



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

**The National Assembly for Wales
(The Official Record)**

Dydd Mawrth 29 Chwefror 2000

Tuesday 29 February 2000

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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynddi yn y Siambrau.
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.

Datganiad gan y Llywydd
Statement by the Presiding Officer

Y Llywydd: Yn dilyn pwynt o drefn gan Nick Bourne a nifer o sylwadau ynglŷn ag annibyniaeth cyngor i'r Llywydd, cyhoeddaf fod David Lambert wedi ei benodi yn ymgynghorydd cyfreithiol annibynnol i mi ac i Swyddfa'r Llywydd. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y trefniadau hynny.

The Presiding Officer: Following a point of order by Nick Bourne and several comments on the independence of advice to the Presiding Officer, I announce that David Lambert has been appointed as an independent legal adviser to me and to the Office of the Presiding Officer. I am grateful for those arrangements.

Ethol Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd
Election of Chair of the Committee on European Affairs

The Business Secretary (Andrew Davies): I propose that

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiaf fod y Cynulliad, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 15.4 yn rhoi Rhodri Morgan (Llafur) yn lle Alun Michael (Llafur) fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd, a hynny i'w roi ar waith yn ddi-oed.

Cynnig: O blaid 45, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 45, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Feld, Val
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Humphreys, Christine
Hutt, Jane

Jarman, Pauline
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Michael, Alun
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Richards, Rod
 Rogers, Peter
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion adopted.*

Cwestiynau i'r Prif Ysgrifennydd Questions to the First Secretary

Allgáu Cymdeithasol (Amcan 2) Social Exclusion (Objective 2)

Q1 Kirsty Williams: What help is the Assembly providing to combat social exclusion in the areas of south-east Powys that have not been awarded Objective 2 status? (OAQ3679)

The First Secretary (Rhodri Morgan): The help that will be given to the areas of south-east Powys to which you refer will come from Objective 2 transitional and Objective 3 programmes. Those programmes will apply particularly to areas such as south-east Powys. Across Wales, there are more general social exclusion programmes that are funded from the Assembly's budget, from which £42.7 million has been allocated over two years from April 2000. That will cover areas of rural and urban deprivation, and south-east Powys will be able to bid.

Kirsty Williams: Thank you for your and your administration's efforts for that area. Organisations like the Welsh Development Agency, various partnerships and the Brecon Beacons National Park cover areas that have a variety of Objective funding levels, and there is concern about how they can be rolled out across those areas. They are looking for flexibilities without going beyond the rules.

C1 Kirsty Williams: Pa gymorth y mae'r Cynulliad yn ei ddarparu i ymladd allgáu cymdeithasol yn y rhannau hynny o dde-ddwyrain Powys na ddyfarnwyd iddynt statws Amcan 2? (OAQ3679)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd (Rhodri Morgan): Bydd y gymorth a roddir i'r ardaloedd o dde-ddwyrain Powys y cyfeiriwch atynt yn dod o raglen drosiannol Amcan 2 a rhaglen Amcan 3. Bydd y rhaglenni hynny yn ymwneud yn benodol ag ardaloedd fel de-ddwyrain Powys. Ledled Cymru, ceir rhaglenni allgáu cymdeithasol mwy cyffredinol a ariennir o gyllideb y Cynulliad, y dyrannwyd £42.7 miliwn ohoni dros ddwy flynedd o Ebrill 2000. Bydd hynny'n cynnwys ardaloedd o amddifadedd gwledig a threfol, a bydd de-ddwyrain Powys yn gallu ymgeisio.

Kirsty Williams: Diolch i chi am eich ymdrechion ac am ymdrechion eich gweinyddiaeth dros yr ardal honno. Mae cyrff fel Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, gwahanol bartneriaethau a Pharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog yn cynnwys ardaloedd sydd ag amrywiaeth o lefelau ariannu o dan Amcanion, ac mae pryder ynghylch sut y gellir ymestyn hynny

Can you comment on how those flexibilities will be made available to the organisations that work with people across a variety of Objective areas?

The First Secretary: You raise an interesting point as to how they will choose their priorities between areas that will have Objective 1 status, areas that will continue to have Objective 2 status and areas that are outside those boundaries but which will have transitional funding or Objective 3. Objective 3 is frequently forgotten but is intended to cover social exclusion and to enable groups that do not participate fully in the labour market to access jobs. Objective 3 is equal to Objective 1 as an extremely important fund. We should never think that parts of Wales will not get any European funding. South-east Powys and similar areas naturally feel aggrieved when they are left out, but they will not be forgotten by any of the agencies responsible to the Assembly.

Nick Bourne: Objective 2 funding was vital for south-east Powys. Talgarth, Brecon, Hay and Crickhowell feel deprived of this funding. That is also true of other areas of Wales such as Barry. Transitional arrangements will not supply the answer. As European funding is such a vital issue, how are we proceeding on implementation and providing information to businesses, council leaders and voluntary organisations? I have just arrived back from west Wales where they know nothing about how this is being carried across and what progress the First Secretary is making on securing match funding. Bearing in mind the European response to the single programming document, is the First Secretary any further forward than his predecessor or are we in the same position of bungling incompetence that we were a month ago?

The First Secretary: Regarding bungling incompetence, when Nick Bourne said there was Objective 2 funding previously in south-east Powys, I think he meant Objective 5b funding.

ar draws yr ardaloedd hynny. Maent yn chwilio am hyblygrwydd heb fynd y tu hwnt i'r rheolau. A allwch wneud sylw am y modd y bydd yr hyblygrwydd hwnnw ar gael i'r cyrff sydd yn gweithio gyda phobl ar draws amrywiaeth o ardaloedd Amcan?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Yr ydych yn codi pwynt diddorol yngylch sut y byddant yn dewis eu blaenoriaethau rhwng ardaloedd a fydd â statws Amcan 1, ardaloedd a fydd yn parhau i fod â statws Amcan 2 a'r ardaloedd sydd y tu allan i'r ffiniau hynny ond a fydd yn cael cyllid trosiannol neu Amcan 3. Anghofir am Amcan 3 yn aml ond bwriedir iddo gynnwys allgáu cymdeithasol a galluogi grwpiau nad ydynt yn cymryd rhan lawn yn y farchnad lafur i fynd i swyddi. Mae Amcan 3 yn gyfwerth ag Amcan 1 fel cronfa bwysig iawn. Ni ddylem byth feddwl bod rhannau o Gymru na fyddant yn cael unrhyw arian Ewropeaidd. Mae de-ddwyrain Powys ac ardaloedd tebyg yn teimlo'n ddig pan gânt eu hepgor, wrth gwrs, ond ni fyddant yn cael eu hanghofio gan yr un o'r asiantaethau sydd yn atebol i'r Cynulliad.

Nick Bourne: Yr oedd arian Amcan 2 yn holl bwysig i dde-ddwyrain Powys. Mae Talgarth, Aberhonddu, y Gelli a Chrycywel yn teimlo iddynt gael eu hamddifadu o'r arian hwn. Mae hynny'n wir hefyd am ardaloedd eraill o Gymru fel y Barri. Ni fydd trefniadau trosiannol yn rhoi'r ateb. Gan fod arian Ewropeaidd yn fater mor hanfodol, sut yr ydym yn mynd rhagom o ran gweithredu a darparu gwybodaeth i fusnesau, arweinyddion cyngor a mudiadau gwirfoddol? Yr wyf newydd gyrraedd yn ôl o orllewin Cymru lle na wyddant ddim am y modd y mae hyn yn cael ei drosglwyddo a pha gynnydd y mae'r Prif Ysgrifennydd yn ei wneud wrth sicrhau arian cyfatebol. O gofio am ymateb Ewrop i'r ddogfen raglennu sengl, a aeth y Prif Ysgrifennydd yn bellach na'i ragflaenydd o gwbl ynteu a ydym yn yr un sefyllfa o anallu bwngleraidd ag yr oeddem fis yn ôl?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: A sôn am anallu bwngleraidd, pan ddywedodd Nick Bourne fod arian Amcan 2 yn ne-ddwyrain Powys o'r blaen, credaf ei fod yn golygu arian Amcan 5b.

Nick Bourne: I did not say that there was. I said that they feel deprived.

The First Secretary: I do not think that is what he said but we shall look at the record tomorrow. If he is going to play games and use terms like ‘bungling incompetence,’ he must be sure of his facts. Not every part of Wales will get every single European programme and we accept that those areas feel disappointed. We must ensure that there is transitional funding if they had Objective 2 or Objective 5b or whatever as their previous designation. Nick Bourne referred to areas of south-east Powys, which were in Kirsty’s original question, Barry and the rest of the Vale of Glamorgan. Those areas will have transitional funding. To pretend that that is nothing underplays the availability of those funds. I do not think that he should do that; it does not benefit anybody in those communities to pretend that a substantial sum of money is nothing, that it is not worth having or that it is not worth bidding for that money. It is important that people get on with that process.

On the wider issue of Objective 1 funding, reasonable progress is being made in agreeing with the European Commission the content of the single programming document. We are ready and we will be up and running as soon as the new financial year starts or as soon as possible thereafter. On Treasury funding, I had a good meeting with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Andrew Smith, last week. I continue to be confident that there will be no problems when we reach the appropriate dates for getting the Objective 1 funding up and running. That applies to the first year and subsequent years. Although the Treasury and the European Commission have different demands as regards timing, I am sure that the sensible advice of the Assembly to both the Treasury and the European Commission will bridge that gap.

Iawndal Amaeth-arianyddol (Sylwadau i’r Trysorlys) **Agri-monetary Compensation (Representations to the Treasury)**

C2 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A yw’r Prif Ysgrifennydd wedi cyflwyno achos trwy’r dulliau priodol i’r Trysorlys ar yr angen i sicrhau’r swm llawn sydd ar gael ar gyfer iawndal amaeth-arianyddol i gynorthwyo’r

Nick Bourne: Ni ddywedais fod. Dywedais eu bod yn teimlo eu bod wedi eu hamddifadu.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Ni chredaf mai hynny a ddywedodd ond byddwn yn edrych ar y cofnod yfory. Os yw am chwarae gemau a defnyddio geiriau fel ‘anallu bwingleraidd’, rhaid iddo fod yn sicr o’i ffeithiau. Ni fydd pob rhan o Gymru’n cael pob un rhaglen Ewropeaidd a derbynwod fod yr ardaloedd hynny’n teimlo’n siomedig. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod arian trosiannol os oedd ganddynt Amcan 2 neu Amcan 5b neu beth bynnag yn ddynodiad blaenorol. Cyfeiriodd Nick Bourne at ardaloedd yn ne-ddwyrain Powys, a oedd yng nghwestiwn gwreiddiol Kirsty, y Barri a gweddill Bro Morgannwg. Bydd yr ardaloedd hynny’n cael arian trosiannol. Mae honni bod hynny’n ddim yn bychanu argaeedd yr arian hwnnw. Ni chredaf y dylai wneud hynny; nid yw o fudd i neb yn y cymunedau hynny i esgus bod swm sylweddol o arian yn ddim, nad yw’n werth ei gael neu nad yw’n werth ymgeisio am yr arian hwnnw. Mae’n bwysig i bobl fwrw ymlaen â’r broses honno.

Ar fater ehangach arian Amcan 1, mae cynnydd rhesymol yn digwydd wrth gytuno â’r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar gynnwys y ddogfen raglennu sengl. Yr ydym yn barod a byddwn yn dechrau ar y gwaith gynted ag y mae’r flwyddyn ariannol newydd yn dechrau neu gynted ag y bo modd wedi hynny. Ynghylch arian y Trysorlys, cefais gyfarfod da â Phrif Ysgrifennydd y Trysorlys, Andrew Smith, yr wythnos diwethaf. Parhaf yn ffyddiog na fydd problemau pan gyrhaeddwn y dyddiadau priodol i roi arian Amcan 1 ar waith. Mae hynny’n wir am y flwyddyn gyntaf a’r blynyddoedd wedyn. Er bod gan y Trysorlys a’r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd wahanol alwadau o ran amseru, yr wyf yn sicr y bydd cyngor synhwyrol y Cynulliad i’r Trysorlys a’r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn cau’r bwlch hwnnw.

Q2 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Has the First Secretary made representations through the appropriate channels to the Treasury on the need to secure the full amount available for agri-monetary compensation to assist the

diwydiant amaeth? (OAQ3724)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Nac ydyw, ond mae Christine Gwyther wedi cyflawni'r gamp ei hunan. Ysgrifennodd at Nick Brown yn gofyn iddo ef a'r Trysorlys gefnogi'r cais am yr arian amaeth-arianyddol ychwanegol er mwyn ei dalu yn gyflawn i ffermwyr yng Nghymru.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Cyfeiriaf at y gwaith y mae Christine Gwyther wedi ei wneud yn unol â datganiad y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig fod y diwydiant yng Nghymru yn llawn haeddu'r arian hwn a bod cryfder y bunt, sydd yn deillio o bolisiau ariannol sylfaenol y Llywodraeth bresennol, yn creu problemau enfawr i'r diwydiant amaethyddol. Gan mai polisiau'r Llywodraeth sydd yn creu'r problemau hyn yn y diwydiant, a yw Rhodri yn cytuno bod gan y Llywodraeth gyfrifoldeb moesol i geisio tynnu i lawr yr iawndal sydd ar gael o Ewrop a lleddfu'r problemau sydd yn wynebu'r diwydiant ar hyn o bryd?

2:11 p.m.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Nid polisi'r Llywodraeth yn uniongyrchol sydd yn creu'r bunt gref. Mae'r broblem yn gysylltiedig â sefydlu'r raddfa llog sydd wedi ei ddatganoli i bwylgor polisi arianyddol Banc Lloegr. Felly, mae'n rhan o'r broses o ddatganoli. O ran y Llywodraeth a'i hasiantaethau, mae lefel y bunt yn cael ei osod gan y pwylgor hwnnw. Serch hynny, mae'r farchnad yn chwarae rhan fwy helaeth na Banc Lloegr mewn sefydlu lefel y bunt yn erbyn yr ewro neu'r Deutschmark. Felly, nid yw llywodraethau yn rheoli marchnadoedd ariannol y byd.

Nid yw'r arian hwn yn dod o Ewrop yn unig. Mae 85 y cant ohono yn dod o'r wlad hon oherwydd Gostyngiad Fontainebleau, fel y gŵyr Rhodri Glyn. Er ei fod yn ymddangos fel pe bai hanner yr arian yn dod o Ewrop a'r hanner arall yn dod o'r Llywodraeth, mewn gwirionedd, mae'r arian yn dod o'r wlad hon oherwydd Gostyngiad Fontainebleau. Felly, mae'n rhaid inni fod yn ymwybodol o'r hyn y gallwn ei wneud i helpu'r diwydiant

agricultural industry? (OAQ3724)

The First Secretary: He has not, but Christine Gwyther has achieved this feat herself. She wrote to Nick Brown asking him and the Treasury to support the bid for the additional agri-monetary money so that it can be paid in full to farmers in Wales.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I refer to the work that Christine Gwyther has done in accordance with the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee's statement that the industry in Wales fully deserves this money and that the strength of the pound, which is due to the present Government's fundamental monetary policies, is creating great problems for the agriculture industry. Given that it is the Government's policies which are creating these problems in the industry, does Rhodri agree that the Government has a moral responsibility to try to draw down the compensation that is available from Europe and alleviate the problems facing the industry at present?

The First Secretary: The Government's policy does not directly create the strong pound. The problem relates to the establishment of the interest rate that has been devolved to the monetary policy committee of the Bank of England. Therefore, it is part of the devolution process. As far as the Government and its agencies are concerned, the level of the pound is set by that committee. However, the market plays a much greater part than the Bank of England in setting the level of the pound against the euro or the Deutschmark. Therefore, governments do not control global financial markets.

This money does not only come from Europe. Eighty five per cent of it comes from this country because of the Fontainebleau Abatement, as Rhodri Glyn is aware. Although it seems that half the money comes from Europe and the other half from the Government, in fact, the money comes from this country because of the Fontainebleau Abatement. Therefore, we must be aware of what we can do to help the agricultural

amaethyddol heb ddefnyddio'r arian hwn fel iawndal amaeth-arianyddol.

Peter Rogers: Following the total support of the Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development for agri-monetary compensation as opposed to the UK Minister for Agriculture's total refusal to apply for it, does the First Secretary's allegiance lie with Westminster or with the farmers of Wales?

The First Secretary: My allegiance lies with the line taken by Christine Gwyther in her letter to Nick Brown on 24 January. That letter supported the case for agri-monetary compensation. If we can persuade Nick Brown, with the support of our Scottish and Northern Irish colleagues, to successfully fight the case for agri-monetary compensation with the Treasury and to compensate for the cost of the high pound, then that must be good news for the farmers. Discussions between Nick Brown and the Treasury are ongoing. I am not certain what our Scottish colleagues' views are on this. As far as I know, the three Celtic countries support it. Nick Brown must make his own determinations because he will have to have agreement from the Treasury on this.

Mick Bates: The simplest answer to these problems is to join the euro and I am sure that the First Secretary would agree with that. However, will he outline the amount of money that the UK has saved as a result of the Fontainebleau Agreement? What proportion of that saving is owed to Welsh farmers?

The First Secretary: I will have to write to you about that. I am not aware that such a calculation has been made.

It would be damaging to join the euro at its present level. If we had joined at its initial level, we would have avoided the recent rise in the pound relative to the euro. However, it would have been difficult to get the legislation through to abolish the Bank of England in the first year of the Labour Government. If we had devoted a large amount of our legislative time in 1997-98 to

industry without using this money as agri-monetary compensation.

Peter Rogers: Wedi i'r Ysgrifennydd Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig roi cefnogaeth lwyd i iawndal amaeth-arianyddol o'i chyferbynnau â gwirthodiad llwyr Gweinidog Amaethyddiaeth y DU i ymgeisio amdano, ai i San Steffan y mae teyrngarwch y Prif Ysgrifennydd ynteu i ffermwyr Cymru?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Mae fy nheyrngarwch i safwynt Christine Gwyther yn ei llythyr at Nick Brown ar 24 Ionawr. Yr oedd y llythyr hwnnw'n cefnogi'r ddadl dros iawndal amaeth-arianyddol. Os gallwn berswadio Nick Brown, gyda chefnogaeth ein cydweithwyr yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon, i ymladd yr achos yn llwyddiannus dros iawndal amaeth-arianyddol gyda'r Trysorlys ac i wneud iawn am gost y bunt uchel, mae hynny'n sicr o fod yn newyddion da i'r ffermwyr. Mae trafodaethau rhwng Nick Brown a'r Trysorlys yn mynd rhagddynt. Nid wyf yn sicr beth yw barn ein cydweithwyr yn yr Alban am hyn. Hyd y gwn i, mae'r tair gwlad Geltaidd o'i blaidd. Rhaid i Nick Brown wneud ei benderfyniadau ei hun oherwydd bydd yn rhaid iddo gael cytundeb y Trysorlys ar hyn.

Mick Bates: Yr ateb symarf i'r problemau hyn yw ymuno â'r ewro ac yr wyf yn sicr y cytunai'r Prif Ysgrifennydd â hynny. Fodd bynnag, a wnaiff ef amlinellu'r swm o arian y mae'r DU wedi ei arbed o ganlyniad i Gytundeb Fontainebleau? Pa gyfran o'r arbediad hwnnw sydd yn ddyledus i ffermwyr Cymru?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Bydd yn rhaid imi ysgrifennu atoch am hynny. Nid wyf yn ymwybodol bod cyfrifiad o'r fath wedi ei wneud.

Niweidiol fyddai ymuno â'r ewro ar ei lefel bresennol. Pe baem wedi ymuno ar ei lefel ddechreulol, byddem wedi osgoi'r codiad diweddar yng ngwerth y bunt o'i chymharu â'r ewro. Fodd bynnag, anodd fyddai cael y ddeddfwriaeth i ddiddymu Banc Lloegr drwy'r Senedd ym mlwyddyn gyntaf y Llywodraeth Lafur. Pe baem wedi neilltuo rhan helaeth o'n hamser deddfwriaethol yn

abolishing the Bank of England and joining the euro, I fear that we would never have got the legislation through to set up this august body, the Assembly, so none of us would be here to enjoy what Mick Bates has just suggested. I do not know which way he wants it, but he cannot have it both ways.

1997-98 i ddileu Banc Lloegr ac ymuno â'r ewro, mae arnaf ofn na fyddem byth wedi cael y ddeddfwriaeth drwodd i sefydlu'r corff urddasol hwn, y Cynulliad, felly ni fyddai'r un ohonom yma i fwynhau'r hyn y mae Mick Bates newydd ei awgrymu. Ni wn beth yw ei ddewis, ond ni all mo'i chael hi bob ffordd.

Allgáu Cymdeithasol (Amcan 1) Social Exclusion (Objective 1)

C3 Ieuan Wyn Jones: Er mwyn rhoi terfyn ar allgáu cymdeithasol yn y Cymoedd, sut y mae'r Prif Ysgrifennydd yn bwriadu manteisio ar brofiad rhanbarthau eraill sydd wedi elwa yn sgîl arian Amcan 1? (OAQ3719)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Mae aelodau o dasglu Ewropeaidd Cymru wedi ymweld ag ardaloedd eraill a gafodd Amcan 1 o'r blaen, yn cynnwys Iwerddon. Yr wyf wedi ymweld ag Iwerddon ac wedi trafod gyda swyddogion Trysorlys Gweriniaeth Iwerddon ynglŷn â sut i ddatblygu polisiau er mwyn elwa gymaint ag y gallwn ar arian Amcan 1 a manteisio i'r eithaf ar yr un cyfle hwn dros y saith mlynedd nesaf i gael Amcan 1 yn y Cymoedd a gorllewin Cymru.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Sut mae Rhodri yn egluro bod rhanbarthau a gwledydd eraill wedi cael cymaint llai o drafferth yn cyflwyno eu dogfen raglennu sengl i'r Comisiwn? Sut y mae'n egluro bod cymaint o broblemau yn parhau ynglŷn â dogfennau yng Nghymru? A yw'n dal i fod yn ffyddiog bod modd dechrau cyflwyno ceisiadau am arian Amcan 1 ar 1 Ebrill?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Ydwyt, yr wyf yn dal yn ffyddiog. Bydd cyfle yn gynnar yn y flwyddyn ariannol newydd i gyflwyno ceisiadau yn y modd priodol. Gall cyrff cyhoeddus, preifat a gwirfoddol gyflwyno eu ceisiadau. Ymddengys fod Ieuan, am ryw reswm, yn derbyn nad ydym mor llwyddiannus a'n bod yn wannach na'r ardaloedd eraill yn Lloegr wrth baratoi ein cynlluniau. Hyd y gwn i, aeth un o'i gydweithwyr, Jill Evans ASE, i weld y swyddogion perthnasol y bore yma yn y Comisiwn. Fe'i sicrhawyd gan y swyddogion nad oes gwahaniaeth, nad ydym ar ei hôl hi, ac nad ydym yn wannach, yn waeth nac yn

Q3 Ieuan Wyn Jones: In order to end social exclusion in the Valleys, how does the First Secretary plan to draw on the experience of other regions which have benefited from Objective 1 funding? (OAQ3719)

The First Secretary: Members of the Wales European taskforce have visited other areas that formerly had Objective 1, including Ireland. I have visited Ireland and have talked with Republic of Ireland Treasury Officials about how to develop policies in order to benefit as much as we can from Objective 1 funding and take the utmost advantage of this one opportunity over the next seven years to receive Objective 1 in the Valleys and west Wales.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: How does Rhodri explain that other countries and regions have had significantly less difficulty in submitting their single programming document to the Commission? How does he explain that there are so many continuing problems with documents in Wales? Is he still confident that it is possible to start submitting bids for Objective 1 money on 1 April?

The First Secretary: Yes, I am still confident. There will be an opportunity early in the new financial year to submit bids in the appropriate manner. Public, private and voluntary bodies can submit their bids. Ieuan seems to accept, for some reason, that we are not as successful and that we are weaker than the other areas in England in preparing our schemes. As far as I know, one of his colleagues, Jill Evans MEP, went to see the relevant officials this morning at the Commission. She was assured by the officials that there is no difference, that we are not lagging behind and that we are not weaker, worse or later than the other areas in

hwyrach na'r ardaloedd eraill yn Lloegr—Glannau Mersi, de Swydd Efrog a Chernyw—wrth baratoi at ddechreuaad Amcan 1 ym mis Ebrill neu cyn gynted ag y bo modd ar ôl hynny.

Michael German: Do you accept that Wales is in a similar financial position to the other UK Objective 1 regions? Do you add your voice to those from the Liberal Democrat councils of Liverpool, Sheffield and Cornwall in a joint effort to ensure a fair deal from the Treasury for the poorest people of Britain?

The First Secretary: I do not think that you need to have Liberal control in a democratic body to get Objective 1 funding, although it makes an interesting point about Cornwall and, at least, parts of south Yorkshire and Merseyside. A minority Labour administration with the united support of the three other parties can be just as successful.

The big difference has been in the choice of the match funding percentages. The three English areas that will receive Objective 1 have opted for full public sector pound for pound match funding. Any private sector contributions will be additional to that. They were entitled to do that. There is no guarantee of Treasury funding to cover it. We have opted for a percentage of private sector match funding, which we were entitled to do. That is what devolution means. A uniform approach is not necessary. I always thought it was a Liberal Democrat Party policy to allow a certain amount of creative anarchy to apply between the different parts of the United Kingdom according to the different circumstances of the different parts. The west Wales and the Valleys area is less homogeneous than any of the three English regions. We have to cover an extensive rural area and the special circumstances of the Valleys and the greater Swansea area.

Alun Cairns: Further to that answer, is it not the case that the private sector match funding is interchangeable with that of the public sector in Wales because of the lack of match funding that originally came from the Treasury and is offered by the Assembly? Do you agree with the view of the Welsh Conservative Party and the European

England—Merseyside, south Yorkshire and Cornwall—in preparing for the beginning of Objective 1 in April or as soon as possible after that.

Michael German: A ydych yn derbyn bod Cymru mewn sefyllfa ariannol debyg i ranbarthau Amcan 1 eraill y DU? A ydych yn ategu lleisiau cynghorau Democrataidd Rhyddfrydol Lerpwl, Sheffield a Chernyw mewn cydymdrehch i sicrhau bargin deg oddi wrth y Trysorlys i bobl dlotaf Prydain?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Ni chredaf fod yn rhaid ichi gael rheolaeth Ryddfrydol mewn corff democrataidd i gael arian Amcan 1, er bod hynny'n gwneud pwynt diddorol am Gernyw ac, o leiaf, rhannau o dde Swydd Efrog a Glannau Mersi. Gall gweinyddiaeth Lafur leiafrifol gyda chefnogaeth unedig y tair plaid arall fod yr un mor llwyddiannus.

Y gwahaniaeth mawr fu yn y dewis o ganrannau arian cyfatebol. Mae'r tair ardal yn Lloegr a fydd yn derbyn Amcan 1 wedi dewis arian cyfatebol bunt am bunt llawn o'r sector cyhoeddus. Bydd unrhyw gyfraniadau o'r sector preifat yn ychwanegol at hynny. Yr oedd ganddynt hawl i wneud hynny. Nid oes gwarant o arian o'r Trysorlys i dalu amdano. Yr ydym wedi dewis canran o arian cyfatebol o'r sector preifat, fel yr oedd gennym hawl i wneud. Dyna ystyr datganoli. Nid oes angen dull gweithredu unffurf. Credais erioed mai polisi gan Blaid y Democraidaid Rhyddfrydol oedd caniatáu i ryw gymaint o anarchiaeth greadigol fod rhwng gwahanol rannau'r Deyrnas Unedig yn ôl gwahanol amgylchiadau'r gwahanol rannau. Mae ardal gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn llai cydryw na'r un o dair ardal Lloegr. Rhaid inni gynnwys ardal wledig helaeth ac amgylchiadau arbennig y Cymoedd ac ardal Abertawe a'i chyffiniau.

Alun Cairns: Yn ychwanegol at yr ateb hwnnw, onid yw'n wir y gellir cyfnewid arian cyfatebol y sector preifat â hynny o'r sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru oherwydd y diffyg arian cyfatebol a ddaeth yn wreiddiol o'r Trysorlys ac a gynigir gan y Cynulliad? A gytunwch â barn Plaid Geidwadol Cymru a'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd fod hyder byd busnes

Commission that business confidence is undermined because of the lack of match funding? Businessmen will not commit to a project or programme on the back of an unsigned cheque.

The First Secretary: If ever there was a definition of the self-fulfilling prophecy, that is it. Apart from the efforts of certain politicians in this Chamber, there is no doubt about the willingness of the private sector to participate fully in getting the match funding or in preparing projects which involve private sector-based schemes for stimulating small business development. It is a difficult issue because the opposition parties have the right to oppose. In a democratic government, they have the right to do their nit-picking and their hair-splitting. I accept that. I would probably do the same if I was in their position and the Conservatives were still in power, but thank God they are not. That is the role of opposition parties in a democratic government.

2:21 p.m.

However, there comes a point when even oppositions need to think about whether their efforts in stirring up issues impact on the confidence of people, and particularly those in the voluntary sector rather than the private sector, who invest unpaid time in preparing projects that could regenerate their own communities. This is not an instruction. It is just a plea for people to think about the issue.

wedi ei danseilio oherwydd diffyg arian cyfatebol? Nid yw dynion busnes yn fodlon ymrwymo i brosiect neu raglen ar gefn siec sydd heb ei harwyddo.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Os bu erioed ddiffiniad o broffwydoliaeth hunangyflawnol, dyna ef. Ar wahân i ymdrechion rhai gwleidyddion yn y Siambra hon, nid oes amheuaeth am barodrwydd y sector preifat i gymryd rhan yn llawn wrth gael yr arian cyfatebol neu wrth baratoi prosiectau sydd yn cynnwys cynlluniau sydd yn seiliedig ar y sector preifat er mwyn hybu datblygiad busnesau bach. Mae'n fater anodd oherwydd mae gan bleidiau'r wrthblaid hawl i wrthwynebu. Mewn llywodraeth ddemocrataidd, mae ganddynt hawl i bigo beiau a holli blew. Derbyniaf hynny. Mae'n debyg y gwnawn innau'r un fath pe bawn yn eu sefyllfa hwy a'r Ceidwadwyr yn dal mewn grym, ond diolch i Dduw nad ydynt. Dyna rôl pleidiau'r wrthblaid mewn llywodraeth ddemocrataidd.

Fodd bynnag, daw adeg pan fo'n rhaid i hyd yn oed wrthbleidiau ystyried a yw eu hymdrechion i gynhyrfu materion yn effeithio ar hyder pobl, ac yn enwedig y rhai yn y sector gwirfoddol yn hytrach na'r sector preifat, sydd yn buddsoddi amser di-dâl wrth baratoi prosiectau a allai adfywio eu cymunedau. Nid yw hyn yn gyfarwyddyd. Nid yw ond yn apêl i bobl feddwl am y mater.

Cynhwysiant Cymdeithasol (Cynyddu Grant Bloc i Gymru) Social Inclusion (Increasing Block Grant for Wales)

Q4 Jenny Randerson: Has the First Secretary had discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales about the need to increase the size of the block grant for Wales so that we may pursue our policies on social inclusion more effectively? (OAQ3697)

The First Secretary: I have. Although there have been a number of questions about social inclusion today, questions of this kind should probably more appropriately be tabled to the Finance Secretary the next time around,

C4 Jenny Randerson: A yw'r Prif Ysgrifennydd wedi cynnal trafodaethau ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynghylch yr angen i gynyddu maint y grant bloc i Gymru er mwyn inni allu bwrw ymlaen â'n polisiau ar gynhwysiant cymdeithasol yn fwy effeithiol? (OAQ3697)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Ydwyt. Er bod nifer o gwestiynau am gynhwysiant cymdeithasol wedi eu cyflwyno heddiw, mae'n debyg mai mwy priodol fyddai cyflwyno cwestiynau o'r math hwn i'r Ysgrifennydd Cyllid y tro nesaf,

because I have transferred the First Secretary's responsibilities for social inclusion to the Finance Secretary. She did not know about it at the time because of her American holiday habits. The Cabinet, you might say, had left its heart in San Francisco last week.

There will be consequential changes to the size of the block grant, according to any increases in public expenditure that will be announced in the comprehensive spending review. We have made it clear to the Treasury that Objective 1 funding cannot be accommodated within the Barnett formula after 1 April 2001. It will have to be outside the Barnett formula. Otherwise, there will be too much stress and strain on the budget and there will be the danger of having to take money from other front-line services like health, education and housing. We would never think of doing that.

Jenny Randerson: I am sure you will be relieved to hear that this question is not about Objective 1. Do you recognise that it is time to consider reviewing the Barnett formula? What steps have been taken in the Assembly to collect data and establish baseline sources of information, which would enable the Assembly to gather sufficient knowledge to be able to underpin the case for a review?

The First Secretary: I admit that I misunderstood your question. The size of the block grant increases if there is an increase in comparable expenditure in the mainstream English Government departments that cover health, education and so on. The block will increase if public expenditure increases in England, as I am sure it will at the end of the comprehensive spending review. Therefore, if social inclusion expenditure increases in England, then 6 per cent of that comparable change will come to Wales. We do not want to contemplate at this stage scrapping the entire system or reviewing the Barnett formula, although I am fairly confident that Wales would not come out any worse from a needs based formula compared to the present Barnett formula. The issue of letting sleeping dogs lie, and the need to get the Scottish Parliament and the UK Government on board, which is not very likely, means that it

oherwydd trosglwyddais gyfrifoldebau'r Prif Ysgrifennydd dros gynhwysiant cymdeithasol i'r Ysgrifennydd Cyllid. Ni wyddai am hynny ar y pryd oherwydd ei harfer o fwrw gwyliau yn America. Gallech ddweud bod y Cabinet wedi gadael ei galon yn San Francisco yr wythnos diwethaf.

Bydd newidiadau canlyniadol ym maint y grant bloc, yn unol ag unrhyw godiadau mewn gwariant cyhoeddus a gyhoeddir yn yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant. Rhoesom ar ddeall i'r Trysorlys na ellir cynnwys arian Amcan 1 oddi mewn i fformwla Barnett ar ôl 1 Ebrill 2001. Bydd yn rhaid iddo fod y tu allan i fformwla Barnett. Fel arall, bydd gormod o bwysau a straen ar y gyllideb a bydd perygl o orfod mynd ag arian oddi wrth wasanaethau rheng-flaen eraill fel iechyd, addysg a thai. Ni fyddem byth yn ystyried gwneud hynny.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn sicr y byddwch yn falch o glywed nad oes a wnelo'r cwestiwn hwn ag Amcan 1. A ydych yn derbyn ei bod yn bryd ystyried adolygu fformwla Barnett? Pa gamau a gymerwyd yn y Cynulliad i gasglu data a sefydlu ffynonellau gwybodaeth am linellau sylfaen, a alluogai'r Cynulliad i gasglu digon o wybodaeth i allu ategu'r ddadl dros adolygiad?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Cyfaddefaf fy mod wedi camddeall eich cwestiwn. Mae maint y grant bloc yn cynyddu os oes cynydd mewn gwariant tebyg yn adrannau prif ffrwd y Llywodraeth Seisnig sydd yn cynnwys iechyd, addysg ac yn y blaen. Bydd y bloc yn cynyddu os yw gwariant cyhoeddus yn cynyddu yn Lloegr, ac yr wyf yn sicr y bydd hynny'n digwydd ar ddiwedd yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant. Felly, os yw gwariant ar gynhwysiant cymdeithasol yn cynyddu yn Lloegr, daw 6 y cant o'r newid tebyg hwnnw i Gymru. Nid ydym ar hyn o bryd am ystyried cael gwared â'r system gyfan neu adolygu fformwla Barnett, er fy mod yn eithaf ffyddiol na fyddai Cymru ar ei cholled o fformwla'n seiliedig ar anghenion o'i chymharu â'r fformwla Barnett bresennol. Mae'r mater o beidio â deffro ci sydd yn cysgu, a'r angen i gael Senedd yr Alban a Llywodraeth y DU o'i phlaid, nad yw'n

is not a high priority as far as I am concerned.

Dafydd Wigley: Diolchaf i Rhodri am yr ateb cyntaf a roddodd i Jenny Randerson. Tybiaf fod y datganiad yn un eithaf pwysig ynglŷn â chyd nabod yr angen i unrhyw arian ychwanegol fod uwchben bloc Barnett, ac yr wylf yn siŵr y bydd pawb wedi sylwi ar hynny. O ddilyn trywydd eich ail ateb, a ydych yn derbyn bod tlodi ac allgáu cymdeithasol wedi cynyddu'n sylweddol dros yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf, yn arbennig yn y rhannau o Gymru sydd wedi eu cynnwys o dan Amcan 1, sef yr hen gymoedd diwydiannol a'r gorllewin? Os oes cynnydd sylweddol wedi bod, cynnydd a gydnabuwyd gan yr awdurdodau Ewropeaidd, a ddylai fod newid yn fformwla Barnett i gydnabod yr anghenion ychwanegol yn yr ardaloedd hynny, yn arbennig anghenion tai, iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol? Anogaf y Llywodraeth, dros y cyfnod nesaf, i weithio ar ddatblygu dangosyddion gwrthrychol, er mwyn i ni fod ag achos mewn llaw ar gyfer blwyddyn neu ddwy flynedd ymlaen i gael yr arian hanfodol hwn i gynnal gwasanaethau sylfaenol mewn ardaloedd o anghenion arbennig.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Y cwestiwn sylfaenol yw a fyddem yn gwneud yn well neu'n waeth o dan system wahanol i system Barnett yr ydym wedi ei defnyddio ers dros 20 mlynedd. A ydym eisiau ymladd ar ddau ffrynt ar yr un pryd, gan ymladd dros Amcan 1 ac arian cyfatebol a hefyd gofyn am newid sylfaenol yn system Barnett a'r system o roi arian i'r Alban a Chymru? Er bod elfen o gyflawnder garw yn system Barnett, mae wedi gwasanaethu Prydain Fawr yn eithaf da dros yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf.

Ar y cwestiwn a yw tlodi ac allgáu cymdeithasol wedi cynyddu yn ystod yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf—wrth gwrs eu bod, ac nid yn unig yn y Cymoedd a gorllewin Cymru, ond yng Nghaerdydd, Casnewydd ac ardaloedd megis Glannau Dyfrdwy hefyd. Hyd yn oed wedyn, yr ydym yn ceisio defnyddio a datblygu dangosyddion holol newydd er mwyn targedu'r arian cyhoeddus yr ydym yn ei wario yn well at yr ardaloedd, wardiau a chymunedau tlotaf. Mae Prifysgol Rhydychen yn gwneud gwaith ar

debegol iawn, yn golygu nad yw'n flaenorïaeth uchel o'm rhan i.

Dafydd Wigley: I thank Rhodri for the first answer he gave Jenny Randerson. I believe that the statement was quite an important one in terms of acknowledging the need for additional funding to be above the Barnett block, and I am sure that everybody will have noted that. Following on from your second answer, do you accept that poverty and social exclusion have increased substantially over the past 20 years, particularly in the parts of Wales that are included under Objective 1, namely the former industrial valleys and the west? If a substantial increase has occurred, an increase recognised by the European authorities, should there be a change in the Barnett formula to recognise the additional needs in those areas, particularly the needs of housing, health and social services? I urge the Government, over the ensuing period, to work to develop objective indicators so that we have a case in hand for a year or two years hence, to secure this essential funding to sustain fundamental services in areas of special need.

The First Secretary: The fundamental question is would we do better or worse under a system different to the Barnett system that we have used for over 20 years. Do we want to fight on two fronts at the same time, by fighting for Objective 1 and match funding and also asking for a fundamental change in the Barnett system and the system of allocating funding to Scotland and Wales? Although there is an element of rough justice in the Barnett system, it has served Great Britain quite well over the last 20 years.

On whether poverty and social exclusion has increased during the last 20 years—of course they have, and not just in the Valleys and west Wales, but also in Cardiff, Newport and areas such as Deeside. Even so, we are trying to use and develop completely new indicators in order to better target the public money that we spend at the poorest areas, wards and communities. Oxford University is undertaking work on indicators, for example, which comes under the control of Jane Hutt, as the Secretary for Health and Social

ddangosyddion, er enghraifft, sydd yn dod o dan reolaeth Jane Hutt fel yr Ysgrifennydd Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Felly, yr ydym yn gwneud llawer o waith i ddatblygu gwell dangosyddion nag a fu gennym yn y gorffennol.

Strategaethau Lleihau Trosedd ac Anhrefn (Pobl Ifanc) Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies (Young People)

Q5 Jane Davidson: What encouragement can the First Secretary give to local authorities and the police to include measures to tackle young people's crime and disorder within local crime and disorder reduction strategies? (OAQ3727)

The First Secretary: Action on youth crime and disorder is identified as a key priority in all the local crime reduction strategies now being evolved in Wales. The planned designation of the Assembly as a body with which local crime and disorder partnerships must co-operate will allow us to encourage further attention to youth crime and disorder.

Jane Davidson: Thank you for that answer. Do you agree that one main cause of young people's disorder is boredom and disenchantment? When I went out with the police on a Friday night in Pontypridd, the only type of crime I witnessed was young people's disorder time and again. If we are to tackle it, we need to ensure that young people in our communities have access to appropriate facilities and activities. However, over the last 15 to 20 years we have seen a demise in the statutory youth service. What action can the Assembly take to support the provision of extra youth clubs, for example?

The First Secretary: I commend strongly the re-establishment of a strong network of youth clubs in Wales. Youth clubs, in terms of coverage, have deteriorated. I went to youth club for many years; Jane ran a youth club, and I discussed this topic only an hour ago with Iris Williams—'the heart and soul of Wales', as she is known worldwide. She mentioned that she did not think that she would be where she is today had a youth club not existed for her to learn singing and to take the first steps onto the stage in

Services. Therefore, we are doing a great deal of work to develop better indicators than we have had in the past.

C5 Jane Davidson: Pa anogaeth y gall y Prif Ysgrifennydd ei rhoi i awdurdodau lleol ac i'r heddlu i gynnwys mesurau i fynd i'r afael â throseddu ac anhrefn ymysg pobl ifanc oddi mewn i strategaethau lleihau trosedd ac anhrefn lleol? (OAQ3727)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Mae gweithredu ar droseddu ac anhrefn ymysg ieuencid wedi ei ddynodi'n flaenoriaeth allweddol ym mhob strategaeth leol lleihau troseddu a ddatblygir yng Nghymru yn awr. Bydd y dynodiad arfaethedig o'r Cynulliad yn gorff y bydd yn rhaid i bartneriaethau trosedd ac anhrefn lleol gydweithio ag ef yn caniatáu inni annog rhoi sylw pellach i droseddu ac anhrefn ymysg ieuencid.

Jane Davidson: Diolch i chi am yr ateb hwnnw. A gytunwch mai un o brif achosion anhrefn ymysg pobl ifanc yw diflastod a dadrithiad? Pan euthum allan gyda'r heddlu ar nos Wener ym Mhontypridd, yr unig fath o droseddu a welais oedd anhrefn ymysg pobl ifanc dro ar ôl tro. Os ydym i ymdrin ag ef, rhaid inni sicrhau bod gan bobl ifanc yn ein cymunedau fynediad at gyfleusterau a gweithgareddau priodol. Fodd bynnag, dros y 15 i 20 mlynedd diwethaf gwelsom dranc y gwasanaeth ieuencid statudol. Pa gamau y gall y Cynulliad eu cymryd i gefnogi darparu clybiau ieuencid ychwanegol, er enghraifft?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Cymeradwyaf yn gryf ailsefydlu rhwydwaith cryf o glybiau ieuencid yng Nghymru. Mae clybiau ieuencid, o ran eu cwmpas, wedi dirywio. Arferwn fynd i glwb ieuencid am flynyddoedd lawer; yr oedd Jane yn rhedeg clwb ieuencid, a thrafodais y pwnc hwn ond awr yn ôl ag Iris Williams—'calon ac enaid Cymru', fel y'i gelwir drwy'r byd. Dywedodd na chredai y byddai lle y mae heddiw oni bai fod clwb ieuencid ar ei chyfer fel y gallai ddysgu i ganu a chymryd y

eisteddfodau and so on. This is a terribly important issue in terms of diverting young people away from mindless crime and, therefore, brushes with the law. They do not really want to engage in mindless crime, but because of boredom, because they are not being diverted into more constructive pursuits, they inevitably find themselves doing so.

Pauline Jarman: How can the Assembly ensure that the statutory responsibility placed on local authorities by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 is linked to their children's services plan, thus recognising a duty not only to reduce the risk of young people offending and the reasons that lead young people to offend, but also to reduce the chance of young people becoming victims of crime, as outlined in the recent Waterhouse report?

The First Secretary: That is a wide-ranging question. Young people are frequently the victims of crime, although they can also be the perpetrators of the mindless crime to which Jane referred in her supplementary question. The issue here is the underlying causes of crimes such as truancy, school exclusion and the lack of training and employment opportunities, which can give people the motivation to keep studying and to see that there is a future for them in society. The Assembly has in place a wide range of measures to try to provide support and encouragement to tackle these problems. Those measures include education, training and support for children and families.

2:31 p.m.

Jonathan Morgan: Will the First Secretary take steps to promote the use of toughened glass in pubs and clubs throughout Wales? Recent studies have shown that introducing toughened glass in pubs and clubs leads to significant reductions in accidental injuries and crime-related injuries.

The First Secretary: Some excellent work has been carried out by the former Cardiff

camau cyntaf ar y llwyfan mewn eisteddfodau ac yn y blaen. Mae hyn yn fater pwysig ofnadwy o ran troi pobl ifanc oddi wrth droseddu disynnwyr a, drwy hynny, mynd i helynt gyda'r heddlu. Nid ydynt am gymryd rhan mewn troseddu disynnwyr mewn gwirionedd, ond oherwydd diflastod, am nad ydynt yn cael eu cyfeirio i ddiddordebau mwy adeiladol, fe'u caint eu hunain yn gwneud hynny.

Pauline Jarman: Sut y gall y Cynulliad sicrhau bod y cyfrifoldeb statudol a roddir ar awdurdodau lleol gan y Ddeddf Trosedd ac Anhrefn 1998 yn cael ei gysylltu â'u cynllun gwasanaethau plant, gan gydnabod drwy hynny ddyletswydd nid yn unig i leihau'r perygl i bobl ifanc droseddu a'r rhesymau sydd yn arwain pobl ifanc i droseddu, ond hefyd i leihau'r tebygolrwydd i bobl ifanc ddioddef oddi wrth droseddu, fel yr amlinellwyd yn adroddiad Waterhouse yn ddiweddar?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn eang iawn. Mae pobl ifanc yn dioddef oddi wrth droseddu yn aml, er y gallant hefyd gyflawni'r troseddu disynnwyr y cyfeiriad Jane ato yn ei chwestiwn atodol. Y mater dan sylw yma yw achosion sylfaenol troseddu, megis triwantiaeth, gwahardd o ysgolion a diffyg cyfleoedd hyfforddi a chyflogaeth, sydd yn gallu rhoi cymhelliad i bobl barhau i astudio a gweld bod dyfodol iddynt mewn cymdeithas. Mae'r Cynulliad wedi rhoi amrediad eang o fesurau ar waith i geisio rhoi cefnogaeth ac anogaeth i ymdrin â'r problemau hyn. Mae'r mesurau hynny yn cynnwys addysg, hyfforddiant a chefnogaeth i blant a theluoedd.

Jonathan Morgan: A yw'r Prif Ysgrifennydd yn fodlon cymryd camau i hybu'r defnydd o wydr gwydn mewn tafarnau a chlybiau ledled Cymru? Mae astudiaethau diweddar wedi dangos bod rhoi gwydr gwydn mewn tafarnau a chlybiau'n arwain at ostyngiadau sylweddol mewn anafiadau damweiniol ac anafiadau sydd yn ymwneud â throseddu.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Gwnaethpwyd gwaith rhagorol gan gyn-Ysbyty Brenhinol

Royal Infirmary, now the accident and emergency department at the University Hospital of Wales, and by the University of Wales College of Medicine, on reducing the number of so-called 'glassing' crimes and the serious injuries that can result from them. Accidental injuries can also occur in the use of glass. It is important that we encourage practical, lateral thinking on solutions to crimes and injuries; solutions that could have a beneficial effect on the national health service's expenditure on stitches, and on work performance—with people who might have needed six weeks off work, but could have escaped with a bruise. If it costs less to persuade pubs to use toughened glass, instead of the kind of glass that can break and be jammed in somebody's face, then that should be encouraged. That is the kind of lateral thinking we must encourage as an Assembly, in conjunction with the Home Office and other players such as the national health service, the medical schools, the licensed victuallers association and the brewers.

Peter Black: Does the First Secretary accept that many of the services that are provided to try to attract young people's interest and keep them away from crimes—for example, youth clubs and outreach social workers or youth workers—are provided by hard-pressed local authorities who are struggling to make ends meet and to find the money for these services? Does he also accept that the Assembly needs to draw up a comprehensive youth strategy as part of its social inclusion programmes and ensure that there is money available to help local authorities provide those services which would be effective in getting young people off the streets and engaging them in constructive activity?

The First Secretary: I could not agree more with Peter's points. Unfortunately, because the provision of youth services was never considered to be mainstream, during periods of intense pressure on public expenditure in the mid 1990s many local authorities pared their non-statutory services, such as youth provision, to the bone and left the work largely to the churches and other voluntary providers of youth services. Although they have managed to fill the gap remarkably well,

Caerdydd, sef yr adran ddamweiniau ac achosion brys yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru bellach, a chan Goleg Meddygaeth Prifysgol Cymru, ar leihau nifer y troseddau 'gwydro' fel y'u gelwir a'r anafiadau difrifol sydd yn gallu digwydd o ganlyniad. Gall anafiadau damweiniol ddigwydd hefyd wrth ddefnyddio gwydr. Mae'n bwysig inni hybu meddwl ymarferol, ochrol ar atebion i droseddau ac anafiadau; atebion a allai gael effaith lesol ar wariant y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol ar bwythau, ac ar gyflawni gwaith—gyda phobl y gallasai fod angen iddynt gael chwe wythnos oddi wrth eu gwaith, ond a allasai fod wedi dianc â chlais. Os yw'n costio llai i berswadio tafarnau i ddefnyddio gwydr gwydn, yn lle'r math o wydr a all dorri a chael ei wthio i wyneb rhywun, yna dylid annog hynny. Dyna'r math o feddwl ochrol y mae'n rhaid inni ei hybu fel Cynulliad, ar y cyd a'r Swyddfa Gartref ac eraill sydd â rhan fel y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol, yr ysgolion meddygol, y gymdeithas gwerthwyr diod trwyddedig a'r bragwyr.

Peter Black: A yw'r Prif Ysgrifennydd yn derbyn bod llawer o'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir i geisio ennyn diddordeb pobl ifanc a'u cadw oddi wrth droseddau—er enghraift, clybiau ieuenciad a gweithwyr cymdeithasol allanol neu weithwyr ieuenciad—yn cael eu darparu gan awdurdodau lleol dan bwysau sydd yn ymdrechu i gael deopen llinyn ynghyd ac i ddod o hyd i'r arian ar gyfer y gwasanaethau hyn? A yw hefyd yn derbyn bod angen i'r Cynulliad lunio strategaeth ieuenciad gynhwysfawr fel rhan o'i raglenni cynhwysiant cymdeithasol a sicrhau bod arian ar gael i helpu awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau hyn a fyddai'n effeithiol wrth gael pobl ifanc oddi ar y strydoedd a'u cynnwys mewn gweithgaredd adeiladol?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r pwyntiau a wnaeth Peter. Gwaetha'r modd, am na ystyriwyd erioed fod darparu gwasanaethau ieuenciad yn y brif ffrwd, yn ystod cyfnodau o bwysau difrifol ar wariant cyhoeddus yng nghanol y 1990au yr oedd llawer o awdurdodau lleol wedi torri eu gwasanaethau anstatudol, fel y ddarpariaeth ieuenciad, at yr asgwrn a gadael y gwaith gan mwyaf i'r eglwysi a darparwyr gwasanaethau ieuenciad gwirfoddol eraill. Er iddynt lwyddo

the provision is not what it was and that has serious consequences, as I know from my own constituency. I commend Peter's views to all local authorities, voluntary groups and funding agencies.

i lenwi'r bwlch yn rhyfeddol o dda, nid yw'r ddarpariaeth fel y bu ac mae canlyniadau difrifol i hynny, fel y gwn o'm hetholaeth fy hun. Cymeradwyaf farn Peter i'r holl awdurdodau lleol, grwpiau gwirfoddol ac asiantaethau ariannu.

Allgáu Cymdeithasol (Diwygio Polisi Gwariant Cyhoeddus) Social Exclusion (Reforming Public Expenditure Policy)

Q6 Phil Williams: What aspects of public expenditure policy will the First Secretary ask the Treasury to reform, through the appropriate channels, in order to speed up the reduction of social exclusion in Wales? (OAQ3726)

The First Secretary: I met the Chief Secretary to the Treasury last week and discussed a range of issues concerning public expenditure problems in Wales and the squeeze on the Welsh spending block. I took the opportunity to emphasise the importance of improving our performance in spending public money in Wales in such a way as to reduce social exclusion. At the end of the day, that would also benefit the Treasury as a tax collecting agency as well as a public expenditure agency.

Phil Williams: Average income per head in Wales is only 82 per cent of the UK average, and if we count all items of Government expenditure including the so-called non-identifiables like Ministry of Defence Government research and development and the non-comparable factors in the English spending departments, it is estimated that total Government spending per head in Wales is at or just below the UK average. Therefore, will the First Secretary emphasise further to the Treasury that the present funding arrangements do not provide Wales with the adequate resources to properly tackle the problems of social exclusion?

The First Secretary: I do not disagree with what Phil has said, because it is a fairly well-known and easily measured fact that, in terms of defence procurement and even defence base expenditure—although it is not as clear in that area—there is far less expenditure in Wales than our 5 per cent population share.

C6 Phil Williams: Pa agweddau ar bolisi gwariant cyhoeddus y mae'r Prif Ysgrifennydd yn bwriadu gofyn i'r Trysorlys eu diwygio, drwy'r dulliau priodol, er mwyn cyflymu'r gwaith o leihau allgáu cymdeithasol yng Nghymru? (OAQ3726)

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Cyfarfum â Phrif Ysgrifennydd y Trysorlys yr wythnos diwethaf a thrafod amrediad o faterion sydd yn ymwneud â phroblemau gwariant cyhoeddus yng Nghymru a'r wasgfa ar floc gwariant Cymru. Achubais ar y cyfle i bwysleisio mor bwysig yw gwella ein perfformiad wrth wario arian cyhoeddus yng Nghymru yn y fath fodd fel ag i leihau allgáu cymdeithasol. Yn y pen draw, byddai hynny hefyd o fudd i'r Trysorlys fel asiantaeth casglu trethi yn ogystal ag fel asiantaeth gwariant cyhoeddus.

Phil Williams: Nid yw'r incwm cyfartalog y pen yng Nghymru ond 82 y cant o gyfartaedd y DU, ac os cyfrifwn bob eitem o wariant y Llywodraeth gan gynnwys y rhai na ellir eu dynodi, fel y'u gelwir, fel ymchwil a datblygu y Llywodraeth i'r Wein yddiaeth Amddiffyn a'r ffactorau yn adrannau gwario Lloegr na ellir eu cymharu, amcangyfrifir bod cyfanswm gwariant y Llywodraeth y pen yng Nghymru ar yr un lefel neu'n ychydig is na chyfartaedd y DU. Felly, a wnaiff y Prif Ysgrifennydd bwysleisio ymhellach i'r Trysorlys nad yw'r trefniadau ariannu presennol yn darparu adnoddau digonol i Gymru er mwyn ymdrin yn iawn â phroblemau allgáu cymdeithasol?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Nid wyf yn anghytuno â'r hyn a ddywedodd Phil, oherwydd mae'n ffaith eithaf hysbys a hawdd ei mesur, yn nhermau caffaol ar gyfer amddiffyn a hyd yn oed gwariant ar orsafoedd amddiffyn—er nad yw mor amlwg yn y maes hwnnw—fod llawer llai o wariant yng Nghymru na chyfran

However, that makes up for the additional expenditure in Wales on social security, health, education and social services. The two matters tend to go together and they just about outweigh each other. It is roughly 5 per cent of the UK population and 5 per cent of UK public expenditure but made up in a different way than public expenditure in England or Scotland. What do we do about that? We would not envisage during the peace dividend after the fall of the Berlin Wall that expenditure on tanks and aeroplanes and battle ships from Welsh shipyards or aircraft factories would suddenly vastly increase. That is not practical. We want additional public expenditure outside the Barnett block on Objective 1. Then everybody would be happy.

Provided that that generates additional tax receipts, the Treasury would be happy because it would find that, instead of 5 per cent of the UK population producing 4 per cent of the tax receipts as happens now in Wales, we would have 5 per cent of the UK population and 5 per cent of the tax receipts. Therefore, we are happy because we are generating the income that can afford to pay taxes, and the Treasury is happy because there is no longer that 20 per cent deficit coming from Wales caused by the poverty and the other indices of deprivation about which we all know.

David Melding: I go from a macro to a micro concern. I spent yesterday touring employment projects run by the National Schizophrenia Fellowship. One of its problems is that it can only provide places on these employment projects for perhaps two days a week, and the clients would like to work full-time. Getting full-time places is a problem as is the level of therapeutic earnings they are allowed to earn before their benefits are affected. When you are suffering from mental health, any threat to your housing benefit, for instance, is severe.

The First Secretary: I appreciate David Melding's point. From my constituency experience, there is a superb National

ein poblogaeth o 5 y cant. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n gwneud iawn am y gwariant ychwanegol yng Nghymru ar nawdd cymdeithasol, iechyd, addysg a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Mae'r ddau fater yn dueddol o fynd gyda'i gilydd ac maent bron â gwrthbwys o ei gilydd. Mae bron yn 5 y cant o boblogaeth y DU a 5 y cant o wariant cyhoeddus y DU ond ei fod wedi ei gyfansoddi'n wahanol i wariant cyhoeddus yn Lloegr neu'r Alban. Beth a wnawn ynghylch hynny? Ni fyddem yn rhagweld yn ystod y difidend heddwch ar ôl cwmp Mur Berlin y byddai gwariant ar danciau ac awyrennau a llongau rhyfel o iardiau llongau neu ffatrioedd awyrennau Cymreig yn codi'n aruthrol yn sydyn. Nid yw hynny'n ymarferol. Yr ydym am gael gwariant cyhoeddus ychwanegol y tu allan i floc Barnett ar Amcan 1. Wedyn byddai pawb yn hapus.

Ar yr amod bod hynny'n creu derbyniadau treth ychwanegol, byddai'r Trysorlys yn fodlon oherwydd, yn hytrach na gweld bod 5 y cant o boblogaeth y DU yn cynhyrchu 4 y cant o'r derbyniadau treth fel sydd yn digwydd yng Nghymru yn awr, byddai gennym 5 y cant o boblogaeth y DU a 5 y cant o'r derbyniadau treth. Felly yr ydym yn fodlon am ein bod yn creu'r incwm sydd yn gallu fforddio talu trethi, ac mae'r Trysorlys yn fodlon am nad oes bellach yr 20 y cant o ddiffyg yn dod o Gymru a achosir gan y tlodi a'r mynegeion amddifadedd eraill yr ydym oll yn gwybod amdanynt.

David Melding: Af o bryder macro i bryder micro. Treuliais ddoe'n ymweld â phrosiectau cyflogaeth a redir gan y Gymdeithas Sgitsoffrenia Genedlaethol. Un o'i phroblemau yw na all ond darparu lleoedd ar y prosiectau cyflogaeth hyn am ddau ddiwrnod yr wythnos, o bosibl, a hoffai'r cleientau weithio'n llawn-amser. Mae cael lleoedd llawn-amser yn broblem a hefyd y lefel o enillion therapiwtig y caint ei hennill cyn yr effeithir ar eu budd-daliadau. Pan ydych yn dioddef oherwydd iechyd meddwl, mae unrhyw fgythiad i'ch budd-dal tai, er enghraifft, yn ddifrifol.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Deallaf y pwyt sydd gan David Melding. O'm profiad yn fy etholaeth i, mae prosiect gwych gan y

Schizophrenia Fellowship project in St Fagans, which is maybe one of the ones that he visited.

David Melding: Yes.

The First Secretary: I am sure that there are many others like that throughout Wales. This is one of those partially devolved social security benefit issues as regards the rules on housing benefits, therapeutic earnings and so on. If there are particular points that David Melding would like me to take up following his visits, I am certain I would have the Assembly's support in taking them up with the appropriate non-devolved authorities in the Department of Social Security in central Government.

Rod Richards: Does the First Secretary agree with his colleague, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that social exclusion in Wales could be reduced if people got on their bikes and looked for a job?

The First Secretary: I heard Gordon Brown being asked this question on the television this morning. In the light of Rod Richards's question, perhaps that was fortunate. I heard him say that he did not agree with Norman Tebbitt's advice in 1980 or 1981, whenever it was in the early Thatcher years—how long ago they now seem—that people should get on their bikes and find jobs, much as his old dad had done in the 1930s. When Norman Tebbitt said 'get on your bike', unemployment was rocketing by about a quarter a million a year, as it shot up from the 1.15 million when Labour lost office in 1979 to 3.5 million by the time it peaked in 1986. When unemployment is rocketing it is disheartening to be advised that there is a job within a bike ride of every Sunderland or Swansea street corner. The issue that Gordon Brown is now raising—with unemployment falling, as David Melding mentioned the last time I answered these questions—is whether we could be more persuasive with better mentoring and better assistance with training, to persuade more unemployed people to look at the jobs that are there on every Swansea street corner, or maybe on some Swansea street corners, if only they had the qualifications and could persuade themselves to get out of the slough of despondency that

Gymdeithas Sgitsoffrenia Genedlaethol yn Sain Ffagan, sydd efallai'n un o'r rhai yr ymwelodd â hwy.

David Melding: Ydyw.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Yr wyf yn sicr bod llawer tebyg ledled Cymru. Mae hwn yn un o'r materion nawdd cymdeithasol a rann-datganolwyd mewn perthynas â'r rheolau ar fudd-daliadau tai, enillion therapiwigig ac yn y blaen. Os oes pwyntiau penodol yr hoffai David Melding imi eu dilyn ar ôl ei ymweliadau, yr wyf yn sicr y cawn gefnogaeth y Cynulliad wrth eu codi gyda'r awdurdodau annatganoledog priodol yn yr Adran Nawdd Cymdeithasol yn y Llywodraeth ganolog.

Rod Richards: A yw'r Prif Ysgrifennydd yn cytuno â'i gydweithiwr, Canghellor y Trysorlys, y gellid lleihau allgáu cymdeithasol yng Nghymru pe bai pobl yn mynd ar gefn beic ac yn chwilio am swydd?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Clywais ofyn y cwestiwn hwn i Gordon Brown ar y teledu y bore yma. Yng ngolwg cwestiwn Rod Richards, yr oedd hynny'n ffodus efallai. Fe'i clywais yn dweud nad oedd yn cytuno â chyngor Norman Tebbitt yn 1980 neu 1981, pryd bynnag yr oedd ym mlynnyddoedd cynnar Thatcher—mor bell yn ôl yr ymddangosant bellach—y dylai pobl fynd ar gefn beic a chael swyddi, yn debyg i'r hyn a wnaeth yr hen wr ei dad yn y 1930au. Pan ddywedodd Norman Tebbitt 'ewch ar gefn eich beic', yr oedd diweithdra'n saethu i fyny tua chwarter miliwn y flwyddyn, fel y cododd o'r 1.15 miliwn pan gollodd Llafur rym yn 1979 i 3.5 miliwn erbyn iddo gyrraedd ei anterth yn 1986. Pan yw diweithdra'n codi i'r entrychion, torcalonns yw cael cyngor bod swydd o fewn cyrraedd taith beic i bob cornel stryd yn Sunderland neu Abertawe. Y mater y mae Gordon Brown yn ei godi'n awr—a diweithdra'n disgyn, fel y soniodd David Melding y tro diwethaf imi ateb y cwestiynau hyn—yw a allem fod yn fwy perswadiol gyda gwell mentora a gwell cymorth gyda hyfforddiant, i berswadio mwy o bobl ddiwaith i edrych ar y swyddi sydd ar bob cornel stryd yn Abertawe, neu efallai ar rai corneli stryd yn Abertawe, pe bai'r cymwysterau ganddynt ac os galent eu perswadio eu

many of the long-term unemployed get into after many years on the dole.

hunain i godi o'r gors anobaith y mae llawer o bobl ddi-waith dymor hir yn mynd iddi ar ôl blynnyddoedd lawer ar y dôl.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Dogfen Raglennu Sengl Amcan 1 Objective 1 Single Programming Document

The Presiding Officer: I have accepted a question to the First Secretary under Standing Order No. 6.31 on a matter of urgent public importance. I have received three similar questions, but Phil Williams's was the first.

Phil Williams: Will the First Secretary make a statement on the recent report from the European Commission on the revised Objective 1 single programming document?

The First Secretary: I can try to give Phil Williams the timings on this revised document. It is not a new document, as I think he was claiming, neither is it the old document as I misunderstood last Friday. We were both half right and half wrong. Every civil servant has a personal computer, so documents get revised almost every day because it is technically so simple to do so. The draft SPD was originally submitted on 3 November; supplementary information was provided on 15 November; the Commission approved the document as being okay in technical terms on 17 November and it sent its preliminary comments on 20 December. Since then, there have been discussions between the European Commission and the partnership at regular intervals. The most recent was last Friday, 25 February when three officials from the European Affairs Division plus three representatives from the voluntary, public and private sectors of the partnership were in Brussels having the kinds of meetings that I am sure Phil Williams would commend. The previous week, a group of three from the European Commission were over here meeting 20 to 25 representatives of the taskforce. Therefore, it is not a fresh submission. However, I accept that it is not the old submission either, but something in-between.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi derbyn cwestiwn i'r Prif Ysgrifennydd o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.31 ar fater o bwys cyhoeddus brys. Derbyniais dri chwestiwn tebyg, ond un Phil Williams oedd y cyntaf.

Phil Williams: A wnaiff y Prif Ysgrifennydd ddatganiad ar yr adroddiad diweddar o'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar y ddogfen raglennu sengl Amcan 1 ddiwygiedig?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Gallaf geisio rhoi amseriadau ar y ddogfen ddiwygiedig hon i Phil Williams. Nid yw'n ddogfen newydd, fel y credaf ei fod yn honni, ac nid yr hen ddogfen mohoni ychwaith fel y camddeallais ddydd Gwener diwethaf. Yr oedd y ddau ohonom yn hanner cywir ac yn hanner anghywir. Mae gan bob gwas sifil gyfrifiadur personol, felly caiff dogfennau eu diwygio bron bob dydd am fod gwneud hynny mor syml yn dechnegol. Cyflwynwyd y ddogfen raglennu sengl ddrafft yn wreiddiol ar 3 Tachwedd; cyflenwyd gwybodaeth atodol ar 15 Tachwedd; cymeradwywyd y ddogfen gan y Comisiwn o ran bod yn iawn yn dechnegol ar 17 Tachwedd ac anfonodd eu sylwadau rhagarweiniol ar 20 Rhagfyr. Ers hynny, bu trafodaethau rhwng y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd a'r bartneriaeth yn rheolaidd. Yr oedd y ddiweddaraf ddydd Gwener diwethaf, 25 Chwefror pan oedd tri swyddog o'r Is-adran Materion Ewropeaidd a thri chynrychiolydd o sectorau gwirfoddol, cyhoeddus a phreifat y bartneriaeth ym Mrwsel yn cael y mathau o gyfarfodydd yr wyf yn sicr y byddai Phil Williams yn eu cymeradwyo. Yr wythnos cynt, yr oedd grŵp o dri o'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd draw yma yn cyfarfod â 20 i 25 o gynrychiolwyr o'r tasglu. Felly, nid yw'n gyflwyniad newydd. Fodd bynnag, derbyniaf nad yr hen gyflwyniad mohono ychwaith, ond yn rhywbeth rhwng y ddau.

The Commission stated clearly in the document that it sent us 10 days ago that it wants reassurance that the programme will be fully committed. It has been advised that in addition to obligations arising from existing European programmes, the Assembly will be asked in early April to endorse an agreed draft SPD including four financial tables. The Commission will rest on the Assembly's own consideration of the document. The Commission has confirmed that it does not intend to block the SPD until the spending review is completed later in the summer. The Commission is aware that if the £25 million set aside for the next financial year proves inadequate, further funding could be sought from the contingency reserve, if there are not underspends that we can collect from other departments within the Assembly's expenditure programme.

Dyweddodd y Comisiwn yn glir yn y ddogfen a anfonodd atom 10 niwrnod yn ôl ei fod am gael cadarnhad y bydd ymrwymiad llwyr ar gyfer y rhaglen. Fe'i hysbyswyd y bydd cais i'r Cynulliad yn gynnar yn Ebrill, yn ogystal â'r rhwymedigaethau sydd yn deillio o'r rhagleni Ewropeaidd presennol, i gadarnhau ddogfen raglennu sengl ddrafft a gytunwyd a fydd yn cynnwys pedwar tabl ariannol. Bydd y Comisiwn yn pwysgo ar yr ystyriaeth o'r ddogfen gan y Cynulliad ei hun. Mae'r Comisiwn wedi cadarnhau nad yw'n bwriadu rhwystro'r ddogfen raglennu sengl nes cwblhau'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant yn ddiweddarach yn yr haf. Mae'r Comisiwn yn ymwybodol, os bydd y £25 miliwn a neilltuwyd ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf yn profi'n annigonol, y gellid ceisio arian pellach o'r gronfa wrth gefn, os nad oes tanwariannau y gallwn eu casglu oddi wrth adrannau eraill oddi mewn i raglen wariant y Cynulliad.

Phil Williams: You have clarified a few important points. However, given the substantial work still required on the single programming document, what steps do you propose to take to involve more fully Members from all parties—especially members of the Economic Development Committee—who are committed to contributing to the success of this programme and who have felt excluded from the recent discussions? Also, will you seek any necessary assistance from external consultants to ensure that the Objective 1 programme is satisfactory and accepted by the European Commission before the end of March?

Phil Williams: Yr ydych wedi egluro rhai pwyntiau pwysig. Fodd bynnag, o gofio'r gwaith sylweddol y mae ei angen o hyd ar y ddogfen raglennu sengl, pa gamau y bwriadwch eu cymryd i gynnwys yn llawnach Aelodau o'r holl bleidiau—yn enwedig aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd—sydd wedi ymrwymo i gyfrannu i lwyddiant y rhaglen hon ac sydd yn teimlo eu bod wedi eu cau allan o'r trafodaethau diweddar? Yn ychwanegol, a wnewch chi geisio unrhyw gymorth angenrheidiol gan ymgynghorwyr allanol er mwyn sicrhau bod y rhaglen Amcan 1 yn fodhaol ac wedi ei derbyn gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd cyn diwedd Mawrth?

The First Secretary: I am sorry that Phil Williams feels like that. I will do everything that I can between now and the end of April to involve the representatives of the other political parties on the Economic Development Committee. Phil needs to be aware that, in general, the Commission is interested, not so much in whether the minority Labour administration in the Assembly is carrying the other political parties with it—important though that is to unity within Wales on this issue—but whether we are consulting the partners, the people in the partnership. I have mentioned

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Mae'n ddrwg gennyd bod Phil Williams yn teimlo felly. Byddaf yn gwneud popeth a allaf o hyn tan ddiwedd Ebrill i gynnwys cynrychiolwyr y pleidiau gwleidyddol eraill ar y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Dylai Phil fod yn ymwybodol mai'r hyn sydd o ddiddordeb i'r Comisiwn yn gyffredinol yw, nid yn ogymaint a yw'r weinyddiaeth Lafur leiafrifol yn y Cynulliad yn cael cefnogaeth y pleidiau gwleidyddol eraill—er pwysiced hynny i undod oddi mewn i Gymru ar y mater hwn—ond a ydym yn ymgynghori â'r partneriaid, y bobl yn y bartneriaeth. Crybwylais y nodwedd hon dro

this peculiarity time and time again in the Assembly. In a way, devolution has been a nuisance to this process in the minds of people in the European Commission. They prefer the English situation where you just have the local partnership. We must deal with the member state and the partnership.

Objective 1 involves two thirds of Wales and there was no way, as we came into power in May last year, that we were going to step back from this process. Therefore, we took over from the taskforce and we are now carrying the partnership with us. The Commission regards the consultation with the partnership as more important than consultation with other political parties. However, if we can add the other political parties to create a greater sense of unified national purpose, then I am willing to do more than has been done in the past on that front. I say that in anticipation that if this was not a leap year it would be St David's Day today, not tomorrow.

Alun Cairns: Your tune has changed somewhat from yesterday when you said that the existing document was part of an ongoing negotiation. It is not healthy for any new democratic body that a document as important as this is leaked to members of the Economic Development Committee. That highlights that the first five chapters had been rewritten. If that is not a new document, then I do not know what is. Do you accept that the Economic Development Committee had been sidelined in that so much focus was put on the original single programming document with weeks of consultations between all parties, all partners, the public and the private sector? The five rewritten chapters of the original document should therefore have come before the Economic Development Committee at least.

In your answer to my supplementary question during questions to the First Secretary today, you said that the opposition parties had a right to oppose. Is it not the case that the revised single programming document has been sidelined from the Committee without giving the opposition the right to oppose, to question or to probe in order to ensure the

ar ôl tro yn y Cynulliad. Ar ryw ystyr, bu datganoli'n niwsans i'r broses hon ym meddwl pobl yn y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Mae'n well ganddynt y sefyllfa yn Lloegr lle nad oes gennych ond y bartneriaeth leol. Rhaid i ni ymdrin â'r aelod wladwriaeth a'r bartneriaeth.

Mae Amcan 1 yn cynnwys dwy ran o dair o Gymru ac nid oedd modd, wrth inni ddod i rym fis Mai diwethaf, inni gamu'n ôl o'r broses hon. Felly, cymerasom yr awenau oddi wrth y tasglu ac yr ydym bellach yn dod â'r bartneriaeth gyda ni. Mae'r Comisiwn yn ystyried yr ymgynghori â'r bartneriaeth yn bwysicach nag ymgynghori â phleidau gwleidyddol eraill. Fodd bynnag, os gallwn ychwanegu'r pleidiau gwleidyddol eraill i greu mwy o ymdeimlad o bwrpas cenedlaethol unedig, yr wyf yn fodlon gwneud mwy nag a wnaethpwyd yn y gorffennol yn y pen hwnnw. Dywedaf hynny ymlaen llaw gan wybod pe na bai hon yn flwyddyn naid y byddai'n Ddydd Gŵyl Dewi heddiw, nid yfory.

Alun Cairns: Mae'ch cân wedi newid rhywfaint ers ddoe pan ddywedasoch fod y ddogfen bresennol yn rhan o drafodaeth barhaus. Nid yw'n beth iach i unrhyw gorff democraidd bod dogfen gyfrinachol mor bwysig â hon yn cael ei datgelu i aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Mae hynny'n tynnu sylw at y ffaith bod y pum pennod gyntaf wedi eu hailsgrifennu. Os nad dogfen newydd mo hynny, ni wn beth ydyw. A dderbyniwch fod y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd wedi ei roi o'r neilltu i'r graddau bod cymaint o sylw wedi ei roi i'r ddogfen raglennu sengl wreiddiol gydag wythnosau o ymgynghori rhwng yr holl bleidau, yr holl bartneriaid, y cyhoedd a'r sector preifat? Dylai'r pum pennod o'r ddogfen wreiddiol a ailsgrifenwyd wedi dod gerbron y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd o leiaf.

Yn eich ateb i'm cwestiwn atodol yn ystod y cwestiynau i'r Prif Ysgrifennydd heddiw, dywedasoch fod gan bleidiau'r wrthblaid hawl i wrthwynebu. Onid yw'n wir bod y ddogfen raglennu sengl ddiwygiedig wedi ei chadw oddi wrth y Pwyllgor gan nacáu'r hawl i'r wrthblaid wrthwynebu, cwestiynu neu holi er mwyn sicrhau'r penderfyniad

right decision for Wales? That is not a party political issue. It is about ensuring the best future for Wales. It is also about using the Economic Development Committee. Will you acknowledge that the role of that Committee is to scrutinise Government policy and not to act as a stooge for proposing and promoting the Labour policy of the day?

The First Secretary: I am sure that if there were a vacancy for a Labour administration cheerleader, Alun Cairns would not apply.

On the Economic Development Committee's participation—and I will write to you if I am wrong, Alun—I believe that the latest version of the document from the European Commission came in after the Committee's last meeting. It is on the agenda of the Economic Development Committee's first meeting since the arrival of the document. If I am wrong about this, it is by about a day or two. As far as I remember, the latest version of the document arrived about 10 days ago, during the maelstrom of dramatic events in Plenary, which was after the Economic Development Committee's last meeting. If, in the course of time, we come to a collective judgement that, at the height of those dramatic events I should have given more thought to automatically issuing the document to the Economic Development Committee at that time, I apologise. To be honest, I cannot remember whether Alun Michael was still First Secretary, whether I had taken over or whether we were on the cusp of the changeover. I apologise, therefore, if Alun Cairns thinks that he could have received the document earlier. It would then not appear to have been leaked in what is an unseemly manner for an administration committed to open government. I apologise and believe that it was related to the timing of the document's arrival.

As regards what we do now, I asked my officials this morning whether this is an old or new version of the document. They answered that it is a revised version. The first five chapters have been substantially revised. I do not think that chapters 7 and 8 caused the problems to which Alun, Phil and Mike referred. It is a halfway house between an old

iawn i Gymru? Nid mater gwleidyddol pleidiol mohono. Mae'n ymwneud â sicrhau'r dyfodol gorau i Gymru. Mae hefyd yn ymwneud â defnyddio'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. A ydych yn fodlon derbyn mai rôl y Pwyllgor yw archwilio polisi'r Llywodraeth ac nid bod yn was bach i gynnig a hybu'r hyn sydd yn bolisi Llafur ar y pryd?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Yr wyf yn sicr pe bai swydd codwr hwyl i'r weinyddiaeth Lafur ar gael, na fyddai Alun Cairns yn ymgeisio.

Ynghylch y rhan a gymerir gan y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd—a byddaf yn ysgrifennu atoch os wyf yn anghywir, Alun—credaf fod y fersiwn ddiweddaraf o'r ddogfen o'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd wedi cyrraedd ar ôl cyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor. Mae ar agenda cyfarfod cyntaf y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd ers i'r ddogfen gyrraedd. Os wyf yn anghywir ynghylch hynny, yr wyf yn methu o ddiwrnod neu ddau. Hyd y cofiaf, cyrhaeddodd fersiwn ddiweddaraf y ddogfen tua 10 niwrnod yn ôl, yn ystod y corwynt o ddigwyddiadau dramatig yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, a ddilynodd gyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Os deuwn i'r farn gyda'n gilydd, ymhen amser, y dylaswn, yn anterth y digwyddiadau dramatig hynny fod wedi rhoi mwy o feddwl i roi'r ddogfen yn awtomatig i'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd bryd hynny, ymddiheuraf. A dweud y gwir, ni allaf gofio a oedd Alun Michael yn dal i fod yn Brif Ysgrifennydd, a oeddw i wedi cymryd drosodd ynteu a oeddem ar ganol y newid. Ymddiheuraf, felly, os yw Alun Cairns o'r farn y gallai fod wedi derbyn y ddogfen yn gynharach. Ni fuasai wedi ymddangos wedyn ei bod yn cael ei datgelu mewn modd sydd yn anweddus i weinyddiaeth sydd wedi ymrwymo i lywodraeth agored. Ymddiheuraf a chredaf fod hyn yn ymwneud â'r amser y cyrhaeddodd y ddogfen.

O ran yr hyn a wnawn yn awr, gofynnais i'm swyddogion y bore yma ai hen fersiwn o'r ddogfen ynteu un newydd oedd hon. Atebasant ei fod yn fersiwn ddiwygiedig. Mae'r pum pennod gyntaf wedi eu diwygio'n helaeth. Ni chredaf mai penodau 7 ac 8 a achosodd y problemau y cyfeiriodd Alun, Phil a Mike atynt. Mae'n hanner ffodd

and a new document. People may think that I should have known that it was a revised document, not an old one, but I did not find that out until this morning when I was able to get hold of the civil servants concerned. On Thursday night, when the story broke, they were on a plane on their way to Brussels. We could not therefore ask them about this, though we managed some snatched conversations on Friday. It was Monday by the time that we were fully briefed by the people who had been doing good work in Brussels, along with representatives of the stakeholders from the voluntary, public and private sectors. They made good progress with the European negotiating team on behalf of the Commission and on behalf of Wales. That should not be under-rated.

Michael German: We all share the agenda of trying to ensure that Wales receives the maximum amount of benefit from Objective 1 proposals. However, if we are to share that agenda and make common cause, we have to share the information. My question is about the substantive issue that is at the heart of the financial problem of the European Commission's document. As the Welsh Affairs Select Committee reported, and as we have said here, the European Commission wants to be satisfied that public funding will not simply be reviewed in the forthcoming comprehensive spending review. It seeks a commitment on this to be included in the final SPD. Will that mean that the project start date will be delayed because it means that the money will not be in place before the comprehensive spending review? Are you intent on defending the Treasury's position or will you endorse the unequivocal position of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee, the European Commission and the Assembly's Economic Development Committee that the artificial deadline of July is destroying the confidence that the Commission now has in us being able to piece the financial profile together? There is common cause here, but I think that it is us versus Gordon Brown rather than a common cause between the parties in the Assembly.

2:51 p.m.

The First Secretary: I repeat my answer to Phil's earlier question on the same issue. We

rhwng hen ddogfen a dogfen newydd. Efallai fod pobl o'r farn y dylwn wybod mai dogfen ddiwygiedig ydoedd, nid yn hen un, ond ni ddarganfûm hynny tan y bore yma pan lwyddais i gael gafael ar y gweision sifil dan sylw. Nos Iau, pan dorrodd y stori, yr oeddent ar awyren ar eu ffordd i Frwsel. Ni allem ofyn iddynt am hyn felly, er inni lwyddo i fachu ambell sgwrs ddydd Gwener. Yr oedd yn ddydd Llun erbyn inni gael ein briffio'n llawn gan y rhai a fu'n gwneud gwaith da ym Mrwsel, ynghyd â chynrychiolwyr y budd-ddeiliaid yn y sectorau gwirfoddol, cyhoeddus a phreifat. Gwnaethant gynnydd da gyda'r tim negodi Ewropeaidd ar ran y Comisiwn ac ar ran Cymru. Ni ddylid tanbrisio hynny.

Michael German: Yr ydym oll yn rhannu'r agenda o geisio sicrhau bod Cymru'n derbyn y budd mwyaf posibl o gynigion Amcan 1. Fodd bynnag, os ydym i rannu'r agenda honno ac i ymuno â'n gilydd, rhaid inni rannu'r wybodaeth. Mae fy nghwestiwn yn ymwneud â'r gwir fater sydd wrth wraidd y broblem ariannol yn nogfen y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Fel y nododd y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig, ac fel y dywedasom yma, mae'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd am fod yn sicr na fydd ariannu cyhoeddus ond yn cael ei adolygu yn yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant sydd i ddod. Mae'n gofyn am gynnwys ymrwymiad ar hyn yn y ddogfen raglennu sengl derfynol. A fydd hynny'n golygu gohirio dyddiad dechrau'r prosiect am ei fod yn golygu na fydd yr arian yn ei le cyn yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant? A ydych yn benderfynol o amddiffyn safbwyt y Trysorlys ynteu a ydych yn fodlon ategu safbwyt diamwys y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig, y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd a Phwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd y Cynulliad bod y dyddiad cau ffug yng Ngorffennaf yn dinistrio'r hyder sydd gan y Comisiwn ynom yn awr y byddwn yn gallu rhoi'r proffil ariannol at ei gilydd? Mae cydfwriad yma, ond credaf ein bod ni yn erbyn Gordon Brown yn hytrach na bod cydfwriad rhwng y pleidiau yn y Cynulliad.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Ailadroddaf fy ateb i gwestiwn Phil yn gynharach ar yr un mater.

have the Commission's authority to say that it will rest on the Assembly's consideration of the single programming document. The Commission has confirmed that it does not intend to block the single programming document until the spending review has been completed. I am confident that the Commission is right to agree with us as regards its level of funding for the first 15 months. The Commission and the Treasury have their own opinions on when the Treasury should make the commitment. However, this is a three party negotiation between the Assembly, the Treasury and the Commission. We must bring all three parties—which are not political parties—together as, in the end, they have a common aim of ensuring that those parts of the Welsh economy that are lagging behind have the opportunity to catch up during the six or seven years of the Objective 1 programme. I will not stand here and be an apologist for the Treasury, and neither will I set out to declare war on it. On behalf of the Assembly and with the support, I trust, of all Members, I must persuade the Treasury to find additional resources over and above the Barnett block so that we have the public expenditure cover and the match funding to enable Objective 1 to go forward to the fore.

Dafydd Wigley: I pick up on Phil's earlier point. In looking forward rather than back at some recent difficulties with this issue, I urge the Government to be prepared, if necessary, to use external consultants, whether from Wales, England or even Ireland, in order to get this document to the necessary state within the timeframe. We could then move forward to take full advantage of these resources. Time is now getting tight. We realise that the civil servants are under immense pressure. If necessary, can you give the commitment to look for whatever talent that is needed to do the job?

The First Secretary: I never rule anything out. If I lost the confidence or certainty that we had enough civil servants or that they were sufficiently attuned to the task, and that the work could only be done by supplementing their efforts with those of external consultants, I would not hesitate in

Mae gennym awdurdod y Comisiwn i ddweud y bydd yn dibynnu ar ystyriaeth y Cynulliad o'r ddogfen raglennu sengl. Mae'r Comisiwn wedi cadarnhau nad yw'n bwriadu rhwystro'r ddogfen raglennu sengl nes cwblhau'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant. Yr wyf yn ffyddio bod y Comisiwn yn iawn wrth gytuno â ni o ran ei lefel ariannu ar gyfer y 15 mis cyntaf. Mae gan y Comisiwn a'r Trysorlys eu barn eu hunain ynghylch pryd y dylai'r Trysorlys wneud yr ymrwymiad. Fodd bynnag, mae trafod tairochrog rhwng y Cynulliad, y Trysorlys a'r Comisiwn. Rhaid inni ddod â phob un o'r tair plaid—nad ydynt yn bleidiau gwleidyddol—at ei gilydd oherwydd, yn y pen draw, mae ganddynt nod gyffredin o sicrhau bod y rhannau hynny o economi Cymru sydd ar ei hôl hi yn cael y cyfle i oddiweddyd yn ystod chwe neu saith mlynedd rhaglen Amcan 1. Nid wyf am sefyll yma a bod yn ddiffynnydd dros y Trysorlys, ac nid wyf am gyhoeddi rhyfel yn ei erbyn ychwaith. Ar ran y Cynulliad a chyda chefnogaeth yr holl Aelodau, gobeithiaf, rhaid imi berswadio'r Trysorlys i ddod o hyd i adnoddau ychwanegol ar ben bloc Barnett fel bod gennym y swm o wariant cyhoeddus a'r arian cyfatebol i alluogi Amcan 1 i fynd ymlaen a dod i'r amlwg.

Dafydd Wigley: Dilynaf y pwynt a wnaeth Phil yn gynharach. Wrth fwrw golwg ymlaen yn hytrach nag yn ôl ar rai anawsterau diweddar gyda'r mater hwn, pwysaf ar y Llywodraeth i fod yn barod, os oes angen, i ddefnyddio ymgynghorwyr allanol, boed o Gymru, Lloegr neu Iwerddon hyd yn oed, er mwyn dod â'r ddogfen hon i'r ffurf angenrheidiol oddi mewn i'r amserlen. Gallem wedyn symud ymlaen i fanteisio'n llawn ar yr adnoddau hyn. Mae amser yn prinbau'n awr. Sylweddolwn fod y gweision sifil o dan bwysau aruthrol. Os bydd angen, a allwch roi'r sicrwydd hwnnw y byddwch yn chwilio am ba bynnag ddawn sydd yn angenrheidiol i wneud y gwaith?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Nid wyf byth yn diystyr u dim. Pe bawn yn colli'r hyder neu'r sicrwydd bod gennym ddigon o weision sifil neu eu bod ar yr un donfeidd i raddau digonol i gyflawni'r dasg, ac na ellid gwneud y gwaith ond drwy ategu eu hymdrehcion hwy â rhai ymgynghorwyr allanol, ni phetruswn

authorising the hiring of consultants. I would do it like a shot. At the moment, I am not convinced that they could add anything to the expertise that we have built up and the good contacts that we have established between the civil servants and the administration in our European Affairs Division and our partners in the voluntary, private and public sectors. Consultants could add to that and not subtract from it, but they would possibly be a danger and this could cause problems. If I do not think that we will be able to complete the work in time, I will not hesitate in asking Edwina for authority to hire consultants. I am not convinced that that is necessary at the moment, but I do not rule it out.

rhag awdurdodi cyflogi ymgynghorwyr. Gwnawn hynny fel ergyd o wn. Ar hyn o bryd, nid wyf wedi fy argyhoeddi y gallent ychwanegu dim at yr arbenigedd a greasom a'r cysylltiadau da a sefydlosom rhwng y gweision sifil a'r weinyddiaeth yn ein His-adran Materion Ewropeaidd a'n partneriaid yn y sectorau gwirfoddol, preifat a chyhoeddus. Gallai ymgynghorwyr ychwanegu at hynny a pheidio â thynnud oddi wrtho, ond gallent fod yn berygl a gallai hynny beri problemau. Os na chredaf y byddwn yn gallu cwblhau'r gwaith mewn pryd, ni phetrusaf rhag gofyn i Edwina am hawl i gyflogi ymgynghorwyr. Nid wyf wedi fy argyhoeddi bod angen gwneud hynny ar hyn o bryd, ond nid wyf yn ei ddiystyr.

Datganiad ar Bortffolios Ysgrifenyddion y Cabinet Statement on Cabinet Secretaries' Portfolios

The First Secretary: I will add a certain amount of detail to what is, I believe, already on the intranet as a guidance for Members on asking questions. Following further discussions with Christine Gwyther and Sue Essex about the marginal areas between their portfolios, Christine Gwyther will continue to have a cross-cutting responsibility for sustainable development. Sue Essex will have Christine's former responsibility for looking after the affairs of the Countryside Council for Wales and the national parks. Likewise, Christine will continue to have responsibility for the sustainable parks side of the national parks' development programmes.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Yr wyf am ychwanegu rhywfaint o fanylion at yr hyn sydd eisoes ar y fewnrwyd, yr wyf yn credu, fel arweiniad i'r Aelodau ynghylch gofyn cwestiynau. Ar ôl trafodaethau pellach â Christine Gwyther a Sue Essex ynghylch y meysydd ymylol rhwng eu portffolios, bydd Christine yn parhau i fod â chyfrifoldeb trawsbynciol dros ddatblygu cynaliadwy. Bydd Sue Essex yn cael y cyfrifoldeb a oedd gan Christine cynt dros ofalu am fusnes Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru a'r parciau cenedlaethol. Yn yr un modd, bydd Christine yn parhau i fod yn gyfrifol am yr agwedd parciau cynaliadwy ar raglenni datblygu'r parciau cenedlaethol.

Parhad o'r Drafodaeth ar y Cwestiwn Brys ar Ddogfen Raglennu Sengl Amcan 1 Continuation of the Debate on the Emergency Question on the Objective 1 Single Programming Document

The Presiding Officer: I now call Nick Bourne as I should have done on the previous question. Our computers are not working at this end of the Chamber.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf yn awr ar Nick Bourne fel y dylaswn fod wedi gwneud ar y cwestiwn diwethaf. Nid yw ein cyfrifiaduron yn gweithio yn ein pen ni o'r Siambr.

Nick Bourne: I apologise to the First Secretary that he cannot yet relax on the question of Objective 1. First Secretary, you came in with a tremendous fund of good will on the issue of Objective 1 funding. I hope that you will accept that the opposition

Nick Bourne: Ymddiheuraf i'r Prif Ysgrifennydd na chaiff ymlacio eto ar gwestiwn Amcan 1. Brif Ysgrifennydd, daethoch i'ch swydd gyda stôr o ewylls da ar fater arian Amcan 1. Gobeithiaf eich bod yn fodlon derbyn bod pleidiau'r wrthblaid am

parties want to work with you to ensure that we secure the necessary match funding, that we get the single programming document right and also, importantly, that implementation is carried through. I referred to that in my earlier question, although you did not pick it up. Perhaps that was because many other points were made. It is an important issue. I know that we are about to appoint a chief executive. That is well overdue. Whoever is brought in now must see this project through.

I hope you accept that it is still crucial to get additional match funding. In your earlier answers you mentioned using the money that has been allocated, but that is out of the Barnett block and would be taking money from existing budgets. We want money over and above the Barnett block. If it is helpful, I am sure that all party leaders would agree to come with you to Westminster to underline how vital this is for Wales. Will you accept that offer and see that it can be carried through?

The First Secretary: Yes, and I agree on the appointment of the chief executive. I expect to make a further statement on that matter in the Economic Development Committee tomorrow. I will consider the offer of all four party leaders coming with me to Westminster to try to strike fear into the powers that be. I will come back to you and the other party leaders on that matter once I have considered it further.

weithio gyda chi i sicrhau y cawn yr arian cyfatebol angenrheidiol, y cawn y ddogfen raglennu sengl yn iawn a hefyd, yn bwysig, y caiff ei rhoi ar waith. Cyfeiriaid at hynny yn fy nghwestiwn yn gynharach, er nad oeddech wedi ei ddilyn. Efallai mai'r rheswm am hynny oedd y cafodd pwyntiau eraill eu gwneud. Mae'n fater pwysig. Gwn ein bod ar fin penodi prif weithredwr. Mae'n hen bryd i hynny ddigwydd. Rhaid i bwy bynnag a benodir yn awr aros gyda'r prosiect hwn.

Gobeithiaf eich bod yn derbyn ei bod yn holl bwysig cael arian cyfatebol ychwanegol. Yn eich atebion cynharach cyfeiriasoch at ddefnyddio'r arian a ddyrrannwyd, ond daw hynny o floc Barnett a golygai fynd ag arian o gyllidebau presennol. Mae arnom eisiau arian ar ben bloc Barnett. Os yw hynny o gymorth, yr wyf yn sicr y cytunai pob arweinydd plaid i ddod gyda chi i San Steffan i bwysleisio mor hanfodol yw hyn i Gymru. A ydych yn barod i dderbyn y cynnig hwnnw a sicrhau y gellir ei gyflawni?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Ydwyt, a chytunaf yngylch penodi'r prif weithredwr. Disgwyliaf wneud datganiad pellach ar y mater hwnnw yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd yfory. Yr wyf yn barod i ystyried y cynnig o gael pob un o'r pedwar arweinydd plaid gyda mi pan af i San Steffan i geisio codi ofn ar yr awdurdodau sydd ohoni. Byddaf yn dod yn ôl atoch a'r arweinyddion plaid eraill ar y mater hwnnw ar ôl imi ei ystyried ymhellach.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Business Secretary (Andrew Davies): On Tuesday 7 March, there will be two one-hour debates proposed by Plaid Cymru and the Conservatives. I am grateful to both parties for agreeing to bring their debates forward so that I could defer the debate on the Waterhouse inquiry into child abuse in north Wales, originally scheduled for 7 March, until 15 March. I have deferred this debate to allow the Health and Social Services Committee time to consider the report at its meeting on 8 March.

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Ddydd Mawrth 7 Mawrth, bydd dwy ddadl awr o hyd a gynigir gan Blaid Cymru a chan y Ceidwadwyr. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r ddwy blaidd am ddod â'r dadleuon ymlaen fel y gallwn ohirio'r ddadl ar ymchwiliad Waterhouse ar gam-drin plant yng ngogledd Cymru, a amserlennwyd yn wreiddiol ar gyfer 7 Mawrth, tan 15 Mawrth. Gohiriaid y ddadl hon er mwyn rhoi amser i'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ystyried yr adroddiad yn ei gyfarfod ar 8 Mawrth.

Business on Wednesday 8 March will be as I reported in my last statement on 15 February. Business on Tuesday 14 March will also be as I reported in my last statement, but the motion to approve the Non-Domestic Rating (Miscellaneous Provisions) (No 2) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000 is deferred until Wednesday 22 March. In addition to the debate on the Waterhouse inquiry, business on Wednesday 15 March will include a resolution to approve the appointment of an independent adviser on standards. On Tuesday 21 March there will be a debate on the Assembly's strategic plan 'A Better Wales', and motions to approve two items of subordinate legislation: the Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) Regulations 2000 and the Health Act 1999 Commencement Order 2000. On Wednesday 22 March there will be a motion to approve the main expenditure group transfers—the final movement of in-year funds as a result of the forecast outturn of budgets.

Following the Business Committee meeting this morning, the Deputy Presiding Officer has, on the advice of the Committee, determined that the following items of subordinate legislation should not be referred to a Subject Committee: the Non-Domestic Rating (Miscellaneous Provisions) (No 2) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000; the Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2000; the Local Authorities (Discretionary Expenditure Limits) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2000; the National Health (Optical Charges and Payments) Amendment (Wales) Regulations 2000; the NHS (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Amendment (Wales) Regulations 2000; the NHS Trusts (Originating Capital) (Wales) Order 2000; the National Health (Dental Charges) Amendment (Wales) Regulations 2000; and the Welsh Development Agency (Financial Limit) Order 2000.

I omitted to say that the Business Committee decided this morning to recommend that, as of 22 March, short debates should be held on Wednesday afternoons instead of Tuesday afternoons. Arrangements will be made after Plenary today to place a copy of the business

Bydd y busnes ddydd Mercher 8 Mawrth fel yr adroddais yn fy natganiad diwethaf ar 15 Chwefror. Bydd y busnes ddydd Mawrth 14 Mawrth hefyd fel yr adroddais yn fy natganiad diwethaf, ond gohiriwyd y cynnig i gymeradwyo'r Rheoliadau Trethi Busnes (Darpariaethau Amrywiol) (Rhif 2) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2000 tan ddydd Mercher 22 Mawrth. Yn ogystal â'r ddadl ar ymchwiliad Waterhouse, bydd y busnes ddydd Mercher 15 Mawrth yn cynnwys penderfyniad i gymeradwyo penodi ymgynghorydd annibynnol ar safonau. Ddydd Mawrth 21 Mawrth bydd dadl ar gynllun strategol y Cynulliad, 'Gwell Cymru', a chynigion i gymeradwyo dwy eitem o is-ddeddfwriaeth: Rheoliadau Trethi Busnes (Newid Rhestrau ac Apeliadau) 2000 a Gorchymyn Dechrau 2000 y Ddeddf Iechyd 1999. Ddydd Mercher 22 Mawrth bydd cynnig i gymeradwyo trosglwyddiadau'r prif grŵp gwariant—y symud olaf ar arian oddi mewn i'r flwyddyn oherwydd y canlyniad a ragwelir o'r cyllidebau.

Ar ôl cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma, mae'r Dirprwy Lywydd, yn ôl cyngor y Pwyllgor, wedi penderfynu na ddylid cyfeirio'r eitemau canlynol o is-ddeddfwriaeth i Bwyllgor Pwnc: Rheoliadau Trethi Busnes (Darpariaethau Amrywiol) (Rhif 2) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2000; Gorchymyn Treth y Cyngor (Anheddu a Eithriwyd) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2000; Gorchymyn Awdurdodau Lleol (Cyfngiadau Gwariant Dewisol) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2000; Rheoliadau Iechyd Gwladol (Costau a Thaliadau Optegol) Diwygio (Cymru) 2000; Rheoliadau'r NHS (Taliadau a Godir am Gyffuriau ac Offer) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2000; Gorchymyn Ymddiriedolaethau NHS (Cychwyn Cyfalaf) (Cymru) 2000; Rheoliadau Iechyd Gwladol (Costau Deintyddol) Diwygio (Cymru) 2000; a Gorchymyn Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru (Cyfngiad Ariannol) 2000.

Anghofiais ddweud bod y Pwyllgor Busnes wedi penderfynu y bore yma i argymhell y dylid cynnal dadleuon byr, o'r 22 Mawrth ymlaen, ar brynhawniau Mercher yn lle prynhawniau Mawrth. Gwneir trefniadau ar ôl y Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw i osod copi o'r

statement on the intranet and the internet.

datganiad busnes ar y fewnrwyd a'r rhyngrwyd.

Derbyniwyd y datganiad busnes.

Business statement adopted.

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Hadau (Ffioedd) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2000
Approval of The Seeds (Fees) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000**

Christine Gwyther: I propose that the Assembly

(a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to the draft Seeds (Fees) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000 laid in the Table Office on 16 February 2000;

(b) considers the principle of the Order; and

(c) approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 11 February 2000.

3:01 p.m.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 22.1, a Welsh translation of the draft regulations has also been laid in the Table Office.

These regulations are made in relation to Wales only. They amend the Seeds (Fees) Regulations 1985, as amended. They provide for fees to be charged for examinations by crop inspectors and seed samplers. Fees for these examinations have always been payable but have been collected by an administrative arrangement. This Order regularises that and will not result in an increase in the fees currently levied. These regulations came into force in England on 22 October 1999. Inspectors and samplers are needed to ensure that seed of agricultural and some vegetable species is officially certified before marketing. That ensures that the farmer or grower receives seed of a minimum recognised quality.

To obtain a licence to operate, crop inspectors and seed samplers must attend a course of instruction and pass an official examination. The training course for crop inspectors is predominantly technical in

Christine Gwyther: Cynigiaf fod y Cynulliad

(a) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau mewn perthynas â chopi drafft Rheoliadau Hadau (Ffioedd) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2000, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 16 Chwefror 2000;

(b) yn ystyried egwyddor y Gorchymyn; ac

(c) yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn wedi'i wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 11 Chwefror 2000.

Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 22.1, mae cyfeithiad Cymraeg o'r rheoliadau drafft wedi ei osod yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno hefyd.

Gwneir y rheoliadau hyn mewn perthynas â Chymru'n unig. Maent yn diwygio Rheoliadau Hadau (Ffioedd) 1985, fel y'u diwygiwyd. Maent yn darparu ar gyfer codi ffioedd gan arolygwyr cnydau a samplwyr hadau. Mae ffioedd am yr archwiliadau hyn yn daladwy erioed ond fe'u casglwyd drwy drefniant gweinyddol. Mae'r Gorchymyn hwn yn rheoleiddio hynny ac ni fydd yn arwain at gynnydd yn y ffioedd a godir ar hyn o bryd. Daeth y rheoliadau hyn i rym yn Lloegr ar 22 Hydref 1999. Mae angen arolygwyr a samplwyr er mwyn sicrhau bod hadau rhywogaethau amaethyddol a rhai rhywogaethau llysieuol wedi eu hardystio'n swyddogol cyn eu marchnata. Mae hynny'n sicrhau bod y ffermwyr neu'r cnydiwr yn derbyn hadau o ansawdd cydnabyddedig isaf.

Er mwyn cael trwydded i weithredu, rhaid i arolygwyr cnydau a samplwyr hadau ddilyn cwrs hyfforddiant a llwyddo mewn arholiad swyddogol. Mae'r cwrs hyfforddi i arolygwyr cnydau yn dechnegol gan mwyaf o ran ei

content. In England and Wales, training is administered by the National Institute of Agricultural Botany. The courses vary in length according to the crops for which the applicant seeks to be licensed. The examination tests the applicant in the theory and practical aspects of crop inspection. There is a refresher course and retest every five years. Between courses, crop inspectors are circulated with information to keep them abreast of developments.

Training for seed samplers is run by the official seed testing station and it tests applicants' practical and theoretical knowledge. If a candidate is successful, the licence is issued for life, subject to samplers maintaining their expertise. Seed samplers are strictly supervised by plant health and seeds inspectors, who regularly visit their workplace to check on all aspects of their performance. If necessary, an inspector can recommend that a sampler is sent for retraining and retesting. Samplers who fail to meet the required standard will have their licence withdrawn.

A crop inspector may inspect only the kinds of crops specified on his or her licence, in one or a combination of the following species: cereals, sugar beet, peas and beans, herbage and miscellaneous crops. During the period of the licence, crop inspectors are supervised by officers from the UK's agricultural departments, acting as the certifying authority, who check a random selection of crops—about 7 per cent—that they have inspected. They ensure that inspectors maintain their expertise by establishing a minimum and maximum number of crops to be inspected. Inspectors who fail to maintain the required standard will have their licence withdrawn.

Once qualified, seed samplers are permitted to draw samples for all seed categories from seed lots on the premises of a merchant, packer or processor. These samples are submitted for official analysis by the official seed testing station or a licensed seed testing station. The seeds industry is relatively small and highly organised. Many of its companies, including the largest, are represented on trade

gynnwys. Yng Nghymru a Lloegr, gweinyddir yr hyfforddiant gan y Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Lysieueg Amaethyddol. Mae'r cyrsiau'n amrywio o ran eu hyd yn ôl y cnydau y mae'r ymgeisydd am gael ei drwyddedu ar eu cyfer. Mae'r arholiad yn profi'r ymgeisydd yn theori ac agweddu ymarferol archwilio cnydau. Mae cwrs gloywi ac ail brawf bob pum mlynedd. Rhwng y cyrsiau, dosberthir gwybodaeth ymysg arolygwyr cnydau fel eu bod yn cael gwybod am y datblygiadau diweddaraf.

Cynhelir hyfforddiant ar gyfer samplwyr hadau gan yr orsaif brofi hadau swyddogol ac mae'n profi gwybodaeth ymarferol a damcaniaethol yr ymgeiswyr. Os yw ymgeisydd yn llwyddo, rhoddir y drwydded am oes, ar yr amod bod y samplwyr yn cynnal eu harbenigedd. Caiff samplwyr hadau eu goruchwylion'n fanwl gan arolygwyr iechyd planhigion a hadau, sydd yn ymweld â'u gweithle'n rheolaidd er mwyn archwilio pob agwedd ar eu perfformiad. Os oes angen, gall arolygwyr argymhell anfon samplwr i'w ailhyfforddi a'i ailbrofi. Tynnir y drwydded yn ôl oddi wrth samplwyr sydd yn methu â chyrraedd y safon ofynnol.

Ni chaiff arolygydd cnydau ond archwilio'r mathau o gnydau a ddynodir ar ei drwydded ef neu hi, mewn un neu mewn cyfuniad o'r rhywogaethau canlynol: ydau, betys siwgwr, pys a ffa, glaswellt a chnydau amrywiol. Yn ystod cyfnod y drwydded, goruchwylir arolygwyr cnydau gan swyddogion o adrannau amaethyddol y DU, gan weithredu fel yr awdurdod ardystio, sydd yn gwirio hapsampl o gnydau—tua 7 y cant—a archwiliwyd ganddynt. Maent yn sierhau bod yr arolygwyr yn cynnal eu harbenigedd drwy bennu isafswm ac uchafswm o gnydau sydd i'w harchwilio. Tynnir y drwydded yn ôl oddi wrth archwilwyr sydd yn methu â chynnal y safon ofynnol.

Ar ôl ymgymhwys, caniateir i samplwyr hadau dynnu samplau ar gyfer pob categori o hadau o gyfrannau hadau yn adeilad masnachwr, paciwr neu brosesydd. Cyflwynir y samplau hyn i'w dadansoddi'n swyddogol gan yr orsaif brofi hadau swyddogol neu gan orsaif brofi hadau drwyddedig. Mae'r diwydiant hadau yn gymharol fach ac yn gyfundrefnol iawn. Cynrychiolir llawer o'i

associations, which have an interest in maintaining the industry's reputation. It is a single product industry and the techniques for sampling and examining seed can be judged against well-established international standards. Therefore, they should be failsafe. These regulations put into statute fees that the industry would have been expected to pay. The training and examination process is essential to ensuring that the seeds industry is monitored and managed by well-qualified personnel. I commend the motion to you.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Dylid croesawu'r symudiad hwn oherwydd bod mawr angen gwarantu safonau arolygu cnydau os ydym am greu cnydau a chynnyrch o'r safon uchaf yng Nghymru. Cymeradwywn y symudiad hwn a chroesawn, unwaith eto, y symudiad tuag at greu safonau uwch yn y diwydiant amaethyddol.

Rhaid imi gyfaddef fy mod yn poeni ychydig o weld bod samplwyr hadau yn gysylltiedig â hyn. O ystyried y drafodaeth ar hadau a addaswyd yn enetig a geir yn y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig bore yfory, hwyrach y dylem roi yswiriant bywyd iddynt yn ogystal â ffioedd archwiliadau.

Peter Rogers: On behalf of the Welsh Conservatives, I also welcome the highest standards. I realise that it is a specialised trade and it is important to maintain the highest standards for the industry.

Christine Gwyther: The regulations ensure that the integrity of the UK seeds certification scheme is maintained. Rhodri Glyn said that it could be difficult for people within the industry to monitor their own industry. Peter was right to say that they are there because they are experts in their fields. We must bear in mind that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food watches the watchers; that safety mechanism is always there. The training and examination arrangements are important. The payments that growers have to make have not changed. They range from about £75 to £150 per crop. There is no change apart from the fact that this Statutory Instrument regularises the issue.

gwmnïau, gan gynnwys y rhai mwyaf, ar gymdeithasau masnach, sydd â buddiant mewn cynnal enw da'r diwydiant. Mae'n ddiwydiant un cynnyrch a gellir barnu'r technegau ar gyfer samplu ac archwilio hadau yn ôl safonau rhyngwladol sefydledig. Felly, dylent fod yn ddiogel rhag methu. Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn rhoi ar statud y ffioedd y disgwylid i'r diwydiant eu talu. Mae'r broses hyfforddi ac archwilio yn hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau y caiff y diwydiant hadau ei fonitro a'i reoli gan bersonél cymwys. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig i chi.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: This movement is to be welcomed because there is a great need to guarantee crop inspection standards if we are to create crops and produce of the highest standard in Wales. We approve this movement and welcome, once again, the movement towards creating higher standards in the agricultural industry.

I must admit that I was slightly concerned to see that seed samplers are associated with this. Given the discussion on genetically modified seeds that will take place in the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee tomorrow morning, maybe we should give them life insurance in addition to inspection fees.

Peter Rogers: Ar ran y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, yr wyf hefyd yn croesawu'r safonau uchaf. Sylweddolaf ei fod yn fasnach arbenigol a'i bod yn bwysig cynnal y safonau uchaf ar gyfer y diwydiant.

Christine Gwyther: Mae'r rheoliadau'n sicrhau y cedwir cyfanwydd cynllun ardystio hadau'r DU. Dywedodd Rhodri Glyn y gallai fod yn anodd i bobl oddi mewn i'r diwydiant fonitro eu diwydiant eu hunain. Yr oedd Peter yn iawn wrth ddweud eu bod yno am eu bod yn arbenigwyr yn eu meysydd. Rhaid inni gofio bod y Weinyddiaeth Amaethyddiaeth, Pysgodfeydd a Bwyd yn gwyllo'r gwylwyr; mae'r ddyfais ddiogelwch honno yno bob amser. Mae'r trefniadau hyfforddi ac arholi yn bwysig. Ni fu newid yn y taliadau y mae'n rhaid i'r cnydwyr eu gwneud. Maent yn amrywio rhwng tua £75 a £150 fesul cnwd. Nid oes newid ar wahân i'r ffaith bod yr Offeryn Statudol hwn yn rheoleiddio'r mater.

*Cynnig: O blaid 31, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 31, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Jocelyn
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Gwyther, Christine
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Marek, John
Melding, David
Michael, Alun
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

**Cymeradwyo Cais y Cynulliad i Ymaelodi â Chanolfan Ewropeidd Cymru
ym Mrwsel**

**Approval of the Assembly's Application to Join the Wales European Centre
in Brussels**

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1 and 2 in the name of Ieuan Wyn Jones and amendment 3 in the name of Michael German.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Ieuan Wyn Jones a gwelliant 3 yn enw Michael German.

The First Secretary: I propose

that the Assembly, in exercise of its powers under sections 33 and 40 of the Government of Wales Act 1998:

authorises the First Secretary to make formal application on behalf of the Assembly for membership of the Wales European Centre

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Cynigiaf

fod y Cynulliad drwy arfer ei bwerau o dan adrannau 33 a 40 Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998 yn:

rhol hawl i'r Prif Ysgrifennydd wneud cais ffurfiol ar ran y Cynulliad i ymaelodi â Chanolfan Ewropeidd Cymru ac i wneud

(WEC) and to take all such steps as are necessary to enable the Assembly to comply with the conditions for membership;

notes that upon such application being accepted the Assembly will be entitled to appoint three directors to the Board of WEC and three representatives at all general meetings of WEC, but who will be entitled to cast a single vote on behalf of the Assembly;

resolves that each of the three largest political groups represented in the Assembly be entitled to nominate one Assembly Member as director and authorises the First Secretary to communicate the names of those Assembly Members to the WEC as the Assembly's nominees as directors;

resolves that each Assembly Member nominated as a director of WEC shall, subject to the Articles of Association of WEC, continue to hold office as director until the next Assembly ordinary elections unless in the meantime the director ceases to be a Member of the Assembly, or resigns as director, or is required to resign as director by resolution of the Assembly;

requires that any such director who exercises the power specified in WEC's Articles of Association to appoint from time to time an alternate director may only do so by appointing a person who is an Assembly Member who has been named in an Assembly resolution as a prospective alternate director; and

resolves that the three directors nominated on behalf of the Assembly or their authorised alternates be the persons authorised to represent the Assembly at any general meeting of WEC, and authorises the First Secretary to nominate which of those persons is entitled to exercise the Assembly's vote if necessary.

It is important that we approve this motion for the Assembly to become a member of the Wales European Centre. I suppose that it can

popeth sydd yn angenrheidiol i alluogi'r Cynulliad i gydymffurfio ag amodau'r aeolodaeth;

nodi, os caiff cais o'r fath ei dderbyn, y bydd hawl gan y Cynulliad i benodi tri chyfarwyddwr i Fwrdd Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru a thri chynrychiolydd i fynychu pob un o gyfarfodydd cyffredinol Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru a fydd â'r hawl i fwrw un bleidlais rhyngddynt ar ran y Cynulliad;

penderfynu bod gan bob un o'r tri grŵp gwleidyddol mwyaf a gynrychiolir yn y Cynulliad yr hawl i enwebu un Aelod Cynulliad yn gyfarwyddwr ac awdurdodi'r Prif Ysgrifennydd i ddatgan enwau'r Aelodau hynny i Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru fel y rhai a enwebwyd yn gyfarwyddwyr gan y Cynulliad;

penderfynu bod pob un Aelod Cynulliad a enwebir yn gyfarwyddwr Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, yn amodol ar Erthyglau Cwmni Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, yn cael parhau yn ei swydd fel cyfarwyddwr tan etholiad cyffredin nesaf y Cynulliad ac eithrio pan fydd cyfarwyddwr, yn y cyfamser, yn peidio â bod yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad, neu'n ymddiswyddo fel cyfarwyddwr, neu fod y Cynulliad yn mynnu ei fod yn ymddiswyddo fel cyfarwyddwr;

mynnau bod unrhyw gyfarwyddwr o'r fath sydd yn arfer y pwerau a nodir yn Erthyglau Cwmni Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru i benodi cyfarwyddwr eiledol o dro i dro, yn gwneud hynny'n unig drwy benodi Aelod Cynulliad sydd wedi ei enwi yn un o benderfyniadau'r Cynulliad fel darpar gyfarwyddwr eiledol; ac yn

penderfynu mai'r tri chyfarwyddwr a enwebwyd ar ran y Cynulliad neu'r cyfarwyddwyr eiledol awdurdodedig a ddylai gynrychioli'r Cynulliad mewn unrhyw un o gyfarfodydd cyffredinol Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, ac awdurdodi'r Prif Ysgrifennydd i enwebu pa un ohonynt a ddylai gael yr hawl i ddefnyddio pleidlais y Cynulliad os bydd angen.

Mae'n bwysig inni gymeradwyo'r cynnig hwn er mwyn i'r Cynulliad ddod yn aelod o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Tybiaf y gellir

loosely be described as the unofficial Welsh embassy at the heart of the European institutions.

If we approve this motion today, the delicate balance that we must achieve in joining the Wales European Centre will be difficult. Over the last eight years or so, WEC has established itself as a body that involves many stakeholders from different walks of life in Wales. Since 1992, it has unofficially acted as a listening post and a non-diplomatic agency on behalf of different public bodies and a small number of private bodies, but mostly from the pre-devolution quango state in Wales.

If devolution had existed in 1992 when WEC was formed, I have no doubt that the Assembly would have formed it and might have been the only body responsible for it. However, the Assembly is joining eight years later when it already has a group of stakeholders, which are Assembly sponsored public bodies such as the Welsh Development Agency, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Wales Tourist Board, the Welsh Language Board, the Arts Council for Wales, the national parks in Wales, the training and enterprise councils, higher education bodies—which do not have to join, but several of our university colleges have—the further education sector in Wales, the Wales TUC, the Farmers Union of Wales, voluntary sector groups such as Welsh LEADER groups, which do such valuable work in rural Wales, and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. Therefore, Wales has a kind of mini Parliament already in Brussels and the Assembly is joining it eight years later.

3:11 p.m.

The body of expertise has been built up over the past eight years. We must be careful that we do not muffle anybody else out. We want to consider this as a value-added exercise, whereby we move in without encouraging other bodies to think that they can drop out as the Assembly will now be funding WEC. It would be a tragedy if they dropped out, as they would not then have the same direct

ei disgrifio'n fras fel llysgenhadaeth anwyddogol Cymru yng nghanol y sefydliadau Ewropeaidd.

Os cymeradwywn y cynnig hwn heddiw, bydd y cydbwysedd manwl y bydd yn rhaid inni ei sicrhau wrth ymuno â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru yn anodd ei gyflawni. Dros yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf, fwy neu lai, mae CEC wedi ennill ei phlwyf fel corff sydd yn cynnwys llawer o gyfranogion o wahanol feysydd yng Nghymru. Ers 1992, gweithredodd yn anwyddogol fel safle gwrando ac asiantaeth anniplomatig ar ran gwahanol gyrrff cyhoeddus a nifer fechan o gyrrff preifat, ond y rhan fwyaf ohonynt o'r wladwriaeth gwango yng Nghymru cyn datganoli.

Pe bai datganoli mewn bod yn 1992 pan ffurfiwyd CEC, nid oes gennyl amheuaeth y byddai'r Cynulliad wedi ei ffurfio ac mai ef efallai fyddai'r unig gorff i fod yn gyfrifol amdan. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Cynulliad yn ymuno wyth mlynedd yn ddiweddarach pan fo ganddi grŵp o gyfranogion eisoes, sydd yn gyrrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad fel Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, Bwrdd Croeso Cymru, Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, y parciau cenedlaethol yng Nghymru, y cyngorau hyfforddi a menter, cyrff addysg uwch—nad oes rhaid iddynt ymuno, ond mae nifer o'n colegau prifysgol wedi gwneud—, y sector addysg bellach yng Nghymru, Cyngres Undebau Llafur Cymru, Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru, grwpiau yn y sector gwirfoddol fel grwpiau LEADER Cymru, sydd yn gwneud gwaith mor werthfawr yng nghefn gwlaid Cymru, a Chyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru. Felly, mae gan Gymru fath o Senedd fach yn barod ym Mrwsel ac mae'r Cynulliad yn ymuno wyth mlynedd yn ddiweddarach.

Crëwyd y corff o arbenigedd dros yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf. Rhaid inni fod yn ofalus nad ydym yn mygu neb. Yr ydym am ystyried hyn yn ymarfer sydd â gwerth ychwanegol, a fydd yn gyfrwng inni symud i mewn heb gymhell cyrff eraill i feddwl y gallant roi'r gorau iddi gan fod y Cynulliad yn ariannu CEC bellach. Byddai'n drasiedi pe baent yn rhoi'r gorau iddi, gan na fyddai

access to the listening post services of WEC that have been built up over the past eight years.

Over those eight years, WEC has developed an excellent reputation, not only in Wales but, perhaps more importantly in terms of objective measurement, in Brussels. The institutions of the EU regard it as one of the most effective regional offices operating as a listening post in Brussels. WEC provides an integrated service. The staff, from whichever quango, public body or outside appointment that they may have come, serve the whole partnership that is on the present board of WEC, rather than their own sponsor or a group of a few sponsors. It is a completely integrated service. This provides the opportunity for the centre's policy advisers to specialise in all manner of policy, but not based on which body they have come from. WEC is a strong body and we want to add to that strength. We do not want to weaken it indirectly by making the other partners think that they can drop out because of our arrival.

The structure of the proposed voting system, as stated in the motion, involves us having one vote but three representatives. That is exactly the same as the Welsh Local Government Association and some of the other partners have. There will be no domination by the Assembly. We will not be the body that acts as the driver of WEC. We will have a role and a stake, but that stake will not be bigger than that of the WLGA. It is essential to keep the delicate balance between local and devolved government in Wales, and between all the other partner bodies, which may make smaller subscriptions than us. We are contributing the same subscription as local government in Wales. We will keep the exact, equal and delicate balance between the biggest partners, which will be the WLGA and ourselves.

It was announced this morning that Des Clifford, the head of the Assembly's Press Office, will become the head of the WEC set-up. I think that that is an excellent choice. It is an important post, as he will be acting as

ganddynt yr un mynediad uniongyrchol at y gwasanaethau safle gwando a greodd Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru dros yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf.

Yn ystod yr wyth mlynedd hynny, mae CEC wedi datblygu enw rhagorol, nid yn unig yng Nghymru ond, yn bwysicach efallai o ran mesur gwrthrychol, ym Mrwsel. Mae sefydliadau'r UE yn ei hystyried yn un o'r swyddfeydd rhanbarthol mwyaf effeithiol sydd yn gweithredu fel safle gwando ym Mrwsel. Mae CEC yn darparu gwasanaeth integredig. Mae'r staff, o ba bynnag gwango, corff cyhoeddus neu benodiad allanol y daethant, yn gwasanaethu'r bartneriaeth gyfan sydd ar fwrdd CEC, yn hytrach na'u noddwr eu hunain neu grŵp o ychydig noddwyr. Mae'n wasanaeth cwbl integredig. Mae hyn yn rhoi cyfle i ymgynghorwyr polisi'r ganolfan arbenigo ym mhob math o bolisi, ond nid yn seiliedig ar y corff y daethant ohono. Mae CEC yn gorff cryf ac yr ydym am ategu'r cryfder hwnnw. Nid ydym am ei gwanhau'n anuniongyrchol drwy beri i'r partneriaid eraill feddwl y gallant roi'r gorau iddi oherwydd ein dyfodiad ni.

Mae strwythur y system bleidleisio arfaethedig, fel y'i nodir yn y cynnig, yn golygu y byddwn yn cael un bleidlais ond tri chynrychiolydd. Mae hynny'n union yr un fath â'r hyn sydd gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a rhai o'r partneriaid eraill. Ni fydd unrhyw dra-arglywyddiaethu gan y Cynulliad. Nid ni fydd y corff sydd yn gweithredu fel gyrrwr CEC. Bydd gennym rôl a chyfran, ond ni fydd y gyfran honno'n fwy nag un Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. Mae'n holl bwysig cadw'r cydbwysedd manwl rhwng llywodraeth leol a llywodraeth ddatganoledig yng Nghymru, a rhwng yr holl bartner gyrff eraill, a allai dalu tanysgrifiadau llai na ni. Yr ydym yn cyfrannu'r un tanysgrifiad â llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru. Byddwn yn cadw'r cydbwysedd union, cyfartal a manwl rhwng y partneriaid mwyaf, sef Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a ni.

Cyhoeddwyd y bore yma mai Des Clifford, pennaeth Swyddfa'r Wasg y Cynulliad, fydd pennaeth y trefniant yng Nghanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Credaf fod hynny'n ddewis rhagorol. Mae'n swydd bwysig, gan y

the eyes and ears of the allied body that acts directly on behalf of the administration. These two bodies must work together closely. Our own set-up, which will have full civil service and diplomatic status, will work closely with WEC as a stakeholding body, working from the same premises and in the same way.

Both of these moves have the same effect of raising Wales's profile in Europe. The strengthening of WEC and our ability to have our own representative office that can work under diplomatic status in close conjunction with the UKREP office is advantageous in raising our profile in Europe. It will also ensure that we have access not only to EC information but, through the set-up that Des Clifford will be running, to the information that is directly available from the UKREP office on some of the more delicate and diplomatic communication between the British Government and the institutions of the EU and between UK Government departments and devolved administrations in this country.

We hope to be able to second officials on a wider scale. Seconding has been one of the great difficulties over the 27 years and a couple of months that Great Britain has been a member of the EU. We have never been able to get sufficient numbers of seconded officials from Wales into the institutions of the EU. Officials can do their 12 months, or two or three years over there, and then return with the ability to contribute that inside knowledge to the way in which Government is run here. That is important and that is why I am pleased that Des Clifford is going over there. That is not enough and it is not the end of the story.

The Assembly, as people will remember from the draft Assembly strategic plan, is committed to increasing the number of secondments from the current level of two to six by 2003. I understand that suitable staff are being identified for this purpose, but this obviously has a voluntary component. I welcome amendment 1 and am pleased to report that we are taking action to achieve this.

bydd yn gweithredu fel llygaid a chlustiau i'r corff cysylltiedig sydd yn gweithredu'n uniongyrchol ar ran y weinyddiaeth. Rhaid i'r ddu gorff hyn gydweithio'n agos. Bydd ein trefniant ein hunain, a fydd â statws gwasanaeth sifil a diplomydol llawn, yn gweithio'n agos â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru fel corff cyfranogol, gan weithio o'r un adeilad ac yn yr un modd.

Caiff y ddu gam hyn yr un effaith o gynyddu amlygrwydd Cymru yn Ewrop. Mae cryfhau CEC a'n gallu i gael ein swyddfa gynrychioladol ein hunain sydd yn gallu gweithio o dan statws diplomydol mewn cysylltiad agos â swyddfa UKREP yn fanteisiol wrth gynyddu ein hamlygrwydd yn Ewrop. Bydd hefyd yn sicrhau bod gennym fynediad nid yn unig at wybodaeth y CE ond, drwy'r trefniant y bydd Des Clifford yn ei redeg, at yr wybodaeth sydd ar gael yn uniongyrchol o swyddfa UKREP ar rai o'r negeseuon mwy sensitif a diplomydol rhwng Llywodraeth Prydain a sefydliadau'r UE a rhwng adrannau Llywodraeth y DU a gweinyddiaethau datganoledig yn y wlad hon.

Gobeithiwn allu secondio swyddogion ar raddfa ehangach. Bu secondio'n un o'r anawsterau mawr dros y 27 mlynedd ac ychydig fisoeedd y bu Prydain Fawr yn aelod o'r UE. Ni lwyddasom erioed i gael nifer ddigonol o swyddogion ar secondiad o Gymru yn sefydliadau'r UE. Gall swyddogion dreulio 12 mis, neu ddwy neu dair blynedd draw yno, a dychwelyd wedyn â'r gallu i gyfrannu'r wybodaeth fewnol honno i'r modd y caiff Llywodraeth ei rhedeg yma. Mae hynny'n bwysig a dyna pam yr wyf yn falch bod Des Clifford yn mynd yno. Nid yw hynny'n ddigon ac nid dyna ddiwedd y stori.

Mae'r Cynulliad, fel y bydd rhai'n cofio o gynllun strategol drafst y Cynulliad, wedi ymrwymo i gynyddu nifer y secondiadau o'r lefel bresennol o ddu i chwech erbyn 2003. Deallaf fod staff addas yn cael eu dynodi i'r diben hwn, ond mae elfen wirfoddol i hyn, wrth gwrs. Croesawaf welliant 1 ac yr wyf yn falch o adrodd ein bod yn cymryd camau i gyflawni hyn.

We believe that amendment 3 is the only amendment that does not make good sense. We believe that a level of representation that is above that of local government would upset the delicate balance of not wanting to dominate this partnership. The consequence of upsetting that balance would be a kind of rolling programme of people deciding that they need not make a contribution because the Assembly had done so. We do not want to be in a position of discouraging others from continuing to be stakeholders in the Wales European Centre.

Alun Michael: Would you agree and reinforce the point that local government was concerned that the Assembly might have too strong a voice? Keeping the balance right is crucial. Do you also agree that the way in which this is approached so that the partnership is created, and that building on something that is already strong, is likely to give Wales one of the strongest presences—stronger and more focused than that of Scotland—in the Commission and Brussels?

The First Secretary: I agree with Alun and pay tribute to his greater previous knowledge and contribution to the way in which these arrangements were structured so that we are parallel with local government. Things must stay that way. If Mike German persists in pushing his amendment through to a vote, we recommend that it should be opposed on the grounds that it could upset the balance with local government and result in dereliction of the different stakeholders in the Wales European Centre.

On the comparison with Scotland, I do not think that the choice that the Scots made at the time they established their office was necessarily a bad choice for them. Their office was set up almost immediately after devolution in May 1999. Scotland acted quickly and we have learnt from some of the weaknesses in the Scottish set-up. Essentially, there are two separate set-ups that cannot play off one another quite as well as we are hoping our structure will achieve. We have learnt from the Scottish experiment and we have a slightly greater ability to integrate the two sides of the representation we need in Brussels: the diplomatic and the non-diplomatic. Alun and I visited the

Credwn mai gwelliant 3 yw'r unig welliant nad yw'n gwneud synnwyr da. Credwn y byddai lefel gynrychiolaeth sydd yn uwch na'r hyn sydd gan lywodraeth leol yn amharu ar y cydbwysedd manwl o beidio â dymuno tra-arglwyddiaethu ar y bartneriaeth hon. Y canlyniad i amharu ar y cydbwysedd hwnnw fyddai rhyw fath o raglen dreiglol o bobl yn penderfynu nad oes rhaid iddynt gyfrannu gan fod y Cynulliad wedi gwneud hynny. Nid ydym am fod mewn sefyllfa o gymhell eraill rhag parhau'n fudd-ddeiliaid yng Nghanolfan Ewropeidd Cymru.

Alun Michael: A fyddch yn cytuno ac yn cadarnhau'r pwyt bod llywodraeth leol yn pryderu y gallai'r Cynulliad gael llais rhy gryf? Mae cadw'r cydbwysedd iawn yn holl bwysig. A gytunwch hefyd fod y ffordd yr eir yngylch hyn fel bod y bartneriaeth yn cael ei chreu, a bod adeiladu ar rywbedd sydd eisoes yn gryf, yn debygol o roi i Gymru un o'r presenoldebau cryfaf—yn gryfach ac yn fwy pwrpasol na'r hyn sydd gan yr Alban—yn y Comisiwn ac ym Mrwsel?

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Cytunaf ag Alun a thalaf deyrnged i'w wybodaeth flaenorol helaethach a'i gyfraniad i'r modd y strwythurwyd y trefniadau hyn fel eu bod yn gyfochrog â llywodraeth leol. Rhaid i bethau aros felly. Os yw Mike German yn parhau i wthio ei welliant at bleidlais, argymhellwn y dylid ei wrthwynebu ar y sail y gallai amharu ar y cydbwysedd â llywodraeth leol ac arwain at ddadreciwtio'r gwahanol gyfranogion yng Nghanolfan Ewropeidd Cymru.

Ynghylch y gymhariaeth â'r Alban, ni chredaf fod y dewis a wnaeth yr Albanwyr adeg sefydlu eu swyddfa yn un drwg iddynt hwy o reidrwydd. Sefydlwyd eu swyddfa bron ar unwaith ar ôl datganoli ym Mai 1999. Gweithredodd yr Alban yn gyflym a dysgasom oddi wrth rai o'r gwendaridau yn nhreiniant yr Alban. Yn y bôn, mae dau drefniant ar wahân nad ydynt yn gallu chwarae rhngddynt a'i gilydd gystal ag y gobeithiwn y bydd ein strwythur ni yn llwyddo i'w wneud. Dysgasom oddi wrth arbrawf yr Alban ac mae gennym ychydig mwy o allu i integreiddio dwy ochr y gynrychiolaeth y mae arnom ei hangen ym Mrwsel: y diplomyddol a'r anniplomyddol.

Scottish representation office recently and were told that the office, which is next to the UK Permanent Representation office—UKREP—is abbreviated to JOCKREP. I do not know whether the Welsh office will be known as TAFFREP or whether some other abbreviation will be used. I am fairly sure that, in line with what Alun said, we have learnt from Scotland and have acted slightly differently, and slightly better in my opinion.

The new premises will be available fairly soon. The offices are a converted merchant's house and are impressive and delightful. I hope that they will be equally impressive to all Assembly Members when they become operational, and, more importantly, that people will make practical use of the offices when visiting Brussels. The members of the Assembly's Committee on European Affairs, who will be on a working visit to Brussels on Thursday and Friday of this week, will visit the new premises and see the progress of Wales's new unofficial embassy.

What does the Assembly hope to receive from the Wales European Centre? It will receive the same type of service as the rest of the partnership. This will mean regular flows of information in the public domain and, more importantly perhaps, information that is only partially in the public domain and still under discussion between different bodies in Europe. Receiving information earlier means that you can lobby to have it changed to suit you better. It also means that you can attune any applications earlier to ensure that they are at the front of the queue, not in the middle or at the back or missing altogether. Briefings on a range of policy areas, including seminars and conferences that stakeholders will want, will also be available, as will support for any delegations to Brussels to visit the institutions and to bargain and negotiate with the European Union. Assembly Members on the Committee of the Regions will be able to get briefings and support from the Wales European Centre and events will be arranged similar to the ones taking place this week to raise Wales's profile more generally. As we are celebrating our patron saint's day in the

Ymwelodd Alun a minnau â swyddfa cynrychiolaeth yr Alban yn ddiweddar a dywedwyd wrthym fod y swyddfa, sydd nesaf at swyddfa Cynrychiolaeth Barhaol y DU—UKREP—wedi ei thalfyrru'n JOCKREP. Ni wn a gaiff swyddfa Cymru ei galw'n TAFFREP ynteu a ddefnyddir rhyw dalfyriad arall. Yr wyf yn eithaf sicr, yn unol â'r hyn a ddywedodd Alun, ein bod wedi dysgu oddi wrth yr Alban ac wedi gweithredu ychydig yn wahanol, ac ychydig yn well yn fy marn i.

Bydd yr adeilad newydd ar gael yn eithaf buan. Mae'r swyddfeydd mewn tŷ marsiandïwr a addaswyd ac maent yn drawiadol ac yn hyfryd. Gobeithiaf y byddant yr un mor drawiadol yng ngolwg holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad pan fyddant ar waith, ac, yn bwysicach, y bydd pobl yn gwneud defnydd ymarferol o'r swyddfeydd pan ymwelant â Brwsel. Bydd yr aelodau o Bwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd y Cynulliad, a fydd ar ymweliad gwaith â Brwsel ddydd Iau a dydd Gwener yr wythnos hon, yn ymweld â'r adeilad ac yn gweld sut y mae llysgenhadaeth answyddogol newydd Cymru'n dod yn ei blaen.

Beth y mae'r Cynulliad yn gobeithio ei gael o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru? Bydd yn derbyn yr un math o wasanaeth â gweddill y bartneriaeth. Bydd hynny'n golygu llifau rheolaidd o wybodaeth yn y maes cyhoeddus ac, yn bwysicach efallai, gwybodaeth nad yw ond yn rhannol yn y maes cyhoeddus ac sydd yn cael ei thrrafod o hyd ymyst y gwahanol gyrrff yn Ewrop. Drwy dderbyn gwybodaeth yn gynt gallwch lobio i gael ei newid fel ei bod yn fwy addas i chi. Mae hefyd yn golygu y gallwch gymhwysu unrhyw geisiadau'n gynt er mwyn eu bod ym mlaen y ciw, nid yn y canol neu yn y cefn neu ar goll yn gyfan gwbl. Bydd briffiadau ar gael hefyd ar amrediad o feisydd polisi, gan gynnwys seminarau a chynadleddau y bydd ar y cyfranogion eu hangen, yn ogystal â chefnogaeth i unrhyw ddirprwyathau i Frwsel i ymweld â'r sefydliadau i fargeinio ac thrrafod â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Bydd Aelodau Cynulliad ar Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau'n gallu derbyn briffiadau a chefnogaeth gan Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru a threfnir digwyddiadau fel y rhai sydd yn digwydd yr wythnos hon i godi

middle of this week there are events taking place to try to raise Wales's profile and that is being done by the Wales European Centre.

proffil Cymru'n fwy cyffredinol. Gan ein bod yn dathlu dydd gŵyl ein nawddsant ganol yr wythnos hon ceir digwyddiadau i geisio cynyddu amlygrwydd Cymru a gwneir hyn gan Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru.

3:21 p.m.

Identifying opportunities for secondments in the institutions of the European Community and developing links with the offices of the other regions in Brussels to develop greater strength among the different regions or small nations of Europe is all possible via our membership of the Wales European Centre. Detailed discussions have taken place on the technicalities of how to arrange this in terms of changing the constitution of the Wales European Centre. They have taken place with WEC's Chair, George Wright, and Director, Jos Gallacher. The company has recently agreed changes to the memorandum and articles of association to enable the Assembly to join. However, an application for membership can only take place if this motion is approved. I commend it to the Assembly.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Cynigiaf welliant 1. Yn y paragraff olaf dileer y geiriau '*Prif Ysgrifennydd*', a rhoi '*Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru drwy benderfyniad mewn Cyfarfod Llawn*' yn eu lle.

Cynigiaf hefyd welliant 2. Ychwaneger ar ddiweddu y cynnig:

Tra'n croesawu'r bartneriaeth newydd gyda Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, dylai Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru achub ar bob cyfle i secondeio aelodau o'i staff i UKREP, Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru a'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd.

Yr ydym ni ym Mhlaid Cymru yn croesawu'r penderfyniad hwn. Cefnogwn y cais i'r Cynulliad ymuno â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru ym Mrwsel. Yr ydym wedi bod yn dweud ers blynnyddoedd ein bod yn dymuno gweld y berthynas rhwng Cymru ac Ewrop, ac yn arbennig ym Mrwsel, yn cryfhau oherwydd bod cymaint o benderfyniadau sydd yn ymwneud â'n bywydau ni yng Nghymru yn cael eu gwneud yn Ewrop. Rhoddfa enghraifft yn ymwneud â'r Pwyllgor

Mae dynodi cyfleoedd ar gyfer secondiadau yn sefydliadau'r Gymuned Ewropeaidd a datblygu cysylltiadau â swyddfeydd y rhanbarthau eraill ym Mrwsel er mwyn datblygu mwy o gryfder ymysg gwahanol ranbarthau neu genhedloedd bach Ewrop oll yn bosibl drwy ein haelodaeth o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Cafwyd trafodaethau manwl ar y manylion technegol er mwyn trefnu hyn o ran newid cyfansoddiad Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Maent wedi digwydd gyda Chadeirydd CEC, George Wright, a'r Cyfarwyddwr, Jos Gallacher. Cytunodd y cwmni'n ddiweddar ar newidiadau yn y memorandwm a'r erthyglau cymdeithasiad fel y gall y Cynulliad ymuno. Fodd bynnag, ni ellir gwneud cais am aelodaeth oni chymeradwyir y cynnig hwn. Fe'i cymeradwyaf i'r Cynulliad.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I propose amendment 1. In the last paragraph replace '*the First Secretary*' with '*the National Assembly for Wales through a resolution in Plenary*'.

I also propose amendment 2. Add at the end of the motion:

Whilst welcoming the new partnership with the Wales European Centre, the National Assembly for Wales should seek every opportunity to second members of its staff to UKREP, Wales European Centre and the European Commission.

We in Plaid Cymru welcome this decision. We support the application for the Assembly to join the Wales European Centre in Brussels. We have said for some years that we wish to see the relationship between Wales and Europe, and particularly in Brussels, strengthened, because so many decisions affecting our lives in Wales are made in Europe. I will give an example from the Committee that I have had the privilege of chairing since the Assembly's inception,

yr wyf wedi cael y faint o'i gadeirio ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad, y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig. Mae 80 y cant o'r arian sydd yn dod i ffermwyr, a nifer fawr o'r rheoliadau sydd yn effeithio ar eu bywydau, bellach yn dod o'r Gymuned Ewropeaidd. Mae'n bwysig bod gennym lais cryf yn y trafodaethau i sicrhau bod gennym ffynhonnell wybodaeth dda ym Mrwsel. Felly, yr ydym yn croesawu'r cam sylwedol hwn tuag at sicrhau gwell presenoldeb i'r Cynulliad a thrwy hynny i bobl Cymru.

Yr ydym hefyd am weld swyddfa CEC yn dod yn ffenest siop i Gymru yn Ewrop. Bydd Tŷ Cymru, fel y mae Rhodri wedi egluro, yn gweithredu fel rhyw fath o lysgenhadaeth i ni ym Mrwsel. Yn ystod yr etholiad yr oeddem ni ym Mhlaid Cymru yn cael ein beirniadu am ystyried y math hwn o ddatblygiad fel llysgenhadaeth. Yr wyf yn falch fod Rhodri yn symud i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Math o lysgenhadaeth?

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Math o lysgenhadaeth. Yr ydym yn dod at ein gilydd yn araf deg dros gyfnod o amser.

Ar ran Plaid Cymru, llonyfarchaf Des Clifford ar ei benodiad i'r swyddfa ym Mrwsel. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed ar y radio y bore yma fod Des Clifford yn cael ei enwi fel y diplomat cyntaf i Gymru ers dyddiau Owain Glyndŵr. Mae hwnnw yn gam mawr arall tuag at sicrhau bod gennym bresenoldeb annibynnol, os caf ddefnyddio'r gair hwnnw, ym Mrwsel.

Dafydd Wigley: Gofal.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Dyna a ddywedwyd ar y radio y bore yma. Yr wyf yn siŵr nad yw Rhodri'n anghytuno â'r gosodiad. Mae pryder yn bodoli ers tro byd ein bod ni yng Nghymru ar ei hôl hi gyda chynrychiolaeth ym Mrwsel. Yr wyf yn derbyn pwyst Rhodri fod ein cynrychiolaeth yn awr yn dod yr un mor gryw neu hyd yn oed yn gryfach nag un yr Alban. Yr oedd pryder ein bod ar ei hôl hi o safbwyst sefydlu ein swyddfa yno a'n cynrychiolaeth o fewn Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Mae grŵp Plaid Cymru yn falch ein bod wedi cyrraedd y fan hon ac yn cefnogi'n

the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. Eighty per cent of the funding that comes to farmers and many of the decisions that affect their lives now come from the European Community. It is important that we have a strong voice in the discussions to ensure we have a good source of information in Brussels. Therefore, we welcome this significant step towards securing a better presence for the Assembly and through that for the people of Wales.

We also wish to see the WEC office becoming a shop window for Wales in Europe. Tŷ Cymru, as Rhodri has explained, will act as a kind of embassy for us in Brussels. During the election, we in Plaid Cymru were criticised for considering this type of development as an embassy. I am pleased that Rhodri is moving in that direction.

The First Secretary: A type of embassy?

Ieuan Wyn Jones: A type of embassy. We are coming together slowly over a period of time.

On behalf of Plaid Cymru, I congratulate Des Clifford on his appointment to the office in Brussels. I was pleased to hear on the radio this morning that Des Clifford has been named as the first diplomat for Wales since the days of Owain Glyndŵr. That is another major step towards ensuring that we have an independent, if I may use that word, presence in Brussels.

Dafydd Wigley: Careful.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: That was what was said on the radio this morning. I am sure that Rhodri does not disagree with the statement. There has been concern for some time that we in Wales ar lagging behind with representation in Brussels. I accept Rhodri's point that our representation is becoming as strong or even stronger than that of Scotland. There was concern that we were lagging behind with regard to establishing our office there and our representation within WEC. The Plaid Cymru group is pleased that we have reached this point and enthusiastically

frwd y bwriad i'r Cynulliad fod yn rhan o'r cynllun.

Mae'n bwysig mai'r Cynulliad, fel corff, ac nid y Prif Ysgrifennydd sydd yn penderfynu cyfeiriad ein cynrychiolaeth yn Ewrop. Nid ydym yn gwneud unrhyw sylw am y person sydd yn y swydd, oherwydd disgwyliwn mai Aelod o Blaid Cymru fydd y Prif Ysgrifennydd ar ôl yr etholiad. Nid pwyt gwleidyddol pleidiol mo hwn. Y Cynulliad ddylai fod yn gwneud y penderfyniadau hyn. Yr wyf yn derbyn y feirniadaeth fod ein gwelliant 1 yn ddiffygol. Yr ydym yn fodlon tynnau'r gwelliant hwnnw'n ôl ar yr amod bod cynnig newydd sydd yn cynnwys ysbryd y gwelliant yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Cynulliad cyn 1 Ebrill. Byddwn yn falch o gael y gair terfynol ar y cynnig hwn. Wrth gloi'r ddadl hon, a wnewch chi'r pwyt hwn yn glir os gwelwch yn dda?

Pwysleisiaf yr hyn a ddywedir yng ngwelliant 2 ynglŷn â chynrychiolaeth staff. Cytunaf â'ch pwyt am bwysigrwydd annog a chefnogi aelodau o staff y Cynulliad, y gweision sifil a staff o nifer o gyrrff eraill yng Nghymru i fynd ar secondiad i Frwsel. Mae'n bwysig wrth gynnal perthynas â'r sefydliadau yn Ewrop fod gan bobl yn y gwasanaeth sifil, yn arbennig y rhai sydd yn gwasanaethu'r Cynulliad, brofiad o weithio ym Mrwsel.

Un o'r adegau gorau o ran derbyn gwybodaeth o Ewrop oedd pan oedd gennym secondiad o staff i UKREP. Caem weld yr holl bapurau. Yn ychwanegol i gynllun lobio, yr oeddem yn rhan o'r system ac yn gallu gweld i ba gyfeiriad yr oedd y Comisiwn a'r Cyngor yn mynd ar adeg arbennig. Credaf y byddai o fantais cael aelod parhaol ar secondiad yn UKREP—nid yr un person drwy'r amser, wrth gwrs—fel bod rhywun yno'n barhaol ar ran y Cynulliad er mwyn gweld sut y mae pethau'n symud o un pegwn i'r llall. Rhaid cofio bod y broses o ddatblygu polisi yn Ewrop yn wahanol i'r broses yr ydym wedi arfer â hi yn y Cynulliad ac, yn sicr, yn San Steffan.

Er bod Rhodri Morgan yn dweud mai ychydig o enghreifftiau sydd wedi bod, pe

supports the intention for the Assembly to be part of the plan.

It is important that the Assembly, as a body, and not the First Secretary, determines the direction of our representation in Europe. We are not commenting on the person holding that office, because we expect that a Plaid Cymru Member will be First Secretary after the election. This is not a party political point. The Assembly should be taking these decisions. I accept the criticism that our amendment 1 is deficient. We are willing to withdraw that amendment provided that a new motion which incorporates the spirit of that amendment is presented to the Assembly before 1 April. We would be glad to receive the final word on this proposal. In your summing up of this debate, will you please clarify this point?

I emphasise what is stated in amendment 2 about staff representation. I agree with your point about the importance of encouraging and supporting Assembly members of staff, the civil servants and staff from a number of other organisations in Wales to go on secondment to Brussels. It is important in maintaining a relationship with the institutions of Europe that people in the civil service, in particular those who serve the Assembly, have experience of working in Brussels.

One of the best times as regards receiving information from Europe was when we had staff secondment to UKREP. We had access to all the papers. In addition to a lobbying scheme, we were part of the system and could see in which direction the Commission and the Council were going at any given time. I believe that it would be advantageous to have a permanent member seconded to UKREP—not the same person all the time, naturally—so that there is a permanent Assembly presence in order to see how things move from one extreme to the other. We must remember that the process of policy development in Europe is different to the process that we are used to in the Assembly and, certainly, in Westminster.

Although Rhodri Morgan says that there have been few examples, if we consider the

baem yn ystyried y cyfraniad a wnaeth gwŷr megis Hywel Ceri Jones, Aneurin Rees Hughes, Gwyn Morgan ac eraill i'n bywyd gwleidyddol, cymdeithasol ac economaidd yng Nghymru, byddem yn gweld pa mor werthfawr yw'r gynrychiolaeth honno. Mae angen annog cymaint o'n haelodau ag sydd yn bosibl, yn enwedig y rhai ifanc, i dreulio cyfnod ym Mrwsel.

Byddai wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol inni yn ystod y cyfnod o drafod y ddogfen raglennu sengl i gael rhywun yn UKREP a chael presenoldeb cryfach yn Ewrop. Byddai wedi bod yn ddolen gyswllt rhngom ni a gweddill swyddogion y Comisiwn.

Yr ydym fel plaid yn cymeradwyo'r cais am aelodaeth o Ganolfan Ewrop Cymru. Gobeithiaf y bydd hynny yn ein galluogi i gael gwell perthynas gydag Ewrop, cryfhau ein perthynas gydag Ewrop a sierhau ein bod fel cenedl yn chwarae rhan ar y llwyfan Ewropeaidd yn fwy effeithiol.

Michael German: I propose amendment 3. Add at the end of the motion:

Resolves to press for a review of the membership structure of the Board of the Welsh European Centre to ensure appropriate and adequate representation of all political parties represented in the Assembly.

I welcome the move to join WEC. This is an important day for Wales. The Assembly is taking its full part in representation. I remember being in WEC when it was told to remove the Welsh dragon from the pole outside its office in Rue Montoyerstraat by a previous Secretary of State who said that Wales should not be represented in such an appropriate manner—

David Davies: If that happened, perhaps the leader of the Liberal Democrats would join me in calling for the European flag to be taken down from outside the Assembly to return this gesture in full.

3:31 p.m.

contribution that Welshmen such as Hywel Ceri Jones, Aneurin Rees Hughes, Gwyn Morgan and others have made to the political, social and economic life of Wales, we would see how valuable that representation is. There is a need to encourage as many as possible of our members, particularly young people, to spend time in Brussels.

It would have been of great assistance to us during the period of discussing the single programming document to have somebody in UKREP and to have a stronger presence in Europe. That person would have acted as a liaison between us and other Commission officials.

We as a party strongly support the application for membership of the Wales European Centre. I hope that that will enable us to have a better relationship with Europe, strengthen our relationship with Europe and ensure that we as a nation are able to play a more effective role on the European stage.

Michael German: Cynigiaf welliant 3. Ychwaneger ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Penderfynu pwysgo am adolygiad o strwythur aelodaeth Bwrdd Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru er mwyn sicrhau bod cynrychiolaeth briodol a digonol ar gyfer pob plaid wleidyddol sydd yn cael ei chynrychioli yn y Cynulliad.

Croesawaf y symudiad i ymuno â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Mae'n ddiwrnod pwysig i Gymru. Mae'r Cynulliad yn cymryd ei rhan lawn mewn cynrychiolaeth. Cofiaf fod yng Nghanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru pan ddywedwyd wrthi am dynnu draig Cymru oddi ar y polyn y tu allan i'w swyddfa yn Rue Montoyerstraat gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol blaenorol a ddywedodd na ddylai Cymru gael ei chynrychioli mewn modd mor briodol—

David Davies: Os digwyddodd hynny, efallai y byddai arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn fodlon ymuno â mi wrth alw am dynnu i lawr y faner Ewropeaidd y tu allan i'r Cynulliad er mwyn talu'r pwyth yn ôl.

Michael German: You have got it wrong, David. In fact, a Secretary of State for Wales, whose first name began with a 'j' and whose surname began with an 'r' and was something to do with a tree, was in Brussels. He looked at the flag, saw the Welsh dragon above the WEC office and said that the flag should come down, although WEC was not funded by the Welsh Office or any organ of the Conservative Government of that time. Those of us who were around supporting other organisations deeply opposed that. However, the flag will now fly above the new office as well as the present representation.

This is a good day for Wales. I move my amendment but, should Rhodri provide me with sufficient comfort by the end of my speech, I may withdraw it. It depends on what he says in summing up.

On the amendment, I understand the choice between local government and us, and that you do not wish for central government, in Wales terms, to be seen to overwhelm local government. However, if you read the amendment carefully, it mentions representation. It does not necessarily mention full board membership. The Assembly is a different institution and we have tried our best—sometimes with success, sometimes without—to ensure that everyone is involved. We are still feeling our way, and being kept out of one group or body is a fate that could befall all of us, not only one party. Only last week or the week before, the Conservatives argued strongly that they were being locked out of the monitoring committee. I accept that such situations are bound to occur and I hope that a way will be found to ensure that the Conservatives can play their part.

I have a letter from Rhodri, in which he makes suggestions about how we could receive information and be part of a pre-meeting procedure. However, there must be a way of ensuring co-operation, perhaps by providing co-options or other processes to ensure that all parties are present. We have taken it as given that we will do whatever we

Michael German: Yr ydych wedi camddeall, David. Mewn gwirionedd, un o Ysgrifenyddion Gwladol Cymru, a'i enw cyntaf yn dechrau â 'j' a'i gyfenw'n dechrau ag 'r' ac yn gysylltiedig rywsut â choeden, oedd ym Mrwsel. Gwelodd y faner, gwelodd ddraig Cymru dros swyddfa CEC a dywedodd y dylai'r faner ddod i lawr, er nad oedd CEC yn cael ei hariannu gan y Swyddfa Gymreig nac unrhyw un o gyrff y Llywodraeth Geidwadol ar y pryd. Yr oedd y rhai ohonom oedd yn y cyffiniau yn cefnogi cyrff eraill yn gwrthwynebu hynny'n fawr. Fodd bynnag, bydd y faner bellach yn cyhwfan dros y swyddfa newydd yn ogystal â'r gynrychiolaeth bresennol.

Mae heddiw'n ddiwrnod da i Gymru. Cynigiaf fy ngwelliant ond, os bydd Rhodri'n rhoi digon o sicrwydd i mi erbyn diwedd fy arraith, efallai y byddaf yn ei dynnu'n ôl. Mae'n dibynnu ar yr hyn a ddywed wrth grynhoi.

Ynghylch y gwelliant, dealaf y dewis rhwng llywodraeth leol a ni, ac na ddymunwch i lywodraeth ganolog, mewn perthynas â Chymru, gael ei gweld yn llethu llywodraeth leol. Fodd bynnag, os darllenwch fy ngwelliant yn ofalus, mae'n sôn am gynrychiolaeth. Nid yw o reidrwydd yn sôn am aelodaeth lawn o'r bwrdd. Mae'r Cynulliad yn sefydliad gwahanol a gwnaethom ein gorau—gan lwyddo weithiau a methu dro arall—i sicrhau bod pawb wedi ei gynnwys. Yr ydym yn dal i chwilio am y ffordd, ac mae cael ein cau allan o un grŵp neu gorff yn dynged a allai ddod i ran pob un ohonom, nid yn unig un blaidd. Yr wythnos diwethaf neu'r wythnos cynt, dadleuodd y Ceidwadwyr yn gryf eu bod yn cael eu cau allan o'r pwylgor monitro. Derbyniad fod sefyllfaedd o'r fath yn rhwym o ddigwydd a gobeithiaf y ceir hyd i ffordd o sicrhau y gall y Ceidwadwyr chwarae eu rhan.

Mae gennyf lythyr oddi wrth Rhodri, lle y mae'n gwneud awgrymiadau ynghylch sut y gallem dderbyn gwybodaeth a bod yn rhan o weithdrefn cyn cyfarfodydd. Fodd bynnag, rhaid bod ffordd o sicrhau cydweithrediad, efallai drwy ddarparu cyfetholiadau neu brosesau eraill i sicrhau bod pob plaid yn bresennol. Fe'i cymerasom yn ganiataol y

can to ensure that all parties are included in our relationships, internally and externally. We should not give up that goal, although that would be easy. We talk about sharing power. Sharing power also means sharing responsibility. However, with shared responsibility comes shared information and access. We must make this Assembly accessible to consider all views expressed here. This is a big issue that should not be put aside. This is just one example, but I quoted another, and it may well happen during the Assembly's life. It is important that we set the right precedents from the beginning.

It is difficult to assist in any move forward when you are locked out of the process. That is why we want to press this matter. I wonder whether there has been, for example, a thorough examination of the memorandum and articles to see what room for flexibility there might be, in the form of co-options, observer status and so on, at the board meetings. Something of that nature might be sufficient for us to withdraw our amendment. However, I will wait to see what happens.

On the motion as a whole and Ieuan's amendments, which I fully support, Wales must carry out three functions in Europe, particularly in Brussels. First, information and intelligence. Intelligence is useful to find out how policy is framed in advance of the documents being presented. If it had not been for WEC, there would not have been an Objective 1 flow programme to be presented by the UK Government, nor the previous background information and debate. It is important that we use our full facilities to gain intelligence from inside and outside the Commission.

The second function of our European role is lobbying. We have a message to tell and interests to portray. That lobbying takes place at the Commission level, in the Parliament—and we must all play our part there, since we all have representation in the European Parliament—and in UKREP, which is particularly important for us and which Ieuan mentioned.

byddwn yn gwneud beth bynnag a allwn i sicrhau cynnwys pob plaid yn ein cysylltiadau, yn fewnol ac yn allanol. Ni ddylem roi'r gorau i'r nod honno, er mai hawdd fyddai hynny. Yr ydym yn sôn am rannu grym. Mae rhannu grym hefyd yn golygu rhannu cyfrifoldeb. Fodd bynnag, gyda chydgyfrifoldeb daw gwybodaeth a mynediad a rennir ar y cyd. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod y Cynulliad hwn yn agored i ystyried pob barn a fynegir yma. Mae hwn yn fater o bwys na ddylid ei roi i'r naill ochr. Dim ond un enghraift yw hyn, ond cyfeiriais at un arall, ac mae'n bosibl iawn y bydd yn digwydd yn ystod oes y Cynulliad. Mae'n bwysig inni osod y cynseiliau iawn o'r dechrau.

Anodd yw helpu unrhyw gam ymlaen pan ydych wedi'ch cau allan o'r broses. Dyna pam yr ydym am bwys o'r mater hwn. Tybed a gafwyd archwiliad trwyndl o'r memorandwm a'r erthyglau, er enghraift, er mwyn canfod pa hyblygrwydd sydd yn bosibl, ar ffurf cyfethol, statws arsylwydd ac yn y blaen, yng nghyfarfodydd y bwrdd. Gallai rhywbeth felly fod yn ddigon inni dynnu ein gwelliant yn ôl. Fodd bynnag, arhosaf i weld beth fydd yn digwydd.

Ynghylch y cynnig yn ei gyfanrwydd a gwelliannau Ieuan, a gefnogaf yn llwyr, rhaid i Gymru gyflawni tair swyddogaeth yn Ewrop, yn enwedig ym Mrwsel. Yn gyntaf, gwybodaeth a hysbysrwydd. Mae hysbysrwydd yn ddefnyddiol i ddarganfod sut y llunnir polisi cyn cyflwyno'r dogfennau. Oni bai am Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, ni fuasai rhaglen lif Amcan 1 i'w chyflwyno gan Lywodraeth y DU, na'r wybodaeth gefndir flaenorol a'r ddadl. Mae'n bwysig inni ddefnyddio ein holl gyfleusterau er mwyn cael hysbysrwydd o'r tu mewn a'r tu allan i'r Comisiwn.

Ail swyddogaeth ein rôl Ewropeaidd yw lobio. Mae gennym neges i'w rhoi a buddiannau i'w cyfleu. Mae'r lobio hwnnw'n digwydd ar lefel y Comisiwn, yn y Senedd—a rhaid inni oll chwarae ein rhan yno, gan fod gennym oll gynrychiolaeth yn Senedd Ewrop—ac yn UKREP, sydd yn arbennig o bwysig i ni ac a grybwylwyd gan Ieuan.

We must also lobby other partners and allies. It is amazing how you create alliances around Europe for specific issues. Scotland has proven capable of finding partnerships and alliances. Unfortunately, some of those alliances are with people with whom we want to be allied. We need to be careful of our relationship with Catalonia, which is in danger of going to Scotland if we are not quick and clever. I have warned the First Secretary of this before. I share ground that it is the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament who has been helpful to the Scots in this matter. However, I have already told him that I will be beating a pathway to Barcelona. I am sure the First Secretary will support us in that.

The third reason for being in Europe is to build relationships and to raise the profile of this Assembly and that of Wales. We need people who can do this job from within the diplomatic circle—that is, UKREP—and from outside it, which is the Wales European Centre and the Wales representational role. We need to be on both sides of the fence to play the whole thing as properly and as powerfully as we can. UKREP constrains people in some ways because it is the UK's representation. However, the diplomatic role we play outside of UKREP is important to get our own message across. I described UKREP once as something that could listen at the keyholes. We are trying to establish important positions there by having people seconded to UKREP so that we can find out what is happening inside the European Commission as well as finding out the reaction of the UK Government to policies. It is a triangular relationship, and only by being in UKREP can we find out well in advance what happens. I congratulate Des Clifford on his appointment to the outside of the circle. I hope that we will now see senior people inside UKREP because the more seniority you have, the more clout you have within the civil service.

Finally, the Committee on European Affairs must take the lead here. It is important that the WEC partnership is brought into the loop so that it is not only a question of WEC

Rhaid inni hefyd lobio partneriaid a chyngreiriaid eraill. Mae'n rhyfeddol sut yr ydych yn creu cyngreiriau o gwmpas Ewrop ar gyfer materion penodol. Mae'r Alban wedi profi ei bod yn gallu darganfod partneriaethau a chyngreiriau. Gwaetha'r modd, mae rhai o'r cyngreiriau hynny gyda phobl yr ydym ni am ymgynghreirio â hwy. Mae angen inni ymorol am ein perthynas â Chatalonia, sydd mewn perygl o fynd at yr Alban os na fyddwn yn gyflym ac yn fedrus. Rhybuddiais y Prif Ysgrifennydd am hyn o'r blaen. Cydnabyddaf mai Llywydd Senedd yr Alban a fu'n helpu'r Albanwyr yn hyn o beth. Fodd bynnag, dywedais wrtho eisoes y byddaf yn torri llwybr i Barcelona. Yr wyf yn sier y bydd y Prif Ysgrifennydd yn ein cefnogi ar hynny.

Y trydydd rheswm dros fod yn Ewrop yw creu cysylltiadau a chynyddu amlygrwydd y Cynulliad hwn a Chymru. Mae arnom angen pobl sydd yn gallu gwneud y gwaith hwn oddi mewn i'r cylch diplomyddol, sef UKREP, a'r tu allan iddo, sef Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru a'r rôl glynrychiadol Cymru. Mae angen inni fod ar ddwy ochr y clawdd er mwyn ymdrin â'r cyfan mor gywir a phwerus ag y gallwn. Mae UKREP yn cyfyngu ar bobl mewn rhai ffyrdd am mai cynrychiolaeth y DU ydyw. Fodd bynnag, mae'r rôl ddiplomyddol a chwaraeun y tu allan i UKREP yn bwysig er mwyn inni gyfleu ein neges ein hunain. Disgrifiai UKREP un tro fel rhywbeth a allai wrando wrth dyllau clo. Yr ydym yn ceisio sefydlu swyddi pwysig yno drwy secondio pobl i UKREP fel y gallwn ddarganfod beth sydd yn mynd ymlaen y tu mewn i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn ogystal â darganfod ymateb Llywodraeth y DU i bolisiau. Mae'n berthynas drionglog, a dim ond drwy fod yn UKREP y gallwn ddarganfod ymhell ymlaen llaw beth sydd yn digwydd. Llongyfarchaf Des Clifford ar ei benodi i'r tu allan i'r cylch hwn. Gobeithiaf y byddwn yn awr yn gweld uwch swyddogion y tu mewn i UKREP oherwydd po uchaf y byddwch, mwyaf o dylanwad sydd gennych oddi mewn i'r gwasanaeth sifil.

Yn olaf, rhaid i'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd achub y blaen yma. Mae'n bwysig dod â phartneriaeth Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru i'r ddolen fel nad yw ond

taking the lead, the Assembly taking the lead through its diplomatic role, or UKREP taking the lead. It should be a genuine partnership working in a circular way. I hope that the Committee on European Affairs will have a powerful role in making sure that that happens.

David Davies: In supporting of this motion, may I say how important it is that the people working within Europe are aware of the concerns of many of us in Wales about the way in which the European Union is being run. We must take every possible measure to get across our concerns about things that have been taking place. I think of the disgraceful ban on beef exports to Europe. The ban was implemented not for any medical or scientific reason but as a deliberate commercial ploy to try to give European beef farmers a commercial advantage over those in Wales. If WEC had been in place then, perhaps we could have expressed our great anger over this. I think of the controversy over GM crops which has been in the news recently. Although we may debate whether or not to licence GM crops in Wales, the reality is that it would be possible for us to be overruled in Europe. Again, it is important that we get our point of view across. One of the most fundamental flaws of the European Union is the completely undemocratic structure that lies at the heart of it. It is run not by the Members of the European Parliament, as some think, but by the unelected, unaccountable European Commissioners. Anything we can do to bring the influence of elected representatives to bear over this unelected quango would be most welcome.

Michael German: As I am interested in democracies, as I am sure you are, David, would you agree that the European Parliament over a period of time should become the body to guide and take forward the European Commission? What role do you see for the national member state governments such as Westminster?

David Davies: I would be happy to see the European Parliament taking over more of the

yn fater o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru yn achub y blaen, neu'r Cynulliad yn achub y blaen drwy ei rôl ddiplomyddol, neu UKREP yn achub y blaen. Dylai fod yn bartneriaeth wirioneddol sydd yn gweithio'n gylchol. Gobeithiaf y bydd gan y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd rôl bwerus wrth sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd.

David Davies: Wrth gefnogi'r cynnig hwn, hoffwn ddweud mor bwysig ydyw bod y bobl sydd yn gweithio oddi mewn i Ewrop yn ymwybodol o'r pryderon sydd gan lawer ohonom yng Nghymru ynghylch y modd y mae'r Undeb Ewropeaidd yn cael ei redeg. Rhaid inni gymryd pob cam posibl i gyfleu ein pryderon am bethau sydd wedi digwydd. Yr wyf yn meddwl am y gwaharddiad gwarthus ar allforion cig eidion i Ewrop. Nid am unrhyw reswm meddygol neu wyddonol y rhoddwyd y gwaharddiad hwnnw ar waith ond fel ystryw masnachol bwriadol i geisio rhoi mantais fasnachol i ffermwyr cig eidion Ewrop dros y rhai yng Nghymru. Pe bai CEC ar waith bryd hynny, efallai y gallasem fod wedi mynegi ein dicter mawr ynghylch hynny. Yr wyf yn meddwl am y ddadl ynghylch cnydau a addaswyd yn enetig a fu yn y newyddion yn ddiweddar. Er y gallem ddadlau a ddylid trwyddedu cnydau a addaswyd yn enetig yng Nghymru ai peidio, y gwir yw y gallai Ewrop ddyfarnu yn ein herbyn. Unwaith eto, mae'n bwysig inni gyfleu ein safbwyt. Un o ddiffygion mwyaf sylfaenol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yw'r strwythur cwbl annemocraidd sydd wrth ei graidd. Ni chaiff ei redeg gan Aelodau Senedd Ewrop, fel y tybia rhai, ond gan y Comisiynwyr Ewropeaidd anetholedig, anatebol. Byddai croeso mawr i unrhyw beth y gallem ei wneud i ddwyn y cwango anetholedig hwn o dan dylanwad cynrychiolwyr etholedig.

Michael German: Gan fy mod yn ymddiddori mewn democratiaethau, fel yr ydych chithau, yr wyf yn siŵr, David, a gytunech mai Senedd Ewrop yw'r corff a ddylai ddod dros gyfnod o amser i arwain a thywys y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd? Pa rôl a welwch i lywodraethau cenedlaethol yr aelod wladwriaethau fel San Steffan?

David Davies: Byddwn yn falch o weld Senedd Ewrop yn ymgymryd â rhagor o'r

powers currently being exercised by the European Commission. Most of all, I would like to see national state parliaments, which are closer by far to the people, exercising those powers themselves. We were told that the point of the Assembly was that it brought elected power closer to the people. An Assembly governing three million people was meant to be more democratic than Westminster, which governs 60 million people. How can one argue on the one hand for an Assembly and on the other for more powers for the European Commission? The powers of the European Commission are already too great and it is vital that we take these measures to get our elected representatives into positions of influence.

3:41 p.m.

Having voiced my support, I hope that this does not become a gravy train, which is a danger. About 18 months ago and before I was elected to the Assembly, I attended a conference in Cardiff at which there were a number of potential Assembly candidates from different parties. We were addressed by a representative of the Länder within the European Parliament. He got up on the stage and argued that it was important that Wales has strong representation in Europe. He said that this was important because sometimes his officials put in grant applications that were refused. If that happened, his job was to find the relative official and to take him out for a long, good lunch. He said that he puts his point of view and application to him again over the brandies and cognacs, and nine times out of 10, the official will look at it again. That is how Europe is run. It is simply not acceptable. Taxpayers' money is used to fund people who take people out to lunch in the hope of passing grants, which should be passed anyway. That is happening at the moment, so it is vital that we do not drag WEC into disrepute by allowing that sort of behaviour to go on there.

I am also reminded of a conversation I had with a former European Commissioner. I asked him, who are the best people at getting money out of Europe? He replied that it was the Germans. I asked why the Germans were so good at it. He said that the Germans have a

pwerau a gyflawnir ar hyn o bryd gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Yn bennaf oll, hoffwn weld seneddau gwladwriaethau cenedlaethol, sydd yn agosach o lawer at y bobl, yn cyflawni'r pwerau hynny eu hunain. Dywedir wrthym mai diben y Cynulliad oedd dod â phŵer etholedig yn agosach i'r bobl. Yr oedd Cynulliad a lywodraethai dair miliwn o bobl i fod yn fwy democrataidd na San Steffan, sydd yn llywodraethu 60 miliwn o bobl. Sut y gall rhywun ddadlau ar un llaw dros Gynulliad ac ar y llall dros roi mwy o bwerau i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd? Mae pwerau'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn rhy fawr eisoes ac mae'n holl bwysig inni gymryd camau i gael ein cynrychiolwyr etholedig mewn swyddi dylanwadol.

Ar ôl datgan fy nghefnogaeth, gobeithiaf na ddaw hyn yn bot mêl, ac mae hynny'n berygl. Tua 18 mis yn ôl a chyn fy ethol i'r Cynulliad, euthum i gynhadledd yng Nghaerdydd lle'r oedd nifer o ymgeiswyr posibl i'r Cynulliad o wahanol bleidiau. Cawsom anerchiad gan gynrychiolydd o'r Länder oddi mewn i Senedd Ewrop. Safodd ar y llwyfan a dadleuodd ei bod yn bwysig i Gymru gael cynrychiolaeth gryf yn Ewrop. Dywedodd fod hyn yn bwysig oherwydd weithiau byddai ei swyddogion yn cyflwyno ceisiadau am grantiau a gâi eu gwrtod. Os digwyddai hynny, ei waith ef oedd dod o hyd i'r swyddog perthnasol a mynd ag ef allan am ginio da a hir. Dywedodd ei fod yn datgan ei safbwyt a'i gais iddo eto dros y brandi a'r coniac, a naw gwaith o bob 10, bydd y swyddog yn ei ailystyried. Dyna sut y caiff Ewrop ei rhedeg. Nid yw'n dderbyniol o gwbl. Defnyddir arian y trethdalwyr i ariannu pobl sydd yn mynd â phobl eraill allan am \ginio yn y gobaith o gael grant, a ddylai fod wedi ei ganiatáu p'rung bynnag. Mae hynny'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd felly mae'n holl bwysig nad ydym yn dwyn anfri ar Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru drwy ganiatáu i ymddygiad o'r fath fynd ymlaen yno.

Yr wyf hefyd yn dwyn i gof sgwrs a gefais â chyn-Gomisiynydd Ewropeaidd. Gofynnais iddo, pwy yw'r rhai gorau wrth gael arian oddi wrth Ewrop? Atebodd mai'r Almaenwyr oedd y rheini. Gofynnais pam yr oedd yr Almaenwyr cystal ar hynny. Dywedodd fod

positive attitude towards Europe and that they are not like the British, always complaining, moaning, asking for changes and making criticisms. They are positive about the whole project, which is why they do better. Is it not an absolute disgrace that those people who do not criticise things that are fundamentally wrong are the ones who benefit financially from the European Union? However, we will have the influence of elected representatives. Some people consider themselves to be above the law. Is it not funny that only today we discovered that there had been over 100 traffic offences by European Commissioners, for which none of them were prosecuted because they have been above the law? Do we all remember how difficult it was to get them to resign after exposing their corruption? The answer is yes to WEC. Let us get our elected officials in there and try to bring some democratic accountability to the European Union.

Elin Jones: Yn gyntaf, ac yn wahanol i'r siaradwr diwethaf, croesawaf yn frwd ymwneud ffurfiol y Cynulliad â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Croesawaf ymestyn presenoldeb Cymru yn gyffredinol ym Mrwsel. Yr ydym wedi gweld dros y diwrnodau a'r wythnosau diwethaf gymaint yw'r budd posibl o gael perthynas waith agos gyda'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Pe bai cynrychiolaeth ffurfiol a sylweddol o'r Cynulliad wedi bod ym Mrwsel dros y misoedd diwethaf, mae'n bosibl y gallem fod wedi osgoi rhywfaint o'r trafferthion yr ydym wedi eu profi ynglŷn â chynllun Amcan 1.

Hoffwn wneud dau bwynt ynglŷn â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Yn gyntaf, mae angen edrych ar enw'r ganolfan. Ni chefnogaf yr awgrym o 'TAFFREP' mewn unrhyw ffordd. Credaf nad oes angen galw presenoldeb Cymru ym Mrwsel yn ganolfan Ewropeaidd. Mae'n amlwg fod canolfan ym mherfedd Brwsel yn Ewropeaidd. Mae angen edrych ar enw mwy bachog a phwrpasol ar gyfer y ganolfan yn ei chyfarwyddwyr. Cynigiaf Tŷ Cymru fel enw ar gyfer y ganolfan. Gobeithiaf y gall cyfarwyddwyr CEC ystyried hyn yn fuan.

Yn ail, bydd angen adolygiad rheolaidd o

gan yr Almaenwyr agwedd gadarnhaol tuag at Ewrop ac nad ydynt fel y Prydeinwyr, bob amser yn cwyno, yn griddfan, yn gofyn am newidiadau ac yn beirniadu. Maent yn gadarnhaol yngylch y prosiect cyfan, a dyna pam y gwnânt yn well. Onid yw'n gwbl warthus mai'r rheini nad ydynt yn beirniadu pethau sydd yn sylfaenol anghywir yw'r rhai sydd yn elwa'n ariannol o'r Undeb Ewropeaidd? Fodd bynnag, bydd gennym ddylanwad cynrychiolwyr etholedig. Mae rhai yn eu hystyried eu hunain uwchlaw'r gyfraith. Onid yw'n ddoniol mai ond heddiw y darganfuasom fod dros 100 o droseddau traffig wedi eu cyflawni gan Gomisiynwyr Ewropeaidd, ac nad oedd yr un ohonynt wedi ei erlyn am eu bod uwchlaw'r gyfraith? A ydym oll yn cofio pa mor anodd y bu inni eu cael i ymddiswyddo ar ôl datgelu eu llygredd? Yr ateb yw 'ie' dros Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Gadewch inni gael ein swyddogion etholedig yno a cheisio dod â rhywfaint o atebolwydd democrataidd i'r Undeb Ewropeaidd.

Elin Jones: First, and in contrast to the last speaker, I warmly welcome the formal liaison between the Assembly and the Wales European Centre. I welcome the extension of Wales's representation in Brussels in general. Over the last days and weeks we have seen the possible benefits of a better working relationship with the European Commission. If the Assembly had had a formal and substantial representation in Brussels over the last few months, it is possible that we might have been able to avoid some of the difficulties we have faced over the Objective 1 scheme.

I would like to make two points regarding the Wales European Centre. First, we need to look at the name of the centre. I do not support the proposal of 'TAFFREP' in any way. I do not think that there is any need to call Wales's centre in Brussels an European centre. It is clear that a centre in the middle of Brussels is European. We need to look for a more catchy and suitable name for the centre as a whole. I propose Tŷ Cymru as a name for the centre. I hope that the directors of WEC can consider this at an early opportunity.

Secondly, a regular review of the structure of

strwythur Tŷ Cymru, neu Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Sefydlwyd y ganolfan mewn cyfnod cyn bodolaeth y Cynulliad, a thra fy mod yn gwerthfawrogi pwysigrwydd y bartneriaeth sydd yn rhan o redeg y ganolfan, credaf maes o law y bydd angen ystyried symleiddio'r trefniant presennol. O Ebrill ymlaen, bydd y Cynulliad yn ariannu CEC yn uniongyrchol, ac ar yr un pryd yn ariannu Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a chyrff eraill sydd hefyd yn ariannu CEC o'r gronfa honno. Mae'n bosibl nad y trefniant hwn fydd y mwyaf effeithiol ar gyfer cynnal ac ariannu CEC yn yr hirdymor.

Trof at y darlun Ewropeaidd ehangach a dylanwad Cymru a'r Cynulliad yn Ewrop, ynghyd â dylanwad yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar y Cynulliad a Chymru. Rhaid ystyried o ddifrif a yw'r trefniant presennol yn llwyddo. Nid yw Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd y Cynulliad ond wedi cwrdd deirgwaith ers mis Mai. O gwrdd mor anaml, arwynebol yw'r drafodaeth ar yr ystod eang o bynciau sydd yn gyfrifoldeb i'r Pwyllgor hwn. Un o'r pynciau pwysig hynny, er enghraifft, yw effaith y cyfarwyddebau Ewropeaidd ar bolisi yng Nghymru. Mae hefyd angen monitro a dylanwadu ar weithgaredd a pholisiau Senedd Ewrop, Cyngor y Gweinidogion, Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau a'r Pwyllgor Economaidd a Chymdeithasol. Rhaid trafod oblygiadau'r ewro i'n heonomi ac oblygiadau ehangu'r Undeb Ewropeaidd i Gymru. Methodd y Pwyllgor â rhoi sylw teilwng i'r materion hynny hyd yn hyn. Rhaid i'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd fod yn fwy effeithiol a gall wneud hynny drwy gwrdd yn amlach ac yn fwy rheolaidd. Gellid galw'r Pwyllgor yn siop siarad ar hyn o bryd. Byddai cyfarfodydd cyson â thrafodaeth fanylach yn creu Pwyllgor llawer mwy cynhyrchiol. Gobeithiaf y bydd Cadeirydd newydd y Pwyllgor yn fodlon talu sylw i'r gofidiadu hyn.

Cyfeiriodd y Prif Ysgrifennydd at Aelodau o'r Cynulliad sydd yn aelodau o Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau yng nghyd-destun gwasanaethau o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Hoffwn holi'r Prif Ysgrifennydd pa drefniadau sydd ar y gweill i Aelodau o'r

Tŷ Cymru, or the Wales European Centre will be needed. The centre was established prior to the Assembly's existence and, while I appreciate the importance of the partnership that forms part of the centre's management, I believe that in time we will need to consider streamlining the current arrangement. From April onwards, the Assembly will fund WEC directly, at the same time as funding the Welsh Development Agency and other bodies that also fund WEC from that fund. It is possible that in the long term this will not be the most effective arrangement for maintaining and supporting WEC.

I turn to the wider European picture and the influence of Wales and the Assembly in Europe, along with the European Union's influence on the Assembly and Wales. We must consider seriously whether the current arrangement is successful. The Assembly's Committee on European Affairs has only met three times since May. Due to such infrequent meetings, the discussions on the wide range of subjects that are the responsibility of this Committee have been superficial. One of those important subjects, for example, is the effect of European directives on policy in Wales. We also need to monitor and influence the activities and policies of the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers, the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee. We must discuss the implications of the euro for our economy and the implications for Wales of the enlargement of the European Union. The Committee has failed to give adequate attention to these subjects to date. The Committee on European Affairs must be more effective and it can do this by meeting more frequently and more regularly. The Committee could be called a talking shop at the moment. Regular meetings with more detailed discussion could create a much more productive Committee. I hope that the new Chair of the Committee will be willing to pay attention to these concerns.

The First Secretary referred to Assembly Members that are members of the Committee of the Regions in the context of services from the Wales European Centre. I would like to ask the First Secretary what arrangements are in hand for Assembly Members to take a seat

Cynulliad gymryd sedd ar Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau cyn gynted â phosibl, o gofio bod 10 mis ers etholiadau'r Cynulliad a bod y corff hwn heb gymryd ei sedd yn un o sefydliadau pwysicaf yr Undeb Ewropeaidd.

Jonathan Morgan: I listened with interest to the leader of the Liberal Democrats refer to a previous Secretary of State for Wales. I remind Members, particularly the Liberal Democrats, that it was a Conservative Prime Minister who took the decision to take the United Kingdom into the European Community. It was a Conservative Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, who signed the Single European Act 1986, which not only provided the basis for much of the social policy and economic issues of the day, but also gave businesses a wide economic advantage through the single market. It was a Conservative Prime Minister in John Major who negotiated and signed the Treaty on European Union at Maastricht in 1992. He negotiated a series of advantages that the current Labour Prime Minister is enjoying. I am sure that Tony Blair would wish to thank John Major for the superb work he did in battling for Britain and in supporting Britain's corner in those negotiations. Had he not done that, I do not think that Tony Blair would not enjoy some of his present advantages.

As a member of the Committee on European Affairs, I endorse and support the application to join WEC. The Conservative Party looks forward to a positive working relationship through the Assembly and WEC in our work in the European Union. The Wales European Centre has done tremendous work in recent years. Those of us who have worked in European affairs before being elected to the Assembly and who have been in contact with WEC, will recall the professionalism and the high quality and accuracy of information that it provided on a number of occasions. We must build on the expertise and ability that we have in Brussels to provide the Assembly and its Members with that detail of information.

on the Committee of the Regions as soon as possible, given that 10 months have passed since the Assembly elections and that this body has not taken its seat in one of the most important bodies of the European Union.

Jonathan Morgan: Gwrandewais gyda diddordeb ar arweinydd y Democatiaid Rhyddfrydol yn cyfeirio at un o gyn Ysgrifennyddion Gwladol Cymru. Atgoffaf yr Aelodau, yn enwedig y Democatiaid Rhyddfrydol, mai Prif Weinidog Ceidwadol a benderfynodd fynd â'r Deyrnas Unedig i'r Gymuned Ewropeaidd. Prif Weinidog Ceidwadol, Margaret Thatcher, a arwyddodd Ddeddf Ewrop Gyfun 1986, a oedd nid yn unig yn darparu'r sylfaen ar gyfer llawer o faterion polisi cymdeithasol ac economaidd y dydd, ond a roddodd fantais economaidd eang i fusnesau drwy'r farchnad sengl. Prif Weinidog Ceidwadol, sef John Major, a drafododd ac a arwyddodd y Cytundeb ar Undod Ewropeaidd yn Maastricht yn 1992. Sicrhodd nifer o fanteision y mae'r Prif Weinidog Llafur presennol yn eu mwynhau. Yr wyf yn sicr y dymunai Tony Blair ddiolch i John Major am y gwaith gwych a wnaeth wrth fatio dros Brydain a phledio achos Prydain yn y trafodaethau hynny. Pe na bai wedi gwneud hynny, ni chredaf y byddai Tony Blair yn mwynhau rhai o'i fanteision presennol.

Fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd, ategaf a chefnogaf y cais i ymuno â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Mae'r Blaid Geidwadol yn edrych ymlaen at berthynas waith gadarnhaol drwy'r Cynulliad a Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru yn ein gwaith yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Gwnaeth Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru waith aruthrol yn y blynnyddoedd diwethaf hyn. Bydd y rhai ohonom a weithiodd ym myd materion Ewropeaidd cyn cael ein hethol i'r Cynulliad ac a fu mewn cysylltiad â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, yn cofio'r proffesiynoldeb ac ansawdd uchel a chywirdeb yr wybodaeth a ddarparodd ar nifer o achlysuron. Rhaid inni adeiladu ar yr arbenigedd a'r gallu sydd gennym ym Mrwsel er mwyn darparu gwybodaeth fanwl o'r fath i'r Cynulliad a'i Aelodau.

WEC has coped with tremendous developments: the establishment of the Committee of the Regions and the expansion of the European Parliamentary responsibilities, not least in legislative responsibilities such as co-decision and several other areas in which the European Parliament now has confidence. Changes in social affairs and the potential expansion of the European Union mean that organisations like WEC have had to deal with many changes in the EU's life, which have significance in Wales. WEC and its staff should be congratulated for the role that they have fulfilled and will continue to fulfil in the years ahead.

Ieuan Wyn Jones referred to representation in Europe. When one considers the potential expansion of the EU and the possibility of a reduction in the number of MEPs representing Wales, it is even more crucial that the Wales European Centre acts as a strong voice for Wales and that the Assembly has a positive relationship with it, not only in determining those policies and influencing those procedures in Europe, but also in being able to garner information on what is happening in the EU.

Shared expertise has been mentioned as one of WEC's key benefits. I suggest that that expertise is not only shared with other organisations that represent constituent parts of the UK but also with those that represent other regions in the EU. We should take advantage of the good practice in many of the German and Spanish regions. We should be using WEC, the Assembly, the First Secretary and the Administration to forge ever-closer links with the EU's regions to ensure that Wales gains from that shared expertise. I have always believed that the processes of the EU should never be influenced from the sidelines. If you are to influence the processes of any large organisation and if you are to have a say on behalf of your organisation, you must be in there arguing hard. One way to do that through WEC is to use UKREP and several other networks that have been established. We welcome this opportunity for the Assembly. I trust that it will use the Wales European Centre wisely and I hope that there

Mae CEC wedi dygymod â datblygiadau aruthrol: sefydlu Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau ac ehangu cyfrifoldebau Senedd Ewrop, nid lleiaf mewn cyfrifoldebau deddfwriaethol fel cydbenderfynu a sawl maes arall y mae Senedd Ewrop yn hyderus ynddynt bellach. Mae'r newidiadau mewn materion cymdeithasol a'r posibiliad o ehangu'r Undeb Ewropeaidd yn golygu bod cyrff fel CEC wedi gorfol ymdrin â llawer o newidiadau ym mywyd yr UE, sydd yn bwysig yng Nghymru. Dylid llonygarch CEC a'i staff am y rôl a gyflawnasant ac y parhânt i'w chyflawni yn y blynnyddoedd sydd i ddod.

Cyfeiriodd Ieuan Wyn Jones at gynrychiolaeth yn Ewrop. Pan ystyriwch y posibiliad o ehangu'r UE a'r gostyngiad posibl yn nifer yr Aelodau o Senedd Ewrop sydd yn cynrychioli Cymru, mae'n bwysicach fyth bod Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru yn gweithredu fel llais cryf dros Gymru a bod gan y Cynulliad berthynas gadarnhaol â hi, nid yn unig wrth benderfynu'r polisiau hynny a dylanwadu ar y gweithdrefnau hynny yn Ewrop, ond hefyd wrth allu cywain gwybodaeth am yr hyn sydd yn digwydd yn yr UE.

Dywedwyd mai arbenigedd a rennir yw un o fanteision allweddol CEC. Awgrymaf y dylid rhannu'r arbenigedd hwnnw â chyrff eraill sydd yn cynrychioli rhannau cyfansoddol y DU a hefyd â'r rhai sydd yn cynrychioli rhanbarthau eraill yn yr UE. Dylem fanteisio ar ymarferion da yn llawer o ranbarthau'r Almaen a Sbaen. Dylem ddefnyddio CEC, y Cynulliad, y Prif Ysgrifennydd a'r Weinyddiaeth i ffurfio cysylltiadau agosach fyth â rhanbarthau'r UE er mwyn sicrhau bod Cymru'r elwa ar yr arbenigedd a rennir. Credais erioed na ddylid byth dylanwadu ar brosesau'r UE o'r ymylon. Os ydych i ddylanwadu ar brosesau unrhyw gorff mawr ac os ydych i ddweud eich barn ar ran eich corff, rhaid ichi fod yn ei chanol yn dadlau'n galed. Un ffordd o wneud hynny drwy Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru yw defnyddio UKREP a sawl rhwydwaith arall a sefydlwyd. Croesawn y cyfle hwn i'r Cynulliad. Hyderaf y bydd yn defnyddio Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru yn ddoeth a gobeithiaf y bydd perthynas fwy ystyrlon â

will be a more meaningful relationship with the various institutions of the EU for many years.

The First Secretary: This has been an excellent debate. Before I address the amendments, I will comment on some of the contributions that did not deal with the amendments.

I think that it is fair to say that David Davies and Jonathan only just belong to the same party when it comes to European issues. Jonathan is very pro-Europe and David's idea of having a presence in the heart of Europe is to send a Lancaster bomber over it. Their contributions were interesting. Jonathan's attitude towards Europe has the original young-Conservatives-of-the-1970s feel about it and I approve of that. However, I am not sure whether he is right about the Maastricht Treaty negotiations. Two opt-outs were negotiated: one on a single currency—on which there are varying views—and one on the social contract. The latter also involved elements of low farce because the former Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Dr Lubbers had agreed a deal with John Major in which he would weaken the social contract so much that John Major would be able to sign it. John Major rang Michael Howard in London, who said that he would resign if he did. As a result, President Mitterand said that they would return to the stronger version of the social contract. As soon as the Conservatives lost the election, Tony Blair was able to sign the stronger version, which is what we have today because John Major and Michael Howard could not agree on it.

Cododd Elin Jones bwynt pwysig ynghylch Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau a sut y medrwn wasanaethu'r Pwyllgor hwnnw a'n cynrychiolwyr arno pan nad ydym wedi penodi'r cynrychiolwyr hynny. Mae hynny'n bwysig. Cyn bo hir bydd yn rhaid i'r pleidiau gwahanol drafod ac apwyntio un cynrychiolydd ac un eilydd neu ddau gynrychiolydd a dau eilydd. Nid wyf yn cofio'r union fanylion; mater i Andrew Davies fydd hynny.

O ran effeithiolrwydd y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd, os yw Elin Jones yn rhan o'r

gwahanol sefydliadau'r UE am flynyddoedd lawer.

Y Prif Ysgrifennydd: Bu hon yn ddadl ragorol. Cyn imi ymdrin â'r gwelliannau, yr wyf am wneud sylw am rai o'r cyfraniadau nad oeddent yn trafod y gwelliannau.

Credaf mai teg yw dweud mai prin berthyn i'r un blaïd y mae David Davies a Jonathan pan ddaw i faterion Ewropeaidd. Mae Jonathan yn bro-Ewropeaidd iawn a syniad David o gael presenoldeb yng nghanol Ewrop yw gyrru awyren fomio Lancaster drosti. Yr oedd eu cyfraniadau'n ddiddorol. Mae agwedd Jonathan at Ewrop yn meddu ar flas gwreiddiol Ceidwadwyr-ifanc-y-1970au a chymeradwyaf hynny. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf yn sicr a yw'n iawn am negodiadau Cytundeb Maastricht. Sicrhawyd eithrio o ddau beth: o'r arian sengl—y ceir gwahanol safbwytiau yn ei gylch—ac o'r contract cymdeithasol. Yr oedd yr olaf hefyd yn cynnwys elfennau o ffars wael oherwydd yr oedd cyn-Brif Weinidog yr Iseldiroedd, Dr Lubbers wedi cytuno ar fargen â John Major a olygai y byddai'n gwanhau'r contract cymdeithasol gymaint fel y byddai John Major yn gallu ei arwyddo. Yr oedd John Major wedi ffonio Michael Howard yn Llundain, a ddywedodd y byddai'n ymddiswyddo pe bai'n gwneud. O ganlyniad, dywedodd yr Arlywydd Mitterand y byddent yn mynd yn ôl at fersiwn gryfach y contract cymdeithasol. Gynted ag y collodd y Ceidwadwyr yr etholiad, yr oedd Tony Blair yn gallu arwyddo'r fersiwn gryfach, sef yr hyn sydd gennym heddiw am na allai John Major a Michael Howard gytuno arno.

Elin Jones raised an important point on the Committee of the Regions and how we can serve that Committee and our representatives on it when we have not appointed those representatives. That is important. Before long the different parties will have to discuss and appoint one representative and one deputy or two representatives and two deputies. I cannot remember the exact details; that will be a matter for Andrew Davies.

As far as the effectiveness of the Committee on European Affairs is concerned, if Elin

ddirprwyd sydd yn mynd i Frwsl ddydd Iau a dydd Gwener, fe allwn drafod ym mha ffordd y mae hi eisiau i'r Pwyllgor fod yn fwy effeithiol. Os nad ydyw—gwelaf ei bod yn ysgwyd ei phen—fe allwn drafod y mater yn y dyfodol. Mae unrhyw gyfraniad yn werthfawr.

Yr wyf yn meddwl bod Ieuan wedi derbyn bod gwall technegol yng ngwelliant 1. Hoffwn ddelio â phwynt y gwelliant. Fe ddeliwn â'r pwynt ynglŷn â'r Cynulliad yn gwneud yr apwyntiad yn hytrach na'r hyn yr oedd Ieuan yn ei feddwl pan ddeuwn i'r amser i apwyntio cyfarwyddwyr i gynrychioli'r Cynulliad—y rhai a fydd â'r hawl i bleidleisio ar ein rhan. Ni allwn gael gwelliant sydd yn gorchymyn y Cynulliad i wneud rhywbeth gan mai'r Cynulliad sydd yn delio â'r gwelliannau. Felly, yr ydym yn cytuno ar bwynt y gwelliant ac ar yr amod hwnnw. Gobeithiaf y bydd Ieuan yn fodlon tynnu gwelliant 1 yn ôl.

Nid oes problem gennym gyda gwelliant 2 oherwydd yr ydym yr un mor awyddus â Plaid Cymru i annog pobl o'r gwasanaeth sifil i geisio am secondiad i Ewrop a phob math arall o secondiad.

I turn to Mike's amendment 3. He has mentioned trying to achieve parity with the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties as the third and fourth parties in the Assembly. The Conservative Party was upset that it was not represented on the programme monitoring committee. The shoe is now on the other foot. The Conservatives will be represented on the Board of the Wales European Centre, but the Liberals will not. There is an element of rough justice. You cannot always have four places on every committee and therefore representation across the board. When that happens, I hope that people realise that we always try to play fair by all four parties. However, it cannot be done on every occasion. In this case, the Liberal Democrats have concerns, which are reflected in Mike German's amendment. We will be joining a long established organisation, therefore it is not appropriate for the Assembly to muscle in and tell it to review its membership structure now or we will not join. It would be too domineering for us to approach an eight year old body in that

Jones is part of the delegation going to Brussels on Thursday and Friday, we can discuss how she wants the Committee to be more effective. If she is not—I see that she is shaking her head—we can discuss the matter in the future. Any contribution is valuable.

I think Ieuan has accepted that there is a technical error in amendment 1. I want to deal with the point of the amendment. We will deal with the point about the Assembly making the appointment rather than what Ieuan thought when it is time to appoint directors to represent the Assembly—those who will have the right to vote on our behalf. We cannot have an amendment that commands the Assembly to do something as it is the Assembly that deals with the amendments. Therefore, we agree on the point of the amendment and on that condition. I hope that Ieuan will be willing to withdraw amendment 1.

We do not have a problem with amendment 2 because we are as keen as Plaid Cymru to encourage people from the civil service to apply for a secondment to Europe and all other types of secondment.

Trof at welliant 3 Mike. Soniodd am geisio sicrhau cydraddoldeb rhwng y Blaid Geidwadol a'r Democratiaid Ryddfrydol fel y drydedd a'r bedwaredd blaid yn y Cynulliad. Yr oedd y Blaid Geidwadol yn siomedig am nad oedd ganddi gynrychiolaeth ar y Pwyllgor monitro rhaglenni. Mae'r esgid ar y droed arall bellach. Cynrychiolir y Ceidwadwyr ar Fwrdd Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, ond nid y Rhyddfrydwyr. Mae elfen o fras gyflawnder. Ni allwch bob amser cael pedwar lle ar bob pwyllgor a chrynychiolaeth i bawb drwy hynny. Pan ddigwydd hynny, gobeithiaf y sylweddolir ein bod bob amser yn ceisio bod yn deg â phob un o'r pedair plaid. Fodd bynnag, ni ellir gwneud hynny bob tro. Yn yr achos hwn, mae gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol bryderon, a adlewyrchir yng ngwelliant Mike German. Byddwn yn ymuno â chorff sydd wedi ei hen sefydlu, felly nid yw'n briodol i'r Cynulliad wthio'i hun a dweud wrtho am adolygu ei strwythur aelodaeth yn awr neu ni fyddwn yn ymuno ag ef. Byddai'n rhy ormesol inni fynd at gorff wyth mlwydd oed

way.

However, when it is time for the Wales European Centre to review the representation on its Board—for which an obvious occasion is due to arise before too long—there will be an opportunity for WEC to consider this matter afresh. This may be next year when training and enterprise councils disappear, subject to legislation that is now before the Houses of Parliament, and the Council for Education and Training for Wales is established, which perhaps will not require the same amount of representation as the TECs. It may then be possible to consider whether all four parties can be represented on the Board. On that basis, I hope that Mike will not feel it necessary to press his amendment.

Subject to the views I have expressed, I can only commend the Assembly on what I hope will be regarded generally as a constructive debate. Everybody realises that £189,000 a year on our membership of WEC will be money well worth spending in order to get the extra profile, influence and flow of information in Brussels, as policies that affect our day-to-day lives are carried out there.

yn y modd hwnnw.

Fodd bynnag, pan ddaw'n adeg i Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru adolygu'r gynrychiolaeth ar ei Bwrdd—a bydd achos amlwg i wneud hynny yn codi cyn hir iawn—bydd cyfle i Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru ystyried y mater hwn o'r newydd. Gallai hynny fod y flwyddyn nesaf pan ddiflanna'r cynghorau hyfforddi a menter, yn amodol ar ddeddfwriaeth sydd gerbron y Senedd ar hyn o bryd, a phan sefydlir y Cyngor Cenedlaethol dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant i Gymru, na fydd efallai'n gofyn yr un maint o gynrychiolaeth â'r cynghorau hyfforddi a menter. Efallai y bydd yn bosibl wedyn ystyried a ellir cael cynrychiolaeth o bob un o'r pedair plaid ar y Bwrdd. Ar y sail honno, gobeithiaf na fydd Mike yn teimlo rheidrwydd i wthio ei welliant.

Yn amodol ar y farn a fynegais, ni allaf ond canmol y Cynulliad ar yr hyn a ystyri'r yn gyffredinol, gobeithiaf, yn ddadl adeiladol. Mae pawb yn sylweddoli y bydd y £189,000 y flwyddyn ar ein haelodaeth o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru'n arian y mae'n werth ei wario er mwyn cael yr amlygrwydd, y dylanwad a'r llif o wybodaeth ychwanegol ym Mrwsel, gan fod polisiau sydd yn effeithio ar ein bywyd bob dydd yn cael eu cyflawni yno.

*Tynnwyd gwelliant 1 yn ôl.
Amendment 1 withdrawn.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 47, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 2: For 47, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Dafis, Cynog
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Essex, Sue
 Feld, Val
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William

Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Humphreys, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Michael, Alun
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd gwelliant 2.
Amendment 2 adopted.*

4:01 p.m.

*Tynnwyd gwelliant 3 yn ôl.
Amendment 3 withdrawn.*

Amended motion:

that the Assembly, in exercise of its powers under section 33 and 40 of the Government of Wales Act 1998:

authorises the First Secretary to make formal application on behalf of the Assembly for membership of the Wales European Centre (WEC) and to take all such steps as are necessary to enable the Assembly to comply with the conditions for membership;

notes that upon such application being accepted the Assembly will be entitled to appoint three directors to the Board of WEC and three representatives at all general meetings of WEC, but who will be entitled to cast a single vote on behalf of the Assembly;

Y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio:

bod y Cynulliad drwy arfer ei bwerau o dan adrannau 33 a 40 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998 yn:

rholi hawl i'r Prif Ysgrifennydd wneud cais ffurfiol ar ran y Cynulliad i ymaelodi â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru ac i wneud popeth sydd yn angenrheidiol i alluogi'r Cynulliad i gydymffurfio ag amodau'r aelodaeth;

nodi, os caiff cais o'r fath ei dderbyn, y bydd hawl gan y Cynulliad i benodi tri chyfarwyddwr i Fwrdd Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru a thri chynrychiolydd i fynychu pob un o gyfarfodydd cyffredinol Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru a fydd â'r hawl i fwrw un bleidlais rhyngddynt ar ran y Cynulliad;

resolves that each of the three largest political groups represented in the Assembly be entitled to nominate one Assembly Member as director and authorises the First Secretary to communicate the names of those Assembly Members to the WEC as the Assembly's nominees as directors;

resolves that each Assembly Member nominated as a director of WEC shall, subject to the Articles of Association of WEC, continue to hold office as director until the next Assembly ordinary elections unless in the meantime the director ceases to be a Member of the Assembly, or resigns as director, or is required to resign as director by resolution of the Assembly;

requires that any such director who exercises the power specified in WEC's Articles of Association to appoint from time to time an alternate director may only do so by appointing a person who is an Assembly Member who has been named in an Assembly resolution as a prospective alternate director;

resolves that the three directors nominated on behalf of the Assembly or their authorised alternates be the persons authorised to represent the Assembly at any general meeting of WEC, and authorises the First Secretary to nominate which of those persons is entitled to exercise the Assembly's vote if necessary; and

while welcoming the new partnership with the Wales European Centre, the National Assembly for Wales should seek every opportunity to second members of its staff to UKREP, Wales European Centre and the European Commission.

*Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 47, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amended motion : For 47, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter

penderfynu bod gan bob un o'r tri grŵp gwleidyddol mwyaf a gynrychiolir yn y Cynulliad yr hawl i enwebu un Aelod Cynulliad yn gyfarwyddwr ac awdurdodi'r Prif Ysgrifennydd i ddatgan enwau'r Aelodau hynny i Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru fel y rhai a enwebwyd yn gyfarwyddwyr gan y Cynulliad;

penderfynu bod pob un Aelod Cynulliad a enwebir yn gyfarwyddwr Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, yn amodol ar Erthyglau Cwmni Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, yn cael parhau yn ei swydd fel cyfarwyddwr tan etholiad cyffredin nesaf y Cynulliad ac eithrio pan fydd cyfarwyddwr, yn y cyfamser, yn peidio â bod yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad, neu'n ymddiswyddo fel cyfarwyddwr, neu fod y Cynulliad yn mynnu ei fod yn ymddiswyddo fel cyfarwyddwr;

mynnu bod unrhyw gyfarwyddwr o'r fath sydd yn arfer y pwerau a nodir yn Erthyglau Cwmni Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru i benodi cyfarwyddwr eiledol o dro i dro, yn gwneud hynny'n unig drwy benodi Aelod Cynulliad sydd wedi ei enwi yn un o benderfyniadau'r Cynulliad fel darpar gyfarwyddwr eiledol;

penderfynu mai'r tri chyfarwyddwr a enwebwyd ar ran y Cynulliad neu'r cyfarwyddwyr eiledol awdurdodedig a ddylai gynrychioli'r Cynulliad mewn unrhyw un o gyfarfodydd cyffredinol Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, ac awdurdodi'r Prif Ysgrifennydd i enwebu pa un ohonynt a ddylai gael yr hawl i ddefnyddio pleidlais y Cynulliad os bydd angen; a

thra'n croesawu'r bartneriaeth newydd gyda Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, dylai Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru achub ar bob cyfle i secondeio aelodau o'i staff i UKREP, Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru a'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd.

Bourne, Nick
Dafis, Cynog
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
Feld, Val
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Humphreys, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Michael, Alun
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbynwyd y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio.
Amended motion adopted.*

Cymeradwyo'r Adroddiad Grant Arbennig ar Geiswyr Lloches Approval of the Special Grant Report on Asylum Seekers

The Secretary for Local Government and Housing (Peter Law): I propose that

the Assembly, under section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.10, approves the Special Grant Report (No. 2) (Wales) 2000, which was laid in the Table Office on 22 February 2000.

Ysgrifennydd Llywodraeth Leol a Thai (Peter Law): Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad, o dan adran 88B o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1988, ac yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.10, yn cymeradwyo Adroddiad Grant Arbennig (Rhif 2) (Cymru) 2000, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 22 Chwefror 2000

This report, made under section 88B of the

Mae'r adroddiad hwn, a wnaethpwyd o dan

Local Government Finance Act 1988, sets out determinations concerning special grants that the Government proposes to pay to certain local authorities. Approval of the grant report today will provide the legal authority for grants to be paid to local authorities in Wales, to whom I am grateful for their work in this respect, and to reimburse them for their reasonable costs in taking care of asylum seekers. This is up to 3 December 1999. It is a payment of grant in arrears under the old system. It is approximately £350,000 in total, but that must be seen against a social services budget for Wales of around £580 million.

In previous years, the Welsh Office administered grants to local authorities that had incurred expenditure as a result of their support for asylum seekers under the National Assistance Act 1948 and the Children Act 1989. Asylum is essentially a non-devolved issue in Wales, and from December 1999 new arrangements have been introduced, which are administered by the Home Office on an England and Wales basis. However, there remains a residual need to reimburse those Welsh local authorities for costs incurred between 1 April and 3 December 1999.

Asylum seekers who claim asylum at the point of arrival in this country are entitled to social security benefits, which cover their needs for housing, food and other necessities, unless or until their application for asylum is rejected, at which point benefits are withdrawn. The grant discussed today covers those who claim asylum after entry into the country and who are not entitled to benefits. In those cases, local authorities are responsible for supporting destitute asylum seekers under the provisions of the National Assistance Act 1948 and the Children Act 1989.

This grant reimburses those local authorities for asylum seekers they have had to support in anticipation of the introduction of the new scheme from 1 April 2000. We anticipate that there are about 200 such people in Wales. The grant will allow local authorities to claim up to £140 per person per week, in respect of adults accommodated under the National

adran 88B o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1988, yn nodi penderfyniadau ynghylch grantiau arbennig y mae'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu eu talu i rai awdurdodau lleol. Drwy gymeradwyo'r adroddiad grant heddiw rhoddir hawl cyfreithiol i dalu'r grantiau i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru, yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iddynt am eu gwaith yn hyn o beth, ac i'w had-dalu am eu costau rhesymol wrth ofalu am geiswyr lloches. Mae hynny hyd 3 Rhagfyr 1999. Mae'n ôl-daliad o grant o dan yr hen system. Mae'n gyfanswm o tua £350,000, ond rhaid gweld hynny yng ngoleuni cyllideb gwasanaethau cymdeithasol i Gymru o tua £580 miliwn.

Mewn blynnyddoedd blaenorol, yr oedd y Swyddfa Gymreig yn gweinyddu grantiau i awdurdodau lleol oedd wedi mynd i gostau o ganlyniad i'w cymorth i geiswyr lloches o dan y Ddeddf Cymorth Gwladol 1948 a'r Ddeddf Plant 1989. Mae nodded yn fater annatganoledig yn ei hanfod yng Nghymru, ac ers Rhagfyr 1999 cyflwynwyd trefniadau newydd, a weinyddir gan y Swyddfa Gartref yng Nghymru a Lloegr. Fodd bynnag, mae angen gweddillol i ad-dalu'r awdurdodau lleol hynny yng Nghymru am gostau a gafwyd rhwng 1 Ebrill a 3 Rhagfyr 1999.

Mae hawl gan geiswyr lloches sydd yn hawlio nodded yn y man lle y cyrhaeddant y wlad hon i dderbyn budd-daliadau nawdd cymdeithasol, sydd yn cynnwys eu hanghenion am dai, bwyd ac anghenion eraill, hyd oni wrthodir eu cais am nodded, pan dynnir budd-daliadau'n ôl. Mae'r grant a drafodir heddiw yn cynnwys y rhai sydd yn hawlio nodded ar ôl dod i'r wlad ac nad oes ganddynt hawl i dderbyn budd-daliadau. Yn yr achosion hynny, yr awdurdodau lleol sydd yn gyfrifol am gynnal ceiswyr lloches anghenus o dan ddarpariaethau'r Ddeddf Cymorth Gwladol 1948 a'r Ddeddf Plant 1989.

Mae'r grant hwn yn ad-dalu'r awdurdodau hynny am geiswyr lloches y bu'n rhaid iddynt eu cynnal wrth ddisgwyl am gyflwyno'r cynllun newydd o 1 Ebrill 2000. Rhagwelwn fod tua 200 o bobl o'r fath yng Nghymru. Bydd y grant yn caniatáu i awdurdodau lleol hawlio hyd at £140 am bob person yr wythnos, mewn perthynas ag

Assistance Act. This £140 is made up of costs for accommodation and board and can also cover the authority's administrative costs. The grant also covers asylum-seeking families with children and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Local authorities will be able to claim up to £240 per week for each family they accommodate, and £200 or £400 for an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child, depending on whether the child is under the age of 16 or aged between 16 and 17.

The UK Government is committed to reform of the current arrangements for immigration and asylum through the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and other measures. It is trying to improve the efficiency of immigration control, to simplify and speed up the appeals system, to regulate immigration advisers and tackle those who act unscrupulously, to strengthen immigration controls and to give new powers to marriage registrars. It also proposes to introduce new unified support arrangements for asylum seekers in genuine need. As I have explained, the new arrangements are the responsibility of the Home Office, which will administer them for Wales and England. They aim to allow local authorities to deal with asylum applications quickly and fairly. They also aim to ensure that genuine asylum seekers receive the protection to which they are entitled.

Taken together, the elements of this year's special grant represent a fair settlement to local authorities and to council tax payers, who will be able to feel greater confidence that the burden of caring for asylum seekers will not force local authorities to transfer resources from other local services. The scheme means that any local authority that has provided support for asylum seekers will be able to claim for that support. Although the grant report for the most part covers the period from 1 April to 3 December 1999, when the Home Office interim arrangements came into force, responsibility for the element of the grant that relates to local authorities' responsibilities in relation to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under the Children Act 1989, will remain with the Assembly. In that respect, the grant

oedolion a letyir o dan y Ddeddf Cymorth Gwladol. Mae'r £140 hwn yn cynnwys costau ar gyfer llety a bwyd a gall hefyd gynnwys costau gweinyddol yr awdurdod. Mae'r grant hefyd yn cynnwys teuluoedd sydd yn ceisio nodded gyda phlant a phlant heb gydymaith sydd yn ceisio nodded. Bydd awdurdodau lleol yn gallu hawlio hyd at £240 yr wythnos am bob teulu a letyir ganddynt, a £200 neu £400 am blentyn sydd yn ceisio nodded heb gydymaith, yn ôl pa un a yw'r plentyn o dan 16 mlwydd oed neu rhwng 16 a 17.

Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi ymrwymo i ddiwygio'r trefniadau presennol ar gyfer mewnfudo a nodded drwy'r Ddeddf Llochesu a Mewnfudo 1999 a mesurau eraill. Mae'n ceisio gwella effeithlonrwydd rheolaeth mewnfudo, symleiddio a chyflymu'r system apeliadau, a rheoleiddio ymgynghorwyr mewnfudo a mynd i'r afael â'r rhai sydd yn gweithredu'n ddiegwyddor, cryfhau rheolaeth ar fewnfudo a rhoi pwerau newydd i gofrestwrwyr priodasau. Mae hefyd yn bwriadu cyflwyno trefniadau cefnogi unedig newydd ar gyfer ceiswyr lloches sydd mewn angen gwirioneddol. Fel yr eglurais, mae'r trefniadau newydd yn gyfrifoldeb i'r Swyddfa Gartref, a fydd yn eu gweinyddu dros Gymru a Lloegr. Ceisiant ganiatáu i awdurdodau lleol ymdrin â cheisiadau am nodded yn gyflym ac yn deg. Ceisiant hefyd sicrhau bod ceiswyr lloches dilys yn derbyn yr amddiffyniad y mae ganddynt hawl iddo.

Gyda'i gilydd, mae elfennau'r grant arbennig eleni yn cynrychioli setliad teg i awdurdodau lleol ac i dalwyr y dreth gyngor fydd yn gallu bod yn fwy ffyddiol na fydd y baich o ofalu am geiswyr lloches yn gorfodi awdurdodau lleol i drosglwyddo adnoddau o wasanaethau lleol eraill. Mae'r cynllun yn golygu y bydd unrhyw awdurdod lleol a ddarparodd gymorth i geiswyr lloches yn gallu hawlio tâl am y cymorth hwnnw. Er bod yr adroddiad grant yn ymdrin yn bennaf â'r cyfnod o 1 Ebrill i 3 Rhagfyr 1999, pan ddaeth trefniadau dros dro'r Swyddfa Gartref i rym, bydd y cyfrifoldeb am yr elfen o'r grant sydd yn ymwneud â chyfrifoldebau awdurdodau lleol mewn perthynas â phlant heb gydymaith sydd yn ceisio nodded o dan y Ddeddf Plant 1989, yn aros gyda'r Cynulliad. Yn hynny o beth, bydd yr adroddiad grant yn cynnwys y

report will cover the whole of the financial year 1999-2000. I commend the motion, and ask Members to support it.

Helen Mary Jones: Wales has a proud tradition of welcoming those seeking new homes, whether as asylum seekers or, as we are now supposed to call them, ‘economic migrants’. We must acknowledge that those people have made a huge contribution to our national life. It is in that context that we need to place this debate today, as a small part of the ongoing discussions that we are having in the Assembly about how we make asylum seekers welcome both retrospectively, in the context of this report today, and in future. I thank Peter Law for his speech, which has helped to explain some of the issues about which I proposed to ask questions. You will be pleased to hear, Llywydd, that I will now not ask them.

4:11 p.m.

I will look a little further into the future as to what happens after this report. We in Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales, have made no secret of our revulsion for many of the elements in the Government’s new proposals for dealing with immigration and asylum seekers, particularly the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. We do not believe that it is acceptable to disperse people against their will, as if they were an oil slick, although we acknowledge the practical problems faced by local authorities at points of entry in England. There can scarcely be any Member who believes that it is acceptable to withdraw benefits from asylum seekers and replace them with vouchers, with the potential for stigma and humiliation that they entail. It is deeply regrettable that we do not have the powers to challenge these measures or to move to implement them differently as the Scottish Parliament seeks to do. However, we do not have those powers, and those measures will come into force in Wales.

It is essential that we do all in our power to ensure that asylum seekers receive a positive welcome in our communities and get access to all the services that they need. To this end,

cyfan o'r flwyddyn ariannol 1999-2000 i gyd. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig, a gofynnaf i'r Aelodau ei gefnogi.

Helen Mary Jones: Mae gan Gymru draddodiad anrhydeddus o groesawu'r rhai sydd yn ceisio cartrefi newydd, boed fel ceiswyr lloches neu, fel yr ydym i fod i'w galw yn awr, ‘ymfudwyr economaidd’. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod y bobl hynny wedi gwneud cyfraniad enfawr i'n bywyd cenedlaethol. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw y dylem osod y ddadl hon heddiw, fel rhan fach o'r trafodaethau parhaus sydd gennym yn y Cynulliad ynghylch sut yr ydym yn rhoi croeso i geiswyr lloches, wrth edrych yn ôl, yng nghyd-destun yr adroddiad hwn heddiw, ac yn y dyfodol. Diolchaf i Peter Law am ei araith, sydd wedi helpu i esbonio rhai o'r materion y bwriadais ofyn cwestiynau yn eu cylch. Byddwch yn falch o glywed, Llywydd, na fyddaf yn eu gofyn yn awr.

Yr wyf am edrych ychydig ymhellach i'r dyfodol o ran yr hyn sydd yn digwydd ar ôl yr adroddiad hwn. Nid ydym ym Mhlaid Cymru—The Party of Wales, wedi celu ein ffieidd-dod at lawer o'r elfennau yng nghynigion newydd y Llywodraeth ar gyfer ymdrin â mewnfudo a cheiswyr lloches, yn enwedig y Ddeddf Mewnfudo a Nodded 1999. Ni chredwn mai derbynio yw gwasgaru pobl yn groes i'w hewyllys, fel pe baent yn strimyn olew, er ein bod yn cydnabod y problemau ymarferol a wynebir gan awdurdodau lleol yn y mannau cyrraedd yn Lloegr. Siawns nad oes yr un Aelod sydd yn credu ei bod yn dderbynio tynnu budd-daliadau yn ôl oddi wrth geiswyr lloches a rhoi talebau yn eu lle, gyda'r posiblwydd o warthnod a chywilydd sydd yn eu dilyn. Mae'n ofid o'r mwyaf nad oes gennym y pwerau i herio'r mesurau hyn neu i gymryd camau i'w gweithredu'n wahanol fel y mae Senedd yr Alban yn ceisio ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r pwerau hynny gennym, a daw'r mesurau hynny i rym yng Nghymru.

Mae'n holl bwysig inni wneud popeth yn ein gallu i sicrhau bod ceiswyr lloches yn derbyn croeso cadarnhaol yn ein cymunedau a bod yr holl wasanaethau y mae arnynt eu hangen ar

we welcome today's special grant report, which will relieve local authorities of some of the burden that they have long been carrying, through the measures that we all need to make to support asylum seekers coming to our country. The refunds will no doubt be welcome, and I imagine that those refunds were in the budget for this year and were ones that we were expecting to make. If that is not the case, perhaps Peter Law will clarify from which budget heading the refunds come. I understand, however, that they are from a long-standing budget heading.

There are longer-term questions that we urgently need to address. These questions have been discussed before, but we still do not feel that we have had the answers. I therefore ask Peter Law again to give them his urgent attention. If we are to welcome additional numbers of asylum seekers, and possibly quite large numbers into some of our communities, we need to address how additional services, beyond the accommodation and subsistence that will be provided by the Home Office in London, will be provided and funded. For example, what plans do local authorities have to provide the additional specialist social and educational services that asylum seekers may need, varying from host language teaching to intensive counselling following severe trauma? Will local authorities, the Assembly or the Home Office fund these? Will additional services be in place by the time the asylum seekers arrive in numbers? What steps are being taken at a local and Assembly level to prevent racist reactions in host communities when asylum seekers arrive?

This must be a particular concern after last week's figures showed an alarming rise in racist attacks in some parts of Wales. I do not think that this can all be put down to better reporting and to the police being more ready to record incidents. From our perspective, the new immigration and asylum legislation is not welcome in Wales, but the asylum seekers are. There is much work to do before we are ready to give asylum seekers a proper welcome. Today's grants are welcome in their retrospective context. I hope that Peter Law will address some of the longer-term issues in his summing up, by at least

gael iddynt. I'r diben hwnnw, croesawn yr adroddiad grant arbennig heddiw, a fydd yn ysgafn hau rhywfaint ar y baich y bu awdurdodau lleol yn ei gario ers talwm, drwy'r mesurau y mae arnom oll eu hangen er mwyn cynnal ceiswyr lloches sydd yn dod i'n gwlad. Yn ddi-os bydd croeso i'r ad-daliadau, a thybiwn fod yr ad-daliadau hynny yn y gyllideb am eleni ac yn rhai yr oeddem yn disgwyl eu gwneud. Os nad yw hynny'n wir, efallai y gall Peter Law egluro o ba bennawd cyllideb y daw'r ad-daliadau. Deallaf, fodd bynnag, eu bod yn dod o bennawd cyllideb hirsefydlog.

Mae cwestiynau tymor hwy y mae angen inni ymdrin â hwy ar frys. Trafodwyd y cwestiynau hyn o'r blaen, ond teimlwn o hyd nad ydym wedi cael yr atebion. Felly gofynnaf eto i Peter Law roi sylw brys iddynt. Os ydym i groesawu niferoedd ychwanegol o geiswyr lloches, a niferoedd eithaf mawr o bosibl i rai o'n cymunedau, mae angen inni ystyried sut y darperir ac yr ariannir gwasanaethau ychwanegol, ar ben y llety a'r gynhaliaeth a ddarperir gan y Swyddfa Gartref yn Llundain. Er enghraift, pa gynnlluniau sydd gan awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol ac addysgol arbenigol y gallai fod ar geiswyr lloches eu hangen, yn amrywio o ddysgu'r iaith letyol i ymgynghori dwys ar ôl trawma difrifol? A fydd awdurdodau lleol, y Cynulliad neu'r Swyddfa Gartref yn ariannu'r rhain? A fydd gwasanaethau ychwanegol ar waith erbyn y daw niferoedd o geiswyr lloches? Pa gamau a gymerir ar lefel leol ac ar lefel y Cynulliad i atal adweithiau hiliol mewn cymunedau lletyol pan mae ceiswyr lloches yn cyrraedd?

Mae hyn yn sicr o beri pryder ar ôl i ffigurau wythnos diwethaf ddangos bod cynnydd brawychus yn nifer yr ymosodiadau hiliol mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru. Ni chredaf y gellir priodoli hyn yn gyfan gwbl i ohebu gwell a mwy o barodrwydd gan yr heddlu i gofnodi digwyddiadau. O'n safbwyt ni, nid oes croeso yng Nghymru i'r ddeddfwriaeth newydd ar fewnfudo a nodded, ond mae croeso i'r ceiswyr lloches. Mae llawer o waith i'w wneud cyn y byddwn yn barod i roi croeso priodol i geiswyr lloches. Mae croeso i'r grantiau heddiw yn eu cyd-destun adolygol. Gobeithiaf y bydd Peter Law yn

providing some information on the way forward.

William Graham: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' report for December 1999 states that 94,000 asylum seekers were awaiting a decision on their applications. In 1998, 71 per cent of asylum seekers in this country were rejected. However, given the unique circumstances facing the former inhabitants of Kosovo, these candidates may find that the UK Government is more lenient.

We must ensure that this compassion is matched by funding from central Government. This is entirely the responsibility of the Home Secretary. Preventing adequate funding will cause serious problems. Once again, the dead hand of the Treasury may have damning consequences for Wales. The concern for match funding need not have its parallel with this problem, which can so easily be avoided. Welsh local authorities are already financially tested. The Home Office directly meets the costs of Department of Social Security benefits and local authority payments, but does not meet the cost of healthcare or education. Welsh local authorities will bear the cost of providing education and healthcare for asylum seekers.

The Home Office estimates a cost of £365 per family, per month, for the current financial year, rising to £368 per month in the next financial year. Local authorities will also have to bear any shortfall in central funding towards DSS benefits, a deficit predicted by the Local Government Association. The LGA has identified that single asylum seekers place more pressure on the single room rented property market. In towns and cities where demand is already high, this further increases the costs. It may cause further financial suffering for students and other young people with low incomes living away from the family home.

We must ensure that displaced people are

rholi sylw i rai o'r materion tymor hwy wrth grynhau, drwy o leiaf roi rhywfaint o wybodaeth ar y ffordd ymlaen.

William Graham: Mae adroddiad Uchel Gomisiynydd Ffoaduriaid y Cenhedloedd Unedig yn Rhagfyr 1999 yn dweud bod 94,000 o geiswyr lloches yn disgwyl penderfyniad ar eu ceisiadau. Yn 1998, gwrthodwyd 71 y cant o'r ceiswyr lloches yn y wlad hon. Fodd bynnag, o dderbyn yr amgylchiadau unigryw sydd yn wynebu cyn-drigolion Kosovo, efallai y bydd yr ymgeiswyr hyn yn darganfod bod Llywodraeth y DU yn fwy trugarog.

Rhaid inni sicrhau bod y trugaredd hwn yn cyd-fynd ag arian o'r Llywodraeth ganolog. Mae hyn yn gyfrifoldeb llwyr i'r Ysgrifennydd Cartref. Bydd rhwystro ariannu digonol yn achosi problemau difrifol. Unwaith eto, mae'n bosibl y bydd canlyniadau damniol i Gymru oherwydd llaw farw'r Trysorlys. Nid oes rhaid i'r pryder ynghylch arian cyfatebol fod â'i debyg yn y broblem hon, y gellir ei hosgoi'n rhwydd. Mae awdurdodau lleol Cymru wedi eu hymestyn yn ariannol eisoes. Mae'r Swyddfa Gartref yn talu'n uniongyrchol am gostau budd-daliadau'r Adran Nawdd Cymdeithasol a thaliadau awdurdodau lleol, ond nid yw'n talu costau gofal iechyd neu addysg. Bydd awdurdodau lleol Cymru'n ysgwyddo'r gost o ddarparu addysg a gofal iechyd i geiswyr lloches.

Mae'r Swyddfa Gartref yn amcangyfrif cost o £365 y teulu, y mis, am y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol, gan godi i £368 y mis yn y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Bydd yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol dalu hefyd am unrhyw ddiffyg yn yr arian canolog ar gyfer budd-daliadau'r Adran Nawdd Cymdeithasol, sydd yn ddiffyg a broffwydwyd gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol. Canfu Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol fod ceiswyr lloches sengl yn rhoi mwy o bwysau ar y farchnad eiddo un ystafell. Mewn trefi a dinasoedd lle y mae'r galw'n uchel eisoes, mae hyn yn cynyddu'r costau ymhellach. Mae'n bosibl y bydd yn achosi rhagor o ddioddef ariannol i fyfyrwyr a phobl ifanc eraill ag incwm isel sydd yn byw i ffwrdd o'r cartref teuluol.

Rhaid inni sicrhau nad yw pobl a

neither disadvantaged nor victimised in Wales. To refuse fiscal support is no advantage for asylum seekers. To ask local authorities to bear these high costs may in turn cause resentment among local people. Last week, it was announced that council tax will rise by approximately £3 per household in Kent. This will be used to offset the additional cost to the authority of the large number of asylum seekers in the county. We must not have a repeat of the violence seen in Dover in August 1999. That led to 11 stabbing incidents.

It is inflammatory for local authorities to have to bear this cost, which is a transparent cost when it is so blatantly added to council tax. As the citizens of Wales will remark, sudden increases in council expenditure are extremely unpopular and cause a great deal of ill feeling. We do not want asylum seekers fleeing victimisation and terror to be forced to retreat into ghettos in Wales. We must assess the financial implications upon areas where asylum seekers are settled, and any consequent social problems. We must ensure that adequate start-up funding is provided by central Government, that receiving asylum seekers is not a poisoned chalice for local authorities, and that local authorities and individuals have no cause for aggression against asylum seekers.

We therefore ask you to consider the following measures. We propose that there is better organisation of a Welsh strategy led by the Assembly, and that local authorities in Wales form one committee to discuss quotas with the Home Office. We propose that the Welsh Local Government Association, which hitherto had no voice on LGA committees consulting with the Home Office, is involved in the consultation process, and that funding from central Government reflects the true cost, in its entirety, and the special nature of the circumstances. In addition, we propose that the dispersal of asylum seekers is equitable, but that it takes account of economies of scale, as greater numbers lead to a fall in costs. We also propose that there should be a concentration of specialist facilities and individuals, in particular linguists with obscure languages. There

ddadleolwyd yn cael eu rhoi dan anfantais na'u herlid yng Nghymru. Nid yw gwrthod cymorth ariannol o fantais i geiswyr lloches. Mae'n bosibl y bydd gofyn i awdurdodau lleol ysgwyddo'r costau hyn yn arwain yn ei dro at ddrwgdeimlad ymysg pobl leol. Yr wythnos diwethaf, cyhoeddwyd y bydd y dreth gyngor yn codi tua £3 y teulu yng Nghaint. Defnyddir hyn i wrthbwys o'r gost ychwanegol i'r awdurdod oherwydd y nifer fawr o geiswyr lloches yn y sir. Rhaid inni beidio â gweld y traoris a fu yn Dover yn Awst 1999 yn digwydd eto. Arweiniodd hynny at 11 achos o drywanu.

Mae'n ymfflamychol i awdurdodau lleol orfod ysgwyddo'r gost hon, sydd yn gost dryloyw pan ychwanegir hi mor haerllug at y dreth gyngor. Fel y byddai dinasyddion Cymru yn dweud, mae codiadau sydyn yng ngwariant cynhorau yn amhoblogaidd iawn ac yn peri llawer o ddrwgdeimlad. Nid ydym am i geiswyr lloches sydd yn ffoi rhag erledigaeth ac arswyd orfod cilio i getoau yng Nghymru. Rhaid inni asesu'r goblygiadau ariannol ar gyfer ardaloedd lle y sefydlir ceiswyr lloches, ac unrhyw broblemau cymdeithasol a geir o ganlyniad. Rhaid inni sicrhau darparu arian cychwyn digonol gan Lywodraeth ganolog, ac nad yw derbyn ceiswyr lloches yn gwpan wenwynig i awdurdodau lleol, ac nad oes gan awdurdodau lleol ac unigolion unrhyw achos dros ymosod ar geiswyr lloches.

Felly gofynnwn ichi ystyried y mesurau canlynol. Cynigiwn y dylid cael gwell trefniadaeth ar strategaeth Gymreig dan arweiniad y Cynulliad, ac y dylai awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru ffurfio un pwylgor i drafod cwotâu â'r Swyddfa Gartref. Cynigiwn y dylai Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, na chafodd lais hyd yn hyn ar bwylgorau Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol sydd yn ymgynghori â'r Swyddfa Gartref, gael ei chynnwys yn y broses ymgynghori, ac y dylai arian o Lywodraeth ganolog adlewyrchu'r wir gost, yn ei chyfarwydd, a natur arbennig yr amgylchiadau. Yn ogystal, cynigiwn y dylai'r gwasgaru ar geiswyr lloches fod yn gyfartal, ond y dylid rhoi ystyriaeth i arbedion maint, gan fod niferoedd uwch yn arwain at ostyngiad mewn costau. Yr ydym hefyd yn cynnig y dylid cael crynhoed o gyfleusterau

should be contact between members of the same national group, and it would be financially and socially beneficial to place asylum seekers in a minimal number of areas where amenities and facilities could be utilised to their maximum. We propose that central Government either adopts an immigration policy that it can afford or pays for the current immigration policy it is attempting to implement.

Peter Black: The motion before us is a mopping up exercise from the present system. Effectively, we are not debating the system that is coming in. However, some of the points made need to be restated. The Assembly should consider these points and ensure that our voice is heard when we discuss with local authorities and the Home Office how the new system will be implemented. The points raised by Helen Mary Jones were particularly valid.

The funding of the new system when it is introduced is clearly an issue. Many councils are concerned that, although they will get a grant for each asylum seeker they take in and house, that money will not cover the full cost of the housing and particularly indirect costs such as education. Councils are already hard-pressed and struggling to find money to meet those costs, and are therefore concerned that this will be an additional cost on their coffers and will leave them in a situation where they may have to make cuts to accommodate the additional expenditure.

4:21 p.m.

Also, there is concern about the money available to local authorities for the teaching of English as an additional language. I understand that this is provided through grants for education support and training and that this funding was previously only available to Swansea, Cardiff and Newport. This money is to be spread more evenly across the whole of Wales, and if you spread a limited pot of money more evenly, then no one will have enough to do the job properly. That is also of concern. A key issue in the

ac unigolion arbenigol, yn enwedig ieithydion sydd yn medru ieithoedd anadnabyddus. Dylai fod cyswllt rhwng aelodau o'r un grŵp cenedlaethol, a byddai yn ariannol ac yn gymdeithasol fanteisiol i osod ceiswyr lloches yn y nifer lleiaf posibl o ardaloedd lle y gellir defnyddio mwynderau a chyfleusterau i'r eithaf. Cynigiwn y dylai Llywodraeth ganolog naill ai fabwysiadu polisi mewnfudo y gall ei fforddio neu dalu am y polisi mewnfudo presennol y mae'n ceisio ei weithredu.

Peter Black: Mae'r cynnig sydd ger ein bron yn ymarfer ysgubo ar ôl y system bresennol. Mewn gwirionedd, nid trafod y system sydd yn dod i mewn yr ydym. Fodd bynnag, mae angen ailddatgan rhai o'r pwyntiau a wnaethpwyd. Dylai'r Cynulliad ystyried y pwyntiau hyn a sicrhau y clywir ein llais pan drafodwn â'r awdurdodau lleol a'r Swyddfa Gartref sut y gweithredir y system newydd. Yr oedd y pwyntiau a godwyd gan Helen Mary Jones yn arbennig o ddilys.

Mae ariannu'r system newydd pan gyflwynir hi yn sicr yn fater i'w drafod. Mae llawer o gynghorau yn bryderus, er y byddant yn derbyn grant am bob ceisiwr nodded y byddant yn ei dderbyn a'i gartrefu, na fydd yr arian hwnnw'n ddigon i dalu'r gost lawn o gartrefu ac yn enwedig costau anuniongyrchol fel addysg. Mae cynghorau eisoes dan bwysau ac yn ymdrechu'n galed i ganfod arian i dalu'r costau hynny, ac maent felly'n bryderus y bydd hyn yn gost ychwanegol ar eu coffrau ac yn eu gadael mewn sefyllfa lle y byddant efallai'n gorfod cwtogi er mwyn cynnwys y gwariant ychwanegol.

Mae pryder hefyd ynghylch yr arian sydd ar gael i awdurdodau lleol i ddysgu'r Saesneg fel iaith ychwanegol. Deallaf fod hyn yn cael ei ddarparu drwy grantiau cynnal addysg a hyfforddiant ac nad oedd yr arian ar gael cynt ond i Abertawe, Caerdydd a Chasnewydd. Mae'r arian hwn i'w rannu'n fwy cyfartal ledled Cymru, ac os rhannwch swm cyfyngedig o arian yn fwy cyfartal, ni fydd gan neb ddigon i wneud y gwaith yn iawn. Mae hynny hefyd yn peri pryder. Mater allweddol wrth dderbyn ceiswyr lloches yw

receipt of asylum seekers is to ensure that they are properly integrated into the community into which they are received and to ensure that they are given the services to which they are entitled. If they are to have the opportunity to seek out employment and to be accepted by the community in which they live, that integration must involve English language teaching.

I do not agree with some of the language that William Graham used. There is a danger that we can be too inflammatory. It is essential that the asylum seekers that we will receive in Wales are housed and dealt with. We have a moral obligation to receive, house and look after asylum seekers. However, as has been said, the money has to be provided by central Government, otherwise local authorities will struggle to find it. William raised the issue of a consortium. That consortium is already in place; the concern is that at least one council has refused to take part in it and that other councils are perhaps considering not doing so. We must say to local authorities that we believe that they should be part of the consortium, that we should have a unified approach across Wales on asylum seekers and that no one council can stand alone in the way that it deals with them. Although this debate is about the existing arrangements, I hope that when we come to look at future arrangements for asylum seekers and discuss them with the Home Office, these points will be noted and Peter Law will do that on our behalf.

Brian Gibbons: In rising to speak in this debate, I am aware that my native country has probably produced more political exiles and economic refugees than most other countries on this planet. In the United Kingdom there are possibly two or three times as many people of Irish extraction as live on the island of Ireland. While people from countries such as Ireland have assimilated well into the United Kingdom, there is no doubt that, at various stages, there have been serious difficulties and problems. It is important that that experience is not repeated. It worries me that, even though there are only six to eight weeks before the introduction of the new scheme in April, my

sicrhau eu hintegreiddio yn y gymuned y'u derbyn iddi a sicrhau y caint y gwasanaethau y mae ganddynt hawl i'w derbyn. Os ydynt i gael cyfle i chwilio am waith a chael eu derbyn gan y gymuned lle y maent yn byw, rhaid i'r integreiddio hwnnw gynnwys dysgu'r Saesneg.

Ni chytunaf â rhai o'r termau a ddefnyddiodd William Graham. Mae perygl inni fod yn rhy ymfylamychol. Mae'n allweddol fod y ceiswyr lloches y byddwn yn eu derbyn yng Nghymru'n cael cartref a sylw. Mae dyletswydd foesol arnom i dderbyn, cartrefu a gofalu am geiswyr lloches. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedwyd, rhaid i'r arian gael ei ddarparu gan Lywodraeth ganolog, neu fel arall bydd awdurdodau lleol yn ei chael yn anodd ei ganfod. Cododd William y mater o gonsortiwm. Mae'r consortiwm hwnnw eisoes ar waith; y pryer yw bod o leiaf un cyngor wedi gwrtod cymryd ran ynddo a bod cynghorau eraill yn ystyried peidio â gwneud. Rhaid inni ddweud wrth awdurdodau lleol ein bod yn credu y dylent fod yn rhan o'r consortiwm, y dylem gael dull unol o weithredu ledled Cymru ynghylch ceiswyr lloches ac na all yr un cyngor sefyll ar wahân o ran y modd y mae'n ymdrin â hwy. Er bod y ddadl hon yn ymwneud â'r trefniadau presennol, gobeithiaf, pan ddeuwn i edrych ar y trefniadau yn y dyfodol ar gyfer ceiswyr lloches a'u trafod â'r Swyddfa Gartref, y caiff y pwyntiau hyn eu nodi ac y bydd Peter Law yn gwneud hynny ar ein rhan.

Brian Gibbons: Wrth godi i siarad yn y ddadl hon, yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod fy ngwlad enedigol wedi cynhyrchu mwy o alltudion gwleidyddol a ffoaduriaid economaidd, yn ôl pob tebyg, na'r mwyafrif o wledydd eraill ar y blaned hon. Yn y Deyrnas Unedig mae'n bosibl bod dwywaith neu dair y nifer o bobl o dras Wyddelig nag sydd yn byw yn ynys Iwerddon. Er bod rhai o wledydd fel Iwerddon wedi ymdoddi'n dda yn y Deyrnas Unedig, nid oes dwywaith bod anawsterau a phroblemau difrifol wedi bod ar wahanol adegau. Mae'n bwysig nad ailadroddir y profiad hwnnw. Mae'n ofid i mi, er nad oes ond chwech i wyth wythnos cyn cyflwyno'r cynllun newydd yn Ebrill,

local authority is still not sure of the size and nature of the problem and the extent of the settlement it will face. Even though it is working hard to put arrangements in place, the fact that it is not clear about the demands that will be placed upon it must be a cause for concern.

The money that we are talking about is for the basic provision of housing, education and living expenses. As others have said, there are needs that have not been clearly identified. If we do not get this right, there is plenty of evidence that there are racist, right-wing and nazi groups in our society that will be prepared to exploit the difficulties that may emerge if this settlement does not progress in a well-planned and humanitarian way. One problem, I would imagine, is that refugees will be located in the areas where housing is most likely to be available, which are already the most hard-pressed communities, with deep-seated problems. Unless this activity is planned well, there is a real danger that the problems in these communities will be exacerbated and that those who want to exploit that negatively and nastily will use that to forward their agenda.

My only experience of dealing with any significant number of refugees is dealing with Chilean refugees in the early 1970s. It is a bit ironic that we discuss this issue when we have Pinochet in this country, who still has not been brought to book for his crimes against the democratic Government in Chile. Settling the Chilean refugees was made easier because people understood the circumstances from which they came. To a certain extent, the battle for the hearts and minds of people had been won, because we understood the circumstances from which the asylum seekers were fleeing. In the current context, this work has not been done. There is much misinformation being generated and much scaremongering, which will not create the optimum environment for refugees to settle in our country.

We need to send out the message that even in Wales, we are a multi-origin society. We are made up of English, Scottish, Irish, Italians, Spaniards, Australians, New Zealanders, people from all corners of Africa, from India,

fod fy awdurdod lleol dal yn ansicr o faint a natur y problem a maint y sefydlu y bydd yn ei wynebu. Er ei fod yn gweithio'n galed i roi trefniadau ar waith, mae'r ffaith na âŵyr yn iawn am y gofynion a fydd arno yn sicr o fod yn achos pryder.

Mae'r arian yr ydym yn sôn amdano ar gyfer y ddarpariaeth sylfaenol o dai, addysg a chostau byw. Fel y dywedodd eraill, mae anghenion nas dynodwyd yn eglur. Os na wnaeon hyn yn iawn, mae digon o dystiolaeth bod grwpiau hiliol, asgell-dde a natsiaidd yn ein cymdeithas a fydd yn barod i fanteisio ar yr anawsterau a allai ddod i'r golwg os na fydd y sefydlu hwn yn mynd ymlaen mewn modd cynlluniedig a dyngarol. Un broblem, dybiwn i, yw y bydd ffoaduriaid yn cael eu lleoli yn yr ardaloedd lle y mae tai yn fwyaf tebygol o fod ar gael, sef y cymunedau sydd eisoed dan y pwysau mwyaf, gyda phroblemau sylfaenol. Os na chynllunnir y gweithgaredd hwn yn dda, mae perygl gwirioneddol y bydd y problemau yn y cymunedau hyn yn gwaethygu ac y bydd y rhai sydd am fanteisio ar hynny'n negyddol ac yn ffiadd ymdefnyddio hynny i hyrwyddo eu hagenda.

Yr unig brofiad sydd gennyl o ymdrin â nifer sylweddol o ffoaduriaid yw o ymdrin â ffoaduriaid o Chile yn y 1970au cynnar. Mae'n eironig braidd ein bod yn trafod y mater hwn pan fo Pinochet gennym yn y wlad hon, sydd eto i'w alw i gyfrif am ei droseddau yn erbyn y Llywodraeth ddemocraidd yn Chile. Yr oedd sefydlu'r ffoaduriaid o Chile yn haws am fod pobl yn deall yr amgylchiadau y daethant ohonynt. I ryw raddau, yr oedd y frwydr am galonnau a meddyliau pobl wedi ei hennill, am ein bod yn deall yr amgylchiadau yr oedd y ceiswyr lloches yn ffoi rhagddynt. Yn y cyd-destun presennol, ni wnaethpwyd y gwaith hwnnw. Mae llawer o gamwybodaeth yn cael ei chreu a llawer o godi bwganod, na fydd yn creu'r amgylchedd gorau i'r ffoaduriaid ymsefydlu yn ein gwlad.

Rhaid inni ledaenu'r neges ein bod ni yng Nghymru, hyd yn oed, yn gymdeithas aml-dras. Yr ydym yn cynnwys Saeson, Albanwyr, Gwyddelod, Eidalwyr, Sbaenwyr, Awstraliaid, rhai o Seland Newydd, pobl o

Pakistan and Bangladesh. All these people are Welsh people. We have benefited from these influxes and, by and large, Wales is a richer and more prosperous country because of them. We need to sell that message positively. We also need to point out that the vast majority of these refugees come from areas of great turbulence and hardship and from war zones. To read some of the Tory press—I hope that the Conservative Party does not object to me talking about the Tory press in this context; I am not referring to the party—and to read the scaremongering and hysteria in it, you would think that refugees come here for an extended holiday. However, as others have said, the level of provision that refugees will receive in this country will not put anyone on a gravy train.

bob cwr o Affrica, o India, Pakistan a Bangladesh. Cymry yw'r rhain i gyd. Yr ydym wedi elwa ar y mewnlifiadau hyn ac, at ei gilydd, mae Cymru'n wlad gyfoethocach a mwy ffyniannus o'u herwydd. Rhaid inni ledaenu'r neges honno'n gadarnhaol. Rhaid inni hefyd bwysleisio bod y rhan helaethaf o'r ffoaduriaid hyn yn dod o ardaloedd o anhreftn a chaledi mawr ac o ardaloedd brwydro. O ddarllen rhai o bapurau'r wasg Dorïaidd—gobeithiaf nad yw'r Blaid Geidwadol yn gwrthwynebu imi sôn am y wasg Dorïaidd yn cyd-destun hwn; nid wyf yn cyfeirio at y blaid—a darllen y codi bwganod a'r hysteria sydd ynddynt, credech fod ffoaduriaid yn dod yma am wyliau estynedig. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd eraill, ni fydd lefel y ddarpariaeth a gaiff ffoaduriaid yn y wlad hon yn rhoi neb mewn pot mêl.

David Davies: Does the Member agree that, while it is vital that we welcome genuine refugees into this country and ensure that they are well looked after, at the same time we should not allow a situation to develop where young people, who have the most to put back into the economies of the countries from which they come, come to Britain simply because it is of economic benefit to them to do so? We must ensure that genuine asylum seekers are separated from the economic migrants who simply come here for a better way of life, particularly as, if those people were to come here in large numbers, that would be to the detriment of their own countries.

Brian Gibbons: I would pity anybody who came to this country to live on a voucher scheme or on income support and travelled half way around the world for that privilege. I cannot believe that the vast majority of refugees who come to Britain come here to live off the fat of the land. I believe that they live in war zones and in social disruption and that their circumstances, almost universally, are pitiable and that we should reach out the humanitarian hand of help to them.

Geraint Davies: Do you agree, Brian, that the reason why there is an increase in economic migration is the way that the rich, western world has treated the poor world? Over the last century, the difference between

David Davies: A yw'r Aelod yn cytuno, er ei bod yn holl bwysig croesawu ffoaduriaid gwirioneddol i'r wlad hon a sicrhau eu bod yn derbyn gofal da, na ddylem wrth wneud hynny ganiatáu i sefyllfa ddatblygu lle y mae pobl ifanc, sydd a'r mwyaf i'w gyfrannu i economi'r gwledydd y deuant ohonynt, yn dod i Brydain dim ond am ei bod o fantais economaidd iddynt wneud hynny? Rhaid inni sicrhau bod ceisiwyr nodded gwirioneddol yn cael eu gwahanu oddi wrth yr ymfudwyr economaidd nad ydynt ond yn dod yma am well ffordd o fyw, yn enwedig gan y byddai hynny er niwed i'w gwledydd eu hunain, pe deuent yma yn eu niferoedd.

Brian Gibbons: Byddwn yn tosturio wrth rywun a ddeuai i'r wlad hon i fyw ar gynllun talebau neu ar gymhorthdal incwm ac a deithiai hanner ffordd ar draws y byd i gael y faint honno. Ni allaf gredu bod y rhan helaethaf o'r ffoaduriaid a ddaw i Brydain yn dod yma i fyw'n fras. Credaf eu bod yn byw mewn ardaloedd brwydro ac mewn anhreftn gymdeithasol a bod eu hamgylchiadau, bron yn ddieithriad, yn druenus ac y dylem estyn llaw o gymorth dyngarol atynt.

Geraint Davies: A gytunwch, Brian, mai'r rheswm pam y mae cynnydd mewn ymfudo economaidd yw'r ffordd y mae'r byd gorllewinol, cyfoethog wedi trin y byd tlawd? Dros y ganrif ddiwethaf, mae'r gwahaniaeth

the wealth of the richer countries and the poorer countries has increased twenty-fold. It is inevitable that people will come here. It is about time that we had a fairer, more socialist world. Until we have that, we will have great problems of economic migration.

Brian Gibbons: I do not disagree with what Geraint said, but if we consider the national make-up of the overwhelming majority of the potential refugee and asylum seeker population coming to Britain, they are from countries such as Somalia, Sri Lanka, Kosovo and Serbia and the countries of eastern Europe. The reason why they are the predominant group of people is because of the war situation and social disruption in those countries. They are not even coming here because of economic reasons. They have been driven out of their countries because of the circumstances in which they find themselves. It is not a coincidence that the majority of refugees are from a limited number of countries.

4:31 p.m.

David Davies: I have spent some time living in Sri Lanka in all manner of accommodation and I have travelled all over the island, including the area affected by war—it is not a sunny place to visit. However, the main reason why people are leaving Sri Lanka for this country is not because of war but because of the incredibly low wages that they receive. If the Member seriously thinks that there is any comparison between someone in receipt of social benefits in this country and someone who is working as a manual labourer in Sri Lanka, or other countries with similar economies, then he must consider the facts. The standard of living and the wages are much lower. Anyone who could get social security over here would be better off. We must bear that in mind. It is not that we are against genuine refugees, but young people are needed in countries like Sri Lanka to try to generate the economy.

Brian Gibbons: Some people may come to this country for purely economic reasons, but they are in a minority, and if we allow this debate to concentrate on a minority then we will miss the main focus of the humanitarian

rhwng cyfoeth y gwledydd cyfoethocaf a'r gwledydd tloaf wedi cynyddu ugain gwaith. Mae'n anorfod y bydd pobl yn dod yma. Mae'n hen bryd inni gael byd tecach, mwy sosialaidd. Hyd nes y cawn hynny, bydd gennym broblemau mawr o ran ymfudo economaidd.

Brian Gibbons: Nid anghytunaf â'r hyn a ddywedodd Geraint, ond os ystyriwn gyfansoddiad cenedlaethol y rhan helaethaf o'r boblogaeth o ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches a ddaw i Brydain, maent yn dod o wledydd fel Somalia, Sri Lanka, Kosovo a Serbia a gwledydd dwyrain Ewrop. Y rheswm mai hwy yw'r grŵp mwyaf yw'r sefyllfa o ryfel a'r anhreftn gymdeithasol yn y gwledydd hynny. Nid ydynt yn dod yma oherwydd rhesymau economaidd hyd yn oed. Fe'u gyrrwyd o'u gwledydd oherwydd yr amgylchiadau y cawsant eu hunain ynddynt. Nid yw'n gyd-ddigwyddiad bod y rhan fwyaf o ffoaduriaid o nifer fach o wledydd.

David Davies: Treuliais rywfaint o amser yn byw yn Sri Lanka ym mhob math o lety a theithiai i bob cwr o'r ynys, gan gynnwys yr ardal a effeithir gan ryfel—nid yw'n lle braf i ymweld ag ef. Fodd bynnag, nid yw pobl yn gadael Sri Lanka i ddod i'r wlad hon yn bennaf oherwydd y rhyfel. Maent yn gadael oherwydd y cyflogau anhygoel o isel a dderbyniant. Os yw'r Aelod yn credu o ddifrif fod unrhyw debygrwydd rhwng rhywun sydd yn derbyn budd-daliadau cymdeithasol yn y wlad hon a rhywun sydd yn weithiwr llaw yn Sri Lanka, neu mewn gwledydd eraill ag economiau tebyg, rhaid iddo ystyried y ffeithiau. Mae'r safon byw a'r cyflogau'n is o lawer. Byddai rhywun a allai gael nawdd cymdeithasol yma yn well ei fyd. Rhaid inni gofio hynny. Nid ydym yn erbyn ffoaduriaid gwirioneddol, ond mae angen pobl ifanc mewn gwledydd fel Sri Lanka i geisio adfywio'r economi.

Brian Gibbons: Efallai fod rhai'n dod i'r wlad hon am resymau economaidd pur, ond maent yn lleiafrif, ac os caniatawn i'r ddadl hon ganolbwytio ar leiafrif byddwn yn methu prif ffocws yr her ddyngarol y mae'n

challenge that we must address. There is a minority of abusers in this situation, but the core issue is being able to respond in a humanitarian way to the majority of people who are in a genuine refugee situation. We must also be aware that, in terms of the per capita number of refugees accepted by a given country, Britain only ranks number seven among the EU countries. The level of refugees that we accept is low compared with other countries.

When refugees come to our most hard-pressed communities, it is important that they are made welcome and are provided with the services that are appropriate to their needs. We must not create a situation in which these hard-pressed communities have to pay a price to accommodate the refugee population. There must be, at best, a no-loss situation for the host community. If additional services are being provided to improve the lot of refugees, then that should also be available to the host population. We should extend a hand of friendship as a humanitarian gesture and as part of our international responsibilities. It is vital that we get this right first time and I am not convinced that we can be certain of that at the moment.

Jocelyn Davies: Brian's last point is important because it touches on the plight of asylum seekers and our ethnic minority communities. This Act provides for a number of services to be made available to asylum seekers, such as support for mothers who are learning English and appropriate housing advice. We welcome those services because they are needed. This is a good opportunity to emphasise that these services are also needed by our ethnic communities. Some of our ethnic communities tolerate the most appalling poverty and we are concerned that an influx of asylum seekers, who receive better services and are placed in better housing, may be seen to be in an enhanced position. This is not an argument against providing those services for asylum seekers because, while I was a student at Oxford, I visited Campsfield and, if David did so, he would see how refugees are treated. They are fenced in, and living in conditions in which you would not keep criminals. This is an argument for ensuring that there is not a disparity in access to services between

rhaid inni roi sylw iddi. Mae lleiafrif o gamddefnyddwyr yn y sefyllfa hon, ond y mater canolog yw medru ymateb yn ddyngarol i'r mwyaf o bobl sydd yn ffoaduriaid gwirioneddol. Rhaid inni hefyd fod yn ymwybodol, o ran y nifer y pen o ffoaduriaid a dderbynir gan wlad benodol, nad yw Prydain ond yn y seithfed safle ymysg gwledydd yr UE. Mae lefel y ffoaduriaid a dderbyniwn yn isel o'i chymharu â gwledydd eraill.

Pan ddaw ffoaduriaid i'r cymunedau sydd dan y pwysau mwyaf, mae'n bwysig eu bod yn cael croeso ac y darperir iddynt y gwasanaethau sydd yn addas i'w hanghenion. Rhaid inni beidio â chreu sefyllfa lle y mae'n rhaid i'r cymunedau hynny sydd dan bwysau dalu pris i gartrefu'r boblogaeth o ffoaduriaid. Rhaid cael sefyllfa ddigolled, ar y gorau, i'r gymuned letyol. Os darperir gwasanaethau ychwanegol i wella byd y ffoaduriaid, dylai'r rheini fod ar gael hefyd i'r boblogaeth letyol. Dylem ymestyn llaw cyfeillgarwch fel arwydd dyngarol ac fel rhan o'n cyfrifoldebau rhyngwladol. Mae'n holl bwysig inni wneud hyn yn iawn y tro cyntaf ac nid wyf yn argyhoeddedig y gallwn fod yn sicr o hynny ar hyn o bryd.

Jocelyn Davies: Mae pwynt olaf Brian yn bwysig am ei fod yn ymwneud â stad ceiswyr lloches a'n cymunedau lleiafrifoedd ethnig. Mae'r Ddeddf hon yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i nifer o wasanaethau fod ar gael i geiswyr lloches, fel cymorth i famau sydd yn dysgu'r Saesneg a chyngor priodol am dai. Croesawn y gwasanaethau hynny am fod angen amdanwynt. Mae hyn yn gyfle da i bwysleisio bod angen y gwasanaethau hynny hefyd ar ein cymunedau ethnig. Mae rhai o'n cymunedau ethnig yn goddef y tlodi mwyaf ofnadwy ac yr ydym yn bryderus y gallai mewnliiad o geiswyr lloches, sydd yn derbyn gwell gwasanaethau ac yn cael eu rhoi mewn gwell tai, gael ei weld yn rhai uwch eu safle. Nid dadl yn erbyn darparu'r gwasanaethau hynny i geiswyr lloches mo hon oherwydd, tra oeddwn yn fyfyrwraig yn Rhydychen, ymwelais â Campsfield, a phe bai David yn gwneud hynny, gwelai sut y caiff ffoaduriaid eu trin. Cânt eu caethiwo tu ôl i ffens, ac maent yn byw o dan amodau na fyddch yn cadw troseddwyr oddi tanynt. Mae hon yn ddadl dros sicrhau nad oes

existing communities and asylum seekers. Perhaps the Secretary will give us some assurances on that point in his response.

Jenny Randerson: A few weeks ago, I visited a high school in my constituency where there are children from 30 different ethnic backgrounds and where there are 30 different languages. I saw two classes of pupils who were beginners in English, and several of them were refugees. This problem is not new to Cardiff, Swansea or Newport. We had a large influx of refugees from Somalia into Cardiff a decade ago and they have been, by and large, well integrated into our local community.

We tend to have a contradiction in our attitude. I use the term 'refugees' as it is the term with which I was brought up, rather than the modern, popular term of 'asylum seekers'. I was born soon after the Second World War, and my grandmother spoke in hushed tones of reverence when mentioning refugees. They were the people who had been badly treated during the war, had lost everything and had come to Britain to make a new life. Nowadays, we see things on the television that touch our hearts. I was watching the floods in Mozambique yesterday and thinking of the impact on people's lives. As a nation, we give lots of money, but we have a completely different approach when people wish to come here. It is time that we had a little common sense in our figures. I was pleased to hear Brian mention our per capita figures for the number of people seeking asylum in Britain. It is time for people, especially the media, to get the whole issue into perspective.

I regret to say that the term 'asylum seekers' has become derogatory. It is realistic to say that the thousands of people applying to come here include people who are both genuine political refugees and economic migrants. Of course, they also include many people who do not have a right to come here and who will eventually be turned away. However, the real scandal is the vast length of the queue to be dealt with. I have dealt with people who have been waiting three years to have their case determined. That is

gwahaniaeth o ran mynediad at wasanaethau rhwng cymunedau presennol a cheiswyr lloches. Efallai y bydd yr Ysgrifennydd gystal â rhoi rhyw sicrwydd i ni ar y pwynt hwnnw yn ei ymateb.

Jenny Randerson: Ychydig wythnosau'n ôl, ymwelais ag ysgol uwchradd yn fy etholaeth lle y mae plant o 30 cefndir ethnig gwahanol a lle y mae 30 iaith wahanol. Gwelais ddau ddosbarth o ddisgyblion oedd yn ddechreuwyr yn y Saesneg, a nifer ohonynt yn ffoaduriaid. Nid yw'r broblem hon yn un newydd i Gaerdydd, Abertawe neu Gasnewydd. Cawsom fewnlifiad mawr o ffoaduriaid o Somalia i Gaerdydd ddegawd yn ôl ac, at ei gilydd, maent wedi eu hintegreiddio'n dda i'n cymuned leol.

Tueddw i fod yn anghyson yn ein hymagwedd. Defnyddiaf y term 'ffoaduriaid' gan mai hwnnw yw'r term y'm magwyd ag ef, yn hytrach na'r term modern, poblogaidd 'ceiswyr lloches'. Fe'm ganwyd yn fuan ar ôl yr Ail Ryfel Byd, a siaradai fy nain yn barchus dawel wrth sôn am ffoaduriaid. Hwy oedd y bobl a driniwyd yn wael yn ystod y rhyfel, a gollodd bopeth ac a ddaeth i Brydain i ddechrau bywyd o'r newydd. Y dyddiau hyn, gwelwn bethau ar y teledu sydd yn cyffwrdd â'n calonnau. Yr oeddwyn yn gwylio'r llifogydd yn Mozambique ddoe ac yn meddwl am yr effaith ar fywydau pobl. Fel cenedl, rhoddwn lawer o arian, ond mae gennym agwedd gwbl wahanol pan mae pobl yn dymuno dod yma. Mae'n bryd inni gael ychydig o synnwyr cyffredin yn ein ffigurau. Yr oeddwyn yn falch o glywed Brian yn sôn am ein ffigurau y pen am nifer y bobl sydd yn ceisio nodded ym Mhrydain. Mae'n bryd i bobl, yn enwedig y cyfryngau, edrych ar yr holl fater yn ei wir oleuni.

Mae'n ofid gennyl ddweud bod y term 'ceiswyr lloches' wedi mynd yn un difrifol. Gellir dweud yn realistig bod y miloedd o bobl sydd yn ymgeisio i ddod yma'n cynnwys pobl sydd yn ffoaduriaid gwleidyddol gwirioneddol ac ymfudwyr economaidd. Wrth gwrs, maent hefyd yn cynnwys llawer o bobl nad oes ganddynt hawl i ddod yma ac a gaiff eu troi i ffwrdd yn y pen draw. Fodd bynnag, y wir sgandal yw hyd anferth y ciw y mae angen ymdrin ag ef. Bûm yn ymwneud â rhai a fu'n aros dair

inhumane. It also adds to the public perception that there are people here who should not be. Obviously, if someone will be turned away, it is much more desirable that their case is dealt with efficiently, effectively and relatively quickly. That is for their benefit as well as for everyone else's.

I do not believe that there is not a grey area in between. There must be people in between who are not purely economic migrants or political refugees. There are people in between on whom the judgement must be made finely. If we are looking to the future in Wales, the Government must sort out the muddle over this issue, speed things up and be more efficient. I welcome the fact that the Government has taken a step in dealing with this issue by setting up a scheme and setting aside finance to support it.

Finally, I return to where I started and pick up on a point that has already been made. The finance to support this scheme does not include money for education. Asylum seekers, refugees and political refugees who come here, many of them young, traumatised individuals, need support and education, and especially help to develop their language. The educational burden borne in Wales will be considerable and well beyond any funding that the Government intends to give us.

4:41 p.m.

David Melding: In recent months the issue of asylum seekers has captured the media's attention and, to a certain extent, the public's attention. One of the things that saddens me most when I read about this issue in the press and listen to it in the media, is that some people are undermining this country's commitment to meet its treaty obligations. We have agreed by international convention to provide for asylum seekers. I do not want to be part of a country or state that reneges on its freely taken treaty obligations. That is the basis of what we are discussing. We do not want to get into a way of thinking that this is a simple act of charity that we could either give or take to asylum seekers. It is not.

blynedd i gael penderfyniad ar eu hachos. Mae hynny'n greulon. Mae hefyd yn ategu'r amgyffrediad sydd gan y cyhoedd fod pobl yma na ddylent fod. Wrth gwrs, os bydd rhywun yn cael ei droi i ffwrdd, mae'n llawer mwy dymunol i'w achos gael ei drin yn effeithlon, yn effeithiol ac yn gymharol gyflym. Mae hynny er eu lles hwy yn ogystal â phawb arall.

Ni chredaf nad oes gorgyffwrdd rhwng y ddaau. Rhaid bod pobl yn y canol nad ydynt yn ymfudwyr economaidd neu'n ffoaduriaid gwleidyddol pur. Mae pobl yn y canol y mae'n rhaid dyfarnu'n ofalus yn eu cylch. Os ydym yn edrych tua'r dyfodol yng Nghymru, rhaid i'r Llywodraeth ddatrys y dryswch ar y mater hwn, cyflymu pethau a bod yn fwy effeithlon. Croesawaf yffaith bod y Llywodraeth wedi cymryd cam wrth ymdrin â'r mater hwn drwy sefydlu cynllun a neilltuo arian i'w gynnwl.

Yn olaf, dychwelaf at fy man cychwyn a chodaf bwynt a wnaethpwyd yn barod. Nid yw'r arian i gynnal y cynllun hwn yn cynnwys arian ar gyfer addysg. Mae'r ceiswyr lloches, y ffoaduriaid a'r ffoaduriaid gwleidyddol a ddaw yma, lawer ohonynt yn unigolion ifanc mewn trawma, yn rhai y mae arnynt angen cefnogaeth ac addysg, yn enwedig cymorth i ddatblygu eu hiaith. Bydd y baich addysgol ar Gymru'n sylweddol ac ymhell y tu hwnt i unrhyw arian y mae'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu ei roi i ni.

David Melding: Yn y misoedd diwethaf mae mater y ceiswyr lloches wedi dal sylw'r cyfryngau a sylw'r cyhoedd i ryw raddau. Un o'r pethau sydd yn fy nhristáu fwyaf pan ddarllenaf am y mater hwn yn y wasg a gwrando arno yn y cyfryngau, yw bod rhai pobl yn tanseilio ymrwymiad y wlad hon i gyflawni ei rhwymau cytundebol. Cytunasom drwy gytundeb rhngwladol i ddarparu ar gyfer ceiswyr lloches. Nid wyf am fod yn rhan o wlad neu wladwriaeth sydd yn ymwadu â rhwymedigaethau cytundeb yr ymgwymerwyd â hwy o ddewis. Dyna'r sail i'r hyn yr ydym yn ei drafod. Nid ydym am fynd i feddwl mai cymwynas syml yw hon y gallem ei gwneud neu ei gwrthod i geiswyr lloches. Nid hynny ydyw.

We should also reflect with real depth and penance on the attitudes taken by some European countries—and we were not completely innocent in this before the Second World War—about allowing, for instance, Jews from eastern Europe into western Europe. They were poor. Now we consider it an outrage that anyone questioned the veracity of those people's claims for asylum. We may not have been one of the great sinners in Europe—states like Switzerland sent Jewish asylum seekers back to certain death. Today there are places in the world where, if people are sent back, they will face certain death. That is one end of the issue.

The other end is that some people seek to exploit the situation. I am not so concerned about the individuals themselves, but I am concerned—when I see footage on the television—about those who run illegal operations in transit vans or on the back of articulated lorries and sell spaces to people who are desperate enough to seek relief in this way. They make a lot of money out of the transit of people into western European countries. We should aim at those couriers in human flesh because that is the outrage in this issue.

The economic migrants are nothing new. They are usually younger people who bring much talent and commitment to countries. If you studied how they perform in society, you would probably find that they contribute a lot. I accept that the message we send is an important one. We do not want people here under illegal terms, exploiting important international provisions to which we have agreed, namely to give sanctuary to asylum seekers.

I conclude by reminding everyone that most of the world's refugees are in third world countries. The poorest countries generally have the burden of looking after most refugees. When we talk about what we provide—and I do not want any abuse to exist, I want a system that is fair to all parties concerned—we should remember that our obligations freely undertaken are outweighed by the countries who neighbour those states in turmoil, like Somalia, which has been in a

Dylem hefyd fyfyrion ddwys ac yn edifeiriol iawn ynghylch yr agweddau a gymerwyd gan rai gwledydd Ewropeaidd—ac nid oeddem ni'n gwbl ddiueog yn hyn o beth cyn yr Ail Ryfel Byd—wrth ganiatáu, er enghraifft, i Iddewon o ddwyrain Ewrop ddod i orllewin Ewrop. Yr oeddent yn dlawd. Yn awr fe'i hystyriwn yn warth bod neb wedi amau geirwiredd ceisiadau'r bobl hynny am noddedd. Efallai nad oeddem yn un o'r pechaduriaid mawr yn Ewrop—gwladwriaethau fel y Swistir anfonodd geiswyr lloches Iddewig yn ôl i'w tranc anorfad. Heddiw mae lleoedd yn y byd lle y bydd pobl yn sicr o wynebu marwolaeth os anfonir hwy yn ôl. Dyna un pen ar y mater.

Y pen arall yw bod rhai yn ceisio elwa ar y sefyllfa. Ni phryderaf gymaint am yr unigolion eu hunain, ond yr wyf yn pryderu—pan welaf luniau ar y teledu—am y rhai sydd yn rhedeg ymgyrchoedd anghyfreithlon mewn faniau cludo neu yng nghefn lorïau cymalog ac yn gwerthu lleoedd i bobl a anobeithiodd gymaint fel eu bod yn ceisio rhyddhad yn y fath fodd. Gwnânt lawer o arian drwy gludo pobl i wledydd gorllewin Ewrop. Dylem anelu at y cludwyr cnawd dynol hynny oherwydd dyna'r gwarth sydd ynghylch y mater hwn.

Nid yw'r ymfudwyr economaidd yn beth newydd. Maent fel arfer yn bobl iau a ddaw â llawer o dalent ac ymrwymiad i wledydd. Pe baech yn astudio sut y maent yn perfformio mewn cymdeithas, mae'n debyg y gwelech eu bod yn cyfrannu llawer. Derbyniaf fod y neges a anfonwn yn un bwysig. Nid ydym am gael pobl yma ar sail anghyfreithlon, yn elwa ar ddarpariaethau rhyngwladol pwysig yr ydym wedi cytuno arnynt, sef rhoi lloches i geiswyr lloches.

Terfynaf drwy atgoffa pawb bod y rhan fwyaf o ffoaduriaid y byd yng ngwledydd y trydydd byd. Y gwledydd tlotaf gan fwyaf a gaiff y baich o ofalu am y rhan fwyaf o ffoaduriaid. Pan soniwn am yr hyn a ddarparwn—ac nid wyf am i unrhyw gam-drin fodoli, yr wyf am gael system sydd yn deg â phawb sydd yn gysylltiedig—dylem gofio bod y rhwymedigaethau yr ymgymerasom â hwy o ddewis wedi eu gorbwysyo gan y gwledydd sydd yn gyfagos

state of savage civil war for most of the 1990s. I urge everyone to be responsible, especially when talking to the media, and to put across the true situation, which is more complicated and more a cause for compassion and understanding than you would believe by reading some of the press that has covered this issue.

Peter Law: I admired your comments, David. I applaud them because there is no doubt that we have a duty on humanitarian grounds to take action. It is all very well for us, on a relatively warm afternoon in February in a civilised country, to stand here and discuss this issue. Jenny Randerson put her finger on it when she said that from a distance we can show compassion, especially when we watch what is happening on the television. However, today we are tested as human beings. Can we say that we will collectively ensure that we give a traditional, warm Welsh welcome to these people who have suffered so much? We will never know what it has been like for these people, as Members have already mentioned, some of whom know more about this than I do. We will never appreciate the trauma that these people have suffered.

This has been an important discussion. I am grateful to everyone who has contributed. This debate is about approving payment to local authorities for the special grant for last year. I am sure that you will support that, and that is right. If we did not agree to it, they would not get paid. It is as simple as that. It would be wrong to penalise local authorities for the important work that they have done. Some 10 authorities throughout Wales have dealt with asylum seekers and are affected by this today. This debate also helps us to focus on the future as far as the asylum seekers who will come to Wales are concerned. That is what most of the concern has emphasised this afternoon.

The national asylum support service has taken over from the Home Office since December and will deal with the onward transmission of about 5,000 asylum seekers into Wales from April. These will probably be people of Kosovan nationality, Somali and Arabic speaking nationals. Each case will

i'r gwladwriaethau hynny sydd mewn anhrefn, fel Somalia, a fu mewn stad o ryfel cartref milain am y rhan fwyaf o'r 1990au. Anogaf bawb i fod yn gyfrifol, yn enwedig wrth siarad â'r cyfryngau, ac i gyfleu'r wir sefyllfa, sydd yn fwy cymhleth ac yn fwy o achos tosturi a dealltwriaeth nag y byddech yn ei gredu o ddarllen rhai o'r papurau newydd a ymdriniodd â'r mater hwn.

Peter Law: Edmygais eich sylwadau, David. Yr wyf yn eu canmol oherwydd nid oes amheuaeth fod gennym ddyletswydd ar sail dyngarol i weithredu. Un peth yw inni sefyll yma, ar brynhawn cymharol gynnes yn Chwefror mewn gwlaid wareiddiedig, a thrafod y mater hwn. Yr oedd geiriau Jenny Randerson yn taro deuddeg pan ddywedodd ein bod yn gallu amlygu tosturi o bell, yn enwedig pan wyllyn yr hyn sydd yn digwydd ar y teledu. Fodd bynnag, heddiw yr ydym ar brawf fel bodau dynol. A allwn ddweud y byddwn yn sicrhau fel cyfangorff y rhoddown groeso cynnes traddodiadol Cymreig i'r bobl hyn a ddioddefodd gymaint? Ni fyddwn byth yn gwybod sut y bu ar y bobl hyn, fel y soniodd rhai Aelodau eisoes, y gŵyr rhai ohonynt lawer mwy am hyn na mi. Ni fyddwn byth yn amgyffred y trawma a ddioddefodd y bobl hyn.

Bu hon yn drafodaeth bwysig. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i bawb a gyfrannodd. Mae'r ddadl hon yn ymwneud â chymeradwyo taliadau i awdurdodau lleol am y grant arbennig ar gyfer y llynedd. Yr wyf yn sicr y byddwch oll yn cefnogi hynny, ac mae hynny'n iawn. Pe na baem yn cytuno â hynny, ni chaent eu talu. Mae mor syml â hynny. Byddai'n anghywir cosbi awdurdodau lleol am y gwaith pwysig a wnaethant. Mae tua 10 awdurdod ledled Cymru wedi ymdrin â cheiswyr lloches ac fe'u heffeithir gan hynny heddiw. Mae'r ddadl hon hefyd yn gymorth inni ganolbwytio ar y dyfodol o ran y ceiswyr lloches a ddaw i Gymru. Am hynny y bu'r pryder mwyaf y prynhawn yma.

Mae'r gwasanaeth cefnogaeth nodded cenedlaethol wedi cymryd drosodd oddi wrth y Swyddfa Gartref ers Rhagfyr a byddwn yn ymdrin â'r trosglwyddiad o tua 5,000 o geiswyr lloches i Gymru o Ebrill. Yn ôl pob tebyg bydd y rhain yn bobl o genedligrwydd Kosovaidd, yn frodorion Somali ac yn rhai

need careful consideration. The new legislation takes account of that and will deal quickly with people who do not have genuine grounds to come into this country as asylum seekers.

It is important that we underline Helen Mary Jones's point about giving a strong welcome to these people. It is a traumatic time for them. We should reverse the situation and imagine how we would feel if we went to where they come from, as complete strangers in a strange land, having suffered what they have suffered. The people of Wales must give a positive welcome and offer help and understanding. We must work together in partnership with many communities. It is a matter for us all, local authorities, police, health authorities and communities in general.

I note the points you made on the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Helen Mary. You made the same points last time. I understand that, but the fact is that we deal with the situation as it is today. You asked me about the money that has become available. It came from the block and was previously authorised by the Secretary of State. That is how it has always been under the National Assistance Act 1948. All authorities were reimbursed for what they claimed.

It is important that the local government consortium that has been formed to deal with asylum seekers works closely with us in the National Assembly for Wales. The consortium consists of 21 local authorities, with the exception of Cardiff, which makes its own arrangements. Cardiff has a proud tradition. Jenny Randerson hinted at that. It has dealt with this in the past because it has such a large conglomerate of people. It will give us a lead on many issues and the Welsh Local Government Association, I am sure, will work in unison with it.

Compassion is everything as far as this issue is concerned. However, I note the point that Members have made about funding concerns. We will look into that. We have never faced such an influx of asylum seekers before. At

Arabeg eu hiaith. Bydd angen rhoi ystyriaeth ofalus i bob achos. Mae'r ddeddfwriaeth newydd yn ystyried hynny a bydd yn ymdrin yn gyflym â phobl nad oes ganddynt sail wirioneddol dros ddod i'r wlad hon fel ceiswyr lloches.

Mae'n bwysig inni danlinellu pwynt Helen Mary Jones ynglŷn â rhoi croeso cadarn i'r bobl hyn. Mae hon yn adeg ysgytvol iddynt. Dylem wrthdroi'r sefyllfa a dychmygu sut y teimlem pe baem yn mynd i'r fan y daethant hwy ohoni, fel dieithriaid llwyr mewn gwlad estron, ar ôl dioddef yr hyn a ddioddefasant hwy. Rhaid i bobl Cymru roi croeso cadarnhaol a chynnig cymorth a dealltwriaeth. Rhaid inni gydweithio mewn partneriaeth â llawer o gymunedau. Mae'n fater i bob un ohonom, awdurdodau lleol, yr heddlu, awdurdodau ieichyd a chymunedau'n gyffredinol.

Nodaf y pwyntiau a wnaethoch ar y Ddeddf Mewnfudo a Nodded 1999, Helen Mary. Gwnaethoch yr un pwyntiau y tro diwethaf. Deallaf hynny, ond y ffaith amdani yw y byddwn yn ymdrin â'r sefyllfa fel y mae heddiw. Yr oeddech wedi fy holi am yr arian sydd ar gael bellach. Daeth o'r bloc ac fe'i hawdurdodwyd cynt gan yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol. Dyna sut y bu erioed o dan y Ddeddf Cymorth Gwladol 1948. Ad-dalwyd yr holl awdurdodau am yr hyn y gwnaethant gais amdano.

Mae'n bwysig bod y consortiw m llywodraeth leol a ffurfiwyd i ymdrin â cheiswyr lloches yn cydweithio'n agos â ni yng Nghynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Mae'r consortiw yn cynnwys 21 awdurdod lleol, ag eithrio Caerdydd, sydd yn gwneud ei threfniadau ei hun. Mae traddodiad anrhydeddus gan Gaerdydd. Lledgyfeiriodd Jenny Randerson at hynny. Ymdriniodd â hyn yn y gorffennol am fod ganddi grynhodd mor fawr o bobl. Bydd yn rhoi arweiniad i ni ar lawer o faterion ac yr wyf yn sicr y bydd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru'n gweithio ar y cyd â hi.

Tosturi yw pob dim yn y mater hwn. Fodd bynnag, nodaf y pwynt a wnaeth yr Aelodau am bryderon ynghylch ariannu. Byddwn yn ymchwilio i hynny. Nid ydym erioed wedi wynebu'r fath fewnlifiad o geiswyr lloches

the moment one expects—as has always been the traditional funding arrangement under the 1948 Act—that local authorities will deal with matters like education and social services. Ongoing costs are accounted for on a formula basis, because of the regular equations that are made. There may be reason for us to consider this in the future and I will monitor it. I will inform the First Secretary about this at an appropriate time, because we may need to consider this matter in relation to the comprehensive spending review. He may need to make representations to us on it.

4:51 p.m.

I do not want to alarm anybody. The most important thing is that we are here to welcome these people and make them as comfortable as possible. I have to deal with an historic funding system and I ask you to understand that. However, I will watch carefully what happens with it. The Home Office is negotiating with the Welsh Refugee Council on setting up a one-stop shop service to support asylum seekers and refugees in Wales. The council is considering the approach and the associated memorandum of understanding. A contract is expected to be concluded in early March. That is important. It is all about partnership. Peter Black hinted at that. The community is important and local authorities, the police and race and equality councils throughout Wales should be completely involved in this. I am sure that that has been considered. As Brian Gibbons said, we must be aware of the possibility of racist right-wing groups and discrimination. We must ensure that there is no discrimination and there must be no tolerance of it.

I cannot tell you where housing is available because that is a matter for the consortium to deal with in the local authorities. I am grateful to them for their work. No decisions have been made yet, but there are empty houses throughout Wales. You would be surprised. They are not all on top of mountains. There are many empty houses in this city. There are 6,500 houses available throughout Wales in the public sector. That

o'r blaen. Ar hyn o bryd mae rhywun yn disgwyl—gan mai hynny fu'r trefniant ariannu traddodiadol o dan Ddeddf 1948—y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn ymdrin â materion fel addysg a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Ystyrir costau parhaol drwy fformwla, oherwydd yr hafaliadau rheolaidd a wneir. Efallai y bydd achos inni ystyried hyn yn y dyfodol a byddaf yn ei fonitro. Hysbysaf y Prif Ysgrifennydd am hyn ar adeg briodol, oherwydd mae'n bosibl y bydd angen inni ystyried y mater hwn mewn perthynas â'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant. Mae'n bosibl y bydd angen iddo gyflwyno sylwadau i ni ar hynny.

Nid wyf am godi braw ar neb. Y peth pwysicaf yw ein bod yma i groesawu'r bobl hyn a'u gwneud mor gyfforddus ag y bo modd. Rhaid imi ddelio â system ariannu sydd yn bod ers talwm a gofynnaf ichi ddeall hynny. Fodd bynnag, byddaf yn gwylia'r hyn sydd yn digwydd â hi yn ofalus. Mae'r Swyddfa Gartref mewn trafodaeth â Chyngor Ffoaduriaid Cymru ynghylch sefydlu gwasanaeth siop un stop i gefnogi ceiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid yng Nghymru. Mae'r cyngor yn ystyried y dull hwn o weithredu a'r memorandwm cyd-ddealltwriaeth cysylltiedig. Disgwylir y caiff contract ei gwblhau yn gynnar ym Mawrth. Mae hynny'n bwysig. Mae'r cwbl yn ymwneud â phartneriaeth. Lledgyfeiriodd Peter Black at hynny. Mae'r gymuned yn bwysig a dylai awdurdodau lleol, yr heddlu a chynghorau hiliol a chydraddoldeb ledled Cymru fod â rhan lawn yn hyn. Yr wyf yn sicr bod hynny wedi ei ystyried. Fel y dywedodd Brian Gibbons, rhaid inni fod yn ymwybodol o'r posibiliad o grwpiau asgell-dde hiliol a gwahaniaethu. Rhaid inni sicrhau nad oes gwahaniaethu a rhaid peidio â'i oddef.

Ni allaf ddweud wrthych ym mhle y mae tai ar gael oherwydd mater i'r consortiw m ei draffod yn yr awdurdodau lleol yw hwnnw. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iddynt am eu gwaith. Ni wnaethpwyd unrhyw benderfyniadau eto, ond mae tai gwag ledled Cymru. Byddech yn synnu. Nid yw pob un ar ben mynydd. Mae llawer o dai gwag yn y ddinas hon. Mae 6,500 o dai ar gael ledled Cymru yn y sector cyhoeddus. Nid yw hynny'n golygu y caiff

does not mean that anybody will be channelled into one area or another. There should be fair and equitable distribution, dealt with by the professional people of the Welsh Local Government Association, working as a consortium. I am sure that they will consider the needs in every area. Perception is an important matter, as Jocelyn said. That must be remembered. I would not expect to see a disparity of services between indigenous people and asylum seekers, but I will ensure that this is monitored. We are entering a new era; we have never had such an influx.

I take all points made this afternoon seriously. I have considered all of them and I will monitor the situation and report on matters to the Committee as and when I can. The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 will modernise and improve the immigration and asylum system. This year's grant is an interim step. These grants are designed to reimburse local authorities for the costs incurred for the accommodation and essential living needs of asylum seekers. They are not cash benefits for asylum seekers. The Government aimed to minimise the extent to which asylum seekers receive living needs in cash, and local authorities have provided the majority of living needs through vouchers.

I am grateful to the local authorities that are already preparing for their role in co-ordinating services and providing accommodation for asylum seekers under the new support arrangements after 1 April. I expect local authorities to co-operate with the Home Office in setting up new arrangements to ensure a more even distribution of asylum seekers around the country. We all have a responsibility, as fellow human beings. I ask you to support this motion.

*Cynnig: O blaid 40, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 40, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine

rhywun ei sianelu i un ardal neu'i gilydd. Dylid cael dosbarthu teg a chyfartal, yr ymdrinnir ag ef gan bobl broffesiynol Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, gan weithio fel consortiw. Yr wyf yn sicr y byddant yn ystyried yr anghenion ym mhob ardal. Mae amgyffrediad yn fater pwysig, fel y dywedodd Jocelyn. Rhaid cofio hynny. Ni ddisgwylwn weld gwahaniaeth yn y gwasanaethau i bobl frodorol a cheiswyr lloches, ond byddaf yn sicrhau y caiff hyn ei fonitro. Yr ydym ar ddechrau cyfnod newydd; ni chawsom erioed y fath fewnlifiad.

Cymeraf yr holl bwyntiau a wnaethpwyd y prynhawn yma o ddifrif. Ystyrais bob un ohonynt a byddaf yn monitro'r sefyllfa ac yn hysbysu'r Pwyllgor ar faterion yn ôl fy ngallu. Bydd y Ddeddf Mewnudo a Nodded 1999 yn moderneiddio ac yn gwella'r system mewnudo a nodded. Mae'r grant eleni yn gam dros dro. Bwriedir i'r grantiau hyn addalu'r awdurdodau lleol am y costau a gafwyd am lety ac anghenion byw sylfaenol ceiswyr lloches. Nid budd-daliadau ariannol i geiswyr lloches mohonynt. Ceisiodd y Llywodraeth leihau'r graddau y mae ceiswyr lloches yn derbyn anghenion byw mewn arian, ac mae awdurdodau lleol wedi darparu'r rhan fwyaf o anghenion byw drwy dalebau.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r awdurdodau lleol sydd eisoes yn paratoi ar gyfer eu rôl o gydlynu gwasanaethau a darparu llety i geiswyr lloches o dan y trefniadau cefnogaeth newydd ar ôl 1 Ebrill. Disgwyliaf y bydd yr awdurdodau lleol yn cydweithredu â'r Swyddfa Gartref wrth sefydlu trefniadau newydd i sicrhau dosbarthiad mwy cyfartal o geiswyr lloches o gwmpas y wlad. Mae cyfrifoldeb arnom oll, fel cyd-ddynion. Gofynnaf ichi gefnogi'r cynnig hwn.

Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Jocelyn
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Feld, Val
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwin
Humphreys, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Marek, John
Melding, David
Michael, Alun
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

Datganiad Busnes Atodol Supplementary Business Statement

The Presiding Officer: Before I call on Janet Ryder for the short debate, I call the Business Secretary to make a short supplementary business statement.

Andrew Davies: In my business statement earlier this afternoon I omitted a reference to a determination, made by the Business Committee this morning, that the Financing of Maintained Schools (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000 should go to the Pre-16 Education Committee tomorrow for it to report on its deliberations in the next two weeks.

Y Llywydd: Cyn imi alw ar Janet Ryder ar gyfer y ddadl fer, galwaf ar y Trefnydd i wneud datganiad busnes atodol byr.

Andrew Davies: Yn fy natganiad busnes yn gynharach y prynhawn yma gadewais allan cyfeiriad at benderfyniad, a wnaethpwyd yn y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma, y dylai Rheoliadau Cyllido Ysgolion Gwladol (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2000 fynd gerbron y Pwyllgor Addysg Cyn-16 yfory er mwyn iddo adrodd ar ei drafodaethau yn y pythefnos nesaf.

**Dadl Fer
Short Debate**

**Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn: Canolfan Ragoriaeth Ranbarthol?
Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn: Regional Centre of Excellence?**

Janet Ryder: I have accepted requests from Ann Jones, Peter Rogers and Christine Humphreys to contribute to this debate.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me by providing information and support to put this speech together. I have tried to represent the views of parents, governors and the local education authority as accurately as possible.

I want to talk about a special school: special not only in the work that it does but also special because of the people who attend it. Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn in Denbigh provides education and support for children and young people who have varying degrees of autism. The school, despite terrible physical conditions, has a dedicated staff, a committed team of governors, is fully supported by the local education authority and is fortunate to have the support of dedicated parents.

The aim of everyone associated with Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is to establish it as a regional centre of excellence, which will offer not only special education but a full range of support facilities for children, young people and their families.

I will describe the school, the support it receives and a possible way forward. I will then pose a question—I hoped that it would be to Rosemary Butler, but I believe that it is to you, Tom Middlehurst—about how the school can achieve its aims.

Autism is a hidden disability touching the lives of over 500,000 families throughout the UK. It is a lifelong developmental disability that affects the way a person communicates and relates to people around him or her. Children and adults with autism are unable to relate to others in a meaningful way. Their

Janet Ryder: Derbyniais geisiadau oddi wrth Ann Jones, Peter Rogers a Christine Humphreys i gyfrannu i'r ddadl hon.

Yr wyf am achub ar y cyfle hwn i ddiolch i bawb a'm helpodd drwy ddarparu gwybodaeth a chefnogaeth i baratoi'r araith hon. Ceisiais gynrychioli barn rhieni, llywodraethwyr a'r awdurdod addysg lleol mor gywir â phosibl.

Yr wyf am sôn am ysgol arbennig: yn arbennig nid yn unig o ran y gwaith a wna ond oherwydd y bobl sydd yn derbyn eu haddysg yno. Mae Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn yn Ninbych yn darparu addysg a chefnogaeth i blant a phobl ifanc sydd â gwahanol raddau o awtistiaeth. Er gwaethaf ei chyflwr ofnadwy, mae gan yr ysgol staff ymroddedig, tîm selog o lywodraethwyr, fe'i cefnogir yn llawn gan yr awdurdod addysg lleol ac mae'n ffodus o gael cefnogaeth rhieni ymroddgar.

Nod pawb sydd yn gysylltiedig ag Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn yw ei sefydlu'n ganolfan ragoriaeth ranbarthol, a fydd yn cynnig nid yn unig addysg arbennig ond amrediad llawn o gyfleusteriau cefnogaeth i blant, pobl ifanc a'u teuluoedd.

Yr wyf am ddisgrifio'r ysgol, y gefnogaeth a gaiff a ffordd bosibl ymlaen. Yr wyf wedyn am ofyn cwestiwn—yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio mai i Rosemary Butler y byddai hynny, ond credaf mai i chi y bydd, Tom Middlehurst—ynghylch sut y gall yr ysgol gyflawni ei nodau.

Mae awtistiaeth yn anabledd cudd sydd yn cyffwrdd â bywydau dros 500,000 o deuluoedd ledled y DU. Mae'n anabledd datblygiadol gydol oes sydd yn effeithio ar y modd y bydd person yn cyfathrebu ac yn cydberthnasu â phobl o'i gwmpas neu o'i chwmpas. Nid yw plant ac oedolion ag

ability to develop friendships is impaired, as is their capacity to understand other people's feelings. People with autism can often have accompanying learning disabilities and everyone with the condition shows a difficulty in making sense of the world.

All children with autistic spectrum disorder have difficulty with social interaction and communication. They require a highly structured delivery of education. The skills and teaching techniques required from teachers, staff and care assistants are specific to autism. For some, there will be the need to teach basic skills, such as toileting, play and speech. For all, there is a need to develop the ability to relate to and communicate with others.

Autism can now be diagnosed much earlier—often at about two and a half years of age—and enormous improvement in eventual outcome is possible with early intervention. However, parents need help in the development of the pre-school child. Autistic children should receive special education from about the age of four.

This is where Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn in Denbigh plays a crucial role. The school opened in 1973, primarily for children with learning disabilities and language delay. Over the years, with greater diagnostic precision, the focus has been on autism. The age range of the 98 children who attend the school is from three to 19. Of those, 36 are resident at the school for two to four nights a week during school term time. However, there are only 30 bed spaces and there is a long backlog of deferrals.

The school deals with the full range of autistic spectrum disorders, from those with severe learning difficulties and little communication to those who have average or above average capability. As a result of the increase in diagnosis, Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn has opened an additional early years class in each of the last two years.

5:01 p.m.

awtistiaeth yn gallu cydberthnasu ag eraill yn ystyrlon. Amherir ar eu gallu i ddatblygu cyfeillgarwch, a hefyd eu gallu i ddeall teimladau pobl eraill. Yn aml mae gan rai ag awtistiaeth anableddau dysgu hefyd ac mae pawb sydd â'r cyflwr yn amlygu anhawster wrth ddeall y byd.

Mae'r holl blant sydd ag anhwylder sbectwm awtistig yn profi anhawster â rhyngweithio cymdeithasol a chyfathrebu. Mae angen addysg a gyflenwir mewn modd strwythurol iawn arnynt. Mae'r medrau a'r technegau dysgu sydd yn ofynnol oddi wrth athrawon, staff a chynorthwywyr gofal yn benodol i awtistiaeth. Yn achos rhai, bydd angen dysgu medrau sylfaenol, fel ymbaratoi, chwarae a lleferydd. Ym mhob achos, mae angen datblygu'r gallu i gydberthnasu a chyfathrebu ag eraill.

Yn awr gellir diagnostio awtistiaeth yn gynharach o lawer—yn aml tua dwyflwydd a hanner oed—a gellir cael gwelliant aruthrol yn y canlyniad terfynol drwy ymyrryd yn gynnar. Fodd bynnag, mae ar rieni yr angen am gymorth gyda datblygiad y plentyn cyn iddo fynd i'r ysgol. Dylai plant awtistig dderbyn addysg arbennig o tua phedair oed.

Dyma lle y mae Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn yn chwarae'r ôl holl bwysig. Agorodd yr ysgol yn 1973, yn bennaf ar gyfer plant ag anableddau dysgu a hwyredd ieithyddol. Dros y blynnyddoedd, gyda gwell manylder wrth ddiagnosio, canolbwyniwyd ar awtistiaeth. Mae ystod oedran y 98 o blant sydd yn derbyn eu haddysg yn yr ysgol yn amrywio o dair i 19. O blith y rhain, mae 36 yn breswylwyr yn yr ysgol am ddwy i bedair noson yr wythnos yn ystod tymhorau ysgol. Fodd bynnag, nid oes ond 30 gwely ac mae ôl-groniad mawr o ohiriadau.

Mae'r ysgol yn ymdrin â'r amrediad llawn o anhwylerau sbectwm awtistig, o'r rhai ag anawsterau dysgu difrifol a chyfathrebu prin i'r rhai sydd â gallu cymedrol ac uwch na chymedrol. O ganlyniad i'r cynnydd mewn diagnosis, mae Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn wedi agor dosbarth blynnyddoedd cynnar ychwanegol ym mhob un o'r ddwy flynedd diwethaf.

The nature of some children's autism is such that it is unlikely that they will be able to be fully integrated into mainstream education. However, this does not mean that they would not benefit from being in a special autistic facility located on a mainstream school site, enabling them to benefit from social integration. Brondyffryn is unique in having a key stage 4 class for children with Asperger's syndrome at Denbigh High School, enabling pupils to access GCSE classes. The work and achievement of this unit has been highly praised in inspection reports.

The school operates on three sites. The main base is Brondyffryn Hall itself—a large, Victorian, former private residence. This includes the main residential provision for the pre-16s, mixed ability classes for early years and key stage 1, three specialist key stage 2 classes, two specialist key stage 3 classes, one specialised key stage 4 class and offices. There is another unit—Tŷ'n Fron—about three quarters of a mile away. This is purpose built as a residential block of a special school and is on the same site as a mainstream primary school which houses one class from each of key stages 2, 3 and 4 and post-16 school and residential accommodation.

Physical conditions at Brondyffryn are very poor. The gym has closed recently because of squirrel damage, window frames are rotten and the front drive and parking area on a wet day is a muddy quagmire. The building is extremely overcrowded and even the staff room had to be sacrificed recently to make room for more teaching space. The present buildings lack adequate toilets, sluices, changing and intimate handling areas and are a risk to health. Following an outbreak of gastroenteritis, remedial work was carried out, but was only partial and is not a long-term solution.

A charitable grant of £3,000 enabled the school to purchase sensory equipment, which remains in boxes under the stairs because there is no room to set it up. The school has

Mae natur awtistiaeth rhai plant yn gyfryw fel ei bod yn annhebygol y byddant yn gallu cael eu hintegreiddio'n llawn mewn addysg brif ffrwd. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hyn yn golygu na fyddent yn elwa drwy fod mewn cyfleuster awtistig arbennig a leolir ar safle ysgol brif ffrwd, fel y gallent elwa o integreiddio cymdeithasol. Mae Brondyffryn yn unigryw am fod ganddi ddosbarth cyfnod allweddol 4 i blant â syndrom Asperger yn Ysgol Uwchradd Dinbych, fel bod y disgyblion yn gallu mynchyu dosbarthiadau TGAU. Mae gwaith a chyflawniad yr uned hon wedi cael clod mawr mewn adroddiadau arolygwyr.

Mae'r ysgol yn gweithredu ar dri safle. Y brif ganolfan yw Neuadd Brondyffryn ei hun—ty Fictoraidd helaeth a fu'n gartref preifat. Mae hyn yn cynnwys y brif ddarpariaeth breswyl i rai cyn-16, dosbarthiadau galluoedd cymysg i'r blynnyddoedd cynnar a chyfnod allweddol 1, tri dosbarth cyfnod allweddol 2 arbenigol, dau ddosbarth cyfnod allweddol 3 arbenigol, un dosbarth cyfnod allweddol 4 arbenigol a swyddfeydd. Mae uned arall—Tŷ'n Fron—tua thri chwarter milltir i ffwrdd. Mae hon wedi ei hadeiladu'n bwrrpasol fel bloc preswyl i ysgol arbennig ac mae ar yr un safle ag ysgol gynradd brif ffrwd sydd yn cynnwys un dosbarth o bob un o gyfnodau allweddol 2, 3 a 4 ac ystafelloedd ar gyfer ysgol ôl-16 a mannau preswyl.

Mae cyflwr Brondyffryn yn wael iawn. Mae'r gampfa wedi ei chau'n ddiweddar oherwydd difrod gan wiwerod, mae fframiau'r ffenestri wedi pydru ac mae'r dramwyfa flaen a'r man parcio yn gors leidiog ar ddiwrnodau gwlyb. Mae'r adeilad yn orlawn iawn a bu'n rhaid aberthu ystafell y staff yn ddiweddar hyd yn oed er mwyn cael mwy o le i ddysgu. Mae'r adeiladau presennol heb doiledau digonol, golchfeydd, mannau newid a thrafod personol ac maent yn berygl i iechyd. Yn dilyn cychwyniad o gastroenteritis, cyflawnwyd gwaith adfer, ond nid oedd ond yn rhannol ac nid yw'n ateb tymor hir.

Mae grant o £3,000 gan elusen wedi galluogi'r ysgol i brynu offer synhwyraidd, sydd mewn blychau o dan y grisiau o hyd am nad oes lle i'w gosod. Mae'r ysgol wedi cael

an offer from another charity to fund a music therapist as a pilot study, but there is neither the space nor the basic equipment to offer the therapist. There is also a lack of outdoor and indoor play facilities. The rooms at Tŷ'n Fron, which were designed as bedrooms, are used as classrooms, but are too small for this purpose. This unit contains the residential accommodation for 16 to 19-year-olds, but it forms part of a primary school campus. Despite all this, the school has an excellent record, on which everyone wants to build. To achieve this, the school needs specialist teaching rooms and resources to provide a healthy and stimulating environment for the children.

Before I go on, I pay tribute to Denbighshire local education authority. Given its financial constraints, it is finding it difficult to address the poor physical conditions of the school, but officers, particularly the special needs staff, are very supportive of the school. Denbighshire LEA is committed to early intervention for children with special learning needs. Officers work jointly with other agencies—health, social services and the voluntary sector—to identify special needs in the pre-school period and to provide intensive early intervention. This has successfully enabled many more children to attend local mainstream schools than would otherwise be possible; thus implementing the Government's call for increased inclusion. Denbighshire LEA has developed many of the best practices set out in the 'The BEST for Special Education' document—part of the Building Excellent Schools Together programme. It has also established an innovative service called DEIS—Denbighshire Early Intervention Service—to support children with special educational needs in mainstream schools. DEIS utilises the skills and expertise of special school staff to work outside their usual parameters and in partnership with mainstream colleagues. However, lack of funding restricts the further development of this service, which is highly valued by schools and parents.

cynnig gan elusen arall i ariannu therapydd cerdd fel astudiaeth beilot, ond nid oes na lle nac offer sylfaenol i'w cynnig i'r therapydd. Mae diffyg cyfleusterau chwarae awyr agored a dan do hefyd. Mae'r ystafelloedd yn Tŷ'n Fron, a gynlluniwyd i fod yn ystafelloedd gwely, yn cael eu defnyddio fel ystafelloedd dosbarth, ond maent yn rhy fach i'r diben hwn. Mae'r uned hon yn cynnwys y llety preswyl i rai rhwng 16 a 19 mlwydd oed, ond mae'n rhan o gampws ysgol gynradd. Er gwaethaf hyn i gyd, mae gan yr ysgol record ragorol y mae pawb am adeiladu arni. I gyflawni hynny, mae angen ystafelloedd dosbarth ac adnoddau arbenigol yn yr ysgol i ddarparu amgylchedd iach ac ysgogol i'r plant,

Cyn imi fynd ymlaen, talaf deyrnged i awdurdod addysg lleol Sir Ddinbych. Oherwydd y cyfyngiadau ariannol sydd arno, mae'n ei chael yn anodd rhoi sylw i gyflwr gwael yr ysgol, ond mae'r swyddogion, yn enwedig y staff anghenion arbennig, yn gefnogol iawn i'r ysgol. Mae awdurdod addysg lleol Sir Ddinbych wedi ymrwymo i ymyrryd yn gynnar pan fo'r plant ag anghenion dysgu arbennig. Mae'r swyddogion yn gweithio ar y cyd ag asiantaethau eraill—iechyd, gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a'r sector gwirfoddol—i ddynodi anghenion arbennig yn y cyfnod cyn-ysgol ac i ddarparu ymyriad cynnar dwys. Mae hyn wedi llwyddo i alluogi llawer mwy o blant i dderbyn eu haddysg mewn ysgolion prif ffrwd lleol nag a fyddai'n bosibl fel arall; a thrwy hynny rhoi galwad y Llywodraeth am fwy o gynhwysiant ar waith. Mae awdurdod addysg lleol Sir Ddinbych wedi datblygu llawer o'r ymarferiadau gorau a nodir yn y ddogfen 'Y Gorau ar gyfer Addysg Arbennig'—rhan o'r rhaglen Adeiladu Ysgolion Rhagorol Gyda'n Gilydd. Mae hefyd wedi sefydlu gwasanaeth arloesol o'r enw DEIS—Gwasanaeth Ymyriad Cynnar Sir Ddinbych—er mwyn cynnal plant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig mewn ysgolion prif ffrwd. Mae Gwasanaeth Ymyriad Cynnar Sir Ddinbych yn defnyddio medrau ac arbenigedd staff ysgolion arbennig i weithio y tu allan i'w paramedrau arferol ac mewn partneriaeth â'u cydweithwyr prif ffrwd. Fodd bynnag, mae prinder arian yn atal datblygiad pellach y gwasanaeth hwn, a werthfawrogir gan ysgolion a rhieni yn fawr.

By providing intensive early intervention for children who have autistic spectrum disorder, there are marked improvements in communication skills and behaviour. This approach is essential at an early age to ensure that children learn appropriate skills before they develop classic autistic type behaviour. Special educational needs provision is not restricted to schools. Denbighshire LEA provides various services, some of which are home-based. Denbighshire LEA jointly funds a specialist therapy supervisor with three other local education authorities and half provided additional training in America on applied behavioural analysis. That specialist works on early intervention projects and at Plas Brondyffryn. They also jointly fund a north Wales special needs co-ordinator: a post which started this week.

Not only is the school supported by the LEA, it has a dedicated team of governors and an active parent group, ABACUS. Through the efforts of ABACUS, a possible major step forward has been achieved. The Shirley Foundation, a British charitable foundation, has become interested in the school and has agreed to fund a feasibility study to assess the potential future role of Brondyffryn and how it might attract additional capital and revenue funding, in order to bring about desperately needed improvements and secure its future.

One of the developments could include establishing the school as a centre of excellence for autism with a comprehensive parent and family service. A rudimentary facility already exists but this could be developed to become a lifeline to many homes. Talking over problems with trained experts, counsellors, and teachers could make the difference of surviving from day to day and having a rewarding family life for many with a disabled child. Communications with other parents and sharing experiences can be of real help to parents of autistic spectrum disordered children. The school already holds parents mornings once a month and this

Drwy ddarparu ymyriad cynnar dwys ar gyfer plant sydd ag anhwylder sbectwm awtistig, ceir gwelliannau pendant mewn sgiliau cyfathrebu ac ymddygiad. Mae'r dull hwn o weithredu'n hanfodol mewn oedran cynnar er mwyn sicrhau bod plant yn dysgu medrau priodol cyn datblygu ymddygiad nodweddiadol o fath awtistig. Nid yw'r ddarpariaeth anghenion addysgol arbennig yn gyfyngedig i ysgolion. Mae awdurdod addysg lleol Sir Ddinbych yn darparu gwahanol wasanaethau, rhai ohonynt yn y cartref. Mae awdurdod addysg lleol Sir Ddinbych yn cydariannu arolygydd therapi arbenigol gyda thri awdurdod addysg lleol arall a hanner ariannodd hyfforddiant ychwanegol yn America ar ddadansoddi ymddygiadol cymwysedig. Mae'r arbenigwr hwnnw'n gweithio ar brosiectau ymyriad cynnar ac yn Mhlas Brondyffryn. Maent hefyd ym cydariannu cydlynnydd anghenion arbennig yng ngogledd Cymru: swydd a ddechreuodd yr wythnos hon.

Yn ogystal â chael cefnogaeth yr awdurdod addysg lleol, mae gan yr ysgol dîm ymroddedig o lywodraethwyr a grŵp rhieni gweithgar, ABACUS. Drwy ymdrechion ABACUS, llwyddwyd i gymryd cam mawr posibl ymlaen. Mae Sefydliad Shirley, sefydliad elusennol Prydeinig, wedi dechrau ymddiddori yn yr ysgol ac wedi cytuno i ariannu astudiaeth dichonoldeb i asesu rôl bosibl Brondyffryn yn y dyfodol a sut y gallai ddenu arian cyfalaf a refeniw ychwanegol, er mwyn cyflawni gwelliannau y mae taer angen amdanyst a sicrhau ei dyfodol.

Gallai'r datblygiadau gynnwys sefydlu'r ysgol yn ganolfan ragoriaeth ar gyfer awtistiaeth gyda gwasanaeth cynhwysfawr i reni a theuluoedd. Mae cyfleuster elfennol yn bod eisoes ond gellid datblygu hwn i fod yn rhaff achub i lawer o gartrefi. Mae trafod problemau ag arbenigwyr, cynghorwyr ac athrawon hyfforddedig yn gallu gwneud y gwahaniaeth rhwng ymdopi o ddydd i ddydd a chael bywyd teuluol buddiol yn achos llawer sydd â phlentyn anabl. Mae cyfathrebu â rhieni eraill a rhannu profiadau'n gallu bod o gymorth gwirioneddol i reni plant sydd ag anhwylder sbectwm awtistig. Mae'r ysgol eisoes yn cynnal boreau i reni unwaith y mis

could be developed into regular talks with a drop-in centre for parents to meet and exchange ideas.

Siblings of autistic children could also use the centre to meet brothers and sisters of other children to realise that they are not alone. The family centre would be a place for them to swap stories, feelings and gain information from professionals. This umbrella service would see a child develop from the early years of diagnosis right through to adulthood. However, there is also a desperate need to develop respite care and further develop the holiday provision.

Plans for the future of the educational facilities are based on achieving the highest level of mainstream integration possible, consistent with meeting the children's special needs. The educational provision in the future might include a specialist nursery class; provision for most children at key stages 1 and 2 through special support provided within the two local mainstream primary schools; at secondary level, an expansion of the facilities already in existence at Denbigh High School, perhaps with different levels of integration; a new separate specialist educational facility for the more challenging children of all ages; and the post-16 provision could be completely rethought with either separate housing or a campus-style further education facility. In addition, there should be an outreach service to all mainstream schools. That is the history and potential of the school.

Here are some thoughts of people directly involved with Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn. First, a parent's perspective by Sue Askins, Chair of ABACUS.

'As a mother of Josh, a 10 year old autistic boy with mild learning disabilities, I see many positive aspects of having him attend Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn even with all the poor facilities and resources, but I believe there is a limit to what can be achieved in such conditions.

Josh will start his secondary education this year taught from just one room, with no input

a gellid datblygu'r rhain yn sgyrsiau rheolaidd gyda chanolfan galw heibio i rieni gael cyfarfod a chyfnewid syniadau.

Gallai brodyr a chwiorydd plant awtistig ddefnyddio'r ganolfan hefyd er mwyn cwrdd â phlant eraill a sylweddoli drwy hynny nad hwy yw'r unig rai felly. Byddai'r ganolfan deuluol yn rhywle iddynt gyfnewid hanesion, teimladau a chael gwybodaeth gan weithwyr proffesiynol. Byddai'r gwasanaeth ambarél hwn yn dilyn datblygiad plentyn o flynyddoedd cynnar y diagnosis at ei lawn dwf. Fodd bynnag, mae taer angen hefyd i ddatblygu gofal seibiant a datblygu'r ddarpariaeth gwyliau ymhellach.

Mae cynlluniau ar gyfer dyfodol y cyfleusterau addysgol yn seiliedig ar gyflawni'r lefel uchaf o integreiddio yn y brif ffrwd ag y bo modd, yn gyson â chwrdd ag anghenion arbennig y plant. Gallai'r ddarpariaeth addysgol yn y dyfodol gynnwys dosbarth meithrin arbenigol; darpariaeth ar gyfer y rhan fwyaf o blant yng nghyfnodau allweddol 1 a 2 drwy gefnogaeth arbennig a gâi ei darparu yn y ddwy ysgol gynradd brif ffrwd leol; ar lefel uwchradd, ehangu'r cyfleusterau a geir eisoes yn Ysgol Uwchradd Dinbych, gyda gwahanol lefelau o integreiddio, o bosibl; cyfleuster addysgol arbenigol newydd ar wahân ar gyfer y plant ym mhob oedran sydd yn cynnig mwy o her; a gellid ailystyried y ddarpariaeth ôl-16 yn llwyr gydag un ai adeilad ar wahân neu gyfleuster addysg bellach ar ffurf campws. Ar ben hynny, gellid cael gwasanaeth allanol ar gyfer yr holl ysgolion prif ffrwd. Dyna hanes a photensial yr ysgol.

Dyma rai o sylwadau gan bobl sydd â chysylltiad uniongyrchol ag Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn. Yn gyntaf, safbwyt rhiant gan Sue Askins, Cadeirydd ABACUS.

'A minnau'n fam i Josh, bachgen awtistig 10 mlwydd oed ag anableddau dysgu cymedrol, gwelaf lawer o'r agweddau cadarnhaol o'i gael yn ddisgybl yn Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn hyd yn oed gyda'r cyfleusterau a'r adnoddau gwael sydd yno, ond credaf fod pen draw i'r hyn y gellir ei gyflawni o dan y fath amodau.

Bydd Josh yn dechrau ar ei addysg uwchradd eleni gan dderbyn ei addysg mewn un ystafell

from specialist teachers in music, art, PE, CDT; no specialist classrooms for art and science; no library and IT rooms; and a gym inhabited by squirrels. He needs integration with a mainstream school on a daily basis and should not be taught in cramped classrooms. He, along with the other 98 autistic children, deserves better than the current conditions. We have a fantastic opportunity now that the Shirley Foundation has offered to write a feasibility study for us and I feel at last somebody is taking our problems seriously.

I promise that, if you visited the school, you would be disgusted by the present facilities. Education is the only hope for our children. This is the reason I set up ABACUS a year ago. I feel it is now the right time for Wales to be proud of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn which has a glowing reputation despite such poor conditions.

With proper investment Brondyffryn has the potential to be a tremendous resource for the whole of north Wales, to become a regional centre of excellence for autism. The staff who help Josh weekly with his problems in communication, dealing with social skills and general education are also valuable to parents. They pass on advice learnt from years of dealing with other autistic children and their families on how to help us cope with everyday situations. In the little time available they act as advisers and if we have a problem at home they often can resolve it with us. However, the teachers are overstretched and we could be helped more.

By becoming a centre of excellence we can build on what that the school has achieved in 25 years and offer a complete service to autistic children and their families. These improvements are urgently required.'

5:11 p.m.

The chairman of the governors comments that,

yn unig, heb unrhyw fewnbwn gan athrawon arbenigol mewn cerdd, celf, addysg gorfforol, crefft, dylunio a thechnoleg; dim ystafelloedd dosbarth arbenigol ar gyfer celf a'r gwyddorau; dim llyfrgell nac ystafelloedd technoleg gwylbodaeth; a champfa lle y mae gwiwerod yn byw. Mae arno angen ei integreiddio mewn ysgol brif ffrwd bob dydd ac ni ddylid ei ddysgu mewn ystafelloedd dosbarth gorlawn. Mae ef, ynghyd â 98 plentyn awtistig arall, yn haeddu gwell na'r amodau presennol. Mae gennym gyfle gwych gan fod Sefydliad Shirley bellach wedi cynnig ysgrifennu astudiaeth dichonoldeb ar ein rhan, a theimlaf fod rhywun yn cymryd ein problemau o ddifrif o'r diwedd.

Yr wyf yn eich sicrhau, pe baech yn ymweld â'r ysgol, y byddech yn gwaredu at y cyfleusterau presennol. Addysg yw'r unig obaith i'n plant. Dyma pam y sefydlais ABACUS flwyddyn yn ôl. Teimlaf mai hon yw'r adeg briodol i Gymru ymfalchïo yn Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn sydd ag enw rhagorol er gwaethaf amodau gwael o'r fath.

O fuddsoddi ynddi'n iawn, mae potensial yn Brondyffryn i fod yn adnodd aruthrol ar gyfer gogledd Cymru i gyd, i ddod yn ganolfan ragoriaeth ranbarthol ar gyfer awtistaeth. Mae'r staff sydd yn helpu Josh bob wythnos â'i broblemau cyfathrebu, yn delio â medrau cymdeithasol ac addysg gyffredinol yn werthfawr i rieni hefyd. Maent yn trosglwyddo cyngor a ddysgwyd drwy flynyddoedd o ymdrin â phlant awtistig eraill a'u teuluoedd ar sut i'n helpu i ddygymod â sefyllfaedd bob dydd. Yn yr amser prin sydd ar gael gweithredant fel cyngorwyr ac os oes gennym broblem gartref maent yn gallu ei datrys yn aml gyda ni. Fodd bynnag, mae'r athrawon wedi eu gorymestyn a gellid rhoi mwy o gymorth i ni.

Drwy ddod yn ganolfan ragoriaeth ranbarthol gallwn adeiladu ar yr hyn a gyflawnodd yr ysgol mewn 25 mlynedd a chynnig gwasanaeth cyflawn i blant awtistig a'u teuluoedd. Mae angen y gwelliannau hyn ar frys.'

Dywed cadeirydd y llywodraethwyr,

'The Government should face up to the hopes raised in the Special Needs Care Green Paper. We feel at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn that we demonstrate all the good points of that policy but without the resources. The stumbling block has been that the civil servants have not devised a way of structuring a regional educational provision. I hope north Wales with the help of the Assembly can break new ground to achieve an end which all see is desirable.'

Finally, from the local education authority,

'We do not have the financial resources to provide what is effective. Our budget to provide for special educational needs is woefully inadequate. It does not allow us to educate these children to their potential. It is immoral that we have knowledge of how to improve the achievements of children with special educational needs and are failing to do so because we do not have sufficient facilities. We have the commitment and the expertise. We urgently need additional, financial resources to deliver our special educational needs services.'

That is what people involved in running the school have to say.

I will conclude. The school is already used and recognised as a regional centre. The revenue funding is increasingly coming from many authorities, with referrals from 12 different counties. The problem is funding the capital work that needs to be done. At the moment the school is the sole responsibility of Denbighshire County Council. Denbighshire alone does not have the number of pupils to fill the school. It is only when you look at the wider regional picture that you see the true potential of the school. Prior to reorganisation in 1974 there were regional facilities in north Wales. Coleg Normal Bangor was jointly financed and managed by all authorities in north Wales. Perhaps we need to look again at this possibility. There will be problems in developing the financial structures, management arrangements and lines of accountability. However, one of the main problems is who will take the lead in

'Dylai'r Llywodraeth wynebu'r gobeithion a godwyd yn y Papur Gwydd ar Ofal Anghenion Arbennig. Teimlwn ein bod yn Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn yn amlyu holl bwyntiau da'r polisi hwnnw heb yr adnoddau. Y maen tramgydd yw nad yw'r gweision sifil eto wedi dyfeisio ffordd o strwythuro darpariaeth addysgol ranbarthol. Gobeithiaf y gall gogledd Cymru, gyda chymorth y Cynulliad, dorri tir newydd i gyflawni amcan y mae pawb yn ei weld yn ddymunol.'

Yn olaf, gan yr awdurdod addysg lleol,

'Nid oes gennym mo'r adnoddau ariannol i ddarparu'r hyn sydd yn effeithiol. Mae ein cyllideb i ddarparu ar gyfer anghenion addysgol arbenigol yn druenus o annigonol. Nid yw'n caniatáu inni addysgu'r plant hyn i'w potensial. Mae'n anfoesol bod gennym yr wybodaeth ynghylch sut i wella cyflawniadau plant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig a'n bod yn methu â gwneud hynny am nad oes gennym gyfleusterau digonol. Mae'r ymroddiad a'r arbenigedd gennym. Mae gennym angen dybryd am adnoddau ariannol ychwanegol i gyflenwi ein gwasanaethau anghenion addysgol arbennig.'

Dyna sydd gan y bobl sydd yn gysylltiedig â rhedeg yr ysgol i'w ddweud.

Yr wyf am derfynu. Mae'r ysgol yn cael ei defnyddio a'i chyd nabod yn ganolfan ranbarthol eisoes. Daw'r arian refeniw yn fwyfwy o lawer o awdurdodau, gyda chyfeiriadau oddi wrth 12 sir wahanol. Y broblem yw ariannu'r gwaith cyfalaf y mae angen ei wneud. Ar hyn o bryd mae'r ysgol yn gyfrifoldeb i Gyngor Sir Ddinbych yn unig. Ar ei phen ei hun nid oes gan Sir Ddinbych nifer ddigonol o ddisgyblion i lenwi'r ysgol. Dim ond pan edrychwch ar y darlun rhanbarthol ehangach y gwelwch wir botensial yr ysgol. Cyn yr ad-drefnu yn 1974 yr oedd cyfleusterau rhanbarthol yng ngogledd Cymru. Câi Coleg Normal Bangor ei gydariannu a'i gydreoli gan yr holl awdurdodau yng ngogledd Cymru. Efallai fod angen inni ailedrych ar y posibiliad hwn. Bydd problemau wrth ddatblygu'r strwythurau ariannol, y trefniadau rheoli a'r llinellau atebolwydd. Fodd bynnag, un o'r

starting this process.

This brings me to my question, which I had hoped to pose to Rosemary Butler but which I will put to Tom Middlehurst. Given the support of the school, governors, staff, LEA and parents, what lead are you able to give in this situation? What do you think is the next step for the school? What must it do to become a regional centre of excellence? The parents, staff and the LEA are awaiting your response.

Ann Jones: I thank Janet Ryder for raising this issue. If I am ever successful in choosing the topic of the short debate, this is one that I can now take off my list. I am delighted to echo Janet's sentiments about the good work undertaken at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn under extreme difficulties and the circumstances of the crumbling building. This is something Denbighshire County Council holds dear to its heart and it is desperately trying to do something about it. After speaking to a Denbighshire County Councillor this morning, I understand that the taskforce that has been set up—which includes members and officials of Denbighshire County Council, parents, teachers, nursery nurses and everybody else associated with the school—has now addressed the problems and is looking at the answers to those problems.

I pay tribute to the group of parents who set themselves up as ABACUS. This is one of the strongest lobbying groups that I have come across as a county councillor and as an Assembly Member. The work that I have been doing with them and the work that I and the MP in the area have been doing with Denbighshire County Council has been spurred on by the fact that we have had this group of parents who have been behind us all the time. They have not only lobbied but they have supported anything that we have come up with and worked to do that as well.

In addition, we must look at where we are going on centres of excellence. We must move forward and accept that perhaps that is the way forward. In doing that, we must recognise the work that has been taken on at

prif broblemau yw pwys fydd yn arwain wrth ddechrau'r broses hon.

Daw hynny â mi at fy nghwestiwn, yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio ei roi i Rosemary Butler ond a roddaf i Tom Middlehurst. Yng ngolwg cefnogaeth yr ysgol, y llywodraethwyr, staff, yr awdurdod addysg lleol a'r rhieni, pa arweiniad y gallwch ei roi yn y sefyllfa hon? Beth a gredwch yw'r cam nesaf i'r ysgol? Beth y mae'n rhaid iddi ei wneud i ddod yn ganolfan ragoriaeth ranbarthol? Mae'r rhieni, y staff a'r awdurdod addysg lleol yn disgwyl am eich ymateb.

Ann Jones: Diolchaf i Janet Ryder am godi'r mater hwn. Os byddaf yn llwyddiannus rywdro wrth ddewis pwnc y ddadl fer, dyma un y gallaf bellach ei dynnu oddi ar fy rhestr. Yr wyf yn falch iawn o ategu sylwadau Janet am y gwaith da a ddigwyddodd yn Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn mewn anawsterau eithafol a chyflwr dadfeiliol yr adeilad. Mae hyn yn rhywbeth sydd yn agos at galon Cyngor Sir Ddinbych ac mae'n ymdrechu'n daer i wneud rhywbeth yn ei gylch. Ar ôl siarad ag un o gynghorwyr Cyngor Sir Ddinbych y bore yma, deallaf fod tasglu sydd wedi ei sefydlu—sydd yn cynnwys aelodau a swyddogion o Gyngor Sir Ddinbych, rhieni, athrawon, gweinyddesau meithrin a phawb arall sydd yn gysylltiedig â'r ysgol—wedi ymdrin â'r problemau ac mae'n ystyried yr atebion i'r problemau hynny.

Talaf deyrnged i'r grŵp o rieni a'u sefydlodd eu hunain o dan yr enw ABACUS. Mae'n un o'r grwpiau lobio cryfaf y deuthum ar ei draws fel cynghorydd sir ac fel Aelod o'r Cynulliad. Mae'r gwaith a wneuthum i â hwy a'r gwaith a wneuthum i a'r AS yn yr ardal gyda Chyngor Sir Ddinbych wedi ei sbarduno gan y ffaith bod gennym y grŵp hwn o rieni a fu'n gefn i ni bob amser. Nid yn unig y maent wedi lobio, maent wedi cefnogi unrhyw beth a awgrymasom ac wedi gweithio i wneud hynny hefyd.

Yn ogystal â hynny, rhaid inni ystyried i ble'r ydym yn mynd o ran canolfannau rhagoriaeth. Rhaid inni symud ymlaen a derbyn mai honno efallai yw'r ffordd ymlaen. Wrth wneud hynny, rhaid inni gydnabod y

Denbigh High School with the special unit. We need to ensure that that is utilised and that we get the integration that is so often required.

The children's interests are paramount. However, we are not only talking about children, but about young people who require their education and who need to be taught the skills, whether basic or more advanced, necessary to equip them for the world. We ought to be able to offer them those skills. We also must recognise that with that comes some responsibility. It is easy to sit here today and make promises to Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn that may not materialise into action because we do not at the moment have the power in the Assembly to do other than ask Denbighshire County Council to keep Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn at the top of its maintenance list.

Peter Rogers: It is imperative that the Assembly defends this school. As a regional Assembly Member for north Wales, I am constantly reminded of the importance of Brondyffryn. When the Welsh Conservatives had their recent north Wales tour, David Melding, our health spokesman, and William Graham, the Chair of the Pre-16 Education Committee, visited this school and were visibly moved by the conditions there. With me, they support Janet's highlighting the school's plight to the Assembly. Autistic children need a great deal of care and attention in their education. Brondyffryn has a large catchment area and a dedicated, highly skilled team of staff and is a very successful school.

Brondyffryn's educational quality has thrived but it has been starved of funding and is suffering as a result. In spite of its excellent staff and record, the school is in dire need of renovation. It is essential that support be given to this school as it fulfils a vital role in the north Wales education system. Today, we debate Brondyffryn because of the care and devotion of the school and its governors and helpers, who are fighting to stop the decline at this school. We must not fail them.

Christine Humphreys: Diolchaf i Janet

gwaith yr ymgwyrd ag ef yn Ysgol Uwchradd Dinbych gyda'r uned arbennig. Mae angen inni sierhau y defnyddir hynny ac y cawn yr integreiddio y mae ei angen mewn cynifer o achosion.

Mae buddiannau'r plant o'r pwys mwyaf. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym yn sôn am blant yn unig, ond yn sôn am bobl ifanc y mae arnynt angen addysg ac angen dysgu'r medrau, boed yn sylfaenol neu'n uwch, sydd yn angenrheidiol i'w paratoi ar gyfer bywyd. Dylem allu cynnig y medrau hynny iddynt. Rhaid inni gydnabod hefyd y daw rhywfaint o gyfrifoldeb gyda hynny. Hawdd yw eistedd yma heddiw a rhoi addewidion i Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn na fyddant efallai'n troi'n weithredu am nad oes gennym mo'r pŵer yn y Cynulliad ar hyn o bryd i wneud mwy na gofyn i Gyngor Sir Ddinbych gadw Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn ar ben ei restr cynnal a chadw.

Peter Rogers: Mae'n holl bwysig i'r Cynulliad amddiffyn yr ysgol hon. Fel Aelod Cynulliad rhanbarthol dros ogledd Cymru, fe'm hatgofeir o hyd o bwysigrwydd Brondyffryn. Pan aeth Ceidwadwyr Cymru ar eu taith yn ddiweddar yng ngogledd Cymru, ymwelodd David Melding, ein llefarydd iechyd, a William Graham, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Addysg Cyn-16, â'r ysgol hon ac fe'u cyffyrddwyd yn amlwg gan yr amodau yno. Fel minnau, maent yn cefnogi'r ffaith bod Janet wedi tynnu sylw'r Cynulliad at stad yr ysgol. Mae ar blant awtistig angen llawer o ofal a sylw yn eu haddysg. Mae gan Brondyffryn ddalgylch eang a thîm o staff ymroddedig a medrus ac mae'n ysgol lwyddiannus iawn.

Ffynnodd ansawdd addysgol Brondyffryn ond fe'i hamddifadwyd o arian ac mae'n dioddef o ganlyniad. Er gwaethaf ei staff a'i record ragorol, mae angen dybryd i adnewyddu'r ysgol. Mae'n holl bwysig cefnogi'r ysgol hon gan ei bod yn cyflawni rôl hanfodol yn system addysg gogledd Cymru. Heddiw, yr ydym yn trafod Brondyffryn oherwydd gofal ac ymroddiad yr ysgol a'i llywodraethwyr a'i chynorthwywyr, sydd yn ymladd i atal y dirywiad yn yr ysgol hon. Rhaid inni beidio â'u siomi.

Christine Humphreys: I thank Janet for the

am y cyfle i gyfrannu i'r ddadl fer. Yr hyn sydd yn nodwediadol am y ddadl fer erbyn hyn, ac yn fater o dristwch i mi, yw bod cyn lleied o Aelodau yn aros yn y Siambri i'w chlywed. Efallai ei bod hi'n amser inni ailystyried y Rheolau Sefydlog ynglŷn â'r ddadl fer a rhoi grym a phwrpas yn ôl iddi. Fel man cychwyn o leiaf, y mae angen inni ystyried rhoi hawl i gynigydd y ddadl ennill yr hawl i gyfeirio'r penderfyniad i Bwyllgor Cynulliad. Os na wnaawn hynny, bydd Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn parhau i bleidleisio gyda'u traed, fel y maent wedi'i wneud heddiw ac yn ystod y ddadl fer ddiwethaf.

Ategaf lawer o'r hyn a ddywedodd Janet. Ychwanegaf mai Plas Brondyffryn yw'r unig ysgol yng Nghymru sydd yn gallu darparu addysg ar gyfer plant awtistig yn Gymraeg. Felly, y mae'n allweddol i'r ddarpariaeth ar gyfer plant awtistig trwy Gymru gyfan, nid yng ngogledd Cymru yn unig. Mae galw anferth am wasanaethau'r ysgol. Mae llawer mwy o blant eisiau mynchy'u'r ysgol na'r nifer o leoedd sydd ar gael. Mae'r ysgol wedi dyblu yn ei maint yn ystod yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf. Fel y soniodd Janet, y mae lefel uchel o fodhad ymhliith y rhieni. Yn wir, y mae rhai rhieni yn symud eu teuluoedd o leoedd eraill yng Nghymru a Lloegr er mwyn bod yn nes at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn. Yn ddiweddgar, y mae teuluoedd o Ddolgellau a Lerpwl wedi symud i'r ardal er mwyn i'w plant fynchy'u'r ysgol.

5:21 p.m.

Cyfeiriodd Janet hefyd at broblem y ffi a godir gan Sir Ddinbych ar y plant a ddaw i'r ysgol. Darperir addysg ar gost o tua £15,000 y flwyddyn. Mae hyn yn helpu plant i fod yn annibynnol yn gynnar, ac yn arbed arian i'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn y tymor hir. Fodd bynnag, gan fod yr ysgol yn cael ei chynnal gan awdurdod lleol, dim ond am gostau rhedeg bob dydd y gall godi ffioedd. Nid oes ganddi hawl i godi ffioedd i dalu am gostau cyfalaf megis trwsio adeiladau. Fel Janet, yr wyf wedi ymweld â'r ysgol ac, fel y dywedodd hi, y mae'n ffiaidd, er bod yr addysg yn dda a phobl yn gweithio'n galed.

opportunity to contribute to the short debate. What is characteristic of the short debate by now, and a matter of sadness to me, is how few Members remain in the Chamber to hear it. Perhaps it is time that we reconsidered the Standing Orders on the short debate and give it power and purpose again. As a starting point at least, we need to consider giving the mover of the debate the right to direct the decision to an Assembly Committee. If we do not do that, Assembly Members will continue to vote with their feet, as they have done today and during the last short debate.

I endorse much of what Janet has said. I add that Plas Brondyffryn is the only school in Wales that can provide education for autistic children in Welsh. It is therefore crucial to the provision for autistic children throughout the whole of Wales, not just in north Wales. There is a massive demand for the services of the school. Many more children wish to attend the school than there are places available. The school has doubled in size over the last eight years. As Janet mentioned, there is a high level of satisfaction among the parents. Indeed, some parents move their families from other places in Wales and England to be closer to Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn. Recently, families from Dolgellau and Liverpool have moved into the area so that their children can attend the school.

Janet also referred to the problem of the fee that Denbighshire charges the children who attend the school. Education is provided at a cost of about £15,000 a year. This helps children to be independent early on, and saves social services money in the long term. However, as the school is maintained by a local authority, it can only charge for everyday running costs. It has no right to charge to pay for capital costs such as repair of buildings. Like Janet, I have visited the school and, as she said, it is disgusting, although the education is good and people work hard. As a result of insufficient capital

O ganlyniad i'r ffaith nad oes digon o arian cyfalaif nid oes adeiladau addas.

Fel y dywedodd Janet, y mae'r Shirley Foundation yn ariannu adroddiad ar yr ysgol. Cyhoeddir yr adroddiad yn hwyrach eleni. Problem sylfaneol y bydd yn rhaid i'r Cynulliad ffurfio barn arni yw a ddylai awdurdod lleol bach fel Sir Ddinbych orfod derbyn cyfrifoldeb am yr hyn sydd bellach yn ddarpariaeth ranbarthol.

The Secretary for Post-16 Education and Training (Tom Middlehurst): I thank Janet, in particular, for providing an opportunity to discuss Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn, and the need for a more strategic approach to the regional planning of special educational needs services in Wales.

I speak on behalf of the administration in the enforced absence of Rosemary Butler who is suffering from a back complaint. I am pleased to do so, given my former association with Clwyd County Council, as a consequence of which I am aware of the good work being done by the school with children who have autistic spectrum disorder. As Janet said, these are children with highly specialised needs who require considerable care, understanding and attention. I know that Dr Toman, the headteacher, and the school's governing body work hard in an innovative way to provide the children with the best possible chances in life. They are supported by hard-working dedicated staff. I also acknowledge, as Janet said, the commitment of Denbighshire local education authority to the maintenance of this school and its specialist provision.

A school inspection of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn took place in 1998. Although the school inspector was of the view that several issues needed to be addressed before the school could achieve the levels of quality associated with being a centre of excellence, he identified many positive features and considered it to be one of a number throughout Wales with the potential to fulfil the role of a viable regional provider.

One of the key themes of 'Shaping the Future for Special Education', an action programme for Wales published in January 1999, was the

funding there are no adequate buildings.

As Janet said, the Shirley Foundation is funding a report on the school. The report will be published later this year. A basic problem on which the Assembly must form an opinion is whether a small local authority such as Denbighshire should have to accept responsibility for what is now regional provision.

Ysgrifennydd Addysg a Hyfforddiant Ôl-16 (Tom Middlehurst): Diolchaf i Janet, yn arbennig, am roi cyfle i drafod Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn, a'r angen am agwedd fwy strategol at gynllunio rhanbarthol ar gyfer gwasanaethau anghenion addysgol arbennig yng Nghymru.

Siaradaf ar ran y weinyddiaeth yn absenoldeb anorfol Rosemary Butler sydd yn dioddef o anhwylder ar y cefn. Yr wyf yn falch o wneud hynny, oherwydd fy nghysylltiad blaenorol â Chyngor Sir Clwyd, sydd yn golygu fy mor yn ymwybodol o'r gwaith da a wneir gan yr ysgol gyda phlant sydd ag anhwylder sbectrwm awtistig. Fel y dywedodd Janet, mae'r rhain yn blant sydd ag anghenion arbenigol iawn y mae arnynt angen cryn ofal, dealltwriaeth a sylw. Gwn fod Dr Toman, y prifathro, a chorff llywodraethol yr ysgol yn gweithio'n galed mewn modd arloesol i roi'r cyfleoedd gorau posibl mewn bywyd i'r plant. Fe'u cefnogir gan staff gweithgar ac ymroddedig. Cydnabyddaf hefyd, fel y dywedodd Janet, ymrwymiad awdurdod addysg lleol Sir Ddinbych i gynnal yr ysgol hon a'i darpariaeth arbenigol.

Bu archwiliad ysgol o Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn yn 1998. Er bod yr arolygydd ysgolion o'r farn fod angen rhoi sylw i sawl mater cyn y gallai'r ysgol gyrraedd y lefelau ansawdd sydd yn gysylltiedig â bod yn ganolfan ragoriaeth, nododd lawer o agweddau cadarnhaol ac fe'i hystyriodd yn un o nifer ledled Cymru oedd â'r potensial i gyflawni rôl darparwr rhanbarthol dichonol.

Un o themâu allweddol 'Llunio Dyfodol Addysg Arbennig', rhaglen weithredu i Gymru a gyhoeddwyd yn Ionawr 1999, oedd

increased inclusion of children with special educational needs in mainstream schooling for parents who wanted it. The approach to inclusion in the action programme is not dogmatic. It acknowledges that what is right for the individual child is paramount and that, for some children, a fully inclusive education may not be the best option.

It is within this spirit that the school pursues a policy of integrating pupils into mainstream education wherever possible. As Janet said, the school has a purpose-built classroom provided by the local education authority for eight key stage 4 pupils located in Denbigh High School, and a class for primary-aged pupils on the campus of Ysgol Frongoch primary school. The school inspector praised the opportunities that this offers the pupils to be fully integrated in all aspects of mainstream schooling and the access that the key stage 4 class provides to Denbigh High School's programme of accredited qualifications. I very much welcome this and wish Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn every success with the policy in the future.

The popularity of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn with the parents of autistic children is a testimony to the high regard in which the school is held. I understand that around 75 per cent of pupils attending the school come from some 12 local authority areas outside Denbighshire. I also know that its regional popularity has presented funding problems for the school and for Denbighshire LEA, which is responsible for its maintenance. Janet Ryder has underlined this point today.

Under existing legislation, Denbighshire LEA can recoup the cost of educating pupils placed at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn from outside the county from the child's home authority, in line with local government guidelines. I know, however, that capital funding is seen as more problematic, and Janet has also referred to this extensively. Under the New Deal for Schools initiative, £67.5 million has been made available over the lifetime of the current UK Parliament for capital works. During the first two years of the New Deal for Schools programme,

mwy o gynhwysiant o blant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig mewn ysgolion prif ffrwd i'r rhieni oedd yn dymuno hynny. Nid yw'r ymagwedd at gynhwysiant yn y rhaglen weithredu yn un ddogmatig. Cydnebydd mai'r hyn sydd yn iawn i'r plentyn unigol sydd bwysicaf ac nad addysg gwbl gynhwysol yw'r dewis gorau, o bosibl, i rai plant.

Yn yr ysbryd hwnnw y bydd yr ysgol yn dilyn polisi o integreiddio disgylion mewn addysg brif ffrwd lle bynnag y bo modd. Fel y dywedodd Janet, mae gan yr ysgol ystafell ddosbarth bwrasol a ddarparwyd gan yr awdurdod addysg lleol ar gyfer wyth disgylion cyfnod allweddol 4 a leolir yn Ysgol Uwchradd Dinbych, a dosbarth i ddisgyblion o ed cynradd ar gampws ysgol gynradd Fron-goch. Canmolodd yr arolygydd ysgol y cyfleoedd a gynigir drwy hyn i'r disgylion gael eu hintegreiddio'n llawn yn yr holl agweddau ar addysg prif ffrwd a'r mynediad a geir drwy'r dosbarth cyfnod allweddol 4 i raglen cymwysterau achrededig Ysgol Uwchradd Dinbych. Croesawaf hyn yn fawr a dymunaf bob llwyddiant i Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn gyda'r polisi yn y dyfodol.

Mae poblogrwydd Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn ym ysg rhieni plant awtistig yn dystiolaeth o'r parch mawr a geir at yr ysgol. Deallaf fod tua 75 y cant o'r disgylion sydd yn derbyn eu haddysg yn yr ysgol yn dod o tua 12 ardal awdurdod lleol y tu allan i Sir Ddinbych. Gwn hefyd fod ei phoblogrwydd yn y rhanbarth wedi creu problemau ariannu i'r ysgol ac i awdurdod addysg lleol Sir Ddinbych, sydd yn gyfrifol am ei chynnal a'i chadw. Tanlinelloedd Janet Ryder y pwyt hwn heddiw.

O dan ddeddfwriaeth bresennol, gall awdurdod addysg lleol Sir Ddinbych gael ei ddigolledu am y gost o addysgu disgylion a leolir yn Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn o'r tu allan i'r sir gan awdurdod cartref y plentyn, yn unol â chanllawiau llywodraeth leol. Fodd bynnag, gwn fod ariannu cyfalaf yn cael ei ystyried yn fwy problemus, a chyfeiriodd Janet yn helaeth at hynny hefyd. O dan fenter y Fargen Newydd i Ysgolion, darparwyd £67.5 miliwn dros oes Senedd bresennol y DU ar gyfer gwaith cyfalaf. Yn ystod dwy flynedd gyntaf rhaglen y Fargen Newydd i

Denbighshire was allocated £616,000 in total. The authority's allocation for this year is over £484,000, and similar amounts will be made available over the next two financial years. It is for local authorities to decide within the fairly broad criteria which projects should receive funding from this grant and submit bids to the Department for consideration. The money was made available so that authorities could make an immediate impact in areas where they felt there were particular problems.

Denbighshire has used part of its New Deal money to fund the purpose-built unit at Denbigh High School, to which I have already referred. I know, however, that Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn and Denbighshire see a need for additional capital funding to improve and update accommodation at the school. There is also a view that those LEAs that use the school as a regional resource should also contribute to the capital cost. That needs to be further explored. ABACUS, a recently formed working party of parents has, as part of its work to promote the school, drawn attention to the need for more funding to improve its capital infrastructure. I know that Denbighshire has been in discussion with other local authorities on this issue and is exploring the opportunities for accessing private and voluntary sector money.

It is essential that we improve the regional planning of special educational needs in Wales, particularly for low incidence and complex learning difficulties such as autistic spectrum disorder. The Assembly has increased spending provision on education by £91 million for 2000-01, which is on top of the increased provision of £70 million for the current financial year. The reality, however, is that resources are not limitless and it is essential that all organisations with a part to play in providing for special educational needs children make the most productive use of the funding that is available. To this end, Rosemary Butler has approved three regional special educational needs planning pilot scheme bids to enable best practice in the regional planning to be established. A more integrated approach to the regional planning of special educational needs services is another key theme of the action programme to which I have already referred. One of these

Ysgolion, dyrannwyd cyfanswm o £616,000 i Sir Ddinbych. Mae dyraniad yr awdurdod ar gyfer eleni'n fwy na £484,000, a bydd symiau tebyg ar gael dros y ddwy flwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Lle'r awdurdodau lleol yw penderfynu oddi mewn i'r mein prawn eithaf bras ba brosiectau a ddylai dderbyn arian o'r grant hwn a chyflwyno ceisiadau i'r Adran i'w hystyried. Darparwyd yr arian fel y gallai awdurdodau gael effaith ar unwaith mewn ardaloedd lle y credent fod problemau penodol.

Mae Sir Ddinbych wedi defnyddio rhan o'i harian o'r Fargen Newydd i ariannu'r uned bwrpasol yn Ysgol Uwchradd Dinbych, y cyfeiriai ati eisoes. Fodd bynnag, gwn fod Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn a Sir Ddinbych yn gweld angen am ariannu cyfalaf ychwanegol i wella a diweddar llety yn yr ysgol. Mae barn hefyd y dylai'r awdurdodau addysg lleol hynny sydd yn defnyddio'r ysgol fel adnodd rhanbarthol gyfrannu hefyd at y gost gyfalaf. Mae angen ymchwilio ymhellach i hynny. Mae ABACUS, gweithgor o rieni a ffurfiwyd yn ddiweddar, fel rhan o'i waith i hybu'r ysgol, wedi tynnu sylw at yr angen am fwy o ariannu i wella ei seilwaith cyfalaf. Gwn fod Sir Ddinbych wedi bod mewn trafodaeth ag awdurdodau lleol eraill ar y mater hwn ac yn ymchwilio i'r cyfleoedd i gyrraedd arian yn y sectorau preifat a gwirfoddol.

Mae'n holl bwysig inni wella'r cynllunio rhanbarthol ar gyfer anghenion addysgol arbennig yng Nghymru, yn enwedig yn achos anawsterau dysgu llai cyffredin a chymhleth fel anhwylderau sbectrwm awtistig. Mae'r Cynulliad wedi ychwanegu £91 miliwn at y ddarpariaeth wario ar addysg ar gyfer 2000-01, sydd yn ychwanegol at y ddarpariaeth uwch o £70 miliwn ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol. Fodd bynnag, y gwir yw nad yw adnoddau'n ddi-ben-draw ac mae'n holl bwysig bod yr holl gyrrff sydd â rhan i'w chwarae wrth ddarparu ar gyfer plant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig yn defnyddio'r arian sydd ar gael yn y modd mwyaf cynhyrchiol. I'r diben hwn, mae Rosemary Butler wedi cymeradwyo tri chais am gynlluniau peilot ar gyfer cynllunio anghenion addysgol arbennig fel y gellir sefydlu'r ymarfer gorau mewn cynllunio rhanbarthol. Mae dull cynllunio rhanbarthol mwy integredig ar gyfer gwasanaethau

pilots will cover north Wales. I am pleased to say that Denbighshire LEA is a member of the pilot consortia. The other pilot schemes cover south-east Wales and south-west and mid Wales respectively. All three pilot schemes will be funded for a three-year period.

I understand that the north Wales consortia are in the process of appointing a facilitator to carry the project forward. Rosemary Butler will monitor progress closely. One aspect of regional planning on which all three consortia have been asked to focus is the identification of establishments and specialist services that can be regarded as a regional resource. They have also been asked to examine how best to fund them on a co-operative basis in a way that recognises their regional importance. Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is very outgoing in its policy of forging local and regional links and I am sure that it will want to make contact with the facilitator of the north Wales pilot scheme to discuss this particular aspect of the project. I am certain that Rosemary Butler will ensure that Janet Ryder is given details of the facilitator when the appointment is made.

Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is a valuable resource with an innovative approach to teaching children with complex and often profound learning difficulties. It has a fine reputation and I have every confidence that it will be able to build on that reputation in the future. We hope that Denbighshire will be able to make progress in addressing the school's capital funding needs in discussion with other local authorities and organisations with a stake in the school's success. In the longer term, we hope that the regional planning pilot projects will provide a strategy for a more collaborative approach to regional resourcing. I am sure that Rosemary will respond positively to the lessons that can be learned from those pilots.

Finally, I know that Rosemary is keen to visit Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn as part of her ongoing programme of visits to schools in Wales to experience, at first hand, the work

anghenion addysgol arbennig yn thema allweddol arall yn y rhaglen weithredu y cyfeiriai ati eisoes. Bydd un o'r cynlluniau peilot hyn yn cynnwys gogledd Cymru. Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud bod awdurdod addysg lleol Sir Ddinbych yn aelod o'r consortia peilot. Mae'r cynlluniau peilot eraill yn cynnwys de-ddwyrain Cymru a de-orllewin a chanolbarth Cymru. Ariannir pob un o'r tri chynllun peilot am dair blynedd.

Deallaf fod consortia gogledd Cymru ar ganol penodi hwylusydd i hybu'r prosiect. Bydd Rosemary Butler yn monitro'r cynnydd yn fanwl. Un agwedd ar gynllunio rhanbarthol y gofynnwyd i bob un o'r tri chonsortiwm ganolbwytio arni yw dynodi sefydliadau a gwasanaethau arbenigol y gellir eu hystyried yn adnodd rhanbarthol. Gofynnwyd hefyd iddynt ystyried y dull gorau o'u hariannu'n gydweithredol mewn modd sydd yn cydnabod eu pwysigrwydd rhanbarthol. Mae Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn yn agored iawn yn ei pholisi o ffurfio cysylltiadau lleol a rhanbarthol ac yr wyf yn sicr y bydd am gysylltu â hwylusydd cynllun peilot gogledd Cymru er mwyn trafod yr agwedd benodol hon ar y prosiect. Yr wyf yn sicr y bydd Rosemary Butler yn sicrhau y caiff Janet Ryder fanylion am yr hwylusydd pan wneir y penodiad.

Mae Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn yn adnodd gwerthfawr sydd â dull arloesol o ddysgu plant sydd ag anawsterau dysgu cymhleth a dwys mewn llawer achos. Mae ganddi enw rhagorol ac yr wyf yn gwbl ffyddio y bydd yn gallu adeiladu ar yr enw hwnnw yn y dyfodol. Gobeithiwn y bydd Sir Ddinbych yn gallu symud ymlaen wrth roi sylw i anghenion arian cyfalaf yr ysgol mewn trafodaeth ag awdurdodau a chyrff lleol eraill sydd â chyfran yn llwyddiant yr ysgol. Yn y tymor hwy, gobeithiwn y bydd y prosiectau cynllunio rhanbarthol lleol yn darparu strategaeth ar gyfer ymagwedd fwy cydweithredol at ddarparu adnoddau rhanbarthol. Yr wyf yn sicr y bydd Rosemary yn ymateb yn gadarnhaol i'r gwensi y gellir eu dysgu o'r cynlluniau peilot hyn.

Yn olaf, gwn fod Rosemary yn awyddus i ymweld ag Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn fel rhan o'i rhaglen barhaus o ymwelliadau ag ysgolion yng Nghymru er mwyn profi, yn

undertaken on behalf of a group of children who need most support. I am confident that Rosemary will respond positively to her experiences.

uniongyrchol, y gwaith a gyflawnir ar ran grŵp o blant y mae arnynt angen y gefnogaeth fwyaf. Yr wyf yn sicr y bydd Rosemary yn ymateb yn gadarnhaol i'w phrofiadau.

Y Llywydd: Diolch yn fawr i'r Aelodau. Dyna ddiwedd cyfarfod heddiw.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you to the Members. That is the end of today's session.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.32 p.m.
The session ended at 5.32 p.m.*