



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 12 Tachwedd 2008
Wednesday, 12 November 2008**

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

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

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 1.30 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 1.30 p.m. with the Presiding Officer (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) in the Chair.*

Y Llywydd: Galwaf y Cynulliad i drefn.

The Presiding Officer: I call the Assembly to order.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Health Advice Services

Q1 Lorraine Barrett: Will the Minister make a statement on health advice services in Wales? OAQ(3)0740(HSS)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): Health advice about treatment and prevention is provided by all aspects of the national health service. A number of voluntary organisations provide advice to those patients with longer-term conditions and mental health problems. Healthy lifestyle advice is also available from various providers under the banner of Health Challenge Wales.

Lorraine Barrett: Thank you for your answer, Minister. You will be aware that 29 citizens' advice bureaux deliver health advice service based on the Government's Better Advice: Better Health programme to enable general practitioners to refer patients for advice on benefits and welfare to improve their quality of life. Will you assure me today that, regardless of any changes brought about by the community legal advice contract, that important service will be protected?

Edwina Hart: The Better Advice: Better Health programme has been first-class, because it has helped to improve the uptake of unclaimed benefits thereby improving the income levels of poor people and reducing the time that GPs spend on resolving non-medical inquiries. It has been a worthwhile service, which the Government will continue to support.

William Graham: You will recall that the First Minister said last week that owing to widespread obesity, this generation of children will have a lower life expectancy

Gwasanaethau Cyngor am Iechyd

C1 Lorraine Barrett: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau cyngor am iechyd yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0740(HSS)

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Darperir cyngor iechyd am driniaethau ac atal gan bob agwedd ar y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Mae nifer o fudiadau gwirfoddol yn rhoi cyngor i'r cleifion hynny sydd â chyflyrau tymor hwy a phroblemau iechyd meddwl. Mae cyngor am fyw mewn ffordd iach hefyd ar gael gan amrywiol ddarparwyr dan faner Her Iechyd Cymru.

Lorraine Barrett: Diolch ichi am eich ateb, Weinidog. Byddwch yn gwybod bod 29 canolfan cyngor ar bopeth yn darparu gwasanaeth cyngor iechyd yn seiliedig ar raglen Cyngor Da: Iechyd Da y Llywodraeth i alluogi meddygon teulu i gyfeirio cleifion at wasanaethau sy'n rhoi cyngor am fudd-daliadau a lles er mwyn gwella ansawdd eu bywydau. A wnewch chi fy sicrhau heddiw y caiff gwasanaethau pwysig eu diogelu, ni waeth pa newidiadau a ddaw yn sgil y contract cyngor cyfreithiol cymunedol?

Edwina Hart: Mae'r rhaglen Cyngor Da: Iechyd Da wedi bod yn un ragorol gan ei bod wedi helpu cael mwy o bobl i fanteisio ar fudd-daliadau nad ydynt yn cael eu hawlio, ac felly wedi gwella lefelau incwm pobl dlawd ac wedi lleihau'r amser y mae meddygon teulu'n ei dreulio yn datrys ymholiadau nad ydynt yn rhai meddygol. Mae wedi bod yn wasanaeth gwerth chweil, a bydd y Llywodraeth yn parhau i'w gefnogi.

William Graham: Byddwch yn cofio i'r Prif Weinidog ddweud yr wythnos diwethaf y bydd gan blant y genhedlaeth hon ddisgwyliad oes llai na'u rhieni, am y tro

than their parents, perhaps for the first since the black death. Shortly after that, there was an announcement from the UK Government that nine towns in England would get £30 million to encourage residents to lead healthier lifestyles through better diet, more exercise and better advice. Will you get a Barnettised share of that money and will you take a similarly proactive stance on this programme in Wales to ensure a wider roll-out of an exercise referral programme?

Edwina Hart: If the moneys come directly from the Treasury, there will be a Barnett consequential. However, I would have to check that with my colleague, the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery. I read about the proposals in England with interest, and I will ask my officials to look at the matter.

Leanne Wood: Cardiff and the Valleys have been selected as an area in which to conduct a two-year study of the mental health problems of former soldiers, funded by the Ministry of Defence and matched by the One Wales Government. Can you tell us what specific support the Welsh national health service can offer ex-servicemen and women, and how GPs, mental health services and drug and alcohol teams can work alongside charities and veterans' groups to prevent the high number of people who we see in the prison system and living on the streets?

Edwina Hart: I have regular meetings with veterans' groups and others who have an interest in these issues. We have prioritised services in the NHS for veterans, but I have indicated to officials that I want to see exactly how that works on the ground. There are still some difficulties with joining up Government services for veterans, such as the housing and health requirements of the many who are homeless. So, further work needs to be done. However, I am confident that priority has been given to veterans, and that that will come through in more Assembly Government programmes.

cyntaf ers y pla du, efallai, a hynny oherwydd gordewdra ar lefel eang. Yn fuan wedyn, cafwyd cyhoeddiad gan Lywodraeth y DU y byddai naw tref yn Lloegr yn cael £30 miliwn i annog trigolion i fyw bywydau iachach, a hynny drwy gael gwell deiet, drwy wneud mwy o ymarfer corff a chael gwell cyngor. A yw Fformiwla Barnett yn golygu y cewch chi gyfran o'r arian hwnnw, ac a fyddwch yn cymryd safiad rhagweithiol tebyg ar y rhaglen hon yng Nghymru, i sicrhau cyflwyno rhaglen gyfeirio ar gyfer ymarfer corff yn fwy helaeth?

Edwina Hart: Os daw'r arian yn syth o'r Trysorlys, bydd yna swm Barnett canlyniadol. Fodd bynnag, byddai'n rhaid imi holi fy nghyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus ynghylch hynny. Darllenaf gyda diddordeb am y cynigion yn Lloegr, a byddaf yn gofyn i'm swyddogion edrych ar y mater.

Leanne Wood: Mae Caerdydd a'r Cymoedd wedi'u dewis yn ardal ar gyfer astudiaeth dwy-flynedd o broblemau iechyd meddwl cyn-filwyr. Caiff yr astudiaeth ei hariannu gan y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn a chaiff arian cyfatebol gan Lywodraeth Cymru'n Un. A allwch ddweud wrthym pa gymorth penodol y gall gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol Cymru ei gynnig i ddynion a menywod sy'n gyn-aelodau o'r lluoedd arfog, a sut y gall meddygon teulu, gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl a thimau cyffuriau ac alcohol weithio ochr yn ochr ag elusennau a grwpiau i gyn-filwyr, i atal nifer uchel y bobl a welwn yn y system carchardai ac yn byw ar y stryd?

Edwina Hart: Byddaf yn cael cyfarfodydd rheolaidd gyda grwpiau cyn-filwyr ac eraill sydd â diddordeb yn y materion hyn. Yr ydym wedi blaenoriaethu gwasanaethau yn y GIG ar gyfer cyn-filwyr, ond yr wyf wedi dweud wrth swyddogion fy mod am weld sut yn union y mae hynny'n gweithio ar lawr gwlad. Mae rhai anawsterau o hyd wrth ddwyn ynghyd wasanaethau'r Llywodraeth ar gyfer cyn-filwyr, megis gofynion tai ac iechyd llawer o'r rheini sy'n ddigartref. Felly, mae angen gwneud mwy o waith. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn hyderus fod blaenoriaeth wedi'i rhoi i gyn-filwyr, ac y gwelir hynny mewn mwy o raglenni gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Palliative Care

Q2 Jonathan Morgan: Will the Minister make a statement on palliative care for neurological conditions? OAQ(3)0771(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Palliative care must form an integral part of the overall care provided to patients with progressive, life-limiting conditions, including neurological conditions. Access to it is patchy, and I am providing central funding of £3 million from 2008-09 to help to implement the palliative care planning group report.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful to the Minister for that reply. Life-limiting conditions other than cancer, particularly multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease, can mean that a patient can survive for between five to 10 years and perhaps even longer. Will you give an assurance that the first short-term recommendations made by the palliative care planning group will include services for the widest range of life-limiting conditions and those with neurological conditions?

Edwina Hart: Yes, this is definitely a priority for our work. We are developing care pathways for long-term neurological conditions at the moment. That work is continuing, and I would be happy to report back to Members in due course, given that this is a priority area.

Janet Ryder: I have grave concerns about the provision for seriously ill children in north Wales. While I cannot go into the details of individual cases, I can say that I have been dealing with the case of a young child who, following a brain injury, has spent a year in an acute children's ward in north Wales, because the NHS could not find appropriate rehabilitation facilities for him. What can you do to make rehabilitation services and centres more easily available to people in north Wales, particularly those who suffer from acquired brain injuries?

Edwina Hart: I will discuss the details of the case that you have concerns about later. I am particularly concerned about the provision for

Gofal Lliniarol

C2 Jonathan Morgan: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ofal lliniarol ar gyfer cyflyrau niwrolegol? OAQ(3)0771(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Rhaid i ofal lliniarol fod yn rhan ganolog o'r gofal cyffredinol a ddarperir i gleifion sydd â chyflyrau sy'n gwaethygu ac yn cyfyngu eu bywyd, gan gynnwys cyflyrau niwrolegol. Mae yna fylchau yn y mynediad, ac yr wyf yn darparu cyllid canolog o £3 miliwn o 2008-09 i helpu gweithredu adroddiad y grŵp cynllunio ar ofal lliniarol.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am yr ateb hwnnw. Gall cyflyrau sy'n cyfyngu bywyd, heblaw am ganser, yn arbennig sglerosis ymledol a chlefyd Parkinson, olygu y gall claf fyw am gyfnod rhwng pump a 10 mlynedd, a mwy, o bosibl. A rowch chi sicrwydd y bydd yr argymhellion tymor byr cyntaf a wneir gan y grŵp cynllunio ar ofal lliniarol yn cynnwys gwasanaethau ar gyfer yr ystod ehangaf o gyflyrau sy'n cyfyngu bywyd ac ar gyfer pobl sydd â chyflyrau niwrolegol.

Edwina Hart: Gwnaf. Mae hyn yn bendant yn flaenoriaeth i'n gwaith. Yr ydym yn datblygu llwybrau gofal ar gyfer cyflyrau niwrolegol hirdymor ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r gwaith hwnnw'n parhau, a byddwn yn falch dod ag adroddiad yn ôl i Aelodau yn y man, gan fod hwn yn faes sy'n cael blaenoriaeth.

Janet Ryder: Yr wyf yn pryderu'n fawr am y ddarpariaeth ar gyfer plant yn y gogledd sy'n ddifrifol wael. Er na allaf fanylu ar achosion unigol, gallaf ddweud imi fod yn delio ag achos plentyn ifanc sydd, oherwydd anaf ar ei ymennydd, wedi treulio blwyddyn mewn ward i blant ag anafiadau difrifol yn y gogledd, gan na allai'r GIG ddod o hyd i gyfleusterau adsefydlu addas iddo. Beth y gallwch ei wneud i'w gwneud yn fwy hwylus i bobl yn y gogledd fanteisio ar wasanaethau a chanolfannau, yn arbennig y rheini sydd wedi cael anafiadau i'w hymennydd?

Edwina Hart: Trafodaf fanylion yr achos yr ydych yn pryderu yn ei gylch yn ddiweddarach. Yr wyf yn arbennig o

children. I will speak to my officials and the clinical leads about what further work can be undertaken, because it is important that the necessary rehabilitation facilities are available to children, their parents and their families.

Jenny Randerson: The report of the palliative care group states that current levels of local health board funding to services should not be decreased without consultation with the implementation board. While I welcome that, it does not make any reference to the need to increase funding in certain areas. I am sure that you are well aware of the inequality in the level of service provided, and that is bound to be related, to some extent, to inequality in the amount of funding provided. What are you doing to ensure that local health boards provide adequate funding?

Edwina Hart: I am looking at the prioritisation of palliative care in the funding arrangements of the seven new organisations, and I am also looking at how I will deal with the issue in the future. This is the subject of ongoing work, and I take to heart the points that you have just made.

Jenny Randerson: Minister, in Ceredigion and in Gwent, the report highlights the insufficient number of specialist registrars. It also highlights the shortage of therapists in many areas. In my own area, Cardiff, I know that palliative care in general is not as well funded as it is in other parts of Wales. Do we have your guarantee that an approach will be taken that solves this problem within the next financial year and produces a more equal, adequate service no matter where in Wales you live?

Edwina Hart: I wish that I could guarantee that these issues would be resolved within the next 12 months, but I would be foolish to do so. We are taking the work on dealing with this agenda forward in the correct manner, and the issues that you raised will form part of the ongoing discussions as we develop policies in this area.

bryderus ynghylch y ddarpariaeth ar gyfer plant. Byddaf yn siarad â'm swyddogion ac â'r arweinwyr clinigol ynghylch pa waith ychwanegol y gellir ei wneud, oherwydd mae'n bwysig i'r cyfleusterau adsefydlu angenrheidiol fod ar gael i blant, eu rhieni a'u teuluoedd.

Jenny Randerson: Mae adroddiad y grŵp gofal lliniarol yn dweud na ddylid cwtogi lefel bresennol yr arian sydd gan fyrddau iechyd lleol ar gyfer gwasanaethau, heb ymgynghori â'r bwrdd gweithredu. Er fy mod yn croesawu hynny, nid yw'n cyfeirio o gwbl at yr angen am roi mwy o arian i rai meysydd. Gwyddoch yn iawn, mae'n sicr gennyf, am yr anghydraddoldeb yn lefel y gwasanaeth a ddarperir, a bod hynny'n siŵr o fod yn gysylltiedig, i ryw raddau, ag anghydraddoldeb yn yr arian a ddarperir. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod byrddau iechyd lleol yn darparu arian digonol?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn edrych ar flaenoriaethu gofal lliniarol yn nhrefniadau ariannu'r saith corff newydd, ac yr wyf hefyd yn edrych ar y modd y byddaf yn ymdrin â'r mater yn y dyfodol. Mae hwn yn destun gwaith parhaus, a byddaf yn sicr o gofio'r pwyntiau yr ydych newydd eu gwneud.

Jenny Randerson: Weinidog, yng Ngheredigion ac yng Ngwent, mae'r adroddiad yn tynnu sylw at y ffaith nad oes digon o gofrestryddion arbenigol. Mae hefyd yn tynnu sylw at y prinder therapyddion mewn llawer ardal. Yng Nghaerdydd, fy ardal i, gwn nad yw gofal lliniarol yn gyffredinol yn cael cymaint o arian â rhannau eraill o Gymru. A gawn ni sicrwydd gennych y bydd ymagweddd a fydd yn datrys y broblem hon o fewn y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf, ac yn cynhyrchu gwasanaeth digonol mwy cydradd, ni waeth ym mha ran o Gymru yr ydych yn byw?

Edwina Hart: Hoffwn petawn yn gallu eich sicrhau y byddai'r materion hyn yn cael eu datrys o fewn y 12 mis nesaf, ond byddwn yn ffôl i wneud hynny. Yr ydym yn bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith o ddelio â'r agenda hon yn y ffordd gywir, a bydd y materion a godwyd gennych yn rhan o'r trafodaethau parhaus wrth inni ddatblygu polisiau yn y maes hwn.

Hosbisau Annibynnol

C3 Gareth Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gefnogaeth ariannol i hosbisau annibynnol yn y gogledd? OAQ(3)0736(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Following Professor Finlay's recommendations, I have offered £2.02 million to 20 voluntary hospices across Wales, almost £0.5 million of which goes to north Wales. The funding in 2008-09 is transitional, which is a means of setting the hospices on the right basis to be considered for future recurrent funding for palliative care.

Gareth Jones: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Fel y gwyddoch, yr ydym wedi ymgyrchu'n ddyfal dros y blynyddoedd i sicrhau lefelau derbyniol o ariannu craidd i'r gwasanaeth hosbis. Erbyn hyn, mae'r lefelau wedi gwella, a da yw cydnabod yr hyn a ddywedaso, gan ein bod yn croesawu'n fawr y cymorth ariannol ychwanegol a gafwyd yn ddiweddar gan Hosbis Dewi Sant a Tŷ Gobaith yn etholaeth Aberconwy. Mae'n amlwg bellach bod Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn gweithredu ar ei haddewid i ddarparu mwy o arian ar gyfer gofal lliniarol.

O gydnabod diffuantrwydd a gweithrediad Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn y maes hwn, a gytunwch y dylid dal ati i ymgynghori â'n hosbisau i drafod eu hanghenion? A fydddech yn barod i dderbyn gwahoddiad gennyf i ymweld â'r gwasanaeth yn Aberconwy yn y dyfodol agos?

Edwina Hart: I would always be delighted to accept invitations from you, Gareth, to visit services in Aberconwy, because the hospices in your constituency provide excellent services. We must continue this dialogue with the hospice movement, as it has proved useful over the past 12 months. Baroness Finlay's work has been absolutely first class in dealing with the clinical issues.

There have been some concerns about the way in which we have progressed, but I have been able to hold face-to-face meetings with

Independent Hospices

Q3 Gareth Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on financial support for independent hospices in north Wales? OAQ(3)0736(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Yn dilyn argymhellion yr Athro Finlay, yr wyf wedi cynnig £2.02 miliwn i 20 hosbis gwirfoddol ledled Cymru—bydd bron i £0.5 miliwn o hynny'n mynd i'r gogledd. Bydd arian 2008-09 yn arian trosiannol, sy'n ffordd i sicrhau bod yr hosbisau yn y sefyllfa iawn i gael eu hystyried ar gyfer arian rheolaidd yn y dyfodol ar gyfer gofal lliniarol.

Gareth Jones: Thank you for that answer, Minister. As you will be aware, we have been campaigning dilligently over the years to ensure an acceptable level of core funding for the hospice service. By now, levels have improved, and I welcome the chance to acknowledge what you said, since we greatly welcome the extra funding support which was recently given to Dewi Sant Hospice and Tŷ Gobaith in the Aberconwy constituency. It is now obvious that the One Wales Government is implementing its pledge to provide extra funding for palliative care.

In recognising the sincerity and action by the One Wales Government in this area, do you agree that we should continue to consult with our hospices to discuss their needs? Would you be prepared to accept an invitation from me to visit the service in Aberconwy in the near future?

Edwina Hart: Byddwn bob amser yn falch o dderbyn gwahoddiadau gennyf, Gareth, i ymweld â gwasanaethau yn Aberconwy, oherwydd y mae'r hosbisau yn eich etholaeth yn darparu gwasanaethau rhagorol. Rhaid inni barhau'r drafodaeth hon gyda'r mudiad hosbisau, oherwydd mae wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol dros y 12 mis diwethaf. Mae gwaith y Farwnes Finlay wedi bod yn wirioneddol ragorol ar ymdrin â materion clinigol.

Cafwyd rhai pryderon am y ffordd yr ydym wedi symud ymlaen, ond yr wyf wedi gallu cael cyfarfodydd wyneb-yn-wyneb â

the representatives of some concerned hospices about the issues, and our discussions are continuing. It is a matter of working in partnership in taking this important agenda forward.

1.40 p.m.

Darren Millar: Minister, I, too, welcome the announcement made earlier this year of additional funding for hospices in Wales. However, I remain concerned about the inequity in the distribution of those funds. I have recently written to you about the situation of Nightingale House Hospice, which was awarded only £20,000 of the £2 million, compared with the £340,000 given to Hope House hospice in south Wales. Do you think that that is a fair way to distribute the cash? What action will you take to ensure that there is an equitable formula-based approach to distribute this cash in an appropriate way in future?

Edwina Hart: I am pleased with the work that Baroness Finlay has done on the distribution of money, because she has taken the correct approach of looking at how the NHS contributes, and, as a result, we will be moving towards service level agreements. I am aware of the concerns of Nightingale House Hospice, and I met with its representatives on 21 October to discuss issues arising from the distribution of funding. I have offered to hold further meetings with them, and I have given them the opportunity to come back to me on various other points. Beyond the funding formula, they also made points to me about other issues that have an impact on hospices, such as heating costs, and so on, and perhaps there are other things that I should be looking at. My door is open, and discussions will continue.

Eleanor Burnham: I am pleased to hear that, because, as you probably know, I was once a hospice fundraiser and, even then, which was some time ago, £2 million did not go far. In fact, £2 million is probably how much one hospice swallows up in a year, which is an extremely important point to remember.

chynrychiolwyr rhai hosbisau ar y problemau, ac mae ein trafodaethau'n parhau. Mater o weithio mewn partneriaeth ydyw er mwyn mynd â'r agenda bwysig hon yn ei blaen.

Darren Millar: Weinidog, yr wyf fi hefyd yn croesawu'r cyhoeddiad a wnaethpwyd yn gynharach eleni am arian ychwanegol i hosbisau yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn dal yn bryderus am yr anghydraddoldeb wrth ddsbarthu'r arian hwnnw. Yn ddiweddar, yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu atoch am sefyllfa Hosbis Tŷ'r Eos, na chafodd ond £20,000 o'r £2 filiwn, o'i gymharu â'r £340,000 a roddwyd i hosbis Tŷ Gobaith yn y de. A ydych yn credu bod honno'n ffordd deg o ddsbarthu'r arian? Pa gamau y byddwch yn eu cymryd i sicrhau dull teg sy'n seiliedig ar fformiwla er mwyn sicrhau dosbarthu'r arian hwn mewn ffordd briodol yn y dyfodol?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn fodlon â'r gwaith y mae'r Farwnes Finlay wedi'i wneud i ddsbarthu'r arian, oherwydd y mae wedi dilyn y dull cywir o edrych ar y ffordd y mae'r GIG yn cyfrannu, ac o ganlyniad byddwn yn symud at gytundebau lefel gwasanaeth. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o bryderon Hosbis Tŷ'r Eos, a chyfarfûm â'i chynrychiolwyr ar 21 Hydref i drafod materion yn codi o ddsbarthu'r arian. Yr wyf wedi cynnig cael cyfarfodydd eraill gyda hwy, ac yr wyf wedi rhoi cyfle iddynt gysylltu â mi ynghylch amrywiol bwyntiau eraill. Yn ogystal â'r fformiwla gyllido, codwyd pwyntiau gyda mi hefyd ar faterion eraill sy'n cael effaith ar hosbisau, megis costau gwresogi, ac ati, ac efallai fod pethau eraill y dylwn edrych arnynt. Mae fy nrws yn agored, a bydd y trafodaethau'n parhau.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae'n dda gennyf glywed hynny, oherwydd, fel y gwyddoch, mae'n siŵr, yr oeddwn i unwaith yn codi arian at hosbis. Hyd yn oed bryd hynny, sydd gryn amser yn ôl, nid oedd £2 filiwn yn mynd ymhell. Yn wir, mae'n siŵr y bydd un hosbis yn defnyddio £2 filiwn mewn blwyddyn, sy'n bwysig eithriadol i'w gofio.

I was pleased to hear you talk about other issues. Can you assure me that you will be looking at service level agreements, because the level of provision is patchy? As you know, that hospice and others can offer lymphoedema services to NHS patients for free, whether they have cancer or not. Certain hospices have not reviewed their level of need for some time, so what will you do not only to ensure that the block grant is available and that there is better parity, but also to ensure service level agreements, which are so valuable to the NHS?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for your comments. I agree that service level agreements are important in this field, and they will be a part of the ongoing work. Baroness Finlay has kindly agreed to carry on with her work in this area, which involves having this kind of open dialogue in looking at how we can develop services. However, we should be honest about our relationship with the hospice movement. It does not want a takeover bid from the NHS or the Welsh Assembly Government; what it wants is a partnership that is clearly defined so that it knows what it will get. It is important that we recognise that we could never fund the hospice movement totally, and it would not want us to do so because hospices value their independence and their work within their communities. Service level agreements are the way forward.

The Ambulance Service

Q4 Alun Cairns: Will the Minister make a statement on plans to help to improve the efficiency of the ambulance service in Wales? OAQ(3)0769(HSS)

Edwina Hart: My officials are in discussion with the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust to assist in the implementation of its modernisation plan, the improvement of staffing levels, and the way in which it delivers services, especially the handover of patients to accident-and-emergency departments. Additionally, I will receive a business case for the implementation of the automatic vehicle location system shortly.

Yr oeddwn yn falch eich clywed yn sôn am faterion eraill. A allwch fy sicrhau y byddwch yn edrych ar gytundebau lefel gwasanaeth gan fod bylchau yn narpariaeth y gwasanaeth? Fel y gwyddoch, gall hosbisau ac eraill gynnig gwasanaethau lymffoedema i gleifion y GIG am ddim, p'un a oes arnynt ganser ai peidio. Nid yw rhai hosbisau wedi adolygu lefel eu hangen ers tro, felly, beth fyddwch yn ei wneud nid yn unig i sicrhau bod y grant bloc ar gael ac y bydd gwell cydraddoldeb, ond hefyd i sicrhau cytundebau lefel gwasanaeth, sydd mor werthfawr i'r GIG?

Edwina Hart: Diolch ichi am eich sylwadau. Cytunaf fod cytundebau lefel gwasanaeth yn bwysig yn y maes hwn, a byddant yn rhan o'r gwaith parhaus. Mae'r Farwnes Finlay yn garedig iawn wedi cytuno i barhau ei gwaith yn y maes hwn, sy'n golygu cael y math hwn o drafodaethau agored i weld sut y gallwn ddatblygu gwasanaethau. Fodd bynnag, dylem fod yn onest ynghylch ein perthynas â'r mudiad hosbisau. Nid oes arno eisiau cais gan y GIG na Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i'w feddiannu; yr hyn y mae arno ei eisiau yw partneriaeth wedi'i diffinio'n glir er mwyn gwybod beth fydd yn ei gael. Mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod na allem byth ariannu'r mudiad hosbisau yn llawn, ac ni fyddai'n dymuno inni wneud hynny, oherwydd mae hosbisau'n gwerthfawrogi eu hannibyniaeth a'u gwaith yn eu cymunedau. Cytundebau lefel gwasanaeth yw'r ffordd ymlaen.

Y Gwasanaeth Ambiwllans

C4 Alun Cairns: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynlluniau i helpu gwella effeithlonrwydd y gwasanaeth ambiwlans yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0769(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Mae fy swyddogion yn cael trafodaethau gydag Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwllans Cymru i helpu gweithredu ei chynllun moderneiddio, i wella lefelau staffio a'r modd y mae'n darparu gwasanaethau, yn enwedig wrth drosglwyddo cleifion i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Yn ogystal, byddaf yn fuan yn cael achos busnes dros weithredu'r system o ddod o hyd i gerbydau'n awtomatig.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to the Minister, and her response suggests that she recognises that issues need resolving. Recent figures report a difficult situation, and that is putting it kindly. Targets are being missed regularly, and, most worryingly, targets for category A calls are being missed significantly. Only 85.4 per cent of ambulances got to their destination within their target time, but the target is 95 per cent, and that figure fell from the previous month. Therefore, what consideration has the Minister given to the ambulance service's request for satellite tracking systems? Wales is the only part of the United Kingdom that does not use satellite tracking in its ambulances, which is a shameful position to be in. To support the people working in the ambulance service, we need to give them access to the latest equipment, and if every other part of the United Kingdom has the latest equipment, why do we not have it in Wales?

Edwina Hart: We must not start off by being apologists for some of the deficiencies in the ambulance trust, Alun. I am as concerned as you are about response times, but that does not reflect on the ambulance crews who work very hard to provide a first-class service. The heart of the issue is the management of the service. If and when I receive business cases from the ambulance trust, I look at them on the basis of their requirements and needs, and of whether the case stacks up. I will have the business case on the automatic vehicle location system shortly and I very much hope that it does stack up. I will then be able to make the money available.

There are problems within the ambulance service. The response times are not good enough. There are also too many vacancies in the ambulance trust that have not been dealt with. I had a very detailed discussion last week with the chair of the ambulance trust about the further measures that I want the trust to look at in terms of delivering for the people of Wales.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog, ac mae ei hateb yn awgrymu ei bod yn sylweddoli bod angen datrys problemau. Mae ffigurau'n ddiweddar yn sôn am anodd, a dweud y lleiaf. Mae targedau'n cael eu methu'n rheolaidd, ac, er mawr bryder, mae targedau ar gyfer galwadau categori A yn cael eu methu'n sylweddol. Dim ond 85.4 y cant o gerbydau ambiwlans a gyrhaeddodd eu cyrchfan o fewn eu hamser targed, ond mae'r targed yn 95 y cant, a disgynnodd y ffigur hwnnw ers y mis blaenorol. Felly, pa ystyriaeth y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i rhoi i gais y gwasanaeth ambiwlans am systemau olrhain drwy loeren? Cymru yw'r unig ran o'r Deyrnas Unedig nad yw'n defnyddio system lloeren i olrhain ei cherbydau ambiwlans, sy'n sefyllfa gywilyddus i fod ynddi. I gefnogi'r bobl sy'n gweithio yn y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, mae angen inni sicrhau eu bod yn cael defnyddio'r offer diweddaraf, ac os yw pob rhan arall o'r Deyrnas Unedig yn meddu ar yr offer diweddaraf, pam nad yw gennym ni yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: Rhaid inni beidio â dechrau drwy ymddiheuro dros rai o ddiffygion yr ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans, Alun. Fel chi, yr wyf fi hefyd yn pryderu am amseroedd ymateb, ond nid yw hynny'n adlewyrchiad o'r criwiau ambiwlans sy'n gweithio'n galed iawn i ddarparu gwasanaeth o'r radd flaenaf. Rheoli'r gwasanaeth sydd wrth wraidd y mater. Os a phan gaf achosion busnes gan yr ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans, byddaf yn edrych arnynt ar sail eu gofynion a'u hanghenion, ac yn gofyn a yw'r achos yn dal dŵr. Bydd yr achos busnes gennyf maes o law ar gyfer y system o ddod o hyd i gerbydau'n awtomatig, a mawr obeithiaf y bydd yn dal dŵr. Byddaf wedyn yn gallu darparu'r arian.

Mae yna broblemau yn y gwasanaeth ambiwlans. Nid yw'r amseroedd ymateb yn ddigon da. Mae gormod o swyddi gwag hefyd yn yr ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans na ddeliwyd â hwy. Cefais drafodaeth fanwl iawn yr wythnos diwethaf gyda chadeirydd yr ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans ynghylch y camau pellach yr wyf am i'r ymddiriedolaeth edrych arnynt wrth ddarparu ar gyfer pobl Cymru.

Many Assembly Members have expressed concern about response times. Some areas have improved, and some have gone backwards, but overall the position is fairly static. If you live in certain parts of Wales, such as south Gwynedd or Powys, you can understand that there might be issues relating to rurality. However, when you live in the eastern valleys of Wales, and see some of the response times there, it is seriously worrying.

Alun Davies: There are two major issues facing the ambulance service in Pembrokeshire. First, as it is at the end of the line, when there are major service issues and it is called upon to give further support in eastern areas, the county is left vulnerable. Secondly, there is a crisis in the doctor on-call service in Pembrokeshire. My constituents tell me that the process of getting through to the service involves several phone calls and a prolonged waiting period. They find it so stressful and convoluted that they end up calling for an ambulance, because they are too afraid to wait.

In addition, the local health board does not appear to be taking responsibility for these issues and the blame is being passed from one agency to another. Will you investigate the issue of contacting doctors on-call in Pembrokeshire as a matter of urgency so that my constituents can have peace of mind and so that the already stretched ambulance service is not compromised in this way?

Edwina Hart: Ambulance staff have already told me at first hand of their concerns over what is happening with on-call services and about the fact that when people ring wanting help, their last resort is the ambulance service. That should not be the case. Those people should be dealt with by primary care and should not be going to accident-and-emergency departments. I will certainly take on the board the points that you have raised in my wider discussions on this issue.

Jonathan Morgan: Many of the difficulties that the ambulance service faces are not within its control, but are within the

Mae nifer o Aelodau Cynulliad wedi mynegi pryder ynghylch amseroedd ymateb. Mae rhai ardaloedd wedi gwella, ac mae rhai wedi llithro'n ôl, ond at ei gilydd mae'r sefyllfa'n eithaf statig. Os ydych yn byw mewn rhannau penodol o Gymru, megis de Gwynedd neu Bowys, gallwch ddeall efallai y bydd problemau'n ymwneud â natur wledig yr ardaloedd hynny. Fodd bynnag, pan fyddwch yn byw yng nghymoedd dwyreiniol Cymru, ac yn gweld rhai o'r amseroedd ymateb yn y fan honno, mae'n achosi pryder difrifol.

Alun Davies: Mae dau fater mawr yn wynebu'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans yn sir Benfro. Yn gyntaf, gan ei fod ar ddiwedd y llinell, pan fydd problemau mawr gyda'r gwasanaeth a galw arno i roi rhagor o gefnogaeth mewn ardaloedd dwyreiniol, mae'r sir mewn sefyllfa fregus. Yn ail, mae yna argyfwng yn y gwasanaeth ar alwad meddygon yn sir Benfro. Dywed fy etholwyr wrthyf fod y broses o allu mynd drwodd at y gwasanaeth yn golygu nifer o alwadau ffôn a chyfnod maith o aros. Mae'n achosi cymaint o straen iddynt ac mae mor ddryslyd fel eu bod yn galw am ambiwlans yn y pen draw, oherwydd mae arnynt ormod o ofn aros.

At hynny, ymddengys nad yw'r bwrdd iechyd lleol yn cymryd cyfrifoldeb dros y materion hyn, a chaiff y bai ei daflu o'r naill asiantaeth i'r llall. A wnewch chi ymchwilio i fater cysylltu â meddygon ar alwad yn sir Benfro fel mater o frys, er mwyn i fy etholwyr fod yn dawel eu meddwl ac i sicrhau na chaiff y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, sydd eisoes dan bwysau, ei beryglu fel hyn?

Edwina Hart: Mae staff ambiwlans eu hunain eisoes wedi sôn wrthyf am eu pryderon am yr hyn sy'n digwydd gyda gwasanaethau ar alwad, a'r ffaith, pan fydd pobl yn ffonio am help, mai'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans yw eu dewis. Ni ddylai hynny ddigwydd. Dylai'r bobl hynny gael gofal sylfaenol, ac ni ddylent fod yn mynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Byddaf yn sicr yn edrych ar y pwyntiau a godwd gennych yn fy nhrafodaethau ehangach ar y mater hwn.

Jonathan Morgan: Nid yw llawer o'r anawsterau sy'n ei wynebu yn dod dan reolaeth y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, ond maent

Minister's control.

We know that many ambulance crews have to wait for significant periods outside accident-and-emergency departments, particularly at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff and the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport. That is because it is very difficult to transfer patients into the care of accident-and-emergency departments as the staff are unable to take the patients.

Between February of 2007 and February of this year, 14,800 unit hours were lost at those two hospitals alone as a result of ambulance crews being unable to leave the hospital and get back out to pick up patients who needed ambulatory care. What is the Minister doing to ensure that patients are able to move more quickly through the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff and the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport so that ambulance crews can transfer their patients into the care of accident-and-emergency departments in the knowledge that they will be dealt with quickly?

Edwina Hart: This is one of the major issues that ambulance staff and the service have raised with me. These issues are the subject of ongoing discussions with the trusts, who should be managing these matters rather better in the context of the hospital in Cardiff and the very real problems in the Royal Gwent hospital. My officials are actively pursuing these issues as the trusts have had plenty of opportunity to consider this in light of my suggested targets. We have the whole delivering emergency care services strategy, and I will report back to the Assembly before Christmas on progress and how matters should be dealt with. I share Jonathan Morgan's disappointment with regard to those particular accident-and-emergency departments.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful to the Minister for that response. The second area that is very much within your control, but out of the control of the ambulance trust, is the budget. This year, the ambulance trust is expected to make efficiency savings of £17 million. Next year, it is expected to make efficiency savings, or cuts as we used to call

o fewn rheolaeth y Gweinidog.

Gwyddom fod nifer o griwiau ambiwlans yn gorfod aros am gyfnodau maith y tu allan i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, yn enwedig yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru yng Nghaerdydd ac Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent yng Nghasnewydd. Mae hynny oherwydd ei bod yn anodd iawn trosglwyddo cleifion i ofal adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys gan na all y staff gymryd y cleifion.

Rhwng mis Chwefror 2007 a mis Chwefror eleni, collwyd 14,800 o oriau uned yn y ddau ysbyty hynny'n unig am fod criwiau ambiwlans yn methu gadael yr ysbyty a mynd yn ôl i godi cleifion ag angen triniaeth ddydd arnynt. Beth mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod cleifion yn gallu symud ynghynt drwy Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru yng Nghaerdydd ac Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent yng Nghasnewydd er mwyn i griwiau ambiwlans allu trosglwyddo'u cleifion i ofal yr adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, gan wybod y bydd rhywun yn delio â hwy'n gyflym?

Edwina Hart: Mae hwn yn un o'r prif broblemau y mae staff ambiwlans a'r gwasanaeth wedi'u codi gyda mi. Mae'r materion hyn yn destun trafodaethau parhaus gyda'r ymddiriedolaethau, a ddylai fod yn rheoli'r materion hyn yn well yng nghydestun yr ysbyty yng Nghaerdydd a'r problemau real iawn yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent. Mae fy swyddogion wrthin delio â'r materion hyn, oherwydd mae'r ymddiriedolaethau wedi cael digon o gyfle i ystyried hyn yng ngoleuni'r targedau a awgrymwyd gennyf. Mae gennym yr holl strategaeth ar gyfer darparu gwasanaethau gofal brys, a byddaf yn adrodd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad cyn y Nadolig am gynnydd a sut y dylid delio â materion. Fel Jonathan Morgan, yr wyf yn siomedig am yr adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys penodol hynny.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am yr ymateb hwnnw. Yr ail faes yr ydych chi'n ei reoli, ond na all yr ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans ei reoli, yw'r gyllideb. Eleni, disgwylir i'r ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans sicrhau arbedion effeithlonrwydd o £17 miliwn. Y flwyddyn nesaf, disgwylir iddi wneud arbedion effeithlonrwydd, neu

them, to the tune of £23 million. You said earlier that you find it astonishing that the trust cannot fill its vacancies, but it cannot fill the vacancies when that would put the ambulance trust into debt.

The fact is, as I hope that you will confirm this afternoon, that the ambulance service has been asked to make efficiency savings that represent a higher proportion of its budget than is the case for any other NHS body in Wales. Why can you not address this, and reduce the level of efficiency savings that the trust is expected to make so that it can invest that money in front-line care?

1.50 p.m.

Edwina Hart: The trusts are supposed to manage within the resources given to them. Consider the sorry position resulting from the mismanagement of ambulance trust resources over the past few years, which has led to a historic deficit of £8.6 million—a debt that it is not repaying this year. It is important that it looks at efficiency savings, but that should not be at the expense of front-line services. The chair of the trust is aware of these issues and is looking at management structures within the trust so that more can be put into the delivery of front-line services. When you ask me to do something for the ambulance trust, you need to recognise that many trusts have done a great deal of good work on efficiency, managing very much better and looking to ensure that they can still deliver services while achieving efficiency savings.

Chris Franks: Minister, I have previously made you aware of the problems of the ambulance service in the Rhondda and the Cynon Valley. Can you provide an update on the situation in Rhondda Cynon Taf, but also in the Vale, from where I understand ambulances are being dispatched to Cardiff and then being caught up with the demand there and therefore not returning to the Vale?

doriadau fel yr arferem eu galw, o ryw £23 miliwn. Dywedasoeh yn gynharach eich bod yn rhyfeddu na all yr ymddiriedolaeth lenwi ei swyddi gwag, ond ni all lenwi'r swyddi gwag pan fyddai gwneud hynny'n golygu bod yr ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans mewn dyled.

Y gwir amdani, a gobeithio y byddwch yn cadarnhau hyn y prynhawn yma, yw bod y gwasanaeth ambiwlans wedi ei orchymyn i wneud arbedion effeithlonrwydd sy'n gyfran uwch o'i gyllideb nag mewn unrhyw gorff GIG arall yng Nghymru. Pam na allwch fynd i'r afael â hyn, a lleihau lefel yr arbedion effeithlonrwydd y disgwylir i'r ymddiriedolaeth eu sicrhau, fel y gall fuddsoddi'r arian hwnnw mewn gofal rheng flaen?

Edwina Hart: Mae'r ymddiriedolaethau i fod i ymdopi o fewn yr adnoddau a roddir iddynt. Ystyriwch y sefyllfa druenus sy'n deillio o gamreoli adnoddau'r ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, sydd wedi arwain at ddiffyg hanesyddol o £8.6 miliwn—dyled nad yw'n ei had-dalu eleni. Mae'n bwysig iddi edrych ar arbedion effeithlonrwydd, ond ni ddylai hynny fod ar draul gwasanaethau rheng flaen. Mae cadeirydd yr ymddiriedolaeth yn ymwybodol o'r materion hyn ac yn edrych ar strwythurau rheoli yn yr ymddiriedolaeth er mwyn gallu rhoi mwy i ddarparu gwasanaethau rheng flaen. Pan ofynnwch imi wneud rhywbeth dros yr ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans, mae angen ichi gydnabod bod nifer o ymddiriedolaethau wedi gwneud llawer iawn o waith da ar effeithlonrwydd, gan reoli'n well o lawer a cheisio sicrhau y gallant barhau i ddarparu gwasanaethau gan sicrhau arbedion effeithlonrwydd yr un pryd.

Chris Franks: Weinidog, yn y gorffennol yr wyf wedi tynnu eich sylw at broblemau'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans yn Rhondda a Chwm Cynon. A allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y sefyllfa yn Rhondda Cynon Taf, ond hefyd yn y Fro, lle caf ar ddeall bod cerbydau ambiwlans yn cael eu hanfon oddi yno i Gaerdydd ac wedyn yn cael eu dal yn y galw yn y fan honno ac felly

I have received one report from an Aberthin resident who had to wait more than nine hours for an ambulance and, in describing the situation in Llantwit Major, one paramedic has said that, although the ambulance station is not closed, ambulances are rarely seen there.

Edwina Hart: This is part of a much wider problem in the management of the service. There are a substantial number of vacancies that need to be filled within the service, and these are the issues that Stuart Fletcher, as chair of the ambulance trust, will be taking up and making an urgent report to me about. We need to fill the vacancies and get the ambulances out there to deal with some of these issues. The trouble is that there is a trend for ambulances to come into Cardiff or Newport, which means that people in the areas that those ambulances come from must wait longer. There is also a great demand for ambulances. Sometimes, that is because people cannot access primary care and there are various other reasons. There is a tendency for people to be overcautious and call ambulances during the night, and doctors on call might call out ambulances to take people to accident-and-emergency departments. There are many related issues that will have to be resolved as part of a much wider discussion.

Trish Law: First, I thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule last Thursday to meet the ambulance personnel at Aberbeeg ambulance station based at Abertillery fire station in my constituency. It was a constructive meeting, and I am sure that you, as a listening Minister, will take on board the points that were well made at the meeting. It is at that very ambulance station that there are moves by management to withdraw one of the two ambulances stationed there. Will you, as part of your review of the ambulance service in Wales, use your influence to ensure that ambulance numbers are not cut simply as an efficiency measure without regard for the health interests of the public?

Edwina Hart: Thank you, Trish, for helping to organise what I found to be a most

yn methu dychwelyd i'r Fro? Yr wyf wedi cael un adroddiad gan un o drigolion Aberthin yr oedd yn rhaid iddo aros dros naw awr am ambiwlans ac, wrth ddisgrifio'r sefyllfa yn Llanilltud Fawr, dywedodd un parafeddyg, er nad yw'r orsaf ambiwlansys ar gau, pur anaml y gwelir ambiwlansys yno.

Ediwna Hart: Mae hyn yn rhan o broblem ehangach o lawer wrth reoli'r gwasanaeth. Mae nifer fawr o swyddi gwag yn y gwasanaeth y mae angen eu llenwi, a'r rhain yw'r materion y bydd Stuart Fletcher, fel cadeirydd yr ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans, yn mynd ar eu trywydd ac yn cyflwyno adroddiad brys imi yn eu cylch. Mae angen inni lenwi'r swyddi gwag a chael y cerbydau ambiwlans allan i ddelio â rhai o'r problemau hyn. Y drafferth yw bod tuedd i gerbydau ambiwlans ddod i Gaerdydd neu i Gasnewydd, sy'n golygu ei bod yn rhaid i bobl yn yr ardaloedd hynny lle daw'r cerbydau ambiwlans ohonynt ddisgwyl yn hwy. Mae galw mawr hefyd am gerbydau ambiwlans hefyd. Ambell waith, mae hynny am na all pobl gael gofal sylfaenol ac mae yna amrywiol resymau eraill. Mae tuedd i bobl fod yn rhy ofalus a ffonio am ambiwlans yn ystod y nos, a gall meddygon ar alwad ffonio ambiwlans i fynd â phobl i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Mae nifer o broblemau cysylltiedig y bydd yn rhaid eu datrys fel rhan o drafodaeth ehangach o lawer.

Trish Law: Yn gyntaf, diolch ichi am roi o'ch amser yn ein rhaglen brysur ddydd Iau diwethaf i gwrdd â phersonél ambiwlans gorsaf ambiwlans Aber-big yng ngorsaf dân Abertyleri yn fy etholaeth. Yr oedd yn gyfarfod adeiladol, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch chi, fel Gweinidog sy'n gwrnado, yn mynd ar drywydd y pwyntiau a gyflwynwyd yn dda yn y cyfarfod. Yn yr union orsaf ambiwlans honno y mae rheolwyr yn ceisio tynnu'n ôl un o'r ddau ambiwlans sydd yno. A wnewch chi, fel rhan o'ch adolygiad o'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans yng Nghymru, ddefnyddio eich dylanwad i sicrhau na fydd nifer y cerbydau ambiwlans yn gostwng fel mesur effeithlonrwydd heb ystyried buddiannau iechyd y cyhoedd?

Edwina Hart: Diolch, Trish, am helpu trefnu ymweliad a thrafodaethau gyda phersonél

enlightening visit and discussions with ambulance personnel. I heard first-hand about their concerns about how they are managed, the way that vehicles are distributed, and about what is happening to their local population with regard to the demands placed on them to go elsewhere. You have my assurance that the issues raised by the staff will be looked at very carefully in the context of what is going to happen with ambulance services in south-east Wales.

IVF Treatment

Q5 Janice Gregory: Will the Minister consider reviewing the criteria for IVF treatment? OAQ(3)0778(HSS)

Edwina Hart: I have no immediate plans to review the access criteria for IVF. These criteria are based on National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines, with the exception of the number of cycles. In Wales, eligible patients are offered one cycle of IVF, with one fresh and one frozen embryo transfer, whereas NICE guidelines recommend three.

Janice Gregory: Thank you, Minister. Of course, I recognise that the implementation of a nationwide policy of one cycle of treatment per patient, regardless of where in Wales someone lives, has introduced much-needed fairness and consistency to the system. However, I am concerned that this should not be seen as the end of the road. These problems are very distressing for the women involved, their partners and their families, and one cycle of treatment will often be insufficient. I know that budgets are tight, Minister, but will you ensure that extending the availability of IVF treatment for those who require more than one cycle remains a live option when considering future priorities?

Edwina Hart: I recognise that one cycle of IVF falls short of the NICE recommendations. The current budget position of the NHS in Wales does not allow us to increase the number of cycles at present, but I will keep the matter under review.

ambiwylans: yr oedd yn hynod ddiddorol. Clywais fy hun am eu pryderon am y ffordd y cânt eu rheoli, y ffordd y caiff cerbydau eu dosbarthu, a'r hyn sy'n digwydd i'w poblogaeth leol wrth ystyried y gofynion a osodir arnynt i fynd i fannau eraill. Gallaf eich sicrhau yr edrychir yn ofalus iawn ar y materion a godwyd gan y staff yng nghydestun yr hyn a fydd yn digwydd gyda gwasanaethau ambiwlans yn y de-ddwyrain.

Triniaeth IVF

C5 Janice Gregory: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ystyried adolygu'r meini prawf ar gyfer triniaeth IVF? OAQ(3)0778(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Nid oes gennyf gynlluniau ar hyn o bryd i adolygu'r meini prawf ar gyfer cael triniaeth IVF. Mae'r meini prawf hyn yn seiliedig ar ganllawiau clinigol y Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Iechyd a Rhagoriaeth Glinigol, ac eithrio nifer y cylchoedd. Yng Nghymru, cynigir un cylch o IVF i gleifion cymwys, gan drosglwyddo un embryo ffres ac un wedi'i rewi, ac mae canllawiau NICE yn argymhell tri.

Janice Gregory: Diolch ichi, Weinidog. Wrth gwrs, yr wyf yn cydnabod bod gweithredu polisi cenedlaethol o un cylch o driniaeth fesul claf, ni waeth ym mhle yng Nghymru y mae rhywun yn byw, wedi dodâ thegwch a chysondeb mawr eu hangen i'r system. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn awyddus na ddylid gweld hyn fel diwedd y daith. Mae'r problemau hyn yn achosi llawer iawn o drallod i'r menywod dan sylw, eu partneriaid a'u teuluoedd, ac ni fydd un cylch o driniaeth yn aml yn ddigon. Gwn fod cyllidebau'n dynn, Weinidog, ond a wnewch chi sicrhau y bydd ymestyn argaeledd triniaeth IVF i'r rheini sydd ag angen mwy nag un cylch arnynt yn dal yn ddewis byw wrth ystyried blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y dyfodol?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn cydnabod nad yw un cylch o IVF yn bodloni argymhellion NICE. Nid yw sefyllfa cyllideb bresennol y GIG yng Nghymru yn caniatáu inni gynyddu nifer y cylchoedd ar hyn o bryd, ond byddaf yn adolygu'r mater hwn.

Mark Isherwood: A blueprint for affordable in-vitro fertilisation treatment has been provided by the London Women's Clinic at its clinics in Swansea and Cardiff, chaired, I believe, by the former chief executive officer of Swansea NHS Trust. It states that:

'The hub and spoke principle we have applied in Swansea and Cardiff, with egg-sharing and packaged IVF treatment, is a model which we know works for patients, and can be applied elsewhere'.

Will you give consideration to working with the London Women's Clinic to see how this hub and spoke principle could perhaps be developed in other parts of Wales?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for your comments. I will refer the details that you have put on the record to my officials for them to look at the issue.

David Lloyd: Further to your answers, Minister, it is not only about the one-cycle issue. New medical technology in the IVF field is marching on apace. That usually means that Government and NICE guidelines lag behind. In any review that you undertake, not only the current technology and the number of cycles, but also new technology that is, arguably, more effective, should be considered.

Edwina Hart: I thank Dr Lloyd for his comments, which I am sure that my officials will take on board.

Health Issues in Rural Wales

Q6 Joyce Watson: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to address health issues in rural areas? OAQ(3)0746(HSS)

Edwina Hart: It is a 'One Wales' commitment to:

'develop and publish a Rural Health Plan, ensuring that the future health needs of rural communities are met in ways which reflect the particular conditions and characteristics

Mark Isherwood: Mae Clinig Menywod Llundain wedi darparu glasbrint ar gyfer triniaeth ffrwythloni *in vitro* fforddadwy yn ei glinigau yn Abertawe ac yng Nghaerdydd, a'r cadeirydd, mi gredaf, yw cyn brif swyddog gweithredol Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Abertawe. Meddai:

Mae'r egwyddor both ac adenydd yr ydym wedi'i defnyddio yn Abertawe ac yng Nghaerdydd, gan rannu wyau a thriniaeth IVF wedi'i becynnu, yn fodel y gwyddom sy'n gweithio i gleifion ac y gellir ei ddefnyddio mewn mannau eraill.

A wnewch chi ystyried gweithio gyda Chlinig Menywod Llundain i weld sut y gellid datblygu'r egwyddor both ac adenydd hon efallai mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru?

Edwina Hart: Diolch ichi am eich sylwadau. Cyfeiriaf y manylion yr ydych wedi'u cofnodi at fy swyddogion er mwyn iddynt edrych ar y mater.

David Lloyd: Yn dilyn eich atebion, Weinidog, mae hyn yn fwy na dim ond y mater un cylch. Mae technoleg feddygol newydd yn y maes IVF yn symud ymlaen yn gyflym. Mae hynny fel rheol yn golygu bod canllawiau'r Llywodraeth a NICE ar ei hôl hi. Mewn unrhyw adolygiad a wnewch, dylid ystyried nid yn unig y dechnoleg bresennol a nifer y cylchoedd, ond technoleg newydd sydd, gellid dadlau, yn fwy effeithiol.

Edwina Hart: Diolch i Dr Lloyd am ei sylwadau: yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd fy swyddogion yn eu hystyried.

Materion Iechyd mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig

C6 Joyce Watson: Beth mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei wneud i roi sylw i faterion iechyd mewn ardaloedd gwledig? OAQ(3)0746(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Mae'r canlynol yn ymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un':

'Byddwn yn datblygu Cynllun Iechyd Gwledig, gan sicrhau bod anghenion iechyd cymunedau gwledig yn y dyfodol yn cael eu diwallu mewn ffyrdd sy'n adlewyrchu

of rural Wales.’

A steering group has been established, and I hope that the plan will be available in the new year.

Joyce Watson: Thank you for that, Minister. There has been a real recognition by the Government of the importance of community-based health services in ensuring universal access to health services. The announcement yesterday on deep rural areas reflects that. Are submissions to the group now closed and when is the group expected to report on its findings? Can you provide an update on the progress of the rural health plan?

Edwina Hart: I am not certain whether the group is taking any more submissions. It has had quite a lot. I will check on that. The steering group is due to report to me towards the end of the year, and I have already had discussions with it, therefore, I hope that a report will be available to go out for consultation in January. The group has looked at rural health issues in Scotland and New Zealand, and it has had detailed discussions with people who are involved in work for me, such as Dr Alan Axford, the medical director of Hywel Dda NHS Trust, and Dr Chris Jones. It held a series of meetings in the Royal Welsh Show and spoke to people there. It has been involved with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain about relevant issues. It has gone through everything to try to get a clear picture of our direction in rural health. It has been an exciting project for the group that has been involved and for the stakeholders. If Members are interested in submitting any information to the group, I would be more than happy to facilitate that.

Paul Davies: It is essential that the people whom I represent in rural communities receive access to health services at the point of need as quickly as possible. Further to Alun Davies’s question, it appears that GP out-of-hours cover in Pembrokeshire will be cut by two thirds, which will mean that GP

amodau a nodweddion arbennig cefn gwlad Cymru.’

Sefydlwyd grŵp llywio, a gobeithio y bydd y cynllun ar gael yn y flwyddyn newydd.

Joyce Watson: Diolch ichi am hynny, Weinidog. Mae’r Llywodraeth wedi cydnabod o ddifrif bwysigrwydd gwasanaethau iechyd cymunedol drwy sicrhau mynediad ar draws y wlad i wasanaethau iechyd. Mae’r cyhoeddiad ddoe am ardaloedd gwledig anghysbell yn adlewyrchu hynny. A yw’r grŵp wedi rhoi’r gorau i dderbyn sylwadau yn awr, a phryd y disgwylir i’r grŵp gyflwyniad adroddiad ar ei ddarganfyddiadau? A allwch ddarparu’r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y cynnydd yn y cynllun iechyd gwledig?

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw’r grŵp yn cymryd rhagor o sylwadau ai peidio. Mae wedi cael llawer iawn. Byddaf yn holi ynghylch hynny. Mae’r grŵp llywio i fod i adrodd yn ôl imi tua diwedd y flwyddyn, ac yr wyf eisoes wedi cael trafodaethau gydag ef, felly, gobeithio y bydd adroddiad ar gael i ymgynghori arno ym mis Ionawr. Mae’r grŵp wedi edrych ar faterion iechyd gwledig yn yr Alban a Seland Newydd, ac wedi cael trafodaethau manwl ar fy rhan gyda phobl sy’n ymwneud â gwaith, megis Dr Alan Axford, cyfarwyddwr meddygol Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Hywel Dda, a Dr Chris Jones. Cafodd gyfres o gyfarfodydd yn Sioe Frenhinol Cymru a bu’n siarad â phobl yno. Mae wedi bod yn ymwneud â Chymdeithas Fferyllol Frenhinol Prydain Fawr ar faterion perthnasol. Mae wedi mynd drwy bopeth i geisio cael darlun clir o’n cyfeiriad mewn iechyd gwledig. Mae wedi bod yn brosiect cyffrous i’r grŵp a fu’n ymwneud ag ef ac i’r rhanddeiliaid. Os oes gan unrhyw Aelodau awydd cyflwyno unrhyw wybodaeth i’r grŵp, byddwn yn fwy na pharod i hwyluso hynny.

Paul Davies: Mae’n hanfodol i’r bobl yr wyf yn eu cynrychioli mewn cymunedau gwledig allu cael gwasanaethau iechyd pan fydd eu hangen arnynt mor fuan â phosibl. Yn dilyn cwestiwn Alun Davies, ymddengys y bydd gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau meddygon teulu yn sir Benfro yn cael ei gwtogi dwy ran o

cover will only be based at Withybush Hospital in Haverfordwest. That service will cover the whole county of Pembrokeshire, which has a population of around 115,000. Given the rural nature of the county, that could lead to huge problems. Does the Minister agree that reducing the service to that level is unacceptable?

Edwina Hart: We must look at what service provision is required in rural Wales. The work that we are currently doing on the rural health plan needs to be embedded in the new planning arrangements of the new health organisations. That will help with some of the issues that you have raised today. With the focus that there will be on the delivery of primary and community care in the new health organisations, I hope that they will look at the real requirements for out-of-hours services in your area.

Nerys Evans: Yr ydym oll yn ymwybodol bod natur ein cymunedau gwledig yn ei wneud yn anoddach i'r bobl sy'n byw yn y cymunedau hynny i gael mynediad at wasanaethau iechyd. I sawl menyw sy'n dioddef trais yn y cartref, yn aml, cael mynediad at adran damweiniau ac achosion brys yr ysbyty lleol yw eu cysylltiad cyntaf gyda'r gwasanaeth iechyd.

2.00 p.m.

A allwch roi y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am eich ymgais i hyfforddi staff yr adrannau hyn i fod yn fwy ymwybodol o ddamweiniau o ganlyniad i drais yn y cartref? Mae sawl menyw wedi ysgrifennu ar fy mlog ymgyrchu, neu wedi cysylltu, i ddweud eu bod wedi bod yn ôl ac ymlaen i'r ysbyty dros y blynyddoedd heb i unrhyw un holi ynglŷn â natur eu hanafiadau. Yr oedd un fenyw yn benodol wedi bod i'r ysbyty sawl gwaith dros gyfnod o bum mlynedd ond, nes iddi gael ei thrywanu gyda chyllell yn y stumog, ni chafodd ei holi ynglŷn â thrais yn y cartref. Felly, byddwn yn falch i gael diweddariad gennyh ar y polisi hwn.

Edwina Hart: I am concerned by the nature of your question today—that someone has

dair, a fydd yn golygu mai yn Ysbyty Llwynhelig yn Hwlfordd yn unig y bydd gwasanaeth meddygon teulu ar gael. Bydd y gwasanaeth hwnnw ar gyfer sir Benfro i gyd, sydd â phoblogaeth o ryw 115,000. Ac ystyried natur wledig y sir, gallai hynny arwain at broblemau enfawr. A yw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno bod lleihau'r gwasanaeth i'r lefel honno'n annerbyniol?

Edwina Hart: Rhaid inni edrych ar ba ddarpariaeth gwasanaeth y mae ei angen yng Nghymru wledig. Mae angen i'r gwaith yr ydym yn ei wneud ar hyn o bryd ar y cynllun iechyd gwledig gael ei wreiddio yn nhrefniadau cynllunio newydd y sefydliadau iechyd newydd. Bydd hynny'n helpu gyda rhai o'r materion yr ydych wedi'u codi heddiw. Gyda'r canolbwyntio a fydd ar ddarparu gofal sylfaenol a chymunedol yn y sefydliadau iechyd newydd, gobeithio y byddant yn edrych ar y gofynion gwirioneddol ar gyfer gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau yn eich ardal.

Nerys Evans: We are all aware that the nature of our rural communities makes it more difficult for people living in those communities to access health services. For many women who suffer domestic violence, their first contact with the health service is often through access to the accident and emergency service at the local hospital.

Can you give us an update on your effort to train staff in those departments to be more aware of accidents as a result of domestic violence? Many women have contacted my campaigning blog, or have contacted to say that they have been in and out of hospital over the years but nobody has asked them about the nature of their injuries. One woman specifically had been in and out over a period of five years, but until she had been stabbed in the stomach she had never been asked about issues concerning domestic violence. Therefore, I should like an update from you on this particular policy.

Edwina Hart: Mae natur eich cwestiwn heddiw yn peri pryder imi—bod rhywun

accessed the health service so often without anyone thinking to ask the appropriate questions. The guidance is that they should ask these questions and we are supposed to be able to identify domestic abuse. I will follow up with the health service directly the issues that you have raised and see what is happening on the ground, particularly in the accident and emergency departments, and will come back to you on this point.

Mick Bates: Minister, many colleagues have made reference to ambulance response times. You have identified that, in rural areas, it is impossible to reach the national target of 65 per cent. Do you agree that capacity in communities, through defibrillator groups, first responders and other blue-light services, is undervalued and are not used enough to ensure that patients receive that important care in the first few minutes before an ambulance arrives? What are you doing to encourage these groups to respond quickly, helping the ambulance service to reach its targets?

Edwina Hart: I do not accept that they are undervalued, because we value their contribution, but they are underutilised if you look at the grand plan of how we could deal with some of the issues within rural areas. My officials have been discussing some issues with regard to skills within the fire service. I have suggested to officials that we need to start to map where everything is in order to have better utilisation of the resources that we are supporting or which the voluntary sector is providing to give that first point of contact, if necessary.

Foot Care

Q7 Lorraine Barrett: Will the Minister make a statement on foot care in Wales? OAQ(3)0741(HSS)

Edwina Hart: I recognise the importance of good foot care. Provision of services is a matter for local determination. I have commissioned a scoping exercise to identify the extent of unmet social foot care needs in

wedi defnyddio'r gwasanaeth iechyd mor aml heb i neb feddwl gofyn y cwestiynau priodol. Yn ôl y cyfarwyddyd, dylent ofyn y cwestiynau hyn ac yr ydym i fod i allu adnabod cam-drin domestig. Af ar drywydd y materion yr ydych wedi'u codi yn uniongyrchol gyda'r gwasanaeth iechyd i weld beth sy'n digwydd yn y gwasanaeth—yn enwedig yn yr adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys—a dof yn ôl atoch ar y pwynt hwn.

Mick Bates: Weinidog, mae nifer o'r cyd-Aelodau wedi cyfeirio at amseroedd ymateb cerbydau ambiwlans. Yr ydych wedi dweud ei bod yn amhosibl cyrraedd y targed cenedlaethol o 65 y cant mewn ardaloedd gwledig. A gytunwch fod gallu cymunedau, drwy gyfrwng grwpiau diffibrilio, ymatebwyr cyntaf a gwasanaethau golau glas eraill, yn cael ei danbrizio ac na ddefnyddir digon ar y rhain i sicrhau bod cleifion yn cael y gofal pwysig hwnnw yn ystod yr ychydig funudau cyntaf cyn i ambiwlans gyrraedd? Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i annog y grwpiau hyn i ymateb yn gyflym, gan helpu'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans i gyrraedd ei dargedau?

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf yn derbyn eu bod yn cael eu tanbrizio oherwydd yr ydym yn gwerthfawrogi eu cyfraniad. Ond os edrychwch ar y cynllun cyfan ynghylch sut y gallem ddelio â rhai o'r problemau mewn ardaloedd gwledig, nid ydynt yn cael eu defnyddio'n ddigonol. Mae fy swyddogion wedi bod yn trafod rhai materion yn ymwneud â sgiliau'r gwasanaeth tân. Yr wyf wedi awgrymu wrth fy swyddogion fod angen inni ddechrau mapio lleoliad popeth er mwyn defnyddio'n well yr adnoddau yr ydym yn eu cefnogi neu'r adnoddau y mae'r sector gwirfoddol yn eu darparu i sicrhau'r pwynt cyswllt cyntaf hwnnw, os bydd angen.

Gofal Traed

C7 Lorraine Barrett: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ofal traed yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0741(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd gofal da i'r traed. Mater i'w bennu'n lleol yw darparu gwasanaethau. Yr wyf wedi comisiynu ymarferiad cwmpasu er mwyn darganfod i ba raddau y mae

the community and potential solutions to any gaps in provision.

Lorraine Barrett: I was taken with Age Concern Cymru's report, 'Little steps can make a big difference', which called for a number of improvements on basic foot care services for elderly people in Wales, which I am sure you will agree can save their lives. Have you considered this report? Can you share some of your thoughts with us please?

Edwina Hart: Like you, I thought that it was an excellent report. I have asked officials to look at this report, because I will undertake a scoping exercise. I will be meeting the chief executive of the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists this month; this issue will be on the agenda to see what progress we can make in the future.

David Melding: People living with diabetes have a particular need for good podiatry services. In fact, it has been estimated that effective podiatry can reduce by half the amputation rate for those with diabetes. This is probably one of the most unpleasant side effects of that condition.

Edwina Hart: I could not agree with you more. We need to ensure that the services are provided for diabetics. I am concerned with regard to whether all diabetics are accessing the appropriate services, which could help them in the long run. It is an issue that I will look at.

Irene James: In recent weeks, I have had representations from many constituents who are having difficulty accessing podiatry services at Risca Chiropractic Clinic in my constituency. The problem appears to be down to staff shortages, which is leading to cancelled appointments and, often, long delays. Minister, what can we do to solve this problem and how can we attract more trained people into the service, particularly in Islwyn?

Edwina Hart: We have not made any

anghenion cymdeithasol gofal traed yn y gymuned heb eu diwallu, ac atebion posibl i unrhyw fylchau yn y ddarpariaeth.

Lorraine Barrett: Gwnaeth adroddiad Age Concern Cymru, 'Gall camau bach wneud gwahaniaeth mawr' gryn argraff arnaf. Yr oedd yn galw am nifer o welliannau mewn gwasanaethau gofal traed sylfaenol i bobl hŷn yng Nghymru, rhywbeth yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno a all achub bywydau. A ydych wedi ystyried yr adroddiad hwn? A allwch rannu rhywfaint o'ch safbwyntiau gyda ni, os gwelwch yn dda?

Edwina Hart: Yr oeddwn i, fel chithau, yn meddwl ei fod yn adroddiad gwych. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i swyddogion edrych ar yr adroddiad hwn, oherwydd byddaf yn ymgymryd ag ymarferiad cwmpasu. Byddaf yn cwrdd â phrif weithredwr Cymdeithas y Ciropodyddion a'r Peditryddon y mis hwn; bydd y mater hwn ar yr agenda i weld pa gynnydd y gallwn ei wneud yn y dyfodol.

David Melding: Mae ar bobl sy'n dioddef gan ddiabetes angen penodol am wasanaethau podiatreg da. Yn wir, amcangyfrifwyd y gall podiatreg effeithiol haneru nifer y bobl sy'n torri aelodau o'r corff ymhlith y rheini sydd â diabetes. Mae'n siŵr mai hwn yw un o sgil effeithiau mwyaf anymunol y cyflwr.

Edwina Hart: Clywch, clywch. Mae angen inni sicrhau y caiff y gwasanaethau eu darparu ar gyfer pobl sydd â diabetes. Yr wyf yn pryderu a yw pawb sydd â diabetes yn manteisio ar y gwasanaethau priodol, a allai eu cynorthwyo yn y tymor hir. Mae'n fater y byddaf yn edrych arno.

Irene James: Yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf, mae sylwadau wedi dod i law gan etholwyr sy'n cael trafferth i gael gwasanaethau podiatreg yng Nghlinig Ceiropractig Rhisga yn fy etholaeth i. Prinder staff sydd wrth wraidd y broblem i bob golwg, a hynny'n golygu canslo apwyntiadau ac oedi hir yn aml. Weinidog, beth gallwn ei wneud i ddatrys y broblem hon a sut y gallwn ddenu mwy o bobl gymwys i'r gwasanaeth, yn enwedig yn Islwyn?

Edwina Hart: Nid ydym wedi gwneud dim

decisions yet for education commissions for 2009, which is important to get more people into the service. I understand that there has been a localised problem within Gwent, which I think has been the result of maternity and other leave arrangements. However, the capacity deficit remains in that area, and I have asked my officials to discuss the appropriate issues with the relevant health board.

Cancer Services

Q8 Jeff Cuthbert: Will the Minister provide an update on cancer services in Wales? OAQ(3)0799(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Tackling cancer and providing high quality prevention, diagnosis, treatment, palliative and end of life healthcare, is one of my top health priorities for the NHS. Central recurrent funding of £4.5 million has been provided from 2007-08 to help meet and maintain the required national cancer standards and NICE guidance.

Jeff Cuthbert: I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the hard work of Bridget McNally from Caerphilly borough, whose cancer has unfortunately returned for the third time. Together with representatives of Bargoed fire station, she plans to trek to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro early next year to raise vital funds for cancer research. I would urge everyone to support that generously in due course.

With regard to the latest drive to tackle cancer, I was pleased to see that services for the young were included, including the human papillomavirus vaccine and rehabilitation programmes. Can you assure me that this will come together in an overarching cancer plan for Wales?

Edwina Hart: It is marvellous that Bridget McNally is fundraising in that way. When it comes to cancer, there are people out there prepared to go one degree further than the rest of us in their fundraising, and what they will do to help.

penderyniadau eto ynghylch comisiynau addysg ar gyfer 2009, sy'n bwysig er mwyn denu mwy o bobl i'r gwasanaeth. Caf ar ddeall bod problem leol yng Ngwent, a threfniadau cyfnod mamolaeth a gwyliau eraill sydd wedi achosi hyn, mi gredaf. Fodd bynnag, mae yna ddiffyg capasiti o hyd yn y maes hwnnw, ac yr wyf wedi gofyn i'm swyddogion drafod y materion priodol gyda'r bwrdd iechyd perthnasol.

Gwasanaethau Cancer

C8 Jeff Cuthbert: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am wasanaethau cancer yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0799(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Mynd i'r afael â chanser a darparu gofal iechyd o safon uchel ar gyfer gwasanaethau atal, diagnosio, triniaeth, gofal lliniarol a gofal diwedd oes yw un o'm prif flaenoriaethau iechyd ar gyfer y GIG. Mae cyllid rheolaidd canolog o £4.5 miliwn wedi'i ddarparu o 2007-08 i helpu cyrraedd a chynnal y safonau cenedlaethol gofynnol sy'n gysylltiedig â chanser a chyfarwyddyd NICE.

Jeff Cuthbert: Carwn achub ar y cyfle hwn i dynnu sylw at waith caled Bridget McNally o fwrdeistref Caerffili. Yn anffodus, mae'r canser sydd ganddi wedi dychwelyd am y trydydd tro. Ar y cyd â chynrychiolwyr gorsaf dân Bargod, mae'n bwriadu dringo i gopa Mynydd Kilimanjaro ddechrau'r flwyddyn nesaf, i godi arian hollbwysig ar gyfer ymchwil canser. Byddwn yn annog pawb i gefnogi hynny'n hael maes o law.

O ran yr ymgyrch ddiweddaraf i fynd i'r afael â chanser, yr oeddwn yn falch gweld bod gwasanaethau ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn cael eu cynnwys, gan gynnwys rhaglenni brechu ac adsefydlu ar gyfer y firws papiloma dynol. A allwch fy sicrhau y daw hyn ynghyd mewn cynllun canser trosfwaol ar gyfer Cymru?

Edwina Hart: Mae'n wych bod Bridget McNally yn codi arian fel hynny. Yn achos canser, mae yna bobl sy'n barod i fynd un cam ymhellach na'r gweddill ohonom wrth godi arian, ac yn yr hyn a wnânt i helpu.

Wales has a cancer strategy, 'Designed to Tackle Cancer in Wales', published in December 2006, which sets out the specific policy aims. It covers the whole patient pathway and is based around prevention, early detection, and improved access. The programme associated with the document was published in August, and will remain in place for 2008-11. It represents an overall strategy, and is beginning to come together to impact upon the services that we deliver.

William Graham: You will know that breast cancer has attracted significant attention in the media, and from lobbying groups. Consequently, funding and research have achieved excellent results in the form of a lower mortality rate. The corollary is that interest in other forms of cancer has declined. I have been contacted by a number of sufferers in South Wales East who feel that the effectiveness of new screening programmes needs further examination; I have asked you previously about this, but if anything can be done to increase detection and survival rates, it must be encouraged.

Edwina Hart: I will ask my cancer adviser to look specifically at those points.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Fe'ch llongyfarchaf ar y ffordd yr ydych wedi dwyn y ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau cancer at ei gilydd yng Nghymru. Mae un pwynt sy'n fy mhoeni. Mae tri rhwydwaith gwasanaethau cancer yng Nghymru, ond bydd gennym saith bwrdd iechyd lleol. Sut y bydd y naill strwythur a'r llall yn cydweithio i sicrhau bod y gwasanaethau hyn yn cael eu darparu'n effeithiol?

Edwina Hart: As you know, this came up in discussion yesterday, in the context of the restructuring of the NHS. The three cancer networks have been particularly effective in working together and linking into the specialist cancer trust at Velindre. My officials are currently working through some of these issues to ensure that we build on the success of the cancer networks, and see whether we need to make any changes as the seven new bodies evolve. That is something

Mae gan Gymru strategaeth ganser, 'Cynllun i Fynd i'r Afael â Chanser yng Nghymru', a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Rhagfyr 2006. Mae'n gosod allan y nodau polisi penodol. Mae'n ymdrin â'r llwybr cleifion drwyddo draw ac y mae'n seiliedig ar waith atal, darganfod yn gynnar a gwell mynediad. Cyhoeddwyd y rhaglen sy'n gysylltiedig â'r ddogfen ym mis Awst, a bydd yn dal ar waith ar gyfer 2008-11. Mae'n cynrychioli strategaeth gyffredinol, ac mae'n dechrau dod ynghyd i ddylanwadu ar y gwasanaethau a ddarparwn.

William Graham: Gwyddoch fod canser y fron wedi denu llawer o sylw yn y cyfryngau, a chan grwpiau lobïo. Yn sgil hynny, mae cyllid a gwaith ymchwil wedi sicrhau canlyniadau gwych sydd wedi lleihau'r gyfradd marwolaethau. Yn sgil hynny mae llai o ddiddordeb mewn mathau eraill o ganser. Mae nifer o ddiodefwyr yn Nwyrain De Cymru wedi cysylltu â mi ac yn teimlo bod angen edrych yn fanylach ar effeithiolrwydd rhaglenni sgrinio newydd. Yr wyf wedi eich holi ynghylch hyn o'r blaen, ond os gellir gwneud unrhyw beth i gynyddu cyfraddau darganfod a goroesi, rhaid ei annog.

Edwina Hart: Gofynnaf i'm cynghorydd canser edrych yn benodol ar y pwyntiau hynny.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I congratulate you on the way you have brought together cancer service provision in Wales. There is one point that concerns me. There are three cancer service networks in Wales, but there are to be seven local health boards. How will the two structures be co-ordinated to ensure that these services are provided effectively?

Edwina Hart: Fel y gwyddoch, crybwyllwyd hyn yn ystod y ddadl ddoe, yng nghyd-destun ailstrwythuro'r GIG. Mae'r tri rhwydwaith canser wedi bod yn hynod effeithiol wrth gydweithio ac ymuno â'r ymddiriedolaeth ganser arbenigol yn Felindre. Mae fy swyddogion yn gweithio drwy rai o'r materion hyn ar hyn o bryd i sicrhau ein bod yn adeiladu ar lwyddiant y rhwydweithiau canser, ac i weld a oes angen inni wneud unrhyw newidiadau wrth i'r saith

that will emerge during the consultation, and as we move towards the new structure.

corff newydd esblygu. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth a ddaw'n amlwg yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad, ac wrth inni symud at y strwythur newydd.

Cwestiynau i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

Transport Infrastructure

Q1 Andrew R.T. Davies: What measures is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to improve transport infrastructure in South Wales Central? OAQ(3)0735(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I am driving forward continued investment. This includes £38.3 million to support local schemes such as the Church Village bypass and the Pontypridd to Merthyr Tydfil rail frequency enhancement scheme.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I declare an interest in this question, which is in connection with the airport relief road. On Friday I met representatives of No Ely Valley Airport Road, the campaign group for proposal C, which would take the road through the Ely valley via Pendoylan. Among the concerns that the group raised with me was the timing of the likely ministerial decision, irrespective of which route is chosen. As people familiar with the case will understand, there are three options under consideration, and I am led to believe that that decision could come at the end of this year, or the beginning of next year.

Secondly, is there a link between the defence training academy and this road? Having spoken with your officials, I am led to believe that the road is not part of a contractual obligation or an obligation that the Welsh Assembly Government entered into in trying to secure the defence training academy. It is, in fact, a Welsh Assembly Government initiative to open up the access to Cardiff International Airport.

2.10 p.m.

Seilwaith Trafnidiaeth

C1 Andrew R.T. Davies: Pa fesurau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i wella seilwaith trafndiaeth yng Nghanol De Cymru? OAQ(3)0735(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Yr wyf yn bwrw ymlaen â buddsoddi parhaus. Mae hyn yn cynnwys £38.3 miliwn i gefnogi cynlluniau lleol megis ffordd osgoi Gartholwg a chynllun gwella amllder y gwasanaeth rheilffordd rhwng Pontypridd a Merthyr Tudful.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Datganaf fudd yn y cwestiwn hwn, sy'n gysylltiedig â ffordd liniaru'r maes awyr. Cyfarfûm ddydd Gwener â chynrychiolwyr Na i Ffordd Maes Awyr Cwm Elái, y grŵp sy'n ymgrechu dros gynig C a fyddai'n mynd â'r ffordd ar hyd Cwm Elái drwy Bendeulwyn. Ymhlith y pryderon a fynegodd y grŵp wrthyf yr oedd amseriad penderfyniad tebygol y gweinidog, ni waeth pa lwybr a ddewisir. Fel y gŵyr pobl sy'n gyfarwydd â'r achos, mae tri opsiwn yn cael eu hystyried, a deallaf y gallai'r penderfyniad ddod ddiwedd y flwyddyn hon neu ddechrau'r flwyddyn nesaf.

Yn ail, a oes cyswllt rhwng yr academi hyfforddiant amddiffyn â'r ffordd hon? Ar ôl siarad â'ch swyddogion, deallaf nad yw'r ffordd yn rhan o rwymedigaeth contract na rhwymedigaeth yr ymrwymodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru iddi wrth geisio sicrhau'r academi hyfforddiant amddiffyn. Yn wir, cynllun Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yw agor y mynediad i Faes Awyr Rhyngwladol Caerdydd.

The Deputy First Minister: On the first point, once the consultation period has ended, there will be a period of reflection on the consultation responses before I make a further announcement. I will write to you, if I may, about the timetable for that to happen. Although there may not be contractual obligations in relation to road infrastructure around the airport and the defence training academy, it is fair to point out that there are a number of interlocking issues that need to be looked at in the round—you cannot look at them in total isolation. There are a number of issues here that relate to road infrastructure and to some public transport improvements, which it is incumbent upon the Government to consider in the round.

Irene James: I have been informed by Stagecoach that it intends to reduce the X16 Cardiff to Abertillery service to only twice a day. This bus is used to get to work by many of my constituents, many of whom do not work regular, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours. The new timetable will not fit in with the schedule of those constituents. What discussions have you had with Stagecoach on this matter?

The Deputy First Minister: I have not had any specific discussions with Stagecoach about individual services, but, given that there is concern, I will draw that service to the company's attention.

Janet Randerson: I will concentrate on the stimulation of transport infrastructure through demand. I am told that the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK has offered a half-fare option for all young people up to the age of 25, on the basis that that half-fare discount is supported 50 per cent by the operator and 50 per cent by the Welsh Assembly Government. Can you explain why that option has not been pursued and taken up, particularly as the Assembly is currently running half-price fare pilot schemes for 16 to 18-year-olds? Can you also update us on the progress of those pilot schemes? Are we likely to see the roll-out of those half-fare schemes across Wales, or are they, like so many other One Wales Government plans, likely to die a death?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: O ran y pwynt cyntaf, ar ôl i'r cyfnod ymgynghori ddod i ben, bydd cyfnod o bwysu a mesur yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad cyn y byddaf yn gwneud cyhoeddiad pellach. Ysgrifennaf atoch, os caf, ynghylch yr amserlen ar gyfer hynny. Er nad oes rhwymedigaeth contract yng nghyswllt y seilwaith ffordd o amgylch y maes awyr a'r academi hyfforddiant amddiffyn, mae'n deg dweud bod yna nifer o faterion cysylltiedig y mae angen edrych arnynt yn drwyadl—ni allwch edrych arnynt yn gwbl unigol. Mae yma nifer o faterion yn ymwneud â seilwaith ffordd ac â rhai gwelliannau mewn cludiant cyhoeddus, ac mae'n ddyletswydd ar y Llywodraeth i'w hystyried yn drwyadl.

Irene James: Mae Stagecoach wedi dweud wrthyf ei fod yn bwriadu cwtdogi'r gwasanaeth X16 o Gaerdydd i Abertyleri i ddim ond dwywaith y dydd. Mae llawer o'm hetholwyr yn defnyddio'r bws hwn i fynd i'r gwaith, nifer ohonynt nad ydynt yn gweithio oriau rheolaidd o 9 a.m. tan 5 p.m. Ni fydd yr amserlen newydd yn cyd-fynd ag amserlen yr etholwyr hynny. Pa drafodaethau yr ydych wedi'u cael gyda Stagecoach ar y mater hwn?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Nid wyf wedi cael dim trafodaethau penodol gyda Stagecoach am wasanaethau unigol, ond gan fod pryder, tynnaf sylw'r cwmni at y gwasanaeth hwnnw.

Janet Randerson: Canolbwyntiaf ar ysgogi'r seilwaith trafndiaeth drwy alw. Dywedir wrthyf fod Cydffederasiwn Cludiant Teithwyr y DU wedi cynnig opsiwn hanner pris i bob unigolyn ifanc hyd at 25 oed, ar y sail y caiff y disgownt hanner pris ei gefnogi 50 y cant gan y gweithredydd a 50 y cant gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. A allwch egluro pam nad aethpwyd ar drywydd yr opsiwn hwnnw a'i dderbyn, yn enwedig gan fod y Cynulliad yn cynnal cynlluniau peilot hanner pris i bobl ifanc rhwng 16 a 18 oed ar hyn o bryd? A allwch hefyd roi'r diweddaraf inni am gynnydd y cynlluniau peilot hynny? A ydym yn debygol o weld y cynlluniau hanner pris hynny'n cael eu gweithredu ledled Cymru, ynteu a ydynt, fel cynifer o gynlluniau eraill Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un, yn debygol o fynd i'r gwellt?

The Deputy First Minister: The pilot schemes are currently being evaluated, and I will then make an announcement on whether they are to be continued, enhanced or discontinued. That is a decision that we must make in the light of the evaluation. It is fair to point out that the Government makes a substantial commitment to public transport, particularly to bus services. The allocation of funding for the concessionary fare scheme is second to none in the United Kingdom. Whether we can also look to introduce other schemes is a matter for debate at the appropriate time in the budgetary round.

Chris Franks: Plans to upgrade the rail service into Cardiff from Barry, Penarth and the Valleys are at risk due to cuts in investment plans. The Welsh Assembly Government is investing in better public transport only to see London-based rail bodies cutting back. People want to travel by train, but the UK Government's lack of commitment to the Welsh rail network is a huge blow. What further discussions will you have to see whether better rail links for my constituents will be provided?

The Deputy First Minister: We were concerned about the announcement made by the Office of Rail Regulation; as a result, we have made our views known to the ORR that the Cardiff to Barry corridor capacity increases, the Cogan junction improvements and the City Line linespeed project should all proceed. We await a response from the ORR on that. We made it clear that we see rail infrastructure improvements around Cardiff, to the Valleys to the north and to the area that you mentioned, as part of that scheme and we hope that it will respond positively to that.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 2, OAQ(3)0737(ECT), yn ôl.

Green Jobs Strategy

Q3 Mick Bates: What is the target number of

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae'r cynlluniau peilot yn cael eu gwerthuso ar hyn o bryd, a byddaf wedyn yn gwneud cyhoeddiad ynghylch a fyddwn yn eu parhau, yn eu hystyngw'n ynteu'n eu dirwyn i ben. Mae hwnnw'n benderfyniad y mae'n rhaid inni ei wneud ar sail y gwerthusiad. Mae'n deg dweud bod y Llywodraeth yn gwneud cyfraniad sylweddol at gludiant cyhoeddus, yn enwedig at wasanaethau bysiau. Mae'r cyllid a ddyrannir i'r cynllun pris gostyngol heb ei ail yn y Deyrnas Unedig. A allwn droi at gyflwyno cynlluniau eraill hefyd? Mae hwnnw'n fater i'w drafod ar adeg briodol yn y cylch cyllidebau.

Chris Franks: Mae cynlluniau i uwchraddio'r gwasanaeth rheilffordd i Gaerdydd o'r Barri, Penarth a'r Cymoedd yn y fantol yn sgil toriadau mewn cynlluniau buddsoddi. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn buddsoddi mewn cludiant cyhoeddus gwell, tra mae cyrff rheilffordd yn Llundain yn gwneud toriadau. Mae pobl am deithio ar drên, ond mae diffyg ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y DU at rwydwaith rheilffyrdd Cymru yn ergyd enfawr. Pa drafodaethau pellach y byddwch yn eu cael i weld a gaiff cysylltiadau rheilffordd gwell eu darparu i'm hetholwyr?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr oeddem yn pryderu am y cyhoeddiad gan y Swyddfa Rheoleiddio Rheilffyrdd. Felly, yr ydym wedi mynegi ein barn wrth y Swyddfa, y dylai'r prosiect i gynyddu capasiti llwybr Caerdydd i'r Barri, prosiect gwelliannau cyffordd Cogan a phrosiect cyflymder rheilffordd City Line, i gyd fynd yn eu blaenau. Yr ydym yn disgwyl ateb gan y Swyddfa Rheoleiddio Rheilffyrdd ar hynny. Gwnaethom yn glir ein bod yn ystyried bod gwelliannau seilwaith rheilffyrdd o amgylch Caerdydd, i'r Cymoedd tua'r gogledd ac i'r ardal y soniech amdani yn rhan o'r cynllun hwnnw, a gobeithiwn y bydd yn ymateb yn gadarnhaol i hynny.

The Presiding Officer: Question 2, OAQ(3)0737(ECT), has been withdrawn.

Strategaeth Swyddi Gwyrdd

C3 Mick Bates: Beth yw'r targed ar gyfer

jobs to be created through the green jobs strategy? OAQ(3)0757(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: The green jobs strategy will be published for consultation shortly.

Mick Bates: I am well aware of that, as you have said many times that we will have a green jobs strategy, but it is about time we got on with it because this matter is so urgent. Yesterday, we heard the First Minister telling us that small-scale schemes, rather than large public schemes, are a cost-effective way of helping our ailing construction industry. What thought have you given to helping Jane Davidson, the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, to reach her target of getting 30,000 microgeneration units installed in Wales by 2012? What are you doing to develop the manufacturing industry in Wales and to upskill our construction workers who could install these units? You would then have a win-win situation that would reduce our carbon footprint, reduce fuel poverty and create green jobs in Wales.

The Deputy First Minister: I agree entirely that this is the right time to act on green jobs, and you will not have to wait long. If you can hold your breath just a little longer, an announcement on the strategy will be made in the next few weeks. I have committed myself to that now, have I not? The additional point that I wanted to make was that you are right about this being the time to act on green jobs, because some really exciting cutting-edge technology is being created in Wales, which we want to see commercialised. If there are good opportunities to commercialise technology such as that which you mentioned, that is precisely the kind of thing that we want to see developed under this strategy.

Lesley Griffiths: Deputy First Minister, will you join me in congratulating Sharp UK Manufacturing in my constituency, Wrexham, for winning two awards last week, including the award for the overall winner, at the 2008 Wales Business and Sustainability

nifer y swyddi a gaiff eu creu drwy'r strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd? OAQ(3)0757(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Caiff y strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd ei chyhoeddi ar gyfer ymgynghori maes o law.

Mick Bates: Gwn hynny'n dda, gan eich bod wedi dweud droeon y bydd gennym strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd, ond mae'n hen bryd bwrw ymlaen â hyn gan fod hwn yn fater brys. Ddoe, dywedodd y Prif Weinidog wrthym fod cynlluniau ar raddfa fach, yn hytrach na chynlluniau cyhoeddus mawr, yn ffordd gost effeithiol i helpu ein diwydiant adeiladu, sydd mewn trafferthion. Beth ydych wedi ystyried ei wneud i helpu Jane Davidson, y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai, i gyrraedd ei tharged o gael 30,000 o unedau microgynhyrchu wedi'u gosod yng Nghymru erbyn 2012? Beth ydych yn ei wneud i ddatblygu'r diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru ac i wella sgiliau ein gweithwyr adeiladu a allai osod yr unedau hyn? Byddai gennych wedyn sefyllfa lle byddai pawb ar eu hennill a ninnau'n lleihau ein hól troed carbon, yn lleihau tloedi tanwydd ac yn creu swyddi gwyrdd yng Nghymru.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Cytunaf yn llwyr mai dyma'r adeg iawn i weithredu ar swyddi gwyrdd, ac ni fydd yn rhaid ichi aros yn hir. Os gallwch ddal eich gwynt ychydig yn hwy, caiff cyhoeddiad ynghylch y strategaeth ei wneud yn ystod yr ychydig wythnosau nesaf. Onid wyf wedi fy ymrwymo i wneud hynny yn awr? Y pwynt ychwanegol yr oeddwn am ei wneud oedd eich bod yn gywir mai dyma'r adeg iawn i weithredu ar swyddi gwyrdd, gan fod technoleg arloesol hynod o gyffrous yn cael ei chreu yng Nghymru, ac yr ydym am weld ei masnacheiddio. Os oes cyfleoedd da i fasnacheiddio technoleg fel yr un y soniech amdani, dyna'n union y math o beth yr hoffem weld ei ddatblygu dan y strategaeth hon.

Lesley Griffiths: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, a wnewch ymuno â mi i longyfarch Sharp UK Manufacturing yn fy etholaeth i yn Wrexham am ennill dwy wobwr yr wythnos diwethaf, gan gynnwys gwobr yr enillydd cyffredinol, yn seremoni Gwobrau Busnes a

Awards ceremony here at the Senedd? I believe that this shows that Sharp's commitment is not confined to the production of cutting-edge green technology, and that it also employs sustainable methods of production. Do you agree that by setting such high standards in protecting the environment and being sustainable, Sharp is a credit to Wales and a shining example to the rest of the economy?

The Deputy First Minister: I very much agree with that point. I was able to speak to some of the senior Sharp executives when I was in Japan recently, and it appears to me that this is the kind of company, looking forward with its new technologies, that we really want to see investing further in Wales. I very much agree with the sentiments that you expressed about the company's performance; it is excellent.

Nick Ramsay: I am sure that, like Mick Bates, I will not be holding my breath. Had we been holding our breath waiting for the green jobs strategy to be published, we would be quite blue in the face by now. In your previous answer, Deputy First Minister, you failed to answer the question about the target number of jobs in that strategy. I appreciate that we are still waiting for it to be published, but can you at least give a guideline on the number of jobs that you anticipate will be created? You mentioned the manufacturing sector and, over the past decade, there has been a net reduction of 51,000 employee jobs in manufacturing in Wales. Are you confident that, against that backdrop of manufacturing decline, the green jobs strategy really can deliver what you hope it will?

The Deputy First Minister: That question demonstrates a misunderstanding of what a strategy is all about. A strategy does not set out job targets; it creates the environment in which those new technologies that Mick Bates and Lesley have mentioned can be allowed to move forward. The strategy will do that. Given the ideas for cutting-edge technologies that are coming out, whether through entrepreneurs or universities in Wales, I am confident that this strategy will be a supporting mechanism showing that the

Chynaliadwyedd Cymru 2008 a gynhaliwyd yma yn y Senedd? Credaf fod hyn yn profiad yw ymrwymiad Sharp wedi'i gyfyngu i gynhyrchu technoleg werdd arloesol, a'i fod hefyd yn cyflogi dulliau cynhyrchu cynaliadwy. A ydych yn cytuno bod Sharp, drwy osod safonau mor uchel wrth warchod yr amgylchedd a bod yn gynaliadwy, yn glod i Gymru ac yn esiampl wych i weddill yr economi?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r pwynt hwnnw. Cefais gyfle i siarad â rhai o uwch weithredwyr Sharp pan oeddwn yn Siapan yn ddiweddar, ac y mae'n ymddangos imi mai dyma'r math o gwmni, sydd â golwg ar y dyfodol gyda'i dechnolegau newydd, yr ydym yn wir am ei weld yn buddsoddi mwy yng Nghymru. Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r teimladau a fynegwyd gennych am berfformiad y cwmni; y mae'n ardderchog.

Nick Ramsay: Yr wyf yn siŵr na fyddaf fi, fel Mick Bates, yn dal fy gwynt. Petaem wedi bod yn dal ein gwynt yn aros i'r strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd gael ei chyhoeddi, byddai ein hwynebâu'n las erbyn hyn. Yn eich ateb blaenorol, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, nid oeddech yn ateb y cwestiwn ynghylch y nifer targed o swyddi sydd yn y strategaeth honno. Sylweddolaf ein bod yn dal i aros iddi gael ei chyhoeddi, ond a allwch o leiaf roi arweiniad ar nifer y swyddi yr ydych yn rhagweld a gaiff eu creu? Soniech am y sector gweithgynhyrchu, ac yn ystod y degawd diwethaf gwelwyd lleihad net o 51,000 o swyddi gweithwyr ym maes gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru. A ydych yn hyderus y gall y strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd, yn y cefndir hwnnw o ddirywiad mewn gweithgynhyrchu, ddarparu'r hyn yr ydych yn gobeithio y bydd yn ei wneud?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae'r cwestiwn hwnnw'n dangos camddealltwriaeth o holl nod y strategaeth. Nid yw strategaeth yn gosod allan dargedau swyddi; y mae'n creu'r amgylchedd lle gall y technolegau newydd hynny y mae Mick Bates a Lesley wedi sôn amdanynt fwrw ymlaen. Bydd y strategaeth yn gwneud hynny. O ystyried y syniadau ar gyfer y technolegau arloesol sy'n dod i'r amlwg, naill ai drwy entrepreneuriaid neu drwy brifysgolion yng Nghymru, yr wyf yn hyderus y bydd y strategaeth hon yn ddull

Government wants to see this sector succeed. Given the strategy, the support that we are providing, and the ideas that are out there, I am confident that many more jobs will be created in the next few years.

Economic Regeneration

Q4 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government policies for economic regeneration in north Wales?
OAQ(3)0736(ECT)

The Deputy Minister for Regeneration (Leighton Andrews): The Welsh Assembly Government is regenerating communities in Wales in line with our 'One Wales' commitment to establish integrated and cross-cutting initiatives aimed at economic development and regeneration, particularly in areas of high deprivation, such as Môn a Menai, Rhyl and Colwyn Bay.

Mark Isherwood: Thank you for that, but the area that I am talking about is Brymbo, near Wrexham, and the former steelworks regeneration scheme. The First Minister stated in the *Daily Post* in September 2007 that,

'The Brymbo steelworks regeneration scheme is proceeding now after being bogged down for years'.

In February this year, in the *Western Mail*, the First Minister said that a *mañana* attitude has been replaced by a willingness to take big decisions, and went on to list areas in which big decisions have been taken, including regenerating Brymbo. However, when the local councillor took the matter up with the Deputy First Minister, requesting a meeting to discuss the best way forward, the reply from his department was that it could not see the overriding economic or transportation case to support his call for Welsh Assembly Government intervention. When he again the Deputy First Minister asked for a meeting, the reply received was that the ability to contribute to the agreed strategic objective for repositioning the wider Wrexham economy was not demonstrated. The point—

cefnogi a fydd yn dangos bod y Llywodraeth am weld y sector hwn yn llwyddo. O ystyried y strategaeth, y gefnogaeth yr ydym yn ei rhoi a'r syniadau sydd ar gael, yr wyf yn hyderus y caiff llawer mwy o swyddi eu creu dros y blynyddoedd nesaf.

Adfywio Economaidd

C4 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am bolisiau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer adfywio economaidd yn y gogledd?
OAQ(3)0736(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio (Leighton Andrews): Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn adfywio cymunedau yng Nghymru yn unol â'n hymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un' i sefydlu mentrau integredig a thrawsbynciol yn anelu at ddatblygu economaidd ac adfywio, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig iawn, megis Môn a Menai, y Rhyl a Bae Colwyn.

Mark Isherwood: Diolch am hynny, ond yr ardal y soniaf amdani yw Brymbo, ger Wrecsam, a chynllun adfywio'r hen waith dur. Dywedodd y Prif Weinidog yn y *Daily Post* ym mis Medi 2007 fod,

Cynllun adfywio gwaith dur Brymbo yn bwrw ymlaen ar ôl cael ei lethu am flynyddoedd.

Ym mis Chwefror eleni, yn y *Western Mail*, dywedodd y Prif Weinidog fod yr agwedd *mañana* wedi'i disodli gan y parodrwydd i wneud penderfyniadau mawr, ac aeth yn ei flaen i restru ardaloedd lle mae penderfyniadau mawr wedi'u gwneud, gan gynnwys adfywio Brymbo. Fodd bynnag, pan gododd y cynghorydd lleol y mater gyda'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog i ofyn am gyfarfod i drafod y ffordd orau ymlaen, yr ateb a gafodd gan ei adran oedd na allai weld achos economaidd na chludiant digon pwysig dros gefnogi ei gais am ymyriad gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Pan ofynnodd eto i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog am gyfarfod, yr ateb a gafodd oedd nad oedd gallu cyfrannu at yr amcan strategol y cytunwyd arno er mwyn ailsefydlogi economi ehangach Wrecsam yn amlwg. Y pwynt—

2.20 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: Order. How many more quotations are we going to have before we have a question?

Mark Isherwood: Thank you for your guidance and tolerance, Presiding Officer.

Deputy Minister, will you please reconsider the need for a meeting on the site or, through your good offices, will you speak to your colleague, the Deputy First Minister, about that? It is necessary to listen to local people and to discuss the wider strategic regeneration goal that they are aiming for, in partnership with the Assembly Government and the local authority?

Leighton Andrews: If you were serious about engaging on this matter, you would have written to the Deputy First Minister, rather than seek to score a series of political points in the Chamber with a lot of irrelevant quotes. [*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Deputy Minister has answered, and it is a matter for him what he says in his answer. If you give it, you have to take it.

Gareth Jones: Yn ddiweddar, fel llawer ardal arall drwy'r wlad, mae nifer o swyddi o ansawdd wedi eu colli yn Aberconwy, efallai yn anorfod, o ystyried yr hinsawdd economaidd bresennol. Pa sylw y mae eich adran yn ei roi i warchod y swyddi sydd gennym, ac, yn allweddol, i godi lefelau sgiliau y gweithlu ar gyfer y swyddi o safon y gellid eu denu i Aberconwy?

Leighton Andrews: You will be aware of the two economic summits that have recently been convened by the Welsh Assembly Government, which have been led by the First Minister, the Deputy First Minister, and the Secretary of State for Wales. Those summits have engaged across the field with a series of initiatives. The skills agenda remains firmly at the forefront of our approach, for the long-term benefit of the growth of the Welsh economy. In the shorter term, there are other measures that we will need to take to support workers who are

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Faint mwy o ddyfyniadau yr ydym am eu cael cyn y cawn gwestiwn?

Mark Isherwood: Diolch am eich arweiniad a'ch goddefgarwch, Lywydd.

Ddirprwy Weinidog, os gwelwch yn dda, a wnewch chi ailystyried yr angen am gyfarfod ar y safle neu, drwy eich caredigrwydd, a wnewch chi siarad â'ch cyd-Weinidog, y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, am hynny? Rhaid gwrandao ar bobl leol a thrafod y nod adfywio strategol ehangach y maent yn anelu ati, mewn partneriaeth â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r awdurdod lleol?

Leighton Andrews: Os oeddech o ddifrif am drafod y mater hwn, byddech wedi ysgrifennu at y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, yn hytrach na cheisio sgorio cyfres o bwyntiau gwleidyddol yn y Siambr gyda llawer o ddyfyniadau amherthnasol. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog wedi ateb, ac ef sydd i benderfynu beth yw cynnwys ei ateb. Rhaid i chi fod yn barod i dderbyn yr hyn a rowch.

Gareth Jones: Recently, several high-quality jobs have been lost in Aberconwy, as in so many other areas throughout the country, perhaps inevitably, given the current economic climate. What consideration is your department giving to safeguarding the jobs that we have, and, vitally, to improving the skills of the workforce for the quality jobs that could be drawn to Aberconwy?

Leighton Andrews: Byddwch yn gwybod am y ddwy uwchgynhadledd economaidd y galwodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru amdanynt yn ddiweddar, dan arweiniad y Prif Weinidog, y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, ac Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru. Mae'r uwchgynadleddau hynny wedi ymgysylltu â chyfres o fentrau cynhwysfawr. Mae'r agenda sgiliau yn dal ar flaen ein dull gweithredu, er budd hirdymor twf yr economi yng Nghymru. Yn y tymor byrrach, mae yna fesurau eraill y bydd angen inni ymgymryd â hwy er mwyn cefnogi gweithwyr sy'n cael eu

being made redundant as a result of the impact of the global economic crisis, such as the expansion of the ReACT programme, which we have already announced.

There is an active programme to support the skills of those who are moving into work, but also the opportunities for those moving out of businesses, potentially into other roles, and we will probably debate that later. That programme exists, and it is available to people in Aberconwy, so they can take advantage of schemes such as that. However, we are in a difficult economic situation, and we are honest about the fact that, at present, we are seeing a significant number of redundancies.

Smarter Driving

Q5 Mick Bates: Does the Minister plan to offer any funding to provide specialist transport advice on smarter driving to people in Wales? OAQ(3)0756(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: I fully recognise the benefits of eco-driving and the contribution that it can make to minimising our carbon footprint. We are taking a joined-up approach, and the recently launched Wales carbon footprint campaign includes, among its key messages, encouragement for eco-driving through the provision of tips and advice.

Mick Bates: Thank you for that fairly positive response, Deputy First Minister. As you stated, this is useful. Road transport is already responsible for 21 per cent of our carbon emissions in Wales. Unfortunately, if we carry on with business as usual, transport sector emissions are expected to rise to 35 per cent by 2030. A few weeks ago, 10 Assembly Members took part in the Energy Saving Trust's smarter driving challenge, where we learned how to drive more fuel efficiently, to reduce oil consumption and carbon emissions. The EST has estimated—

Eleanor Burnham: Ask a question, Mick.

diswyddo oherwydd effaith yr argyfwng economaidd byd-eang, megis ehangu rhaglen y Cynllun Gweithredu Diswyddiadau (ReACT) sydd eisoes wedi'i chyhoeddi gennym.

Mae yna raglen weithredol i gefnogi sgiliau'r rheini sy'n symud i fyd gwaith, ond mae yna gyfleoedd hefyd i'r rheini sy'n symud o fusnesau, i swyddi eraill o bosibl, a byddwn yn trafod hynny'n nes ymlaen, fwy na thebyg. Mae'r rhaglen honno'n bodoli, ac y mae ar gael i bobl yn Aberconwy, fel y gallant fanteisio ar gynlluniau fel hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym mewn sefyllfa economaidd anodd, ac yr ydym yn onest ynglŷn â'r ffaith ein bod, ar hyn o bryd, yn gweld nifer sylweddol o ddiswyddiadau.

Gyrru'n Gallach

C5 Mick Bates: A yw'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu cynnig unrhyw gyllid i ddarparu cyngor teithio arbenigol ar yrru'n gallach i bobl yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0756(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn cydnabod manteision eco-yrru a'r cyfraniad y gall ei wneud i leihau ein hól troed carbon. Mae gennym ddull cydgysylltiedig, ac ymhlith negeseuon allweddol ymgyrch ôl troed carbon Cymru a lanswyd yn ddiweddar y mae cyngor i annog pobl i eco-yrru, drwy gynnig awgrymiadau a chyngor.

Mick Bates: Diolch am yr ymateb cymharol gadarnhaol hwnnw, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog. Fel y dywedech, mae hyn yn ddefnyddiol. Mae trafndiaeth ffyrdd eisoes yn gyfrifol am 21 y cant o'n hallyriadau carbon yng Nghymru. Yn anffodus, os bydd ein hallyriadau'n parhau ar y raddfa bresennol, disgwylir i allyriadau'r sector trafndiaeth godi i 35 y cant erbyn 2030. Rai wythnosau'n ôl, cymerodd 10 Aelod Cynulliad ran yn yr her gyrru'n gallach gan yr Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni, lle cawsom ddysgu sut i yrru gan ddefnyddio tanwydd yn fwy effeithlon, sut i ddefnyddio llai o olew a sut i leihau allyriadau carbon. Mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni wedi amcangyfrif—

Eleanor Burnham: Gofynnwch gwestiwn, Mick.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I need no assistance from the assistant Deputy Presiding Officer from the Liberal Democrats. However, I do take her point.

Mick Bates: It seems that there is plenty of advice to be had in the Chamber today. Thank you, all.

The EST has estimated that, if this were rolled out across Wales, we could save more than 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide and reduce carbon emissions by 1.5 per cent. Do you agree that more investment needs to be made, and what is the scale of your funding to achieve the goals that I described?

The Deputy First Minister: I cannot give you a figure on that today, but I will write to you with that information, since I do not have it to hand. However, you are right about the need to shift people away from using cars and onto public transport, but they also need to use their cars more efficiently. I congratulate you, Darren Miller and the other Assembly Members on taking part in that scheme. It is an excellent way of spending our time.

Another issue that I discussed with automotive companies in Japan was the continuing demand for hybrid vehicles. As well as looking at how we drive, new technology put forward by the automotive companies will make a substantial contribution to cutting emissions. So, if we take that across-the-board approach, I am sure that we will hit many of these targets.

David Lloyd: Mae ond yn deg nodi yr oedd Bethan Jenkins, Nerys Evans a minnau ar yr un cwrs i ddysgu gyrru'n gallach, er nad oeddem yn yr un car, yn naturiol. Gall gyrru'n gallach gynnwys peidio â gyrru car o gwbl ond beic, fel y bu i chi ei awgrymu. I'r perwyl hwnnw, a wnewch chi ymuno â mi wrth longyfarch cwmni o Abertawe, sef Cycle Solutions, sy'n arbenigo mewn cynlluniau beicio i'r gwaith? Aeth o nerth i nerth yn ariannol eleni ac mae wedi recriwtio saith aelod ychwanegol o staff.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid oes arnaf angen cymorth gan gynorthwy-ydd Dirprwy Lywydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Fodd bynnag, derbyniaf ei phwynt.

Mick Bates: Mae'n ymddangos bod digon o gyngor i'w gael yn y Siambr heddiw. Diolch, bawb.

Mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni wedi amcangyfrif, petai hyn yn cael ei gyflwyno ledled Cymru, y gallem arbed dros 500,000 tonnell o garbon deuocsid a lleihau allyriadau carbon 1.5 y cant. A ydych yn cytuno bod angen buddsoddi mwy, a faint o gyllid y byddwch yn ei roi i gyrraedd y nodau a ddisgrifiais?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ni allaf roi ffigur ichi ar hynny heddiw, ond ysgrifennaf atoch gyda'r wybodaeth honno, gan nad yw gennyf wrth law. Fodd bynnag, yr ydych yn gywir i ddweud bod angen i bobl newid o ddefnyddio'u ceir i ddefnyddio cludiant cyhoeddus, ond y mae angen hefyd iddynt ddefnyddio'u ceir yn fwy effeithlon. Yr wyf yn eich llongyfarch, Darren Miller, a'r Aelodau Cynulliad eraill am gymryd rhan yn y cynllun hwnnw. Mae'n ffordd ardderchog i dreulio ein hamser.

Mater arall a drafodais gyda chwmnïau moduro yn Siapan oedd y galw parhaus am gerbydau hybrid. Yn ogystal ag edrych ar y modd yr ydym yn gyrru, bydd technoleg newydd a gyflwynir gan y cwmnïau moduro yn cyfrannu'n sylweddol at leihau allyriadau. Felly, os defnyddiwn y dull cynhwysfawr hwnnw, yr wyf yn sicr y byddwn yn cyrraedd nifer o'r targedau hyn.

David Lloyd: It is only fair to note that Bethan Jenkins, Nerys Evans and I were also on that same safer driving course, although not in the same car, naturally. Safer driving can mean not driving a car at all, but rather riding a bicycle, as you suggested. To that end, will you join me in congratulating a company in Swansea, namely Cycle Solutions, which specialises in cycle-to-work schemes? It has gone from strength to strength this year, financially speaking, and has recruited an additional seven members of staff.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Er mwyn cadw'r ddysgl yn wastad, Dai, llongyfarchaf Nerys, Bethan a chithau hefyd am gymryd rhan yn y prosiect hwnnw. Gallwn oll ddweud wrth y byd ein bod wedi gwneud y pethau hyn, a gobeithio y bydd pobl y tu allan i'r Cynulliad yn cymryd yr un cyfle.

Llongyfarchaf Cycle Solutions ar ei waith ac ar y twf yn y gwaith hwnnw. Yr ydym yn hynod falch o'r duedd hon i ddefnyddio mwy ar feiciau, ac yr ydym yn gwerthfawrogi ac yn llongyfarch y diwydiant hwnnw.

Darren Millar: I am pleased with your answers, Deputy First Minister, as I think that they are encouraging. However, the Energy Saving Trust has recognised that not only can this make a contribution towards the carbon savings that are needed in Wales, but it can also save money because it cuts down on fuel use and therefore fuel costs. You will probably be all too acutely aware of the financial pressures faced by local authorities in the next financial year. In Conway, for example, fuel costs have increased by 57 per cent over the past four years to more than £1 million per year. In Denbighshire, they have increased by 32 per cent. Given the very tight financial settlement, might you be inclined to support the roll-out of eco-driving schemes across the public sector in Wales, particularly in local authorities? What plans do you have in that regard?

The Deputy First Minister: It is clear in the Wales transport strategy that we recognise the benefits of eco-driving, and we will do what we can to encourage its continued use. I cannot give you a commitment today on the precise nature of that advance in the use of resources and of the advice that we can give, but I will certainly take back the broad cross-party consensus on this and see what we can do. I will write to Assembly Members accordingly.

Regeneration in the Vale of Clwyd

Q6 Ann Jones: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to develop the profile of

The Deputy First Minister: To keep things on an even keel, Dai, I also congratulate Nerys, Bethan and yourself on taking part in that project. We can all tell the world that we are doing these things, and I hope people outside the Assembly will take advantage of same opportunity.

I congratulate Cycle Solutions on its work and on the increase in that work. We are extremely pleased about this growing trend to use bicycles, and we appreciate and congratulate that industry.

Darren Millar: Yr wyf yn falch â'ch atebion, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, oherwydd credaf eu bod yn galonogol. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni wedi cydnabod y gall hyn nid yn unig gyfrannu at yr arbedion carbon y mae eu hangen yng Nghymru, ond gall hefyd arbed arian gan ei fod yn lleihau faint o danwydd a ddefnyddir, ac felly bydd yn lleihau costau tanwydd. Gwyddoch yn iawn, mae'n siŵr, am y pwysau ariannol sy'n wynebu awdurdodau lleol yn y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Yng Nghonwy, er enghraifft, mae costau tanwydd wedi cynyddu 57 y cant dros y pedair blynedd diwethaf i fwy nag £1 filiwn y flwyddyn. Yn sir Ddinbych, maent wedi cynyddu 32 y cant. O ystyried y setliad ariannol tynn iawn, a fyddwch yn dueddol o gefnogi'r broses o gyflwyno cynlluniau eco-yrro ar draws y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, yn enwedig mewn awdurdodau lleol? Pa gynlluniau sydd gennych yng nghyswllt hynny?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae'n amlwg yn strategaeth trafndiaeth Cymru ein bod yn cydnabod manteision eco-yrro, a byddwn yn gwneud popeth a fedrwn i annog pobl i barhau i'w defnyddio. Ni allaf roi ymrwymiad ichi heddiw ar union natur y cynnig hwnnw o ran defnyddio adnoddau nac ar y cyngor y gallwn ei roi, ond byddaf yn sicr yn sôn am y consensws barn eang ymhlith y pleidiau ar hyn a gweld beth y gallwn ei wneud. Ysgrifennu at Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn unol â hynny.

Adfywio Dyffryn Clwyd

C6 Ann Jones: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i ddatblygu

the Vale of Clwyd through its regeneration initiatives? OAQ(3)0765(ECT)

Leighton Andrews: We aim to promote the regeneration of the Vale of Clwyd through the development of the strategic regeneration area covering Rhyl and surrounds, which was announced last month.

Ann Jones: Thank you for that. As you know, I was delighted when you announced that west Rhyl is to be included in that strategy. I was even more pleased that you were able to come along to meet with the voluntary organisations, agencies and community groups that will probably form the basis of the work on that strategy.

Tourism is an issue that we will have to look at, and unlocking the potential of the Vale of Clwyd will mean taking a strategic look at how traffic is managed around St Asaph, including access to and from the business park and access through the city itself.

2.30 p.m.

Will you undertake to consider any scheme that is proposed to unlock the potential of the Vale of Clwyd to the business park and for people in the West End of Rhyl, who may want to get to the business park to enjoy the excellent jobs that are available there, thanks to this Labour Government. Will you undertake to work closely with those communities to ensure that what they want will succeed?

Leighton Andrews: I was pleased to meet you and Chris Ruane MP in Rhyl, along with all the community organisations, local authority representatives and others whom you brought along. We had a good initial discussion on the potential of the strategic regeneration area. We have always taken the approach that we want to link areas of deprivation with areas of opportunity as part of the regeneration strategy, and the excellent developments at the St Asaph business park, for example, the opto-electronics centre, which I have previously visited with you, will be an important part of that.

proffil Dyffryn Clwyd drwy ei chynlluniau adfywio? OAQ(3)0765(ECT)

Leighton Andrews: Bwriadwn hyrwyddo'r cynlluniau i adfywio Dyffryn Clwyd drwy ddatblygu'r ardal adfywio strategol sy'n cynnwys y Rhyl a'r ardaloedd cyfagos, a gyhoeddwyd y mis diwethaf.

Ann Jones: Diolch ichi am hynny. Fel y gwyddoch, yr oeddwn yn falch iawn pan wnaethoch gyhoeddiad y bydd gorllewin y Rhyl yn cael ei chynnwys yn y strategaeth honno. Yr oeddwn yn falchach byth ichi gael y cyfle i ddod i gyfarfod â'r mudiadau, yr asiantaethau a'r grwpiau cymunedol gwirfoddol sy'n debygol o fod yn sail i'r gwaith ar y strategaeth honno.

Mae twristiaeth yn fater y bydd yn rhaid inni edrych arno, a bydd datgloi potensial Dyffryn Clwyd yn golygu cymryd golwg strategol ar y modd y caiff traffig ei reoli o amgylch Llanelwy, gan gynnwys mynd i mewn ac allan o'r parc busnes a mynediad drwy'r ddinas ei hun.

A wnewch chi addo ystyried unrhyw gynllun a gynigir i ddatgloi potensial Dyffryn Clwyd i'r parc busnes ac i bobl pen gorllewinol y Rhyl, a all fod yn dymuno mynd i'r parc busnes i fwynhau'r swyddi rhagorol sydd ar gael yno, diolch i'r Llywodraeth Lafur hon. A wnewch chi addo gweithio'n agos gyda'r cymunedau hynny i sicrhau y bydd yr hyn a ddymunant yn llwyddo?

Leighton Andrews: Yr oeddwn yn falch cael cwrdd â chi a Chris Ruane AS yn y Rhyl, ynghyd â'r holl fudiadau cymunedol, cynrychiolwyr yr awdurdod lleol ac eraill a ddaeth yno gyda chi. Cawsom drafodaeth gychwynnol dda am botensial yr ardal adfywio strategol. Yr ydym wedi dweud erioed ein bod am gysylltu ardaloedd o amddifadedd ag ardaloedd o gyfle fel rhan o'r strategaeth adfywio, a bydd y datblygiadau rhagorol ar barc busnes Llanelwy, er enghraifft, y ganolfan opto-electroneg yr wyf wedi ymweld â hi o'r blaen gyda chi, yn rhan bwysig o hynny.

You also referred to tourism. When I made the announcement about the Rhyl and Colwyn Bay strategic regeneration area, I mentioned that we see tourism as having a continuing role in the regeneration of the north Wales coastal area. We would want to address all of those factors in the development of the action plan for that strategic regeneration area.

Brynle Williams: Following on from Ann Jones's question, I have raised many times the need to remove the bottleneck at St Asaph. Moving on from the St Asaph business park, there are two industrial sites in Denbigh that need opening up. I have taken the matter up with the Minister, but as the economic situation has changed once again for the worse, there is an opportunity to perhaps use convergence funding, through St Asaph and the opening up of the Vale of Clwyd and beyond for further development, creating access to the A55. Will you consider this matter, Deputy Minister?

Leighton Andrews: If you have already written to the Deputy First Minister, then that is a discussion that I will follow through with him. There will inevitably be priority calls on the resources available to us, but if there are realistic schemes, we need to look at them.

Janet Ryder: I am sure that you are aware of the work that is being done by the Prince's Trust in Rhyl through the City Challenge team. It has brought together local organisations and businesses and the statutory and voluntary sector to work with residents to help them to overcome the barriers that might be preventing them from starting work or getting back into work. That team was recently nominated for an award by the Prince's Trust. Unfortunately, the team was not successful—the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency won that award. However, will you join me in congratulating the City Challenge team in Rhyl on the work that it is doing there under very different circumstances to those faced by the DVLA?

Leighton Andrews: I am happy to join you in congratulating the team on the work being done there. One of the most encouraging

Cyfeirlech hefyd at dwristiaeth. Pan wneuthum y cyhoeddiad ynglŷn ag ardal adfywio strategol y Rhyl a Bae Colwyn, dywedais ein bod yn gweld twristiaeth fel maes sydd â rôl barhaus yn y gwaith o adfywio ardal arfordirol y gogledd. Byddem am roi sylw i'r ffactorau hynny i gyd wrth ddatblygu'r cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer yr ardal adfywio strategol honno.

Brynle Williams: Yn dilyn o gwestiwn Ann Jones, yr wyf wedi codi droeon yr angen i gael gwared â'r dagfa yn Llanelwy. A symud ymlaen o barc busnes Llanelwy, mae dau safle diwydiannol yn Ninbych y mae angen eu hagog. Yr wyf wedi codi'r mater gyda'r Gweinidog, ond gan fod y sefyllfa economaidd wedi newid eto er gwaeth, mae cyfle efallai i ddefnyddio cyllid cydgyfeirio, drwy Lanelwy gan agor Dyffryn Clwyd a'r ardaloedd y tu hwnt i ddatblygu pellach, a chreu mynediad yn uniongyrchol i'r A55. A wnewch chi ystyried y mater hwn, Ddirprwy Weinidog?

Leighton Andrews: Os ydych eisoed wedi ysgrifennu at y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, yna mae honno'n drafodaeth yr af ar ei thrywydd gydag ef. Yn anochel, bydd galwadau blaenoriaeth ar yr adnoddau sydd ar gael inni, ond os oes yna gynlluniau realistig, mae angen inni edrych arnynt.

Janet Ryder: Mae'n siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol o'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud gan Ymddiriedolaeth y Tywysog yn y Rhyl drwy'r Tîm City Challenge. Mae wedi dod â mudiadau a busnesau lleol a'r sectorau statudol a gwirfoddol ynghyd i weithio gyda thrigolion i'w helpu i oresgyn y rhwystrau a allai fod yn eu hatal rhag dechrau gweithio neu fynd yn ôl i weithio. Cafodd y tîm hwnnw ei enwebu'n ddiweddar am wobwr gan Ymddiriedolaeth y Tywysog. Yn anffodus, ni fu'r tîm yn llwyddiannus—yr Asiantaeth Trwyddedu Gyrwyr a Cherbydau a enillodd y wobwr honno. Fodd bynnag, a wnewch chi ymuno â mi i longyfarch tîm City Challenge yn y Rhyl am y gwaith y mae'n ei wneud yno dan amgylchiadau gwahanol iawn i'r rhai sy'n wynebu DVLA?

Leighton Andrews: Yr wyf yn hapus i ymuno â chi i longyfarch y tîm ar y gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud yno. Un o'r pethau mwyaf

things that you see in Rhyl is the collaboration between a wide range of organisations, bringing a whole series of different skills and expertise to the table. That provides us with the encouragement that we will be able to make a great success of the Rhyl and Colwyn Bay strategic regeneration area. Having that collaboration on the ground is crucial.

The Welsh Economy

Q7 Lesley Griffiths: What steps is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to assist the Welsh economy? OAQ(3)0761(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: On Thursday, the First Minister and I, along with the Secretary of State for Wales, convened the second all-Wales economic summit in St Asaph. We heard from people and businesses at the front line, and we reaffirmed our commitment to work together. The communiqué issued after the summit set out the actions that we intend to take.

Lesley Griffiths: In the past few weeks, I have called publicly on Wrexham County Borough Council to follow the example set by the Welsh Assembly Government and to examine what goods and services outside of the confines of competitive tendering legislation can be awarded to local firms to boost the local economy during the current economic crisis. Failing that, I encouraged the council to look elsewhere in Wales for the supply of those goods and services. Will you use this opportunity to call on all Welsh local authorities to do likewise and to re-examine their respective procurement regimes to ensure that they help the Welsh economy wherever possible?

The Deputy First Minister: This is an important development. The Welsh Assembly Government, working with local authorities, wants to ensure that the opportunities for Welsh companies to bid for contracts are maximised. We all have a responsibility to do this. The Welsh Assembly Government has made great strides

calonogol a welwch yn y Rhyl yw'r cydweithredu rhwng amrywiaeth eang o fudiadau, gan ddod â chyfres gyfan o sgiliau ac arbenigeddau gwahanol at y bwrdd. Mae hynny'n rhoi anogaeth inni y gallwn wneud llwyddiant mawr o ardal adfywio strategol y Rhyl a Bae Colwyn. Mae cael y cydweithio hwnnw ar lawr gwlad yn dyngedfennol.

Economi Cymru

C7 Lesley Griffiths: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i gynorthwyo economi Cymru? OAQ(3)0761(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ddydd Iau, bu'r Prif Weinidog a minnau, ynghyd ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, yn cynnull ail uwchgynhadledd economaidd Cymru gyfan yn Llanelwy. Clywsom gan bobl a busnesau rheng flaen, ac ailgadarnhawyd ein hymrwymiad i weithio gyda'n gilydd. Mae'r hysbysiad a gyhoeddwyd ar ôl yr uwchgynhadledd yn gosod allan y camau gweithredu y bwriadwn eu cymryd.

Lesley Griffiths: Dros yr wythnosau diwethaf, yr wyf wedi galw'n gyhoeddus ar Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam i ddilyn yr esiampl a osodwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac archwilio pa nwyddau a gwasanaethau y tu allan i derfynau deddfwriaeth tendro cystadleuol y gellir eu dyfarnu i gwmnïau lleol i roi hwb i'r economi leol yn ystod yr argyfwng economaidd presennol. Yn niffyg hynny, anogais y cyngor i chwilio mewn mannau eraill yng Nghymru am gyflenwadau o'r nwyddau a'r gwasanaethau hynny. A wnewch chi fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i alw ar holl awdurdodau lleol Cymru i wneud yr un modd, ac ailedrych ar eu cyfundrefnau caffael eu hunain i sicrhau eu bod yn helpu economi Cymru ble bynnag y mae hynny'n bosibl?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae hwn yn ddatblygiad pwysig. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, drwy weithio gyda'r awdurdodau lleol, am sicrhau gwneud y mwyaf o'r cyfleoedd i gwmnïau o Gymru ymgeisio am gontractau. Mae gennym i gyd gyfrifoldeb i wneud hyn. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cymryd camau

recently in this area, and we want local authorities to do the same. At the summit, the Welsh Local Government Association, represented by John Davies, made a commitment to working together on this issue, and I also want to encourage that publicly today.

Kirsty Williams: Deputy First Minister, local procurement is vital in giving orders to Welsh companies, as it is orders and cash flow that will keep companies from putting their workforces onto the dole. You said that you are encouraging local government to procure locally, but the Assembly also has a responsibility in this regard. Will you outline what steps you are taking to ensure that your Government buys as much Welsh produce and services as it possibly can?

The Deputy First Minister: We have already moved from all-Wales contracts to regional contracts where possible. For example, the contractors for our new office in Llandudno have already sub-contracted to local companies, and we are doing what we can to ensure that Welsh companies can benefit from public sector contracts and to maximise the opportunities for them. We are doing whatever we can, but it is not just the Welsh Assembly Government that can contribute—bodies contracted to the Welsh Assembly Government and local government can also do so. The whole of the public sector has a responsibility in this regard, but I accept that we also have our share.

Kirsty Williams: Deputy First Minister, there is still a feeling among Welsh businesses that the Welsh Assembly Government could do more to improve the relationship between public sector procurement managers and Welsh businesses. Will you consider holding events across Wales to bring together your staff and local government staff to meet Welsh business leaders, so that they can discover how best to improve this relationship and can take practical steps to assist the Welsh manufacturing and service industries?

breision yn y maes hwn yn ddiweddar, ac yr ydym am i'r awdurdodau lleol wneud yr un modd. Yn yr uwchgynhadledd, gwnaeth Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, a gynrychiolwyd gan John Davies, ymrwymiad i weithio gyda'i gilydd ar y mater hwn, ac yr wyf fi hefyd am annog hynny'n gyhoeddus heddiw.

Kirsty Williams: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, mae caffael lleol yn hanfodol i roi archebion i gwmnïau o Gymru, gan mai archebion a llif arian a fydd yn cadw cwmnïau rhag rhoi eu gweithlu ar y dôl. Dywedech eich bod yn annog llywodraeth leol i gaffael yn lleol, ond mae gan y Cynulliad hefyd gyfrifoldeb yn y cyswllt hwn. A wnewch chi amlinellu pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod eich Llywodraeth chi yn prynu cymaint o gynnyrch a gwasanaethau o Gymru ag y mae modd iddi?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr ydym eisoes wedi symud oddi wrth gontractau i Gymru gyfan i gontractau rhanbarthol lle bynnag y mae hynny'n bosibl. Er enghraifft, mae'r contractwyr ar gyfer ein swyddfa newydd yn Llandudno eisoes wedi is-gontractio i gwmnïau lleol, ac yr ydym yn gwneud yr hyn a allwn i sicrhau y gall cwmnïau o Gymru elwa o gontractau'r sector cyhoeddus ac i ddarparu cynifer â phosibl o gyfleoedd iddynt. Yr ydym yn gwneud yr hyn a allwn, ond nid Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn unig a all gyfrannu—gall cyrff sydd dan gontract i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac i lywodraeth leol hefyd wneud hynny. Mae gan y sector cyhoeddus yn gyfan gyfrifoldeb yn y cyswllt hwn, ond derbynïaf fod gennym ninnau ein rhan.

Kirsty Williams: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, mae teimlad o hyd ymysg busnesau Cymru y gallai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wneud mwy i wella'r berthynas rhwng rheolwyr caffael y sector cyhoeddus a busnesau o Gymru. A wnewch chi ystyried cynnal digwyddiadau ar draws Cymru i ddod â'ch staff chi a llywodraeth leol ynghyd i gwrdd ag arweinwyr busnes Cymru, fel y gallant ddarganfod y ffordd orau i wella'r berthynas hon a chymryd camau ymarferol i helpu diwydiannau gweithgynhyrchu a gwasanaethu yng Nghymru?

The Deputy First Minister: I understand your point, Kirsty, which is that we have the overall desire to do this, but we must ensure that procurement managers at all levels are also fully engaged at national, regional and local levels, and that there is a consistent message. I will consider your idea, but I will be attending a meet-the-buyer event in Llandudno fairly shortly, which will, hopefully, receive some publicity, and demonstrates the Government's commitment to this development.

Paul Davies: Amddiffyn swyddi o ansawdd uchel ddylai fod yn flaenoriaeth i unrhyw Lywodraeth, yn enwedig o dan yr amgylchiadau bregus y mae'r economi ynddynt ar hyn o bryd. Fel y gwyr y Gweinidog, mae'r Llywodraeth Brydeinig yn edrych ar ddiraddio'r swyddfa dreth yn Hwlfordd er mwyn arbed arian. Mae'r swyddi hyn yn cyfrannu yn helaeth i'r economi leol, ac mae'r swyddfa dreth yn cynnig gwasanaeth hanfodol i fusnesau ac unigolion yn yr ardal. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym pa drafodaethau a gafodd gyda Gweinidogion Prydeinig er mwyn ceisio amddiffyn y swyddi pwysig hyn?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Nid wyf wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau felly, ond gwn fod trafodaethau wedi digwydd rhwng swyddfa'r Prif Weinidog ac eraill yn y Swyddfa Dreth. Nid oes gennym gyfrifoldeb penodol dros y penderfyniadau hyn, ond byddwn yn gwneud popeth y gallwn fel Llywodraeth i sicrhau, lle y bo hynny o fewn ein rheolaeth, ein bod yn amddiffyn swyddi yng Nghymru.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Q8 David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on measures in place to support SMEs in South Wales Central? OAQ(3)0749(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: I am delivering a range of support to SMEs. This includes supporting companies to maintain and grow their business through Flexible Support for Business, underpinned by the single investment fund; assisting start-ups and small businesses through the £36 million start-up project; the £7 million rate relief package;

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn deall eich pwynt, Kirsty, sef bod yr awydd cyffredinol gennym i wneud hyn, ond rhaid inni sicrhau bod rheolwyr caffael ar bob lefel hefyd yn ymgysylltu'n llawn ar lefelau cenedlaethol, rhanbarthol a lleol, a bod neges gyson yn cael ei chyfleu. Byddaf yn ystyried eich syniad, ond byddaf yn mynd i ddiwyddiad yn Llandudno yn weddol fuan i gwrdd â phrynwyr, a bydd hwnnw, gobeithio, yn cael rhywfaint o gyhoeddusrwydd ac yn dangos ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i'r datblygiad hwn.

Paul Davies: Protecting high quality jobs should be a priority for any Government, particularly in the current vulnerable economic circumstances. As the Minister is aware, the UK Government is considering downgrading the tax office in Haverfordwest in order to save money. These jobs contribute enormously to the local economy, and the tax office offers an essential service to businesses and individuals in the area. Will the Minister tell us what negotiations he has had with the UK Government in an attempt to protect these important jobs?

The Deputy First Minister: I have had no such discussions, but I am aware that discussions have occurred between the First Minister and others in the Tax Office. We do not have a specific responsibility for these decisions, but we will do everything possible as a Government here to ensure, when it is within our control, that we do everything to protect jobs in Wales.

Busnesau Bach a Chanolig

C8 David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y mesurau sydd ar waith i gefnogi busnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghanol De Cymru? OAQ(3)0749(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn darparu cyfres o becynnau cymorth i fusnesau bach a chanolig. Mae hyn yn cynnwys cynorthwyo cwmnïau i gynnal a chynyddu eu busnes drwy Cymorth Hyblyg i Fusnes, sydd â'r gronfa fuddsoddi sengl yn sail iddo; cymorth i fusnesau sy'n dechrau a busnesau bach drwy'r prosiect dechrau

and the record £28 million invested in the last financial year by Finance Wales in Wales-based SMEs.

David Melding: Deputy First Minister, you will know that the majority of our workforce is involved in SMEs, and that many of those workers have, unfortunately, been made unemployed over the last quarter. What assurances can you give the Assembly that you are analysing the latest quarterly figures, which have seen an extraordinary increase in Welsh unemployment of 24,000, which is by miles the largest relative rise in the United Kingdom, but is also the largest absolute rise in any region or nation in the UK?

2.40 p.m.

The Deputy First Minister: You can rest assured that we are doing everything that we can to protect SMEs and larger companies in terms of their employment. You make the point that SMEs are a significant part of the Welsh economy. They account for 99 per cent of all businesses and 59 per cent of private sector employment. Therefore, it is a significant section of the Welsh economy by any criteria. We are working very hard to try to ensure that businesses are supported. When we asked our relationship managers and account managers for intelligence from SMEs, we were told that the most important issue that they face is a lack of credit from the banks. Following the summit, we have undertaken to do what we can—and the Secretary of State promised to take this message back to the forum in London—to ensure that the banks go back to their 2007 lending levels. I am also hopeful that, given the current economic climate, Finance Wales will be able to use the JEREMIE fund to specifically help SMEs.

David Melding: Deputy First Minister, before the figures that I mentioned were announced, unemployment in Wales was a little below the UK average. Now, it is nearly

busnes gwerth £36 miliwn; y pecyn rhyddhad ardrethi gwerth £7 miliwn; a'r £28 miliwn, y swm mwyaf erioed, a fuddsodwyd gan Cyllid Cymru mewn cwmnïau bach a chanolig eu maint yng Nghymru yn y flwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf.

David Melding: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, byddwch yn gwybod bod y mwyafrif o'n gweithlu yn gweithio i fusnesau bach a chanolig, a bod llawer o'r gweithwyr hynny, yn anffodus, wedi colli eu swyddi yn y chwarter diwethaf. Pa sicrwydd allwch chi ei roi i'r Cynulliad eich bod yn dadansoddi'r ffigurau chwarterol diweddaraf, sy'n dangos cynnydd eithriadol o 24,000 yn nifer y di-waith yng Nghymru, y cynnydd cymharol mwyaf o bell ffordd yn y Deyrnas Unedig, ond hefyd y cynnydd absoliwt mwyaf mewn unrhyw ranbarth neu wlad yn y DU?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Gallwch fod yn siŵr ein bod yn gwneud popeth a allwn i ddiogelu cwmnïau bach a chanolig a chwmnïau mwy o safbwynt eu cyflogaeth. Dywedwch fod cwmnïau bach a chanolig yn rhan sylweddol o economi Cymru. Maent i gyfrif am 99 y cant o'r holl fusnesau a 59 y cant o'r gyflogaeth yn y sector preifat. Felly, mae'n adran bwysig o economi Cymru yn ôl unrhyw faen prawf. Yr ydym yn gweithio'n galed iawn i geisio sicrhau bod busnesau'n cael cymorth. Pan ofynasom i'n rheolwyr perthynas a'n rheolwyr cyfrifon am wybodaeth gan gwmnïau bach a chanolig eu maint, dywedwyd wrthym mai'r mater pwysicaf sy'n eu hwynebu yw diffyg credyd gan y banciau. Yn dilyn yr uwchgynhadledd, yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i wneud popeth a allwn—ac addawodd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol y byddai'n mynd â'r neges hon yn ôl i'r fforwm yn Llundain—i sicrhau bod y banciau'n mynd yn ôl i'w lefelau benthyca yn 2007. Yr wyf hefyd yn obeithiol, o gofio hinsawdd yr economi ar hyn o bryd, y bydd Cyllid Cymru yn gallu defnyddio cronfa JEREMIE i helpu cwmnïau bach a chanolig yn benodol.

David Melding: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, cyn i'r ffigurau a grybwyllais gael eu cyhoeddi, yr oedd diweithdra yng Nghymru ychydig yn is na chyfartaledd y DU. Yn awr,

a full percentage point above the UK average. That change has occurred in just one quarter. We need to be assured that you are looking at these figures to see whether there is an underlying trend and whether you expect another set of similarly grave figures in the next quarter, or whether you think that this quarter's figures, for some reason that we do not quite know at the moment, are exceptional.

Deputy First Minister: It is difficult to know, David, to be honest. We accept that these are challenging figures. Let us make no bones about it; these are difficult figures for anybody to have to grapple with. We understand that, and we understand the point that you are making about the current unemployment rate. We have to remember that, historically, the Welsh economy is in a good position, if you consider the historical data. Nevertheless, there is a fact here that cannot be ignored. What I want to know, and we are asking officials to look at this, is whether this is a blip in terms of the Welsh figures looking worse than the other regions of the United Kingdom, or whether this is likely to be a pattern. We are told that it is likely to be a blip but we cannot be sure until we see the trend. Let me make it clear that we as a Government are determined to do whatever we can, whatever the circumstances, to try to help Welsh SMEs and other companies, and we will do everything that we can to help them through this difficult period.

mae bron i un pwynt canran llawn yn uwch na chyfartaledd y DU. Mae'r newid hwnnw wedi digwydd mewn un chwarter yn unig. Mae arnom angen sicrwydd eich bod yn edrych ar y ffigurau hyn i weld a oes tuedd waelodol, ac a ydych yn disgwyl set arall o ffigurau yr un mor ddifrifol yn y chwarter nesaf. Ynteu a ydych yn credu bod ffigurau'r chwarter hwn, am ryw reswm nad ydym yn siŵr ohono ar y funud, yn eithriadol.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae'n anodd gwybod, David, a bod yn onest. Yr ydym yn derbyn bod y rhain yn ffigurau heriol. Gadewch inni fod yn ddi-flewyn ar dafod; mae'r rhain yn ffigurau anodd i unrhyw un fynd i'r afael â hwy. Yr ydym yn deall hynny, ac yr ydym yn deall y pwynt a wnewch am y gyfradd ddiweithdra ar hyn o bryd. Rhaid inni gofio bod economi Cymru, yn hanesyddol, mewn sefyllfa dda, os ystyriwch y data hanesyddol. Serch hynny, yma ffaith na ellir ei hanwybyddu. Yr hyn yr wyf am ei wybod, a'r hyn yr ydym yn gofyn i'r swyddogion edrych arno, yw ai gwyriad annisgwyl yw hwn, yn yr ystyr fod ffigurau Cymru yn edrych yn waeth na rhai rhanbarthau eraill y Deyrnas Unedig, ynteu a yw hyn yn debygol o fod yn batrwm? Dywedir wrthym ei bod yn debygol mai gwyriad annisgwyl ydyw, ond ni allwn fod yn siŵr nes inni weld y duedd. Gadewch imi wneud yn glir ein bod ni fel Llywodraeth yn benderfynol o wneud beth bynnag a allwn, beth bynnag fo'r amgylchiadau, i geisio helpu cwmnïau bach a chanolig eu maint a chwmnïau eraill, a byddwn yn gwneud popeth a allwn i'w helpu drwy'r cyfnod anodd hwn.

Adroddiad Blynyddol Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru 2007/08 The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales's Annual Report 2007/08

The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery (Andrew Davies): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.61(vii):

notes the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales's Annual Report 2007/08, which was laid in the National Assembly for Wales on 5

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus (Andrew Davies): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.61(vii):

yn nodi Adroddiad Blynyddol Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru 2007/08, a osodwyd yng Nghynulliad Cenedlaethol

June 2008. (NDM4052)

The Assembly is asked today to note the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales's annual report for 2007/08.

The Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005 received Royal Assent in April 2005 and came into force on 1 April 2006. The Act provided for a unified ombudsman service in Wales, bringing together the offices of the Commissioner for Local Administration in Wales, the Health Service Commissioner for Wales, the Social Housing Ombudsman for Wales and the Welsh Administration Ombudsman.

This is the second unified annual report to be published by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. However, it is the last annual report to be published by Adam Peat, who retired as ombudsman in April this year. I am sure that Members will join me in commending Adam for his great dedication and commitment and on developing the first-class ombudsman service operating in Wales today.

Adam's successor, Peter Tyndall, who is well known to many Members as the former chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales, acknowledges that Adam has established firm foundations for improving public services in Wales. I have already met Peter Tyndall to discuss his role in improving public service delivery in Wales and I am sure that we can look forward to Peter further enhancing this service. I see the role of the ombudsman as central in delivering high-quality public services in Wales. We will also continue to learn from the ombudsman's invaluable advice and recommendations to contribute to the Assembly Government's priority of raising standards in public services.

Of course, the ombudsman's role is not confined to investigating complaints about listed authorities under his jurisdiction. Part of the role is to feed back lessons learnt to assist those public bodies in improving their services and the way in which they respond

Cymru ar 5 Mehefin 2008. (NDM4052)

Gofynnir i'r Cynulliad heddiw nodi adroddiad blynyddol Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru am 2007/08.

Cafodd Deddf Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus (Cymru) 2005 y Cydsyniad Brenhinol ym mis Ebrill 2005 a daeth i rym ar 1 Ebrill 2006. Darparai'r Ddeddf wasanaeth ombwdsmon unedig i Gymru, gan ddwyn ynghyd swyddfeydd y Comisiynydd dros Weinyddu Lleol yng Nghymru, Comisiynydd Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cymru, Ombwdsmon Tai Cymdeithasol Cymru ac Ombwdsmon Gweinyddiaeth Cymru.

Dyma'r ail adroddiad blynyddol unedig i gael ei gyhoeddi gan Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru. Fodd bynnag, dyma'r adroddiad blynyddol olaf i'w gyhoeddi gan Adam Peat, a ymddeolodd fel ombwdsmon ym mis Ebrill eleni. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yr Aelodau'n ymuno â mi i ganmol Adam am ei ymroddiad a'i ymrwymiad mawr ac am ddatblygu'r gwasanaeth ombwdsmon rhagorol sydd ar waith yng Nghymru heddiw.

Mae Peter Tyndall, olynnydd Adam, sy'n adnabyddus iawn i lawer o'r Aelodau fel cyn brif weithredwr Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, yn cydnabod bod Adam wedi gosod sylfeini cadarn ar gyfer gwella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru. Yr wyf eisoes wedi cwrdd â Peter Tyndall i drafod ei rôl wrth wella'r ffordd y darperir gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y gallwn edrych ymlaen at weld Peter yn gwella'r gwasanaeth hwn ymhellach. Yr wyf yn ystyried bod rôl yr ombwdsmon yn ganolog er mwyn darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus o safon yng Nghymru. Byddwn hefyd yn dal i ddysgu gan gyngor amhrisiadwy'r ombwdsmon a'i argymhellion er mwyn cyfrannu at un o flaenoriaethau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, sef codi safonau mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Wrth gwrs, nid yw rôl yr ombwdsmon wedi'i chyfyngu i ymchwilio i gwynion am awdurdodau sydd dan ei awdurdodaeth. Rhan o'r rôl yw bwydo'r gwersi a ddysgir yn ôl er mwyn helpu'r cyrff cyhoeddus hynny i wella'u gwasanaethau a'r ffordd y maent yn

to citizens' complaints. As the annual report states, the ombudsman contributed to the development of two complementary sets of guidance, which seek to do just that—the principles of good administration and the principles for remedy. These were issued to, and are relevant to, all public bodies in Wales. They complement our own citizen-centred governance principles. The six key principles are: getting it right; being customer-focused; being open and accountable; acting fairly and proportionately; putting things right; and seeking continuous improvement.

These principles are broad statements of what bodies within the ombudsman's jurisdiction should be doing to deliver good administration and customer service. The principles are a timely reminder of good practice and what I regard to be a template for shaping administrative practice to fit the needs of the citizen. It may be that failure to live up to these principles on the part of a public body is what has led an individual to complain in the first place. However, the principles will provide the benchmark for the re-examination of systems and procedures that will help map the path for future improvement in the delivery of services across Wales.

However, good administration is as much about values and attitudes as systems and procedures. It must reflect a culture in which complaints are welcomed with a positive attitude and highly valued as feedback to improve service delivery. The 'One Wales' programme for Government commits the Welsh Assembly Government to the continual improvement of local services in Wales. Improving the way in which complaints are handled, responded to and learned from is central to improving the delivery of public services.

I am pleased that the ombudsman's annual report acknowledges that the principles are consistent with the Assembly Government's vision, comprehensive policy and supporting actions to improve the customer services

ymateb i gwynion dinasyddion. Fel y dywed yr adroddiad blynyddol, cyfrannodd yr ombwdsmon at ddatblygu dwy set o ganllawiau sy'n ategu ei gilydd, gyda'r union nod hwnnw—egwyddorion gweinyddu da a'r egwyddorion ar gyfer gwneud iawn. Rhoddwyd y rhain i bob corff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru ac maent yn berthnasol i bob un ohonynt. Maent yn ategu ein hegwyddorion ni ein hunain ynglŷn â llywodraethu sy'n canolbwyntio ar y dinesydd. Y chwe egwyddor allweddol yw: gwneud pethau'n iawn; canolbwyntio ar y cwsmer, bod yn agored ac yn atebol; gweithredu mewn ffordd deg a chymesur; cywiro pethau; a cheisio gwella'n barhaus.

Mae'r egwyddorion hyn yn dweud yn fras yr hyn y dylai cyrff dan awdurdodaeth yr ombwdsmon fod yn ei wneud i ddarparu gweinyddiaeth dda a gwasanaeth da i gwsmeriaid. Mae'r egwyddorion yn ein hatgoffa'n amserol ynglŷn ag arferion da a'r hyn yr wyf yn ei ystyried yn dempled ar gyfer llunio arferion gweinyddol sy'n gweddu i anghenion y dinesydd. Efallai mai corff cyhoeddus sy'n methu â chadw at yr egwyddorion hyn sydd wedi achosi bod unigolyn yn cwyno yn y lle cyntaf. Fodd bynnag, yr egwyddorion fydd y meincnod ar gyfer ailarchwilio systemau a gweithdrefnau a fydd yn helpu mapio'r llwybr ar gyfer gwella darparu gwasanaethau ledled Cymru yn y dyfodol.

Fodd bynnag, mae a wnelo gweinyddu da gymaint â gwerthoedd ac agweddau ag â systemau a gweithdrefnau. Rhaid iddo adlewyrchu diwylliant lle croesewir cwynion gydag agwedd gadarnhaol, a lle rhoddir gwerth mawr arnynt fel adborth er mwyn gwella darparu gwasanaethau. Mae'r rhaglen ar gyfer Llywodraethu yn 'Cymru'n Un', mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ymrwmo i wella gwasanaethau lleol yn gyson yng Nghymru. Mae gwella'r ffordd yr ymdrinnir â chwynion, y ffordd yr ymatebir iddynt a'r ffordd y dysgir yn eu sgil yn elfen ganolog wrth wella darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Yr wyf yn falch fod adroddiad blynyddol yr ombwdsmon yn cydnabod bod yr egwyddorion yn gyson â gweledigaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ei pholisiau cynhwysfawr a'r camau sy'n gefn iddynt er

provided by all public bodies. 'Building Better Customer Service' contained a number of customer service outcomes to support public services to provide accessible, flexible and responsive services. These included ensuring that citizens should

'find it easy to complain and get things put right when the service they receive is not good enough'.

Good progress has been made. We are undertaking projects involving the ombudsman, together with other public bodies, to consider how identifying the organisations responsible for dealing with complaints can be made clearer for citizens and how complaints that span agencies can be dealt with more effectively. I commend the ideas submitted by Peter Tyndall since he took up his new role. Both projects respond to key findings from the Welsh Assembly Government's unique and innovative Living in Wales survey, through which service users have told us about their experiences of complaining about Welsh public services. We are committed to continuing to ask about and respond to citizens' experiences of complaining about public services. Indeed, I hope to publish the second Living in Wales survey before the end of the year.

The ombudsman also contributed significantly to the NHS Putting Things Right project, which is looking at introducing a strengthened set of arrangements for the investigation and remedy of things that go wrong in the NHS in Wales. We are very grateful for the contribution of the current ombudsman and his predecessor, as well as that of their staff. The NHS Redress (Wales) Measure 2007 completed its passage through the National Assembly for Wales and received Royal Assent in July. The Minister for Health and Social Services advises me that a consultation on the details of new arrangements is planned for the early part of 2009.

Clearly the ombudsman has a vital role in

mwyn gwella'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir ar gyfer cwsmeriaid gan bob corff cyhoeddus. Yr oedd 'Adeiladu Gwell Gwasanaethau Cwsmeriaid' yn cynnwys nifer o ganlyniadau gwasanaethau i gwsmeriaid er mwyn cynorthwyo gwasanaethau cyhoeddus i ddarparu gwasanaethau hygyrch, hyblyg ac ymatebol. Un o'r rhain oedd sicrhau y dylai dinasyddion ei chael yn hawdd:

'gwneud cwyn a chael cywiro pethau pan na fydd y gwasanaeth yn ddigon da'.

Mae cynnydd da wedi'i wneud. Yr ydym yn ymgymryd â phrosiectau sy'n cynnwys yr ombwdsmon, ynghyd â chyrrff cyhoeddus eraill, i ystyried sut y gellir ei gwneud yn gliriach i ddinasyddion pa gyrff sy'n gyfrifol am ymdrin â chwynion a sut y gellir ymdrin yn fwy effeithiol â chwynion sy'n rhychwantu asiantaethau. Cymeradwyaf y syniadau a gyflwynwyd gan Peter Tyndall ers iddo ddechrau yn ei swydd newydd. Mae'r ddau brosiect yn ymateb i ddarganfyddiadau allweddol yn arolwg unigryw a blaengar Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, Byw yng Nghymru. Yn hwnnw, mae defnyddwyr gwasanaethau wedi dweud wrthym am eu profiadau wrth gwyno am wasanaethau cyhoeddus Cymru. Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i barhau i holi am brofiadau dinasyddion wrth gwyno am wasanaethau cyhoeddus ac i ymateb iddynt. Yn wir, gobeithiaf gyhoeddi ail arolwg Byw yng Nghymru cyn diwedd y flwyddyn.

Cyfrannodd yr ombwdsmon yn sylweddol hefyd at y prosiect Gweithio i Wella'r GIG, sy'n ystyried cyflwyno set gryfach o drefniadau i ymchwilio i bethau sy'n mynd o le yn y GIG yng Nghymru a gwneud iawn amdanynt. Yr ydym yn ddiolchgar iawn i'r ombwdsmon presennol a'i ragflaenydd, yn ogystal â'i staff am eu cyfraniad. Cwblhaodd Mesur Gwneud Iawn am Gamweddau'r GIG (Cymru) 2007 ei daith drwy Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a chael y Cydsyniad Brenhinol ym mis Gorffennaf. Dywed y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wrthyf y bwriedir ymgynghori fanylion trefniadau newydd yn gynnar yn 2009.

Yn amlwg, mae gan yr ombwdsmon rôl

keeping public bodies focused on the importance of providing responsive and effective complaints and redress systems. We will continue to look to him for that guidance. The annual report is a salutary compilation of our performance across public services.

2.50 p.m.

So how did public bodies fare at the hands of the ombudsman during the period from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008? During that period, a total of 1,420 new complaints were received by the ombudsman's office. That compares with a reported total of 1,294 new complaints in the previous year—a significant increase of 10 per cent. The ombudsman reported that, last year, more people than ever used his service in Wales. However, the number of complaints that the ombudsman upheld is little changed from the previous year, which may suggest that the upward trend in accessing ombudsman services is due to an increased awareness of the existence of his service rather than to a deterioration in public services. The results of the Living in Wales survey point in the opposite direction, but services have shown a significant improvement. However, we must not be complacent about this assumption.

During the reporting period, the ombudsman considered a total of 1,888 complaints, with some carried over from the previous year. Seventy-one of those complaints were in respect of the Assembly Government and Assembly Government sponsored bodies. While this is an increase of 18 per cent on the previous year, again, I remind Members of the increase in the general demand for the ombudsman's service. Of the 71 complaints received in respect of the Assembly Government and sponsored bodies, eight were upheld. That is comparable with last year's figure. Four out of the 71 cases were not upheld by the ombudsman and a significant number of the complaints about the Assembly Government and sponsored bodies referred to the ombudsman in this period did not reach the full investigation

hollbwysig wrth sicrhau bod cyrff cyhoeddus yn dal i ganolbwyntio ar bwysigrwydd darparu systemau ymatebol ac effeithiol ar gyfer cwyno a gwneud iawn. Byddwn yn dal i droi ato am yr arweiniad hwnnw. Mae'r adroddiad blynyddol yn crynhoi ein perfformiad ar draws gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, ac mae hynny'n llesol.

Felly, sut hwyl a gafodd cyrff cyhoeddus dan law'r ombwdsmon yn ystod y cyfnod rhwng 1 Ebrill 2007 a 31 Mawrth 2008? Yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, cyrhaeddodd 1,420 o gwynion newydd swyddfa'r ombwdsmon. Mae hynny'n cymharu â chyfanswm o 1,294 o gwynion newydd a gofnodwyd yn y flwyddyn flaenorol—cynnydd sylweddol o 10 y cant. Adroddodd yr ombwdsmon fod mwy o bobl nag erioed wedi defnyddio'i wasanaeth yng Nghymru y llynedd. Serch hynny, nid oes fawr o newid yn nifer y cwynion a gadarnhawyd gan yr ombwdsmon ers y flwyddyn flaenorol. Efallai fod hyn yn awgrymu bod y cynnydd yn y duedd i ddefnyddio gwasanaethau ombwdsmon yn digwydd am fod pobl yn fwy ymwybodol o fodolaeth ei wasanaeth, yn hytrach na bod gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn gwaethygu. Mae canlyniadau'r arolwg Byw yng Nghymru yn awgrymu'r gwrthwyneb, ond mae gwasanaethau wedi dangos gwelliant sylweddol. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni beidio â bod yn hunan fodlon ynglŷn â'r dybiaeth hon.

Yn ystod blwyddyn yr adroddiad, ystyriodd yr ombwdsmon gyfanswm o 1,888 o gwynion, rai ohonynt wedi'u dwyn ymlaen o'r flwyddyn flaenorol. Yr oedd saith deg un o'r cwynion hynny'n ymwneud â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a chyrrff a noddir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Er bod hyn yn gynnydd o 18 y cant ers y flwyddyn flaenorol, atgoffaf yr Aelodau am y cynnydd cyffredinol yn y galw am wasanaeth yr ombwdsmon. O'r 71 o gwynion a gafwyd ynglŷn â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r cyrrff a noddir, cadarnhawyd wyth. Mae hynny'n debyg i ffigur y llynedd. Ni chadarnhawyd pedwar o'r 17 achos gan yr ombwdsmon, ac ni lwyddodd nifer sylweddol o'r cwynion a gyfeiriwyd at yr ombwdsmon yn ystod y cyfnod hwn ynglŷn â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r cyrrff a noddir i gyrraedd y cam

stage. Therefore, 12 complaints were investigated during this period, compared with 20 last year.

As a Government, we greatly value the feedback from the ombudsman's investigations and we place great importance on the report's findings and its recommendations. My colleagues and I will work closely with the ombudsman's office to ensure that we are making the most of the information that his reports and guidance provide us with. The Assembly Government's aim is to close the links between complaints and services, the outcomes of those complaints and the vital opportunity that they identify to enable us and our stakeholder partners to make improvements to the services that we provide.

Nick Ramsay: I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to this afternoon's debate. I join the Minister in paying tribute to the work of Adam Peat and also in welcoming Peter Tyndall to his new role and wishing him all the best; it is a large role and one that has grown in importance. As we have heard, the role of the ombudsman is to see whether people have been treated unfairly or have received a bad service through some fault of a public body. It is fairly self-explanatory. It is true to say that the profile of the ombudsman's office has increased markedly over recent times, and, as the Minister said, there is an increasing awareness, not only of his role but of the wide variety of areas about which the ombudsman can be approached. Not so long ago, the ombudsman's role was dimly understood, but this change in perception is a good thing, although it brings its own set of problems and concerns, some of which have been highlighted in the report.

I have a few questions that I hope that the Minister will, through the course of this debate, be able to address. I was interested to read in the overview on page 13 that the number of complaints of maladministration has continued to rise. Specifically, as was pointed out, there has been a 10 per cent increase in complaints since 2006-07, which came on top of a 10 per cent increase on the

ymchwilio llawn. Felly, ymchwiliwyd i 12 cwyn yn ystod y cyfnod hwn o'u cymharu ag 20 y llynedd.

Yr ydym ni, fel Llywodraeth, yn rhoi cryn werth ar yr adborth o ymchwiliadau'r ombwdsmon, a chredwn fod darganfyddiadau'r adroddiad a'i argymhellion yn bwysig iawn. Bydd fy nghyd-Weinidogion a minnau'n gweithio'n agos gyda swyddfa'r ombwdsmon i sicrhau ein bod yn manteisio i'r eithaf ar y wybodaeth a roddir inni yn ei adroddiadau a'i arweiniad. Nod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yw cau'r dolenni rhwng cwynion a gwasanaethau, canlyniadau'r cwynion hynny a'r cyfle hollbwysig a gynigiant i'n galluogi ni a'n partneriaid sy'n rhanddeiliaid i wella'r gwasanaethau a ddarparwn.

Nick Ramsay: Yr wyf yn falch cael y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl y prynhawn yma. Ymunaf â'r Gweinidog i roi teyrnged i waith Adam Peat, a hefyd i groesawu Peter Tyndall i'w swydd newydd gan ddymuno'r gorau iddo. Mae'n swydd fawr sydd wedi dod yn fwyfwy pwysig. Fel yr ydym wedi'i glywed, rôl yr ombwdsmon yw gweld a yw pobl wedi'u trin yn annheg neu wedi cael gwasanaeth gwael a hynny am fod corff cyhoeddus ar fai. Mae'n eithaf hunanesboniadol. Mae'n wir dweud bod proffil swydd yr ombwdsmon wedi cynyddu'n amlwg yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ac fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog, mae mwy a mwy o ymwybyddiaeth, nid yn unig o'i rôl ond o'r amrywiaeth eang o feysydd y gellir cysylltu â'r ombwdsmon yn eu cylch. Nid oes llawer o amser er pan nad oedd pobl yn deall yn iawn beth oedd rôl yr ombwdsmon, ond mae'r newid hwn yn eu canfyddiad yn beth da, er ei fod yn dod â'i set ei hun o broblemau a phryderon, a thynnwyd sylw at rai o'r rhain yn yr adroddiad.

Mae gennyf ychydig gwestiynau gan obeithio y gall y Gweinidog roi sylw iddynt yn ystod y ddadl hon. Yr oedd yn ddiddorol darllen yn y trosolwg ar dudalen 13 fod nifer y cwynion ynglŷn â chamweinyddu wedi dal i godi. Yn benodol, fel y tynnwyd sylw ato, gwelwyd cynnydd o 10 y cant yn nifer y cwynion er 2006-07, a hynny yn ogystal â chynnydd o 10 y cant ers y flwyddyn flaenorol. Mae'n debyg

previous year. I suppose that there are two ways of looking at that increase. On the negative side, you can say that the public is finding more faults with public bodies in Wales. On the flip side, and this is the view that is taken by the report, members of the public are becoming more aware of the service provided by the ombudsman and more confident about complaining. Whatever the reason, and we may differ on that, more complaints are being made, and that raises a number of issues, particularly regarding capacity. We should be asking whether the ombudsman service is being overstretched, and, in view of the need for this capacity, we should be asking whether there are sufficient resources for the ombudsman's office to do the job that we are requiring of it.

I note from the report that a number of cases have been carried over from year to year for the last three years—around the 450 mark. Although the report highlights an improvement on last year's figures, that figure showed an increase on 2005-06. Therefore, it depends on how you look at that figure and the extent to which you think there has been an improvement. If you compare the recent figure with the 2005 figure, then the improvement can be seen in a different context and the number is still up on that year.

I further note from the report's findings that the number of cases that took over 12 months to complete has increased. The figure represents about 6 per cent of the caseload and had already increased by nearly one-tenth on the previous year. Therefore, that target has evidently not been met. The ombudsman also comments later in the report that, with regard to the target for the length of time taken to decide whether or not to investigate a complaint, only half of those decisions are taken within three weeks against a target of 90 per cent. Therefore, that target has not been met, and neither has the target with regard to the six-week limit on decisions being taken. The ombudsman says that this is a 'somewhat disappointing position', which I would agree with. I would be interested to hear from the Assembly Government what guidance is being given to the ombudsman's office to try to improve the state of affairs in the future.

bod dwy ffordd o edrych ar y cynnydd hwnnw. Ar yr ochr negyddol, gallwch ddweud bod y cyhoedd yn gweld mwy o feiau ar gyrff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru. Ar yr ochr gadarnhaol, a dyma'r safbwynt sydd yn yr adroddiad, mae'r cyhoedd yn dod yn fwyfwy ymwybodol o'r gwasanaeth a ddarperir gan yr ombwdsmon ac yn fwy hyderus ynglŷn â chwyno. Beth bynnag yw'r rheswm, a gallwn anghytuno ynghylch hynny, mae mwy o gwynion, ac mae hynny'n codi nifer o broblemau, yn enwedig ynglŷn â chapasiti. Dylem fod yn gofyn a yw gwasanaeth yr ombwdsmon yn cael ei orymestyn, a chan fod angen y capasiti hwn, dylem fod yn gofyn a oes digon o adnoddau ar gael i swyddfa'r ombwdsmon wneud y gwaith yr ydym yn gofyn iddi'i wneud.

Sylwaf o'r adroddiad fod nifer o achosion wedi'u trosglwyddo o'r naill flwyddyn i'r llall yn y tair blynedd diwethaf—oddeutu 450. Er bod yr adroddiad yn dweud bod y ffigurau'n well na rhai'r llynedd, yr oedd y ffigur hwnnw'n dangos cynnydd er 2005-06. Felly, mae'n dibynnu sut yr edrychwch ar y ffigur ac i ba raddau y credwch ei fod wedi gwella. O gymharu'r ffigur diweddar â ffigur 2005, mae'n bosibl gweld y gwelliant mewn gwahanol gyd-destun, ac mae'r nifer yn dal yn uwch nag ydoedd yn y flwyddyn honno.

Sylwaf hefyd, o ddarganfyddiadau'r adroddiad, fod nifer yr achosion y cymerwyd dros 12 mis i'w cwblhau wedi cynyddu. Mae'r ffigur oddeutu 6 y cant o'r llwyth achosion, ac yr oedd eisoes wedi codi un rhan o ddeg bron ers y flwyddyn flaenorol. Felly, mae'n amlwg nad yw'r targed hwnnw wedi'i gyrraedd. Mae'r ombwdsmon hefyd yn sôn yn ddiweddarach yn yr adroddiad, wrth gyfeirio at y targed ar gyfer faint a gymer i benderfynu a ddylid ymchwilio i gwyn, mai hanner y penderfyniadau hynny'n unig a wneir o fewn tair wythnos o'u cymharu â tharged o 90 y cant. Felly, ni chyrraeddwyd y targed hwnnw, nac ychwaith y targed ar gyfer gwneud penderfyniadau o fewn chwe wythnos. Dywed yr ombwdsmon fod hyn yn 'sefyllfa siomedig braidd', a byddwn yn cytuno â hynny. Byddai'n dda gennyf glywed gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad pa arweiniad a roddir i swyddfa'r ombwdsmon i geisio gwella'r sefyllfa yn y dyfodol.

It would be wrong to say that success is simply measured by the number of cases dealt with; it clearly is not, nor is it measured by the length of time that it takes for those decisions to be taken. We can become too target-focused—I can see the Minister nodding in agreement. Targets are important, but so is the quality of the service provided. It is also important that the public feels that it is being dealt with effectively and is pleased with the service that it gets. That is not just about the public getting the decision that it wants, as that will not always be the case; it needs to have a basic confidence in the service. I hope that this debate will highlight some of the problems that the ombudsman faces and also the successes. I welcome the report. The ombudsman's role has grown in importance and will continue to do so in the future. We need to have a strategy that will recognise the successes and put a strategy in place that will deal with the failings highlighted.

Chris Franks: There is concern, Minister, about the inability to effectively scrutinise all parts of this report due to the lack of detail and analysis. The report does not reflect in detail progress made by individual local authorities, for example, in relation to the concerns and cases raised in last year's somewhat more detailed report. I am thinking particularly of the anti-social behaviour comments. The report has made no remarks on progress being made in this area. I am further concerned to determine whether an increase in complaints is due to the increased awareness of the role or a decrease in services by various organisations. I am aware of what was said last year, but we question whether, in the second year of operation, this awareness should have been stabilised.

I will highlight the fact that there is concern with regard to the fact that a high proportion

Ni fyddai'n iawn dweud mai cyfrif nifer yr achosion yw'r unig ffordd i fesur llwyddiant. Mae'n amlwg nad yw hynny'n wir, ac nid yw'n cael ei fesur ychwaith yn ôl faint o amser a gymer i wneud y penderfyniadau hynny. Mae'n bosibl inni ganolbwyntio gormod ar dargedau—gwelaf fod y Gweinidog yn cytuno. Mae targedau'n bwysig, ond mae ansawdd y gwasanaeth a ddarperir hefyd yn bwysig. Yn ogystal â hynny, mae'n bwysig i'r cyhoedd deimlo'u bod yn cael eu trin yn effeithiol, a'u bod yn fodlon â'r gwasanaeth a gânt. Nid yw hynny'n golygu o anghenraid fod y cyhoedd yn cael y penderfyniad a ddymunant, oherwydd nid felly y bydd hi bob tro. Mae angen i bobl deimlo y gallant ymddiried yn sylfaenol yn y gwasanaeth. Gobeithio y bydd y ddadl hon yn tynnu sylw at rai o'r problemau sy'n wynebu'r ombwdsmon, a hefyd rai o'r llwyddiannau. Croesawaf yr adroddiad. Mae rôl yr ombwdsmon wedi tyfu o ran ei phwysigrwydd a bydd yn parhau i wneud hynny yn y dyfodol. Mae angen inni gael strategaeth a fydd yn cydnabod y llwyddiannau a sefydlu strategaeth a fydd yn mynd i'r afael â'r methiannau y tynnwyd sylw atynt.

Chris Franks: Mae'r anallu i graffu'n effeithiol ar bob rhan o'r adroddiad hwn oherwydd y diffyg manylion a dadansoddi yn destun pryder, Weinidog. Nid yw'r adroddiad yn adlewyrchu'n fanwl y cynnydd y mae awdurdodau lleol unigol wedi'i wneud, er enghraifft, o ran y pryderon a'r achosion a godwyd yn adroddiad y llynedd, adroddiad a oedd rywfaint yn fanylach. Yr wyf yn meddwl yn benodol am y sylwadau am ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Nid oes sôn yn yr adroddiad am y cynnydd a wneir yn y maes hwn. Yr wyf yn awyddus hefyd i wybod ai oherwydd bod pobl yn fwy ymwybodol o'r rôl ynteu oherwydd bod gwasanaethau gwahanol gyrff wedi gwaethygu y mae nifer y cwynion wedi cynyddu. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r hyn a ddywedwyd y llynedd, ond yr ydym yn amau a ddylid bod wedi sefydlogi'r ymwybyddiaeth hon, a hithau'n ail flwyddyn weithredu.

Tynnaf sylw at y pryder fod cyfran fawr o'r cwynion yn ymwneud â thai ac ymddygiad

of the complaints relate to housing and anti-social behaviour, as was the case last year. What is being done to tackle these issues? That is not to say that we should not congratulate the ombudsman and his staff, who have resolved a large number of cases, despite an increase in the number of complaints.

Of further concern is the fact that, by far, the majority of complaints received are regarding county and county borough councils. This is an indication that improvements need to be made in the delivery of public services. However, we also need clarification as to whether it is the nature of the services provided by county councils that engender complaints, or whether there is a deep-seated problem. It would be wrong simply to blame local authorities based on this report. In conclusion, I would be grateful for a comment regarding the need for a more detailed report next year.

3.00 p.m.

Peter Black: I join previous speakers in paying tribute to the work of Adam Peat, and offering my best wishes to Peter Tyndall in his new role. I must also praise the staff working for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, who often work under great pressure. I know that their workload is not small by any stretch of the imagination.

It is also worth noting that, in my experience, the ombudsman is far more robust than his counterpart in England, particularly in dealing with complaints relating to the code of conduct for local authority members. There has been a clear difference of approach in Wales, and our ombudsman takes a stronger line on investigating what appear to be trivial or malicious complaints. That is to be welcomed.

I want to raise a couple of issues, particularly relating to the guidance on the principles of good administration, which was mentioned in the Minister's speech. The guidance does not mention confidentiality or data protection, and yet we have seen the disregard with which the Westminster Government has treated personal data and the anger and fear

gwrthgymdeithasol. Yr oedd yr un peth yn wir y llynedd. Beth sy'n cael ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn? Nid yw hynny'n golygu na ddylem longyfarch yr ombwdsmon a'i staff, sydd wedi datrys nifer fawr o achosion er bod nifer y cwynion wedi cynyddu.

Peth arall sy'n destun pryder yw bod mwyafrif y cwynion o bell ffordd yn ymwneud â'r cynghorau sir a'r cynghorau bwrdeistref sirol. Mae hyn yn awgrymu bod angen gwella darpariaeth gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Fodd bynnag, mae angen eglurhad hefyd ai natur y gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan y cynghorau sir sy'n esgor ar y cwynion, ynteu a oes yma broblem ddofn. Byddai'n anghywir beio'r awdurdodau lleol yn llwyr ar sail yr adroddiad hwn. I gloi, byddwn yn ddiolchgar am sylw ynglŷn â'r angen am adroddiad manylach y flwyddyn nesaf.

Peter Black: Ymunaf â siaradwyr blaenorol i roi teyrnged i waith Adam Peat, a chynnig fy nymuniadau gorau i Peter Tyndall yn ei rôl newydd. Rhaid imi hefyd ganmol y staff sy'n gweithio i Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru, sy'n aml yn gweithio dan bwysau mawr. Gwn nad yw eu llwyth gwaith yn fach o bell ffordd.

Mae hefyd yn werth nodi bod yr ombwdsmon, yn fy mhrofiad i, lawer yn fwy cadarn na'i gydweithiwr yn Lloegr, yn enwedig wrth ddelio â chwynion yn ymwneud â'r cod ymddygiad i aelodau o awdurdodau lleol. Bu gwahaniaeth amlwg yn y dull o weithredu yng Nghymru, ac mae gan ein hombwdsmon ni safbwynt cadarnach wrth ymchwilio i gwynion sy'n ymddangos yn ddbwys neu'n faleisus. Mae hynny i'w groesawu.

Dymunaf godi dau fater yn ymwneud yn benodol â'r arweiniad ar egwyddorion gweinyddu da, a grybwyllwyd yn araith y Gweinidog. Nid yw'r arweiniad yn sôn am gyfrinachedd na diogelu data, ac eto yr ydym wedi gweld yr anwybyddu gan Lywodraeth San Steffan wrth drafod data personol a'r dicter a'r ofn y mae hynny wedi'i greu. Yr

that that has created. I am sure that that has affected local government as much as the UK Government, and if we are to give guidance on good administration, it needs to cover good practice around data protection. I hope that that can be taken up by the ombudsman, perhaps as a response to this debate.

We saw the value of the ombudsman's work today, in the report that he produced on a case in the Vale of Glamorgan Council. However, we also saw the weakness of his powers. The case in question had to be referred to his office twice, because the recommendations made in his first report were largely ignored by local authorities. Although the ombudsman's recommendations are advisory, most local authorities take them on board and undertake to carry them out, and so it is disturbing to learn that a report can be issued that is then ignored by a local authority, and that the ombudsman is forced to revisit the case and issue a further report including further recommendations. Perhaps it is time to look at the strength of the ombudsman's powers in forcing the authorities that he investigates to comply with his recommendations.

We should also look at the scope of his powers. The report points to a large number of people whose complaints are out of jurisdiction, and, in my experience, the range of cases that the ombudsman can investigate is quite narrow. A number of the maladministration cases referred to the ombudsman fall outside his competence to investigate. It might be worth carrying out some sort of review of the kinds of cases that are referred to see whether they are outside his jurisdiction and whether it is therefore possible to widen his powers.

The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery (Andrew Davies): I thank the three colleagues who have responded to the debate. Some thoughtful contributions have been made, and some specific questions raised. For example, Chris Franks spoke about the format of the report, and the difficulty in scrutinising and analysing that information. I have always believed that decisions that are made in an accountable and

wyf yn siŵr fod hynny wedi effeithio ar lywodraeth leol yn gymaint â Llywodraeth y DU, ac os ydym i roi arweiniad ar weinyddu da mae angen iddo gynnwys arfer da wrth ddiogelu data. Gobeithio y bydd yr ombwdsmon yn gallu trafod hynny, wrth ymateb i'r ddadl hon, efallai.

Gwelsom y gwerth sydd i waith yr ombwdsmon heddiw, yn yr adroddiad a luniodd am achos yng Nghyngor Bro Morgannwg. Er hynny, gwelsom wendid ei bwerau hefyd. Bu'n rhaid atgyfeirio'r achos dan sylw i'w swyddfa ddwywaith, am fod yr argymhellion a wnaethpwyd yn ei adroddiad cyntaf wedi'u hanwybyddu i raddau helaeth gan awdurdodau lleol. Er bod argymhellion yr ombwdsmon yn rhai cyngorol, bydd y rhan fwyaf o awdurdodau lleol yn eu derbyn ac yn addo eu rhoi ar waith, ac felly mae'n peri pryder clywed bod modd cyhoeddi adroddiad sydd wedyn yn cael ei anwybyddu gan awdurdod lleol, a'r ombwdsmon yn gorfod ailystyried yr achos a chyhoeddi adroddiad pellach sy'n cynnwys argymhellion pellach. Efallai ei bod yn bryd ystyried cryfder pwerau'r ombwdsmon o ran gorfodi awdurdodau y mae'n ymchwilio iddynt i ufuddhau i'w argymhellion.

Dylem edrych hefyd ar gwmpas ei bwerau. Mae'r adroddiad yn cyfeirio at nifer fawr o bobl y mae eu cwynion y tu allan i'w awdurdodaeth, ac yn fy mhrofiad i mae ystod yr achosion y gall yr ombwdsmon ymchwilio iddynt yn eithaf cyfyng. Mae nifer o'r achosion yn ymwneud â chamweinyddu a atgyfeirir at yr ombwdsmon y tu allan i'w gymhwysedd ymchwilio. Gallai fod yn werth cynnal rhyw fath o adolygiad o'r mathau o achosion a gaiff eu hatgyfeirio er mwyn gweld a ydynt y tu allan i'w awdurdodaeth, ac felly a yw'n bosibl ehangu cwmpas ei bwerau.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus (Andrew Davies): Diolch i'r tri chyd-Aelod sydd wedi ymateb i'r ddadl. Gwnaethpwyd rhai cyfraniadau ystyriol, a chodwyd rhai cwestiynau penodol. Er enghraifft, soniodd Chris Franks am fformat yr adroddiad, a'r anhawster o ran craffu ar y wybodaeth honno a'i dadansoddi. Yr wyf wedi credu erioed fod penderfyniadau a wneir mewn modd atebol a

transparent way are fundamentally better, and I will take that matter up with Peter Tyndall.

Peter Black raised the wider issue of the powers of the ombudsman, and of the potential to strengthen them and to look at his remit and jurisdiction. That was an interesting contribution, and I will reflect on it and discuss it with colleagues. It is up to the Assembly to determine its input through the committee structure, but there may well be scope for one or more of our subject committees to look at this issue and take it forward.

Peter Black referred to the whole area of accountability, with the Vale of Glamorgan case, which brings us back to the point about transparent and accountable decisions being fundamentally better decisions. I think that the phrase that Peter used was that the ombudsman's first report had been 'ignored' by the council, and that it had failed to respond to it. Local authorities have their own mandate and sovereignty, but the role of the ombudsman is crucial in holding local authorities and other public service providers to account. Therefore, it is to be lamented if a council failed, for whatever reason, to respond to the needs of, in that case, a vulnerable service user.

On Nick Ramsay's points, as I said in my opening remarks, the increase in complaints particularly around maladministration is probably due to citizens' increased awareness of the ombudsman's service, and not necessarily to the conclusion that the standard of services has declined. The *Living in Wales* survey, which was published earlier this year but which covers a survey carried out in 2006, shows that a complaints procedure, or the ability of citizens to complain about the quality of services is a main area that we needed to focus on in improving service delivery. Three key issues emerged: first, citizens are unaware of how to make a complaint; secondly, rather worryingly, they felt that it was hardly worth making a complaint in many instances because they feared that it would not be taken seriously; and, thirdly, many cases involved more than one agency, and so, given that each agency has a different complaints procedure, service

thyroyw yn well o'u hanfod, a byddaf yn codi'r mater hwnnw gyda Peter Tyndall.

Cododd Peter Black fater ehangach pwerau'r ombwdsmon, a'r posibilrwydd o'u cryfhau ac ystyried ei gylch gwaith a'i awdurdodaeth. Yr oedd hwnnw'n gyfraniad diddorol, a byddaf yn myfyrio arno a'i drafod gyda chyd-Weinidogion. Mater i'r Cynulliad yw penderfynu ei fewnbwn drwy'r strwythur pwyllgorau, ond mae'n ddigon posibl y bydd cyfle i un neu ragor o'n pwyllgorau pwnc edrych ar y mater hwn a mynd ymlaen ag ef.

Cyfeiriodd Peter Black at faes atebolrwydd yn gyffredinol, gyda'r achos ym Mro Morgannwg, sy'n dod â ni'n ôl at y pwynt bod penderfyniadau tryloyw ac atebol yn well o'u hanfod. Credaf mai'r ymadrodd a ddefnyddiodd Peter oedd bod adroddiad cyntaf yr ombwdsmon wedi'i 'anwybyddu' gan y cyngor, a'i fod wedi methu ag ymateb iddo. Mae gan awdurdodau lleol eu mandad a'u sofraniaeth eu hunain, ond mae rôl yr ombwdsmon yn hollbwysig o ran gwneud awdurdodau lleol a chyrrff eraill sy'n darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn atebol. Felly, mae'n resyn os methodd cyngor ag ymateb, am ba reswm bynnag, i anghenion rhywun a oedd, yn yr achos hwnnw, yn ddefnyddiwr gwasanaethau a oedd yn agored i niwed.

Ynghylch y pwyntiau a wnaeth Nick Ramsay, fel y dywedais yn fy sylwadau agoriadol, mae'n debyg bod y cynnydd yn nifer y cwynion am gamweinyddu, yn benodol, yn deillio o'r ffaith fod dinasyddion yn fwy ymwybodol o wasanaeth yr ombwdsmon, ac nid o reidrwydd o'r casgliad fod safon gwasanaethau wedi gostwng. Mae'r arolwg *Byw yng Nghymru*, a gyhoeddwyd yn gynharach eleni ond sy'n ymdrin ag arolwg a wnaethpwyd yn 2006, yn dangos bod gweithdrefn gwynion, neu allu dinasyddion i gwyno am ansawdd gwasanaethau, yn faes pwysig yr oedd angen inni ganolbwyntio arno wrth wella darparu gwasanaethau. Daeth tri mater allweddol i'r amlwg: yn gyntaf, mae dinasyddion yn anymwybodol o'r modd i wneud cwyn; yn ail, teimlent, er gofid braidd, mai prin ei bod yn werth gwneud cwyn mewn llawer achos am eu bod yn ofni na chymerid hi o ddifrif; ac, yn drydydd, yr oedd llawer o achosion yn ymwneud â mwy nag un

users did not want to get bogged down or embroiled in a lengthy procedure. I have been exploring with Peter Tyndall the possibility of having a unified complaints procedure across the public sector. If we are truly committed to citizen-centred services and to making them as accessible and as easy to use as possible, we need to look at the complaints procedure and streamline it wherever we can.

Chris Franks commented on the domination of complaints about housing and anti-social behaviour, given that 23 per cent of the total number of complaints came under that category. Perhaps that is not unusual given that complaints about anti-social behaviour have increased generally across the UK. That says more about social attitudes than about the services provided by local authorities. Local authorities provide the bulk of public services, and the statistics in the pie chart show that, of the nine service areas identified, all but two are provided by local authorities, and 78 per cent of complaints were in those areas. If local authorities provide the bulk of the services in Wales, ipso facto, you would expect that to be reflected in the bulk of the complaints.

I thank Members for their thoughtful contributions. I will reflect on them and respond in more detail, where appropriate. However, the powers of the ombudsman may be an issue that the Assembly itself, either in Plenary or in subject committees, wants to take up. I will certainly take these issues up with my colleagues and officials, and with Peter Tyndall.

Y Llywydd: Y cynnig yw cytuno ar y cynnig. A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes. Datganaf, felly, fod y cynnig wedi'i dderbyn yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35.

asiantaeth, ac felly, gan fod gweithdrefn gwynion wahanol gan bob asiantaeth, nid oedd defnyddwyr gwasanaethau am fynd i'r gors neu gael eu maglu mewn gweithdrefn hirfaith. Yr wyf wedi bod yn ymchwilio gyda Peter Tyndall i'r posibilrwydd o gael gweithdrefn gwynion unedig ar draws y sector cyhoeddus. Os ydym wedi ymrwymo i ddifrif i gael gwasanaethau sy'n canolbwyntio ar y dinesydd a'u gwneud mor hygyrch ac mor hawdd eu defnyddio ag sy'n bosibl, mae angen inni edrych ar y weithdrefn gwynion a'i symleiddio ym mha le bynnag y gallwn.

Gwnaeth Chris Franks sylw am y ffaith fod y rhan fwyaf o'r cwynion yn ymwneud â thai ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, gan fod 23 y cant o'r holl gwynion yn y categori hwnnw. Efallai nad yw hynny'n anarferol, o gofio bod nifer y cwynion am ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol wedi cynyddu'n gyffredinol ledled y DU. Mae hynny'n dweud mwy am agweddau meddwl cymdeithasol nag y mae am y gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan awdurdodau lleol. Awdurdodau lleol sy'n darparu'r rhan fwyaf o lawer o wasanaethau cyhoeddus, ac mae'r ystadegau yn y siart cylch yn dangos, o'r naw maes gwasanaeth sydd wedi'u henwi, fod pob un ond dau yn cael eu darparu gan awdurdodau lleol, ac yr oedd 78 y cant o gwynion yn y meysydd hynny. Os awdurdodau lleol sy'n darparu'r rhan fwyaf o lawer o wasanaethau yng Nghymru, byddech yn disgwyl gweld adlewyrchu hynny yn nifer y cwynion.

Diolch i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau ystyriol. Byddaf yn myfyrio arnynt ac yn ymateb yn fanylach, lle bydd yn briodol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bosibl fod pwerau'r ombwdsmon yn fater y bydd y Cynulliad ei hun, un ai yn y Cyfarfod Llawn neu mewn pwyllgorau pwnc, yn dymuno'i godi. Byddaf yn sicr yn codi'r materion hyn gyda'm cyd-Weinidogion a'm swyddogion, a chyda Peter Tyndall.

The Presiding Officer: The proposal is that the motion be agreed. Are there any objections? I see that there are not. I declare, therefore, that the motion is carried in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Setliadau Llywodraeth Leol Settlements for Local Government

Alun Cairns: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

notes that the consistently poor settlements for local government experienced since 1999 have resulted in an increased burden on council tax payers which will cause particular hardship during the economic downturn. (NDM4053)

Our motion today seeks to underline the consistently poor financial settlement that local government has received over the past nine years and the impact that that has had on council tax rates.

It is worth reminding Members that most of the Assembly's services are organised and delivered through local government, including social services, housing, education, transport. All the Assembly's activities, in some way or another, cross the path of local authorities. It stands to reason that, if local authorities are underfunded, it is inevitable that expectations about the standards and levels of service will not be realised.

Alun Cairns: Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn nodi bod y setliadau i lywodraeth leol sydd wedi bod yn gyson wael er 1999 wedi arwain at fwy o faich ar y rheini sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor a fydd yn achosi caledi penodol yn ystod y dirywiad economaidd. (NDM4053)

Mae ein cynnig heddiw'n ceisio tynnu sylw at y setliadau ariannol gwael y mae llywodraeth leol wedi'u cael yn gyson dros y naw mlynedd diwethaf, a'r effaith y mae hynny wedi'i chael ar gyfraddau'r dreth gyngor.

Mae'n werth atgoffa Aelodau fod y rhan fwyaf o wasanaethau'r Cynulliad yn cael eu trefnu a'u darparu drwy lywodraeth leol, gan gynnwys gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, tai, addysg, trafndiaeth. Mae holl weithgareddau'r Cynulliad, mewn rhyw fodd neu'i gilydd, yn croesi llwybr awdurdodau lleol. Mae'n amlwg, os caiff awdurdodau lleol eu tanariannu, ei bod yn anorfod na wireddir disgwyliadau ynghylch safonau a lefelau gwasanaeth.

Daeth Peter Black i'r Gadair am 3.09 p.m.

Peter Black took the Chair at 3.09 p.m.

A total of 80 per cent of local government's funding comes from the Assembly Government, the balance of which must come from council tax payments. The past eight years or more have seen strong growth in public spending on a UK level, with Wales receiving its Barnett share. Therefore, it would be reasonable to expect a broadly proportionate growth in spending on the core services delivered by local authorities. However, the reality is quite different.

Daw cyfanswm o 80 y cant o gyllid llywodraeth leol oddi wrth Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, a rhaid i'r gweddill ddod o daliadau'r dreth gyngor. Yn yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf neu fwy, gwelwyd cynnydd mawr mewn gwariant cyhoeddus ar lefel y DU, a Chymru'n cael ei chyfran dan fformiwla Barnett. Felly, byddai'n rhesymol disgwyl cynnydd gweddol cymesur mewn gwariant ar y gwasanaethau craidd a ddarperir gan awdurdodau lleol. Fodd bynnag, nid felly y mae hi o gwbl.

3.10 p.m.

Assembly spending has increased by 103 per cent since 1999, due to increases in UK expenditure and their Barnett consequentials, but support for local government has increased by only 53 per cent. That is almost half the growth in public expenditure. Therefore, it is no wonder that council tax rates have almost doubled in the same period.

Whatever rhetoric the Minister intends to offer in defence, he cannot get away from the fact that the increases in council tax rates have hit the elderly worst of all. That is demonstrated by the fact that council tax payments used to represent 14 per cent of a pensioner's basic state pension, but now represents more than 22 per cent on average across Wales. In some areas, the figures are worse: in Neath Port Talbot, more than 26 per cent of a pensioner's basic state pension is spent on paying the council tax alone. I am sure that the Minister will recognise from his constituency that this situation cannot continue. Pensioners simply cannot afford the rates that are being imposed on them. They want lower rates. I recognise that the basic state pension may not be their only form of income, but it is for some. These figures demonstrate how worried and angry many people are about the increases that they have received in recent years and are likely to receive in the next financial year.

Local government party politics can also be removed from this debate. It would be easy for me to cite some Labour authorities that charge the highest rates of council tax, but this issue goes well beyond that. Over recent years, different parties have controlled different authorities across Wales and, after the control has changed hands, there has never been a magic bullet reducing inefficiency or waste. We need to recognise that local authorities generally do a good job, although there is an ongoing obligation to improve efficiency, but simply blaming local authorities for council tax increases misses

Mae gwariant y Cynulliad wedi codi 103 y cant er 1999, oherwydd codiadau yng ngwariant y DU a'r symiau canlyniadol iddynt dan fformiwla Barnett, ond nid yw cymorth i lywodraeth leol wedi codi ond 53 y cant. Mae hynny bron yn hanner y twf mewn gwariant cyhoeddus. Felly, nid yw'n syndod fod cyfraddau'r dreth gyngor wedi dyblu bron yn yr un cyfnod.

Pa bynnag rethreg y mae'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu ei chynnig fel amddiffyniad, ni all osgoi'r ffaith fod y codiadau yng nghyfraddau'r dreth gyngor wedi taro'r henoed yn galetaf oll. Dangosir hynny gan y ffaith fod taliadau'r dreth gyngor yn arfer cyfateb i 14 y cant o bensiwn sylfaenol y wladwriaeth, ond mae bellach yn cyfateb i fwy na 22 y cant ar gyfartaledd ledled Cymru. Mewn rhai ardaloedd, mae'r ffigurau'n waeth: yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot, aiff dros 26 y cant o bensiwn sylfaenol y wladwriaeth ar dalu'r dreth gyngor yn unig. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn gweld, o adnabod ei etholaeth, na all y sefyllfa hon barhau. Nid yw pensiynwyr yn gallu fforddio'r trethi a orfodir arnynt. Maent am gael trethi is. Yr wyf yn derbyn nad pensiwn sylfaenol y wladwriaeth yw eu hunig ffynhonnell incwm, o bosibl, ond y mae yn achos rhai ohonynt. Mae'r ffigurau hyn yn dangos pam y mae llawer o bobl mor ddig a gofidus ynghylch y codiadau y maent wedi'u cael yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, a'r rhai y maent yn debygol o'u cael yn y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf.

Gellir hepgor gwleidyddiaeth bleidiol llywodraeth leol hefyd o'r ddadl hon. Byddai'n hawdd imi gyfeirio at rai awdurdodau Llafur sy'n codi'r cyfraddau uchaf o dreth gyngor, ond mae'r mater hwn yn mynd ymhellach o lawer na hynny. Dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae gwahanol bleidiau wedi rheoli gwahanol awdurdodau ledled Cymru, ac wedi i'r rheolaeth newid dwylo, ni fu erioed ateb syml a oedd yn lleihau aneffeithlonrwydd neu wastraff. Mae angen inni gydnabod bod awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud gwaith da at ei gilydd, er bod rhwymedigaeth barhaus i wella

the point and shows nothing but arrogance.

effeithlonrwydd, ond mae beio awdurdodau lleol am godiadau yn y dreth gyngor yn arwydd o gamddeall ac yn dangos haerllugrwydd o'r mwyaf.

This year's settlement will make a bad situation worse. With inflation currently running at more than 5 per cent, the draft budget shows an increase in local authorities' allocation of 2.8 per cent. The Minister argues that he hopes that inflation will have dropped by then. However, last year, local authorities had an increase of 2.9 per cent, but have to cope now with an inflation rate of 5 per cent. He cannot have it both ways. He needs to recognise that he underfunded authorities last year and now needs to make up the shortfall because of the 5 per cent inflation that we are experiencing, or he needs to stop insulting local authorities and give them the rate that they need based on the inflation rate at the time when the figures are calculated.

Bydd y setliad eleni'n gwaethygu sefyllfa sydd eisoes yn ddrwg. Gan fod cyfradd chwyddiant dros 5 y cant ar hyn o bryd, mae'r gyllideb ddrafft yn dangos cynnydd o 2.8 yn y dyraniad i awdurdodau lleol. Mae'r Gweinidog yn dadlau ei fod yn gobeithio y bydd chwyddiant wedi gostwng erbyn hynny. Fodd bynnag, y llynedd cafodd awdurdodau lleol godiad o 2.9 y cant, ond bellach rhaid iddynt ddelio â chyfradd chwyddiant o 5 y cant. Ni all ei chael hi bob ffordd. Mae angen iddo gydnabod iddo danariannu awdurdodau y llynedd a bod angen bellach iddo dalu am y diffyg oherwydd y gyfradd chwyddiant o 5 y cant sydd gennym. Ynteu mae angen iddo roi'r gorau i sarhau awdurdodau lleol a rhoi iddynt y gyfradd y mae arnynt ei hangen ar sail y gyfradd chwyddiant adeg cyfrifo'r ffigurau.

All local authorities face the same pressures as we face in our daily lives. Take Blaenau Gwent for example. Next year, its increased energy costs alone amount to £1.7 million, and yet its increase in funding for core services is just £1.5 million. In contrast, health and social services will get an increase of more than 5 per cent for the next financial year. As I have said, local government crosses almost every Assembly portfolio and, in this example, it covers social services. When we look beyond the headline of the 5 per cent increase for health and social services, we see that social care receives an increase of only 2.9 per cent. This is at a time when we have concerns about delayed discharges from hospital, when we want more people to stay at home, and when we want to make more care available at home. All of this is happening in parallel with our ageing population.

Mae pob awdurdod lleol yn wynebu'r un pwysau ag sydd arnom ni yn ein bywydau pob dydd. Cymerwch Flaenau Gwent, fel enghraifft. Y flwyddyn nesaf, mae ei gostau ynni uwch yn unig yn dod i £1.7 miliwn, ac eto nid yw'r cynnydd yn y cyllid ar gyfer gwasanaethau craidd ond £1.5 miliwn. I'r gwrthwyneb, bydd iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn cael cynnydd o fwy na 5 y cant ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Fel y dywedais, mae llywodraeth leol yn croesi bron pob un o bortffolios y Cynulliad, ac yn yr enghraifft hon mae'n cynnwys gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Os edrychwn y tu hwnt i bennawd y cynnydd o 5 y cant ar gyfer iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, gwelwn fod gofal cymdeithasol yn cael cynnydd o ddim ond 2.9 y cant. Mae hyn ar adeg pan ydym yn poeni am oedi wrth ryddhau cleifion o'r ysbyty, pan ydym am i fwy o bobl aros gartref, a phan ydym am ddarparu mwy o ofal yn y cartref. Mae hyn i gyd yn digwydd yr un pryd â heneiddio yn ein poblogaeth.

Waste management is another area where there will be huge challenges in the coming years. The target is for 55 per cent of household waste to be recycled by 2013, and 70 per cent by 2025, but local authorities'

Mae rheoli gwastraff yn faes arall lle bydd heriau aruthrol yn y blynyddoedd i ddod. Y targed yw ailgylchu 55 y cant o wastraff cartrefi erbyn 2013, a 70 y cant erbyn 2025, ond mae cyllidebau awdurdodau lleol yn

budgets simply cannot cope with those obligations without the necessary support.

The question that the Minister needs to ask is whether local authorities can protect school budgets. Despite the appalling settlements over recent years, school budgets have been largely protected, although there has been the odd instance when they have not. Can that persist any longer? I think not, Minister, but I would be interested to hear your response.

We all know that some local authorities get a hardship grant, which is welcome. However, what about the local authorities that are calling for sparsity relief? Rural local authorities are affected by sparsity. Powys has one of the lowest levels of increase, but would no doubt qualify for the highest level of sparsity grant, should such a grant be made available.

All in all, when you come down to it, council taxes have, broadly, doubled since 1999. Council tax has reached rates that people simply cannot afford to pay. No doubt, the Minister will compare the levels in Wales with those in England—when we try to compare wealth in Wales with that in England, it is a very different matter. I ask the Minister to accept that council taxes are simply too high. Action needs to be taken to reduce the level of council tax for our most vulnerable people. The simplest and most straightforward way to reduce the levels of council tax paid by individuals is to improve the settlement for local authorities, along with some of the other budget lines, as the Government has done for other portfolios over the last nine years.

Ann Jones: I am disappointed to see ‘the consistently poor settlements’. I listened with interest to what Alun said about the local government settlement. Let us look at the local government settlement for Denbighshire over the past 10 years, since the establishment of the Assembly.

In 1999, Denbighshire received £60 million

methu'n lân ag ymdopi â'r rhwymedigaethau hynny heb gael y cymorth angenrheidiol.

Y cwestiwn y mae angen i'r Gweinidog ei ofyn yw a all awdurdodau lleol ddiogelu cyllidebau ysgolion. Er gwaethaf y setliadau ofnadwy dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae cyllidebau ysgolion wedi eu diogelu i raddau helaeth, er inni weld ambell achos lle na ddigwyddodd hynny. A all hynny barhau mwyach? Ni chredaf y gall, Weinidog, ond hoffwn glywed eich ymateb.

Gwyddom oll fod rhai awdurdodau lleol yn cael grant caledi, ac y mae hynny i'w groesawu. Fodd bynnag, beth am yr awdurdodau lleol sy'n galw am ryddhad oherwydd teneurwydd y boblogaeth? Mae awdurdodau lleol gwledig yn dioddef am fod eu poblogaeth yn fach. Mae gan Bowys un o'r lefelau isaf o ran cynnydd, ond byddai'n ddi-os yn gymwys i gael lefel uchaf grant ar sail poblogaeth isel, petai grant o'r fath yn cael ei ddarparu.

At ei gilydd, pan ystyriwch y sefyllfa, mae'r dreth gyngor, fwy na heb, wedi dyblu er 1999. Mae'r dreth gyngor wedi cyrraedd cyfraddau na all pobl, yn syml, fforddio'u talu. Bydd y Gweinidog, yn ddi-os, yn cymharu'r lefelau yng Nghymru â'r lefelau yn Lloegr—pan geisiwn gymharu cyfoeth yng Nghymru â chyfoeth yn Lloegr, mae'n fater cwbl wahanol. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog dderbyn bod y dreth gyngor, yn syml, yn rhy uchel. Mae angen gweithredu i ostwng lefel y dreth gyngor i'r bobl sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas. Y ffordd symlaf a mwyaf uniongyrchol i ostwng lefelau'r dreth gyngor a delir gan unigolion yw drwy wella'r setliad i awdurdodau lleol, ynghyd â rhai o'r llinellau cyllideb eraill, fel y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'i wneud ar gyfer portffolios eraill dros y naw mlynedd diwethaf.

Ann Jones: Yr wyf yn siomedig gweld ‘y setliadau ... [c]yson wael’. Gwrandewais yn llawn diddordeb ar yr hyn a ddywedodd Alun am y setliad llywodraeth leol. Gadewch inni edrych ar y setliad llywodraeth leol i sir Ddinbych dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, ers i'r Cynulliad gael ei sefydlu.

Yn 1999, cafodd sir Ddinbych £60 miliwn

in revenue support grant; today, it receives over £102 million, and almost £103 million. What you failed to mention, Alun, was the additional money that comes in through non-domestic rates, special grants, and all of the other central Government support that we have provided. In 1999, Denbighshire received £16 million in special grants; this year, the figure stands at £45 million.

What has the council done with that money? I still believe that Denbighshire is a failing authority. Denbighshire's education services did not protect the school budgets—its school budgets were underfunded. The Assembly consistently suggested spending 42 per cent on education, and Denbighshire spent 35 to 36 per cent, which left us at the bottom of the heap, failing a generation of children. It has not only failed that generation of children now, but in the future in terms of the economic regeneration of the area.

Darren Millar: I appreciate what you say about the education system in Denbighshire. However, it is clear that there are some good performances, given the educational results in Denbighshire. Therefore, would you withdraw your remark that a generation of children has been failed, because that is not the case? St Brigid's School, for example, is a fantastic school, with fantastic results.

Ann Jones: I expected that from you, Darren; while it is in the system, St Brigid's does not operate within the local education authority and it also has other funding coming in—it is a voluntary aided school. I accept that there are children who have—*[Interruption.]* If you want to intervene, Jonathan, please do so. I accept that there are children who have done well in the education system in Denbighshire. However, on the whole, Denbighshire's local education authority has miserably failed a generation of children, and we will have to face that over the years to come.

Denbighshire's poor Estyn report highlighted

mewn grant cynnal refeniw; heddiw, mae'n cael dros £102 miliwn, a bron i £103 miliwn. Yr hyn na wnaethoch ei grybwyll, Alun, oedd yr arian ychwanegol sy'n dod i mewn yn sgil ardrethi annomestig, grantiau arbennig, a'r holl gefnogaeth arall gan y Llywodraeth ganolog yr ydym wedi'i darparu. Yn 1999, cafodd sir Ddinbych £16 miliwn mewn grantiau arbennig; eleni, mae'r ffigur hwnnw yn £45 miliwn.

Beth y mae'r cyngor wedi'i wneud â'r arian hwnnw? Yr wyf fi'n dal i gredu bod sir Ddinbych yn awdurdod sy'n methu. Ni wnaeth gwasanaethau addysg sir Ddinbych ddiogelu cyllidebau'r ysgolion—bu tanfuddsoddi yng nghyllidebau ysgolion y sir. Awgrymodd y Cynulliad yn gyson y dylid gwario 42 y cant ar addysg, a gwariodd sir Ddinbych 35 i 36 y cant, ac mae hynny wedi'n gadael ar waelod y domen, yn esgeuluso cenhedlaeth o blant. Nid yn unig y mae wedi esgeuluso'r genhedlaeth honno o blant yn awr, ond hefyd i'r dyfodol o ran adfywio'r ardal yn economaidd.

Darren Millar: Yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi'r hyn a ddywedwch am y system addysg yn sir Ddinbych. Fodd bynnag, mae'n amlwg bod rhai perfformiadau da, o ystyried y canlyniadau addysgol yn sir Ddinbych. Felly, a wnewch chi dynnu'n ôl eich sylw fod cenhedlaeth o blant wedi'i hesgeuluso, oherwydd nid felly y mae hi? Mae Ysgol Santes Ffraid, er enghraifft, yn ysgol wych sy'n cael canlyniadau gwych.

Ann Jones: Yr oeddwn yn disgwyl hynny gennyh, Darren; er ei bod yn y system, nid yw ysgol Santes Ffraid yn gweithredu o fewn yr awdurdod addysg lleol ac y mae ganddi hefyd arian arall yn dod i mewn—y mae'n ysgol wirfoddol a gynorthwyir. Yr wyf yn derbyn bod rhai plant wedi—*[Torri ar draws.]* Os oes arnoch eisiau ymyrryd, Jonathan, mae croeso ichi wneud hynny. Yr wyf yn derbyn bod rhai plant wedi gwneud yn dda yn y system addysg yn sir Ddinbych. Fodd bynnag, ar y cyfan mae awdurdod addysg lleol sir Ddinbych wedi esgeuluso cenhedlaeth o blant yn druenus, a bydd yn rhaid inni wynebu hynny yn ystod y blynyddoedd i ddod.

Yr oedd adroddiad gwael gan Estyn ar sir

the fact that resources had to be invested, and yet Denbighshire chose not to do so. However, it paid £85,000 out of this poor settlement that you talk about to a consultant to tell it that education was not its No. 1 priority. Every parent in Denbighshire could have told it that. Why could it not listen?

Ddinbych yn tynnu sylw at y ffaith fod angen buddsoddi adnoddau, ac eto dewisodd sir Ddinbych beidio â gwneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, talodd £85,000 o'r setliad gwael hwn y soniwch amdano i ymgynghorydd i ddweud wrtho nad addysg oedd ei brif flaenoriaeth. Gallai pob rhiant yn sir Ddinbych fod wedi dweud hynny wrtho. Pam na allai wrando?

3.20 p.m.

Denbighshire chose not to set a high rate of council tax. Denbighshire set lower council tax rates and, in my view, that was to the detriment of many of its services. I cannot accept that the 20 per cent that it should have been making up should come from council tax. There are other ways in which you can make up the budget. I also believe that Denbighshire seriously needs to look at its communications, in which it keeps citing poor settlements. Denbighshire received a 3.5 per cent uplift this year; 2.9 per cent is the average. I have not heard Denbighshire say, 'We will put the 0.6 per cent back in to give to others'. We had to put in the floor. It was a brave decision to put in a floor, and I congratulate the Minister on that. We must protect those councils with smaller populations.

Dewisodd sir Ddinbych beidio â gosod cyfradd uchel o dreth gyngor. Gosododd sir Ddinbych gyfraddau is o dreth gyngor, ac yn fy marn i yr oedd hynny'n anfantais i nifer o'i wasanaethau. Ni allaf dderbyn y dylai'r 20 y cant y dylai fod wedi bod yn ei gyflenwi ddod o'r dreth gyngor. Mae yna ffyrdd eraill i gyflenwi'r gyllideb. Credaf hefyd fod angen o ddifrif i sir Ddinbych edrych ar y negeseuon y mae'n eu cyfleu, lle mae'n cyfeirio bob amser at setliadau gwael. Cafodd sir Ddinbych gynydd o 3.5 y cant eleni; 2.9 y cant yw'r cyfartaledd. Nid wyf wedi clywed sir Ddinbych yn dweud, 'Rhoddwn y 0.6 y cant yn ôl er mwyn ei roi i eraill'. Yr oedd yn rhaid inni osod y terfyn isaf. Yr oedd yn benderfyniad dewr i osod terfyn isaf, ac yr wyf yn llongyfarch y Gweinidog am hynny. Rhaid inni ddiogelu'r cynghorau hynny sydd â phoblogaethau llai.

I am a true believer in hypothecation and I make no secret of the fact that I think that we need to hypothecate funding. If we think that 42 per cent of what we give to local authorities should be spent on education, then we should be able to track that through every local authority. That is the only way that we will achieve genuine openness and transparency on how local authorities spend their cash.

Yr wyf yn credu'n gryf mewn neilltuo, ac nid wyf yn celu'r ffaith fy mod yn meddwl bod angen inni neilltuo cyllid. Os ydym o'r farn y dylid gwario 42 y cant o'r hyn a roddwn i awdurdodau lleol ar addysg, yna dylem allu dilyn hynt hynny drwy bob awdurdod lleol. Dyna'r unig ffordd y gallwn sicrhau bod y modd y mae awdurdodau lleol yn gwario'u harian yn wirioneddol agored a thryloyw.

Let us return to the issue of how much Denbighshire received—£60 million in 1999, which was 80 per cent of its funding. It has now received £102 million, which, again, is 80 per cent of its funding. However, we have yet to see tangible outcomes from that from Denbighshire County Council. If you look at the percentage increases over the years, I do not believe that it has had a poor settlement.

Gadewch inni ddychwelyd at y drafodaeth ynghylch faint y mae sir Ddinbych wedi'i gael—£60 miliwn yn 1999, sef 80 y cant o'i gyllid. Yn awr y mae wedi cael £102 miliwn, sydd, unwaith eto, yn 80 y cant o'i gyllid. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym hyd yma wedi gweld gwir ganlyniadau hynny gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych. Os edrychwch ar ganrannau'r cynnydd dros y blynyddoedd, nid wyf yn credu ei fod wedi cael setliad gwael.

When the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, put an extra £21 million into education, we fought hard on this side of the Chamber for the consequential for the then Finance Minister, Sue Essex, to put into education, which she did. Denbighshire County Council had been embarrassed into putting more money into its education authority, but as soon as it saw the Assembly money coming in, it took the money away again. It took money away from the education budget because the Assembly put in an extra £386,000. We have to look at those sorts of actions before we start saying that settlements are poor. Settlements have been tight this year, but the settlement that we had from London has also been tight. We all have to look at what we are spending, but I urge councils to look at what they have and recognise that, as Gordon Brown has said, they should have fixed the roof while the sun was shining; it is no good complaining now.

Darren Millar: I am pleased to support this motion put forward on behalf of the Welsh Conservatives in the name of William Graham. Once again, local authorities, despite what Ann Jones has just said, are faced with an abysmal settlement from the Labour-Plaid Government. It is the worst since the establishment of this institution. Looking through the list of settlements for local authorities, a few things are clear: it is clear that the Labour-Plaid Government has received an increase in funds from Westminster of 4.8 per cent, but that it is not prepared to pass it on, with an average increase of just 2.8 per cent reaching local councils.

Secondly, it is clear that, during this time of economic crisis, the Assembly Government continues to pile pressure on local authorities, which will inevitably be faced with the unpalatable choice of having to make significant cuts to front-line services, imposing council tax massive hikes, or a combination of the two. It is also clear that north Wales appears to have fared worse than other regions, with the average increase across the six local authorities in north Wales being less than the Welsh average.

Pan roddodd Gordon Brown, Canghellor y Trysorlys ar y pryd, £21 miliwn yn ychwanegol i addysg, buom ni ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr yn brwydro'n galed am y swm canlyniadol er mwyn i SUE Essex, y Gweinidog Cyllid ar y pryd, ei roi i addysg, a dyna a wnaeth. Codwyd y fath gywilydd ar Gyngor Sir Ddinbych nes iddo roi mwy o arian i'w awdurdod addysg, ond cyn gynted ag y gwelodd arian y Cynulliad yn dod i mewn, cymerodd yr arian i ffwrdd eto. Aeth â'r arian o'r gyllideb addysg oherwydd bod y Cynulliad wedi rhoi £386,000 yn ychwanegol i mewn. Mae'n rhaid inni edrych ar weithredoedd fel y rheini cyn dechrau dweud bod setliadau'n wael. Mae'r setliadau wedi bod yn dynn eleni, ond mae'r setliad a gawsom o Lundain wedi bod yn dynn hefyd. Rhaid inni bob un edrych ar yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wario, ond anogaf y cynghorau i edrych ar yr hyn sydd ganddynt a chydabod, fel y mae Gordon Brown wedi'i ddweud, y dylent fod wedi trwsio'r to pan oedd yr haul yn gwenu; nid oes dim diben cwyno'n awr.

Darren Millar: Yr wyf yn falch cefnogi'r cynnig hwn a gyflwynwyd ar ran y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn enw William Graham. Unwaith eto, mae awdurdodau lleol, er gwaethaf yr hyn y mae Ann Jones newydd ei ddweud, yn wynebu setliad trychinebus gan y Llywodraeth Lafur-Plaid. Dyma'r setliad gwaethaf ers creu'r sefydliad hwn. Wrth edrych ar y rhestr o setliadau i awdurdodau lleol, daw ambell beth yn amlwg: mae'n amlwg fod y Llywodraeth Lafur-Plaid wedi cael cynnydd o 4.8 y cant mewn cyllid gan San Steffan, ond nad yw'n fodlon ei drosglwyddo, gyda chynnydd cyfartalog o ddim ond 2.8 y cant yn cyrraedd y cynghorau lleol.

Yn ail, mae'n amlwg, yn ystod y cyfnod hwn o argyfwng economaidd, fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dal i bentyrru pwysau ar awdurdodau lleol, a fydd yn anrffod yn wynebu'r dewis cas o orfod gwneud toriadau sylweddol mewn gwasanaethau rheng-flaen, pennu cynnydd aruthrol yn y dreth gyngor, neu gyfuniad o'r ddau. Mae'n amlwg hefyd fod y gogledd yn ymddangos fel petai wedi gwneud yn waeth na rhanbarthau eraill, gan fod y cynnydd cyfartalog ar draws chwe awdurdod lleol y gogledd yn is na'r

cyfartaledd ar gyfer Cymru.

This has been a consistent feature of settlements for north Wales for years. Incidentally, for all the talk of a Plaid-driven Assembly Government, I find it astonishing that the Deputy First Minister's own constituency is yet again at the bottom of the pile, with the joint worst settlement for the second year on the trot. I am therefore not surprised that he is too ashamed to show his face in the Chamber for this debate. What clearer evidence do the people of Wales need that Plaid has little influence on the decision-making process in the Welsh Assembly Government?

Brian Gibbons: If circumstances are so straitened in Anglesey, how come it had probably the lowest council tax increase last year?

Darren Millar: The fact is that Anglesey has had the poorest settlement for the second year on the trot. You cannot dispute the figures. In my constituency of Clwyd West, Conwy is facing one of the worst settlements in its history. Considering the difficulties that lie ahead for Denbighshire, particularly in driving forward the improvements needed in education, its settlement, although marginally better—I accept that—is hardly worth celebrating.

Let us put the record straight with regard to Ann Jones's remarks. The fact of the matter is that the figures for 2007-08 show that Denbighshire's children's service has improved in every quartile, and it is now ranked in the top quartile for all nine aspects of care provided to children in the county. It is important to note that progress is being made. Of course there have been problems, and they need sorting out, but the council will not be able to sort them out with the paltry increase—below inflation, as Alun Cairns pointed out—that it has for the next financial year.

Joyce Watson: You are talking about greater increases in the settlement for local government, which begs the question of where the money will come from. I would like you to answer that question.

Bu hyn yn nodwedd gyson o setliadau i'r gogledd ers blynyddoedd. Gyda llaw, o ystyried yr holl sôn am Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cael ei llywio gan Plaid, yr wyf yn rhyfeddu bod etholaeth y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ar waelod y domen drachefn, ac yn rhannu'r setliad gwaethaf am yr ail flwyddyn yn olynol. Nid wyf yn synnu, felly, fod ganddo ormod o gywilydd i ddangos ei wyneb yn y Siambr ar gyfer y ddadl hon. Pa dystiolaeth gliriach sydd ar bobl Cymru ei hangen mai ychydig o ddylanwad sydd gan Plaid ar y broses o wneud penderfyniadau yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru?

Brian Gibbons: Os oes cymaint o gyni ar Ynys Môn, sut yn y byd mai yno y gwelwyd y cynnydd lleiaf yn y dreth gyngor y llynedd, yn ôl pob tebyg?

Darren Millar: Y ffaith yw fod Ynys Môn wedi cael y setliad gwaethaf am yr ail flwyddyn yn olynol. Ni allwch amau'r ffigurau. Yn fy etholaeth i, sef Gorllewin Clwyd, mae Conwy yn wynebu un o'r setliadau gwaethaf yn ei hanes. O gofio'r anawsterau sy'n wynebu sir Ddinbych, yn enwedig wrth fwrw ymlaen â'r gwelliannau angenrheidiol mewn addysg, prin fod ei setliad, er ei fod fymryn yn well—yr wyf yn derbyn hynny—yn destun dathlu.

Gadewch inni gywiro'r cofnod o ran sylwadau Ann Jones. Y gwir amdani yw bod y ffigurau ar gyfer 2007-08 yn dangos bod gwasanaeth plant sir Ddinbych wedi gwella ym mhob chwarter, ac y mae'n awr wedi'i gynnwys yn y chwarter uchaf am bob un o'r naw agwedd ar ofal a ddarperir i blant yn y sir. Mae'n bwysig nodi bod cynnydd yn digwydd. Bu problemau, wrth gwrs, ac y mae angen eu datrys, ond ni fydd y cyngor yn gallu eu datrys gyda'r cynnydd tila—sy'n is na chwyddiant, fel y nododd Alun Cairns—sydd ganddo am y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf.

Joyce Watson: Yr ydych yn sôn am gynnydd uwch yn y setliad ar gyfer llywodraeth leol, sy'n codi'r cwestiwn o ble y daw'r arian. Hoffwn ichi ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw.

Secondly, if money were the only issue with regard to performance, why does Tory-controlled Monmouthshire council have such poor levels of service delivery? Why does it rank so low in delivery? *[Interruption.]* I will give a really good example.

Peter Black: Order. This is an intervention, and not a speech, Joyce. Please finish.

Joyce Watson: It took an average of 250 days to discharge its duties to those who were accepted as being statutorily homeless. That is a good demonstration of how, if we give an authority extra money, it does not necessarily lead to better services.

Darren Millar: It is absolutely clear that it is a matter of priorities. You have to put your money where your mouth is. If local government and local service delivery are important, then money must be given to local services through local authorities. Monmouthshire has been named the greenest county in Wales in successive surveys because of the quality of the services that it delivers.

North Wales is being hit hardest, and the proposed poor settlement will undoubtedly make matters worse, particularly in rural communities, where we have seen post office closures, libraries and schools under threat of closure, rising fuel costs and the scrapping of bus service grants from the Assembly Government. People are already fuming about the lack of support given by the Assembly Government to their communities. That the point: poor settlements mostly affect those who can ill afford large council tax increases or those who rely on the services and support that local authorities are likely to cut, who are the most vulnerable people in Wales.

Ann Jones: Will you give way?

Darren Millar: No. I have taken a lot of interventions, and I want to put two questions to the Minister in closing.

Yn ail, petai'n wir mai arian yn unig sy'n effeithio ar berfformiad, pam y mae lefelau darparu gwasanaethau mor wael yng nghyngor sir Fynwy, sydd dan reolaeth y Toriaid? Pam y mae'n ymddangos mor isel yn y rhestr o ddarparu gwasanaethau? *[Torri ar draws.]* Rhoddaf enghraifft hynod o dda.

Peter Black: Trefn. Ymyriad yw hwn, nid araith, Joyce. Mae angen ichi gloi.

Joyce Watson: Ar gyfartaledd, cymerodd 250 o ddiwrnodau i gyflawni ei ddyletswyddau i'r rheini y derbyniwyd eu bod yn statudol ddigartref. Mae honno'n enghraifft dda o'r ffordd nad yw arian ychwanegol a rown i awdurdod yn arwain, o reidrwydd, at well gwasanaethau.

Darren Millar: Mae'n gwbl amlwg mai mater o flaenoriaethau ydyw. Rhaid ichi gefnogi eich geiriau ag arian. Os yw llywodraeth leol a darparu gwasanaethau lleol yn bwysig, rhaid rhoi arian i wasanaethau lleol drwy gyfrwng awdurdodau lleol. Mae sir Fynwy wedi'i henwi yn sir fwyaf gwyrdd Cymru mewn arolygon olynol oherwydd ansawdd y gwasanaethau y mae'n eu darparu.

Y gogledd sy'n ei chael hi waethaf, a bydd y setliad gwael arfaethedig yn gwneud pethau'n waeth yn ddi-os, yn enwedig mewn cymunedau gwledig, lle yr ydym wedi gweld swyddfeydd post yn cau, bygythiad i gau llyfrgelloedd ac ysgolion, cynnydd yng nghost tanwydd a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dileu grantiau gwasanaethau bws. Mae pobl eisoes yn gandryll ynglŷn â diffyg cefnogaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i'w cymunedau. Dyna'r pwynt: mae setliadau gwael yn cael yr effaith fwyaf ar bobl na allant prin fforddio cynnydd mawr yn y dreth gyngor, neu bobl sy'n dibynnu ar y gwasanaethau a'r gefnogaeth yn mae awdurdodau lleol yn debygol o'u cwtogi, a dyna'r bobl sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yng Nghymru.

Ann Jones: A wnewch chi ildio?

Darren Millar: Na wnaf. Yr wyf wedi derbyn nifer o ymyriadau, ac y mae arnaf isiau gofyn dau gwestiwn i'r Gweinidog

wrth gloi.

Ann Jones: Will you give way?

Ann Jones: A wnewch chi ildio?

Peter Black: Order. The Member is not taking an intervention. He is running out of time anyway.

Peter Black: Trefn. Nid yw'r Aelod am dderbyn ymyriad. Mae ei amser yn dod i ben beth bynnag.

Darren Millar: Given this dire situation, Minister, will you consider the floor that you introduced last year? I welcomed the introduction of the floor, because it benefited Conwy, in my constituency. We have inflation running at 5.2 per cent, and the floor was just over 2 per cent last year. There is a huge differential this year, so will you look at the floor?

Darren Millar: O ystyried y sefyllfa enbyd hon, Weinidog, a wnewch chi ystyried y terfyn isaf a osodwyd gennych y llynedd? Yr oeddwn yn croesawu cyflwyno terfyn isaf, oherwydd yr oedd o fudd i Gonwy, yn fy etholaeth i. Mae lefel chwyddiant ar hyn o bryd yn 5.2 y cant, ac yr oedd y terfyn isaf fymryn dros 2 y cant y llynedd. Mae gwahaniaeth enfawr eleni, felly, a wnewch chi edrych ar y terfyn isaf?

Secondly, will you consider targeted support for those who are hardest hit, particularly those on fixed incomes or pensions? Ann says that Denbighshire has a low level of council tax, but the increases mean that 25 per cent of the average pension goes on paying council tax. That is unacceptable; it is a significantly greater proportion than it was in 1999. Can you seriously consider, Minister, the plight of pensioners and give them targeted support in this package?

Yn ail, a wnewch chi ystyried cymorth ay'n targedu'r bobl hynny sy'n cael eu taro waethaf, yn enwedig pobl ar incwm sefydlog neu bensiynau? Dywed Ann bod lefel isel o dreth gyngor yn sir Ddinbych, ond mae'r cynnydd yn golygu bod 25 y cant o'r pensiwn cyfartalog yn mynd ar dalu'r dreth gyngor. Nid yw hynny'n dderbyniol; mae'n gyfran sylweddol uwch nag ydoedd yn 1999. A allwch chi ystyried o ddifrif, Weinidog, gyflwr pensiynwyr a rhoi cymorth wedi'i dargedu iddynt yn y pecyn hwn?

Jenny Randerson: I suppose that we should be grateful for small mercies. The Assembly Government has at least given more money to local authorities in the form of some earmarked grants. For the Welsh Liberal Democrats, that does not make up for the appalling local government settlement. It does not overcome the fact that we Liberal Democrats believe that we should trust local authorities and do away with the army of bureaucrats who process these endless grants at both ends of the scale, in the Assembly and in local government. We should set councils the targets, tell them what to achieve, and give them the money to get on with achieving it according to local circumstances.

Jenny Randerson: Mae'n debyg y dylem ddiolch am fân drugareddau. O leiaf y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi rhoi rhagor o arian i awdurdodau lleol ar ffurf rhai grantiau sydd wedi'u clustnodi. I Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, nid yw hynny'n gwneud iawn am y setliad ofnadwy i lywodraeth leol. Nid yw'n datrys y ffaith ein bod ni, Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol, yn credu y dylem ymddiried mewn awdurdodau lleol a dileu'r fyddin o fiwrocratiaid sy'n prosesu'r grantiau diddiwedd hyn yn y naill ben a'r llall, yn y Cynulliad ac mewn llywodraeth leol. Dylem osod targedau i'r cynghorau, dweud wrthynt beth i'w gyflawni, a rhoi'r arian iddynt fwrw ymlaen i'w gyflawni yn ôl yr amgylchiadau lleol.

3.30 p.m.

The key issue is that the Assembly Government is not handing on the level of increases that it is receiving, which sends out

Y mater allweddol yw nad yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn trosglwyddo lefel y codiadau y mae'n eu cael, ac mae hynny'n cyfleu neges

a bad message that says, 'We are getting the money in, we are looking after ourselves but we are not passing on the money to local authorities'. It is not an issue of what local authorities receive but what they must retrieve from local council tax payers, as far as we are concerned.

This time last year, we pointed out the failings of the budget, where we repeatedly pointed out the low levels of funding for local authorities. The Government listened a little and introduced the floor, so at least the worst-funded local authorities were taken care of, to a small degree. This year, at least, the Government has learnt the lesson from last year and introduced the floor from the beginning, but the level of settlement is again woefully low—the same mistakes are being made. There is a total Government budget increase of 4.6 per cent but local government is only receiving an increase of 2.7 per cent.

Having said that, as Welsh Liberal Democrats we take issue with the Conservative motion. Local authorities have not had consistently poor settlements since 1999. If you look back at the figures and statistics, you will see that during the years of the Labour/Liberal Democrat partnership Government—[*Interruption.*] Do not argue with this, because it is there in the books. During the years of the partnership Government, local authorities had a 48 per cent increase in their budget, while the Assembly Government had a 43 per cent increase in its budget. During 2001-02, the first year of the partnership Government, there was a 39 per cent increase in local authorities' budgets, as against a 22 per cent increase in the Assembly Government's budget. So, although we understand the point that you make, you should have looked more carefully at the figures before you wrote the motion.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful to the Member for giving way. If things were so good for local government in Wales during those particular years, why were your coalition partners at the time happy to increase Cardiff council tax by a double-figure sum?

wael sy'n dweud, 'Yr ydym yn cael yr arian i mewn, yr ydym yn gofalu amdanom ein hunain ond nid ydym yn trosglwyddo'r arian i awdurdodau lleol'. Nid yr hyn y mae awdurdodau lleol yn ei gael yw'r broblem, ond yr hyn y mae'n rhaid iddynt ei adfer oddi wrth bobl sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor leol, o'n rhan ni.

Yr adeg hon y llynedd, tynnwyd sylw gennym at fethiannau'r gyllideb, gan dynnu sylw dro ar ôl tro at y lefelau cyllid isel i awdurdodau lleol. Gwrandawodd y Llywodraeth ar rywfaint o hynny a gosod y terfyn isaf. Felly, o leiaf gofaldwyd am yr awdurdodau lleol a oedd yn cael eu cyllido waelaf, i raddau bach. Eleni, o leiaf, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi dysgu'r wers ers y llynedd ac wedi gosod terfyn isaf o'r dechrau, ond mae lefel y setliad unwaith eto'n druenus o isel—mae'r un camgymeriadau'n digwydd. Mae cynnydd o 4.6 y cant yng nghyfanswm gyllideb y Llywodraeth, ond mae llywodraeth leol yn cael cynnydd o ddim ond 2.7 y cant.

Wedi dweud hynny, fel Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yr ydym yn dadlau â chynnyg y Ceidwadwyr. Nid yw awdurdodau lleol wedi cael setliadau cyson wael er 1999. Os edrychwch yn ôl ar y ffigurau a'r ystadegau, gwelwch yn ystod blynyddoedd y bartneriaeth rhwng Llafur/Dematiaid Rhyddfrydol—[*Torri ar draws.*] Peidiwch â dadlau ynghylch hyn, oherwydd y mae yno yn y llyfrau. Yn ystod blynyddoedd y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth, cafodd awdurdodau lleol gynnydd o 48 y cant yn eu cyllideb, a chafodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad gynnydd o 43 y cant yn ei chyllideb. Yn ystod 2001-02, blwyddyn gyntaf y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth, bu cynnydd o 39 y cant yng nghyllidebau awdurdodau lleol, o'i gymharu â chynnydd o 22 y cant yng nghyllideb Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Felly, er ein bod yn deall y pwynt a wnewch, dylech fod wedi edrych yn fwy gofalus ar y ffigurau cyn ysgrifennu'r cynnyg.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Aelod am ildio. Os oedd pethau cystal i lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru yn ystod y blynyddoedd penodol hynny, pam yr oedd eich partneriaid yn y glymblaid ar y pryd yn fodlon cynyddu treth gyngor Caerdydd o swm dau ffigur?

Jenny Randerson: I cannot explain that, but it might explain why they lost control of the council in 2004. They were unable to harbour the resources and make the savings required to give council tax payers a fair deal.

For my final point, I turn to the issue of council tax. Council tax is fundamentally unfair and regressive. The Government has done what it can with it—it has dealt with publicising council tax benefit—but elderly people, the group most seriously affected by high council tax, are often too proud to apply for council tax benefit. I have sat in constituency surgeries on a Friday afternoon trying to persuade people to apply. I have shown them how to fill in the form and offered to do it for them, but they will not do it, because they do not take benefits from Government. They are not used to it and they refuse to do it. If you couple that with the fact that much of the Government's publicity passes people by, despite all of the efforts that are made, you are left with a fundamentally unfair system of taxation that should be done away with. In the meantime, the least that the Assembly Government can do is to pass on the increase that it receives to local authorities, and do the best that it can for them.

Nick Ramsay: I am pleased to be able to contribute to this timely debate, which brings together two of today's harsh realities—the economic downturn and the consistently low settlements that local authorities in Wales have received from the Assembly Government over recent times.

At the heart of this argument is that council tax has been turned into something of a stealth tax. It has shifted the financial burden from central Government to local councils and local people. Our motion draws attention to the fact that it is those on low or fixed incomes—notably pensioners, but also other vulnerable people—who have suffered, and will suffer considerably, as a result of shifting this burden. During this economic downturn, it is those groups of people who will suffer the most.

Jenny Randerson: Ni allaf esbonio hynny, ond efallai ei fod yn esbonio pam y collasant reolaeth ar y cyngor yn 2004. Yr oeddent yn methu cadw'r adnoddau a gwneud yr arbedion angenrheidiol i roi bargaen deg i dalwyr treth gyngor.

O ran fy mhwynt olaf, trof at y dreth gyngor. Mae'r dreth gyngor yn y bôn yn annheg ac yn atchweliadol. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi gwneud yr hyn a all gyda'r dreth—mae wedi delio â rhoi cyhoeddusrwydd i fudd-dal treth gyngor—ond mae'r henoed, sef y grŵp y mae treth gyngor uchel yn effeithio arnynt fwyaf difrifol, yn aml yn rhy falch i ymgeisio am fudd-dal treth gyngor. Yr wyf wedi eistedd mewn cymorthfeydd etholaethol ar brynhawn Gwener yn ceisio darbwyllo pobl i ymgeisio. Yr wyf wedi dangos iddynt sut i lenwi'r ffurflen a chynnig gwneud hynny ar eu rhan, ond maent yn gwrthod, oherwydd na fyddant gymryd budd-daliadau gan y Llywodraeth. Nid ydynt wedi arfer gwneud ac maent yn gwrthod gwneud. Os cyplyswch hynny â'r ffaith fod pobl yn anwybyddu llawer o gyhoeddusrwydd y Llywodraeth, er gwaethaf yr holl ymdrechion a wneir, mae gennych system drethiant sy'n sylfaenol annheg ac y dylid ei dileu. Yn y cyfamser, y lleiaf y gall Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ei wneud yw trosglwyddo'r cynnydd a gaiff i awdurdodau lleol, a gwneud ei gorau drostynt.

Nick Ramsay: Yr wyf yn falch gallu cyfrannu at y ddadl amserol hon, sy'n dod ynghyd â dau realiti llym y byd sydd ohoni—y dirywiad economaidd a'r setliadau isel cyson y mae awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru wedi'u cael gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ddiweddar.

Wrth wraidd y ddadl hon y mae'r ffaith fod y dreth gyngor wedi ei thro'i'n rhyw fath o dreth lechwraidd. Mae wedi symud y baich ariannol oddi ar Lywodraeth ganol ac i gynghorau lleol a phobl leol. Mae ein cynnig yn tynnu sylw at y ffaith mai'r rheini sydd ar incwm isel neu incwm sefydlog—pensiynwyr yn bennaf, ond hefyd pobl eraill sy'n agored i niwed—sydd wedi dioddef, ac a fydd yn dioddef yn sylweddol, yn sgil symud y baich hwn. Yn ystod y dirywiad economaidd hwn, y grwpiau hynny o bobl a fydd yn dioddef

fwyaf.

Part of the blame must lie at the feet of the Assembly Government and the consistently poor revenue support grant settlements. Looking at this year's settlement alone, direct funding to councils is well below the Assembly Government's own inflation estimate of 5.2 per cent and well below the retail prices index inflation rate of 5 per cent. Looked at in real terms, the local government settlement is actually a cut of 2.3 per cent. Town halls are facing the impossible task of deciding whether to cut services or whether to hike up council tax bills in order to balance the books. We suspect that they will end up doing both.

Mae rhan o'r bai, o raid, wrth ddrws Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r setliadau cymorth grant refeniw sy'n gyson wael. O edrych ar y setliad eleni'n unig, mae'r cyllid uniongyrchol i gynghorau ymhell islaw amcangyfrif Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ei hun o chwyddiant, sy'n 5.2 y cant, ac ymhell islaw cyfradd chwyddiant y mynegai prisiau manwerthu sy'n 5 y cant. O edrych arno mewn termau real, mae setliad llywodraeth leol mewn gwirionedd yn doriad o 2.3 y cant. Mae neuaddau tref yn wynebu'r dasg amhosibl o benderfynu a ddylent gwtogi gwasanaethau ynteu a ddylent gynyddu biliau'r dreth gyngor er mwyn mantoli'r cyfrifon. Yr ydym yn amau y byddant yn gwneud y ddau beth yn y pen draw.

I do not want to talk in too much detail about the issue of local taxation, but it was, rather predictably, raised by the Liberal Democrats. There will be big problems associated with moving from a property-based council tax to a local income tax. In Scotland, the most favourable analysis suggests that putting an additional 3p on income tax will leave a £750 million gap after the removal of the council tax. That is an issue that has not been adequately addressed.

Nid wyf eisiau siarad yn rhy fanwl am drethiant lleol, ond fe'i codwyd, fel y gellid disgwyl, hwyrach, gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Bydd problemau mawr yn gysylltiedig â symud o'r dreth gyngor sy'n seiliedig ar eiddo at dreth incwm leol. Yn yr Alban, mae'r dadansoddiad mwyaf ffafriol yn awgrymu y bydd rhoi 3c yn ychwanegol ar dreth incwm yn gadael bwloch o £750 miliwn ar ôl dileu'r dreth gyngor. Mae hwnnw'n fater na roddwyd sylw digonol iddo.

Joyce Watson: I ask the same question that I asked your colleague. Could you please tell me where you are going to find all this money? How are you going to plug this gap that will appear when you decide to make tax cuts and local tax cuts? You are hoodwinking the public into believing that you have a system. You cannot explain it to yourselves, never mind the public.

Joyce Watson: Gofynnaf yr un cwestiwn ag a ofynnais i'ch cyd-Aelod. A allech ddweud wrthyf, os gwelwch yn dda, ym mhle y byddwch yn dod o hyd i'r holl arian hwn? Sut yr ydych am lenwi'r bwloch hwn a fydd yn ymddangos pan benderfynwch wneud toriadau mewn treth a threthi lleol? Yr ydych yn camarwain y cyhoedd i gredu bod gennych system. Ni allwch ei hesbonio i chi'ch hun, heb sôn am y cyhoedd.

Nick Ramsay: Thank you for repeating that question, Joyce. I refer you to the answer given some moments ago by my colleague, Darren Millar.

Nick Ramsay: Diolch ichi am ailadrodd y cwestiwn hwnnw, Joyce. Fe'ch cyfeiriai at yr ateb a roddwyd ychydig funudau'n ôl gan fy nghyd-Aelod, Darren Millar.

I echo Alun Cairns' comment regarding sparsity relief for councils. The situation is far worse for rural authorities. The cost of delivering services across a large rural area, such as in my constituency or in areas such as Powys, is much greater than the cost of delivering services in a small urban area.

Adleisiaf sylw Alun Cairns am gymorth i gynghorau mewn ardaloedd isel eu poblogaeth. Mae'r sefyllfa'n waeth o lawer i awdurdodau gwledig. Mae cost darparu gwasanaethau ar draws ardal wledig fawr, fel yn fy etholaeth i, neu mewn ardaloedd megis Powys, yn uwch o lawer na chost darparu

That is not rocket science; it is not disputable. It is a simple issue but is something that the Assembly Government has not paid enough attention to in the past.

Ann Jones: Do you remember the introduction of the poll tax, and how much it actually cost? [*Interruption.*] I expect no less from you. I wonder what local authorities could have done with the £1.5 billion that it cost to implement the poll tax. Also, are you in favour of the freeze in council tax increases that David Cameron is attempting to introduce?

Nick Ramsay: A freeze on council tax increases is a great idea. However, your party is the one in Government; the Government is in front of you. Therefore, why do you not direct your questions to the Assembly Government? We are happy to give suggestions and to take these decisions.

In her intervention to Darren Millar, Joyce Watson made some rather reckless comments regarding Monmouthshire local authority. I am glad that she drew attention to the fact that it has been awarded the accolade of the greenest authority in Wales. It has opened five new primary schools over recent years—eco-schools—which are ground-breaking, pioneering schools, and will be opening more following its strategic review of primary education. All of this has been achieved with the lowest per head of population settlement from the Assembly Government of any authority in Wales. It should be commended for what it is doing with the small amount of cash that it receives from this place. It is about time that the Assembly Government recognised that local authorities are doing their very best to manage with what is a derisory and despicably low settlement from this place.

3.40 p.m.

David Lloyd: Undoubtedly, the local government settlement is tight. The background is that the Assembly Barnett block grant is totally inadequate, being population-based rather than needs-based. It amounts to £14 billion, or thereabouts,

gwasanaethau mewn ardal drefol fechan. Nid yw hynny'n gymhleth iawn; nid yw'n ddadleuol. Mae'n fater syml, ond yn fater nad yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi rhoi digon o sylw iddo yn y gorffennol.

Ann Jones: A ydych yn cofio cyflwyno treth y pen, a faint yr oedd yn ei gostio mewn gwirionedd? [*Torri ar draws.*] Ni ddisgwyliaf ddim llai gennych chi. Tybed beth y gallai awdurdodau lleol fod wedi'i wneud â'r £1.5 biliwn a gostiodd i weithredu treth y pen. Hefyd, a ydych o blaid rhewi'r cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor, fel y mae David Cameron yn ceisio'i gyflwyno?

Nick Ramsay: Mae rhewi cynnydd mewn treth gyngor yn syniad gwych. Er hynny, eich plaid chi sydd mewn Llywodraeth; mae'r Llywodraeth yma o'ch blaen. Felly, pam na chyfeiriwch eich cwestiynau at Lywodraeth y Cynulliad? Yr ydym yn fodlon rhoi awgrymiadau a gwneud y penderfyniadau hyn.

Wrth dorri ar draws Darren Millar, gwnaeth Joyce Watson rai sylwadau digon difeddwl am awdurdod lleol sir Fynwy. Yr wyf yn falch iddi dynnu sylw ei fod wedi ennill y wobwr am yr awdurdod mwyaf gwyrdd yng Nghymru. Mae wedi agor pum ysgol gynradd newydd dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf—ecoysgolion—sy'n ysgolion arloesol ac sy'n torri tir newydd, a bydd yn agor rhagor yn dilyn ei adolygiad strategol o addysg gynradd. Cyflawnwyd hyn i gyd gyda'r setliad isaf y pen o'r boblogaeth gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i unrhyw awdurdod yng Nghymru. Dylid ei gymeradwyo am yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud â'r ychydig arian a gaiff o'r lle yma. Mae'n hen bryd i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad gydnabod bod awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud eu gorau glas i ymdopi â setliad chwerthinllyd sy'n wrthun o isel o'r lle yma.

David Lloyd: Heb amheuaeth, mae'r setliad llywodraeth leol yn dynn. Y cefndir yw bod grant bloc Barnett i'r Cynulliad yn gwbl annigonol, gan ei fod yn seiliedig ar boblogaeth yn hytrach nag ar anghenion. Mae'n £14 biliwn, neu oddeutu hynny, bob

annually. In the context of a £50 billion bailout for Northern Rock, and a £500 billion bailout of the banking sector in general, that seems a tad miserly, particularly given that it must run all of the services in Wales for a year and bearing in mind that the Assembly cannot borrow, unlike local authorities, and that it cannot raise taxes, again unlike local authorities and community councils. As regards council tax, the Conservatives, who tabled this motion, were in favour of the poll tax—we have just had confirmation of that. They are in favour of the council tax, which was their idea, and they were in favour of rebanding, which is why council tax has risen. This is your motion and yet you are in favour of something that you are trying to castigate; you are not making much sense.

Plaid policy is to have a local income tax based on people's ability to pay. This system is now working in Scotland—[*Interruption.*] People can keep on bleating—

Alun Cairns: Will the Member give way?

David Lloyd: Go on then. Honestly, you will do anything to prolong the debate.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to the Member for giving way. He said that Plaid's policy is to establish a local income tax, but when does the party intend to propose this in the Chamber?

David Lloyd: When we have the powers. You could also propose in the Chamber what you intend to replace council tax with. Unless you are going to do that, you should stop tabling debates slagging off the council tax, because it is your policy to support it.

People can keep on bleating about the unfairness of council tax levels or do something about it, by introducing a local income tax to Wales.

Andrew R.T. Davies: You say that people are bleating on about council tax. I am sure that you have to deal with this issue in response to your constituency post bag or

blwyddyn. Yng nghyd-destun yr £50 biliwn i achub Northern Rock, a £500 biliwn i achub y sector bancio'n gyffredinol, mae hwnnw'n ymddangos braidd yn gybyddlyd, yn enwedig o ystyried ei bod yn rhaid iddo redeg yr holl wasanaethau yng Nghymru am flwyddyn, a chan gofio na chaiff y Cynulliad fenthyca, yn wahanol i awdurdodau lleol, ac na all godi treth, unwaith eto yn wahanol i awdurdodau lleol a chynghorau cymuned. O safbwynt y dreth gyngor, yr oedd y Ceidwadwyr, a gyflwynodd y cynnig hwn, o blaid treth y pen—yr ydym newydd gael cadarnhad o hynny. Maent o blaid y dreth gyngor, a oedd yn un o'u syniadau hwy, ac yr oeddent o blaid ail-fandio, a dyna pam mae'r dreth gyngor wedi codi. Eich cynnig chi yw hwn, ac eto yr ydych o blaid rhywbeth yr ydych yn ceisio'i gystwyo; nid ydych yn gwneud llawer o synnwyr.

Polisi'r Plaid yw cael treth incwm leol yn seiliedig ar allu pobl i dalu. Mae'r system hon yn awr ar waith yn yr Alban—[*Torri ar draws.*] Gall pobl barhau i gwyno—

Alun Cairns: A wnaiff yr Aelod ildio?

David Lloyd: Ewch ati, felly. Mewn difrif, yr ydych yn fodlon gwneud unrhyw beth i ymestyn y ddadl.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Aelod am ildio. Dywedodd mai polisi'r Plaid yw sefydlu treth incwm leol, ond pa bryd y mae'r plaid yn bwriadu cynnig hyn yn y Siambr?

David Lloyd: Pan fydd y pwerau gennym. Gallech chi hefyd gynnig yn y Siambr yr hyn y bwriadwch ei gyflwyno i gymryd lle'r dreth gyngor. Oni bai eich bod am wneud hynny, dylech roi'r gorau i gyflwyno dadleuon sy'n lladd ar y dreth gyngor, oherwydd eich polisi chi yw ei chefnogi.

Gall pobl barhau i gwyno am annhegwch lefelau'r dreth gyngor ynteu wneud rhywbeth am y peth, drwy gyflwyno treth incwm leol i Gymru.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Dywedwch fod pobl yn cwyno am y dreth gyngor. Mae'n sicr gennyf eich bod chi'n gorfod delio â'r mater hwn wrth ateb sach bost eich etholaeth neu

when you meet your constituents, but you are in a position to do something about it, because you are part of Government. Therefore, instead of ranting and raving, say what you are going to do.

David Lloyd: First, I was not ranting and raving; secondly, you are the one doing the bleating; and thirdly, I would introduce a local income tax. Does that answer your question?

We are where we are. There is a need to reform the Barnett formula to get more money, but there is hardly infectious enthusiasm among the Tories for reforming Barnett, and do not pretend that there is. There is a need to replace council tax with a local income tax. Again, there is hardly infectious enthusiasm among the Tories, the proposers of this motion, to do anything about that either.

Some of our councils have been investing in Icelandic banks. Some £20 million of Neath Port Talbot's money has been frozen in Iceland. Neath Port Talbot council tells me that that will have no effect on the delivery of public services. Some people maintain—we have already heard this this afternoon—that local authorities should have the same uplift in their settlement as the Assembly has had, which is about 4.8 per cent, or in line with the rate of inflation at 5 or 5.2 per cent. Neath Port Talbot's annual grant is about £200 million; 1 per cent of that is £2 million; 2 per cent of that is, you know, £2 million—*[Laughter.]* Basically, the difference between the 2.2 per cent that has been awarded and the 4.8 per cent, if it were to have the same uplift as the Assembly, is around £4.8 million.

On one hand, we are asked to believe that £20 million lost in Icelandic banks has no effect on public services, but on the other hand that, if they had the extra £4.8 million, they could cope very well. In other words, losing £4.8 million has a detrimental effect on public services, but a loss of £20 million does not; you cannot have it both ways. If losing £4.8 million is a disaster, losing £20 million is even more of a disaster.

pan wrth gyfarfod â'ch etholwyr, ond yr ydych mewn sefyllfa i wneud rhywbeth am y peth, oherwydd yr ydych chi'n rhan o'r Llywodraeth. Felly, yn lle rhefru a rhuo, dywedwch beth yr ydych yn mynd i'w wneud.

David Lloyd: Yn gyntaf, nid oeddwn yn rhefru a rhuo; yn ail, chi sy'n cwyno; ac yn drydydd, byddwn yn cyflwyno treth incwm leol. A yw hynny'n ateb eich cwestiwn?

Yr ydym yn y sefyllfa yr ydym ynddi. Mae angen diwygio fformiwla Barnett i gael rhagor o arian, ond prin fod brwdfrydedd heintus ymysg y Torïaid dros ddiwygio Barnett, a pheidiwch â chymryd arnoch fel arall. Mae angen disodli'r dreth gyngor gan dreth incwm leol. Unwaith eto, prin fod brwdfrydedd heintus ymysg y Torïaid, cynigwyr y cynnig hwn, i wneud dim am hynny ychwaith.

Mae rhai o'n cynghorau wedi bod yn buddsoddi ym manciau Gwlad yr Iâ. Mae oddeutu £20 miliwn o arian Castell-nedd Port Talbot wedi'i rewi yng Ngwlad yr Iâ. Dywed cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot wrthyf na chaiff hynny ddim effaith ar ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Mae rhai pobl yn honni—clywsom hynny eisoes y prynhawn yma—y dylai awdurdodau lleol gael yr un codiad yn eu setliad ag a gafodd y Cynulliad, sef oddeutu 4.8 y cant, neu'n unol â chyfradd chwyddiant o 5 neu 5.2 y cant. Mae grant blynyddol Castell-nedd Port Talbot oddeutu £200 miliwn; mae 1 y cant o hwnnw yn £2 filiwn; mae 2 y cant o hwnnw, wyddoch chi, yn £2 filiwn—*[Chwerthin.]* Yn sylfaenol, mae'r gwahaniaeth rhwng y 2.2 y cant a ddyfarnwyd a'r 4.8 y cant, petai'n cael yr un codiad â'r Cynulliad, oddeutu £4.8 miliwn.

Ar y naill law, gofynnir inni gredu na chaiff yr £20 miliwn a gollwyd ym manciau Gwlad yr Iâ ddim effaith ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus, ond ar y llaw arall, petai ganddynt y £4.8 miliwn ychwanegol, gallent ymdopi'n dda iawn. Mewn geiriau eraill, mae colli £4.8 miliwn yn cael effaith andwyol ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus, ond nid yw colli £20 miliwn yn gwneud hynny; ni allwch ei chael bob ffordd. Os yw colli £4.8 miliwn yn drychineb, mae colli £20 miliwn yn fwy o

drychineb byth.

To cut to the chase, while we have the current arrangements of the Barnett formula and council tax, and little or no enthusiasm among the Tories for changing them, we must all make the best of things in the current financial situation, which is like a straitjacket. It is pointless to play the blame game and to keep on rehearsing the same tired old arguments year after year if you do not want to change the system.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I always take the trouble to correct someone who has problems with their two times table, Dai. You are trying to put across a salient point about council tax funding while bemoaning the fact that people are bleating about council tax, which shows how disengaged Plaid is. You are part of the Government.

David Lloyd: You are the ones who are doing the bleating, because you proposed this motion.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I do not think that you understand our processes here. As an opposition, we are here to scrutinise the Government and highlight its shortcomings. Today, you have laboured the point that the Barnett formula is the solution, but if we were to follow your home rule agenda, there would be no Barnett consequentials or any funding from the UK, given your isolationist tendencies.

However, let us move on to the real crux of the problem, namely the difficulty for local government and the issues that councils have to face up to in delivering key public services. We have already heard from my colleague, Alun Cairns, how many Government initiatives are delivered by local government, including those on education, social services, many transport initiatives, planning, and the environmental agenda. If those initiatives are to succeed, they must be funded and well thought through; otherwise, they will fall.

Irene James: What services would you cut and where would this money come from?

I ddod at y pwynt, tra mae gennym drefniadau cyfredol fformiwla Barnett a'r dreth gyngor, ac ychydig frwdfrydedd neu ddim o gwbl ymysg y Torïaid dros eu newid, rhaid inni i gyd wneud y gorau o bethau yn y sefyllfa ariannol bresennol, sy'n un gaethiwus iawn. Nid oes diben beio eraill a dal i arfer yr un hen ddadleuon blinedig flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn os nad oes arnoch eisiau newid y drefn.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Byddaf bob amser yn mynd i'r drafferth o gywiro rhywun sy'n cael problemau gyda'u tabl dau, Dai. Yr ydych yn ceisio cyfleu pwynt amlwg ynghylch arian y dreth gyngor ond yn cwyno am y ffaith fod pobl yn cwyno am y dreth gyngor, sy'n dangos gymaint allan o gysylltiad ydyw Plaid Cymru. Yr ydych yn rhan o'r Llywodraeth.

David Lloyd: Chi yw'r rhai sy'n cwyno, oherwydd chi a gynigiodd y cynnig hwn.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Nid wyf yn credu eich bod yn deall ein prosesau yma. Fel gwrthblaid, yr ydym ni yma i graffu ar y Llywodraeth a thynnu sylw at ei diffygion. Heddiw, yr ydych chi wedi rhyгну ar y pwynt mai fformiwla Barnett yw'r ateb, ond pe baem yn dilyn eich agenda ymreolaeth chi, ni fyddai dim arian canlyniadol Barnett na dim arian oddi wrth y Deyrnas Unedig, o gofio'ch tueddiadau ymynsol chi.

Fodd bynnag, gadewch inni symud ymlaen at wir graidd y broblem, sef yr anhawster i lywodraeth leol a'r problemau y mae'n rhaid i gynghorau eu hwynebu wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus allweddol. Yr ydym eisoes wedi clywed gan fy nghyd-Aelod, Alun Cairns, faint o fentrau'r Llywodraeth a ddarperir gan lywodraeth leol, gan gynnwys rhai'n ymwneud ag addysg, gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, nifer o fentrau trafndiaeth, cynllunio, a'r agenda amgylcheddol. Os yw'r mentrau hynny i lwyddo, rhaid iddynt gael cyllid a chael eu hystyried yn fanwl; fel arall, methu fyddant.

Irene James: Pa wasanaethau fydddech chi'n eu torri ac o ble y deuai'r arian hwn?

Andrew R.T. Davies: No-one is talking about cutting services other than those who have received a derisory settlement from your Government. That is why we are faced with cuts in services. Today, we are calling for the Government of the day to take action. We are not the Government of the day, and we accept that; we are the opposition, and we will bring forward proposals in our manifesto. This is all about the scrutiny process. The problem is that the two parties in government fail to see what their responsibilities are: to fund people's expectation of having local services delivered by their council. Do you not accept that that is a reasonable aspiration for local government?

Joyce Watson: Will you take an intervention?

Andrew R.T. Davies: No, I could not quieten those who made the first and second interventions; they are still speculating.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Nid oes neb yn sôn am dorri gwasanaethau ar wahân i'r rhai a gafodd setliad tila gan eich Llywodraeth. Dyna pam yr ydym yn wynebu toriadau mewn gwasanaethau. Heddiw, yr ydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth y dydd i weithredu. Nid ni yw Llywodraeth y dydd, a derbyniwn hynny; ni yw'r wrthblaid, a byddwn yn cyflwyno cynigion yn ein maniffesto. Y broses graffu yw hyn i gyd. Y broblem yw bod y ddwy blaid yn y llywodraeth yn methu gweld beth yw eu cyfrifoldebau: ariannu'r hyn y mae pobl yn ei ddisgwyl, sef cael gwasanaethau lleol drwy law eu cyngor. Oni dderbyniwch fod hynny'n rhywbeth rhesymol i obeithio amdano gan lywodraeth leol?

Joyce Watson: A gymerwch chi ymyriad?

Andrew R.T. Davies: Na wnaif, ni lwyddais i ddistewi'r rhai a wnaeth yr ymyriadau cyntaf ac ail; maent yn dal i ddamcaniaethu.

*Daeth y Llywydd i'r Gadair am 3.48 p.m.
The Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3.48 p.m.*

I want to proceed to make my case, and to shine a torch on local government's education delivery and on the backlog of school building repairs, which many local authorities are failing to deal. That is not what parents, students and governors aspire towards on their local campuses. The last estimate of the cost of tackling that backlog was £700 million. With initiatives such as Jenny Randerson's proposed healthy eating in schools Measure, which laments the poor state of school canteens, and the children's commissioner's 'Lifting the Lid' report on the state of school toilets, we can see that we are going deeper into the twenty-first century with this Government failing to engage with local authorities on delivering on the school agenda. We saw that with the foundation phase—

Jeff Cuthbert: Would you like to tell us how much your party invested in the school building programme when you were in Government in Wales?

Andrew R.T. Davies: Jeff, you are going back 10 or 15 years. What we left behind

Mae arnaf eisiau bwrw ati i gyflwyno fy achos, a thaflu goleuni ar ddarpariaeth addysg llywodraeth leol, a'r ôl-groniad mewn gwaith atgyweirio adeiladau ysgolion y mae nifer o awdurdodau lleol yn methu delio ag ef. Nid dyna yw dyhead rhieni, myfyrwyr a llywodraethwyr ar eu campysau lleol. Yr amcangyfrif diwethaf o gost mynd i'r afael â'r ôl-groniad hwnnw oedd £700 miliwn. Gyda mentrau fel Mesur arfaethedig Jenny Randerson ar fwyta'n iach mewn ysgolion, sy'n gresynu at gyflwr gwael cantinau ysgol, ac adroddiad y comisiynydd plant 'Codi'r Clawr' ar gyflwr toiledau ysgol, gallwn weld ein bod yn mynd yn ddyfnach i mewn i'r unfed ganrif ar hugain a'r Llywodraeth hon yn methu ymgysylltu ag awdurdodau lleol ar gwestiwn darparu'r agenda ysgolion. Gwelsom hynny gyda'r cyfnod sylfaen—

Jeff Cuthbert: A hoffech ddweud wrthym faint a fuddsoddodd eich plaid chi yn y rhaglen adeiladu ysgolion pan oeddech mewn Llywodraeth yng Nghymru?

Andrew R.T. Davies: Jeff, yr ydych yn mynd yn ôl 10 neu 15 mlynedd. Yr hyn a

after being in Government was a growing economy and a sound financial base, but what we currently have is a projected Government deficit of £110 billion—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Your microphone has been switched off for at least 30 seconds. I do not know why Members are so excited.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I did not realise that the acting Deputy Presiding Officer had left the Chair. It is nice to have you back, Llywydd.

You must be honest, Jeff. People are calling for the local government settlement to be tailored to Assembly initiatives. Time and again, uncosted initiatives arrive on the doormat of local government, and the local taxpayer has to pick up an even bigger bill. My colleague, Alun Cairns, highlighted that this institution's budget has increased 102 per cent since 1999, that the health service has received a 108 per cent increase since then, but that local government has had just a 53 per cent increase.

3.50 p.m.

Those are the raw facts. The Assembly Government, first through the Labour-Liberal coalition and now through the Labour-Plaid coalition, is passing more and more responsibility onto the local taxpayer, jeopardising many local initiatives. Minister, that is what you should reply to today when outlining your argument in support of sustaining this derisory increase in the local government settlement.

Trish Law: I can empathise with the sentiment behind this motion, because poor settlements in recent years have forced Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to levy a council tax that is currently the highest in Wales. The formal consultation on the provisional settlement for 2009-10 ends on Monday, and I have no doubt that the final settlement that follows will confirm that Blaenau Gwent will get a paltry increase of 1.5 per cent in its core funding. I remind you that inflation is running at over 5 per cent.

adawsom ar ein hôl ar ôl bod mewn Llywodraeth oedd economi ar ei phrifiant a sylfaen ariannol gadarn. Ond yr hyn sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd yw rhagamcan o ddiffyg gan y Llywodraeth o £110 biliwn—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae eich meicroffon wedi'i ddiffodd ers o leiaf 30 eiliad. Ni wn pam y mae Aelodau wedi cynhyrfu gymaint.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Nid oeddwn yn sylweddoli bod y Dirprwy Lywydd gweithredol wedi gadael y Gadair. Mae'n braf eich cael yn ôl, Lywydd.

Rhaid ichi fod yn onest, Jeff. Mae pobl yn galw am i'r setliad llywodraeth leol gael ei deilwra yn ôl mentrau'r Cynulliad. Dro ar ôl tro, bydd mentrau heb eu costio yn glanio wrth ddrws llywodraeth leol, a rhaid i'r trethdalwr lleol dalu bil mwy fyth. Tynnodd fy nghyd-Aelod, Alun Cairns, sylw at y ffaith cyllideb y sefydliad hwn wedi cynyddu 102 y cant er 1999, bod y gwasanaeth iechyd wedi cael cynnydd o 108 y cant ers hynny, ond mai cynnydd o 53 y cant yn unig a gafodd llywodraeth leol.

Dyna'r ffeithiau moel. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, yn gyntaf trwy'r glymblaid Lafur-Ryddfrydol ac yn awr trwy'r glymblaid Lafur-Plaid, yn trosglwyddo mwy a mwy o gyfrifoldeb i'r trethdalwr lleol, gan beryglu nifer o fentrau lleol. Weinidog, dyna beth y dylech roi ateb iddo heddiw wrth amlinellu eich dadl o blaid cynnal y cynnydd pitw hwn yn y setliad llywodraeth leol.

Trish Law: Gallaf gydymdeimlo â'r teimlad y tu ôl i'r cynnig hwn, oherwydd mae setliadau gwael yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf wedi gorfodi Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent i godi treth gyngor sydd yr uchaf yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd. Daw'r ymgynghori ffurfiol ar y setliad amodol ar gyfer 2009-10 i ben ddydd Llun, ac nid oes gennyf ddim amheuaeth na fydd y setliad terfynol a geir wedyn yn cadarnhau y bydd Blaenau Gwent yn cael cynnydd pitw o 1.5 y cant yn ei gyllid craidd. Fe'ch atgoffaf fod chwyddiant yn awr dros 5 y cant.

Last year, Blaenau Gwent received a derisory 2 per cent settlement, and that was only after recognition that a funding floor of 2 per cent should apply. Blaenau Gwent would otherwise have had a 1.8 per cent uplift. The year before, Blaenau Gwent got an increase of 3.4 per cent, the second lowest increase in Wales. Therefore, the council has been forced to set council tax levels above the rate of inflation to make up for the deficit imposed by the Welsh Assembly Government. As I said, to the Government's shame, council tax bills in Blaenau Gwent are the highest in Wales. While local government as a whole gets a very small slice of the budget cake, Blaenau Gwent is left with the crumbs.

Three councils are set to get increases above 4 per cent, and the average for the Heads of the Valleys authorities is a more acceptable, but less than adequate, 2.1 per cent. Blaenau Gwent, along with Ynys Môn and Powys, gets the meanest settlement from the Assembly Government, and yet it is the most deprived and disadvantaged part of Wales in many respects. Minister, I make three pleas to you today. First, I urge you to revisit the funding floor increase. If it was set at 2 per cent, the same as last year, it would benefit Blaenau Gwent to the tune of about £500,000 and would benefit Ynys Môn, Powys, Conwy and Rhondda Cynon Taf authorities to the collective tune of £2.5 million. The impact on the other 17 councils would be minimal; each would have its core cash funding reduced by just 0.1 per cent. To Blaenau Gwent, £0.5 million is more than a drop in the ocean.

Secondly, there has to be a radical overhaul of the funding formula, and I challenge the Assembly Government to bite the bullet on that. The Welsh Local Government Association has criticised the dismal settlement for Blaenau Gwent and yet has signed up to the funding formula. I understand that you are unlikely to get the agreement of member authorities to radical changes to the formula when some, or many, of them are likely to lose out. We must look to the Assembly Government to take the lead here to ensure that some of our most

Y llynedd, cafodd Blaenau Gwent setliad chwerthinllyd o 2 y cant, a hynny'n unig ar ôl cydnabyddiaeth y dylid caniatáu arian gwaelodol o 2 y cant. Byddai Blaenau Gwent wedi cael cynnydd o 1.8 y cant fel arall. Y flwyddyn flaenorol cafodd Blaenau Gwent gynnydd o 3.4 y cant, sef yr ail gynnydd isaf yng Nghymru. Felly, mae'r cyngor wedi cael ei orfodi i osod lefelau'r dreth gyngor yn uwch na chyfradd chwyddiant er mwyn gwneud iawn am y diffyg a achoswyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Fel y dywedais, er cywilydd i'r Llywodraeth, biliau treth gyngor Blaenau Gwent yw'r uchaf yng Nghymru. Tra mae llywodraeth leol yn gyffredinol yn cael darn bach iawn o deisen y gyllideb, gadewir Blaenau Gwent gyda'r briwsion.

Mae tri chyngor i gael codiadau dros 4 y cant, ac mae'r cyfartaledd i awdurdodau Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn 2.1 y cant, sy'n fwy derbyniol, ond llai na digonol. Caiff Blaenau Gwent, ynghyd ag Ynys Môn a Phowys, y setliad mwyaf crintachlyd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, ac eto dyma'r rhan fwyaf difreintiedig ac amddifadus o Gymru ar lawer ystyr. Weinidog, erfyniaf am dri pheth gennyh heddiw. Yn gyntaf, fe'ch anogaf i edrych eto ar y cynnydd yn yr arian gwaelodol. Pe câi ei osod ar 2 y cant, yr un fath â'r llynedd, byddai Blaenau Gwent ar ei hennill o ryw £500,000 a byddai awdurdodau Ynys Môn, Powys, Conwy a Rhondda Cynon Taf gyda'i gilydd £2.5 miliwn yn well eu byd. Bach iawn fyddai'r effaith ar yr 17 cyngor arall; byddai cyllid arian craidd pob un ei gostwng 0.1 y cant yn unig. I Flaenau Gwent, mae £0.5 miliwn yn fwy na deigr yn y môr.

Yn ail, rhaid cael ailwampio sylfaenol yn y fformiwla ariannu, a heriaf Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i wasgu'i dannedd ar hynny. Mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru wedi beirniadu'r setliad distadl i Flaenau Gwent, ac eto mae wedi derbyn y fformiwla ariannu. Deallaf nad ydych yn debygol o gael yr awdurdodau sy'n aelodau i gytuno ar newidiadau sylfaenol yn y fformiwla pan fydd rhai ohonynt, neu nifer, yn debygol o fod ar eu colled. Rhaid inni ddibynnu ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i arwain y ffordd yn hyn i sicrhau na fydd rhai o'n cymunedau

impoverished communities are not further disadvantaged.

Finally, I fully support the WLGA's call for local government efficiency savings to be ploughed back into council coffers. I believe that it is morally wrong for the Assembly Government to top-slice a 1 per cent efficiency saving from the local government settlement. Local authorities achieved the efficiency savings and they should get the benefit from it—or rather council tax payers should benefit from it. The 1 per cent saving amounts to £38 million, which is a difference of 4 per cent in the council tax. The WLGA is talking about a uniform council tax rise of 5 per cent across Wales. That would be a huge burden on my already-overburdened constituents who are being discriminated against in this settlement. I appeal to you, Minister, at least to consider the three measures that I have outlined.

'One Wales' talks about the Assembly Government's ambition to transform Wales into a self-confident, prosperous, healthy nation and society, which is fair to all. This settlement is not fair to anyone in Blaenau Gwent; it is most unfair, and I challenge you to explain to the people of Blaenau Gwent why you think this pathetic settlement is fair. It will leave Blaenau Gwent much worse off, and it is to the Assembly Government's shame that the poorest corner of Wales is getting the shoddiest treatment.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): Since 1999, local government funding through the revenue settlement has increased by 56 per cent. That will increase to 60 per cent by the end of the next year. Over the past nine years, settlement increases average more than 6 per cent. The provisional settlement for 2009-10 shows revenue increases of the order of £109 million, with a further £115 million in 2010-11. That gives a cumulative increase over the three-year period of the comprehensive spending review of more than £300 million, or 9 per cent.

Therefore, when the Welsh Conservatives speak of 'consistently poor settlements',

tlotaf dan fwy o anfantais.

Yn olaf, cefnogaf yn llawn alwad Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru am i arbedion effeithlonrwydd llywodraeth leol gael eu hailfuddsoddi yng nghoffrau'r cynghorau. Credaf ei bod yn anfoesol i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad frigdorri arbediad effeithlonrwydd o 1 y cant oddi ar y setliad llywodraeth leol. Awdurdodau lleol a wnaeth yr arbedion effeithlonrwydd a hwy ddylai gael y budd ohonynt—neu'n hytrach, pobl sy'n talu treth gyngor a ddylai gael y budd ohonynt. Mae'r arbediad o 1 y cant yn £38 miliwn, sy'n wahaniaeth o 4 y cant yn y dreth gyngor. Mae'r Gymdeithas yn sôn am gynnydd unffurf o 5 y cant yn y dreth gyngor ar draws Cymru. Byddai hynny'n faich aruthrol ar fy etholwyr i, sydd eisoes wedi'u gorlwytho ac sy'n cael eu hanffafrio yn y setliad hwn. Apeliaf arnoch, Weinidog, o leiaf i ystyried y tri cham yr wyf wedi'u hamlinellu.

Sonia 'Cymru'n Un' am uchelgais Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i drawsnewid Cymru'n genedl a chymdeithas hyderus, ffyniannus, iach, sy'n deg i bawb. Nid yw'r setliad hwn yn deg i neb ym Mlaenau Gwent; mae'n hollol annheg, ac fe'ch heriaf i egluro wrth bobl Blaenau Gwent pam y credwch fod y setliad tila hwn yn deg. Bydd yn gwneud Blaenau Gwent lawer yn waeth ei byd, a dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad deimlo cywilydd fod cornel dlotaf Cymru'n cael y driniaeth waelaf.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Brian Gibbons): Er 1999, mae cyllid llywodraeth leol trwy'r setliad refeniw wedi cynyddu 56 y cant. Bydd hynny'n codi i 60 y cant erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn nesaf. Dros y naw mlynedd diwethaf, cynyddodd setliadau ar gyfartaledd dros 6 y cant. Mae'r setliad amodol ar gyfer 2009-10 yn dangos codiadau refeniw o ryw £109 miliwn, a £115 miliwn ar ben hynny yn 2010-11. Dyna ichi gynnydd cronrus dros gyfnod tair blynedd yr adolygiad gwariant cynhwysfawr o fwy na £300 miliwn, neu 9 y cant.

Felly, pan sonia'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig am 'setliadau cyson wael', naill ai maent yn

either it is an abuse of the English language, or they are committing themselves to even higher increases should they ever be in government here. I look forward to hearing their answer when they reply to the debate.

In addition to the revenue support grant, we are providing £22 million through the deprivation grant, which goes to areas such as Blaenau Gwent. As Trish said, we need to target that money at our most disadvantaged areas. We have previously argued about the notion that the funding formula is biased against rural areas, but Trish is now arguing that the bias is in another direction. The challenges for the formula are much more radical than those suggested by the speakers.

It is legitimate to look at council tax since 1999, despite the record increases. However, as this is a Welsh Conservatives' nominated debate, I decided to look at its most recent record, when it had the opportunity to do something about this issue. In the final three years for which the Conservatives controlled council tax levels in this country, the average increase was just under 13 per cent annually. Over the last three years, under the Welsh Labour Government and then the One Wales Government, the increase has been 13 per cent in total. Council tax increased three times as fast under the Conservatives.

One of the main reasons for these high increases in the Conservative years was because the administration felt—and I quote the former Secretary of State for Wales, William Hague—that:

'I believe that over time local authorities in Wales should raise a higher proportion of their income from council tax'.

That is the very point that Andrew R.T. Davies objected to.

Alun Cairns *rose*—

Brian Gibbons: Let me proceed. When the National Assembly for Wales was established in 1999, the Assembly Government took a different view. As a consequence, the average

camddefnyddio iaith, neu maent yn ymrwymo i godiadau uwch fyth petaent hwy fyth mewn llywodraeth yma. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed eu hateb wrth iddynt ymateb i'r ddadl.

Yn ogystal â'r grant cynnal refeniw, yr ydym yn darparu £22 miliwn drwy'r grant amddifadedd, sy'n mynd i ardaloedd fel Blaenau Gwent. Fel y dywedodd Trish, mae angen inni dargedu'r arian hwnnw at ein hardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig. Yr ydym wedi dadlau o'r blaen dros y syniad fod y fformiwla ariannu'n anffafrio ardaloedd gwledig, ond mae Trish yn awr i ddadlau mai i gyfeiriad arall y mae'r ffafraeth. Mae'r heriau i'r fformiwla lawer yn fwy sylfaenol na'r rhai a awgrymwyd gan y siaradwyr.

Mae'n deg edrych ar dreth gyngor er 1999, er gwaethaf y codiadau uchaf erioed. Fodd bynnag, gan mai dadl a enwebwyd gan y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yw hon, penderfynais edrych ar eu record ddiweddaraf hwy, pan gawsant y cyfle i wneud rhywbeth am y mater hwn. Yn y tair blynedd olaf pan oedd y Ceidwadwyr yn rheoli lefelau'r dreth gyngor yn y wlad hon, yr oedd y cynnydd ar gyfartaledd ychydig dan 13 y cant y flwyddyn. Yn y tair blynedd diwethaf, dan Lywodraeth Llafur Cymru ac wedyn Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un, mae'r cynnydd wedi bod yn gyfanswm o 13 y cant. Cynyddodd y dreth gyngor deirgwaith cyflymach dan y Ceidwadwyr.

Un o'r prif resymau dros y codiadau uchel hyn ym mlynnyddoedd y Ceidwadwyr oedd bod y weinyddiaeth yn teimlo—a dyfynnaf gyn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, William Hague—

'Credaf, dros amser, y dylai awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru godi cyfran uwch o'u hincwm o'r dreth gyngor'.

Dyna'r union bwynt a wrthwynebwyd gan Andrew R.T. Davies.

Alun Cairns *a gododd*—

Brian Gibbons: Gadewch imi fynd ymlaen. Pan sefydlwyd Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn 1999, cymerodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad safbwynt gwahanol. O ganlyniad,

council tax increase over the past four years has been just 4 per cent. That is the lowest consistent level of increase in council tax since it was devised. Council tax levels in Wales continue to be much lower than they are in England, because we reversed the policy of William Hague. The average amount of council tax payable in England is £1,146, but it is £908 in Wales, which is a difference of 26 per cent. This is mainly because of the high levels of central Government support that we provide for local authorities in Wales.

I would like the Welsh Conservative who replies to this debate to indicate whether the Welsh Conservatives still support the mistaken view of William Hague, because this is a key point of principle. If they regard the present levels of settlements to be unsatisfactory, are they committing to bigger settlements, above 6 per cent, for the future?

Up to a third of households in Wales are entitled to some housing or council tax benefit, and anything up to £100 million-worth of benefit goes unclaimed every year in Wales. Therefore, you should not send out the pessimistic message that 22 per cent of people's state pension is spent on council tax; anyone living on a basic state pension pays nothing at all. That should be the headline message.

Alun Cairns: Will you give way?

Brian Gibbons: Let me finish this point.

The Presiding Officer: Order. What is all this sudden discourtesy? Minister, please proceed.

Brian Gibbons: Members should not spread scare stories about people living on low incomes, suggesting that no help is available. The message for the one third of householders who are on low incomes is not that nothing can be done, rather that they should seek help in the form of council tax benefit.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to the Minister for giving way. He said that we had sent out a

4 y cant yn unig fu'r cynnydd cyfartalog yn y dreth gyngor dros y pedair blynedd diwethaf. Dyna'r lefel gyson isaf o gynnydd yn y dreth gyngor ers ei dyfeisio. Mae lefelau treth gyngor yng Nghymru'n parhau'n is o lawer nag yn Lloegr, oherwydd inni wrth-droi polisi William Hague. Swm cyfartalog y dreth gyngor sy'n daladwy yn Lloegr yw £1,146, ond mae'n £908 yng Nghymru, gwahaniaeth o 26 y cant. Mae hyn yn bennaf oherwydd lefelau uchel y cymorth gan Lywodraeth ganolog a ddarparwn i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru.

Hoffwn i'r Ceidwadwr Cymreig a fydd yn ymateb i'r ddadl hon nodi a yw'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn dal i gefnogi barn gyfeiliornus William Hague, oherwydd mae hyn yn bwynt allweddol o egwyddor. Os ydynt yn ystyried bod lefelau presennol setliadau yn anfoddfaol, a ydynt yn ymrwmo i setliadau mwy, dros 6 y cant, ar gyfer y dyfodol?

Mae gan hyd at draean o aelwydydd yng Nghymru hawl i ryw fudd-dal tai neu dreth gyngor, a bydd gwerth hyd at £100 miliwn o fudd-dal heb ei hawlio bob blwyddyn yng Nghymru. Felly, ni ddylech anfon y neges besimistaidd allan fod 22 y cant o bensiwn gwladol pobl yn cael ei wario ar y dreth gyngor; nid yw neb sydd ar bensiwn y wladwriaeth yn talu dimai. Dyna ddylai'r bif neges fod.

Alun Cairns: A wnewch chi ildio?

Brian Gibbons: Gadewch imi orffen y pwynt yma.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Beth yw'r holl anghwrteisi yma'n sydyn? Weinidog, ewch yn eich blaen, os gwelwch yn dda.

Brian Gibbons: Ni ddylai Aelodau godi bwganod am bobl sy'n byw ar incwm isel, gan awgrymu nad oes dim cymorth ar gael. Y neges i'r traean o ddeiliaid tai sydd ar incwm isel yw nid na ellir gwneud dim, ond yn hytrach y dylent geisio cymorth ar ffurf budd-dal dreth gyngor.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am ildio. Dywedodd ein bod wedi

'pessimistic message' that the council tax amounts to 22 per cent of the basic state pension. That is the reality, Minister. Those are facts that you cannot ignore. Are you suggesting that we say that it is 'only' 22 per cent of the basic state pension, and that we be optimistic about it? It is a fact and a reality. That is what your constituents and mine are paying, and it is plain wrong.

4.00 p.m.

Brian Gibbons: The simple fact of the matter is that no-one on a basic state pension should be paying anything, because they are entitled to full council tax and housing tax benefit. That is the headline message: do not try to confuse and scare people.

In our previous benefit uptake scheme, 7,000 people over the age of 60 claimed council tax benefit between May 2005 and 2007, which produced, on average, a £12 per week increase, and £4 million extra for council tax payers in Wales. Building on the best practice of that scheme, we launched a new scheme in April, which provides assistance to hundreds of hard-pressed households in Wales. We are committed to that programme for the next three years.

In early October, I launched the results of the study commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government to identify potential barriers to eligible people taking up council tax benefits. This research has been warmly welcomed and the results of that research are being developed in Wales to further drive an increase in council tax benefit uptake.

We have always acknowledged as an Assembly Government that the council tax is not perfect and we have argued for a plurality of local taxation, although the experience in Scotland does not give me confidence that a local income tax is the magic bullet in terms of solving any difficulties in the funding of local government. This argument formed the basis of our submission to the Lyons review,

anfon 'neges besimistaidd' allan fod y dreth gyngor gymaint â 22 y cant o bensiwn sylfaenol y wladwriaeth. Dyna'r gwirionedd, Weinidog. Ffeithiau yw'r rheini na allwch eu hanwybyddu. A ydych yn awgrymu y dylem ddweud mai 'dim ond' 22 y cant o bensiwn sylfaenol y wladwriaeth ydyw, ac y dylem fod yn optimistaidd yn ei gylch? Mae'n ffaith ac yn realiti. Dyna y mae eich etholwyr chi a'm hetholwyr innau'n ei dalu, ac nid yw hynny'n iawn.

Brian Gibbons: Y gwirioedd syml yw na ddylai neb ar bensiwn gwladol sylfaenol fod yn talu dim, oherwydd mae ganddynt hawl i gael budd-dal treth gyngor a budd-dal tai yn llawn. Dyna'r brif neges: peidiwch â cheisio drysu pobl a chodi ofn arnynt.

Yn ein cynllun blaenorol i gael pobl i fanteisio ar fudd-daliadau, hawliodd 7,000 o bobl dros 60 oed fudd-dal treth gyngor rhwng mis Mai 2005 a 2007. Yr oedd hynny, ar gyfartaledd, yn gynydd o £12 yr wythnos ac yn £4 miliwn ychwanegol i dalwyr treth gyngor yng Nghymru. Gan adeiladu ar ymarfer gorau'r cynllun hwnnw, lansiwyd cynllun newydd gennym ym mis Ebrill, sy'n darparu cymorth i gannoedd o aelwydydd yng Nghymru sydd dan bwysau. Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i'r rhaglen honno am y tair blynedd nesaf.

Yn gynnar ym mis Hydref, lansiais ganlyniadau'r astudiaeth a gomisiynwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i nodi'r rhwystrau a all fod yn atal pobl sy'n gymwys rhag manteisio ar fudd-daliadau treth gyngor. Mae'r ymchwil hwn wedi cael croeso gwresog, ac mae canlyniadau'r ymchwil hwnnw'n cael eu datblygu yng Nghymru er mwyn cynyddu ymhellach y niferoedd sy'n manteisio ar fudd-dal treth gyngor.

Yr ydym wedi cydnabod erioed fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad nad yw'r dreth gyngor yn berffaith, ac yr ydym wedi dadlau o blaid amrywiaeth o drethi lleol, er nad yw profiad yr Alban yn rhoi hyder imi fod treth incwm leol yn fwled hud o safbwynt datrys unrhyw anawsterau yng nghyllid llywodraeth leol. Y ddadl hon oedd sail ein cyflwyniad i adolygiad Lyons, a daeth yr adolygiad i'r

and the review concluded, among other things, that we did need a plurality of funding in local government. However, Sir Michael Lyons also pointed out in his review that many of the regressive elements of a property based tax can be overcome by a benefit uptake scheme, and that is what we are trying to achieve. In our evidence to Sir Michael's review, we also called for greater links between the uptake of mainstream benefits and housing and council tax benefits. That was also a recommendation of the Lyons review and I am pleased to see that the UK Government is taking active steps to bring this to fruition. In the last few months, I have had the opportunity to visit the Vale of Glamorgan, Swansea and Merthyr to see how those links are becoming a reality and people are being more effectively passported from mainstream benefits to housing and council tax benefits.

In conclusion, over recent years, we have seen record levels of local government spending, but record lows in council tax increases. In this debate, we have not had one constructive proposal from the Welsh Conservatives, which is symptomatic of their whole approach. They are big on criticism, but, as Nick Ramsay himself conceded, they are not here to provide the answers. On that basis, I urge that Members reject the motion.

Y Llywydd: Y cynnig yw i dderbyn y cynnig, ond wrth glywed y sŵn sydd yn y Siambr—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Sorry, I forgot to bring in David Melding. You have seven minutes.

David Melding: Thank you, Presiding Officer; it is a pleasure to wind up. This has been a lively, even boisterous, debate and we are pleased to see you back in the chair. We had the able refereeing of Peter Black during your absence, but I fear that such is human nature that when the prefect was in charge some of the fourth formers played up a little. [*Laughter.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I will not

casgliad, ymysg pethau eraill, fod angen arnom amryw ffynonellau cyllid mewn llywodraeth leol. Fodd bynnag, tynnodd Syr Michael Lyons sylw hefyd yn ei adolygiad at y ffaith fod modd goresgyn nifer o elfennau atchweliadol treth sy'n seiliedig ar eiddo drwy gynllun i ddenu pobl i fanteisio ar fudd-daliadau, a dyna yr ydym yn ceisio'i gyflawni. Yn ein tystiolaeth i adolygiad Syr Michael, yr oeddem yn galw hefyd am fwy o gysylltiadau rhwng manteisio ar fudd-daliadau prif ffrwd a budd-daliadau tai a threth gyngor. Yr oedd hynny'n un o argymhellion adolygiad Lyons hefyd, ac yr wyf yn falch gweld bod Llywodraeth y DU wrthi'n cymryd camau i wireddu hyn. Yn y misoedd diwethaf, yr wyf wedi cael y cyfle i ymweld â Bro Morgannwg, Abertawe a Merthyr i weld sut mae'r cysylltiadau hynny'n troi'n realiti a phobl yn cael eu cyfeirio'n fwy effeithiol o fudd-daliadau prif ffrwd at fudd-daliadau tai a threth gyngor.

I gloi, dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf yr ydym wedi gweld lefelau gwariant na welwyd eu tebyg mewn llywodraeth leol, ond codiadau isel na welwyd eu tebyg o ran y dreth gyngor. Yn y ddadl hon, nid ydym wedi cael un cynnig adeiladol gan y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, sy'n symptomatig o'u holl agwedd. Maent yn dda am feirniadu, ond, fel y cyfaddefodd Nick Ramsay ei hun, nid ydynt yma i ddarparu'r atebion. Ar y sail honno, anogaf yr Aelodau i wrthod y cynnig.

The Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion, but given the noise in the Chamber—[*Interruption.*]

Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, anghofiais ddod â David Melding i mewn. Mae gennyf saith munud.

David Melding: Diolch ichi, Lywydd; mae'n bleser cael dod â'r drafodaeth i ben. Bu hon yn ddadl fywiog, swllyd hyd yn oed, ac yr ydym yn falch eich gweld yn ôl yn y gadair. Cawsom ganoli medrus gan Peter Black yn ystod eich absenoldeb, ond ofnaf, gan fod y natur ddynol yr hyn ydyw, fod rhai o ddisgyblion y bedwaredd flwyddyn wedi achosi ychydig drafferth tra oedd y swyddog yn rheoli. [*Chwerthin.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni wnafl ganiatáu hyn.

have this. Peter Black is not a prefect, he is, under current Standing Orders, an acting Deputy Presiding Officer, but, in view of the behaviour of Members recently, the arrangement may be strengthened, or at least a proposal may come to the Business Committee and to the Chamber to strengthen the Standing Order.

David Melding: I stand corrected, headmaster—Presiding Officer, rather. [*Laughter.*]

Alun Cairns set out with clarity the issue, which is that council tax has doubled in the past 10 years as a result of these poor settlements. That point was never rebutted; there was no adequate answer from the parties that support the Government. Ann Jones started by acknowledging that the settlements were generally disappointing, but urged councils to look for other sources of funding.

She somewhat contradicted what the Minister said in his speech in relation to how much local government funding should be provided centrally. However, she did engage with some of the issues and she talked a lot about Denbighshire. I am afraid, Ann, that I just do not know enough about Denbighshire, so I will leave you to argue the case with Darren. You did say something very interesting—I completely disagree with it, but it was an interesting point—on the need for greater hypothecation so that the Welsh Assembly Government could ensure that the amount that it thinks is appropriate to be spent on a particular public service delivered by local government is spent on that service. We heard that point made clearly. It was rebutted a little later by Jenny Randerson, who felt that hypothecation was a very poor system and that the central problem—I think that she had a point—is that the Welsh Assembly Government simply keeps too much of the block grant and that that is why there is great pressure on local government.

Brian Gibbons: Would you concede, David, that what you have just said is not correct? The Welsh Assembly Government gets 99 per cent of the allocation that it receives out of the door, compared with probably 93 to 95

Nid swyddog mo Peter Black. O dan y Rheolau Sefydlog cyfredol, mae'n Ddirprwy Lywydd dros dro, ond o ystyried ymddygiad yr Aelodau'n ddiweddar, efallai y caiff y trefniant ei gryfhau, neu o leiaf efallai y daw cynnig i'r Pwyllgor Busnes ac i'r Siambr i gryfhau'r Rheol Sefydlog.

David Melding: Yr wyf wedi fy nghywiro, brifathro—Lywydd, yn hytrach. [*Chwerthin.*]

Disgrifiodd Alun Cairns y broblem yn glir, sef fod y dreth gyngor wedi dyblu yn y 10 mlynedd diwethaf o ganlyniad i'r setliadau gwael hyn. Ni chafodd y pwynt hwnnw ei wrthbrofi o gwbl; ni chafwyd ateb digonol gan y pleidiau sy'n cefnogi'r Llywodraeth. Dechreuodd Ann Jones drwy gydnabod bod y setliadau'n siomedig yn gyffredinol, ond anogodd y cynghorau i chwilio am ffynonellau cyllid eraill.

Aeth yn groes braidd i'r hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog yn ei araith o ran faint o gyllid llywodraeth leol a ddylai gael ei ddarparu'n ganolog. Fodd bynnag, aeth i'r afael â rhai o'r problemau a soniodd lawer am sir Ddinbych. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Ann, ond nid wyf yn gwybod digon am sir Ddinbych, felly, gadawaf ichi ddadlau'r achos gyda Darren. Dywedasoch rywbeth diddorol iawn—yr wyf yn anghytuno'n llwyr ag ef, ond yr oedd yn bwynt diddorol—am yr angen am fwy o neilltuo cyllid, fel y gallai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sicrhau bod y swm sy'n briodol i'w wario yn ei thyb hi ar wasanaeth cyhoeddus neilltuoel a ddarperir gan lywodraeth leol yn cael ei wario ar y gwasanaeth hwnnw. Clywsom y pwynt hwnnw'n cael ei wneud yn glir. Fe'i gwrthddywedwyd ychydig yn ddiweddarach gan Jenny Randerson, a deimlai fod neilltuo cyllid yn system wael iawn ac mai'r broblem ganolog—a chredaf fod ganddi bwynt—yw bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cadw gormod o'r grant bloc ac mai dyna pam y mae mwy o bwysau ar lywodraeth leol.

Brian Gibbons: A fydddech yn cydsynio, David, nad yw'r hyn yr ydych newydd ei ddweud yn gywir? Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn llwyddo i gael 99 y cant o'r dyraniad a gaiff allan drwy'r drws, o'i

per cent in Scotland and even less in Northern Ireland. Indeed, the Welsh Assembly Government is remarkable for the sums of money that it gets out of the door, which explains why our reserves are only 1 per cent.

David Melding: Perhaps I need to engage with the Minister on his contribution, although that will be a bit out of sync with the notes that I have in front of me. He has continued in his style, which is basically that of a comedian explaining his jokes—it never really works terribly well, the great detail. The point is that if you were getting that money out effectively, council tax would not have increased. At the start of your speech, you gave absolute figures. You did not engage in the central argument that, in relative terms, compared with other portfolios that receive funding from the Welsh Assembly Government, local government has done poorly.

Brian Gibbons: That is not true.

David Melding: If you wanted to refute that, Minister, you should have done so in your speech, when you could have provided what you think are the relevant data. You did not do that.

Brian Gibbons: Speak to your own motion.

David Melding: I would be pleased to give way to the Minister—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I do not think that this is helpful. It would be helpful if David Melding were to continue with his speech, unless the Minister wants to intervene actively. I see that he does not.

David Melding: Thank you, Presiding Officer. Nick Ramsay came up with one of the central truths about this whole process in the last 10 years, which is that council tax has increasingly become a stealth tax. That is particularly bad for those on low and fixed incomes and, if it has been bad over the last 10 years, it will be redoubled in gravity during this recession. I think that we should all mark that point very well.

gymharu, mae'n debyg, â 93 i 95 y cant yn yr Alban a llai fyth yng Ngogledd Iwerddon. Yn wir, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn hynod am yr arian y mae'n llwyddo i'w gael allan drwy'r drws, sy'n egluro pam mai 1 yn cant yn unig yw ein harian wrth gefn.

David Melding: Efallai fod angen imi ymateb i'r Gweinidog ynglŷn â'i gyfraniad, er na fydd hynny'n cyd-fynd â'r nodiadau sydd gennyf o'm blaen. Mae wedi parhau yn ei arddull, sef, yn y bôn, arddull comediwr sy'n egluro ei jôcs—nid yw byth yn gweithio'n arbennig o dda, yr holl fanylder. Y pwynt yw, petaech yn cael yr arian hwnnw allan yn effeithiol, ni fyddai'r dreth gyngor wedi cynyddu. Ar ddechrau eich araith, rhoesoch ffigurau absoliwt. Nid aethoch i'r afael â'r ddadl ganolog sef, mewn termau cymharol, o'i chymharu â phortffolios eraill sy'n cael cyllid gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, fod llywodraeth leol wedi gwneud yn wael.

Brian Gibbons: Nid yw hynny'n wir.

David Melding: Os oeddech am wrthbrofi hynny, Weinidog, dylech fod wedi gwneud hynny yn eich araith, pryd y gallech fod wedi darparu'r hyn a dybiwch chi yw'r data perthnasol. Ni wnaethoch hynny.

Brian Gibbons: Siaradwch ar eich cynnig eich hun.

David Melding: Byddwn yn falch o ildio i'r Gweinidog—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni chredaf fod hyn o gymorth. Byddai'n dda o beth petai David Melding yn parhau ei araith, oni bai fod y Gweinidog am ymyrryd o ddifrif. Gwelaf nad ydyw.

David Melding: Diolch ichi, Lywydd. Mynegodd Nick Ramsay un o'r gwirioneddau canolog am yr holl broses hon yn y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, sef bod y dreth gyngor wedi datblygu'n gynyddol yn dreth lechwraidd. Mae hynny'n arbennig o ddrwg i bobl sydd ar incwm isel neu sefydlog, ac os yw wedi bod yn ddrwg dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, bydd ddwywaith yn fwy difrifol yn ystod y dirwasgiad hwn. Credaf y dylem i gyd gymryd sylw mawr o'r pwynt hwnnw.

Ann Jones: Will you take an intervention?

Ann Jones: A gymerwch chi ymyriad?

David Melding: I think that I have taken enough interventions, and I suspect that I will try the patience of the Presiding Officer—

David Melding: Credaf fy mod wedi cymryd digon o ymyriadau, ac yr wyf yn amau y byddaf yn trethu amynedd y Llywydd—

The Presiding Officer: No.

Y Llywydd: Na fyddwch.

David Melding: In that case, I will take the intervention.

David Melding: Felly, cymeraf yr ymyriad.

Ann Jones: Was not the poll tax a stealth tax? Was that not a tax that you created that wasted £1.5 billion? You comment on the council tax, but would you not say that the poll tax was a bad move?

Ann Jones: Onid oedd y dreth y pen yn dreth lechwraidd? Onid oedd yn dreth a greawyd gennych chi ac a wastraffodd £1.5 biliwn? Yr ydych yn sôn am y dreth gyngor, ond oni fydddech yn dweud bod treth y pen yn syniad gwael?

David Melding: I once heard Roy Jenkins say that the community charge was one of the few pieces of legislation in British history that was both promulgated and repealed in one session of Parliament, so I suppose that the technical answer to your question is a qualified 'yes'.

David Melding: Clywais Roy Jenkins yn dweud unwaith fod y tâl cymunedol yn un o'r darnau prin o ddeddfwriaeth yn hanes Prydain a gafodd ei gyhoeddi a'i ddiddymu mewn un sesiwn yn y Senedd. Felly, mae'n debyg mai'r ateb technegol i'ch cwestiwn yw 'oedd' amodol.

I will move on to Dai Lloyd's contribution. I note that settlements that Plaid Cymru would no doubt have previously described as 'poor' are now described as 'tight'. I suspect that that is because it is now in a partnership Government with the Labour Party. We soon had the old excuse brought out that the real underlying problem is the Barnett formula. I certainly think that the Barnett formula needs looking at, and it may be part of the problem, but I suspect that it does not account for all of the difficulties that we face at the moment.

Symudaf ymlaen at gyfraniad Dai Lloyd. Sylwaf fod setliadau y byddai Plaid Cymru, mae'n siŵr, wedi'u disgrifio o'r blaen fel rhai 'gwael' yn cael eu disgrifio erbyn hyn fel rhai 'tynn'. Yr wyf yn amau bod hynny am ei bod bellach mewn Llywodraeth bartneriaeth gyda'r Blaid Lafur. Buan y clywsom yr hen esgus mai'r wir broblem waelodol yw fformiwla Barnett. Yr wyf yn sicr yn meddwl bod angen edrych ar fformiwla Barnett, ac efallai ei bod yn rhan o'r broblem, ond yr wyf yn amau nad hi sydd i gyfrif am yr holl anawsterau sy'n ein hwynebu ar y funud.

Andrew R.T. Davies started by questioning your arithmetic, Dai. I hope that he is wrong, given your career outside the Assembly, because it would be somewhat impaired, but I am sure that I can leave you to discuss that with Andrew later. Andrew emphasised that local services are key and they need to be properly funded. The backlog of repairs in schools, for example, is directly caused by these poor settlements.

Dechreuodd Andrew R.T. Davies drwy godi cwestiynau ynglŷn â'ch rhifydddeg, Dai. Gobeithio'i fod yn anghywir, o gofio'ch gyrfa y tu allan i'r Cynulliad, oherwydd byddai'n amharu arni braidd. Ond yr wyf yn siŵr y gellir gadael i chi drafod hynny gyda Andrew yn ddiweddarach. Pwysleisiodd Andrew fod gwasanaethau lleol yn allweddol a bod angen iddynt gael eu cyllido'n gywir. Mae'r gwaith atgyweirio ysgolion sydd wedi ôl-gronni, er enghraifft, wedi ei achosi'n uniongyrchol gan y setliadau gwael hyn.

4.10 p.m.

Joyce Watson: Will you take an intervention?

Joyce Watson: A gymerwch chi ymyriad?

David Melding: I fear that I must deny Joyce the opportunity of scoring a hat-trick—she has already made two interventions. I will not pass comment on the quality of those interventions; I am not giving a qualitative rebuttal, it is a quantitative one. Two interventions are quite enough; I am afraid that I am not going to give you another chance, Joyce.

David Melding: Ofnaf ei bod yn rhaid imi wrthod y cyfle i Joyce daro'r tri—mae eisoes wedi gwneud dau ymyriad. Ni chynigïaf farn ar ansawdd yr ymyriadau hynny; nid gwrthod o ran ansawdd yr wyf, ond o ran nifer. Mae dau ymyriad yn hen ddigon; mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ond nid wyf am roi cyfle arall i chi, Joyce.

Finally, Trish spoke passionately for her constituents. The fact that Blaenau Gwent has the highest council tax in Wales must tell us something. Take that away, at least, Minister, and think about that.

Yn olaf, siaradodd Trish ag angerdd ar ran ei hetholwyr. Rhaid bod y ffaith mai Blaenau Gwent sydd â'r dreth gyngor uchaf yng Nghymru yn dweud rhywbeth wrthym. Ewch â hynny, o leiaf, oddi yma gyda chi, Weinidog, a meddylwch am hynny.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, David. I apologise for my botched attempt at trying to prevent that speech from being made.

Y Llywydd: Diolch, David. Ymddiheuraf am fy ymgais flêr i atal yr araith honno rhag cael ei thraddodi.

Y cynnig yw bod y cynnig yn cael ei dderbyn. Ar sail y sŵn, cymeraf fod gwrthwynebiad. Felly, bydd y bleidlais yn cael ei gohirio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

The proposal is that the motion be agreed. Given the noise, I assume that there is objection. Therefore, the vote is deferred until voting time.

*Gohiriwyd y bleidlais tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Vote deferred until voting time.*

Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

Y Sefyllfa Economaidd Bresennol The Current Economic Situation

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1, 2 a 3 yn enw William Graham.

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1, 2 and 3 in the name of William Graham.

Kirsty Williams: I propose that

Kirsty Williams: Cynigïaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

believes that the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the current economic situation is failing to meet the needs of those who are struggling the most. (NDM4054)

yn credu bod ymateb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i'r sefyllfa economaidd bresennol yn methu diwallu anghenion y rheini sy'n ei chael hi'n fwyaf anodd. (NDM4054)

The joblessness figures that we see today are

Mae'r ffigurau diweithdra a welwn heddiw

further evidence of the economic crisis that we face as a country. What started off as a financial sector problem has now well and truly spread into the wider and real economy. It is now a question of how long and deep the recession will be rather than of whether there will be a recession—so much for the First Minister's predictions earlier this year, when he accused the opposition of shroud waving.

As a nation, we are not in a good position to face such a downturn. Private sector employment in Wales has been in decline for the last year faster than in any other region of the UK, and we are already at the bottom of too many league tables for prosperity and wealth. Many Welsh communities have failed to recover from previous recessions, let alone being ready for the one that we currently face. However, when it comes to personal debt, we are at the other end of the scale. On average, Welsh citizens owe almost £27,000, which is £10,000 more than the average three years ago. On average, men's debt to income ratio is 13 per cent higher in Wales than in the rest of the UK, and Welsh men over the age of 45 in an average level of debt would need to earn a massive 211 per cent of their normal income to clear their debt.

Our citizens are not only struggling with high levels of debt, they are struggling to cope with high commodity prices, whether that be in paying for food in their supermarket trolleys or in paying gas and electricity bills. They now face the prospect of having to do that with the spectre of large-scale job losses looming, which not even the Deputy First Minister, talking on Radio Wales this morning, was able to quantify or admit to.

In times such as these, the Government needs to ensure that people have as much money in their pockets as possible. I appreciate that we cannot pull all of the levers of taxation in the Assembly, but the Assembly Government should be arguing the case in Westminster for income tax cuts and further interest rate cuts. We can do something here about council tax,

yn dystiolaeth bellach o'r argyfwng economaidd sy'n ein hwynebu fel gwlad. Mae'r hyn a ddechreuodd fel problem yn y sector ariannol wedi lledu o ddifrif erbyn hyn i'r economi ehangach, real. Y cwestiwn bellach yw pa mor hir a dwfn fydd y dirwasgiad, yn hytrach nag a fydd dirwasgiad—wfft i broffwydo'r Prif Weinidog yn gynharach eleni, pan gyhuddodd yr wrthblaid o godi bwganod.

Fel cenedl, nid ydym mewn sefyllfa dda i wynebu dirywiad economaidd o'r fath. Mae cyflogaeth y sector preifat yng Nghymru wedi bod yn dirywio dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf yn gyflymach nag mewn unrhyw ranbarth arall yn y DU, ac yr ydym eisoes ar waelod gormod o dablau cynghrair ffyniant a chyfoeth. Mae nifer o gymunedau Cymru wedi methu dod dros ddirwasgiadau blaenorol, heb sôn am fod yn barod ar gyfer yr un sy'n ein hwynebu ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, wrth edrych ar ddyledion personol, yr ydym ar ben arall y raddfa. Ar gyfartaledd, mae ar ddinasyddion Cymru bron i £27,000 o ddyled, sy'n £10,000 yn fwy na'r cyfartaledd dair blynedd yn ôl. Ar gyfartaledd, mae cymhareb dyled i incwm dynion 13 y cant yn uwch yng Nghymru nag yng ngweddill y DU, a byddai angen i ddynion dros 45 oed yng Nghymru sydd â lefel gyfartalog o ddyled ennill 211 y cant enfawr o'u hincwm arferol i glirio'u dyled.

Mae ein dinasyddion nid yn unig yn ymgodymu â lefelau dyled uchel, ond maent hefyd yn ei chael yn anodd ymdopi â phrisiau uchel nwyddau, boed wrth dalu am y bwyd yn eu troli yn yr archfarchnad ynteu wrth dalu biliau nwy a thrydan. Maent yn awr yn wynebu'r posibilrwydd o orfod gwneud hynny gyda cholli swyddi ar raddfa fawr ar y gorwel, rhywbeth nad oedd hyd yn oed y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, wrth siarad ar Radio Wales y bore yma, yn gallu ei fesur na chyfaddef iddo.

Mewn adegau fel y rhain, mae angen i'r Llywodraeth sicrhau bod gan bobl gymaint o arian â phosibl yn eu pocedi. Sylweddolaf na allwn ddefnyddio'r holl ddulliau trethu yn y Cynulliad, ond dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fod yn dadlau'r achos yn San Steffan o blaid toriadau treth incwm a thoriadau pellach yn y gyfradd llog. Gallwn

but the Government has not shown any initiative in this area whatsoever. The local government settlement, as we have heard for the past hour, is diabolical. The results are not difficult to predict. Local authorities will either have to cut services—which is terrible for the economy, because it will mean that councils will either not spend money in bringing those services in or they will lay off their own workers, thus adding to the job losses that we have already seen in the private sector—or they will have to announce steep rises in council tax, which ordinary Welsh families can ill afford.

Later on in the debate, my colleagues will mention what action the Assembly Government could take in housing, to ensure that people can stay in their homes. On fuel poverty, again, to alleviate the burden of high energy bills, we need to help people to keep money in their pockets.

Turning to issues around the broader economy, we have been careful on this side of the Chamber in trying to support the consensual approach that such difficult times demand. The Deputy First Minister has been careful to keep me and the Conservative economic spokesperson informed of his action, and I am grateful for that. However, despite two economic summits, we are still waiting for definitive action in many areas. It seems, from briefings this week, that we will have to wait a little longer. The Deputy First Minister admits that his hands are tied on many areas around business rate relief until he sees what the Chancellor might come up with in his pre-budget statement. He admits that his plans to bring forward capital programmes, as a stimulus to the construction sector in Wales, will have to wait until a meeting of the capital investment board can be convened.

I will continue to play the consensual role that these difficult times demand, but there is

wneud rhywbeth yma am y dreth gyngor, ond nid yw'r Llywodraeth wedi dangos dim blaengarwch yn y maes hwn. Mae'r setliad i lywodraeth leol, fel yr ydym wedi clywed am yr awr ddiwethaf, yn arswydus o wael. Nid yw'r canlyniadau'n anodd eu rhagweld. Bydd yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol un ai gwtogi gwasanaethau—sy'n ofnadwy i'r economi, oherwydd bydd yn golygu y bydd y cynghorau un ai ddim yn gwario arian i ddod â'r gwasanaethau hynny i mewn ynteu'n diswyddo'u gweithwyr eu hunain, gan ychwanegu felly at gollu swyddi fel yr ydym eisoes wedi'i gweld yn y sector preifat—ynteu bydd yn rhaid iddynt gyhoeddi cynnydd sylweddol yn y dreth gyngor, rhywbeth na all teuluoedd cyffredin Cymru ei fforddio.

Yn ddiweddarach yn y ddadl, bydd fy nghyd-Aelodau'n sôn am y camau y gallai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad eu cymryd ym maes tai, i sicrhau y gall pobl aros yn eu cartrefi. O ran tlodi tanwydd, unwaith eto, er mwyn ysgafnhau baich biliau ynni mawr, mae angen inni helpu pobl i gadw arian yn eu pocedi.

I droi at faterion yn ymwneud â'r economi ehangach, yr ydym wedi ymdrechu'n ofalus yr ochr hon i'r Siambr i gefnogi'r dull cydsyniol y mae ei angen mewn cyfnod anodd fel hwn. Mae'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wedi ymdrechu'n ofalus i sicrhau fy mod i a llfarydd y Ceidwadwyr ar yr economi yn gwybod pa gamau y mae'n eu cymryd, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am hynny. Fodd bynnag, er gwaethaf dwy uwchgynhadledd economaidd, yr ydym yn dal i ddisgwyl am gamau pendant mewn nifer o feysydd. Mae'n ymddangos, o sesiynau cefndir yr wythnos hon, y bydd yn rhaid inni aros ychydig yn hwy. Mae'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn cyfaddef nad oes dim y gall ei wneud ynglŷn â nifer o feysydd sy'n ymwneud â rhyddhad ardrethi busnes nes bydd yn gweld yr hyn y gallai'r Canghellor ei gynnig yn ei ddatganiad cyn y gyllideb. Mae'n cyfaddef y bydd yn rhaid i'w gynlluniau i gyflwyno rhaglenni cyfalaf, er mwyn rhoi hwb i'r sector adeiladu yng Nghymru, aros nes gellir galw cyfarfod o'r bwrdd buddsoddi cyfalaf.

Byddaf yn parhau'r dull cydsyniol sy'n angenrheidiol yn y cyfnod anodd hwn, ond

only so much patience that opposition parties, opposition politicians and the Welsh public can maintain. The issue now, surely, is that we need a little less conversation in summits and a little more action from the Government.

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

further believes that small and medium-sized enterprises in Wales require further support through a more generous rate relief scheme.

Amendment 2: add a new point at the end of the motion:

expresses concern about economic inactivity, child poverty and housing waiting lists in Wales as we enter a recession following 16 years of economic growth.

Amendment 3: add a new point at the end of the motion:

calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to take steps to help families meet the pressures of childcare during the economic downturn.

Promising no return to the boom and bust of the past, Gordon Brown delivers Brown and bust in the present. We must not let people forget that it is Gordon Brown and Rhodri Morgan who have been in charge of the Welsh economy for the last decade, and that it is Ieuan Wyn Jones who broke his pledge and propped up a failing Labour Government.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research states that the UK will suffer the worst setback of all leading economies and the International Monetary Fund states that the UK will be the worst affected by the recession. The European Commission predicts that our recession would be deeper than almost any other country and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reports that the gap between the

dim ond hyn a hyn o amynedd sydd gan y gwrthbleidiau, gwleidyddion y gwrthbleidiau a'r cyhoedd yng Nghymru. Y gwir amdani erbyn hyn, siawns, yw bod arnom angen ychydig bach yn llai o siarad mewn uwchgynadleddau ac ychydig bach yn fwy o weithredu ar ran y Llywodraeth.

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

yn credu ymhellach bod gofyn cael rhagor o gefnogaeth i fusnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru drwy gynllun rhyddhad ardrethi sy'n fwy hael.

Gwelliant 2: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn mynegi pryder ynghylch anweithgarwch economaidd, tlodi plant a rhestri aros tai yng Nghymru wrth i ni fynd i ddirwasgiad yn dilyn 16 mlynedd o dwf economaidd.

Gwelliant 3: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gymryd camau i helpu teuluoedd i ddiwallu pwysau gofal plant yn ystod y dirywiad economaidd.

Er ei fod yn addo bod ffyniant a methiant y gorffennol drosodd, yr hyn a gawn gan Gordon Brown y dyddiau hyn yw Brown a methiant. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod pobl yn cofio mai Gordon Brown a Rhodri Morgan sydd wedi bod yn gyfrifol am economi Cymru yn ystod y deng mlynedd diwethaf, ac mai Ieuan Wyn Jones a dorrodd ei addewid a rhoi ei ysgwydd dan Lywodraeth Lafur ddiffygiol.

Yn ôl y Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Ymchwil Economaidd a Chymdeithasol, bydd y DU yn dioddef yn waeth nag unrhyw un o'r prif economïau, ac yn ôl y Gronfa Ariannol Ryngwladol y DU fydd yn dioddef fwyaf o ganlyniad i'r dirwasgiad. Mae'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn rhag-weld y byddai'r dirwasgiad yn ddyfnach yn y DU nag mewn unrhyw wlad arall bron, ac mae'r Sefydliad ar gyfer Cydweithrediad a

rich and poor is greater in the UK than in three-quarters of OECD countries.

So, what did we have that those countries did not have to get us into this position? We had Gordon, who takes us into recession with the highest Government deficit of the industrialised world—a larger deficit than that of countries such as Uganda and Kazakhstan.

A report by the campaign to end child poverty found that 297,000 children in Wales live in families that are in poverty. Almost one in five children in Wales—over 100,000—is living in workless households. Employment is falling in Wales and unemployment is rising at its fastest rate for 17 years. Figures released today by the Office for National Statistics, which were referred to previously, show that unemployment in Wales rose by 24,000 in the three months to September, to stand at 95,000, which is 6.7 per cent of the workforce.

Private sector employment fell for 13 successive months to October. Over 500,000 working-age people in Wales are not in work. The number of young people not in education, employment or training has risen by 132,000 since 2003 across the UK, and Wales has the highest proportion of 19 to 24-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training. The Welsh Assembly Government must make room for the private and voluntary sectors to contribute to the economic and social growth of Wales. They should look to London mayor, Boris Johnson, who is bringing together Government and charities to tackle the root causes of problems facing young people.

The Confederation of British Industry says that public spending in Wales has not been directed towards GDP-enhancing investment to the extent that it could and should have been. After a decade of hard Labour, Welsh prosperity has fallen to a mere 77 per cent, behind every nation and region in the UK.

Datblygiad Economaidd yn dweud bod y bwlch rhwng y cyfoethog a'r tlawd yn fwy yn y DU nag yn nhri chwarter y gwledydd y mae'r Sefydliad yn ymwneud â hwy.

Felly, beth oedd gennym ni, nad oedd gan y gwledydd hynny, i'n rhoi yn y sefyllfa hon? Yr oedd gennym Gordon, sy'n mynd â ni i ddirwasgiad gyda Llywodraeth sydd â mwy o ddiffyg nag unrhyw wlad arall yn y byd diwydiannol—mwy o ddiffyg na gwledydd fel Uganda a Kazakhstan.

Darganfu adroddiad gan yr ymgyrch i ddileu tloedi plant fod 297,000 o blant yng Nghymru yn byw mewn teuluoedd sydd mewn tloedi. Mae bron un plentyn o bob pump yng Nghymru—dros 100,000—yn byw ar aelwydydd di-waith. Mae cyflogaeth yn gostwng yng Nghymru, ac mae diweithdra'n cynyddu'n gyflymach nag mewn 17 o flynyddoedd. Dengys ffigurau a ryddhawyd heddiw gan y Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol, y cyfeiriwyd atynt yn gynharach, fod diweithdra yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu 24,000 yn ystod y tri mis at fis Medi, gan gyrraedd 95,000, sy'n 6.7 y cant o'r gweithlu.

Gostyngodd cyflogaeth yn y sector preifat am 13 mis yn olynol hyd at fis Hydref. Mae dros 500,000 o bobl oed gweithio yng Nghymru heb fod mewn gwaith. Mae nifer y bobl ifanc nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant wedi cynyddu 132,000 er 2003 ar hyd a lled y DU, a Chymru sydd â'r gyfran fwyaf o bobl ifanc 19 i 24 oed nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant. Rhaid i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wneud lle i'r sectorau preifat a gwirfoddol gyfrannu at dwf economaidd a chymdeithasol Cymru. Dylent droi at faer Llundain, Boris Johnson, sy'n dod â'r Llywodraeth ac elusennau at ei gilydd i fynd i'r afael â'r hyn sydd wrth wraidd y problemau sy'n wynebu pobl ifanc.

Mae Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain yn dweud nad yw gwariant cyhoeddus yng Nghymru wedi'i anelu at fuddsoddi sy'n gwella cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth i'r graddau y gallai ac y dylai fod wedi'i wneud. Ar ôl degawd o Lafur caled, mae ffyniant Cymru wedi gostwng i ddim ond 77 y cant, sy'n is na phob gwlad a rhanbarth arall yn y DU.

4.20 p.m.

At its economic summit in St Asaph last week, the Assembly Government agreed to make public land available for affordable housing. Even China has recognised that money needs to be pumped into housing to bolster its faltering economy. However, the Assembly Government has yet to decide to fund the infrastructure costs of preparing the sites that it is making available. No additional resources to deal with vacant or unfurnished private developments that have been abandoned by the private sector have been unveiled, despite the fact that this would be a much more effective way of sustaining economic activity during the downturn while also securing much-needed, additional affordable housing.

No decision has been reached by the Assembly Government on bringing forward future-years spending on social housing to help deal with the downturn, unlike in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In fact, the rate of repossessions in Wales is increasing faster than in the rest of the United Kingdom. England has devoted £200 million and Scotland has devoted £25 million to deal with repossession and mortgage rescue, but the Assembly Government has earmarked only £5 million, when our population-related share should be at least £15 million.

As the Salvation Army's 'The Seeds of Exclusion' report states,

'The effects of social exclusion are often all too easy to see: family breakdown, poverty, poor health, addictive behaviour and homelessness'.

As the Salvation Army founder, William Booth, said,

'While it is entirely appropriate to rescue the man or woman who has fallen into the sea, it is much better to tackle the roots of the individual's problem at the top of the cliff from which they fell'.

Peter Black: Concentrating on housing

Yn ei huwchgynhadledd economaidd yn Llanelwy yr wythnos diwethaf, cytunodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i ryddhau tir cyhoeddus ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy. Mae Tsieina hyd yn oed wedi cydnabod bod angen neilltuo mwy o arian ar gyfer tai er mwyn cynnal ei heconomi fregus. Fodd bynnag, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dal heb benderfynu a yw am ariannu'r costau seilwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â pharatoi'r safleoedd y mae'n eu rhyddhau. Nid yw wedi dweud a gaiff adnoddau ychwanegol eu rhyddhau i ddelio â datblygiadau preifat gwag neu ddiddodrefn sydd wedi eu gadael gan y sector preifat, er gwaetha'r ffaith y byddai hyn yn ffordd lawer mwy effeithiol o gynnal gweithgaredd economaidd yn ystod y dirywiad, a hefyd yn sicrhau rhagor o dai fforddiadwy mawr eu hangen.

Nid yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi penderfynu ynglŷn â dod â gwariant y dyfodol ar dai cymdeithasol ymlaen er mwyn helpu delio â'r dirywiad, yn wahanol i Loegr, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon. Mewn gwirionedd, mae'r gyfradd ailfeddiannu yng Nghymru yn cynyddu'n gyflymach nag yng ngweddill y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae Lloegr wedi neilltuo £200 miliwn a'r Alban wedi neilltuo £25 miliwn i ymdrin ag ailfeddiannu ac achub morgeisi, ond £5 miliwn yn unig sydd wedi ei glustnodi gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, pan ddylai ein gyfran ar sail poblogaeth fod yn £15 miliwn o leiaf.

Fel y dywed adroddiad Byddin yr Iachawdwriaeth 'The Seeds of Exclusion',

Mae effeithiau allgáu cymdeithasol yn aml yn hawdd iawn eu gweld: teuluoedd yn chwalu, tloidi, iechyd gwael, ymddygiad caethiwus a digartrefedd.

Fel y dywedodd sylfaenydd Byddin yr Iachawdwriaeth, William Booth,

Er ei bod yn gwbl briodol inni achub y gŵr neu'r wraig sydd wedi syrthio i'r môr, mae'n llawer gwell mynd i'r afael â gwraidd problem yr unigolyn ar ben y clogwyn y disgynnodd oddi arno.

Peter Black: I ganolbwyntio ar faterion tai,

issues, it is important to recognise that one of the biggest impacts of the economic downturn is that on people's housing and people's ability to afford either to stay in their present accommodation or to acquire new accommodation. The amount of negative equity is huge, though I do not think that we have quite reached the levels of the 1990s recession. Also, the level of repossessions is rising, and the Assembly Government has to address that issue, although we will also look to the UK Government to address the issue.

Having said that, I recognise that the Assembly Government has done a fair bit on this aspect of policy. Certainly, the mortgage rescue scheme that is in place is to be welcomed, as is some of the other work that the Government has been doing in terms of advice and support. More can always be done, and that is particularly the case with regard to those aspects.

On mortgage rescue, we need to be able to get advice and information about those schemes out to people more quickly and allow them an easier form of access to that advice. I know of people who, having tried to access mortgage rescue schemes, have found it difficult to find information about them and, once they found the information, it took them time to get in touch with the relevant people.

When people end up in court, it is often the case that they have not been to the relevant advice services, and they are often unaware of them. We need to work more closely with the courts service to ensure that it is aware of what is available and is prepared to tell mortgage lenders that are pursuing a repossession option that it may not be the option that the court wants the lender to take at that moment, preferring to defer the matter and refer the person whose home is under threat to the relevant advice services first. We need to do a lot more work with the courts to try to defer repossession actions so that the people whose homes are under threat can get access to the support that is in place to help them.

mae'n bwysig cydnabod mai un o effeithiau mwyaf y dirywiad economaidd yw'r effaith ar dai pobl a gallu pobl i fforddio naill ai i aros yn eu llety presennol ynteu gael llety newydd. Mae ecwiti negatif yn uchel iawn, er nad wyf yn credu ein bod wedi cyrraedd lefelau dirwasgiad y 1990au eto. Yn ychwanegol at hyn, mae nifer yr achosion o ailfeddiannu tai yn cynyddu, a rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad roi sylw i'r mater hwnnw, er y byddwn hefyd yn disgwyl i Lywodraeth y DU roi sylw i'r mater.

Wedi dweud hynny, yr wyf yn cydnabod bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gwneud cryn waith ar yr agwedd hon ar bolisi. Yn sicr, mae'r cynllun achub morgeisi sydd wedi ei sefydlu i'w groesawu, ynghyd â rhywfaint o'r gwaith arall y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi bod yn ei wneud drwy gynnig cyngor a chefnogaeth. Mae modd gwneud mwy o hyd, ac mae hynny'n arbennig o wir yn yr agweddau hynny.

O ran achub morgeisi, mae angen inni allu cael cyngor a gwybodaeth am y cynlluniau hynny i bobl yn gyflymach, a sicrhau eu bod yn gallu cael y cyngor hwnnw'n rhwyddach. Gwn am bobl sydd, ar ôl penderfynu holi ynglŷn â chynlluniau achub morgeisi, wedi cael anhawster i ddod o hyd i wybodaeth amdanynt, ac ar ôl dod o hyd i'r wybodaeth, wedi bod am oesoedd yn ceisio cysylltu gyda'r bobl berthnasol.

Pan fydd pobl yn cael eu hunain yn y llys, yn aml iawn ni fyddant wedi bod at y gwasanaethau cynghori perthnasol, ac yn aml iawn ni fyddant yn gwybod amdanynt. Mae angen inni weithio'n agosach gyda'r gwasanaeth llysoedd er mwyn sicrhau ei fod yn ymwybodol o'r hyn sydd ar gael ac yn barod i ddweud wrth fenthycwyr morgeisi sy'n ystyried y posibilrwydd o ailfeddiannu tŷ nad dyna'r dewis y mae'r llys, hwyrach, yn dymuno i'r benthyciwr ei wneud ar y pryd, ac y byddai'n well ganddo ohirio'r mater a chyfeirio'r sawl sydd â'i gartref dan fygythiad at y gwasanaethau cynghori perthnasol yn gyntaf. Mae angen inni wneud llawer mwy o waith gyda'r llysoedd i geisio gohirio camau ailfeddiannu fel y gall y bobl sydd â'u cartrefi dan fygythiad gael y gefnogaeth sydd ar gael i'w helpu.

Having an affordable housing policy is welcome, but I am concerned about the premise on which the Assembly Government's policy has been based. It has been put together first in terms of additional money that has been made available for social housing grant. I am not criticising it, but, already, money has been taken from that social housing grant budget for the mortgage rescue scheme and for other schemes, simply because, as in previous years—I think that it has happened in virtually every year since the Assembly has been in existence—the social housing grant is underspent at the end of the year, when there is a mad scramble to spend the remaining money, which we have to use up somehow.

I do not criticise the Deputy Minister for Housing for using the money in this way, but we need to find a better way of spending the social housing grant money, so that there is more flexibility in the system, thereby recognising the fact that a housing association may take up to three years to bring a scheme to fruition, and that they may need to carry money forward from year to year within the social housing grant budget. In that way it would not be lost to the cause of building affordable housing—something that has happened in the past. That is also something that I wish to see the Assembly Government address.

In terms of targets, the Deputy Minister for Housing has relied on section 106 agreements to deliver an increased number of affordable houses. Although that may have been commendable when it was first thought of, fewer houses are now being built by private developers, there are fewer planning applications coming forward to local authorities, and, as a result, there is less opportunity for local authorities to put section 106 agreements in place to deliver those affordable houses. It is an inevitable part of the crunch that we face, but the Assembly Government has not yet got around to addressing how it will meet the shortfall, and it relies on the fact that the crisis will be over shortly and that all will come good. I do not think that that is the right approach, because we need to have a strategy in place to start to look at that particular issue.

Mae polisi tai fforddiadwy i'w groesawu, ond yr wyf yn bryderus ynglŷn â'r cynsail y seiliwyd polisi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad arno. Mae'r cynsail wedi ei lunio yn gyntaf yng nghyswllt arian ychwanegol sydd wedi ei ryddhau ar gyfer grant tai cymdeithasol. Nid wyf yn ei feirniadu, ond mae arian eisoes wedi'i dynnu o'r gyllideb grant tai cymdeithasol honno ar gyfer y cynllun achub morgeisi ac ar gyfer cynlluniau eraill, oherwydd, fel yn y blynyddoedd blaenorol—credaf fod hynny wedi digwydd bob blwyddyn bron ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad—fod tanwariant yn y grant tai cymdeithasol ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn, pan fydd ras wyllt i wario'r arian sydd ar ôl, ac sy'n rhaid inni ei ddefnyddio rywsut.

Nid wyf yn beirniadu'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai am ddefnyddio'r arian fel hyn, ond mae angen inni ddod o hyd i ffordd well o wario arian y grant tai cymdeithasol, fel y bydd mwy o hyblygrwydd yn y system, a thrwy hynny gydnabod y ffaith y gall cymdeithas tai gymryd hyd at dair blynedd i gwblhau cynllun, ac y gall fod angen iddi gario arian ymlaen o'r naill flwyddyn i'r llall yn y gyllideb grant tai cymdeithasol. Drwy wneud hynny ni fyddai'n cael ei golli ar draul adeiladu tai fforddiadwy—rhywbeth sydd wedi digwydd yn y gorffennol. Mae hynny hefyd yn fater yr hoffwn weld Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn rhoi sylw iddo.

O ran targedau, mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai wedi dibynnu ar gytundebau adran 106 i ddarparu mwy o dai fforddiadwy. Er bod hynny i'w gymeradwyo, hwyrach, pan feddylwyd amdano gyntaf, mae llai o dai yn cael eu hadeiladu gan ddatblygwyr preifat erbyn hyn, mae llai o geisiadau cynllunio'n cael eu cyflwyno i awdurdodau lleol, ac o ganlyniad mae llai o gyfle i awdurdodau lleol gyflwyno cytundebau adran 106 er mwyn darparu'r tai fforddiadwy hynny. Mae'n rhan anorfod o'r wasgfa sy'n ein hwynebu, ond nid yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi mynd ati eto i ystyried sut y bydd yn mynd i'r afael â'r diffyg, ac mae'n dibynnu ar y ffaith y bydd yr argyfwng drosodd cyn hir ac y bydd popeth yn iawn. Nid wyf yn credu mai dyna'r agwedd iawn, oherwydd mae angen inni gael strategaeth er mwyn dechrau edrych ar y mater penodol hwnnw.

The other point on affordable housing that the Assembly Government should address is the number of empty properties around Wales. There are tens of thousands of such properties; some are under the control of local councils and others are under the control of housing associations, but the vast majority are privately owned empty houses. The mechanisms that are in place to enable local authorities to use them are not adequate, because of the problems and the limitations on their use. Local authorities need to be given additional power to penalise owners who let their houses stay empty for a period of time, possibly by increasing council tax. Again, I ask the Minister to look at that issue.

Huw Lewis: I thank the Liberal Democrats for bringing forward this debate. Although I do not entirely agree with their motion or solutions, this debate should be our central concern at the moment. We should be doing all that we can in the Assembly to protect the most vulnerable from the current economic crisis. Just as every Welsh Assembly Government department has a role to play in meeting our aim of eradicating child poverty, every department also has a role in shielding people from the worst of the oncoming recession.

However, I will focus my remarks on three policy areas, namely finance, economic development and education. It is with no little irony that, in the same week that we learned of the Lehman Brothers collapse and we started to wonder what this would mean, school children in Wales sat down for the first time to start their new financial literacy curriculum. Formal financial education in schools was one of the key recommendations of the overindebtedness report that I put together in 2005, and I am delighted to see that work being taken forward. It will guard against future generations making the same mistakes with credit that are now haunting so many of our contemporaries.

However, education does not stop at the school gates, and we need to do more to support adult learners. A good education is the best armour against any recession, but as jobs are being lost in the Valleys, local colleges are losing adult learners, because

Y pwynt arall ynglŷn â thai fforddiadwy y dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad roi sylw iddo yw nifer y tai gweigion ar hyd a lled Cymru. Mae yna filoedd ar filoedd o dai o'r fath; mae rhai dan reolaeth cynghorau lleol ac eraill dan reolaeth cymdeithasau tai, ond mae'r mwyafrif helaeth yn dai gweigion sy'n eiddo preifat. Nid yw'r mecanweithiau sy'n bodoli er mwyn galluogi awdurdodau lleol i'w defnyddio yn ddigonol, oherwydd y problemau a'r cyfyngiadau ar eu defnyddio. Mae angen i awdurdodau lleol gael pwerau ychwanegol i gosbi perchnogion sy'n gadael i'w tai fod yn wag am gyfnod, drwy gynyddu'r dreth gyngor o bosibl. Unwaith eto, gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog edrych ar y mater hwnnw.

Huw Lewis: Diolch i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am gyflwyno'r ddadl hon. Er nad wyf yn cytuno'n llwyr â'u cynnig na'u hatebion, dylem fod yn canolbwyntio'n awr ar y ddadl hon. Dylem fod yn gwneud popeth posibl yn y Cynulliad i ddiogelu'r bobl sydd fwyaf agored i niwed rhag yr argyfwng economaidd presennol. Mae gan bob un o adrannau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ran i'w chwarae i gyflawni ein nod o ddileu tlodi plant, ac mae gan bob adran ran i'w chwarae hefyd i amddiffyn pobl rhag elfennau gwaethaf y dirwasgiad sydd o'n blaenau.

Fodd bynnag, yr wyf am ganolbwyntio fy sylwadau ar dri maes polisi, sef cyllid, datblygu economaidd ac addysg. Yn eironig iawn, yn ystod yr un wythnos ag y clywsom am gwmp Lehman Brothers gan ddechrau meddwl beth y byddai hyn yn ei olygu, dechreuodd plant ysgol yng Nghymru astudio'u cwricwlwm llythrennedd ariannol newydd. Yr oedd addysg ariannol ffurfiol mewn ysgolion yn un o brif argymhellion yr adroddiad ar orddyled a luniais yn 2005, ac yr wyf yn falch gweld y gwaith hwnnw'n symud ymlaen. Bydd yn atal cenedlaethau'r dyfodol rhag gwneud yr un camgymeriadau gyda chredyd sy'n plagio cynifer o'n cyfoedion.

Fodd bynnag, nid yw addysg yn gorffen wrth giât yr ysgol, ac mae angen inni wneud mwy i gefnogi addysg oedolion. Addysg dda yw'r arf gorau yn erbyn unrhyw ddirwasgiad, ond wrth i swyddi gael eu colli yn y Cymoedd, mae colegau lleol yn colli oedolion o gyrisiau

they can no longer afford to fund their childcare. Put simply, a budget cut by the Assembly Government has seen a young mother, one of my constituents, locked out of education in Merthyr Tydfil College, which cannot be justified. I urge Ministers to look at this issue ahead of the final budget announcement later this term.

We were all taken aback by the revelations concerning millions of pounds of public money being stored in Icelandic banks. Those of us on the Finance Committee were still more surprised that no-one seemed to know where the Assembly banked. Now that we have been given answers to those questions, it seems that no Assembly Government sponsored public body has given thought to investing ethically. An ethical banking policy not only makes sense morally, but we can also now see that it also makes sense financially, because building societies, credit unions and other ethical operators—they do exist—do not play fast and loose with people's money; the risk factor is much lower. Therefore, it is incumbent on the Assembly Government to review its own banking arrangements and the banking arrangements of other public bodies in Wales. If we are serious about being a fair trade nation, it should follow that we have an ethical banking policy—it is all very well to stock a canteen with fair trade tea, but when you have million of pounds of public money sloshing around in banks that do not invest ethically, we must ask ourselves just how much of a difference we are making.

4.30 p.m.

Finally, we must build for the future. We need a huge programme of intelligently targeted infrastructure investment in Wales and we need it soon. With job loss announcements now an almost daily occurrence in Wales, people are facing up to the reality of redundancy. We need action quickly. The problems causing delays on infrastructure projects, such as the dualling of the A465, must be overcome immediately.

addysg, gan na allant fforddio talu costau gofal plant mwyach. Yn syml iawn, mae toriad yn y gyllideb gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi golygu nad yw'n bosib i fam ifanc, un o'm hetholwyr i, ddilyn cwrs addysg yng Ngholeg Merthyr Tydfil, ac ni ellir cyfiawnhau hynny. Anogaf y Gweinidogion i edrych ar y mater hwn cyn cyhoeddi'r gyllideb derfynol yn ddiweddarach yn y tymor hwn.

Cawsom i gyd ein hysgwyd gan y newyddion fod â miliynau o bunnoedd o arian cyhoeddus yn cael ei storio mewn banciau yng Ngwlad yr Iâ. Yr oedd y rheini ohonom sydd ar y Pwyllgor Cyllid yn synnu mwy fyth nad oedd neb fel petent yn gwybod ym mhle yr oedd y Cynulliad yn bancio. Gan ein bod wedi cael atebion i'r cwestiynau hynny erbyn hyn, mae'n ymddangos nad oes yr un corff cyhoeddus sy'n cael ei noddi gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ystyried buddsoddi'n foesebol. Mae polisi bancio moesebol yn gwneud synnwyr o safbwynt moesol, a gallwn hefyd weld yn awr ei fod yn gwneud synnwyr o safbwynt ariannol, oherwydd nid yw cymdeithasau adeiladu, undebau credyd a gweithredwyr moesebol eraill—maent yn bodoli—yn chwarae'r ffon ddwybig gydag arian pobl; mae'r ffactor risg lawer yn llai. Felly, rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad adolygu ei threfniadau bancio ei hun a threfniadau bancio cyrff cyhoeddus eraill yng Nghymru. Os ydym o ddifrif ynglŷn â bod yn wlad masnach deg, dylai fod gennym bolisi bancio moesebol—mae'n ddigon hawdd stocio te masnach deg mewn cantŷn, ond pan fydd gennych filiynau o bunnoedd o arian cyhoeddus yma ac acw mewn banciau nad ydynt yn buddsoddi'n foesebol, rhaid inni ofyn i ni'n hunain faint o wahaniaeth yr ydym yn ei wneud mewn gwirionedd.

Yn olaf, rhaid inni adeiladu ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae arnom angen rhaglen enfawr o fuddsoddi mewn seilwaith wedi'i dargedu'n ddeallus yng Nghymru. Gyda chyhoeddiadau am golli swyddi yn ddigwyddiad dyddiol bron yng Nghymru bellach, mae pobl yn wynebu realiti colli swyddi. Rhaid goresgyn y problemau sy'n achosi oedi mewn prosiectau seilwaith, fel yr A465, ar unwaith. Cysylltiadau cludiant da rhwng y dwyrain a'r

Good east-west transport links are the economic arteries of Wales, and yet we are allowing them to calcify through indecision. Therefore, I am heartened to see that, through the two economic summits that have taken place so far, social partnership is starting to take root in these difficult economic times, and that Wales stands more than ready for decisive action.

By pursuing policies of ethical banking and better support for adult education, and by developing an ambitious programme of infrastructure projects, we will not only shield our communities from the worst of this recession, but also create a Wales that is fit for the future and the recovery that must follow.

Mick Bates: I wish to start by saying how much I agree with the sentiments that Huw has just expressed. I approach this debate by asking a very simple question: who is struggling the most? Is it the bankers? Is it small businesses? Is it the energy companies? Or is it the families of Wales? For me, the whole essence of the debate is that it is the families of Wales that are suffering. Rising mortgage bills, the fear of unemployment and high heating costs mean that the shockwaves of this financial crisis are now being felt in every household in Wales. When the banks were in trouble, they were rescued. When Welsh families find themselves in trouble, who is going to step forward to rescue them? I set my remarks in the context of our devolved powers and of the undoubted influence that members of this Cabinet have with their colleagues at Westminster, because the co-ordination of all of our resources forms an important response to this crisis.

I wish to focus my remarks on how this Government can combat fuel poverty. We have all seen that the energy companies have benefited from massive profits this year. It is absurd that, on one hand, energy companies make massive profits while, on the other, their customers are struggling to pay their bills and keep warm. Utilities companies are not quite like other suppliers, because what they supply are basic necessities. Therefore, they must take some kind of ethical position on what prices they charge. Many will welcome the fact that the big six energy

gorllewin yw prif wythiennau economaidd Cymru, ac eto yr ydym yn caniatáu iddynt galcheiddio oherwydd diffyg penderfyniad. Felly, caf fy nghalonogi o weld, drwy'r ddwy uwchgynhadledd economaidd a gynhaliwyd hyd yma, fod partneriaeth gymdeithasol yn dechrau gwreiddio yn yr amseroedd economaidd anodd hyn, a bod Cymru'n fwy na pharod i gymryd camau pendant.

Drwy fynd ar drywydd polisïau bancio moesegol a gwell cymorth ar gyfer addysg i oedolion, a thrwy ddatblygu rhaglen uchelgeisiol o brosiectau seilwaith, yn ogystal ag amddiffyn ein cymunedau rhag y gwaethaf o'r dirwasgiad hwn, byddwn hefyd yn creu Cymru sy'n addas ar gyfer y dyfodol a'r adferiad a fydd yn dilyn.

Mick Bates: Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ddweud cymaint y cytunaf â'r teimladau y mae Huw newydd eu mynegi. Dof at y ddadl hon drwy ofyn cwestiwn syml iawn: pwy sy'n dioddef fwyaf? Ai bancwyr? Ai busnesau bach? Ai cwmnïau ynni? Ynteu ai teuluoedd Cymru? I mi, craidd y ddadl yw mai teuluoedd Cymru sy'n dioddef. Mae'r cynnydd mewn biliau morgais, ofn diweithdra a chostau gwresogi uchel yn golygu bod y sioc yn sgil yr argyfwng ariannol hwn bellach yn cael ei themlo ym mhob cartref yng Nghymru. Pan oedd y banciau mewn trafferthion, fe'u hachubwyd. Pan fydd teuluoedd Cymru mewn trafferthion, pwy fydd yn camu i'r adwy i'w hachub? Gosodaf fy sylwadau yng nghyd-destun ein pwerau datganoledig a'r dylanwad diamheuol sydd gan aelodau'r Cabinet hwn dros eu cyd-Aelodau yn San Steffan, oherwydd mae cydgysylltu ein holl adnoddau yn ymateb pwysig i'r argyfwng hwn.

Hoffwn ganolbwyntio fy sylwadau ar y ffordd y gall y Llywodraeth hon fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd. Gwelsom i gyd fod y cwmnïau ynni wedi gwneud elw mawr iawn eleni. Mae'n hurt fod cwmnïau ynni'n gwneud elw enfawr ar y naill law, tra mae eu cwsmeriaid, ar y llaw arall, yn cael trafferth i dalu eu biliau a chadw'n gynnes. Nid yw cwmnïau cyfleustodau'n debyg i gyflenwyr eraill, oherwydd mae'r hyn a gyflenwant yn hanfodion sylfaenol. Felly, rhaid iddynt gymryd rhyw fath o safbwynt moesegol ar y prisiau a godant. Bydd llawer yn croesawu'r

companies recently announced a voluntary agreement to triple their collective annual spending on combating fuel poverty. It was £50 million for 2007-08, and it will rise to £100 million for 2008-09, to £125 million for 2009-10, and eventually to £150 million for 2010-11. That is good news, but we must remember that these energy companies are likely to make £9 billion in windfall profits alone. The package that they have announced might sound very good, but £150 million will not go that far.

When the Deputy Minister replies to this debate, I hope that he can tell us what the Government is doing with its colleagues to ensure that these energy companies face up to their ethical position. All of them have social responsibilities writ large in their directorships, but it is time to test what they actually do in that regard.

The Cabinet itself has a fuel poverty strategy sub-group. I wrote to the First Minister on 23 October asking whether he would put together a group of Cabinet Ministers to emphasise to the Welsh public the urgency with which the Government needs to attack this issue of high fuel prices and the growing impact of fuel poverty on Welsh households. He has a couple of days yet to reply, but I wonder just how seriously the Government is taking the threat of fuel poverty to so many households in Wales. There has not yet been a sufficient response from the Government on tackling fuel poverty. When I asked the Deputy First Minister today how he would use the green jobs strategy to regenerate the ailing construction industry, my question was met with warm words. However, in this particular instance, we need expenditure and commitment.

I put it to the Government that one way to regenerate this issue, to resolve fuel poverty and to help the construction and manufacturing industries in Wales is to meet the Government target of installing 30,000 microgeneration units by 2012. It is your target; it is in 'One Wales'. Think of the

ffaith fod y chwe chwmni ynni mawr wedi cyhoeddi cytundeb gwirfoddol yn ddiweddar i dreblu eu gwariant blynyddol cyfunol ar fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd. Yr oedd yn £50 miliwn ar gyfer 2007-08, a bydd yn codi i £100 miliwn ar gyfer 2008-09, i £125 miliwn ar gyfer 2009-10, ac yna i £150 miliwn ar gyfer 2010-11. Mae hynny'n newyddion da, ond rhaid inni gofio bod y cwmnïau ynni hyn yn debygol o wneud £9 miliwn mewn hap elw'n unig. Efallai fod y pecyn a gyhoeddwyd ganddynt yn swnio'n dda iawn, ond ni fydd £150 miliwn yn mynd mor bell â hynny.

Pan fydd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn ateb y ddatl hon, gobeithio y gall ddweud wrthym beth mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud gyda'i chyd-Aelodau i sicrhau bod y cwmnïau ynni hyn yn derbyn eu sefyllfa foesegol. Mae gan bob un ohonynt gyfrifoldebau cymdeithasol mawr sy'n amlwg yn eu cyfarwyddiaethau, ond mae'n bryd profi beth y maent yn ei wneud mewn gwirionedd yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

Mae gan y Cabinet ei hun is-grŵp strategaeth ar dlodi tanwydd. Ysgrifennais at y Prif Weinidog ar 23 Hydref yn gofyn a fyddai'n dod â grŵp o Weinidogion y Cabinet ynghyd i bwysleisio wrth y cyhoedd yng Nghymru fod angen i'r Llywodraeth fynd i'r afael â phrisiau tanwydd uchel ac effaith gynyddol tlodi tanwydd yng nghartrefi Cymru ar fyrder. Mae ganddo ddiwrnod neu ddau ar ôl i ateb, ond tybed pa mor ddifrifol y mae'r Llywodraeth yn cymryd y bygythiad o dlodi tanwydd i gynifer o gartrefi yng Nghymru? Ni chafwyd ateb digonol gan y Llywodraeth hyd yma ar fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd. Pan ofynnais i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog heddiw sut y byddai'n defnyddio'r strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd i adfywio'r diwydiant adeiladu gwantan, cefais eiriau cynnes. Fodd bynnag, yn yr achos penodol hwn, mae arnom angen gwariant ac ymrwymiad.

Dywedaf wrth y Llywodraeth mai un ffordd i adfywio'r mater, i ddatrys tlodi tanwydd a helpu'r diwydiannau adeiladu a gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru yw cyrraedd targed y Llywodraeth o sefydlu 30,000 o unedau microgynhyrchu erbyn 2012. Eich targed chi ydyw; mae yn 'Cymru'n Un'.

number of households that you could help to lower their fuel bills. Think of the number of skilled people whom you could employ to fit photovoltaic panels or water heating panels, or to install the whole range of measures that could be taken under the home energy efficiency scheme alone. However, it is not being done. Think also of the manufacturing work that would accrue if we encouraged more microgeneration units to be built in Wales. It is a win-win-win situation. Yesterday, in response to Nick Bourne's question about the home energy efficiency scheme, the First Minister admitted,

'You are quite right to say that the home energy efficiency scheme could be better targeted.'

Finally, what plans does the Government have to target the scheme, to resolve fuel poverty issues, and to help Welsh families through this?

Gareth Jones: Nid oes dwywaith bod y dirwasgiad economaidd yn dwysáu. Cawsom flas ar hynny ddoe yn ystod y cwestiynau brys am gollu swyddi. Daeth dangosydd go bwysig i law, sef adroddiad PMI Wales a gomisiynwyd gan y Royal Bank of Scotland, sy'n tanlinellu difrifoldeb y sefyllfa. Mae'r adroddiad yn cyfeirio ar freuder y sefyllfa yng Nghymru mewn perthynas â chyflogaeth, a dywed fod y colli swyddi yn ystod y chwarter diwethaf yn y 12 rhanbarth Prydeinig ar ei waethaf yng Ngogledd Iwerddon a Chymru. Yng Nghymru hefyd, mae'r gostyngiad mewn gweithgarwch busnes llawer iawn yn gyflymach nag ydyw ym maes gweithgynhyrchu. Mae'n edrych yn debyg y bydd y dirwasgiad yn taro teuluoedd a busnesau yng Nghymru yn galetach na'r rheiny yng ngweddill y Deyrnas Unedig.

Mae'n naturiol, felly, i ofyn beth all Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un ei wneud i liniaru effeithiau'r argyfwng. Mae Plaid Cymru'n ymwybodol, fel mae eraill wedi ei gydnabod, o'r cyfyngiadau sydd ar y Cynulliad a'i fod wedi ei amddifadu o unrhyw bwerau trethiannol a fyddai'n ein galluogi i wynebu'r her sydd o'n blaenau. Mae hynny'n gollod aruthrol i bobl Cymru, a phrysured y dydd pan welwn Llywodraeth Cymru yn ennill

Meddyliwch am nifer y cartrefi y gallech eu helpu i leihau eu biliau tanwydd. Meddyliwch am nifer y bobl fedrus y gellid eu cyflogi i osod paneli ffotofoltaig neu baneli gwresogi dŵr, neu i osod yr holl fesurau y gellid eu cymryd dan y cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref yn unig. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n cael ei wneud. Meddyliwch hefyd am y gwaith gweithgynhyrchu a fyddai'n crynhoi petaem yn annog mwy o unedau microgynhyrchu i gael eu hadeiladu yng Nghymru. Mae'n sefyllfa lle mae pawb ar ei ennill. Ddoe, mewn ymateb i gwestiwn Nick Bourne am y cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref, cyfaddefodd y Prif Weinidog,

'Yr ydych yn gywir pan ddywedwch y gellid targedu'r cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref yn well.'

Yn olaf, pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Llywodraeth i dargedu'r cynllun i ddatrys problemau'n gysylltiedig â thlodi tanwydd ac i helpu teuluoedd Cymru drwy hyn?

Gareth Jones: There is no doubt that the economic downturn is intensifying. We heard about this yesterday during the urgent questions about job losses. The recently published PMI Wales report, which was commissioned by the Royal Bank of Scotland, is an important indicator and highlights the seriousness of the situation. The report refers to the fragility of the Welsh situation in relation to employment, and it says that job losses over the last quarter in the 12 British regions were at their highest in Northern Ireland and Wales. Also, the decline in business activity in Wales has been much swifter than in manufacturing. It looks probable that the recession will hit families and businesses in Wales harder than in the rest of the UK.

It is therefore natural to ask what the One Wales government will do to mitigate the effects of the crisis. Plaid Cymru is aware, as others have acknowledged, that the Assembly is subject to restrictions and is deprived of any tax-raising powers that would help us to face the challenges that lie ahead. This is a huge loss for the people of Wales, and hasten the day when we shall see the Government of Wales gaining further authority in more

mwy o awdurdod mewn mwy o feysydd er mwyn gweithredu'n effeithiol ar ein rhan. Mawr obeithiaf y gwelwn gonsensws gwleidyddol a fydd yn sicrhau pwerau o'r fath yn y dyfodol agos. Yr wyf felly yn herio'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn uniongyrchol i ddweud wrthym yn union ble maent yn sefyll ar ddatganoli gan mai darlun digon dryslyd sydd wedi ei gyflwyno ganddynt yn sgîl adolygiad ac adroddiad yr Arglwydd Wyn Roberts.

Craidd y ddadl heddiw yw cwestiynu effeithiolrwydd ymateb y Llywodraeth i'r sefyllfa bresennol. Rhaid ystyried pa hyblygrwydd sydd gennym a pha atebion sy'n bosibl o ystyried cyfyngiadau'r drefn bresennol. Mae gofyn inni fod yn agored ac yn realistig, dwy ffactor sydd ar goll, mentraf ddweud, yn y cynnig a'r gwelliannau, a dyna'r rheswm pennaf pam mae Plaid Cymru yn eu gwrthwynebu. Yr wyf yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd y ddadl; mae hon yn sefyllfa economaidd ddifrifol sy'n haeddu pob sylw y gallwn ei roi iddi, a chredaf fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymateb i'r anghenion cynyddol a hefyd yn cynllunio ar gyfer y dyfodol.

4.40 p.m.

On amendment 1 in the name of William Graham, even the Conservative party would have to acknowledge the Government's efforts in safeguarding and supporting the interests of businesses. They include providing business rate relief, and adding another 37,000 businesses across Wales to that scheme, which already benefit from a significant reduction in their rates, setting up a new £150 million-worth investment fund for small businesses, and making improvements to the procurement processes for small and medium-sized enterprises, including ensuring faster payments. The slowness of payments has been a major complaint of small businesses in the past. Therefore, I can see no merit in that amendment.

Mark Isherwood spoke in support of amendment 2 by the Conservatives, which refers to economic inactivity, and the Conservatives know a lot about that, given that they were the architects of

fields, so that it can act effectively on our behalf. I very much hope that we shall see a political consensus that will secure such powers in the near future. I therefore challenge the Welsh Conservatives directly to tell us exactly where they stand on devolution because they have painted a rather confused picture following the review and report that was carried out by Lord Wyn Roberts.

The crux of today's debate is to question the effectiveness of the Government's response to the current situation. We must consider what flexibility is available to us and what solutions are possible bearing in mind the limitations of the current system. We must be open and realistic, and I venture to say that these are two elements that do not feature in the motion nor the amendments, which is the main reason that Plaid Cymru opposes them. I acknowledge the importance of the debate; this is a grave economic situation that should be given our full attention. I believe the Government of Wales is responding to the increasing needs of Wales while planning for the future.

O ran gwelliant 1 yn enw William Graham, byddai'n rhaid i hyd yn oed y blaid Geidwadol gydnabod ymdrechion y Llywodraeth i ddiogelu a chefnogi buddiannau busnesau. Maent yn cynnwys darparu rhyddhad ardrethi busnes, ac ychwanegu 37,000 o fusnesau eraill ledled Cymru i'r cynllun hwnnw, sydd eisoes yn elwa o'r gostyngiad sylweddol yn eu trethi, sefydlu cronfa fuddsoddi newydd gwerth £150 miliwn i fusnesau bach, a gwella prosesau caffael ar gyfer busnesau bach a chanolig, gan gynnwys sicrhau taliadau cyflymach. Mae arafwch taliadau wedi bod yn gŵyn fawr gan fusnesau bach yn y gorffennol. Felly, ni welaf rinwedd yn y gwelliant hwnnw.

Siaradodd Mark Isherwood o blaid gwelliant 2 gan y Ceidwadwyr, sy'n cyfeirio at anweithgarwch economaidd, ac mae'r Ceidwadwyr yn gwybod llawer am hynny, o gofio mai hwy oedd penseiri diweithdra'r

unemployment in the 1980s. However, even they must accept the merit of the recently announced £35 million-worth ReACT package to help workers who lose their jobs to return to work. That scheme will help more than 12,000 people, by paying for their training, including the travel and accommodation costs incurred in accessing training. The amendment also refers to housing waiting lists, but the Government is acting on that by releasing land on which 6,500 affordable homes can be built. The Government is also actively engaged with housing associations to look at more innovative ways of creating more affordable homes.

On amendment 3, there is no need for the Conservatives to remind the Government of its responsibilities to help families to meet the pressures of childcare costs. 'One Wales' clearly states that the Government will work alongside the Department for Work and Pensions to introduce innovative programmes to help people back into work, such as the Careers Ladders Wales programme, and to provide extra support for childcare costs. The Conservatives will also be aware that the Government is already committed to progressing the provision of universal, affordable childcare by providing additional support during this third Assembly.

I gloi, tra wyf yn datgan fy niolch i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am gyflwyno dadl amserol a phwysig, yr ydym ym Mhlaid Cymru yn ymwrthod â'r ensyniad nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn gwneud digon i ymateb i'r sefyllfa economaidd bresennol.

Eleanor Burnham: It is not just about the One Wales Government, but also about what is going on in the UK economy, with general taxation and interest rates, though they have come down. Therefore, there are other players beyond those here whom we need to work with and persuade that these desperate times call for desperate measures. I have some stark facts. On average, each indebted person in Wales has £22,705 of unsecured debt. That is frightening. Private sector employment in Wales declined for the twelfth consecutive month in September, declining faster in Wales compared with other UK

1980au. Fodd bynnag, rhaid iddynt hwy hyd yn oed dderbyn rhinwedd y pecyn ReACT gwerth £35 miliwn a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar i helpu gweithwyr sy'n colli eu swyddi i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith. Bydd y cynllun hwnnw'n helpu dros 12,000 o bobl, drwy dalu am eu hyfforddiant, gan gynnwys y costau teithio a llety y mae'n rhaid iddynt eu talu i allu cael hyfforddiant. Cyfeiria'r gwelliant hefyd at restrau aros am dai, ond mae'r Llywodraeth yn gweithredu ar hynny drwy ryddhau tir lle y gellir adeiladu 6,500 o dai fforddiadwy. Mae'r Llywodraeth hefyd yn ymgysylltu â chymdeithasau tai i edrych ar ffyrdd mwy arloesol o greu tai mwy fforddiadwy.

O ran gwelliant 3, nid oes angen i'r Ceidwadwyr atgoffa'r Llywodraeth o'i chyfrifoldebau i helpu teuluoedd i ysgwyddo pwysau costau gofal plant. Dywed 'Cymru'n Un' yn glir y bydd y Llywodraeth yn gweithio ochr yn ochr â'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau i gyflwyno rhaglenni arloesol i helpu pobl i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith, fel y rhaglen Grisiau Gyrfa Cymru, ac i ddarparu cymorth ychwanegol gyda chostau gofal plant. Bydd y Ceidwadwyr hefyd yn gwybod bod y Llywodraeth eisoes wedi ymrwmo i fynd ar drywydd darpariaeth gofal plant fforddiadwy, cyffredinol drwy ddarparu cymorth ychwanegol yn ystod y trydydd Cynulliad hwn.

In conclusion, though I thank the Liberal Democrats for bringing forward this timely and important debate, we in Plaid Cymru reject the insinuation that the One Wales Government is failing to do enough to respond to the current economic situation.

Eleanor Burnham: Yn ogystal ag ymwneud â Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un, mae a wnelo hyn hefyd â'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn economi'r DU, gyda threthiant cyffredinol a chyfraddau llog, er eu bod wedi gostwng. Felly, mae yna bobl eraill y tu hwnt i'r rhai sydd yma y mae angen inni weithio gyda hwy a'u darbwylllo ei bod yn rhaid cymryd camau enbyd mewn amseroedd enbyd. Mae gennyf ffeithiau brawychus. Ar gyfartaledd, mae gan bob unigolyn sydd mewn dyled yng Nghymru ddyled heb ei diogelu o £22,705. Mae hynny'n frawychus. Gostyngodd cyflogaeth yn y sector preifat yng Nghymru

regions.

I urge the Welsh Assembly Government to speed up all its payments, as the Deputy First Minister has said it will do, and also to put pressure on the companies that I mentioned before, including Tesco, which must be deterred from withholding payment for non-food supplies, if that is a fact. I understand from my reading that it intends to do that for 60 days. Thirty days is bad enough, but to make small businesses and others wait 60 days is scandalous, particularly in view of the huge global power and importance of companies such as Tesco.

The number of employee jobs in Wales fell by 13,000 between June 2007 and June 2008, and the number in manufacturing fell by 4,000. This situation is very serious, and that is why we have brought this subject forward for debate. Not only has the economy been declining for an extended period, but now recession has been declared and there is even greater unemployment. On 15 October, Media Wales reported that unemployment in Wales rose by 10,000, peaking at 85,000. That quarterly increase was the highest since the summer of 1991, when it jumped 186,000.

Even in the public sector, jobs are not necessarily safe. Even the wonderful North Wales Police is faced with the possibility of having to shed up to 73 police officers, because of a lack of funding. As Kirsty mentioned, and as Jenny highlighted in the Conservatives' debate, the need to fund local authorities properly is more obvious than ever. North Wales councils and the police face an impossible decision: to increase the police precept and put up council tax, or lose those 73 jobs.

The Welsh Assembly Government must step in and take some responsibility, because, in a recession, when everyday necessities are unaffordable—Mick just mentioned fuel poverty—and when people face negative

am y deuddegfed mis yn olynol ym mis Medi, ac mae'n gostwng yn gyflymach yng Nghymru o'i chymharu â rhanbarthau eraill y DU.

Pwysaf ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gyflymu ei holl daliadau, fel y dywedodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog y bydd yn ei wneud, a hefyd i roi pwysau ar y cwmnïau y soniais amdanynt yn gynharach, gan gynnwys Tesco. Rhaid ei rwystro rhag atal taliadau am gyflenwadau nad ydynt yn fwyd, os yw hynny'n wir. O'r hyn a ddarllenais, deallaf ei fod yn bwriadu gwneud hynny am 60 niwrnod. Mae 30 niwrnod yn ddigon gwael, ond mae gwneud i fusnesau bach ac eraill aros 60 niwrnod yn warthus, yn arbennig o gofio pŵer a phwysigrwydd byd-eang enfawr cwmnïau fel Tesco.

Bu gostyngiad o 13,000 yn nifer y swyddi cyflog yng Nghymru rhwng Mehefin 2007 a Gorffennaf 2008, a bu gostyngiad o 4,000 yn nifer y swyddi gweithgynhyrchu. Mae'r sefyllfa hon yn ddifrifol iawn, a dyna pam yr ydym wedi cyflwyno'r pwnc hwn ar gyfer dadl. Yn ogystal â'r ffaith fod yr economi wedi bod yn dirywio am gyfnod maith, cyhoeddwyd ei bod yn ddirwasgiad ac mae mwy byth o ddiweithdra. Ar 15 Hydref, adroddodd Media Wales fod cynnydd o 10,000 mewn diweithdra yng Nghymru, gan gyrraedd cyfanswm o 85,000. Y cynnydd chwarterol hwnnw oedd yr uchaf ers yr haf 1991, pan welwyd naid o 186,000.

Hyd yn oed yn y sector cyhoeddus, nid yw swyddi'n ddiogel o anghenraid. Mae hyd yn oed Heddlu gwyh Gogledd Cymru yn wynebu'r posibilrwydd o orfod diswyddo hyd at 73 o swyddogion heddlu oherwydd diffyg arian. Fel y soniodd Kirsty, ac fel yr amlygodd Jenny yn nadl y Ceidwadwyr, mae'r angen i ariannu awdurdodau lleol yn briodol yn fwy amlwg nag erioed. Mae cynghorau'r gogledd a'r heddlu yn wynebu penderfyniad amhosibl: cynyddu presenoldeb yr heddlu a chodi'r dreth gyngor, ynteu golli 73 o swyddi.

Rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad gamu i mewn a chymryd ychydig gyfrifoldeb, oherwydd, mewn dirwasgiad, pan na ellir fforddio pethau beunyddiol angenrheidiol—soniodd Mick am dlodi tanwydd gynnau—a

equity in relation to the value of their homes and may be threatened with unemployment, it is not the time to be putting up council tax. However, the Welsh Assembly Government can help to avoid the situation by funding local authorities properly.

The Liberal Democrats have outlined their plans for the economy. We are most grateful to our wonderful guru, Vince Cable, and others who have called for serious cuts in interest rates. That was finally heeded by the Bank of England. We have also proposed a 4p cut in the basic rate of income tax to help those on low and middle incomes. That is necessary to help people through the recession, to stimulate spending, and to encourage economic growth.

These are matters over which the Assembly does not have power, as I mentioned earlier, but Wales is one of the poorest regions in the UK and we will feel the effects more than the south-east or the south-west of England. The Welsh Assembly Government needs to make representations to colleagues in Westminster to ensure that the UK Government adopts fiscal measures that will benefit Wales. What representations have been made? None, as far as we can tell. The Welsh Assembly Government seems content to leave the UK Government to get on with this. We must have a strong lobbying position. At the very least, it will show the people of Wales that we care and that we are trying to help them through the recession, even if, ultimately, our hands are tied. I agree with Huw Lewis, who mentioned the urgent need to help with infrastructure at this time. The work is badly needed and it would also help to reinvigorate the Welsh economy.

David Melding: I shall speak to amendment 1; my colleague, Mark Isherwood, has formally proposed it. The amendment is on the need to support SMEs at this time of economic difficulty, or even crisis. We need to look at the policy on business rates and perhaps emulate the practice in Scotland. I do not agree with Gareth Jones that the current scheme is the best that we can do. I also think that—

phan fydd pobl yn wynebu sefyllfa lle nad yw eu tai'n werth cymaint â'u morgais, a chwmwl diweithdra'n bygwth o bosibl, nid dyma'r adeg i godi'r dreth gyngor. Fodd bynnag, gall Llywodraeth y Cynulliad helpu osgoi'r sefyllfa drwy ariannu awdurdodau lleol yn iawn.

Mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi rhoi braslun o'u cynlluniau ar gyfer yr economi. Yr ydym yn ddiolchgar iawn i'n 'guru' gwych, Vince Cable, ac i bobl eraill sydd wedi galw am dorri cyfraddau llog yn llym. O'r diwedd, gwrandawodd Banc Lloegr ar hynny. Yr ydym hefyd wedi cynnig toriad o 4c yng nghyfradd sylfaenol y dreth incwm i helpu'r rheini sy'n ennill incwm isel a chanolig. Mae angen hynny er mwyn helpu pobl drwy'r dirwasgiad, i sbarduno gwario, ac i annog twf economaidd.

Mae'r rhain yn faterion nad oes gan y Cynulliad rym drostynt, fel y crybwyllais gynnau, ond Cymru yw un o ranbarthau tlotaf y DU a byddwn yn teimlo'r effeithiau'n fwy nag y bydd de-ddwyrain neu dde-orllewin Lloegr. Mae angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad gyflwyno sylwadau i'w cymheiriaid yn San Steffan i sicrhau bod Llywodraeth y DU yn mabwysiadu mesurau ariannol a fydd yn llesol i Gymru. Pa sylwadau sydd wedi'u cyflwyno? Dim, hyd y gwelwn ni. I bob golwg, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn fodlon gadael i Lywodraeth y DU fwrw ymlaen â hyn. Rhaid inni gael safbwynt lobio cadarn. O leiaf bydd yn dangos i bobl Cymru bod ots gennym a'n bod yn ceisio'u helpu drwy'r dirwasgiad, hyd yn oed os yw ein dwylo wedi'u clymu yn y pen draw. Cytunaf â Huw Lewis, a ddywedodd fod angen cymorth ar frys gyda'r seilwaith ar hyn o bryd. Mae mawr angen y gwaith, a byddai hefyd yn gymorth i adfywio economi Cymru.

David Melding: Siaradaf o blaid gwelliant 1. Mae fy nghyd-Aelod, Mark Isherwood, wedi'i gynnig yn ffurfiol. Mae'r gwelliant yn dweud bod angen cefnogi Busnesau Bach a Chanolig yn y cyfnod economaidd anodd hwn, neu'r argyfwng hwn, hyd yn oed. Mae angen inni edrych ar y polisi ar gyfer ardrethi busnes, ac efallai y dylem ddilyn yr hyn a wneir yn yr Alban. Nid wyf yn cytuno â Gareth Jones mai'r cynllun presennol yw'r gorau y gallwn ei wneud. Credaf hefyd—

Gareth Jones: Will you accept an intervention?

Gareth Jones: A wnewch ganiatáu imi ymyrryd?

The Presiding Officer: He has only just begun.

Y Llywydd: Megis dechrau y mae.

David Melding: As I have mentioned Gareth by name, I will take the intervention.

David Melding: Gan imi grybwyll Gareth wrth ei enw, caniatâf iddo ymyrryd.

Gareth Jones: I would like to offer a quick reminder that it was the Conservative Party that introduced business rates, this very regressive, pernicious form of taxation.

Gareth Jones: Hoffwn eich atgoffa'n gyflym mai'r Blaid Geidwadol a gyflwynodd yr ardrethi busnes, y dull atchwelol a dinistrol iawn hon o drethu.

David Melding: The Conservative Party did introduce the council tax and reformed business rates. Most people think that the current system is better than the one that we had before that, when businesses were subject to huge variations in charges. We have spent a long time in Government, Gareth, so of course people can pick over our record and examine it, as we must examine the record of the current Government and what it is doing. I challenge the Welsh Assembly Government to take up this issue of relief on empty properties. We could do it ourselves, but it would be too expensive because of Treasury rules. Therefore, you need to negotiate with your colleagues in the Treasury to try to sort something out. The Confederation of British Industry is keen that we see that relief, which it calls a tax, on empty properties and for those businesses that, for whatever reason, are not doing as well as they should because of the recession and are having to vacate premises. That is very important.

David Melding: Mae'n wir mai'r Blaid Geidwadol a gyflwynodd y dreth gyngor ac a ddiwygiodd ardrethi busnes. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn credu bod y drefn bresennol yn well na'r un a oedd gennym gynt, pan oedd y dreth a godid ar fusnesau'n amrywio'n enfawr. Yr ydym wedi treulio amser hir yn llywodraethu, Gareth, felly, wrth gwrs, gall pobl bori'n ofalus drwy ein gwaith a'i archwilio, fel y mae'n rhaid i ninnau archwilio gwaith y Llywodraeth bresennol a'r hyn y mae'n ei wneud. Heriaf Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn ynglŷn â rhyddhad ar eiddo gwag. Gallen ei wneud ein hunain, ond byddai'n rhy ddrud oherwydd rheolau'r Trysorlys. Felly, mae angen ichi drafod gyda'ch cymheiriaid yn y Trysorlys i geisio cael rhyw ateb. Mae Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain yn awyddus inni weld y rhyddhad hwnnw, y mae'n ei alw'n dreth, ar eiddo gwag ac ar y busnesau hynny nad ydynt, am ba reswm bynnag, yn gwneud cystal ag y dylent oherwydd y dirwasgiad ac yn gorfod ymadael ag eiddo. Mae hynny'n bwysig iawn.

I will not labour the point about procurement, but improving practices and increasing the amount of goods procured locally will have a big impact on the local economy, which is very important. It is also important that we keep up good practice. Training procurement officers is important so that they see the needs of local businesses in their area. Undoubtedly, what small businesses need more than anything else is access to credit and finance. That is the lifeblood of business. Cash-flow problems are inevitable in business. It is difficult to manage without

Nid wyf am rygnu ymlaen ynglŷn â chaffael, ond bydd gwella arferion a phrynu mwy o nwyddau yn lleol yn cael effaith fawr ar yr economi leol, sy'n bwysig iawn. Mae'n bwysig hefyd inni gynnal arferion da. Mae hyfforddi swyddogion caffael yn bwysig er mwyn iddynt weld anghenion busnesau lleol yn eu hardal. Yn ddiamau, yr hyn y mae ei angen ar fusnesau bach, yn anad dim, yw ffordd i allu cael credyd ac arian. Dyna yw anadl einioes busnes. Mae problemau llif arian yn anochel mewn busnes. Mae'n anodd ei reoli heb yr hyn y gallech ddiybnu arno

what you could rely on in the past to be available at a fair price. It is a shocking time and great difficulties are being faced by viable, robust companies through no fault of their own. I will welcome the JEREMIE funds when they come through, which will help, as will Finance Wales and our fair share of the money that the UK will receive from the European Investment Bank—I think that £4 billion will come through. That will be channelled through the commercial banks into small businesses. I was relieved to hear the Deputy First Minister say yesterday that we expect our pro rata share of that money.

4.50 p.m.

We must prepare for a deeper and nastier recession than looked likely even as recently as the summer. It will affect economies across the western world, and there is evidence, as Mark Isherwood pointed out, that the position is particularly aggravated in Britain. We must therefore prepare for the serious challenges that we face.

Today's unemployment figures give pause for profound thought. They are just incredible; who would have thought that, in absolute terms, let alone relative terms, Wales would suffer the biggest increase in unemployment? Gareth Jones mentioned the 12,000 people being helped by the ReACT programme, but that is just half the number of people made unemployed in the last quarter: 24,000 people lost their jobs in the last quarter. That is sobering, and we need to redouble our efforts.

As a responsible opposition, we need to support the Welsh Assembly Government when it takes a hard look at its existing strategies. It is not always easy to tweak things, but we need to think creatively and do as much as we can to help the country through the recession. We will not avoid recession—it will take its course. However, we could get things wrong and make it worse, and we must ensure that we do not do so.

We can offer significant help to companies to help them survive, and then to take advantage

yn y gorffennol a gwybod y byddai ar gael am bris teg. Mae'n gyfnod arswydus ac mae cwmnïau hyfyw, cadarn yn wynebu anawsterau mawr heb fod ar fai o gwbl eu hunain. Byddaf yn croesawu cronfeydd JEREMIE pan ddônt. Bydd y rhain yn gymorth, ac felly hefyd Cyllid Cymru a'n cyfran deg o'r arian a gaiff y DU gan Fanc Buddsoddi Ewrop—credaf y daw £4 biliwn drwodd. Sianelir hynny drwy'r banciau masnachol i fusnesau bychain. Yr oedd yn rhyddhad clywed y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn dweud ddoe ein bod yn disgwyl ein cyfran pro rata o'r arian hwnnw.

Rhaid inni baratoi ar gyfer dirwasgiad dyfnach a mileiniach nag y byddai neb wedi'i ddisgwyl hyd yn oed mor ddiweddar â'r haf. Bydd yn effeithio ar economïau ar draws y byd gorllewinol, ac mae tystiolaeth, fel y tynnodd Mark Isherwood sylw ati, fod y sefyllfa'n arbennig o gythryblus ym Mhrydain. Felly, rhaid inni baratoi ar gyfer yr anawsterau difrifol sydd ar y gorwel.

Mae ffigurau diweithdra heddiw'n gofyn inni bwylllo a meddwl yn ddwys. Maent yn hollol anghredadwy; pwy fyddai wedi dychmygu y byddai Cymru'n dioddef y cynnydd absoliwt mwyaf mewn diweithdra, heb sôn am y cynnydd cymharol? Soniodd Gareth Jones am y 12,000 o bobl sy'n cael cymorth gan raglen ReACT, ond dim ond hanner y nifer a gollodd eu gwaith yn ystod y chwarter diwethaf yw hynny: colodd 24,000 o bobl eu swyddi yn y chwarter diwethaf. Mae hynny'n sobri rhywun, ac mae angen inni gryfhau ein hymdrechion.

Fel gwrthblaid gyfrifol, mae angen inni gefnogi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad pan fydd yn edrych yn ofalus ar ei strategaethau presennol. Nid yw bob amser yn hawdd addasu pethau, ond mae angen inni feddwl yn greadigol a gwneud cymaint ag y gallwn i gynorthwyo'r wlad drwy'r dirwasgiad. Ni allwn osgoi'r dirwasgiad—bydd yn dilyn ei hynt. Fodd bynnag, gallem wneud y pethau anghywir a gwneud pethau'n waeth a rhaid inni sicrhau na fyddwn yn gwneud hynny.

Gallwn gynnig cymorth sylweddol i gwmnïau i'w helpu drwy hyn, ac yna i

of the upturn, when it comes. It is a task for everyone in this National Assembly for Wales, and I therefore welcome this debate, proposed by the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

The Presiding Officer: Jeff Cuthbert, I am afraid you have two and a half minutes.

Jeff Cuthbert: The current global financial crisis gripping the UK is unlike any financial recession in living memory. With the world being more of a global community than ever before, it is hard to see an easy answer to our woes. Although I am not here to promote the beliefs of John Maynard Keynes, or any other economist, I would like to throw my support behind the Prime Minister and First Minister's response to the growing problems.

Just this week we have seen the loss of more jobs to the financial crisis; something that I hope will not become a regular occurrence. There are, however, a few glimmers of light in the growing gloom: banks are starting to pass on the interest rate cut to their customers, and here in Wales we are working with businesses and other organisations to enhance the small business rate relief scheme. Also, the European structural funds, which were once rejected by the Conservatives, can play a major role in alleviating current hardships. Recently, we saw the Genesis 2 project come into effect. It is an initiative that was awarded total funding of £70 million and is aimed at getting traditionally excluded people, such as single mothers, back into employment.

Overall the infrastructure projects and the physical capital spending that will come out of this money will doubtless have far reaching benefits, as we seek to bring these parts of Wales in line with the EU average and create sustainable jobs, with long-term economic growth. However, it is how this funding translates into tangible benefits for people that interests me. More precisely, how will the structural funds be invested in programmes that boost skill levels and increase the long-term employability and job prospects for people such as those in my constituency?

fanteisio ar y don, pan ddaw. Mae'n dasg i bawb yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol hwn, ac felly croesawaf y ddadl hon a gynigir gan Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru.

Y Llywydd: Jeff Cuthbert, mae arnaf ofn mai dwy funud a hanner sydd gennych.

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae'r argyfwng ariannol byd-eang sydd â'i grafangau yn y DU yn annhebyg i unrhyw ddirwasgiad ariannol o fewn cof. Gan fod y byd yn fwy o gymuned fyd-eang nag erioed o'r blaen, mae'n anodd gweld ateb rhwydd i'n gwewyr. Er nad wyf yma i hyrwyddo credoau John Maynard Keynes, na chredoau'r un economegydd arall, hoffwn gynnig fy nghefnogaeth i ymateb Prif Weinidog Prydain a Phrif Weinidog Cymru i'r problemau cynyddol.

Yr wythnos hon yn unig, gwelsom golli mwy o swyddi yn sgil yr argyfwng ariannol; a gobeithio na ddaw hyn yn ddigwyddiad rheolaidd. Fodd bynnag, mae ambell lygedyn o oleuni'n dod drwy'r caddug cynyddol: mae banciau'n dechrau trosglwyddo'r gostyngiad yn y gyfradd llog i'w cwsmeriaid, ac yma yng Nghymru yr ydym yn gweithio gyda busnesau a sefydliadau eraill i wella'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi i fusnesau bach. Hefyd, gall cronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop, a wrthodid ar un adeg gan y Ceidwadwyr, chwarae rhan bwysig i liniaru'r caledi presennol. Yn ddiweddar, gwelsom brosiect Genesis 2 yn cael ei roi ar waith. Cynllun ydyw y dyfarnwyd cyfanswm o £70 miliwn iddo gyda'r nod o gael pobl sydd fel rheol yn cael eu hallgáu, megis mamau sengl, i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith.

Yn gyffredinol, bydd y prosiectau seilwaith a'r gwariant cyfalaf ffisegol a ddaw yn sgil yr arian hwn yn ddiamau yn arwain at fanteision pellgyrhaeddol, wrth inni geisio sicrhau bod y rhannau hyn o Gymru yn gyson â'r cyfartaledd yn yr UE a chreu swyddi cynaliadwy, ynghyd â thwf economaidd tymor hir. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn sydd o ddiddordeb i mi yw sut mae'r ariannu hwn yn troi'n fuddiannau gwirioneddol i bobl. Yn fwy penodol, sut y buddsoddir y cronfeydd strwythurol mewn rhaglenni sy'n hybu lefelau sgiliau ac yn cynyddu cyflogadwyedd tymor hir a rhagolygon swyddi i bobl fel y rheini yn fy etholaeth i?

On that note, I welcome the announcements so far this year—such as the £60 million SkillBuild project, which will help more than 20,000 people across the convergence areas back into work; the continuation of the successful Want to Work project, which will commit £32 million to helping those on incapacity benefits back into work; the new modern apprenticeship world-class skills project, which will make more than 14,000 training places available in convergence areas through ESF funding; and the recent announcement that five local authorities in west Wales are coming together to provide a flexible business support scheme, backed by £8.9 million of European money.

Finally, the co-ordinated activity of the Welsh Assembly Government, the Labour Government in Westminster, and of the wider world, along with schemes delivered by European structural funds, will help to bring us out of the financial doldrums while helping those who need it most. Interest rates, after all, are at a 50-year low; not above 15 per cent, as they were under the last Tory Government.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you for being brief; that was helpful.

The Deputy Minister for Regeneration (Leighton Andrews): These are serious times and I think that we all recognise the depth of the crisis in the global economy and how that is now starting to impact on the Welsh economy, as it has over the last quarter.

The unemployment figures that we have seen today are disappointing and devastating to the individuals and families affected. The Welsh Assembly Government is seeking to develop, alongside business and industry in Wales, an approach, within the limits of the powers that we have available, to mitigate the effects of what is a profound global crisis. When the governor of the Bank of England says that this is the gravest crisis in the banking industry since the first world war, and when

Ar y nodyn hwnnw, croesawaf y cyhoeddiadau cyn belled eleni—megis y prosiect Adeiladu Sgiliau gwerth £60 miliwn, a fydd yn cynorthwyo dros 20,000 o bobl ar draws yr ardaloedd cydgyfeirio i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith; parhad y prosiect llwyddiannus Yn Awyddus i Weithio, a fydd yn ymrwymo £32 miliwn i gynorthwyo pobl sy'n cael budd-daliadau analluogrwydd i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith; prosiect newydd y brentisiaeth fodern i sicrhau sgiliau gyda'r gorau yn y byd a fydd yn darparu dros 14,000 o leoedd hyfforddi mewn ardaloedd cydgyfeirio drwy gyfrwng arian Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop; a'r cyhoeddiad yn ddiweddar fod pum awdurdod lleol yn y gorllewin yn dod at ei gilydd i ddarparu cynllun cymorth hyblyg i fusnesau gydag £8.9 miliwn o arian Ewrop yn gefn iddynt.

Yn olaf, bydd gweithgarwech cydlynol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, y Llywodraeth Lafur yn San Steffan, a'r byd ehangach, ynghyd â'r cynlluniau a ddarperir drwy gronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop, yn gymorth i'n tywys o'r iselder ariannol gan helpu'r rheini y mae angen y cymorth arnynt fwyaf. Wedi'r cyfan, mae cyfraddau llog yn is nag y buont ers 50 mlynedd; nid dros 15 y cant, fel yr oeddent dan y Llywodraeth Doriaidd ddiwethaf.

Y Llywydd: Diolch ichi am fod yn gryno; yr oedd hynny'n gymorth.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio (Leighton Andrews): Mae'n gyfnod difrifol, a chredaf ein bod i gyd yn cydnabod dyfnder yr argyfwng yn yr economi fyd-eang a sut y mae hynny'n dechrau effeithio ar economi Cymru, fel y mae wedi ei wneud dros y chwarter diwethaf.

Mae'r ffigurau diweithdra a welsom heddiw yn siomedig ac yn ddinistriol i'r unigolion a'r teuluoedd yr effeithir arnynt. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ceisio datblygu, ochr yn ochr â busnes a diwydiant yng Nghymru, o fewn terfynau'r pwerau sydd ar gael inni, ffyrdd i liniaru effeithiau'r hyn sy'n argyfwng byd-eang dwys. Pan ddywed llywodraethwr Banc Lloegr mai dyma'r argyfwng mwyaf difrifol yn y diwydiant bancio ers y rhyfel byd cyntaf, a phan fydd

interest rates are slashed to 3 per cent, you can see the scale of the problem. That is why we have embarked on the economic-summit approach in Wales, which, it is worth reminding Members, has been led by the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister along with the Secretary of State for Wales. In other words, we are precisely plugged into the national economic council that the Prime Minister has convened, and the approach that we are taking is being taken forward in that context.

We will not support the motion today, but we are anxious to pursue discussions with the opposition parties and to share any information that we can with them. As has been acknowledged already in this debate, the Deputy First Minister has met David Melding and Kirsty Williams to discuss the approach that is being adopted.

We have acted to establish a mortgage rescue scheme—and I think that we are among the first in the UK to do that—but we realise that there is more that can be done. As I said, we are working with industry and business to take this forward. As you will have seen from the communiqué from the second economic summit, we are taking forward a range of measures in a number of different areas, under different headings—on procurement, infrastructure, housing, energy efficiency, skills training, the funding of business and business and property rates. Many of those issues have been picked up by speakers in the Chamber today.

I will now turn to the amendments tabled by the Welsh Conservatives. They are worded in such a way that we cannot support them. On amendment 1, we know that business rates are a key issue for businesses, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, and the issue has been discussed at both economic summits. However, it is too simplistic just to call for more relief. The cost implications and the implementation need to be through carefully. Gareth Jones rightly pointed out that we have already announced enhancements to the small business rate relief scheme, which has taken the total relief given to £20 million. We have undertaken to continue discussions with our stakeholders

cyfraddau llog yn cael eu torri i dri y cant, gallwch weld maint y broblem. Dyna pam yr ydym wedi mynd ati i gynnal yr uwchgynadleddau economaidd yng Nghymru, sydd, mae'n werth atgoffa'r Aelodau, wedi'u harwain gan y Prif Weinidog a'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ynghyd ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru. Mewn geiriau eraill, mae gennym gysylltiad penodol â'r cyngor economaidd cenedlaethol y mae Prif Weinidog Prydain wedi'i gynnwll, ac yn y cyd-destun hwnnw y byddwn yn bwrw ymlaen â'n gwaith.

Ni fyddwn yn cefnogi'r cynnig heddiw, ond yr ydym yn awyddus i barhau i drafod gyda'r gwrthbleidiau ac i rannu unrhyw wybodaeth a allwn gyda hwy. Fel y cydnabuwyd eisoes yn y ddadl hon, mae'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wedi cyfarfod â David Melding a Kirsty Williams i drafod sut y byddwn yn mynd ati.

Yr ydym wedi gweithredu i sefydlu cynllun achub morgeisi—a chredaf ein bod ymhlith y cyntaf yn y DU i wneud hynny—ond sylweddolwn y gellir gwneud rhagor. Fel y dywedais, yr ydym yn gweithio gyda diwydiant a busnesau i fwrw ymlaen â hyn. Fel y byddwch wedi'i weld yn y papur sy'n deillio o'r ail uwchgynhadledd economaidd, yr ydym yn bwrw ymlaen ag amrywiaeth o gamau mewn nifer o wahanol feysydd, dan wahanol benawdau—ar gaffael, seilwaith, tai, effeithlonrwydd ynni, hyfforddiant sgiliau, ariannu busnesau ac ardrethi busnes ac eiddo. Cyfeiriwyd at nifer o'r materion hynny heddiw gan siaradwyr yn y Siambr.

Trof yn awr at y gwelliannau a gyflwynwyd gan y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig. Maent wedi eu geirio yn y fath fodd fel na allwn eu cefnogi. O ran gwelliant 1, gwyddom fod ardrethi busnes yn fater allweddol i fusnesau, yn enwedig i fusnesau bach a chanolig, ac mae hyn wedi'i drafod yn y ddwy uwchgynhadledd economaidd. Fodd bynnag, gorsymleiddio'r sefyllfa yw galw am fwy o ryddhad a dyna'i gyd. Mae angen meddwl yn ofalus am y goblygiadau o ran costau ac o ran gweithredu'r cynllun. Yr oedd Gareth Jones yn llygad ei le yn tynnu sylw at y ffaith ein bod eisoes wedi cyhoeddi gwelliannau yn y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi i fusnesau bychain. Mae hyn yn golygu bod cyfanswm y

and to work closely with the UK Government on that.

We cannot support amendment 2, which expresses concern about economic inactivity, child poverty and housing waiting lists, because although they remain important issues, we have already taken action on each of them. In the long term, the key to addressing economic inactivity remains our ability to continue to help economically inactive people to address low skills and other barriers to work, as we do through programmes such as Job Match. However, in the current context, we will have to look at the shorter-term actions that we can take in response to changes in the labour market.

Similarly, there has been progress on reducing child poverty in Wales since devolution—it is down from 35 per cent in 1999-2000 to 29 per cent in 2006-07—and relative poverty rates for children in Wales remain below the English average and are lower than in those regions of England with a similar socioeconomic make-up. There are further provisions in 'One Wales', including addressing the issue of financial inclusion, which Huw Lewis rightly raised as an important issue.

On housing, we have an action plan to alleviate the pressure on people at risk of homelessness through the mortgage rescue scheme that I mentioned, and the continuation of our homelessness grant programme. The Deputy Minister for Housing has said that she will be publishing the draft consultation on the 10-year homelessness plan tomorrow, and I welcome many of the comments that Peter Black made with regard to the policies that are already being undertaken.

We will not support amendment 3 on childcare as the Assembly Government is already working to improve the economic activity of the people in Wales by delivering the action set out in the childcare strategy for Wales with initiatives such as the Genesis

rhyddhad a roddir wedi codi i £20 miliwn. Yr ydym wedi addo parhau i drafod gyda'n rhanddeiliaid ac i weithio'n agos gyda Llywodraeth y DU ar hynny.

Ni allwn gefnogi gwelliant 2, sy'n mynegi pryder ynglŷn ag anweithgarwch economaidd, tlodi plant a rhestri aros am dai, oherwydd, er eu bod yn dal yn faterion pwysig, yr ydym eisoes wedi cymryd camau ym mhob un o'r meysydd hyn. Yn y tymor hir, yr allwedd i fynd i'r afael ag anweithgarwch economaidd o hyd fydd ein gallu i barhau i helpu pobl economaidd anweithgar i fynd i'r afael â diffyg sgiliau a rhwystrau eraill sy'n eu hatal rhag cael gwaith, fel yr ydym yn ei wneud drwy gyfrwng rhaglenni megis Paru Swyddi. Fodd bynnag, yn y cyd-destun presennol, bydd yn rhaid inni edrych ar y camau mwy tymor byr y gallwn eu cymryd i ymateb i newidiadau yn y farchnad lafur.

Yn yr un modd, bu cynnydd i leihau tlodi plant yng Nghymru ers datganoli—mae wedi gostwng o 35 y cant yn 1999-2000 i 29 y cant yn 2006-07—ac mae'r cyfraddau tlodi plant yng Nghymru yn dal yn is na'r cyfartaledd yn Lloegr ac yn is nag yn y rhanbarthau hynny yn Lloegr sy'n debyg o ran eu cyfansoddiad cymdeithasol-economaidd. Mae rhagor o ddarpariaethau yn 'Cymru'n Un', gan gynnwys mynd i'r afael â chynhwysiant ariannol. Yr oedd Huw Lewis yn llygad ei le yn dweud bod hwnnw'n bwnc pwysig.

O ran tai, mae gennym gynllun gweithredu i leddfu'r pwysau ar bobl sydd mewn perygl o golli eu cartref drwy'r cynllun achub morgesi y soniais amdano, a thrwy barhau â'n rhaglen grantiau digartrefedd. Mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai wedi dweud y bydd yn cyhoeddi yfory yr ymgynghoriad drafft ar y cynllun digartrefedd 10-mlynedd, a chroesawaf lawer o'r sylwadau a wnaeth Peter Black ynglŷn â'r polisiau sydd ar y gweill eisoes.

Ni fyddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 3 ynglŷn â gofal plant gan fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad eisoes yn gweithio i wella gweithgarwch economaidd pobl Cymru drwy roi'r camau a ddisgrifir yn strategaeth gofal plant Cymru ar waith gyda chynlluniau megis rhaglen

programme and its successor, which was launched at the beginning of last month. We continue to work with local authorities, private and voluntary sector childcare providers and others, to develop those programmes.

5.00 p.m.

Andrew R.T. Davies: On childcare, you should be aware of an issue that has arisen in Cardiff and the Vale—the First Minister will be aware of it—about the provision of Assembly-sponsored childcare. The rigidity of that sponsorship is curtailing the ability of families to draw down funding, because they are told that they have to go to certain childcare providers and they are not able to pick the childcare provider that best suits their individual needs. Would you not agree that there is scope to improve the delivery of childcare in these challenging times, which would also provide better job security for parents?

Leighton Andrews: As I said, we are investing significantly in childcare through the Genesis programme and others. I am sure that the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills has heard what you said and if you have any further points to raise, I am sure that you could write to her and that she will respond.

It is fair to say that the quality of the engagement at the economic summits—I attended the first; I was not able to attend the second—has been very significant. It is significant to see the Wales Trades Union Congress and the Confederation of British Industry Wales working together so closely. It was significant to see the high quality of the representation from private sector organisations, certainly at the summit that I attended. I think that there is a genuine willingness among all sides of business and industry to work together, to do what we can in Wales to mitigate the crisis that we face.

I urge Members to reject the motion. We are working seriously with our UK Government partners to address the crisis that faces us all. This Government, building on what Labour

Genesis a'i olynnydd, a lanswyd ddechrau'r mis diwethaf. Yr ydym yn dal i gydweithio ag awdurdodau lleol, darparwyr gofal plant yn y sectorau preifat a gwirfoddol ac eraill, i ddatblygu'r rhaglenni hynny.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Ynglŷn â gofal plant, dylech fod yn ymwybodol o fater sydd wedi codi yng Nghaerdydd a'r Fro—bydd y Prif Weinidog yn ymwybodol ohono—ynghylch darparu gofal plant dan nawdd y Cynulliad. Mae anystwythder y nawdd hwnnw'n cyfyngu gallu teuluoedd i gael cyllid, oherwydd dywedir wrthynt ei bod yn rhaid iddynt fynd at ddarparwyr gofal plant penodol, ac ni chânt ddewis y darparwr gofal plant sydd fwyaf addas at eu hanghenion neilltuol hwy. Oni chytunech fod lle i wella'r ffordd o ddarparu gofal plant yn y cyfnod anodd hwn, a fyddai hefyd yn cynnig gwell diogelwch swyddi i rieni?

Leighton Andrews: Fel y dywedais, yr ydym yn buddsoddi'n helaeth mewn gofal plant drwy raglen Genesis a rhaglenni eraill. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau wedi clywed yr hyn a ddywedasoch, ac os oes gennych unrhyw bwyntiau pellach i'w codi, yr wyf yn siŵr y gallech ysgrifennu ati ac y bydd hi'n ymateb.

Mae'n deg dweud bod ansawdd yr ymgysylltu yn yr uwchgynadledau economaidd—yr oeddwn yn yr un gyntaf; ond ni allwn fod yn yr ail un—wedi bod yn arwyddocaol iawn. Mae'n arwyddocaol gweld Cyngres Undebau Llafur Cymru a Chyddfederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain yng Nghymru yn cydweithio mor agos. Yr oedd yn arwyddocaol gweld safon uchel y gynrychiolaeth o gyrff y sector preifat, yn sicr yn yr uwchgynhadledd y bŵm i ynddi. Credaf fod gwir barodrwydd ar bob ochr i fusnes a diwydiant i gydweithio, i wneud yr hyn a allwn yng Nghymru i liniaru'r argyfwng sy'n ein hwynebu.

Anogaf Aelodau i wrthod y cynnig. Yr ydym yn cydweithio o ddifrif â'n partneriaid yn Llywodraeth y DU i ymateb i'r argyfwng sy'n ein hwynebu bob un. Mae'r

has done at Westminster since 1997 and in Wales since 1999, is providing serious leadership for serious times.

Jenny Randerson: I will start by thanking people for their contributions to this debate, which has been taken very seriously on all sides. Today's figures, with an increase of 24,000 in the last three months in the number of people who are unemployed, should really make us all pause for thought, draw breath and wonder why it is so much worse in Wales than in the rest of the UK. As our economy is disproportionately dependant on the public sector, and I have no reason to believe that the public sector has been making people unemployed, that means that the contraction of the private sector in Wales is very serious indeed, which bodes ill for the future.

It was David Melding who pointed out that the limited impact of the ReACT programme will not be able to cope with the scale of this problem. The truth is that the problem is growing so big, so fast, that the Assembly Government's efforts have been puny in comparison with the problem. Both here and in Westminster, Governments were refusing to accept that a recession was coming and that a credit crisis was looming for far too long—they have been like frightened rabbits, staring into the headlights and paralysed by the glare. The effect is that it is so much worse than it need have been. It may be a global recession, but Britain is in a particularly bad situation to deal with it. It would appear that, here in Wales, we are going to be hit even harder than the rest of the UK.

The Deputy Minister has just spoken about economic summits, but I would repeat the words of my colleague, Kirsty Williams, that it is now time for more action and less conversation. To return to the issue of business rates that the Deputy Minister referred to, the new scheme is very welcome, but in areas of high rateable value, many businesses are not benefiting from that scheme. I would remind you that those high rateable values are based on property prices that are now largely mythical, as indeed are

Llywodraeth hon, drwy adeiladu ar sail yr hyn y mae Llafur wedi'i wneud yn San Steffan er 1997 ac yng Nghymru er 1999, yn rhoi arweiniad o ddifrif mewn cyfnod anodd.

Jenny Randerson: Dechreuaf drwy ddiolch i bobl am eu cyfraniadau i'r ddaidl hon: y mae pob ochr wedi'i chymryd yn wir o ddifrif. Dylai'r ffigurau a gafwyd heddiw, gyda chynnydd o 24,000 yn y tri mis diwethaf yn nifer y di-waith, beri i bob un ohonom aros i feddwl, cymryd gwynt a meddwl tybed pam y mae'n waeth o lawer yng Nghymru nag yng ngweddill y DU. Gan fod ein heconomi'n dibynnu'n anghyfartal ar y sector cyhoeddus, ac nid oes gennyf le i gredu bod y sector cyhoeddus wedi bod yn diswyddo pobl, mae hynny'n golygu bod y crebachu yn y sector preifat yng Nghymru yn ddifrifol dros ben, ac mae hynny'n argoeli'n ddrwg at y dyfodol.

David Melding a nododd na fydd effaith gyfyngedig y rhaglen ReACT yn ddigon i ymateb i broblem o'r maint hwn. Y gwir yw bod y broblem yn tyfu mor fawr, mor gyflym, nes i ymdrechion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fod yn bitw iawn o'u cymharu â maint y broblem. Yma ac yn San Steffan yr oedd Llywodraethau'n gwrthod derbyn bod dirwasgiad ar y ffordd a bod argyfwng credyd yn bygwth am gyfnod rhy hir o lawer—maent wedi bod yn debyg braidd i gwningod ofnus, yn syllu i briflampau car a'u parlysu gan y golau llachar. Oherwydd hynny, mae'n waeth o lawer nag yr oedd angen iddo fod. Efallai mai dirwasgiad rhyngwladol ydyw, ond mae Prydain mewn sefyllfa neilltuol o wael i ddelio ag ef. Byddai'n ymddangos ein bod ni, yma yng Nghymru, i gael ein taro'n galetach hyd yn oed na gweddill y DU.

Mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog newydd sôn am uwchgynadleddau economaidd, ond hoffwn ailadrodd geiriau fy nghyd-Aelod, Kirsty Williams, ei bod bellach yn bryd cael mwy o weithredu a llai o sgwrsio. I ddychwelyd at fater trethi busnes y cyfeiriodd y Dirprwy Weinidog ato, mae'r cynllun newydd i'w groesawu'n fawr, ond mewn ardaloedd lle y mae gwerthoedd ardrethol uchel, mae llawer o fusnesau nad ydynt yn elwa o'r cynllun hwnnw. Hoffwn eich atgoffa bod y gwerthoedd ardrethol uchel hynny wedi'u

the high levels of council tax.

I want to spend a bit of time responding and agreeing, to a great extent, with Huw Lewis and his thoughtful contribution. It was a very penetrating contribution. I would agree totally about financial literacy in schools, which is something that my party has been advocating for a long time. I want to agree, very strongly, with his comments about adult learners: we are never going to dig Wales out of our skills deficit unless we fund adult learning, and do so generously and consistently.

I want to agree about banking arrangements. In the recent crisis, the revelations that we have heard about the banking industry in general should make us all look at our banking arrangements. I also want to agree about infrastructure. There are dozens of building sites around Wales that are on stop. They can be kick-started by Assembly Government funding in many cases, by bringing forward infrastructure projects, and by ensuring that housing, schools and hospitals are built now, rather than in a planned three-year or four-year period in the future.

The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery told the Finance Committee that the strategic capital investment fund is largely, if not entirely, funded by end of year flexibility. That money is locked in the Treasury—it is our unspent money from previous years. The Minister for finance also told us that there were no restrictions on how that money could be used. Therefore, why not unlock all of that end of year flexibility that is planned for the period of this One Wales Government? Why not unlock it all now, in the next six to 12 months, and build those schools and hospitals with that money, rather than waiting two or three years hence? The Welsh Assembly Government can do its bit to kick-start the Welsh economy by doing that.

It could also kick-start the Welsh economy

seilio ar brisiau eiddo sydd bellach yn chwedlonol i raddau helaeth, fel y mae lefelau uchel y dreth gyngor, yn wir.

Yr wyf am dreulio ychydig amser i ymateb i Huw Lewis a'i gyfraniad ystyriol, ac i gyd-weld ag ef gan mwyaf. Yr oedd yn gyfraniad treiddgar iawn. Byddwn yn cytuno'n llwyr ynghylch llythrennedd ariannol mewn ysgolion, sy'n rhywbeth y mae fy mhlaid wedi bod yn dadlau o'i blaid ers talwm. Dymunaf gytuno'n bendant iawn â'i sylwadau am oedolion sy'n dysgu; ni fyddwn byth yn codi Cymru o'n diffyg sgiliau os na fyddwn yn ariannu dysgu i oedolion, gan wneud hynny'n hael ac yn gyson.

Dymunaf gytuno ynghylch trefniadau bancio. Yn yr argyfwng diweddar, dylai'r datgeliadau yr ydym wedi'u clywed am y diwydiant bancio'n gyffredinol beri i bob un ohonom edrych ar ein trefniadau bancio. Yr wyf hefyd am gytuno ynghylch seilwaith. Mae dwsinau o safleoedd adeiladu o gwmpas Cymru lle y mae gwaith wedi dod i ben. Gellir cychwyn gwaith arnynt gan ddefnyddio cyllid Llywodraeth y Cynulliad mewn llawer achos, drwy ddod â phrosiectau seilwaith ymlaen, a thrwy sicrhau bod tai, ysgolion ac ysbytai'n cael eu codi'n awr, yn hytrach nag ymhen tair neu bedair blynedd fel y bwriadwyd.

Dywedodd y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus wrth y Pwyllgor Cyllid fod y gronfa buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol yn cael ei hariannu'n bennaf, os nad yn llwyr, drwy hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn. Mae'r arian hwnnw dan glo yn y Trysorlys—mae'n arian yr ydym heb ei wario o flynyddoedd blaenorol. Dywedodd y Gweinidog dros gyllid wrthym hefyd nad oedd dim cyfyngiadau ar y modd y gellid defnyddio'r arian hwnnw. Felly, beth am ddatgloi'r holl hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn hwnnw sydd wedi'i gynllunio ar gyfer oes y Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un hon? Beth am ddatgloi'r cyfan yn awr, yn y chwech i 12 mis nesaf, a chodi'r ysgolion a'r ysbytai hynny gan ddefnyddio'r arian hwnnw, yn hytrach nag aros ddwy neu dair blynedd? Gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gyfrannu at roi hwb i economi Cymru drwy wneud hynny.

Gallai roi hwb i economi Cymru hefyd drwy

by having a much more proactive approach to private sector investment. If we encouraged private sector investment to build our hospitals and schools, we would be kick-starting regeneration in the Valleys, in particular, which is the most deprived area of Wales. There are schemes available that are not based on the traditional PFI model, which we should be adopting in Wales.

Therefore, I accept that the Assembly Government has limited powers to swim against the tide of the UK economy as a whole, but it is far from powerless. My colleagues outlined the issues of fuel poverty and housing possessions. Mark Isherwood made an important contribution on housing repossessions, pointing out that the Assembly Government's contribution to the mortgage rescue fund is one third, pro rata, of what it is by the Scottish Government and by the UK Government for England.

Therefore, the Assembly Government needs to be much more proactive on housing, and on lobbying the UK Government on tax cuts for low earners, to ensure that they have more money in their pocket. Close to home, we need the Assembly Government to fund local government properly, so that the one form of taxation that we in the Assembly have some kind of control over—council tax—can be as low as possible. By doing that, we can ensure that the poorest in our society keep as much as possible of their pay packets or their benefits at the end of the week.

Y Llywydd: Gan fod gwrthwynebiad wedi'i fynegi i welliant 1, gohiriwn y pleidleisiau tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Votes deferred until voting time.*

Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time

*Cynnig (NDM4053): O blaid 10, Ymatal 6, Yn erbyn 29.
Motion (NDM4053): For 10, Abstain 6, Against 29.*

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

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

fod ag ymagwedd fwy rhagweithiol o lawer at fuddsoddi gan y sector preifat. Petaem yn hybu buddsoddi gan y sector preifat i godi ein hysbytai a'n hysgolion, byddem yn cychwyn adfywio yn y Cymoedd, yn benodol, sef yr ardal fwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Mae cynlluniau ar gael nad ydynt wedi'u seilio ar y patrwm traddodiadol o fenter cyllid preifat, a dylem eu mabwysiadu yng Nghymru.

Felly, yr wyf yn derbyn bod y pwerau sydd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i fynd yn erbyn y llif yn economi'r DU gyfan yn gyfyngedig, ond mae ymhell o fod yn ddi-rym. Amlinellodd fy nghyd-Aelodau y problemau'n ymwneud â thlodi tanwydd a meddiannu tai. Gwnaeth Mark Isherwood gyfraniad pwysig ar adfeddiannu tai, gan nodi bod cyfraniad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i'r gronfa achub morgeisi yn un rhan o dair, ar gyfartaledd, o'r cyfraniad gan Lywodraeth yr Alban a chan Lywodraeth y DU ar gyfer Lloegr.

Felly, mae angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad fod lawer yn fwy rhagweithiol ynghylch tai, ac ynghylch lobi Llywodraeth y DU ar dorri trethi i bobl ar gyflog isel, i sicrhau bod ganddynt fwy o arian yn eu pocedi. Yn y fan hon, mae arnom angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ariannu llywodraeth leol yn briodol, fel y gall yr unig fath o drethiant y mae gennym ni yn y Cynulliad ryw fath o reolaeth drosto—y dreth gyngor—fod mor isel â phosibl. Drwy wneud hynny, gallwn sicrhau bod y bobl dlotaf yn ein cymdeithas yn cadw cymaint â phosibl o'u cyflogau neu eu budd-daliadau ar ddiwedd yr wythnos.

The Presiding Officer: As objection has been voiced to amendment 1, we will defer the votes until voting time.

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
German, Michael
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion defeated.*

5.10 p.m.

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM4054: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.
Amendment 1 to NDM4054: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 29.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammed
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Christopher
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan

Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Kirsty

Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Dai
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2 i NDM4054: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.
Amendment 2 to NDM4054: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 29.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Andrew R T
Davies, Paul
German, Mike
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammed
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Christopher
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Dai
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 3 i NDM4054: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.
Amendment 3 to NDM4054: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 29.*

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

Bates, Mick

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

Andrews, Leighton

Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Kirsty

Asghar, Mohammad
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce
 Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig (NDM4054): O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.
 Motion (NDM4054): For 16, Abstain 0, Against 29.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion defeated.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Sefyll yn Gadarn dros ein Swyddfeydd Post Cymunedol: Dyfodol Cyfrif Cerdyn Swyddfa'r Post Standing up for Our Community Post Offices: the Future of the Post Office Card Account

Chris Franks: I am pleased to accept requests to speak on this matter and it has engendered interest from Nerys Evans, Mark Isherwood, Christine Chapman, Bethan Jenkins, Peter Black, Mohammad Asghar and Huw Lewis. I hope that I have not forgotten anyone, but there is hardly anyone else left in the Chamber.

When the post office card account was introduced by the UK Government, it failed to state that it was a temporary measure. That that fact was hidden from the public and from Parliament was a disgrace. The Department for Work and Pensions Minister, James Plaskitt MP, admitted as much in a speech in the House of Commons on 15 February 2006. We know that the loss of the post office card account will lead to large-scale post office closures. The payment of pensions and allowances make up 40 per cent of a post office's business. If that is lost, we can confidently expect to see the wholesale closure of post offices.

Post offices provide an invaluable community service, and preserving the network is a political priority. No Welsh post office should have to close as the result of a Westminster policy agenda. Meanwhile the Welsh Government has reinstated the post office development fund, which offers grant aid to protect the network.

The failure of the UK banking system shows how vulnerable we are, if left to the mercy of the greed and the incompetence of the city of London and Wall Street. Sometimes it appears that the only secure financial institutions are the post offices and the building societies. The banks, through

Chris Franks: Yr wyf yn falch derbyn ceisiadau i siarad ar y mater hwn ac mae wedi ennyn diddordeb Nerys Evans, Mark Isherwood, Christine Chapman, Bethan Jenkins, Peter Black, Mohammad Asghar a Huw Lewis. Gobeithio nad wyf wedi anghofio neb, ond nid oes fawr neb arall ar ôl yn y Siambr.

Pan gyflwynwyd cyfrif cerdyn Swyddfa'r Post gan Lywodraeth y DU, methodd ddweud mai mesur dros dro ydoedd. Yr oedd celu'r ffaith honno rhag y cyhoedd a rhag y Senedd yn warth. Cyfaddefodd Gweinidog yn yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, James Plaskitt AS, hynny mewn araith yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin ar 15 Chwefror 2006. Gwyddom y bydd colli cyfrif cerdyn Swyddfa'r Post yn arwain at gau swyddfeydd post ar raddfa eang. Taliadau pensiynau a lwfansau yw 40 y cant o fusnes swyddfeydd post. Os collir hynny, gallwn yn sicr ddisgwyl gweld cau swyddfeydd post ar raddfa eang.

Mae swyddfeydd post yn darparu gwasanaeth cymunedol amhrisiadwy, ac mae cadw'r rhwydwaith yn flaenoriaeth wleidyddol. Ni ddylai'r un swyddfa bost yng Nghymru orfod cau oherwydd agenda bolisi yn San Steffan. Yn y cyfamser, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ailsefydlu'r gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post, sy'n cynnig cymorth grant i ddiogelu'r rhwydwaith.

Mae methiant system fancio'r DU yn dangos mor agored i niwed yr ydym, os gadewir ni ar drugaredd trachwant ac anghymwystra dinas Llundain a Wall Street. Mae'n ymddangos weithiau mai'r unig sefydliadau ariannol diogel yw'r swyddfeydd post a'r cymdeithasau adeiladu. Mae'r banciau,

recklessness, have acquired huge subsidies from the taxpayer, yet they still charge excessive interest rates and are refusing to lend as required.

So, why are we as taxpayers pouring billions of pounds into private banks, but closing secure and trustworthy post offices? The banks, already absent from many communities, are set to close even more branches. Post offices are becoming more essential and not less so. The highest take-up of post office card accounts, compared with accounts opened in banks and building societies, was in a deprived, industrial area, namely the Rhondda, where 40 per cent of payments were made into these accounts by 15,000 users.

In the Cynon valley and in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, the figure is 37 per cent, and in Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, the figure is 25 per cent, with 4,500 users. What was the point of spending years in consultation on network change and planned closures if that work is to be undone and totally undermined by the loss of the post office card account and mass closures of post offices across the UK?

It becomes increasingly clear that it will be the elderly and the vulnerable who will bear the brunt of this if the Post Office loses the contract with the DWP. The fact is that the card account caters primarily for the elderly and people on low incomes in rural or deprived urban areas who do not have a car or cannot afford public transport to access services elsewhere. If the Post Office loses the tender, it would leave huge numbers of people financially and socially excluded.

We would do well to look across the Irish sea to see what the Government in the Republic of Ireland has done. The Irish Government awarded a contract to run its version of the post office card account to its national post office operator, An Post. That decision was subsequently challenged by the European Commission, but the European Court of Justice rejected the challenge and supported the Irish Government.

oherwydd eu diofalwch, wedi cael cymorthdaliadau anferth gan y trethdalwr, ac eto maent yn dal i godi cyfraddau llog rhy uchel ac yn gwrthod benthyca fel y gofynnir iddynt.

Felly, pam yr ydym ni fel trethdalwyr yn arllwys biliynau o bunnoedd i fanciau preifat, ond yn cau swyddfeydd post diogel a dibynadwy? Mae'r banciau'n absennol eisoes o lawer o gymunedau, a disgwylir y byddant yn cau mwy o ganghennau eto. Mae swyddfeydd post yn mynd yn fwy angenrheidiol, felly, nid yn llai angenrheidiol. Agorwyd y nifer mwyaf o gyfrifon cerdyn Swyddfa'r Post, o'u cymharu â chyfrifon a agorwyd mewn banciau a chymdeithasau adeiladu, mewn ardal ddiwydiannol, ddifreintiedig, sef Rhondda, lle y gwnaethpwyd 40 y cant o daliadau i'r cyfrifon hyn gan 15,000 o ddefnyddwyr.

Yng nghwm Cynon ac ym Merthyr Tudful a Rhymni, 37 y cant yw'r ffigur, ac ym Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, mae'r ffigur yn 25 y cant, gyda 4,500 o ddefnyddwyr. Beth oedd pwynt treulio blynyddoedd yn ymgynghori ynghylch newid y rhwydwaith a chynlluniau i gau os yw'r gwaith hwnnw am gael ei ddadwneud a'i danseilio'n llwyr drwy golli cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post a chau llu o swyddfeydd post ledled y Deyrnas Unedig?

Mae'n dod yn fwyfwy clir mai'r henoed a'r bregus a fydd yn dioddef fwyaf o hyn os cyll Swyddfa'r Post y contract gyda'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau. Y ffaith yw bod y cyfrif cerdyn yn darparu'n bennaf ar gyfer yr henoed a phobl ar incwm isel sydd heb gar neu sy'n methu fforddio cludiant cyhoeddus i gael gwasanaethau rywle arall. Os cyll Swyddfa'r Post y tendr, byddai'n gadael niferoedd enfawr o bobl wedi'u hallgáu'n ariannol ac yn gymdeithasol.

Byddem yn elwa o edrych dros fôr Iwerddon i weld yr hyn y mae'r Llywodraeth yng Ngweriniaeth Iwerddon wedi'i wneud. Rhoddodd Llywodraeth Iwerddon gontract i redeg ei fersiwn hi o gyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post i'w gweithredwr swyddfeydd post cenedlaethol, An Post. Heriwyd y penderfyniad hwnnw wedyn gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, ond gwrthododd Llys Cyfiawnder Ewrop yr her a chefnogodd

Lywodraeth Iwerddon.

Nerys Evans: A minnau'n gyn is-bostfeistres swyddfa bost Llan-gain, sydd bellach wedi cau, diolchaf i Chris am ddod â'r ddadl hon gerbron y Cynulliad.

Bu Plaid Cymru yn gryf ei chefnogaeth i'r rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post, gan herio rhagrith llwyr y Ceidwadwyr a gaeodd mwy na 3,000 o swyddfeydd post pan oeddent mewn grym, a'r Blaid Lafur yn Llundain, sydd wedi cau mwy hyd yn oed.

Mae'r ffordd y mae'r Llywodraeth Lafur yn Llundain yn trin y rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post yn warthus. Yn gyntaf, tynnodd gwasanaethau oddi wrth y rhwydwaith, sy'n effeithio ar y bobl mwyaf bregus yn ein cymdeithas, sef y sawl sydd, yn amlach na pheidio, yn byw mewn cymunedau cefn gwlad. Yn awr, mae'n rhoi dyfodol ansicr i weddill y rhwydwaith drwy beri ansicrwydd am y cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post. Mae'n cuddio y tu ôl i reolau cystadlu Ewrop, ond fel y soniodd Chris, ni raid edrych ymhellach nag Iwerddon i weld bod modd mynd heibio i'r rheolau hyn a sicrhau rhwydwaith cryf. Penderfyniad gwleidyddol oedd hwnnw, ac anogaf y Llywodraeth yn Llundain i ailfeddwl.

Mae'r Gweinidog yn siŵr o gyfeirio at y gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post, ac anogaf y Llywodraeth, wrth ei datblygu, i gynnal trafodaethau gyda Swyddfa'r Post i ganfod y swyddfeydd post hynny sydd dan y bygythiad mwyaf, ac i beidio ag aros hyd nes y bydd Swyddfa'r Post wedi llunio ei rhestr o swyddfeydd post a fydd yn cau yn y cylch nesaf.

Mark Isherwood: We regret the fact that, in March, 23 Welsh Labour MPs voted to oppose our motion in Westminster, which would have suspended the post office closure programme, as we regret that Plaid and Labour Members in the Assembly voted to oppose our motion calling for the closure programme to be halted in Wales. Notwithstanding those facts, Chris has raised the important matter of what happened in Ireland. The UK Government tells us that we must go to compulsory competitive tendering on this because of European state aid rules,

Nerys Evans: As a former sub-postmistress of Llan-gain post office, which has since been closed, I should like to thank Chris for bringing this debate to the Assembly floor.

Plaid Cymru has been a strong supporter of the post office network, challenging the hypocrisy of the Conservatives who closed more than 3,000 post offices when they were in power, and the Labour party in London who have closed even more.

The Labour government in London is treating the post office network disgracefully. Firstly, it withdrew services from the network, which affects the most vulnerable people in society, that is, people who more often than not live in rural areas. Now it has made the rest of the network's future uncertain by raising doubts about the post office card account. It hides behind EU competition laws, but as Chris mentioned, we need look no further than Ireland to see that these rules can be overcome to secure a strong network. That was a political decision and I urge the Government in London to reconsider.

The Minister is sure to refer to the post office development fund. I urge the Government, in developing the fund, to have discussions with the Post Office to identify those post offices that are most under threat, and not to wait until the Post Office has drawn up its list of post offices to be included in the next round of closures.

Mark Isherwood: Gresynwn at y ffaith fod 23 o Aelodau Seneddol Llafur Cymru, ym mis Mawrth, wedi pleidleisio i wrthwynebu ein cynnig yn San Steffan, a fyddai wedi oedi'r rhaglen o gau swyddfeydd post, a gresynwn hefyd fod Aelodau Plaid a Llafur yn y Cynulliad wedi pleidleisio i wrthwynebu ein cynnig yn galw am atal y rhaglen gau yng Nghymru. Er gwaethaf y ffeithiau hyn, mae Chris wedi codi mater pwysig, sef yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn Iwerddon. Dywed Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig wrthym ei bod yn rhaid inni fynd gael tendro

but the Irish got away with it. The European Court of Justice ruled that the Irish Government did not breach EU rules, and the Irish Minister therefore says that An Post and its network of local post offices will continue to deliver social welfare payments in the future.

Further, in Ireland, people who sign on to the 'live register', as it is called, will have to collect their weekly benefit payments from a post office instead of their being paid automatically into bank accounts. If the Irish had the courage to do that, why could our UK Government not do it? We need to develop the post office card account and expand its role to enable it to accept additional deposits, including the housing benefit, weekly wages and the paper payment of utility bills.

Finally, on a related matter, the Assembly Government must address the double whammy facing post offices: not only do they face closure but also the loss of their eligibility for the post office small business rate relief scheme. They may find themselves with huge additional bills to pay some six months down the road, and the Assembly Government must respond to that.

Christine Chapman: Many of my constituents have expressed great concern to me about the future of the post office card account, and I have written to the UK Government on the matter. Many of these constituents do not want the hassle of opening a bank account or perhaps the difficulty of reaching the nearest bank to access their money if they live in close proximity to a post office. The post office serves an important role in that context, giving my constituents, particularly the elderly, an important point of social contact.

5.20 p.m.

I am pleased that my colleague, Huw Lewis, has tabled a statement of opinion on this issue, which has received cross-party support.

cystadleuol gorfodol ar hyn oherwydd rheolau Ewrop ar gymorth gwladwriaeth, ond llwyddodd y Gwyddelod i osgoi gwneud hynny. Dyfarnodd Llys Cyfiawnder Ewrop nad oedd Llywodraeth Iwerddon yn torri rheolau'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, a dywed Gweinidog Iwerddon felly y bydd An Post a'i rwydwaith o swyddfeydd post lleol yn parhau i dalu taliadau nawdd cymdeithasol yn y dyfodol.

At hynny, yn Iwerddon bydd pobl sy'n arwyddo ar y 'gofrestr fyw', fel y'i gelwir, yn gorfod casglu eu taliadau budd-dal wythnosol o swyddfa bost yn hytrach na'u bod yn cael eu talu'n awtomatig i gyfrifon banc. Os bu'r Gwyddelod yn ddigon dewr i wneud hynny, pam na allai ein Llywodraeth Brydeinig ni wneud yr un modd? Mae angen inni ddatblygu cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post ac ehangu ei swyddogaeth fel y gall dderbyn cyfrifon cadw ychwanegol, gan gynnwys y budd-dal tai, cyflogau wythnosol a thaliadau papur ar filiau cyfleustodau.

Yn olaf, ar fater cysylltiedig, rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad fynd i'r afael â'r ergyd ddwbl sy'n wynebu swyddfeydd post: maent nid yn unig yn wynebu cau, ond wynebant hefyd golli eu cymhwyster ar gyfer y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi busnes bach i swyddfeydd post. Gallant weld bod ganddynt filiau ychwanegol anferth i'w talu ymhen rhyw chwe mis, a rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ymateb i hynny.

Christine Chapman: Mae nifer o'm hetholwyr i wedi mynegi pryder mawr am ddyfodol cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post, ac yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu at Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig am y mater. Mae nifer o'r etholwyr hyn yn bobl nad oes arnynt eisiau'r drafferth o agor cyfrif banc, neu efallai'r anhawster o gyrraedd y banc agosaf i gael eu harian os ydynt yn byw'n agos at swyddfa bost. Mae'r swyddfa bost yn bwysig yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, gan roi i'm hetholwyr, yn enwedig y rhai oedrannus, bwynt cyswllt cymdeithasol pwysig.

Yr wyf yn falch fod fy nghyd-Aelod, Huw Lewis, wedi cyflwyno datganiad barn ar y mater hwn, sydd wedi cael cefnogaeth ar

Ann Clwyd, the local MP, and I have been active in the campaign to save the post office card account. I am aware that Ann has been in touch with every post office in the Cynon valley and has put her constituents' views to Ministers at Westminster, and a decision on its future is imminent. I also look forward with interest to seeing whether the UK Government considers the views of the new Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Lord Mandelson, in coming to its decision.

Bethan Jenkins: I thank Chris Franks for bringing forward this subject for debate, because it is a vital issue that we should be discussing in the National Assembly. The retention of the post office card account goes hand in hand with the retention of our post offices, and I find it hypocritical that MPs such as Ann Clwyd, who I am sure voted in favour of closing post offices, are campaigning on a local level to retain those post offices and the post office card account. On the other hand, Plaid Cymru has been consistent in supporting local post offices, questioning why key services had to be removed from them when more people were beginning to use them again. I know people in my region of South Wales West who use the post office all the time, especially elderly people. They are seen as vital services in the area. Many post offices in the region have been closed but, interestingly, one that was kept open was in the area of the leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. That came as a surprise to us all, I am sure.

It is important that we retain the post office card account, because we need to keep such services in the public domain. We have seen the Westminster Government prioritise the privatisation of public services, and we do not want to go down that route in Wales. That is yet another reason why we should retain the post office card account.

To conclude, sub-postmasters have worked avidly to lobby Westminster and Assembly

draws y pleidiau. Mae Ann Clwyd, yr AS lleol, a mi wedi bod yn weithgar yn yr ymgyrch i achub cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post. Gwn fod Ann wedi bod mewn cysylltiad â phob swyddfa bost yng nghwm Cynon ac wedi cyflwyno sylwadau ei hetholwyr i Weinidogion yn San Steffan, ac mae penderfyniad ynglŷn â'i ddyfodol yn agos. Edrychaf ymlaen gyda diddordeb hefyd i weld a fydd Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn ystyried sylwadau'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol newydd dros Fusnes, Menter a Diwygio Rheoleiddio, yr Arglwydd Mandelson, wrth wneud ei phenderfyniad.

Bethan Jenkins: Diolch i Chris Franks am ddod â'r pwnc gerbron i'w drafod, oherwydd mae'n fater hollbwysig y dylem fod yn ei drafod yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Mae cadw cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post yn mynd law yn llaw â chadw ein swyddfeydd post ar agor, ac i mi mae'n rhagrithiol fod ASau fel Ann Clwyd, a bleidleisiodd o blaid cau swyddfeydd post, mae'n siŵr, yn ymgyrchu ar lefel leol i gadw'r swyddfeydd post hynny a chyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post. Ar y llaw arall, mae Plaid Cymru wedi bod yn gyson yn cefnogi swyddfeydd post lleol, gan gwestiynu pam yr oedd yn rhaid tynnu gwasanaethau allweddol oddi wrthynt pan oedd mwy o bobl yn dechrau eu defnyddio eto. Yr wyf yn adnabod pobl yn fy rhanbarth i, yng Ngorllewin De Cymru, sy'n defnyddio swyddfa'r post drwy'r amser, yn enwedig pobl oedrannus. Fe'u hystyrir yn wasanaethau hanfodol yn yr ardal. Mae nifer o swyddfeydd post yn y rhanbarth wedi'u cau, ond, yn ddiddorol, un a gadwyd ar agor oedd honno yn ardal arweinydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot. Yr oedd hynny'n syndod inni bob un, yr wyf yn siŵr.

Mae'n bwysig inni gadw cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post, oherwydd mae angen cadw gwasanaethau o'r fath yn eiddo i'r cyhoedd. Yr ydym wedi gweld Llywodraeth San Steffan yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i breifateiddio gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, ac nid oes arnom eisiau mynd ar hyd y llwybr hwnnw yng Nghymru. Dyna reswm arall eto pam y dylem gadw cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post.

I gloi, mae is-bostfeistri wedi gweithio'n ddiwyd i lobïo Aelodau San Steffan a'r

Members, and we should pay tribute to them and their work, as well as to the people who have campaigned and attended local meetings to support the retention of the post office card account in our areas.

Peter Black: There is a certain irony in the UK Government creating the post office card account as a stopgap measure to protect post offices from its own policy of taking Government services away from them, only to find that it may not be able to re-award the post office card account contract to the Post Office because of competition rules. In this sense, the UK Government is the creator of its own mess.

It is essential that the Post Office retains this account. If it does not, we could lose another 2,500 post offices, many hundreds of which are in Wales, and that would be unacceptable. The UK Government is starting to talk about using post offices to channel financial services and about investing in post offices. It is about time. If we lost those post offices because of the post office card account, we would find ourselves with the UK Government talking about investing in post offices on the one hand but losing post offices because of its own policy on the other. We need a unified and consistent approach to post office policy from the UK Government.

Mohammad Asghar: There is no doubt that post office services are a vital part of local communities across Wales. It is annoying that the fate of post offices in Wales is decided not by people in Wales but by politicians in London. I was disappointed by the closure programme in south-east Wales, where many post offices have been closed despite strong local opposition. It is particularly worrying at this time when we are trying to improve our local communities and retain facilities for the people. We now have a further threat, which could close many more post offices, and this comes at a time when a number of other financial institutions have shown themselves to be less than efficient.

Plaid Cymru continues to support Welsh

Cynulliad, a dylem roi teyrnged iddynt hwy a'u gwaith, yn ogystal ag i'r bobl sydd wedi ymgrechu a mynychu cyfarfodydd lleol i gefnogi cadw cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post yn ein hardaloedd.

Peter Black: Mae rhyw eironi mewn gweld Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn creu cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post fel mesur dros dro i warchod swyddfeydd post rhag ei pholisi ei hun o dynnu gwasanaethau'r Llywodraeth i ffwrdd oddi wrthynt, a gael wedyn efallai na fydd yn gallu ailddyfarnu contract cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post i Swyddfa'r Post oherwydd rheolau cystadleuaeth. Yn hynny o beth, Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig sydd wedi creu ei llanast ei hun.

Mae'n hanfodol i Swyddfa'r Post gael cadw'r cyfrif hwn. Os na, galleu golli 2,500 yn rhagor o swyddfeydd post, cannoedd ohonynt yng Nghymru, a byddai hynny'n annerbyniol. Mae Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn dechrau siarad am ddefnyddio swyddfeydd post i sianelu gwasanaethau ariannol ac am fuddsoddi mewn swyddfeydd post. Mae'n hen bryd. Pe collem y swyddfeydd post hynny oherwydd cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post, fe welem Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn siarad am fuddsoddi mewn swyddfeydd post ar y naill law ond yn colli swyddfeydd post oherwydd ei pholisi ei hun ar y llall. Mae angen agwedd unedig a chyson gan Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig at bolisi swyddfeydd post.

Mohammad Asghar: Nid oes dwywaith nad yw gwasanaethau swyddfa'r post yn rhan hanfodol o gymunedau lleol ledled Cymru. Mae'n cythruddo dyn fod tynged swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru yn cel ei phenderfynu nid gan bobl yng Nghymru ond gan wleidyddion yn Llundain. Fe'm siomwyd gan y rhaglen gau yn y de-ddwyrain, lle caewyd nifer o swyddfeydd post er gwaethaf gwrthwynebiad cryf yn lleol. Mae'n destun pryder arbennig yr adeg hon pan ydym yn ceisio gwella'n cymunedau lleol a chadw cyfleusterau i'r bobl. Erbyn hyn mae gennym fygythiad pellach, a allai gau llawer mwy o swyddfeydd post, a daw hyn ar adeg pan yw nifer o sefydliadau ariannol eraill wedi dangos eu bod yn llai nag effeithlon.

Mae Plaid Cymru'n dal i gefnogi cymunedau

communities by campaigning to protect post offices. The UK Government must retain the post office card account, and the service should not be put in the hands of private business, as it would probably do the same as the banks are currently. We should call on the London Government to rescind the plan to close the post office card account by 2010. It should be kept in trustworthy hands to save what is left of our post office network.

Huw Lewis: I also thank Chris Franks for bringing forward this subject for debate, and for giving me a minute of his time. Chris Chapman mentioned the statement of opinion that I have tabled, calling for the post office card account to remain with post offices, given that they understand so well the needs of their local communities, and I urge him to sign it, too. I am pleased to say I am pleased to say that it has cross-party support from more than 20 Assembly Members so far, and Chris Franks's signature would be a welcome addition.

It is crucial for the future of the Post Office for it to retain this card account. I know that there are state aid and competition issues that must be resolved, but there are examples of that having been done, and Chris was right to point to the experience of Ireland.

The Deputy Minister for Regeneration (Leighton Andrews): This debate and the number of interventions, which may be a record for a short debate, show the continued strength of feeling for Welsh post offices, and also the level of worry and uncertainty surrounding the decision on the post office card account contract that will be taken by the Department for Work and Pensions. Members will need no reminding that Post Office policy is non-devolved. The lead responsibility rests with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and the responsibility for the post office card account itself rests with the DWP. I have made the UK Government aware of the fears expressed repeatedly in the National Assembly over the future viability of post offices without the post office card account.

Cymru drwy ymgyrchu i warchod swyddfeydd post. Rhaid i Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig gadw cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post, ac ni ddylid rhoi'r gwasanaeth yn nwylo busnes preifat, oherwydd byddai'n debygol o wneud yr un peth ag y mae'r banciau'n ei wneud ar hyn o bryd. Dylem alw ar Lywodraeth Llundain i ddiddymu'r cynllun i gau cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post erbyn 2010. Dylid ei gadw mewn dwylo dibynadwy er mwyn arbed yr hyn sydd ar ôl o'n rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post.

Huw Lewis: Yr wyf fi hefyd yn diolch i Chris Franks am ddod â'r pwnc hwn gerbron i'w drafod, ac am roi munud o'i amser imi. Soniodd Chris Chapman am y datganiad barn yr wyf wedi'i gyflwyno, yn galw am i gyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post aros gyda swyddfeydd post, gan eu bod hwy'n deall anghenion eu cymunedau lleol gystal, ac fe'i hanogaf ef i'w lofnodi hefyd. Mae'n dda gennyf ddweud bod ganddo gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol gan fwy na 20 o Aelodau'r Cynulliad hyd yma, a byddai llofnod Chris Franks yn ychwanegiad a groesewid.

Mae'n allweddol i ddyfodol Swyddfa'r Post iddi gadw'r cyfrif cerdyn hwn. Gwn fod problemau y mae'n rhaid eu datrys ynghylch cymorth y wladwriaeth a chystadleuaeth, ond y mae enghreifftiau lle mae hynny wedi'i wneud, ac yr oedd Chris yn iawn i dynnu sylw at brofiad Iwerddon.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio (Leighton Andrews): Mae'r ddadl hon a nifer yr ymyriadau, sydd efallai'n record ar gyfer dadl fer, yn dangos cryfder y teimlad sy'n parhau am swyddfeydd post Cymru, a hefyd lefel y pryder a'r ansicrwydd am y penderfyniad a wneir gan yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau ynglŷn â chontract cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post. Ni fydd angen atgoffa Aelodau fod polisi Swyddfa'r Post heb ei ddatganoli. Yr Adran Busnes, Menter a Diwygio Rheoleiddio sydd â'r prif gyfrifoldeb, a'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau sy'n gyfrifol am gyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post ei hun. Yr wyf wedi dweud wrth Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig am yr ofnau a fynegwyd dro ar ôl tro yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ynghylch hyfywra swyddfeydd post yn y dyfodol heb gyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post.

We recognise the importance of the social and economic contribution of post offices, particularly in our most deprived and rural areas. We believe that post offices support community cohesion and promote financial inclusion. It is widely recognised that a decision to award the contract for the post office card account to an organisation other than Post Office Ltd would have grave effects on the post office network throughout the UK and in Wales. Even after the network change programme, we would see more sub-post offices closing. I know that that is also the view of the National Federation of SubPostmasters.

I have therefore made representations to the UK Government on the importance of Post Office Ltd securing the contract. I wrote to the UK Government on 11 June, and a copy of my letter and the reply from the UK Government are published on the Welsh Assembly Government website. I have also raised this issue with Wales Office Ministers, most recently at a meeting with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales on Monday. Last week, I raised it with the Postal Services Commission, Postcomm, which has made its own representations on the issue.

My representations have made clear the social role that post offices play in supporting our most vulnerable communities. My worry is for the impact that any future loss of business will have, particularly in deprived areas that rely heavily on the income generated from POCA business. Any further loss of business will have serious consequences for the sustainability of post offices.

It is fair to say that the UK Government continues to support the post office network throughout the UK and is investing up to £1.7 billion until 2011, including an annual subsidy of £150 million, to support the network and to provide funding for up to 500 mobile and other outreach post offices across the UK. As an Assembly Government, we also provide direct support to post offices

Yr ydym yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd cyfraniad cymdeithasol ac economaidd swyddfeydd post, yn enwedig yn ein hardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig a gwledig. Credwn fod swyddfeydd post yn cynnal cydlynid cymunedol ac yn hyrwyddo cynhwysiant ariannol. Cydnabyddir yn eang y byddai penderfyniad i roi contract cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post i gorff ar wahân i Swyddfa'r Post Cyf yn cael effeithiau difrifol ar y rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post drwy'r Deyrnas Unedig ac yng Nghymru. Hyd yn oed ar ôl y rhaglen newid rhwydwaith, byddem yn gweld rhagor o is-swyddfeydd post yn cau. Gwn mai dyna farn Ffederasiwn Cenedlaethol yr Is-Bostfeistri hefyd.

Yr wyf wedi cyflwyno sylwadau felly i Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig i ddynodi mor bwysig yw i Swyddfa'r Post Cyf ennill y contract. Ysgrifennais at Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig ar 11 Mehefin, ac mae copi o'm llythyr a'r ateb gan Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig wedi'u cyhoeddi ar wefan Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Yr wyf wedi codi'r mater hwn gyda Gweinidogion Swyddfa Cymru hefyd, yn fwyaf diweddar mewn cyfarfod gydag Is-Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ddydd Llun. Yr wythnos diwethaf, codais y mater gyda'r Comisiwn Gwasanaethau Post, Postcomm, sydd wedi gwneud ei sylwadau ei hun ar y mater.

Mae fy sylwadau i wedi gwneud yn glir y swyddogaeth gymdeithasol a gyflawnir gan swyddfeydd post wrth gynnal ein cymunedau mwyaf bregus. Fy mhryder yw yr effaith a gaiff colli unrhyw fusnes yn y dyfodol, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig sy'n dibynnu'n drwm ar yr incwm a gynhyrchir o fusnes cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post. Bydd colli unrhyw fusnes pellach yn achosi canlyniadau difrifol i gynaliadwyedd swyddfeydd post.

Mae'n deg dweud bod Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn parhau i gefnogi'r rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post ledled y Deyrnas Unedig ac yn buddsoddi hyd at £1.7 biliwn tan 2011, gan gynnwys cymhorthdal blyneddol o £150 miliwn, i gynnal y rhwydwaith ac i ddarparu cyllid ar gyfer hyd at 500 o swyddfeydd post teithiol ac all-swyddfeydd eraill ledled y Deyrnas Unedig.

through the small businesses rate relief scheme, providing a subsidy of up to £4,000 to small post offices. I understand that that benefited 950 post offices in the last financial year.

We also had the post office development fund, with grants totalling £4.1 million awarded to more than 100 post offices between 2002 and 2004. We are committed to reinstating a refocused post office development fund from 1 January 2009. We have recently concluded a consultation on how that fund will work, and a significant range of submissions was made. We want to ensure that the new fund delivers the type of help that sub-postmasters need to support the viability of their overall businesses. We are currently analysing the contributions, given that we received more than 200 responses to the consultation. The new fund will provide an opportunity for sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses to strengthen their businesses and make them sustainable in the long term for the benefit of the communities that they serve. We want to see post offices thrive.

That will be an enabling fund, funding local solutions that are particular to an area. The intention is that the scheme will help those running post offices to diversify their businesses by providing funding for such things as business and marketing advice, advertising, training and some set-up costs for new services. It is fair to say that some rethinking is going on about the role of post offices, and I welcome the comments of Lord Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, made in the last few days, about the potential for post offices to benefit from the administration of Government business and from the provision of financial services products. I hope that significant changes are ahead and that we will see Government using post offices to deliver additional services.

5.30 p.m.

Fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, yr ydym ni hefyd yn rhoi cefnogaeth uniongyrchol i swyddfeydd post drwy'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi i fusnesau bach, gan ddarparu cymhorthdal hyd at £4,000 i swyddfeydd post bach. Deallaf i hynny fod o fudd i 950 o swyddfeydd post yn y flwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf.

Yr oedd gennym hefyd y gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post, a rhoddwyd grantiau gwerth £4.1 miliwn i fwy na 100 o swyddfeydd post rhwng 2002 a 2004. Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i adfer y gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post gyda ffocws newydd o 1 Ionawr 2009. Yn ddiweddar yr ydym wedi cwblhau ymgynghoriad ar y modd y bydd y gronfa honno'n gweithio, a chafwyd amrywiaeth sylweddol o sylwadau. Mae arnom eisiau sicrhau bod y gronfa newydd yn rhoi'r math o gymorth y mae ar is-bostfeistri ei angen i sicrhau bod eu busnesau cyffredinol yn dal yn fyw. Yr ydym wrthi ar hyn o bryd yn dadansoddi'r cyfraniadau, gan inni gael dros 200 o ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad. Bydd y gronfa newydd yn gyfle i is-bostfeistri ac is-bostfeistresi gryfhau eu busnesau a'u gwneud yn gynaliadwy yn y tymor hir er lles y cymunedau a wasanaethant. Yr ydym am weld swyddfeydd post yn ffynnu.

Cronfa alluogi fydd honno, yn ariannu atebion lleol sy'n arbennig i ardal. Y bwriad yw i'r cynllun helpu pobl sy'n rhedeg swyddfeydd post i arallgyfeirio'u busnesau drwy ddarparu arian ar gyfer pethau fel cyngor busnes a marchnata, hysbysebu, hyfforddiant a rhai costau cychwyn ar gyfer gwasanaethau newydd. Mae'n deg dweud bod rhywfaint o ailfeddwl yn bod ynglŷn â swyddogaeth swyddfeydd post, a chrosawaf sylwadau'r Arglwydd Mandelson, yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Fusnes, Menter a Diwygio Rheoleiddio, a wnaethpwyd yn yr ychydig ddyddiau diwethaf, am y potensial i swyddfeydd post elwa o weinyddu busnes y Llywodraeth ac o ddarparu cynhyrchion gwasanaethau ariannol. Gobeithio bod newidiadau sylweddol o'n blaenau, ac y gwelwn y Llywodraeth yn defnyddio swyddfeydd post i ddarparu gwasanaethau ychwanegol.

Leanne Wood: Lord Mandelson has suggested that the Post Office could be used as a vehicle to roll out identity cards. Do you support that as a way forward?

Leanne Wood: Mae'r Arglwydd Mandelson wedi awgrymu y gellid defnyddio Swyddfa'r Post fel cerbyd i gyflwyno cardiau adnabod. A ydych yn cefnogi hynny fel ffordd ymlaen?

Leighton Andrews: I think that the range of Government services to be delivered through post offices is a matter for the UK Government to determine. If identity cards were to be introduced, post offices would clearly be a potential vehicle for the Government to use to distribute them.

Leighton Andrews: Credaf fod yr amrywiaeth o wasanaethau'r Llywodraeth sydd i'w darparu drwy swyddfeydd post yn fater i Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig ei benderfynu. Pe cyflwynid cardiau adnabod, yn amlwg byddai swyddfeydd post yn gerbyd posibl i'r Llywodraeth ei ddefnyddio i'w dosbarthu.

We are interested in a network in Wales that is viable. Part of the 'One Wales' commitment is to explore ways in which post offices might be used for local authority business and for delivering local services. I have raised this in meetings with the leader of the Welsh Local Government Association and with Post Office Ltd. At a meeting that I had with the managing director of Post Office Ltd at the end of last month, I agreed that Welsh Assembly Government funds could be found to help it to develop a project working with local authorities across Wales. We are now waiting for Post Office Ltd to come up with firm proposals for that project. This reiterates the importance that the Welsh Assembly Government places on the survival and continuation of the post office network in Wales.

Mae gennym ddiddordeb mewn rhwydwaith yng Nghymru sy'n hyfyw. Rhan o ymrwymiad 'Cymru'n Un' yw ymchwilio i ffyrdd y gellid defnyddio swyddfeydd post ar gyfer busnes awdurdodau lleol ac i ddarparu gwasanaethau lleol. Yr wyf wedi codi hyn mewn cyfarfodydd gydag arweinydd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a chyda Swyddfa'r Post Cyf. Mewn cyfarfod a gefais gyda rheolwr gyfarwyddwr Swyddfa'r Post Cyf ddiwedd y mis diwethaf, cytunais y gellid dod o hyd i arian Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i'w helpu i ddatblygu prosiect a fyddai'n gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru. Yr ydym yn aros yn awr i Swyddfa'r Post Cyf ddod atom gyda chynigion pendant ar gyfer y prosiect hwnnw. Mae hyn yn ailddatgan y pwysigrwydd y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei roi ar barhad y rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru.

Y Llywydd: Diolch yn fawr i'r Dirprwy Weinidog. Dyna ddiwedd ein trafodion am heddiw.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Deputy Minister. That brings today's proceedings to a close.

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)
Asghar, Mohammad (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Burns, Angela (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)

Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
 Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew R.T. (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Paul (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Evans, Nerys (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Franks, Chris (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, Lesley (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jenkins, Bethan (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 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, Gareth (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Law, Trish (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Millar, Darren (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Ramsay, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 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, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Watson, Joyce (Llafur – Labour)
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)