostridium difficile* a heintiau cysylltiedig eraill.

Yr oeddwn yn falch fod nifer y math 027 yn dal yn isel iawn yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, mae gennyf gwestiwn penodol iawn, sy'n ymwneud â'r datganiad nad yw'r data a gyhoeddwyd gan y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol yn galluogi cymariaethau uniongyrchol â gwledydd eraill yn y DU. A allwch esbonio inni pam yr ydym yn gwneud pethau'n wahanol yng Nghymru? Nid wyf yn dweud na ddylem wneud pethau'n wahanol, ond mae manteision amlwg i allu cymharu ledled y DU, yn ystadegol. Efallai fod gennych resymau da dros wneud pethau'n wahanol, ond byddai'n ddiddorol gwybod pam hynny.

Yn olaf, soniaf am bwysigrwydd amlwg addysgu'r cyhoedd a gweithwyr proffesiynol. Pwysleisiaf fod a wnelo hyn, hyd y gwn i, â sicrhau cymryd camau syml. Mae sicrhau bod gel alcohol wrth erchwyn y gwely wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth aruthrol yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru o'i gymharu â phan oedd wrth y fynedfa i'r ward yn unig. Mae'r cam hwnnw ar ei ben ei hun wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth mawr i hylendid yn yr ysbyty.

4.00 p.m.

We passed some important regulations as a result of Val Lloyd's proposal for legislation under Standing Order No. 31, and I would like to know when all the steps in those regulations will be enforced. They include important steps in relation to the appointment of non-executive directors and the reporting of information to trusts. At what date can we expect that to be enforced and when will trusts be getting the information that is referred to in Val's legislation?

Brian Gibbons: I will deal with the last point first. Even before Val Lloyd's welcome legislation was enacted, there was an executive director in all trusts who had executive responsibility for this area. Therefore, that is not that it was not being dealt with previously but it will be dealt with now. I think that the major strength of Val Lloyd's proposal is that it will bring the patient's perspective more clearly into the boardroom, which will make the processes more transparent to the public. Equally, using a non-executive director will more effectively articulate a lay perspective on issues such as hygiene, basic cleanliness and healthcare infections. The legislation is in place, so I would expect trusts to be getting on with it. I cannot give you a figure as to how many trusts are appointing people, because the legislation is relatively new, but perhaps I could include that in a ministerial report to committee, possibly after Christmas, when trusts will have had the opportunity to act on it.

On the comparison of figures, in Wales, we do the calculation on the basis of 1,000 bed days, whereas in England it is done on the basis of admissions. I am not sure of the rationale behind the two different mechanisms, but I suspect that a lot of these things have a historical basis, and it may just have been that some people decided that one method was better than another. That is why the base population is different and why it is difficult for us to compare our data with England's, or, indeed, for England to

Pasiwyd rhai rheoliadau pwysig gennym o ganlyniad i gynnig Val Lloyd am ddeddfwriaeth o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31, a hoffwn wybod pryd y caiff yr holl gamau yn y rheoliadau hynny eu gorfodi. Maent yn cynnwys camau pwysig o ran penodi cyfarwyddwyr anweithredol a rhoi gwybodaeth i ymddiriedolaethau. Ar ba ddyddiad y gallwn ddisgwyl i hynny gael ei orfodi, a phryd fydd ymddiriedolaethau'n cael y wybodaeth y cyfeirir ati yn neddfwriaeth Val?

Brian Gibbons: Ymdriniaf â'r pwynt olaf yn gyntaf. Hyd yn oed cyn gweithredu deddfwriaeth Val Lloyd, a groesawyd yn fawr, yr oedd cyfarwyddwr gweithredol ym mhob ymddiriedolaeth a oedd â chyfrifoldeb gweithredol am y maes hwn. Felly, nid mater yw hynny nad ymdriniwyd ag ef yn flaenorol, ond ymdrinnir ag ef yn awr. Credaf mai prif gryfder cynnig Val Lloyd yw y bydd yn egluro safbwynt y claf yn well wrth y bwrdd, a fydd yn gwneud y prosesau'n fwy tryloyw i'r cyhoedd. Yn yr un modd, bydd defnyddio cyfarwyddwr anweithredol yn cyfleu safbwynt lle yw yn fwy effeithiol ar faterion megis hylendid, glanweithdra sylfaenol a heintiau a ddelir wrth gael gofal iechyd. Mae'r deddfwriaeth mewn grym, ac felly byddwn yn disgwyl i ymddiriedolaethau fynd i'r afael â hi. Ni allaf roi ffigur i chi am faint o ymddiriedolaethau sy'n penodi pobl, am fod y deddfwriaeth yn gymharol newydd. Ond efallai y gallwn gynnwys hynny mewn adroddiad gweinidogol i'r pwyllgor, ar ôl y Nadolig, hwyrach, pan fydd ymddiriedolaethau wedi cael y cyfle i weithredu arni.

O ran cymharu ffigurau, yng Nghymru, gwnawn y cyfrifiad ar sail 1,000 o ddiwrnodau gwely, ond yn Lloegr fe'i gwneir ar sail derbyniadau. Nid wyf yn siŵr o'r rhesymeg sy'n sail i'r ddau ddull gwahanol, ond amheuf fod sail hanesyddol i nifer o'r pethau hyn, ac efallai fod rhai pobl wedi penderfynu bod y naill ddull yn well na'r llall. Dyna'r rheswm pam mae'r boblogaeth sylfaen yn wahanol a'r rheswm pam mae'n anodd inni gymharu ein data â data Lloegr, neu, yn wir, i Loegr gymharu ei data hi â'n

compare its data with ours. I do not know whether anyone is in a position to search out the history of that in the way that you suggested, but some uniformity would be useful, if it were possible. Of course, we are not in a unique position on this: a number of data sets from the NHS in England and Wales are different, such as the hospital utilisation rate. We are not alone in this area.

Every so often, you see notional figures projected as the total costs of the NHS. I do not know how resilient those figures are, but I can certainly ask the National Public Health Service for Wales whether it has any notional figure. There would have to be a strong health warning attached to that figure, but we will see whether it has a figure first.

You mentioned getting patients discharged into the community, and there was some concern during the past year or 18 months that a number of healthcare-acquired infections were coming into hospitals from the community. The infection was being acquired in the community setting. It is for that reason that Dr Mannion, together with the National Public Health Service for Wales, has developed a fairly advanced-stage strategy to work with healthcare-acquired infections in a community setting. When that work is complete, it will begin to address the problem of people who acquire healthcare infections in a community setting, but also the point that you raised indirectly, namely of people bringing infections out with them from hospital, and being a reservoir for infections in the future. Hopefully, Dr Mannion's work will begin to address that point as well.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr ydym yn gwerthfawrogi'r datganiad hwn yn fawr, Weinidog. Mae llawer i'w ganmol a llawer sy'n galonogol yn eich ymatebion ynghylch y camau a fydd yn cael eu cymryd. Fodd bynnag, a ydych yn rhannu fy mhryder bod y broses o dendro cystadleuol, a thendro gwasanaethau glanhau yn allanol yn arbennig, wedi arwain at sefyllfa lle mae'n anoddach o lawer i ymddiriedolaethau reoli'r gwasanaethau hynny a sicrhau'r ansawdd uchaf o ran gwasanaethau glanhau, a bod hyn yn cyfrannu at heintiau o'r math hwn? Oni

data ni. Ni wn a oes neb mewn sefyllfa i ymchwilio i hanes hynny yn y ffordd a awgrymech, ond byddai rhywfaint o unfuriaeth yn ddefnyddiol, pe bai'n bosibl. Wrth gwrs, nid ydym mewn sefyllfa unigryw yn hyn: mae nifer o setiau data gan y GIG yng Nghymru a Lloegr yn wahanol, megis cyfradd defnyddio ysbytai. Nid ydym ar ein pen ein hunain yn y maes hwn.

Bob hyn a hyn, rhagamcanir ffigurau tybiannol fel cyfanswm costau'r GIG. Ni wn pa mor gadarn yw'r ffigurau hynny, ond gallaf yn sicr ofyn i Wasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol Cymru a oes ganddo unrhyw ffigur tybiannol. Byddai'n rhaid cael rhybudd iechyd cadarn yn gysylltiedig â'r ffigur hwnnw, ond cawn weld a oes ganddo ffigur yn gyntaf.

Soniecch am ryddhau cleifion i'r gymuned, ac yr oedd ychydig bryder yn ystod y flwyddyn neu'r 18 mis diwethaf fod nifer o heintiau a geir wrth gael gofal iechyd yn dod i'r ysbytai o'r gymuned. Yr oedd yr haint yn cychwyn yn y gymuned. Am y rheswm hwnnw, mae Dr Mannion, ynghyd â Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol Cymru, wedi datblygu strategaeth gymharol ddatblygedig i weithio ar heintiau a geir wrth gael gofal iechyd yn y gymuned. Pan fydd y gwaith hwnnw wedi'i gwblhau, bydd yn dechrau mynd i'r afael â phroblem pobl sy'n cael heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd yn y gymuned, ond hefyd y pwynt a godwyd gennych yn anuniongyrchol, sef pobl sy'n dod â heintiau allan gyda hwy o'r ysbyty, gan fod yn gronfa ar gyfer heintiau yn y dyfodol. Gobeithio y bydd gwaith Dr Mannion yn dechrau mynd i'r afael â'r pwynt hwnnw hefyd.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: We greatly appreciate your statement, Minister. There is a great deal to praise, and a great deal that is encouraging in your responses concerning the steps that will be taken. However, do you share my concern that the competitive tendering process, and particularly contracting out cleaning services, leads to a situation where it is far more difficult for trusts to manage those services, ensuring the highest standards of cleaning services, and that that contributes to infections such as this? Ensuring that health trusts have full

fyddai sicrhau bod gan yr ymddiriedolaethau reolaeth lawn dros y gwasanaethau glanhau yn helpu rhywfaint gyda'r gwaith a wnaed ar geisio gostwng lefelau heintiau?

Brian Gibbons: That has been suggested by Unison in its surveys, but they are heavily English-based. In Wales, the number of outsourced cleaning services is relatively small. At the moment, there is just one in north-west Wales, and one in my constituency of Neath Port Talbot, which is not so much outsourced as being part of the wider private finance initiative contract in Port Talbot. From speaking to staff working under the PFI arrangements at Port Talbot, I do not think that there is any evidence to suggest that they are giving anything less than a first-class service. I would not be happy if it were suggested that the people who work under the PFI arrangements, given their professional commitment to doing an excellent job, are in any way contributing to healthcare-acquired infections. It has never been suggested to me in relation to the other cleaning service in north-west Wales either, so I would not like it to be suggested that the people working as part of the PFI scheme in Neath Port Talbot or the outsourced staff in north-west Wales are doing anything other than an excellent job. If there is evidence to suggest that that is the case in England, I would be pleased to hear it. However, the evidence base on which that suggestion has been made is not relevant to us in Wales.

control over cleaning services would go some way towards assisting with the work done to try to reduce levels of infection, would it not?

Brian Gibbons: Mae Unsain wedi awgrymu hynny yn ei arolygon, ond mae'r rheini'n seiliedig iawn ar Loegr. Yng Nghymru, mae nifer y gwasanaethau glanhau sy'n cael eu gosod ar gontract allanol yn gymharol fach. Ar hyn o bryd, mae un yn y gogledd-orllewin, ac un yn fy etholaeth i yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot. Nid yw hwnnw mewn gwirionedd yn wasanaeth sy'n cael ei osod ar gontract allanol, ond yn hytrach mae'n rhan o gontract ehangach y fenter cyllid preifat ym Mhort Talbot. O siarad â staff sy'n gweithio o dan drefniadau'r fenter cyllid preifat ym Mhort Talbot, ni chredaf fod unrhyw dystiolaeth sy'n awgrymu eu bod yn darparu dim llai na gwasanaeth o'r radd flaenaf. Ni fyddwn yn hapus pe bai awgrym fod y bobl sy'n gweithio o dan drefniadau'r fenter cyllid preifat, o ystyried eu hymrwymiad proffesiynol i wneud gwaith arbennig, mewn unrhyw ffordd yn cyfrannu at heintiau a geir wrth gael gofal iechyd. Nid awgrymwyd hynny imi erioed mewn perthynas â'r gwasanaeth glanhau arall yn y gogledd-orllewin ychwaith, felly, ni hoffwn weld awgrymu bod y bobl sy'n gweithio fel rhan o gynllun y fenter cyllid preifat yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot, neu'r staff ar gontract allanol yn y gogledd-orllewin, yn gwneud dim ond gwaith arbennig. Os bydd dystiolaeth i awgrymu mai dyna sy'n digwydd yn Lloegr, byddwn yn falch o'i chlywed. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r dystiolaeth sy'n sail i'r awgrym hwnnw yn berthnasol i ni yng Nghymru.

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Diwygio Gofal Cymunedol, Gwasanaethau ar gyfer Gofalwyr a Gwasanaethau Plant (Taliadau Uniongyrchol) (Cymru) 2006
Approval of the Community Care, Services for Carers and Children's Services (Direct Payments) (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2006**

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cynigïaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

considers the principle of the Community Care, Services for Carers and Children's Services (Direct Payments) (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 26 September 2006. (NDM3264)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006 in relation to the draft the Community Care, Services for Carers and Children's Services (Direct Payments) (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2006; and

2. approves that the draft the Community Care, Services for Carers and Children's Services (Direct Payments) (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2006 is made in accordance with:

a) the draft laid in the Table Office on 26 September 2006; and

b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 26 September 2006. (NDM3265)

Helen Mary Jones: I will make a brief contribution to the debate on these regulations, which Plaid Cymru welcomes. When the regulations were discussed in committee, we raised the issue of ensuring more awareness of the increased entitlement. The Minister has made a commitment to do so, so can he tell us what is to be done to promote awareness of the increased entitlement? We know that there are issues with people who are already entitled but are perhaps unaware of that fact, and there are also particular issues for people with learning disabilities in accessing direct payments. Can the Minister tell us more about what is being done to promote direct payments? Could he also make a further progress report to committee at a future date?

Jonathan Morgan: The Welsh Conservatives welcome the regulations, as I

yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Diwygio Gofal Cymunedol, Gwasanaethau ar gyfer Gofalwyr a Gwasanaethau Plant (Taliadau Uniongyrchol) (Cymru) 2006, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 26 Medi 2006. (NDM3264)

Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006 ynghylch y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Diwygio Gofal Cymunedol, Gwasanaethau ar gyfer Gofalwyr a Gwasanaethau Plant (Taliadau Uniongyrchol) (Cymru) 2006; a

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Diwygio Gofal Cymunedol, Gwasanaethau ar gyfer Gofalwyr a Gwasanaethau Plant (Taliadau Uniongyrchol) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 26 Medi 2006; a

b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 26 Medi 2006. (NDM3265)

Helen Mary Jones: Gwnaf gyfraniad byr i'r ddaol ar y rheoliadau hyn sy'n cael croeso gan Blaid Cymru. Pan drafodwyd y rheoliadau yn y pwyllgor, codwyd y mater gennym o sicrhau mwy o ymwybyddiaeth o'r hawl gynyddol. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi gwneud ymrwymiad i wneud hynny, felly, a all ddweud wrthym beth a wneir i hyrwyddo ymwybyddiaeth o'r hawl gynyddol? Gwyddom fod problemau o ran y bobl sydd eisoes â hawl ond nad ydynt efallai yn ymwybodol o'r hynny, ac mae problemau penodol hefyd o ran gallu pobl sydd ag anableddau dysgu i gael taliadau uniongyrchol. A all y Gweinidog ddweud mwy wrthym am yr hyn sy'n cael ei wneud i hyrwyddo taliadau uniongyrchol? A all hefyd gyflwyno adroddiad pellach ar gynnydd i'r pwyllgor yn y dyfodol?

Jonathan Morgan: Mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn croesawu'r rheoliadau, fel y

did in committee when we had the chance to discuss them, particularly as they extend direct payments to those in the 18 to 64 age group, and encompass respite care, day services and domiciliary care. I wish to raise two particular issues with the Minister, one of which I raised in committee. First, you say that only a relatively small number of people would be affected by this change, but could we please have the data on that, just so that we can be sure? You are extending the scheme below the age of 65 to encompass those people between the ages of 18 and 64, so the chances are that a significant number of people may need to access these services, depending on their situation. I would like some clarification of the figures that were used, and of whether you would be willing to publish them.

The second point, which I raised in committee, was about ensuring that we raise awareness among those who are eligible for direct payments, and ensure that local authorities are aware of their duty to raise the possibility of those individuals having direct payments. It would be the easiest thing in the world for local authorities not to bother raising the issue with individuals, but we need to ensure that they are duty-bound to raise it, and are not just doing so as and when they feel it may be applicable.

4.10 p.m.

Jenny Randerson: I share the concerns of Helen Mary and Jonathan. At the meeting of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity this morning, we examined our report on services for disabled young people. It has been brought to our attention again this morning—for example, in evidence from representatives of the Shaw Trust—that there are pressures on the existing services in local authorities. The pressures are such that some people wait a year, sometimes longer, from assessment to receiving their direct payments. In addition, there is considerable variation between local authorities. I seek the Minister's reassurance this afternoon that the resources that have been put in will be sufficient to cover the additional costs for the local authorities concerned. Demand for direct payments is rising as public awareness

gwneuthum innau yn y pwyllgor pan gawsom gyfle i'w trafod, yn enwedig gan eu bod yn ymestyn taliadau uniongyrchol i bobl yn y grŵp oedran 18 i 64, ac yn cwmpasu gofal seibiant, gwasanaethau dydd a gofal cartref. Hoffwn godi dau fater penodol gyda'r Gweinidog - codais un ohonynt yn y pwyllgor. Yn gyntaf, dywedwch mai nifer gymharol fach o bobl yn unig y bydd y newid hwn yn effeithio arnynt, ond a allwn gael y data ar hynny os gwelwch yn dda, er mwyn inni allu bod yn siŵr? Yr ydych yn ymestyn y cynllun dan 65 oed i gwmpasu'r bobl hynny rhwng 18 a 64, felly, gall fod y bydd angen i nifer sylweddol ddefnyddio'r gwasanaethau hyn, yn ôl eu sefyllfa. Hoffwn gael ychydig eglurhad o'r ffigurau a ddefnyddiwyd, ac a fydddech yn fodlon eu cyhoeddi.

Yr oedd yr ail bwynt, a godais yn y pwyllgor, yn ymwneud â sicrhau ein bod yn codi ymwybyddiaeth ymhlith y rheini y mae ganddynt hawl i gael taliadau uniongyrchol, a sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn ymwybodol o'u dyletswydd i godi'r posibilrwydd y gallai'r unigolion hynny gael taliadau uniongyrchol. Byddai'n ddigon hawdd i awdurdodau lleol beidio â thrafferthu codi'r mater gydag unigolion, ond mae angen inni sicrhau bod dyletswydd arnynt i'w godi, ac nad ydynt yn gwneud hynny dim ond pan fyddant yn teimlo y gallai fod yn berthnasol.

Jenny Randerson: Fel Helen Mary a Jonathan, yr wyf finnau'n bryderus. Yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal y bore yma, buom yn edrych ar ein hadroddiad ar wasanaethau i bobl ifanc anabl. Tynnwyd ein sylw unwaith eto'r bore yma—er enghraifft, mewn tystiolaeth gan gynrychiolwyr Ymddiriedolaeth Shaw—at y ffaith fod pwysau ar y gwasanaethau presennol mewn awdurdodau lleol. Cymaint yw'r pwysau fel bod rhai pobl yn aros blwyddyn, weithiau'n hwy, o adeg yr asesiad i'r adeg y cânt eu taliadau uniongyrchol. Yn ogystal, mae amrywiaeth sylweddol rhwng awdurdodau lleol. BYddaf yn ceisio cael sicrwydd y Gweinidog y prynhawn yma y bydd yr adnoddau a neilltuwyd yn ddigon i gynnwys y costau ychwanegol ar gyfer yr awdurdodau lleol dan sylw. Mae'r galw am daliadau

of them grows. The regulatory appraisal associated with these regulations makes it clear that the existing structure is already struggling to cope and, although this is a welcome additional development, it puts further strain on existing resources.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I will deal with Jenny's final point first, which was also touched upon by others. We have put in an additional £800,000 to support this scheme, and, if you look at the regulatory assessment, you will see that that is an extremely generous allocation at this juncture. We recognise that £800,000 would provide more than enough support for any likely escalation in demand in the short term, but it is also in recognition of the fact that people have to be employed on a full-time basis or on a significant part-time basis to provide that stability and continuity in employment. That is why this fairly significant extra money has been made available.

When we discussed this in committee a couple of months ago, the figures that we were quoting estimated 800 people taking up this particular service. Today, that figure has gone up to 1,000. Therefore, even in a period of two to three months, there has been a fairly significant increase. It is true that there is differential uptake across Wales. My own local authority of Neath Port Talbot is very much at the forefront of providing direct payments, and is ably assisted by the Shaw Trust in Llandarcy. However, other local authorities in Wales are not doing nearly as well. The legislation that we passed back in November 2004 removed the discretion that local authorities had in this matter. It is a requirement under law that all local authorities should offer potential community care recipients the option of going down the direct payment route. If they are not doing it, it would have to be said that that was an example of bad practice. Hopefully, through inspections such as those carried out by the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales of social services departments, this type of underperformance will be picked up.

uniongyrchol yn codi wrth i ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd ohonynt dyfu. Mae'r arfarniad rheoliadol sy'n gysylltiedig â'r rheoliadau hyn yn ei gwneud yn glir fod y strwythur presennol eisoes yn ei chael yn anodd ymdopi, ac er bod hwn yn ddatblygiad ychwanegol a groesewir, mae'n rhoi straen pellach ar adnoddau presennol.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Ymdriniaf â phwynt olaf Jenny yn gyntaf, ac mae eraill hefyd wedi cyfeirio ato. Yr ydym wedi neilltuo £800,000 yn ychwanegol i gefnogi'r cynllun hwn, ac os edrychwch ar yr asesiad rheoliadol, fe welwch fod hwnnw'n ddyraniad arbennig o hael yn y cyswllt hwn. Cydnabyddwn y byddai £800,000 yn rhoi rwy na digon o gymorth ar gyfer unrhyw gynnydd tebygol yn y galw yn y tymor byr, ond mae hefyd yn cydnabod y ffaith fod yn rhaid i bobl gael eu cyflogi ar sail amser llawn neu ar sail ran amser sylweddol i allu darparu'r sefydlogrwydd a'r parhad hwnnw mewn cyflogaeth. Dyna'r rheswm dros ryddhau'r arian ychwanegol cymharol sylweddol hwn.

Pan fuom yn trafod hyn yn y pwyllgor ychydig fisoedd yn ôl, yr oedd y ffigurau a ddyfynnwyd gennym yn amcangyfrif y byddai 800 o bobl yn defnyddio'r gwasanaeth hwn. Heddiw, mae'r ffigur hwnnw wedi codi i 1,000. Felly, hyd yn oed mewn dau i dri mis, cafwyd cynnydd cymharol sylweddol. Mae'n wir bod gwahaniaeth yn nifer y bobl sy'n defnyddio'r gwasanaeth ledled Cymru. Mae fy awdurdod lleol i yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot ar flaen y gad wrth ddarparu taliadau uniongyrchol, a chaiff ei gynorthwyo'n fedrus gan Ymddiriedolaeth Shaw yn Llandarsi. Fodd bynnag, nid yw awdurdodau lleol eraill yng Nghymru yn gwneud cystal. Yr oedd y ddeddfwriaeth a gyflwynwyd gennym ym mis Tachwedd 2004 yn diddymu'r disgrisiwn a oedd gan awdurdodau lleol yn hyn. Mae'n ofynnol o dan y gyfraith i bob awdurdod lleol gynnig dewis o daliadau uniongyrchol i bobl a all gael gofal cymunedol. Os nad yw awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud hynny, byddai'n rhaid dweud bod hynny'n enghraifft o arfer gwael. Gobeithio, drwy arolygiadau megis y rhai a wneir gan adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol Arolygiaeth

Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru, yr ymdrinnir â'r math hwn o danberfformiad.

In relation to the timescale, I must admit that it is the first time that that has come to my attention. I have not had any correspondence on it. If chapter and verse could be provided on that, we would certainly be willing to look at that.

I think that it is unlikely that this will lead to a significant escalation in the numbers, because one of the main purposes of the legislation was to remove ambiguity in the existing legislation, dating back to 1948. At that stage, they referred to 'severe disability', but social services departments now, in offering direct payments, are probably applying a relatively liberal view of what constitutes a severe disability. This piece of legislation has been introduced in case there is any uncertainty as to the application of the direct payments, but, in practice, I do not think that it will lead to any significant change.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 will have implications for this piece of legislation because, hopefully, it will put in place in practice a more rigorous framework for people with learning disabilities if they wish to avail themselves of direct payments. However, I do not think that the primary legislation can change, and it requires that people must be able to indicate that they wish to receive direct payments, and that they will be able to manage the payment. Otherwise, there could be the possibility of abuse and misappropriation of funds. However, as the Mental Capacity Act 2005 comes on stream and advocacy, on the back of that, becomes more readily available, I imagine that there will be a greater uptake of direct payments among people with learning disabilities.

*Cynnig (NDM3264): O blaid 49, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3264): For 49, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor

Mewn perthynas â'r amserlen, rhaid imi gyfaddef mai dyma'r tro cyntaf i hynny ddod i'm sylw. Ni chefais ddim ohebiaeth amdani. Pe gellid darparu manylion llawn am hynny, byddem yn sicr yn fodlon ymchwilio i'r mater.

Credaf ei bod yn annhebygol y bydd hyn yn arwain at gynnydd sylweddol yn y niferoedd, oherwydd un o brif ddibenion y ddeddfwriaeth oedd dileu'r amwysedd yn y ddeddfwriaeth bresennol, sy'n mynd yn ôl i 1948. Bryd hynny, yr oeddent yn cyfeirio at 'anabledd difrifol', ond mae adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn awr, wrth gynnig taliadau uniongyrchol, yn debygol o fod yn edrych yn gymharol hael ar yr hyn sy'n gyfystyr ag anabledd difrifol. Cyflwynwyd y darn hwn o ddeddfwriaeth rhag ofn bod unrhyw ansicrwydd am ddefnyddio taliadau uniongyrchol, ond yn ymarferol ni chredaf y bydd yn arwain at unrhyw newid sylweddol.

Bydd i'r Ddeddf Gallu Meddyliol 2005 oblygiadau ar gyfer y darn hwn o ddeddfwriaeth oherwydd, gobeithio, y bydd yn rhoi fframwaith mwy cadarn ar waith i bobl ag anableddau dysgu os ydynt am fanteisio ar daliadau uniongyrchol. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf y gall y ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol newid, ac mae'n gwneud yn ofynnol i bobl orfod gallu dweud eu bod am gael taliadau uniongyrchol ac y byddant yn gallu rheoli'r taliad. Fel arall, gallai fod posibilrwydd camddefnyddio arian. Fodd bynnag, wrth i'r Ddeddf Gallu Meddyliol 2005 ddod i rym, ac wrth i eiriolaeth, yn dilyn hynny, fod ar gael yn haws, dychmygaf y bydd nifer fwy o bobl sydd ag anableddau dysgu yn cael taliadau uniongyrchol.

Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Cynnig (NDM3265): O blaid 49, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM3265): For 49, Abstain 0, Against 0.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet

Davies, Jocelyn
 Dunwoody, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Tai (Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag)
 (Eithriadau a Gofynion Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2006 a Rheoliadau Tai
 (Gorchmynion Rheoli a Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Darpariaethau
 Atodol) (Cymru) 2006**

**Approval of the Housing (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed
 Exceptions and Requirements) (Wales) Order 2006, and the Housing
 (Management Orders and Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Supplemental
 Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2006**

Y Llywydd: Cynigir trafod y ddwy eitem nesaf gyda'i gilydd, oni bai fod Aelod yn gwrthwynebu. Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiad.

The Presiding Officer: It is proposed that the next two items be debated together, unless any Member objects. I see that there is no objection.

Motion (NDM3266): to propose that

Cynnig (NDM3266): cynnig bod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

considers the principle of the Housing yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Tai

(Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed Exceptions and Requirements) (Wales) Order 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006.

Amendment 1 in the name of Lisa Francis. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

regrets that an empty dwelling management order cannot be made if the relevant proprietor is a public sector body.

Amendment 2 in the name of Lisa Francis. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

expresses concern that local authorities are not required to charge a market rent on properties subject to empty dwelling management orders.

Motion (NDM3267): to propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 17 October 2006 in relation to the draft the Housing (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed Exceptions and Requirements) (Wales) Order 2006; and

2. approves that the draft the Housing (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed Exceptions and Requirements) (Wales) Order 2006 is made in accordance with:

a) the draft laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006; and

b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006.

Motion (NDM3268): to propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

considers the principle of Housing (Management Orders and Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Supplemental Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006.

(Gorchymynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Eithriadau a Gofynion Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2006 y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006.

Gwelliant 1 yn enw Lisa Francis. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn gresynu at y ffaith nad oes modd gwneud gorchymyn rheoli anheddau gwag os yw'r perchennog dan sylw yn gorff sector cyhoeddus.

Gwelliant 2 yn enw Lisa Francis. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn mynegi pryder nad yw hi'n ofynnol ar Awdurdodau Lleol i godi rhent y farchnad ar eiddo sy'n destun gorchymyn rheoli anheddau gwag.

Cynnig (NDM3267): cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Hydref 2006 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Tai (Gorchymynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Eithriadau a Gofynion Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2006; a

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Tai (Gorchymynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Eithriadau a Gofynion Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:

a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006; a

b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006.

Cynnig (NDM3268): cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Tai (Gorchymynion Rheoli a Gorchymynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Darpariaethau Atodol) (Cymru) 2006, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006.

Motion (NDM3269): to propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. *considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 17 October 2006 in relation to the draft Housing (Management Orders and Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Supplemental Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2006; and*

2. *approves that the draft Housing (Management Orders and Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Supplemental Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2006 is made in accordance with:*

a) *the draft laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006; and*

b) *the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006.*

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1 and 2 to NDM3266 in the names of Lisa Francis.

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

the National Assembly for Wales:

considers the principle of the Housing (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed Exceptions and Requirements) (Wales) Order 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006. (NDM3266)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. *considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 17 October 2006 in relation to the draft the Housing (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed Exceptions and Requirements) (Wales) Order 2006; and*

2. *approves that the draft the Housing (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed Exceptions and Requirements) (Wales) Order 2006 is made in accordance*

Cynnig (NDM3269): cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. *yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Hydref 2006 ynghylch y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Tai (Gorchmynion Rheoli a Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Darpariaethau Atodol) (Cymru) 2006; a*

2. *yn cymeradwyo bod y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Tai (Gorchmynion Rheoli a Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Darpariaethau Atodol) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:*

a) *y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006; a*

b) *yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006.*

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 i NDM3266 yn enw Lisa Francis.

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

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Tai (Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Eithriadau a Gofynion Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2006 y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006. (NDM3266)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Hydref 2006 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Tai (Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Eithriadau a Gofynion Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2006; a

2. *yn cymeradwyo bod y gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Tai (Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Eithriadau a Gofynion Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael ei*

with:

a) the draft laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006; and

b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006. (NDM3267)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

considers the principle of Housing (Management Orders and Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Supplemental Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006. (NDM3268)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 17 October 2006 in relation to the draft Housing (Management Orders and Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Supplemental Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2006; and

2. approves that the draft Housing (Management Orders and Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Supplemental Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2006 is made in accordance with:

a) the draft laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006; and

b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006. (NDM3269)

Mark Isherwood: I propose the following amendments in the name of Lisa Francis. Amendment 1: add a new point at the end of the motion:

regrets that an empty dwelling management order cannot be made if the relevant proprietor is a public sector body.

I propose amendment 2. Add a new point at

wneud yn unol ag:

a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006; a

b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006. (NDM3267)

Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Tai (Gorchmynion Rheoli a Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Darpariaethau Atodol) (Cymru) 2006, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006. (NDM3268)

Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Hydref 2006 ynghylch y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Tai (Gorchmynion Rheoli a Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Darpariaethau Atodol) (Cymru) 2006; a

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Tai (Gorchmynion Rheoli a Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag) (Darpariaethau Atodol) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006; a

b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006. (NDM3269)

Mark Isherwood: Cynigiau y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Lisa Francis. Gwelliant 1: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn gresynu at y ffaith nad oes modd gwneud gorchmyn rheoli anheddau gwag os yw'r perchennog dan sylw yn gorff sector cyhoeddus.

Cynigiau welliant 2. Ychwanegu pwynt

the end of the motion:

expresses concern that local authorities are not required to charge a market rent on properties subject to empty dwelling management orders.

Clearly, there is a case for action to put boarded up and blighted properties back into use. However, the heavy-handed powers in this legislation will allow bureaucrats and politicians to seize and commandeer, for up to seven years, private homes that are in perfect condition and which have been empty for as little as six months. We are told that these provisions will enable local authorities to use empty dwelling management orders to deal with the problem of empty properties in the private sector. In this context, the regulatory appraisal refers to health hazards from dangerous buildings, derelict buildings used for drug abuse, and buildings that bring down the tone of neighbourhoods. However, the guidance notes on empty dwelling management orders, quietly published by the UK Government on 10 July, without an accompanying press release, confirm that the orders are about far more than that.

The new rules will not apply to empty homes or properties owned by incompetent or inefficient public sector bodies. Amendment 1 therefore expresses regret that an empty dwelling management order cannot be made if the relevant provider is a public sector body. As the National Federation of Residential Landlords states, regulations must,

‘include all housing providers and not simply private landlords’.

It further states,

‘Social housing...is left unoccupied for substantial periods, and if it is unacceptable for private owners to leave their properties unoccupied it must equally be unacceptable for social housing providers...to do it’.

It adds that,

newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn mynegi pryder nad yw hi'n ofynnol ar Awdurdodau Lleol i godi rhent y farchnad ar eiddo sy'n destun gorchymyn rheoli anheddau gwag.

Yn amlwg, mae yna achos dros weithredu i aildefnyddio eiddo sydd wedi'i gau ac sydd dan falltod. Fodd bynnag, bydd y pwerau llym yn y ddeddfwriaeth hon yn galluogi biwrocratiaid a gwleidyddion i atafaelu, am hyd at saith mlynedd, gartrefi preifat sydd mewn cyflwr perffaith ac sydd wedi bod yn wag am gyn lleied a chwe mis. Dywedir wrthym y bydd y darpariaethau hyn yn galluogi awdurdodau lleol i ddefnyddio gorchymynion rheoli anheddau gwag i fynd i'r afael â phroblem eiddo gwag yn y sector preifat. Yn y cyd-destun hwn, mae'r arfarniad rheoliadol yn cyfeirio at beryglon iechyd mewn adeiladau peryglus, adeiladau adfeiliedig a ddefnyddir gan bobl sy'n camddefnyddio cyffuriau, ac adeiladau sy'n effeithio'n andwyol ar gyflwr cymdogaethau. Fodd bynnag, mae'r canllawiau ar orchmynion rheoli anheddau gwag, a gyhoeddwyd yn dawel gan Lywodraeth y DU ar 10 Gorffennaf, heb ddatganiad i'r wasg, yn cadarnhau bod y gorchymynion yn ymwneud â llawer mwy na hynny.

Ni fydd y rheolau newydd yn berthnasol i dai nac i eiddo gwag sy'n eiddo i gyrff yhoeddus anfedrus neu aneffeithlon yn y sector cyhoeddus. Mae gwelliant 1 felly'n gresynu na ellir gwneud gorchymyn rheoli anheddau gwag os yw'r darparwr perthnasol yn gorff yn y sector cyhoeddus. Fel mae Ffederasiwn Cenedlaethol y Landlordiaid Preswyl yn ei ddweud, rhaid i reoliadau,

gynnwys pob darparwr tai ac nid landlordiaid preifat yn unig.

Mae'n dweud ymhellach,

Mae tai cymdeithasol...yn cael eu gadael yn wag am gyfnodau sylweddol, ac os yw'n annerbyniol i berchnogion preifat adael eu heiddo'n wag, rhaid iddi fod lawn mor annerbyniol i ddarparwyr tai cymdeithasol...wneud hynny.

Mae'n ychwanegu,

'For the Government to exclude the social sector from this or similar legislation must surely fly directly in the face of the Human Rights Act by discriminating against a particular type of property owner'.

In fact, UK Government statistics show that the social sector has a record worse than that in the private rented sector. Whereas there has been a 16 per cent increase over 12 years in the number of empty dwellings in the social sector, there has been a decrease of 23 per cent in the number of empty dwellings in the private rented sector. Thus the private sector has outperformed the social sector by 39 per cent.

Once a home is seized under an empty dwelling management order local authorities will not be required to charge a market rent. The owner can even be charged and billed for the property being seized if service or standing charges are greater than the rent after the council has deducted its appointed expenses, hence amendment 2, which expresses concern that local authorities are not required to charge a market rent on properties subject to these orders.

These regulations also allow for the home of a deceased person to be seized by the state at any point after six months from the grant of representation allowing the executors or administrators to administer the estate.

4.20 p.m.

Furthermore, the guidance reveals that the furniture, fixtures and fittings can also be seized. I am sure that every right-thinking Assembly Member will agree that this is particularly disturbing and contemptible. This will cause anxiety and real pain, because it fails to understand the traumatic ordeal that people face when a loved one dies.

Empty dwelling management orders should not be allowed until inheritance issues have been finalised. We need to recognise the delays that can result from complex wills and to appreciate what a painful ordeal it is when people are faced with the task of clearing a

Rhaid ei bod yn mynd yn groes i'r Ddeddf Hawliau Dynol i'r Llywodraeth eithrio'r sector cymdeithasol o'r ddeddfwriaeth hon neu ddeddfwriaeth debyg, drwy wahaniaethu yn erbyn math penodol o berchennog eiddo.

Mewn gwirionedd, mae ystadegau Llywodraeth y DU yn dangos bod record y sector cymdeithasol yn waeth na record y sector rhentu preifat. Bu cynnydd o 16 y cant dros 12 mlynedd yn nifer yr anheddau gwag yn y sector cymdeithasol, ond bu lleihad o 23 y cant yn nifer yr anheddau gwag yn y sector rhentu preifat. Felly, mae'r sector preifat wedi rhagori ar y sector cymdeithasol o 39 y cant.

Oan fydd cartref wedi ei atafaelu o dan orchymyn rheoli anheddau gwag, ni fydd yn ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol godi rhent y farchnad. Gellir codi tâl ar y perchennog a'i filio hyd yn oed am feddiannu'r eiddo os yw costau gwasanaeth neu gostau sefydlog yn fwy na'r rhent ar ôl i'r cyngor dynnu ei dreuliau penodedig yn ôl. A dyna'r rheswm dros welliant 2, sy'n mynegi pryder nad yw'n ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol godi rhent y farchnad ar eiddo sy'n dod dan y gorchmynion hyn.

Mae'r rheoliadau hyn hefyd yn caniatáu i gartref person sydd weedi marw gael ei atafaelu gan y wladwriaeth unrhyw bryd ar ôl chwe mis wedi'r grant cynrychiolaeth sy'n galluogi'r ysgutorion neu'r gweinyddwyr i weinyddu'r ystâd.

At hynny, mae'r canllawiau'n datgelu y gellir atafaelu'r dodrefn, y gosodiadau a'r ffitiadau. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd pob Aelod Cynulliad call yn cytuno bod hyn yn arbennig o annifyr a chywilyddus. Bydd hyn yn peri pryder a phoen gwirioneddol, gan ei fod yn methu â deall y profiad trawmatig sy'n wynebu pobl pan fydd anwyliad yn marw.

Ni ddylid caniatáu gorchmynion rheoli anheddau gwag nes i faterion etifeddiaeth gael eu cwblhau. Mae angen i ni gydnabod yr oedi a all ddigwydd o ganlyniad i ewyllysiau cymhleth, ac i werthfawrogi mor boenus yw'r profiad pan fydd pobl yn wynebu'r dasg o

loved one's home of possessions.

The UK Government told us that these orders would be aimed at run-down or uninhabitable properties that are blighting communities. We were led to believe that the new rules would provide an opportunity to bring poorly maintained properties back into use. However, the guidance issued in July explains that the property does not have to be run-down or uninhabitable but merely empty for six months. We were misled.

As the National Federation of Residential Landlords states,

'property owners have rights and...if a person purchases a property, provided it does not cause problems in the area...they should not be forced to have to justify their purpose for purchase to Government. It appears that these regulations are the start of controlling what people do with the properties they purchase and...how they choose to spend their income'.

After years of cuts in social housing, the Government should be more concerned about ensuring the provision of properties, not seeking confiscatory measures to take away an individual's property. As the Government has stated, it is embarking on an extremely dangerous course, and it needs to think carefully about what it is doing and whom it is affecting.

Carl Sargeant: I think that empty dwelling management orders will be welcomed across local authorities in Wales, particularly where there are difficulties with unkempt properties that are blighting areas.

Yet again, I have to agree with some of Mark Isherwood's comments, which is unusual for me—Glyn will acknowledge that. However, I am sure, Minister, that guidance could be issued by your office where there are difficulties in relation to empty dwelling management orders being placed upon executors of wills and the owners of properties. An important point has been raised in the Chamber today, and we should give guidance to local authorities on what to

glirio eiddo o gartref anwyliad.

Dywedodd Llywodraeth y DU wrthym y byddai'r gorchmynion yn anelu at eiddo mewn cyflwr gwael neu eiddo na ellir byw ynddo ac sy'n difetha cymunedau. Cawsom ein harwain i gredu y byddai'r rheolau newydd yn gyfle i ddefnyddio eiddo mewn cyflwr gwael unwaith eto. Fodd bynnag, mae'r canllawiau a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Gorffennaf yn egluro nad oes rhaid i'r eiddo fod mewn cyflwr gwael nac yn eiddo na ellir byw ynddo, ond rhaid iddo fod yn wag am chwe mis. Cawsom ein camarwain.

Fel y dywed Ffederasiwn Cenedlaethol y Landlordiaid Preswyl,

mae gan berchnogion eiddo hawliau ac...os bydd person yn prynu eiddo, cyn belled nad yw'n achosi problemau yn yr ardal...ni ddylid ei orfodi i orfod cyfiawnhau wrth y Llywodraeth y rheswm dros ei brynu. Ymddengys mai cychwyn rheoli'r hyn y mae pobl yn ei wneud ag eiddo y maent yn ei brynu yw'r rheoliadau hyn a...sut y maent yn dymuno gwario'u hincwm.

Ar ôl blynyddoedd o doriadau mewn tai cymdeithasol, dylai'r Llywodraeth boeni mwy am sicrhau darparu anheddau, nid ceisio mesurau atafaelu i gipio eiddo unigolyn. Fel y dywedodd y Llywodraeth, mae'n dechrau ar hyd llwybr peryglus iawn ac mae angen iddi feddwl yn ofalus am yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud ac ar bwy y mae'n effeithio.

Carl Sargeant: Credaf y bydd gorchmynion rheoli anheddau gwag yn cael croeso ar draws awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru, yn arbennig lle mae anawsterau gydag eiddo anniben sy'n difetha ardaloedd.

Eto, rhaid imi gytuno â rhai o sylwadau Mark Isherwood, sy'n anarferol i mi—bydd Glyn yn cydnabod hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn siŵr, Weinidog, y gellid cyflwyno canllawiau gan eich swyddfa lle mae anawsterau mewn perthynas â rhoi gorchmynion rheoli anheddau gwag i ysgutorion ewyllysiau a pherchnogion eiddo. Codwyd pwynt pwysig yn y Siambr heddiw, a dylem roi canllawiau i awdurdodau lleol ar yr hyn sydd i'w wneud pan roddir pobl yn y sefyllfa ofnadwy o orfod

do when people are placed in the awful position of trying to sell the house on, as executors are caught up in this difficult legislation, which has, I think, been badly drafted.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr ydym yn gefnogol o'r Gorchymyn hwn. Ni chytunaf â sylwadau Mark Isherwood. Credaf bod ffyrdd eraill o weithredu'n erbyn y sector cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys rhoi pwysau ar Aelodau etholedig. Serch hynny, pwynt arall sydd gennyf. Bydd yn ddiddorol gweld a fydd cynghorau'n gallu cymryd mantais o'r Gorchymyn hwn er mwyn dod â mwy o dai yn ôl i ddefnydd llawn, sy'n un o broblemau mawr y sector hwn. Fodd bynnag, yn benodol, mae llawer o eithriadau i'r hawl hon o dan y pennawd 'Eithriadau rhagnodedig'. Yn mharagraff 3(b), mae cyfeiriad penodol at gartrefi gwyliau. Beth yw'r diffiniad o gartref gwyliau? Yn y gorffennol, yn y Siambr hon, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi dweud yn glir nad oes diffiniad yn bosibl. Felly, sut mae cynnwys cartrefi gwyliau mewn Gorchymyn o'r fath yn bosibl? Byddwn yn ddiolchgar o gael eglurhad ar hynny.

Mick Bates: For a long time, many of us have met people who need a home—in the private rented sector or in social housing. It has been a long-term aim of mine to see empty homes in use. The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome this piece of legislation, because, ultimately, that is what this is about. I will refer to some issues that Mark raised in a moment, but, for me, the simple solution to many of the problems that Mark raised is simply to make sure that those properties are used, rather than left to stand empty. To me, it has always been a scandal that, for example, in a large city like London, where there is a high degree of homelessness, there are 75,000 empty homes. That is a scandal. This legislation is a step in the direction of solving that problem in Wales.

I have a particular question for the Minister. I am sure that, at some stage, this piece of legislation will be evaluated and monitored. My only concern is with the sixth-month period, as it may well be that the landlord is renovating the property. Could you clarify

gwerthu'r tŷ, gan fod ysgutorion wedi'u dal yn y ddeddfwriaeth anodd hon, sydd, yn fy marn i, wedi'i drafftio'n wael.

Alun Ffred Jones: We support this Order. I do not agree with Mark Isherwood's comments. I feel there are other ways of taking action against the public sector, including bringing pressure to bear on an elected Member. However, it is another point that I wish to make. It will be interesting to see whether councils can take advantage of this Order to bring more houses into full use, which is one of the sector's greatest problems. However, more specifically, there are many exceptions to this right, under the heading 'Prescribed exceptions'. In paragraph 3(b), there is a specific reference to holiday homes. What is the definition of a holiday home? In this Chamber, in the past, the Government has stated clearly that no definition is possible. How, then, is it possible to include holiday homes in an Order such as this? I should appreciate clarification on that.

Mick Bates: Ers amser hir, mae nifer ohonom wedi cwrdd â phobl sydd ag angen cartrefi arnynt—yn y sector rhentu preifat neu mewn tai cymdeithasol. Bu'n nod hirdymor gennyf i weld cartrefi gwag yn cael eu defnyddio. Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu'r darn hwn o ddeddfwriaeth, oherwydd yn y pen draw mae a wnelo â hynny. Byddaf yn cyfeirio at rai materion a godwyd gan Mark ymhen munud, ond, imi, yr ateb syml i nifer o'r problemau a gododd Mark yw sicrhau bod pob eiddo'n cael ei ddefnyddio, yn hytrach na'u gadael yn wag. Imi mae'n warth erioed, er enghraifft, mewn dinas fawr fel Llundain, lle mae cyfradd uchel o ddigartrefedd, fod yno 75,000 o gartrefi gwag. Mae hynny'n warthus. Mae'r ddeddfwriaeth hon yn gam tuag at ddatrys y broblem honno yng Nghymru.

Mae gennyf gwestiwn penodol i'r Gweinidog. Yr wyf yn siŵr, ar ryw adeg, y caiff y darn hwn o ddeddfwriaeth ei werthuso a'i fonitro. Fy unig bryder yw gyda'r cyfnod o chwe mis, oherwydd gallai'r landlord fod yn adnewyddu'r eiddo. A allech egluro'r

the position in that regard?

This piece of legislation will help many vulnerable and disadvantaged people, and those who are subject to bad landlords. It provides a power to improve the quality of people's lives and to put more homes on the market. So, in general, we welcome the legislation, and we will not vote for the amendments.

Ann Jones: I welcome these regulations, Minister. You and I have discussed the west end of Rhyl, which has suffered from many boarded-up and empty homes. Desperate people break into them and use them for some of the activities that Mark mentioned, and so people in the west end of Rhyl will welcome this legislation, and the six-month rule, as it will ensure that their area is tidied up—and not before time.

Many of the issues that Mark raised, as Carl said, can be addressed through guidance, and I know that you will sympathetic to that, Minister. My reading of the six-month rule is that, if landlords are renovating, that will be accepted. There needs to be a partnership between local authorities and registered social landlords in order to rid our areas of landlords who just board up their houses and go away. That causes an immense problem in these communities, and I, for one, support the legislation wholeheartedly.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): I thank the Members from two parties for their support for the legislation as it stands, without amendment. Amendment 1 is unnecessary. The whole point of the introduction of empty dwellings management orders is to deal with the problem of properties in the private sector that have been empty for more than six months without good reason, which is why most problems with empty properties are with those in the private sector, and not those in the public sector. All of us here who have dealt with constituents' problems relating to empty properties will understand the need for this legislation.

sefyllfa yn y cyswllt hwnnw?

Bydd y darn hwn o ddeddfwriaeth yn helpu nifer o bobl ddifreintiedig sy'n agored i niwed, a'r rheini sydd â landlordiaid gwael. Mae'n rhoi'r pŵer i wella ansawdd bywydau pobl a rhoi rhagor o dai ar y farchnad. Felly, yn gyffredinol, yr ydym yn croesawu'r ddeddfwriaeth, ac ni fyddwn yn pleidleisio o blaid y gwelliannau.

Ann Jones: Croesawaf y rheoliadau hyn, Weinidog. Yr ydych chi a fi wedi trafod gorllewin y Rhyl, sydd wedi dioddef oherwydd nifer o gartrefi gwag a chartrefi wedi eu cau. Mae pobl mewn anobaith yn torri i mewn iddynt ac yn eu defnyddio ar gyfer rhai o'r gweithgareddau y soniodd Mark amdanynt, ac felly bydd pobl yng ngorllewin y Rhyl yn croesawu'r ddeddfwriaeth hon, a'r rheol chwe mis, gan y bydd yn sicrhau y caiff eu hardal ei thacluso—a hen bryd hefyd.

Gellir mynd i'r afael â nifer o'r materion a godwyd gan Mark, fel y dywedodd Carl, drwy ganllawiau, a gwn y byddwch yn cydymdeimlo â hynny, Weinidog. Fy nealltwriaeth i o'r rheol chwe mis yw, os bydd landlordiaid yn adnewyddu, y caiff hynny ei dderbyn. Mae angen partneriaeth rhwng awdurdodau lleol a landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig er mwyn gwaredu ein hardaloedd o landlordiaid sy'n cau eu tai ac yn mynd i ffwrdd. Mae hynny'n achosi problem enfawr yn y cymunedau hyn, ac yr wyf fi, o'm rhan i, yn cefnogi'r ddeddfwriaeth yn llawn.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Diolchaf yr Aelodau o'r ddwy blaid am eu cefnogaeth i'r ddeddfwriaeth fel y mae, heb welliannau. Mae gwelliant 1 yn ddiangen. Diben cyflwyno gorchmynion rheoli anheddau gwag yw mynd i'r afael â phroblem eiddo yn y sector preifat sydd wedi bod yn wag am fwy na chwe mis heb reswm digonol, a dyna pam mae'r rhan fwyaf o broblemau gydag eiddo gwag yn ymwneud â thai yn y sector preifat, ac nid tai yn y sector cyhoeddus. Bydd pob un ohonom yma sydd wedi ymdrin â phroblemau etholwyr sy'n ymwneud ag eiddo gwag yn deall yr angen am y ddeddfwriaeth hon.

Public bodies that provide accommodation are required to manage their properties responsibly and effectively. Therefore, the amendment is inappropriate. The performance of local authorities and registered social landlords in letting vacant properties is monitored by the Assembly Government through a statutory performance indicator and in other statistical returns. That is how we deal with issues in local government. Moreover, the Assembly monitors void rates in the public sector closely, because there is concern in the Chamber—obviously, that concern is now shared by only three parties—about getting these empty properties back into use for rental purposes.

Amendment 2 expresses concerns that local authorities are not required to charge a market rent. That amendment is absolutely misleading, and what it proposes would be too restrictive for local authorities making EDMOs. It is clear that if the local authority is granted permission from a residential property tribunal to make an EDMO, then the rent that it chooses to set would have to be reasonable and appropriate in order for the dwelling to be subsequently let. The calculation of the rent would take account of the local rental market values, which would address the concerns that have led to this amendment. Furthermore, if an authority makes an EDMO on a property, and works need to be carried out in order for the property to be brought up to an acceptable standard for it to be let, the authority will be able to recoup the costs of any works out of the rental income, which is important. After that is done, the rental income will then revert to the owner of the property, which is fair. That will involve the calculation of a reasonable and applicable level of rent, and is an implicit factor in the practicability of using these new powers on the part of local authorities.

Both these statutory instruments represent an important additional resource for local authorities in dealing with problem empty properties. They provide new measures that sit between voluntary agreements with the owners of empty properties and the last resort

Mae angen i gyrff cyhoeddus sy'n darparu llety reoli eu heiddo'n gyfrifol ac yn effeithiol. Felly, mae'r gwelliant yn amhriodol. Caiff perfformiad awdurdodau lleol a landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig wrth osod eiddo gwag ei fonitro gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad drwy ddangosydd perfformiad statudol ac mewn datganiadau ystadegol eraill. Dyna sut y deliwn â phroblemau mewn llywodraeth leol. At hynny, mae'r Cynulliad yn monitro cyfraddau eiddo gwag yn y sector cyhoeddus yn ofalus, oherwydd bod pryder yn y Siambr—yn amlwg, rhennir y pryder hwnnw gan dair plaid yn unig yn awr—yn glŷn â defnyddio pob eiddo gwag drachefn er mwyn rhentu.

Mae gwelliant 2 yn mynegi pryderon nad oes gofyn i awdurdodau lleol godi rhent y farchnad. Mae'r gwelliant hwnnw'n gwbl gamarweiniol, a byddai'r hyn y mae'n ei gynnig lawer yn rhy gaeth i awdurdodau lleol sy'n gwneud gorchmynion rheoli anheddau gwag. Mae'n amlwg, os rhoddir caniatâd gan driwlynlys eiddo preswyl i awdurdod lleol wneud gorchmynion rheoli anheddau gwag, yna byddai'n rhaid i'r rhent y mae'n dewis ei osod fod yn rhesymol ac yn briodol er mwyn i'r annedd gael ei gosod wedyn. Wrth gyfrifo'r rhent, byddai gwerthoedd y farchnad rentu leol yn cael eu hystyried, a byddai hynny'n mynd i'r afael â'r pryderon sydd wedi arwain at y gwelliant hwn. At hynny, os bydd awdurdod yn gosod gorchymyn rheoli anheddau gwag ar eiddo, ac os oes angen gwneud gwaith er mwyn codi'r eiddo i safon dderbyniol er mwyn ei osod, rhaid i'r awdurdod allu adennill costau unrhyw waith o'r incwm rhentu, sy'n bwysig. Ar ôl gwneud hynny, bydd yr incwm rhentu yn mynd yn ôl i berchennog yr eiddo, sy'n deg. Bydd hynny'n cynnwys cyfrifo lefel resymol a pherthnasol o rent, ac mae'n ffactor di-gwestiwn yn ymarferoldeb defnyddio'r pwerau newydd hyn ar ran awdurdodau lleol.

Mae'r offerynnau statudol hyn yn adnodd ychwanegol pwysig i awdurdodau lleol wrth ymdrin ag eiddo gwag sy'n peri problem. Maent yn rhoi mesurau newydd sydd rhwng cytundebau gwirfoddol gyda pherchnogion yr eiddo gwag a'r pryniad gorfodol pan fetho

of compulsory purchase. It is important to emphasise that local authorities will not be able to take over properties simply because they are empty. There are often good reasons why properties are empty for more than six months, and the owners of such properties have nothing to fear from these measures. Properties that have been empty for more than six months without good reason can be targeted by local authorities and brought back into use in providing accommodation for people in need.

4.30 p.m.

The will of the Assembly is to get those properties into use for people in need. I acknowledge that the measures have received bad press lately, with one newspaper in England running a story that the Government had been giving out powers to authorities to take over the homes of dead relatives. This is not the case; there are rigorous requirements that local authorities have to undertake before even applying for the Empty Dwelling Management Orders.

Carl, I fully understand the points that you and Ann make, because there are specific exceptions. There are exceptions if a homeowner is in hospital or in long-term residential care, if a property is owned by a member of the armed forces who is on a tour of duty overseas, if the property is on the market for sale or letting, or, particularly, if someone is inheriting a property and is waiting for probate. The matters raised by Ann and Carl can be dealt with. Local authorities will have to apply to the residential property tribunal to make these Orders, and will have to prove that they made every possible effort to contact the owner of an empty property before an Order can be made, which could be quite onerous in some cases. They will also have to show that the property will be occupied once the Order has been made, which is important. Therefore, there are safeguards to ensure that the action taken by local authorities is fair.

We all now, as Ann showed when she raised the issue of Rhyl, what effects a property that is empty in the long-term can have on a community and neighbourhood; we have

popeth arall. Mae'n bwysig pwysleisio na fydd awdurdodau lleol yn gallu atafaelu eiddo oherwydd ei fod yn wag. Yn aml bydd rhesymau da pam mae eiddo'n wag am chwe mis neu fwy, ac nid oes angen i berchnogion eiddo o'r fath ofni'r mesurau hyn o gwbl. Caiff eiddo sydd wedi bod yn wag am fwy na chwe mis heb reswm da ei dargedu gan awdurdodau lleol a'i ddefnyddio eto i ddarparu llety i bobl mewn angen.

Ewyllys y Cynulliad yw i'r eiddo hwnnw gael ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer pobl mewn angen. Cydnabyddaf fod y mesurau wedi cael sylw anffafriol yn y wasg yn ddiweddar, a dywedodd un papur newydd yn Lloegr fod y Llywodraeth wedi bod yn rhoi pwerau i awdurdodau i feddiannu cartrefi perthnasau sydd wedi marw. Nid felly y mae; mae gofynion llym y mae angen i awdurdodau lleol eu sicrhau cyn gwneud cais hyd yn oed am y Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag.

Carl, yr wyf yn deall yn llwyr y pwyntiau a wnewch chi ac Ann, oherwydd y mae yna eithriadau penodol. Mae yna eithriadau os yw'r perchennog yn yr ysbyty neu mewn gofal preswyl hirdymor, os yw'r cartref yn eiddo i aelod o'r lluoedd arfog sydd ar ddyletswydd dramor, os yw'r cartref ar y farchnad i gael ei werthu neu ei rentu neu, yn bennaf, os oes rhywun yn etifeddu eiddo ac yn disgwyl profi ewyllys. Gellir ymdrin â'r materion a gododd Ann a Carl. Bydd angen i awdurdodau lleol wneud cais i'r tribiwnlys eiddo preswyl i wneud y Gorchmynion hyn, a bydd angen profi eu bod wedi gwneud pob ymdrech bosibl i gysylltu â pherchennog eiddo gwag cyn y gellir gwneud Gorchmyn, a gallai hynny fod yn feichus mewn rhai achosion. Bydd angen iddynt ddangos hefyd y bydd preswlydd yn yr eiddo ar ôl i'r Gorchmyn gael ei wneud, sy'n bwysig. Felly, mae yna fesurau diogelu i sicrhau bod y camau gweithredu a gymerir gan awdurdodau lleol yn deg.

Gwyddom i gyd, fel y dangosodd Ann pan gododd y mater am y Rhyl, yr effaith y gall eiddo sy'n wag am amser maith ei chael ar gymuned a chymdogaeth; yr ydym wedi

seen that across the piece. These proposals will overcome those negative impacts, and will also provide housing for people in need. I ask that you support these resolutions today. Turning to Alun Ffred, it is rather good that I managed to get second homes included in here—I would have thought that Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales would welcome that.

gweld hynny'n gyffredinol. Bydd y cynigion hynny'n goresgyn yr effeithiau negyddol hynny, a hefyd yn darparu cartrefi i bobl mewn angen. Gofynnaf ichi gefnogi'r cynigion hyn heddiw. I droi at Alun Ffred, mae'n dda fy mod wedi llwyddo i gynnwys ail gartrefi yma—byddwn yn disgwyl i Blaid Cymru—The Party of Wales groesawu hynny.

Gwelliant 1: O blaid 9, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 41.

Amendment 1: For 9, Abstain 0, Against 41.

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

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

Gwelliant 2: O blaid 10, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 40.

Amendment 2: For 10, Abstain 0, Against 40.

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

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Thomas, Owen John
Williams, Brynle

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

Motion NDM3266: to propose that
the National Assembly for Wales:

*considers the principle of the Housing
(Empty Dwelling Management Orders)
(Prescribed Exceptions and Requirements)
(Wales) Order 2006, a copy of which was
laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006.*

Cynnig NDM3266: cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

*yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Tai
(Gorchymynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag)
(Eithriadau a Gofynion Rhagnodedig)
(Cymru) 2006 y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y
Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006.*

*Cynnig (NDM3266): O blaid 41, Ymatal 9, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3266): For 41, Abstain 9, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3267): O blaid 41, Ymatal 9, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3267): For 41, Abstain 9, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3268): O blaid 42, Ymatal 9, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3268): For 42, Abstain 9, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3269): O blaid 41, Ymatal 8, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3269): For 41, Abstain 8, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter

Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.

**Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Amodau Ychwanegol)
(Cymru) 2006 a Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Esemptiadau Penodedig)
(Cymru) 2006**
**Approval of the Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (Wales)
Order 2006 and the Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions)
(Wales) Order 2006**

Y Llywydd: Cynigir trafod y ddwy eitem **The Presiding Officer:** It is proposed that nesaf gyda'i gilydd, oni bai fod Aelod yn the next two items be debated together,

gwrthwynebu. Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiad.	unless any Member objects. I see there is no objection.
Motion (NDM3270): to propose that <i>the National Assembly for Wales:</i>	Cynnig (NDM3270): cynnig bod <i>Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:</i>
<i>considers the principle of the Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (Wales) Order 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006.</i>	<i>yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Amodau Ychwanegol) (Cymru) 2006 y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006.</i>
Amendment 1 in the name of Lisa Francis. Add a new point at the end of the motion:	Gwelliant 1 yn enw Lisa Francis. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:
<i>calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to work in partnership with representative landlord organisations to agree and overcome the barriers to improving property condition in the private rented sector.</i>	<i>yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i weithio mewn partneriaeth â chyrff sy'n cynrychioli landlordiaid er mwyn cytuno ar y rhwystrau rhag gwella cyflwr eiddo yn y sector rhentu preifat, a goresgyn y rhwystrau hynny.</i>
Motion (NDM3271): to propose that <i>the National Assembly for Wales:</i>	Cynnig (NDM3271): cynnig bod <i>Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:</i>
<i>1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 17 October 2006 in relation to the draft the Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (Wales) Order 2006; and</i>	<i>1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Hydref 2006 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Amodau Ychwanegol) (Cymru) 2006; a</i>
<i>2. approves that the draft the Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (Wales) Order 2006 is made in accordance with:</i>	<i>2. yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Amodau Ychwanegol) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:</i>
<i>a) the draft laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006; and</i>	<i>a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006; a</i>
<i>b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 18 October 2006.</i>	<i>b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 18 Hydref 2006.</i>
Motion (NDM3272): to propose that <i>the National Assembly for Wales:</i>	Cynnig (NDM3272): cynnig bod <i>Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:</i>
<i>considers the principle of the Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (Wales) Order 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006.</i>	<i>yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Esemptiadau Penodedig) (Cymru) 2006, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006.</i>
Motion (NDM3273): to propose that	Cynnig (NDM3273): cynnig bod

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. *considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 17 October 2006 in relation to the draft the Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (Wales) Order 2006; and*

2. *approves that the draft the Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (Wales) Order 2006 is made in accordance with:*

a) *the draft laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006; and*

b) *the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 18 October 2006.*

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 i NDM3270 yn enw Lisa Francis.

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

the National Assembly for Wales:

considers the principle of the Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (Wales) Order 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006. (NDM3270)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. *considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 17 October 2006 in relation to the draft the Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (Wales) Order 2006; and*

2. *approves that the draft the Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (Wales) Order 2006 is made in accordance with:*

a) *the draft laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006; and*

b) *the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table*

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. *yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Hydref 2006 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Esemptiadau Penodedig) (Cymru) 2006; a*

2. *yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Esemptiadau Penodedig) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:*

a) *y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006; a*

b) *yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 18 Hydref 2006.*

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 to NDM3270 in the name of Lisa Francis.

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

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Amodau Ychwanegol) (Cymru) 2006, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006. (NDM3270)

Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. *yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Hydref 2006 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Amodau Ychwanegol) (Cymru) 2006; a*

2. *yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Amodau Ychwanegol) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:*

a) *y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006; a*

b) *yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y*

Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 18 October 2006. (NDM3271) *Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 18 Hydref 2006. (NDM3271)*

I propose that

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

considers the principle of the Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (Wales) Order 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006. (NDM3272)

yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Esempiadau Penodedig) (Cymru) 2006, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006. (NDM3272)

I propose that

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 17 October 2006 in relation to the draft the Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (Wales) Order 2006; and

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Hydref 2006 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Esempiadau Penodedig) (Cymru) 2006; a

2. approves that the draft the Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (Wales) Order 2006 is made in accordance with:

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Esempiadau Penodedig) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:

a) the draft laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006; and

a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006; a

b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 18 October 2006. (NDM3273)

b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 18 Hydref 2006. (NDM3273)

Mark Isherwood: I propose amendment 1 to NDM3270 in the name of Lisa Francis. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

Mark Isherwood: Cynigiaf welliant 1 i NDM3270 yn enw Lisa Francis. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to work in partnership with representative landlord organisations to agree and overcome the barriers to improving property condition in the private rented sector.

yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i weithio mewn partneriaeth â chyrff sy'n cynrychioli landlordiaid er mwyn cytuno ar y rhwystrau rhag gwella cyflwr eiddo yn y sector rhentu preifat, a goresgyn y rhwystrau hynny.

Landlords who are unfit, landlords who are exploitative, landlords who are intimidatory and landlords who are twenty-first century Rachmans, should have the book thrown at them.

Dylai landlordiaid sy'n anaddas, landlordiaid sy'n ymelwa, landlordiaid sy'n fygythiol a landlordiaid Rachmanaidd yr unfed ganrif ar hugain wynebu grym y gyfraith.

However, the decent majority of private

Fodd bynnag, rhaid gwerthfawrogi mwyafrif

sector landlords must be valued for filling the gaps, as house prices, housing waiting lists, and homelessness have increased. They want to be part of the solution, not the problem. They want to work in real partnership with local and national government, rather than become political whipping boys and girls in a partnership that is all stick and no carrot.

We are told that this Order will enable local authorities to introduce selective licensing in areas, or parts of areas, thereby improving the standards of management and property condition in the private rented sector. It is specific to Wales, because it adds conditions where selective licensing can be introduced that are not contained on the face of the Act. We applaud the fact that selective licensing aims to achieve greater management control, by ensuring that landlords are fit and proper persons, with no convictions for serious offences, such as unlawful eviction. However, we must also be mindful of concern expressed by the National Federation of Residential Landlords about low-demand areas, and those areas where local authorities have, for many years, delayed regeneration, thereby causing low demand. In these areas, some landlords cannot find tenants, or there are no tenants available, unless the landlord is prepared to take those tenants who have been evicted by either a local authority or a housing association.

As landlords and the National Landlords Association state, most landlords wish to see their properties occupied and maintained in good order. The NLA states that the licensing scheme, caused by the Housing Act 2004, must be implemented simply and straightforwardly. Only by doing that will the Government be able to ensure that those who it would consider to be good landlords do not feel trapped by a complicated and overregulated system. It would be a disaster for the private rented sector and its many hundreds of thousands of tenants—often, the most disadvantaged in society—if, as a result of overregulation, many highly conscientious landlords decided to sell up and leave the private rented sector entirely. The NLA is committed to raising standards across the

gweddus landlordiaid y sector preifat am lenwi'r bwlch, wrth i brisiau tai, rhestrau aros am dai, a digartrefedd gynyddu. Maent am fod yn rhan o'r ateb, yn hytrach na'r broblem. Maent am weithio mewn partneriaeth wirioneddol â llywodraeth leol a chenedlaethol, yn hytrach na bod yn fwch dihangol gwleidyddol mewn partneriaeth sy'n cosbi yn hytrach nag ysgogi.

Dywedir wrthym y bydd y Gorchymyn hwn yn galluogi awdurdodau lleol i gyflwyno trwyddedu dethol mewn ardaloedd, neu rannau o ardaloedd, a thrwy hynny wella safonau rheoli a chyflwr eiddo yn y sector rhentu preifat. Mae'n benodol i Gymru, am ei fod yn ychwanegu amodau lle y gellir cyflwyno trwyddedu dethol na chânt eu cynnwys ar wyneb y Ddeddf. Cymeradwywn y ffaith mai nod trwyddedu dethol yw sicrhau mwy o reolaeth, drwy sicrhau bod landlordiaid yn bobl addas a phriodol, nad ydynt wedi eu dyfarnu'n euog o droseddau difrifol, megis troi allan yn anghyfreithlon. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni ystyried hefyd y pryder a fynegwyd gan Ffederasiwn Cenedlaethol y Landlordiaid Preswyl am yr ardaloedd lle nad oes llawer o alw, a'r ardaloedd hynny lle y mae awdurdodau lleol, am flynyddoedd lawer, wedi oedi cyn eu hadfywio, gan achosi galw isel. Yn yr ardaloedd hyn, ni all rhai landlordiaid ddod o hyd i denantiaid, oni bai fod y landlord yn fodlon cymryd y tenantiaid hynny sydd wedi cael eu taflu allan naill ai gan awdurdod lleol neu gan gymdeithas tai.

Fel y dywed landlordiaid a Chymdeithas Genedlaethol y Landlordiaid, hoffai'r rhan fwyaf o landlordiaid weld rhywun yn byw yn eu heiddo a'i fod yn cael ei gynnal mewn cyflwr da. Dywed y Gymdeithas fod angen gweithredu'r cynllun trwyddedu, a achoswyd gan Ddeddf Tai 2004, yn syml ac yn rhwydd. Dim ond drwy wneud hynny y gall y Llywodraeth sicrhau na fydd y bobl y byddai'n eu hystyried yn landloriaid da yn teimlo'n gaeth i system gymhleth sy'n cael ei gor-reoli. Byddai'n drychineb i'r sector rhentu preifat a'i holl gannoedd ar filoedd o denantiaid—y bobl fwyaf difreintiedig mewn cymdeithas, yn aml—os byddai nifer o landlordiaid cydwybodol yn penderfynu gwerthu a gadael y sector rhentu preifat yn llwyr am ei fod yn cael ei or-reoli. Mae

sector, to assist in ensuring that any licensing scheme must be light of touch, so as to encourage responsible landlords to continue investing in property to rent, and to achieve higher standards. Such an approach must remain a priority if the sector is to flourish.

That is why I urge all Assembly Members who support the spirit and practice of partnership to support amendment 1, which simply requires the Assembly Government to work in partnership with representative landlord organisations to agree and overcome together the barriers to improving property condition in the private rented sector.

Mick Bates: The Welsh Liberal Democrats support this piece of essential legislation. These Orders will ensure better conditions for people living in shared accommodation, particularly students; I am sure that we realise that, sometimes, their living conditions are not what we would anticipate their moving into when they leave home. I have some sympathy and agreement with the amendment, which calls for greater partnership working. Part of that relates to the costs incurred, and I would like clarification from the Minister on this. I read the legislation about the fees, and, while we need to protect standards, and ensure that people's quality of accommodation is as good as possible, we also need to ensure that we are not imposing costs that are a burden on any sector, including local authorities. I would like some more explanation of the costs under paragraph 13, and how they will operate.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): On Mick's point about the costs, it is not compulsory for local authorities to introduce selective licensing schemes, and some may not choose to do so, because of the nature of private sector rentals in their areas; the schemes may also not be a priority for local authorities. Having said that, the fees toolkit has been designed so that local authorities can set their own licensing fees, to enable them to cover the costs of introducing this scheme, including employing additional staff if they

Cymdeithas Genedlaethol y Landlordiaid wedi ymrwymo i godi safonau drwy'r sector yn gyfan, i helpu sicrhau na fydd unrhyw gynllun trwyddedu yn drwm, er mwyn annog landlordiaid cyfrifol i barhau i fuddsoddi mewn eiddo i'w rentu, a sicrhau safonau uwch. Dylai dull felly barhau'n flaenoriaeth os yw'r sector i ffynnu.

Dyna pam y pwysaf ar bob un o Aelodau'r Cynulliad sy'n cefnogi ysbryd ac arfer partneriaeth i gefnogi gwelliant 1. Yn syml, mae'n gofyn i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad weithio mewn partneriaeth â sefydliadau landlordiaid cynrychioliadol i gytuno ar yr hyn sy'n rhwystro cyflwr eiddo yn y sector rhentu preifat rhag cael ei wella a goresgyn hynny.

Mick Bates: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cefnogi'r darn hwn o ddeddfwriaeth hanfodol. Bydd y Gorchmynion hyn yn sicrhau gwell amodau i bobl sy'n byw mewn llety wedi ei rannu, yn arbennig myfyrwyr; yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod yn sylweddoli nad yw eu hamodau byw, weithiau, yr hyn y disgwyliwn iddynt fyw iddynt pan fyddant yn gadael cartref. Yr wyf yn cydymdeimlo ac yn cytuno i ryw raddau â'r gwelliant, sy'n galw am fwy o weithio mewn partneriaeth. Mae rhan o hynny'n ymwneud â'r costau, a hoffwn i'r Gweinidog roi eglurhad am hynny. Darllenais y ddeddfwriaeth am y ffioedd, ac er bod angen inni ddiogelu safonau, a sicrhau bod ansawdd llety pobl cystal â phosibl, rhaid inni sicrhau hefyd nad ydym yn gosod costau sy'n faich ar unrhyw sector, gan gynnwys awdurdodau lleol. Hoffwn fwy o esboniad o'r costau o dan baragraff 13, a sut y byddant yn gweithredu.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): O ran pwynt Mick ynglŷn â'r costau, nid yw'n orfodol i awdurdodau lleol gyflwyno cynlluniau trwyddedu dethol, ac efallai na fydd rhai yn dewis gwneud hynny, oherwydd natur y maes rhentu yn y sector preifat yn eu hardaloedd hwy; efallai nad yw'r cynlluniau'n flaenoriaeth ychwaith i awdurdodau lleol. Wedi dweud hynny, mae'r pecyn ffioedd wedi ei gynllunio fel y gall awdurdodau lleol bennu eu ffioedd trwyddedu eu hunain, er mwyn eu galluogi i

choose to do so. In addition, as you are aware, Mick, the resources supplied to authorities are unhypothecated, and are contained in local authority general capital funding. This means that local authorities can top up fees for selective licensing out of these resources if they choose to do so. We have had no representations from local authorities on the issue of additional costs.

gynnwys costau cyflwyno'r cynllun hwn, gan gynnwys cyflogi staff ychwanegol os dewisant wneud hynny. Yn ogystal, fel y gwyddoch, Mick, nid yw'r adnoddau a gaiff eu darparu i awdurdodau wedi eu neilltuo, a chânt eu cynnwys yng nghyllid cyfalaf cyffredinol awdurdodau lleol. Golyga hyn y gall awdurdodau lleol ychwanegu at ffioedd trwyddedu dethol o'r adnoddau hyn os mynnant. Nid ydym wedi cael dim sylwadau gan awdurdodau lleol ynghylch costau ychwanegol.

4.40 p.m.

Turning to Mark Isherwood's contribution, I try, when I am able, to support amendments that I believe are broadly good in terms of housing and other policy. I do not go out of my way to oppose amendments because they come from other parties. However, having advised my group to support this amendment, I was sorely tempted to change my mind after that contribution. I have spent years working with organisations and private landlords on this issue—indeed, I spoke to the Cardiff Landlords Forum in January. We continually stress the importance of partnership on these issues and we have a good working relationship with these landlord organisations. My officials attend their meetings and give them advice. We are talking about an excellent relationship with these groups. There are some very good landlords around who want to engage with the Assembly, because they want to provide accommodation.

I droi at gyfraniad Mark Isherwood, pan allaf wneud hynny byddaf yn ceisio cefnogi gwelliannau y credaf eu bod yn rhai da ar y cyfan o ran polisïau tai a pholisïau eraill. Ni fyddaf yn mynd allan o'm ffordd i wrthwynebu gwelliannau am mai pleidiau eraill sy'n eu cyflwyno. Fodd bynnag, wedi cynghori fy ngrŵp i gefnogi'r gwelliant hwn, cefais fy nhemtio i newid fy meddwl ar ôl y cyfraniad hwnnw. Treuliais flynyddoedd yn gweithio gyda sefydliadau a landlordiaid preifat ar y mater hwn—yn wir, bŵm yn siarad â Fforwm Landlordiaid Caerdydd ym mis Ionawr. Pwysleisiwn yn barhaus bwysigrwydd partneriaeth yn y materion hyn, ac mae gennym berthynas waith dda gyda'r sefydliadau landlordiaid hyn. Bydd fy swyddogion yn mynychu eu cyfarfodydd ac yn eu cynghori. Yr ydym yn sôn am berthynas ardderchog gyda'r grwpiau hyn. Mae rhai landlordiaid da iawn sydd am ymgysylltu â'r Cynulliad, oherwydd eu bod am ddarparu llety.

We have been doing this for years, which is why I am pleased to recommend the introduction of these Orders. These are regulations under the Housing Act 2004, and will enhance the measures that we have introduced on the licensing of houses in multiple occupation and the housing health and safety rating system. The additional conditions Order is specific to Wales—it is not being made in England. This is an example of a policy that was made in Wales, tailored to meet the nature of our private sector. We have devolution and we have an Assembly; we must have legislation that reflects what goes on in Wales. This will enable local authorities to introduce selective

Bŵm yn gwneud hyn ers blynyddoedd, a dyna pam mae'n bleser gennyf gymeradwyo cyflwyno'r Gorchmynion hyn. Mae'r rhain yn rheoliadau o dan y Ddeddf Tai 2004, a byddant yn gwella'r mesurau a gyflwynwyd gennym ar drwyddedu tai amlfeddiannaeth a'r system i fesur iechyd a diogelwch tai. Mae'r Gorchymyn amodau ychwanegol yn benodol i Gymru—nid yw'n cael ei gyflwyno yn Lloegr. Mae hon yn enghraifft o bolisi wedi ei wneud yng Nghymru, wedi ei deilwra i fodloni natur ein sector preifat. Mae gennym ddatganoli ac mae gennym Gynulliad; rhaid inni gael deddfwriaeth sy'n adlewyrchu'r hyn sy'n digwydd yng Nghymru. Bydd hyn yn galluogi awdurdodau

licensing not only in areas of low demand, but in areas where there is a high incidence of anti-social behaviour and in renewal areas where strategic regeneration is also taking place. It is important that we do this in this particular housing context. I am, therefore, pleased to present these Orders to you. I will, hopefully, get everyone to vote for the amendment, but sometimes in debate you dissuade people from going the same way as you.

lleol i gyflwyno trwyddedu dethol mewn ardaloedd lle mae galw isel, yn ogystal ag mewn ardaloedd lle mae lefelau uchel o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ac mewn ardaloedd adnewyddu lle mae gwaith adfywio strategol hefyd yn digwydd. Mae'n bwysig inni wneud hyn yn y cyd-destun tai penodol hwn. Yr wyf yn falch, felly, o gyflwyno'r Gorchmynion hyn ichi. Gobeithio y llwyddaf i gael pawb i bleidleisio o blaid y gwelliant, ond weithiau mewn dadl byddwch yn argyhoeddi rhywun i fynd yn groes i chi.

The Presiding Officer: We will see what happens now, Minister.

Y Llywydd: Cawn weld yn awr beth fydd yn digwydd, Weinidog.

*Gwelliant: O blaid 48, Ymatal 1, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment: For 48, Abstain 1, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl

Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelod canlynol:
 The following Member abstained:

Randerson, Jenny

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

Motion NDM3270 as amended:

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. considers the principle of the Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (Wales) Order 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2006; and

2. calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to work in partnership with representative landlord organisations to agree and overcome the barriers to improving property condition in the private rented sector.

Cynnig NDM3270 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Trwyddedu Dethol Tai (Amodau Ychwanegol) (Cymru) 2006 y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Hydref 2006; ac

2. yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i weithio mewn partneriaeth â chyrff sy'n cynrychioli landlordiaid er mwyn cytuno ar y rhwystrau rhag gwella cyflwr eiddo yn y sector rhentu preifat, a goresgyn y rhwystrau hynny.

*Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 45, Ymatal 5, Yn erbyn 0.
 Amended motion: For 45, Abstain 5, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Dunwoody, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise

Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio.
Amended motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3271): O blaid 42, Ymatal 8, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3271): For 42, Abstain 8, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn

Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.

Cynnig (NDM3272): O blaid 42, Ymatal 8, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3272): For 42, Abstain 8, Against 0.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David

Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3273): O blaid 42, Ymatal 8, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3273): For 42, Abstain 8, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val

Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
 The following Members abstained:

Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Glyn
 Francis, Lisa
 Graham, William
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo'r Amendment to the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection
 Products: Draft Paragraph 3.7.4 o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 25.3
 Approval of the Amendment to the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection
 Products: Draft Paragraph 3.7.4 under Standing Order No. 25.3**

**Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, The Minister for Environment, Planning
 Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): and Countryside (Carwyn Jones):** I
 Cynigiad fod propose that

*Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â the National Assembly for Wales in
 Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 25.13: accordance with Standing Order No. 25.13:*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p><i>1. yn cymeradwyo'r gwelliant drafft, the
 Amendment to the Code of Practice for Using
 Plant Protection Products: draft paragraph
 3.7.4, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar
 17 Hydref 2006, a</i></p> <p><i>2. yn nodi'r memorandwm esboniadol ar
 gyfer y Gorchymyn hwn a osodwyd yn y
 Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Hydref 2006.
 (NDM3279)</i></p> | <p><i>1. approves the draft Amendment to the Code
 of Practice for Using Plant Protection
 Products: draft paragraph 3.7.4, a copy of
 which was laid in the Table Office on 17
 October 2006, and</i></p> <p><i>2. notes the explanatory memorandum for
 this Order laid in the Table Office on 17
 October 2006. (NDM3279)</i></p> |
|---|--|

Brynle Williams: I will raise a few brief points concerning the amendments to the regulations. First, the safety of the public has to be paramount, but, at the same time, we have to realise that agriculture is a working industry and should have the countryside that

Brynle Williams: Fe gyflwynaf rai pwyntiau cryno'n ymwneud â'r gwelliannau i'r rheoliadau. Yn gyntaf, rhaid rhoi blaenoriaeth i ddiogelwch y cyhoedd, ond ar yr un pryd mae angen inni sylweddoli bod amaethyddiaeth yn ddiwydiant gweithiol, a

everyone can experience and enjoy. Given that the amendments to the code are technical in nature, I ask the Minister to ensure that landowners are fully aware of exactly where they stand under the code, by printing that in Gwlad, so that crops can be protected with minimum disruption to the public.

Mick Bates: The Welsh Liberal Democrats will support this legislation, and I reiterate some of the comments made by Brynle about clarification of the legislation, particularly relating to Forestry Commission land, which is now open access, of course. Spraying often forms part of good management there. What advice is being given about the notices that would have to be posted next to footpaths and areas of public access, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000?

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): We have to remember that what we are debating is a technical amendment to a code of practice. I will, however, seek to ensure that the information regarding the change, should the Assembly seek to support it, is publicised as widely as possible, quite possibly in *Gwlad*.

dylai gael cefn gwlad y gall pawb gael profiad ohoni a'i mwynhau. O gofio bod y gwelliannau yn y cod yn dechnegol eu natur, gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog sicrhau bod tîrfeddianwyr yn hollol ymwybodol o'u sefyllfa o dan y cod drwy argraffu hynny yn Gwlad, fel y gellir diogelu cnydau heb amharu'n ormodol ar y cyhoedd.

Mick Bates: Bydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymreig yn cefnogi'r ddeddfwriaeth hon, ac ategaf rai o'r sylwadau a wnaed gan Brynle ynghylch egluro'r ddeddfwriaeth, yn enwedig o ran tir y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth, sydd bellach yn agored, wrth gwrs. Mae chwistrellu yn aml yn rhan o reolaeth dda mewn coedwigaeth. Pa gyngor a roddir ynghylch yr hysbysiadau y byddai angen eu gosod gerllaw llwybrau a manau sy'n agored i'r cyhoedd o dan y Ddeddf Cefn Gwlad a Hawliau Tramwy 2000?

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Rhaid inni gofio mai'r hyn yr ydym yn ei drafod yw gwelliant technegol i god ymarfer. Fodd bynnag, ceisiaf sicrhau y bydd y wybodaeth sy'n ymwneud â'r newid, os byddai'r Cynulliad yn ceisio'i gefnogi, yn cael ei chyhoeddi mor eang â phosibl, yn ddim posibl yn *Gwlad*.

*Cynnig (NDM3279): O blaid 49, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3279): For 49, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice

Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Dirprwyo Swyddogaethau o dan Ddeddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 i'r Prif Weinidog Delegation of Functions under the Traffic Management Act 2004 to the First Minister

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, resolves to delegate all those functions of the National Assembly under those provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004 which are brought into force by the Traffic Management Act 2004 (Commencement No. 1) (Wales) Order 2006, (being sections 5(4), 5(5) 10, 16-31, 72-93, 94, 95, 96, and 98) to the Assembly First Minister, save those which by law cannot be so delegated. (NDM3277)

Janet Davies: Plaid Cymru recognises that the regulation of road traffic and sanctions can be effective only if realistic alternatives are available. We recognise the need to keep road traffic moving, and that high-quality management systems make a significant contribution. Nevertheless, even such

Y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau (Andrew Davies): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu dan adran 62(1)(b) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, yn penderfynu dirprwyo holl swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol dan y darpariaethau hynny yn Neddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a ddaw i rym trwy Orchymyn Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 (Cychwyn Rhif 1) (Cymru) 2006 (sef adrannau 5(4), 5(5) 10, 16-31, 72-93, 94, 95, 96, a 98) i Brif Weinidog y Cynulliad, ac eithrio'r rhai na ellir, yn ôl y gyfraith, eu dirprwyo yn y modd hwnnw. (NDM3277)

Janet Davies: Mae Plaid Cymru yn cydnabod y gall rheoleiddio traffig ffyrdd a chosbau fod yn effeithiol mai dim os oes dulliau amgen realistig ar gael. Cydnabyddwn fod angen cadw traffig ar y ffyrdd i symud a bod systemau rheoli o'r radd flaenaf yn gwneud cyfraniad sylweddol. Er

management systems cannot always overcome the high density of traffic, and there is a need for as many journeys as possible to be made by public transport. Bus lanes speed up the buses in cities, but they need to be monitored, as there have been a lot of problems with the misuse of bus lanes. Therefore, not only do we support this Order, but we also support the delegation of the functions.

The Presiding Officer: Minister, there do not seem to be any other speakers.

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): I do not think that I need to add anything on that.

hynny, ni all hyd yn oed systemau rheoli felly bob amser atal y dwysedd uchel o draffig, ac mae angen i bobl wneud cynifer o deithiau â phosibl ar gludiant cyhoeddus. Mae lonydd bysiau'n cyflymu'r bysys yng nghanol y dinasoedd, ond mae angen eu monitro oherwydd cafwyd llawer o broblemau'n gysylltiedig â chamddefnyddio lonydd bysiau. Felly, yn ogystal â chefnogi'r Gorchymyn hwn, yr ydym hefyd yn cefnogi dirprwyo'r swyddogaethau.

Y Llywydd: Weinidog, nid yw'n ymddangos bod unrhyw siaradwyr eraill.

Y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau (Andrew Davies): Ni chredaf fod angen imi ychwanegu dim at hynny.

*Cynnig (NDM3277): O blaid 50, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3277): For 50, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy

Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

**Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 (Cychwyn Rhif 1) (Cymru)
 2006**

**Approval of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (Commencement No. 1) (Wales)
 Order 2006**

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

considers the principle of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (Commencement No. 1) (Wales) Order 2006, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 3 October 2006. (NDM3274)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 17 October 2006 in relation to the draft the Traffic Management Act 2004 (Commencement No. 1) (Wales) Order 2006; and

2. approves that the draft the Traffic Management Act 2004 (Commencement No. 1) (Wales) Order 2006 is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 3 October 2006. (NDM3275)

Y Llywydd: Nid oes neb am siarad am hwn ychwaith.

Y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau (Andrew Davies): Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 (Cychwyn Rhif 1) (Cymru) 2006, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 3 Hydref 2006. (NDM3274)

Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Hydref 2006 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 (Cychwyn Rhif 1) (Cymru) 2006; a

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 (Cychwyn Rhif 1) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 3 Hydref 2006. (NDM3275)

The Presiding Officer: No-one wishes to speak on this either.

Cynnig (NDM3274): O blaid 49, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM3274): For 49, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3275): O blaid 49, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3275): For 49, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Dunwoody, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Adroddiad Blynyddol Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru 2005-06 The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales 2005-06 Annual Report

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales

*notes the Public Services Ombudsman for
 Wales's annual report for his functions as
 Welsh Administration Ombudsman for 2005-*

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Cynigiad
 fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

*yn nodi adroddiad blynyddol yr Ombwdsmon
 Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru ar ei
 swyddogaethau fel Ombwdsmon*

06, laid before the National Assembly on 14 June 2006 with personal copies provided to all Assembly Members. (NDM3278)

Gweinyddiaeth Cymru ar gyfer 2005-06, a osodwyd gerbron y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar 14 Mehefin 2006, gan ddarparu copïau ar gyfer pob Aelod Cynulliad. (NDM3278)

As everyone knows, we now have a unified ombudsman service, so this is the last time that the ombudsman will report on his four previously separate jurisdictions: the commissioner for local administration in Wales, the health service commissioner for Wales, the social housing ombudsman for Wales, and the Welsh administration ombudsman. Under the Assembly's Standing Orders, it is the Welsh administration ombudsman aspect of his annual report that you are asked to note today.

Fel y gwyr pawb, mae gennym yn awr wasanaeth ombwdsmon unedig, felly, dyma'r tro olaf y bydd yr ombwdsmon yn cyflwyno adroddiad am ei bedair awdurdodaeth a arferai fod ar wahân: y comisiynydd dros weinyddu lleol yng Nghymru, comisiynydd gwasanaeth iechyd Cymru, ombwdsmon tai cymdeithasol Cymru ac ombwdsmon gweinyddiaeth Cymru. O dan Orchmynion Sefydlog y Cynulliad, gofynnir i chi nodi heddiw elfen ombwdsmon gweinyddiaeth Cymru yn ei adroddiad blynyddol.

4.50 p.m.

Complaints can provide useful feedback. Lessons should be learned from them so that a mistake is not repeated. The ombudsman's services and his reports on individual investigations have a vital role in keeping us focused on that. During the period between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, 45 new complaints were received by the ombudsman's office in his role as the Welsh administration ombudsman, as compared with 42 complaints received in the previous year, so there is little change. It is important to note that the ombudsman is pleased that the number of complaints received remains fairly low.

Gall cwynion ddarparu ymateb defnyddiol. Dylid dysgu gwersi ohonynt fel na chaiff camgymeriad ei ailadrodd. Mae gan wasanaethau ac adroddiadau'r ombwdsmon ar ymchwiliadau unigol ran hanfodol i'w chwarae wrth hoelio'n sylw ar hynny. Yn ystod y cyfnod rhwng 1 Ebrill 2005 a 31 Mawrth 2006, cafodd swyddfa'r ombwdsmon 45 o gwynion newydd yn ei rôl fel ombwdsmon gweinyddiaeth Cymru, o'u cymharu â 42 o gwynion y flwyddyn flaenorol. Felly, nid oes fawr o newid. Mae'n bwysig sylwi bod yr ombwdsmon yn falch fod nifer y cwynion a ddaeth i law yn dal yn gymharol isel.

During the report period, the ombudsman considered 64 complaints, some of which were carried over from the previous year. The majority of those were in relation to the National Assembly for Wales, but I am pleased that the ombudsman acknowledges that, given the wide scope of the National Assembly for Wales's responsibilities, that is to be expected. As you will see from the report, of the 60 complaints considered by the ombudsman's service against the National Assembly for Wales, nine complaints were upheld. It is from such cases that we must learn, the ombudsman has concluded.

Yn ystod cyfnod yr adroddiad, ystyriodd yr ombwdsmon 64 o gwynion. Cariwyd rhai ohonynt drosodd o'r flwyddyn flaenorol. Yr oedd y rhan fwyaf yn ymwneud â Chynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, ond yr wyf yn falch fod yr ombwdsmon wedi cydnabod bod hynny i'w ddisgwyl, o gofio cwmpas eang cyfrifoldebau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Fel y gwelwch o'r adroddiad, o'r 60 o gwynion yn erbyn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a ystyriwyd gan wasanaeth yr ombwdsmon, cadarnhawyd naw cwyn. Daeth yr ombwdsmon i'r casgliad mai o achosion felly y mae'n rhaid inni ddysgu.

I have no doubt that every Member will share the desire to strive for a continuous improvement to our standards of service, and

Nid oes amheuaeth gennyf na fydd pob Aelod yn rhannu'r dyhead i ymdrechu am welliant parhaus yn ein safonau gwasanaeth,

I am sure that the new ombudsman's service in Wales will assist us in that regard. I invite Assembly Members to note the report.

David Lloyd: Yr wyf yn ymuno â'r Gweinidog wrth longyfarch yr ombwdsmon, Adam Peat, i'r swydd newydd hon. Ar ôl darllen yr adroddiad yn llawn, mae gofyn inni ganolbwyntio ar y pum tudalen yn y canol, sy'n cynnwys adroddiad ombwdsmon gweinyddiaeth Cymru. Mae nifer y cwynion yn gymharol fach, ond mae themâu yn cael eu hamlygu, ar dudalen 62 yn benodol, ynghylch safonau gofal, a hynny yn dilyn yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn ddiweddar o ran gofal hirdymor gydag achos NACODS, a'r fuddugoliaeth o ran talu am ofal nyrsio yn yr hirdymor. Bydd hynny'n her sylweddol dros y blynyddoedd, a bydd mwy o gwynion ac ati yn cael eu dwyn yn gynyddol. Bydd llawer mwy o drin a thrafod hyn yn adroddiadau'r ombwdsmon yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, o ran y pum tudalen sydd o'n blaenau, yr ydym fel plaid yn ddigon hapus i gefnogi'r bwriad i nodi'r adroddiad.

David Melding: The Welsh Conservatives certainly welcome the new model of a public services ombudsman, but, as the Minister said, we are restricting ourselves to the part relating to the Assembly's functions. A modest increase in the number of complaints is probably an indicator of our performance, as it means that the public are more aware of our services, and that the information that is getting out to them is improving, so we should expect the number of complaints to be around the 60 to 100 mark, and it would not necessarily be a reflection of what the Assembly is doing at any one time.

The aim to speed up investigations is also good, as it will increase public confidence, and the ombudsman is also committed to handling complaints at an earlier stage, if appropriate. As the Minister said, the ultimate aim is to improve good practice through the complaints process. In that sense—and it may be a slightly tangential point—is the Minister in a position to make a statement as to whether an annual report on public services will be published by the Welsh Assembly Government, as was called

ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd gwasanaeth newydd yr ombwdsmon yng Nghymru o gymorth inni yn hynny. Gwahoddaf Aelodau'r Cynulliad i nodi'r adroddiad.

David Lloyd: I join the Minister in congratulating the ombudsman, Adam Peat, on this new post. Having read the report in its entirety, we are being asked to concentrate on the five pages in the middle which contain the report of the Welsh administration ombudsman. The number of complaints is comparatively low, but certain themes are highlighted, specifically on page 62, concerning standards of care, following recent events concerning long-term care with the NACODS court case, and its success in securing the payment of long-term nursing costs. That will be a significant challenge over the coming years, and increasingly more complaints will be made. There will be a great deal more discussion about the ombudsman's reports in future. However, as regards the five pages before us, as a party we are perfectly happy to support the proposal to note the report.

David Melding: Mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn sicr yn croesawu'r patrwm newydd o ombwdsmon gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, ond fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog, yr ydym yn ein cyfyngu ein hunain i'r rhan sy'n ymwneud â swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad. Mae'n debyg fod cynnydd bychan yn nifer y cwynion yn ddangosydd o'n perfformiad, oherwydd golyga fod y cyhoedd yn fwy ymwybodol o'n gwasanaethau a bod yr wybodaeth sy'n eu cyrraedd yn gwella. Felly, dylem ddisgwyl i nifer y cwynion fod oddeutu 60 i 100 ac ni fyddai, o reidrwydd, yn adlewyrchiad o'r hyn y mae'r Cynulliad yn ei wneud ar unrhyw adeg benodol.

Mae'r nod i gyflymu ymchwiliadau hefyd yn un da, gan y bydd yn cynyddu hyder y cyhoedd ac mae'r ombwdsmon hefyd wedi ymrwmo i ymdrin â chwynion yn gynharach, os byddai hynny'n briodol. Fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog, y nod yn y pen draw yw gwella arfer drwy'r broses gwynion. Yn yr ystyr honno—a gall fod yn bwynt hytrach yn dangiadol—a yw'r Gweinidog mewn sefyllfa i ddweud a gaiff adroddiad blynyddol ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus ei gyhoeddi gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, fel y galwyd

for in the Beecham review? I think that that would feed into this general issue.

Michael German: The Welsh Liberal Democrats are happy to take note of this section of the ombudsman's report, and to thank and pay tribute to Adam Peat, who is known for his fastidiousness in dealing with these matters, as well as others throughout his public life. The new role that he will take on of combining all these operations into one will obviously make for a far more comprehensive report in future.

I have only two substantive points. The first concerns the surprising fact that there was only one complaint each about the Arts Council of Wales, Environment Agency Wales, the Forestry Commission and the former Welsh Development Agency. Given that the National Assembly does not deliver services generally, but is rather a provider of strategic direction, you would expect the ASPBs that do provide services to get more complaints. The fact that is not the case is a tribute to the people who work in those areas.

The second point concerns considering whether the front door is right for the Assembly in dealing with complaints that the ombudsman describes as being either premature or out of jurisdiction, by which he means that people have gone to the wrong place. At times, a reception point is needed so that, when people have an initial inquiry, either they can be signposted elsewhere or they can be told that there is not much chance of being seen by the ombudsman at this stage. That would help people as they would not have to waste a great deal of time in taking these matters forward.

I welcome the report. The ombudsman puts the fact that there is an increased number of complaints down to better publicity. In other words, the more he advertises himself, the more complaints he will get. I wish him luck with that, and I wish him well with his increasing workload. I hope that it will be directed at other aspects of public life in Wales and not at the National Assembly's

amdano yn adolygiad Beecham? Credaf y byddai hynny'n bwydo i mewn i'r mater cyffredinol hwn.

Michael German: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn hapus i nodi'r rhan hon o adroddiad yr ombwdsmon ac i ddiolch i Adam Peat a rhoi teyrnged iddo. Mae'n sy'n adnabyddus am ei drylwyredd wrth ddelio â'r materion hyn, yn ogystal ag eraill drwy gydol ei yrfa gyhoeddus. Bydd ei rôl newydd, a fydd yn cyfuno'r holl weithrediadau hyn, yn amlwg yn golygu y cawn adroddiad llawer mwy cynhwysfawr yn y dyfodol.

Dim ond dau bwynt sylweddol sydd gennyf. Mae'r cyntaf yn ymwneud â'r ffaith syfrdanol mai un gwŷn yr un yn unig a gafwyd am Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru, y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth ac Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru gynt. O gofio nad yw'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn darparu gwasanaethau'n gyffredinol ond ei fod, yn hytrach, yn darparu cyfeiriad strategol, byddech yn disgwyl i'r CCNC sy'n gwneud hynny gael mwy o gwynion. Mae'r ffaith nad yw hynny'n digwydd yn glod i'r bobl sy'n gweithio yn y meysydd hynny.

Mae'r ail bwynt yn ymwneud ag ystyried a yw'r drws ffrynt yn iawn i'r Cynulliad wrth ymdrin â chwynion a ddisgrifir gan yr ombwdsmon fel rhai sydd un ai'n gynamserol neu'r tu allan i'w awdurdodaeth, sy'n golygu bod pobl wedi mynd i'r lle anghywir. Ar adegau, mae angen man derbyn fel y gellir cyfeirio pobl rywle arall neu y gellir dweud wrthynt nad oes llawer o obaith i'r ombwdsmon eu gweld ar y pwynt hwn pan fydd ganddynt ymholiad cychwynnol. Byddai hynny o gymorth i bobl oherwydd na fyddai'n rhaid iddynt wastraffu cryn amser yn mynd ar drywydd y materion hyn.

Croesawaf yr adroddiad. Mae'r ombwdsmon yn priodoli'r ffaith fod nifer gynyddol o gwynion i well cyhoeddusrwydd. Hynny yw, po fwyaf o gyhoeddusrwydd a rydd iddo'i hun, y mwyaf o gwynion a gaiff. Dymunaf bob lwc iddo gyda hynny, a dymunaf yn dda iddo gyda'i lwyth gwaith cynyddol. Gobeithio y caiff hynny ei gyfeirio at agweddau eraill ar fywyd cyhoeddus yng

function only.

Nghymru, nid at swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn unig.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): I thank Dai for his comments. The ruling on the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales case concerned delay, and not quite as Dai mentioned. We need to point that out, in fairness, but, nevertheless, it was an important case. The report refers to the issues of delay involved in taking a multi-agency approach. I guess that we all know exactly what that means. Again, that is part of the Beecham agenda. Having a multi-agency delivery service should not be a reason for complaints or for anything else slipping through the cracks and getting stacked up in a waiting list.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Diolch i Dai am ei sylwadau. Yr oedd y dyfarniad ar achos Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru yn ymwneud ag oedi, nid yn union fel y soniod Dai. Mae angen inni nodi hynny, i fod yn deg, ond serch hynny, yr oedd yn achos pwysig. Mae'r adroddiad yn cyfeirio at oedi wrth fabwysiadu dull amlasiantaeth. Tybiaf ein bod i gyd yn gwybod yn union beth ystyr hynny. Unwaith eto, mae hynny'n rhan o agenda Beecham. Ni ddylai gwasanaeth darparu amlasiantaethol fod yn rheswm dros gwynion, nac i unrhyw beth arall fynd drwy'r rhwyd a chael ei ddal mewn rhestr aros.

On David's point about an annual report on public services, if you can wait just a few weeks, we will be producing a response to Beecham. Mike, I have no answer for why the arts council and the Environment Agency got so few complaints. I am sure that they have an answer, and that they would say that it is because of their good performance. On your point about a front-door reception, in his report, Beecham stresses the need for a good complaints system and redress. I remember that coming across very strongly. The idea is to reduce complaints, but if we improve on the complaints system so that people feel that they are able to be heard and to get redress where it is needed, the ultimate benefit will be that we will have fewer cases going to the ombudsman. That is how we need to view this. I know that the ombudsman takes his role very seriously, and he is making it clear to people that there is an open door. I am sure that we all welcome that. I thank Members for their comments.

O ran pwynt David ynghylch adroddiad blynyddol ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus, os gallwch aros ychydig wythnosau, byddwn yn cynhyrchu ymateb i Beecham. Mike, nid oes gennyf ateb i'r cwestiwn pam y cafodd cgyngor y celfyddydau ac asiantaeth yr amgylchedd gyn lleied o gwynion. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod ganddynt ateb ac y byddent yn dweud mai oherwydd eu perfformiad da yr oedd hynny. O ran eich pwynt ar dderbynfa drws blaen, yn ei adroddiad pwysleisia Beecham yr angen am gael system dda ar gyfer cwynion a gwneud iawn. Cofiaf i hynny gael ei fynegi'n gryf. Y syniad yw lleihau cwynion, ond os byddwn yn gwella'r system gwynion fel y bydd pobl yn teimlo y cânt eu clywed a chael iawn lle mae ei angen, y budd yn y pen draw fydd llai o achosion yn mynd at yr ombwdsmon. Dyna sut y dylem edrych ar hyn. Gwn fod yr ombwdsmon yn ystyried ei rôl yn ddifrifol iawn ac mae'n ei gwneud yn glir i bobl fod yna ddrws agored. Yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod i gyd yn croesawu hynny. Diolch i'r Aelodau am eu sylwadau.

Cynnig (NDM3278): O blaid 32, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM3278): For 32, Abstain 0, Against 0.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Davies, Andrew
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gregory, Janice

Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Oriel Kyffin Williams Kyffin Williams Gallery

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf yn falch o gael y cyfle i gymryd rhan yn y ddadl fer hon. Yr wyf wedi dewis pwnc sy'n berthnasol iawn i ni ym Môn, sef yr ymgyrch i ehangu Oriel Môn yn Llangefni a sicrhau lleoliad addas i arddangos gwaith yr arlunydd mawr o Fôn, y diweddar Kyffin Williams.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am pleased to have the opportunity to take part in this short debate. I have selected a very topical subject for those of us from Anglesey, namely the campaign to extend Oriel Môn at Llangefni to ensure a fitting place to exhibit the work of the eminent artist from Anglesey, the late Kyffin Williams.

Hoffwn ddweud dau beth ar y dechrau. Yn gyntaf, ymddengys y dylwn ddatgan buddiant gan fod fy ngwraig yn arlunydd proffesiynol. Yn ail, yr wyf eisoes wedi cytuno caniatáu i Denise Idris Jones, Eleanor Burnham a Brynle Williams siarad ar ddiwedd fy araith, yn y drefn honno.

I wish to say two things at the outset. Firstly, it appears that I should declare an interest as my wife is a professional artist. Secondly, I have already agreed to allow Denise Idris Jones, Eleanor Burnham and Brynle Williams to speak at the end of my contribution, in that order.

5.00 p.m.

Cyn imi sôn yn benodol am yr angen i sicrhau lleoliad addas ar gyfer gweithiau Kyffin Williams yn Llangefni, efallai y byddai'n briodol imi geisio rhoi'r drafodaeth hon mewn cyd-destun ehangach a dweud pa mor bwysig yw hi, yn y Gymru fodern, bod

Before I specifically discuss the need to secure an appropriate venue for Kyffin Williams's work at Llangefni, it may be appropriate for me to try to set the wider context and say how important it is, in modern Wales, that we have appropriate

gennym leoliadau addas i ddangos gweithiau rhai o arlunwyr pwysicaf Cymru, nid yn unig yn yr oes bresennol, ond yn y cenedlaethau a fu, a hefyd i ddangos gweithiau rhai o arlunwyr mawr y byd—arlunwyr Ewropeaidd yn arbennig.

Yn sgîl sefydlu'r Cynulliad ym 1999, yr oeddwn yn ymwybodol bod ysbryd newydd ar gerdded yng Nghymru yn y byd celfyddydol a bod yr hyder hwnnw i'w weld mewn sawl maes. Yr ydym yn meddwl am ein hunain fel cenedl sydd â thraddodiad gwych o ran geiriau—llynyddiaeth, y farddoniaeth a'r gân—ond nid ydym wedi bod mor ymwybodol, yn y gorffennol, o'n cefndir a'n traddodiad ym maes y celfyddydau cain. Mae'r ffaith bod ysbryd newydd ymhlith nifer fawr o arlunwyr modern yng Nghymru yn dyst i'r ffaith bod datganoli ei hun wedi bod yn hwb sylweddol i ddatblygiadau yn y maes hwnnw. Cynhyrchir gwaith arbennig o dda yng Nghymru heddiw gan arlunwyr o fri. Agorodd y Llywydd arddangosfa Peter Prendergast yn Oriol Ynys Môn yn Llangefni, a oedd yn dangos bod gennym arlunwyr o'r radd flaenaf yng Nghymru a bod eu gwaith bellach yn cael ei gydnabod fel gwaith arbennig.

Yn fy marn i, y person sydd wedi gwneud y mwyaf i agor ein llygaid i'n traddodiad cyfoethog yn y maes hwn yw Peter Lord. Mae ef wedi pwysleisio'r ffaith nad rhywbeth diweddar yw'r diddordeb mewn celfyddydau cain yng Nghymru ond ei fod wedi bod yn rhan hanfodol o'n traddodiad ers canrifoedd. Yr ydym yn falch ei fod wedi ein hatgoffa bod traddodiad felly a bod llawer o arlunwyr pwysig wedi bod yng Nghymru ar hyd y canrifoedd. Cofiaf y diweddar Dr Phil Williams yn defnyddio un o'i areithiau yma yn y Cynulliad i sôn am bwysigrwydd y celfyddydau cain a pha mor bwysig ydyw sicrhau lleoliadau addas i ddangos gwaith arlunwyr felly.

Byddaf yn gwneud achos cryf, gobeithio, dros sefydlu'r oriel i ddangos gwaith Kyffin Williams yn Llangefni. Ni dderbyniaf unrhyw ddadl y dylai'r gwaith hwnnw gael ei ddangos yn barhaol mewn unrhyw leoliad arall yng Nghymru. Serch hynny, pwysleisiaf nad yw hynny'n golygu nad wyf yn

venues to exhibit the work of some of Wales' most important artists, not only from the present day but from past generations, and also to exhibit works by world-famous artists—European artists in particular.

As a result of establishing the Assembly in 1999, I was aware of a new artistic spirit in Wales; that confidence is seen in many fields. We think of ourselves as a nation with a wonderful written tradition—in literature, poetry and song—but we have not been as aware, in the past, of our background and tradition in the fine arts. The fact that there is a new spirit among many Welsh modern artists is testament to the fact that devolution itself has provided significant encouragement in terms of developments in this area. Excellent work is being produced in Wales today by eminent artists. The Presiding Officer opened the Peter Prendergast exhibition at Oriol Ynys Môn in Llangefni, demonstrating that we have artists of the highest order in Wales and that their work is now recognised as excellent.

In my opinion, the person who has done most to open our eyes to our rich tradition in this field is Peter Lord. He has stressed the fact that the interest in fine art is not a new development in Wales, but that it has been an important part of our tradition for centuries. We are pleased that he has reminded us that there is such a tradition in Wales and that many important artists have worked here over the centuries. I recall the late Dr Phil Williams using one of his speeches here at the Assembly to talk about the importance of fine art and the importance of having appropriate venues to exhibit the work of such artists.

I will argue the case—strongly, I hope—for establishing the gallery to exhibit Kyffin Williams's work at Llangefni. I do not accept any argument that that work should be exhibited permanently at any other venue in Wales. However, I do emphasise that that does not mean that I do not recognise the

cydnabod pwysigrwydd Caerdydd fel prifddinas genedlaethol ranbarthol yn Ewrop a ddylai gael ei gweld fel prifddinas sy'n gallu dangos gweithiau celf o'r radd flaenaf.

Cofiaf fynd i Bilbao ar awyren, rai blynyddoedd yn ôl, a darganfod bod pobl o bob rhan o'r byd yn mynd i Bilbao oherwydd y Guggenheim. Dyna'r unig reswm pam yr oedd llawer o bobl yn mynd i Bilbao o rannau eraill o'r byd—cofiaf siarad â nifer o'r bobl hynny ar yr awyren. Felly, mae cael adeiladau o safon bensaernïol a gweithiau arlunwyr o'r safon uchaf yn denu nifer fawr o bobl yno. Mae'n bwysig ein bod ni, yng Nghymru, yn sylweddoli pwysigrwydd hynny.

Cofiaf am ryw dro arall, yn ne Ffrainc, lle gwelais yr unig arddangosfa imi ei gweld erioed o waith Graham Sutherland—er ei bod yn bosibl bod rhai wedi bod mewn lleoedd eraill. Mae swmp o waith gan Graham Sutherland yng Nghymru nad oes neb byth yn ei weld. Os ewch, er enghraifft, i Brifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth, gwelwch fod nifer o weithiau a gasglwyd gan, er enghraifft, y chwirydd Davies o Gregynog, nad oes yn cael eu gweld gan neb—maent ar gael i fyfyrwyr, ond ni chânt eu harddangos. Y broblem yng Nghymru yw bod prinder affwysol o lefydd i ddangos gweithiau celf o unrhyw gyfnod; mae angen datrys hynny ar gyfer y cyfnod modern gan bod gennym gymaint o arlunwyr a fyddai'n falch iawn o gael y cyfle hwnnw.

Wedi dweud hynny, symudaf ymlaen i edrych ar y posibilrwydd o gael oriel yn Llangefni a fyddai'n cael ei gweld fel rhan o rwydwaith o oriellau mewn gwahanol rannau o Gymru. Yr wyf wedi dweud un peth eithaf dadleuol yn y gorffennol ynglŷn â ble yr wyf yn credu y gallem fynd i lawr y llwybr hwnnw—yr wyf am ailadrodd hynny, er nad yw mor ddadleuol ag yr oedd rai blynyddoedd yn ôl. Mae gennym wyliau teithiol fel yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, Eisteddfod yr Urdd, a nifer o wyliau eraill. Gwn am y dadleuon ynglŷn â symud o ardal i ardal i Gymreigio ardal a gadael gwaddol, ond credaf, ar ryw bwynt, y bydd yn rhaid i ni ystyried cael canolfannau celfyddydol parhaol mewn nifer o ardaloedd yng Nghymru a all fod yn ganolfannau i'r math

importance of Cardiff as a European regional national capital that should be seen as a capital city capable of exhibiting works of art of the highest order.

I remember flying to Bilbao some years ago and finding that people from all parts of the world travelled there because of the Guggenheim. That was the only reason why many people from other parts of the world went to Bilbao—I remember speaking to some of those people on the aeroplane. Therefore, good quality architecture and works by artists of the highest calibre bring many visitors there. It is important that we in Wales realise the importance of that.

I also recall, on another occasion, in the south of France seeing the only exhibition that I ever saw of work by Graham Sutherland—although it is possible that other exhibitions had been held elsewhere. In Wales, we have a great deal of work produced by Graham Sutherland that people never see. For example, if you go to the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, you will see that many pieces of art collected by the Davies sisters of Gregynog, for example, are not seen by anyone—students can access them, but they are not exhibited. The problem we have in Wales is a severe lack of venues to exhibit artwork from all periods; that needs to be resolved for the modern era because we have so many artists who would be delighted to have that opportunity.

Having said that, I will move on to consider the possibility of having a gallery at Llangefni which would be seen as part of a network of galleries in different parts of Wales. I have made some contentious remarks in the past about where that route could take us—I will repeat that now, although it is not as contentious these days. We have travelling festivals in Wales, such as the National Eisteddfod, the Urdd Eisteddfod, and so on. I know the arguments in favour of moving to different areas, so that these festivals bring an awareness of being Welsh and leave a legacy behind. But I believe that at some point we will have to consider having permanent centres for the arts in different parts of Wales which can be centres for this sort of activity. I believe it is now time for us

hyn o beth. Teimlaf fod yr amser wedi dod i ni gael y draffodaeth honno. Yr wyf wedi codi'r mater hwn fwy nag unwaith gyda'r Gweinidog, ond dywed y Gweinidog mai mater i'r gwyliau yw dod â'u cynlluniau ymlaen.

Symudaf ymlaen at yr oriel yn Llangefni. Nid oes rhaid i mi, yn sicr yn y Cynulliad, ddweud pa mor bwysig i'r byd celfyddydol yw gwaith Kyffin Williams. Daeth o Fôn, ond mae'n cael ei weld fel arlunydd Cymraeg a Chymreig pwysig iawn yn yr ugeinfed ganrif. Bu iddo godi lefel a safon y celfyddydau cain oherwydd ei waith a'i statws ym Môn. Yr oedd yn freuddwyd gan Kyffin yn ei flynyddoedd olaf—ac mae'n rhaid i ni gydnabod hyn—gweld oriel addas i arddangos ei waith yn Llangefni. Yr oedd am weld hynny'n digwydd cyn iddo farw. Mae'n fater o loes i nifer ohonom a oedd yn gyfeillion iddo ac yn ei adnabod mor dda nad oedd hynny'n bosibl. Wedi dweud hynny, mae'r ymdrech i sicrhau'r oriel yn mynd yn ei flaen gan bod grŵp o ymddiriedolwyr, dan gadeiryddiaeth yr Athro Derec Llwyd Morgan, wedi dod at ei gilydd i sicrhau bod y broses hon yn parhau. Yr wyf yn mawr hyderu, felly, bod cefnogaeth y Llywodraeth i'r egwyddor o gael oriel yn Llangefni yn golygu y bydd yn cael ei wireddu. Mae angen i ni sicrhau hyn. Gwn hefyd fod y Gweinidog yn ystyried y gallai oriel o'r fath fod yn atyniad twristiaeth mawr yn yr ardal.

Mae arian eisoes wedi ei neilltuo i'r prosiect, ond heb fod yn ddigon i sicrhau bod hyn yn digwydd yn fuan. Y rheswm yr wyf yn dweud hynny yw na fedrwn symud ymlaen gyda'r cynllun oni bai bod nifer o bartneriaid yn dod at ei gilydd ac yn ysgwyddo rhan o'r baich ariannol mewn ffordd arbennig. Mae Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn wedi neilltuo £300,000 tuag at y prosiect. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi addo cyfrannu £100,000 ac wedi cytuno i drosglwyddo hwnnw draw i'r flwyddyn nesaf gan nad oes modd dechrau ar y gwaith eleni. Hefyd, mae ceisiadau yn cael eu gwneud i Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Mae gwerthiant o brintiau Kyffin yn digwydd ar hyn o bryd a bydd hwnnw'n codi swm sylweddol o arian, ond y realiti yw bod bwlch yn parhau.

5.10 p.m.

to have that debate. I have raised this issue on a number of occasions with the Minister, but he says that it is up to the festivals to put forward their own plans.

Moving on to the gallery at Llangefni, I do not have to state, certainly in the Assembly, how important Kyffin Williams's work is for the art world. He hails from Anglesey, but is regarded as a very important twentieth-century Welsh artist. He raised the level and standard of fine arts through his work and status in Anglesey. In his latter years, it was Kyffin's dream—and we must acknowledge this—to secure an appropriate gallery, capable to exhibit his work, at Llangefni. He wanted to see that before he died. It is a matter of regret to those of us who knew him well and considered him to be a friend that that was not possible. However, the effort to realise this dream goes on, as a group of trustees has come together, under the chairmanship of Professor Derec Llwyd Morgan, to ensure that this continues. I trust, therefore, that the Government's support for the principle of a having a gallery at Llangefni means that that will be realised. We need to ensure this. I also know that the Minister believes that such a gallery could be a great tourist attraction in the area.

Money has already been earmarked for the project, although it is not enough to ensure that it happens swiftly. I say this because we cannot progress the scheme unless a number of partners come together and shoulder some of the financial burden in a particular way. The Isle of Anglesey County Council has earmarked £300,000 for this project. The Assembly Government has pledged £100,000 and has agreed to carry that over into the next financial year as it is impossible to commence the work this year. Applications are also being made to the Arts Council of Wales. A sale of Kyffin's prints is being held, which will raise a significant amount of money, but the reality is that there is still a gap.

Nid wyf am awgrymu ffigurau i'r Gweinidog heddiw, gan fyddai hynny'n beth annheg i'w wneud. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn i'r Gweinidog ystyried o ddifrif codi'r cyfraniad y mae wedi ei addo ar hyn o bryd, a'i godi mewn ffordd sydd yn cau'r bwlch yn eithaf sylweddol. Gobeithiwn hefyd y bydd modd edrych ar reolau'r cyngor celfyddydau, gan fy mod yn deall eu bod yn rhwystro'r cyngor rhag gwneud cyfraniad sylweddol i'r oriel ar hyn o bryd. Gwn fod cadeirydd y cyngor wedi bod yn trafod hwn gyda'r sawl sydd â diddordeb yn y cynllun. Mae angen gweld a oes modd goresgyn hynny. Felly, hoffwn glywed y Gweinidog yn dweud, yn ei ymateb, er ei fod wedi cynnig £100,000, bod modd iddo cynnig swm uwch. Gobeithiaf, gydag ewyllys da'r Gweinidog, ac, yn amlwg, ewyllys da pob plaid yma, y gallwn sicrhau bod oriel anrhydeddus i un o arlunwyr mawr Cymru yn Oriol Ynys Môn, Llangefni.

Denise Idris Jones: Diolchaf i Ieuan am ganiatáu i mi gyfrannu. Yr oedd colli Syr Kyffin Williams yn golled mawr i Gymru gyfan, ond yn arbennig i Sir Fôn. Cefais y pleser o ddod i adnabod Syr Kyffin dros y blynyddoedd, ond yn arbennig yn ystod y misoedd tra'r oedd yn cael triniaeth yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd. Y tro olaf i mi siarad gyda Syr Kyffin oedd yn oriel Cambrian yng Nghonwy, pan oedd Rolf Harris hefyd yn bresennol. Yr oedd mewn ysbryd da, ond dal yn drist nad oedd digon o'i waith yn cael ei harddangos yn Oriol Ynys Fôn.

Yr oedd Syr Kyffin wedi gobeithio byw yn ddigon hir i weld Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn a'r Cynulliad yn darparu'r arian er mwyn adeiladu estyniad i'r oriel yn Llangefni, lle ganwyd ef. Mae'n drist, mewn ffordd, bod y ddadl hon yn cymryd lle yn awr, dau fis ar ôl ei farwolaeth.

Eleanor Burnham: Diolch i Ieuan Wyn am ganiatáu i mi ddweud gair byr. Nid oeddwn yn adnabod Kyffin fel yr oeddech chi yn ei adnabod. Bu i mi gyfarfod ag ef ambell waith yn nyletswydd fy swydd ac yr oeddwn yn teimlo ei fod yn ddyn gwych o safon fyd-eang, gan fod ei waith mor syml. Teimlaf yn gryf y dylem wneud ein gorau i gefnogi'r cynllun hwn. Edrychais ar y ffigurau, a theimlaf y dylem wneud ein gorau i annog y

I do not wish to suggest figures to the Minister today, as that would be unfair. However, I should like the Minister to consider seriously increasing the contribution that he has pledged at present, and in such a way as to close the gap substantially. I also hope that we can look at arts council rules, as I understand that they prevent the council from making a substantial contribution to the gallery at present. I know the chairman of the arts council has discussed this with those who have an interest in the scheme. We need to see whether that can be overcome. Therefore, I should like to hear the Minister say, in his response that, although he has offered £100,000, he could offer a higher sum. I hope, with the goodwill of the Minister and, obviously, every party here, that we can ensure a gallery worthy of one of the great artists of Wales in Oriol Ynys Môn, Llangefni.

Denise Idris Jones: I thank Ieuan for allowing me to contribute. The passing of Sir Kyffin Williams was a great loss to Wales as a whole, and to Anglesey in particular. I had the pleasure of getting to know Sir Kyffin over the years, particularly during the months when he was being treated at Glan Clwyd Hospital. The last time I spoke to Sir Kyffin was in the Cambrian gallery in Conwy, when Rolf Harris was present. He was in high spirits, but was saddened by the fact that not enough of his work was being displayed in Oriol Ynys Fôn.

Sir Kyffin had hoped to live long enough to see the Isle of Anglesey Council and the Assembly provide funding to build an extension to the gallery at Llangefni, where he was born. It is sad, in a way, that this debate is taking place now, two months after his death.

Eleanor Burnham: I thank Ieuan Wyn for allowing me to contribute. I did not know Kyffin as you did. I met him on a few occasions in the course of my job, and I felt he was an excellent man, of international standing, because of the simplicity of his work. I feel strongly that we should do our utmost to support the gallery. I have looked at the figures, and I feel we should do our best to encourage the Minister to provide

Gweinidog i ddarparu fwy o arian i gau'r bwlch. Yr ydym wedi colli person mor syml ac eto mor ddawnus. Soniodd Ieuan am Kyffin a Graham Sutherland, a bydd yn siom mawr os na gawn ni le i arddangos eu gwaith gwych.

Brynle Williams: Diolchaf i Ieuan am roi'r cyfle i mi gyfrannu i'w ddadl fer. Kyffin Williams oedd un o gewri Cymru a gogledd Cymru yn enwedig. Nid wyf yn ceisio rhannu Cymru, ond mae'n bwysig cael yr oriel yn Llangefni. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog i'n helpu gyda'r cynllun hwn. Cytunaf fod rhaid i ran o waith Kyffin cael ei harddangos yn y brifddinas. Fodd bynnag, clywsom ddadleuon Ieuan, Denise ac Eleanor ac er bod angen rhannu ei waith drwy Gymru, edrychaf ar hwn o safbwynt syml—un o gewri gogledd Cymru yw, ac y mae'n bwysig cadw ei waith yn Sir Fôn. Felly, gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog unwaith eto i'n helpu i sicrhau bod y nod hwn yn cael ei gyflawni.

The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh): First, I thank Ieuan for raising this matter; I agree with most of what he said. Kyffin Williams was a towering figure in the visual arts in Wales. His landscapes, from the arid plains of Patagonia to the mountains of Snowdonia, achieved public popularity and critical acclaim. I met him on a number of occasions, and I can remember him once tearing into Welsh Assembly Government policy about support for the Venice biennale and contemporary art, but he did it in such a gentle and gentlemanly way, with a twinkle in his eye, that you could not possibly take offence at anything he said. His death is a great loss.

I am particularly pleased that many of his fine works are in public ownership. It was a great privilege for me to unveil his last work recently, which hangs in our national library in Aberystwyth. It is entirely fitting that one of Wales's finest sons is remembered appropriately and, as Ieuan said, not here in our capital city, but in his home county of Ynys Môn. Cardiff has many attractions and is now a fine and modern European capital city, but it is not appropriate for it to be located here, as some people have suggested,

more money in order to close the gap. We have lost a person of such simplicity and yet of such great talent. Ieuan mentioned both Kyffin and Graham Sutherland, and it will be very disappointing if we do not have somewhere to display their excellent work.

Brynle Williams: I thank Ieuan for giving me the opportunity to contribute to his short debate. Kyffin Williams was one of the giants of Wales, and north Wales in particular. I am not trying to split Wales, but it is important to have the gallery in Llangefni. I ask the Minister to assist us with this scheme. I agree that some of Kyffin's work must be displayed in the capital. However, we have heard the arguments from Ieuan, Denise and Eleanor, and although his work needs to be shared throughout Wales, I look at this from a simple viewpoint—he is one of the giants of north Wales, and it is important to keep his work in Anglesey. Therefore, I ask the Minister once again to help us to ensure that this goal is achieved.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon (Alun Pugh): Yn gyntaf, diolch i Ieuan am godi'r mater hwn; cytunaf â'r rhan fwyaf o'r hyn a ddywedodd. Yr oedd Kyffin Williams yn gawr ym myd y celfyddydau gweledol yng Nghymru. Yr oedd ei dirluniau, o wastatiroedd cras Patagonia i fynyddoedd Eryri, yn boblogaidd ymhlith y cyhoedd ac fe'u canmolid gan feirniaid. Cyfarfûm ag ef droeon, a gallaf ei gofio'n beirniadu polisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am gefnogi biennale Fenis a chelfyddyd gyfoes, ond gwnaeth hynny mewn ffordd dyner, fonheddig, a chwareus, ac nid oedd modd digio am ddim byd a ddywedodd. Mae ei farwolaeth yn golled fawr.

Yr wyf yn arbennig o falch fod nifer o'i weithiau cain yn eiddo i'r cyhoedd. Yr oedd yn fraint fawr imi ddadorchuddio ei waith olaf yn ddiweddar, sydd yn ein llyfrgell genedlaethol yn Aberystwyth. Mae'n gwbl addas y caiff un o feibion gorau Cymru ei gofio'n briodol, ac fel y dywedodd Ieuan, nid yma yn ein prifddinas, ond yn ei sir enedigol, Ynys Môn. Mae gan Gaerdydd nifer o atyniadau, ac mae bellach yn brifddinas Ewropeaidd braf a modern. Ond nid yw'n briodol ei lleoli yma, fel y mae rhai pobl wedi

and as you rightly say, Ieuan. That is also an opinion shared by many people, particularly in north Wales; Albert Owen, the local Member of Parliament, also agrees with that. I know that a great deal of hard work has taken place, particularly over the last 18 months or so, in Ynys Môn in marketing and selling over £300,000-worth of limited edition prints. The proceeds of that sale will help to fund the new gallery extension.

The First Minister and I have said on numerous occasions, including in response to oral and written questions, that we are fully supportive of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's proposal for the Sir Kyffin Williams gallery to be established at Oriol Ynys Môn in Llangefni. The leader of the council has been told that I would provide a grant of £100,000 from this year's culture budget, initially, towards the capital cost of the proposed extension to Oriol Ynys Môn, to house some of Sir Kyffin Williams's work. This would be in addition to any financial support received from the Arts Council of Wales. The original intention was that the £100,000 grant would be used up in this financial year but, at Anglesey's request, I have rolled that forward and reallocated the Assembly Government's contribution to the project from this financial year to financial year 2007-08, in order to provide the authority with more flexibility in using the money.

Arts council officials are currently working with the Anglesey council staff on the detailed development of the extension to Oriol Ynys Môn, and they have agreed with the council that, because it does not fund permanent collections, the arts council would fund that proportion of the extension that is a dedicated education space. The arts council grant that would be available to that project is potentially very substantial, and would potentially run into six figures; that is an important development. The actual amount will depend on Anglesey's detailed business plan and the accompanying documentation.

I understand that Anglesey has not yet submitted its application for grant support for the gallery, which is the formal application to the Arts Council of Wales. I therefore ask the

awgrymu, ac fel y dywedwch yn gywir ddigon, Ieuan. Mae llawer o bobl o'r farn honno, yn enwedig yn y gogledd; mae Albert Owen, yr Aelod Seneddol lleol, yn cytuno â hynny hefyd. Gwn fod llawer iawn o waith caled wedi'i wneud, yn arbennig dros y 18 mis diwethaf, yn Ynys Môn i farchnata a gwerthu printiau mewn argraffiad cyfyngedig gwerth dros £300,000. Bydd yr elw o gwerthiant hwnnw'n helpu ariannu'r estyniad newydd i'r oriel.

Mae'r Prif Weinidog a minnau wedi dweud droeon, gan gynnwys mewn ymateb i gwestiynau llafar ac ysgrifenedig, ein bod yn gwbl gefnogol i gynnig Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn i sefydlu oriel Syr Kyffin Williams yn Oriol Ynys Môn yn Llangefni. Dywedwyd wrth arweinydd y cyngor y byddwn yn rhoi grant o £100,000 o'r gyllideb ar gyfer diwylliant eleni, ar y dechrau, tuag at gost gyfalaf yr estyniad arfaethedig i Oriol Ynys Môn, i gynnwys rhai o weithiau Syr Kyffin Williams. Byddai hyn yn ychwanegol at unrhyw gymorth ariannol gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Y bwriad gwreiddiol oedd defnyddio'r grant o £100,000 yn y flwyddyn ariannol hon, ond ar gais Ynys Môn yr wyf wedi cario hynny drosodd ac ailddyrannu cyfraniad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i'r prosiect o'r flwyddyn ariannol hon i'r flwyddyn ariannol 2007-08, er mwyn rhoi mwy o hyblygrwydd i'r awdurdod wrth iddo ddefnyddio'r arian.

Mae swyddogion cyngor y celfyddydau yn gweithio gyda staff cyngor Ynys Môn ar hyn o bryd ar gynlluniau manwl ar gyfer yr estyniad i Oriol Ynys Môn. Maent wedi cytuno â'r cyngor, am nad yw'n ariannu casgliadau parhaol, y byddai cyngor y celfyddydau'n ariannu'r gyfran honno o'r estyniad sydd wedi'i neilltuo i addysg. Gallai grant cyngor y celfyddydau a fyddai ar gael i'r prosiect hwnnw fod yn fawr iawn, sef swm chwe ffigur o bosibl; mae hynny'n ddatblygiad pwysig. Bydd y swm gwirioneddol yn dibynnu ar gynllun busnes manwl Ynys Môn a'r ddogfennaeth ategol.

Deallaf nad yw Ynys Môn wedi cyflwyno cais eto am gymorth grant i'r oriel, sef y cais ffurfiol i Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Felly, gofynnaf i'r awdurdod gyflwyno ei adroddiad

authority to submit its stage D report for the project, including that business plan, as early as possible. That will enable the arts council to assess more accurately the likely level of financial support that it could provide. In the meantime, I have asked Assembly officials to broker a further meeting with the authority and the arts council to discuss how progress can be made in establishing this new and needed gallery. I understand that this meeting has been scheduled for later this month.

While Ynys Môn would be a fitting home for the permanent collection, I hope that it will be possible to tour exhibitions of the work. The Assembly Government has invested substantially in security and in environmental management considerations in a number of key strategic galleries in Wales, which will enable them to safely showcase important national collections. That is how, for example, we were able to bring the Mold gold cape to Wrexham, from the British Museum in London.

5.20 p.m.

Finally, on the budget, Members will recall that, in last year's budget process, opposition parties demanded increases in other areas of expenditure, which forced a reduction in culture spending, below the Government's proposed budget. This seriously reduces my capacity to respond to demands—demands precisely such as this, which we want to support.

This year, once again, culture has not been identified on the opposition shopping list. We know that the Assembly has a fixed budget, and every Assembly Member must understand that £100,000, or indeed £1 million, added to one budget must be taken from another spending heading. Following yesterday's vote on the budget, the Finance Minister will be embarking on a series of further meetings with opposition finance spokespeople and leaders. However, budget cuts in culture particularly imperil discretionary projects such as this, which we as a Government want to support, and want to see taken forward.

Sir Kyffin was a fantastic artist. He was a towering figure in Welsh history, in terms of

cam D ar gyfer y prosiect, gan gynnwys y cynllun busnes hwnnw, cyn gynted â phosibl. Bydd hynny'n galluogi cyngor y celfyddydau i asesu'n fwy manwl lefel debygol y cymorth ariannol y gallai ei ddarparu. Yn y cyfamser, yr wyf wedi gofyn i swyddogion y Cynulliad drefnu cyfarfod arall gyda'r awdurdod a chyngor y celfyddydau i drafod sut y gellir mynd ati i sefydlu'r oriel angenrheidiol newydd hon. Deallaf fod y cyfarfod hwn wedi'i drefnu'n ddiweddarach y mis hwn.

Er y byddai Ynys Môn yn gartref addas i'r casgliad parhaol, gobeithio y bydd yn bosibl mynd ag arddangosfeydd o'r gwaith ar daith. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi buddsoddi'n sylweddol mewn diogelwch ac mewn ystyriaethau rheoli amgylcheddol mewn nifer o orielau strategol allweddol yng Nghymru, a fydd yn eu galluogi i arddangos casgliadau cenedlaethol pwysig yn ddiogel. Dyna, er enghraifft, sut yr oeddem yn gallu dod â mantell aur yr Wyddgrug i Wrecsam, o'r Amgueddfa Brydeinig yn Llundain.

Yn olaf, o ran y gyllideb, bydd Aelodau'n cofio, ym mhroses y gyllideb y llynedd, i'r gwrthbleidiau fynnu cynnydd mewn meysydd gwariant eraill, a orfododd ostyngiad yn y gwariant ar ddiwylliant, islaw cyllideb arfaethedig y Llywodraeth. Mae hyn, i raddau helaeth, yn cyfyngu fy ngallu i ymateb i alwadau—galwadau fel hwn yn union yr ydym am ei gefnogi.

Eleni, unwaith eto, ni nodwyd diwylliant ar restr siopa'r gwrthbleidiau. Gwyddom fod gan y Cynulliad gyllideb benodedig, a rhaid i bob Aelod Cynulliad ddeall bod yn rhaid i £100,000, neu'n wir £1 filiwn, a ychwanegir at gyllideb benodol, gael ei gymryd o bennawd gwariant arall. Yn dilyn y bleidlais ar y gyllideb ddoe, bydd y Gweinidog Cyllid yn dechrau cyfres o gyfarfodydd eraill gyda llefarwyr cyllid ac arweinyddion y gwrthbleidiau. Fodd bynnag, mae toriadau yn y gyllideb ym maes diwylliant yn peryglu yn arbennig brosiectau dewisol megis y prosiect hwn yr ydym yn dymuno'i gefnogi fel Llywodraeth ac am iddo gael ei ddatblygu.

Yr oedd Syr Kyffin yn arlunydd penigamp. Yr oedd yn gawr yn hanes Cymru, o ran y

the visual arts, and I hope that this fitting memorial project will be able to go ahead. celfyddydau gweledol, a gobeithio y gall y prosiect coffa addas hwn fynd yn ei flaen.

Y Llywydd: Dyna ddiwedd ein trafodion am heddiw. **The Presiding Officer:** That concludes our proceedings for today.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.20 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.20 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
 Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
 Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
 Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
 Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Dunwoody, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
 Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Law, Trish (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Marek, John (Cymru Ymlaen – Forward Wales)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
 Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)

Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)