



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

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

Dydd Mawrth, 30 Tachwedd 2004

Tuesday, 30 November 2004

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

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

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

Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister

Cymorth i Fyfirwyr Addysg Uwch Support for Higher Education Students

Q1 David Davies: Will the First Minister make a statement on what his Government is doing to support higher education students? (OAQ40001)

C1 David Davies: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ynghylch yr hyn y mae ei Lywodraeth yn ei wneud i roi cymorth i fyfirwyr addysg uwch? (OAQ40001)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): Some 14,770 higher education students from Wales received an Assembly learning grant in 2003-04, subject to the means test to ensure that they were less well-off students. The devolution of student support will enable us to provide an even more responsive service to students in future. The restoration of education maintenance allowances for 16 to 18-year-olds will fit in well with that strategy.

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Derbyniodd tua 14,770 o fyfirwyr addysg uwch o Gymru grant dysgu'r Cynulliad yn 2003-04, a hynny'n amodol ar y prawf moddion i sicrhau mai myfyrwyr llai cefnog oeddent. Bydd datganoli cymorth i fyfirwyr yn ein galluogi i gynnig gwasanaeth mwy ymatebol byth i fyfirwyr yn y dyfodol. Bydd adfer lwfansau cynhaliath addysg i rai 16 i 18 mlwydd oed yn cyd-fynd yn dda â'r strategaeth honno.

David Davies: Would you agree that the best support you could give university students from Wales would be to condemn the imposition of tuition fees by Westminster, as they are a tax on learning, and disbenefit the most disadvantaged first? Will you state that as long as you remain First Minister you will rule out the imposition of tuition fees in Wales?

David Davies: A gytunech mai'r cymorth gorau y gallech ei roi i fyfirwyr prifysgol o Gymru fyddai collfarnu bwriad San Steffan i orfodi ffioedd dysgu, gan mai treth ar ddysgu ydynt, a chan eu bod yn peri anfantais i'r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig yn gyntaf? A wnewch ddatgan y diystyrwch orfodi ffioedd dysgu yng Nghymru cyhyd ag y byddwch yn Brif Weinidog?

The First Minister: There are tuition fees now throughout the United Kingdom. They are fixed tuition fees; you probably mean variable tuition fees, David. You are forgetting that we direct our assistance to less well-off students. We do that through the Assembly learning grant—from which almost 15,000 higher education students have benefited—and we are now restoring education maintenance allowances, which, as I mentioned last week, Margaret Thatcher took away. You have still not apologised for that, although you frequently express great admiration for her.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ceir ffioedd dysgu'n awr ledled y Deyrnas Unedig. Ffioedd dysgu sefydlog ydynt; mae'n debyg mai ffioedd dysgu amrywiadwy yr ydych yn ei olygu, David. Yr ydych yn anghofio ein bod yn cyfeirio ein cymorth tuag at fyfirwyr llai cefnog. Gwnawn hynny drwy grant dysgu'r Cynulliad—y mae bron 15,000 o fyfirwyr addysg uwch wedi cael budd ohono—ac yr ydym yn awr yn adfer lwfansau cynhaliath addysg, a ddiddymwyd gan Margaret Thatcher, fel y dywedais yr wythnos diwethaf. Nid ydych byth wedi ymddiheuro am hynny, er eich bod yn aml yn mynegi edmygedd mawr ohoni.

Janet Ryder: A recent survey of

Janet Ryder: Dangosodd arolwg diweddar o

schoolchildren showed that 85 per cent would not consider going to university if they thought they would graduate with a debt of over £20,000. A third of those surveyed who want to enter higher education said that they would change their minds if tuition fees rose to over £2,000 a term. Evidence from around the world shows that the introduction of variable top-up fees has a detrimental effect on higher education recruitment. Will you and your Government hold true to the Assembly's resolution that it does not accept the imposition of tuition fees and instruct the Rees commission to look for other ways of funding higher education?

The First Minister: I can assure you that the Rees commission is well aware of the Assembly's resolution. It will make interim recommendations to the Minister in February and final recommendations in April on what is right for the higher education sector as provider of education and what is right for present and future higher education students. That is against the background of grant support that we make available, which is unique to Wales and of which nearly 15,000 students are availing themselves; the number of full-time or almost full-time further education students doing so is increasing.

Eleanor Burnham: Tuition and other fees are an added stress for today's students. Given the underspend in the budget, will you increase the value of the Assembly learning grant to help support some of these hard-pressed students?

The First Minister: The underspend is in further education and not in higher education. The problem was in marketing the grant to those in further education beyond the age of 19. The percentage of higher education students who have taken up their entitlement to Assembly learning grants is close to the estimated total. It is because we have, for the first time, made the grant available to students in full-time, or in near full-time, further or higher education that we have this guesstimate problem. We did not know how many further education students would take it up. Initially, they took it up at a very low rate, but they are now beginning to catch up. I anticipate that the number of FE students taking up the grant will shortly catch up and I

blant ysgol bod 85 y cant ohonynt nad ystyrient fynd i brifysgol os credent yr aent i ddyled o fwy na £20,000 erbyn iddynt raddio. Dywedodd un rhan o dair o'r rhai a holwyd a oedd am fynd i addysg uwch y byddent yn newid eu meddwl os codai ffioedd dysgu yn uwch na £2,000 y tymor. Mae tystiolaeth o bedwar ban y byd yn dangos bod cyflwyno ffioedd ychwanegol amrywiadwy yn amharu ar y gallu i recriwtio rhai i addysg uwch. A wnewch chi a'ch Llywodraeth ddal at benderfyniad y Cynulliad nad yw'n derbyn y bwriad i orfodi ffioedd dysgu a'i fod yn cyfarwyddo comisiwn Rees i chwilio am dulliau eraill o ariannu addysg uwch?

Y Prif Weinidog: Gallaf eich sicrhau bod comisiwn Rees yn ymwybodol iawn o benderfyniad y Cynulliad. Gwnaiff argymhellion dros dro i'r Gweinidog ym mis Chwefror ac argymhellion terfynol ym mis Ebrill ar yr hyn sy'n iawn i'r sector addysg uwch fel darparwr addysg a'r hyn sy'n iawn i fyfyrwyr addysg uwch yn awr ac yn y dyfodol. Digwydd hynny yng nghyd-destun y cymorth grant a ddarparwn, sy'n unigryw i Gymru ac y manteisir arno gan bron 15,000 o fyfyrwyr; mae nifer y myfyrwyr addysg bellach llawn amser neu sydd bron yn llawn amser sy'n ei dderbyn ar gynydd.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae ffioedd dysgu a ffioedd eraill yn peri straen ychwanegol i fyfyrwyr heddiw. Yng ngolwg y tanwariant yn y gyllideb, a wnewch gynyddu gwerth grant dysgu'r Cynulliad er mwyn helpu rhai o'r myfyrwyr sy'n profi anhawster?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mewn addysg bellach yn hytrach nag mewn addysg uwch y mae'r tanwariant. Bu'n anodd marchnata'r grant ymysg rhai mewn addysg bellach sydd dros 19 oed. Mae canran y myfyrwyr addysg uwch a arferodd eu hawl i gael grant dysgu'r Cynulliad yn agos i'r cyfanswm a amcangyfrifwyd. Am ein bod, am y tro cyntaf, wedi cynnig y grant hwn i fyfyrwyr sydd mewn addysg bellach neu uwch lawn amser, neu bron lawn amser, y cawsom y broblem hon wrth amcangyfrif. Ni wyddem faint o fyfyrwyr addysg bellach a wnaï gais amdano. Ar y dechrau, cyfran fach ohonynt a oedd yn gwneud cais, ond maent yn dechrau goddiweddyd yn awr. Rhagwelaif y bydd yr un nifer o fyfyrwyr addysg bellach yn

think that the problem will then evaporate.

gwneud cais am y grant cyn hir a chredaf y bydd y broblem hon yn diflannu wedyn.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): Labour at Westminster promised not to introduce top-up fees and then did so. Will you commit yourself and your Government to not introduce top-up fees in Wales?

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Addawodd Llafur yn San Steffan beidio â chyflwyno ffioedd ychwanegol ac wedyn gwnaeth hynny. A wnewch chi a'ch Llywodraeth ymrwymo i beidio â chyflwyno ffioedd ychwanegol yng Nghymru?

The First Minister: We have made our manifesto commitments clear; we said then that it was not appropriate to make commitments that go beyond the life of one Assembly. We will come back to that—as, no doubt, will your party—when it comes to writing manifestos and setting out a choice in front of the people ready for the 2007 Assembly. That will be done, and you will be able to avail yourself of the advice of the Rees commission as well as we can. We will make up our minds once the Rees commission has reported. That is the purpose of giving the Rees commission a chance to consider this issue; we can then have an informed view following the commission's contacts with the, I think, 200 stakeholder bodies that have presented evidence to the commission. The commission is digesting that evidence now and we hope to have an interim report in three months' time.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym wedi egluro ein hymrwymiaidau maniffesto; dywedasom bryd hynny na fyddai'n briodol gwneud ymrwymiaidau sy'n parhau'n hwy nag oes un Cynulliad. Deuwn yn ôl at hynny—fel y gwnaiff eich plaid chi, mae'n siŵr—pan ddaw'n adeg ysgrifennu maniffestos a chynnig dewis i'r bobl ar gyfer Cynulliad 2007. Gwneir hynny, a byddwch yn gallu defnyddio cyngor comisiwn Rees fel y byddwn i gyd. Penderfynwn wedi i gomisiwn Rees roi ei adroddiad. Dyna'r amcan wrth roi cyfle i gomisiwn Rees ystyried y pwnc hwn; gallwn ffurfio barn gytbwys wedyn wedi i'r comisiwn gysylltu â'r cyrff sy'n rhanddeiliaid, y mae 200 ohonynt yr wyf yn credu, a gyflwynodd dystiolaeth i'r comisiwn. Mae'r comisiwn yn ystyried y dystiolaeth honno'n awr a gobeithiwn gael adroddiad dros dro ymhen tri mis.

Nick Bourne: The Welsh Conservatives' position on this is clear: we have been against top-up fees since day one. Our party at Westminster is also opposed to them. According to Labour's Jon Owen Jones, we are facing three years of chaos and confusion in Wales, because we do not know where we stand. A promise was made in Westminster not to introduce top-up fees, and the Government did so. Will you now promise the students of Wales that you will not introduce them in Wales?

Nick Bourne: Mae safbwynt Ceidwadwyr Cymru ar hyn yn glir: buom yn erbyn ffioedd ychwanegol ers y dechrau un. Yr oedd ein plaid yn San Steffan yn eu gwrthwynebu hefyd. Yn ôl Jon Owen Jones o'r Blaid Lafur, yr ydym yn wynebu tair blynedd o anhrefn a dryswch yng Nghymru, am na wyddom ym mhle'r ydym yn sefyll. Gwnaed addewid yn San Steffan i beidio â chyflwyno ffioedd ychwanegol, ond dyna a wnaeth y Llywodraeth. A wnewch addo i fyfyrwyr Cymru'n awr na wnewch eu cyflwyno yng Nghymru?

The First Minister: There is a big difference between three months and three years. The Rees commission will make its interim report available to us in February. According to the calendar that I was introduced to in school, many years ago, that is in three months' time. In five months' time we will have the complete report, and will be able to digest that, as will you, and consider where we go

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae gwahaniaeth mawr rhwng tri mis a thair blynedd. Bydd comisiwn Rees yn rhoi ei adroddiad dros dro i ni ym mis Chwefror. Yn ôl y calendr a ddysgwyd i mi yn yr ysgol, flynyddoedd lawer yn ôl, mae hynny ymhen tri mis. Ymhen pum mis, cawn yr adroddiad gorffenedig, a byddwn yn gallu ei ddarllen a'i dreulio, fel y byddwch chi, ac ystyried i ble'r

from there. However, I will not pre-empt the conclusions of the Rees commission; I have a great deal of faith in it, and when it has digested the facts and figures and made recommendations, we can make up our minds.

Nick Bourne: A promise was broken at Westminster and, clearly, the same promise will be broken here. This is just an opportunity to kick the issue into the long grass. Average student debt in Wales has soared from just over £3,000 five years ago to just over £12,000. With top-up fees, it is calculated to reach £30,000 under a Labour administration here. Do you not think that that is a scandal?

The First Minister: It is a constructive move on our part to have almost 15,000 students from less well-off homes supported by the Assembly learning grant. One of the things that I get a positive kick out of as First Minister is people's response to this: I recall that someone crossing Llandaff road said to me, 'You're Mr Morgan, aren't you?' as I was crossing the road in the other direction, and when I said that that yes, I was, he said 'Well, your Assembly learning grants have saved my life'. He did not mean it literally, of course, but that was how he put it. There are many students who are grateful for this Assembly, because they know that less well-off students get a better deal in Wales than they do anywhere else in the UK.

awn o'r fan honno. Fodd bynnag, nid achubaf y blaen ar gasgliadau comisiwn Rees; mae gennyf lawer iawn o ffydd ynddo, a phan fydd wedi ystyried y ffeithiau a'r ffigurau ac wedi gwneud ei argymhellion, gallwn benderfynu.

Nick Bourne: Torrwyd addewid yn San Steffan ac mae'n amlwg y torrir yr un addewid yma. Nid yw hyn ond yn gyfle i fwrw'r mater o'r neilltu. Mae'r ddyled gyfartalog ymysg myfyrwyr wedi codi i'r entrychion o fod yn ychydig yn fwy na £3,000 bum mlynedd yn ôl i fod ychydig yn fwy na £12,000. Pan geir ffioedd ychwanegol, cyfrifir y bydd yn cyrraedd £30,000 o dan weinyddiaeth Lafur yn y fan hon. Oni chredwch fod hynny'n warthus?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cam gweithredu adeiladol ar ein rhan ni oedd cynorthwyo bron 15,000 o fyfyrwyr o gartrefi llai cefnog drwy grant dysgu'r Cynulliad. Un o'r pethau y caf wefr ohonynt fel Prif Weinidog yw clywed ymateb pobl i hyn: cofiaf un a ddywedodd wrthyf wrth groesi heol Llandaf, 'Mr Morgan ydych chi, onid ef? pan oeddwn i'n croesi'r heol i'r cyfeiriad arall, a phan gadarnheais hynny, dywedodd 'Wel, mae grant dysgu'r Cynulliad wedi achub fy mywyd'. Nid oedd yn meddwl hynny'n llythrennol, wrth gwrs, ond dyna oedd ei eiriau. Mae llawer o fyfyrwyr sy'n ddiolchgar am gael y Cynulliad hwn, gan y gwyddant fod myfyrwyr llai cefnog yn cael gwell bargaen yng Nghymru nag y maent yn unman arall yn y DU.

Moderneiddio Cynghorau Tref a Chymuned **The Modernisation of Town and Community Councils**

Q2 Carl Sargeant: Will the First Minister make a statement regarding the modernisation of town and community councils? (OAQ39997)

The First Minister: The Welsh Assembly Government responded in August to the recommendations of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth research project into the role, functions and future potential of local councils. The closing date for comments on the response was 12 November. When we have considered the responses received, the Welsh Assembly Government intends to bring forward measures to enhance the

C2 Carl Sargeant: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ynghylch moderneiddio'r cynghorau tref a chymuned? (OAQ39997)

Y Prif Weinidog: Ymatebodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ym mis Awst i argymhellion prosiect ymchwil Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth ar rôl, swyddogaethau a photensial cynghorau lleol ar gyfer y dyfodol. Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer derbyn sylwadau ar yr ymateb hwnnw oedd 12 Tachwedd. Wedi inni ystyried yr ymatebion a gafwyd, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n bwriadu dwyn mesurau gerbron i hyrwyddo

representativeness and effectiveness of local councils.

Carl Sargeant: Would you join me in welcoming the publication of *The Good Councillor's Guide*? It is an Assembly publication that provides town and community councils with advice and guidance regarding their position. Would you also join me in encouraging One Voice Wales and the association of larger local councils to renegotiate a settlement for all town and community councils to ensure that we have the strongest position, collectively, in Wales?

The First Minister: I agree with you about the publication of *The Good Councillor's Guide*. A representative body for local councils has been a vexed issue for a long time; we have never been able to get one representative body. I am pleased that One Voice Wales has over 500 councils in its membership now, but that is only about two thirds of the total number. We have supported the establishment of One Voice Wales. It has not yet submitted its business plan to draw down the grant of £100,000 for this financial year, and we have been pressing it to provide the business plan as soon as possible.

Glyn Davies: I am pleased to hear you make positive comments about One Voice Wales, but you will remember that some groups of councils were not in favour of it when it was set up. It is important that every part of Wales feels that it can be part of this important new initiative. What steps are you taking to discuss this with those who are uncomfortable with this new move to ensure that everyone feels represented fairly?

2.10 p.m.

The First Minister: I do not know if that is the problem which has inhibited it from producing its business plans, but £100,000 has been allocated, which it will be able to collect provided that it produces a business plan. I am not sure if this has anything to do with the fact that, as yet, it only represents two thirds of councils. We cannot compel councils to be part of One Voice Wales. It

cynrychioldeb ac effeithiolrwydd cynghorau lleol.

Carl Sargeant: A ymunwch â mi i groesawu cyhoeddi *Canllaw y Cynghorydd Da*? Un o gyhoeddiadau'r Cynulliad ydyw ac mae'n cynnig cyngor a chyfarwyddyd i gynghorau tref a chymuned ynghylch eu sefyllfa. A wnewch ymuno â mi hefyd i annog Un Llais Cymru a chymdeithas y cynghorau lleol mwy i ailnegodi setliad ar gyfer yr holl gynghorau tref a chymuned i sicrhau y cawn y sefyllfa gadarnaf, yn gyfunol, yng Nghymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf â'r hyn a ddywedwch am gyhoeddi *Canllaw y Cynghorydd Da*. Mae'r angen am gorff cynrychioladol i gynghorau lleol wedi bod yn destun dadlau ers amser maith; nid ydym erioed wedi gallu cael un corff cynrychioladol. Yr wyf yn falch bod gan Un Llais Cymru fwy na 500 o gynghorau'n aelodau ohono'n awr, ond nid yw hynny ond tua dwy ran o dair o'r cyfanswm. Rhoesom gymorth i sefydlu Un Llais Cymru. Nid yw wedi cyflwyno ei gynllun busnes eto fel y gall ddefnyddio'r grant o £100,000 ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol hon, a buom yn pwyso arno i roi'r cynllun busnes gerbron cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

Glyn Davies: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed eich sylwadau cadarnhaol am Un Llais Cymru, ond byddwch yn cofio bod rhai grwpiau o gynghorau nad oeddent o blaid ei sefydlu. Mae'n bwysig y bydd pob rhan o Gymru'n teimlo y gall fod yn rhan o'r fenter newydd bwysig hon. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i drafod hyn â'r rhai sy'n anfodlon ar y newid hwn i sicrhau y bydd pawb yn teimlo ei fod yn cael ei gynrychioli'n deg?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni wn ai hynny sydd wedi'i rwystro rhag cyflwyno ei gynlluniau busnes, ond mae £100,000 wedi'i ddyrannu, y bydd yn gallu ei gasglu ar yr amod y cyflwynna gynllun busnes. Nid wyf yn sicr a oes a wnelo hyn â'r ffaith nad yw ond yn cynrychioli dwy ran o dair o'r cynghorau, hyd yma. Ni allwn orfodi cynghorau i ymuno ag Un Llais Cymru. Yr amcan oedd y byddai

was intended that it would have full membership, but that is voluntary. There is a sub-regional level to this, in that some north Wales town councils do not feel well disposed towards One Voice Wales. It has to sell itself to those councils, saying why it represents local and town councils throughout Wales, and what services it will be able to provide, especially if, after producing a business plan, it can access the £100,000 grant on offer.

pob un yn ymuno ag ef, ond mater gwirfoddol yw hynny. Mae agwedd is-ranbarthol ar hyn, gan fod rhai cynghorau tref yn y Gogledd nad ydynt yn ffafrio Un Llais Cymru. Rhaid iddo ddadlau ei achos gyda'r cynghorau hynny, gan ddweud pam y mae'n cynrychioli cynghorau tref a chymuned ledled Cymru, a pha wasanaethau y gall eu cynnig, yn enwedig os caiff y grant o £100,000 a gynigir, ar ôl cyflwyno cynllun busnes.

Comisiwn Rees The Rees Commission

Q3 Peter Black: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Rees commission? (OAQ40005)

C3 Peter Black: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ynghylch comisiwn Rees? (OAQ40005)

The First Minister: The Rees group will make recommendations on university tuition fees and student support in Wales from 2007. I understand that Professor Rees has invited views from over 200 stakeholders, including party spokespersons on education. Professor Rees will submit an interim report in February, and a final report in April 2005.

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd grŵp Rees yn gwneud argymhellion ar ffioedd dysgu prifysgolion a chymorth i fyfyrwyr yng Nghymru o 2007. Deallaf fod yr Athro Rees wedi gofyn barn mwy na 200 o randdeiliaid, gan gynnwys llefarwyr pleidiau ar addysg. Bydd yr Athro Rees yn cyflwyno adroddiad dros dro ym mis Chwefror, ac adroddiad terfynol ym mis Ebrill 2005.

Peter Black: Do you accept that the uncertainty for the Welsh higher education sector is damaging, particularly with English universities—which know what their income will be in a few years' time—poaching staff? We also hear stories of some better-off English universities using their likely bursaries to try to poach some of the brightest Welsh students from deprived areas. What comfort can you offer to the Welsh higher education sector faced with these problems?

Peter Black: A dderbyniwch fod yr ansicrwydd yn sector addysg uwch Cymru yn niweidiol, yn enwedig gan fod prifysgolion yn Lloegr—sy'n gwybod beth fydd eu hincwm ymhen ychydig flynyddoedd—yn ceisio denu staff? Clywn hanesion hefyd am rai prifysgolion mwy llewyrchus yn Lloegr yn defnyddio'r bwrsariaethau sy'n debygol o fod ar gael ganddynt fel abwyd i ddenu rhai o'r myfyrwyr disgleiriaf o ardaloedd difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Pa gysur y gallwch ei gynnig i'r sector addysg uwch yng Nghymru ac yntau'n wynebu'r problemau hyn?

The First Minister: I have heard all sorts of stories about what English universities will do. They will be introducing the market-related system, and will be producing their prospectuses based on market competition, if you like, in higher education next spring or early summer. It will then become clearer if they intend to base all their charges on the full top-up fees of £3,000 or whether they will discriminate, and not charge tuition fees for less popular courses. We will then know

Y Prif Weinidog: Clywais bob math o hanesion am yr hyn a wnaiff prifysgolion yn Lloegr. Byddant yn cyflwyno'r system sy'n gysylltiedig â'r farchnad, a byddant yn cynhyrchu eu prosbectysau ar sail cystadleuaeth yn y farchnad, os caf ei roi felly, mewn addysg uwch yn y gwanwyn neu ddechrau'r haf y flwyddyn nesaf. Gwelir yn gliriach bryd hynny a ydynt yn bwriadu seilio eu holl daliadau ar y ffioedd ychwanegol llawn o £3,000 neu a fyddant yn

what kind of challenge the Welsh higher education sector will face. The idea that there will be years of uncertainty in Wales is wrong when the Rees report will do its job pretty quickly—the interim report will be published in February, which is in three months' time.

Jeff Cuthbert: Do you agree that the professionals involved with the work of the Rees commission should be allowed to do their work without unnecessary constraints? Furthermore, do you hope—as I do—that they will consider the degree to which employers are able to provide financial support to learners and to the higher education sector?

The First Minister: That is a valid point. Bursaries from employers should be part of any sensible higher education funding system. Indeed, we in the public sector provide our own bursaries, or provide fee write-offs, so that people undertaking teaching courses in shortage areas, or those undertaking medical or nursing courses where there are shortages in the public sector, are given assistance. We do that because we want to encourage people to undertake courses in those areas. The same applies to private industry. We would like to see more of this, and encouraging business-based bursaries or public sector employer bursaries is part of a healthy and varied funding mechanism for higher education in the future.

Laura Anne Jones: The Labour Governments in Wales and Westminster have shown complete contempt for young people and students. Labour's tax on learning is financially crippling students, poorer families are unable to send their children to university, and those wishing to better themselves are punished for doing so. Higher education should be properly funded, and should not have to depend on fees. Education is the biggest investment that we can make for the future of our nation. Do you agree that top-up fees are a direct contradiction to the Assembly Government's widening access agenda? Students have made their feelings clear here today—I am sure that you

gwahaniaethu gan beidio â chodi ffioedd dysgu am gyrsiau llai poblogaidd. Cawn wybod bryd hynny pa fath o her y bydd sector addysg uwch Cymru'n ei hwynebu. Mae'r syniad y bydd blynyddoedd o ansicrwydd yng Nghymru'n anghywir gan y gwnaiff adroddiad Rees ei waith yn eithaf cyflym—cyhoeddir yr adroddiad dros dro ym mis Chwefror, sef ymhen tri mis.

Jeff Cuthbert: A ydych yn cytuno y dylid gadael i'r gweithwyr proffesiynol sy'n gysylltiedig â gwaith comisiwn Rees gael mynd ymlaen â'u gwaith heb gyfyngiadau diangen? At hynny, a ydych yn gobeithio—fel yr wyf fi—y byddant yn ystyried y graddau y gall cyflogwyr gynnig cymorth ariannol i ddysgwyr ac i'r sector addysg uwch?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hwnnw'n bwynt dyls. Mae lle i fwrsariaethau a gynigir gan gyflogwyr mewn unrhyw system synhwyrol ar gyfer ariannu addysg uwch. Yn wir, yr ydym ni yn y sector cyhoeddus yn darparu ein bwrsariaethau ein hunain, neu'n dileu ffioedd, fel y rhoddir cymorth i rai sy'n dilyn cyrsiau i athrawon mewn meysydd lle y mae prinder, neu i rai sy'n dilyn cyrsiau meddygol neu nyrsio lle y mae prinder yn y sector cyhoeddus. Gwnawn hynny am ein bod am annog pobl i ddilyn cyrsiau yn y meysydd hynny. Mae'r un peth yn wir am ddiwydiant preifat. Carem weld mwy o hynny, ac mae hyrwyddo bwrsariaethau a gynigir gan fusnesau neu gyflogwyr yn y sector cyhoeddus yn rhan o ddull ariannu iach ac amrywiol ar gyfer addysg uwch yn y dyfodol.

Laura Anne Jones: Mae'r Llywodraethau Llafur yng Nghymru ac yn San Steffan wedi amlygu dirmyg llwyr tuag at bobl ifanc a myfyrwyr. Mae treth Llafur ar ddysgu'n andwyo myfyrwyr yn ariannol, ni all teuluoedd tlotach anfon eu plant i brifysgol, ac mae'r rhai sy'n dymuno dod ymlaen yn y byd yn cael eu cosbi am hynny. Dylid ariannu addysg uwch yn iawn, ac ni ddylai orfod dibynnu ar ffioedd. Addysg yw'r buddsoddiad mwyaf y gallwn ei wneud ar gyfer dyfodol ein cenedl. A ydych yn cytuno bod ffioedd ychwanegol yn gwbl groes i agenda Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar ehangu mynediad? Mae myfyrwyr wedi egluro eu barn yma heddiw—yr wyf yn siŵr y

welcome the students who are in the public gallery—so will you offer them an equally clear response, and clarify the Assembly Government's position on top-up fees post 2007?

The First Minister: Part of the Assembly Chamber is in danger of disappearing under about 10 ft of crocodile tears following your initial statement, Laura Anne. You must have heard me say it twice already, but because you probably did not take it in, I will repeat it again. Just under 15,000 students—from less well-off families, which you mentioned as part of your crocodile-tears agenda—avail themselves of the Assembly learning grant. Those are the students in higher education; there are more in further education. The grant is specifically oriented to students from less well-off families. We have a proud record in that regard, and as further education catches up, you will see similar numbers in full-time further education able to access Assembly learning grants. The grants fit in well with the education maintenance allowances that are coming in. Again, that is to help those from less well-off families, and, again, your party sought to knock that out of the ring when it was raised here recently. That was because you were far more interested in having a procedural, meaningless, hair-splitting debate than on getting help to those from less-well-off families, however much you may seek to claim that you in some way represent them.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Fe'ch cofiaf yn dweud yn y gorffennol eich bod yn erbyn ffioedd ychwanegol i fyfyrwyr. A wnewch ailddatgan hynny heddiw?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym wedi sefydlu comisiwn o dan yr Athro Teresa Rees i ystyried sut i ymateb i'r her fydd yn codi wrth i brifysgolion Lloegr godi ffioedd o 100 y cant, neu efallai 50 y cant, hyd at uchafswm o £3,000 y flwyddyn. Nid ydym yn siŵr hyd yn hyn faint o brifysgolion, neu ba ganran o'u cyrsiau, fydd yn cystadlu ar sail cael yr incwm ychwanegol hwnnw. Byddai'n nonsens llwyr pe baem yn cael llawer mwy o fyfyrwyr yma pan nad ydym yn codi ffioedd

gnewch groesawu'r myfyrwyr sydd yn yr oriel gyhoeddus—felly a wnewch gynnig ymateb yr un mor glir iddynt hwy, ac egluro safbwynt Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar ffioedd ychwanegol ar ôl 2007?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae rhan o Siambr y Cynulliad mewn perygl o gael ei boddi o dan ryw 10 troedfedd o dagrau crocodeil ar ôl eich datganiad cyntaf, Laura Anne. Mae'n sicr eich bod wedi fy nghlywed yn dweud hyn ddwy waith heddiw, ond gan nad ydych wedi'i amgyffred, fe'i dywedaf eto. Mae ychydig llai na 15,000 o fyfyrwyr—o deuluoedd llai cefnog, y cyfeiriasoch atynt fel rhan o'ch agenda dagrau crocodeil—yn manteisio ar grant dysgu'r Cynulliad. Y myfyrwyr mewn addysg uwch yw'r rhain; mae mwy mewn addysg bellach. Cyfeirir y grant yn benodol at fyfyrwyr o deuluoedd llai cefnog. Mae gennym record anrhydeddus yn hynny o beth, ac wrth i addysg bellach oddiweddyd, gwelwch niferoedd tebyg mewn addysg bellach lawn amser a fydd yn gallu cael gafael ar grantiau dysgu'r Cynulliad. Mae'r grantiau'n cydweddu'n dda â'r lwfansau cynhaliath addysg a gyflwynir. Bwriad hynny hefyd yw helpu'r rhai o deuluoedd llai cefnog, ac, unwaith eto, ceisiodd eich plaid daro hynny yn ei dalcen pan godwyd y mater yma'n ddiweddar. Y rheswm am hynny oedd ei bod yn bwysicach gennych gael dadl ddiystyr i hollti blew ynghylch gweithdrefnau na rhoi cymorth i'r rhai o deuluoedd llai cefnog, ni waeth faint y ceisiwch honni eich bod yn eu cynrychioli mewn rhyw fodd.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I recall your saying in the past that you were opposed to top-up fees for students. Will you reiterate that today?

The First Minister: We have established a commission under Professor Teresa Rees to consider how best to respond to the challenge that will arise as English universities start to charge fees at 100 per cent, or perhaps 50 per cent, up to a maximum amount of £3,000 per annum. We are not yet sure how many universities, or what percentage of their courses, will compete on the basis of getting that additional income. It would be a complete nonsense if many more students were to

tra bo'r staff i gyd yn mynd dros y ffin i Fryste, er enghraifft, oherwydd eu bod yn cael mwy o dâl yno. Nonsens fyddai hynny. Yr ydym am osgoi hynny, ond yr ydym yn gorfod wynebu'r her sy'n codi wrth i ffioedd ychwanegol gael eu cyflwyno ym mhrifysgolion Lloegr.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Nid wyf yn siŵr pam yr ydych wedi rhoi ateb i gwestiwn nas gofynnais, Brif Weinidog. Yr oedd y cwestiwn yn un syml. Yr ydych wedi dweud, yn y Cynulliad a'r tu allan iddo, eich bod yn erbyn ffioedd ychwanegol i fyfyrwyr. Mae'n amlwg o'ch ateb eich bod wedi newid eich meddwl, ac yr ydym am gael gwybod pam. Mae'r awgrym bod pob Aelod sy'n codi'r mater hwn rywsut yn ceisio gwneud pwyntiau gwleidyddol ymhell o'r gwir. Gwyddoch yn iawn fod rhieni, disgyblion, myfyrwyr a cholegau i gyd eisiau gwybod ymhell cyn 2007 beth fydd yn digwydd ar ôl 2006 yng Nghymru. Rhaid iddynt wybod er mwyn cynllunio. Mae'n nonsens bod yn rhaid inni ddisgwyl tan etholiad 2007. Brif Weinidog, a ydych o blaid neu yn erbyn ffioedd dysgu? Mae'n gwestiwn syml ac yn ateb syml.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych wedi ateb y cwestiwn yn barod. Os ydych am ofyn cwestiynau ac wedyn eu hateb eich hun, daliwch ati, Ieuan. Nid oes gennyf ddiddordeb mewn chwarae'ch gemau chi. Yr ydym wedi sefydlu comisiwn. Beth yw pwrpas sefydlu comisiwn a datgan ymlaen llaw yr egwyddor y dylai'r comisiwn hwnnw ei dilyn? Yr ydym yn disgwyl adroddiad o fewn tri mis. Nid yw'n amser hir i aros, ac felly mae'n rhaid i bawb fod yn amyneddgar dros y Nadolig a'r flwyddyn newydd. Yn syth ar ôl toriad y Cynulliad bydd comisiwn Rees yn cyhoeddi ei adroddiad byr, ac yna bydd yn cyhoeddi ei adroddiad terfynol ym mis Ebrill. Felly, credaf ei bod yn well i bawb aros am hynny.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: We must have absolute clarity about the Government's position. All we know is that you have said that there will be no top-up fees until 2006. Parents, teachers, universities and colleges want to know what will happen after 2006. Will there be top-up fees in Wales? One way in which

come here when we do not charge fees, while at the same time all the staff were moving over the border to Bristol, for example, because they could earn higher salaries there. That would be a nonsense. We want to avoid that, but we must face the challenge that arises as top-up fees are introduced in English universities.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am not certain why you answered a question that I did not ask, First Minister. The question was a simple one. You have said, in the Assembly and elsewhere, that you are opposed to top-up fees for students. It is obvious from your response that you have changed your mind, and we want to know why. The suggestion that every Member who raises this issue is somehow trying to score political points is wide of the mark. You know full well that parents, pupils, students and colleges all want to know well before 2007 what will happen after 2006 in Wales. They must know in order to plan ahead. It is nonsense that we must wait until the 2007 election. First Minister, are you in favour of, or against, tuition fees? It is a simple question and a simple answer.

The First Minister: You have already answered the question. If you wish to ask questions and then answer them yourself, carry on, Ieuan. I am not interested in playing your games. We have established a commission. What is the point of establishing a commission and then stating beforehand what principle the commission should follow? We are awaiting a report in three months' time. That is not a long time to wait, and so everyone must be patient over Christmas and the new year. Immediately following the Assembly recess the Rees commission will publish its summary report, and then it will publish its final report in April. Therefore, I think it best that everybody waits until then.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Rhaid i'r Llywodraeth fod yn gwbl eglur ynghylch ei safbwynt. Y cwbl a wyddom yw eich bod wedi dweud na fydd ffioedd ychwanegol tan 2006. Mae rhieni, athrawon, prifysgolion a cholegau am gael gwybod beth a ddigwydd ar ôl 2006. A geir ffioedd ychwanegol yng Nghymru? Un

we can judge what the Government's policy is according to whether you have provided for this in your budget. If one looks at the indicative budget for 2007-08, there is not one penny in additional funding for universities after 2007. Where, therefore, will the money come from? The reality, First Minister, whether you like it or not, is that New Labour in London is dictating the policy of top-up fees. You will be forced to do it because there is not a penny in your budget after 2006. Is that right, or wrong?

2.20 p.m.

The First Minister: At least you have now accepted that you were wrong the first time around to say that there was no clarity in what we said. You have now accepted that there is clarity. We have made a commitment for this Assembly and, when the time comes, we will make the appropriate manifesto commitments, as, no doubt, will you. You will also have to make the appropriate budget commitments. I do not know what the Conservatives will do, because they are always making budget commitments to spend more and tax less. Therefore, it is all pretend stuff from them, as we all know.

We need to show patience over the next few months. We have established the Rees commission. It will consider the impact on the sector, its health and viability, and the competition that it faces. We currently do not know what market the Welsh higher education sector will face. We do not know whether 100 per cent of English universities will charge the full top-up fees, whether that will be for 100 per cent of their courses or for some courses, or what they will do about less popular courses, such as chemistry. When the prospectuses are published, we will have a better idea as to what market competition the Welsh higher education sector will face. At that point, we can start to narrow this down. Your comments about the budget in the final year, 2007-08, are wrong.

modd inni farnu beth yw polisi'r Llywodraeth yw canfod a ydych wedi darparu ar gyfer hyn yn eich cyllideb. Os edrychir ar y gyllideb ddangosol ar gyfer 2007-08, gwelir nad oes yr un geiniog o gyllid ychwanegol ynddi ar gyfer prifysgolion ar ôl 2007. O ble, felly, y daw'r arian? Y gwir amdani, Brif Weinidog, pa un a ydych yn ei hoffi ai peidio, yw mai Llafur Newydd yn Llundain sy'n ordeinio'r polisi ar ffioedd ychwanegol. Fe'ch gorfodir i ddilyn gan nad oes yr un geiniog yn eich cyllideb ar ôl 2006. A yw hynny'n gywir, neu'n anghywir?

Y Prif Weinidog: O leiaf yr ydych wedi derbyn yn awr eich bod wedi camgymryd y tro cyntaf wrth ddweud nad oedd yr hyn a ddywedasom yn eglur. Derbyniasoch bellach ei fod yn eglur. Gwnaethom ymrwymiad ar gyfer y Cynulliad hwn a, phan ddaw'r adeg, bydd yn rhaid inni wneud ymrwymadau maniffesto priodol, fel y byddwch chithau, mae'n siŵr. Byddwch hefyd yn gorfod gwneud ymrwymadau priodol ar gyfer y gyllideb. Ni wn beth a wnaiff y Ceidwadwyr, gan eu bod bob amser yn gwneud ymrwymadau ar gyfer y gyllideb i wario mwy a threthu llai. Felly, ffugio yw'r cwbl a geir ganddynt hwy, fel y gwyddom i gyd.

Rhaid inni fod yn amyneddgar dros y misoedd nesaf. Yr ydym wedi sefydlu comisiwn Rees. Bydd yn ystyried yr effaith ar y sector, ei iechyd a'i ddichonadwyedd, a'r gystadleuaeth y mae'n ei hwynebu. Ni wyddom ar hyn o bryd pa farchnad y bydd sector addysg uwch Cymru yn ei hwynebu. Ni wyddom a fydd holl brifysgolion Lloegr yn codi'r ffioedd ychwanegol yn llawn, a wneir hynny ar gyfer pob un o'u cyrsiau neu rai ohonynt, neu beth a wnânt ynghylch cyrsiau llai poblogaidd, fel cemeg. Pan gyhoeddir y prospectysau, cawn well syniad o ran y gystadleuaeth y bydd sector addysg uwch Cymru yn ei hwynebu yn y farchnad. Bryd hynny, gallwn ddechrau manylu ar hyn. Mae'ch sylwadau am y gyllideb yn y flwyddyn olaf, 2007-08, yn anghywir.

Cludiant i'r Ysgol School Transport

Q4 Mick Bates: Will the First Minister make **C4 Mick Bates:** A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog

a statement on school transport in Wales? (OAQ40010)

The First Minister: About 20 per cent of pupils in Wales receive free home-to-school transport. Local education authorities are responsible for providing free home-to-school transport for school-aged children living beyond the statutory walking distances from their nearest suitable school. Many local education authorities operate policies that are more generous than the statutory minimum.

Mick Bates: I am sure that you are aware that school transport has become a highly emotive issue, particularly in rural areas. There is a great deal of concern in my constituency of Montgomeryshire over the workings of the School Transport Bill. What assurances can you give to the people of Montgomeryshire, and the rest of rural Wales, that no-one will be disadvantaged when this Bill is implemented?

The First Minister: You say that it has become a highly emotive issue; I have been in politics for a long time and I would say that it has always been highly emotive. The average MP, AM or councillor probably receives as much correspondence and/or surgery casework on school transport as on any other issue. That applies in urban areas, due to the dividing line between the two and three miles, and what happens with regard to those wishing to travel extra distances to Welsh-medium, Roman Catholic, and Church in Wales schools and so forth, as much as it does in rural areas, where it is straightforwardly a matter of distance.

I cannot guarantee in advance that no-one will lose out. Whenever change occurs, some people benefit from it; those people rarely approach their MP, AM or councillor in a surgery. Others who lose out from it will certainly do so, and form protest movements, march on the town hall, county hall, or even the Assembly from time to time. It is important that there are potential improvements in safety here. We must grapple with the issue of safety. There is an issue with regard to whether pilot experiments might improve on the present

ddatganiad ynghylch cludiant i'r ysgol yng Nghymru? (OAQ40010)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae tuag 20 y cant o ddisgyblion yng Nghymru'n cael cludiant am ddim o'r cartref i'r ysgol. Mae awdurdodau addysg lleol yn gyfrifol am ddarparu cludiant am ddim o'r cartref i'r ysgol i blant o oedran ysgol sy'n byw y tu hwnt i'r pellteroedd cerdded statudol o'r ysgol addas agosaf. Mae sawl awdurdod addysg lleol yn gweithredu polisïau sy'n fwy hael na'r gofyniad statudol.

Mick Bates: Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwyddoch fod cludiant i'r ysgol yn fater sy'n ennyn teimladau cryf bellach, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Mae llawer iawn o bryder yn fy etholaeth i, sef sir Drefaldwyn, ynghylch manylion y Mesur Cludiant i'r Ysgol. Pa sicrwydd y gallwch ei roi i bobl sir Drefaldwyn, a gweddill Cymru wledig, na fydd neb o dan anfantais pan roddir y Mesur hwn ar waith?

Y Prif Weinidog: Dywedwch ei fod bellach yn fater sy'n ennyn teimladau cryf; bŵm mewn gwleidyddiaeth am amser hir a dywedwn ei fod wedi ennyn teimladau cryf erioed. Mae'n debyg bod yr AS, yr AC neu'r cynghorydd cyffredin yn cael cymaint o ohebiaeth ac/neu waith achosion yn ei gymhorthfa ar gludiant i'r ysgol ag ar unrhyw fater arall. Mae hynny'n wir am ardaloedd trefol, oherwydd y rhaniad rhwng dwy a thair milltir, a'r hyn a ddigwydd mewn cysylltiad â'r rhai sy'n dymuno teithio'n bellach i ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg, i rai Catholig Rhufeinig, ac i rai'r Eglwys yng Nghymru ac yn y blaen, i'r un graddau ag y mae mewn ardaloedd gwledig, lle y mae'n fater o bellter yn unig.

Ni allaf warantu ymlaen llaw na fydd neb ar ei gollod. Pryd bynnag y ceir newid, mae rhai'n cael budd ohono; anaml y bydd y bobl hynny'n cysylltu â'u AS, AC neu gynghorydd mewn cymhorthfa. Bydd eraill sydd ar eu colled yn sicr o wneud hynny, ac yn ffurfio mudiadau protest, yn gorymdeithio i neuadd y dref, i neuadd y sir, neu hyd yn oed i'r Cynulliad o bryd i'w gilydd. Mae'n bwysig nodi bod lle i wella diogelwch yn hyn o beth. Rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â mater diogelwch. Mae mater yn codi o ran a allai rhagbrofion beri gwelliant yn y sefyllfa

position, which is riddled with anomalies. Perhaps anomalies are natural in this area, but we think that the pilot schemes can improve matters. We certainly will not agree to any proposed LEA pilot scheme unless we are convinced that it will improve local school transport provision.

Owen John Thomas: Bydd y cynlluniau i godi tâl ar lawer o bobl sydd ar hyn o bryd yn cael cludiant am ddim i'w plant yn gweithio yn erbyn addysg Gymraeg ac addysg enwadol. Sut y bydd hyn yn helpu i gyflawni amcanion 'Iaith Pawb'?

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd rhai yn codi ffioedd lle na fu ffioedd o'r blaen, a rhai pobl yn cael cludiant am ddim lle bu'n rhaid talu ffioedd gynt. Mae'n gweithio'r ddwy ffordd o ran y cynlluniau peilot. Ni wnaiff Jane Davidson gytuno i unrhyw gynllun peilot nad yw'n rhoi addewid y bydd y ddarpariaeth drafnidiaeth yn well nag y mae ar hyn o bryd, ac yn gwneud mwy o synnwyr. Nid oes pwynt ceisio newid pethau os ydych mor negyddol â chanolbwyntio yn unig ar bobl a fydd yn wynebu ffioedd nad ydynt yn eu talu ar hyn o bryd, gan anwybyddu'r ffaith na fydd rhai pobl yn talu ffioedd maent yn gorfod eu talu ar hyn o bryd.

Alun Cairns: Stuart's Campaign for Safer School Buses has highlighted a range of risks and dangers that pupils travelling to school face. Many local authorities wish to improve standards. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has led the way in terms of raising standards in pupil passenger transport. In order for it to achieve its aims, like many other local authorities across Wales, it requires additional funding. What plans do you have to ring-fence funding for this specific purpose in order to raise the standard of safety on school transport?

The First Minister: You are right about safety issues, which are highlighted by the tragic accident in Ystradowen, and by Stuart's Campaign. I agree that safety on school transport is not as good as it should be. Therefore, I am sure that proposals for LEA pilot schemes that involve trying out new methods of improving safety would be welcome. However, I do not think that you would need to ring-fence funding for that,

bresennol, sy'n frith o anghysonderau. Efallai fod anghysonderau yn naturiol yn hyn o beth, ond credwn fod modd i'r cynlluniau peilot wella pethau. Yn sicr, ni chytunwn ar unrhyw gynllun peilot a gynigir gan AALL oni bai ein bod yn credu y bydd yn gwella'r ddarpariaeth o gludiant i'r ysgol yn lleol.

Owen John Thomas: The plans to charge many people who currently receive free transport for their children will be detrimental to Welsh-medium and denominational education. How will this help to achieve the aims of 'Iaith Pawb'?

The First Minister: Some will be charging fees where there were previously no fees, and some people will receive free transport where fees used to be charged. The pilot schemes can work both ways. Jane Davidson will not agree to any pilot scheme that does not promise better transport provision, which makes more sense than the current provision. There is no point in trying to change things if you are going to be so negative as to focus solely on those who will have to face charges who do not currently pay them, while ignoring the fact that some people who currently pay for transport will receive it free of charge.

Alun Cairns: Mae Ymgyrch Stuart dros Fysiau Ysgol Diogelach wedi tynnu sylw at amryw o risgiau a pheryglon a wyneba disgyblion wrth iddynt deithio i'r ysgol. Mae llawer o awdurdodau lleol am wella safonau. Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi arwain y ffordd o ran codi safonau cludiant ar gyfer dysgyblion. Os ydyw i gyflawni ei amcanion, yn yr un modd â sawl awdurdod lleol arall ledled Cymru, rhaid iddo gael angen cyllid ychwanegol. Pa gynlluniau sydd gennych i glustnodi cyllid i'r diben hwn er mwyn codi safon diogelwch ar gludiant i'r ysgol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych yn gywir ynglŷn â materion diogelwch, a amlygwyd gan y ddamwain drasig yn Ystradowen, a chan Ymgyrch Stuart. Cytunaf nad yw diogelwch ar gludiant i'r ysgol crystal ag y dylai fod. Gan hynny, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai croeso i gynigion ar gyfer cynlluniau peilot gan AALLau a fyddai'n cynnwys profion ar ddulliau newydd o wella diogelwch. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf y byddai'n rhaid clustnodi

because that would be inherent in the pilot scheme. Your question is well based, but unnecessary given the nature of the funding that is currently available.

cyllid ar gyfer hynny gan y byddai'n rhan annatod o'r cynllun peilot. Mae sail dda i'ch cwestiwn, ond nid oedd angen ei ofyn oherwydd natur y cyllid sydd ar gael yn awr.

Y Gyllideb Ddrafft The Draft Budget

Q5 Mark Isherwood: Will the First Minister make a statement on the draft budget? (OAQ40008)

C5 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ynghylch y gyllideb ddrafft? (OAQ40008)

The First Minister: The draft budget provides growth in the Assembly's budget from £11.8 billion in 2004-05 to just over £14 billion in 2007-08. That is a significant increase in provision that will enable us to spend an additional £2.5 billion per year by the end of the three-year period.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r gyllideb ddrafft yn darparu cynnydd yng nghyllideb y Cynulliad o £11.8 biliwn yn 2004-05 i ychydig yn fwy na £14 biliwn yn 2007-08. Dyna gynnydd sylweddol mewn darpariaeth a fydd yn ein galluogi i wario £2.5 biliwn y flwyddyn yn ychwanegol erbyn diwedd y cyfnod tair blynedd.

Mark Isherwood: How will you deliver on the three-year expenditure in your Government's draft budget and final budget from next year, when Gordon Brown's so-called golden rule is at risk because independent evidence shows that he got his borrowing, tax, spending and growth forecasts all wrong?

Mark Isherwood: Sut y byddwch yn sicrhau'r gwariant dros dair blynedd sydd yng nghyllideb ddrafft eich Llywodraeth a'i chyllideb derfynol o'r flwyddyn nesaf ymlaen, a rheol euraid Gordon Brown, fel y'i gelwir, mewn perygl o gael ei thorri gan fod tystiolaeth annibynnol yn dangos ei fod wedi camgymryd yn llwyr yn ei ragolygon ar gyfer benthyca, treth, gwariant a thwf?

The First Minister: I am pleased that you demonstrated your literacy as far as reading out Conservative central office press releases are concerned. You have done it before, and no doubt you will do it again. Now and again, you will think up your own questions, which may occasionally even be relevant to Wales. You could try that for a change once in a while. It is important that we realise what has been achieved in terms of bringing unemployment down from 30 per cent above the national average. We have halved it over the past seven years. There is currently high borrowing and it cannot go much higher, but it is already decreasing. There is a problem in terms of the buoyancy of corporation tax receipts. Unexpectedly low corporation tax receipts have meant higher than expected borrowing. However, compare Britain's record with the record elsewhere, Mark. Try a little economic literacy as well as verbal literacy. Look across the world. Look at France, Germany, Italy and Spain and their borrowing requirements and their

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n dda gennyf eich bod wedi dangos eich bod yn llythrennog o ran darllen datganiadau swyddfa ganolog y Ceidwadwyr i'r wasg. Gwnaethoch hynny o'r blaen, ac mae'n siŵr y gwnewch hynny eto. O bryd i'w gilydd, byddwch yn dyfeisio'ch cwestiynau'ch hun, a allai hyd yn oed fod yn berthnasol i Gymru weithiau. Gallech roi cynnig ar hynny i gael newid o bryd i'w gilydd. Mae'n bwysig inni sylweddoli'r hyn a gyflawnwyd o ran gostwng diweithdra o fod 30 y cant yn uwch na'r cyfartaledd cenedlaethol. Gwnaethom ei haneru dros y saith mlynedd diwethaf. Ceir llawer o fenthyca ar hyn o bryd ac ni all fynd yn llawer mwy, ond mae eisoes yn gostwng. Mae problem o ran cynnal derbyniadau'r dreth gorfforaeth. Am fod derbyniadau'r dreth gorfforaeth yn is na'r disgwyl, bu mwy o fenthyca na'r disgwyl. Fodd bynnag, cymharwch record Prydain â'r hyn a welir mewn mannau eraill, Mark. Rhowch gynnig ar fymryn o lythrennedd economaidd yn ogystal â llythrennedd geiriol. Edrychwch

unemployment figures and you will be glad that you live in Britain and in Wales.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): On 20 October, six weeks ago, we debated the draft budget. Since then, the Wales Office budget has increased by £0.5 million or 11 per cent. That is an increase greater than that for any other budget line in the final budget before us today. Can you tell us what has happened during those six weeks to warrant such a change?

The First Minister: I cannot, but I will write to you.

Michael German: Perhaps I could help you, First Minister. Since its establishment, the Wales Office has increased its staff from 34 to 50, and now we will give it more money. However, Peter Hain's record in terms of delivering the number of Bills that we want—there are only two this year—is not a good basis on which to provide more money. Who will benefit from the additional funding that is going to the Wales Office?

In light of your announcement that public services in Wales are to make efficiency savings of £600 million by 2010, how can you justify to those front-line services an 11 per cent increase in the Wales Office budget for a function that we are not yet certain of?

The First Minister: You said that Peter Hain has failed miserably because he has produced only two Bills this year. This is the first time that two Wales-only Bills have been produced by a Secretary of State for Wales, and it compares with one Bill per 10 years in the past. It is a 20-fold increase on anything achieved pre-devolution. I am not proposing a productivity-related increase in the Secretary of State's budget, otherwise his budget would have doubled. It is important that we realise where there are productivity savings to be gained in the public sector by ensuring better information technology

drwy'r byd. Edrychwch ar Ffrainc, yr Almaen, yr Eidal a Sbaen a'u gofynion benthyca a'u ffigurau diweithdra a byddwch yn falch eich bod yn byw ym Mhrydain ac yng Nghymru.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Ar 20 Hydref, chwe wythnos yn ôl, cawsom ddadl ar y gyllideb ddrafft. Ers hynny, mae cyllideb Swyddfa Cymru wedi codi £0.5 miliwn neu 11 y cant. Mae'r cynnydd hwnnw'n fwy na'r cynnydd a geir yn yr un llinell gyllideb arall yn y gyllideb derfynol sydd ger ein bron heddiw. A allwch ddweud wrthym beth a ddigwyddodd yn ystod y chwe wythnos hynny i gyfiawnhau newid o'r fath?

Y Prif Weinidog: Na allaf, ond ysgrifennaf atoch.

Michael German: Efallai y gallwn eich helpu, Brif Weinidog. Ers ei sefydlu, mae nifer y staff yn Swyddfa Cymru wedi codi o 34 i 50, ac yn awr rhoddwn fwy o arian iddi. Er hynny, nid yw record Peter Hain o ran sicrhau nifer y Mesurau y mae arnom eu heisiau—nid oes ond dau eleni—yn rheswm da dros roi mwy o arian. Pwy a gaiff fudd o'r cyllid ychwanegol a gaiff Swyddfa Cymru?

Yng ngolwg eich cyhoeddiad bod gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru i arbed £600 miliwn drwy effeithlonrwydd erbyn 2010, sut y gallwch gyfiawnhau i'r gwasanaethau rheng flaen hynny y cynnydd o 11 y cant yng nghyllideb Swyddfa Cymru ar gyfer swyddogaeth nad ydym eto'n sicrhoni?

Y Prif Weinidog: Dywedasoed fod Peter Hain wedi methu'n druenus am nad yw ond wedi cael dau Fesur eleni. Dyma'r tro cyntaf i unrhyw Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru gael dau Fesur i Gymru'n unig, ac mae hynny'n cymharu ag un Mesur bob 10 mlynedd yn y gorffennol. Mae'n gynydd ugeimplig ar unrhyw beth a gyflawnwyd cyn datganoli. Nid wyf yn cynnig y dylai'r cynnydd yng nghyllideb yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol fod yn seiliedig ar gynhyrchedd, neu fel arall byddai ei gyllideb wedi dyblu. Mae'n bwysig inni sylweddoli ym mhle y gellir cael arbedion drwy effeithlonrwydd yn y sector cyhoeddus

services, sharing corporate services, pay rolls and e-procurement. Those are the issues that Peter Gershon uncovered and on which he attempted to produce estimates. We were coming to the same conclusions, through a different route, about the importance of e-procurement and getting as many government transactions—payroll payments or payments to suppliers—done in the most technologically efficient way, using the latest ICT system. There are some savings to be made, and we have estimated them at £600 million.

2.30 p.m.

Michael German: If that applies to all public services in Wales, surely it should also apply to the Wales Office. You can understand why people see that as spending more money on bureaucracy and less on front-line services. That is the wrong message. Perhaps we have two Bills this year because Peter Hain has two jobs; to have the five Bills that we wanted, perhaps he should have five jobs.

The First Minister: That was pretty thin stuff, Mike, and I think that you know that yourself. Obviously, we are concentrating on government transaction costs where there is big spending—including grants being paid out, payments to suppliers and payroll functions—and if you can convert those transactions to the latest ICT system, there are major savings to be made. If we can stop people from sending cheques to the Government, and people being paid by cheque, and have it done electronically instead, there are massive savings to be made. That is where we expect to extract £600 million, so that we can transfer that money to the front line.

drwy sicrhau gwell gwasanaethau technoleg gwybodaeth, rhannu gwasanaethau corfforaethol, cyflogresi ac e-gaffael. Dyna'r materion y gwnaeth Peter Gershon eu canfod ac y ceisiodd wneud amcangyfrifon ohonynt. Yr oeddem yn dod i'r un casgliadau, ar hyd llwybr gwahanol, ynghylch pwysigrwydd e-gaffael a gwneud cynifer ag y bo modd o drafodion llywodraeth—taliadau cyflog neu daliadau i gyflenwyr—yn y modd mwyaf technegol effeithlon, gan ddefnyddio'r system TGCh ddiweddaraf. Mae rhai arbedion i'w gwneud, ac yr ydym wedi amcangyfrif eu bod yn werth £600 miliwn.

Michael German: Os yw hynny'n berthnasol i'r holl wasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, mae'n sicr y dylai fod yn berthnasol hefyd i Swyddfa Cymru. Gallwch ddeall pam y mae pobl yn barnu bod hynny'n golygu gwario mwy ar fiwrocratiaeth a llai ar wasanaethau rheng flaen. Dyna roi'r neges anghywir. Efallai fod gennym ddau Fesur eleni am fod dwy swydd gan Peter Hain; er mwyn cael y pum Mesur yr oeddem am eu cael, efallai y dylai gael pum swydd.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr oedd hwnnw'n ddeunydd eithaf tila, Mike, a chredaf y gwyddoch hynny'ch hun. Wrth gwrs, canolbwyntiwn ar gostau trafodion llywodraeth lle y ceir gwariant mawr—gan gynnwys grantiau a delir, taliadau i gyflenwyr a gweithrediadau cyflogresi—ac os gellir trosglwyddo'r trafodion hynny i'r system TGCh ddiweddaraf, gellir gwneud arbedion mawr. Os gallwn atal pobl rhag anfon sieciau i'r Llywodraeth, a rhoi'r gorau i dalu i bobl â siec, a gwneud hynny'n electronig yn lle hynny, gellir gwneud arbedion enfawr. Drwy wneud hynny y disgwyliwn gael £600 miliwn, fel y gallwn drosglwyddo'r arian hwnnw i'r rheng flaen.

Egwyddorion Ailbrisió'r Dreth Gyngor The Council Tax Revaluation Exercise

Q6 Jonathan Morgan: Will the First Minister make a statement on whether his administration has adhered to the principles of open government when undertaking the council tax revaluation exercise across Wales? (OAQ40030)

C6 Jonathan Morgan: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad yn nodi a yw ei weinyddiaeth wedi cadw at egwyddorion llywodraeth agored wrth fynd ati i ailbrisió'r dreth gyngor ledled Cymru? (OAQ40030)

The First Minister: You will not be surprised to learn that the answer to that is 'yes'. Our 'Code of Practice on Public Access to Information' ensures that we operate openly. The code is stronger than even the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is coming in on 1 January, in terms of limiting the grounds on which information can be withheld. On property revaluation, Sue Essex, the relevant Minister, recently set the record straight on this, confirming that we provided the information to you, and other Assembly Members, as soon as we got it from the Valuation Office Agency.

Jonathan Morgan: Your Finance Minister said some months ago that, with the revaluation exercise, there would be as many winners as losers, yet, in Cardiff, for every property that has moved down a council tax band, 60 properties have moved up. Across Wales, there are certainly more winners than losers. Will you now apologise on behalf of the Government for such a misleading statement?

The First Minister: I think that you are getting confused with regard to your comparisons between Cardiff and Wales—you will be rather shocked when you read the Record tomorrow as to what you said. I think that you now accept that there was no attempt whatsoever to withhold information from you in relation to the Valuation Office Agency's information. The information was stored by that agency, but it was not in a form where it could be released immediately at the press of a button. As soon as the processing work was done and we had the information, it was available to you, as you and other Assembly Members had asked for it. I think that when you read the Record tomorrow you will not want the answer to your question.

Huw Lewis: Notwithstanding Jonathan's puzzling fixation with Cardiff politics, does the First Minister agree that Tory comments on the rebanding issue take the proverbial biscuit? They supported the rebanding exercise and their local government spokesman even spoke publicly in favour of it when the details were announced in September. I quote Glyn Davies AM:

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni fyddwch yn synnu o glywed mai'r ateb i hynny yw 'ydyw'. Mae ein 'Cod Ymarfer ar Ganiatáu i'r Cyhoedd Weld Gwybodaeth' yn sicrhau y gweithredwn yn agored. Mae'r cod hwnnw'n gryfach hyd yn oed na Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, a ddaw i rym ar 1 Ionawr, o ran cyfyngu ar y sail i ddal gwybodaeth yn ôl. Ynghylch ailbriso eiddo, gwnaeth Sue Essex, y Gweinidog perthnasol, egluro'r sefyllfa mewn cysylltiad â hynny'n ddiweddar, gan gadarnhau ein bod wedi rhoi'r wybodaeth i chi, ac i Aelodau eraill o'r Cynulliad, cyn gynted ag y'i cawsom oddi wrth Asiantaeth y Swyddfa Briso.

Jonathan Morgan: Dywedodd eich Gweinidog Cyllid rai misoedd yn ôl y byddai cynifer ar eu hennill ag oedd ar eu colled drwy ailbriso, ac eto, yng Nghaerdydd, am bob eiddo a ddisgynodd un band treth gyngor, mae 60 eiddo wedi codi. Ledled Cymru, mae'n sicr bod mwy ar eu hennill nag sydd ar eu colled. A wneuch ymddiheuro'n awr ar ran y Llywodraeth am wneud datganiad mor gamarweiniol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Credaf eich bod yn drysu o ran eich cymariaethau rhwng Caerdydd a Chymru—cewch dipyn o ysgytwad pan ddarllenwch eich geiriau yn y Cofnod yfory. Credaf eich bod yn derbyn bellach na fu unrhyw ymgais o gwbl i gelu gwybodaeth oddi wrthy ch mewn cysylltiad â gwybodaeth Asiantaeth y Swyddfa Briso. Yr oedd y wybodaeth wedi'i storio gan yr asiantaeth honno, ond nid oedd ar ffurf y gellid ei chyhoeddi ar unwaith drwy bwysu botwm. Cyn gynted ag y cwblhawyd y gwaith prosesu ac yr oedd y wybodaeth gennym, yr oedd ar gael i chi, fel yr oeddech chi, ac Aelodau eraill o'r Cynulliad, wedi gofyn amdani. Credaf, pan ddarllenwch y Cofnod yfory, y gwelwch na fyddwch am gael yr ateb i'ch cwestiwn.

Huw Lewis: Er gwaethaf obsesiwn rhyfedd Jonathan â gwleidyddiaeth Caerdydd, a yw'r Prif Weinidog yn cytuno bod sylwadau'r Torïaid ar fater ailfandio'n coroni'r cyfan? Yr oeddent o blaid yr ailfandio ac yr oedd hyd yn oed eu llefarydd ar lywodraeth leol wedi siarad yn gyhoeddus o'i blaid pan gyhoeddwyd y manylion ym mis Medi. Dyfynnaf eiriau Glyn Davies AC:

'I have not opposed the necessary updating of the property valuation base for council tax or the addition of an extra band to the valuation scale—changes needed to the council tax system which will spread the tax burden in a more fair and progressive way.'

Does the First Minister agree that it is irresponsible and wrong of the Tories to try to scare people about rebanding? Does he agree that the biggest threat facing local taxpayers in Cardiff, or anywhere else, is Michael Howard's Tory Party, which would starve local government of funding?

The First Minister: I have no doubt about that. We must remember where council tax came from in the first place. It is not a perfect tax, we recognise that—it is a rough and ready tax that gives rough justice. However, one thing that the Conservatives made clear when they brought in the council tax was that revaluation would be necessary from time to time. If revaluation is necessary in order to get rid of some of the anomalies that inevitably arise in that Conservative tax, then we must do the job, and we have done it. The Conservatives should apologise to the people of Wales for having brought in the council tax, but at least it was better than the poll tax, the previous version. Whether it is the poll tax or the council tax, we must operate these Tory taxes. A strange amnesia comes over the Tories when they try to pretend that they had nothing to do with the council tax or its revaluation. Not only was revaluation built into John Major and Michael Heseltine's council tax, it is necessary to get rid of the anomalies that arise over a 10-year period. Also, as you said, Huw, Glyn Davies went along with commencing the revaluation exercise and adding the additional band at the top.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae'r dreth gyngor yn dibynnu ar bris tŷ, ac mae prisiau tai yn amrywio o le i le. Sut y gellir cyfiawnhau bod treth pensiynwr mewn un man yn wahanol i dreth pensiynwr mewn man arall yn ardal yr un awdurdod, er bod y ddau yn byw yn yr un math o dŷ ac yn derbyn yr un incwm? Beth yw'r cyfiawnhad?

Nid wyf wedi gwrthwynebu'r diweddaru angenrheidiol ar y sylfaen prisio eiddo ar gyfer y dreth gyngor na'r bwriad i ychwanegu band at y raddfa brisio—mae angen gwneud y newidiadau hyn i system y dreth gyngor fel y bydd yn rhannu baich y dreth mewn modd tecach a mwy cynyddgar.

A yw'r Prif Weinidog yn cytuno ei bod yn anghyfrifol a chyfeiliornus i'r Torïaid geisio dychryn pobl ynghylch ailfandio? A yw'n cytuno mai'r bygythiad mwyaf i drethdalwyr lleol yng Nghaerdydd, neu yn unman arall, yw Plaid Dorïaidd Michael Howard, a fyddai'n amddifadu llywodraeth leol o gyllid?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn amau hynny o gwbl. Rhaid inni gofio o ble y daeth y dreth gyngor yn y lle cyntaf. Nid yw'n dreth berffaith, yr ydym yn cydnabod hynny—mae'n dreth ffwrdd â hi sy'n gwneud bras gyfiawnder. Fodd bynnag, un peth a eglurodd y Ceidwadwyr wrth gyflwyno'r dreth gyngor oedd y byddai angen ailbrisio o bryd i'w gilydd. Os oes angen ailbrisio i gael gwared â rhai o'r anghysonderau sy'n sicr o godi yn y dreth Geidwadol honno, rhaid inni fwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith, a dyna a wnaethom. Dylai'r Ceidwadwyr ymddiheuro i bobl Cymru am gyflwyno'r dreth gyngor, ond o leiaf yr oedd yn well na threth y pen, sef y fersiwn blaenorol. Pa un ai treth y pen neu'r dreth gyngor ydyw, rhaid inni godi'r trethi Torïaidd hyn. Mae rhyw anghofusrwydd rhyfedd yn taro'r Torïaid pan geisiant esgus nad oedd a wnelont ddim â'r dreth gyngor neu'r ailbrisio ar ei chyfer. Yr oedd ailbrisio'n rhan annatod o dreth gyngor John Major a Michael Heseltine, ac mae'n angenrheidiol hefyd i ddileu'r anghysonderau sy'n codi dros gyfnod o 10 mlynedd. Hefyd, fel y dywedaso, Huw, yr oedd Glyn Davies yn cyd-fynd â'r bwriad i gychwyn yr ailbrisio ac ychwanegu'r band yn y pen uchaf.

Alun Ffred Jones: Council tax levels depend on house prices, which vary from one place to another. What justification is there that the tax paid by pensioners in one area differs from the tax paid by pensioners in another area within the same local authority even though they live in the same type of houses and have the same income levels? How can

this be justified?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae treth ar eiddo bob amser yn arwain at wahaniaethau rhwng cymunedau yn ardal un awdurdod lleol. Seiliwyd ardrethi ar werth pob tŷ yn unigol, ond seilir y dreth gyngor fesul stryd neu ardal gyfan yn unol â barn syrfewyr. Yr oedd hyn yn rhan o gynllun gwreiddiol Michael Heseltine, 12 mlynedd yn ôl. Yr ydym yn ceisio sicrhau bod pensiynwyr sydd ag incwm isel, ynghyd â phobl eraill ag incwm isel, yn cael budd-dal y dreth gyngor. Mae'r newidiadau a gyflwynodd Gordon Brown yn ystod y 18 mis diwethaf yn golygu bod 300,000 o bensiynwyr ychwanegol yn gymwys i dderbyn y budd-dal. Mae'n bwysig cyfleu'r neges am y budd-dal yn glir. Ers cyflwyno credyd pensiynwyr, rhaid inni ofyn i bensiynwyr a ydynt yn gymwys i dderbyn y budd-dal er mwyn sicrhau bod pawb yn derbyn yr hyn y mae ganddynt hawl iddo.

The First Minister: A property tax will always lead to differences within one local authority area. Rates were based on the value of individual houses, whereas council tax covers streets or whole areas in line with surveyor valuations. This was part of Michael Heseltine's original plan, 12 years ago. We are trying to ensure that pensioners and other people on low incomes, receive council tax benefit. Changes introduced by Gordon Brown over the past 18 months mean that an additional 300,000 pensioners are now eligible for council tax benefit. It is important that we clearly convey this message about the benefit. Since the introduction of the pensioner credit, we must check whether pensioners are eligible to receive benefit so as to ensure that everyone receives their entitlement.

Ceisiadau am Gyrsiau Addysg Uwch Applications to Higher Education Courses

Q7 Jenny Randerson: Will the First Minister make a statement on the numbers of Welsh students applying to higher education? (OAQ40012)

C7 Jenny Randerson: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ynghylch niferoedd y myfyrwyr o Gymru sy'n gwneud cais i ddilyn cyrsiau addysg uwch? (OAQ40012)

The First Minister: The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service provisional end-year figures for entry to full-time undergraduate courses show a 0.6 per cent fall in the number of Welsh domiciled applicants accepted, compared with 2003, and a 2.3 per cent increase in Welsh domiciled applicants accepted at Welsh higher education institutions. Final figures are expected early in the new year and may show further improvement.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae ffigurau diwedd blwyddyn dros dro Gwasanaeth Derbyn y Prifysgolion a'r Colegau ar gyfer y rhai a dderbynnir i ddilyn cyrsiau llawn amser i israddedigion yn dangos gostyngiad o 0.6 y cant yn nifer yr ymgeiswyr sy'n byw yng Nghymru a gafodd eu derbyn, o'i gymharu â 2003, a bod 2.3 y cant yn fwy o ymgeiswyr sy'n byw yng Nghymru wedi'u derbyn gan sefydliadau addysg uwch yng Nghymru. Disgwylir y ffigurau terfynol ddechrau'r flwyddyn newydd a gallent ddangos gwelliant pellach.

Jenny Randerson: I am sure you share my disappointment at the 0.6 drop in the number of Welsh applicants accepted to universities. This compares badly with the increase in the UK as a whole. Do you not think that it is time to increase the level of the Assembly learning grant, or to increase the number of those eligible by raising the income threshold? Rather than reducing the money available for the grants, as you plan to do yet

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich wedi'ch siomi, fel yr wyf fi, yn y gostyngiad o 0.6 yn nifer yr ymgeiswyr o Gymru a dderbyniwyd i brifysgolion. Mae hyn yn ddrwg mewn cymhariaeth â'r cynnydd a fu yn y DU gyfan. Oni chredwch ei bod yn bryd codi lefel grant dysgu'r Cynulliad, neu gynyddu nifer y rhai sy'n gymwys i'w gael drwy godi'r trothwy incwm? Yn hytrach na darparu llai o arian ar gyfer y grantiau, fel y

again in next year's budget, would this not be a more positive step towards increasing the numbers of Welsh higher education students?

The First Minister: We are not reducing the money available. This is an on-demand budget. As I mentioned in response to Peter Black—and I am sorry that you do not adapt supplementary questions in light of previous responses, but perhaps you were asleep or outside the Chamber talking to someone else at the time—it is important to acknowledge that the number of higher education students in receipt of Assembly learning grants is close to the budget forecast. The problem lies with the number of further education students. We are the first dispensation in the history of British education to offer grants to less well-off students in almost full-time further education at the age of 19 and above. We do this on the same basis as we would for those attending university. Given that this was an unexpected and unusual measure in further education, the take-up has not been as high as we had allowed for. However, it is increasing as people realise that we are doing what we said we would do, which is to treat higher and further education in the same way for this purpose.

Elin Jones: A ydych yn ymwybodol nad oes modd dilyn cwrs milfeddygaeth mewn prifysgol yng Nghymru a bod yn rhaid i fyfyrwyr fynd i'r Alban neu Loegr i wneud hynny? Hyd y gwn i, mae o leiaf un coleg prifysgol yng Nghymru â diddordeb mewn cyflwyno cwrs milfeddygaeth. Gyda'r cynnydd ym mhwystrwydd materion yn ymwneud ag iechyd anifeiliaid yng Nghymru, a wnewch chi drafod gyda'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes gyflwyno cwrs milfeddygaeth?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mater hanesyddol yw'r ffaith nad oes coleg yng Nghymru yn cynnig cwrs milfeddygaeth. Pe bai digon o alw, a phe bai coleg neu brifysgol yn awyddus i gyflwyno cwrs o'r fath, byddai'n rhaid dwyn cynllun busnes gerbron Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru yn gyntaf er mwyn iddo asesu'r galw a gweld a yw'r cynllun yn gwneud synnwyr ac yn fforddiadwy yn unol â rheolau'r cyngor.

bwriadwch ei wneud yng nghyllideb y flwyddyn nesaf, oni fyddai hyn yn gam mwy cadarnhaol i gynyddu nifer y myfyrwyr addysg uwch o Gymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid ydym yn darparu llai o arian. Cyllideb sy'n dilyn y galw yw hon. Fel y dywedais mewn ymateb i Peter Black—ac mae'n drueni nad ydych yn addasu cwestiynau atodol yng ngoleuni atebion blaenorol, ond efallai'ch bod yn cysgu neu'n siarad â rhywun arall y tu allan i'r Siambr ar y pryd—mae'n bwysig cydnabod bod nifer y myfyrwyr addysg uwch sy'n derbyn grantiau dysgu'r Cynulliad yn agos i'r hyn a ragwelwyd yn y gyllideb. Yn nifer y myfyrwyr addysg bellach y mae'r broblem. Ni yw'r corff llywodraethol cyntaf yn hanes addysg Prydain sy'n cynnig grantiau i fyfyrwyr llai cefnog sydd mewn addysg bellach sydd bron yn llawn amser sy'n 19 oed neu'n hŷn. Gwnawn hynny ar yr un sail ag y byddem yn achos rhai sy'n mynd i brifysgol. Gan mai mesur annisgwyl ac anarferol oedd hwn mewn addysg bellach, nid yw cynifer wedi'i dderbyn ag yr oeddem wedi darparu ar ei gyfer. Er hynny, mae ar gynydd wrth i bobl sylweddoli ein bod yn gwneud fel y bwriadusom, sef trin addysg uwch ac addysg bellach yn yr un modd i'r diben hwn.

Elin Jones: Are you aware of the fact that it is not possible to study veterinary science in Wales and that students must go to Scotland or England to do so? As far as I am aware, at least one university college in Wales is interested in introducing a veterinary science course. Given the increased importance of animal health issues in Wales, will you discuss the introduction of a veterinary science course with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning?

The First Minister: It has always been the case that Welsh colleges do not offer veterinary science courses. If there were sufficient demand and, if a college or university were eager to introduce such a course, a business case would first have to be brought before the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales so that it could assess demand and judge whether the case put forward was a reasonable and affordable proposal in line with the council's rules.

2.40 p.m.

Addysg Uwch yn Ne-ddwyrain Cymru Higher Education in South-east Wales

Q8 John Griffiths: Will the First Minister make a statement on higher education in south-east Wales? (OAQ40029)

C8 John Griffiths: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ynghylch Addysg Uwch yn ne-ddwyrain Cymru? (OAQ40029)

The First Minister: Despite the failed merger between the University of Wales Institute Cardiff and the University of Glamorgan and some difficult capital expenditure projects that have been brought forward by different university-level institutions in south-east Wales, the area continues to show every sign of being extremely vibrant in terms of the development of higher education in Wales.

Y Prif Weinidog: Er bod y bwriad i gyfuno Athrofa Prifysgol Cymru Caerdydd a Phrifysgol Morgannwg wedi methu ac er bod rhai prosiectau gwariant cyfalaf a gyflwynwyd gan wahanol sefydliadau ar lefel prifysgol yn y De-ddwyrain wedi profi trafferthion, mae'r ardal yn dal i amlygu pob arwydd o fod yn un dra bywiog o ran datblygu addysg uwch yng Nghymru.

John Griffiths: We have seen a huge, impressive and welcome increase in the numbers of students going into higher education under our Labour Government, and the challenge is to continue that increase and to reach some of the communities and families that do not traditionally access higher education. In that context, the marked under-provision of university places in the area that University of Wales, Newport primarily serves is an issue, and far too few local people go to university in that area compared with the Wales average. Will you join me in welcoming the recent decision by the board of governors of the University of Wales, Newport to continue its aim to increase student numbers and to press ahead with a riverfront, city-centre campus, housing a Newport school of art, media and design? Do you agree that the Welsh Assembly Government should give those plans our full support and assistance?

John Griffiths: Gwelsom gynnydd anferth, trawiadol a derbyniol yn nifer y myfyrwyr a aiff i addysg uwch o dan ein Llywodraeth Lafur, a'r her yw parhau â'r cynnydd hwnnw a chyrraedd rhai o'r cymunedau a'r teuluoedd nad ydynt wedi arfer mynd i addysg uwch. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, mae'r tanddarparu amlwg ar leoedd prifysgol yn yr ardal a wasanaethir yn bennaf gan Brifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd yn destun sylw, ac mae rhy ychydig o lawer o bobl yn mynd i brifysgol yn yr ardal honno o'i chymharu â'r cyfartaledd yng Nghymru. A wnewch ymuno â mi i groesawu'r penderfyniad diweddar gan fwrdd llywodraethwyr Prifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd i barhau â'i amcan o gynyddu nifer y myfyrwyr ac i fwrw ymlaen i sefydlu campws ar lan yr afon, yng nghanol y ddinas, a fydd yn gartref i ysgol celfyddyd, y cyfryngau a dylunio ar gyfer Casnewydd? A ydych yn cytuno y dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru roi pob cymorth a chefnogaeth ar ein rhan i'r cynlluniau hynny?

The First Minister: That was one of the difficult capital expenditure projects to which I referred in my reply. There is no doubt that this is an exciting project, and it would put a new cast on the character of the centre of Newport and of the Usk riverbank area, next to the new arts centre. It would be exciting, but there is a big funding gap. Capital expenditure money is short, and there are many competing projects, so I cannot give an

Y Prif Weinidog: Hwnnw oedd un o'r prosiectau gwariant cyfalaf astrus y cyfeiriais atynt yn fy ateb. Nid oes amheuaeth nad yw hwn yn brosiect cyffrous, a gweddnewidiai ganol Casnewydd a'r ardal ar lan afon Wysg, ger y ganolfan gelfyddydau newydd. Byddai'n beth cyffrous, ond mae bwlch mawr i'w lenwi o ran ei ariannu. Mae arian ar gyfer gwariant cyfalaf yn brin, ac mae llawer o brosiectau'n cystadlu ag ef, felly ni allaf

undertaking to support the project. I have walked around the Newport school of art, media and design at its present Caerleon campus, and it is an exciting place with world-class work going on there. There is no question about that.

William Graham: In view of the funding problem that you have identified—capital projects of this kind are difficult to fund—do you think that it would have been a better idea to choose the greenfield site at Park Farm on the other side of Caerleon, which would have enabled a huge campus to be constructed without having to go into the centre of Newport and without incurring enormous cost? That would have enabled the campus to develop along the lines of some of our better universities.

The First Minister: That point has been put to me, but I understand that that option would also involve a funding gap. You may have different information from mine. It is up to the University of Wales, Newport, not us, to choose between the greenfield or the city-centre site, and it has made its decision. The issue now is whether it can cover that funding gap with its own reserves or sales of surplus land, or whatever it might be, or whether local government or the private sector can come in to help it do that. It is a significant funding gap and I would not want to raise hopes that it will be an easy job to cover it.

ymgymryd i gefnogi'r prosiect. Yr wyf wedi cerdded o gwmpas ysgol celfyddyd, y cyfryngau a dylunio Casnewydd yn ei champws presennol yng Nghaerllion, ac mae'n lle cyffrous a gwneir gwaith o'r radd flaenaf yno. Nid oes amheuaeth am hynny.

William Graham: Yng ngolwg y broblem o ran ariannu yr ydych wedi'i nodi—anodd yw ariannu prosiectau cyfalaf o'r math hwn—a gredwch y byddai wedi bod yn well dewis y safle maes glas yn Park Farm yr ochr draw i Gaerllion, fel y gellid bod wedi adeiladu campws enfawr heb orfod mynd i ganol Casnewydd a heb fynd i gost aruthrol? Byddai hynny wedi caniatáu ar gyfer datblygu'r campws yn debyg i rai o'n prifysgolion gwell.

Y Prif Weinidog: Awgrymwyd hynny i mi, ond deallaf y byddai bwlch mawr o ran ariannu ynglŷn â'r dewis hwnnw hefyd. Efallai fod y wybodaeth sydd gennych yn wahanol i'r hyn sydd gennyf fi. Mater i Brifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd, nid i ni, yw dewis rhwng y safle maes glas a'r un yng nghanol y ddinas, ac mae wedi gwneud ei phenderfyniad. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig yn awr yw a all lenwi'r bwlch hwnnw ag arian o'i chronfeydd ei hun neu o werthu tir diangen, neu ba beth bynnag, neu a all llywodraeth leol neu'r sector preifat ei helpu yn hynny o beth. Mae'r bwlch o ran ariannu'n un mawr ac ni fyddwn am godi gobeithion y bydd yn hawdd ei lenwi.

Tocynnau Bws am Ddim Free Bus Passes

Q9 Kirsty Williams: Will the First Minister make a statement on his policy on free bus passes for the elderly and disabled? (OAQ40009)

The First Minister: Our travel scheme for elderly and disabled people does not only include a free bus pass, but it includes free travel using the free bus pass, and, as a result, it is hugely popular. Andrew Davies will soon announce a new scheme for demonstration projects providing free travel for disabled people on community transport, and we are also developing a scheme for half-price travel for 16 to 18-year-olds.

C9 Kirsty Williams: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ynghylch gweithredu'r polisi tocynnau bws am ddim ar gyfer yr henoed a'r anabl? (OAQ40009)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn ogystal â thocyn bws am ddim, mae ein cynllun teithio i bobl oedrannus ac anabl hefyd yn cynnwys teithio am ddim drwy ddefnyddio'r tocyn bws am ddim, ac, o ganlyniad, mae'n dra phoblogaidd. Cyn hir, bydd Andrew Davies yn cyhoeddi cynllun newydd ar gyfer prosiectau arddangos a fydd yn cynnig teithio am ddim i bobl anabl ar gludiant cymunedol, ac yr ydym hefyd yn datblygu cynllun ar

gyfer teithio am hanner pris i rai 16 i 18 mlwydd oed.

Kirsty Williams: I am glad to note that progress has been made to enable some people to use these bus passes on community-transport schemes. I note that you only refer to pilot schemes for disabled people. Will you comment on the previous commitment given by Sue Essex that elderly and disabled people would be able to use their free bus passes on community-transport projects? That is the only transport available to many in my constituency.

The First Minister: I understand the problem with regard to areas of great sparsity of population, and large parts of your constituency are such areas. I understand that this scheme would be available for disabled people and would not include elderly persons. However, I will check on that and ask Andrew Davies to write to you if my understanding is not correct.

Lisa Francis: The Minister for Economic Development and Transport has previously stated that, under his longer bus and coach strategy, he has provided financial support to the Trawscambria 701 service for two years. Under this concessionary travel pass scheme, discounted and free fares do not apply to that particular service. What discussions have you had to extend the concessionary pass scheme to the Trawscambria 701 service, to help minimise the marginalisation of these disadvantaged and disabled groups?

The First Minister: There will always be marginal cases like this. The scheme was clearly intended for local bus travel, not for long distance bus travel. I know that some ingenious elderly people have found ways of getting from Colwyn Bay to Cardiff by transferring from one local bus service to another. However, that was not the intention of the scheme. Whatever the length of a local journey, there will always be a case where the local travel envisaged by a particular service is 10 miles longer or does not fit into that category for some reason or another. Therefore, wherever the boundary is set, you will always have that shadow effect. People will ask why the scheme does not cover a

Kirsty Williams: Yr wyf yn falch o nodi bod cynnydd wedi'i wneud o ran galluogi rhai pobl i ddefnyddio'r tocynnau bws hyn mewn cynlluniau cludiant cymunedol. Nodaf nad ydych ond yn cyfeirio at gynlluniau peilot ar gyfer pobl anabl. A wnewch sylw am yr ymrwymiad blaenorol a wnaeth Sue Essex y câi pobl oedrannus ac anabl ddefnyddio eu tocynnau bws am ddim mewn prosiectau cludiant cymunedol? Dyna'r unig gludiant sydd ar gael i lawer yn fy etholaeth i.

Y Prif Weinidog: Deallaf y broblem sy'n codi mewn cysylltiad ag ardaloedd tenau iawn eu poblogaeth, a rhai felly yw rhannau helaeth o'ch etholaeth chi. Deallaf y byddai'r cynllun hwn ar gael i bobl anabl ac na fyddai'n cynnwys pobl oedrannus. Fodd bynnag, holaf ynghylch hynny a gofyn i Andrew Davies ysgrifennu atoch os wyf wedi camddeall.

Lisa Francis: Mae'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth wedi datgan cyn hyn, o dan ei strategaeth ar deithiau hwy mewn bysiau a choetshis, ei fod wedi rhoi cymorth ariannol i wasanaeth Trawscambria 701 am ddwy flynedd. O dan y cynllun tocynnau teithio mantais hwn, nid yw tocynnau sy'n rhatach neu'n rhad ac am ddim yn berthnasol i'r gwasanaeth hwnnw. Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch i ymestyn y cynllun tocynnau mantais i gynnwys gwasanaeth Trawscambria 701, i helpu i leihau'r allgáu ar y grwpiau difreintiedig ac anabl hyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ceir achosion ffiniol fel hyn bob amser. Mae'n amlwg mai ar gyfer teithio ar fysiau lleol y bwriadwyd y cynllun hwn, nid ar gyfer teithio mewn bysiau dros bellter hir. Gwn fod rhai pobl oedrannus ddyfeisgar wedi canfod modd i fynd o Fae Colwyn i Gaerdydd drwy newid o un gwasanaeth bws lleol i'r llall. Fodd bynnag, nid dyna oedd amcan y cynllun. Beth bynnag fo hyd taith leol, bydd achosion bob amser lle y mae'r daith leol arfaethedig ar gyfer gwasanaeth penodol yn 10 milltir yn hwy neu'n methu â ffitio i'r categori hwnnw am ryw reswm neu'i gilydd. Felly, yn lle bynnag y gosodir y ffin, ceir effaith gysgodi o'r fath bob amser. Bydd pobl yn gofyn pam nad

particular service which is a little longer, but it was always intended for local transport.

yw'r cynllun yn cynnwys gwasanaeth penodol sydd ychydig yn hwy, ond ar gyfer trafniadaeth leol y'i bwriadwyd erioed.

Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Blant a Phobl Ifanc Social Services for Children and Young People

Q10 Leanne Wood: Will the First Minister make a statement on social services provision for children and young people? (OAQ40020)

C10 Leanne Wood: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ynghylch y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a ddarperir i blant a phobl ifanc? (OAQ40020)

The First Minister: The Assembly Government has supported children's social services with over £100 million in Children First grants since 1999. More care leavers now pass GCSEs, more children have a care plan in place when they first become looked-after, and more child protection cases are appropriately reviewed.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cefnogi gwasanaethau cymdeithasol i blant drwy roi mwy na £100 miliwn ar ffurf grantiau Rhoi Plant yn Gyntaf er 1999. Mae mwy o'r rhai sy'n gadael gofal yn ennill cymwysterau TGAU yn awr, mae mwy o blant a chanddynt gynllun gofal ar waith ar eu cyfer pan dderbynnir hwy i ofal am y tro cyntaf, ac mae mwy o achosion amddiffyn plant yn cael eu hadolygu yn y modd priodol.

Leanne Wood: In his latest annual report, the Children's Commissioner for Wales stated that action is needed to deal with the problems of recruitment and retention of social workers who work with children and young people. These problems, as you will be aware, exist as a result of poor pay and a poor media image of social workers. What immediate action will you take to recruit and retain social workers who work with children and young people throughout Wales?

Leanne Wood: Yn ei adroddiad blynyddol diweddaraf, dywedodd Comisiynydd Plant Cymru fod angen cymryd camau i ddelio â'r problemau a geir wrth recriwtio a chadw gweithwyr cymdeithasol sy'n gweithio gyda phlant a phobl ifanc. Ceir y problemau hyn, fel y gwyddoch, oherwydd cyflogau gwael a'r ddelwedd wael sydd gan weithwyr cymdeithasol yn y cyfryngau. Pa gamau a gymerwch yn awr i recriwtio a chadw gweithwyr cymdeithasol sy'n gweithio gyda phlant a phobl ifanc ledled Cymru?

The First Minister: You are right to draw attention to the commissioner's remarks. The key point is how many people are now taking up social work courses—not all of those will be to work with children, but many people will specialise in that area. Usually, it is easier to recruit social workers into childcare, than into the care of the elderly or other categories. There has been a sharp increase in 2003-04, and record numbers were recruited onto social work courses—372 people compared with 287 in 2002-03. That is the highest figure for some five years. It is also important that we try to get over the stigma problem, which is why I mentioned those accurate and factual numbers. The situation is improving rapidly in terms of the number of children who receive the appropriate reviews,

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n briodol ichi dynnu sylw at sylwadau'r comisiynydd. Y pwynt allweddol yw'r nifer sy'n dilyn cyrsiau gwaith cymdeithasol yn awr—ni fydd pob un ohonynt yn gweithio gyda phlant, ond bydd llawer yn arbenigo yn y maes hwnnw. Fel arfer, mae'n haws recriwtio gweithwyr cymdeithasol i faes gofal plant nag ydyw i faes gofal yr henoed neu gategorïau eraill. Bu cynnydd sydyn yn 2003-04, a recriwtiwyd niferoedd gyda'r mwyaf erioed i gyrsiau gwaith cymdeithasol—372 o bobl o'i gymharu â 287 yn 2002-03. Dyna'r ffigur uchaf ers tua phum mlynedd. Mae hefyd yn bwysig inni ddatrys y broblem sy'n ymwneud â gwarthnodi, a dyna pam y cyfeiriais at y ffigurau cywir a ffeithiol hynny. Mae'r sefyllfa'n gwella'n gyflym o

or who have social workers attached to them to cover their needs. Young people who leave the looked-after care system are now passing GCSEs in numbers that were unimaginable five or 10 years ago.

ran nifer y plant a gaiff adolygiad mewn modd priodol, neu'r rhai y dynodwyd gweithwyr cymdeithasol ar eu cyfer i ddiwallu eu hanghenion. Mae mwy o bobl ifanc nag y gellid ei ddychmygu bum neu 10 mlynedd yn ôl yn gadael y system derbyn gofal a chanddynt gymwysterau TGAU.

Llywodraeth Agored Open Government

Q11 Nick Bourne: Will the First Minister make a statement on his policy of open government? (OAQ40000)

C11 Nick Bourne: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ynghylch ei bolisi o lywodraeth agored? (OAQ40000)

I believe that this is question 40,000.

Credaf mai hwn yw cwestiwn 40,000.

The First Minister: I will therefore give you reply 40,000. Our principles for maximising openness are set out in the Assembly's Code of Practice on Public Access to Information. We have used that code since 2001. It goes beyond the requirements imposed by the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which will come into effect on 1 January, because it has a higher hurdle to prevent us justifying denying information to those who request it. The proposed revised code aims to build on the considerable progress already made.

Y Prif Weinidog: Felly rhoddaf ateb 40,000 i chi. Nodir egwyddorion y Cynulliad ar hyrwyddo gweithredu agored i'r eithaf yn y Cod Ymarfer ar Ganiatáu i'r Cyhoedd Weld Gwybodaeth. Buom yn defnyddio'r cod hwnnw er 2001. Aiff ymhellach na'r gofynion yn Neddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, a ddaw i rym ar 1 Ionawr, gan fod ynddo rwystr uwch i'n hatal rhag cyfiawnhau gwrthod gwybodaeth i'r rhai sy'n ei cheisio. Mae'r cod diwygiedig a gynigir yn ceisio parhau â'r cynnydd sylweddol a wnaed eisoes.

Nick Bourne: A year on from when the last Counsel General left his position, and nine months after you vetoed the appointment of Gerard Elias QC, I am still trying to find out from you, without success, what the position is. You refer me to the fact that the Permanent Secretary is reviewing the position. What is your personal intention, and that of the Government, with regard to the current gap in our legal services?

Nick Bourne: Flwyddyn wedi i'r Cwnsler Cyffredinol diwethaf adael ei swydd, a naw mis wedi ichi roi fetto ar benodi Gerard Elias CF, yr wyf yn dal i geisio cael gwybod gennych beth yw'r sefyllfa, a hynny heb lwyddiant. Fe'm cyfeiriwch at y ffaith bod yr Ysgrifennydd Parhaol yn adolygu'r sefyllfa. Beth yw'ch bwriad yn bersonol, a bwriad y Llywodraeth, gyda golwg ar y bwllch a geir yn ein gwasanaethau cyfreithiol ar hyn o bryd?

The First Minister: I do not have a personal position on this. The Permanent Secretary keeps me informed of when he expects the time to be right to advertise a post to fill all or most of the functions advertised last time.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes gennyf safbwynt personol ar hyn. Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Parhaol yn rhoi gwybod i mi pa bryd y mae'n disgwyl y bydd yn briodol hysbysebu swydd i gyflawni'r cwbl neu'r rhan fwyaf o'r swyddogaethau a hysbysebwyd y tro diwethaf.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

2.50 p.m.

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair):

There are no changes to this week's business. Business for the next three weeks is as set out on the draft statement, which can be found on the Chamberweb under supporting documents. Further to this morning's deliberations in the Business Committee, it has been determined under Standing Order No. 24.6 that the following items of subordinate legislation need not be referred to a subject committee for extended consideration: the Day Care (Application to Schools) (Wales) Regulations 2005 and the Welsh Local Flood Defence Scheme 1996 (Revocation) Order 2005.

Y Llywydd: Mae'n ymddangos nad oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad i'r datganiad busnes drafft, felly derbyniaf sylwadau arno.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I ask for a debate on equity of access to paediatric neurology services in Wales. Now that the decision has been made to move that provision to Cardiff, my constituents, and those in neighbouring constituencies, need to be informed that they still have equity of access. We raised this matter in the Health and Social Services Committee meeting last week, but Labour Members shamefully decided to veto a proposal for a debate, thereby not allowing me, as an elected Member, to inform my constituents as to their situation.

I also ask for a statement on the waiting lists and times that were published last week following your strange decision to withdraw the statement on the second offer scheme following a wait of more than 18 months, which no-one, as yet, has understood. We now need a statement on that. I suspect that you did not want us to discuss the waiting times and lists released that day because they showed, once again, that the situation was worsening—that probably was the explanation for the strange decision to withdraw the statement about the apparent good news on the second offer scheme.

Finally, I ask for an inquiry into the fact that

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Nid oes unrhyw newidiadau i fusnes yr wythnos hon. Mae busnes ar gyfer y tair wythnos nesaf fel y mae wedi'i nodi ar y datganiad drafft, y gellir ei weld ar we'r Siambr o dan ddogfennau ategol. Ymhellach i'r trafodaethau y bore yma yn y Pwyllgor Busnes, penderfynwyd o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.6 nad oes angen cyfeirio'r eitemau is-ddeddfwriaeth a ganlyn i bwyllgor pwnc i'w hystyried yn helaethach: Rheoliadau Gofal Dydd (Cymhwyso i Ysgolion) (Cymru) 2005 a Gorchymyn Cynllun Amddiffyn Rhag Llifogydd Lleol Cymru 1996 (Diddymu) 2005.

The Presiding Officer: It appears that there are no objections to the draft business statement, therefore, I will accept comments on it.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Gofynnaf am ddadl ar fynediad cyfartal i wasanaethau niwroleg bediatrig yng Nghymru. Gan fod penderfyniad wedi'i wneud bellach i symud y ddarpariaeth honno i Gaerdydd, rhaid rhoi gwybod i'm hetholwyr i, a'r rhai mewn etholaethau cyfagos, fod hawl mynediad cyfartal ganddynt o hyd. Codwyd y mater hwn gennym yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yr wythnos diwethaf ond, er cywilydd iddynt, penderfynodd Aelodau Llafur wrthod cynnig i gael dadl, fel na allaf fi, fel Aelod etholedig, roi gwybod i'm hetholwyr am eu sefyllfa.

Gofynnaf hefyd am ddatganiad at y rhestrau a'r amseroedd aros a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf yn dilyn eich penderfyniad rhyfedd i dynnu'n ôl y datganiad ar gynllun yr ail gynnig ar ôl disgwyl am fwy na 18 mis, nad oes neb, hyd yma, wedi'i ddeall. Mae arnom angen datganiad ar hynny'n awr. Yr wyf yn amau nad oeddech am inni drafod yr amseroedd a'r rhestrau aros a gyhoeddwyd y diwrnod hwnnw gan eu bod yn dangos, unwaith eto, fod y sefyllfa'n gwaethygu—mae'n debyg mai hynny sy'n egluro'r penderfyniad rhyfedd i dynnu'n ôl y datganiad am y newyddion da honedig am gynllun yr ail gynnig.

Yn olaf, gofynnaf am ymchwiliad i'r ffaith

a patient had to suffer a 902-day wait at St Woolos Hospital, Gwent. Again, the Government has supposedly addressed bed-blocking, but that patient had to wait 902 days. We seek an inquiry on that and ask that the Minister make a statement in the Chamber.

David Melding: I press the point that I made in the Business Committee meeting this morning that we need a statement on the procedures and protocols around screening services. I understand that you are discussing that and that there is some indication that such a statement will be possible in the next term. I also reiterate our call for a debate in Government time on the waiting list crisis.

Kirsty Williams: Given the fact that we are about to have the much-heralded statement on Assembly sponsored public bodies, would it not be fitting at the earliest possible opportunity to have a full debate on the statement that the First Minister is about to make? It will be impossible for all those wishing to speak to respond to the statement this afternoon. Surely, the most pressing need on your business timetable is ensuring that we all have an opportunity to debate the decision that we are about to hear.

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): I have no intention of scheduling Government time for the no-named day motion that you tabled Rhodri Glyn, which I assume you meant in your reference to paediatric neurosurgery.

Waiting list figures are published every month. The Welsh Assembly Government has a well-established way of reporting on the figures, focusing on quarterly rather than monthly releases. The October figures published last week, which showed falls in all major areas, are not a quarterly issue.

On David's point on screening services, it is not possible to schedule that for debate before the Christmas recess, but I will discuss with the Minister for Health and Social Services the possibility of bringing it forward next term.

bod claf wedi gorfod disgwyl am 902 o ddiwrnodau yn Ysbyty Gwynllyw, Gwent. Unwaith eto, honnwyd bod y Llywodraeth wedi rhoi sylw i'r blocio ar welyau, ond bu'n rhaid i'r claf hwnnw ddisgwyl 902 o ddiwrnodau. Ceisiwn ymchwiliad i hynny a gofynnwn i'r Gweinidog wneud datganiad yn y Siambr.

David Melding: Gwthiaf y ddadl a gyflwynais yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma i'r perwyl bod arnom angen datganiad ar y gweithdrefnau a'r protocolau sy'n ymwneud â gwasanaethau sgrinio. Deallaf eich bod yn trafod hynny a bod rhyw arwydd y bydd modd gwneud datganiad yn y tymor nesaf. Yr wyf hefyd yn ailddatgan ein galwad am ddadl yn amser y Llywodraeth ar argyfwng y rhestrau aros.

Kirsty Williams: Gan ein bod ar fin cael y datganiad y bu mawr sôn amdano ar gyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, oni fyddai'n briodol cael dadl lawn ar y cyfle cynharaf posibl ar y datganiad y mae'r Prif Weinidog ar fin ei wneud? Ni fydd modd i bawb sy'n dymuno siarad gael ymateb i'r datganiad y prynhawn yma. Yn sicr, y galw mwyaf taer ar eich amserlen busnes yw'r un am sicrhau y cawn oll gyfle i drafod y penderfyniad yr ydym ar fin ei glywed.

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Nid oes gennyf unrhyw fwriad i neilltuo amser y Llywodraeth i drafod y cynnig heb ddyddiad trafod a gyflwynasoch, Rhodri Glyn, sef yr hyn yr wyf yn ei gymryd a olygwch wrth gyfeirio at niwrolawdriniaeth bediatrig.

Cyhoeddir ffigurau'r rhestrau aros bob mis. Mae gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ddull hirsefydlog o adrodd ar y ffigurau, gan ganolbwyntio ar gyhoeddiadau chwarterol yn hytrach na rhai misol. Nid yw'r ffigurau ar gyfer mis Hydref a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf, sy'n dangos gostyngiad ym mhob un o'r prif feysydd, yn fater chwarterol.

Ynghylch y pwynt a wnaeth David am wasanaethau sgrinio, ni ellir amserlennu dadl ar hynny cyn toriad y Nadolig, ond trafodaf â'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol y posibilrwydd o ddwyn hynny gerbron y tymor nesaf.

Rhodri asked for an inquiry on bed-blocking—that is not within my powers, as he well knows. However, I hear what you say on that issue. Regarding a debate on waiting times, David, I have scheduled time for a debate on the second offer scheme for January 26, and therefore I do not intend to schedule another debate. Kirsty, in response to your request for a debate on the future of Assembly sponsored public bodies, we should wait and see what the First Minister has to say in his statement.

*Derbyniwyd y datganiad busnes.
Business statement adopted.*

Statement by the First Minister: Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies Datganiad gan y Prif Weinidog: Cyrff Cyhoeddus a Noddir gan y Cynulliad

The First Minister: On July 14 I signalled the intention of the Assembly Government to shrink and reform the quango state in Wales, thereby strengthening democratic accountability. The announcements made that day covered 70 per cent of the quango state. Today, I am announcing our reform programme for the remaining 30 per cent.

Our policy is that where executive Assembly sponsored public bodies undertake functions which are governmental either on policy or delivery, they should be brought in-house. You can justify the existence of arm's-length bodies in government, but there is no such thing as arm's-length public money. Ministers are always responsible for its allocation and the Assembly is always responsible for its scrutiny. There is no dodging that responsibility.

While decisions on the Welsh Development Agency, Education and Learning Wales and the Wales Tourist Board were relatively straightforward, the remaining bodies present a more complex mix of functions and legal frameworks and protection from merger in the Government of Wales Act 1998. We invited the views of the bodies concerned and I have met those bodies who requested it individually. The decisions I am announcing are not in any way related to the performance

Gofynnodd Rhodri am gael ymchwiliad i'r blocio ar welyau—nid yw hynny yn fy ngallu, fel y gŵyr yn iawn. Er hynny, clywaf yr hyn a ddywedwch am y mater hwnnw. Ynghylch dadl ar amseroedd aros, David, yr wyf wedi amserlennu dadl ar gynllun yr ail gynnyg ar 26 Ionawr ac, felly, ni fwriadaf amserlennu dadl arall. Kirsty, mewn ymateb i'ch cais am ddadl ar ddyfodol cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, dylem ddisgwyl a gweld beth sydd gan y Prif Weinidog i'w ddweud yn ei ddatganiad.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ar 14 Gorffennaf, nodais fwriad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i leihau a diwygio'r wladwriaeth gwango yng Nghymru, gan gryfhau atebolrwydd democrataidd. Yr oedd y cyhoeddiadau a wnaed y diwrnod hwnnw'n ymwneud â 70 y cant o'r wladwriaeth gwango. Heddiw, cyhoeddaf ein rhaglen ddiwygio ar gyfer y 30 y cant ohoni sy'n weddill.

Ein polisi yw, os yw cyrff cyhoeddus gweithredol a noddir gan y Cynulliad yn ymgymryd â swyddogaethau sy'n rhai llywodraethol, un ai o ran polisi neu o ran gweithredu, y dylid eu hymgorffori. Gellir cyfiawnhau bodolaeth cyrff hyd braich mewn llywodraeth, ond nid oes y fath beth ag arian cyhoeddus hyd braich. Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am ei ddyrannu bob amser a'r Cynulliad sydd bob amser yn gyfrifol am graffu arno. Ni ellir osgoi'r cyfrifoldeb hwnnw.

Tra bo'r penderfyniadau ar Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru a Bwrdd Croeso Cymru yn gymharol syml, gwelir yn y cyrff sy'n weddill gymysgedd mwy cymhleth o swyddogaethau a fframweithiau cyfreithiol ac amddiffyniad rhag ymgorffori yn Neddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998. Gofynasom am farn y cyrff dan sylw a chyfarfûm yn unigol â'r cyrff hynny a ofynnodd am gael cwrdd. Nid yw'r penderfyniadau yr wyf yn eu cyhoeddi'n

of individual bodies and their staff but to simplify the shape of Wales's public sector post-devolution.

On environment, planning and countryside, while the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales are mainly governmental in nature, CCW is in the Government of Wales Act 'cannot touch' list and its merger would require primary legislation in a complex legal area. While I have no plans to change the statutory functions of CCW, the Tir Gofal scheme, which CCW now runs on our behalf, will be brought into the administration by 2007 as part of implementing the new rural development plan.

The Environment Agency Wales is a regulatory body forming part of an England and Wales quango. No change is proposed in its status but we will update our statutory guidance to the agency to reinforce our view of its role as an independent adviser primarily to the Assembly Government.

We propose to replace twelve agricultural advisory bodies, covering agricultural wages and dwellings, with one.

Ar ddiwylliant, yr iaith a chwaraeon, mae swyddogaethau Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn llywodraethol eu natur gan mwyaf, yn ymwneud yn bennaf â llunio polisi a dobarthu grantiau. Mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ei pholisi iaith ei hun erbyn hyn, sef 'Iaith Pawb', a staff yn gweithio arno. Penderfynais y dylai swyddogaethau'r bwrdd gael eu cyfuno â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad cyn Ebrill 2007. Bydd swyddfa dyfarnydd yn cael ei sefydlu i ymgymryd â swyddogaethau rheoleiddio'r bwrdd. Bydd y swyddfa yn goruchwyllo cynlluniau iaith cyrff sector cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys cynllun iaith y Cynulliad. Bydd y swyddfa yn cael ei sefydlu fel un ymgynghorol i ddechrau, ac yn cael ei rhoi ar sail statudol pan ddaw'r cyfle i ddeddfu.

The Arts Council of Wales and the Sports Council for Wales will continue in existence, as the Government cannot be a lottery

ywmneud o gwbl â pherfformiad cyrff unigol a'u staff, a'u hamcan yw symleiddio ffurf sector cyhoeddus Cymru ar ôl datganoli.

Ynghylch yr amgylchedd, cynllunio a chefn gwlad, er mai swyddogaethau llywodraethol gan mwyaf sydd gan Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, mae'r cyngor ar restr y rhai na ellir cyffwrdd â hwy yn Neddf Llywodraeth Cymru a byddai ei ymgorffori'n gofyn deddfwriaeth sylfaenol mewn maes cyfreithiol cymhleth. Er nad oes gennyf unrhyw fwriad i newid swyddogaethau statudol Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, bydd cynllun Tir Gofal, sy'n cael ei redeg gan y cyngor ar ein rhan ar hyn o bryd, yn cael ei gynnwys yn y weinyddiaeth erbyn 2007 fel rhan o'r gwaith o weithredu'r cynllun datblygu gwledig newydd.

Mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru yn gorff rheoliadol sy'n rhan o gwango ar gyfer Cymru a Lloegr. Ni chynigir unrhyw newid i'w statws ond byddwn yn diweddarau ein cyfarwyddyd statudol i'r asiantaeth er mwyn ategu ein barn am ei rôl fel cynghorydd annibynnol i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn bennaf.

Yn lle 12 corff ymgynghorol amaethyddol, sy'n ymdrin â chyflogau ac anheddau amaethyddol, bwriadwn gael un corff.

On culture, Welsh language and sport, the functions of the Welsh Language Board are largely governmental, mostly concerned with policy and grant making. The Assembly Government now has, in 'Iaith Pawb', its own Welsh language policy and supporting staff. I have decided that the functions of the board should be merged into the Assembly Government before April 2007. The board's regulatory function in overseeing the Welsh language schemes of public bodies, including the Assembly's scheme, will be undertaken by the establishment of an office of regulation. This office will initially be set up on an advisory basis converting to a statutory basis when the legislative opportunity arises.

Bydd Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Chyngor Chwaraeon Cymru yn parhau, gan na all y Llywodraeth ddosbarthu arian y loteri. Mae'r

distributor. The two bodies deliver governmental functions in two areas with an increasing interplay with other areas of policy, such as community regeneration, health and education. I am therefore redefining our strategic and policy relationship with the two councils. We will bring together the strategy and planning capability in arts and in sports now housed in the two councils and the Government's relevant staff. Decisions on funding large-scale arts companies with an all-Wales remit will transfer to the Minister and the department. The arts council will continue to have an advisory role on these decisions.

The functions of the National Museums and Galleries of Wales and the National Library of Wales are essentially non-governmental and I propose no change in their status. However, we will seek to improve the strategic co-ordination with and between our national delivery bodies at chair and chief executive level by establishing a Culture Board for Wales—Diwylliant Cymru.

3.00 p.m.

We will transfer the functions of the Ancient Monuments Board for Wales and the Historic Buildings Council for Wales, currently advisory ASPBs, and reconstitute them as advisory panels within the Government as part of Cadw. There will be no change to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, an executive body whose functions are, again, non-governmental. We will seek to pool the scarce, specialist resource in the built heritage and unify the brand name through which Wales's built heritage functions are delivered in future, but without affecting the Royal Charter itself.

On education and lifelong learning, repeated undertakings were made by Ministers during the passage of the Government of Wales Bill about the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the maintenance of arm's-length arrangements, which were then reflected in the Act itself. It would not be right to transfer its functions in-house. On the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales, I have concluded that we should merge its functions with the

ddau gorff yn cyflawni swyddogaethau llywodraethol mewn dau faes lle y ceir mwyfwy o ryngweithio â meysydd polisi eraill, fel adfywio cymunedol, iechyd ac addysg. Yr wyf felly'n ailddiffinio ein perthynas â'r ddau gorff o ran polisi a strategaeth. Cyfunwn y gallu strategol a chynllunio yn y celfyddydau a chwaraeon a geir yn awr yn y ddau gyngor ac ymysg y staff perthnasol yn y Llywodraeth. Bydd penderfyniadau ar ariannu cwmnïau celfyddydol mawr sy'n gwasanaethu Cymru gyfan yn dod o dan ofal y Gweinidog a'r adran. Bydd rôl ymgynghorol o hyd i gyngor y celfyddydau ar y penderfyniadau hynny.

Swyddogaethau anllywodraethol, yn y bôn, yw rhai Amgueddfeydd ac Orielaau Cenedlaethol Cymru a Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru ac ni chynigiau unrhyw newid i'w statws. Er hynny, ceisiwn wella'r cyd-drefnu strategol gyda'n cyrff darparu cenedlaethol, a chyd-rhyngddynt, ar lefel y cadeiryddion a'r prif weithredwyr drwy sefydlu Bwrdd Diwylliant i Gymru—Diwylliant Cymru.

Trosglwyddwn swyddogaethau Bwrdd Henebion Cymru a Chyngor Adeiladau Hanesyddol Cymru, sydd ar hyn o bryd yn CCNC ymgynghorol, a'u hailgyfansoddi'n baneli ymgynghorol yn y Llywodraeth, fel rhan o Cadw. Ni fydd unrhyw newid i Gomisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru, sy'n gorff gweithredol y mae ei swyddogaethau yntau'n rhai anllywodraethol. Ceisiwn gronni'r adnoddau prin, arbenigol a geir ym maes y dreftadaeth adeiledig a chael un enw brand ar gyfer cyflawni'r swyddogaethau sy'n ymwneud â threftadaeth adeiledig Cymru yn y dyfodol, ond heb effeithio ar y Siarter Frenhinol ei hun.

Ynghylch addysg a dysgu gydol oes, gwnaed sawl ymgymeriad gan Weinidogion yn ystod hynt Mesur Llywodraeth Cymru am Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru a'r bwriad i gadw trefniadau hyd braich, ac adlewyrchwyd hynny wedyn yn y Ddeddf ei hun. Ni fyddai'n iawn ymgorffori ei swyddogaethau. Ynghylch Awdurdod Cymwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru, deuthum i'r casgliad y dylem ymgorffori ei swyddogaethau yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad

Assembly Government as soon as is practical, and before April 2007. We will retain the integrity of its independent professional judgment covering all its regulatory functions. We shall consult with a view to bringing in the ex-quango, the Wales Youth Agency, in 2006, with a continued commitment to deliver its present spectrum of activities.

On health and social care, the agenda has moved on since Health Professions Wales was conceived as an executive ASPB. The functions are still needed, but I have concluded that they would be strengthened and more simply delivered through existing health organisations. Health Professions Wales will be wound up and its functions transferred by April 2006. The Wales Centre for Health is being set up as an independent source of advice on health matters, and its independence needs to be clearly perceived by the public. We will proceed with setting up the centre but will consult with a view to conferring on it the functions of some nine present health advisory committees, classified as advisory ASPBs, which provide professional, scientific and medical advice.

The NHS was restructured in 2003-04 and further change must be organic rather than wholesale. We will invite proposals for mergers between NHS trusts and local health boards where there is co-terminosity and where merger will provide real benefits to patients and clients. We shall also invite proposals where LHBs, in agreement with local trusts, seek to take responsibility for elements of community health services. The functions of the Care Council for Wales are essentially non-governmental and strictly regulatory, and I propose no change.

I reassure staff working in the organisations affected that we are committed to ensuring that they are treated fairly and consistently throughout the transfer process, and that rights under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 will be respected where they are transferred. Together with the decisions

cyn gynted ag y bo modd, a chyn Ebrill 2007. Byddwn yn cadw uniondeb ei farn broffesiynol annibynnol ar bob un o'i swyddogaethau rheoliadol. Byddwn yn ymgynghori gyda golwg ar ymgorffori'r cyn-gwango, Cyngor Ieuenctid Cymru, yn 2006, gydag ymrwymiad parhaus i gyflawni'r amrediad o weithgareddau y mae'n ymgymryd â hwy ar hyn o bryd.

Ynghylch iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol, mae'r agenda wedi symud ymlaen ers creu Proffesiynau Iechyd Cymru fel CCNC gweithredol. Mae angen y swyddogaethau hynny o hyd, ond deuthum i'r casgliad y gellid eu cryfhau a'u cyflawni'n symlach drwy gyrff iechyd sydd eisoes yn bod. Caiff Proffesiynau Iechyd Cymru ei ddirwyn i ben a throsglwyddir ei swyddogaethau erbyn Ebrill 2006. Sefydlir Canolfan Iechyd Cymru yn ffynhonnell cyngor annibynnol ar faterion sy'n ymwneud ag iechyd, a rhaid i'r cyhoedd allu gweld ei bod yn annibynnol. Awn ymlaen i sefydlu'r ganolfan ond ymgynghorwn gyda golwg ar roi iddi swyddogaethau rhyw naw o'r pwyllgorau ymgynghorol presennol ar iechyd, a ddynodwyd yn CCNC ymgynghorol, sy'n cynnig cyngor proffesiynol, gwyddonol a meddygol.

Ad-drefnwyd y GIG yn 2003-04 a rhaid i unrhyw newid pellach fod yn organig yn hytrach na chyffredinol. Gofynnwn am gynigion ar gyfer cyfuno ymddiriedolaethau GIG a byrddau iechyd lleol os ydynt yn cydffinio ac os bydd y cyfuno'n cynnig manteision gwirioneddol i gleifion a chleientiaid. Byddwn hefyd yn gofyn am gynigion lle y mae byrddau iechyd lleol, drwy gytuno ag ymddiriedolaethau lleol, yn ceisio ymgymryd â chyfrifoldeb dros elfennau mewn gwasanaethau iechyd cymunedol. Swyddogaethau annibynnol a chwbl reoliadol yn y bôn yw rhai Cyngor Gofal Cymru, ac ni chynigiau unrhyw newid.

Yr wyf yn sicrhau staff sy'n gweithio yn y cyrff a effeithir ein bod wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau y cânt eu trin yn deg ac yn gyson drwy gydol y broses trosglwyddo, ac y parchir hawliau a geir o dan Reoliadau Trosglwyddo Ymgymeriadau (Gwarchod Cyflogaeth) 1981 os cânt eu trosglwyddo. Drwy hyn, ynghyd â'r penderfyniadau a

announced in July, we will, by the end of this Assembly, have made a significant step forward in shrinking the quango state in Wales. The result will be clearer democratic accountability for the public money we spend, and a better service for the people of Wales.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Pan wnaethoch y cyhoeddiad ym mis Gorffennaf, Brif Weinidog, eich bod yn diddymu tri chwango, cawsoch gymeradwyaeth frwd gan Aelodau Llafur. Heddiw, ni chawsoch gymeradwyaeth, ar wahân i ryw ychydig o'r fainc flaen. Mae eich dyhead i gael gwared ar y cwangos wedi cael ei ddangos heddiw yn llanastr llwyr. Mae'n rhaid bod y ffordd yr ydych wedi gorfod tynnu yn ôl o'ch bwriad gwreiddiol i ddiddymu'r cwangos hyn yn embaras personol i chi. Yr oeddech wedi dweud y byddem yn cael coelcerth y cwangos, ond mae'n amlwg eich bod wedi gadael eich bocs matsys adref.

Ym mis Gorffennaf, dywedasoeh eich bod yn disgwyl y byddai mwyafrif y cyrff yr oeddech yn bwriadu eu hadolygu yn cael eu diddymu. Heddiw, cyhoedddech mai tri yn unig a gaiff eu tynnu i mewn yn llwyr. Mae'n dod yn gwbl amlwg, fel y noda'r *Western Mail* yn gywir heddiw, eich bod wedi rhuthro'r datganiad hwnnw ym mis Gorffennaf, ac nad oeddech wedi ystyried y sefyllfa gyfreithiol nac ychwaith fod gan nifer o'r cyrff hyn Siarter Brenhinol. A yw hyn, efallai, yn adlewyrchiad o'r ffaith nad oes gennych bellach brif swyddog cyfreithiol i'ch cynghori?

It was obvious, First Minister, when you made your announcement in July, that some of the obstacles that you now say prevent you from abolishing the quangos were clear. You say, for example, that the Countryside Council for Wales cannot be abolished because you need legislation to do that. You knew that in July. Why did you put the countryside council through three months of consultation, only to tell us today that you cannot abolish it because you need legislation to do that? This is an absolute farce, First Minister. You told the Assembly that you would abolish the quangos when you would have known perfectly well, had you taken

gyhoeddwyd ym mis Gorffennaf, byddwn wedi cymryd cam mawr ymlaen, erbyn diwedd y Cynulliad hwn, wrth leihau'r wladwriaeth gwango yng Nghymru. Yr hyn a geir o ganlyniad fydd atebolrwydd democrataidd cliriach ar gyfer yr arian cyhoeddus a wariwn, a gwell gwasanaeth i bobl Cymru.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: When you made the announcement in July, First Minister, that you were going to abolish three quangos, you received enthusiastic applause from Labour Members. Today, you have received no applause, apart from a little from the front bench. Your aspiration of abolishing the quangos has been shown today to be a complete shambles. The way in which you have had to retract your original proposal to abolish these quangos must be a personal embarrassment for you. You had said that we were going to have a bonfire of the quangos, but it is obvious that you have left your matchbox at home.

In July, you said that you expected the majority of the bodies that you intended to review to be abolished. Today, you announce that only three will be wholly brought in. It is becoming perfectly evident, as the *Western Mail* rightly states today, that you rushed to make that statement in July, and that you had not considered the legal position or the fact that several of these bodies have a Royal Charter. Is this, perhaps, a reflection of the fact that you no longer have a chief legal officer to advise you?

Yr oedd yn amlwg, Brif Weinidog, pan wnaethoch eich cyhoeddiad ym mis Gorffennaf, fod rhai o'r rhwystrau y dyweddech yn awr eu bod yn eich atal rhag diddymu'r cwangos i'w gweld yn glir. Dyweddech, er enghraifft, na ellir diddymu Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru am fod arnoch angen deddfwriaeth i wneud hynny. Gwydddech hynny ym mis Gorffennaf. Pam y gwnaethoch i'r cyngor cefn gwlad ymgynghori am dros dri mis, a dweud wrthym heddiw, wedi'r cwbl, na allwch ei ddiddymu am fod arnoch angen deddfwriaeth i wneud hynny? Ffars yw hyn, Brif Weinidog. Dywedasoeh wrth y Cynulliad y

proper legal advice in July, that that was not possible. Why can you not abolish the Arts Council of Wales and the Sports Council for Wales? It is because they have lottery functions. You knew that in July, so why put them through three months of consultation when it was perfectly obvious that you could not abolish them?

With regard to the arts council, your statement tells us that you will strip it of certain functions. However, the Government of Wales Act 1998, Schedule 4, states that the arts council can only gain functions. It cannot lose functions. The Schedule lists the bodies that can lose functions, and the arts council is not among them. Will you now clarify the legal position with regard to stripping the arts council of some of its functions?

When you made your announcement in July, you did not give any indication as to how we could scrutinise the functions that would be transferred from the quangos to your Ministers. These functions need to be properly scrutinised, which means that we must turn our subject committees into scrutiny committees for this purpose. Will you give an assurance that a scrutiny committee will meet at least once a month so that your Ministers can be scrutinised on the functions being transferred to them? Also, will you make it clear that the only way in which scrutiny can be discharged is for committee meetings to return to a two-week cycle?

Further, First Minister, in terms of the health quango, what has actually changed for Health Professions Wales? Your remarks are absolutely astounding. You said that the agenda has moved on since Health Professions Wales was conceived. You conceived it; it was created by you and your Minister. What has changed since then? What has happened in the last 12 months that makes you now say that Health Professions Wales should be brought in, which was not the case six months ago, or whenever it was established? First Minister, it is becoming

diddymech y cwangos er y gwybuasech, pe byddech wedi cymryd cyngor cyfreithiol priodol ym mis Gorffennaf, nad oedd hynny'n bosibl. Pam na allwch ddiidymu Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Chyngor Chwaraeon Cymru? Am fod iddynt swyddogaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r loteri. Gwyddech hynny ym mis Gorffennaf, felly pam y gwnaethoch iddynt ymgynghori am dros dri mis a hithau'n gwbl amlwg na allech eu diddymu?

Gyda golwg ar gyngor y celfyddydau, dywed eich datganiad wrthym y gwnewch ddwyn rhai swyddogaethau oddi arno. Er hynny, dywed Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, Atodlen 4, na chaiff cyngor y celfyddydau ond ennill swyddogaethau. Ni all golli swyddogaethau. Mae'r Atodlen yn rhestru'r cyrff a all golli swyddogaethau, ac nid yw cyngor y celfyddydau yn eu mysg. A wnewch egluro'n awr y sefyllfa gyfreithiol mewn cysylltiad â dwyn rhai o swyddogaethau cyngor y celfyddydau oddi arno?

Pan wnaethoch eich cyhoeddiad ym mis Gorffennaf, ni nodasoch sut y gallem graffu ar y swyddogaethau a drosglwyddid o'r cwangos i'ch Gweinidogion. Rhaid craffu ar y swyddogaethau hyn yn iawn, a golyga hynny fod yn rhaid inni droi ein pwyllgorau pwnc yn bwyllgorau craffu i'r diben hwn. A wnewch roi sicrwydd y bydd pwyllgor craffu'n cwrdd o leiaf unwaith y mis fel y gellir craffu ar waith eich Gweinidogion mewn cysylltiad â'r swyddogaethau a drosglwyddir iddynt? Hefyd, a wnewch egluro mai'r unig fodd y gellir craffu yw drwy i gyfarfodydd pwyllgor fynd yn ôl at gylch pythefnosol?

At hynny, Brif Weinidog, gyda golwg ar y cwango iechyd, beth yn union sydd wedi newid yn achos Proffesiynau Iechyd Cymru? Mae'ch sylwadau'n gwbl syfrdanol. Dywedasoch fod yr agenda wedi symud ymlaen ers creu Proffesiynau Iechyd Cymru. Chi a'i creodd; fe'i crëwyd gennych chi a'ch Gweinidog. Beth sydd wedi newid ers hynny? Beth a ddigwyddodd yn y 12 mis diwethaf sy'n peri ichi ddweud yn awr y dylid ymgorffori Proffesiynau Iechyd Cymru, nad oedd wedi digwydd chwe mis yn ôl, neu ba bryd bynnag y'i sefydlwyd? Brif

obvious: in July, you were having bad headlines and being criticised for the D-day debacle. You were also being criticised for your change of mind on the Richard commission report. It is now clear that you botched the announcement on quangos, and, today, you are having to eat humble pie.

The First Minister: The occasional question might be useful, Ieuan, as well as the occasional indication as to whether you agree with any of this or not. All you have done is regurgitate what is written in the *Western Mail* and ask for a return to a two-week committee cycle. That was it, and then you sat down. Do you agree with winding up the quangos that are proposed to be wound up? Do you agree with the transfer of functions proposed, or not? Have you now suddenly become a defender of the quangos? Do you regard them as an endangered species, and, all of a sudden, you are David Attenborough? [*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. The First Minister is answering questions.

The First Minister: I am pleased that you are giving me the opportunity to throw the leader of the opposition's words back at him. He said that he did not want any quangos left in Wales, and yet he now defends them. He asks why we are not saving more quangos and suggests that it is ridiculous that we ever proposed to abolish them. You must say what your views are, Ieuan, or put specific questions to me indicating where you think this announcement may be wrong. This is not as big an announcement as that made in July. There is no question about that. It must be a 70:30 issue. We did 70 per cent of the quango world then, and there is no way that the remaining 30 per cent was going to be as straightforward or as large. This has far less than half of the importance of the announcement made in July. I make no bones about that. It is a simple, mathematical truth. You can never buck the mathematics on this issue.

Weinidog, mae'n dod yn amlwg: ym mis Gorffennaf, yr oeddech yn destun penawdau gwael yn y newyddion ac yn cael eich beirniadu am y llastr mewn cysylltiad â D-day. Yr oeddech yn cael eich beirniadu hefyd am newid eich meddwl ar adroddiad comisiwn Richard. Mae'n amlwg yn awr eich bod wedi gwneud cawl o'r cyhoeddiad am quangos, a, heddiw, yr ydych yn gorfod llyncu'ch geiriau.

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddai ambell gwestiwn yn fuddiol, Ieuan, a hefyd ambell awgrym ynghylch a ydych yn cyd-weld ag unrhyw agweddau ar hyn. Y cwbl a wnaethoch oedd ailgyfogi'r hyn a ysgrifennwyd yn y *Western Mail* a gofyn am gael mynd yn ôl at gylch pwyllgorau pythefnosol. Dyna'r cwbl, ac wedyn gwnaethoch eistedd. A ydych yn cydfynd â'r bwriad i ddirwyn i ben y cwangos sydd dan sylw? A ydych yn cytuno â'r bwriad i drosglwyddo swyddogaethau, ai peidio? A ydych wedi troi'n sydyn yn awr yn amddiffynnydd y cwangos? A ydych yn eu hystyried yn rhywogaeth sydd mewn perygl a chithau wedi troi, yn fwyaf sydyn, yn David Attenborough? [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r Prif Weinidog yn ateb cwestiynau.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn rhoi cyfle imi daflu geiriau arweinydd yr wrthblaid yn ôl yn ei wyneb. Dywedodd nad oedd am weld unrhyw gwangos ar ôl yng Nghymru, ac eto mae'n eu hamddiffyn yn awr. Mae'n gofyn pam nad ydym yn achub rhagor o gwangos ac yn awgrymu mai peth hurt oedd inni gynnig eu diddymu erioed. Rhaid ichi ddatgan eich barn, Ieuan, neu ofyn cwestiynau penodol i mi gan nodi ym mhle y credwch y gallai'r cyhoeddiad fod yn anghywir. Nid yw hwn yn gyhoeddiad mor fawr â'r un a wnaed ym mis Gorffennaf. Nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth am hynny. Rhaid iddo fod yn fater o 70:30. Gwnaethom drafod 70 y cant o fyd y cwangos bryd hynny, ac ni allai'r 30 y cant a oedd yn weddill fod mor syml neu mor fawr â hynny. Mae hyn yn llai na hanner cyn pwysiced â'r cyhoeddiad a wnaed ym mis Gorffennaf. Dywedaf hynny'n blwmp ac yn blaen. Mae'n wirionedd syml, mathemategol. Ni ellir anwybyddu'r ystyriaethau mathemategol wrth drafod y mater hwn.

3.10 p.m.

I find it odd that you are trying to turn this back by saying that I should have announced all of these decisions in July and that it was unfair to have allowed this to drag on, given the uncertainty for the quangos involved. Yet, your alternative proposal, if you have one—I have to read between the lines to find one—is that you are proposing primary legislation in this regard, or you think that I should leave the threat dangling over these bodies not for three months but for three years, while we seek parliamentary time for the power to wind-up those bodies for which primary legislation is required to do so. Therefore, you oppose three months of uncertainty but do not mind three years of uncertainty. That is a ridiculous proposal. All you have done, basically, is to say, ‘Oh, the *Western Mail* has done my research work for me; I will try to regurgitate that and see whether people will accept it—it will do for the leader of the opposition because people may have read it in the *Western Mail* this morning’. I think that that is pathetic, Ieuan.

You asked in what respect the agenda has changed with regard to Health Professions Wales. The agenda has changed to winding up, as opposed to establishing, quangos. When you undertake an exercise of this kind, you go through everything with a fine-toothed comb and ask yourself, ‘Okay, is it time that we took another look at that?’ Do we have to eat humble pie over it? Of course we do, because we were establishing a quango and now we are not. People will therefore ask why we agreed to establish it in the first place. It was because we were not doing this exercise of going through everything with a fine-toothed comb to discover how much reform we can make to the shape of the public sector in Wales, and how much we can simplify it.

You did not mention the Wales Centre for Health, which will continue as a quango. However, we hope to merge with it up to all of the nine professional advisory bodies. Neither did you mention—I will repeat it for

Fe'i caf yn rhyfedd eich bod yn ceisio troi hyn drwy ddweud y dylwn fod wedi cyhoeddi'r holl benderfyniadau hyn ym mis Gorffennaf ac mai annheg ar fy rhan oedd gadael i hyn lusgo ymlaen, yng ngolwg yr ansicrwydd a brofai'r cwangos a oedd dan sylw. Ac eto, y dewis arall yr ydych yn ei gynnig, os ydych yn gwneud hynny—rhaid imi ddarllen rhwng y llinellau i ganfod un—yw eich bod yn awgrymu cael deddfwriaeth sylfaenol ar hyn, neu eich bod yn credu y dylem adael y cyrff hyn o dan fygythiad nid am dri mis ond am dair blynedd, tra ceisiwn amser yn y Senedd i gael y pŵer i ddirwyn i ben y cyrff hynny y mae angen deddfwriaeth sylfaenol i wneud hynny. Felly, yr ydych yn gwrthwynebu tri mis o ansicrwydd ond nid oes gwahaniaeth gennyh os oes tair blynedd o ansicrwydd. Mae hwnnw'n awgrym chwerthinllyd. Y cwbl a wnaethoch, yn y bôn, oedd dweud, ‘O, mae'r *Western Mail* wedi gwneud fy ngwaith ymchwil drosof; ceisiaf ailgyfogi hwnnw a gweld a wnaiff pobl ei dderbyn—gwnaiff y tro i arweinydd yr wrthblaid gan ei bod yn bosibl bod pobl wedi'i ddarllen yn y *Western Mail* y bore yma’. Credaf fod hynny'n druenus, Ieuan.

Gofynasoch ym mha fodd y mae'r agenda wedi newid gyda golwg ar Proffesiynau Iechyd Cymru. Mae'r agenda wedi newid fel y caiff cwangos eu dirwyn i ben, yn hytrach na'u sefydlu. Pan ymgymerir â gwaith o'r math hwn, eir drwy bopeth â chrib mân a gofyn, ‘O'r gorau, a yw'n bryd inni ailedrych ar hynny?’ A oes rhaid inni lyncu ein geiriau yn ei gylch? Rhaid, wrth gwrs, gan ein bod wedi bwriadu sefydlu cwango a bellach nid ydym. Bydd pobl yn gofyn, felly, pam y cytunasom i'w sefydlu yn y lle cyntaf. Yr oedd am nad oeddem yn ymgymryd â'r gwaith hwn o fynd drwy bopeth â chrib mân i ddarganfod i ba raddau y gallwn newid ffurf y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, ac i ba raddau y gallwn ei symleiddio.

Ni chyfeiriasoch at Ganolfan Iechyd Cymru, a fydd yn parhau fel cwango. Er hynny, gobeithiwn ei chyfuno â phob un o'r naw corff ymgynghorol proffesiynol. Ni chyfeiriasoch ychwaith—fe'i hailadroddaf

you in case, in your over-excitement, you missed the latter part of the references made to health bodies—that we are inviting proposals from local health boards and trusts that would like to go down the Powys road of having one merged local health board and trust. That will be organic growth. We do not want to go through a full exercise of reorganising the health service in Wales.

Nick Bourne: The lack of response from the Labour benches when the First Minister finished his statement said it all. We are accustomed to fabricated, former-eastern-block-type applause when these statements are made, but even that could not be organised today. I pay tribute to the chief whip, because she usually does a good job. She failed to whip up enthusiasm today, and I am not surprised. What a dog's dinner—not to mention pig's breakfast—this statement was. Since you want some questions, First Minister, this is my first: do you regret all the uncertainty that you have created by saying, with a proud swagger, that you would have a cull of all these Assembly sponsored public bodies, or quangos, as they briefly became? They are about to be called ASPBs again now, I suspect. Do you regret all the uncertainty that you have created among the highly professional staff who work for these organisations? The sword of Damocles was raised only for us to discover that this big idea, which was the talk of the summer and which was to get you out of a hole on the D-day landings and the awful health service position, scarcely features on the radar. It is barely a bleep.

Let us look at some of the proposals. As has been said, you should have known, because it is stated in National Assembly literature, that many of these bodies could not be altered without the consent of Westminster, or Privy Council consent after the Government has requested it. Five bodies, including the Arts Council of Wales, which you featured as a body that you were considering abolishing, required Privy Council consent after a Government recommendation to abolish them. The whole idea was awful in any case, as the Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee rightly said, and I pay

wrthych rhag ofn eich bod wedi gorgynhyrfu ac wedi methu rhan olaf y cyfeiriadau at gyrff iechyd—at y ffaith ein bod yn gofyn am gynigion gan fyrddau iechyd lleol ac ymddiriedolaethau a garai ddilyn yr un llwybr ag a wnaeth Powys o ran cyfuno'r bwrdd iechyd lleol a'r ymddiriedolaeth. Twf organig fydd hynny. Nid ydym am ad-drefnu'r gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru yn llwyr.

Nick Bourne: Yr oedd y diffyg ymateb o feinciau Llafur pan orffennodd y Prif Weinidog ei ddatganiad yn dweud y cwbl. Yr ydym yn gyfarwydd â chlywed cymeradwyaeth ffug o'r math a geid yn y bloc dwyreiniol cynt pan wneir y datganiadau hyn, ond, heddiw, ni ellid trefnu hynny hyd yn oed. Talaf deyrnged i'r brif chwip, gan ei bod yn gwneud ei gwaith yn dda fel arfer. Methodd ag ennyn brwdfrydedd heddiw, ac nid wyf yn synnu. Am lanastr o ddatganiad oedd hwn. Gan eich bod am gael rhai cwestiynau, Brif Weinidog, dyma'r cyntaf gennyf: a yw'n edifar gennyh am yr holl ansicrwydd a greasoch drwy ddweud yn dalog y caech wared â'r holl gyrff cyhoeddus hyn a noddir gan y Cynulliad, neu gwangos, fel y daethant i fod am gyfnod byr? Maent ar fin cael eu galw'n CCNC eto'n awr, yr wyf yn amau. A yw'n edifar gennyh am yr holl ansicrwydd a greasoch ymysg y staff tra phroffesiynol sy'n gweithio i'r cyrff hyn? Codwyd cleddyf Damocles ond inni ddarganfod nad yw'r syniad mawr hwn, a fu'n brif destun sgwrs dros yr haf ac a oedd i fod i achub eich croen mewn cysylltiad â'r glanio ar D-day a'r sefyllfa ofnadwy yn y gwasanaeth iechyd, yn fawr o ddim yn y diwedd. Prin y sylwir arno.

Gadewch inni edrych ar rai o'r cynigion. Fel y dywedwyd, dylasech wybod, gan fod hynny wedi'i ddatgan yn nogfennau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, fod llawer o'r cyrff hyn na ellid eu newid heb gael caniatâd gan San Steffan, neu ganiatâd gan y Cyfrin Gyngor wedi i'r Llywodraeth ofyn amdano. Yr oedd pum corff, gan gynnwys Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, y cyfeiriasoch ato fel corff yr oeddech yn ystyried ei ddiddymu, y byddai'n rhaid cael caniatâd gan y Cyfrin Gyngor i'w diddymu yn sgîl argymhelliad gan y Llywodraeth. Yr oedd yr holl syniad yn ofnadwy beth bynnag, fel y dywedodd

tribute to her courage in saying so. It was Stalinist nonsense even to consider it. I am glad that that at least—

Rosemary Butler: I never said that.

Nick Bourne: You said it on the Eisteddfod maes, and it was quite a courageous statement to make.

We have known for a long time, as your literature demonstrates, that you cannot do this without consent. Did you ask the Prime Minister about this? Did you raise the issue with Westminster and ask for consent? Did he rubbish your big idea, or did you not even raise it with him?

In respect of Health Professions Wales, a body which you established as recently as July, you are now proposing to shove it onto this bonfire at the end of the year, scarcely six months later. It is always possible to create a bonfire: we can have many bonfires if you keep creating these bodies. We could have an incessant process of small bonfires throughout the Assembly, but that is not what we are here for. Making all these ridiculous statements is second-division stuff. You need to get to grips with the health service and to have a word with the Minister for Health and Social Services. That is what the people of Wales care about. They do not care about this second-division stuff. They would much rather you got on to the first division and public services. The Welsh Language Board is one of the three bodies that you propose to bring in-house. That is a dangerous move, because it will lead to politicisation of the language where there is broad consensus on it, and there is a twin danger of the issue being sidelined. The Welsh Language Board is a powerful brand name, and you are putting that in jeopardy for little return.

There is co-terminosity between only a few LHBs and trusts. Originally, the idea was that there would be co-terminosity between LHBs and local authorities. Has that idea been banked? Are you still wedded to that, or is it

Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon, a thalaf deyrnged iddi am ei dewrder wrth ddweud hynny. Nonsens Stalinaidd oedd ystyried hynny hyd yn oed. Yr wyf yn falch bod hynny o leiaf—

Rosemary Butler: Ni ddywedais hynny erioed.

Nick Bourne: Fe'i dywedasoch ar faes yr Eisteddfod, ac yr oedd yn ddatganiad eithaf dewr ar eich rhan.

Gwybuom ers cryn amser, fel y dengys eich dogfennau, na allwch wneud hyn heb gael caniatâd. A wnaethoch holi'r Prif Weinidog am hyn? A wnaethoch godi'r mater gyda San Steffan a gofyn am ganiatâd? A wnaeth ladd ar eich syniad mawr, ynteu a wnaethoch ei godi gydag ef o gwbl?

Gyda golwg ar Proffesiynau Iechyd Cymru, corff a sefydlwyd gennych mor ddiweddar â mis Gorffennaf, yr ydych yn awr yn cynnig ei daflu ar y goelcerth hon ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn, prin chwe mis yn ddiweddarach. Gellir gwneud coelcerth ryw dro: gallwn gael llawer o goelcerthi os daliwch i greu'r cyrff hyn. Gallem gael coelcerthi bach yn ddiwedd drwy gydol cyfnod y Cynulliad, ond nid i wneud hynny yr ydym yma. Pethau salw yw'r holl ddatganiadau chwerthinlyd a wnewch. Rhaid ichi fynd i'r afael â'r gwasanaeth iechyd a chael gair gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Dyna sy'n bwysig gan bobl Cymru. Nid oes gwahaniaeth ganddynt am yr holl bethau eilradd hyn. Byddai'n well o lawer ganddynt pe byddech yn ymdrin â'r pethau pwysig a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yw un o'r tri chorff y bwriadwch eu hymgorffori. Mae hwnnw'n gam peryglus, gan y bydd yn arwain at wleidyddoli'r iaith tra ceir consensws eang yn ei chylch yn awr, ac mae perygl i'r un graddau y caiff y pwnc ei fwrw o'r neilltu. Mae Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn enw brand pwerus, ac yr ydych yn peryglu hynny heb gael fawr ddim yn gyfnewid amdano.

Ychydig iawn o BILlau ac ymddiriedolaethau sy'n cydffinio. Y syniad gwreiddiol oedd y byddai BILlau ac awdurdodau lleol yn cydffinio. A ydych yn dal at y syniad hwnnw? A ydych yn dal i fod wedi

part of a different agenda?

This has been a damp squib, has it not, First Minister? You must regret this whole process. What looked like a terribly good idea initially now looks terribly unimportant. Given the state of public services and the health service in Wales, is it not time that you focused on the issues that matter and left this sort of stuff for another day? It really does not matter a small row of beans in the scheme of things.

The First Minister: Your contribution was strong on snide comment and remarkably weak on any kind of constructive understanding or questions. In terms of what the big issues for the public are, you are right that the public will welcome the 33 per cent drop in the number of people waiting over 18 months for surgery, which was announced last week. The public will welcome the fact that there has been a 60 per cent increase in the number of apprenticeship places in Wales and that they are now running at double the number in England, and the fact that digital hearing aids have been supplied to all those who want them in Wales and that we are well ahead of England, Scotland and Ireland in that regard. The public will welcome the fall in unemployment to a quarter of the level of the peak seen under the Conservative Government—it is less than a third of the average level during the 18 years under the Conservatives. Those are the important issues. Your snide comments ignored those. If we are to reform public services, you must make up your mind regarding where you stand. You cannot flip-flop around on this issue and say that you want all quangos to be abolished when we made our announcement in July and then all of sudden be in the David Attenborough camp and say that you want to protect them all. You must say where you stand. I am afraid that you do not seem able to decide whether you are anti-quango or pro-quango. You were anti-quango back in July—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. The leader of the Welsh Conservatives has asked many

ymrwymo i hynny, neu a yw'n rhan o agenda wahanol?

Matsien wlyb fu hyn, onid ef, Brif Weinidog? Mae'n sicr bod yr holl broses yn destun gofid i chi. Mae'r hyn a oedd yn ymddangos yn syniad ofnadwy o dda ar y dechrau bellach yn ymddangos yn ofnadwy o ddiwbwys. Yng ngolwg cyflwr gwasanaethau cyhoeddus a'r gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru, onid yw'n bryd ichi ganolbwyntio ar y materion pwysig a gadael pethau o'r math hwn tan ddiwrnod arall? Nid yw o bwys mawr yn nhrefn pethau.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr oedd llawer o sylwadau coeglyd yn eich cyfraniad ond yr oedd yn brin ryfeddol o unrhyw fath o ddealltwriaeth adeiladol neu gwestiynau. Gyda golwg ar y materion sy'n bwysig yng ngolwg y cyhoedd, yr ydych yn iawn wrth feddwl y bydd y cyhoedd yn croesawu'r gostyngiad o 33 y cant yn nifer y rhai sy'n disgwyl yn hwy na 18 mis i gael llawdriniaeth, a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf. Bydd y cyhoedd yn croesawu'r ffaith bod nifer y lleoedd i brentisiaid yng Nghymru yn 60 y cant yn fwy a'i fod bellach yn ddwywaith y nifer yn Lloegr, a'r ffaith bod cymhorthion clywed digidol wedi'u darparu i bawb y mae arnynt eu hangen yng Nghymru a'n bod ymhell ar y blaen i Loegr, yr Alban ac Iwerddon yn hynny o beth. Bydd y cyhoedd yn croesawu'r gostyngiad yn nifer y di-waith i chwarter yr hyn ydoedd pan oedd ar ei uchaf o dan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol—mae'n is nag un rhan o dair y lefel gyfartalog yn ystod y 18 mlynedd o dan y Ceidwadwyr. Mae'r rhain yn faterion pwysig. Bu ichi anwybyddu y rheiny yn eich sylwadau coeglyd. Os ydym i ddiwygio gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, rhaid ichi benderfynu ar eich safbwynt. Ni allwch anwladu ynghylch y mater hwn a dweud eich bod am weld diddymu'r holl gwangos pan wnaethom ein cyhoeddiad ym mis Gorffennaf ac wedyn, yn fwyaf sydyn, ymuno â charfan David Attenborough a dweud eich bod am eu diogelu bob un. Rhaid ichi ddweud ym mhle yr ydych yn sefyll. Mae arnaf ofn ei bod yn ymddangos na allwch benderfynu a ydych yn erbyn cwangos neu o'u plaid. Yr oeddech yn erbyn cwangos yn ôl ym mis Gorffennaf—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru wedi gofyn llawer o

questions, which the First Minister is now answering.

The First Minister: There were not enough questions to answer, because the leader of the Welsh Conservatives keeps flip-flopping on this issue. I still do not know whether he is anti-quango or pro-quango. In July, he was against the quangos and was encouraging me to abolish more. Today, he says that I am not abolishing enough.

As regards why we did not make this statement in July and cover all of the quangos, and whether we regret the fact that three and a half months have gone by before this announcement, you cannot do everything at once. You said that we covered 70 per cent of this issue in July and then brought the uncertainty as regards the other 30 per cent to an end three and a half months later. That is the thinnest criticism of this proposal that I have heard. You try to judge how we have worked on this by asking whether I approached the Prime Minister. He was not consulted on this issue. You also mentioned some strange document and said 'your own literature proves it'. What literature is this? I am not familiar with it; perhaps you could tell us about it.

Nick Bourne: You can get it from the Library; it is easy. It says 'National Assembly for Wales' on it.

The First Minister: I think that that is an Assembly Parliamentary Service publication, and not one of ours. You have not yet grasped the corporate body split. We are not responsible for that document. As far as I am aware, it was produced by the Assembly Parliamentary Service. So you also got that wrong, Nick. Given your famous legal expertise, I am shocked that you get well below 50 per cent on that as well.

When you go through this exercise with a fine-toothed comb, you will see that we are reviewing all the quangos. There is a long and complex list of bodies with hybrid functions. Some of those bodies are

gwestiynau, ac mae'r Prif Weinidog yn eu hateb yn awr.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oedd digon o gwestiynau i'w hateb, gan fod arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn dal i anwladu ynghylch y mater hwn. Ni wn eto a yw yn erbyn cwangos neu o'u plaid. Ym mis Gorffennaf, yr oedd yn erbyn y cwangos ac yr oedd yn fy annog i ddiddymu rhagor ohonynt. Heddiw, dywed nad wyf yn diddymu digon ohonynt.

Gyda golwg ar y rheswm na wnaethom y datganiad hwn ym mis Gorffennaf ac ymdrin â'r holl gwangos, ac a yw'n ofid inni fod tri mis a hanner wedi mynd heibio cyn y cyhoeddiad hwn, ni ellir gwneud pob dim ar unwaith. Dywedasoeh ein bod wedi ymdrin â 70 y cant o'r mater hwn ym mis Gorffennaf ac wedyn wedi rhoi terfyn ar yr ansicrwydd ynghylch y 30 y cant arall dri mis a hanner yn ddiweddarach. Dyna'r feirniadaeth fwyaf disylwedd a glywais ar y cynnig hwn. Ceisiwch farnu'r modd yr ydym wedi gweithio ar hyn drwy ofyn a gysylltais â Phrif Weinidog y DU. Nid ymgynghorwyd ag ef ynghylch y mater hwn. Cyfeiriasoeh hefyd at ryw ddogfen ryfedd a dweud bod 'eich dogfennau eich hun yn ei brofi'. Pa ddogfen yw hon? Nid wyf yn gyfarwydd â hi; efallai y gallech roi gwybod inni amdani.

Nick Bourne: Gallwch ei chael yn y Llyfrgell; mae'n hawdd gwneud hynny. Mae arni'r geiriau 'Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru'.

Y Prif Weinidog: Credaf mai cyhoeddiad o eiddo Gwasanaeth Seneddol y Cynulliad yw hwnnw, ac nid un o'n heiddo ni. Nid ydych wedi deall y rhaniad yn y corff corfforaethol eto. Nid ydym yn gyfrifol am y ddogfen honno. Hyd y gwn i, fe'i cynhyrchwyd gan Wasanaeth Seneddol y Cynulliad. Felly yr ydych yn camgymryd ar hynny hefyd, Nick. O ystyried eich arbenigedd cyfreithiol adnabyddus, yr wyf yn synnu ichi gael ymhell o dan 50 y cant ar hynny hefyd.

Pan ewch drwy'r gwaith hwn gyda chrib mân, gwelwch ein bod yn adolygu'r holl gwangos. Mae rhestr hir a chymhleth o gyrff sydd â swyddogaethau cymysgryw. Mae rhai o'r cyrff hynny'n rheoliadol, mae rhai'n

regulatory, some are governmental, some are advisory, and some are a mixture of all three. That is why it has taken us three and a half months to make up our minds. I wish that you would decide where you stand on this issue, rather than flip-flop about.

3.20 p.m.

Michael German: I advise members of the Labour Party to start collecting the brown envelopes that they get in the post every day, because the large brown envelope upon which this proposal was written—it is not a damp squib, it is positively soaking wet—has caused a huge amount of uncertainty among many ASPBs and for many people in Wales, especially those who see the results of the work of bodies such as the Arts Council of Wales. You created that uncertainty.

You said that this was the defining issue of your Government's second Assembly. Surely the defining issue should be better delivery of the health service and the other services that the people of Wales want, rather than messing about with such matters and then coming to the conclusion that there was not much that you could do, especially when you knew that from the start.

I despair about the local health boards, First Minister. Why does the health service need yet another reorganisation? I would have thought that it needed that like it needs a hole in the head. Where is the demand for turning it all around again? What is the reason for your obsession with reorganising the health service? Can you point to where this may be successful? What benefits will there be in having a different system in different parts of Wales, which is what you propose in this debacle?

You tell us that the arts council will be retained. We know that because the Government said so in Parliament, before the Assembly was set up, and because the council has a Royal Charter. However, you wanted to find some way of dealing with this matter, so you will bring in revenue funding for the large-scale organisations that get all-Wales funding. Will you list those organisations? If it is just a handful of

llywodraethol, mae rhai'n ymgynghorol, ac mae rhai'n gymysgedd o bob un o'r tri. Dyna pam y cymerodd dri mis a hanner inni benderfynu. Byddai'n dda gennyf pe penderfynych ym mhle yr ydych yn sefyll ar y mater hwn, yn hytrach nag anwadalu.

Michael German: Cynghoraf aelodau'r Blaid Lafur i ddechrau casglu'r amlenni brown a gânt drwy'r post bob diwrnod, gan fod yr amlen frown fawr yr ysgrifennwyd y cynnig hwn arni—nid matsien wlyb ydyw ond un wlyb diferol—wedi peri llawer iawn o ansicrwydd mewn sawl CCNC ac i lawer o bobl yng Nghymru, yn enwedig y rhai a wêl ganlyniadau gwaith cyrff fel Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Chi a greodd yr ansicrwydd hwnnw.

Dywedasoch mai hwn oedd pwnc diffiniol ail Gynulliad eich Llywodraeth. Onid yr hyn a ddylai fod yn bwnc diffiniol yw gwella'r gwaith o redeg y gwasanaeth iechyd a'r gwasanaethau eraill y mae pobl Cymru am eu cael, yn hytrach na phoitsio â materion o'r math hwn ac wedyn dod i'r casgliad nad oedd fawr ddim y gallech ei wneud, yn enwedig gan eich bod yn gwybod hynny ers y cychwyn.

Anobeithiaf ynghylch y byrddau iechyd lleol, Brif Weinidog. Pam y mae angen ad-drefnu'r gwasanaeth iechyd eto byth? Tybiwn mai hynny yw'r peth olaf y mae arno'i angen. Pa alw sydd am ei drawsnewid eto? Beth yw'r rheswm am eich obsesiwn ag ad-drefnu'r gwasanaeth iechyd? A allwch nodi ym mhle y gallai hyn fod yn llwyddiannus? Pa fanteision a geir o gael gwahanol systemau mewn gwahanol rannau o Gymru, sef yr hyn yr ydych yn ei gynnig o ganlyniad i'r llastr hwn?

Dywedwch wrthym y cedwir cyngor y celfyddydau. Gwyddom hynny gan mai hynny a ddywedodd y Llywodraeth yn y Senedd, cyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad, a chan fod Siarter Frenhinol gan y cyngor. Serch hynny, yr oeddech am gael hyd i ryw fodd i ddelio â'r mater hwn, felly byddwch yn ymgorffori arian refeniw ar gyfer y cyrff mawr sy'n cael cyllid ar gyfer Cymru gyfan. A wnewch restru'r cyrff hynny? Os nad yw ond yn llond

organisations, does that mean that Alun Pugh will decide whether it should be *La Traviata* or *Turandot* this year? Will he make those decisions when, at the moment, the arts council makes such decisions on the basis of artistic expertise? [Interruption.] Are we supposed to believe that politicians have greater artistic expertise than those in the arts council and the peer review? It is easy to shout about these things, but where will that expertise come from?

We are told, in the document that you have just given us, that you will create some new posts and bodies. We will get a culture board—another quango perhaps—and instead of the Welsh Language Board, there will be a language regulatory office. Perhaps we will create new offices, divide them up and move them around. Instead of moving the functions, you have looked at the language board and realised that you cannot do that, but you will still lose the promotion element of the Welsh Language Board. You will probably have to deal with the regulations separately, because you could not be scrutinised from within. How much expertise will we lose by bringing the language board in house? We have a full board of language experts, but will they want to become civil servants? The language is no longer the source of high-profile friction in Wales that it was many decades ago. How will you manage to conduct that role from within the civil service?

Scrutiny is a crucial issue, to which others have referred. It is not just a matter of the time that one has to scrutinise, because, at the moment, Assembly committees can call in the Wales Tourist Board, the Welsh Development Agency, ELWa and so on. Can you give a categorical commitment, First Minister, that National Assembly committees will be able to call civil servants to account without the relevant Minister being in place? In other words, can the civil servants who are responsible for executing this policy be called to account, or will we always have the Minister in front of us or need to seek the Minister's permission before that can be done? Can we have a categorical commitment on that? You have acted a bit

llaw o gyrff, a yw hynny'n golygu y bydd Alun Pugh yn penderfynu ai *La Traviata* ynteu *Turandot* a gyflwynir eleni? Ai ef a wnaiff y penderfyniadau hynny? Cyngor y celfyddydau sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau o'r fath ar hyn o bryd, ar sail arbenigedd yn y celfyddydau? [Torri ar draws.] A ydym i fod i gredu bod gwleidyddion yn meddu ar fwy o arbenigedd yn y celfyddydau na'r rhai yng nghyngor y celfyddydau a'r adolygiad gan gymheiriaid? Digon hawdd yw gweiddi am y pethau hyn, ond o ble y ceir yr arbenigedd hwnnw?

Dywedir wrthym, yn y ddogfen yr ydych newydd ei rhoi i ni, y byddwch yn creu rhai swyddi a chyrrff newydd. Felly cawn fwrdd diwylliant—cwango arall efallai—ac yn lle Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, ceir swyddfa reoleiddio iaith. Efallai y byddwn yn creu swyddfeydd newydd, yn eu rhannu ac yn eu symud o gwmpas. Yn hytrach na symud y swyddogaethau, yr ydych wedi edrych ar fwrdd yr iaith ac wedi sylweddoli na allwch wneud hynny, ond byddwch yn dal i golli'r agwedd ar Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg sy'n ymwneud â hyrwyddo. Mae'n debyg y byddwch yn gorfod delio â'r rheoliadau ar wahân, am na ellid craffu ar eich gwaith o'r tu mewn. Pa faint o arbenigedd a gollwn drwy ymgorffori bwrdd yr iaith? Mae gennym lond bwrdd o arbenigwyr iaith, ond a fyddant am fod yn weision sifil? Nid yw'r iaith yn achos cynnen amlwg fel yr oedd ddegawdau lawer yn ôl. Sut y llwyddwch i gyflawni'r rôl honno oddi mewn i'r gwasanaeth sifil?

Mae craffu'n fater hollbwysig, y mae eraill wedi cyfeirio ato. Mae'n ymwneud â mwy na'r amser sydd ar gael i graffu, oherwydd, ar hyn o bryd, gall pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad alw i mewn Bwrdd Croeso Cymru, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, ELWa ac yn y blaen. A allwch roi ymrwymiad pendant, Brif Weinidog, y bydd pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn gallu galw gweision sifil i gyfrif heb i'r Gweinidog perthnasol fod yn bresennol? Mewn geiriau eraill, a ellir galw i gyfrif y gweision sifil sy'n gyfrifol am gyflawni'r polisi hwn, neu a fydd y Gweinidog o'n blaen bob amser neu a fyddwn yn gorfod ceisio caniatâd gan y Gweinidog cyn y gellir gwneud hynny? A gawn ymrwymiad pendant ar hynny? Yr

like the grand old Duke of York—you have marched up to the top of the hill, and now you are climbing down.

The First Minister: You have obviously not yet been supplied with a digital hearing aid, otherwise you would have heard what I said on local health boards. It is important that you understand what I said. Local health boards will not be reorganised—

Ieuan Wyn Jones: He should withdraw that comment.

The First Minister: I apologise if I offended anyone. I apologise unreservedly and withdraw the remark. I am disappointed that you failed to listen to what was said or deliberately misheard it. I was trying to be kind to you, Mike.

To be clear, we did not propose another reorganisation of the health service. I do not know why you said that the health service needs another reorganisation like a hole in the head, because you are agreeing with us. You need to try harder when listening to what is being said. No proposals for reorganisation have been made. Where a local health board and a trust come forward voluntarily with a proposal, where there is co-terminosity and where advantage is shown to the provision of health services as per the Powys model, we will look favourably on it. That is what I said. You need to listen carefully and not give the wrong impression.

You said that the culture board is a quango. It is not a quango, as it is to be chaired by the Minister. You should know that Ministers do not chair quangos, Mike. The board will bring together the combined expertise of the chairs and chief executives of the three culture quangos with a non-quango—the Welsh Books Council—and we will solicit representation, as has been requested, from local government. It will provide a co-ordinated strategy on issues where we need such a strategy. This may be needed, for example, on access to culture or on cultural tourism. You also tried to claim that the office of regulator, or *dyfarnydd*, would be a

ydych wedi ymddwyn yn debyg braidd i hen Ddug Caerefrog—yr ydych wedi gorymdeithio i ben y bryn, ac yn awr yr ydych yn dod i lawr.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n amlwg na chawsoch gymorth clywed digidol oherwydd, fel arall, clywsech yr hyn a ddywedais am fyrddau iechyd lleol. Mae'n bwysig ichi ddeall yr hyn a ddywedais. Nid aildrefnir byrddau iechyd lleol—

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Dylai dynnu'n ôl y sylw hwnnw.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ymddiheuraf os wyf wedi tramgwyddo rhywun. Ymddiheuraf yn laes a thynnaf y sylw'n ôl. Yr wyf yn siomedig eich bod wedi methu â gwrando ar yr hyn a ddywedwyd neu wedi'i gamglywed yn fwriadol. Yr oeddwn yn ceisio'ch trin yn garedig, Mike.

Er mwyn egluro, ni wnaethom gynnig ad-drefnu'r gwasanaeth iechyd eto. Ni wn pam y dywedasoich mai'r peth olaf y mae ar y gwasanaeth iechyd ei angen yw ad-drefniant arall, gan eich bod yn cytuno â ni. Rhaid ichi geisio gwrando'n fwy astud ar yr hyn a ddywedir. Ni wnaed unrhyw gynigion i ad-drefnu. Os yw bwrdd iechyd lleol ac ymddiriedolaeth yn cyflwyno cynnig o'u gwirfodd, ac os ydynt yn cydffinio ac os dangosir y bydd hynny o fantais wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau iechyd, yn yr un modd â'r model a geir ym Mhowys, byddwn yn edrych yn ffafriol arno. Dyna a ddywedais. Rhaid ichi wrando'n astud a pheidio â rhoi'r argraff anghywir.

Dywedasoich mai cwango yw'r bwrdd diwylliant. Nid cwango ydyw, gan y caiff ei gadeirio gan y Gweinidog. Dylech wybod nad yw Gweinidogion yn cadeirio cwangos, Mike. Bydd y bwrdd yn cyfuno arbenigedd cadeiryddion a phrif weithredwyr y tri chwango diwylliant ynghyd â chorff nad yw'n gwango—Cyngor Llyfrau Cymru—a byddwn yn ceisio cynrychiolaeth, gan y gofynnwyd am hynny, o lywodraeth leol. Bydd yn cynnig strategaeth gydlynol ar faterion lle y mae arnom angen strategaeth o'r fath. Gallai hynny fod yn angenrheidiol, er enghraifft, mewn cysylltiad â mynediad i ddiwylliant neu dwristiaeth ddiwylliannol. Fe

quango. That was convenient for a pathetic argument, but it is not true. The post will be held by an individual charged with carrying out the regulatory functions that cannot or should not be carried out by the language board when it is brought in-house, as this would mean regulating ourselves. The Assembly and other public bodies will need to be regulated, and this is better done independently, and independence in this regard will be protected.

You then made absurd assertions about what will happen in the arts council. I cannot recite the list of large organisations concerned but, by and large, common sense tells you that it would include Welsh National Opera and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. We heard the ridiculous assertion that a Minister will somehow have the job of deciding whether WNO should stage *Turandot* or some other opera. You are over-egging the pudding to such an extent that I do not know where to finish with your contribution. The arts council does not take these decisions at present, and no other arts council worth its salt would do so either. The council may say 'How about staging some more popular operas because there are not enough bums on seats?', or it may say that companies are selling out because they are only staging easy and popular works and ask why they do not try the odd experimental work. That is an issue of cultural policy. However, your proposition about decisions on which operas the WNO should stage or which concertos should be performed by the BBC national orchestra was absurd. If you are to ask sensible questions, you must try not to go over the top.

Finally, we had the old chestnut of scrutiny once again. The whole purpose of quango reform is to try to make it clear to the people of Wales, to backbench Members, to opposition parties and to the journalistic community that if they want an answer on policy matters and on how public money is spent, they will find it by asking the

geisioch chi hefyd honni y byddai swydd y rheoleidiwr, neu'r dyfarnydd, yn gwango. Yr oedd honno'n sail gyfleus i ddadl druenus, ond nid yw'n wir. Delir y swydd gan unigolyn yr ymddiriedir iddo'r gwaith o gyflawni'r swyddogaethau rheoleiddiol na ellir neu na ddylid eu cyflawni gan fwrdd yr iaith pan ymgorfforir ef, gan y byddai hynny'n golygu ein bod yn ein rheoleiddio ein hunain. Bydd yn rhaid rheoleiddio'r Cynulliad a chyrrff cyhoeddus eraill, a gwell yw gwneud hynny'n annibynnol, ac amddiffynnir annibyniaeth yn hyn o beth.

Gwnaethoch honiadau hurt wedyn am yr hyn a ddigwydd yng nghyngor y celfyddydau. Ni allaf adrodd y rhestr o gyrff mawr sydd dan sylw ond, at ei gilydd, mae synnwyr cyffredin yn dweud y byddai'n cynnwys Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru a Cherddorfa Genedlaethol Gymreig y BBC. Clywsom honiad chwerthinllyd mai Gweinidog a gaiff y gwaith rywsut o benderfynu a ddylai Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru lwyfannu *Turandot* neu ryw opera arall. Yr ydych yn gor-ddweud i'r fath raddau fel na wn sut i ymdrin â'ch cyfraniad. Nid cyngor y celfyddydau sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau o'r fath ar hyn o bryd, ac ni fyddai'r un cyngor celfyddydau arall gwerth ei halen yn gweud hynny ychwaith. Gallai'r cyngor ddweud 'Beth am lwyfannu rhai operâu mwy poblogaidd gan nad yw'r cynulleidfaoedd yn ddigon mawr?', neu gallai ddweud bod cwmnïau'n bradychu eu hegwyddorion am nad ydynt ond yn llwyfannu gweithiau hawdd a phoblogaidd a gofyn pam na wnânt roi cynnig ar ambell gynhyrchiad arbrofol. Mater o bolisi diwylliannol yw hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd eich gosodiad chi ynghylch y modd y penderfynid pa operâu y dylai Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru eu perfformio neu ba concertos y dylai cerddorfa genedlaethol y BBC eu perfformio yn hurt. Os ydych am ofyn cwestiynau synhwyrol, rhaid ichi geisio peidio â mynd dros ben llestri.

Yn olaf, cawsom yr un hen gân am graffu unwaith eto. Holl bwrpas diwygio cwangos yw ceisio egluro i bobl Cymru, i Aelodau'r meinciau cefn, i'r gwrthbleidiau ac i newyddiadurwyr y cânt unrhyw ateb y maent am ei gael am faterion sy'n ymwneud â pholisi a'r dull o wario arian cyhoeddus drwy ofyn i'r Cynulliad. Fel hyn y dylai fod ac

Assembly. This is how it ought to be and how we said it would be when we promised to put right devolution's democratic deficit. However, you want to have it both ways. You did not say whether you are in favour of all of the changes proposed today, but I presume that you approve of the principle of permitting questions to be asked of Ministers on a wider range of activities and approve of direct democratic accountability. As I said earlier, arm's-length bodies can be justified, but there is no justification for arm's-length public money. We are responsible for this money, and you are responsible for scrutinising our decisions. You then said that you want to scrutinise civil servants in committee. I do not see the point of this because you are able to question Ministers about how money has been allocated and why certain policy decisions have been taken. The only exception is the function of the Audit Committee in investigating alleged impropriety, irregularity or poor value for money, as prompted by the Auditor General for Wales.

Rosemary Butler: As you know, five ASPBs are scrutinised by the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee. When we discussed these bodies, you assured me that you would consider every one in its own right and on its own merit, and it is obvious from the amount of detail that you have given us this afternoon that you have done that. I would be interested to know how the interesting and innovative concept of the new culture board will develop in line with Cymru'n Creu.

3.30 p.m.

As Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee and an enthusiastic supporter of the arts, I know that the Welsh cultural scene has probably never been as lively and exciting as it is today. This situation will best be preserved if we politicians retain a healthy space between us and our artists, giving them the room to be experimental and even anti-authoritarian, without the ever-present threat of political pressure or loss of political support. Your statement will inevitably cause a degree of

felly y dywedasom y byddai pan wnaethom addo gwneud iawn am ddiffyg democrataidd datganoli. Fodd bynnag, yr ydych chi am ei chael hi bob ffordd. Ni ddywedasoch a ydych o blaid yr holl newidiadau a gynigiwyd heddiw, ond cymeraf eich bod yn cymeradwyo'r egwyddor o ganiatáu gofyn cwestiynau i Weinidogion ar amrediad ehangach o weithgareddau ac yn cymeradwyo atebolrwydd democrataidd uniongyrchol. Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, gellir cyfiawnhau cyrff hyd braich, ond nid oes unrhyw gyfiawnhad dros arian cyhoeddus ar hyd braich. Ni sy'n gyfrifol am yr arian hwn, a chi sy'n gyfrifol am graffu ar ein penderfyniadau. Dywedasoch wedyn eich bod am holi gweision sifil yn y pwyllgor. Ni allaf weld pwrpas i hynny oherwydd gallwch holi Gweinidogion ynghylch y modd y dyrannwyd arian a pham y gwnaed penderfyniadau penodol ar bolisi. Yr unig eithriad i hynny yw swyddogaeth y Pwyllgor Archwilio wrth ymchwilio i gamweinyddu honedig, afreoleidd-dra neu werth gwael am arian, ar ôl ei gymell gan Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru.

Rosemary Butler: Fel y gwyddoch, mae Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon yn craffu ar waith pum CCNC. Pan drafodasom y cyrff hynny, gwnaethoch fy sicrhau y byddech yn ystyried pob un yn ei fraint ei hun ac yn ôl ei rinweddau ei hun, ac mae nifer y manylion yr ydych wedi'u rhoi i ni y prynhawn yma yn ei gwneud yn amlwg eich bod wedi gwneud hynny. Byddai o ddiddordeb imi gael gwybod sut y bydd cysyniad diddorol ac arloesol y bwrdd diwylliant newydd yn datblygu'n unol â Cymru'n Creu.

Fel Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon ac un sy'n gefnogwr brwd i'r celfyddydau, gwn na fu'r byd diwylliannol yng Nghymru erioed mor fywiog a chyffrous ag y mae heddiw, yn ôl pob tebyg. Y modd gorau i gadw'r sefyllfa fel y mae fydd i ni'r gwleidyddion aros yn ddigon pell oddi wrth ein hartistiaid, gan roi lle iddynt arbrofi a bod yn wrthawdurdodaidd hyd yn oed, heb gael y bygythiad parhaus o bwysau gwleidyddol neu golli cefnogaeth wleidyddol. Bydd eich datganiad yn sicr o

apprehension among artists and cultural administrators that their future activities will be threatened if they do not conform, play safe or please the majority. I have no doubt that you understand the concerns that have been expressed, and the Government must start to allay fears by assuring the artistic community that this administration values our artists, welcomes innovation and independent thought and judges talent purely on quality.

Your statement today contained much detail, and I look forward to discussing these proposals with the Minister at the next Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee meeting.

The First Minister: I agree with that. I believe that I have already made it clear, but I repeat that I am wholly opposed to any form of Government censorship of the arts, and I believe that, even when public money is involved, artists have the right to experiment and, occasionally, cause their artistic activity to manifest itself in an anarchic way. If they want to wrap the Berlin Bundestag in silver paper or whatever, that is a good project if it is workable in artistic terms. That is why we have left the issue of grants to performers outside the ambit of Government and with the Arts Council of Wales to distribute alongside lottery funding, as its other function is as a lottery distributor. The same applies to sport. There is no obvious censorship issue there, but we do not want Ministers being involved in determining between two performers in sports any more than we want them determining between two performers in the arts. That is why there is an issue in terms of taking in the large national bodies, such as the Welsh National Opera or the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus for Wales, in exactly the same way as we currently fund the Wales Millennium Centre, Shakespeare in schools, the Artes Mundi prize, the Dylan Thomas prize in Swansea for best new writing in English by a Welsh author and so on. They are all directly funded. We will extend the list of directly funded projects in the arts where they have an all-Wales remit, but we will not get involved at ministerial level in anything to do with choosing between two performers, whether

achosi rhywfaint o bryder ymysg artistiaid a gweinyddwyr diwylliannol y bydd eu gweithgareddau o dan fygythiad yn y dyfodol os na fyddant yn cydymffurfio, yn chwarae'n saff neu'n plesio'r mwyafrif. Nid oes gennyf unrhyw amheuaeth nad ydych yn deall y pryderon a fynegwyd, a rhaid i'r Llywodraeth ddechrau lleddfu ofnau drwy sicrhau'r rhai sy'n ymwneud â'r celfyddydau fod y weinyddiaeth hon yn trysori ein hartistiaid, yn croesawu arloesedd ac annibyniaeth barn ac yn barnu doniau ar sail ansawdd yn unig.

Yr oedd llawer o fanylion yn eich datganiad heddiw, ac edrychaf ymlaen at drafod y cynigion hyn gyda'r Gweinidog yng nghyfarfod nesaf Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon.

Y Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf â hynny. Credaf fy mod wedi egluro hyn eisoes, ond dywedaf eto fy mod yn llwyr wrthwynebu unrhyw fath o sensoriaeth ar y celfyddydau gan Lywodraeth, a chredaf, hyd yn oed pan fo arian cyhoeddus yn rhan o'r hafaliad, fod hawl gan artistiaid i arbrofi ac, weithiau, i beri i'r gweithgarwch celfyddydol ei amlygu ei hun ar ffurf anarchaidd. Os dymunant lapio papur arian am y Bundestag ym Merlin neu ba beth bynnag, mae prosiect o'r fath yn un da os gellir ei wneud yn artistig. Dyna pam yr ydym wedi gadael grantiau i berfformwyr y tu allan i gwmpas Llywodraeth a chyda Chyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, i'w dosbarthu ochr yn ochr ag arian y loteri, gan mai ei swyddogaeth hwnt yw dosbarthu arian y loteri. Mae'r un peth yn wir am chwaraeon. Nid oes unrhyw fater amlwg yn codi o ran sensoriaeth yn hynny o beth, ond nid ydym am weld Gweinidogion yn ymwneud â dewis rhwng dau berfformiwr mewn chwaraeon yn fwy nag yr ydym am eu gweld yn dewis rhwng dau berfformiwr yn y celfyddydau. Dyna pam y mae mater yn codi o ran cynnwys y cyrff cenedlaethol mawr, fel Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru neu Gerddorfa a Chorws Genedlaethol Gymreig y BBC, yn union yr un modd ag yr ydym ar hyn o bryd yn ariannu Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru, Shakespeare mewn ysgolion, gwobr Artes Mundi, gwobr Dylan Thomas yn Abertawe ar gyfer y gwaith llenyddol gorau newydd yn y Saesneg gan awduron o Gymru ac yn y blaen. Maent i gyd yn cael eu hariannu'n uniongyrchol. Byddwn yn darparu cyllid yn

they are in the field of arts or sports, because that would be invidious and bad news for the Minister as well as for the performers, possibly.

The Presiding Officer: I have called the Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee and opposition leaders, but, because of the interest in this matter, I will now call other Members who have indicated that they would like to ask questions. I will extend this item beyond the usual 30 minutes for another 10 minutes or so to accommodate that.

Jenny Randerson: Your statement refers to clearer democratic accountability. If this is clearer, my name is Peter Law. On the Arts Council of Wales, you may think that there will not be political control of the arts, but the important point is that people will think that there is political control. You will find that those decisions will be more difficult to make than you think.

I will concentrate on the Welsh Language Board. When I was Minister, I found the board to be an effective part of my conscience. One of the few things that the Tories did right in their 18 years in power was setting up the Welsh Language Board, although the relationship was not easy. The Welsh Language Board has world-renowned expertise. Do you not realise the risks that you are taking with the language, First Minister? You are returning it to the political arena. Through the work of the Welsh Language Board and the cross-party census that made Iaith Pawb possible, we have taken the language out of the political arena. We have the opportunity for real progress now. Do you accept that you will be turning the language into a political football again? On a practical note, have you received the UK Government's agreement to provide you with the legislative time to repeal this aspect of the legislation? Finally, do you not agree that it is appalling in this day and age, after so many years in the life of the Assembly, that we still have to go to the UK Government to ask for

uniongyrchol i ragor o brosiectau celfyddydol sy'n gwasanaethu Cymru gyfan, ond ni fyddwn yn ymwneud ar lefel weinidogol ag unrhyw beth sy'n gysylltiedig â dewis rhwng dau berfformiwr, boed hynny ym maes y celfyddydau neu chwaraeon, oherwydd byddai hynny'n annheg ac yn beth gwael i'r Gweinidog ac i'r perfformwyr, o bosibl.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi galw Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon ac arweinyddion y gwrthbleidiau, ond yn awr, oherwydd y diddordeb yn y mater hwn, galwaf Aelodau eraill sydd wedi nodi y carent ofyn cwestiynau. Ymestynnaf yr amser ar gyfer yr eitem hon y tu hwnt i'r 30 munud arferol am ryw 10 munud arall i gynnwys yr Aelodau hynny.

Jenny Randerson: Mae'ch datganiad yn cyfeirio at atebolrwydd democrataidd cliriach. Os yw hyn yn gliriach, fy enw i yw Peter Law. Ynghylch Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, efallai y credwch na fydd rheolaeth wleidyddol ar y celfyddydau, ond y pwynt pwysig yw y bydd pobl yn credu y cânt eu rheoli'n wleidyddol. Fe welwch ei bod yn anos gwneud y penderfyniadau hynny nag y credwch.

Canolbwyntiaf ar Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Pan oeddwn yn Weinidog, cefais fod y bwrdd yn rhan effeithiol o'm cydwybod. Un o'r ychydig bethau a wnaeth y Toriaid yn iawn yn ystod eu 18 mlynedd mewn grym oedd sefydlu Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, er nad oedd y berthynas yn un hawdd. Mae Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn enwog drwy'r byd am ei arbenigedd. Oni sylweddolwch y peryglon yr ydych yn mentro iddynt gyda'r iaith, Brif Weinidog? Yr ydych yn ei dwyn yn ôl i'r maes gwleidyddol. Drwy waith Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg a'r consensws trawsbleidiol a roddodd fod i Iaith Pawb, yr ydym wedi mynd â'r iaith o'r maes gwleidyddol. Mae gennym gyfle i wneud gwir gynnydd yn awr. A ydych yn derbyn y byddwch yn troi'r iaith yn bêl droed wleidyddol eto? Ar nodyn ymarferol, a gawsoch gytundeb gan Lywodaeth y DU y bydd yn neilltuo amser i ddiddymu'r agwedd hon ar y ddeddfwriaeth? Yn olaf, oni chytunwch ei bod yn warthus, yn y byd sydd ohoni, a ninnau wedi cael y Cynulliad am gynifer o flynyddoedd, fod yn rhaid inni fynd at Lywodraeth y DU o hyd i

power to repeal legislation that affects the language of Wales?

The First Minister: Jenny, Peter—whichever you prefer to be called—I am not sure what point you were making about these large bodies on the arts side. I have said before that there is no difference in principle between the Minister's current direct funding not going through the arts council for the Artes Mundi prize, or the Wales Millennium Centre, and funding the Welsh National Opera, BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales or Diversions dance company. We are simply extending the principle. I will make arrangements for Assembly Members to receive the list of bodies—it is something like four or five now and it will be 10 in the future. There is no difference in principle between those two things. It is simply an extension about which you are trying to make a distinction in principle, but it just does not exist. We are already doing it and we will do it twice as much from now on. The arts council will do less of it and it will also advise on it.

Your points about Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, are interesting, but I disagree with some of them. The Welsh Language Board was set up some 12 years ago, and it had three or four years of advisory existence prior to that. That was all pre-Iaith Pawb, and pre-political consensus on matters relating to the language in Wales. I do not believe that there is political controversy about the language in Wales now, and we are absolutely clear about what Iaith Pawb is trying to deliver. When we seek to deliver it, we do not need Iaith Pawb as a Government policy and a separate body acting at arm's length to deliver it, save for the issue of the regulatory function. The policy and grant distribution function is a governmental function—the regulatory function is different, which is why we are proposing to set up an office of regulator or *dyfarnydd*.

Leighton Andrews: I welcome your decision in relation to the arts council, but I am sure that you appreciate that some questions arise from that. Will you explain what is meant by

ofyn am bŵer i ddiddymu deddfwriaeth sy'n effeithio ar iaith Cymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Jenny, Peter—pa bynnag enw sydd orau gennych—nid wyf yn sicr pa bwynt yr oeddech yn ceisio'i wneud am y cyrff mawr yn y celfyddydau. Yr wyf wedi dweud o'r blaen nad oes gwahaniaeth mewn egwyddor rhwng yr ariannu uniongyrchol a geir gan y Gweinidog nad yw'n mynd drwy gyngor y celfyddydau ar gyfer gwobr Artes Mundi, neu Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru, ac ariannu Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru, Cerddorfa a Chorws Genedlaethol Gymreig y BBC neu gwmni dawn Diversions. Nid ydym ond yn ymestyn yr egwyddor. Trefnaf i Aelodau'r Cynulliad gael y rhestr o gyrff—mae tua phedwar neu bump arni'n awr a bydd 10 yn y dyfodol. Nid oes gwahaniaeth mewn egwyddor rhwng y ddau beth hynny. Nid yw ond yn estyniad yr ydych chi'n ceisio ei bortreadu fel gwahaniaeth o ran egwyddor, ond nid hynny ydyw. Yr ydym yn gwneud hyn eisoes ac fe'i gwnawn ddwywaith gymaint o hyn ymlaen. Bydd cyngor y celfyddydau'n gwneud llai ohono a bydd hefyd yn cynghori yn ei gylch.

Mae'r pwyntiau a wnaethoch am Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn ddiddorol, ond anghytunaf â rhai ohonynt. Sefydlwyd Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg tua 12 mlynedd yn ôl, ac yr oedd yn gweithredu ar sail ymgynghorol am dair neu bedair blynedd cyn hynny. Yr oedd hynny i gyd cyn dyddiau Iaith Pawb, a chyn inni gael consensws gwleidyddol ar faterion sy'n ymwneud â'r iaith yng Nghymru. Ni chredaf fod yr iaith yn bwnc dadlau gwleidyddol yng Nghymru yn awr, ac yr ydym yn gwbl bendant ynghylch yr hyn y mae Iaith Pawb yn ceisio'i gyflawni. Wrth geisio ei gyflawni, nid oes arnom angen Iaith Pawb fel polisi'r Llywodraeth a chorff ar wahân yn gweithredu ar hyd braich i'w gyflawni, heblaw am fater y swyddogaeth reoleiddiol. Swyddogaethau llywodraethol yw llunio polisi a dosbarthu grantiau—mae'r swyddogaeth reoleiddiol yn wahanol, a dyna pam yr ydym yn bwriadu sefydlu swyddfa rheoleidiwr neu ddyfarnydd.

Leighton Andrews: Croesawaf eich penderfyniad mewn cysylltiad â chyngor y celfyddydau, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y sylweddolwch fod rhai cwestiynau'n codi yn

large-scale arts companies with an all-Wales remit? There is a danger, in some respects, that if the Assembly Government takes over major companies in every art form, it is essentially setting the strategy for every art form. Secondly, when you talk about strategy planning and policy staff moving into the Welsh Assembly Government, does that include the specific art form experts within the arts council, or do they stay with the arts council?

The First Minister: Thank you for that brief and to-the-point set of questions, Leighton. I do not have the list before me now, but you will see the pattern in it. At present, we directly fund the Wales Millennium Centre, the chamber orchestras programme, Shakespeare in schools, the Artes Mundi prize and the Dylan Thomas book prize. I do not know if there are any more, but those are the five that I know we currently fund. Five or six other bodies would similarly qualify, but I do not have the list with me now. However, it clearly includes the Welsh National Opera and the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales. I cannot answer directly your question about the strategy staff—that is a matter for detailed consideration with the Arts Council of Wales and the Sports Council for Wales. We fully expect this merger to be able to take place, and we are probably talking about a handful of staff—around half a dozen in the sports council and half a dozen in the arts council, but I cannot give you a job description now. It may be subject to detailed consultation with both bodies as to how to set up this bigger body, which will be able to deliver strategy and planning. The strategy and planning is duplicated at present. If the arts council and the sports council have half a dozen staff, and we have half a dozen, it is much better to merge because there is more critical mass and there are more promotion opportunities.

Owen John Thomas: I welcome the decision not to take the arts council, sports

sgîl hynny. A wnewch egluro'r hyn a olygir wrth gwmnïau celfyddydol mawr sydd i wasanaethu Cymru gyfan? Mae perygl, ar rai ystyron, y gallai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, pe bai'n cymryd drosodd cwmnïau mawr ym mhob math o gelfyddyd, osod y strategaeth ar gyfer pob math o gelfyddyd yn y bôn. Yn ail, ynghylch yr hyn a ddywedasoich am symud staff cynllunio strategol a pholisi i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, a yw hynny'n cynnwys y rhai sy'n arbenigo mewn mathau penodol o gelfyddyd yng nghyngor y celfyddydau, neu a fyddant yn aros yng nghyngor y celfyddydau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Diolch ichi am y cwestiynau cryno a phwrpasol hynny, Leighton. Nid yw'r rhestr gennyf o'm blaen yn awr, ond gwelwch y patrwm sydd ynddi. Ar hyn o bryd, rhoddwn gyllid yn uniongyrchol i Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru, rhaglen y cerddorfeydd siambr, Shakespeare mewn ysgolion, gwobr Artes Mundi a gwobr lyfrau Dylan Thomas. Ni wn a oes rhagor, ond dyna'r pump y gwn ein bod yn eu hariannu ar hyn o bryd. Byddai pump neu chwe chorff arall yn gymwys yn yr un modd, ond nid yw'r rhestr gennyf yn awr. Fodd bynnag, mae'n amlwg ei bod yn cynnwys Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru a Cherddorfa a Chorws Genedlaethol Gymreig y BBC. Ni allaf ateb eich cwestiwn am y staff strategaeth yn syth—rhaid ystyried y mater hwnnw'n fanwl gyda Chyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Chyngor Chwaraeon Cymru. Yr ydym yn llawn ddisgwyl y bydd modd cwblhau'r ymgorffori hwn, ac mae'n debyg mai llond llaw o staff sydd o dan sylw—tua hanner dwsin yn y cyngor chwaraeon a hanner dwsin yng nghyngor y celfyddydau, ond ni allaf roi disgrifiad swydd i chi'n awr. Efallai y ceir ymgyngori manwl ar hyn gyda'r ddau gorff ynghylch y modd i sefydlu'r corff mwy, a fydd yn gallu cynllunio a chynnig strategaeth. Mae'r cynllunio a'r gwaith strategol yn cael eu dyblygu ar hyn o bryd. Os oes hanner dwsin o staff gan gyngor y celfyddydau a'r cyngor chwaraeon, a hanner dwsin gennym ni, gwell o lawer yw eu hymgorffori gan y daw màs critigol o hynny mwy a rhagor o gyfleoedd am ddyrchafiad.

Owen John Thomas: Croesawaf y penderfyniad i beidio ag ymgorffori cyngor y

council, the National Museum and Galleries of Wales and the National Library of Wales into the Assembly Government but, with respect, the word that springs to mind when considering the Welsh Assembly Government's handling of the whole matter to date, is impetuous. The staff, especially in the first three ASPBs named in your statement, were informed so abruptly that they were left feeling that in the eyes of the Welsh Assembly Government, they were of little or no account.

3.40 p.m.

It is difficult not to compare—

The Presiding Officer: Order.

Owen John Thomas: I am coming to the question.

The Presiding Officer: I should think so.

Owen John Thomas: Ni fu unrhyw un mor gryno â fi, Llywydd.

Y Llywydd: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ond y drefn gyda'r datganiadau yw ein bod yn caniatáu i bedwar llefarydd ac, yn yr achos hwn, Gadeirydd y pwyllgor diwylliant ofyn nifer o gwestiynau. Yr arfer wedyn yw bod Aelodau yn gofyn dim mwy na dau—ond gobeithio, un—cwestiwn byr yn unig.

Owen John Thomas: Will you now eat some more humble pie, First Minister, by admitting that your volte-face on the Richard commission's recommendations was also an impetuous decision?

The Presiding Officer: Order. You need not answer that, First Minister.

Lisa Francis: On the Welsh Language Board, I fear that the Welsh language will become a political football. The board is currently responsible—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Please ask a question.

Lisa Francis: Who will regulate the regulator? Will we have more frequent committee meetings and will there be more

celfyddydau, y cyngor chwaraeon, Amgueddfeydd ac Oriolau Cenedlaethol Cymru a Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ond, gyda pharch, y gair a ddaw i'r meddwl wrth ystyried y modd y gwnaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru drafod yr holl fater hyd yma yw byrbwylltra. Cafodd y staff, yn enwedig y rhai yn y tri CCNC cyntaf a enwyd yn eich datganiad, eu hysbysu mewn modd mor swta fel eu bod yn teimlo nad oeddent o fawr ddim pwys yng ngolwg Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Anodd yw peidio â chymharu—

Y Llywydd: Trefn.

Owen John Thomas: Yr wyf yn dod at y cwestiwn.

Y Llywydd: Gobeithiaf yn fawr.

Owen John Thomas: No-one has been as succinct as I have, Presiding Officer.

The Presiding Officer: I am sorry, but the procedure with statements is that we allow four spokespersons and, in this case, the Chair of the culture committee to ask several questions. Members should not ask more than two—but hopefully, just one—succinct question.

Owen John Thomas: A wnewch chi lyncu rhagor o'ch geiriau'n awr, Brif Weinidog, drwy gyfaddef bod eich tro pedol ar argymhellion comisiwn Richard yn benderfyniad byrbwyll hefyd?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid oes raid ichi ateb hynny, Brif Weinidog.

Lisa Francis: Ynghylch Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, ofnaf y bydd y Gymraeg yn troi'n bêl droed wleidyddol. Mae'r bwrdd yn gyfrifol ar hyn o bryd—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Gofynnwch gwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda.

Lisa Francis: Pwy fydd yn rheoleiddio'r rheoleiddiwr? A gawn ni gyfarfodydd pwyllgor yn amlach ac a fydd rhagor o

scrutiny? Is it not proper governance for our nation to ensure that the validity and transparency of the current regulatory regime depends on the WLB's continuing ability to operate independently of Government?

The First Minister: The point about the regulatory function is that it is only a small part of the Welsh Language Board's remit. The governmental part, namely the framing of policy and the distribution of grants, is what we take to be governmental, as I mentioned. The regulatory part is quasi-judicial and needs to be independent, which is why there will be an independent office of the regulator or the *dyfarnydd*.

Kirsty Williams: If this is not reorganisation, you must make clear what it is. Will you comment on which local health boards and trusts you believe are amenable to merging? If they merge, who will be responsible for commissioning services and what will be the balance between primary and secondary care?

The First Minister: I cannot answer the second part of your question, but they will merge by invitation. We are inviting LHBs and trusts, where they are coterminous, of which there are examples over and above Powys, to consider whether they would like to make a joint approach and merge the two bodies. The number will not be large—we do not want a wholesale reorganisation of the NHS for reasons on which we would all agree. However, where there are joint bodies that would like to come forward, and provided that they can demonstrate how that would improve health in the areas that they serve, we will look favourably on that proposition.

Carl Sargeant: In contrast to the opposition, which does not know whether or not it wants the quangos, I ask for an exact percentage of how many quangos have been brought into the Assembly.

The First Minister: I should have thought about that question before coming here, but I did not. We should produce the figures measured by turnover and/or staff, and we will do so as soon as is practicable.

graffu? Onid yw'n briodol wrth lywodraethu i'n cenedl sicrhau bod dilysrwydd a thryloywder y gyfundrefn reoliadol bresennol yn dibynnu ar allu parhaus Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg i weithredu'n annibynnol ar Lywodraeth?

Y Prif Weinidog: Y pwynt y dylid ei nodi ynghylch y swyddogaeth rheoleiddio yw nad yw ond yn rhan fach o gylch gwaith Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Y rhan lywodraethol, sef llunio polisi a dosbarthu grantiau, yw'r hyn y cymerwn ei fod yn llywodraethol, fel y dywedais. Mae'r rhan reoliadol yn lled-farnwrol a rhaid iddi fod yn annibynnol, a dyna pam y ceir swyddfa annibynnol y rheoleiddiwr neu'r dyfarnydd.

Kirsty Williams: Os nad ad-drefnu yw hyn, rhaid ichi egluro beth ydyw. A wnewch sylw ynghylch pa fyrddau iechyd lleol ac ymddiriedolaethau y credwch eu bod yn addas i'w cyfuno? Os unant, pwy a fydd yn gyfrifol am gomisiynu gwasanaethau a pha gydbwysedd a geir rhwng gofal sylfaenol a gofal eilaidd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni allaf ateb ail ran eich cwestiwn, ond byddant yn uno drwy eu gwahodd i wneud hynny. Yr ydym yn gwahodd y BILlau a'r ymddiriedolaethau sy'n cydffinio, y ceir rhai heblaw Powys, i ystyried a garent weithredu ar y cyd ac uno'r ddau gorff. Ni fydd llawer ohonynt—nid ydym am gael ad-drefnu cyffredinol ar y GIG am resymau y byddem oll yn cytuno arnynt. Er hynny, os oes cyd-gyrff a garai ddod ymlaen, ac ar yr amod y gallant ddangos sut y byddai eu cynnig yn gwella iechyd yn yr ardaloedd a wasanaethant, edrychwn yn ffafriol ar y cynnig hwnnw.

Carl Sargeant: Yn wahanol i'r gwrthbleidiau, na wyddant a ydynt am gael cwangos ai peidio, gofynnaf am yr union ganran o gwangos a ymgorfforwyd yn y Cynulliad.

Y Prif Weinidog: Dylwn fod wedi meddwl am y cwestiwn hwnnw cyn dod yma, ond ni wneuthum. Dylem ddangos y ffigurau yn ôl trosiant ac/neu staff, a gwnawn hynny cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

Alun Ffred Jones: O dan ofal Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, bu cyllun Tir Gofal yn llwyddiant ac y mae wedi newid y berthynas rhwng amaethwyr ac amgylcheddwyr. Onid yr ateb gwaethaf yw cadw'r Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru fel y mae, a thynnu cynllun Tir Gofal oddi wrtho?

Alun Ffred Jones: Under the Countryside Council for Wales, the Tir Gofal scheme was a success and it has changed the relationship between environmentalists and farmers. Do you agree that it is the worst possible solution to retain the Countryside Council for Wales as it is and to take the Tir Gofal scheme away from it?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn sicr eich bod yn credu nad yw'n bosibl cael cynllun arall fel Tir Gofal, a'ch bod yn anwybyddu'r ffaith bod rhaid inni baratoi cynllun datblygu cefn gwlad cwbl newydd erbyn 2007. Felly, gallwn drawsnewid y sefyllfa bresennol, lle yr ydym yn gweithredu Tir Gofal, Tir Cymen neu o leiaf bedwar cynllun gwahanol sy'n dechrau gyda'r gair 'tir'. Rhaid inni drawsnewid y pedwar cynllun gwahanol i un cynllun datblygu cefn gwlad erbyn 2007. Felly, mae'n gwneud mwy o synnwyr i wneud hynny gyda'n gilydd gan fod y weinyddiaeth eisoes yn gweithredu'r cynlluniau eraill—Tir Gofal yn unig sy'n cael ei weithredu gan y cyngor cefn gwlad.

The First Minister: I am not sure that you believe that there could never be another scheme like Tir Gofal, and that you are ignoring the fact that we are required to prepare a new rural development plan from scratch by 2007. Therefore, we can transform the current situation whereby we are operating Tir Gofal, Tir Cymen, or at least four different schemes that start with the word 'tir'. We must convert those four different schemes into one rural development plan by 2007. Therefore, it makes sense for us to do so together because the others are already operated by the administration—only Tir Gofal is operated by the countryside council.

Glyn Davies: Can you tell us more about your rationale for bringing in Tir Gofal, mainly because it is now being run cost-effectively—much more so than any other Assembly scheme—and the added benefit it has given to the management of SSSIs? It is a decision that you have taken in principle which will damage the cost-effectiveness of the entire scheme and your management of this body.

Glyn Davies: A allwch ddweud rhagor wrthym am y sail resymegol i'ch penderfyniad i ymgorffori Tir Gofal, yn bennaf am ei fod yn cael ei redeg yn gost-ffeithiol ar hyn o bryd—yn fwy o lawer felly na'r un cynllun arall o eiddo'r Cynulliad—a'r fantais ychwanegol a gafwyd drwyddo i'r gwaith o reoli safleoedd o ddiddordeb gwyddonol arbennig? Mae'n benderfyniad a wnaethoch ar sail egwyddor a fydd yn amharu ar gost-ffeithiolrwydd y cynllun cyfan a'ch dull o drafod y corff hwn.

The First Minister: That is a good point. There is no criticism of the way in which CCW has administered the Tir Gofal scheme; it has done an extremely good job. However, in 2007, Tir Gofal will need to come under the umbrella of the rural development plan; Tir Cymen, and the other schemes, the names of which I forget at the moment, in the agri-environment field must all come into the new rural development plan. Therefore, the timing is convenient for merging the three schemes which are currently provided directly by the administration with the single scheme which is provided outside the administration by CCW.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hwnnw'n bwynt da. Nid oes unrhyw feirniadaeth o gwbl ar y modd y mae Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru wedi gweinyddu cynllun Tir Gofal; gwnaeth waith rhagorol. Fodd bynnag, yn 2007, bydd yn rhaid i Tir Gofal ddod o dan adain y cynllun datblygu gwledig; bydd Tir Cymen, a'r cynlluniau eraill, yr anghofiaf eu henwau ar y funud, ym maes amaeth-amgylchedd i gyd yn gorfod bod yn rhan o'r cynllun datblygu gwledig newydd. Gan hynny, mae hon yn adeg gyfleus i gyfuno'r tri chynllun a ddarperir yn uniongyrchol gan y weinyddiaeth ar hyn o bryd a'r cynllun sengl a ddarperir y tu allan i'r weinyddiaeth gan

Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru.

Alun Cairns: Amid the fanfare surrounding the First Minister's statement in July when he announced the bonfire of the quangos, he said that because I disagreed, he was convinced he was right. Is it not the case that the First Minister has demonstrated the ultimate flip-flop? He caused trauma for the staff of five quangos, but he has now decided to keep them. What has changed between July and today?

The First Minister: I never used the phrase 'bonfire of the quangos', and all your references to fanfares are quite wrong. We dealt with 70 per cent of the quango map of Wales, or the quango world in Wales, in July. Today, we are taking on the ragbag of the remaining quangos, all of which have hybrid functions. They are different types of bodies and there are different references to them in the Government of Wales Act. Some have Royal Charters, some do not. We were left with a dog's breakfast, and we have done our best to make sense of that dog's breakfast with the announcement that I have made today.

In the last three and a half months, we have gone through everything with a fine-toothed comb. The only purpose of your question, as with Ieuan Wyn Jones's and Nick Bourne's contributions, is to ask why was this not done in July. If that is the worst criticism, then I am willing to stand by it. It is the thinnest of all debating points to get up and say that it should have been done three and a half months ago. That is not the way in which we work. We dealt with 70 per cent of the quango map of Wales in July. We went through the remaining quangos with a fine-toothed comb in all their different hybrid complexity and the different degrees of legal protection that they have in the Government of Wales Act and Royal Charters. We have produced a major step forward in terms of a clearer and simpler government for Wales.

Alun Cairns: Yng nghanol y sioe fawr a fu ynghylch datganiad y Prif Weinidog ym mis Gorffennaf pan gyhoeddodd goelcerth y cwangos, dywedodd ei fod yn sicr mai ef oedd yn iawn, gan fy mod i'n anghytuno. Onid yw'n wir mai'r Prif Weinidog a amlygodd yr anwladu mwyaf? Parodd ofid i staff pum cwango, ond bellach mae wedi penderfynu eu cadw. Pa newid a fu rhwng mis Gorffennaf a heddiw?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni wneuthum erioed ddefnyddio'r ymadrodd 'coelcerth y cwangos', ac yr oedd eich holl gyfeiriadau at wneud sioe fawr o hynny'n hollol anghywir. Gwnaethom ymdrin â 70 y cant o fap cwangos Cymru, neu fyd y cwangos yng Nghymru, ym mis Gorffennaf. Heddiw, yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â chawdel y cwangos sy'n weddill, y mae gan bob un ohonynt swyddogaethau croesryw. Gwahanol fathau o gyrff ydynt a cheir gwahanol gyfeiriadau atynt yn Neddf Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae Siarter Frenhinol gan rai, ond nid gan eraill. Gadawyd llastr i ni, a gwnaethom ein gorau i roi trefn arno drwy'r cyhoeddiad a wneuthum heddiw.

Yn y tri mis a hanner diwethaf, aethom drwy bopeth â chrib mân. Unig amcan eich cwestiwn, yn yr un modd â chyfraniadau Ieuan Wyn Jones a Nick Bourne, yw gofyn pam na wnaed hyn ym mis Gorffennaf. Os mai honno yw'r feirmiadaeth fwyaf, yr wyf yn barod i arddel hyn. Pwynt dadlau gyda'r gwannaf yw sefyll a dweud y dylid bod wedi'i wneud dri mis a hanner yn ôl. Nid felly yr ydym yn gweithio. Gwnaethom ddelio â 70 y cant o fap cwangos Cymru ym mis Gorffennaf. Aethom drwy'r cwangos a oedd yn weddill â chrib mân gan ystyried y gwahanol fathau o gymhlethdod croesryw sydd iddynt a gwahanol raddau'r amddiffyniad cyfreithiol sydd iddynt yn Neddf Llywodraeth Cymru ac mewn Siarteri Brenhinol. Yr ydym wedi sicrhau cam mawr ymlaen o ran cael llywodraeth gliriach a symlach i Gymru.

Datganiad gan y Llywydd
Statement by the Presiding Officer

Y Llywydd: Tynnodd y Dirprwy Lywydd fy sylw at y pwynt o drefn a godwyd gan arweinydd yr wrthblaid ddydd Mercher diwethaf.

The Presiding Officer: The Deputy Presiding Officer has drawn my attention to a point of order raised by the leader of the oppositon last Wednesday.

Mae'r Trefnydd, fel y dywedodd y Dirprwy Lywydd ar y pryd, yn aelod o'r Cabinet ac yn dal ei swydd oherwydd iddi gael ei phenodi gan y Prif Weinidog. Mae'r Trefnydd, fel ei rhagflaenydd, yn ymdrechu i weithio ar y cyd gydag Aelodau eraill ar y Pwyllgor Busnes. Mae gan y pwyllgor hwnnw ddylestwydd i'w chynghori ar reoli busnes yn y Cynulliad. Yn yr ystyr hwnnw, mae'n gweithredu ar ran busnes y Llywodraeth ac ar ran yr holl Gynulliad. Nid oes cyfeiriad penodol at swydd y Trefnydd yn y Ddeddf, ac felly nid oes rhagor y gallaf ei ychwanegu.

The Business Minister, as the Deputy Presiding Officer said at the time, is a member of the Cabinet and holds her office because she was appointed to it by the First Minister. The Business Minister strives, as did her predecessor, to work co-operatively with other Members on the Business Committee. That committee has a duty to advise her on the management of Assembly business. In that sense, she operates on behalf of the Government's business and on behalf of the whole Assembly. There is no specific reference to the Business Minister's post in the Act, and therefore there is nothing further I can add.

Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Cyfathrebu Electronig) (Diwygio) (Cymru) (Rhif 1) 2004 a Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Cyfathrebu Electronig) (Cymru) (Rhif 2) 2004
Approval of the Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Wales) (No. 1) Order 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Wales) (No. 2) Order 2004

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

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

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Cynigiau fod

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu o dan adran 2 Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 25, yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Cyfathrebu Electronig) (Cymru) (Rhif 1) 2004, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2189)

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under section 2 of Standing Order No. 25, considers the principle of the Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Wales) (No. 1) Order 2004, a copy of which was laid in Table Office on 10 November 2004. (NDM2189)

Cynigiau fod

I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu o dan adran 2 Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 25:

the National Assembly for Wales acting under section 2 of Standing Order No. 25:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau mewn perthynas â Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Cyfathrebu Electronig) (Cymru) (Rhif 1) 2004 drafft, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004; a
1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 23 November 2004 in relation to the draft Order, the Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Wales) (No. 1) Order 2004; and
2. yn cymeradwyo y gwneir Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Cyfathrebu Electronig) (Cymru) (Rhif 1) 2004 yn unol ag:
2. approves that the Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Wales) (No. 1) Order 2004 is made in accordance with:
- a) y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Tachwedd 2004;
- a) the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 10 November 2004;
- b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Tachwedd 2004; a
- b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 15 November 2004; and
- c) y memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2190)
- c) the memorandum of correction laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 23 November 2004. (NDM2190)

Cynigiaf fod

I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu o dan adran 2 Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 25 yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Cyfathrebu Electronig) (Cymru) (Rhif 2) 2004, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2191)

the National Assembly for Wales acting under section 2 of Standing Order No. 25 considers the principle of the Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Wales) (No. 2) Order 2004, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 November 2004. (NDM2191)

Cynigiaf fod

I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu o dan adran 2 Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 25 Adran 2:

the National Assembly for Wales acting under section 2 of Standing Order No. 25:

1. a) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Cyfathrebu Electronig) (Cymru) (Rhif 2) 2004 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004; a
1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 23 November 2004 in relation to the draft Order, the Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Wales) (No. 2) Order 2004; and
2. yn cymeradwyo bod Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Cyfathrebu Electronig) (Cymru) (Rhif 2) 2004 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:
2. approves that the Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Wales) (No. 2) Order 2004 is made in accordance with:
- a) y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Tachwedd 2004;
- a) the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 10 November 2004;

b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Tachwedd 2004; a b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 15 November 2004; and

c) y memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2192) c) the memorandum of correction laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 23 November 2004. (NDM2192)

Y Llywydd: Nid oes siaradwyr ar y cynnig hwn, felly awn ymlaen yn syth at y bleidlais.

The Presiding Officer: There are no speakers on this motion, so we will move directly to the vote.

*Cynnig (NDM2189): O blaid 49, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2189): For 49, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

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

Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

3.50 p.m.

*Cynnig (NDM2190): O blaid 49, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2190): For 49, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John

Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Cynnig (NDM2191): O blaid 49, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM2191): For 49, Abstain 0, Against 0.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Cynnig (NDM2192): O blaid 49, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM2192): For 49, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

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

**Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Deddf Addysg Uwch 2004 (Cychwyn Rhif 1
a Darpariaeth Drosiannol) (Cymru) 2004**
**Approval of the Higher Education Act 2004 (Commencement No. 1
and Transitional Provision) (Wales) Order 2004**

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I propose that
Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales considers the principle of the Higher Education Act 2004 (Commencement No.1 and Transitional Provision) (Wales) Order 2004, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 November 2004. (NDM2193)
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Deddf Addysg Uwch 2004 (Cychwyn Rhif 1 a Darpariaeth Drosiannol) (Cymru) 2004, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2193)

I propose that

Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 23 November 2004 in relation to the draft Order, the Higher Education Act 2004 (Commencement No.1 and Transitional Provision) (Wales) Order 2004; and
1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004 mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Deddf Addysg Uwch 2004 (Cychwyn Rhif 1 a Darpariaeth Drosiannol) (Cymru) 2004; a

2. approves that the Higher Education Act 2004 (Commencement No.1 and Transitional Provision) (Wales) Order 2004 is made in accordance with the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 10 November 2004. (NDM2194)
2. yn cymeradwyo bod Gorchymyn Deddf Addysg Uwch 2004 (Cychwyn Rhif 1 a Darpariaeth Drosiannol) (Cymru) 2004 yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2194)

Janet Ryder: I have a few questions for the Minister. Complaints that arise out of academic judgment, whether through bias or prejudice, do not seem to be addressed in this new establishment. How will perceived discrimination in assessment be dealt with? Complaints about admissions are not dealt with either—in fact, no statutory body seems to deal with complaints about admissions to higher education institutions. As it is the Government's policy to increase and develop a fair admissions policy among higher education institutions, will the Minister give that any further thought? Does she believe that, perhaps, this body should be extended to consider admissions policies?

Janet Ryder: Mae gennyf ychydig o gwestiynau i'r Gweinidog. Nid ymddengys fod cwynion sy'n codi yn sgîl dyfarniadau academaidd, oherwydd tuedd neu ragfarn, yn cael eu trin gan y sefydliad newydd hwn. Sut yr ymdrinnir â gwahaniaethu canfyddedig mewn asesiadau? Nid ymdrinnir â chwynion ynghylch derbyn myfyrwyr ychwaith—mewn gwirionedd, ymddengys nad oes yr un corff statudol sy'n delio â chwynion ynghylch derbyn myfyrwyr i sefydliadau addysg uwch. Gan mai polisi'r Llywodraeth yw hybu a datblygu polisi derbyn teg ymysg sefydliadau addysg uwch, a wnaiff y Gweinidog ystyried hynny ymhellach? A yw'n credu, efallai, y dylai'r corff hwn gael ei ehangu fel y bydd yn ystyried polisiau derbyn?

No time limits seem to be set for when complaints can be lodged either. Is the
Nid ymddengys fod unrhyw derfynau amser wedi'u gosod ar gyfer yr adeg y gellir

Minister happy that that will not create problems in the future, and should that be given further consideration? Staff complaints are taken out of this new body's jurisdiction. I do not mean complaints dealing with employment matters, but staff complaints and matters arising out of public interest. Will the Minister give further consideration to that, and how does she believe staff complaints that relate to public interest should be dealt with?

David Davies: I was not aware of anything particularly controversial in these regulations. However, many things in the Higher Education Act 2004 will give us grave concern, particularly the imposition of tuition fees, which we wholly oppose on principle. However, this particular part of the regulations is not about that—

Janet Ryder: I am pleased that you now say that you are opposed to tuition fees. However, can you clarify why, if the Conservative Party is opposed to tuition fees, it tabled an amendment in Westminster when the Higher Education Bill was being enacted to impose the same level of tuition fees in England, Scotland and Wales?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. It is permissible in asides to go off the subject, but you must, roughly, keep to it. I will call you to order if you do not.

David Davies: That is not what these regulations are about. If these regulations were about that, then if you were going to have tuition fees in one part of the United Kingdom, you would have to set them at the same level throughout the rest of the United Kingdom—that is clear. It is to this Government's shame that it has imposed tuition fees at all, and we would much rather overturn them. However, that is not the point of today's debate.

The Conservative Party will not play political games with our children's education. Therefore, when items on which we are in agreement come before us, even though they form part of a package of measures that will

cyflwyno cwynion ychwaith. A yw'r Gweinidog yn sicr na fydd hynny'n peri problemau yn y dyfodol, ac a ddylid ystyried hynny ymhellach? Mae cwynion gan staff yn cael eu tynnu oddi wrth awdurdodaeth y corff newydd hwn. Nid cwynion am faterion sy'n ymwneud â chyflogaeth a olygaf, ond cwynion gan staff a materion sy'n codi sydd er budd y cyhoedd. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ystyried hynny ymhellach, ac ym mha fodd y dylid ymdrin â chwynion gan staff sy'n berthnasol i fudd y cyhoedd, yn ei barn hi?

David Davies: Ni wyddwn fod dim a oedd yn arbennig o ddadleuol ynghylch y rheoliadau hyn. Er hynny, mae llawer o bethau yn Neddf Addysg Uwch 2004 a fydd yn peri pryder mawr i ni, yn enwedig gorfodi ffioedd dysgu, gan ein bod yn llwyr wrthwynebu hynny ar sail egwyddor. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r rhan hon o'r rheoliadau'n ymwneud â hynny—

Janet Ryder: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn dweud yn awr eich bod yn gwrthwynebu ffioedd dysgu. Fodd bynnag, a allwch egluro, os yw'r Blaid Geidwadol yn gwrthwynebu ffioedd dysgu, pam y cyflwynodd welliant yn San Steffan pan wnaed y Mesur Addysg Uwch yn Ddeddf i orfodi'r un lefel o ffioedd dysgu yn Lloegr, yr Alban a Chymru?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Gellir caniatáu crwydro oddi ar y pwnc wrth gyfeirio sylw at rywun, ond rhaid ichi ddal ato'n weddol agos. Fe'ch galwaf i drefn os na wnewch hynny.

David Davies: Nid oes a wnelo'r rheoliadau hyn â'r mater hwnnw. Os oedd y rheoliadau hyn yn ymwneud â hynny, a bod rhywun am gael ffioedd dysgu mewn un rhan o'r Deyrnas Unedig, byddai'n rhaid eu gosod ar yr un lefel drwy weddill y Deyrnas Unedig—mae hynny'n amlwg. Testun cywilydd i'r Llywodraeth hon yw ei bod wedi gosod ffioedd dysgu o gwbl, a byddai'n well o lawer gennym eu gwrthod. Fodd bynnag, nid hynny yw testun y ddadl heddiw.

Ni wnaiff y Blaid Geidwadol chwarae gemau gwleidyddol ag addysg ein plant. Gan hynny, pan ddaw eitemau yr ydym yn cytuno arnynt ger ein bron, er eu bod yn rhan o becyn o fesurau a fydd yn peri anfantais i rai o

disadvantage those from the least-well-off backgrounds by imposing tuition fees, we will support those aspects that are not controversial. These regulations fall into that category, and we therefore support them. However, when you return with further regulations on tuition fees, you will meet with opposition from the Welsh Conservative Party.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. David, that was not a good effort—2 out of 10 for that. If you are going to speak on these regulations, you must stick to the point. I will rule you out of order if you make a speech like that that again; that was just too far out.

Peter Black: I welcome these regulations which, as David said, are not controversial. They are welcome because, until now, a number of higher education institutions in Wales have not been subject to the visitor jurisdiction and, as a result, students have been disadvantaged. There is a particular case in my region of a student who was disadvantaged because of problems with the degree issued. However, because there was no visitor to appeal to, the student was unable to take the matter forward. Clearly, any attempt to obtain a fair hearing for this case was thwarted. Minister, if students bring complaints that predate the establishment of the body in this commencement Order—that is, historic cases—will students whose cases are two or three years old be satisfied or provided with recompense?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I am grateful for Members' contributions because the establishment of a statutory scheme to review student complaints in the same way across all the higher education institutions is an important step forward. Currently, once students have exhausted the internal complaints procedures—which will remain in place—they have different options, depending on the institution at which they are studying. In the oldest institutions, established by Royal Charter, students can currently take their complaints to the visitor, if they remain unsatisfied. However, once the visitor has considered the matter, the student

gefndiroedd llai cefnog drwy osod ffioedd dysgu, byddwn yn cefnogi'r agweddau hynny nad ydynt yn ddadleuol. Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn perthyn i'r categori hwnnw, ac felly fe'u cefnogwn. Fodd bynnag, pan ddeuwch yn ôl â rheoliadau pellach ar ffioedd dysgu, fe'ch gwrthwynebir gan Blaid Geidwadol Cymru.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. David, ymdrech wael oedd honno—rhoddaf ddau allan o 10 am hynny. Os ydych am siarad ar destun y rheoliadau hyn, rhaid ichi ddal at y pwynt. Dyfarnaf eich bod allan o drefn os gwnewch araith felly eto; yr oedd honno'n rhy bell ohoni.

Peter Black: Croesawaf y rheoliadau hyn nad ydynt yn rhai dadleuol, fel y dywedodd David. Maent i'w croesawu oherwydd, hyd yma, mae sawl sefydliad addysg uwch yng Nghymru na fu o dan awdurdodaeth yr ymwelydd ac, o ganlyniad, bu myfyrwyr o dan anfantais. Ceir achos penodol yn fy rhanbarth i lle y bu myfyriwr o dan anfantais oherwydd problemau a oedd ynglŷn â'r radd a roddwyd. Fodd bynnag, gan na ellid apelio at ymwelydd, ni allai'r myfyriwr fynd ymlaen â'r mater. Mae'n amlwg bod unrhyw ymgais i sicrhau gwrandawriad teg i'r achos hwn wedi'i rwystro. Weinidog, os bydd myfyrwyr yn cyflwyno cwynion ynghylch materion a gododd cyn sefydlu'r corff yn y Gorchymyn cychwyn hwn—hynny yw, achosion hanesyddol—a fydd myfyrwyr y mae eu hachosion yn ddwy neu dair blwydd oed yn cael penderfyniad neu iawndal?

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am gyfraniadau Aelodau gan fod sefydlu cynllun statudol i adolygu cwynion gan fyfyrwyr yn yr un modd yn yr holl sefydliadau addysg uwch yn gam pwysig ymlaen. Ar hyn o bryd, wedi i fyfyrwyr ddefnyddio'r holl weithdrefnau cwynion mewnol—a fydd yn dal i fod ar gael—mae ganddynt sawl dewis, yn ôl y sefydliad y maent yn fyfyriwr ynddo. Yn y sefydliadau hynaf, a sefydlwyd drwy Siarter Frenhinol, ar hyn o bryd gall myfyrwyr fynd â'u cwyn at yr ymwelydd, os ydynt yn dal i fod yn anfodlon. Fodd bynnag, wedi i'r ymwelydd ystyried y mater, ni all y myfyriwr droi at y

has no recourse to the court. In more recently established institutions, once the internal complaints procedure has been exhausted, the student only has recourse to the court. Clearly, if we want to treat higher education in the same way, then we need a similar system operating in all the institutions. Therefore, today, we are commencing the power to establish the single scheme for reviewing complaints. I am grateful for contributions that recognised that there will be four commencement Orders on the Higher Education Act 2004, only one of which will deal with fees. Generally, in the other areas, there has been strong support from the committee for the establishment of the arts and humanities research council, for example, and for the provisions that I have put before you today.

In answer to Janet's points, this does not deal with matters between staff because this is a students' complaints adjudicator. The adjudicator does not consider complaints relating to admissions because admissions policies are matters for the higher education institution itself. It is once a student is in the institution that the adjudicator operates. This approach covers all matters relating to a programme of study or research for which a complainant is or was registered, the service provided by an institution to a student, the final decision of an institution's disciplinary or appeal body, or a programme of study or research designated as a higher education programme and validated or franchised by a higher education institution, even if the student is undertaking it in a further education institution.

In terms of transitional arrangements, Peter, the commencement Order will ensure that the new provision and the new adjudicator start on 1 January. The commencement Order includes transitional provisions, and any case already lodged with a visitor on 1 January will continue to be dealt with by the visitor, but, from 1 January, the visitor will not be able to take any new cases. This has been supported generally by student bodies and by the majority of higher education institutions.

llys. Yn y sefydliadau a sefydlwyd yn fwy diweddar, ar ôl dilyn y weithdrefn gwynion fewnol i'r pen, dim ond at y llys y gall y myfyriwr droi. Mae'n amlwg, os ydym am drafod addysg uwch mewn modd cyson, fod rhaid inni gael system debyg a fydd ar waith yn yr holl sefydliadau. Felly, heddiw, yr ydym yn cychwyn y pŵer i sefydlu'r cynllun sengl ar gyfer adolygu cwynion. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am gyfraniadau a gydnabu y ceir pedwar Gorchymyn cychwyn ar Ddeddf Addysg Uwch 2004, na fydd ond un ohonynt yn ymdrin â ffioedd. Yn gyffredinol, yn y meysydd eraill, cafwyd cefnogaeth gryf gan y pwyllgor i sefydlu cyngor ymchwil y celfyddydau a'r dyniaethau, er enghraifft, ac i'r darpariaethau a roddais ger eich bron heddiw.

Mewn ateb i'r pwyntiau a wnaeth Janet, nid yw hwn yn ymwneud â materion sy'n codi ymysg staff gan mai dyfarnydd ar gyfer cwynion gan fyfyrwyr yw hwn. Nid yw'r dyfarnydd yn ystyried cwynion sy'n ymwneud â derbyn myfyrwyr gan fod polisïau ar dderbyn yn faterion i'r sefydliad addysg uwch ei hun. Wedi i'r myfyriwr ddod i'r sefydliad y bydd y dyfarnydd yn gweithredu. Mae'r dull gweithredu hwn yn cynnwys yr holl faterion sy'n ymwneud â'r rhaglen astudio neu ymchwil y mae neu yr oedd yr achwynydd wedi'i gofrestru ar ei chyfer, y gwasanaeth a ddarperir gan y sefydliad i'r myfyriwr, y penderfyniad terfynol gan gorff disgyblu neu apêl y sefydliad, neu raglen astudio neu ymchwil a ddynodwyd yn rhaglen addysg uwch a'i dilysu neu ei masnachfreintio gan sefydliad addysg uwch, hyd yn oed os yw'r myfyriwr yn ei dilyn mewn sefydliad addysg bellach.

Gyda golwg ar drefniadau trosiannol, Peter, bydd y Gorchymyn cychwyn yn sicrhau y bydd y ddarpariaeth newydd a'r dyfarnydd newydd yn dechrau ar 1 Ionawr. Mae'r Gorchymyn cychwyn yn cynnwys darpariaethau trosiannol, a bydd unrhyw achos sydd yn nwylo'r ymwelydd ar 1 Ionawr yn dal i gael ei drafod gan yr ymwelydd, ond, o 1 Ionawr, ni fydd yr ymwelydd yn gallu cymryd unrhyw achosion newydd. Cafwyd cefnogaeth gyffredinol i hyn gan gyrff myfyrwyr a chan y rhan fwyaf o'r sefydliadau addysg uwch.

4.00 p.m.

Janet Ryder: Can you clarify one point? The issue about staff complaints is taken out from the visitor's jurisdiction, but what about staff complaints which might relate to the university in which they serve but which deal with matters of public interest? There does not seem to be a mechanism for dealing with those complaints outside of the university structure. Do you not think that that needs further consideration? Will you also clarify the issue on the assessment of complaints about academic bias or prejudice in awarding degrees? It is possible that this relates to the problem alluded to by Peter Black, where people perhaps do not feel that they have been accredited with the right degree. The mechanisms do not seem to exist within this new body or within the existing structure to deal with such complaints.

Jane Davidson: Since you are talking about an issue not covered in the commencement Order that we are considering today, I suggest that you write to me on such matters. I am focused on the commencement Order before us today.

Peter Black: Where the visitor is not currently available for student appeals, will the regulator—when he is in place, after 1 January—be able to consider cases that may be two or three years old?

Jane Davidson: I will have to come back to you on that issue, Peter. Any new case from 1 January will be dealt with by the new adjudicator. Cases which have already been addressed will not be reintroduced under the new arrangements. However, I will write to you about existing cases in institutions not covered by a visitor which are not resolved by 1 January.

Janet Ryder: A allwch egluro un pwynt? Mae'r mater sy'n ymwneud â chwynion gan staff wedi'i dynnu oddi wrth awdurdodaeth yr ymwelydd, ond beth am gwynion gan staff a allai fod yn berthnasol i'r brifysgol lle y gwasanaethant ond sydd yn ymwneud â materion sydd o fudd i'r cyhoedd? Nid ymddengys fod dull i ddelio â'r cwynion hynny y tu allan i drefniadaeth y brifysgol. Oni chredwch fod angen ystyried hynny ymhellach? A wnewch hefyd egluro'r mater sy'n ymwneud ag asesu cwynion am duedd neu ragfarn academaidd wrth roi graddau? Mae'n bosibl bod hyn yn ymwneud â'r broblem y cyfeiriodd Peter Black ati, lle y mae rhai'n teimlo nad achredwyd y radd briodol iddynt. Nid ymddengys fod dulliau gweithredu o dan y corff newydd hwn neu o dan y trefniadau presennol i ddelio â chwynion o'r fath.

Jane Davidson: Gan eich bod yn sôn am fater nad ymdrinnir ag ef yn y Gorchymyn cychwyn yr ydym yn ei ystyried heddiw, awgrymaf y dylech ysgrifennu ataf ynghylch materion o'r fath. Yr wyf yn canolbwyntio ar y Gorchymyn cychwyn sydd ger ein bron heddiw.

Peter Black: Yn yr achosion lle na all yr ymwelydd wrando ar apelau gan fyfyrwyr ar hyn o bryd, a fydd y rheoleiddiwr—ar ôl ei benodi, ar ôl 1 Ionawr—yn gallu ystyried achosion a allai fod yn ddwy neu dair blwydd oed?

Jane Davidson: Bydd yn rhaid imi ddod yn ôl atoch ynghylch y mater hwnnw, Peter. Bydd unrhyw achos newydd o 1 Ionawr ymlaen yn cael ei drafod gan y dyfarnydd newydd. Ni fydd achosion sydd eisoes wedi'u trafod yn cael eu hailgyflwyno o dan y trefniadau newydd. Fodd bynnag, ysgrifennaf atoch ynghylch achosion a godwyd eisoes mewn sefydliadau nas gwasanaethir gan ymwelydd nad ydynt wedi'u penderfynu erbyn 1 Ionawr.

*Cynnig (NDM2193): O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2193): For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM2194): O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2194): For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa

Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Newid Trefniadau Gweithrediaeth
 a Threfniadau Amgen) (Cymru) 2004
 Approval of the Local Authorities (Changing Executive Arrangements and
 Alternative Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004**

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I propose that

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Cynigaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales considers the principle of the Local Authorities (Changing Executive Arrangements and Alternative Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 10 November 2004. (NDM2195)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Newid Trefniadau Gweithrediaeth a Threfniadau Amgen) (Cymru) 2004, a gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2195)

I propose that

Cynigaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 23 November 2004 in relation to the draft Order, the Local Authorities (Changing Executive Arrangements and Alternative Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004; and

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Newid Trefniadau Gweithrediaeth a Threfniadau Amgen) (Cymru) 2004, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004; a

2. *approves that the Local Authorities (Changing Executive Arrangements and Alternative Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004 is made in accordance with:*

a) *the draft regulations laid in the Table Office on 10 November 2004;*

b) *the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 15 November 2004; and*

c) *the memorandum of correction laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 23 November 2004. (NDM2196)*

These regulations certainly have a beefy title. The regulations are presented today to provide greater flexibility in the development of the constitutions adopted by local authorities as a result of the Local Government Act 2000. The report of the Local Government and Public Services Committee on the operation of new political structures in local government recommended that this greater flexibility should be provided.

Assembly Members will recall that, in 2001, local authorities were required to develop their constitutions in consultation with local citizens. The choice of constitution available to them was a directly elected mayor with cabinet, a directly elected mayor with council manager, a cabinet style executive, or a board which reflected the overall balance of political representation on the council. The constitutions also defined the arrangements for scrutiny and policy development in the council.

The Assembly's original regulations did not provide any opportunity to change the basic constitutional model and required Assembly consent even for minor changes. This proposed regulation provides for greater flexibility. Where local authorities want to change their arrangements in minor ways, they will no longer have to seek the consent of the Assembly. They will also be able to propose changing from one constitutional model to another. Nevertheless, there need to

2. *yn cymeradwyo bod Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Newid Trefniadau Gweithrediaeth a Threfniadau Amgen) (Cymru) 2004 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:*

a) *y rheoliadau drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Tachwedd 2004;*

b) *yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Tachwedd 2004;*

c) *y memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2196)*

Mae teitl gafaelgar i'r rheoliadau hyn, yn sicr. Cyflwynir y rheoliadau heddiw i roi mwy o hyblygrwydd wrth ddatblygu'r cyfansoddiadau a fabwysiadwyd gan awdurdodau lleol o ganlyniad i Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000. Yr oedd adroddiad Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus ar weithrediad y strwythurau gwleidyddol newydd mewn llywodraeth leol yn argymhell y dylid darparu'r hyblygrwydd mwy hwn.

Bydd Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn cofio iddi fod yn ofynnol, yn 2001, i awdurdodau lleol ddatblygu eu cyfansoddiadau drwy ymgynghori â dinasyddion lleol. Y dewis o gyfansoddiad a oedd ar gael iddynt oedd maer a etholir yn uniongyrchol gyda chabinet, maer a etholir yn uniongyrchol gyda rheolwr cyngor, gweithrediaeth ar ffurf cabinet, neu fwrdd a oedd yn adlewyrchu cydbwysedd cyffredinol y gynrychiolaeth wleidyddol ar y cyngor. Yr oedd y cyfansoddiadau hefyd yn diffinio'r trefniadau ar gyfer craffu a datblygu polisi yn y cyngor.

Nid oedd rheoliadau cyntaf y Cynulliad yn cynnig unrhyw gyfle i newid y model cyfansoddiadol sylfaenol ac yr oeddent yn mynnu bod rhaid cael caniatâd gan y Cynulliad ar gyfer mân newidiadau hyd yn oed. Mae'r rheoliad arfaethedig hwn yn rhoi mwy o hyblygrwydd. Os yw awdurdodau lleol yn dymuno gwneud mân newidiadau i'w trefniadau, ni fydd raid iddynt geisio caniatâd y Cynulliad bellach. Byddant hefyd yn gallu cynnig newid o un model cyfansoddiadol i un

be checks and balances for any process of substantial constitutional change.

The regulations therefore require local consultation on any major constitutional change. The regulations also require local authorities to obtain Assembly consent before major constitutional changes can take place.

In order to assist local authorities in conducting local consultation and in preparing proposals that would gain the necessary consent, I intend to publish during the next month draft guidance in support of these regulations for public consultation. The guidance will confirm that all electors and interested parties should have the opportunity to respond to any proposed changes and confirm the requirement and procedures for a local referendum if the proposal was to move to an elected mayor model. The Assembly has a particular responsibility to consider its consent if the proposal is to move from an executive to a politically balanced board, or vice versa, given that neither of these changes requires a referendum. The guidance will indicate the criteria that would be employed in considering such a consent. The normal expectation would be that all the political groups that are potentially eligible to participate in a board under the alternative arrangements model should demonstrate an intention to do so. This was the circumstance that existed in each of the three local authorities that adopted the alternative arrangement in 2002. Local authorities should consider whether this expectation can be met before engaging in public consultation or seeking the Assembly's approval for a move to the alternative arrangement.

In summation, I believe that these regulations will offer greater flexibility to local authorities. If made, they will also have satisfied one of the recommendations of the Local Government and Public Services Committee's report, published earlier this year, the recommendations of which were widely welcomed.

Glyn Davies: We will support these regulations today. In general, we support any

arall. Er hynny, rhaid wrth rwystrau a gwrthbwsau ar gyfer unrhyw broses o newid cyfansoddiadol sylweddol.

Felly, mae'r rheoliadau yn gwneud ymgynghori lleol ar unrhyw newid cyfansoddiadol o bwys yn ofynnol. Mae'r rheoliadau hefyd yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn cael caniatâd gan y Cynulliad cyn y gellir gwneud newidiadau cyfansoddiadol o bwys.

Er mwyn helpu awdurdodau lleol i ymgynghori'n lleol a pharatoi cynigion a sicrhâi'r caniatâd y mae ei angen, bwriadaf gyhoeddi yn ystod y mis nesaf ganllawiau drafft i ategu'r rheoliadau hyn ar gyfer ymgynghori cyhoeddus. Bydd y canllawiau yn cadarnhau y dylai'r holl etholwyr a phob parti cysylltiedig gael cyfle i ymateb i unrhyw newid arfaethedig ac yn cadarnhau'r gofyniad i gynnal refferendwm lleol, a'r gweithdrefnau ar gyfer hynny, os ceir cynnig i newid i fodel maer etholedig. Mae gan y Cynulliad gyfrifoldeb penodol i ystyried rhoi caniatâd os ceir cynnig i newid o weithrediaeth i fwrdd gwleidyddol gytbwys, neu fel arall, gan na fydd y naill na'r llall o'r newidiadau hyn yn gofyn cynnal refferendwm. Bydd y canllawiau'n nodi'r meini prawf a gymhwysid wrth ystyried rhoi caniatâd o'r fath. Fel arfer, byddid yn disgwyl cael datganiad gan yr holl grwpiau gwleidyddol a allai fod yn gymwys i gymryd rhan mewn bwrdd o dan fodel y trefniadau amgen o'u bwriad i wneud hynny. Felly yr oedd yr amgylchiadau ym mhob un o'r tri awdurdod lleol a fabwysiodd y trefniant amgen yn 2002. Dylai awdurdodau lleol ystyried a ellir cyflawni'r disgwyliad hwn cyn ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd neu geisio caniatâd gan y Cynulliad i newid i'r trefniant amgen.

I grynhoi, credaf y bydd y rheoliadau hyn yn cynnig mwy o hyblygrwydd i awdurdodau lleol. Os gwneir hwy, byddant hefyd wedi cyflawni un o'r argymhellion yn adroddiad Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, a gyhoeddwyd yn gynharach eleni, y cafwyd croeso cyffredinol i'w argymhellion.

Glyn Davies: Cefnogwn y rheoliadau hyn heddiw. Yn gyffredinol, cefnogwn unrhyw

regulations that extend the freedom of local authorities to decide how they organise themselves. I use the term ‘in general’, because you will bring forward guidance and there may be aspects of that with which we will disagree when we have considered it in detail. However, we approve of the general principle of allowing local authorities the discretion to decide how they organise themselves.

Lorraine Barrett: As the Minister is aware, allowing local authorities to change their management structures was a recommendation of the Local Government and Public Services Committee’s report and, therefore, I welcome these regulations. However, I hope that the Minister can assure me that these regulations will not allow council leaders to change their management structures without full consultation or the full agreement of all political parties in their councils. I am referring to the current Liberal Democrat leadership of Cardiff County Council. The people of Cardiff recently gave the Liberal Democrats the right to lead the council. Unfortunately, we are witnessing anything but leadership. We have seen the dithering democrats at their best. They have dithered over council tax and desperately sought ways to avoid blame for stinging the people of Cardiff with large council-tax increases, and they have dithered over the fate of schools and the future of vital youth services in Cardiff. I fear that they will try to use these regulations to change the way in which the council is run—perhaps in favour of the fourth option—in order to avoid blame and clear political accountability for their actions. I hope that the Minister can assure me that these regulations will not allow them to do that without the people’s consent and the agreement of all political parties in the council.

Jenny Randerson: The Welsh Liberal Democrats support these regulations. I am disappointed that Lorraine was so busy writing her speech that she did not hear the Minister making it absolutely clear that cross-party support would be required before changes could be made, as is appropriate.

reoliadau sy’n ymestyn rhyddid awdurdodau lleol i benderfynu ar eu trefniadau. Defnyddiaf yr ymadrodd ‘yn gyffredinol’, oherwydd byddwch yn rhoi canllawiau gerbron ac mae’n bosibl y bydd agweddau arnynt y byddwn yn anghytuno arnynt wedi inni eu hystyried yn fanwl. Fodd bynnag, cymeradwywn yr egwyddor gyffredinol o ganiatáu i awdurdodau lleol arfer disgrisiwn wrth benderfynu ar eu trefniadau.

Lorraine Barrett: Fel y gŵyr y Gweinidog, un o argymhellion adroddiad Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus oedd y dylid gadael i awdurdodau lleol newid eu strwythurau rheoli ac, felly, croesawaf y rheoliadau hyn. Serch hynny, gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn gallu fy sicrhau na fydd y rheoliadau hyn yn caniatáu i arweinyddion cyngor newid eu strwythurau rheoli heb ymgynghori’n llawn â’r holl bleidiau gwleidyddol yn eu cyngorau neu heb gael cytundeb llawn ganddynt. Yr wyf yn cyfeirio at y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol sy’n arwain Cyngor Sir Caerdydd ar hyn o bryd. Yn ddiweddar, rhoddodd pobl Caerdydd yr hawl i’r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol arwain y cyngor. Gwaetha’r modd, ni welwn ddim sy’n debyg i arweinyddiaeth. Gwelsom y democratiaid anwadal ar eu gorau. Maent wedi anwladu ynghylch y dreth gyngor ac wedi chwilio mewn anobaith am fodd i osgoi cymryd y bai am beri i bobl Caerdydd wynebu codiadau mawr yn y dreth gyngor, ac maent wedi anwladu ynghylch tynged ysgolion a dyfodol gwasanaethau hollbwysig i bobl ifanc yng Nghaerdydd. Ofnaf y byddant yn ceisio defnyddio’r rheoliadau hyn i newid y dull o redeg y cyngor—gan ffafrio’r pedwerydd dewis, o bosibl—er mwyn peidio â chymryd y bai ac osgoi atebolrwydd gwleidyddol clir am eu gweithredoedd. Gobeithiaf y gall y Gweinidog fy sicrhau na fydd y rheoliadau hyn yn gadael iddynt wneud hynny heb gael caniatâd y bobl a chytundeb yr holl bleidiau gwleidyddol yn y cyngor.

Jenny Randerson: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cefnogi’r rheoliadau hyn. Yr wyf yn siomedig bod Lorraine mor brysur yn ysgrifennu ei haraith fel na chlywodd y Gweinidog yn ei gwneud yn gwbl eglur y byddai’n rhaid cael cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol cyn y gellid gwneud

What Lorraine calls dithering, most people would call consultation. What she calls delay and trying to avoid responsibility, most people would call consensus and cross-party agreement. It is typical of the Labour Party, and its mindset in Cardiff in particular, that anything that does not involve a minority trying to control the majority is described as 'dithering'.

These are important regulations, and it is a strange quirk that we managed to introduce legislation in the Assembly that allowed local authorities to choose the cabinet system or another system but did not allow them to change their minds at some point in the future when the political structure or the ideas and proposals of the group in power changed. There was a kind of do-or-die situation: once you had chosen a system, you could not change it. It was clearly illogical. Structures change according to the will of the electorate and the wishes of those who are elected. The Liberal Democrats strongly support anything that allows local authorities to make up their minds about how they should operate. Therefore, we support the principle of these regulations.

4.10 p.m.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I thank all Members who have expressed support for this greater flexibility. The regulations certainly remove some of the anomalies that existed previously. On Lorraine's points, as I said, there are two key elements that councils would have to reassure themselves on, and do so externally. If they are considering the fourth option as a way forward, as you indicated, they would have to reassure themselves about public and internal support, because the fourth option was brought in on the basis of political balance.

newidiadau, fel y bo'n briodol. Ymgynghori yw'r hyn a eilw Lorraine yn anwladu, yng ngolwg y rhan fwyaf o bobl. Mae'r hyn a eilw'n oedi a cheisio osgoi cymryd cyfrifoldeb yn gonsensws ac yn gytundeb trawsbleidiol yng ngolwg y rhan fwyaf o bobl. Un o nodweddion y Blaid Lafur, a'i meddylfryd yng Nghaerdydd yn benodol, yw bod unrhyw beth nad yw'n golygu bod lleiafrif yn ceisio rheoli'r mwyafrif yn cael ei alw'n 'anwladu'.

Mae'r rhain yn rheoliadau pwysig, a pheth rhyfedd oedd ein bod wedi cyflwyno deddfwriaeth yn y Cynulliad a ganiatâi i awdurdodau lleol ddewis y system gabinet neu ryw system arall heb eu galluogi i newid eu meddwl ar ryw adeg yn y dyfodol os byddai newid yn y strwythur gwleidyddol neu yn syniadau a chynlluniau'r grŵp a oedd mewn grym. Yr oedd fel petai eu bod yn gorfod mentro popeth: wedi dewis system, ni ellid ei newid. Yr oedd yn amlwg yn afresymegol. Mae strwythurau'n newid yn ôl ewyllys yr etholwyr a dymuniadau'r rhai a etholir. Mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn bleidiol iawn i unrhyw beth sy'n gadael i awdurdodau lleol benderfynu ar eu dull o weithredu. Felly, cefnogwn egwyddor y rheoliadau hyn.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Diolchaf i'r holl Aelodau a fynegodd eu cefnogaeth i'r hyblygrwydd mwy a gynigir. Mae'r rheoliadau'n sicr yn dileu rhai o'r anghysonderau a geid o'r blaen. Ynghylch y pwyntiau a wnaeth Lorraine, fel y dywedais, mae dwy elfen allweddol y byddai'n rhaid i gynghorau fod yn sicr ohonynt, gan wneud hynny'n allanol. Os ydynt yn ystyried cymryd y pedwerydd dewis, fel yr awgrymasoch, byddai'n rhaid iddynt fod yn sicr bod cefnogaeth i hynny'n fewnol ac o du'r cyhoedd, oherwydd cyflwynwyd y pedwerydd dewis ar sail cydbwysedd gwleidyddol.

*Cynnig (NDM2195): O blaid 45, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2195): For 45, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Cynnig (NDM2196): O blaid 45, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM2196): For 45, Abstain 0, Against 0.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn

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

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor (Trefniadau Trosiannol) (Cymru)
 2004 o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.27(iv) a Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor
 (Hysbysiadau am Dalu) (Trefniadau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2004
 Approval of the Council Tax (Transitional Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations
 2004 under Standing Order No. 24.27(iv) and the Council Tax (Demand Notices)
 (Transitional Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004**

The Deputy Presiding Officer: It is proposed that the next two items be debated together, unless any Member objects. I see that there are no objections. I have selected amendment 1 to NDM2197 in the name of Jocelyn Davies.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Cynigir ein bod yn trafod y ddwy eitem nesaf gyda'i gilydd, oni bai bod Aelod yn gwrthwynebu. Gwelaf nad oes neb yn gwrthwynebu. Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 i NDM2197 yn enw Jocelyn Davies.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I propose that

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Cynigaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales considers the principle of the Council Tax (Transitional Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Member on 23

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor (Trefniadau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2004, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r

November 2004. (NDM2197)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales approves that the Council Tax (Transitional Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004 is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 23 November 2004. (NDM2198)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales considers the principle of the Council Tax (Demand Notices) (Transitional Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 23 November 2004. (NDM2199)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales approves that the Council Tax (Demand Notices) (Transitional Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004 is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 23 November 2004. (NDM2200)

As I announced on 1 September when the draft domestic rebanding lists for Wales were published, I intend to introduce a moderation scheme. Section 13B of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 allows the National Assembly for Wales to introduce transitional arrangements to smooth the effects of council tax revaluation. To allow sufficient time for council tax billing software and administration systems to be developed and tested before annual billing, it is essential to introduce these regulations by 1 December 2004. If completed on time, local authorities will be able to implement the transitional assistance scheme from 1 April 2005, therefore the two sets of regulations are put together.

The Council Tax (Transitional Arrangements) Wales Regulations 2004 set out the transitional arrangements that are

Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2197)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cymeradwyo bod Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor (Trefniadau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2004 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2198)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor (Hysbysiadau Galw am Dalu) (Trefniadau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2004, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2199)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cymeradwyo bod Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor (Hysbysiadau Galw am Dalu) (Trefniadau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2004 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004. (NDM2200)

Fel y cyhoeddais ar 1 Medi pan gyhoeddwyd y rhestrau ailfandio domestig drafft i Gymru, bwriadaf gyflwyno cynllun lleddfu. Mae Adran 13B Deddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 2003 yn caniatáu i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru gyflwyno trefniadau trosiannol i leddfu effeithiau ailbrisio ar gyfer y dreth gyngor. Er mwyn caniatáu digon o amser i ddatblygu a rhoi prawf ar feddalwedd a systemau gweinyddu ar gyfer anfon biliau'r dreth gyngor cyn anfon y biliau ar gyfer y flwyddyn, mae'n hollbwysig cyflwyno'r rheoliadau hyn erbyn 1 Rhagfyr 2004. Os cânt eu cwblhau mewn pryd, bydd awdurdodau lleol yn gallu rhoi'r cynllun cymorth trosiannol ar waith o 1 Ebrill 2005, felly rhoddir y ddwy set reoliadau gyda'i gilydd.

Mae Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor (Trefniadau Trosiannol) 2004 yn nodi'r trefniadau trosiannol sydd â'r amcan o liniaru effaith y

designed to smooth the changes for people whose property has moved up two or more bands following council tax revaluation. The effects of the regulations are that, first, no eligible dwelling will go up by more than one valuation band in each of the three years of the proposed scheme, April 2005 to March 2008. Therefore, in year one, 2005-06, no dwelling will see more than a one-band increase in council tax liability, and no more than an additional one band increase in each of two subsequent financial years. Secondly, eligibility for transitional arrangements is dependant on certain criteria being met, the key ones being that, as of 1 April 2005, a dwelling will have needed to go up the valuation banding system by two or more bands, and the same person must be liable for the dwelling on 31 March 2005 and 1 April 2005, or if more than one person is liable, at least one of those persons must be liable, and that person must continue to be liable for, or is liable at some other time during the transitional period. Lastly, transitional arrangements will not apply to dwellings in prescribed classes A and B. The transitional arrangements will be applied automatically by billing authorities and applications will not be necessary.

The second set of regulations that are required are the Council Tax (Demand Notices) (Transitional Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004. The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (Wales) Regulations 1993, as amended, prescribe the information that must be shown either on the face of the council tax demand, or provided in information supporting that demand. This needs to be amended so that council tax demands inform taxpayers of the transitional relief scheme. The effect of these regulations is that billing authorities need to refer to the transitional valuation band in the demand notice and, by way of an explanatory note, explain how a transitional band is identified, and that the National Assembly for Wales is funding the council's forgone income. This is important for Members, as I am sure that many will be questioned about this by constituents.

newidiadau yn achos rhai y mae eu heiddo wedi codi dau neu ragor o fandiau yn sgîl ailbrisio ar gyfer y dreth gyngor. Effeithiau'r rheoliadau yw, yn gyntaf, na fydd unrhyw annedd gymwys yn codi mwy nag un band prisio ym mhob un o dair blynedd y cynllun arfaethedig, o Ebrill 2005 i Fawrth 2008. Felly, ym mlwyddyn un, 2005-06, ni fydd yr un annedd yn profi cynnydd o fwy nag un band yn y rhwymedigaeth i dalu'r dreth gyngor, a dim mwy na chynnydd o un band ychwanegol ym mhob un o'r ddwy flwyddyn ariannol ddilynol. Yn ail, mae cymhwyster ar gyfer trefniadau trosiannol yn amodol ar fodloni rhai meini prawf, a'r rhai allweddol yw y bydd annedd, ar 1 Ebrill 2005, wedi codi dau neu ragor o fandiau yn y system bandio prisiadau, ac y bydd yr un person yn atebol dros yr annedd ar 31 Mawrth 2005 ac ar 1 Ebrill 2005, neu os yw mwy nag un person yn atebol, rhaid i o leiaf un o'r personau hynny fod yn atebol, a rhaid i'r person hwnnw barhau i fod yn atebol drosti, neu fod yn atebol ar ryw adeg arall yn ystod y cyfnod trosiannol. Yn olaf, ni fydd y trefniadau trosiannol yn berthnasol i anheddau yn nosbarthau rhagnodedig A a B. Bydd y trefniadau trosiannol yn cael eu cymhwyso'n awtomatig gan yr awdurdodau sy'n anfon biliau ac ni fydd angen gwneud cais.

Yr ail set reoliadau y mae ei hangen yw Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor (Hysbysiadau Galw am Dalu) (Trefniadau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2004. Mae Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor (Hysbysiadau Galw am Dalu) (Cymru) 1993, fel y'u diwygiwyd, yn rhagnodi'r wybodaeth y mae'n rhaid ei dangos ar glawr yr hysbysiad galw am dalu'r dreth gyngor, neu ei roi mewn gwybodaeth sy'n ategu'r hawliad hwnnw. Rhaid eu diwygio fel y bydd hysbysiadau galw am dalu'r dreth gyngor yn hysbysu trethdalwyr am y cynllun cymorth trosiannol. Effaith y rheoliadau hyn yw bod rhaid i awdurdodau sy'n anfon biliau gyfeirio at y band prisio trosiannol yn yr hysbysiad galw am dalu ac egluro, drwy nodyn esboniadol, sut y nodir band trosiannol, a bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn rhoi arian yn lle'r incwm y mae'r cyngor wedi mynd hebdo. Mae hyn yn bwysig i Aelodau, gan fy mod yn siŵr y bydd etholwyr yn holi llawer ohonynt am hyn.

The Local Government and Public Services Committee considered both pieces of draft legislation on 10 November 2004 and recommended approval of the regulations without amendment. I would, however, like to respond to the fair point of clarification raised by Alun Ffred Jones in committee regarding the practical methods by which dwellings are identified as second homes. For council tax purposes, 'second home' is not a legislatively defined term. Rather, the settled definitions that are prescribed classes of dwellings for council tax purposes—classes A and B—are adopted in the draft regulations. By using these definitions, there is no scope for ambiguity. For the avoidance of doubt, the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) Regulations 1998 provide the legislative basis for prescribing dwellings that are not the sole or main residence of an individual and which are furnished, namely class A and class B. Whether a dwelling falls within class A or B depends on whether occupation of that dwelling is prohibited for a period in a particular year.

It is, of course, a matter for local authorities to identify these classes of dwellings, and they have been doing so since 1998 for the purposes of certain council tax discounts. I understand that in the administration of council tax, councils need to establish information about the dwelling, the liable persons, and whether the dwelling is a sole or main residence. Sometimes, dialogue is inspired by a new council tax account and sometimes as a follow up to the issuing of a council tax bill. We are aware that some councils review their records from time to time to verify whether dwellings fall within class A or class B. It is these classes of dwelling, prescribed by existing legislation, that billing authorities across Wales will be applying for the purposes of the transitional arrangements, as they have done so to date in respect of council tax discounts. The working group that helped devise the regulations, which included representatives of local authorities—and it is they who will operate the systems—did not object to the proposal that class A and B dwellings be excluded from the transitional arrangements.

Gwnaeth Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus ystyried y ddwy eitem ddeddfwriaeth ddrafft ar 10 Tachwedd 2004 ac argymhell cymeradwyo'r rheoliadau heb eu diwygio. Er hynny, carwn ymateb i'r pwynt o eglurhad teg a gododd Alun Ffred Jones yn y pwyllgor ynghylch y dulliau ymarferol o ddynodi anheddau'n ail gartrefi. At ddibenion y dreth gyngor, nid yw 'ail gartref' yn derm a ddiffiniwyd yn y gyfraith. Yn hytrach, mae'r diffiniadau sefydlog o ddsbarthau rhagnodedig ar anheddau i ddibenion y dreth gyngor—A a B—wedi'u mabwysiadu yn y rheoliadau drafft. Drwy ddefnyddio'r diffiniadau hyn, nid oes lle i amwysedd. Fel na fydd ansicrwydd, Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor (Dosbarthau Rhagnodedig ar Anheddau) 1998 yw'r sail ddeddfwriaethol i ragnodi anheddau nad ydynt yn unig neu'n brif breswylfan i unigolyn ac sydd wedi'u dodrefnu, sef dosbarth A a dosbarth B. Pennir a yw annedd yn nosbarth A neu yn nosbarth B yn ôl a waherddir preswyllo yn yr annedd honno am gyfnod mewn blwyddyn benodol.

Mater i awdurdodau lleol, wrth gwrs, yw dynodi anheddau yn y dosbarthau hyn, a buont yn gwneud hynny er 1998 i ddibenion rhai gostyngiadau yn y dreth gyngor. Deallaf fod cynghorau, wrth weinyddu'r dreth gyngor, yn gorfod cadarnhau gwybodaeth am yr annedd, y personau atebol, ac a yw'r annedd yn unig neu'n brif breswylfan. Weithiau, cychwynnir deialog yn sgîl agor cyfrif treth gyngor newydd ac weithiau ar ôl anfon bil am dreth gyngor. Gwyddom fod rhai cynghorau'n adolygu eu cofnodion o bryd i'w gilydd i wirio a yw anheddau'n perthyn i ddsbarth A neu ddsbarth B. Ar gyfer anheddau yn y dosbarthau hyn, sydd wedi'u rhagnodi yn y ddeddfwriaeth bresennol, y bydd awdurdodau sy'n anfonebu ledled Cymru yn ymgeisio i ddibenion y trefniadau trosiannol, fel y gwnaethant hyd yma mewn cysylltiad â gostyngiadau yn y dreth gyngor. Nid oedd y gweithgor a helpodd i ddyfeisio'r rheoliadau, a oedd yn cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o awdurdodau lleol—a hwy fydd yn rhoi'r systemau ar waith—yn gwrthwynebu'r bwriad i eithrio anheddau yn nosbarth A a dosbarth B o'r trefniadau trosiannol.

In relation to amendment 1, this legislation is not the method by which to deal with this issue. I hope that I have clarified the point about second homes. I believe that the amendment refers to a report produced a couple of years ago on second and holiday homes and the land use planning system. Any questions in relation to the recommendations in this report referring to the collection, publication and dissemination of data should be addressed to Carwyn Jones as the relevant Minister.

Alun Ffred Jones: Cynigaf welliant 1 i NDM2197 yn enw Jocelyn Davies: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn gwneud darpariaeth fod yr awdurdodau lleol yn cynhyrchu ac yn darparu ar gyfer Llywodraeth y Cynulliad restr gynhwysfawr o'r holl ail gartrefi yn eu hardaloedd, sy'n cael ei diweddarau bob blwyddyn, a bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn crynhoi'r data ac yn ei gyhoeddi'n genedlaethol bob blwyddyn.

Cefnogwn y bwriad i eithrio ail gartrefi o'r cynllun rhyddhad. Cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog at ddiffiniad dosbarthau rhagnodedig o anheddau, sef dosbarthau A a B. Serch hynny, yr oedd y nodiadau a gawsom yn y pwyllgor yn cyfeirio at ail gartrefi. Felly, nid ni a ddyfeisiodd y term. Yr ydym yn awyddus i weld y drefn newydd, yr ydym yn ei chefnogi, yn cael ei chyflwyno'n gyson ar draws Cymru. Cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog at ddeddfwriaeth 1998 a ddiffiniodd ddosbarthau A a B, sef anheddau nad ydynt yn brif annedd neu unig annedd unigolyn ond sydd wedi'u dodrefnu. I weithredu'r rheoliadau hyn yn gyson, rhaid wrth restr o'r anheddau hyn. A yw pob awdurdod yng Nghymru yn cadw rhestr o'r fath? Nid yw'n ddigon da dweud bod hwn yn fater i gynghorau lleol. Wedi'r cyfan, os yw'r rheoliadau hyn i'w gweithredu ar draws Cymru, rhaid cael cysondeb. Mae adroddiad gan Goleg Prifysgol Llundain yn 2002 yn cyfeirio at ail gartrefi a'r angen i gadw rhestrau o anheddau o'r fath ac at yr angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad gyhoeddi'r rhestrau hyn yn flynyddol. Mae cael gormod o ail gartrefi mewn cymuned yn ei thanseilio, ac mae'n bwysig bod ffigurau dibynadwy yn

Mewn cysylltiad â gwelliant 1, nid y ddeddfwriaeth hon yw'r modd i ddelio â'r mater hwn. Gobeithiaf fy mod wedi egluro'r pwynt ynghylch ail gartrefi. Credaf fod y gwelliant yn cyfeirio at adroddiad a gynhyrchwyd ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl ar ail gartrefi a chartrefi gwyliau a'r system cynllunio defnydd tir. Dylai unrhyw gwestiynau sy'n ymwneud ag argymhellion yr adroddiad hwnnw sy'n cyfeirio at gasglu, cyhoeddi a lledaenu data gael eu cyfeirio i sylw Carwyn Jones gan mai ef yw'r Gweinidog perthnasol.

Alun Ffred Jones: I propose amendment 1 to NDM2197 in the name of Jocelyn Davies: add a new point at the end of the motion:

makes provision for local authorities to produce and to provide to the Assembly Government a comprehensive list of all second homes in their area that is updated annually, and for the Assembly Government to collate the data and publish it nationally on an annual basis.

We support the intention to exempt second homes from the relief scheme. The Minister referred to the definition of prescribed classes of dwellings, namely classes A and B. However, the notes we received in committee referred to second homes. Therefore, we did not devise the term. We want to see the new arrangements, which we support, implemented consistently throughout Wales. The Minister referred to the 1998 legislation that defined classes A and B as dwellings that are not the main or sole residence of an individual but which are furnished. In order to implement these regulations consistently, we need a list of these dwellings. Does every authority in Wales keep such a list? To say that this is a matter for local councils is not good enough. After all, if these regulations are to be implemented across Wales, we must have consistency. A report by University College London in 2002 refers to second homes and the need to keep lists of these dwellings and to the need for the Assembly Government to publish the lists annually. Having too many second homes in a community undermines it, and it is important that reliable figures are published, particularly given that Gordon Brown will

cael eu cyhoeddi, yn enwedig o gofio y bydd Gordon Brown yn gadael i ail gartrefi fod yn rhan o gynlluniau pensiwn preifat yn y dyfodol.

allow second homes to form part of private pension schemes in the future.

4.20 p.m.

Gallech ddweud nad yw hynny'n berthnasol, ond mae'n gwbl ganolog gan mai ail gartrefi yw llawer o'r anheddau yn nosbarth A a B. Byddai'r gwelliant hwn yn sicrhau y bydd y ffigurau hanfodol hynny ar gael drwy Gymru er mwyn inni weld y patrwm a sicrhau bod y rheoliad hwn yn cael ei weithredu'n gyson ar hyd a lled Cymru.

You could say that that is irrelevant, but it is crucial as many of the dwellings in class A and B are second homes. This amendment would ensure that those essential figures are available throughout Wales so that we can see the pattern and ensure that this regulation is implemented consistently throughout Wales.

Glyn Davies: We will support these motions. Whenever there is a great deal of turbulence, as there has been with regard to how the results of the revaluation process have come out, it is right that a scheme should be introduced to prevent the changes from being too sudden. It is also right that the Government should fund that scheme—I believe that the cost is about £11 million—and I do not believe that it creates any resentment. However, the Government has introduced a flaw to the other moderation scheme, to the revenue support grant for the coming year. The base is at 3.5 per cent. There will be a degree of resentment about that because you are requiring other councils to fund the amount of money that is being used. The Minister would do well to seek support from across Wales, and she will undoubtedly receive support for these regulations.

Glyn Davies: Cefnogwn y cynigion hyn. Pryd bynnag y ceir llawer o gynnwrf, fel y cafwyd yn sgîl canlyniadau'r broses ailbriso, mae'n briodol cyflwyno cynllun i sicrhau na fydd y newidiadau'n digwydd yn rhy sydyn. Mae hefyd yn briodol i'r Llywodraeth ariannu'r cynllun hwnnw—credaf y bydd yn costio tuag £11 filiwn—ac ni chredaf ei fod yn creu unrhyw ddrwgdeimlad. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi creu diffyg yn y cynllun lleddfu arall, y grant cynnal refeniw ar gyfer y flwyddyn sydd i ddod. Y llinell sylfaen ar hyn o bryd yw 3.5 y cant. Bydd rhywfaint o ddrwgdeimlad ynghylch hynny gan eich bod yn mynnu y bydd cynghorau eraill yn rhoi'r swm o arian a ddefnyddir. Byddai'n beth da i'r Gweinidog geisio cefnogaeth ledled Cymru, a bydd yn sicr o gael cefnogaeth i'r rheoliadau hyn.

While we fully support these regulations—and I have accepted in committee and in the Chamber that, if we have a council tax, we have to have a revaluation process—we totally condemn the way in which the Welsh Assembly Government has used council tax as a way of raising extra money and as a huge punishment on the most vulnerable people in Wales. The Government in Westminster will be condemned for that in the ballot box next May and the Government in Cardiff will be condemned for it eventually.

Er ein bod yn llwyr gefnogi'r rheoliadau hyn—ac yr wyf wedi derbyn yn y pwyllgor ac yn y Siambr bod rhaid cael proses ailbriso gan fod y dreth gyngor gennym—yr ydym yn llwyr gondemnio'r modd y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi defnyddio'r dreth gyngor fel dull o godi arian ychwanegol ac fel cosb fawr yn erbyn y rhai sy'n fwyaf agored i niwed yng Nghymru. Caiff y Llywodraeth yn San Steffan ei chondemnio am hynny yn y blwch pleidleisio fis Mai nesaf a chaiff y Llywodraeth yng Nghaerdydd ei chondemnio am hynny yn y pen draw.

Michael German: We, too, will support both these regulations, though, in support of what

Michael German: Gwnawn ninnau hefyd gefnogi'r ddwy set reoliadau hyn, ond, er

Dai said earlier, in the paper that came to the Local Government and Public Services Committee—

Alun Ffred Jones: Do you mean in support of what I said earlier?

Michael German: Sorry, yes, in relation to what you said earlier.

There was confusion in the Local Government and Public Services Committee about the way in which local authorities would identify the homes that fall into class A or class B under the 1998 regulations. Given that there is now a wider use of these regulations, it is important that there is some sense of uniformity in local authorities. Will the Minister, in replying, tell us whether she intends to issue guidance to local authorities on the way in which this information should be collected? There is a problem in that it would not be a wise move to make that information available publicly, under the new right to information legislation, as there could well be a set of burglars around Wales who will then know which homes are empty. Perhaps the Minister could advise us how best that can be avoided.

On the Council Tax (Demand Notices) (Transitional Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004, regulation 3 requires local authorities to include a statement about the way in which bills have been reduced as a result of the application of National Assembly for Wales moneys. Under subsection (2)(c) of that regulation, there is a statement of what local authorities might include. Will the Minister ensure that, if she is to issue guidance or a letter alongside these regulations, she invites local authorities to use plain English so that people will understand what is being provided. Often, with these regulations, their words are not what people would read in their daily lives. Simplification would be useful to local authorities in that respect.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I will

cefnogi'r hyn a ddywedodd Dai yn gynharach, yn y papur a ddaeth gerbron Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus—

Alun Ffred Jones: Ai er cefnogi'r hyn a ddywedais i'n gynharach yr ydych yn ei feddwl?

Michael German: Ie, mae'n ddrwg gennyf, mewn cysylltiad â'r hyn a ddywedasoch chi'n gynharach.

Bu dryswch ym Mhwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus ynghylch y modd y byddai awdurdodau lleol yn dynodi cartrefi sy'n perthyn i ddosbarth A neu ddosbarth B o dan reoliadau 1998. Gan fod defnydd helaethach ar y rheoliadau hyn yn awr, mae'n bwysig cael rhyw fath o gysondeb cyd-rhwng awdurdodau lleol. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym, wrth ymateb, a yw'n bwriadu rhoi canllawiau i awdurdodau lleol ar y modd y dylid casglu'r wybodaeth hon? Mae problem yn hyn o beth i'r graddau na fyddai'n beth doeth darparu'r wybodaeth honno i'r cyhoedd, o dan y ddeddfwriaeth newydd ar yr hawl i weld gwybodaeth, gan ei bod yn ddigon posibl bod carfan o ladron tai o gwmpas Cymru a gâi wybod wedyn pa dai sy'n wag. Efallai y gallai'r Gweinidog ein hysbysu am y modd gorau i osgoi hynny.

Ynghylch Rheoliadau'r Dreth Gyngor (Hysbysiadau Galw am Dalu) (Trefniadau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2004, mae rheoliad 3 yn mynnu y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn cynnwys datganiad am y modd y gostyngwyd biliau o ganlyniad i ddefnyddio arian Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. O dan is-adran (2)(c) y rheoliad hwnnw, nodir beth y gallai awdurdodau lleol ei gynnwys. A wnaiff y Gweinidog sicrhau, os bydd yn rhoi canllawiau neu lythyr i gyd-fynd â'r rheoliadau hyn, y bydd yn gwahodd awdurdodau lleol i ddefnyddio iaith syml fel y bydd pobl yn deall yr hyn a roddir. Yn aml, yn achos rheoliadau o'r fath, nid y geiriau a geir ynddynt yw'r rhai y byddai pobl yn eu darllen yn eu bywyd bob dydd. Byddai symleiddio'n fuddiol i awdurdodau lleol yn hynny o beth.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Ymdriniaf

pick up on Alun Ffred's point. He raised a valuable point in committee about the definition of second homes. I hope that that point has been answered by using the terms of the prescribed classes of dwellings A and B. It is my understanding that this is fairly common practice. I cannot say hand on heart that every local authority is doing it, but I would be surprised if many are not because it is currently used as the basis for applying discounts. However, I will certainly pick up the points that have been raised this afternoon and go back and consider whether further work needs to be done on them. I remind everyone that a small working group has considered this, which has involved treasurers from local authorities, and I would be surprised that they recommended this course of action if they believed that it could not be implemented consistently. It does not impact upon the regulation as it stands, but I will consider it and let Members know if further work needs to be done on that.

On Mike German's point about the council tax demand, the Assembly Government is introducing the moderation scheme to only bring one band in, and I will make clear that the words are completely intelligible—there is no doubt about that. Without getting into too much council tax level banter, Glyn, I have looked at the figures, and in the last five years, local government has achieved a year-in, year-out support, which equates to a 6 per cent growth in terms of investment. Although we do not control council tax—it is set by local authorities—we have given good settlements for the last five years.

â'r pwynt a gododd Alun Ffred. Cododd bwynt gwerthfawr yn y pwyllgor ynghylch y diffiniad o ail gartrefi. Gobeithiaf fod y pwynt hwnnw wedi'i ateb drwy ddefnyddio'r diffiniad o ddsbarthau rhagnodedig ar anheddau A a B. Yr wyf ar ddeall bod hyn yn arfer eithaf cyffredin. Ni allaf ddweud â'm llaw ar fy nghalon fod pob awdurdod lleol yn gwneud hynny, ond byddwn yn synnu os oes llawer nad ydynt yn gwneud oherwydd fe'i defnyddir ar hyn o bryd yn sail i gymhwyso gostyngiadau. Er hynny, byddaf yn sicr o nodi'r pwyntiau a godwyd y prynhawn yma a mynd yn ôl ac ystyried a oes angen gwneud gwaith pellach yn eu cylch. Yr wyf yn atgoffa pawb bod gweithgor bach wedi ystyried hyn, ac yr oedd yn cynnwys trysoryddion o awdurdodau lleol, a byddwn yn synnu pe byddent wedi argymhell y dull gweithredu hwn pe chredent na ellid ei gymhwyso'n gyson. Nid yw'n effeithio ar y rheoliad fel y mae, ond fe'i hystyriaif a gadael i Aelodau wybod a oes angen gwneud gwaith pellach ar hynny.

Ynghylch y pwynt a wnaeth Mike German am yr hysbysiad galw am dalu'r dreth gyngor, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cyflwyno'r cynllun lleddfau fel na chyflwynir ond un band ar y tro, ac egluraf fod y geiriau'n gwbl ddealladwy—nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth am hynny. Heb ddechrau herian gormod ynghylch lefel y dreth gyngor, Glyn, yr wyf wedi edrych ar y ffigurau, ac yn y pum mlynedd diwethaf, mae llywodraeth leol wedi cael cymorth o'r naill flwyddyn i'r llall sy'n cyfateb i 6 y cant o dwf o ran buddsoddiad. Er nad ni sy'n rheoli'r dreth gyngor—fe'i pennir gan awdurdodau lleol—rhesom setliadau da dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 13, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 37.
Amendment 1: For 13, Abstain 0, Against 37.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Davies, Jocelyn
German, Michael
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn

Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig (NDM2197): O blaid 50, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2197): For 50, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred

Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM2198): O blaid 51, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2198): For 51, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter

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

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM2199): O blaid 50, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2199): For 50, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan

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

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM2200): O blaid 50, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2200): For 50, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl

Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

4.30 p.m.

Y Gyllideb Derfynol The Final Budget

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 21.4, adopts the final budget for the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Members on 23 November 2004 by the Finance Minister. (NDM2188)

I am pleased to present my final budget to the Assembly. My draft budget put before Plenary on 20 October detailed spending proposals that reflected our Government's strategic priorities for Wales. These strategic priorities had underpinned the considerable spending review that we undertook and the conclusions of this review are reflected in budget lines. We presented that budget in an open and transparent way and I particularly drew attention to the role that I believed the Subject Committees could perform.

I thank the committees for their constructive and helpful comments in the latest round of consultation. I welcome their well-informed and constructive input. The process this year has been better for it. This is a budget for the future of Wales; it will enable us to build on our achievements of the last five years and deliver change that will last well beyond the end of this budget period. With the help of these spending plans, Wales will be a healthier place in which to live; it will have a thriving economy driven by people with the right skills and opportunities to secure good jobs and we will all benefit from strong and sustainable communities.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Cynigïaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 21.4, yn mabwysiadu'r gyllideb derfynol ar gyfer blynyddoedd ariannol 2005-06, 2006-07 a 2007-08 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 23 Tachwedd 2004 gan y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus. (NDM2188)

Yr wyf yn falch o gyflwyno fy nghyllideb derfynol i'r Cynulliad. Yn fy nghyllideb ddrafft a roddwyd gerbron y Cyfarfod Llawn ar 20 Hydref, nodwyd cynigion ar gyfer gwario a oedd yn adlewyrchu blaenoriaethau strategol ein Llywodraeth ar gyfer Cymru. Y blaenoriaethau strategol hyn a fu'n sail i'r adolygiad helaeth o wariant a wnaethom ac adlewyrchir casgliadau'r adolygiad hwn yn llinellau'r gyllideb. Cyflwynasom y gyllideb honno mewn modd agored a thryloyw a thynnaf sylw'n benodol at y rôl y credais y gallai'r pwyllgorau pwnc ei chyflawni.

Diolchaf i'r pwyllgorau am eu sylwadau adeiladol a buddiol yn y cylch ymgynghori diweddaraf. Croesawaf eu mewnbwn gwybodus ac adeiladol. Bu'r broses eleni ar ei hennill o'r herwydd. Cyllideb ar gyfer dyfodol Cymru yw hon; bydd yn ein galluogi i adeiladu ar sail ein cyflawniadau yn y pum mlynedd diwethaf ac i sicrhau newid a fydd yn parhau ymhell ar ôl diwedd cyfnod y gyllideb hon. Gyda chymorth y cynlluniau gwariant hyn, bydd Cymru'n lle mwy iach i fyw; bydd ganddi economi ffyniannus a yrrir gan rai sydd â'r sgiliau priodol a chyfluoedd i gael swyddi da a byddwn oll ar ein hennill o gael cymunedau cryf a chynaliadwy.

As I have explained, this budget was prepared in a new way. Our spending review examined our budgets in detail and identified those where we had evidence of effective delivery. We now know that work on our expenditure plans aligns with the aims of 'Wales: A Better Country'. For those who say that the spending review was an empty exercise, its influence on resource allocation is clear. Not only did we establish specific funding packages for early years provision, 14 to 19-year-olds and Health Challenge Wales, the spending review also led to better-informed decisions on how Ministers allocated their funds. We have flat-lined many spending areas and strengthened others, which shows that this administration is prepared to show leadership and make difficult decisions to ensure that our resources are directed to priority areas.

Some Members appear to favour a scattergun approach, whereby all budgets are increased regardless of their effectiveness. That would not be the mark of a responsible organisation and Government and we would not be securing value for money for the taxpayer if we did that. This budget also represents a new stage in openness. Last year, I promised to improve the publication of our information. In addition to the normal budget information—about which I will say more later—I have published a new presentation of information, which links spending to our policy aims much more clearly. This is a significant step forward, and I will build on it in future budgets.

Members will also be aware of the considerable information that we made available to committees on the outcome of the spending review, and officials have also briefed committees. With these opportunities, I would be surprised if any Member were confused over the information that we publish. The budget tables that I published for this budget were prepared on the same basis as every Assembly budget. The idea that we had changed the presentation was wrong—

Fel yr wyf wedi egluro, paratowyd y gyllideb hon drwy ddull newydd. Yn ein hadolygiad o wariant, edrychwyd yn fanwl ar ein cyllidebau a chanfuwyd y rhai yr oedd gennym dystiolaeth eu bod yn cyflawni eu hamcan yn effeithiol. Gwyddom yn awr fod y gwaith ar ein cynlluniau gwariant yn cydfynd â nodau 'Cymru: Gwlad Well'. Wrth y rhai a ddywed mai ymarferiad diwerth oedd yr adolygiad o wariant, dywedaf ei fod wedi cael dylanwad pendant ar y modd y dyrannwyd adnoddau. Yn ogystal â pheri inni bennu pecynnau ariannu penodol ar gyfer y ddarpariaeth i'r blynyddoedd cynnar, rhai 14 i 19 blwydd oed a Her Iechyd Cymru, mae'r adolygiad o wariant wedi arwain hefyd at benderfyniadau mwy gwybodus gan Weinidogion ar y modd y dyrannant eu cyllid. Yr ydym wedi cadw sawl maes gwariant ar yr un lefel ac wedi cryfhau eraill, a dengys hynny fod y weinyddiaeth hon yn barod i arwain a gwneud penderfyniadau anodd i sicrhau y caiff ein hadnoddau eu cyfeirio i feysydd blaenoriaethol.

Ymddengys bod rhai Aelodau'n ffafrio dull gweithredu gwasgarog, lle cynyddir pob cyllideb ni waeth pa mor effeithiol ydyw. Nid felly y gwnâi corff a Llywodraeth gyfrifol ac ni fyddem yn sicrhau gwerth am arian i'r trethdalwr pe gwnaem hynny. Mae'r gyllideb hon yn arwydd o gyfnod newydd o ran gweithredu agored. Y llynedd, addewais wella'r dull o gyhoeddi ein gwybodaeth. Yn ogystal â'r wybodaeth arferol am y gyllideb—y dywedaf ragor amdani'n ddiweddarach—yr wyf wedi cyhoeddi cyflwyniad newydd o wybodaeth, sy'n cysylltu gwariant â'n nodau polisi yn llawer cliriach. Mae hyn yn gam mawr ymlaen, ac adeiladaf ar sail hynny mewn cyllidebau yn y dyfodol.

Gŵyr Aelodau hefyd am y wybodaeth helaeth y bu inni ei darparu i bwyllgorau am ganlyniad yr adolygiad o wariant, ac mae swyddogion wedi briffio pwyllgorau hefyd. Wedi cynnig yr holl gyfleoedd hyn, byddwn yn synnu pe byddai unrhyw Aelod mewn penbleth ynghylch y wybodaeth a gyhoeddwn. Paratowyd y tablau cyllideb a gyhoeddais ar gyfer y gyllideb hon ar yr un sail â'r rhai ar gyfer pob un o gyllidebau'r Cynulliad. Camsyniad oedd meddwl ein bod

there was no change. The accusation that the figures were inconsistent with those published by the Treasury as part of its spending review was also wrong. In fact, our tables show more detail.

I will turn now to the figures, to remind Members about them. The draft budget set out our plans for 2004 following the outcome of the spending review, which provided well over 4 per cent growth in real terms on the Assembly's department expenditure limit budget each year over the budget period. That puts Wales's growth among the top of Whitehall departments. By 2007-08, we will be spending £2.5 billion more each year.

In terms of the final budget, I have made a number of changes to the figures. These changes, reflected in the final budget, are mainly technical adjustments and transfers, although in some cases they respond to the views expressed by subject committees. Again, to help Members, I provided each Member with a hard copy of tables, which detail every change between the draft and final budget and the reasons for it, when the budget was laid last week. I hope that enabled Members to track through the changes. Before I consider the changes by portfolio, I will explain why the Assembly budget has increased since the final budget by £77 million next year, £89 million the year after and £111 million in 2007-08. This is largely due to increases in our annually managed expenditure budgets.

Members will know that our budget is made up of two types of provision, departmental expenditure limit and annually managed expenditure, also known lovingly as DEL and AME. Most of our budget is DEL and we can allocate this in line with our priorities. We have to manage the risk on these budgets, so, if they over spend, we have to fund it from elsewhere in the DEL. AME, on the other hand, relates principally to demand-led budgets which are difficult for us to control. These budgets are funded directly by the Treasury, therefore we bear none of the risk. The figures that we have included in the

wedi newid y dull o'u cyflwyno—ni fu newid. Anghywir hefyd oedd y cyhuddiad bod y ffigurau'n anghyson â'r rhai a gyhoeddwyd gan y Trysorlys fel rhan o'i adolygiad o wariant. Mewn gwirionedd, yr oedd ein tablau ni'n fwy manwl.

Trof yn awr at y ffigurau, er mwyn atgoffa Aelodau amdanynt. Yr oedd y gyllideb ddrafft yn dangos ein cynlluniau ar gyfer 2004 yn dilyn canlyniad yr adolygiad o wariant, a roddodd ymhell dros 4 y cant o dwf yn ôl ei wir werth ar ben cyllideb terfyn gwariant adrannol y Cynulliad bob blwyddyn dros gyfnod y gyllideb. O ganlyniad i hynny, mae'r twf yng Nghymru ymysg y mwyaf o blith adrannau Whitehall. Erbyn 2007-08, byddwn yn gwario £2.5 biliwn yn fwy bob blwyddyn.

O ran y gyllideb derfynol, gwneuthum sawl newid i'r ffigurau. Addasiadau technegol a throsglwyddiadau yw'r newidiadau hyn gan mwyaf, a welir yn y gyllideb derfynol, er eu bod yn ymateb, mewn rhai achosion, i'r farn a fynegwyd gan bwyllgorau pwnc. Unwaith eto, er mwyn helpu Aelodau, rhoddais i bob Aelod gopi caled o'r tablau, sy'n nodi pob newid a fu rhwng y gyllideb ddrafft a'r un derfynol a'r rhesymau amdano, pan gyflwynwyd y gyllideb yr wythnos diwethaf. Gobeithiaf fod hynny wedi galluogi Aelodau i ddilyn y newidiadau. Cyn imi ystyried y newidiadau fesul portffolio, egluraf pam y mae cyllideb y Cynulliad wedi cynyddu ers y gyllideb derfynol o £77 miliwn y flwyddyn nesaf, £89 miliwn y flwyddyn wedyn a £111 miliwn yn 2007-08. Mae hyn yn ganlyniad yn bennaf i gynnydd yn y cyllidebau ar gyfer gwariant a reolir yn flynyddol.

Gŵyr Aelodau fod ein cyllideb yn cynnwys dau fath o ddarpariaeth, y terfyn gwariant adrannol a gwariant a reolir yn flynyddol, a elwir yn annwyl hefyd yn DEL ac AME. Cyllid y terfyn gwariant adrannol yw'r rhan fwyaf o'n cyllideb a gallwn ei ddyrannu'n unol â'n blaenoriaethau. Rhaid inni reoli'r risg sydd ynglŷn â'r cyllidebau hyn, felly, os ceir gorwario arnynt, rhaid inni dalu am hynny â chyllid y terfyn gwariant adrannol o feysydd eraill. Mae gwariant a reolir yn flynyddol, ar y llaw arall, yn ymwneud yn bennaf â chyllidebau a arweinir gan y galw y mae'n anodd inni eu rheoli. Ariannir y

budget are simply our estimates of the potential expenditure. The changes represent updated forecasts.

Some believe that if we do not spend the full amount included in the budget we have to give money back to the Treasury. That is not the case. The Treasury funds whatever expenditure we make and as we do not receive cash we cannot give it back, and neither do we lose anything—demand is met. There is also an additional £13.4 million from the Treasury for the business growth incentive scheme, a new income stream, which was not included in the draft budget.

Regarding individual portfolios, we are now well engaged in delivering the Wanless agenda. Jane Hutt's recent announcement of £30 million in investment in new diagnostic and capital facilities underlines that commitment. Central to the success of Wanless is effective joint working between local health boards and local authorities. This is reflected in the resources that we are transferring from the health and social services portfolio to the local government portfolio. Funds are being added to the revenue support grant for Children First, domiciliary and residential care allowances.

A key feature of the health settlement was the almost threefold increase in capital, which responded to a long-standing need for a step change in our investment. It also means that we will meet our 'Wales: A Better Country' commitment to invest £550 million in hospitals and GP surgeries. Capital investment takes time to plan and procure. That is why we have been realistic and phased the provision towards the end of the budget period.

The provision for the local government main expenditure group increases by almost £60 million in 2005-06, £93 million in 2006-07 and £122 million in 2007-08. This reflects the resource transfers from health, as well as those from other policy areas, such as

cyllidebau hyn yn uniongyrchol gan y Trysorlys, felly nid ydym yn gorfod ysgwyddo unrhyw risg. Y ffigurau a roesom yn y gyllideb yw ein hamcangyfrifon o'r gwariant posibl. Mae'r newidiadau'n dilyn rhagolygon diweddarach.

Mae rhai'n credu, os na wariwn yr holl swm a geir yn y gyllideb, fod rhaid inni roi arian yn ôl i'r Trysorlys. Nid felly y mae. Mae'r Trysorlys yn ariannu pa bynnag wariant a geir a chan nad ydym yn cael arian parod ni allwn ei roi'n ôl, ac ni chollwn ddim ychwaith—atebir y galw. Ceir £13.4 miliwn ychwanegol hefyd oddi wrth y Trysorlys ar gyfer y cynllun i gymell twf busnesau, sy'n ffrwd incwm newydd, nad oedd yn y gyllideb ddrafft.

O ran portffolios penodol, yr ydym yn mynd rhagom yn dda â'r gwaith o gyflawni agenda Wanless. Mae'r cyhoeddiad diweddar gan Jane Hutt am fuddsoddiad o £30 miliwn mewn cyfleusterau diagnostig a chyfalaf newydd yn amlygu'r ymrwymiad hwnnw. Rhan ganolog o lwyddiant agenda Wanless yw'r cydweithio effeithiol rhwng byrddau iechyd lleol ac awdurdodau lleol. Adlewyrchir hynny yn yr adnoddau yr ydym yn eu trosglwyddo o'r portffolio iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol i bortffolio llywodraeth leol. Ychwanegir cyllid at y grant cynnal refeniw ar gyfer Rhoi Plant yn Gyntaf a lwfansau gofal yn y cartref a gofal preswyl.

Un agwedd allweddol ar y setliad ar gyfer iechyd oedd y cynnydd triphlyg bron mewn cyfalaf, a oedd yn ymateb i'r angen a fu ers tro am newid sylweddol yn ein buddsoddiad. Mae hefyd yn golygu y cyflawnwn ein hymrwymiad yn 'Cymru: Gwlad Well' i fuddsoddi £550 miliwn mewn ysbytai a meddygfeydd meddygon teulu. Cymer amser i gynllunio a chaffael buddsoddiad cyfalaf. Dyna pam y buom yn realistig gan gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth yn raddol tua diwedd cyfnod y gyllideb.

Mae'r ddarpariaeth i brif grŵp gwariant llywodraeth leol yn codi o bron £60 miliwn yn 2005-06, £93 miliwn yn 2006-07 a £122 miliwn yn 2007-08. Mae hyn yn adlewyrchu'r trosglwyddo ar adnoddau o iechyd, ac o feysydd polisi eraill hefyd, fel

education and lifelong learning, where £25 million was transferred for the next tranche of the teachers' workload agreement. In 2006-07, a further £12 million will be added to the revenue support grant.

I will also mention other changes. First, on the council tax rebanding exercise, we have just alluded to the transition scheme and debated it. I will deal with the cost of the moderation scheme using my reserves. Secondly, the committee stressed the importance of the deprivation fund and the performance incentive grant. I agree with this assessment, and in recognition of the role they play in helping deprived communities, as well as driving in the changes to help authorities to deliver better quality services, I have increased provision for the performance incentive grant by 2.5 per cent, and for the deprivation fund by 5 per cent this financial year. This funding is additional to the £13.4 million made available by the Treasury to support the local authority business growth incentive scheme. We continue to deliver on our commitment to local government, but specific grants, wherever possible, will be transferred to unencumbered revenue support grant. Within this budget, £46 million of specific grants will transfer in 2005-06. Local government will warmly welcome that.

On education and lifelong learning, there have been repeated questions about funding the roll-out of our school breakfast pilot schemes and the financial implications of the devolution of student support. I will repeat the answer that I have given previously—I will not make set budgets until there is firm evidence on spending needs. I am pleased that the committee welcomed our capital investment in schools, which will deliver this Government's 'Wales: A Better Country' commitment in full. I am also pleased that it welcomed the additional money—set aside as a result of the spending review—for the exciting new developments in learning pathways for 14 to 19-year-olds.

The committee raised the level of funding

addysg a dysgu gydol oes, lle y trosglwyddwyd £25 miliwn ar gyfer cyfran nesaf y cytundeb ynghylch llwyth gwaith athrawon. Yn 2006-07, ychwanegir £12 miliwn pellach at y grant cynnal refeniw.

Soniaf hefyd am newidiadau eraill. Yn gyntaf, ynghylch yr ymarferiad ailfandio ar gyfer y dreth gyngor, yr ydym newydd gyfeirio at y cynllun trosiannol ac wedi cael dadl arno. Deliaf â chost y cynllun lleddfdrwy ddefnyddio'r cronfeydd wrth gefn sydd gennyf. Yn ail, gwnaeth y pwyllgor dynnu sylw at bwysigrwydd y gronfa amddifadedd a'r grant cymell perfformiad. Cytunaf â'r asesiad hwn, a chan gydnabod y rhan y maent yn ei chwarae wrth helpu cymunedau difreintiedig, yn ogystal â hyrwyddo'r newidiadau i helpu awdurdodau i ddarparu gwasanaethau gwell, yr wyf wedi darparu 2.5 y cant yn fwy ar gyfer y grant cymell perfformiad, a 5 y cant yn fwy ar gyfer y gronfa amddifadedd yn y flwyddyn ariannol hon. Mae'r cyllid hwn yn ychwanegol at y £13.4 miliwn a ddarparwyd gan y Trysorlys i gynnal cynllun yr awdurdodau lleol i gymell twf busnesau. Parhawn i gyflawni ein hymrwymiad i lywodraeth leol, ond, lle bynnag y bo modd, trosglwyddir grantiau penodol fel y byddant yn rhan o'r grant cynnal refeniw sydd heb ei glustnodi. O fewn y gyllideb hon, trosglwyddir gwerth £46 miliwn o grantiau penodol yn 2005-06. Bydd llywodraeth leol yn croesawu hynny'n fawr.

Ynghylch addysg a dysgu gydol oes, holwyd dro ar ôl tro am y modd y bydd y gwaith o ledaenu ein cynlluniau peilot ar gyfer brecwastau mewn ysgolion yn cael ei ariannu ac am oblygiadau ariannol y datganoli ar gymorth i fyfyrwyr. Ailadroddaf yr ateb a roddais o'r blaen—ni wnaif gyllidebau sefydlog hyd nes y ceir tystiolaeth bendant am yr anghenion gwariant. Yr wyf yn falch bod y pwyllgor wedi croesawu ein buddsoddiad cyfalaf mewn ysgolion, a fydd yn llwyr gyflawni ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth yn 'Cymru: Gwlad Well'. Yr wyf hefyd yn falch ei fod wedi croesawu'r arian ychwanegol—a neilltuwyd o ganlyniad i'r adolygiad o wariant—ar gyfer y datblygiadau newydd cyffrous ym maes y llwybrau dysgu i rai 14 i 19 blwydd oed.

Cododd y pwyllgor fater y lefel cyllid sydd ar

available to ELWa. Taking account of European funds, the resources available to the organisation are set to rise by 7 per cent. This is a well-above-inflation increase that will enable ELWa to maintain core programmes and begin implementing its new funding formula. In the longer term, ELWa will, obviously, be merged into the Assembly, and it is right that resource requirements be considered in that context.

4.40 p.m.

Strong communities are central to our strategic vision. Expenditure in the social justice and regeneration main expenditure group aims to support existing communities and build new ones across Wales. By its nature, the portfolio contributes to many of our strategic objectives. For example, our substantial capital investment in housing will not only stand as an achievement in itself, but will also directly support the Wanless agenda, as well as helping local authority initiatives in providing flexible care.

Although the main expenditure group is increasing by £39 million, since 2004-05, this includes a reduction in the Supporting People grant of £12 million compared with 2004-05. This is clearly a matter of concern. Members will know that the Treasury has reduced the funding available across the UK. I have argued vigorously with the Treasury on behalf of the social justice portfolio about the principle and scale of the reductions. We must now work with local government to ensure that the funding that we have is properly targeted and is used effectively to ensure that those who need support most continue to get it.

Despite those who would have us believe otherwise, our economy is in good shape. Our unemployment is among the lowest in Europe, and our structural funds programmes are delivering at maximum capacity. No-one can argue with the 153 per cent increase in the departmental expenditure limit that has been provided to the economic development and transport portfolio between 1999 and 2008. That reflects its importance to Wales, which the committee acknowledged.

gael i ELWa. Gan gynnwys cyllid Ewropeaidd, bydd cynnydd o 7 y cant yn yr adnoddau a fydd ar gael i'r corff hwnnw. Mae'r cynnydd hwn yn fwy o lawer na chwyddiant a bydd yn galluogi ELWa i gynnal rhaglenni craidd a dechrau rhoi ei fformiwla ariannu newydd ar waith. Yn y tymor hwy, caiff ELWa ei ymgorffori yn y Cynulliad, wrth gwrs, ac mae'n briodol ystyried y gofynion o ran adnoddau yn y cyddestun hwnnw.

Mae lle canolog i gymunedau cryf yn ein gweledigaeth strategol. Amcan y gwariant ym mhrif grŵp gwariant cyfiawnder cymdeithasol ac adfywio yw hybu'r cymunedau sy'n bod eisoes a chreu rhai newydd ledled Cymru. Oherwydd ei natur, mae'r portffolio hwn yn cyfrannu at gyflawni llawer o'n hamcanion strategol. Er enghraifft, bydd ein buddsoddiad cyfalaf sylweddol mewn tai yn gyflawniad ohono'i hun, ond bydd hefyd yn ategu agenda Wanless yn uniongyrchol, ac yn hwb i fentrau gan awdurdodau lleol i gynnig gofal hyblyg.

Er bod cynnydd o £39 miliwn yn y prif grŵp gwariant, er 2004-05, mae hyn yn cynnwys gostyngiad o £12 miliwn yn y grant Cefnogi Pobl o'i gymharu â 2004-05. Mae'n amlwg bod hyn yn destun pryder. Gŵyr Aelodau fod y Trysorlys wedi lleihau'r cyllid sydd ar gael ledled y DU. Yr wyf wedi dadlau'n daer gyda'r Trysorlys ar ran y portffolio cyfiawnder cymdeithasol ynghylch yr egwyddor a maint y gostyngiadau. Rhaid inni weithio gyda llywodraeth leol yn awr i sicrhau y bydd y cyllid sydd gennym yn cael ei dargedu'n briodol a'i ddefnyddio'n effeithiol er mwyn sicrhau y bydd y rhai mwyaf anghenus yn dal i gael cymorth.

Er gwaethaf y rhai a garai inni gredu fel arall, mae ein heconomi mewn cyflwr da. Mae'r diweithdra yma ymysg yr isaf yn Ewrop, ac mae ein rhaglenni o dan y cronfeydd strwythurol yn llawn weithredol. Ni all neb gwyno am y cynnydd o 153 y cant yn y terfyn gwariant adrannol a ddarparwyd i'r portffolio datblygu economaidd a thrafnidiaeth rhwng 1999 a 2008. Mae hynny'n adlewyrchu ei bwysigrwydd i Gymru, ac mae'r pwyllgor wedi cydnabod

However, I stress again that this Government believes that our economic goals will also benefit from our plans in other areas such as creating new learning pathways for 14 to 19-year-olds.

Andrew Davies has shown that he is determined to continue to deliver real economic prosperity in the areas that most need it, and he is prepared to use his resources imaginatively to do that. He recently announced his plans for significant expenditure and regeneration in the Heads of the Valleys—one of the areas in which the committee wanted extra investment. This settlement will enable us to build on this good work.

On environment, planning and the countryside, I am pleased that the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee welcomed our proposals to provide significant additional investment in the waste strategy. We are seeing huge progress in Wales due to the resource commitments from this Government. The committee also welcomed the extra £5 million over three years for action on contaminated land, and we will work closely with local government to ensure that the strategy is implemented quickly and effectively.

Finally, in this historic week for Wales, I turn, appropriately, to culture, Welsh language and sport. The increase that we have provided for these activities since the Assembly began is substantial—over 100 per cent. While we have provided substantial financial support for some projects, such as the Wales Millennium Centre, which has just opened to such acclaim, the funding has been increasingly targeted at local communities, particularly the poorest ones.

I welcome the committee's understanding of the positive impacts on health, communities and the economy of spending on culture. I agree wholeheartedly with its suggestion that we need more co-ordinated approaches between portfolios to achieve the best

hynny. Er hynny, pwysleisiaf eto fod y Llywodraeth hon yn credu y ceir hwb i gyrraedd ein nodau economaidd hefyd drwy ein cynlluniau mewn meysydd eraill fel y bwriad i greu llwybrau dysgu newydd ar gyfer rhai 14 i 19 blwydd oed.

Mae Andrew Davies wedi dangos ei fod yn benderfynol o barhau i sicrhau gwir ffyniant economaidd yn yr ardaloedd mwyaf anghenus, ac mae'n barod i ddefnyddio ei adnoddau mewn modd dyfeisgar i wneud hynny. Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddodd ei gynlluniau ar gyfer gwariant ac adfywio sylweddol ym Mlaenau'r Cymoedd—un o'r ardaloedd yr oedd y pwyllgor yn dymuno gweld rhagor o fuddsoddi ynddynt. Bydd y setliad hwn yn ein galluogi i adeiladu ar sail y gwaith da hwnnw.

Ynghylch yr amgylchedd, cynllunio a chefn gwlad, yr wyf yn falch bod Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad wedi croesawu ein bwriad i fuddsoddi swm mawr ychwanegol yn y strategaeth ar gyfer gwastraff. Gwelwn gynnydd aruthrol yng Nghymru oherwydd maint yr adnoddau y mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi ymrwymo i'w darparu. Croesawodd y pwyllgor hefyd y swm ychwanegol o £5 miliwn dros dair blynedd i gymryd camau ynghylch tir sydd wedi'i halogi, a byddwn yn cydweithio'n agos â llywodraeth leol i sicrhau y caiff y strategaeth ei rhoi ar waith yn gyflym ac yn effeithiol.

Yn olaf, yn yr wythnos hanesyddol hon i Gymru, trof, yn briodol, at ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a chwaraeon. Yr ydym wedi cynyddu'r swm a ddarperir ar gyfer y gweithgareddau hyn yn sylweddol ers dechrau'r Cynulliad—o fwy na 100 y cant. Er ein bod wedi rhoi cymorth ariannol sylweddol i rai prosiectau, fel Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru, sydd newydd agor gan ddenu canmoliaeth fawr, mae'r cyllid wedi'i dargedu'n fwyfwy ar gymunedau lleol, yn enwedig y rhai tlotaf.

Croesawaf ddealltwriaeth y pwyllgor o'r effeithiau cadarnhaol ar iechyd, cymunedau a'r economi a geir o wario ar ddiwylliant. Llwyf gytunaf â'i awgrym bod arnom angen dulliau gweithredu mwy cydlynol rhwng portffolios i sicrhau y ceir yr elw mwyaf

possible returns from our money. The sports strategy, 'Climbing Higher', will be central to the success of Health Challenge Wales, as well as to promoting the positive aspects of sport as an enjoyable activity in its own right.

I mentioned our reserves earlier. They are greater than in previous years, which is right. We manage a total budget of almost £13 billion and a huge range of different activities. The range and value of financial risk is significant. It is simple, good financial management to set some funds aside against those risks. There is always some risk and uncertainty that we cannot foresee, such as foot and mouth disease or Corus. There are others that we know of, but we cannot put a cost to them. It is prudent for any Government to provide a reserve that is able to respond to such issues. Finally, we are increasing capital investment by a third. Due to the requirements of resource accounting, we must pay the capital charges and depreciation of these new assets, and the reserves include provision for these costs. Therefore, I hope that everyone understands the principle behind the sums of money in the reserves.

The changes that have been made to the draft budget are mostly adjustments and fine-tuning to ensure that the money is in the right place to be allocated. I am pleased that the committees' response was broadly positive and I have therefore made little modification to the original plans.

To conclude, I commend this budget to Members. It is a considered, targeted and effective set of proposals to make a real investment in the future of Wales. It will deliver a vibrant and dynamic economy that identifies and nurtures the talents of our young people. It will provide stronger communities and a more caring society that is better equipped to look after the vulnerable. This is a budget for the future, and I invite you to support it.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: There are many more who wish to speak than I will be able to call. I will try to call those who

posibl o'n harian. Bydd lle canolog i'r strategaeth chwaraeon, 'Dringo'n Uwch', wrth sicrhau llwyddiant Her Iechyd Cymru, a hefyd wrth hyrwyddo'r agweddau cadarnhaol ar chwaraeon fel gweithgarwch sy'n bleserus ohono'i hun.

Cyfeiriais yn gynharach at ein cronfeydd wrth gefn. Maent yn fwy nag y buont mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol, ac mae hynny'n beth priodol. Yr ydym yn rheoli cyllideb gyfan o bron £13 biliwn ac amrywiaeth mawr o weithgareddau. Mae amrediad a gwerth y risg ariannol yn sylweddol. Arfer da a syml o ran rheoli ariannol yw neilltuo rhywfaint o gyllid rhag y risgiau hynny. Ceir rhyw risg ac ansicrwydd bob amser na allwn eu rhagweld, fel clwy'r traed a'r genau neu Corus. Mae eraill y gwyddom amdanynt, ond na allwn eu prisio. Mae'n beth doeth i unrhyw Lywodraeth ddarparu cronfa wrth gefn fel y gellir ymateb i faterion o'r fath. Yn olaf, yr ydym yn buddsoddi un rhan o dair yn fwy mewn cyfalaf. Oherwydd gofynion cyfrifyddu yn ôl adnoddau, rhaid inni dalu llogau ar gyfalaf a chostau dibrisiant yr asedau newydd hyn, ac mae'r cronfeydd wrth gefn yn cynnwys darpariaeth ar gyfer y costau hynny. Felly, gobeithiaf fod pawb yn deall yr egwyddor sy'n sail i'r symiau arian yn y cronfeydd wrth gefn.

Mae'r newidiadau a wnaed i'r gyllideb ddrafft yn ganlyniad i addasiadau a manwl gyweirio gan mwyaf, i sicrhau bod yr arian yn y lle iawn i'w ddyrannu. Yr wyf yn falch mai ymateb cadarnhaol gan mwyaf a gafwyd gan y pwyllgorau ac felly ychydig a newidiais ar y cynlluniau gwreiddiol.

I gloi, cymeradwyaf y gyllideb hon i Aelodau. Cynigion effeithiol ydynt, sydd wedi'u hystyried a'u targedu, i wneud buddsoddiad go iawn yn nyfodol Cymru. Bydd yn sicrhau economi fywiog a deinamig sy'n canfod ac yn meithrin doniau ein pobl ifanc. Bydd yn peri creu cymunedau cryfach a chymdeithas fwy gofalgwr sy'n fwy galluog i ofalu am y rhai sy'n agored i niwed. Cyllideb ar gyfer y dyfodol yw hon, ac fe'ch gwahoddaf i'w chefnogi.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae llawer mwy'n dymuno siarad nag y byddaf yn gallu eu galw. Ceisiaf alw'r rhai a oedd yn dymuno

wished to speak in the debate on the draft budget but were not able to do so, and I will also try to call those who did not speak on the draft budget and who wish to speak this afternoon. If there is time, I will call those who wish to speak today and who spoke on the draft budget. I will apply a five-minute maximum, to the second, to Members' speeches. If Members take interventions, they will have a maximum of six minutes, to the second, in which to speak.

David Lloyd: I said at the time of the draft budget debate that we welcomed the increase in the Welsh budget of 21 per cent over the next three years, but noted that we are starting from a low baseline of historically poor funding settlements, and that Wales has been short-changed for years because of the lack of a fair funding formula. A needs-based formula would give us £800 million extra every year. We already have a needs-based formula in health—the Townsend formula—and in local government, and we find that the areas with the greatest needs receive more money. It is accepted in some portfolios: please accept it for the whole of Wales.

I would welcome the Minister's response to representations that I have had concerning proposed cuts to the Supporting People programme for 2005-06. I note the Minister's comments, but supported housing in particular, in these days of increasing homelessness, needs additional support, and not less. I recognise what the Minister said in that this cut is a done deal from the Treasury, but we are talking about extremely vulnerable people—the homeless—and supported housing needs additional support. I have concerns about the full financial implications of the Civil Contingencies Bill, and these are shared by other Members and the Local Government and Public Services Committee. Such a comprehensive piece of legislation requires accurate costings and adequate funding to realise its intentions.

Much has been made of clarity in the budget process, but I would value further clarification on several issues in the time

siarad yn y ddadl ar y gyllideb ddrafft ond a oedd heb allu gwneud hynny, a cheisiaf hefyd alw'r rhai na siaradodd ar destun y gyllideb ddrafft ac sy'n dymuno siarad y prynhawn yma. Os bydd amser, galwaf y rhai sy'n dymuno siarad heddiw ac a siaradodd ar destun y gyllideb ddrafft. Gosodaf derfyn o bum munud, i'r eiliad, ar areithiau Aelodau. Os bydd Aelodau'n derbyn ymyriadau, cânt chwe munud ar y mwyaf, i'r eiliad, i siarad.

David Lloyd: Dywedais ar adeg y ddadl ar y gyllideb ddrafft ein bod yn croesawu'r cynnydd o 21 y cant yn y gyllideb i Gymru dros y tair blynedd nesaf, ond nodais ein bod yn dechrau o linell sylfaen isel o setliadau cyllid gwael yn y gorffennol, a bod Cymru wedi cael cam ers blynyddoedd am nad oes fformiwla ariannu deg. Byddai fformiwla a oedd yn seiliedig ar anghenion yn rhoi £800 miliwn yn ychwanegol i ni bob blwyddyn. Mae gennym fformiwla sy'n seiliedig ar anghenion ym maes iechyd yn barod—fformiwla Townsend—ac ym maes llywodraeth leol, a chawn fod yr ardaloedd mwyaf anghenus yn cael mwy o arian. Derbynnir hynny mewn rhai portffolios: derbyniwch hynny ar gyfer Cymru gyfan, os gwelwch yn dda.

Byddwn yn falch o glywed ymateb y Gweinidog i sylwadau a dderbyniais ynghylch y bwriad i gwtogi ar y rhaglen Cefnogi Pobl ar gyfer 2005-06. Nodaf sylwadau'r Gweinidog, ond, yng ngolwg y cynnydd mewn digartrefedd a geir y dyddiau hyn, mae angen mwy o gymorth ar gyfer tai â chymorth, yn benodol, nid llai. Derbyniaf yr hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog i'r perwyl bod y Trysorlys wedi penderfynu ar y cwtogi hwn o flaen llaw, ond mae'r rhai sydd dan sylw—y digartref—yn agored iawn i niwed ac mae angen rhoi cymorth ychwanegol ar gyfer tai â chymorth. Mae gennyf bryderon ynghylch holl oblygiadau ariannol y Mesur Argyfyngau Sifil, yn yr un modd ag Aelodau eraill a'r Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus. Mae Deddf mor gynhwysfawr yn gofyn prisiadau manwl a chyllid digonol i gyflawni ei hamcanion.

Cafwyd llawer o sôn am eglurder proses y gyllideb, ond byddwn yn falch o gael eglurhad pellach ar sawl mater yn yr amser

available to scrutinise a £13 billion budget. Minister, has the cost of capital been included consistently in annual Assembly budgets, or is it only a recent addition in order to inflate recent budgets? For example, are we comparing like with like in terms of the 1999-2000 budget and the 2004-05 budget? What are the real-terms figures for this budget? Are they those in the document presented? Do we await further clarification? In passing, as you said, Minister, it is also worth noting that the Westminster Treasury provides tables that detail real-terms figures and makes clear that they are real-terms figures. Also, for further clarification, will the spatial plan be given a dedicated budget line in your portfolio? The next point is that of the much-trumpeted public service efficiency savings of £600 million announced by the First Minister. Where does that appear in this budget scheme? Also, why delay the announcement of the final local government settlement? Much has been made in previous years of the early timing of the local government settlement. What has happened to that for this year?

There are several other issues that need clarification and transparency, which my Plaid Cymru colleagues, Elin Jones and Janet Ryder, will doubtless allude to. However, managing the Assembly's budget in a more effectively transparent and accountable manner would be facilitated by setting up a finance committee in the Assembly. We do not have a finance committee at present. In the Scottish Parliament, which some of us visited last week, MSPs maintain that their Finance Committee is pivotal in its scrutiny role. The establishment of such a committee is long overdue here in order to facilitate effective, year-round scrutiny of budgetary development, the efficient use of money and the effective delivery of services. The Local Government and Public Service Committee's review of local government cabinet structures and so on last year concluded that effective scrutiny contributes to improved local government. We need to translate that committee viewpoint to the national stage and establish a finance committee in the National Assembly for Wales.

sydd ar gael i graffu ar gyllideb o £13 biliwn. Weinidog, a yw cost cyfalaf wedi'i chynnwys yn gyson yng nghyllidebau blynyddol y Cynulliad, ynteu a yw wedi'i hychwanegu'n ddiweddar i chwyddo cyllidebau diweddar? Er enghraifft, a ydym yn cymharu tebyg â'i debyg wrth edrych ar gyllideb 1999-2000 a chyllideb 2004-05? Beth yw'r ffigurau ar wir werth y gyllideb hon? Ai'r rhai sydd yn y ddogfen a gyflwynwyd ydynt? A oes eglurhad pellach i ddod? Wrth fynd heibio, fel y dywedaso, Weinidog, mae hefyd yn werth nodi bod Trysorlys San Steffan yn darparu tablau sy'n dangos ffigurau ar wir werth ac yn egluro mai ffigurau ar wir werth ydynt. Hefyd, er mwyn cael eglurhad pellach, a roddir llinell gyllideb benodol yn eich portffolio ar gyfer y cynllun gofodol? Mae'r pwynt nesaf yn ymwneud â'r £600 miliwn o arbedion drwy effeithlonrwydd mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus a gyhoeddwyd gan y Prif Weinidog, y bu mawr sôn amdanynt. Ym mhle y mae hynny yng nghynllun y gyllideb hon? Hefyd, pam y gohirir cyhoeddi'r setliad llywodraeth leol terfynol? Rhoddwyd pwys mawr mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol ar gyhoeddi'r setliad llywodraeth leol yn gynnar. Beth a ddigwyddodd ynghylch hynny eleni?

Mae sawl mater arall y mae angen eglurder a thryloywder yn eu cylch, y bydd fy nghyd-Aelodau ym Mhlaid Cymru, Elin Jones a Janet Ryder, yn sicr o gyfeirio atynt. Fodd bynnag, gellid hwyluso'r gwaith o reoli cyllideb y Cynulliad mewn modd effeithiol o dryloyw ac atebol drwy sefydlu pwyllgor cyllid yn y Cynulliad. Nid oes gennym bwyllgor cyllid ar hyn o bryd. Yn Senedd yr Alban, yr ymwelodd rhai ohonom â hi yr wythnos diwethaf, mae'r Aelodau yno yn dal bod rôl craffu eu Pwyllgor Cyllid yn hollbwysig. Mae'n hen bryd sefydlu pwyllgor o'r fath yma er mwyn hwyluso craffu effeithiol drwy'r flwyddyn ar y gwaith o ddatblygu'r gyllideb, defnydd effeithlon o arian a rhedeg gwasanaethau'n effeithiol. Yn adolygiad y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus o strwythurau cabinet llywodraeth leol ac yn y blaen y llynedd, daethpwyd i'r casgliad bod craffu effeithiol yn cyfrannu at wella llywodraeth leol. Rhaid inni gymhwyso safbwynt y pwyllgor at y llwyfan cenedlaethol a sefydlu pwyllgor cyllid yng Nghynulliad

Cenedlaethol Cymru.

In conclusion, Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales cannot support this budget. We remain unconvinced of delivery and feel that the spending priorities outlined will not deliver specifically on improving waiting lists, on strengthening regional centres of medical excellence, or on council tax. This budget will certainly not deliver, in general, for the council tax payers of Wales.

4.50 p.m.

Peter Law: I support this budget, which is a budget for all the people of Wales. I compliment the Minister on how she has presented it. Plaid Cymru does nothing for the people of Wales in failing to support this budget. It includes so many features and record funding. You have talked about a 21 per cent increase, which is the result of the Government of Wales working in harmony with the Westminster Government. I am pleased to see this, as it means that the quality of life of people throughout Wales will be improved. If you come from a place like Blaenau Gwent, you want to see that as much as possible.

When you look at the health and social services budget, you realise that there will be an increase of some £2 billion over the next three years. This is big money and it will make a difference in Wales. I am pleased with the £550 million for GP surgeries and hospitals; this will bring about changes—it is happening now, as we speak. I am one of those who will have a new hospital and I am pleased that that commitment is being realised. The sooner that we improve GP surgeries, and get them on-line, the sooner we can help people to improve their quality of life and their health in general.

In the education and lifelong learning budget, you see the £78 million that has been mentioned here in recent weeks. Education maintenance allowances are important and are, again, the result of two Governments—in Westminster and in Wales—working together to provide opportunities to lower income families and young people who want to

I gloi, ni all Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales gefnogi'r gyllideb hon. Ni'n hargyhoeddwyd eto y gall fynd â'r maen i'r wal a theimlwn na fydd y blaenoriaethau ar gyfer gwariant a ddisgrifiwyd yn llwyddo'n benodol o ran gwella rhestrau aros, cryfhau canolfannau rhagoriaeth feddygol rhanbarthol, a'r dreth gyngor. Yn sicr, ni fydd y gyllideb hon, yn ei chyfanrwydd, yn bodloni talwyr y dreth gyngor yng Nghymru.

Peter Law: Cefnogaf y gyllideb hon, sy'n gyllideb ar gyfer holl bobl Cymru. Canmolaf y Gweinidog ar y modd y'i cyflwynodd. Ni wna Plaid Cymru ddim dros bobl Cymru drwy fethu â chefnogi'r gyllideb hon. Mae cynifer o agweddau arni ac mae ynnddi'r cyllid mwyaf a gafwyd erioed. Cyfeiriasoch at gynnydd o 21 y cant, a chafwyd hynny am fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gweithio mewn cytgorod â Llywodraeth San Steffan. Yr wyf yn falch o weld hynny, gan y bydd yn golygu gwell ansawdd bywyd i bobl ledled Cymru. Os ydych yn hanu o le fel Blaenau Gwent, byddwch am weld cymaint o hynny ag y bo modd.

Pan edrychwch ar y gyllideb ar gyfer iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, gwelwch y bydd cynnydd o tua £2 biliwn dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Mae hwnnw'n swm mawr a gwnaiff wahaniaeth yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn fodlon ar y £550 miliwn ar gyfer meddygfeydd meddygon teulu ac ysbytai; bydd hynny'n peri newidiadau—mae'n digwydd yn awr, wrth inni siarad. Yr wyf fi'n un o'r rhai a gaiff ysbyty newydd ac yr wyf yn falch y cyflawnir yr ymrwymiad hwnnw. Gorau po gyntaf y gallwn wella meddygfeydd meddygon teulu, a pheri eu bod ar lein, er mwyn helpu pobl i wella eu hansawdd bywyd a'u hiechyd yn gyffredinol.

Yn y gyllideb ar gyfer addysg a dysgu gydol oes, gwelwch y £78 miliwn y cyfeiriwyd ato yn yr wythnosau diwethaf. Mae lwfansau cynhaliaeth addysg yn bwysig ac mae'r rhain, hefyd, yn ganlyniad i gydweithio rhwng dwy Lywodraeth—yn San Steffan ac yng Nghymru—i gynnig cyfleoedd i deuluoedd a phobl ifanc sydd ar incwm is sydd am fynd i

access higher education and who need support.

Janet Ryder: Are you saying—as the Labour Party repeatedly says—that the only reason that we are doing well in Wales is because we have a Labour Government here and in Westminster? On education maintenance allowances, are you saying that, should Governments of different political colours be elected in Wales and Westminster, Westminster would cease to fund them?

Peter Law: I am not saying that; I am saying that we can rejoice in the fact that we have a Labour Government in Westminster and in Wales, and that they are working together to provide £78 million for education maintenance allowances, which you should be welcoming, rather than criticising. Another wonderful, Labour Party flagship policy will be implemented next year, when prescription charges will be reduced to £4. This is important in realising our aim of providing free prescriptions for all.

In the economic development budget, I am delighted to see £27 million in regeneration funding for disadvantaged areas in Wales. Of that, £12 million is for the Heads of the Valleys areas. I was delighted to hear that announced by the Minister last week. I measure this, of course, against how much comes into Cardiff bay, as you knew I would, Minister. We need an awful lot more in the Heads of the Valleys area to be able to do what you want to do, and what you have ably started to do. It is delightful to see extra money for the trunk road programme, as we all have trunk roads that need improving. I repeat that we need to see the Heads of the Valleys trunk road programme being accelerated as soon as possible, now that you have started so well and have opened the first phase.

In respect of the local government budget, it is pleasing that the Minister has once again recognised the value of the deprivation grant, and increased it by 5 per cent. That grant is vital to deprived communities throughout

addysg uwch ac sydd ag angen cymorth.

Janet Ryder: A ydych yn dweud—fel y dywed y Blaid Lafur dro ar ôl tro—mai'r unig reswm yr ydym yn gwneud yn dda yng Nghymru yw bod gennym Lywodraeth Lafur yma ac yn San Steffan? Gyda golwg ar lwfansau cynhaliaeth addysg, a ydych yn dweud, os etholir Llywodraethau o liwiau gwleidyddol gwahanol yng Nghymru a San Steffan, y byddai San Steffan yn rhoi'r gorau i dalu amdanynt?

Peter Law: Nid hynny yr wyf yn ei ddweud; yr wyf yn dweud y gallwn ymlawenhau yn y ffaith bod gennym Lywodraeth Lafur yn San Steffan ac yng Nghymru, a'u bod yn cydweithio i ddarparu £78 miliwn ar gyfer lwfansau cynhaliaeth addysg, y dylech eu croesawu, yn hytrach na'u beirniadu. Bydd polisi pwysig ardderchog arall o eiddo'r Blaid Lafur yn cael ei roi ar waith y flwyddyn nesaf, pan ostyngir taliadau presgripsiwn i £4. Mae hynny'n bwysig o ran cyrraedd ein nod o gynnig presgripsiynau am ddim i bawb.

Yn y gyllideb ar gyfer datblygu economaidd, yr wyf yn falch o weld £27 miliwn ar ffurf cyllid adfywio ar gyfer ardaloedd difreintiedig yng Nghymru. O hynny, mae £12 miliwn ar gyfer ardaloedd Blaenau'r Cymoedd. Yr oeddwn wrth fy modd o glywed cyhoeddi hynny gan y Gweinidog yr wythnos diwethaf. Cymharaf hynny, wrth gwrs, â'r hyn a ddaw i fae Caerdydd, fel y gwyddech y gwnawn, Weinidog. Mae arnom angen llawer yn rhagor yn ardal Blaenau'r Cymoedd i gyflawni'r hyn a ddymunwch, a'r hyn yr ydych wedi dechrau'i wneud yn fedrus. Peth ardderchog yw gweld arian ychwanegol ar gyfer y rhaglen cefnffyrdd, gan fod gennym oll gefnffyrdd y mae angen eu gwella. Dywedaf eto fod rhaid cyflymu'r gwaith ar raglen cefnffyrdd Blaenau'r Cymoedd cyn gynted ag y bo modd, gan eich wedi bod wedi dechrau mor dda ac wedi agor y rhan gyntaf.

Gyda golwg ar y gyllideb ar gyfer llywodraeth leol, mae'n beth braf bod y Gweinidog wedi cydnabod eto mor werthfawr yw'r grant amddifadedd, ac wedi'i godi o 5 y cant. Mae'r grant hwnnw'n

Wales and shows the commitment of this Government to dealing with deprivation and to trying to improve the quality of life of people who suffer from poverty and exclusion. That 5 per cent increase will be welcomed by authorities facing those difficulties, as will the 2.5 per cent increase in the performance incentive grant for local authorities, which work hard, in unison with this Government, to try to ensure that policy agreements work to improve the quality of services. Also, due to the good relationship between the Chancellor and our Finance Minister, the £13.4 million coming back here for the local authority business growth incentive scheme is excellent.

Additional to this is the £150 million increase in the social justice and regeneration budget over the next three years, which will target issues such as substance misuse, for which an additional £19 million is provided. That is important, because we are targeting young people in deprived areas who need our help. This budget is for all the people of Wales. It is to be warmly welcomed and it will make a great impact in improving our quality of life.

Alun Cairns: Having heard the comments made by the Minister and the Member for Blaenau Gwent, I hope to speak some sense. From listening to them, it would seem that there will be enormous improvements in the quality of public services as a result of increased spending. There has been increased spending over the past five years; we acknowledge that, because the facts are clear. However, we have not seen the improvements in public services that the Minister and the Member for Blaenau Gwent have mentioned. Before I expose the weaknesses within the budget and in terms of delivery, I will highlight the fact that the Minister has committed funding for future years when she knows that it will be almost impossible for the Chancellor to stick to his spending round. He will break his golden rule, as all independent observers have predicted, although he was denying that in the press on Sunday. Burying his head in the sand will not change the situation. It would be useful to know whether the Minister has a contingency plan. If Gordon Brown decides

hollbwysig i gymunedau difreintiedig ledled Cymru a dengys ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth hon i ddelio ag amddifadedd a cheisio gwella ansawdd bywyd y rhai sy'n dioddef gan dlodi ac allgáu. Croesewir y cynnydd hwnnw o 5 y cant gan awdurdodau sy'n wynebu'r anawsterau hynny, ynghyd â'r 2.5 y cant o gynnydd yn y grant cymell perfformiad i awdurdodau lleol, sy'n gweithio'n galed, ar y cyd â'r Llywodraeth hon, i geisio sicrhau bod cytundebau ar bolisi'n fodd i wella ansawdd gwasanaethau. Hefyd, oherwydd y berthynas dda rhwng y Canghellor a'n Gweinidog Cyllid, cawn £13.4 miliwn yn ôl ar gyfer cynllun yr awdurdodau lleol i gymell twf busnesau, ac mae hynny'n beth rhagorol.

Yn ogystal â hynny, ceir £150 miliwn yn fwy yn y gyllideb ar gyfer cyfiawnder cymdeithasol ac adfywio dros y tair blynedd nesaf, a ddefnyddir i dargedu materion fel camdefnyddio sylweddau, y darparwyd £19 miliwn ychwanegol ar ei gyfer. Mae hynny'n bwysig, gan ein bod yn targedu pobl ifanc mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig y mae arnynt angen ein cymorth. Cyllideb ar gyfer holl bobl Cymru yw hon. Dylid ei chroesawu'n frwd a chaiff effaith fawr o ran gwella ein hansawdd bywyd.

Alun Cairns: Ar ôl clywed y sylwadau gan y Gweinidog a'r Aelod dros Flaenau Gwent, gobeithiaf siarad yn synhwyrol. O wrando arnynt hwy, ymddengys y bydd gwelliannau enfawr yn ansawdd gwasanaethau cyhoeddus o ganlyniad i wariant mwy. Bu cynnydd yn y gwariant dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf; yr ydym yn cydnabod hynny, gan fod y ffeithiau'n glir. Er hynny, ni welsom y gwelliannau mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus y mae'r Gweinidog a'r Aelod dros Flaenau Gwent wedi cyfeirio atynt. Cyn imi ddangos y gwendiau yn y gyllideb a'r dulliau o'i chyflawni, tynnaf sylw at y ffaith bod y Gweinidog wedi neilltuo cyllid ar gyfer blynyddoedd y dyfodol tra gŵyr y bydd bron yn amhosibl i'r Canghellor ddal at ei gylch gwariant. Bydd yn torri ei reol aur, fel y mae'r holl sylwebyddion annibynnol wedi ei ragweld, er iddo wadu hynny yn y wasg ddydd Sul. Ni fydd yn gallu newid y sefyllfa drwy guddio ei ben yn y tywod. Byddai'n fuddiol cael gwybod a oes gan y Gweinidog gynllun wrth gefn, Os penderfyna Gordon Brown na fydd yn glynu wrth yr hyn a eilw'n

not to stick to what he calls the golden rule, and if there are cuts in the budget from central Government, it would be useful to know where the Minister will make cuts. It is quite obvious that the Chancellor cannot continue to spend on that basis.

The hallmark of this administration, and of that in Westminster, is that they are spend more, deliver less, governments. Health is the key issue that most people in Wales are concerned about, because we have the longest waiting lists in the UK and Europe by an enormous amount. Although spending on health has increased by 50 per cent over the past five years, the number of operations and treatments under the health service has remained static. That is not value for money and that is the hallmark of this administration. We would welcome any increased spend on these issues that the Minister promises, but we would much prefer to see that money being used in the most efficient way to improve front-line services.

The Welsh Assembly Government, thank goodness, does not have the power to increase direct taxes. That is stated within the Government of Wales Act 1998, and those limits have been placed on this organisation. However, the Government does have enormous influence on council tax levels within the principality. The rebanding exercise, in addition to the enormous increases over recent years, will push council tax to unprecedented levels in Wales. There has been a 3.7 per cent increase in the revenue support grant in areas such as the Vale of Glamorgan, which, when you consider inflation, the pension shortfall and the teachers' workload agreement, will not come anywhere near what is needed to deliver the obligations that have been placed on local authorities. I attended a Stuart's Campaign meeting last night, during which some clear, common-sense objectives for improving safety were highlighted. However, in reality, the Vale of Glamorgan Council does not have the resources to introduce the changes that it wishes to introduce. It is leading the way in terms of the changes that it has made to improve school transport safety—other local authorities have made changes, but not all of them—but it is costing

rheol aur, ac os ceir toriadau yn y gyllideb oddi wrth Lywodraeth ganolog, byddai'n fuddiol cael gwybod ym mhle y gwnaiff y Gweinidog doriadau. Mae'n gwbl amlwg na all y Canghellor barhau i wario ar y sail honno.

Nod amgen y weinyddiaeth hon, a'r un yn San Steffan, yw eu bod yn gwario mwy ac yn cyflawni llai. Iechyd yw'r pwnc allweddol y mae'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yng Nghymru'n pryderu yn ei gylch, oherwydd gennym ni y mae'r rhestrau aros hwyaf o lawer yn y DU ac Ewrop. Er bod 50 y cant yn fwy wedi'i wario ar iechyd dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf, mae nifer y llawdriniaethau a thriniaethau o dan y gwasanaeth iechyd wedi aros yn ei unfan. Nid gwerth am arian yw peth felly a dyna nod amgen y weinyddiaeth hon. Croesawem unrhyw gynnydd yn y gwariant ar y materion hyn a addewir gan y Gweinidog, ond byddai'n well o lawer gennym weld defnyddio'r arian hwnnw yn y modd mwyaf effeithlon i wella gwasanaethau yn y rheng flaen.

Nid yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn meddu ar bŵer i gynyddu trethi uniongyrchol, diolch byth. Datgenir hynny yn Neddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, ac mae'r cyfyngiadau hynny wedi'u gosod ar y corff hwn. Er hynny, caiff y Llywodraeth ddylanwad enfawr ar lefelau'r dreth gyngor yn y dywysogaeth. Bydd yr ailfandio, yn ogystal â'r codiadau enfawr dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, yn gwthio'r dreth gyngor i lefelau na welwyd eu tebyg yng Nghymru. Mae'r grant cynnal refeniw wedi codi 3.7 y cant mewn ardaloedd fel Bro Morgannwg, ac, wrth ystyried chwyddiant, y diffyg mewn pensiynau a'r cytundeb ynghylch llwyth gwaith athrawon, gwelir y bydd hynny ymhell o fod yn ddigon i gyflawni'r rhwymedigaethau a osodwyd ar awdurdodau lleol. Bûm mewn cyfarfod gan Ymgyrch Stuart neithiwr, pan dynnwyd sylw at rai amcanion clir a synhwyrol i wella diogelwch. Fodd bynnag, mewn gwirionedd, nid oes digon o adnoddau gan Gyngor Bro Morgannwg i gyflwyno'r newidiadau y mae'n eu dymuno. Mae'n arwain y ffordd yng nghyd-destun y newidiadau a wnaeth i wella diogelwch ar gludiant i'r ysgol—mae awdurdodau lleol eraill wedi gwneud newidiadau, ond nid pob un ohonynt—ond

an enormous sum of money. It is about time that the administration assisted in funding that to improve pupil transport safety.

My key point relates to the Welsh Development Agency budget, which remains static for the next three years according to this budget. There are two issues in that respect. There will be inflationary effects over the coming years and there will be greater costs as a result of the merger of the WDA with the Welsh Assembly Government, even if there will be long-term savings over the next three years. I hope that the Minister will highlight which of the agency's core services she expects will see a cut in funding. Which companies that would normally have received grants will not receive them now as a result of the budget and the Welsh Assembly Government's policies? Similarly, the Pathways to Prosperity budget remains static—£19 million over the years to come. It is interesting to note how that budget has fluctuated several times over recent years, but there will be more to say on that when the Minister responds openly and frankly to the questions that have been tabled on this matter. Finally, the Minister highlighted a picture of a healthy economy—

5.00 p.m.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I am sorry, Alun, your time is up. You have not taken an intervention, therefore I must ask you to sit down.

Irene James: I will direct my comments, in the main, to the education budget line. I am pleased to welcome the provisions in this budget, which provide substantial funding for education in order to tackle poverty and invest in prosperity for future generations. The biggest appeasement of social injustice is educational inequality, an inequality that Labour is on course to abolish. Our strategic vision for Wales, set out in 'Wales: A Better Country', sets our agenda for ensuring that all our children and future generations enjoy better prospects in life. That promise, made to the people of Wales, is reflected in these budget spending priorities: an extra £93 million for early years and pupil support in

mae'n costio swm anferth o arian. Mae'n hen bryd i'r weinyddiaeth hon roi cymorth ariannol tuag at hynny er mwyn gwella diogelwch yn y cludiant ar gyfer disgyblion.

Mae'r prif bwynt sydd gennyf yn ymwneud â chyllideb Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, a fydd yn aros yn sefydlog dros y tair blynedd nesaf yn ôl y gyllideb hon. Mae dau fater yn codi yn hynny o beth. Ceir effeithiau oherwydd chwyddiant dros y blyneddoddedd i ddod a bydd mwy o gostau o ganlyniad i uno'r WDA â Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, hyd yn oed os ceir arbedion tymor hir dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn nodi ym mha wasanaethau craidd o eiddo'r awdurdod y mae'n disgwyl y ceir cwtogi ar gyllid. Pa gwmnïau â gâi grantiau fel arfer na fyddant yn eu derbyn yn awr o ganlyniad i'r gyllideb a pholisïau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru? Yn yr un modd, mae'r gyllideb ar gyfer Ffyrdd i Ffyniant yn aros yn ei hunfan—£19 miliwn dros y blyneddoddedd sydd i ddod. Diddorol yw nodi bod y gyllideb honno wedi newid sawl gwaith dros y blyneddoddedd diwethaf, ond bydd rhagor i'w ddweud am hynny pan fydd y Gweinidog yn ymateb yn agored ac yn onest i'r cwestiynau a gyflwynwyd ar y mater hwn. Yn olaf, gwnaeth y Gweinidog bortreadu economi iach—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Alun, mae'ch amser ar ben. Nid ydych wedi derbyn ymyriad, felly rhaid imi ofyn ichi eistedd.

Irene James: Ymdriniaf yn bennaf â'r llinell gyllideb ar gyfer addysg. Yr wyf yn falch o groesawu'r darpariaethau yn y gyllideb hon, sy'n cynnig cyllid sylweddol ar gyfer addysg er mwyn mynd i'r afael â thlodi a buddsoddi mewn ffyniant ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol. Y rhwystr mwyaf i gyfiawnder cymdeithasol yw anghydraddoldeb mewn addysg, ac mae Llafur ar fedr ei ddileu. Mae ein gweledigaeth strategol ar gyfer Cymru, a nodir yn 'Cymru: Gwlad Well', yn pennu ein hagenda i sicrhau y bydd ein holl blant a chenedlaethau'r dyfodol yn cael gwell rhagolygon mewn bywyd. Mae'r addewid honno, a roddwyd i bobl Cymru, wedi'i hadlewyrchu yn y blaenoriaethau ar gyfer

the next three years, an extra £30 million per year for 14 to 19 learning in Wales, £78 million for education maintenance allowances—with funding from a Labour Government in Westminster—and £588 million for school buildings.

We are tackling the inequalities of poverty, funding free breakfasts for school pupils, allowing more time for teachers to spend teaching and more time for pupils to spend learning, and we are improving the learning environment by investing in schools and colleges across Wales. We are increasing participation, and encouraging young people to continue in education. We have a renewed agenda for 14 to 19 learning in Wales, a new Welsh baccalaureate, and a skills and training action plan. We are ensuring access to further and higher education, and equality of opportunity, through support for students.

Janet Ryder: Will you answer two questions? On increasing accessibility, ELWA and colleges agree that there is nowhere near enough money in this budget to adapt all buildings so that they are accessible to disabled people. How do you answer that? On increasing access to higher education on equal terms, evidence from all over the world shows that the introduction of fees prevents people from lower financial backgrounds from applying for higher education. How are you going to provide a level playing field, if you introduce fees?

Irene James: We have already answered that question, because we have said that more students from less well-off families are going to university.

As I have already indicated, equality of educational opportunity is the best distributor of social justice: it is the path out of poverty. Investing in early years is key to overcoming endemic second and third-generation unemployment, low academic achievement, and the cycles of poverty that are most prevalent in the most deprived upper Valleys communities. Funding is vital to establish a

gwariant yn y gyllideb hon: £93 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer y blynyddoedd cynnar a chymorth i ddisgyblion yn y tair blynedd nesaf, £30 miliwn yn ychwanegol bob blwyddyn ar gyfer dysgu gan rai 14 i 19 oed yng Nghymru, £78 miliwn ar gyfer lwfansau cynhaliath addysg—gyda chyllid oddi wrth Lywodraeth Lafur yn San Steffan—a £588 miliwn ar gyfer adeiladau ysgol.

Yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau sy'n ganlyniad i dlodi, gan ariannu brecwastau am ddim i ddisgyblion ysgol, a chaniatáu mwy o amser ar gyfer dysgu gan athrawon a chan ddisgyblion, ac yr ydym yn gwella'r amgylchedd ar gyfer dysgu drwy fuddsoddi mewn ysgolion a cholegau ledled Cymru. Yr ydym yn sicrhau bod mwy yn cyfranogi, ac yn cymell pobl ifanc i barhau â'u haddysg. Mae gennym agenda newydd ar gyfer dysgu gan rai 14 i 19 oed yng Nghymru, bagloriaeth Cymru newydd, a chynllun gweithredu ar sgiliau a hyfforddi. Yr ydym yn sicrhau mynediad i addysg bellach ac uwch, a chyfle cyfartal, drwy roi cymorth i fyfyrwyr.

Janet Ryder: A wnewch ateb dau gwestiwn? Ynghylch hygyrchedd, mae ELWA a'r colegau'n cytuno bod yr arian sydd yn y gyllideb hon ymhell o fod yn ddigon i addasu'r holl adeiladau fel y gall pobl anabl fynd iddynt. Beth yw'ch ateb i hynny? Ynghylch ehangu mynediad cyfartal i addysg uwch, mae tystiolaeth o bob rhan o'r byd yn dangos bod cyflwyno ffioedd yn atal rhai o gefndiroedd ariannol is rhag ymgeisio i fynd i addysg uwch. Sut y byddwch yn sicrhau tegwch, os cyflwynwch ffioedd?

Irene James: Yr ydym eisoes wedi ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw, oherwydd dywedasom fod mwy o fyfyrwyr o deuluoedd llai cefnog yn mynd i brifysgol.

Fel y nodais eisoes, cyfle cyfartal mewn addysg yw'r modd gorau i hyrwyddo cyfiawnder cymdeithasol: mae'n cynnig llwybr allan o dlodi. Mae buddsoddi yn y blynyddoedd cynnar yn hollbwysig i oresgyn diweithdra endemig yn yr ail a'r drydedd genhedlaeth, cyflawniad academiaidd isel, a'r cylchoedd tlodi sy'n fwyaf cyffredin yng nghymunedau blaenau'r Cymoedd. Mae'n

cross-cutting approach to prosperity that bridges every portfolio to ensure that young people are instilled with ambition, high aspirations, and confidence, and, most of all, are given the opportunity, the strength and the direction to make the most of their talents.

This budget grasps the opportunity to start young people off on the right foot, and keep them on the right path. Investing in our young people guarantees the most valuable return on the Assembly budget, bringing Wales 'the prosperous country' ever closer.

Jenny Randerson: I will concentrate on the changes between this budget and the draft budget. There have been many technical changes, although nothing fundamental has changed. We have come to expect technical changes, but the extent of these changes is worrying, given the fundamental review that is supposed to have taken place. In the Economic Development and Transport Committee not only did we not comment on the number of changes, but we commented on the errors in the budget.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome the decision by the Labour Assembly Government to publish the PFI funding stream as a stand-alone budget line. This undoubtedly increases the budget's transparency, but it is a pity that it was not included in the original draft. However, I ask the Minister to explain why the spending on PFI moves in such a curious set of fits and starts. If one is to have a strategic direction on PFI, one must have a more even budget line.

The final budget is the story of things that were missing the first time round. Unfortunately, there is a lot still missing. For instance, we know that money will be taken out of reserves to pay for the council tax rebanding transitional scheme, but this does not seem to feature. We know that the Government's election pledges on free swimming for older people and free school breakfasts will also be funded from reserves, but there is not so much as an estimate of how much these schemes will cost. This is illogical and inconsistent. Last week, the First Minister conceded that many demand-led

hollbwysig cael cyllid i sicrhau dull trawsbynciol o hybu ffyniant sy'n pontio pob portffolio er mwyn ennyn uchelgais a hyder mewn pobl ifanc ac, yn bwysicaf oll, er mwyn rhoi cyfle, cryfder a chyfeiriad iddynt fel y gallant fanteisio i'r eithaf ar eu talentau.

Mae'r gyllideb hon yn achub ar y cyfle i roi cychwyn cadarn i bobl ifanc, a'u cadw ar y trywydd iawn. Buddsoddi yn ein pobl ifanc fydd yn gwarantu'r elw mwyaf o gyllideb y Cynulliad, gan ddod â Chymru 'y wlad ffyniannus' yn nesnes o hyd.

Jenny Randerson: Canolbwyntiaf ar y newidiadau a wnaed rhwng y gyllideb ddrafft a'r gyllideb hon. Bu llawer o newidiadau technegol, er na fu unrhyw newid sylfaenol. Daethom i ddisgwyl newidiadau technegol, ond mae graddau'r newidiadau hyn yn peri pryder, yng ngolwg y ffaith bod adolygiad sylfaenol wedi digwydd, yn ôl y sôn. Yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, ni wnaethom sylw am nifer y newidiadau, ond gwnaethom sylw am y camgymeriadau yn y gyllideb.

Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu penderfyniad Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i gyhoeddi'r ffrwd ariannu ar gyfer mentrau cyllid preifat fel llinell gyllideb ar wahân. Yn sicr, mae hyn yn peri i'r gyllideb fod yn fwy tryloyw, ond mae'n drueni na chafodd ei chynnwys yn y drafft gwreiddiol. Fodd bynnag, gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog egluro pam y mae'r gwariant ar PFI yn symud bob yn ail â pheidio mewn modd mor rhyfedd. Os yw PFI i'w ddefnyddio'n strategol, rhaid cael llinell gyllideb fwy gwastad.

Mae'r gyllideb derfynol yn dangos y pethau a fethwyd y tro cyntaf. Gwaetha'r modd, mae llawer ar goll o hyd. Er enghraifft, gwyddom y cymerir arian o'r cronfeydd wrth gefn i dalu am y cynllun trosiannol ar gyfer ailfandio'r dreth gyngor, ond nid oes golwg o hynny. Gwyddom y bydd addewidion etholiad y Llywodraeth ar nofio am ddim i bobl hŷn a brecwastau am ddim yn yr ysgol hefyd yn cael eu hariannu o'r cronfeydd wrth gefn, ond nid oes cymaint ag amcangyfrif o gost y cynlluniau hyn. Mae hynny'n afresymegol ac yn anghyson. Yr wythnos diwethaf, cyfaddefodd y Prif Weinidog fod

budgets, such as the student support budget, are based on estimates. Therefore, if it is good enough to include student funding on this basis, why is it not good enough to include free school breakfasts? One has to wonder whether it is because the Government is afraid to admit prior to a general election how much this will cost.

A further question relates to the increases in the main expenditure group for central administration. The notes on this say that the increases are intended to pay for new areas of work. What are these areas of work and why have they suddenly appeared since the draft budget? The most prominent example is the removal of yet more money from the funding allocated to student support. This has decreased from £43 million to £39 million, and another £800,000 is to be transferred to central administration. Why is this being allocated to central administration? Bit by bit, budget by budget, student support funding is being whittled away. The First Minister may say that it is a demand-led budget, but if the money is not being spent and is being set aside for this purpose, this is a golden opportunity to increase the amount given to individual students via the Assembly learning grant.

I also question the 11 per cent increase in the Wales Office budget. This may be a relatively small amount, but it is still £0.5 million that could be spent on a hospital or a school rather than on yet more policy advisers for Peter Hain, or maybe it is to pay for someone to carry his bag when he goes on trade missions abroad on behalf of the First Minister, who has to stay here to vote. The number of staff at the Wales Office has already leapt from 34 to 50 since 1999. The Labour Assembly Government asked for seven Bills this year, but only got two. To give the Wales Office more money, therefore, seems to be rewarding failure. The big question is whether the Wales Office needs this money in order to deliver the big Bill that we all need that will give Wales a proper parliament. I doubt it somehow.

The biggest increase is in the revenue support grant. We welcome the fact that several

llawer o gyllidebau a arweinir gan y galw, fel y gyllideb ar gyfer cymorth i fyfyrwyr, yn seiliedig ar amcangyfrifon. Felly, os yw'n ddigon da cynnwys cyllid i fyfyrwyr ar y sail honno, pam nad yw'n ddigon da i gynnwys brecwastau am ddim yn yr ysgol? Rhaid i rywun ofyn a yw felly am fod ar y Llywodraeth ofn cyfaddef cost hynny o flaen etholiad cyffredinol.

Mae'r cwestiwn nesaf sydd gennyf yn ymwneud â'r cynnydd yn y prif grŵp gwariant ar gyfer gweinyddiaeth ganolog. Yn y nodiadau ar hyn, dywedir mai pwrpas y codiadau yw talu am feysydd gwaith newydd. Pa feysydd gwaith yw'r rhain a pham eu bod wedi ymddangos yn sydyn ers y gyllideb ddrafft? Yr enghraifft amlycaf yw tynnu rhagor o arian eto o'r cyllid a ddyrannwyd ar gyfer cymorth i fyfyrwyr. Mae hwnnw wedi gostwng o £43 miliwn i £39 miliwn, ac mae £800,000 arall i'w drosglwyddo i faes gweinyddiaeth ganolog. Pam y'i dyrennir i weinyddiaeth ganolog? Fesul tipyn, fesul cyllideb, mae'r cyllid ar gyfer cymorth i fyfyrwyr yn cael ei gwtogi. Gallai'r Prif Weinidog ddweud mai cyllideb a arweinir gan y galw yw hon, ond os na chaiff yr arian ei wario ac os yw'n cael ei neilltuo i'r diben hwn, dyma gyfle euraidd i roi mwy i fyfyrwyr unigol drwy grant dysgu'r Cynulliad.

Yr wyf hefyd yn cwestiynu'r cynnydd o 11 y cant yng nghyllideb Swyddfa Cymru. Efallai mai swm cymharol fach yw hwn, ac eto mae'n swm o £0.5 miliwn y gellid ei wario ar ysbyty neu ysgol yn hytrach nag ar fwy byth o gynghorwyr polisi i Peter Hain, neu efallai ei fod yn dâl i rywun gario ei fag pan aiff ar deithiau masnach i wledydd tramor ar ran y Prif Weinidog, sy'n gorfod aros yma i bleidleisio. Mae nifer y staff yn Swyddfa Cymru eisoes wedi neidio o 34 i 50 er 1999. Gofynnodd Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad am saith Mesur eleni, ond ni chafodd ond dau. Felly, ymddengys mai rhoi gwobr am fethiant a wneir wrth roi mwy o arian i Swyddfa Cymru. Y cwestiwn pwysig yw a oes ar Swyddfa Cymru angen yr arian hwnnw er mwyn sicrhau'r Mesur pwysig y mae ar bob un ohonom ei angen fel y caiff Cymru senedd iawn. Yr wyf yn amau hynny rywsut.

Y cynnydd mwyaf yw hwnnw yn y grant cynnal refeniw. Croesawn y ffaith bod sawl

funding lines have been incorporated into this to give local authorities more flexibility, but it is important to note that this does not mean an overall increase in local government funding. In Cardiff and Wrexham, which will only have a 3.5 per cent increase, council tax payers will be badly hit because this will not cover inflationary pressures or new responsibilities. The Minister has a high level of reserves and I ask her to reconsider the RSG and local government. Put free school breakfasts on the back burner—if I dare use that phrase—and give the money to local authorities to spend according to their priorities.

Elin Jones: Er bod y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth wedi datgan anfodlodrwydd â'r diffyg cynnydd yng nghyllideb ddrafft datblygu economaidd dros y tair blynedd nesaf, ni wnaed newidiadau i'r gyllideb derfynol. Bydd cyllideb gyfan y Llywodraeth yn cynyddu dros y tair blynedd nesaf gan ryw 20 y cant, a bydd y gyllideb datblygu economaidd ond yn cynyddu gan 5 y cant.

5.10 p.m.

Ym mlwyddyn 2, bydd ond yn cynyddu gan 0.8 y cant, ac, erbyn blwyddyn 3 o'r gyllideb, dim ond 0.5 y cant yw'r cynnydd. Gyda chwyddiant, bydd cyllideb datblygu economaidd y Llywodraeth hon yn gostwng mewn termau real rhwng 2006 a 2008. Yn ogystal â hynny, bydd cyllidebau Bwrdd Croeso Cymru ac Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn cael eu rhewi, ac mae gennyf bryder y bydd gweithgaredd rhagweithiol y ddwy asiantaeth hon yn sefyll yn stond am y 18 mis nesaf tra bod yr ad-drefnu gweinyddol yn cymryd blaenoriaeth.

Mae'n amlwg y bydd cynnydd sylweddol mewn rhai cyllidebau, yn enwedig y gyllideb iechyd, ond mae'n rhaid cofio mai pwrpas llawer o'r buddsoddiad hwn yw rheoli gwendidau cenedlaethol—gallwch hyd yn oed alw hyn yn ddirywiad. Fel y cyfeiriodd cyn Aelod Llafur yn y Siambr hon ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl, mae'n anghyfrifol i osod y pwyslais o fuddsoddiad bron yn gyfan gwbl ar reoli dirywiad tra'n anwybyddu yr angen i fuddsoddi yn y meysydd a fydd yn cyfrannu

llinell ariannu wedi'u cynnwys ynddo er mwyn rhoi mwy o hyblygrwydd i awdurdodau lleol, ond mae'n bwysig nodi nad yw hynny'n golygu y ceir cynnydd cyffredinol yn y cyllid ar gyfer llywodraeth leol. Yng Nghaerdydd a Wrecsam, na fyddant ond yn cael 3.5 y cant yn fwy, bydd talwyr y dreth gyngor yn cael ergyd drom gan na fydd hyn yn ddigon i dalu am bwysau oherwydd chwyddiant neu gyfrifoldebau newydd. Mae gan y Gweinidog lawer yn y cronfeydd wrth gefn a gofynnaf iddi ailystyried y grant cynnal refeniw a llywodraeth leol. Gohiriwch frecwestau am ddim yn yr ysgol a rhowch yr arian i awdurdodau lleol i'w wario yn ôl eu blaenoriaethau.

Elin Jones: Despite the fact that the Economic Development and Transport Committee stated its dissatisfaction with the insufficient increase in the draft economic development budget for the next three years, no changes were made to the final budget. The Government's overall budget will increase over the next three years by around 20 per cent, and the economic development budget will increase by only 5 per cent.

In the second year of the budget, it will only increase by 0.8 per cent and by the third year of the budget, the increase will be only 0.5 per cent. With inflation, this Government's economic development budget will decrease in real terms between 2006 and 2008. In addition to that, the budgets of the Wales Tourist Board and the Welsh Development Agency will be frozen, and I am concerned that the proactive activity of these two agencies will stand still for the next 18 months while the administrative reorganisation takes priority.

It is clear that there will be a significant increase in some budgets, particularly the health budget, but we must remember that the purpose of much of this investment is to manage national weaknesses—you could even call it decline. As a former Labour Member said in this Chamber a few years ago, it is irresponsible to place the emphasis of investment almost entirely on controlling decline while ignoring the need to invest in the areas that will contribute to making a

at greu gwlad sydd yn gryfach ac sydd yn fwy hunangynhaliol i'r dyfodol.

stronger, more self-sufficient country for the future.

Mae gostyngiad real yn y gyllideb datblygu economaidd rhwng 2006 a 2008 yn dangos diffyg ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth hon i greu economi lwyddiannus. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn llawer rhy hunanfodlon os yw'n meddwl am funud y byddai buddsoddiad y gorffennol yn ddigonol i sicrhau'r gwelliant y mae ei angen yn yr economi Gymreig.

The real decrease in the economic development budget between 2006 and 2008 shows this Government's lack of commitment to creating a successful economy. This Government is far too self-satisfied if it thinks for one minute that the investment of the past is sufficient to ensure the step-up that we need in the Welsh economy.

Mae'r ystadegau diweddaraf yn dangos bod problemau difrifol yn parhau yn yr economi ac nid yw polisi'r Llywodraeth hon er 1999 wedi cynnig atebion, cyflawni canlyniadau na chwrdd â'r targedau. Mae'r nifer o bobl mewn cyflogaeth wedi cwmpo 13,000 dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf yng Nghymru. Cafwyd cwmp hefyd o 11,000 yn nifer y bobl sydd yn weithredol economaidd, ac, o gofio'r holl flaenoriaeth a chyllid y mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi neilltuo i entrepreneuriaeth, gwelwyd cwmp o 28,000, sef 15 y cant, yn nifer y swyddi hunangyflogedig sydd wedi'u cofnodi rhwng Mehefin 2003 a Mehefin 2004.

The most recent statistics show that serious problems remain in the economy, and this Government's policy since 1999 has not offered solutions, achieved results or met the targets. The number of people in employment has fallen by 13,000 over the past year in Wales. There was also a fall of 11,000 in the number of people who are economically active, and, bearing in mind the priority and budget that this Government has set aside for entrepreneurship, there was a drop of 28,000, or 15 per cent, in the number of self-employed jobs recorded between June 2003 and June 2004.

Cyd-destun hyn i gyd yw bod y Llywodraeth hon wedi gosod targed o gyrraedd 90 y cant o gynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y Deyrnas Gyfunol erbyn 2010, ac, ar hyn o bryd, yr ydym ar lefel o 78.8 y cant. Mewn cyfnod pan fo ystadegau Cymru yn dangos ar y gorau fod yr economi yn arafu, a phan fo hynny yn groes i'r hyn sydd yn digwydd yn yr economi Brydeinig yn fwy cyffredinol ac mae'r targed o gwrdd â 90 y cant o CMC y DU yn ymddangos ymhellach nag erioed, mae'r Llywodraeth yn cyflwyno cyllideb datblygu economaidd sydd wedi rhewi i bob pwrpas am y tair blynedd nesaf. Synnaf fod y Gweinidog wedi ceisio cyflwyno hon fel cyllideb i hybu'r economi pan fo'r ffigurau yn dangos rhywbeth cwbl wahanol. Nid oes modd i unrhyw un ddadansoddi'r gyllideb hon fel un sydd yn cefnogi economi a busnes. Nid yw'r gyllideb hon yn gwneud dim i sicrhau bod Cymru yn gwella ei sefyllfa economaidd yn y blynyddoedd i ddod.

The context of this is that the Government has set a target to achieve 90 per cent of the UK's gross domestic product by 2010, and we currently stand at 78.8 per cent. At a time when Wales's statistics show at best that the economy is slowing down, and when that is contrary to what is happening in the British economy more generally, and this target of meeting 90 per cent of UK GDP seems further away than ever, the Government presents us with an economic development budget that, to all intents and purposes, is frozen for the next three years. I am surprised that the Minister has tried to present this as a budget that promotes the economy when the figures convey a totally different picture. There is no way that anyone could interpret this budget as being one that supports the economy and business. This budget does nothing to ensure that Wales improves its economic situation in the years to come.

Lisa Francis: As we have heard, it is disappointing that this administration appears to be most comfortable talking about

Lisa Francis: Fel y clywsom, peth siomedig yw gweld ei bod yn well gan y weinyddiaeth hon sôn am wario, yn ôl pob golwg, tra bo'r

spending when delivery falls short and causes problems. Health in Wales is going backwards: hospital waiting lists are spiralling out of control and the British Medical Association has said that doctors are weeping with despair. Third term taxes will go ahead, and people have a right to ask where their money is going. Student debt has doubled under this administration and is set to increase massively with top-up fees. If Labour imposes top-up fees in Wales, Welsh students will see debt in the order of £30,000 each.

Fears are being expressed at the highest level about the future funding of Welsh universities, as it emerges that their counterparts across the border may receive significantly higher increases. The higher education share of the total budget in 2006-07 raises serious concerns about this Government's supposed commitment to the higher-education sector and its supposed determination to create a knowledge-based economy.

With council tax already up by 79 per cent, there is little hope for local authorities. Pinched by the local government settlement, families and those on fixed incomes are reeling from the huge rises and the consequences of rebanding. I also express concern about tourism marketing. A sharp focus must remain on that. The 'Big Country' campaign was a huge success, and if this Government is hell-bent on bringing the Wales Tourist Board in-house, the sharp focus on tourism marketing must continue. The budget raises concerns for rural Wales. The funding for Tir Cymru agri-environment schemes may well be compromised by the lack of Countryside Council for Wales resources to administer them after a budget increase of only 2.2 per cent. We welcome the extra money for TB eradication, but prevention is better than cure. Additional money for animal health is also welcome, but the emphasis must now be on prevention in respect of TB eradication. Gamma interferon testing gives fast and reliable results, and that must be a priority to counteract any further backlog of compensation claims. The increased money for the waste strategy is

gallu i gyflawni'n ddiffygiol ac yn peri problemau. Mae iechyd yng Nghymru'n mynd yn ei ôl: mae rhestrau aros ysbytai'n codi i'r entrychion y tu hwnt i reolaeth a dywedodd Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain fod meddygon yn wylo gan anobaith. Bydd trethi'r trydydd tymor yn mynd yn eu blaen, ac mae gan bobl hawl i ofyn i ble y mae eu harian yn mynd. Mae dyledion ymysg myfyrwyr wedi dyblu o dan y weinyddiaeth hon a disgwylir iddynt gynyddu'n aruthrol pan geir ffioedd ychwanegol. Os bydd Llafur yn gorfodi ffioedd ychwanegol yng Nghymru, bydd myfyrwyr o Gymru yn mynd i ddyledion o tua £30,000 yr un.

Mynegir pryderon ar y lefel uchaf am y dull o gyllido prifysgolion Cymru yn y dyfodol, gan ei bod yn dod yn amlwg y gallai prifysgolion yr ochr draw i'r ffin gael cynnydd mwy o lawer. Yng ngolwg y gyfran o'r gyllideb gyfan a gaiff addysg uwch yn 2006-07, mae pryderon mawr yn codi ynghylch ymrwymiad tybiedig y Llywodraeth hon i'r sector addysg uwch a'i phenderfyniad tybiedig i greu economi sy'n seiliedig ar wybodaeth.

Gan fod y dreth gyngor wedi codi o 79 y cant eisoes, nid oes fawr o obaith i awdurdodau lleol. A hwythau'n ei chael yn anodd yn sgîl y setliad llywodraeth leol, mae teuluoedd a'r rhai ar incwm sefydlog yn simsanu oherwydd y codiadau anferth a chanlyniadau'r ailfandio. Datganaf bryder hefyd ynghylch marchnata ym maes twristiaeth. Rhaid cadw golwg barcud ar hynny. Bu ymgyrch 'Big Country' yn llwyddiannus iawn, ac os yw'r Llywodraeth hon yn benderfynol o ymgorffori Bwrdd Croeso Cymru, rhaid cadw golwg barcud o hyd ar farchnata ym maes twristiaeth. Mae'r gyllideb yn peri pryderon i Gymru wledig. Mae'n ddigon posibl y bydd y cyllid ar gyfer cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd Tir Cymru mewn perygl gan na fydd gan Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru ddigon o adnoddau i'w gweinyddu ac yntau wedi cael cynnydd o ddim ond 2.2 y cant yn y gyllideb. Croesawn yr arian ychwanegol ar gyfer dileu TB, ond gwell atal na gwella. Mae'r arian ychwanegol ar gyfer iechyd anifeiliaid i'w groesawu hefyd, ond rhaid rhoi pwyslais ar atal yn awr mewn cysylltiad â dileu TB. Mae profi am gama interfferon yn rhoi canlyniadau'n gyflym, a'r rheini'n rhai

welcome, but the sad fact is that it may come too late to stop the illegal dumping of hazardous waste and damage to biosecurity.

John Griffiths: In the debate on the draft budget, I raised the possibility of an international development budget. I would like to pursue those ideas for future budgetary provision. I appreciate that time is needed to discuss and think through these ideas, and I would welcome being part of that process. There are important recent developments that must be considered: for example, the establishment by the Scottish Parliament of an international development budget, and also the visit by Gareth Thomas, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development, to the Norwegian Church in the bay. He raised the idea of better co-operation between the devolved administrations in the UK, and the UK Government, in adding value to what happens on the international development front at a UK level. With those recent developments in mind, it is timely that we look at how Wales can be part of taking forward these improvements to international development.

As chair of the all-party group on international development, I am conscious of our efforts to try to establish a greater locus for the Assembly in that regard. Undoubtedly, a budget would be an important step forward. It could do many things—facilitate the exchange of skills and experience between Wales and the developing world, consider the content of the school curriculum, fair trade, procurement policy, corporate responsibility, co-ordination of emergency appeal responses in Wales, and look at how we can help non-governmental organisation capacity. Therefore, much can be done. We could also re-brand some existing budgetary provision, such as that for Dolen Cymru, which has been operating since 1985. It organises teacher exchanges and inputs into school curricula. We could also prioritise one or two countries. Lesotho

dibynadwy, a rhaid rhoi blaenoriaeth i hynny er mwyn gwrthweithio effaith unrhyw ôl-groniad pellach o hawliadau iawndal. Mae'r arian ychwanegol ar gyfer y strategaeth ar wastraff i'w groesawu, ond y gwir trist amdani yw y gallai fod yn rhy hwyr i atal y gwaredu anghyfreithlon ar wastraff peryglus a'r niwed i fioggiogedd.

John Griffiths: Yn y ddatl ar y gyllideb ddrafft, codais y posibilrwydd o gael cyllideb ar gyfer datblygu rhyngwladol. Carwn drafod y syniadau hynny ymhellach ar gyfer darpariaeth yn y gyllideb yn y dyfodol. Sylweddolaf fod angen amser i drafod ac ystyried y syniadau hyn i'r pen, a byddwn yn falch o fod yn rhan o'r broses honno. Cafwyd datblygiadau pwysig yn ddiweddar y mae'n rhaid eu hystyried: er enghraifft, sefydlu cyllideb ar gyfer datblygu rhyngwladol gan Senedd yr Alban, a hefyd ymweliad Gareth Thomas, yr Is-Ysgrifennydd Seneddol dros Ddatblygu Rhyngwladol, â'r Eglwys Norwyaidd yn y bae. Cododd y syniad o gael gwell cydweithredu rhwng y gweinyddiaethau datganoledig yn y DU, a Llywodraeth y DU, wrth ychwanegu gwerth at yr hyn sy'n digwydd o ran datblygu rhyngwladol ar lefel y DU. Gan ddal y datblygiadau diweddar hynny mewn cof, mae'n amserol inni ystyried sut y gall Cymru fod yn rhan o'r gwaith o hyrwyddo'r gwelliannau hyn ym maes datblygu rhyngwladol.

Fel cadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar ddatblygu rhyngwladol, yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'n hymdrechion i geisio sicrhau mwy o le i'r Cynulliad gael gweithredu ar y mater hwnnw. Yn sicr, byddai cael cyllideb yn gam pwysig ymlaen. Gallai gyflawni llawer o bethau—hwyluso cyfnewid sgiliau a phrofiad rhwng Cymru a'r byd sy'n datblygu, ystyried cynnwys y cwricwlwm ysgol, masnachu teg, polisi caffael, cyfrifoldeb corfforaethol, cydlynu ymatebion i apelau argyfwng yng Nghymru, ac ystyried y modd y gallwn hybu gallu cyrff anlywodraethol. Felly, mae llawer y gellir ei wneud. Gallem hefyd ailfrandio rhai o'r darpariaethau a geir yn y gyllideb eisoes, fel honno ar gyfer Dolen Cymru, sy'n gweithredu er 1985. Mae'n trefnu i gyfnewid athrawon ac yn cyfrannu at gwricwla ysgol. Gallem hefyd roi blaenoriaeth i un neu ddwy o wledydd.

would be a prime example.

Wales is part of the prosperous world, with a responsibility to the developing world, and it is timely that we should consider developing this budgetary provision.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Thank you for a succinct speech.

William Graham: The Minister will be well aware of the pressures on local authority budgets. Such pressures do not only come from local authorities, but from community councils and, particularly, police authorities. Chief constables have voiced their concerns about budget shortfalls and the direct impact that that will have on council tax, and the fear of possible capping, and the number of staff on the street fighting crime.

We also have devolved administration for the fire and rescue service, and the requirement to ensure that it is fully funded for equipment and to meet training requirements. We note that the RSG has increased by almost £17 million since the draft budget was published. That is to be welcomed. It appears to incorporate £12 million from flexible care in the health and social services main expenditure group. I ask the Minister to note what was revealed yesterday: one person had to wait 902 days for treatment due to bed blocking. That is outrageous, and I hope that the Minister for Health and Social Services will make some form of statement on that in the Chamber at a later date.

5.20 p.m.

We must ensure that there is sufficient money in that main expenditure group to ensure that there are adequate resources to fund recruitment and retention in social services departments, which are vital throughout Wales, particularly in deprived areas.

Jeff Cuthbert: This budget is all about consolidation and progress—consolidating

Byddai Lesotho yn enghraifft ragorol.

Mae Cymru'n rhan o'r byd ffyniannus, ac mae ganddi gyfrifoldeb tuag at y byd sy'n datblygu, ac mae'n amserol inni ystyried datblygu'r ddarpariaeth hon yn y gyllideb.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Diolch i chi am araith gryno.

William Graham: Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol iawn o'r pwysau sydd ar gyllidebau awdurdodau lleol. Ni dda pwysau o'r fath o du awdurdodau lleol yn unig, ond oddi wrth gynghorau cymuned ac, yn enwedig, oddi wrth awdurdodau heddlu. Mae prif gwnstabiliaid wedi mynegi pryderon ynghylch diffygion mewn cyllidebau a'r effaith uniongyrchol a gaiff hynny ar y dreth gyngor, a'r ofn y gellid cael capio, ac ar nifer y staff ar y stryd sy'n ymladd yn erbyn troseddu.

Mae'r gwaith o weinyddu'r gwasanaeth tân ac achub wedi'i ddatganoli i ni hefyd, a rhaid sicrhau y caiff ei ariannu'n llawn i dalu am offer ac i fodloni gofynion o ran hyfforddi. Nodwn fod y grant cynnal refeniw wedi cynyddu o bron £17 miliwn ers cyhoeddi'r gyllideb ddrafft. Mae hynny i'w groesawu. Ymddengys ei fod yn cynnwys £12 miliwn a drosglwyddwyd oddi wrth ofal hyblyg ym mhrif grŵp gwariant iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog nodi'r hyn a ddatgelwyd ddoe: bu'n rhaid i un person ddisgwyl 902 o ddiwrnodau i gael triniaeth oherwydd blocio gwelyau. Mae hynny'n warthus, a gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn gwneud rhyw fath o ddatganiad ar hynny yn y Siambr yn y dyfodol.

Rhaid inni ofalu bod digon o arian yn y prif grŵp gwariant hwnnw i sicrhau y ceir adnoddau digonol i dalu am recriwtio a chadw staff mewn adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, sy'n hollbwysig ym mhob rhan o Gymru, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig.

Jeff Cuthbert: Atgyfnerthu a chynnydd yw'r hyn sydd dan sylw yn y gyllideb hon—

the Assembly Government's existing achievements and making progress in new fields by setting higher budget levels and driving through greater change and reform. The Assembly Government has a great deal to be proud of, with free breakfasts for primary school children, free swimming for the young and old, abolishing prescription charges by 2007 and ruling out top-up fees in Welsh universities during the Assembly's second term, to name but a few. This budget is therefore delivering on our commitment to give children the best start in life, delivering on our commitment to work with businesses and the unions to develop our skills base, which will, in turn, deliver on Labour's commitment to transform our economy and tackle head on the poverty of aspiration that is all too common in some parts of today's Wales.

Early years education is at the heart of the additional money that the Assembly Government is ploughing into education and lifelong learning over the next three years. This is vital if we are to tackle poverty and social exclusion and ensure that the Wales of tomorrow leaves no-one behind in its march towards economic prosperity and sustainable growth. Nor will it take long to feel the impact of this additional money in every community in Wales, as the introduction of free part-time nursery places shows, along with the new foundation stage for three to seven-year-olds.

Janet Ryder: Since the draft budget was announced, can you explain to me why early years and pupil support lines have taken a cut of £3 million?

Jeff Cuthbert: I daresay that that money has been transferred, but I am sure that the Minister will detail the points. The important issue is that the increase is considerable, for example for Sure Start, which should be welcomed.

The philosophy behind this boost for early years is as simple as it is effective. It has been proven that working with children during these crucial early years helps reduce the long-term problems caused by

atgyfnerthu cyflawniadau presennol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a gwneud cynnydd mewn meysydd newydd drwy bennu cyllidebau uwch a hyrwyddo rhagor o newid a diwygio. Mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad lawer y gall ymfalchïo ynddo, o ystyried brecwastau am ddim i blant ysgolion cynradd, nofio am ddim i'r hen a'r ifanc, dileu taliadau presgripsiwn erbyn 2007 a diystyru ffioedd ychwanegol ym mhrifysgolion Cymru yn ystod ail dymor y Cynulliad, ac enwi dim ond rhai. Gan hynny, mae'r gyllideb hon yn cyflawni ein hymrwymiad i roi'r cychwyn gorau mewn bywyd i blant, yn cyflawni ein hymrwymiad i weithio gyda busnesau a'r undebau i ddatblygu ein sylfaen sgiliau, a fydd, yn ei dro, yn cyflawni ymrwymiad Llafur i weddnewid ein heconomi a mynd i'r afael â'r diffyg uchelgais sy'n rhy gyffredin mewn rhai rhannau o'r Gymu sydd ohoni.

Mae lle canolog i addysg y blynyddoedd cynnar yn yr arian ychwanegol y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei fuddsoddi mewn addysg a dysgu gydol oes dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Mae hynny'n hollbwysig os ydym i fynd i'r afael â thlodi ac allgáu cymdeithasol a sicrhau na fydd Cymru'r dyfodol yn gadael neb ar ôl yn ei hymgais am ffyniant economaidd a thwf cynaliadwy. Buan y teimlir effaith yr arian ychwanegol hwn ym mhob cymuned yng Nghymru, fel y dengys y bwriad i gyflwyno lleoedd rhan amser am ddim mewn meithrinfeydd, ynghyd â'r cyfnod sylfaen newydd ar gyfer rhai tair i saith mlwydd oed.

Janet Ryder: A allwch egluro imi pam y torrwyd £3 miliwn oddi ar y llinellau ar gyfer y blynyddoedd cynnar a chymorth i ddisgyblion ers cyhoeddi'r gyllideb ddrafft?

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae'n debyg gennyf fod yr arian hwnnw wedi'i drosglwyddo, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn manylu ar y pwyntiau hynny. Y peth pwysig yw bod y cynnydd yn un sylweddol, ar gyfer Cychwyn Cadarn er enghraifft, a dylid croesawu hynny.

Mae'r athroniaeth sy'n sail i'r hwb hwn ar gyfer y blynyddoedd cynnar yn un syml ac effeithiol. Profwyd bod gweithio gyda phlant yn ystod y blynyddoedd cynnar hollbwysig hyn yn gymorth i leihau'r problemau tymor

disadvantage, such as low educational outcomes and reduced life chances. Results from similar programmes in the USA have shown that for every \$1 spent in early years, \$7 is spent in better educational outcomes and eventually better jobs and less crime.

This budget, therefore, is an example of the Assembly Government using proven methods to invest in long-term success, and not just remedies for short-term gain. Placing children at the heart of our budget commitments reflects our goal to place them at the heart of our modern communities. Giving young people the best start in life is crucial if we are to end child poverty and social disadvantage, and it is also important if we are to strive forward with our agenda for higher educational achievement and a thriving entrepreneur-driven economy.

The ploughing in of additional millions over the next three years in early years education is a sign that the Assembly Government is putting its money where its mouth is and delivering on its promises to the people of Wales. A free part-time nursery place from September this year and the introduction of the new foundation stage for three to seven-year-olds is key to lifting the poverty of aspiration in our country. The budget will see the continued expansion of the integrated children centres, which are so vital to providing wrap-around care and support in our complex modern society, with sporadic patterns of work. These centres, therefore, will provide essential extra support to parents, such as those who have children with special needs, and help to increase the aspirations of young people throughout Wales. These are clear signs that the Assembly Government views investment in early years as crucial, because if young people enjoy their learning experience, they are far more likely to succeed in learning as they become older.

I welcome the final budget, as the significant increases in education spent on early years provision, combined with the additional £70 million from health to be targeted towards

hir a achosir gan anfantais, fel canlyniadau addysgol isel a llai o gyfleoedd mewn bywyd. Mae canlyniadau o raglenni tebyg yn UDA wedi dangos bod pob \$1 a warir yn y blynyddoedd cynnar yn arwain at wario \$7 drwy gael gwell canlyniadau addysgol a gwell swyddi yn y pen draw a llai o droseddu.

Gan hynny, mae'r gyllideb hon yn enghraifft o'r defnydd o ddulliau profedig gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i fuddsoddi mewn llwyddiant tymor hir, ac nid mewn atebion i gael enillion tymor byr. Drwy roi lle canolog i blant yn ein cyllideb, amlygir ein nod o roi lle canolog iddynt yn ein cymunedau modern. Mae'n hollbwysig rhoi'r cychwyn gorau mewn bywyd i bobl ifanc os ydym i roi terfyn ar dlodi plant ac anfantais gymdeithasol, ac mae hefyd yn bwysig os ydym i hyrwyddo ein hagenda ar gyfer cyflawniadau addysgol uwch ac economi ffyniannus a ysgogir gan entrepreneuriaid.

Drwy fuddsoddi miliynau ychwanegol dros y tair blynedd nesaf yn addysg y blynyddoedd cynnar, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dangos ei bod yn rhoi ei harian ar ei gair ac yn cyflawni ei haddewidion i bobl Cymru. Mae'r bwriad i gynnig lle rhan amser am ddim mewn meithrinfa o fis Medi eleni ac i gyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen newydd ar gyfer rhai tair i saith mlwydd oed yn hollbwysig er mwyn dileu tlodi ac ennyn uchelgais yn ein gwlad. Bydd y gyllideb yn sicrhau y bydd y canolfannau plant integredig yn dal i ehangu, a hwythau mor bwysig o ran sicrhau gofal a chymorth cynhwysfawr yn ein cymdeithas fodern gymhleth, â'i phatrymau gweithio ysbeidiol. Bydd y canolfannau hyn, felly, yn cynnig cymorth ychwanegol hanfodol i rieni, fel y rhai a chanddynt blant sydd ag anghenion arbennig, ac yn helpu i feithrin uchelgais pobl ifanc ledled Cymru. Arwyddion clir yw'r rhain bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ystyried bod buddsoddi yn y blynyddoedd cynnar yn fater hollbwysig, oherwydd os bydd pobl ifanc yn mwynhau eu profiad dysgu, maent yn llawer mwy tebygol o lwyddo wrth ddysgu wrth iddynt dyfu.

Croesawaf y gyllideb derfynol, gan y bydd y cynnydd sylweddol yn y gwariant ar y ddarpariaeth addysg ar gyfer y blynyddoedd cynnar, ynghyd â'r £70 miliwn ychwanegol o

children's services, will unveil an unparalleled focus on children and young people. Setting the goal to lift all of our young people out of poverty and equip them with modern social and educational skills is something to be proud of, which is why I am proud of the final budget before us today.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I would like to allow Mark Isherwood and Mike German to contribute, but I would be grateful if they could limit themselves to three minutes each.

Mark Isherwood: The First Minister earlier asked what Gordon Brown's policies had to do with Wales. Therefore, I explain to him gently that the Welsh budget is funded by the UK Treasury. The reality is that in 2001, imprudent Brown forecast borrowing £30 billion over five years. In his 2004 budget, he had to raise this figure nearly fivefold to £140 billion. This year alone, a deficit of £39 billion is in prospect because he got it wrong again. Despite 66 tax increases, his forecast for tax and spending was also wrong. Economic growth has now fallen to its lowest level for 18 months, and is predicted to fall well below Gordon Brown's forecast next year, with Wales harder hit once again than the rest of the UK.

It is no wonder that independent commentators such as IFS, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the ITAM Club all say that Labour's spending plans make further tax rises inevitable, should Labour win the next election. It is no wonder that the International Monetary Fund has criticised the Treasury's approach to public finances, and called for fiscal consolidation—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. There is too much noise.

Ann Jones: Will you give way?

Mark Isherwood: No, I only have three minutes in which to speak. This means that there will be spending cuts or tax increases in 2005. This is the real backdrop to Labour's

iechyd sydd i'w dargeddu ar wasanaethau i blant, yn amlygu pwyslais digyffelyb ar blant a phobl ifanc. Mae gosod y nod o godi'n holl bobl ifanc o dlodi a dysgu iddynt sgiliau cymdeithasol ac addysgol modern yn rhywbeth y dylid ymfalchïo ynddo, a dyna pam yr ymfalchïaf yn y gyllideb derfynol sydd ger ein bron heddiw.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Hoffwn adael i Mark Isherwood a Mike German gyfrannu, ond byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallent gadw at dri munud yr un.

Mark Isherwood: Gofynnodd y Prif Weinidog yn gynharach beth oedd a wnelo polisiau Gordon Brown â Chymru. Felly, egluraf iddo'n dyner fod cyllideb Cymru'n cael ei hariannu gan Drysorlys y DU. Y gwir amdani yw bod y Brown anochelgar wedi rhagweld, yn 2001, y byddai'n benthyca £30 biliwn dros gyfnod o bum mlynedd. Yn ei gyllideb yn 2004, bu'n rhaid iddo godi'r ffigur hwnnw bron bum gwaith i £140 biliwn. Y flwyddyn hon yn unig, rhagwelir y bydd diffyg o £39 biliwn gan ei fod wedi camgymryd eto. Er gwaethaf 66 o godiadau treth, camgymerodd hefyd yn ei ragolwg o drethiant a gwariant. Mae twf economaidd wedi disgyn bellach i'w lefel isaf er 18 mis, ac mae darogan y bydd yn is o lawer na'r hyn a ragwelodd Gordon Brown y flwyddyn nesaf, ac y caiff Cymru ei tharo'n galetach unwaith eto na gweddill y DU.

Pa ryfedd bod sylwebyddion annibynnol fel IFS, y Gymdeithas Cydweithrediad a Datblygiad Economaidd a'r ITAM Club i gyd yn dweud bod cynlluniau gwariant Llafur yn peri ei bod yn anochel y bydd trethi'n codi ymhellach, os bydd Llafur yn ennill yr etholiad nesaf. Nid oes ryfedd bod y Gronfa Ariannol Ryngwladol wedi beirniadu dull y Trysorlys o drin cyllid cyhoeddus, ac wedi galw am atgyfnerthu cyllidol—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae gormod o sŵn.

Ann Jones: A wnewch ildio?

Mark Isherwood: Na wna, nid oes gennyf ond tri munud i siarad. Mae hyn yn golygu y bydd toriadau ar wariant neu godiadau mewn trethi yn 2005. Dyma'r cyd-destun go iawn i

three-year budget for the future of Wales—a credit card budget that promises just one year's spending, more jam tomorrow and a credit card budget from a discredited spend-more, deliver-less, Welsh Assembly Government.

Notwithstanding the possible announcement of a pre-election bribe by Gordon Brown to bail out the Labour Welsh Assembly Government, the inadequate increase in local government funding is a betrayal of the people of Wales. They are people who face worrying and often unaffordable council tax increases. Last week, Flintshire County Council's treasurer said that the 2005-06 settlement would lead to considerable turbulence in council tax figures. It is universally considered by all local authority treasurers in Wales, and by the Welsh Local Government Association, to be inadequate. Denbighshire's lead member for finance has forecast council tax increases of up to 17 per cent in order to achieve a standstill budget. The six north Wales authorities have been offered an unsustainable and disgraceful increase in the provisional settlement, which is 27 per cent lower than that for the other 16 local authorities in Wales. This represents an average increase in north Wales of just 3.8 per cent, compared with 5.2 for the rest of Wales.

Many schools are already struggling to make ends meet, with funding by postcode lottery which is insufficient to cover the fixed costs that makes up 90 per cent of their budget. The impact of this local government settlement will mean further cuts in many areas. This is a betrayal of the headteacher who told me two weeks ago that she did not know how long her school could continue to do well for its pupils.

Under Labour, Welsh housing waiting lists and homelessness have increased because affordable housing budgets have been cut. In its draft budget for Wales last month, the Welsh Assembly Government announced an extra £16 million in the social housing grant for 2005-06, then flatlining it for three years, but it is still £26 million below its 1996-97

gyllideb tair blynedd Llafur ar gyfer dyfodol Cymru—cyllideb y cerdyn credyd sy'n addo dim ond un flwyddyn o wariant, mwy o arian am ddim yfory a chyllideb y cerdyn credyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru anhygred sy'n gwario mwy ac yn cyflawni llai.

Er gwaethaf y posibilrwydd y bydd Gordon Brown yn cynnig cil-dwrn cyn yr etholiad i achub croen y Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Lafur, mae'r cynnydd annigonol yn y cyllid ar gyfer llywodraeth leol yn bradychu pobl Cymru. Pobl ydynt sy'n wynebu codiadau yn y dreth gyngor sy'n peri pryder iddynt ac na allant eu fforddio mewn llawer achos. Yr wythnos diwethaf, dywedodd trysorydd Cyngor Sir y Fflint y byddai'r setliad ar gyfer 2005-06 yn peri cryn aflonyddwch yn ffigurau'r dreth gyngor. Mae'r holl drysoryddion mewn awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru, yn ogystal â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, yn credu ei fod yn annigonol. Mae'r aelod arweiniol dros gyllid yn sir Ddinbych wedi darogon y bydd angen codiadau o hyd at 17 y cant yn y dreth gyngor i sicrhau cyllideb stond. Mae'r chwe awdurdod yn y Gogledd wedi cael cynnig cynnydd anghynaliadwy a chywilyddus yn y setliad dros dro, sy'n 27 y cant yn is na'r hyn a gynigir i'r 16 awdurdod lleol arall yng Nghymru. Mae hynny'n golygu cynnydd cyfartalog yn y Gogledd o ddim ond 3.8 y cant, o'i gymharu â 5.2 ar gyfer gweddill Cymru.

Mae llawer o ysgolion eisoes yn ei chael yn anodd cael deupen llinyn ynghyd, oherwydd yr ariannu yn ôl loteri cod post nad yw'n ddigon i dalu am y costau sefydlog sy'n ffurfio 90 y cant o'u cyllideb. Bydd y setliad llywodraeth leol hwn yn achosi toriadau pellach mewn sawl ardal. Mae hyn yn frad yn erbyn y pennaeth ysgol a ddywedodd wrthyf bythefnos yn ôl na wyddai am ba hyd y gallai ei hysgol barhau i wneud yn dda dros ei disgyblion.

O dan Lafur, bu cynnydd yn y rhestrau aros am dai ac mewn digartrefedd yng Nghymru am fod y cyllidebau ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy wedi'u torri. Yn ei chyllideb ddrafft i Gymru y mis diwethaf, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei bod am ychwanegu £16 miliwn at y grant tai cymdeithasol ar gyfer 2005-06, a'i adael ar yr un lefel wedyn am

levels. It also projects an extra £10 million the year after, and an extra £20 million after that for Wanless, in recognition, rightly, of the impact of housing on health and wellbeing. However, even with this included, social housing grants in 2008 will still be below their level in 1996-97, because the Welsh Assembly Government is still tackling the symptoms rather than the causes of social injustice.

The increases in ELWa's budget are less than last year, despite cuts and deficits in Welsh further education colleges this year, and despite zero growth in widening participation, under a Minister who is to education what Madonna is to modesty and Mr Bean to good sense.

Despite health spending increases of almost 50 per cent, under this Minister for Health and Social Services, 312,000 people in Wales are now waiting in pain for NHS treatment. In noting further increases in the health budget, I therefore say to the Minister that 'you can Hutt, but you cannot hide'. As the *Flintshire Evening Leader* said last week, critics do not have to probe too deeply to reveal a failing health service that is creaking along, and thoroughly disenchanting the overworked people who staff it.

As for giving more money to this Minister for Economic Development and Transport, a value for money audit to date tells us that Welsh prosperity is forecast to fall to just 77.3 per cent of UK gross domestic product per capita by 2005. Welsh employment is falling, and inactivity is rising. Some 65,000 young Welsh people are economically inactive, and if Welsh economic activity was at the same level as in the UK, 100,000 more Welsh people would be in jobs. That is some record, Mr Davies.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Your five minutes are up. I call on the Minister to wind up.

dair blynedd, ond mae'n dal i fod yn £26 miliwn yn llai na'r hyn ydoedd yn 1996-97. Mae hefyd yn bwriadu rhoi £10 miliwn ychwanegol y flwyddyn wedyn, a £20 miliwn ychwanegol ar ôl hynny ar gyfer Wanless, gan gydnabod, yn briodol, yr effaith a gaiff tai ar iechyd a lles. Fodd bynnag, hyd yn oed o gynnwys hynny, bydd grantiau tai cymdeithasol yn 2008 yn dal i fod yn is na'u lefel yn 1996-97, gan fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n dal i drin symptomau anghyfiawnder cymdeithasol, yn hytrach na'i achosion.

Mae'r cynnydd yng nghyllideb ELWa yn llai na'r hyn a gafwyd y llynedd, er gwaethaf toriadau a diffygion mewn colegau addysg bellach yng Nghymru eleni, ac er gwaethaf y diffyg twf o ran ehangu cyfranogiad, o dan Weinidog sydd yr un peth i addysg ag ydyw Madonna i wyleidd-dra ac ydyw Mr Bean i synnwyr cyffredin.

Er bod bron 50 y cant yn fwy yn cael ei wario ar iechyd, o dan y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol hwn, mae 312,000 o bobl yng Nghymru'n disgwyl mewn poen i gael driniaeth gan y GIG. Wrth nodi'r cynnydd pellach yn y gyllideb ar gyfer iechyd, dywedaf wrth y Gweinidog na chaiff ymguddio. Fel y dywedodd y *Flintshire Evening Leader* yr wythnos diwethaf, nid oes raid i feirniaid chwilio ymhell i ddangos diffygion gwasanaeth iechyd sy'n gwegian ac yn peri dadrithiad llwyr i'w staff gorbrysus.

O ran rhoi mwy o arian i'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth sydd gennym, mae archwiliad o'r gwerth am arian a gafwyd hyd yma'n dangos bod disgwyl y bydd ffyniant yng Nghymru'n gostwng i ddim ond 77.3 y cant o gynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen y DU erbyn 2005. Mae cyflogaeth yng Nghymru'n gostwng, ac mae anweithgarwch yn codi. Mae tua 65,000 o bobl ifanc Cymru'n economaidd anweithgar, a phe byddai'r gweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru ar yr un lefel â'r DU, byddai 100,000 yn fwy o bobl Cymru mewn gwaith. Dyna ichi record, Mr Davies.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae'ch pum munud ar ben. Galwaf ar y Gweinidog i gloi.

5.30 p.m.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I have been told that I have only 53 seconds in which to reply to the debate, so there is no way that I can respond to all the points that have been raised; I will write to Members. However, I will respond to Alun Cairns, to relieve him of his worry about Gordon Brown and whether his figures are right. The only thing that you need to worry about, Alun—and that we all need to worry about—is the nightmare that we might ever have another Tory Chancellor and another Black Wednesday.

To conclude, this is a bigger budget than the Tories would ever deliver for Wales, it is a bigger budget than Plaid Cymru could ever deliver for Wales, and it is a bigger budget than the Liberal Democrats could ever bring themselves to decide to deliver for Wales. This is a Labour budget that is delivering a Labour manifesto—it is truly a budget for a bright future for Wales.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Dywedwyd wrthyf nad oes gennyf ond 53 eiliad i ymateb i'r ddadl, felly nid oes unrhyw fodd imi ymateb i'r holl bwyntiau a godwyd; ysgrifennaf at Aelodau. Er hynny, gwnaf ymateb i Alun Cairns, fel na fydd yn gorfod poeni am Gordon Brown ac a yw ei ffigurau'n iawn. Yr unig beth y dylech chi boeni amdano, Alun—ac y dylem oll boeni amdano—yw'r hunllef o gael Canghellor Torïaidd arall a dydd Mercher Du arall byth eto.

I gloi, mae'r gyllideb hon yn fwy na'r un a roddai'r Torïaid i Gymru byth, yn fwy na'r un y gallai Plaid Cymru ei rhoi i Gymru byth, ac yn fwy na'r un y gallai'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol byth ddod i'r penderfyniad i'w rhoi i Gymru. Cyllideb Lafur yw hon sy'n cyflawni maniffesto Llafur—mae'n gyllideb sy'n cynnig dyfodol disglair i Gymru.

*Cynnig (NDM2188): O blaid 29, Ymatal 8, Yn erbyn 15.
Motion (NDM2188): For 29, Abstain 8, Against 15.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Kirsty

Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Davies, Jocelyn
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Daw hynny â
concludes business for this afternoon. chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.31 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.31 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)

Law, Peter (Llafur – Labour)
Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
Marek, John (Annibynnol – Independent)
Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)