



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Y Cofnod Swyddogol)

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

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

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 9.05 a.m. gyda'r Llywydd yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 9.05 a.m. with the Presiding Officer in the Chair.*

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg Questions to the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language

Materion yn Ymwneud â Diwylliant Cymru a'r Iaith Gymraeg Welsh Cultural and Welsh Language Issues

Q1 Alun Cairns: How does the Minister liaise with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning over Welsh cultural and Welsh language issues? (OAQ15145)

C1 Alun Cairns: Sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn cynnal trafodaethau â'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar faterion yn ymwneud â diwylliant Cymru a'r iaith Gymraeg? (OAQ15145)

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): I work closely with all my Cabinet colleagues on a range of issues. Jane Davidson and I worked particularly closely on the development of the culture strategy 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol'. We also work together as members of the Cabinet's children and young people sub-committee.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson): Gweithiaf yn agos â'm cyd-Aelodau yn y Cabinet ar ystod o faterion. Gweithiodd Jane Davidson a minnau yn arbennig o agos ar ddatblygu'r strategaeth ddiwylliant 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol'. Yn ogystal, gweithiwn gyda'n gilydd fel aelodau o is-bwyllgor plant a phobl ifanc y Cabinet.

Alun Cairns: How would you make representation to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning if you felt that the facilities and the development of Welsh cultural activities in schools were not conducive to broadening the base of the Welsh language? Will you also consider investigating the facilities that Swansea City and County Council is proposing for the second Welsh-medium school?

Alun Cairns: Sut y byddech yn cyflwyno sylwadau i'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes pe baech o'r farn nad oedd y cyfleusterau a'r broses o ddatblygu gweithgareddau diwylliannol Cymreig mewn ysgolion yn arwain at ehangu sylfaen y Gymraeg? A wnewch chi hefyd ystyried ymchwilio i'r cyfleusterau y mae Cyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe yn eu cynnig ar gyfer yr ail ysgol Gymraeg?

Jenny Randerson: On the second part of your question, as you are aware from my answer last time, I cannot deal with education issues relating to specific schools. It would also be inappropriate for me to comment on an issue that could be referred to the Assembly if there were objections to it. On the first part of your question, I refer you to my culture strategy, which will be formally launched at the beginning of February. It contains many issues and action points relating to cultural activity in schools, on which Jane Davidson and I have worked together.

Jenny Randerson: Ynglŷn ag ail ran eich cwestiwn, fel y gwyddoch o'm hateb y tro diwethaf, ni allaf ymdrin â materion addysg sy'n ymwneud ag ysgolion penodol. Byddai hefyd yn amhriodol imi wneud sylwadau ar fater y gallai gael ei gyfeirio at y Cynulliad pe caed unrhyw wrthwynebiadau. Ynglŷn â rhan gyntaf eich cwestiwn, fe'ch cyfeiriaf at fy strategaeth ddiwylliant, a fydd yn cael ei lansio'n ffurfiol ddechrau mis Chwefror. Mae'n cynnwys llawer o faterion a phwyntiau gweithredu sy'n ymwneud â gweithgaredd diwylliannol mewn ysgolion, y bu Jane Davidson a minnau yn cydweithio arnynt.

Eleanor Burnham: Gwyddom fod addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn llwyddiannus hyd at 16 oed. Pa gynlluniau sydd gennych i sicrhau cefnogaeth i'r iaith yng nghartrefi a chymunedau'r disgyblion?

Eleanor Burnham: We know that Welsh-medium education up to the age of 16 is successful. What are your plans for ensuring that the language is supported in the pupils' homes and communities?

Jenny Randerson: You have touched on an important issue which struck the members of the Culture Committee in the process of the Welsh language review, namely that children can use the language in school but may not be able to transfer it into the home. It is important that appropriate resources are given to the *mentrau iaith*. I hope that when I receive the Committee's report later this year, I will be able to take from it several interesting initiatives that have been proposed to us, that will increase language transference within the family. These are initiatives that can be undertaken at relatively little cost, but with amazing success.

Jenny Randerson: Yr ydych wedi cyffwrdd â mater pwysig a darodd aelodau'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant yn ystod yr adolygiad o'r iaith Gymraeg, sef y gall plant ddefnyddio'r iaith yn yr ysgol ond efallai na allant ei throsglwyddo i'w cartrefi. Mae'n bwysig bod y mentrau iaith yn derbyn adnoddau priodol. Pan fyddaf yn derbyn adroddiad y Pwyllgor yn nes ymlaen eleni, gobeithiaf y gallaf ddatblygu sawl menter ddiddorol a gynigir inni ganddo, a fydd yn gwella'r gallu i drosglwyddo iaith o fewn y teulu. Mae'r rhain yn fentrau y gellir ymgymryd â hwy am gost weddol isel, ond gyda llwyddiant anhygoel.

Owen John Thomas: Bu'n amlwg ers talwm, hyd yn oed cyn yr adolygiad o'r iaith Gymraeg, fod prinder o athrawon a all ddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Daw'r sefyllfa yn fwy argyfyngus gyda'r angen i ymestyn darpariaeth addysg Gymraeg i blant tair oed, lle mae'r galw ar ei uchaf. Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch gyda'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ynglŷn â'r sefyllfa ddybryd hon?

Owen John Thomas: It has been evident for some time, even before the Welsh language review, that there is a lack of teachers who can teach through the medium of Welsh. The situation will become more critical with the need to extend the provision of Welsh-medium education to three-year-olds, where demand is at its highest. What discussions have you had with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning on this dire situation?

Jenny Randerson: At this stage, it is not appropriate for me to discuss the training of teachers with Jane Davidson. When the outcome of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee's review of the Welsh language in education is known, I will discuss it. We have not had any proposals on this to date, although I am aware that it is an issue. We will discuss this at the due time, when it is important to do so.

Jenny Randerson: Ar hyn o bryd, nid yw'n briodol imi drafod hyfforddiant athrawon gyda Jane Davidson. Pan fyddwn yn gwybod canlyniad adolygiad y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes o'r iaith Gymraeg mewn addysg, fe'i trafodaf. Ni chawsom unrhyw gynigion ynglŷn â hyn hyd yma, er fy mod yn ymwybodol ei fod yn fater trafod. Byddwn yn trafod hyn ar yr adeg briodol, pan fydd yn bwysig gwneud hynny.

Amgueddfa i Ogledd Cymru A Museum for North Wales

Q2 Alison Halford: What consideration has the Minister given to the need for a large museum for north Wales? (OAQ15127)

C2 Alison Halford: Pa ystyriaeth y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i rhoi i'r angen am amgueddfa fawr yng ngogledd Cymru? (OAQ15127)

Jenny Randerson: The National Museums and Galleries of Wales already has the Welsh Slate Museum in Llanberis, and a further site

Jenny Randerson: Mae gan Amgueddfeydd ac Oriolau Cenedlaethol Cymru eisoes Amgueddfa Lechi Cymru yn Llanberis, a

at Segontium in Caernarfon. I have provided extra funding for the Council of Museums in Wales from 2002-03 onwards to enable it to identify two local museums which can be further developed, particularly by showing national treasures on loan from the National Museum of Wales. I have asked that one of those local museums be in north Wales.

Alison Halford: Do you realise that, if north Wales had such a museum, we could make a legitimate claim for the return of the gold cape of Mold? It is a Bronze Age artefact that rests in the British Museum. It cannot be allowed to return to its rightful home because of a security problem. Had we a proper museum, the British Museum would allow it to return, which would benefit tourism and economic development. Will you help us to secure that goal for north Wales?

Jenny Randerson: Thirty-four museums in north Wales are members of the Council of Museums in Wales. I hope that one of those museums will be an appropriate candidate to receive the additional funding to which I referred. The purpose of that funding is to provide the conditions and the security needed for housing more valuable artefacts. I hope that, with improved security in one of the north Wales museums, we can reclaim this cloak. If you write to me with the details, I will be happy, in principle, to consider approaching the British Museum.

Gareth Jones: Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch yn ddiweddar â'r Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros y Gogledd, sef Prif Weinidog Cymru, ynglŷn â datblygu'r celfyddydau yn y rhanbarth? Pa welliannau neu ddatblygiadau y bydd etholwyr Conwy yn debygol o'u gweld yn sgîl y £2 filiwn y bwriadwch ei wario y tu allan i Gaerdydd?

Jenny Randerson: I speak to the First Minister every week. Arts and sporting provision is a frequent topic of conversation, as he has a considerable interest in those matters. As regards Conwy, the Arts Council

safle arall yn Segontium yng Nghaernarfon. Yr wyf wedi darparu cyllid pellach i'r Cyngor Amgueddfeydd yng Nghymru o 2002-03 ymlaen er mwyn ei alluogi i nodi dwy amgueddfa leol y gellir eu datblygu ymhellach, yn enwedig drwy ddangos trysorau cenedlaethol ar fenthg o Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru. Gofynnais am i un o'r amgueddfeydd hynny fod yn y Gogledd.

Alison Halford: A ydych yn sylweddoli, pe bai amgueddfa o'r fath yn y Gogledd, y gallem wneud cais dilys i ddychwelyd clogyn aur yr Wyddgrug? Mae'n wrthrych o'r Oes Efydd sy'n cael ei gadw yn yr Amgueddfa Brydeinig. Ni chaniateir iddo gael ei ddychwelyd i'w wir gartref oherwydd problem diogelwch. Pe bai gennym amgueddfa briodol, byddai'r Amgueddfa Brydeinig yn caniatáu iddo ddychwelyd, a fyddai o fudd i dwristiaeth a datblygiad economaidd. A wnewch chi ein helpu i sicrhau'r nod hwnnw i'r Gogledd?

Jenny Randerson: Mae 34 o amgueddfeydd yn y Gogledd yn aelodau o'r Cyngor Amgueddfeydd yng Nghymru. Gobeithiaf y bydd un o'r amgueddfeydd hynny yn ymgeisydd priodol i dderbyn y cyllid ychwanegol y cyfeiriais ato. Diben y cyllid hwnnw yw darparu'r amodau a'r diogelwch sydd eu hangen i fod yn gartref i fwy o wrthrychau gwerthfawr. Gyda system ddiogelwch well mewn un o amgueddfeydd y Gogledd, gobeithiaf y gallwn adfeddiannu'r clogyn hwn. Os ysgrifewch ataf gyda'r manylion, byddwn yn fodlon, mewn egwyddor, ystyried cysylltu â'r Amgueddfa Brydeinig.

Gareth Jones: What recent discussions have you had with the Minister responsible for north Wales, namely the First Minister, regarding developing the arts in the region? What improvements or developments are the constituents of Conwy likely to see as a result of the £2 million that you intend to spend outside Cardiff?

Jenny Randerson: Siaradaf â'r Prif Weinidog bob wythnos. Mae darpariaeth y celfyddydau a chwaraeon yn bwnc trafod aml, am fod ganddo gryn ddiddordeb yn y materion hynny. O ran Conwy, mae Cyngor

of Wales has undertaken an audit of performance space at my request, which is virtually finished. It has also undertaken several reviews on other issues, including gallery space and festivals. All of these have an impact on Conwy and north Wales in general. I hope that we can support many projects as a result.

Celfyddydau Cymru wedi cynnal archwiliad o leoedd perfformio, ar fy nghais, sydd ar fin cael ei gwblhau. Yn ogystal, cynhaliodd sawl adolygiad arall, yn cynnwys orielau a gwyliau. Mae i'r rhain oll effaith ar Gonwy a'r Gogledd yn gyffredinol. Gobeithiaf y gallwn gefnogi llawer o brosiectau o ganlyniad i hyn.

Arddangos Celfyddyd Gymreig a Rhyngwladol Display of Welsh and International Art

Q3 Jonathan Morgan: Will the Minister make a statement on her plans to develop the public display of Welsh and international art? (OAQ15190)

C3 Jonathan Morgan: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ei chynlluniau i ddatblygu'r arddangosfa gyhoeddus o gelfyddyd Gymreig a rhyngwladol? (OAQ15190)

Jenny Randerson: I answer this question from the Conservatives every month. The National Museums and Galleries of Wales is about to embark on a public consultation exercise which will describe its current policies for the display of art and explore the options for future development. I will arrange for the consultation document to be presented for discussion by members of the Culture Committee.

Jenny Randerson: Atebaf y cwestiwn hwn gan y Ceidwadwyr bob mis. Mae Amgueddfeydd ac Oriolau Cenedlaethol Cymru ar fin cychwyn ar ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus a fydd yn disgrifio ei bolisiâu cyfredol ar gyfer arddangos celfyddyd gan archwilio'r opsiynau ar gyfer datblygu yn y dyfodol. Byddaf yn trefnu i'r ddogfen ymgynghori gael ei chyflwyno i'w thrafod gan aelodau'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant.

Jonathan Morgan: Do you agree that one way of ensuring a high degree of public display of Welsh and international art would be to establish a national art gallery for Wales? It is astonishing that this building is currently the largest art gallery in Wales. We should be proud of our heritage and range of artists in Wales and should do everything possible to ensure that we can display their works of art. As for asking this question every month, we will continue to ask it and to press you on this issue until we get a proper national art gallery.

Jonathan Morgan: A gytunwch mai un ffordd o sicrhau arddangosfa gyhoeddus eang o gelfyddyd Gymreig a rhyngwladol fyddai sefydlu oriel gelf genedlaethol i Gymru? Mae'n syfrdanol mai'r adeilad hwn, ar hyn o bryd, yw'r oriel gelf fwyaf yng Nghymru. Dylem fod yn falch o'n treftadaeth a'n hystod o arlunwyr yng Nghymru a dylem wneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i sicrhau y gallwn arddangos eu celfyddyd. O ran y ffaith ein bod yn gofyn y cwestiwn hwn bob mis, byddwn yn parhau i'w ofyn ac i bwysu arnoch ar y mater hwn hyd nes y cawn oriel gelf genedlaethol briodol.

9:15 a.m.

Jenny Randerson: The Conservative group's lack of ability to follow what is happening and its failure to attend the consultation on this issue held in the Assembly last summer depresses me. That shows the strength of its interest in this issue. It is sad that the Conservatives do not realise what is on display only a mile from here in Cathays Park. The National Museum of

Jenny Randerson: Mae diffyg gallu'r Ceidwadwyr i ddilyn yr hyn sy'n digwydd a'u methiant i fynychu'r ymgynghoriad ar y mater hwn a gynhaliwyd yn y Cynulliad yr haf diwethaf yn fy siomi. Dengys hynny gryfder eu diddordeb yn y mater hwn. Mae'n drueni nad yw'r Ceidwadwyr yn sylweddoli'r hyn sy'n cael ei arddangos dim ond milltir o'r man hwn ym Mharc Cathays. Mae gan

Wales—and I would suggest that you go to see its newly-acquired Gainsborough—has 1,645 oil paintings, half of which are on display. Most are displayed in Cathays Park, but paintings are also loaned throughout Wales. The public consultation will consider the question of establishing a national gallery, as I have promised.

John Griffiths: If we are to reach those who do not normally visit galleries, we must be more imaginative in the way that we display art in Wales. This matter has been raised many times, but will you comment on the latest developments to ensure that we reach a wider audience in terms of the venues that display public art?

Jenny Randerson: I agree wholeheartedly, John, that we need to be more imaginative. One of the National Assembly's most imaginative actions was to ensure free entry to museums, many of which have displays of art. There are also local authority museums in Wales, such as the one in Newport, which are free. That is an imaginative approach to widening access. I hope to announce in the near future that the Arts Council of Wales will release its stores of art, which have been largely unseen until now. I announced additional funding for museums earlier today. I referred to money for two museums; they will be pilot projects and the scheme will go much further eventually, enabling us to ensure that art is more widely available throughout Wales. I am also encouraging the National Museum at every turn to widen its loans policy to ensure that as many organisations in Wales as possible have access to its art or artefacts.

Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru—a byddwn yn awgrymu eich bod yn mynd i weld y Gainsborough newydd—1,645 o baentiadau olew, y caiff hanner ohonynt eu harddangos. Caiff y rhan fwyaf eu harddangos ym Mharc Cathays, ond caiff paentiadau hefyd eu rhoi ar fenthyg ledled Cymru. Bydd yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus yn ystyried y mater o sefydlu oriel genedlaethol, fel yr addewais.

John Griffiths: Os ydym am gyrraedd y rhai hynny nad ydynt yn ymweld ag orielau fel arfer, mae'n rhaid inni fod yn fwy dychmygus yn y ffordd o arddangos celfyddyd yng Nghymru. Codwyd y mater hwn sawl gwaith, ond a wnewch roi sylwadau ar y datblygiadau diweddaraf i sicrhau ein bod yn cyrraedd cynulleidfa ehangach o ran y lleoliadau lle caiff celfyddyd gyhoeddus ei harddangos?

Jenny Randerson: Cytunaf yn llwyr, John, fod angen inni fod yn fwy dychmygus. Un o gamau mwyaf dychmygus y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol oedd sicrhau mynediad am ddim i amgueddfeydd, y mae gan lawer ohonynt arddangosfeydd celf. Yn ogystal, ceir amgueddfeydd awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru, megis yr un yng Nghasnewydd, sydd am ddim. Mae hwnnw'n ddull llawn dychmyg o ehangu mynediad. Gobeithiaf gyhoeddi yn y dyfodol agos y bydd Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yn rhyddhau ei gyflenwadau o gelfyddyd, nas gwelwyd, i raddau helaeth, hyd yn hyn. Cyhoeddais gyllid ychwanegol i amgueddfeydd yn gynharach heddiw. Cyfeiriais at arian ar gyfer dwy amgueddfa; byddant yn brosiectau peilot a bydd y cynllun yn mynd llawer pellach yn y pen draw, gan ein galluogi i sicrhau bod celfyddyd ar gael yn fwy eang ledled Cymru. Yr wyf hefyd yn annog yr Amgueddfa Genedlaethol ar bob cyfle i ehangu ei pholisi benthyg er mwyn sicrhau bod gan gymaint o sefydliadau yng Nghymru â phosibl fynediad i'w chelfyddyd neu ei gwrthrychau.

Canllawiau y Comisiwn Elusennau ar Statws Elusennol Charity Commission Guidelines on Charitable Status

Q4 David Davies: Will the Minister state how many community and amateur sports clubs in Wales will benefit from the revised Charity Commission guidelines on charitable

C4 David Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatgan faint o glybiau chwaraeon cymunedol ac amatur yng Nghymru fydd yn elwa o ganllawiau diwygiedig y Comisiwn

status? (OAQ15123)

Jenny Randerson: It is too early to say. However, I am confident that local sports clubs across Wales will benefit from the rate relief measures arising from the proposed changes to charitable status, announced by the Treasury and the Charity Commission on 30 November 2001. These changes are subject to a Treasury consultation document, 'Promoting Sport in the Community'. Responses to that are due by 1 February.

David Davies: Will you commit yourself to ensuring that the possible benefits of this scheme are publicised so that this does not become another soundbite? Do you agree that it is vital that we encourage amateur sports clubs across Wales and encourage young people to join them, particularly in light of the fact that this Government has continued to allow schools to sell their playing fields?

Jenny Randerson: I will ignore the irrelevant and inaccurate information at the end of that question. There are 6,300 affiliated sports clubs in Wales. When the Treasury has received the comments on the consultation document and the next stage of the consultation has been reached, the Sports Council for Wales has been asked to circulate the consultation paper to Welsh governing bodies for dissemination to affiliated clubs. When that first stage is over, I assure you that I will ensure that the situation is known throughout Wales.

Rosemary Butler: I agree with David Davies that amateur clubs throughout Wales are essential to the fabric of our communities. However, do you agree that one of the best ways to help amateur sport is to help professional sport? What discussions have you had with the Treasury on the reduction of VAT on sports and, dare I add, theatre seats? It has been said in the past that it could not be altered, but as VAT regulations have now been altered to allow free access to museums, there must be a chink there. If you deliver this for Wales, you would be the most popular Minister for Culture ever.

Elusennau ar statws elusenol? (OAQ15123)

Jenny Randerson: Mae'n rhy gynnar i ddweud. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn hyderus y bydd clybiau chwaraeon lleol ledled Cymru yn elwa ar y mesurau rhyddhad trethi sy'n deillio o'r newidiadau arfaethedig i statws elusenol, a gyhoeddwyd gan y Trysorlys a'r Comisiwn Elusennau ar 30 Tachwedd 2001. Mae'r newidiadau hyn yn amodol ar ddogfen ymgynghori gan y Trysorlys, 'Promoting Sport in the Community'. Disgwylir derbyn ymatebion iddi erbyn 1 Chwefror.

David Davies: A wnewch chi ymrwymo i sicrhau bod manteision posibl y cynllun hwn yn cael eu hamlygu fel nad datganiad bachog arall yn unig yw hwn? A gytunwch ei bod yn hanfodol inni annog clybiau chwaraeon amatur ledled Cymru ac annog pobl ifanc i ymuno â hwy, yn enwedig yn sgîl y ffaith bod y Llywodraeth hon wedi parhau i ganiatáu i ysgolion werthu eu caeau chwarae?

Jenny Randerson: Anwybyddaf y wybodaeth amherthnasol ac anghywir ar ddiwedd y cwestiwn hwnnw. Mae 6,300 o glybiau chwaraeon cyswllt yng Nghymru. Pan fydd y Trysorlys wedi derbyn y sylwadau ar y ddogfen ymgynghori ac y byddwn wedi cyrraedd cam nesaf yr ymgynghoriad, gofynnwyd i Gyngor Chwaraeon Cymru ddsbarthu'r papur ymgynghori i gyrff llywodraethol yng Nghymru er mwyn ei dosbarthu i glybiau cyswllt. Pan fydd y cam cyntaf hwnnw drosodd, gallaf eich sicrhau y byddaf yn gwneud yn siŵr y bydd y sefyllfa yn hysbys ledled Cymru.

Rosemary Butler: Cytunaf â David Davies fod clybiau amatur ledled Cymru yn hollbwysig i hanfod ein cymunedau. Fodd bynnag, a gytunwch mai un o'r ffyrdd gorau i helpu chwaraeon amatur yw helpu chwaraeon proffesiynol? Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch gyda'r Trysorlys ar ostwng TAW ar chwaraeon, ac, a gaf i feiddio ag ychwanegu, seddau theatr? Dywedwyd yn y gorffennol nad oedd modd ei newid, ond yn sgîl y ffaith bod rheoliadau TAW bellach wedi cael eu haddasu i ganiatáu mynediad am ddim i amgueddfeydd, mae'n rhaid bod bwlech yna. Pe baech yn darparu hyn i Gymru, chi fyddai'r Gweinidog Diwylliant mwyaf

poblogaidd a fu erioed.

Jenny Randerson: I would also be extremely lucky. You raise an important issue. We have a realistic chance of making some progress on it, but not in the short term. You have raised this issue before and at that time I wrote to Paul Boateng, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and drew the same parallel on the remarkable effect of abolishing entry fees to our national museums and galleries. That is an effective parallel to draw to the Treasury's attention because it likes to consider such issues on the basis of parallels and success.

Jenny Randerson: Byddwn hefyd yn lwcus iawn. Codwch fater pwysig. Mae gennym gyfle realistig o ddatblygu rhywfaint yn y cyswllt hwn, ond nid yn y tymor byr. Codwyd y mater hwn gennych o'r blaen ac ar yr adeg honno ysgrifennais at Paul Boateng, yr Ysgrifennydd Ariannol i'r Trysorlys, ac amlygais y cysylltiad rhyngddo a'r effaith aruthrol a gafodd y penderfyniad i ddileu ffioedd mynediad i'n hamgueddfeydd a'n horielau cenedlaethol. Mae hynny'n gysylltiad effeithiol i dynnu sylw'r Trysorlys ato oherwydd ei fod yn hoffi ystyried materion o'r fath ar sail cysylltiadau a llwyddiannau.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 5 (OAQ15139) yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Question 5 (OAQ15139) has been withdrawn.

Cais Cyngor Caerdydd i fod yn Brifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop 2008 Cardiff Council's Bid for Cultural Capital of Europe 2008

Q6 Mick Bates: Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of Cardiff Council's bid for Cultural Capital of Europe? (OAQ15208)

C6 Mick Bates: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gynnydd cais Cyngor Caerdydd i fod yn Brifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop? (OAQ15208)

Jenny Randerson: Cardiff City and County Council has established a team to develop its bid for Cultural Capital of Europe 2008 and the National Assembly is providing £500,000 to support development of that bid. The team has launched a website to publicise the benefits that a successful bid would bring to the whole of Wales, and has consulted widely and sought ideas about projects that could be developed to strengthen links outside Cardiff. I met the team yesterday.

Jenny Randerson: Mae Cyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd wedi sefydlu tîm i ddatblygu ei gais i fod yn Brifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop 2008 ac mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn rhoi £500,000 i gynorthwyo datblygiad y cais hwnnw. Lansiodd y tîm wefan i hyrwyddo'r manteision y byddai cais llwyddiannus yn eu cyflwyno i Gymru gyfan, ac ymgynghorodd yn eang gan gasglu syniadau ynglŷn â phrosiectau y gellid eu datblygu i atgyfnerthu cysylltiadau y tu allan i Gaerdydd. Cyfarfûm â'r tîm ddoe.

Mick Bates: It has long been known that Llanfair Caereinion is the cultural capital of Wales. However, that apart, do you agree that the whole of Wales would benefit immensely from a successful bid by Cardiff, particularly economically?

Mick Bates: Gwyddom ers amser mai Llanfair Caereinion yw prifddinas diwylliant Cymru. Fodd bynnag, ar wahân i hynny, a gytunwch y byddai Cymru gyfan yn elwa'n sylweddol ar gais llwyddiannus gan Gaerdydd, yn enwedig yn economaidd?

Jenny Randerson: I agree wholeheartedly. It is interesting that the organisers of events outside Cardiff, for example, the organisers of the Cartoon Forum—which took place during the summer in north Wales—and the organisers of the proposed ASSITEJ festival,

Jenny Randerson: Cytunaf yn llwyr. Mae'n ddiddorol bod trefnwyr digwyddiadau y tu allan i Gaerdydd, er enghraifft, trefnwyr y Fforwm Cartwnau—a gynhaliwyd yn ystod yr haf yn y Gogledd—a threfnwyr gŵyl arfaethedig ASSITEJ, gŵyl ddrama i'r ifanc

a youth drama festival to be held in Aberystwyth, have told me that they wish to be part of the Cultural Capital of Europe bid. They do not want to move from west or north Wales, but they consider the bid to be an all-Wales bid. That is significant.

The team told me yesterday that it had received 275 proposals for activity as part of the bid, from all over Wales.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf yn siŵr bod pawb yn ymuno â chi i groesawu'r ffaith bod Cymru gyfan yn cefnogi cais Caerdydd i fod yn Brifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop 2008. Beth yw eich barn ar sut y mae Lerpwl yn defnyddio arian Amcan 1 i gryfhau ei chais?

Jenny Randerson: I understand that that is a legitimate use of the funding. We have the advantage that Cardiff is able to use Welsh Assembly Government money for its bid, which is not available to Liverpool.

Lorraine Barrett: When you discuss the bid with the team, could you remind it of the cultural talent and facilities in the Valleys? Merthyr Tydfil has the wonderful painter, Michael Payne and Abertillery—Peter Law's area—has a wonderful community theatre where last year I had the privilege of seeing Tom Paxton. He did not go to Cardiff but chose Abertillery instead. It is important to remember the wealth of talent and facilities in the Valleys, which we must utilise.

Jenny Randerson: The team has visited the Valleys and has held meetings with representatives from Valleys councils. A good example of an initiative that should be included is the Valleys dance initiative, which has been set up by the arts council and which is now up and running. That is an exciting development.

9:25 a.m.

Hyrwyddo Cerddoriaeth mewn Cymunedau Difreintiedig Promotion of Music in Deprived Areas

Q7 Peter Black: What action is the Minister taking to promote music in deprived

i'w chynnal yn Aberystwyth, wedi dweud wrthyf eu bod yn dymuno bod yn rhan o gais Prifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop. Nid oeddent am symud o'r Gorllewin neu o'r Gogledd, ond ystyriant fod y cais yn gais gan Gymru gyfan. Mae hynny'n arwyddocaol.

Dywedodd y tîm wrthyf ddoe ei fod wedi derbyn 275 o gynigion am weithgareddau fel rhan o'r cais, gan bobl ledled Cymru.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I am sure that everyone would join you in welcoming the fact that the whole of Wales supports Cardiff's bid to be the Cultural Capital of Europe 2008. What is your opinion on the use Liverpool is making of Objective 1 funding to strengthen its bid?

Jenny Randerson: Deallaf fod hyn yn fodd cyfreithlon o ddefnyddio'r cyllid. Mae gennym y fantais bod Caerdydd yn gallu defnyddio arian Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer ei chais, nad yw ar gael i Lerpwl.

Lorraine Barrett: Pan fyddwch yn trafod y cais gyda'r tîm, a wnewch chi ei atgoffa o'r dalent a'r cyfleusterau diwylliannol yn y Cymoedd? Mae gan Ferthyr Tudful yr arlunydd gwych, Michael Payne ac mae gan Abertillery—ardal Peter Law—theatr gymunedol arbennig lle cefais yr anrhydedd o weld Tom Paxton y llynedd. Nid aeth i Gaerdydd ond dewisodd Abertillery yn hytrach. Mae'n bwysig cofio'r cyfoeth o dalent a chyfleusterau yn y Cymoedd, y mae'n rhaid inni eu defnyddio.

Jenny Randerson: Ymwelodd y tîm â'r Cymoedd a chynhaliodd gyfarfodydd â chynrychiolwyr o gynghorau'r Cymoedd. Enghraifft dda o fenter y dylid ei chynnwys yw menter ddawns y Cymoedd, a sefydlwyd gan gyngor y celfyddydau ac sydd bellach yn mynd rhagddi. Mae hwnnw'n ddatblygiad cyffrous.

C7 Peter Black: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i hyrwyddo

communities? (OAQ15129)

Jenny Randerson: The Welsh Assembly Government's policies offer encouragement to enable people from all backgrounds to enjoy the arts. My culture strategy, 'Creative Future:Cymru Greadigol', aims to make cultural policy an integral part of the Communities First programme. Organisations such as Community Music Wales and the Welsh Music Foundation are of key importance in helping to build the infrastructure needed to nurture musical talent. In addition, the music development fund has enabled around 6,500 pupils to take part in vocal activities and 26,000 pupils to undertake instrumental activities.

Peter Black: Do you share my concern that music provision varies across Wales? Will you consult with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning to see how that can be addressed and how we can raise the level of music tuition in our educational establishments?

Jenny Randerson: Jane Davidson and I have already discussed that issue as part of the preparations for the culture strategy. The numerous proposals in that strategy which have an educational aspect will address the issues you raised. In addition, we have ensured that the music development fund continues for a further year and we are considering options for the future.

Geraint Davies: Last night, I had the pleasure of attending a function at the Pop Factory in Porth. Minister, I am sure that you will agree that that is an excellent venue for promoting music in deprived areas, providing opportunities for young people throughout Wales to develop their musical talent. How will your strategy build on that excellent example and encourage similar ventures throughout the whole of Wales?

Jenny Randerson: First, you will be pleased to hear that the Pop Factory's reputation is such that I have decided to launch the culture

cerddoriaeth mewn cymunedau difreintiedig? (OAQ15129)

Jenny Randerson: Mae polisiau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cynnig anogaeth i alluogi pobl o bob cefndir i fwynhau'r celfyddydau. Nod fy strategaeth ddiwylliant, 'Creative Future:Cymru Greadigol', yw sicrhau bod polisi diwylliannol yn rhan annatod o'r rhaglen Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf. Mae sefydliadau megis Cerddoriaeth Cymuned Cymru a Sefydliad Cerddoriaeth Cymru yn allweddol er mwyn helpu i adeiladu'r seilwaith sydd ei hangen i feithrin talent gerddorol. Yn ogystal, mae'r gronfa datblygu cerddoriaeth wedi galluogi tua 6,500 o ddisgyblion i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau lleisiol a 26,000 o ddisgyblion i ymgymryd â gweithgareddau offerynnol.

Peter Black: A ydych yn rhannu fy mhryder bod y ddarpariaeth gerddoriaeth yn amrywio ar draws Cymru? A wnewch chi ymgynghori â'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes i weld sut y gellid mynd i'r afael â hynny a sut y gallwn godi lefel yr hyfforddiant cerddoriaeth yn ein sefydliadau addysgol?

Jenny Randerson: Mae Jane Davidson a minnau eisoes wedi trafod y mater hwnnw fel rhan o'r paratodau ar gyfer y strategaeth ddiwylliant. Bydd y cynigion niferus yn y strategaeth honno sydd ag agwedd addysgol yn mynd i'r afael â'r materion a godwyd gennych. Yn ogystal, yr ydym wedi sicrhau y bydd y gronfa datblygu cerddoriaeth yn parhau am flwyddyn arall ac yr ydym yn ystyried opsiynau ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Geraint Davies: Neithiwr, cefais y pleser o fynychu derbyniad yn y Ffatri Bop yn y Porth. Weinidog, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno bod hwnnw yn lleoliad gwych ar gyfer hyrwyddo cerddoriaeth mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig, gan ddarparu cyfleoedd i bobl ifanc ledled Cymru ddatblygu eu talent gerddorol. Sut y bydd eich strategaeth yn adeiladu ar yr enghraifft wych honno ac yn annog mentrau tebyg ledled Cymru gyfan?

Jenny Randerson: Yn gyntaf, byddwch yn falch i glywed bod gan y Ffatri Bop enw cystal fel yr wyf wedi penderfynu lansio'r

strategy there on 7 February. That is a significant recognition of its success. Secondly, the culture strategy makes a number of references to music and its development, and refers specifically to music of all kinds. The strategy is designed to develop community-based music that leads to excellence.

Gwenda Thomas: Will you join me in recognising the exemplary success of the Steer studios project in the village of Tairgwaith in my constituency, which has benefited from a grant from the Arts Council of Wales and is successfully promoting music in a deprived community?

Jenny Randerson: I would be delighted to hear more about that and would be pleased if you would write to me outlining the details of that project, which, perhaps, I could visit.

strategaeth ddiwylliant yno ar 7 Chwefror. Mae hynny yn gydnabyddiaeth sylweddol o'i llwyddiant. Yn ail, cyfeiria'r strategaeth ddiwylliant sawl gwaith at gerddoriaeth a'i datblygiad, a chyfeiria'n benodol at gerddoriaeth o bob math. Bwriedir i'r strategaeth ddatblygu cerddoriaeth yn y gymuned sy'n arwain at ragoriaeth.

Gwenda Thomas: A wnewch chi ymuno â mi i gydnabod llwyddiant rhagorol prosiect stiwdios Steer ym mhentref Tairgwaith yn fy etholaeth, a fanteisiodd ar grant gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru ac sy'n hyrwyddo cerddoriaeth yn llwyddiannus mewn cymuned ddifreintiedig?

Jenny Randerson: Byddwn wrth fy modd yn clywed rhagor am hynny a byddwn yn falch pe gallech ysgrifennu ataf yn amlinellu manylion y prosiect hwnnw y gallwn, o bosibl, ymweld ag ef.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs

Cyswllt Ffermio Farming Connect

Q1 Janet Ryder: Will the Minister give an update on the performance of Farming Connect? (OAQ15180)

The Minister for Rural Affairs (Carwyn Jones): The Farming Connect service centre has received more than 3,300 inquiries for business evaluations. Of these, 250 are for farm business option reviews and the remainder for farm business development plans. Over 200 development plans have been completed and about 180 capital grant application forms have been issued to farmers. That is an encouraging start.

Janet Ryder: You are aware of the concerns expressed by farmers regarding this initiative: they range from concerns about the quality and number of consultants and visits, leading to delays, to the concerns of those in most need of assistance, who fail to get the advice and funds that they need. What specific actions will you take to alleviate those concerns?

C1 Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Gweinidog esbonio'r sefyllfa ddiweddaraf o ran perfformiad Cyswllt Ffermio? (OAQ15180)

Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig Carwyn Jones): Derbyniodd canolfan gwasanaeth Cyswllt Ffermio dros 3,300 o ymholiadau am werthusiadau busnes. O'r rhain, mae 250 ar gyfer adolygiadau opsiynau busnes fferm a'r gweddill ar gyfer cynlluniau datblygu busnes fferm. Cwblhawyd dros 200 o gynlluniau datblygu a chyflwynwyd tua 180 o ffurflenni cais am grantiau cyfalaf i ffermwyr. Mae hynny'n ddechrau addawol.

Janet Ryder: Yr ydych yn ymwybodol o'r pryderon a fynegwyd gan ffermwyr ynglŷn â'r fenter hon: maent yn ymestyn o bryderon ynghylch ansawdd a nifer yr ymgynghorwyr a'r ymweliadau, sydd yn arwain at oedi, at bryderon y rheini y mae fwyaf o angen cymorth arnynt, sy'n methu â chael y cyngor a'r cyllid y mae eu hangen arnynt. Pa gamau penodol a gymerwch i leddfu'r pryderon hynny?

Carwyn Jones: One hundred and fifty four business consultants have been appointed and have received training. Of those, 84 have had final accreditation to provide free advice on the completion of farm business evaluations. I am aware that some farmers have to wait a little longer for their chosen consultants, because some are much in demand. That is bound to happen. However, some applications will not be successful; this is a serious process where there must be a farm business option review or development plan in order for the money to be accessed. It is not a minor matter that must be overcome before the money can be obtained. The scheme is specific and will be available for many farmers, but it is in its infancy.

Mick Bates: Minister, this is an excellent scheme introduced by the partnership Government, which demonstrates our commitment to a free advisory service—dismantled by the previous Tory Government. Do you agree—[ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: ‘Ask a question.’]

The Presiding Officer: Order. Mick Bates has just asked a question. I heard him say ‘Do you agree?’ That seems to be in the interrogatory mode.

Mick Bates: Do you agree that the concept of offering free business plans to our farming industry is critical to future prosperity, and that without it, this scheme will fail?

Carwyn Jones: Yes, I agree.

Peter Rogers: It is widely accepted that off-farm working is needed to support farm businesses. Why are you not allowing farming partners under 40 years of age, who are working off-farm, to access capital grants under Farming Connect?

Carwyn Jones: I am not aware of that, but if you refer me to a specific example, I will be pleased to deal with it.

Carwyn Jones: Penodwyd 154 o ymgynghorwyr busnes ac maent wedi derbyn hyfforddiant. O'r rhain, cafodd 84 achrediad terfynol i roi cyngor am ddim ar ôl cwblhau'r gwerthusiadau busnes fferm. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod rhai ffermwyr yn gorfod aros ychydig yn hwy i gael eu dewis ymgynghorwyr, gan fod galw mawr am rai ohonynt. Mae hynny'n rhwym o ddigwydd. Fodd bynnag, ni fydd rhai ceisiadau'n llwyddiannus; mae hon yn broses ddifrifol lle y mae'n rhaid cael adolygiad o opsiynau busnes fferm neu gynllun datblygu er mwyn cael gafael ar yr arian. Nid mater bach mohono a rhaid ei oresgyn cyn y gellir cael yr arian. Mae'r cynllun yn benodol a bydd ar gael i lawer o ffermwyr, ond dim ond dechrau y mae.

Mick Bates: Weinidog, mae hwn yn gynllun ardderchog a gyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth, sy'n dangos ein hymrwymiad i wasanaeth ymgynghori am ddim—a ddatgymalwyd gan y Llywodraeth Doriaidd flaenorol. A gytunwch—[AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: ‘Gofynnwch gwestiwn.’]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae Mick Bates newydd ofyn cwestiwn. Clywais ef yn dweud ‘A gytunwch?’ Ymddengys ei fod yn y cywair holiadol.

Mick Bates: A gytunwch fod y cysyniad o gynnig cynlluniau busnes am ddim i'n diwydiant ffermio yn hanfodol i ffyniant yn y dyfodol, ac hebdo, bydd y cynllun hwn yn methu?

Carwyn Jones: Cytunaf.

Peter Rogers: Derbynnir yn eang fod gweithio oddi ar y fferm yn angenrheidiol i gefnogi busnesau ffermio. Pam nad ydych yn caniatáu i bartneriaid fferm o dan 40 mlwydd oed, sy'n gweithio oddi ar y fferm, i wneud cais am grantiau cyfalaf o dan Cyswllt Ffermio?

Carwyn Jones: Nid wyf yn ymwybodol o hynny, ond os cyfeirwch fi at enghraifft benodol, bydd yn dda gennyf ddelio â hi.

Y Sector Pysgodfeydd The Fisheries Sector

C2 Gareth Jones: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd yn ddiweddar i hyrwyddo'r sector pysgodfeydd yng Nghymru? (OAQ15177)

Carwyn Jones: Yn gynharach yr wythnos hon, cyhoeddais y bydd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn cael grant ychwanegol o £2.4 miliwn dros y tair blynedd nesaf i ddatblygu pysgodfeydd mewndirol a hamdden. Mae fy swyddogion wedi bod yn gweithio'n agos gyda Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru ac Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru i sicrhau y caiff y €15.2 miliwn—sydd yn rhaglen Amcan 1 Cymru ar gyfer pysgodfeydd y môr a ffyrdd eraill o ddatblygu busnesau pysgota—ei ddefnyddio'n synhwyrol.

Gareth Jones: A wnewch gadarnhau bod eich bwriad i sefydlu dau grŵp strategol i ddatblygu potensial y sector pysgodfeydd, a amlinellwyd yn yr adroddiad ar Ffermio i'r Dyfodol a lanswyd fis Tachwedd diwethaf, wedi ei weithredu? Pryd y bydd y grwpiau yn adrodd yn ôl gydag argymhellion pendant ar sut i sicrhau ein bod yn datblygu'r sector pwysig hwn i'w lawn botensial?

Carwyn Jones: Mae gwaith ar y gweill ar hyn o bryd. Un bwriad sydd gennyf ar gyfer y dyfodol yw ystyried pa fath o grŵp y gellir ei sefydlu ar hyd yr un llinellau â'r grŵp Ffermio i'r Dyfodol, er mwyn sicrhau bod pysgodfeydd yn cael sylw teg.

Yn hanesyddol yng Nghymru, ystyriwyd pysgodfeydd fel sector bach, ac nid fel sector y gellid ei ddatblygu, nid yn unig yn ymwneud â'r môr, afonydd a llynnoedd, ond mewn perthynas â ffermio dŵr. Yr wyf yn bwriadu gweithredu ar hyn. Hysbysaf y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig o unrhyw ddatblygiadau.

John Griffiths: The lave net fishermen who operate in the Severn estuary were in Caldicot this week obtaining further signatures for their petition, which already has some 1,000 names on it. Carwyn, can you assure me that you will continue to recognise the strength of their case, namely that this is a cultural activity and poses no threat to

Q2 Gareth Jones: What action has the Minister taken recently to promote the fisheries sector in Wales? (OAQ15177)

Carwyn Jones: Earlier this week, I announced that the Environment Agency will receive an additional grant of £2.4 million over the next three years to develop inland and recreational fisheries. My officials have been working closely with the Welsh European Funding Office and the Welsh Development Agency to ensure that the €15.2 million—set aside in the Welsh Objective 1 programme for sea fisheries and other means of developing fishing businesses—is used sensibly.

Gareth Jones: Will you confirm that your intention to create two strategy groups to develop the potential of the fisheries sector, as outlined in the report on Farming Futures, launched last November, has been implemented? When will the groups report back with specific recommendations on how to ensure that we develop this important sector to its full potential?

Carwyn Jones: Work is ongoing. One of my intentions for the future is to consider what kind of group could be established along the same lines as the Farming Futures group, to ensure that fisheries get the attention that they deserve.

Historically in Wales, the fisheries sector has been considered as a small sector, and not one that could be developed, not only in relation to the sea, lakes and rivers, but with regard to aquaculture. I intend to act on this. I will inform the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of any developments.

John Griffiths: Bu'r pysgotwyr rhwydi *lave* sy'n gweithredu yn aber Afon Hafren yng Nghaldicot yr wythnos hon yn casglu llofnodion pellach ar gyfer eu deiseb, sydd eisoes â 1,000 o enwau arni. Carwyn, a fedrwch chi fy sicrhau y byddwch yn parhau i gydnabod bod ganddynt achos cryf, sef bod hwn yn weithgaredd diwylliannol ac nad

salmon stocks in the Severn estuary?

yw'n fygythiad i'r stociau eog yn aber Afon Hafren.?

Carwyn Jones: You have pursued this topic at great length with me as it is of importance in your constituency. Consultation is taking place as to the future of those fisheries. I am aware of the cultural and historical situation of not only the lave net fisheries, but the seine net fisheries, particularly in the Teifi estuary, and the coracle fisheries, which have been around for centuries, if not millennia. We should think carefully about how we deal with them in future. People do not want to hasten their disappearance.

Carwyn Jones: Yr ydych wedi codi'r pwnc hwn mewn manylder gyda mi gan ei fod o bwys yn eich etholaeth. Mae ymgynghoriad yn digwydd ynglŷn â dyfodol y pysgodfeydd hynny. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o sefyllfa ddiwylliannol a hanesyddol nid yn unig y pysgodfeydd rhwydi *lave*, ond y pysgodfeydd rhwydi *sân* yn enwedig yn aber Afon Teifi, a'r pysgotwyr cwrwgl, sydd wedi bodoli ers canrifoedd, os nad milenia. Dylem feddwl yn ofalus sut y deliwn â hwy yn y dyfodol. Nid yw pobl am brysuro eu tranc.

Mewnforion Cig Anghyfreithlon Illegal Meat Imports

C3 Elin Jones: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi holi Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig ynghylch yr angen i fynd i'r afael â phroblem mewnforion cig anghyfreithlon i'r DU? (OAQ15181)

Q3 Elin Jones: Has the Minister spoken to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs about the need to address the problem of illegal meat imports into the UK? (OAQ15181)

Carwyn Jones: Fel y dywedais ddoe yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig, ysgrifennais at Margaret Beckett, yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig yn DEFRA, i'w hysbysu am ein pryderon yng Nghymru ynghylch mewnforio anghyfreithlon. Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod o Weinidogion materion gwledig y Deyrnas Unedig yr wythnos diwethaf yn Llundain, a thrafodwyd y mater hwn. Cododd Ross Finnie, Gweinidog dros Amgylchedd a Datblygu Gwledig yr Alban, a minnau y mater. Mae DEFRA yn ystyried sawl cam ar hyn o bryd i sicrhau lleihad yn y risg o fewnforio cig anghyfreithlon.

Carwyn Jones: As I said yesterday in the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, I have written to Margaret Beckett, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, at DEFRA, to inform her of our concerns in Wales about illegal imports. The matter was discussed last week in London at a meeting of the United Kingdom rural affairs Ministers. Ross Finnie, Scotland's Minister for Environment and Rural Development, and I raised the matter. DEFRA is currently considering several measures to ensure a reduction in the risk from illegally imported meat.

9:35 a.m.

Elin Jones: Nododd eich adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor ddoe, i bob pwrpas, mai camau i gynyddu cyhoeddusrwydd yn erbyn mewnforio cig anghyfreithlon yn unig sydd wedi digwydd ers cychwyn clwy'r traed a'r genau. O ystyried cost ddychrynlyd y clwyf i'r Deyrnas Gyfunol gyfan, a gredwch i DEFRA fod yn anghyfrifol wrth fethu â sicrhau mwy o bersonél a mwy o chwilio gan Dollau Tramor a Chartref Ei Mawrhydi i warchod y Deyrnas Gyfunol rhag y clwyf?

Elin Jones: Your report to the Committee yesterday noted, to all intents and purposes, that only measures to increase awareness of illegal meat imports have been implemented since the start of the foot and mouth disease outbreak. Given the horrendous cost of the disease to the whole of the United Kingdom, do you believe that DEFRA has been irresponsible in failing to ensure more personnel and an increase in searches by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise to protect the

Mae DEFRA yn barod i wario arian ar bob agwedd arall ar reoli clwy'r traed a'r genau, ond bu'n annigonol yn yr un agwedd honno.

United Kingdom from the disease? DEFRA is prepared to spend money on every other aspect of controlling foot and mouth disease, but it has been insufficient in that one regard.

Carwyn Jones: Nid yw hynny'n deg. Fel y dywedais yn y Pwyllgor ddoe, mae DEFRA wedi siarad ag adran y tollau i sicrhau mwy o wybodaeth ynglŷn â tharddiad cig, a dulliau eraill o reoli'r cig sy'n dod i'r wlad. Awgrymwyd sawl cam yn yr adroddiad ddoe: er enghraifft, defnyddio cŵn, fel yn Seland Newydd; neu ddefnyddio peiriannau pelydr x i sicrhau bod llai o gig yn dod i'r wlad yn anghyfreithlon. Felly, mae llawer yn digwydd. Nid gosod posteri, ac ati, yn unig a wneir; mae camau ymarferol yn cael eu cymryd hefyd.

Carwyn Jones: That is not fair. As I said in Committee yesterday, DEFRA has spoken to customs and excise to ensure more information about meat origins and other ways of controlling the meat that enters the country. Several suggestions were made in yesterday's report: for example, the use of dogs, as in New Zealand; or using x-ray machines to ensure that less meat enters the country illegally. So, much is happening. It is not only a matter of putting up posters, and so on; practical steps are also being taken.

William Graham: Minister, you will be aware of press reports this week of a plane arriving at Gatwick with all the passengers allegedly carrying meat products. Though I appreciate that there is no definite causal link between foot and mouth disease and such imports—and I am grateful for your replies—will you report further when you know of effective measures that will be taken?

William Graham: Weinidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol o adroddiadau yn y wasg yr wythnos hon am awyren yn cyrraedd Gatwick â'r holl deithwyr, yn ôl yr honiad, yn cludo cynhyrchion cig. Er fy mod yn gwerthfawrogi nad oes dolen achos bendant rhwng clwy'r traed a'r genau a mewnfurion o'r fath—ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich atebion—a wnewch chi adrodd ymhellach pan fyddwch yn gwybod am gamau effeithiol a gymerir?

Carwyn Jones: I am happy to do so. Two more points need to be emphasised. First, there must be European consideration of how this is done, and I hope that that will happen. There are other countries in Europe that are more vulnerable to the disease than we are. Greece is an example, as the disease exists across the border in Turkey. Secondly, the European Union must consider aiding those countries where foot and mouth disease is endemic, in order to eradicate it there to further minimise the risk of importing the disease into the EU.

Carwyn Jones: Bydd yn dda gennyf wneud hynny. Mae angen pwysleisio dau bwynt pellach. Yn gyntaf, rhaid rhoi ystyriaeth yn Ewrop i'r modd y dylid gwneud hyn, a gobeithiaf y bydd hynny'n digwydd. Mae gwledydd eraill yn Ewrop sy'n fwy agored i'r clwyf na ni. Mae gwlad Groeg yn un enghraifft gan fod y clwyf yn bodoli dros ei ffin yn Nhwrci. Yn ail, rhaid i'r Undeb Ewropeaidd ystyried cynorthwyo'r gwledydd lle mae clwy'r traed a'r genau yn rhemp, er mwyn ei ddileu yno er mwyn lleihau ymhellach y perygl o fewnfurio'r clwyf i mewn i'r UE.

Cyhoedduswydd i'r Gwasanaeth Cyswllt Ffermio Publicising the Farming Connect Service

Q4 Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister please make a statement concerning efforts to publicise the new Farming Connect service? (OAQ15210)

C4 Christine Gwyther: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar yr ymdrechion i roi cyhoedduswydd i'r gwasanaeth Cyswllt Ffermio newydd? (OAQ15210)

Carwyn Jones: The main launch of Farming Connect took place last September. It was followed by a series of regional launch events aimed at involving as many local people as possible. There has also been extensive coverage in the press, wide distribution of Farming Connect literature and articles in many publications, including *Gwlad*, the Assembly magazine that is sent to every farm in Wales.

Christine Gwyther: I am grateful for your answer. Do you agree that we must publicise the short-term potential for trading within farming? I refer specifically to next month's opening of the marts—which will hopefully spread further—and especially to bio-security. I know that you will write to mart operators regarding their rights and responsibilities; will you also write to farmers or publish information in *Gwlad*, to inform them of their rights in terms of traditional quality controls such as mart inspections?

Carwyn Jones: That is a well-made point and I will take it on board. It is easier now for us to communicate messages because of *Gwlad*. All farmers have access to that information; whether they choose to read it or not is up to them. When the marts re-open—hopefully by the middle of next month—the information must be distributed to both marts and individual farmers.

Alun Cairns: Does the Minister agree that there is little point in spending more money on publicising Farming Connect while structural problems remain and while many farmers are waiting for consultation? Does he further agree that both he and the Minister for Environment should make a clear statement about planning policy on how farmers will be able to diversify in future?

Carwyn Jones: I do not accept your premise that there are structural problems or difficulties that cannot be overcome. The scheme was launched successfully, and those who have been involved in it have found that it is beneficial to them.

Carwyn Jones: Cynhaliwyd prif lansiad Cyswllt Ffermio fis Medi diwethaf. Dilynwyd hynny gan gyfres o ddigwyddiadau rhanbarthol a anelwyd at gynifer o bobl leol ag oedd yn bosibl. Hefyd cafodd sylw helaeth yn y wasg, dosbarthiad eang o lenyddiaeth Cyswllt Ffermio ac erthyglau mewn llawer o gyhoeddiadau yn cynnwys *Gwlad*, cylchgrawn y Cynulliad a anfonir i bob fferm yng Nghymru.

Christine Gwyther: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich ateb. A gytunwch fod yn rhaid rhoi cyhoeddusrwydd i botensial tymor byr ar gyfer masnachu o fewn ffermio? Cyfeiriaf yn benodol at agoriad y marchnadoedd fis nesaf—a fydd gobeithio yn ymestyn ymhellach—ac yn enwedig i bio-diogelwch. Gwn y byddwch yn ysgrifennu at y rhai sy'n rhedeg y marchnadoedd ynglŷn â'u hawliau a'u cyfrifoldebau; a wnewch chi hefyd ysgrifennu at ffermwyr neu gyhoeddi gwybodaeth yn *Gwlad*, i'w hysbysu o'u hawliau o ran rheolaethau ansawdd traddodiadol megis archwilio marchnadoedd.

Carwyn Jones: Gwnaethoch bwynt da a byddaf yn ei ystyried. Mae'n haws erbyn hyn inni roi negeseuon oherwydd *Gwlad*. Mae'r wybodaeth honno'n mynd i bob ffermwr, ac mae'n fater iddynt hwy pa un a ydynt yn ei darllen ai peidio. Pan fydd y marchnadoedd yn ailagor—gobeithio erbyn diwedd y mis nesaf—rhaid i'r wybodaeth gael ei dosbarthu i farchnadoedd ac i ffermwyr unigol.

Alun Cairns: A gytuna'r Gweinidog nad oes fawr o bwynt mewn gwario mwy o arian ar hysbysebu Cyswllt Ffermio tra bod problemau strwythurol yn parhau a thra bod llawer o ffermwyr yn disgwyl o hyd am ymgynghoriad? A gytuna ymhellach y dylai ef a'r Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd roi datganiad clir am bolisi cynllunio ar sut y bydd ffermwyr yn gallu arallgyfeirio yn y dyfodol?

Carwyn Jones: Nid ydwyf yn derbyn eich dadl fod problemau strwythurol neu anawsterau na ellir eu goresgyn. Lanswyd y cynllun yn llwyddiannus, ac mae'r rhai sydd wedi ymwneud ag ef wedi canfod ei fod yn fanteisiol iddynt.

Dyddiadau Cau Cynlluniau Iawndal Compensatory Scheme Application Deadlines

Q5 David Davies: Will the Minister advise what safeguards are in place to protect farmers who are unable to meet compensatory scheme application deadlines through ill health? (OAQ15153)

Carwyn Jones: The compensation schemes for which the Assembly is responsible deal with tuberculosis and brucellosis. We are also responsible for schemes for little-known diseases, such as warbles, of which there has not been a case. There are no deadlines that must be met in terms of claiming under these schemes.

David Davies: With respect, Minister, you misunderstood the question. I recently raised the case of Mr Molton with you, a Monmouthshire farmer who lost out on a subsidy worth thousands of pounds because he suffered a stroke. Do you not agree that the current system is grossly unfair, and is it not a disgrace that you as Minister are unable to override rules that are made in Brussels by people who have no interest in the development of the British farming industry?

Carwyn Jones: David, now you are talking about a subsidy scheme not a compensation scheme. My answer was specific. You were less than specific in the question you intended to ask. I will deal with the subsidy scheme since you have raised the issue. You have raised one particular case with me—I will not go into the details of that case. Where it is possible to make a decision in favour of a farmer, that decision will be taken. There are established rules because it is a European scheme. Where those rules cannot be overcome, if, for example, there is a clear breach of the rules, our hands are tied. In future, there will be an independent appeals panel. If people feel that that will be a better way of getting a decision, that will be a matter for them. Where a European scheme exists, it is inevitable that the rules are made in Europe.

The Presiding Officer: Question 6 (OAQ15179) has been withdrawn.

C5 David Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddweud pa fesurau sydd yn eu lle i amddiffyn ffermwyr sy'n colli dyddiadau cau cynlluniau iawndal oherwydd afiechyd? (OAQ15153)

Carwyn Jones: Y cynlluniau iawndal y mae'r Cynulliad yn gyfrifol amdanynt yw'r rhai sy'n delio â thwbercwlosis a brwselosis. Yr ydym hefyd yn gyfrifol am gynlluniau ar gyfer clefydau llai hysbys megis robin y gyrrwr, na fu achos ohono. Nid oes terfynau amser y mae'n rhaid cadw atynt o ran hawlio o dan y cynlluniau hyn.

David Davies: Gyda phob parch Weinidog, gwnaethoch gamddeall fy nghwestiwn. Yn ddiweddar codais achos Mr Molton gyda chi, ffermwr o Sir Fynwy a gollodd werth miloedd o bunnoedd o gymorth oherwydd iddo ddiodeff strôc. Oni chytunwch fod y system gyfredol yn eithriadol annheg, ac onid yw hi'n gywilyddus eich bod chi fel Gweinidog yn methu â diystyru rheolau a wneir ym Mrwsel gan bobl sydd heb unrhyw ddi-ddordeb yn natblygiad y diwydiant ffermio ym Mhrydain?

Carwyn Jones: Yr ydych yn siarad yn awr, David, am gynllun cymhorthdal nid am gynllun iawndal. Yr oedd fy ateb yn benodol. Nid oeddech yn benodol yn y cwestiwn yr oeddech yn bwriadu ei ofyn. Deliaf â'r cynllun cymhorthdal gan ichi godi'r mater. Yr ydych wedi codi un achos arbennig gyda mi—ni wnaif fanylu ar yr achos hwnnw. Lle bo modd gwneud penderfyniad o blaid y ffermwr, gwneir y penderfyniad hwnnw. Gan ei fod yn gynllun Ewropeaidd ceir rheolau sefydledig. Lle nad oes modd goresgyn y rheolau hynny, os oes, er enghraifft dor-rheol amlwg, yna yr ydym ynghlwm. Yn y dyfodol bydd panel apeliadau annibynnol. Os yw pobl yn teimlo bod hyn yn well ffordd o gael penderfyniad, mae hynny yn fater iddynt hwy. Lle mae cynllun Ewropeaidd yn bod, mae'n anorfod bod y rheolau'n cael eu llunio yn Ewrop.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 6 (OAQ15179) yn ôl.

BSE

Q7 William Graham: Has the Minister written to the Imperial College, London regarding its detrimental research report into BSE? (OAQ15213) [R]

Carwyn Jones: I have not.

William Graham: When are you likely to do so?

Carwyn Jones: The responsibility for food safety now lies with the Foods Standards Agency. The reason for its creation was to remove a doubt that existed at the time about the conflict of responsibility in the then Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, between food safety and food production. It would be highly improper for me as Minister for Rural Affairs without responsibility for food safety to try to influence any scientific research.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym pam y dylem gael unrhyw hyder mewn asiantaethau a gwyddonwyr, na allant wahaniaethu rhwng ymennydd dafad a buwch?

Carwyn Jones: Mae risg damcaniaethol ynghylch a all clefyd y crafu guddio BSE mewn defaid. Nid yw'n wir i'w ddweud ar hyn o bryd nad oes unrhyw risg. Yr ydym yn ymwybodol o'r hyn a ddigwyddodd gyda'r profion—mae'n hen stori a ddarganfuwyd gan y Cynulliad. Rhaid i ni sylweddoli nad oes unrhyw dystiolaeth ymarferol yn cysylltu clefyd y crafu a BSE, ond rhaid i ni sicrhau bod y gwaith yn parhau er mwyn i ni gael cadarnhad.

C7 William Graham: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi ysgrifennu at yr Imperial College yn Llundain ynghylch ei adroddiad ymchwil beirniadol i BSE? (OAQ15213) [R]

Carwyn Jones: Naddo

William Graham: Pryd y byddwch chi'n debyg o wneud?

Carwyn Jones: Yr Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd sy'n gyfrifol yn awr am ddiogelwch bwyd. Y rheswm dros ei chreu oedd i gael gwared ar amheuaeth a oedd yn bodoli ar y pryd ynglŷn â'r gwrthdaro mewn cyfrifoldebau oddi mewn i'r Weinyddiaeth Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd a Physgodfeydd, rhwng diogelwch bwyd a chynhyrchu bwyd. Byddai'n gwbl amhriodol i mi fel y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig sydd heb gyfrifoldeb am ddiogelwch bwyd i geisio dylanwadu ar unrhyw ymchwil gwyddonol.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister tell us why we should have any confidence in agencies and scientists who cannot differentiate between a sheep's brain and a cow's brain?

Carwyn Jones: There is a theoretical risk regarding whether scrapie can mask BSE in sheep. It is not true to say at present that there is no risk. Regarding the tests, we are aware of what happened—it is an old story, which was uncovered by the Assembly. We must realise that there is no practical evidence linking scrapie to BSE, but we must ensure that the work continues so that we have hard evidence.

Cwestiynau i'r Trefnydd**Questions to the Minister for Assembly Business****Darpariaeth Cysylltiadau Band Llydan â'r Rhyngwrwd, a Theledu Digidol
Provision of Broadband Internet Access and Digital Television**

Q1 Brian Hancock: What steps is the Minister taking to co-ordinate the provision of broadband internet access and digital television to all communities in Wales? (OAQ15217)

C1 Brian Hancock: Pa gamau mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i gydlynu'r modd y darperir cysylltiadau band llydan â'r rhyngwrwd, a theledu digidol i bob cymuned yng Nghymru? (OAQ15217)

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): 'Cymru Ar-Lein—Online for a Better Wales' sets out the Welsh Assembly Government's co-ordinated approach to ensuring that Welsh communities benefit from modern technologies. This commitment is reiterated in 'A Winning Wales'. Although broadcasting is not a devolved matter, we recognise that the convergence of telecommunications and television could play a vital role in creating digitally inclusive communities. This is one of the reasons why the Assembly and the Welsh Development Agency commissioned the analysis report, which considered ways of improving access to affordable broadband infrastructure in Wales. The Assembly Government has endorsed that report and a costed implementation plan will be presented to me this month.

9:45 a.m.

Brian Hancock: I remind Members that Consignia is demonstrating Your Guide, the internet website that could be a first-stop Government information shop. However, the experience of other countries confirms that the most cost-effective way of bringing digital television and broadband communications to all communities is via a single fibre optic network. What plans do you have to co-ordinate the provision of those two services in Wales?

Andrew Davies: If you had not mentioned the Consignia demonstration, I would have done so. Thank you for drawing attention to it. I urgently recommend that all Members see the demonstration to discover what Your Guide, the Consignia service, can provide. It is based on a pilot project in Leicester. I met Consignia representatives, who were outlining the proposal, yesterday. We are looking at the outcome of the evaluation of that project to see how we can use that approach in Wales.

On the broader issue of broadband roll-out, as I said in my first answer, the WDA has considered the analysis report and presented a costed implementation plan. I will deal with this with my colleagues, the Minister for

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Mae 'Cymru ar-Lein—Online for a Better Wales' yn nodi ymagwedd gydllynol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau bod cymunedau Cymru yn elwa ar dechnolegau modern. Ailadroddir yr ymrwymiad hwn yn 'Cymru'n Ennill'. Er nad yw darlledu yn fater a ddatganolwyd, cydnabyddwn y gallai'r berthynas agos rhwng telathrebu a theledu chwarae rhan dyngedfennol mewn creu cymunedau digidol cynhwysol. Dyma un o'r rhesymau pam y comisiynodd y Cynulliad ac Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yr adroddiad dadansoddi, a fu'n ystyried ffyrdd o wella cysylltiadau â seilwaith band llydan fforddadwy yng Nghymru. Cefnogodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yr adroddiad hwnnw a bydd cynllun gweithredu wedi ei gostio yn cael ei gyflwyno i mi y mis hwn.

Brian Hancock: Atgoffaf yr Aelodau fod Consignia yn arddangos *Your Guide*, y wefan ryngrwyd a allai fod yn siop alwad gyntaf gwybodaeth y Llywodraeth. Fodd bynnag cadarnha profiad gwledydd eraill mai'r ffordd fwyaf cost-effeithiol o ddwyn teledu digidol a chysylltiadau band llydan i bob cymuned yw drwy un rhwydwaith ffeibr optig. Pa gynlluniau sydd gennych i gydlwynu'r ffordd y caiff y ddau wasanaeth hyn eu darparu yng Nghymru?

Andrew Davies: Pe na fydddech chi wedi sôn am arddangosiad Consignia, byddwn i wedi gwneud. Diolch am dynnu sylw ato. Argymhellaf yn gryf y dylai pob Aelod weld yr arddangosiad i ddarganfod beth y gall *Your Guide*, gan wasanaeth Consignia ei ddarparu. Mae wedi ei seilio ar brosiect peilot yng Nghaerlŷr. Cyfarfûm â chynrychiolwyr Consignia, a oedd yn amlinellu'r cynnig, ddoe. Yr ydym yn edrych ar ganlyniad gwerthusiad y prosiect i weld sut y gallwn ddefnyddio'r ymagwedd honno yng Nghymru.

Ar fater ehangach cyflwyno band llydan, fel y dywedais yn fy ateb cyntaf, mae'r WDA wedi ystyried yr adroddiad dadansoddi ac wedi cyflwyno cynllun gweithredu wedi'i gostio. Byddaf yn delio â hyn gyda'm cyd—

Finance, Local Government and Communities, Edwina Hart, and the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, to see how we can roll out that implementation plan. However, it will be based on a technology neutral approach to broadband infrastructure in Wales. We will consider best value and the most cost-effective way of providing broadband for all communities in Wales.

Eleanor Burnham: Many of my north Wales constituents constantly lobby me about the basic lack of broadband provision. For instance, small companies that want to expand cannot do so because of this inadequate provision. They are losing out to other companies. There is a recent example of a business in Rossett that was trying to grow in line with a company in Denmark. The Danish company came to the conclusion early on that it could not align itself with the company in Rossett, so it will lose out. What can you do to help us in this regard?

Andrew Davies: I refer you to the answer that I gave to Brian Hancock. The WDA's analysis report was presented to us and we will jointly manage its implementation. Broadband accessibility is a priority of 'Cymru Ar-lein—Online for a Better Wales', our information and communications technology strategy for Wales. It is at the top of our agenda. We and the WDA regard it as such and we will move quickly to ensure that communities throughout Wales have access to broadband.

Pobl sydd yn Teleweithio o'u Cartrefi People who Telework from their Homes

Q2 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement concerning the number of people in Wales who are employed to telework from their homes? (OAQ15215)

Andrew Davies: According to the 2001 labour force survey figures, 7.3 per cent of those in employment in Wales were involved in teleworking. That is an increase from 4.9 per cent in spring 1998. The corresponding figures for the UK average were 7.6 and 5.3 per cent respectively.

Aelodau, Y Gweinidog Dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, Edwina Hart, a'r Prif Weinidog, Rhodri Morgan, i weld sut y gallwn ni gyflwyno'r cynllun gweithredu hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, bydd wedi ei seilio ar ymagwedd dechnolegol niwtral tuag at seilwaith band llydan yng Nghymru. Byddwn yn ystyried gwerth gorau a'r dull mwyaf cost effeithiol o ddarparu band llydan i bob cymuned yng Nghymru.

Eleanor Burnham: Bydd llawer o'm hetholwyr yn y Gogledd yn fy lobio yn gyson ynglŷn â'r diffyg darpariaeth band llydan sylfaenol. Er enghraifft, ni all cwmnïau bach sy'n dymuno ehangu wneud hynny oherwydd y ddarpariaeth annigonol hon. Maent yn colli tir i gwmnïau eraill. Mae enghraifft ddiweddar o fusnes yn Yr Orsedd a oedd yn ceisio tyfu ar y cyd â chwmmi yn Nenmarc. Daeth y cwmni o Ddenmarc i'r casgliad yn fuan iawn na allai gyflinio ei hun gyda'r cwmni yn Yr Orsedd, felly bydd yn dioddef. Beth fedrwech chi ei wneud i'n helpu yn y cyswllt hwn?

Andrew Davies: Fe'ch cyfeirïaf at yr ateb a roddais i Brian Hancock. Cyflwynwyd adroddiad dadansoddi'r WDA inni a byddwn yn rheoli'r broses o'i rhoi ar waith ar y cyd. Mae hygyrchedd band llydan yn un o flaenoriaethau 'Cymru Ar-lein—Online for a Better Wales', ein strategaeth wybodaeth a thechnoleg gyfathrebu i Gymru. Mae ar frig ein hagenda. Mae'n flaenoriaeth inni a'r WDA a byddwn yn symud yn gyflym i sicrhau bod cymunedau ar draws Cymru yn gallu cysylltu â band llydan.

C2 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ynghylch nifer y bobl yng Nghymru a gyflogir i deleweithio o'u cartrefi? (OAQ15215)

Andrew Davies: Yn ôl ffigurau arolwg y gweithlu 2001, yr oedd 7.3 y cant o'r rhai a weithiai yng Nghymru yn ymwneud â theleweithio. Mae hyn yn 4.9 y cant o gynnydd ers y gwanwyn 1998. Y ffigurau cyfartaledd ar gyfer y DU oedd 7.6 a 5.3 y cant.

William Graham: Will you outline plans to encourage and support an increase in home teleworking, particularly with regard to BT broadband, as you mentioned. It offers a cost-effective way of increasing employment opportunities in rural areas and for those with restricted mobility.

Andrew Davies: As I stated in my previous answer, one of the major priorities of 'Cymru Ar-lein', our IT strategy for Wales, is broadband accessibility. That is a key point. The work that Consignia is doing through Your Guide, and a range of other measures that we are undertaking, encourages the use of IT and gives people the choice of working from home. This is a crucial issue, particularly in rural or dispersed communities in Wales.

Helen Mary Jones: Does the Minister share my concern about the risk that people working from home can be vulnerable to poor employment practices and low wages? Such workers can be isolated and difficult to organise. Will you undertake to discuss these matters with the appropriate trade unions to ensure that workers' rights are protected as teleworking and working from home grow?

Andrew Davies: I was a long-standing and active trade unionist, and I share your commitment to good employment practices and safe working conditions. We will do everything that we can to ensure that. There are concerns, as you said. We must ensure that working conditions in Wales are as good as, if not better than, other parts of the UK and Europe.

William Graham: A wnewch amlinellu'r cynlluniau i hybu a chefnogi cynnydd mewn teleweithio yn y cartref, yn arbennig mewn perthynas â band llydan BT, fel y soniasoch. Mae'n cynnig dull cost effeithiol i gynyddu cyfleoedd gwaith mewn ardaloedd gwledig ac i'r rheini â symudedd cyfyngedig.

Andrew Davies: Fel y soniais yn fy ateb blaenorol, un o brif flaenoriaethau 'Cymru Ar-lein', ein strategaeth TG i Gymru yw hygyrchedd band llydan. Mae hyn yn bwynt allweddol. Mae'r gwaith a wna Consignia drwy *Your Guide*, ac amrediad o fesurau eraill yr ydym yn ymgymryd â hwy, yn hyrwyddo'r defnydd o TG ac yn rhoi y dewis i bobl o weithio gartref. Mae hyn yn fater hollbwysig, yn enwedig yng nghymunedau gwledig a gwasgaredig Cymru.

Helen Mary Jones: A yw'r Gweinidog yn rhannu fy mhryder ynglŷn â'r risg fod pobl sy'n gweithio yn eu cartrefi yn gallu bod yn agored i arferion cyflogaeth gwael a chyflogau isel? Gall gweithwyr o'r fath fod yn ynysig ac yn anodd i'w trefnu. A wnewch chi ymgymryd i drafod y materion hyn gyda'r undebau llafur priodol i sicrhau bod hawliau gweithwyr yn cael eu hamddiffyn wrth i deleweithio a gweithio gartref gynyddu?

Andrew Davies: Bûm am amser hir yn undebwr llafur gweithgar, a rhannaf eich ymrwymiad i arferion cyflogaeth da ac amodau gwaith diogel. Gwnawn bopeth yn ein gallu i sicrhau hynny. Mae pryderon, fel y dywedwch. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod amodau gwaith yng Nghymru mor dda, os nad yn well, nag mewn rhannau eraill o'r DU ac Ewrop.

Cyfleoedd i Ddefnyddio'r Rhyngrwyd Access to the Internet

Q3 Richard Edwards: Will the Minister make a statement on the accessibility of the internet for the general public, in publicly owned buildings in Wales? (OAQ15168)

Andrew Davies: The internet is accessible to the public at local libraries through the people's ICT network, which has received £6.5 million through the new opportunities

C3 Richard Edwards: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y cyfleoedd i'r cyhoedd ddefnyddio'r rhyngrwyd mewn adeiladau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru? (OAQ15168)

Andrew Davies: Mae cyfle i'r cyhoedd ddefnyddio'r rhyngrwyd mewn llyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus drwy rwydwaith TGCh y bobl, a gafodd £6.5 miliwn drwy y gronfa cyfleoedd

fund. The majority of public libraries in Wales will be online by the end of 2002, providing free access to the internet. Through the National Assembly agriculture department's JIGSAW programme, agriculture offices, such as Carmarthen divisional office, now offer free internet access to their customers. As part of 'Cymru Ar-lein', a database has been created detailing all such public access points, as well as Business Connect centres.

Richard Edwards: Can you confirm that there are plans to enable people to access the internet free of charge in every library in Wales? If so, can you give an indication of when that is likely to happen?

Andrew Davies: To reinforce what I said, this policy is provided through the new opportunities fund. We are confident that every public library in Wales will have free internet access by the end of this year.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): Will you join me, on the basis of what you have just said, in congratulating Powys County Council, which has just secured funding of nearly £400,000 for internet access in libraries? Will you ensure that all institutions in Wales are able to avail themselves of the opportunities offered by the new opportunities fund? It is an exciting opportunity, and it is important that they can access those funds to give people the free internet access to which you have just referred.

Andrew Davies: I join you in congratulating Powys council on its achievement. It is part of the overall programme in Wales. One of the problems that we face in Wales is relatively poor access to computers and the internet. That is why we are investing significantly in community access, whether that is through public libraries, schools or learning centres. We are trying to make up for the deficit in individual home access to computers and the internet. We are looking for a broad approach to ensure that people have access to the latest technology, and also

newydd. Bydd y rhan fwyaf o lyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus Cymru ar lein erbyn diwedd 2002, gan roi cyfle i ddefnyddio'r rhyngwrwd am ddim. Drwy raglen JIGSAW adran amaethyddiaeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, mae swyddfeydd amaeth, megis swyddfa ranbarthol Caerfyrddin yn awr yn cynnig cyfle i'w cwsmeriaid ddefnyddio'r rhyngwrwd am ddim. Fel rhan o 'Cymru Ar-lein', crëwyd cronfa ddata sy'n rhoi manylion pwyntiau mynediad cyhoeddus o'r fath, ynghyd â chanolfannau Cyswllt Busnes.

Richard Edwards: A allwch chi gadarnhau bod cynlluniau ar y gweill i alluogi pobl i gyrchu'r rhyngwrwd am ddim ym mhob llyfrgell yng Nghymru? Os felly, a allwch roi syniad pryd y mae hynny'n debyg o ddigwydd?

Andrew Davies: I ategu yr hyn a ddywedais, darperir y polisi hwn drwy'r gronfa cyfleoedd newydd. Yr ydym yn hyderus y bydd pob llyfrgell gyhoeddus yng Nghymru yn cynnig cyfle i ddefnyddio'r rhyngwrwd erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn hon.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): A wnewch ymuno â mi, ar sail yr hyn yr ydych newydd ei ddweud, i longyfarch Cyngor Sir Powys, sydd newydd ennill ariannu gwerth £400,000 ar gyfer mynediad i'r rhyngwrwd mewn llyfrgelloedd? A wnewch sicrhau bod pob sefydliad yng Nghymru yn gallu manteisio ar y cyfleoedd a gynigir gan y gronfa cyfleoedd newydd? Mae'n gyfle cyffrous, ac mae'n bwysig eu bod yn gallu manteisio ar y cronfeydd hynny i roi'r cyfle i bobl ddefnyddio'r rhyngwrwd am ddim yr ydych newydd gyfeirio ato.

Andrew Davies: Ymunaf â chi i longyfarch cyngor Powys ar ei lwyddiant. Mae'n rhan o raglen gyffredinol yng Nghymru. Un o'r problemau a wynebwn yng Nghymru yw cyfleoedd cymharol wael i ddefnyddio cyfrifiaduron a'r rhyngwrwd. Dyna pam yr ydym yn buddsoddi yn sylweddol mewn mynediad cymunedol, boed hynny drwy lyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus, ysgolion neu ganolfannau dysgu. Yr ydym yn ceisio gwneud iawn am y diffyg cyfle mewn cartrefi unigol i ddefnyddio cyfrifiaduron a'r rhyngwrwd. Yr ydym hefyd yn ceisio cael

in terms of skills and education, to ensure that people have the ability to access the opportunities offered by new technology.

Gareth Jones: Gan nad oes hanner digon o fuddsoddiad ariannol i ddatblygu isadeiledd band llydan, bydd mynediad iddo yn gyfyngedig am flynyddoedd i ddod. Onid oes perygl, felly, na fydd y dechnoleg hon ar gael hyd yn oed i'r staff hynny sy'n gweithio yn ein hadeiladau cyhoeddus, heb sôn am y cyhoedd?

Andrew Davies: As I said in answer to the first question, access to broadband is essential. That is why the First Minister and I announced, at the end of last year, the major and groundbreaking investment of £8.5 million for a broadband lifelong learning network in Wales. A sum of £8.5 million will be available this year, with £4 million in subsequent years for the procurement and maintenance of a high-capacity backbone network to deliver 100 megabyte lifelong learning access points and high speed internet access to every local authority in Wales, which will then provide high speed internet access to all schools. We are also investing approximately £2 million through Education and Learning Wales for the training of teachers, to ensure that they have the skills needed to use this new technology. There are challenges with regard to broadband access, but through the establishment of this public sector lifelong learning network, we are taking major steps to redress the balance.

The Presiding Officer: Question 4 (OAQ15171) has been withdrawn.

9:55 a.m.

Datblygu'r Rhwydwaith Pŵer Trydan Development of the Electricity Power Network

Q5 William Graham: Will the Minister seek to gain increased funding for the development of the electricity power network as a communication system? (OAQ15216)

Andrew Davies: One of the key areas of

ymagwedd lydan i sicrhau bod pobl yn cael cyfle i ddefnyddio'r dechnoleg ddiweddaraf, a hefyd o ran sgiliau ac addysg, i sicrhau bod gan bobl y gallu i fanteisio ar y cyfleoedd a gynigir gan y dechnoleg newydd.

Gareth Jones: As nowhere near the required financial investment is spent on developing broadband infrastructure, access to it will be limited for years to come. Is there not a danger, therefore, that this technology will not even be available to staff who work in our public buildings, let alone to the public?

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais yn yr ateb i'r cwestiwn cyntaf, mae mynediad i fand llydan yn hanfodol. Dyna paham y cyhoeddodd y Prif Weinidog a minnau, ar ddiwedd y llynedd, fuddsoddiad arloesol o £8.5 miliwn ar gyfer rhwydwaith dysgu gydol oes band llydan i Gymru. Bydd swm o £8.5 miliwn ar gael eleni, gyda £4 miliwn yn y blynyddoedd dilynol ar gyfer prynu a chynnal a chadw rhwydwaith cynnal capasiti uchel i ddarparu pwyntiau mynediad dysgu gydol oes 100 megabyte a mynediad cyflym i'r rhyngwrwd i bob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru, a fydd wedyn yn rhoi mynediad cyflym i'r rhyngwrwd i bob ysgol. Yr ydym hefyd yn buddsoddi tua £2 filiwn drwy Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru ar gyfer hyfforddi athrawon, i sicrhau bod y sgiliau ganddynt, sy'n angenrheidiol i ddefnyddio'r dechnoleg newydd hon. Mae heriau o ran mynediad i wasanaethau band llydan ond, drwy sefydlu'r rhwydwaith dysgu gydol oes hwn yn y sector gyhoeddus, yr ydym yn cymryd camau breision tuag at ddarpariaeth decach.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 4 (OAQ15171) yn ôl.

C5 William Graham: A fydd y Gweinidog yn gwneud cais am fwy o arian i ddatblygu'r rhwydwaith pŵer trydan fel system gyfathrebu? (OAQ15216)

Andrew Davies: Un o feysydd allweddol

'Cymru Ar-lein' is to ensure that Wales has a modern and affordable telecommunications infrastructure. To progress this issue, a joint Welsh Assembly Government/Welsh Development Agency study was commissioned to consider ways of taking this forward, as I mentioned earlier. The Assembly Cabinet endorsed this study in principle. A costed implementation plan is being presented to me this month. I expect the plan to cover a range of options and it is possible that the use of Wales's electricity power network to support telecommunications could be one of them. However, we are taking a technology-neutral view on the roll-out of broadband in Wales. Some argue for fibre optic, others argue for the power line technology. If and how that plan will be funded will be considered by myself and Cabinet colleagues in the usual way.

William Graham: With our schools, hospitals, government offices and the majority of Welsh homes and businesses connected to the electricity grid system, this method of communication allows for a nation-wide communications network available to all areas of Wales. Will you consider this again and report back later in the session?

Andrew Davies: As I said, we have always taken a technology-neutral view on this and we will continue to do so. All forms of delivery of broadband have advantages and disadvantages. Wireless technology and power line technology have disadvantages and we will be looking at that in the round. In terms of the lifelong learning network in Wales, we will be providing points of presence to the 22 local authorities in Wales and it will then be up to each authority to decide how it establishes the network within its own area. In that case, local authorities may wish to consider power line technology. We will also consider the delivery of the skeleton of the broadband network and using that technology among others.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Onid y realiti yw os nad ydych o fewn ychydig o filltiroedd i'r gyfnewidfa nid oes gwasanaethau band

'Cymru Ar-lein' yw sicrhau bod gan Gymru seilwaith telathrebu fodern a fforddiadwy. I ddatblygu'r mater hwn, comisiynwyd astudiaeth ar y cyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru/Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru i ystyried ffyrdd o ddatblygu hyn, fel y soniais yn gynharach. Cefnogodd Cabinet y Cynulliad yr astudiaeth hon mewn egwyddor. Bydd cynllun gweithredu wedi ei gostio yn cael ei gyflwyno i mi y mis hwn. Disgwyliaf i'r cynllun ddelio ag ystod o ddewisiadau ac mae'n bosibl y gallai'r defnydd o rwydwaith bŵer trydan Cymru i gefnogi telathrebu fod yn un ohonynt. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn cymryd ymagwedd dechnoleg-niwtral ar ddatblygiad band llydan yng Nghymru. Mae rhai yn dadlau dros ffeibr optig, eraill yn dadlau dros y dechnoleg llinellau pŵer. Bydd sut ac a fydd y cynllun hwnnw'n cael ei ariannu yn cael ei ystyried gennyf i a chyd-Aelodau o'r Cabinet yn y ffordd arferol.

William Graham: Gyda'n hysgolion, ysbytai, swyddfeydd llywodraeth a'r mwyafrif o gartrefi a busnesau yng Nghymru sydd wedi'u cysylltu â'r system grid trydan, mae'r dull hwn o gyfathrebu yn caniatáu rhwydwaith gyfathrebu cenedl gyfan sydd ar gael i bob rhan o Gymru. A wnewch chi ystyried hyn eto, a rhoi adroddiad yn ddiweddarach yn y tymor.

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais, yr ydym erioed wedi cymryd ymagwedd dechnoleg-niwtral ar hyn a byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny. Mae gan bob dull o ddarparu band llydan ei fanteision a'i anfanteseion. Mae gan dechnoleg ddiwifren a thechnoleg llinell bŵer eu hanfanteision a byddwn yn edrych ar hynny yn ei gyfanrwydd. O ran y rhwydwaith dysgu gydol oes yng Nghymru, byddwn yn darparu manau cyswllt i'r 22 awdurdod lleol sydd yng Nghymru a bydd pob awdurdod wedyn yn penderfynu ar y ffordd y bydd yn sefydlu'i rwydwaith yn ei ardal ei hun. Yn hynny o beth, efallai y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn dymuno ystyried technoleg llinellau pŵer. Byddwn hefyd yn ystyried darparu ysgerbwdd rhwydwaith band llydan a defnyddio'r dechnoleg honno ymhllith eraill.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Is it not true to say that unless you are within a few miles of the exchange, quality broadband services are

llydan o ansawdd ar gael? Os nad yw'r Gweinidog am fuddsoddi mewn isadeiledd optig ffeibr, ni fydd hyn yn digwydd, a ffantasi llwyr ydyw.

Andrew Davies: Once again, your party seems to be obsessed with the fact that broadband can only be delivered through fibre optic. It can be delivered through a variety of delivery vehicles, including wireless, power line technology and others. Broadband through an asymmetric digital subscriber line is provided through conventional copper cable. There are problems with nearness to exchanges, but the quality provided is good, as I saw in a BT demonstration the other day. In many areas such as Cardiff, 70 to 80 per cent of businesses and small companies have access in theory to broadband, but the problem is that the take-up is extremely small. Only 1 per cent of companies in Cardiff currently have access to broadband or are using it. The big challenge is providing infrastructure and raising awareness by ensuring that companies know about the opportunities provided by trading electronically. That is a major step. Infrastructure is an issue, but so is raising awareness and ensuring that people use this new technology.

unavailable? Unless the Minister will invest in a fibre optic infrastructure, it will not happen, and it is total fantasy.

Andrew Davies: Unwaith eto, mae gan eich plaid, mae'n ymddangos, obsesiwn â'r ffaith mai dim ond drwy ffeibr optig y gellir cyflwyno band llydan. Gellir ei gyflwyno drwy nifer o gyfryngau, yn cynnwys technoleg ddiwifren, llinellau pŵer ac eraill. Darperir band llydan drwy linell danysgrifio ddigidol anghymesur drwy geblau copr confensiynol. Mae problemau ynghylch agosatrwydd at gyfnewidfeydd, ond mae'r ansawdd a ddarperir yn dda, fel y gwelais mewn arddangosiad gan BT y dydd o'r blaen. Mewn sawl rhan, megis Caerdydd, mae gan 70 i 80 y cant o fusnesau a chwmnïau bach gysylltiadau band llydan mewn theori, ond y broblem yw mai ychydig sy'n manteisio arno. Dim ond 1 y cant o'r cwmnïau yng Nghaerdydd sydd â chysylltiadau band llydan neu sy'n ei ddefnyddio ar hyn o bryd. Yr her fawr yw darparu seilwaith a chodi ymwybyddiaeth drwy sicrhau bod cwmnïau yn gwybod am y cyfleoedd a ddarperir drwy fasnachu'n electronig. Mae hyn yn gam mawr. Mae seilwaith yn broblem, ond mae codi ymwybyddiaeth a sicrhau bod pobl yn defnyddio'r dechnoleg newydd hefyd yn broblem.

Arian a Ddynodwyd ar gyfer Gweithredu Technoleg Band Llydan Money Allocated for the Roll-out of Broadband Technology

Q6 Peter Black: What is the mechanism by which money allocated for the roll-out of broadband technology will be distributed? (OAQ15166)

Andrew Davies: The mechanism will be the construction of the public sector broadband backed by an infrastructure. Its recurrent funding and the provision of support and training will be funded centrally through payment of grant to the National Council for Education and Training. That will put a high capacity point of presence into each unitary authority area, as I said before. Local authorities will retain responsibility for the local network infrastructure, which will deliver broadband access for the central point of presence to every local school, library and

C6 Peter Black: Pa dull a ddefnyddir i ddosbarthu'r arian a ddynodwyd ar gyfer gweithredu technoleg band llydan? (OAQ15166)

Andrew Davies: Y dull fydd adeiladu band llydan sector cyhoeddus a gefnogir gan seilwaith. Bydd ei ariannu parhaus a darpariaeth cymorth a hyfforddiant yn cael ei ariannu'n ganolog drwy gymhorthdal i Gyngor Cenedlaethol Cymru dros Addysg a Hyfforddi. Bydd hynny'n rhoi man cyswllt capasiti uchel ymhob ardal awdurdod unedol fel y dywedais eisoes. Bydd awdurdodau lleol yn cadw'u cyfrifoldeb dros y seilwaith rhwydwaith lleol, a fydd yn cyflwyno mynediad band llydan ar gyfer y man cyswllt canolog i bob ysgol, llyfrgell a chanolfan

Information Communications Technology centre. The Assembly will assist local authorities in upgrading their existing network infrastructure, using its powers to provide grants under section 464 of the Education Act 1996.

Peter Black: How will the private sector's priorities be taken into account in how this money is spent?

Andrew Davies: The only Assembly money currently allocated to broadband roll-out is that associated with the lifelong learning network, although, as I have said, we will be working with the WDA on the roll-out of the analysis report. Private sector companies have the opportunity to tender for the backbone infrastructure through the open procurement exercise currently being managed on behalf of the Assembly by Welsh Networking Limited. Looking beyond the lifelong learning network, the Assembly and the Welsh Development Agency are currently drawing up a five-year action plan to ensure ubiquitous access to broadband services in Wales. Where there are suppliers and consumers, the private sector has taken an active role in the workshops held to prioritise the Assembly and WDA action plan.

Phil Williams: Do you accept that the failure of the Government to set up an infrastructure partnership at the beginning of the Objective 1 period—despite repeated and insistent requests from Plaid Cymru—has blocked access to an Objective 1 measure for information technology infrastructure, which, including private sector funding, will total £50 million—four times the amount that you have allocated? Do you agree that, in a rapidly moving field, the 20-month delay in setting up the infrastructure partnership was inexcusable?

Andrew Davies: No, I do not. We have to take an all-Wales perspective on this issue. The WDA commissioned, through consultants, an analysis report of broadband infrastructure in Wales. That report was delivered last year and the implementation plan was delivered this month. We will be working with the agency on rolling that out.

Technoleg Gwybodaeth a Chyfathrebu. Bydd y Cynulliad yn cynorthwyo awdurdodau lleol i uwchraddio eu seilwaith rhwydwaith presennol, gan ddefnyddio eu pwerau i roi grantiau o dan adran 464 Deddf Addysg 1996.

Peter Black: Sut y rhoddir ystyriaeth i flaenoriaethau'r sector preifat yn y modd y bydd yr arian hwn yn cael ei wario?

Andrew Davies: Yr unig arian o eiddo'r Cynulliad a glustnodwyd ar hyn o bryd i gyflwyno band llydan yw'r swm sy'n gysylltiedig â'r rhwydwaith dysgu gydol oes, ond, fel y dywedais, byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r WDA ar gyflwyno'r adroddiad dadansoddi. Mae gan gwmnïau sector preifat gyfle i dendro am y seilwaith gynhaliol drwy yr ymarferiad caffael agored sy'n cael ei weinyddu ar hyn o bryd ar ran y Cynulliad gan Rhwydweithio Cymru Cyfyngedig. O edrych y tu hwnt i'r rhwydwaith dysgu gydol oes, mae'r Cynulliad ac Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru ar hyn o bryd yn paratoui cynllun gweithredu pum mlynedd i sicrhau bod mynediad i wasanaethau band llydan ymhobman yng Nghymru. Lle mae cyflenwyr a defnyddwyr, mae'r sector preifat wedi cymryd rhan weithredol yn y gweithdai a gynhaliwyd i bennu blaenoriaethau cynllun gweithredu'r Cynulliad a'r WDA.

Phil Williams: A dderbyniwch fod methiant y Llywodraeth i sefydlu partneriaeth seilwaith ar ddechrau'r cyfnod Amcan 1—er gwaethaf ceisiadau mynych a phenderfynol gan Blaid Cymru—wedi rhwystro mynediad i fesur Amcan 1 ar gyfer seilwaith technoleg gwybodaeth, a fydd, yn cynnwys ariannu'r sector preifat, yn gyfanswm o £50 miliwn—bedwar gwaith y swm a glustnodwyd gennych? A gytunwch fod yr oedi o 20 mis cyn sefydlu'r bartneriaeth seilwaith, mewn maes sy'n newid yn gyflym, yn anfaddeuol?

Andrew Davies: Na, nid ydwyf. Rhaid inni gymryd golwg Cymru gyfan ar y mater hwn. Comisiynodd y WDA, drwy ymgynghorwyr, adroddiad dadansoddi ar yr seilwaith band llydan yng Nghymru. Cyflwynwyd yr adroddiad y llynedd a chyflwynwyd y cynllun gweithredu y mis hwn. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r asiantaeth ar gyflwyno

It is important that we have that strategic approach to the telecommunications infrastructure in Wales, including broadband. It is not too late for Objective 1, and other structural funds, to be used in the implementation of that plan whether that is done on an all-Wales level or whether local authorities lever in Objective 1 funds to deliver their own local networks. Plaid Cymru, once again, is whinging. We are just getting on with doing a job.

hwnnw. Mae'n bwysig bod gennym ymagwedd strategol tuag at seilwaith telathrebu yng Nghymru, yn cynnwys band llydan. Nid yw'n rhy hwyr i ddefnyddio Amcan 1, a chronfeydd strwythurol eraill, wrth weithredu'r cynllun hwnnw pa un a gaiff ei wneud ar lefel Cymru gyfan neu gan awdurdodau lleol yn mynnu arian Amcan 1 i gyflwyno eu rhwydweithiau lleol eu hunain. Mae Plaid Cymru unwaith eto yn achwyn. Dyna'i gyd a wnawn yw bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith.

Datganiad ar yr Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol Statement on the Strategic Rail Authority

The Minister for Environment (Sue Essex): The purpose of the strategic plan is to set out the Strategic Rail Authority's priorities for the short and medium term across Great Britain. It seeks to consolidate and build confidence in the railway system. Richard Bowker, Chair of the SRA, says in his foreword:

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd (Sue Essex): Pwrpas y cynllun strategol yw nodi blaenoriaethau'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol yn y byrdymor a'r tymor canolig ar draws Prydain Fawr. Ei nod yw atgyfnerthu'r system reilffyrdd ac ennyn hyder ynddi. Dywed Richard Bowker, Cadeirydd yr awdurdod yn ei ragair:

'The strategic plan marks a line in the sand, it is the point at which we say enough is enough and begin the journey to deliver a railway fit for the twenty-first century and one in which we can be truly proud.'

The Assembly has clearly stated on many occasions that we also want a railway fit for the twenty-first century and one of which we can be truly proud. Our published transport framework, developed with all our partners, sets out the need for an integrated transport system of good quality that provides strategic infrastructure, which enables us to meet our economic aims; a level of personal accessibility that meets our social aims; and a change in travel patterns to meet our environmental aims.

Nododd y Cynulliad yn glir ar sawl achlysur ein bod hefyd am gael system reilffyrdd sy'n addas i'r unfed ganrif ar hugain ac un y gallwn wir ymfalchïo ynddi. Noda ein fframwaith trafndiaeth cyhoeddedig, a ddatblygwyd ar y cyd â'n holl bartneriaid, yr angen am system drafndiaeth integredig o safon dda sy'n rhoi seilwaith strategol, sy'n ein galluogi i gyflawni ein nodau economaidd; hygyrchedd i bobl a fydd yn gydnaws â'n nodau cymdeithasol; a newid ym mhatrwm teithio i gyflawni ein nodau amgylcheddol.

The 'Plan for Wales' commits us to achieving a better rail network with a more reliable service and the transport framework has a map that illustrates the critical rail links in Wales. Railway infrastructure and services outside Wales, particularly the strategic routes, are also important to us. The SRA plan for the future of the railways in Britain sees its role in delivering economic success, social development and environmental sustainability and is in harmony with our

Drwy'r 'Cynllun i Gymru' yr ydym yn ymrwymo i sicrhau rhwydwaith rheilffyrdd gwell gyda gwasanaeth mwy dibynadwy ac mae'r fframwaith trafndiaeth yn cynnwys map sy'n dangos y cysylltiadau rheilffyrdd hollbwysig yng Nghymru. Mae'r seilwaith rheilffyrdd a gwasanaethau y tu allan i Gymru, yn enwedig y llwybrau strategol, hefyd yn bwysig inni. Yng nghynllun yr awdurdod ar gyfer dyfodol y rheilffyrdd ym Mhrydain, mae'n rhagweld ei rôl fel un sy'n

objectives.

The critical test of the SRA plan is whether it allows us in Wales to see the delivery of our vision for an integrated railway system. A key aspect of this vision is the all-Wales franchise. I am delighted that the Wales and borders franchise is a priority in the SRA's re-franchising programme as set out in this plan. A specific amount of money is not identified, but that is true for all franchises since there is a bidding process involved. There is a commitment to let the franchise enhancements, normally on a 15-year term, split into three periods of broadly five years each. I welcome this longer-term approach as it will encourage long-term investment, especially to deliver the South Wales Integrated Fast Transit Consortium strategy on the Valley Lines where the need for high levels of subsidy will continue. We are optimistic of achieving continued significant movement from car to rail use over the lifetime of the franchise. On our vision for infrastructure, we also want the SRA to deliver all the improvements that we have identified for track, capacity and line development, but I will return to those later.

On relative funding figures, some people only see the plan in terms of how much money there is for Wales. They do not test it against our overall aims. Unlike many services, funding for the English rail system also benefits our businesses and travellers. Some say that the money should have been ring-fenced for Wales under the Barnett formula. There is no basis for saying that that would deliver a better deal. Under the Barnett formula, the Welsh Assembly receives a population-based proportion of changes in planned spending on comparable Government services in England. It is important to note that the formula only determines the changes to the Welsh Assembly's spending allocations; it does not

sicrhau llwyddiant economaidd, datblygiad cymdeithasol a chynaliadwyedd amgylcheddol ac mae'n gydnaws â'n hamcanion ni.

Yr hyn a fydd yn bwysig o ran cynllun yr awdurdod yw a fydd yn caniatáu inni yng Nghymru wireddu ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer system reilffyrdd integredig. Un agwedd allweddol ar y weledigaeth hon yw'r fasnachfaint i Gymru gyfan. Yr wyf yn falch iawn o nodi bod masnachfaint Cymru a'r gororau yn un o flaenoriaethau rhaglen yr awdurdod ar gyfer ailgyflwyno masnachfreintiau fel y nodwyd yn y cynllun hwn. Ni nodir swm penodol o arian, ond mae hynny'n wir am bob masnachfaint gan fod proses gwneud cais yn gysylltiedig â hwy. Mae ymrwymiad i osod yr ychwanegiadau i'r fasnachfaint, am dymor o 15 mlynedd fel arfer, wedi ei rannu yn dri chyfnod o bum mlynedd yr un yn fras. Croesawaf yr ymagwedd dymor hwy hon gan y bydd yn hyrwyddo buddsoddi hirdymor, yn enwedig wrth gyflwyno strategaeth Consortiwm Teithio Cyflym Integredig De Cymru lle bydd yr angen am gymorthdaliadau mawr yn parhau. Yr ydym yn obeithiol y byddwn yn llwyddo i ddarbwylllo niferoedd sylweddol i droi at y rheilffyrdd yn gyson yn lle defnyddio eu ceir yn ystod tymor y fasnachfaint. O ran ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer seilwaith, yr ydym hefyd am i'r awdurdod wneud yr holl welliannau a nodwyd gennym o ran datblygu'r trac, capasiti a llinellau, ond dychwelaf at y rhain yn y man.

O ran ffigurau ariannu cymharol, mae rhai pobl ond yn edrych ar y cynllun i weld faint o arian a gaiff Gymru. Nid ydynt yn ei brofi yn erbyn ein nodau cyffredinol. Yn wahanol i lawer o wasanaethau, bydd arian ar gyfer y system reilffyrdd yn Lloegr hefyd o fudd i'n busnesau a'n teithwyr ni. Dywed rhai y dylid bod wedi neilltuo arian i Gymru o dan fformiwla Barnett. Nid oes rheswm dros haeru y byddem wedi bod ar ein hennill o'r herwydd. O dan fformiwla Barnett, caiff y Cynulliad gyfran o newidiadau yn y gwariant arfaethedig ar wasanaethau cymharol y Llywodraeth yn Lloegr sy'n seiliedig ar y boblogaeth. Mae'n bwysig nodi mai dim ond y newidiadau yn nyraniadau gwariant y Cynulliad a bennir gan y fformiwla; nid yw'n

set the baseline to start off the process. Since that has not been established, it is impossible to understand from where these figures have come. It is also important to bear in mind that the money being made available in the plan for infrastructure investment in Scotland is outside the Barnett formula.

10:05 a.m.

Were I to set out a shopping list of investment to deliver a railway service in Wales comparable to the best in Europe, it might amount to over £1 billion, perhaps £2 billion. However, delivering that in 10 years is unrealistic. I want to concentrate now on getting the basics right and on the other elements of the transport programme, such as better bus interchange facilities, to achieve a truly integrated transport network. To suggest that the SRA plan only contributes £200 million to our ambitions is to take a narrow view. The £200 million does not include the contribution towards the rail franchise, nor does it encompass plans for station enhancement or new funding under the rail passenger partnership. We should also remember that the figures quoted do not include the substantial funds used to subsidise existing services in Wales. We have always recognised that to enhance our railway capacity, the Assembly would need to make a contribution. We are proud to be doing that and have committed well over £60 million over the next five years. It will enable capacity to be increased on the Valley Lines through improvements at Queen Street, on the Taff and Rhymney lines, and on the Cambrian line.

The skills shortage in the rail industry is part of the problem of delivery at the moment, and I welcome the establishment of a national rail academy. Skills shortages, especially in engineering signalling, are holding up progress and I had a useful discussion with the SRA last year about establishing centres dedicated to developing railway skills. The strategic plan covers the whole of Great Britain and has evolved over the last year or so since the SRA's

pennu'r gyllideb sylfaenol i ddechrau'r broses. Gan nad yw hynny yn hysbys eto, mae'n amhosibl deall o ble y daeth y ffigurau hyn. Mae'n bwysig hefyd cofio nad yw'r arian a ddarperir yn y cynllun ar gyfer buddsoddi yn y seilwaith yn yr Alban yn rhan o fformiwla Barnett.

Pe bawn yn llunio rhestr o fuddsoddiadau i sicrhau bod gennym wasanaeth rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru sy'n cymharu â'r goreuon yn Ewrop, byddai angen dros £1 biliwn, efallai £2 biliwn. Fodd bynnag, bydd cyflawni hynny ymhen 10 mlynedd yn afrealistig. Hoffwn ganolbwyntio yn awr ar sicrhau bod y sylfeini'n gywir ac ar yr elfennau eraill o'r rhaglen drafnidiaeth, megis gwell cyfleusterau cyfnewid i fysiau, er mwyn cael rhwydwaith trafnidiaeth sy'n wir integredig. Mae dweud mai dim ond £200 miliwn a gyfranna cynllun yr awdurdod i'n huchelgais yn awgrymu barn gul. Nid yw'r £200 miliwn yn cynnwys y cyfraniad at y fasnachfrait reilffyrdd, y cynlluniau ar gyfer gwell gorsafoedd na'r arian newydd o dan y bartneriaeth teithwyr rheilffyrdd. Dylem gofio hefyd nad yw'r ffigurau a ddyfynnwyd yn cynnwys y symiau sylweddol a ddefnyddir ar gyfer cymhorthdal i'r gwasanaethau sy'n bodoli eisoes yng Nghymru. Yr ydym bob amser wedi cydnabod y byddai angen i'r Cynulliad gyfrannu'n ariannol er mwyn inni wella capasiti ein rheilffyrdd. Yr ydym yn ymfalchïo yn y ffaith ein bod yn gwneud hynny a'n bod wedi ymrwymo dros £60 miliwn dros y pum mlynedd nesaf. Bydd yn ein galluogi i wella capasiti'r Valley Lines drwy wneud gwelliannau yng ngorsaf Heol y Frenhines, i linellau Taf a Rhymni, ac i linell y Cambrian.

Mae'r prinder sgiliau yn y diwydiant rheilffyrdd yn rhan o'r broblem o ran darparu gwasanaethau ar hyn o bryd, a chroesawaf yr awgrym y dylid sefydlu academi rheilffyrdd genedlaethol. Mae prinder sgiliau, yn enwedig ym maes peirianeg signalau, yn ein hatal rhag gwneud cynnydd a chefais drafodaeth ddefnyddiol gyda'r awdurdod y llynedd ynglŷn â sefydlu canolfannau penodol ar gyfer datblygu sgiliau gweithwyr rheilffyrdd. Mae'r cynllun strategol yn

establishment. Inevitably, it covers some announcements already made, which contribute to enhancing rail services over the next 10 years. We must accept that London dominates rail travel. As many as 70 per cent of journeys nationally are made on the London and south-east network. The train operators south of the Thames account for nearly 40 per cent of all rail journeys nationally. However, the routes to London are important to Wales and we need to judge this plan by what it can deliver within and outside Wales. North Wales will benefit from the improvements to the west coast main line and the introduction of the new Voyager train system in 2003. There will be real improvements on services to Holyhead from Euston. Compared to the English regions, we have done significantly better. The SRA works closely with us and visits the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee regularly. We also have Objective 1 money. I will finish because I am aware that many people wish to contribute—

The Presiding Officer: You can go on as long as you wish about the Cambrian line.

Sue Essex: No relationship is perfect and there are issues on which we need to work in the next year to influence the next revision of the SRA plan. I will write to the SRA and Mr Byers to outline our concern that the plan does not give sufficient weight to some of the economic and social functions of the railway network in Wales. The strategic plan is not set in stone and we will need to continue to press our case constructively. I am discussing with the First Minister how we can do this. One disappointment is that the major investment in the Great Western main line is now postponed to beyond 2010. We were optimistic before Hatfield that developments on the line would take place over the next five years or so. However, decades of underinvestment have had an impact on the public and private money expected to be invested. The importance of

cwmpasu pob rhan o Brydain Fawr ac mae wedi datblygu yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf ers sefydlu'r awdurdod. Yn anochel, mae'n cynnwys rhai cyhoeddiadau a wnaed eisoes, sy'n cyfrannu at y cynllun i wella gwasanaethau rheilffyrdd dros y 10 mlynedd nesaf. Rhaid inni dderbyn mai Llundain sy'n tra-arglwyddiaethu o safbwynt y rheilffyrdd. Gwneir cymaint â 70 y cant o deithiau ym Mhrydain ar rwydwaith Llundain a de-ddwyrain Lloegr. Mae'r cwmnïau trên i'r de o Afon Tafwys yn cyfrif am bron 40 y cant o'r holl deithiau ar y rheilffyrdd ym Mhrydain. Fodd bynnag mae'r llinell i Llundain yn bwysig i Gymru ac mae angen inni farnu'r cynllun hwn yn ôl yr hyn y gall ei gyflawni yng Nghymru a thu allan i Gymru. Bydd y Gogledd yn elwa ar y gwelliannau ym mhrif linell arfordir gogledd-orllewin Lloegr ac ar y gwelliannau a ddaw yn sgîl cyflwyno system drên newydd Voyager yn 2003. Bydd gwelliannau gwirioneddol yn y gwasanaethau i Gaergybi o Euston. O gymharu â rhanbarthau Lloegr, yr ydym wedi gwneud dipyn yn well. Mae'r awdurdod yn gweithio'n agos gyda ni ac yn ymweld â Phwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Trafnidiaeth yn rheolaidd. Mae gennym arian Amcan 1 hefyd. Gwnaf orffen am fy mod yn ymwybodol bod llawer o bobl am gyfrannu—

Y Llywydd: Cewch draethu faint y mynnoch am linell y Cambrian.

Sue Essex: Nid yw unrhyw berthynas yn berffaith ac mae materion y mae angen inni weithio arnynt yn ystod y flwyddyn nesaf er mwyn dylanwadu ar y diwygiad nesaf o gynllun yr awdurdod. Ysgrifennaf at yr awdurdod a Mr Byers i nodi ein pryderon ynglŷn â'r ffaith nad yw'r cynllun yn rhoi digon o bwys ar rai o swyddogaethau economaidd a chymdeithasol y rhwydwaith rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru. Bydd modd diwygio'r cynllun strategol a bydd angen inni barhau i roi ein dadl gerbron mewn modd adeiladol. Yr wyf yn trafod gyda'r Prif Weinidog sut y gallwn wneud hyn. Un peth sy'n peri siom yw'r penderfyniad bellach i ohirio'r prif fuddsoddiad ym mhrif linell y Great Western tan ar ôl 2010. Yr oeddem yn obeithiol cyn Hatfield y byddai'r datblygiadau ar y llinell yn digwydd yn ystod y pum mlynedd nesaf. Fodd bynnag, mae'r

this corridor has not been emphasised enough and we will pursue vigorously the economic and social case for enhancements to be brought forward. We must gather robust support from the business community. Good links with London and Heathrow are essential to ensuring that opportunities for investment are not lost. Enhancements are needed in the Newport area, for example, and we will press Railtrack and the SRA on that issue.

Finally, Llywydd, I thank you for your indulgence on this. Like Richard Bowker, I believe that the SRA plan draws a line in the sand. It endorses most of what we want in order to improve the basic rail system in Wales. It is not perfect and I will continue to campaign, in conjunction with local authorities, users' organisations and the business community, for investment. The public and the SRA will have confidence that the Welsh Assembly Government can deliver this vision.

Helen Mary Jones: I begin by putting on record our disappointment that the Government of Wales has again chosen to use a statement rather than a full debate to address a vital issue. With her usual stoicism, the Minister has put on a brave face this morning. However, she must be disappointed. It would be inaccurate to say that there is nothing for Wales in this plan; we welcome the all-Wales franchise and the re-opening of the Vale of Glamorgan passenger line. However, in the First Minister's words, this plan is 'not about vision' for public transport in Wales. It leaves desperately needed work permanently on the back burner. Communities across Wales will be deeply disappointed and angry at being condemned to suffer a third-rate rail service for at least another 10 years.

Despite her comments today, does the Minister agree that the overall allocation of funding set out in this plan is fundamentally inequitable and favours south and east England disproportionately, not only over

blynyddoedd o danfuddsoddi wedi cael effaith ar yr arian cyhoeddus a phreifat y disgwyliad iddo gael ei fuddsoddi. Ni roddwyd digon o bwyslais ar bwysigrwydd y coridor hwn a byddwn yn parhau i roi'r ddadl economaidd a chymdeithasol dros wneud y gwelliannau cyn hynny. Rhaid inni gael cefnogaeth gadarn y gymuned fusnes. Mae cysylltiadau da gyda Llundain a Heathrow yn hanfodol i sicrhau na cholli cyfleoedd buddsoddi. Mae angen gwelliannau yn ardal Casnewydd, er enghraifft, a phwyswn ar Railtrack a'r awdurdod ar y mater hwnnw.

Yn olaf, Lywydd, hoffwn ddiolch ichi am eich caredigrwydd yn hynny o beth. Fel Richard Bowker, credaf fod cynllun yr awdurdod yn dod â chyfnod i ben. Mae'n cefnogi'r rhan fwyaf o'r hyn a ddymunwn er mwyn gwella'r system reilffyrdd sylfaenol yng Nghymru. Nid yw'n berffaith a byddaf yn parhau i ymgyrchu, mewn cydweithrediad â'r awdurdodau lleol, mudiadau defnyddwyr a'r gymuned fusnes, dros fuddsoddi. Bydd y cyhoedd a'r awdurdod yn hyderus y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wireddu'r weledigaeth hon.

Helen Mary Jones: Dechreuaf drwy nodi ein siom bod Llywodraeth Cymru unwaith eto wedi dewis defnyddio datganiad yn hytrach na dadl lawn i ymdrin â'r mater hollbwysig hwn. Gyda'i stoiciaeth arferol celodd y Gweinidog ei theimladau y bore yma. Fodd bynnag, rhaid ei bod yn siomedig. Ni fyddai'n gywir dweud nad oes dim byd i Gymru yn y cynllun hwn; croesawn y fasnachfaint i Gymru gyfan a'r penderfyniad i ailagor llinell Bro Morgannwg i deithwyr. Fodd bynnag, yng ngeiriau'r Prif Weinidog, nid yw'r cynllun hwn yn rhoi gweledigaeth ar gyfer trafndiaeth gyhoeddus yng Nghymru. Mae wedi gohirio gwaith y mae angen ei wneud yn ddifawr yn barhaol. Bydd cymunedau ledled Cymru yn siomedig dros ben ac yn ddiog o wybod y bydd yn rhaid iddynt ddygymod â gwasanaeth rheilffyrdd gwael am o leiaf 10 mlynedd arall.

Er gwaethaf ei sylwadau heddiw, a gytuna'r Gweinidog fod y dyraniad cyffredinol o arian a nodwyd yn y cynllun hwn yn annheg yn y bôn ac yn ffafrio de a dwyrain Lloegr yn anghyfartal, nid yn unig ar draul Cymru ond

Wales but over other regions of England? Does she accept that this plan will do little to improve services in Wales or the vital links between England and Wales to which she referred? Will she agree to convey forcibly to the SRA that its 'for Wales, see England' approach is unacceptable and press it to reconsider the plan urgently? Does she accept, despite what the First Minister said last week, that unless substantial new capacity is created in the rail service in Wales, there is no prospect of persuading travellers who have a choice to use trains instead of cars? Will she use the opportunity of the next comprehensive spending review to press for funding on the Barnett level, at least, for railways in Wales? Also, despite the view expressed by the First Minister during questions last week that the relevance of Scottish powers to direct is questionable, will she continue to press for the devolution of railway powers and budgets to the Assembly?

ar draul rhanbarthau eraill yn Lloegr? A dderbynia na wna'r cynllun hwn fawr ddim i wella gwasanaethau yng Nghymru na'r cysylltiadau hanfodol rhwng Cymru a Lloegr y cyfeiriodd atynt? A wnaiff gytuno i gyfleu'r neges yn gadarn i'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol bod ei ymagwedd 'ar gyfer Cymru, gweler Lloegr' yn annerbyniol ac i bwysu ar yr awdurdod i ailystyried y cynllun ar fyrder? A dderbynia, er gwaethaf yr hyn a ddywedodd y Prif Weinidog yr wythnos diwethaf, na fydd modd darbwylllo teithwyr sy'n gallu dewis rhwng trêen a char oni chaiff cryn dipyn o gapasiti newydd ei greu yn y gwasanaeth rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru? A wnaiff ddefnyddio'r cyfle yn yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr nesaf o wariant i bwysu am arian ar lefel Barnett, o leiaf, ar gyfer rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru? Hefyd, er gwaethaf y farn a fynegodd y Prif Weinidog yn ystod y sesiwn holi yr wythnos diwethaf bod lle i amau perthnasedd pwerau'r Alban i roi cyfarwyddyd, a wnaiff barhau i bwysu am ddatganoli pwerau a'r cyllidebau sy'n ymwneud â'r rheilffyrdd i'r Cynulliad?

Finally, given that the telephone-style of negotiation favoured by the First Minister has failed to deliver for Wales in this regard, will she pick up her megaphone, or must the people of Wales wait until they have the opportunity to elect a Government that is not afraid to shout loudly on their behalf?

I gloi, o ystyried y ffaith nad yw'r negodi dros y ffôn a ffafrir gan y Prif Weinidog wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth i Gymru yn hyn o beth, a wnaiff gydio yn ei megaffon, neu a fydd yn rhaid i bobl Cymru aros nes y bydd ganddynt gyfle i ethol Llywodraeth nad oes ofn arni weiddi'n uchel ar eu rhan?

Sue Essex: You can shout loudly, but it is what you say that counts. Your party is good at shouting loudly. However, what is important is getting things done for Wales. This plan is about that. It would be easy to stand here and promise wonderful new schemes that we know will not happen, but my party and I will not do that.

Sue Essex: Cewch weiddi'n groch, ond yr hyn a ddywedwch sy'n bwysig. Mae'ch plaid yn dda am weiddi'n groch. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw ein bod yn cyflawni pethau dros Gymru. Mae'r cynllun hwn yn gwneud hynny. Byddai'n hawdd sefyll yma ac addo cynlluniau newydd gwych y gwyddom na chânt eu rhoi ar waith, ond ni wnaf i na'm plaid hynny.

I support this plan in general. We have met Richard Bowker. For once, the approach to railways is sensible. People want us to be realistic about improvements. I speak to people about the railways day in, day out, and about half of their comments relate to journeys that travel outside Wales. Do not forget that. We are not being parochial. We must achieve the improvements that people want. This is not about rampant ideology; it is about achieving improvements within and

Cefnogaf y cynllun hwn yn gyffredinol. Cyfarfuom â Richard Bowker. Am unwaith, mae'r ymagwedd tuag at reilffyrdd yn synhwyrol. Mae pobl am inni fod yn realistig ynglŷn â gwelliannau. Siaradaf â phobl am y rheilffyrdd yn rheolaidd, ac mae hanner eu sylwadau'n ymwneud â theithiau sy'n mynd y tu allan i Gymru. Peidiwch ag anghofio hynny. Nid ydym yn blwyfol. Rhaid inni wneud y gwelliannau y mae pobl yn eu dymuno. Nid oes a wnelo hyn ag ideoleg

outside Wales. It is important for people to realise that.

We are getting the franchise and improvements in Wales. We have made a commitment to the Vale of Glamorgan line and have allocated money for it. It will be delivered. Opening the Ebbw Vale line to passengers demonstrates an act of faith in the Valley communities. The SRA is working with us. The only scheme that is comparable to the Ebbw Vale scheme is a much smaller one in Scotland.

In terms of a fair proportion of funding, if you want to go along the lines of the Barnett formula—and I have said that I will consider that in Committee—the people of Wales could end up being worse off. The rail partnership fund is an example. Had we applied Barnett to that in the mythical way that you suggest—which I do not understand, because Barnett does not work like that—we would receive much less money. We receive 20 per cent of the rail partnership fund. That is higher than any allocation based on population would be. We do not know how much we will receive from the franchise. However, we know that Wales's passenger lines are among the most subsidised in the UK; I think that the Valley lines are the most subsidised. You must be careful about demanding proportionate funding, as it may well be doing a disservice to the people whom we represent.

Richard Edwards: I will raise a specific point, rather than launching into a manifesto. Do you share my concern and will you make strong representations to First Great Western about its reported intention to withdraw the 125 daytime summer service to Fishguard harbour in my constituency? Do you agree that replacing high-speed trains on the European southern corridor route to Ireland with a four-carriage, locomotive-drawn train, which will not even call at Swansea, conflicts with the strategic plan, which mentions drawing a line in the sand and at long last revitalising our railways?

10:15 a.m.

wyllt; mae a wnelo â gwneud gwelliannau yng Nghymru a thu allan iddi. Mae'n bwysig i bobl sylweddoli hynny.

Yr ydym yn cael y fasnachfaint a'r gwelliannau yng Nghymru. Ymrwymwyd i linell Bro Morgannwg a dyrannwyd arian iddi. Caiff ei chyflawni. Dengys y penderfyniad i agor llinell Glynebwy i deithwyr ein bod yn ffyddiog ynglŷn â dyfodol ein cymunedau yn y Cymoedd. Mae'r awdurdod yn gweithio gyda ni. Yr unig gynllun y gellir ei gymharu â chynllun Glynebwy yw un llawer llai yn yr Alban.

O ran cyfran deg o arian, os ydych am ddefnyddio fformiwla Barnett—a dywedais y byddaf yn ystyried hynny yn y Pwyllgor—mae'n bosibl y bydd pobl Cymru ar eu colled. Mae cronfa partneriaeth y rheilffyrdd yn enghraifft. Pe baem wedi cymhwysio fformiwla Barnett i'r gronfa honno yn y ffordd fytholegol a awgrymwch—nad wyf yn ei deall, am nad yw Barnett yn gweithio yn y ffordd honno—byddem yn cael llawer llai o arian. Cawn 20 y cant o gronfa bartneriaeth y rheilffyrdd. Mae hynny'n uwch nag y byddai unrhyw ddyraniad sy'n seiliedig ar boblogaeth. Ni wyddom faint o arian a gawn o'r fasnachfaint. Fodd bynnag, gwyddom fod y llinellau teithwyr yng Nghymru ymhlith y rhai a gaiff y cymhorthdal mwyaf yn y DU; credaf mai llinellau'r Cymoedd a gaiff y cymhorthdal mwyaf. Rhaid ichi fod yn ofalus cyn galw am arian cyfartal, gan y bydd hynny o bosibl yn gwneud cam â'r bobl yr ydym yn eu cynrychioli.

Richard Edwards: Codaf bwynt penodol, yn hytrach na manifesto cyfan. A rannwch fy mhryder ac a wnewch chi gyflwyno sylwadau cryf i gwmni First Great Western ynglŷn â'i fwriad honedig i ddiddymu'r gwasanaeth 125 yn ystod y dydd yn yr haf i borthladd Abergwaun yn fy etholaeth i? A gytunwch fod y penderfyniad i roi trên â phedwar cerbyd wedi'i dynnu gan locomotif, na fydd hyd yn oed yn galw yn Abertawe, ar y llwybr o dde Ewrop i Iwerddon yn lle'r trenau cyflym iawn presennol, yn groes i'r cynllun strategol, sy'n sôn am ddod â chyfnod i ben ac adfywio ein rheilffyrdd o'r diwedd?

Sue Essex: Yes. We need to ensure that the new franchises—for Wales and the Borders and the strategic ones, right down to Fishguard—deliver, and that there are no get-out clauses that could permit changes that are not in passengers' interests. Last week the rail passenger council held an investigation—I think that that is what it was called, I am not sure if I have the exact term right—in Cardiff, and I presented views to it. I put it strongly to the council and the investigation that we want that strategic line to be enhanced, most importantly beyond Cardiff, but certainly for Cardiff and Swansea, so that it is a good line for commuters and we can get people out of their cars and onto trains. It is also important, as you say, for west Wales, from Carmarthen through to Fishguard. The refranchising of that line in two years' time must be seen to deliver.

David Davies: Minister, you may recall that many years ago, the day after Labour won a landslide election, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was put in charge of transport, promised to deliver a train service fit for the twenty-first century. What has happened since then? The system has worsened, as your own Ministers, Peter Hain and Stephen Byers, have admitted. Is it not the case that privatisation, with all its faults, led to an increase in investment in the railways? It led to an increase in safety, and was leading to an increase in passenger numbers. It may not have been perfect, but it was a big improvement on the days when British Rail stood for the managed decline of the railway system, when passengers were seen as merely an inconvenience.

How can you guarantee that the investment mentioned in the SRA strategic plan will continue to flow into the railways to allow the targets in the plan to be achieved? Where is the new money coming from? The plan merely seems to reaffirm the Government's commitment to its discredited 10-year plan. The amount of money going to Wales has been mentioned, but how much of it is new? The £4.5 billion that is being promised is not

Sue Essex: Gwnaf. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod y masnachfreintiau newydd—ar gyfer Cymru a'r Gororau a'r masnachfreintiau strategol, hyd at Abergwaun—yn gwneud gwahaniaeth, ac nad oes unrhyw gymalau sy'n caniatáu iddynt wneud newidiadau nad yw'n fanteisiol i deithwyr. Yr wythnos diwethaf cynhaliwyd ymchwiliad gan y cyngor teithwyr rheilffyrdd—credaf mai dyna'i deitl, nid wyf yn siŵr bod yr enw iawn gennyf—yng Nghaerdydd, a chyflwynais sylwadau iddo. Pwysleisiais yn gryf wrth y cyngor a'r ymchwiliad ein bod am i'r llinell strategol gael ei gwella, yn bennaf y tu hwnt i Gaerdydd, ond yn sicr ar gyfer Caerdydd ac Abertawe, er mwyn iddi fod yn llinell dda i gymudwyr ac er mwyn inni ddarbwylllo pobl i ddefnyddio'r trên yn hytrach na'u ceir. Mae'n bwysig hefyd, fel y dywedwch, i orllewin Cymru, o Gaerfyrddin i Abergwaun. Rhaid i'r fasnachfaint newydd ar gyfer y llinell honno ymhen dwy flynedd gael ei gweld yn llwyddo.

David Davies: Weinidog, efallai y cofiwch i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, a oedd yn gyfrifol am drafnidiaeth, ar y diwrnod y cafodd Llafur fuddugoliaeth ysgubol yn yr etholiad cyffredinol rhai blynyddoedd yn ôl, addo cyflwyno gwasanaeth trên a fyddai'n addas i'r unfed ganrif ar hugain. Beth ddigwyddodd ers hynny? Mae'r system wedi gwaethygu, fel mae'ch Gweinidogion eich hunain, Peter Hain a Stephen Byers, wedi cyfaddef. Onid yw'n wir bod preifateiddio, er gwaethaf ei ddiffygion, wedi arwain at fwy o fuddsoddiad yn y rheilffyrdd? Arweiniodd at well diogelwch, ac yr oedd yn arwain at gynnydd yn nifer y teithwyr. Efallai nad oedd yn berffaith, ond yr oedd yn welliant mawr ar y dyddiau pan oedd British Rail yn cynrychioli dirywiad rheoledig y system reilffyrdd, pan oedd teithwyr yn cael eu hystyried yn boendod.

Sut y gallwch warantu y bydd y buddsoddiad a grybwyllwyd yng nghynllun strategol yr awdurdod yn parhau i lifo i'r rheilffyrdd i'w galluogi i gyrraedd y targedau yn y cynllun? O ble y daw'r arian newydd? Ymddengys mai dim ond cadarnhau ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i gynllun 10 mlynedd y taflwyd amheuaeth arno a wna'r cynllun hwn. Crybwyllwyd y swm a gaiff Gymru, ond faint ohono sy'n arian newydd. Nid arian newydd

new money; £2.3 billion was allocated in October 2000, and a further £1.3 billion was given to Railtrack last year. Much of it covers fines levied on the rail regulators, freight upgrade costs, and a reallocation of funding from road improvement budgets.

I noticed that the written copy of your statement includes an attack on what you term the Tory Government, which is probably a point of order.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am always grateful for assistance—

David Davies: I am not raising it as a point of order.

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Welsh Conservative Group is the description of your group in this Chamber. As far as its use in the Chamber is concerned, the use of the word ‘Tory’ as a synonym for other party groups elsewhere does not bother me.

David Davies: Putting aside the implied discourtesy, Minister, I notice that you did not have the courage of your convictions and did not read that part of your statement in the Chamber. I remind you that since the last election, the total average expenditure on transport as a percentage of gross domestic product under Labour—that is, between 1997 and 2001—has averaged at about 1 per cent. That is 41 per cent less than was spent under the last Conservative Government, which spent an average of 1.7 per cent of GDP.

The rail system is an absolute disgrace. Over the past five years it has been getting worse. I see nothing to be pleased about in this plan. All I can see is further misery being inflicted on the travelling public.

Sue Essex: I do not know how often you use the trains, David. I will not go into personal details, but it would be interesting to know that.

David Davies: What does that have to do with it?

yw'r £4.5 biliwn a addawyd; dyrannwyd £2.3 biliwn ym mis Hydref 2000, a rhoddwyd £1.3 biliwn arall i Railtrack y llynedd. Mae llawer o'r swm hwnnw yn talu am y dirwyon a godwyd ar gyrrff rheoleiddio'r rheilffyrdd, y costau i uwchraddio llinellau cludo nwyddau a'r ailddyrianiad o arian o'r cyllidebau ar gyfer gwella ffyrdd.

Sylwais fod y copi ysgrifenedig o'ch datganiad yn cynnwys ymosodiad ar yr hyn a elwir yn Llywodraeth Doriaidd gennych, sy'n bwynt o drefn mae'n debyg.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf bob amser yn falch o gael cymorth—

David Davies: Ni chodaf hyn fel pwynt o drefn.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Grŵp Ceidwadwyr Cymru yw'r disgrifiad o'ch grŵp yn y Siambr hon. O ran ei ddefnydd yn y Siambr, nid yw'r defnydd o'r gair ‘Tori’ yn gyfystyr am grwpiau eraill mewn mannau eraill o bwys imi.

David Davies: Gan anwybyddu'r anghwrteisi awgrymedig, Weinidog, sylwaf nad oeddech yn ddigon dewr i ddarllen y darn hwnnw o'ch datganiad yn y Siambr. Hoffwn eich atgoffa mai tua 1 y cant ar gyfartaledd yw cyfanswm y gwariant cyfartalog ar drafndiaeth fel canran o'r cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth o dan Lafur—hynny yw rhwng 1997 a 2001—ers yr etholiad diwethaf. Mae hynny 41 y cant yn llai na'r swm a wariwyd o dan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol ddiwethaf, a wariodd 1.7 y cant o gynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth ar gyfartaledd.

Mae'r system reilffyrdd yn warth. Dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf bu'n gwaethygu. Ni welaf ddim byd yn y cynllun hwn i ymfalchïo ynddo. Y cyfan a welaf yw rhagor o ddiflastod i deithwyr.

Sue Essex: Ni wn pa mor aml yr ydych yn teithio ar y trê, David. Nid wyf yn ceisio manylion personol, ond byddai'n ddiddorol gwybod hynny.

David Davies: Ym mha fodd y mae hynny yn berthnasol?

The Presiding Officer: Order. You have had your say, David, and it was well delivered. However, I would be grateful if you would let the Minister respond.

Sue Essex: On your last assertion that the railway system is a disgrace, I use the railway system and am pleased to say that trains have been turning up on time. It is delivering, but there is much more to do and the plan sets that out. You are ill-advised to refer to the Tories' privatisation, as it only rekindles our memories of why we are in this mess today. You said that privatisation had its faults. I could use all my time today going through them. We could be here until tomorrow doing that. I think that it was Gerald Corbett who said, to paraphrase, what a disaster privatisation would be.

To destroy is easy, to create takes a long time. This plan is not perfect for Wales, and I have been honest about that. We need to campaign for improvements to the Great Western mainline corridor. However, the plan is an important way forward. We need a plan and we need to stick to it. That is what Richard Bowker is doing now. The Strategic Rail Authority has been established. The Westminster Government has committed £33 billion or so to railways over the next 10 years and is confident that private investment will be forthcoming. We have a Government that is committed to enhancing the railway system and sees a future for it, unlike the previous Government, which wanted to dismember it and distribute its parts for whatever it could get. Private investors will invest when they see that it has a long-term future. There is much interest in the Wales franchise; therefore, there must be reason for them to invest their money.

Peter Law: First, I congratulate the Minister on her excellent work and the measures that she has taken through the Government of Wales to make a difference, particularly in deprived communities. The Conservatives would not appreciate that, as the well-heeled Tory areas, particularly Monmouth, already have everything.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr ydych wedi siarad, David, ac wedi siarad yn dda. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe baech yn gadael i'r Gweinidog ymateb.

Sue Essex: O ran eich haerriad diwethaf fod y system reilffyrdd yn warth, fe'i defnyddiaf ac yr wyf yn falch o nodi bod trenau wedi bod yn cyrraedd yn brydlon. Mae'n gwneud gwahaniaeth, ond mae llawer i'w wneud o hyd a noda'r cynllun hynny. Nid yw'n beth doeth ichi gyfeirio at breifateiddio'r system reilffyrdd gan y Toriaid, gan fod hynny ond yn ein hatgoffa o'r rheswm pam ein bod yn y twll hwn heddiw. Dywedasoed fod diffygion yn y broses breifateiddio. Gallwn ddefnyddio fy holl amser heddiw yn eu disgrifio. Gallem fod yn sefyll yma tan yfory pe baem yn gwneud hynny. Credaf mai Gerald Corbett a ddywedodd, gan aralleirio, pa mor drychinebus fyddai preifateiddio.

Mae'n hawdd dinistrio, mae'n cymryd amser i greu. Nid yw'r cynllun hwn yn berffaith i Gymru, a bûm yn ddidwyll ynglŷn â hynny. Mae angen inni ymgyrchu dros wella prif linell coridor y Great Western. Fodd bynnag, mae'r cynllun yn ffordd bwysig ymlaen. Mae angen cynllun arnom ac mae angen inni gadw ato. Dyna beth a wna Richard Bowker yn awr. Sefydlwyd yr Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol. Mae Llywodraeth San Steffan wedi ymrwymo tua £33 biliwn i'r rheilffyrdd dros y 10 mlynedd nesaf ac mae'n ffyddiog y bydd buddsoddiad preifat ar gael. Mae gennym Lywodraeth sy'n ymrwymedig i wella'r system reilffyrdd ac yn gweld bod dyfodol iddi, yn wahanol i'r Llywodraeth flaenorol, a oedd am ei datgymalu a dosbarthu ei rhannau am ba bris bynnag y gallai. Bydd buddsoddwyr preifat yn buddsoddi pan welant fod dyfodol hirdymor iddi. Mae llawer o ddiddordeb ym masnachfaint Cymru; felly, rhaid bod rheswm pam y maent yn buddsoddi eu harian.

Peter Law: Yn gyntaf, llongyfarchaf y Gweinidog ar ei gwaith rhagorol a'r mesurau a gymerodd drwy Lywodraeth Cymru i wneud gwahaniaeth, yn enwedig mewn cymunedau difreintiedig. Ni fyddai'r Ceidwadwyr yn gwerthfawrogi hynny, am fod popeth gan yr ardaloedd llewyrchus Toriaidd, yn enwedig Trefynwy, eisoes.

I congratulate the Minister on her proactive approach to working with the SRA, which is making a difference. She has ensured that the all-Wales franchise, which we have heard about today, and the exciting re-opening of the Vale of Glamorgan line, will be brought forward. I congratulate her on securing the improvements to the Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury and the Newport to Crewe lines. It shows her commitment to rail transport in Wales, in which she has always believed, as many of us know. I thank her for her work with the SRA on the exciting re-opening of the Cardiff to Ebbw Vale and Abertyleri line to passenger services. It is in stark contrast to Tuesday afternoon's debate, and shows a Minister concentrating on deprivation and helping people towards inclusion. I hope that she will take all action—

Llongyfarchaf y Gweinidog ar ei hymagwedd ragweithiol tuag at weithio gyda'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol, sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth. Mae wedi sicrhau y caiff y fasnachfaint Cymru gyfan, y clywsom sôn amdani heddiw, a'r penderfyniad cyffrous i ailagor llinell Bro Morgannwg, eu rhoi ar waith. Fe'i llongyfarchaf am sicrhau'r gwelliannau i'r llinell rhwng Aberystwyth ac Amwythig a'r llinell rhwng Casnewydd a Crewe. Dengys hynny ei hymrwymiad i drafnidiaeth reilffyrdd yng Nghymru, rhywbeth y mae wedi credu ynddi erioed, fel y gŵyr llawer ohonom. Diolchaf iddi am ei gwaith gyda'r Awdurdod ar y penderfyniad cyffrous i ailagor y llinell rhwng Caerdydd a Glynebwy ac Abertyleri ar gyfer gwasanaethau teithwyr. Mae hynny mewn gwrthgyferbyniad llwyr i ddadl brynhawn dydd Mawrth, ac yn dangos Gweinidog sy'n canolbwyntio ar amddifadedd ac ar helpu pobl tuag at gynhwysedd. Gobeithiaf y bydd yn cymryd pob cam—

The Presiding Officer: Order. You are getting into the David Davies mode of a speech, rather than a question.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr ydych yn dechrau efelychu David Davies drwy areithio yn lle gofyn cwestiwn.

Peter Law: The Tories needed to hear a comment from me.

Peter Law: Yr oedd angen i'r Torïaid glywed sylwadau gennyf.

Will the Minister ask Railtrack and the SRA to prioritise the signalling modernisation at Newport, which is vital to the re-opening of the Ebbw Vale and Abertyleri branch line? Allowing the reopening to proceed on time will bring social inclusion to deprived communities.

A wnaiff y Gweinidog ofyn i Railtrack a'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol i roi blaenoriaeth i foderneiddio signalau yng Nghasnewydd, sy'n hollbwysig i ailagor y llinell leol rhwng Glynebwy ac Abertyleri? Daw cynhwysedd cymdeithasol i gymunedau difreintiedig yn sgîl y penderfyniad i ailagor ar amser.

Sue Essex: Thank you, Peter. I am aware of your long-held commitment to that scheme. You ensured the introduction of the extra service on the north-south line.

Sue Essex: Diolch ichi, Peter. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'ch ymrwymiad hirdymor i'r cynllun hwnnw. Chi a wnaeth sicrhau bod gwasanaeth ychwanegol ar y llinell rhwng y Gogledd a'r De.

We are dependent on the engineering work that Peter mentioned and the work being done across Wales in terms of how quickly we can go forward with reopening the Cardiff to Ebbw Vale and Abertyleri line. We have faced a dilemma over the past few years in terms of the resources that Railtrack has—to match

Yr ydym yn dibynnu ar y gwaith peiranyddol a grybwyllodd Peter a'r gwaith a wneir ledled Cymru o ran pa mor gyflym y gallwn fynd ymlaen â'r gwaith o ailagor y llinell rhwng Caerdydd a Glynebwy ac Abertyleri. Buom mewn cyfyng-gyngor dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf o ran yr adnoddau sydd gan Railtrack—adnoddau

our plan. The Assembly cannot do that and it is one reason why progress has not been made as it should. I will take up the issue you raised, Peter, with the Newport signalling station.

I welcome the SRA's announcement on the rail academy. We raised that issue over a year ago when we realised that there was a skill shortage problem in the UK. We told the SRA how important this was to us. I am glad that it has taken that seriously and will deliver on it.

Dafydd Wigley: Yr wyf wedi gwranddo yn astud ar ddatganiad y Gweinidog ond ni roddwyd unrhyw sicrwydd, hyd y gwelaf, y byddwn yn cael gwasanaeth rheilffyrdd effeithiol rhwng Caergybi a Chaerdydd. Mae hyn yn hanfodol os ydym am uno'r genedl hon ac os ydym am wneud ein gwaith yn y Cynulliad. Pryd y disgwylia y cawn wasanaeth cyffelyb i'r gwasanaeth rhwng dinasoedd i gysylltu'r De a'r Gogledd?

Sue Essex: I know that this issue is dear to your heart, Dafydd. The outcome of the Wales and Borders franchise will play a significant part in that. We have put in the bid for that and await the outcome.

Tom Middlehurst: Thank you, Minister, for your statement today. You will probably remember two Tory acts of vandalism responsible for the state of the railways. We need to remind ourselves of the Beeching butchery that occurred in the 1960s with the active support of the Tories, and of the recent privatisation, the consequences of which we live with. Do you agree that we must never allow the Tories to forget their actions, which have resulted in the decimation of this once great industry and the inadequate system we have inherited? It is also largely responsible for the conditions we experience daily on our roads.

10:25 a.m.

Do you agree that the establishment of a national rail academy is particularly important? If we are to restore confidence in

signalau yn enwedig—i gyfateb â'n cynllun. Ni all y Cynulliad wneud hynny a dyna un rheswm pam na wnaed y cynnydd y dylid bod wedi ei wneud. Codaf y mater a godwyd gennych, Peter gyda gorsaf signalau Casnewydd.

Croesawaf gyhoeddiad yr Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol ar yr academi ar gyfer y rheilffyrdd. Codasom y mater hwnnw dros flwyddyn yn ôl ar ôl sylweddoli bod prinder sgiliau yn y DU. Dywedwyd wrth yr awdurdod pa mor bwysig oedd hyn inni. Yr wyf yn falch ei fod wedi cymryd hyn o ddifrif ac y bydd yn gweithredu.

Dafydd Wigley: I have listened attentively to the Minister's statement but, as far as I can see, no assurance whatsoever has been given that we will get an effective rail service between Holyhead and Cardiff. That is essential if we are to unite this nation and to do our work in the Assembly. When does she expect the north-south link to be comparable to an intercity service?

Sue Essex: Gwn fod hwn yn fater o bwys ichi, Dafydd. Bydd canlyniad masnachfrait Cymru a'r Gororau yn chwarae rhan bwysig o ran hynny. Yr ydym wedi gwneud cais am hynny ac yn disgwyl y canlyniad.

Tom Middlehurst: Diolch ichi, Weinidog, am eich datganiad heddiw. Fe gofiwch, mae'n siŵr, ddwy o weithredoedd fandaleiddio'r Torïaid sy'n gyfrifol am gyflwr y rheilffyrdd. Mae angen atgoffa ein hunain am ddistryw Beeching a ddigwyddodd yn y 1960au gyda phob cefnogaeth gan y Torïaid, ac am y preifateiddio diweddar, y mae'n rhaid inni ddygymod â'r canlyniadau. A gytunwch na ddylem fyth adael i'r Torïaid anghofio'r hyn a wnaethant, sydd wedi arwain at ddistrio diwydiant a fu gynt mor bwysig ac at y system annigonol a etifeddwyd gennym? Mae hynny hefyd yn bennaf cyfrifol am yr hyn a welwn bob dydd ar y ffyrdd.

A gytunwch fod y penderfyniad i sefydlu academi genedlaethol ar gyfer y rheilffyrdd yn bwysig iawn? Os ydym am adennill hyder

the rail system, we must have due regard to and respect for the professionalism of those who work in that industry and provide that service daily. Will you assure me that there will be a meaningful dialogue with the rail trade unions, which will be important in them persuading their members to accept their responsibilities as we move towards the incremental improvements that the national rail strategy will provide?

Sue Essex: Of course, I was a mere slip of a girl when the Beeching cuts were implemented. I may not have the same memories as you, but I know—however old I was—that it was an absolute disaster. It did not look forward; it reacted to the past. It did not anticipate future social need. Then, of course, there was the disaster that happened over many years—I am not just speaking about the term of one Government here—when the car was thought to be king. It was understandable, as we had a strong British car industry. However, nobody foresaw the day when we would have extreme congestion on our roads. The importance of a good, modern railway to a country's economy was also underestimated. This is about so many issues: the transport of people, access, the environment and, crucially, conveying the right image of a country. That is why the improvements on the north-west lines and the Voyager trains that Virgin Trains are using, will be good for Wales, and why the Great Western line is also crucial. It is important to raise the image but also to deliver. You must have the right balance between looking to the future and ensuring that you can deliver on your promises.

On the issue of talking with the rail trade unions, I will be delighted to do so. I have regular discussions with them and I hope that we can get their support. That is a good idea. In Wales we have a proud tradition of people working in the railway industry. Many of their skills have been lost, but I hope we can rekindle them.

Janet Davies: Clearly there is no disagreement between us. We need good rail access, particularly for deprived communities, to get access to jobs. I raise the

yn y system reilffyrdd, rhaid inni roi pob sylw a pharch dyledus i broffesiynoldeb y bobl sy'n gweithio yn y diwydiant hwnnw ac sy'n darparu'r gwasanaeth hwnnw bob dydd. A roddwch sicrwydd imi y bydd dialog ystyrllon gydag undebau llafur y rheilffyrdd, a fydd yn bwysig iddynt ddarbwylllo eu haelodau i dderbyn eu cyfrifoldebau, wrth inni symud tuag at y gwelliannau graddol a geir yn y strategaeth reilffyrdd?

Sue Essex: Wrth gwrs, merch ifanc oeddwn pan weithredwyd toriadau Beeching. Er na allaf gofio'r hyn a gofiwch chi, ond gwn—pa mor ifanc bynnag yr oeddwn—mai trychineb llwyr ydoedd. Nid edrychodd i'r dyfodol; bu'n adwaith i'r gorffennol. Ni ragwelodd anghenion cymdeithasol yn y dyfodol. Yna, wrth gwrs, cafwyd y drychineb a ddigwyddodd dros flynyddoedd lawer—nid wyf yn siarad am dymor un Llywodraeth yn unig yn y cyswllt hwn—pan gredid mai'r car oedd yn feistr. Gellir deall hynny, am fod diwydiant moduron cryf gennym ym Mhrydain. Fodd bynnag ni ragwelodd neb y dydd pan fyddai tagfeydd mawr ar y fffyrdd. Tanbrisiwyd pwysigrwydd rheilffordd fodern, dda i economi gwlad hefyd. Mae cymaint o faterion ynghlwm wrth hyn: cludo pobl, hygyrchedd, yr amgylchedd ac, yn bwysig, cyfleu delwedd dda o wlad. Dyna pam y bydd y gwelliannau i'r llinellau yng ngogledd-orllewin Cymru a'r trenau Voyager a ddefnyddir gan Virgin Trains o fudd i Gymru, a dyna pam mae llinell y Great Western yn hollbwysig hefyd. Mae'n bwysig gwella delwedd ond hefyd gwneud gwahaniaeth. Rhaid ichi gael y cydbwysedd iawn rhwng edrych i'r dyfodol a sicrhau eich bod yn gallu cyflawni'ch addewidion.

O ran siarad ag undebau llafur y rheilffyrdd, byddaf yn falch o wneud hynny. Caf drafodaethau rheolaidd gyda hwy a gobeithiaf y gallwn ennill eu cefnogaeth. Dyna syniad da. Yng Nghymru mae traddodiad anrhydeddus o bobl yn gweithio yn y diwydiant reilffyrdd. Collwyd llawer o'u sgiliau, ond gobeithiaf y bydd modd inni eu hadfer.

Janet Davies: Wrth gwrs nid ydym yn anghytuno â'n gilydd. Mae angen cysylltiadau reilffyrdd da, yn arbennig mewn cymunedau difreintiedig, er mwyn

issue of the railway running through my constituency: Swanline and the line from Maesteg to Cardiff. One runs completely on the main Fishguard to Paddington line, as does part of the other service. That line is crowded. Can you give an assurance that the signalling will be in a condition to allow more frequent services—particularly from Maesteg to Cardiff—or that it will be possible to find the rolling stock to have four coaches instead of two during commuting times? Those trains are extremely crowded between Maesteg to Bridgend, and Pencoed to Cardiff.

Sue Essex: I am not an expert on this, but I think that the enhancements to Cardiff Queen Street station will affect the Maesteg line, because the trains all operate off that service. That depends on technical work. It has been put in the programme for the last few years and money has been made available. There has been frustration about the time that it is taking to be delivered. I will let you know the details on that.

On the issue of coaches, the Strategic Rail Authority is developing this through the rail partnership fund. We have bids in at the movement and some stock has been delivered on the Taff corridor, where an extra train is in operation. I will check to see whether the same bid has been made for the Swanline. If not, I am sure that that could be done.

I make one last comment on an issue alluded to, I think, in an article by Clive Betts in *The Western Mail*. I do not know whether Clive Betts is watching this debate now. It concerns the role of local authorities in bringing these packages together. That is how the South Wales Integrated Fast Transit Consortium has developed in the Cardiff area and the former Mid Glamorgan valleys, and perhaps wider than that. Over the next few years, it is important that we work with the consortia—including South Wales West Integrated Transport Consortium in your neck of the woods and Transport Integration in the Gwent Economic Region in south-east Wales—to roll out the commuter patterns that

cyrraedd y swyddi sydd ar gael. Codaf fater y rheilffordd sy'n rhedeg drwy fy etholaeth i: Swanline a'r llinell o Faesteg i Gaerdydd. Mae'r naill yn rhedeg ar y brif linell rhwng Abergwaun a Paddington bob cam o'r daith, ac mae'r gwasanaeth arall yn rhedeg ar yr un llinell am ran o'r daith. Mae'r llinell honno yn brysur iawn. A allwch roi sicrwydd y bydd y signalau mewn cyflwr i ganiatáu i'r cwmni ddarparu gwasanaethau amlach—yn arbennig o Faesteg i Gaerdydd—neu y gellir dod o hyd i gerbydau er mwyn cael pedwar yn lle'r ddau gerbyd a geir yn ystod amseroedd teithio i'r gwaith ac o'r gwaith? Mae'r trenau hynny yn brysur dros ben rhwng Maesteg a Phen-y-bont, a Phencoed i Gaerdydd.

Sue Essex: Nid wyf yn arbenigo ar hyn, ond credaf y bydd y gwelliannau i orsaf Heol y Frenhines, Caerdydd yn effeithio ar linell Maesteg, oherwydd bod yr holl drenau yn rhedeg drwy'r gwasanaeth hwnnw. Bydd hynny yn dibynnu ar waith technegol. Bu'n rhan o'r rhaglen ers ychydig o flynyddoedd a darparwyd arian ar ei gyfer. Bu rhwystredigaeth ynglŷn â'r amser a gymer i wneud hyn. Rhoddaf y manylion ichi.

O ran cerbydau, mae'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol yn datblygu hyn drwy gronfa bartneriaeth y rheilffyrdd. Mae gennym geisiadau dan ystyriaeth ar hyn o bryd a darparwyd rhai cerbydau ar gyfer llinell Taf, lle mae trên ychwanegol yn rhedeg. Edrychaf i weld a wnaethpwyd cais cyffelyb ar gyfer Swanline. Os nas gwnaed, yr wyf yn siŵr y gellid gwneud hynny.

Gwnaf un sylw cyn gorffen ar rywbeth y cyfeiriwyd ato, fe gredaf, mewn erthygl gan Clive Betts yn *The Western Mail*. Ni wn a yw Clive Betts yn gwylio'r ddadl hon yn awr. Mae'n ymwneud â rôl awdurdodau lleol i lunio'r pecynnau hyn. Dyna sut y datblygodd Consortiwm Teithio Cyflym Integredig De Cymru yn ardal Caerdydd a chymoedd yr hen Forgannwg Ganol, ac ymhellach na hynny o bosibl. Yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf, mae'n bwysig inni weithio gyda'r consortia—yn cynnwys Consortiwm Trafnidiaeth Integredig Gorllewin De Cymru yn eich ardal chi ac Integreiddio Trafnidiaeth yn Rhanbarth Economaidd Gwent yn neddwyrain Cymru—i gyflwyno'r patrymau o

are doing well in the SWIFT area. This must also be extended to north Wales. I hope to go to the Welsh transport forum fairly soon to discuss the TAITH consortium, to ensure that all aspects of this are integrated. This is not just about rail services but about integrating park and ride schemes and bus connections.

Eleanor Burnham: You are doing a wonderful job, Sue. The £60 million of Assembly funding over the next five years is long overdue. As I mentioned in the statement of opinion that I tabled last week, you should hold constant discussions with Stephen Byers in London about the SRA's inadequate investment in Wales. I am sure that you will do that. We have been in the dark ages under Tory Governments over the last quarter of a century. All the privatisation money was wasted and nothing was invested in the railway infrastructure.

I have always had a great interest in railways, and my interest will continue. The people of north Wales are constantly short-changed, as Dafydd Wigley mentioned. We must consider the fact that north Wales is a long way from Cardiff. It is much easier and more comfortable to travel to London from north Wales than to travel to Cardiff. When you travel to Cardiff, the train rattles along and you have to change trains in Shrewsbury. It is pathetic.

Although I welcome the new Virgin Voyager trains, they also have inadequacies. The storage space for luggage was the first inadequacy that I, and many others, noticed. The north Wales line must be electrified, so that we can connect with Dublin to the west and the upgraded west coast service to London and the rest of the UK. As I said, it is still much quicker and more comfortable to travel to London from north Wales than to travel to Cardiff. We must ensure faster routes, remove the freight from the congested A55, reduce pollution, and support the economy of Wales. The Babbie report, as you know, also highlighted the issue of a north-south reconnection.

wasanaethau i deithwyr sy'n gwneud yn dda yn ardal Consortiwm Teithio Cyflym Integredig De Cymru. Rhaid ymestyn hynny i'r gogledd. Gobeithiaf fynd i gyfarfod o fforwm trafndiaeth Cymru cyn bo hir i drafod consortiwm TAITH, i sicrhau y caiff pob agwedd ar hyn ei integreiddio. Nid oes a wnelo hyn â gwasanaethau rheilffyrdd yn unig, mae a wnelo ag integreiddio cynlluniau parcio a theithio a chysylltiadau bysiau.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr ydych yn gwneud gwaith ardderchog, Sue. Bu hir ddisgwyl am y £60 miliwn o arian i'w ddarparu gan y Cynulliad yn ystod y pum mlynedd nesaf. Fel y soniais yn y datganiad barn a gyflwynais yr wythnos diwethaf, dylech gynnal trafodaethau parhaus gyda Stephen Byers yn Llundain ynglŷn â buddsoddiad annigonol yr Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnewch hynny. Buom yn yr oesoedd tywyll o dan Lywodraethau Torïaidd yn ystod y chwarter canrif ddiwethaf. Gwastraffwyd yr holl arian yn sgîl preifateiddio ac ni fuddsoddwyd dim yn seilwaith y rheilffyrdd.

Yr wyf erioed wedi ymddiddori'n fawr yn y rheilffyrdd, a bydd y diddordeb hwnnw yn parhau. Mae pobl gogledd Cymru yn cael cam o hyd, fel y crybwyllodd Dafydd Wigley. Rhaid inni ystyried y ffaith bod y Gogledd yn bell o Gaerdydd. Mae'n llawer haws a mwy cyfforddus i deithio i Lundain o'r gogledd nag ydyw i deithio i Gaerdydd. Pan deithiwch i Gaerdydd, mae'r trê'n yn rhuglo mynd a rhaid ichi newid trê'n yn Amwythig. Mae'n druenus.

Er y croesawaf drenau newydd Voyager Virgin, mae diffygion iddynt hefyd. Y diffyg cyntaf y sylwais i a llawer o bobl eraill arno oedd y prinder lle i gadw bagiau teithio. Rhaid trydanu llinell y Gogledd er mwyn inni allu cysylltu â Dilyn i'r gorllewin a'r gwasanaeth wedi'i uwchraddio ar hyd arfordir gogledd-orllewin Lloegr i Lundain a gweddill y DU. Fel y dywedais, mae'n gynt o lawer ac yn fwy cyfforddus i deithio i Lundain o'r gogledd nag ydyw i deithio i Gaerdydd. Rhaid inni sicrhau llwybrau cyflymach, symud y nwyddau a gludir ar ffordd brysur yr A55 oddi arni, lleihau llygredd, a chefnogi economi Cymru. Nododd adroddiad Babbie, fel y gwychoch,

fater ailgysylltu'r Gogledd a'r De.

There is not much that is new in the SRA's plan. It does not mention reducing fragmentation. There are so many rail bodies, including the SRA, the rail regulator and Railtrack, we also have John Birt, whatever he is doing. There is constant confusion. We have a long way to go to make rail travel safe, reliable and affordable. I have no doubt, Sue, that you are doing your best to ensure that we improve services in Wales. Peter Hain recently said that we have done too little too late. I hope—

Nid oes llawer o bethau sy'n newydd yng nghynllun yr awdurdod. Ni sonia am leihau natur ddarniog y rheilffyrdd. Ceir cymaint o gyrff rheilffyrdd, gan gynnwys yr Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol, corff rheoleiddio'r rheilffyrdd a Railtrack, a John Birt hefyd, beth bynnag yw ei waith ef. Mae dryswch dibendraw. Mae gennym dipyn o ffordd i fynd cyn y gallwn sicrhau bod teithio ar y rheilffyrdd yn ddiogel, yn ddibynadwy ac yn fforddiadwy. Nid oes amheuaeth gennyf, Sue, eich bod yn gwneud eich gorau glas i sicrhau ein bod yn gwella gwasanaethau yng Nghymru. Dywedodd Peter Hain yn ddiweddar ein bod wedi gwneud rhy ychydig yn rhy hwyr. Gobeithiaf—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I allow preambles to party spokespeople. However, it would be helpful if you asked a question.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf yn caniatáu i lefarwyr y pleidiau ragymadroddi. Fodd bynnag, byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe baech yn gofyn cwestiwn.

Eleanor Burnham: Do you agree that we not only need more money, but also better targeted investment in the railways in Wales?

Eleanor Burnham: A gytunwch fod angen nid yn unig rhagor o arian arnom, ond hefyd buddsoddiad wedi'i dargedu'n well yn y rheilffordd yng Nghymru?

Sue Essex: Thank you for your kind words. I agree. I do not think that anyone in the Chamber or anyone who uses the railways would deny that we have a long way to go. As I said, it is important that we set out the plan and stick to it. We do not want any more prevarication. That must be the message.

Sue Essex: Diolch ichi am eich geiriau caredig. Cytunaf. Ni chredaf y byddai unrhyw un yn y Siambr nac unrhyw un sy'n teithio ar y rheilffyrdd yn anghytuno bod gennym dipyn o ffordd i fynd. Fel y dywedais, mae'n bwysig inni amlinellu'r cynllun a chadw ato. Nid ydym am gael rhagor o oedi. Rhaid mai honno yw'r neges.

Let me be honest about the railway infrastructure. When the railways were built, they were connected to London. That is the reality and we cannot undo it. We are now trying to create a railway system that responds to the new Wales, which means that we must intervene and support north-south journeys, as Peter Law did in introducing an extra service on the north-south line. We must deliver that through the new Wales franchise. Alun Pugh frequently asks for the introduction of a through train from north to south. That is important for all the AMs who travel from north Wales on the train. It is time to change the direction. The connections to London are important, and we must not undermine them. The railway structure over

Gadewch imi fod yn onest ynglŷn â'r seilwaith rheilffyrdd. Pan adeiladwyd y rheilffyrdd, fe'u cysylltwyd â Llundain. Dyna'r sefyllfa ac ni allwn ddadwneud hynny. Erbyn hyn yr ydym yn ceisio creu system reilffyrdd sy'n ymateb i'r Gymru newydd, sy'n golygu bod yn rhaid inni ymyrryd a chefnogi teithiau rhwng y De a'r Gogledd, fel y gwnaeth Peter Law wrth gyflwyno gwasanaeth ychwanegol ar y llinell rhwng y De a'r Gogledd. Rhaid inni gyflawni hynny drwy fasnachfaint newydd Cymru. Mae Alun Pugh yn aml yn galw am gyflwyno gwasanaeth uniongyrchol o'r gogledd i'r de. Mae hynny yn bwysig i bob AC sy'n teithio o'r gogledd ar y trê. Mae'n bryd newid cyfeiriad. Mae'r cysylltiadau â Llundain yn

the border also links us to Europe. Those of us who have used under-26 interrail tickets remember that. We must not be too parochial. Investment in those lines and those trains are important to us. However, in the course of rolling out this programme, the trick will be to change some of the direction that we have historically received to respond to the framework and direction that we want in Wales. That is how I have tried to do this. I am asking what we want to achieve in Wales and what the plan delivers. Where the plan does not deliver for us, we will campaign for additions to be made.

The Presiding Officer: I am aware that we have overrun the time allocated for this statement. However, because of the deep interest in this matter, which the Deputy Presiding Officer and I share, we will allow an extra 10 minutes for this important statement.

10:35 a.m.

Brian Gibbons: You mentioned in your statement, Sue, that Railtrack proposes to invest £16 million in upgrading 33 stations in Wales. The 10-year strategy states that accessibility to major and medium-sized stations in Wales will be achieved by 2004. Can you confirm how much of the £16 million will go towards achieving the 2004 target? This is important for my constituency because it is difficult to leave the Port Talbot Parkway station if you have a disability, unless there are platform staff on duty. People have been stranded on the platforms at Port Talbot because of accessibility problems. My constituency cannot wait any longer for improvements.

Sue Essex: There is a list of 33 stations that will be upgraded over the next three years. Responses have primarily concerned disability regulations. However, it is wider than that; many of the improvements affecting disabled people affect us all, such as better security and better lighting. There is a programme to address this. Specifically, I will take up the Port Talbot case. On Janet's

bwysig, ac ni ddylem eu tanseilio. Mae'r strwythur rheilffyrdd dros y ffin hefyd yn ein cysylltu ag Ewrop. Mae'r rhai ohonom a ddefnyddiai docynnau rheilffyrdd i bobl o dan 26 oed yn cofio hynny. Rhaid inni beidio â bod yn rhy blwyfol. Mae'r buddsoddiad yn y llinellau a'r trenau hynny yn bwysig inni. Fodd bynnag, wrth gyflwyno'r rhaglen hon, y gamp fydd newid y cyfeiriad hanesyddol rhywfaint i ymateb i'r fframwaith a'r cyfeiriad a ddymunwn yng Nghymru. Dyna sut yr wyf wedi ceisio gwneud hyn. Fy nghwestiwn i yw beth yr hoffem ei gyflawni yng Nghymru ac ym mha fodd y bydd y cynllun yn gwneud gwahaniaeth. Lle na fydd y cynllun yn gwneud gwahaniaeth, ymgyrchwn dros ychwanegu ato.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol ein bod wedi mynd dros yr amser a neilltuwyd ar gyfer y datganiad hwn. Fodd bynnag, oherwydd y diddordeb mawr yn y mater hwn, a rennir gennyf fi a'r Dirprwy Lywydd, byddwn yn caniatáu 10 munud ychwanegol ar gyfer y datganiad pwysig hwn.

Brian Gibbons: Soniasoch yn eich datganiad, Sue, fod Railtrack yn bwriadu buddsoddi £16 miliwn i uwchraddio 33 o orsafoedd yng Nghymru. Noda'r strategaeth 10 mlynedd y bydd gorsafoedd mawr a chanolig eu maint yng Nghymru yn hygyrch erbyn 2004. A allwch gadarnhau faint o'r £16 miliwn a gaiff ei wario er mwyn cyrraedd y targed o 2004? Mae hyn yn bwysig yn fy etholaeth i am ei bod yn anodd gadael gorsaf Port Talbot Parkway os oes anabledd gennych, oni bai bod staff y platfform ar ddyletswydd. Mae pobl wedi cael eu gadael yn ddiymgeledd ar y platfform ym Mhort Talbot oherwydd problemau o ran hygyrchedd. Ni all fy etholaeth aros rhagor am y gwelliannau.

Sue Essex: Mae rhestr o 33 o orsafoedd i'w huwchraddio dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Mae'r ymateb wedi ymwneud â'r rheoliadau anabledd yn bennaf. Fodd bynnag, mae'n fater ehangach na hynny; mae llawer o'r gwelliannau sy'n effeithio ar bobl anabl hefyd yn effeithio ar bawb, megis gwell diogelwch a goleuadau. Ceir rhaglen i fynd i'r afael â hyn. Yn benodol, ymdriniaf ag

point about local co-ordination, we work with local consortia and, in many ways, it is they who establish the priorities. I am not 100 per cent certain about that, but I will check. If we can develop and enhance the programme with the SRA, we will certainly try.

Brian Hancock: In discussing rail, I should support my colleague Peter Law by noting the importance of the Ebbw Vale to Newport line, which runs via my Islwyn constituency. I presume that the Minister is aware of the King Sturge report on the importance of developing transport links to Cardiff International Airport and how that will lead to an increase in the amount of freight and the number of passengers passing through the airport. Has the Minister consulted the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning about developing training facilities in Wales for rail engineering? Last night I visited the Crosskeys campus of Gwent Tertiary College, where managers said that they would be interested to supplement their engineering courses with transport engineering, including rail and canal transport.

Sue Essex: On access to Cardiff International Airport, when the Vale of Glamorgan railway line, is reopened to passenger transport it will do two things. First, it will serve the communities along that line, in the Rhose direction, where new stations will be opened. That is important in terms of commuter and leisure traffic. It will also improve access to the airport. The line will not run right alongside the airport but, with the planned connections, it will feed traffic through. We must remember that in terms of the Vale of Glamorgan line.

In terms of rail engineering training, I mentioned in my letter the part that Education and Learning Wales could perhaps play in this. We will take this forward with the SRA, because it will have to oversee any training package. ELWa will provide an opportunity for us in Wales to feed into that.

achos Port Talbot. Gan droi at bwynt Janet ynglŷn â chydgyssylltu'n lleol, gweithiwn gyda'r consortia lleol ac, ar sawl cyfrir, hwy sy'n gyfrifol am sefydlu'r blaenoriaethau. Nid wyf yn gwbl sicr ynglŷn â hynny, ond gwnaf ymholiadau. Os gallwn ddatblygu a gwella'r rhaglen ar y cyd â'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol, yna gwnawn ein gorau i wneud hynny.

Brian Hancock: Wrth drafod y rheilffyrdd, dylwn gefnogi fy nghyd-Aelod Peter Law, drwy nodi pwysigrwydd y llinell rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd, sy'n rhedeg drwy fy etholaeth i, Islwyn. Yr wyf yn cymeryd bod y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol o adroddiad King Sturge ar bwysigrwydd datblygu cysylltiadau trafniadaeth â Maes Awyr Rhyngwladol Caerdydd a'r ffordd y bydd hynny yn arwain at gynnydd yn nifer y nwyddau a gludir drwy'r maes awyr a nifer y teithwyr sy'n ei ddefnyddio. A yw'r Gweinidog wedi ymgynghori â'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ynglŷn â datblygu cyfleusterau hyfforddi ar gyfer peirianeg rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru? Neithiwr, ymwelais â champws Crosskeys sy'n rhan o Goleg Trydyddol Gwent, lle y dywedodd y rheolwyr y byddai diddordeb ganddynt ychwanegu peirianeg trafniadaeth, gan gynnwys rheilffyrdd a chamlesi, at y cyrsiau a gynigir mewn peirianeg.

Sue Essex: O ran cyrraedd Maes Awyr Rhyngwladol Caerdydd, pan fydd rheilffordd Bro Morgannwg ar agor i deithwyr unwaith eto, gwnaiff ddau beth. Yn gyntaf, bydd yn gwasanaethu'r cymunedau ar hyd y llinell honno, i gyfeiriad y Rhws, lle yr agorir gorsafod newydd. Mae hynny yn bwysig o ran pobl sy'n teithio i'r gwaith a theithwyr hamdden. Bydd hefyd yn ei gwneud yn haws i gyrraedd y maes awyr. Ni fydd y llinell yn rhedeg yn union wrth ymyl y maes awyr, ond drwy'r cysylltiadau arfaethedig, bydd yn cludo teithwyr yno. Rhaid inni gofio hynny o ran llinell Bro Morgannwg.

O ran hyfforddiant mewn peirianeg rheilffyrdd, soniais yn fy llythyr am y rhan y gallai Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru ei chwarae o bosibl yn y maes hwn. Byddwn yn datblygu hyn gyda'r Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol, oherwydd bydd yn rhaid i'r Awdurdod oruchwylio unrhyw becyn hyfforddi. Bydd

ELWa yn rhoi cyfle inni yng Nghymru gyfrannu at hynny.

Rosemary Butler: I welcome the report, and thank you, Minister, for your statement. A number of people have said that your personal commitment, along with that of Peter Law, has enabled this to be brought forward. I am a frequent rail user, travelling to Swansea by train rather than by car. I have been lucky when I have used trains because they have always been on time, but I must be an exception. However, I am concerned about the state and condition of trains. They are dirty, the toilets are filthy and the cost of travelling is astronomical. It is cheaper to fly from Bristol airport to Naples than it is to go from Newport to London by train. When we have the rail franchise, will you consider implementing the best value criteria that we have set for Assembly sponsored public bodies and local government? It is important that trains are clean and affordable.

A few Members have already mentioned the condition of stations. Newport station is a classic example. The staff work hard and are helpful. Railtrack, or whoever, spent money on painting it recently, but that is all that has been done. The facilities for disabled people and the toilets are appalling. We must ensure that people want to use the trains; they want to feel comfortable and secure.

I welcome the additional halts that you are proposing in Rogerstone and Caerleon in my constituency. However, will you ensure that the trains are clean so that everyone will want to use them?

Sue Essex: Ensuring that the trains are clean would mean taking my mop, bucket and pinny around the stations. I have a funny job description but I do not think that it includes that. However, I accept your point. The station improvements were derided when they were introduced and people argued that that was not the real issue. However, the state of the stations and trains, and customer care are important components. People must feel secure and that they are meant to be there, rather than feeling like add-ons. I mentioned that at the investigation that we discussed last

Rosemary Butler: Croesawaf yr adroddiad a diolchaf ichi, Weinidog am eich datganiad. Dywedodd nifer o bobl fod eich ymrwymiad personol, ynghyd ag ymrwymiad Peter Law, wedi galluogi hyn. Byddaf yn teithio ar y rheilffordd yn aml, gan deithio o Abertawe ar y trêrn yn hytrach na gyrru. Bûm yn ffodus wrth deithio ar y rheilffordd am fod y trenau bob amser wedi bod yn brydlon, ond rhaid mai fi yw'r eithriad. Fodd bynnag, pryderaf am gyflwr y trenau. Maent yn frwnt, mae'r toiledau'n fochaidd ac mae tocynnau yn hynod o ddrud. Mae'n rhatach hedfan o faes awyr Bryste i Naples na theithio o Gasnewydd i Lundain ar y trêrn. Pan ddaw'r fasnachfaint reilffyrdd i fodolaeth, a wnewch ystyried gweithredu'r meini prawf gwerth gorau a osodwyd gennym ar gyfer cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad a llywodraeth leol? Mae'n bwysig bod trenau'n lân ac yn fforddiadwy.

Cyfeiriodd un neu ddau o'r Aelodau eisoes at gyflwr gorsafoedd. Mae gorsaf Casnewydd yn enghraifft dda. Mae'r staff yn gweithio'n galed ac yn barod eu cymwynas. Talodd Railtrack, neu pwy bynnag, i beintio'r orsaf yn ddiweddar, ond dyna'r cyfan a wnaed. Mae'r cyfleusterau ar gyfer pobl anabl a'r toiledau yn warthus. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod pobl am ddefnyddio'r trenau; maent am deimlo'n gyfforddus ac yn ddiogel.

Croesawaf yr arosfeydd yn y Tŷ Du a Chaerllion yn fy etholaeth. Fodd bynnag, a wnewch chi sicrhau bod y trenau'n lân fel y bydd pawb yn dymuno eu defnyddio?

Sue Essex: Byddai sicrhau bod y trenau'n lân yn golygu y byddai'n rhaid imi fynd â'm mop, fy mwced a'm ffedog o amgylch y gorsafoedd. Mae swydd ddisgrifiad rhyfedd gennyf ond ni chredaf ei fod yn cynnwys hynny. Fodd bynnag, derbynaf eich pwynt. Lladdwyd ar y gwelliannau i orsafoedd pan gyflwynwyd hwy a dadleuodd pobl nad hynny oedd y mater pwysicaf. Fodd bynnag, mae cyflwr y gorsafoedd a'r trenau, a gofal cwsmeriaid yn elfennau pwysig. Rhaid i bobl deimlo'n ddiogel a bod hawl ganddynt fod yno, yn hytrach na themlo fel

week. Somebody asked me what improvements we could see in the next three months. I replied that you cannot build a new railway or rail carriage in that time, but you can change the culture in terms of cleanliness and support fairly rapidly. I am conscious that people must become aware of that if we are going to achieve a great shift of people out of their cars and onto the railways. They need to feel comfortable.

I often feel sorry for the staff who operate the trains. They frequently take flak from people. I have always received courteous attention by those staff. Many people do not know who I am—and why should they—but I receive courtesy and support. We must pay tribute to those people, who often have to take the flak arising from difficult journeys.

David Melding: Do you agree that the constant Tory bashing that we have heard this morning has a Thomas-the-Tank-Engine quality about it? No doubt, we are the naughty trains that do not ever want to go on the branch lines. The way the Labour Party has been talking over the last five years, you would swear that the industry is about to undergo a renaissance. However, there is nothing in the statement that indicates that. You are hardly going to out-do Brunel, despite your boasting. The fact of the matter is that expenditure is limited, developments are welcome but modest, but the talk is big—as ever, New Labour.

Sue Essex: If the Tories were still in control, which is a terrible contemplation, we would all be travelling on Thomas the Tanks Engines, as opposed to the new Voyager trains and other developments. There has been movement, despite the difficulties.

In terms of talking up, I have not done so. I have tried to be honest in this statement about where I think the strengths and weaknesses are. I have been honest about where we need to campaign for more money, and I will continue to do so, as will the First Minister.

yehwanegiadau. Crybwyllais hynny yn ystod yr ymchwiliad a drafodwyd yr wythnos diwethaf. Gofynnodd rhywun imi ddisgrifio pa welliannau y gallem eu rhagweld yn y tri mis nesaf. Atebais na ellir adeiladu rheilffordd na cherbyd rheilffyrdd mewn tri mis, ond y gellir newid y diwylliant o ran glendid a chymorth yn eithaf cyflym. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod yn rhaid i bobl fod yn ymwybodol o hynny er mwyn inni sicrhau bod nifer fawr o bobl yn newid o ddefnyddio eu ceir i deithio ar y rheilffyrdd. Mae angen i bobl deimlo'n gyfforddus.

Teimlaf drueni yn aml dros y staff sy'n gweithio ar y trenau. Mae pobl yn aml yn achwyn arnynt. Yr wyf bob amser wedi cael gwasanaeth cwrtais gan y staff. Nid yw llawer ohonynt yn gwybod pwy ydwyf—a pham y dylent—ond maent yn gwrtais ac yn gymwynasgar imi. Rhaid inni dalu teyrnged i'r bobl hyn sydd yn aml yn cael eu beio pan fo problemau ar y daith.

David Melding: A gytunwch fod yr ymosod di-baid ar y Toriaid a glywsom y bore yma â naws stori Tomos y Tanc yn perthyn iddo? Yn sicr, ni yw'r trenau drwg nad ydynt byth am fynd ar y llinellau lleol. Ar ôl gwranddo ar y Blaid Llafur dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf, byddai dyn yn meddwl bod y diwydiant ar fin cael dadeni. Fodd bynnag, nid oes dim byd yn y datganiad sy'n awgrymu hynny. Nid ydych am ragori ar Brunel, er gwaethaf eich ymffrost. Y gwir amdani yw bod gwariant yn gyfyngedig, bod y datblygiadau yn dderbyniol ond yn fach, ond bod digon o frolio—fel y gwna Llafur Newydd bob amser.

Sue Essex: Pe bai'r Toriaid mewn grym o hyd, sy'n rhywbeth ofnadwy i'w ystyried, byddem oll yn teithio ar drenau Tomos y Tanc, yn lle'r trenau Voyager newydd a datblygiadau eraill. Bu cynnydd, er gwaethaf yr anawsterau.

O ran codi'r pwnc, ni wneuthum hynny. Ceisiais fod yn onest yn y datganiad hwn ynglŷn â'r cryfderau a'r gwendidau yn fy marn i. Bûm yn onest o ran pa feysydd y bydd angen inni ymgyrchu i gael rhagor o arian ar eu cyfer, a byddaf yn parhau i wneud hynny, fel y gwna'r Prif Weinidog.

On Brunel, nobody could replicate him; he was a genius. Unfortunately, such people do not come around often. However, we must ensure that the spirit of Brunel persists, particularly on the Great Western line, with which he was associated.

Geraint Davies: I am sure that you agree that the development of the railways will play an important part in the regeneration of the Valleys. I am, therefore, disappointed that this settlement does not give us our fair share. Do you agree that the priority for sorting out the Valley Lines is to increase capacity at peak times? At present, it is almost impossible to get a seat on a train from Queen Street to the Rhondda Valleys at peak times. It has been said that it is easier to win the lottery.

Secondly, do you think that train running times should be extended? I understand that the last train from Cardiff to the Cynon Valley is 7.30 p.m., therefore some people will not be able to visit the new Wales Millennium Centre. Times should be extended so that people can enjoy Cardiff's nightlife. [*Laughter.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I would like questions to be brief. We are discussing devolution, not evolution.

Geraint Davies: Thirdly, you mentioned image. It is important to have a modern railway system. In the past, we have always had England's cast-offs and second-hand trains. Is it not time that we had new trains to give the Valleys a new image?

10:45 a.m.

Sue Essex: I am sure that we all want train times to be extended so that you can enjoy Cardiff's nightlife. That is at the top of my list of objectives.

On the myth about fair share, nobody can quite tell me—and I have not heard today—what fair share is. All I have heard in the past is about us getting Barnett. I have made it clear that there is a real danger about talking

O ran Brunel, ni allai neb gymryd ei le; athrylith ydoedd. Yn anffodus, anaml y daw pobl o'i bath i'r amlwg. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni sicrhau bod ysbryd Brunel yn goroesi, yn arbennig ar linell y Great Western, sy'n gysylltiedig ag ef.

Geraint Davies: Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch y bydd datblygiad y rheilffyrdd yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn ngwaith adfywio'r Cymoedd. Felly yr wyf yn siomedig nad yw'r setliad hwn yn rhoi cyfran deg inni. A gytunwch mai cynyddu capasiti ar adegau prysur yw'r flaenoriaeth ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â Valley Lines? Ar hyn o bryd, mae bron yn amhosibl cael sedd ar drên o Heol y Frenhines i Gwm Rhondda ar adegau prysur. Dywedwyd ei bod yn haws ennill y loteri.

Yn ail, a gredwch y dylid ymestyn amseroedd rhedeg y trenau? Deallaf mai am 7.30 p.m. y mae'r trên olaf o Gaerdydd i Gwm Cynon yn gadael, felly ni fydd rhai pobl yn gallu ymweld â Chanolfan Mileniwm newydd Cymru. Dylid ymestyn amseroedd fel y gall pobl fwynhau bywyd nos Caerdydd. [*Chwerthin.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Hoffwn pe baech yn gofyn cwestiynau byr. Datganoli, nid esblygu yw'r pwnc trafod.

Geraint Davies: Yn drydydd, soniwyd am ddelwedd. Mae'n bwysig cael system reilffyrdd gyfoes. Yn y gorffennol, yr oeddem bob amser yn cael hen drenau Lloegr neu drenau nad oes eu hangen yno bellach. Onid yw'n bryd inni gael trenau newydd i roi delwedd newydd i'r Cymoedd?

Sue Essex: Yr wyf yn siŵr bod pob un ohonom am weld amseroedd trenau yn cael eu hestyn fel y gallwch fwynhau bywyd nos Caerdydd. Mae hynny ar frig fy rhestr amcanion.

O ran myth y gyfran deg, ni all neb ddweud wrthyf yn union—ac nid wyf wedi clywed heddiw—beth yw cyfran deg. Y cyfan a glywsom yn y gorffennol oedd y sôn am fformiwla Barnett. Eglurais fod perygl

about us getting Barnett if, indeed, it could be applied in any theoretical way. We would end up worse off. Fair share for Wales also means improvements in England regarding the corridors that we use. However, that does not mean that we will not campaign for more money—of course we will. As this plan rolls out we will campaign for more money. The rail partnership fund, which we set up, looks like a great possibility for getting additional money. The reason for that is that we have the transport framework plan in place, and we have that relationship that no other part of England has.

On your specific request for the Valleys, that is benefiting from the rail partnership fund. There is extra train capacity on the Taff corridor, and I hope that, working with SWIFT, with which we work closely, that will roll out, and we will give access to Valleys communities as they want.

Alun Pugh: People travel from all over Europe to photograph the nineteenth century railway infrastructure of the north Wales line. The signal box in Abergele is a fine example of Victorian engineering. Do you believe that the north Wales line should be a key part of the west coast main line rather than have branch-line status, and that its continued neglect could lead to the loss of its trans-European status?

Sue Essex: It would be unfair to say that the north-west line has branch-line status. It is a major route. I agree about the trans-national element. I have had discussions with Ireland. It is important to Ireland, and visitors, tourists and residents alike. It is an important line. The investment in the Virgin trains that has been mentioned is important. We need to ensure that there is investment on First North Western Trains. Station capacity, as you say, is also important, and the image that that conveys to people who use that line. If we can combine some strategic improvements, at the interchange points along that line and at

gwirioneddol ynglŷn â chael arian ar sail fformiwla Barnett, os, yn wir, bod modd ei chymhwyso mewn unrhyw ffordd ddamcaniaethol. Byddem ar ein colled yn y pen draw. Mae cyfran deg i Gymru hefyd yn golygu gwelliannau yn Lloegr, o ran y coridorau a ddefnyddiwn. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny yn golygu na fyddwn yn ymgyrchu dros ragor o arian—wrth gwrs y byddwn. Wrth i'r cynllun hwn gael ei gyflwyno ymgyrchwn dros gael rhagor o arian. Ymddengys y bydd cronfa bartneriaeth y rheilffyrdd, a sefydlwyd gennym, yn gyfle gwych i gael arian ychwanegol. Y rheswm am hynny yw bod y cynllun fframwaith trafndiaeth ar waith yng Nghymru, a bod gennym y berthynas honno nad yw'n bodoli mewn unrhyw ran o Loegr.

O ran eich cais penodol am y Cymoedd, maent yn elwa ar gronfa bartneriaeth y rheilffyrdd. Mae'n bosibl rhedeg rhagor o drenau ar goridor Taf, a gobeithiaf y caiff hynny ei gyflwyno, mewn cydweithrediad â Chonsortium Teithio Cyflym Integredig De Cymru, yr ydym yn gweithio'n agos gyda ef, ac y byddwn yn cysylltu cymunedau y Cymoedd fel y dymunant.

Alun Pugh: Mae pobl yn teithio o bob rhan o Ewrop i dynnu lluniau o'r seilwaith reilffyrdd ar linell gogledd Cymru sy'n dyddio o'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Mae'r blwch signalau yn Abergele yn enghraifft wych o beirianwaith yr Oes Fictoriaidd. A gredwch y dylai llinell gogledd Cymru fod yn rhan allweddol o brif linell arfordir gogledd-orllewin Lloegr yn lle bod â statws llinell leol, ac y gallai parhau i'w hesgeuluso beriddi golli ei statws traws-Ewropeaidd?

Sue Essex: Byddai'n annheg dweud mai statws llinell leol sydd gan y llinell ogledd-orllewin. Mae'n brif llwybr. Cytunaf ynglŷn â'r elfen drawsgenedlaethol. Cefais drafodaethau gydag Iwerddon. Mae'n bwysig i Iwerddon, ac i ymwelwyr, twristiaid a thrigolion fel ei gilydd. Mae'n llinell bwysig. Mae'r buddsoddiad yn nhrenau Virgin a grybwyllwyd hefyd yn bwysig. Mae angen inni sicrhau y buddsoddir yn First North Western Trains. Mae capasiti gorsafoedd, fel y dywedwch, yn bwysig hefyd, a'r ddelwedd a rydd hynny i bobl sy'n defnyddio'r llinell. Os gallwn gyfuno rhai gwelliannau strategol,

the stations, and to the rolling stock, then over a period of time we will see improvements. I hope that the line speed improvements that have been carried out with National Assembly money—we have put that money into the north Wales line—have now materialised.

Gareth Jones: Fel un sy'n defnyddio'r trêrn yn eithaf cyson rhwng y Gogledd a'r De, nid wyf yn chwilio am unrhyw fath o ddatblygiadau uchelgeisiol. Byddai'n dda gweld gwelliant yn y cerbydau sy'n cael eu defnyddio, er mwyn iddynt fod yn gyfforddus ac yn lân. Dyna'r lleiaf y gallwn ei ddisgwyl. Byddwn yn falch pe bai hynny'n cael ei gyflawni. Cyfeiriai at un pwynt yr ydych wedi ei godi'n eithaf cyson, sef y lefel uchel o gymhorthdal yn y Cymoedd, a da o beth bod hynny'n digwydd. Fodd bynnag, mae hyn yn peri pryder i mi gan mai yn y rhan hon o Gymru y mae trwch y boblogaeth yn byw, ac os ydym am gael y lefel honno o gymhorthdal yn y rhan hon o Gymru, beth yw'r rhagolygon i weddill Cymru, yn yr ardaloedd a'r cymunedau gwasgaredig?

Sue Essex: I appreciate your comments about your experiences on the railway line. One difficulty—and this is not a way of getting around this—is that there is a huge shortage of rolling stock. It sounds sad considering that we have had a history of producing this equipment in the UK. However, that deficit is there. I regularly talk with train operators and they do not have the ability to supply that rolling stock quickly. That is why that long-term investment is important. The franchise covering that longer period will encourage manufacturers and those people who desperately need those carriageways to secure them. However, as I said to Rosemary, ensuring that the carriages are clean and safe, and so on, should be delivered fairly quickly.

On subsidy, I would strongly argue that appropriate subsidy levels need to be delivered throughout Wales, because social inclusion is an important part of our agenda. I was pleased to see that, although the SRA plan does not say everything, some of the words in it are significant for us, because it is not just about modal shift. If you say that it is

ar y mannau cyfnewid, ar hyd y llinell honno ac mewn gorsafoedd, ac i gerbydau, yna dros gyfnod o amser, gwelwn welliannau. Gobeithiaf fod y gwelliannau i gyflymder ar linellau a wnaed drwy arian y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol—buddsoddwyd yr arian hwnnw yn llinell gogledd Cymru—ar waith bellach.

Gareth Jones: As someone who uses the train between north and south Wales quite frequently, I am not looking for any kind of ambitious developments. I would like to see improvements to the carriages that are used, so that they are comfortable and clean. That is the least that we should expect. I would be glad if that could be achieved. I refer to one point that you have mentioned frequently, namely the high level of subsidy in the Valleys, and that is to be applauded. However, this is a cause of concern to me, because the population is at its densest here, and if we are to have that kind of level of subsidy in this part of Wales, what are the prospects for the rest of Wales, in rural and dispersed communities?

Sue Essex: Gwerthfawrogaf eich sylwadau am eich profiadau ar y llinell reilffordd. Un anhawster—ac nid wyf yn ceisio ei osgoi—yw bod prinder mawr o gerbydau. Mae'n swnio'n druenus o ystyried ein hanes o gynhyrchu cyfarpar o'r fath yn y DU. Fodd bynnag, mae'r prinder hwnnw yn bodoli. Siaradaf yn rheolaidd â chwmnïau trenau ac ni allant gyflenwi'r cerbydau hynny yn gyflym. Dyna pam mae buddsoddiad hirdymor yn bwysig. Bydd y fasnachfrait sy'n cwmpasu'r cyfnod hwy hwnnw yn annog gweithgynhyrchwyr a'r bobl hynny y mae angen y cerbydau hynny yn ddirfawr arnynt, i'w sicrhau. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedais wrth Rosemary, dylai fod modd sicrhau bod y cerbydau yn lân ac yn ddiogel ac ati, yn eithaf cyflym.

O ran cymorthdaliadau, dadleuwn yn gryf bod angen cyflwyno cymorthdaliadau priodol ledled Cymru, am fod cynhwysedd cymdeithasol yn rhan bwysig o'n hagenda. Yr oeddwn yn falch o weld hynny, er nad yw cynllun yr Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol yn dweud popeth, mae rhai o'r geiriau ynddo yn bwysig inni, am nad yw'n ymwneud â

just about modal shift then some of the other big, urban areas win every time. It specifically refers to social inclusion and it recognises that, as it does with the Ebbw Vale line, for instance. I will happily raise with the SRA any information that you as a north Wales Member are prepared to give me. However, that level of subsidy is desperately needed to provide people with access to education, work, health facilities and so on.

newid moddol yn unig. Os dywedwch mai newid moddol yn unig sydd dan sylw yna bydd rhai o'r ardaloedd trefol mawr yn ennill bob tro. Mae'n cyfeirio'n benodol at gynhwysedd cymdeithasol ac mae'n cydnabod hynny, fel y gwna yn achos llinell Glynebwy, er enghraifft. Byddaf yn fwy na pharod i godi unrhyw fanylion yr ydych yn barod i'w rhoi imi fel Aelod o'r Gogledd gyda'r Awdurdod. Fodd bynnag, mae angen cymorthdaliadau o'r fath yn ddifffwr i roi cyfle i bobl fanteisio ar addysg, gwaith, cyfleusterau iechyd ac ati.

Pwyntiau o Drefn Points of Order

Brian Gibbons: Point of order. I would like to clarify that, on Tuesday, when I withdrew my comments made in relation to a statement by Owen John Thomas during last Thursday's short debate, I did so not only because they were ruled out of order by you, Presiding Officer, but because I also accept that my comments were inaccurate and incorrect with regard to what Owen John Thomas said. I apologise for any distress caused to Owen John Thomas by those comments.

Brian Gibbons: Pwynt o drefn. Hoffwn bwysleisio fy mod, ddydd Mawrth, pan dynnais yn ôl fy sylwadau a wneuthwn mewn perthynas â datganiad gan Owen John Thomas yn ystod dadl fer dydd Iau diwethaf, gwneuthum hynny nid yn unig am eu bod wedi'u dyfarnu fel allan o drefn gennyh chi, Lywydd, ond oherwydd fy mod hefyd yn derbyn bod fy sylwadau yn anghywir o ran yr hyn a ddywedodd Owen John Thomas. Ymddiheuraf am unrhyw ofid a berwyd i Owen John Thomas gan y sylwadau hynny.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Brian.

Y Llywydd: Diolch, Brian.

Nick Bourne: Point of order. I raise this point under Standing Order No. 2, relating to the Cabinet. It concerns reports in yesterday's media, following a briefing by the Minister for Assembly Business on the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development's suspension, to the effect that, to quote the report,

Nick Bourne: Pwynt o drefn. Codaf y pwynt hwn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 2, yn ymwneud â'r Cabinet. Mae a wnelo ag adroddiadau yn y cyfryngau ddoe, yn dilyn sesiwn briffio gan y Trefnydd ar waharddiad y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd, i'r perwyl fod, a dyfynaf yr adroddiad,

'investigations are in the home straight'.

I have no reason to doubt the First Minister's assurance that he was not seeking to interfere with the process of the investigation or influence the police in any way. However, following this media briefing, Assembly Members are entitled to know on what basis investigations are in the home straight, and how that is known by the administration if it has had neither direct or indirect contact with the police. Given our shared commitment to open government, some response from the

Nid oes gennyf reswm i amau sicrwydd Prif Weinidog Cymru nad oedd yn ceisio ymyrryd â'r broses ymchwilio nac yn ceisio dylanwadu ar yr heddlu mewn unrhyw ffordd. Fodd bynnag, yn dilyn y sesiwn briffio hwn i'r wasg, mae gan Aelodau'r Cynulliad yr hawl i wybod ar ba sail y mae ymchwiliadau ar y cam olaf, a sut y gŵyr y weinyddiaeth hynny os nad yw wedi cael cysylltiad uniongyrchol neu anuniongyrchol â'r heddlu. O ystyried ein hymrwymiad a

First Minister or the Minister for Assembly Business, if he is now handling this matter, would be appropriate.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to you for raising this matter. It is not, directly, a point of order. Government Ministers in the Assembly and throughout the world brief the press. It is the Minister who is responsible.

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): I note that the leader of the Welsh Conservatives follows the leader of the opposition's practice in raising points of order on press reports. However, I was not briefing the press on Chamber business; I was briefing it on Government business and I responded on this issue as a result of several questions. I did not seek to brief the press on this matter. I did nothing other than to repeat what the First Minister and I have repeatedly said on this matter.

Cynog Dafis: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwnnw, serch a ddywed y Trefnydd, mae cais Nick Bourne yn rhesymol. Mae ffynonellau posibl ar gyfer y wybodaeth a ddatgelwyd gan Andrew Davies. Yr heddlu yw un ffynhonnell bosibl, ac mae'n bwysig inni gael gwybod os bu'n siarad â'r heddlu. Mae ffynhonnell bosibl arall fel y deallaf, sef y Swyddfa Gartref. A fu'n siarad â honno, neu â'r heddlu, neu bwy bynnag? Pa un ai oedd yn ateb cwestiwn neu'n hysbysu'r wasg, gwnaeth honiad. Rhaid bod sylwedd i'r honiad hwnnw neu fe fydd yn ddisail. Dylem gael gwybod.

Y Llywydd: Mae'n naturiol bod aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau'n awyddus i wybod beth y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny'n bwynt o drefn.

Helen Mary Jones: Point of order. I raise this point of order under Standing Order No. 13 on behalf of my colleague, Jocelyn Davies—who, unfortunately, is ill today—regarding the Business Committee's conduct. The Conservative group released a statement to the press, allegedly based on discussions in

rennir i lywodraeth agored, byddai rhyw ymateb gan Brif Weinidog Cymru neu'r Trefnydd, os mai ef sy'n ymdrin â'r mater hwn erbyn hyn, yn briodol.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i chi am godi'r mater hwn. Nid yw, yn uniongyrchol, yn bwynt o drefn. Mae Gweinidogion Llywodraeth yn y Cynulliad a ledled y byd yn rhoi sesiwn briffio i'r wasg. Y Gweinidog sydd yn gyfrifol.

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Nodaf fod arweinydd y Ceidwadwyr yng Nghymru yn dilyn arfer arweinydd yr wrthblaid drwy godi pwyntiau o drefn ar adroddiau'r wasg. Fodd bynnag, nid oeddwn yn cynnal sesiwn briffio i'r wasg ar fusnes y Siambr; yr oeddwn yn ei briffio ar fusnes y Llywodraeth ac ymatebais i'r mater hwn o ganlyniad i nifer o gwestiynau. Nid oeddwn yn ceisio cynnal sesiwn briffio gyda'r wasg ar y mater hwn. Ni wneuthum unrhyw beth heblaw ailadrodd yr hyn y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru a minnau wedi ei ddweud dro ar ôl tro ar y mater hwn.

Cynog Dafis: Further to that point of order, despite what the Minister for Assembly Business says, Nick Bourne's request is reasonable. There are possible sources for the information revealed by Andrew Davies. The police force is one possible source, and it is important that we know if he has been speaking to the police. There is another possible source, namely the Home Office. Has he been speaking to the Home Office or with the police or whoever? Whether he was answering a question or briefing the press, he made an assertion. There must be some substance to that assertion or it is baseless. We should be told.

The Presiding Officer: It is natural that members of the opposition parties are keen to know what the Government is doing. However, that is not a point of order.

Helen Mary Jones: Pwynt o drefn. Codaf y pwynt o drefn hwn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 13 ar ran fy nghyd-Aelod, Jocelyn Davies—sydd, yn anffodus, yn sâl heddiw—o ran ymddygiad y Pwyllgor Busnes. Rhyddhaodd y grŵp Ceidwadol ddatganiad i'r wasg, yn seiliedig ar drafodaethau yn y Pwyllgor

the Business Committee, concerning Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales group's response to a draft protocol on how the Assembly marks the deaths of royal family members and other significant persons. That protocol is still under discussion. It is, of course, not a matter for you that their statement is grossly misleading. It reflects neither Jocelyn Davies's comments in the Business Committee, nor internal discussions within our group. However, this breach of confidentiality is a matter for you. Members are aware that running the Assembly's business would be almost impossible if groups felt unable to use the Business Committee to honestly exchange views in the knowledge that those views would remain confidential. You will recall that this is the second such incident for which the Conservative group has been responsible, and while it was not surprising when David Davies indulged in these kind of antics, Plaid Cymru is deeply disappointed that Jonathan Morgan has chosen to follow suit.

Busnes yn ôl y sôn, ar ymateb grŵp Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales i brotocol drafft ar sut y mae'r Cynulliad yn nodi marwolaethau aelodau o'r teulu brenhinol a phersonau eraill o bwys. Mae'r protocol hwn wrthi'n cael ei drafod o hyd. Nid yw, wrth gwrs, yn fater i chi fod eu datganiad yn gamarweiniol iawn. Nid yw'n adlewyrchu naill ai sylwadau Jocelyn Davies yn y Pwyllgor Busnes, na thrafodaethau o fewn ein grŵp ni ein hunain. Fodd bynnag, mae'r tor-cyfrinachedd hwn yn fater ichi. Mae'r Aelodau yn ymwybodol y byddai cynnal busnes y Cynulliad bron yn amhosibl pe bai grwpiau'n teimlo nad ydynt yn gallu defnyddio'r Pwyllgor Busnes i rannu safbwyntiau yn onest gan wybod y byddai'r safbwyntiau hynny yn parhau'n gyfrinachol. Fe gofiwch mai hwn yw'r ail ddigwyddiad o'r fath y bu'r grŵp Ceidwadol yn gyfrifol amdano, a thra nad oedd yn syndod pan wnaeth David Davies gymryd rhan mewn campau o'r math hyn, mae Plaid Cymru wedi'i siomi'n ddirfawr bod Jonathan Morgan wedi dewis ymddwyn yn yr un modd.

10:55 a.m.

We seek a full and public apology on this matter from Jonathan Morgan, and a solemn undertaking from the leader of the Conservative group that that breach of confidentiality will not be repeated. Without this it will become impossible for the Plaid Cymru group, and other groups, to play a full and proper role in the work of the Business Committee.

Yr ydym yn ceisio ymddiheuriad llawn a chyhoeddus ar y mater hwn oddi wrth Jonathan Morgan, ac addewid difrifol gan arweinydd y grŵp Ceidwadol nad ailadroddir y tor-cyfrinachedd hwnnw. Heb hyn ni fydd yn bosibl i grŵp Plaid Cymru, a grwpiau eraill, chwarae rhan lawn a chywir yng ngwaith y Pwyllgor Busnes.

Jonathan Morgan: Further to that point of order, I have nothing to apologise for. I am not in breach of Standing Orders, nor in breach of the confidentiality of the Business Committee. This matter has been sent out to party groups for discussion, and if you think that it will remain confidential when being discussed in party groups, you sadly lack an understanding of the way in which matters are handled. In addition to that, your business manager was more than happy to inform me of your group's views in the Assembly Neuadd, and I do not believe that the confidentiality rules of Standing Order No. 13 apply there.

Jonathan Morgan: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwnnw, nid oes gennyf unrhyw beth i ymddiheuro amdano. Nid wyf yn torri Rheolau Sefydlog, nac yn torri cyfrinachedd y Pwyllgor Busnes. Mae'r mater hwn wedi'i ddsbarthu i'r grwpiau plaid i'w drafod, ac os credwch y bydd yn parhau'n gyfrinachol pan gaiff ei drafod yng ngrwpiau'r pleidiau, mae gennych ddiffyg dealltwriaeth, yn anffodus, o'r ffordd y caiff materion eu trin. Yn ogystal â hynny, yr oedd eich rheolwr busnes yn fwy na pharod i ddweud wrthyf am safbwyntiau eich grŵp yn Neuadd y Cynulliad, ac ni chredaf fod rheolau cyfrinachedd Rheol Sefydlog Rhif. 13 yn berthnasol yno.

We all know why this has been raised: Plaid Cymru is deeply embarrassed by its members' views on this matter. It is a huge snub to the Prince of Wales and other members of the royal family, and if Plaid Cymru members wish to debate this matter, I am more than happy to oblige.

Helen Mary Jones: He has made an allegation about Jocelyn Davies that I wish to refute.

The Presiding Officer: Order. We are not here to exchange allegations, we are raising points of order. I will respond to this in the hope that it will satisfy members. I want to distinguish between the Business Committee, which is governed by Standing Orders, and party groups, which clearly have their own rules of discipline and engagement. Standing Order No.13.5 states that the Business Committee shall meet in private—that is clear and unambiguous—and the minutes published six weeks later. The Business Committee, as pointed out by Helen Mary who, as a member of the National Assembly Advisory Group—along with others here who have been members; including the leader of the Welsh Conservatives—is aware that the Business Committee is an unique creature of parliamentary democracy. When I first studied the possibility of establishing this Committee, I was sceptical, but I have been pleasantly surprised by the way in which the Business Committee has worked so well, and I am keen to protect that. One way of doing so is to ensure the privacy of the Committee's work, which is led and brokered by the Deputy Presiding Officer under Standing Orders. If there had been a disclosure from the Business Committee, it would be in breach of Standing Orders. My understanding is that such a disclosure has not taken place, or at least, we cannot establish that it has taken place, because this information was widely circulated.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful for the chance to comment, as Helen Mary Jones and yourself have mentioned my name. We are pleased that the Prince of Wales is in good health, as you have been able to tell us, and goodness knows what you must think of the antics of the party to which you used to be so closely

Gwyddom oll pam y codwyd hyn: mae Plaid Cymru â chywilydd oherwydd safbwyntiau ei haelodau ar y mater hwn. Mae'n sarhad enfawr ar Dywysog Cymru ac aelodau eraill o'r teulu brenhinol, ac os yw aelodau Plaid Cymru eisiau trafod y mater, yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i wneud hynny.

Helen Mary Jones: Gwnaeth honiad am Jocelyn Davies yr wyf yn dymuno ei wrthbrofi.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid ydym yma i gyfnewid honiadau. Yr ydym yn codi pwyntiau o drefn. Byddaf yn ymateb i hyn yn y gobaith y bydd yn bodloni'r aelodau. Yr wyf eisiau gwahaniaethu rhwng y Pwyllgor Busnes, a lywodraethir gan y Rheolau Sefydlog, a grwpiau'r pleidiau, sydd yn amlwg â'u rheolau eu hunain ar ddisgyblaeth ac ymrwymiad. Mae Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 13.5 yn nodi y bydd y Pwyllgor Busnes yn cyfarfod yn breifat—mae hynny'n glir ac yn ddiawys—ac y caiff y cofnodion eu cyhoeddi chwe wythnos ar ôl hynny. Mae'r Pwyllgor Busnes, fel y nodwyd gan Helen Mary sydd, fel aelod o Grŵp Ymgynghori y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol—ynghyd ag eraill yma a fu'n aelodau; yn cynnwys arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru—yn ymwybodol bod y Pwyllgor Busnes yn greadur unigryw o ddemocratiaeth seneddol. Pan ymchwiliais i'r posibilrwydd o sefydlu'r Pwyllgor hwn am yr tro cyntaf, yr oedd gennyf amheuan, ond yr wyf wedi fy siomi ar yr ochr orau yn y modd y mae'r Pwyllgor Busnes wedi gweithio cystal, ac yr wyf yn awyddus i ddiogelu hynny. Un ffordd o wneud hyn yw sicrhau preifatrwydd gwaith y Pwyllgor, a gaiff ei arwain a'i gyfryngu gan y Dirprwy Lywydd o dan y Rheolau Sefydlog. Pe byddai unrhyw beth wedi ei ddatgelu o'r Pwyllgor Busnes, byddai wedi torri'r Rheolau Sefydlog. Fy nealltwriaeth innau yw nad oes datgeliad o'r fath wedi digwydd, neu o leiaf ni allwn sefydlu ei fod wedi digwydd, oherwydd cafodd y wybodaeth hon ei dosbarthu'n eang.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle i wneud sylwadau, gan fod Helen Mary Jones a chithau wedi crybwyll fy enw. Yr ydym yn falch bod Tywysog Cymru mewn iechyd da, fel yr ydych wedi gallu dweud wrthym, a phwy a wŷr beth yr ydych yn credu am gampau'r blaid yr arferech fod yn

tied.

The Presiding Officer: Order.

Nick Bourne: This is extraordinary. The protocol is being discussed openly among Assembly Members and has been referred back to party groups. It is one of a long list of Plaid Cymru policies, including its position on Afghanistan, its wish for separate status and its wish for a separate seat in the UN, which it does not seem to want people to discuss. Why is it so ashamed of its republicanism? I thought that it was part of party policy. This is an open secret in the Assembly and is fair game for discussion.

David Davies: Open government.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I will not respond to that. The Prince of Wales was in good health when I last took tea with him at Highgrove.

Alun Pugh: I raise this point of order under Standing Order No. 6.38. Yesterday afternoon I filed a statement of opinion to lift the leader of Plaid Cymru's threat of legal action against the press and the BBC. Whether or not he stands in next year's elections is clearly not a matter for you, Llywydd, but is it in order for Assembly Members to threaten the media and other Members in this manner?

The Presiding Officer: My only involvement in this, as you know Alun, is to consider, under Standing Orders, whether or not written statements of opinion are in order. I thought that the statement tabled was fairly tame compared with some I have seen elsewhere.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwnnw, yr wyf wedi'm synnu bod Alun yn rhuthro i amddiffyn Aelod Ceidwadol—efallai ei fod yn ymwneud â'r ffaith bod Brynle Williams yn dipyn o ymgyrchydd, ond mater arall yw hynny. Gofynnaf i Alun ddarllen y gwelliant i'r datganiad o farn a gyflwynir heddiw, ac i ystyried yn ofalus yr hyn y mae newydd ei grybwyll. Gobeithiaf hefyd y bydd yr Aelod sydd wedi gwneud yr

gysylltiedig iawn â hi.

Y Llywydd: Trefn.

Nick Bourne: Mae hyn yn anhygoel. Mae'r protocol yn cael ei drafod yn agored ymysg Aelodau'r Cynulliad ac wedi'i gyfeirio yn ôl i grwpiau'r pleidiau. Mae'n un o restr hir o bolisiau Plaid Cymru, yn cynnwys ei safbwynt ar Afghanistan, ei dymuniad ar gyfer statws ar wahân a'i dymuniad ar gyfer sedd ar wahân yn y Cenhedloedd Unedig, nad yw am i bobl ei drafod yn ôl pob tebyg. Pam y mae ganddi gymaint o gywilydd am ei gweriniaetholdeb? Credais ei fod yn rhan o bolisi plaid. Mae hon yn gyfrinach i bawb yn y Cynulliad ac mae'n gwbl deg ein bod yn ei thrafod.

David Davies: Llywodraeth agored.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid ymatebaf i hynny. Yr oedd Tywysog Cymru mewn iechyd da y tro diwethaf imi gael te gydag ef yn Highgrove.

Alun Pugh: Codaf y pwynt o drefn hwn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.38. Brynhawn ddoe cofnodais ddatganiad o farn i godi bygythiad arweinydd Plaid Cymru am gamau cyfreithiol yn erbyn y wasg a'r BBC. Yn amlwg, nid mater i chi, Lywydd yw pa un a fydd yn sefyll yn etholiadau'r flwyddyn nesaf ai peidio, ond a yw mewn trefn i Aelodau'r Cynulliad fygwth y cyfryngau ac Aelodau eraill yn y modd hwn?

Y Llywydd: Fy unig rhan yn hyn, fel y gwyddoch Alun, yw ystyried, o dan y Rheolau Sefydlog, a yw datganiadau ysgrifenedig o farn mewn trefn ai peidio. Credais fod y datganiad a gyflwynwyd yn gymharol ddof o gymharu â rhai a welais o'r blaen.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Further to that point of order, I am surprised that Alun is rushing to the defence of a Conservative Member—perhaps it is something to do with the fact that Brynle Williams is something of a campaigner, but that is another matter. I ask Alun to read the amendment to the statement of opinion, which will be tabled today, and to give careful consideration to what he has just said. I also hope that the Member who has

honiadau di-sail yn fy erbyn yn ystyried ei ymateb yn ofalus.

made the unfounded claims against me considers his response carefully.

Cefais y fraint o gynrychioli Ynys Môn yn y Senedd o 1987 hyd 2001, ac yn y Cynulliad ers 1999, a hyderaf y caf y fraint o gynrychioli Ynys Môn ar ôl yr etholiad yn 2003. Dymunaf yn dda i Peter Rogers yn ei ymgyrch fel ymgeisydd yn Ynys Môn yn yr etholiad nesaf.

I had the honour of representing Anglesey in Parliament from 1987 to 2001, and of representing it in the Assembly since 1999, and I am confident that I will have the honour of representing Anglesey after the election in 2003. I wish Peter Rogers well in his campaign as candidate in Anglesey at the next election.

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

Y Llywydd: O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25, ni chynhelir dadl ar y cynnig hwn.

The Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 22.25, this motion is not subject to debate.

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): I propose that

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly, acting under Standing Order No. 22.25:

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25:

1. approves the Milk Marketing Board (Dissolution) Order 2002, laid in the Table Office on 8 January 2002; and

1. yn cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Bwrdd Marchnata Llaeth (Diddymu) 2002 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 8 Ionawr 2002; ac

considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified any matters for concern in the draft Order, the Milk Marketing Board (Dissolution) Order 2002, laid in the Table Office on 15 January 2002;

yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau sydd heb glustnodi unrhyw fater o bwys yn y Gorchymyn drafft, y Gorchymyn Bwrdd Marchnata Llaeth (Diddymu) 2002, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Ionawr 2002;

2. approves the Potatoes Originating in Egypt (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, laid in the Table Office on 8 January 2002; and

2. yn cymeradwyo'r Rheoliadau Tatws sy'n Deillio o'r Aiffi (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 8 Ionawr 2002; ac

considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified any matters for concern in the draft Order, the Potatoes Originating in Egypt (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, laid in the Table Office on 15 January 2002. (NDM936)

yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau sydd heb glustnodi unrhyw faterion o bwys yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Tatws sy'n Deillio o'r Aiffi (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Ionawr 2002. (NDM936)

*Cynnig: O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Gareth
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Addysg (Datganiadau Cyllidebol) (Cymru) 2002
Approval of the Education (Budget Statements) (Wales) Regulations 2002**

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

the National Assembly considers the principle of the Education (Budget Statements) (Wales) Regulations 2002, laid in the Table Office on 4 January 2002. (NDM932)

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Addysg (Datganiadau Cyllidebol) (Cymru) 2002 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 4 Ionawr 2002. (NDM932)

I propose that

the National Assembly

1. *considers the report of the Legislation Committee which does not draw the special attention of the Assembly to any matter under Standing Order No. 11.5, in relation to the draft Order, the Education (Budget Statements) (Wales) Regulations 2002, laid in the Table Office on 15 January 2002; and*

2. *approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 4 January 2002. (NDM933)*

In line with the Assembly's drive to listen to its partners and to be more transparent, I am pleased that we have been able to introduce these modernised replacement regulations. They apply to local education authorities in Wales and specify information on an LEA's expenditure on education. This must be contained in the statement of planned expenditure—the budget statement—that each LEA is required to prepare before the beginning of each financial year. It is Assembly policy to help reduce the bureaucratic burdens on its key working partners: schools; governing bodies, and LEAs, and the introduction of these new regulations will mean that LEAs will no longer be required to submit duplicate information to the Assembly, thus reducing the bureaucracy and time involved in completing the returns.

Part I of the new statement will contain the name of every school maintained by the authority and the number of pupils in each. It will also contain the amount of funding in total, and per pupil, received by the school. The new part I will contain information on the amount of special educational needs funding that each school receives, as well as the amount of money retained centrally by the LEA to spend on school services. This part of the form has also been amended to assist LEAs; it includes a new column to show funding for schools opening or closing within a year. This will give a clearer picture of LEA spending on their schools. The new

Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

1. *yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw'n tynnu sylw arbennig y Cynulliad at unrhyw fater o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5 mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, y Rheoliadau Addysg (Datganiadau Cyllidebol) (Cymru) 2002, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Ionawr 2002; ac*

2. *yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 4 Ionawr 2002. (NDM933)*

Yn unol ag ymgyrch y Cynulliad i wrando ar ei bartneriaid a bod yn fwy tryloyw, yr wyf yn falch ein bod wedi gallu cyflwyno'r rheoliadau newydd, modern hyn. Maent yn gymwys i awdurdodau addysg yng Nghymru ac yn nodi gwybodaeth ar wariant AALl ar addysg. Rhaid cynnwys hyn yn y datganiad ar wariant arfaethedig—y datganiad cyllideb—y mae'n ofynnol i bob AALl ei baratoi cyn dechrau pob blwyddyn ariannol. Polisi'r Cynulliad yw helpu i leihau'r beichiau biwrocraidd ar ei bartneriaid gwaith allweddol: ysgolion; cyrrff llywodraethol, ac AALl, a bydd cyflwyno'r rheoliadau newydd hyn yn golygu na fydd yn ofynnol bellach i AALl gyflwyno gwybodaeth wedi'i dyblygu i'r Cynulliad a bydd hyn felly yn lleihau'r fiwrocraatiaeth a'r amser a gymerir i gwblhau'r ffurflenni treth.

Bydd rhan I o'r datganiad newydd yn cynnwys enw pob ysgol a gynhelir gan yr awdurdod a nifer y disgyblion ym mhob un. Bydd hefyd yn cynnwys cyfanswm yr arian, a'r arian fesul disgybl, a dderbynnir gan yr ysgol. Bydd y rhan I newydd yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am swm yr arian ar gyfer anghenion addysgol arbennig a dderbynnir gan bob ysgol, yn ogystal â swm yr arian a gedwir yn ganolog gan yr AALl i'w wario ar wasanaethau ysgol. Yn ogystal, diwygiwyd y rhan hon o'r ffurflen i gynorthwyo AALlau; mae'n cynnwys colofn newydd i ddangos yr arian ar gyfer ysgolion sy'n agor neu gau o fewn blwyddyn. Bydd hyn yn rhoi darlun

part II will contain information on the funding factors used by the LEA to distribute resources to schools. Part III will require LEAs to set out the way in which the factors stated in part II apply to each school maintained by them.

Schools will benefit by being provided with information that relates directly to them, in three parts. The information can be in Welsh, English or bilingual, as they require. LEAs are required to prepare these statements under section 52(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

The regulations replace the Education (Budget Statements) (Wales) Regulations 1999, which are revoked. LEAs, teaching unions and other interested parties have been consulted and they welcome the regulations. The matter was also discussed in the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee on 13 December, which concluded that the regulations would facilitate effective management of, and reduce bureaucratic burdens on schools and local education authorities. I commend the motion to you.

11:05 a.m.

Mick Bates: I welcome these regulations. I hope that they will clear the hitherto muddy waters surrounding school funding. Last year you wrote a letter to school governors, suggesting that you would offer clarity. I hope that this will bring it. Do you expect these regulations to result in less complaints from schools about funding? Will we also be able to assess the claims that are often made that England receives more funding per pupil than Wales?

Jane Davidson: These regulations are about how information comes back to the Assembly. They do not affect the Assembly Government's overall policy of ensuring that local authorities determine their local budgets. However, the allegations that schools in England receive more money than those in Wales have been firmly put to rest as

cliriach o wariant AALl ar eu hysgolion. Bydd y rhan II newydd yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am y ffactorau ariannu a ddefnyddir gan yr AALl i ddsbarthu adnoddau i ysgolion. Bydd rhan III yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i AALLau nodi'r ffordd y mae'r ffactorau a nodir yn rhan II yn gymwys ar gyfer pob ysgol a gynhelir ganddynt.

Bydd ysgolion yn elwa drwy dderbyn gwybodaeth sy'n ymwneud yn uniongyrchol â hwy, mewn tair rhan. Gall y wybodaeth fod yn Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog, fel y mynnant. Mae'n ofynnol i AALLau ddarparu'r datganiadau hyn o dan adran 52(1) o Ddeddf Safonau a Fframwaith Ysgolion 1998.

Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn disodli'r Rheoliadau Addysg (Datganiadau Cyllideb)(Cymru) 1999, sydd wedi eu diddymu. Ymgynghorwyd ag AALLau, undebau dysgu a phartion eraill â diddordeb ac maent yn croesawu'r rheoliadau. Yn ogystal, trafodwyd y mater yn y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar 13 Rhagfyr, a ddaeth i'r casgliad y byddai'r rheoliadau yn hwyluso'r gwaith o reoli awdurdodau yn effeithiol, a lleihau beichiau biwrocraidd ar ysgolion ac awdurdodau addysg lleol. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig ichi.

Mick Bates: Croesawaf y rheoliadau hyn. Gobeithiaf y byddant yn clirio'r dryswch a fu ynghylch ariannu ysgol hyd yn hyn. Y llynedd, ysgrifenasoch lythyr at lywodraethwyr ysgolion, yn awgrymu y byddech yn cynnig eglurder. Gobeithiaf y bydd hyn yn rhoi hynny. A ddisgwyliwch i'r rheoliadau hyn arwain at lai o gwynion gan ysgolion ynglŷn ag ariannu? A fyddwn yn gallu asesu'r honiadau a wneir yn aml bod Lloegr yn cael mwy o arian fesul disgybl na Chymru?

Jane Davidson: Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn ymwneud â'r modd y daw gwybodaeth yn ôl i'r Cynulliad. Nid ydynt yn effeithio ar bolisi cyffredinol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn pennu eu cyllidebau lleol eu hunain. Fodd bynnag, rhoddwyd terfyn ar yr honiadau bod ysgolion yn Lloegr yn cael mwy o arian na'r rheini

a result of the statistical information given to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee. That information shows that many authorities in Wales, including yours, are funded well above their English counterparts, and that the general uplift in funding—some 20 per cent since 1997—is being maintained in Wales alongside England.

Jonathan Morgan: We support these regulations, and we will support the regulations relating to the financing of maintained schools.

We hope that these regulations will go some way to improving the working relationship between schools and local education authorities. In some parts of Wales, that relationship is lacking because of mistrust between headteachers and LEAs about how money is spent. I am sure that greater openness and transparency will improve that relationship.

Jane Davidson: These regulations will ensure that information is clear. Along with all members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, I also want to ensure that Committee members also support a proposal in the Education Bill currently before Parliament to form new regulated partnerships between local authorities and schools, which will focus on clarifying responsibilities. That will also help to improve relationships.

The Presiding Officer: Order. This is not a statement; it is a debate. However, the Minister may respond to contributions if she so wishes.

Janet Ryder: While acknowledging that accurate records, plans and strategies must be kept, we welcome the reduction in bureaucracy, especially as it is clogging up schools and local authorities. I seek your assurance that you will do everything possible to reduce the amount of bureaucracy imposed on schools and local authorities.

Jane Davidson: I am happy to give that

yng Nghymru o ganlyniad i'r wybodaeth ystadegol a gyflwynwyd i'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Mae'r wybodaeth honno yn dangos bod nifer o awdurdodau yng Nghymru, yn cynnwys eich un chi, wedi'u hariannu'n sylweddol uwch na'r rhai sy'n cyfateb iddynt yn Lloegr, a bod y cynnydd cyffredinol yn yr arian—tua 20 y cant ers 1997—yn cael ei gynnal yng Nghymru ochr yn ochr â Lloegr.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr ydym yn cefnogi'r rheoliadau hyn, a byddwn yn cefnogi'r rheoliadau sy'n gysylltiedig ag ariannu ysgolion a gynhelir.

Gobeithiwn y bydd y rheoliadau hyn yn cyfrannu rhywfaint at wella'r berthynas waith rhwng ysgolion ac awdurdodau addysg lleol. Mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru, nid yw'r berthynas honno yn bod oherwydd diffyg ymddiriedaeth rhwng penaethiaid ac AALlau ynglŷn â sut y dylid gwario'r arian. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd bod yn fwy agored a thryloyw yn gwella'r berthynas honno.

Jane Davidson: Bydd y rheoliadau hyn yn sicrhau bod y wybodaeth honno yn glir. Ynghyd â phob aelod o'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, yr wyf hefyd eisiau sicrhau hynny. Mae aelodau'r Pwyllgor hefyd yn cefnogi cynnig yn y Mesur Addysg sydd gerbron y Senedd ar hyn o bryd i ffurfio partneriaethau rheoledig newydd rhwng awdurdodau lleol ac ysgolion, a fydd yn canolbwyntio ar nodi cyfrifoldebau yn glir. Bydd hynny hefyd yn helpu i wella cydberthnasau.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw hwn yn ddatganiad; mae'n ddadl. Fodd bynnag, gall y Gweinidog ymateb i gyfraniadau os yw'n dymuno gwneud hynny.

Jane Ryder: Tra'n cydnabod bod yn rhaid cadw cofnodion, cynlluniau a strategaethau cywir, croesawn y lleihad mewn biwrocratiaeth, yn enwedig gan ei bod yn atal ysgolion ac awdurdodau lleol. Hoffwn gael eich sicrwydd y byddwch yn gwneud popeth posibl i leihau'r fiwrocratiaeth a osodir ar ysgolion ac awdurdodau lleol.

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn hapus i roi'r

assurance. We had a good debate in Plenary on the Assembly's report on bureaucratic burdens. We have continually said that we will look at all ways of reducing bureaucratic burdens. Part of the benefit of both sets of regulations before us is that they will do so.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. This is a debate, and it is now completed. Are you intervening on the Minister?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yes, I would like to intervene, as it is a debate.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I pointed out that this is not a statement because the Minister appeared to be responding to contributions as if it were so. Are you intervening on a speech?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yes.

The Presiding Officer: Does the Minister intend to make a closing speech now?

Jane Davidson: I was just going to thank Members for their support.

The Presiding Officer: Will you take an intervention?

Jane Davidson: Yes.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Do you accept that there is concern about transparency in terms of information passed from the Assembly to schools? Headteachers in Wales do not know how much money they will receive in a financial year and, therefore, experience difficulties in calculating their budgets.

Jane Davidson: Responsibility for budget allocations to schools lies with local authorities. We must work closely with local authorities to ensure that schools have the earliest possible information about their budgets for the following financial year.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf bleidlais ar egwyddor y Gorchymyn.

sicrwydd hwnnw. Cawsom ddadl dda yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar adroddiad y Cynulliad ar feichiau biwrocraidd. Yr ydym wedi dweud yn barhaus y byddwn yn edrych ar ffyrdd o leihau beichiau biwrocraidd. Rhan o fudd y ddwy set o reoliadau ger ein bron yw y byddant yn gwneud hynny.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *a gododd*—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae hon yn dadl, ac mae ar ben yn awr. A ydych yn ymyrryd ar y Gweinidog?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Ydw, hoffwn ymyrryd, gan ei bod yn dadl.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nodais nad yw hwn yn ddatganiad oherwydd ymddengys bod y Gweinidog yn ymateb i gyfraniadau fel pe bai felly. A ydych yn ymyrryd ar araith?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Ydw.

Y Llywydd: A yw'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu gwneud anerchiad i gloi yn awr?

Jane Davidson: Yr oeddwn yn mynd i ddiolch i'r Aelodau am eu cefnogaeth.

Y Llywydd: A gymerwch ymyriad?

Jane Davidson: Cymeraf.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A dderbyniwch fod pryder ynglŷn â thryloywder o ran y wybodaeth a drosglwyddir o'r Cynulliad i ysgolion? Nid yw penaethiaid yng Nghymru yn gwybod faint o arian y byddant yn ei dderbyn mewn blwyddyn ariannol ac, felly, yn cael anhawster i gyfrifo eu cyllidebau.

Jane Davidson: Mae cyfrifoldeb dyrannu cyllideb i ysgolion yn nwylo'r awdurdodau lleol. Rhaid inni weithio'n agos gydag awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau y caiff yr ysgolion y wybodaeth cyn gynted â phosibl am eu cyllidebau ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol ddilynol.

The Presiding Officer: I call a vote on the principle of the Order.

*Cynnig: O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Gareth
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Galwaf bleidlais ar **The Presiding Officer:** I call a vote on
gymeradwyo'r Gorchymyn. approving the Order.

*Cynnig: O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Dafis, Cynog
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Ron
 Edwards, Richard
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jarman, Pauline
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Gareth
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Rogers, Peter
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Addysg (Ariannu Ysgolion a Gynhelir) (Cymru)
 (Diwygio) 2002
 Approval of the Education (Financing of Maintained Schools) (Wales)
 (Amendment) Regulations 2002**

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

the National Assembly considers the principle of the Financing of Maintained Schools (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Ariannu Ysgolion a Gynhelir (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2002 a osodwyd

2002, laid in the Table Office on 4 January 2002. (NDM934)

I propose that

the National Assembly

1. *considers the report of the Legislation Committee which does not draw the special attention of the Assembly to any matter under Standing Order No. 11.5, in relation to the draft Order, the Financing of Maintained Schools (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2002, laid in the Table Office on 15 January 2002; and*

2. *approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 4 January 2002, and the report of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, laid in the Table Office on 14 December 2001. (NDM935)*

These regulations amend the regulations on the financing of maintained schools, which prescribe the expenditure that makes up a local education authority's local schools budget. The 1999 regulations specify what expenditure may be deducted by local education authorities from their local schools budgets and retained centrally for schools services. These amending regulations are largely concerned with the redefinition or addition of new categories of activity for which local education authorities are permitted to retain funding centrally if they wish. Once again, the changes meet the Assembly's policy of listening to its partners and, wherever possible, seeking to clarify its processes. The new arrangements will allow LEAs to retain funding to allow them to finance their statutory health and safety and best value duties, and will clarify the division of health and safety responsibilities between schools and LEAs. Schools welcome this clarification as this area was highlighted in a bureaucratic burdens report.

These are new categories of responsibility that were not applicable when the original regulations were issued in 1999. The budget for individual schools is distributed to

yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 4 Ionawr 2002. (NDM934)

Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

1. *yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw'n tynnu sylw arbennig y Cynulliad at unrhyw fater o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5 mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, y Rheoliadau Ariannu Ysgolion a Gynhelir (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2002 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Ionawr 2002; ac*

2. *yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 4 Ionawr 2002 ac adroddiad y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Rhagfyr 2001. (NDM935)*

Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn diwygio'r rheoliadau ar ariannu ysgolion a gynhelir, sy'n rhagnodi'r gwariant sy'n gwneud cyllideb ysgolion lleol awdurdod addysg lleol. Mae rheoliadau 1999 yn nodi pa wariant gall awdurdodau addysg lleol ei ddiddymu o'u cyllidebau ysgolion lleol a'u cadw'n ganolog ar gyfer gwasanaethau ysgolion. Yn bennaf mae'r rheoliadau diwygio hyn yn ymwneud ag ailddiffinio, neu ychwanegu at, categorïau newydd o weithgaredd y caniateir i awdurdodau addysg lleol gadw arian canolog ar eu cyfer os dymunant. Unwaith eto, mae'r newidiadau yn bodloni polisi'r Cynulliad o wrando ar ei bartneriaid a, lle bo'n bosibl, sicrhau bod ei brosesau yn glir. Bydd y trefniadau newydd yn caniatáu i AALlau gadw arian er mwyn caniatáu iddynt ariannu eu dyletswyddau iechyd a diogelwch a gwerth gorau, a bydd yn egluro'r rhaniad o ran cyfrifoldebau iechyd a diogelwch rhwng ysgolion ac AALlau. Mae ysgolion yn croesawu'r eglurder hwn gan y pwysleisiwyd y maes hwn mewn adroddiad ar feichiau biwrocratiaeth.

Mae'r rhain yn gategorïau newydd o gyfrifoldeb nad oedd yn gymwys pan gyhoeddwyd y rheoliadau gwreiddiol yn 1999. Dosberthir y gyllideb i ysgolion unigol

schools by means of a locally determined formula. The factors that can be used in this formula are specified in the 1999 regulations and remain unchanged. These amendments have been made at the request of those who use the funding formulae—principally, local education authorities. They will give a clearer picture of the funding available to schools and allow LEAs to fulfil their statutory obligations. Local authorities and other organisations were consulted. Regulations in draft have been amended and were considered by the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee on 13 December, which concluded that they would facilitate the effective management of and reduce bureaucratic burdens on schools and local education authorities. I commend these regulations to you.

drwy fformiwla a bennir yn lleol. Nodir y ffactorau y gellir eu defnyddio yn y fformiwla hon yn rheoliadau 1999 ac maent yn parhau heb eu newid. Gwnaethpwyd y diwygiadau hyn ar gais y rhai sy'n defnyddio'r fformiwlâu ariannu—awdurdodau addysg lleol yn bennaf. Byddant yn rhoi darlun clir o'r arian sydd ar gael i ysgolion ac yn galluogi AALLau i gyflawni eu rhwymedigaethau statudol. Ymgynghorwyd ag awdurdodau lleol a sefydliadau eraill. Mae rheoliadau ar ffurf ddrafft wedi'u diwygio ac fe'u hystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar 13 Rhagfyr, a ddaeth i'r casgliad y byddent yn hwyluso'r gwaith o reoli a lleihau beichiau biwrocraidd ar ysgolion ac awdurdodau addysg lleol yn effeithiol. Cymeradwyaf y rheoliadau hyn ichi.

Gareth Jones: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am y cyfle i drafod y rheoliadau hyn, nad ydynt bob amser y pethau hawsaf yn y byd i'w deall. Mae gennyf bedwar cwestiwn i'r Gweinidog, er mwyn sicrhau eglurder yn bennaf. Er enghraifft, pa effaith fydd y newid i reoliad 3 yn ei gael ar bolisiau ysgolion unigol parthed addysg feithrin? A fydd hyn yn cwtdogi ar hawliau ysgol unigol i ddatblygu addysg feithrin?

Gareth Jones: I thank the Minister for the opportunity to discuss these regulations, which are not always the easiest things in the world to understand. I have four questions for the Minister, which are manily for clarification. For example, what effect will the change to regulation 3 have on individual schools' policies regarding nursery education? Will this impinge upon an individual school's rights to develop nursery education?

A oes perygl i awdurdodau ddal gormod o arian yn ôl dan y rheoliad 7 diwygiedig? A oes perygl y bydd ysgolion yn derbyn llai o arian oherwydd y rheoliad hwn? Sut mae'r rheoliad yn mynd i'r afael â'r swm sylweddol o arian a gedwir wrth gefn yn ein hysgolion o flwyddyn i flwyddyn? Yn cyd-fynd â'r pwynt hwnnw, o dan reoliad 19, a fydd cyfarwyddiadau i sicrhau na fydd ysgol unigol dan unrhyw anfantais drwy i awdurdod ddyrannu'r arian wrth gefn i ysgol neu ysgolion eraill? A fydd rhai ysgolion yn elwa ac eraill yn colli?

Is there a danger that authorities may hold back too much money under the revised regulation 7? Is there a danger that schools will receive less funding due to this regulation? How does the regulation get to grips with the substantial sum of money kept in reserve by our schools year on year? Tying in with that point, under regulation 19, will directions be issued to ensure that no individual school will be disadvantaged because the authority allocates the funding from its reserves to another school? Will some schools win and some schools lose?

Yn olaf, a eglurwch oblygiadau rheoliad 22? Mae'n edrych yn debyg na fydd yr ysgolion yn cyfrannu at y gost weinyddol o gyfrif y swm o arian sydd yn cynrychioli'r lleiafswm o 75 y cant. Beth mae hyn yn ei olygu o ran costau a biwrocraitiaeth?

Finally, can you explain the implications of regulation 22? It would appear that schools will not contribute to the administrative cost of calculating the amount that represents the minimum of 75 per cent. What does that mean in terms of costs and bureaucracy?

11:15 a.m.

Mick Bates: In line with the previous speaker's comments, I am concerned about paragraph 19 of the regulations, which gives local education authorities the right to deduct provision in respect of premises and facilities for sporting facilities from local schools' budgets. Since that is something that we wish to encourage, will there be some control to ensure that local authorities do not disadvantage individual schools by pulling this budget back centrally?

Jonathan Morgan: We will support these regulations. However, as the Minister is aware, I am always sceptical of moves to provide additional functions for local education authority central services where it means a reduction in the overall amount of money being given to schools. In line with clause 39 of the new Education Bill, we look forward to the end of this year when we hope that the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning will bring forward regulations ring-fencing school and LEA budgets. Schools in future would then know exactly what they are entitled to and what they should be receiving.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): First, I will comment on the point about nursery schools. Currently, Gareth, funding for nursery units in primary schools is included in local schools' budgets. Therefore, the inclusion of funding for nursery schools, of which there are around 50 in Wales, will mean that the local schools' budget is a fuller statement of local authority spending on education and will make the comparison between authorities more robust. It will not result in delegated budgets or governing bodies for nursery schools. The possibility of these changes will be subject to consultation as a result of proposals in the Education Bill.

I refer to your second point, Gareth, under regulation 7, which was substantially explored in the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee. A key issue at present is that no provision exists in the current

Mick Bates: Yn unol â sylwadau'r siaradwr blaenorol, yr wyf yn pryderu am baragraff 19 o'r rheoliadau, sy'n rhoi'r hawl i awdurdodau addysg lleol ddiwynnu darpariaeth o ran eiddo a chyfleusterau ar gyfer cyfleusterau chwaraeon o gyllidebau ysgolion lleol. Gan fod hynny yn rhywbeth y dymunwn ei annog, a reolir hyn i ryw raddau er mwyn sicrhau nad yw awdurdodau lleol yn rhoi ysgolion unigol o dan anfantais drwy dynnu'r gyllideb hon yn ôl yn ganolog?

Jonathan Morgan: Byddwn yn cefnogi'r rheoliadau hyn. Fodd bynnag, fel y gŵyr y Gweinidog, yr wyf bob tro yn amheus ynglŷn ag unrhyw fwriad i ddarparu swyddogaethau ychwanegol i wasanaethau canolog awdurdodau addysg lleol os bydd yn golygu gostyngiad yn swm cyffredinol yr arian a roddir i ysgolion. Yn unol â chymal 39 o'r Mesur Addysg newydd, yr ydym yn edrych ymlaen at ddiwedd y flwyddyn hon pan fydd y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, gobeithio, yn cyflwyno rheoliadau yn neilltuo cyllidebau ysgolion ac AALLau. Yna byddai ysgolion yn y dyfodol yn gwybod yn union yr hyn y mae ganddynt hawl iddo a'r hyn y dylent fod yn ei dderbyn.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Yn gyntaf, rhoddaf sylwadau ar y pwynt am ysgolion meithrin. Ar hyn o bryd, Gareth, caiff yr arian ar gyfer unedau nyrsio mewn ysgolion cynradd ei gynnwys mewn cyllidebau ysgolion lleol. Felly, bydd cynnwys arian ar gyfer ysgolion meithrin, y mae oddeutu 50 ohonynt yng Nghymru, yn golygu bod y gyllideb ysgolion lleol yn ddatganiad llawnach ar wariant awdurdod lleol ar addysg a bydd yn gwneud y gymhariaeth rhwng awdurdodau lleol yn fwy cadarn. Ni fydd yn arwain at gyllidebau datganoledig na chyrrff llywodraethu ar gyfer ysgolion meithrin. Bydd y newidiadau posib hyn yn destun ymgynghori o ganlyniad i gynigion yn y Mesur Addysg.

Cyfeiriaf at eich ail bwynt, Gareth, o dan reoliad 7, a drafodwyd yn drwyadl yn y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Mater allweddol ar hyn o bryd yw nad oes darpariaeth yn bodoli yn y rheoliadau

regulations to allow an authority to retain an amount of the individual school's budget at the start of the financial year to correct errors or re-determine its budget. That could apply where there are issues regarding the number of pupils on roll, for example. That leads to a difficult situation where money must be clawed back from schools. It is better if arrangements are established—as is also being considered in other regulations—to hold money centrally to be given to schools at the end of the financial year rather than clawing money back from those schools. That makes it much easier for LEAs to make necessary changes to budgets in a way that will not impact upon individual schools, which may have made decisions based on early budget information. The regulations will remove the obligation on the LEA to claw back grant overpayments that arise from in-year changes, which they currently must do even if the amounts are small or when the LEA does not consider it expedient to do so. That is not good management as part of the partnership relationship.

presennol i ganiatáu i awdurdod gadw swm o gyllideb yr ysgol unigol ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn ariannol i unioni camgymeriadau neu ail-bennu ei chyllideb. Gallai hyn fod yn arbenning o wir lle mae materion yn gysylltiedig â'r nifer o ddisgyblion ar y gofrestr, er enghraifft. Mae hynny'n arwain at sefyllfa anodd lle mae'n rhaid adennill arian oddi wrth ysgolion. Mae'n well os caiff trefniadau eu sefydlu—fel sydd hefyd yn cael ei ystyried mewn rheoliadau eraill—i gadw arian yn ganolog i'w roi i ysgolion ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol yn hytrach nag adennill arian o'r ysgolion hynny. Mae hynny'n ei gwneud yn llawer haws i AALlau wneud newidiadau angenrheidiol i gyllidebau mewn ffordd na fydd yn effeithio ar ysgolion unigol a fydd efallai wedi gwneud penderfyniadau yn seiliedig ar wybodaeth gyllideb gynnar. Bydd y rheoliadau yn dileu'r rhwymedigaeth ar yr AALl i adennill gordaliadau grant sy'n codi o newidiadau yn ystod y flwyddyn, y mae'n rhaid iddynt ei wneud ar hyn o bryd hyd yn oed os yw'r symiau'n fach neu pan nad yw'r AALl yn ei ystyried yn gyfleus i wneud hynny. Nid yw hynny'n rheoli da fel rhan o'r berthynas bartneriaeth.

In terms of pupil-led funding—

Yn nhermau ariannu yn ôl nifer y disgyblion—

Gareth Jones: Y pwynt y ceisiaf ei gyfleu yw y caiff ysgolion lai o arian o ganlyniad i gadw'r arian hwn yn ôl. Mae hynny'n ffaith. Felly, gall ysgol fod ar ei cholled o beidio â derbyn ei chyfran o'r arian hwn a gadwyd yn ôl.

Gareth Jones: The point I am trying to make is that less money will to be given to schools as a result of retaining this money. That is a fact. Therefore, schools might lose out as a result of not receiving their share of the money that is retained.

Jane Davidson: Any amount not used must be redistributed to the schools before the end of the financial year on the basis of pupil numbers. Therefore, they are fully protected.

Jane Davidson: Rhaid i unrhyw swm na ddefnyddir gael ei ailddosbarthu i'r ysgolion cyn diwedd y flwyddyn ariannol ar sail nifer y disgyblion. Felly, cânt eu diogelu'n llawn.

We are not looking to change the arrangements in terms of regulation 22 regarding pupil-led funding.

Nid ein bwriad yw newid y trefniadau o ran rheoliad 22 o ran ariannu yn ôl nifer y disgyblion.

Mick, one of the current problems for local authorities in terms of leisure centres is that they do not know how many schools will use them. In most cases, local authorities run schools and leisure centres. They need to bring the budget information of both establishments together. This issue is about

Mick, un o'r problemau ar hyn o bryd i awdurdodau lleol o ran canolfannau hamdden yw na wyddant faint o ysgolion fydd yn eu defnyddio. Yn y rhan fwyaf o achosion, mae awdurdodau lleol yn rhedeg ysgolion a chanolfannau hamdden. Rhaid iddynt ddod â gwybodaeth gyllidebol y ddau sefydliad at ei

considering a budget which the local authority can then allocate to schools across the board to use leisure facilities and organise them effectively. That is why that information is brought together. As I said in my previous response, clause 39 of the Education Bill does not state that budgets will be ring-fenced, Jonathan. England has different budget arrangements to those of Wales. We will continue to use the mechanism to ensure that budget delivery in Wales is included in the local government settlement. However, we are considering ways to ensure that local government and schools have earlier notification.

Jonathan Morgan: The clause is clear. It gives the power to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in England and to you—as delegated by the First Minister, and if the Assembly wishes—to ring-fence budgets, to establish a schools budget, and to establish a local education authority budget. In effect, budgets would be ring-fenced if that decision were taken. I understand why you and your party have an ideological blockage, but there is widespread agreement throughout the teaching profession, including headteachers, that ring-fencing budgets would ensure greater clarity as to what schools could expect. That would enable them to plan for much longer than just 12 months ahead. Will the Minister at least consider these comments when the Bill becomes law?

Jane Davidson: That last point is important as I already offered twice to bring a Government debate before the Assembly, when the Bill becomes law, on the measures that we propose to support, and why. I am sure that you will table the appropriate amendments on the other measures. However, we maintain our stance on the Government that it is for local authorities to determine local spending. I will keep up pressure on local authorities' education spending, as I have done this year. The information that was presented to the Committee made it clear that the level of increase in Wales matches that in England, even though we use a different mechanism. There are many more opportunities for our

gilydd. Mae'r mater hwn yn ymwneud ag ystyried cyllideb y gall yr awdurdod lleol ei dyrannu wedyn i ysgolion yn gyffredinol er mwyn defnyddio cyfleusterau hamdden a'u trefnu'n effeithiol. Dyna pam y caiff y wybodaeth honno ei dwyn ynghyd. Fel y dywedais yn fy ymateb blaenorol, nid yw cymal 39 o'r Mesur Addysg yn nodi y neilltuir cyllidebau, Jonathan. Mae gan Loegr drefniadau cyllidebu gwahanol i'r rhai sydd yng Nghymru. Byddwn yn parhau i ddefnyddio'r mecanwaith i sicrhau y caiff cyflwyno cyllideb yng Nghymru ei gynnwys yn y setliad llywodraeth leol. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn ystyried ffyrdd o sicrhau y caiff llywodraeth leol ac ysgolion eu hysbysu yn gynharach.

Jonathan Morgan: Mae'r cymal yn glir. Rhydd y pŵer i'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Addysg a Sgiliau yn Lloegr ac i chi—fel y dirprwywyd gan Brif Weinidog Cymru, ac os yw'r Cynulliad yn dymuno gwneud—i neilltuo cyllidebau, ac i sefydlu cyllideb ysgolion a sefydlu cyllideb awdurdod addysg lleol. Mewn gwirionedd, byddai cyllidebau'n cael eu neilltuo pe byddai'r penderfyniad hwnnw yn cael ei wneud. Deallaf pam mae gennych chi a'ch plaid rwystr ideolegol, ond ceir cytundeb cyffredinol drwy'r proffesiwn dysgu, gan gynnwys penaethiaid, y byddai neilltuo cyllidebau yn sicrhau eglurder gwell o ran yr hyn y gallai ysgolion ei ddisgwyl. Byddai hynny yn eu galluogi i gynllunio mwy na dim ond 12 mis ymlaen llaw. A wnaiff y Gweinidog o leiaf ystyried y sylwadau hyn pan ddaw'r Mesur i rym?

Jane Davidson: Mae'r pwynt olaf hwnnw yn bwysig gan fy mod eisoes wedi cynnig dwyn dadl Llywodraeth gerbron y Cynulliad ddwywaith, pan ddaw'r Mesur i rym, ar y mesurau yr ydym yn cynnig eu cefnogi, a pham. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cynnig y gwelliannau priodol ar y mesurau eraill. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n agwedd at y Llywodraeth wedi newid, sef mai'r awdurdodau lleol sy'n pennu gwariant lleol. Byddaf yn parhau i bwysu am wariant addysg awdurdodau lleol, fel y gwneuthum eleni. Eglurodd y wybodaeth a gyflwynwyd i'r Pwyllgor bod lefel y cynnydd yng Nghymru yn cyfateb i'r lefel yn Lloegr, er ein bod yn defnyddio mecanwaith gwahanol. Mae llawer mwy o gyfleoedd ar gyfer ein hawdurdodau,

authorities, not only in the use of education budgets, but other budgets in terms of a school-plus model. That will be far more effective in Wales because of the decisions that we have taken in Wales so far.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Referring to Jonathan's point, do you accept that the Conservative Party, in by-passing local authorities, is trying to support larger schools, whereas some of the smaller schools in Wales depend on the co-operation and support they receive from local education authorities?

Jane Davidson: There are two important points. First, if we are to fund as we do, we must improve the relationship between all Welsh local authorities and their schools and develop a degree of confidence. That is why we are promoting a clause to do so in the Education Bill. Secondly, we are proposing budget forums in each local authority that will enable a proper, structured discussion between schools and local authorities about the level of education spending needed. These two measures will sit with the majority of Members' view that local decisions should be taken at local levels, but that the Assembly should strongly encourage sufficient education funding across the board. We are getting that. We will maintain an interest in the spending level of each individual local authority in that dialogue.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf am bleidlais ar egwyddor y Rheoliadau.

nid yn unig o ran defnyddio cyllidebau addysg, ond cyllidebau eraill o ran model *school-plus*. Bydd hynny yn llawer mwy effeithiol yng Nghymru oherwydd y penderfyniadau a wnaed gennym yng Nghymru hyd yn hyn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Gan gyfeirio at bwynt Jonathan, a gytunwch fod y Blaid Geidwadol, wrth osgoi awdurdodau lleol, yn ceisio cynnal ysgolion mwy o faint, tra bod rhai o'r ysgolion llai yng Nghymru yn dibynnu ar y cydweithredu a'r gefnogaeth a gânt gan awdurdodau lleol?

Jane Davidson: Mae yma ddau bwynt pwysig. Yn gyntaf, os ydym am barhau i ariannu fel y gwnawn, rhaid inni wella'r berthynas rhwng yr awdurdodau yng Nghymru a'u hysgolion a magu rhywfaint o hyder. Dyna pam yr ydym yn hyrwyddo cymal i wneud hynny yn y Mesur Addysg. Yn ail, cynigiwn fforymau cyllideb ym mhob awdurdod lleol a fydd yn caniatáu trafodaeth briodol, strwythuredig rhwng ysgolion ac awdurdodau lleol am lefel y gwariant addysgol sydd ei hangen. Bydd y ddau fesur hyn yn cyd-fynd â safbwynt y mwyafrif o'r Aelodau y dylid cymryd penderfyniadau lleol ar lefel lleol, ond y dylai'r Cynulliad annog yn gryf ariannu addysg yn ddigonol yn gyffredinol. Yr ydym yn sicrhau hynny. Byddwn yn cadw diddordeb yn lefel gwariant pob awdurdod lleol unigol yn y drafodaeth honno.

The Presiding Officer: I call for a vote on the principle of the Regulations.

*Cynnig: O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 43, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint

Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Gareth
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Galwaf am bleidlais i **The Presiding Officer:** I call for a vote to approve the Regulations.

*Cynnig: O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 44, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John

Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jarman, Pauline
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Gareth
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Rogers, Peter
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Adroddiad Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Diwygio) 2001-02, Adroddiad Grant Arbennig (Rhif 22) (Cymru) 2001 Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru), Adroddiad Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 2002-03 ac Adroddiad Grant Arbennig (Rhif 20) (Cymru) 2001 Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru)
Approval of the Local Government Finance (Amendment) Report for 2001-02, the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No. 22) (Wales) 2001, the Local Government Finance Report 2002-03 and the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No. 20) (Wales) 2001

The Presiding Officer: The next two items will be taken together with my approval.

Y Llywydd: Cymerir y ddwy eitem nesaf gyda'i gilydd gyda'm cymeradwyaeth.

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): I propose that

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart):: Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly, under section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.8, approves the Local Government Finance (Amendment) Report for the financial year 2001-02 which was laid in the Table Office on 15 January 2002 by the Assembly Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities. (NDM930)

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o dan adran 88B o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1988 ac yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.8, yn cymeradwyo Adroddiad Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Diwygio) am y flwyddyn ariannol 2001-02 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Ionawr 2002 gan Weinidog y Cynulliad dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau. (NDM930)

I propose that

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly, under section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o dan adran 88B o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1988 ac yn

in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.8, approves the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No. 22) (Wales) 2001 which was laid in the Table Office on 15 January 2002. (NDM929)

I propose that

the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.9, approves the Local Government Finance Report for the financial year 2002-03 which was laid in the Table Office on 15 January 2002 by the Assembly Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities. (NDM931)

I propose that

the National Assembly under section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.8, approves the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No. 20) (Wales) 2001 which was laid in the Table Office on 15 January 2002. (NDM928)

I am pleased, for a second year, to propose a substantial, real increase in resources that the Assembly should make available to local government. I ask for your support for the local government finance report. In doing so, Assembly support for local government will increase by almost 8 per cent, to nearly £3 billion. Taken alongside a similar settlement last year, we are able to forecast 7 per cent real growth in local services over a two-year period. We are putting in place sustained growth resources because we recognise that local government should have our support in undertaking its work.

11:25 a.m.

In conjunction with the Welsh Local Government Association, I will soon be publishing the policy agreement signed between each local authority and ourselves. With the resources that we are making available, we will see improvements in the service delivery that each authority intends to achieve. As those improvements are achieved, I will reward authorities with an enhanced performance grant next year. With

unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.8, yn cymeradwyo Adroddiad Grant Arbennig (Rhif 22) (Cymru) 2001 Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Ionawr 2002. (NDM929)

Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.9, yn cymeradwyo Adroddiad Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol am y flwyddyn ariannol 2002-03 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Ionawr 2002 gan Weinidog y Cynulliad dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau. (NDM931)

Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o dan adran 88B o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1988 ac yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.8, yn cymeradwyo Adroddiad Grant Arbennig (Rhif 20) (Cymru) 2001 Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 Ionawr 2002. (NDM928)

Yr wyf yn falch, am yr ail flwyddyn, o gynnig cynnydd sylweddol, gwirioneddol mewn adnoddau y dylai'r Cynulliad sicrhau eu bod ar gael i lywodraeth leol. Gofynnaf am eich cefnogaeth i'r adroddiad cyllid llywodraeth leol. Wrth wneud hynny, bydd cefnogaeth y Cynulliad i lywodraeth leol yn cynyddu bron 8 y cant, i bron £3 biliwn. O'i gymharu ochr yn ochr â setliad tebyg y llynedd, gallwn ragweld twf gwirioneddol o 7 y cant mewn gwasanaethau lleol dros gyfnod o ddwy flynedd. Yr ydym yn rhoi adnoddau twf cynaledig ar waith oherwydd cydnabyddwn y dylem gefnogi llywodraeth leol wrth iddi ymgymryd â'i gwaith.

Mewn cydweithrediad â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, byddaf yn cyhoeddi cyn bo hir y cytundeb polisi a lofnodwyd rhwng pob awdurdod lleol, a ni ein hunain. Gyda'r adnoddau a ddarparwn, byddwn yn gweld gwelliannau yn sut y darperir y gwasanaethau y mae pob awdurdod yn bwriadu eu cyflawni. Wrth i'r gwelliannau hynny gael eu cyflawni, byddaf yn gwobrwyo awdurdodau gyda grant

these policy agreements in place, I can announce that again this year's settlement is not hypothecated. Local authorities will determine their own budgets, but will do so in light of the service outcomes that they have agreed with me in the policy agreements. I know that Assembly Members will want to make comparisons between this settlement and those in previous years. I therefore need to draw attention to the complexities of the various responsibilities being transferred into and out of local government.

From next year, ELWa will be taking responsibility for funding sixth form education, and the Care Standards Inspectorate will be taking responsibility for care standards. These transfers have resulted in £88.5 million coming out of the revenue support grant. In contrast, almost £78 million has been made available to fund new services that will be provided by local authorities, including preserved rights, residential allowances, and concessionary fares. There is increased support for every local authority in Wales and the rate of increasing grants has varied because the increase in standard spending assessments has varied between 6 and 9 per cent. We introduced the new distribution formula last year and I was pleased that the formula recognised the spending needs of some of our poorest communities. I was looking for stability based on the new formula. The variations in the changes of SSA have been caused by the transfers of responsibility and the incorporation of new data. Nevertheless, I will be looking for greater stability in the future than has been achieved this year. To minimise turbulence this year, I am proposing a transition grant of £4.7 million to the four authorities whose grants would otherwise have increased by less than I would have considered appropriate.

I am often asked what effect this settlement will have on the level of council tax. My answer is simple—the level of council tax should not normally be a matter for the National Assembly for Wales. Each council will judge its spending priorities and will be accountable to its local electorate, with a balance it determines between expenditure

perfformiad gwell y flwyddyn nesaf. Gyda'r cytundebau polisi hyn ar waith, gallaf gyhoeddi na fydd setliad eleni unwaith eto wedi ei bridianu. Bydd awdurdodau lleol yn pennu eu cyllidebau eu hunain, ond gwnânt hynny yng ngoleuni'r canlyniadau gwasanaethu y cytunasant â mi yn y cytundebau polisi. Gwn y bydd Aelodau'r Cynulliad am wneud cymariaethau rhwng y setliad hwn a'r rhai yn y blynyddoedd blaenorol. Felly mae angen imi dynnu sylw at gymhlethdodau'r cyfrifoldebau amrywiol sy'n cael eu trosglwyddo i mewn ac allan o lywodraeth leol.

O'r flwyddyn nesaf ymlaen, bydd ELWa yn gyfrifol am ariannu addysg chweched dosbarth, a bydd yr Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal yn gyfrifol am safonau gofal. Yn sgîl y trosglwyddiadau hyn daeth £88.5 miliwn allan o'r grant cynnal refeniw. I'r gwrthwyneb, sicrhawyd bod bron £78 miliwn ar gael i ariannu gwasanaethau newydd a ddarperir gan awdurdodau lleol, gan gynnwys hawliau a gedwir, lwfansau preswyl a thocynnau mantais. Mae mwy o gefnogaeth i bob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru ac mae cyfradd y grantiau sy'n cynyddu wedi amrywio gan fod y cynnydd mewn asesiadau gwariant safonol wedi amrywio rhwng 6 a 9 y cant. Cyflwynasom y fformiwla dosbarthu newydd y llynedd ac yr oeddwn yn falch bod y fformiwla yn cydnabod anghenion gwario rhai o'n cymunedau tlotaf. Yr oeddwn yn edrych am sefydlogrwydd yn seiliedig ar y fformiwla newydd. Achoswyd yr amrywiadau yn newidiadau'r asesiadau gwariant safonol gan y newid mewn cyfrifoldebau ac o ganlyniad i ymgorffori data newydd. Serch hynny, byddaf yn edrych am fwy o sefydlogrwydd yn y dyfodol nag a gyflawnwyd eleni. I leihau'r dryswch eleni, cynigïaf grant trosiannol o £4.7 miliwn i'r pedwar awdurdod y byddai eu grantiau fel arall wedi cynyddu llai na'r hyn a fyddai'n briodol yn fy marn i.

Gofynnir i mi yn aml pa effaith a gaiff y setliad hwn ar lefel y dreth gyngor. Mae fy ateb yn un syml—ni ddylai lefel y dreth gyngor fel arfer fod yn fater i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Bydd pob cyngor yn barnu ei flaenoriaethau gwario a bydd yn atebol i'w etholwyr lleol gyda chymbwysedd a bennir ganddo rhwng gwariant a threthiant

and local taxation. Assembly support for local government capital expenditure in 2002-03 will be £507 million. That is an increase of 17 per cent over and above the published plans for the current year. A further £14 million has been made available to local government in 2002-03 for a capital waste strategy, e-Government projects and projects aimed at repairing damage caused by the severe weather at the end of 2000. More than half of the resources allocated to authorities for capital investment is unhypothecated.

I propose to increase the support available from the Assembly Government to police authorities by 4 per cent. The support they get from the Home Office has been complicated by the fact that funds that were once made available by formula now have to be bid for. I want police authorities in Wales to maximise the revenue they get from the Home Office before they consider the increase in their precept on the local taxpayer.

Dafydd Wigley: Cydymdeimlaf â chi yn eich profedigaeth ddiweddar. Yng ngoleuni'r hyn a ddywedoch, a wnewch chi beidio â gosod unrhyw cap ar awdurdodau'r heddlu o safbwynt eu presept hwy ar y dreth cyngor ac os ydynt am fynd uwchben y 4 y cant, sicrhau y bydd hawl ganddynt i wneud hynny?

Edwina Hart: I have indicated to police authorities that we have been generous in our settlements with them. If only chief constables in police authorities had been as vociferous in lobbying the Home Office as they have been in lobbying Assembly Members and Members of Parliament, they probably would have seen some benefits in terms of the Home Office grants. I have said to them that I expect them to be responsible when they consider the type of burden they put on to the local electorate.

I ask the Assembly to note that this local government finance report has been made available earlier in the year than ever before. It contains information on specific grants that have not been incorporated before. I hope by acting in this way that we are assisting local authorities in their budget planning round. I will address the motions tabled. The first and

lleol. Bydd cefnogaeth y Cynulliad i wariant cyfalaf llywodraeth leol yn 2002-03 yn £507 miliwn. Mae hynny'n gynydd o 17 y cant yn fwy na'r cynlluniau cyhoeddedig ar gyfer y flwyddyn bresennol. Sicrhawyd bod £14 miliwn arall ar gael i lywodraeth leol yn 2002-03 ar gyfer strategaeth gwastraff cyfalaf, prosiectau e-Lywodraeth a phrosiectau wedi eu hanelu at atgyweirio'r difrod a achoswyd gan y tywydd garw iawn ar ddiwedd 2000. Mae mwy na hanner yr adnoddau a ddyrannwyd i awdurdodau ar gyfer buddsoddiad cyfalaf heb eu priidiannu.

Cynigiaf gynyddu'r gefnogaeth sydd ar gael gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i awdurdodau'r heddlu o 4 y cant. Cymhlethwyd y gefnogaeth a gânt gan y Swyddfa Gartref gan y ffaith bod yn rhaid gwneud cais yn awr am arian a oedd unwaith ar gael drwy fformiwla. Yr wyf am i awdurdodau'r heddlu yng Nghymru wneud y gorau o'r refeniw a gânt gan y Swyddfa Gartref cyn ystyried y cynnydd yn eu presept ar y trethdalwr lleol.

Dafydd Wigley: I sympathise with your recent bereavement. In the light of what you said, will you refuse to cap police authorities with regard to their precept on the council tax and, if they wish to go above the 4 per cent, allow them to do so?

Edwina Hart: Awgrymais wrth awdurdodau'r heddlu inni fod yn hael yn ein setliadau gyda hwy. Pe bai prif gwnstabiliaid yn awdurdodau'r heddlu ond wedi gallu bod mor uchel eu cloch wrth lobio'r Swyddfa Gartref ag y buont wrth lobio Aelodau'r Cynulliad ac Aelodau Seneddol, mae'n siŵr y byddent wedi gweld rhai manteision o ran grantiau'r Swyddfa Gartref. Yr wyf wedi dweud wrthynt fy mod yn disgwyl iddynt fod yn gyfrifol pan ystyriant y math o faich a roddant ar yr etholwyr lleol.

Gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad nodi bod yr adroddiad cyllid llywodraeth leol hwn wedi bod ar gael yn gynharach eleni nag erioed o'r blaen. Mae'n cynnwys gwybodaeth am grantiau penodol nas ymgorfforwyd o'r blaen. Gobeithiaf ein bod, drwy weithredu fel hyn, yn helpu awdurdodau lleol yn eu cylch cynllunio cyllidebol. Ymdriniaf â'r cynigion

second provide a small technical adjustment to last year's settlement in light of corrected information. The third motion asks for support for the main settlement for the next year and the fourth proposes the additional transitional grant for selected authorities. This settlement is proof that we have developed a mature relationship with local government. We have robust agreements with them and we know what we want in terms of their continuous improvement and performance. This is a good settlement for local authorities and I commend it to the National Assembly.

Janet Ryder: I declare an interest as a member of Ruthin Town Council and also as a registered teacher.

This year's settlement, initially welcomed by the Welsh Local Government Association, assumes a growth of 8 per cent, or £259.6 million, in local government spending. However, of that, £77.8 million is already spoken for, leaving underlying increases of £181.8 million. All pay and price increases must come out of this settlement, including teachers' threshold pay and pensions. Therefore, in reality, some councils will remain at a standstill budget while others must cut services again. There will be little room for developing new services or for the extension and enhancement of others.

Why is the increase already accounted for? This is partly because of the increasing demand for services, social services in particular; partly because of pay increases above the rate of inflation; and partly because of the many new strategies and initiatives that have been introduced lately. These include initiatives such as community plans and strategies, Communities First and the ongoing work on unitary development plans. These initiatives are welcome, but they require a heavy financial commitment from councils in terms of officials' time to develop plans and bids, which they have not been funded to do.

Providing free bus passes is an excellent idea but, as with other schemes, the funding does

a gyflwynwyd. Darpara'r cyntaf a'r ail addasiad technegol bach i setliad y llynedd yng ngoleuni gwybodaeth a gywirwyd. Gofynna'r trydydd cynnig am gefnogaeth i'r prif setliad ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf a chynigia'r pedwerydd y grant trosiannol ychwanegol i awdurdodau dethol. Mae'r setliad hwn yn brawf ein bod wedi datblygu perthynas aeddfed â llywodraeth leol. Mae gennym gytundebau cadarn â hwy a gwyddom beth y dymunwn ei gael o ran eu gwelliant parhaus a'u perfformiad parhaus. Mae hwn yn setliad da i awdurdodau lleol ac fe'i cymeradwyaf i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

Janet Ryder: Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o Gyngor Tref Rhuthun ac hefyd fel athrawes gofrestredig.

Mae setliad eleni, a groesawyd i gychwyn gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, yn tybio twf o 8 y cant, neu £259.6 miliwn, mewn gwariant llywodraeth leol. Fodd bynnag, o'r swm hwnnw, mae £77.8 miliwn eisoes wedi ei addo, gan adael cynnydd sylfaenol o £181.8 miliwn. Rhaid i bob cynnydd o ran taliadau a phrisiau ddod allan o'r setliad hwn, gan gynnwys tâl trothwy a phensiynau athrawon. Felly, mewn gwirionedd, bydd rhai cynghorau yn parhau ar gyllideb sefyll yn stond tra bydd yn rhaid i eraill gwtogi unwaith eto ar wasanaethau. Ni fydd fawr o gyfle i ddatblygu gwasanaethau newydd neu i ehangu a gwella eraill.

Pam y rhoddwyd cyfrif eisoes am y cynnydd? Mae hyn yn rhannol oherwydd y galw cynyddol am wasanaethau, gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn arbennig; yn rhannol oherwydd cynnydd mewn cyflogau sy'n uwch na chwyddiant; ac yn rhannol oherwydd y llu o strategaethau a mentrau newydd a gyflwynwyd yn ddiweddar. Ymhlith y mentrau hyn mae cynlluniau a strategaethau cymunedol, Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf a'r gwaith parhaus ar gynlluniau datblygu unedol. Croesewir y mentrau hyn, ond maent yn galw am ymrwymiad ariannol mawr gan gynghorau o ran amser swyddogion i ddatblygu cynlluniau a chynigion, na chawsant eu hariannu i'w gwneud.

Mae darparu tocynnau bws am ddim yn syniad rhagorol ond, fel gyda chynlluniau

not include the cost of establishing the scheme or its administration and development costs. The full financial implications of this scheme will not be known until 2003.

In addition to underfunded new initiatives there are pressures caused by the changes to the formula. The changes in the cultural services indicator, for example, have taken money away from some of the most deprived communities and given it back to more affluent areas. No matter how much the formula is adjusted, there will be winners and losers. Since reorganisation in 1995, no formula has been able to adequately account for the wide discrepancies in council tax levels. It remains to be explained how the settlement can create council taxes of £500 for a band D property in areas such as Conwy and £1,000 in Neath to offer the same basic services. There will be a transitional grant again this year, although thankfully not top-sliced, to help keep down the council tax rise in some areas. Now may be the time for a radical rethink of funding council services.

Plaid Cymru clearly states that unless the Welsh Assembly Government immediately addresses specific concerns, it will reap a bitter harvest.

One such concern is the way in which teachers' threshold payments have been funded. The Minister says that she intends to bring forward a special grant report giving £5.3 million retrospectively to pay for last year's awards. In other words, councils have already paid out that money—which should have gone into other services—and they are still awaiting repayment.

Councils are facing the same situation this year. The Minister should bring forward two special grant reports: one to give back to councils the money spent last year and one to fully fund the threshold payments this year. The Minister may argue that this has already been written into the settlement, but councils say differently. She may say that the money is not there, but if it is not there, where has it gone and what was it used for? It was certainly not used to fund teachers' threshold payments. Why should councils have to find

eraill, nid yw'r arian yn cynnwys cost sefydlu'r cynllun na'r gost o'i weinyddu a'i ddatblygu. Ni fydd goblygiadau ariannol llawn y cynllun hwn yn hysbys tan 2003.

Yn ogystal â mentrau newydd a danariannwyd, mae pwysau wedi'i greu gan y newidiadau i'r fformiwla. Mae'r newidiadau yn y dangosydd gwasanaethau diwylliannol, er enghraifft, wedi mynd ag arian oddi wrth rai o'r cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig a'i roi yn ôl i ardaloedd cyfoethog. Waeth faint yr addesir y fformiwla, bydd enillwyr a chollwyr. Ers yr ad-drefnu yn 1995, ni lwyddodd un fformiwla i roi cyfrif digonol am y gwahaniaethau mawr yn lefelau'r dreth gyngor. Nid eglurwyd eto sut y gall y setliad greu trethi cyngor o £500 ar gyfer eiddo band D mewn ardaloedd fel Conwy a £1,000 yng Nghastell Nedd i gynnig yr un gwasanaethau sylfaenol. Bydd grant trosiannol eleni eto, er na chaiff ei frigidori diolch byth, er mwyn helpu i gadw'r cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor i lawr. Efallai mai dyma'r adeg i ailfeddwl yn radical am ariannu gwasanaethau'r cyngor.

Noda Plaid Cymru yn glir y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn medi cynhaeaf chwerw onid aiff i'r afael â phryderon penodol ar unwaith.

Un pryder o'r fath yw'r modd yr ariannwyd taliadau trothwy athrawon. Dywed y Gweinidog ei bod yn bwriadu cyflwyno adroddiad grant arbennig yn rhoi £5.3 miliwn yn adolygol i dalu am ddyfarniadau y llynedd. Mewn geiriau eraill, mae'r cynghorau eisoes wedi talu'r arian hwnnw—a ddylai fod wedi mynd at wasanaethau eraill—ac maent yn dal i aros am ad-daliad.

Mae'r cynghorau yn wynebu'r un sefyllfa eleni. Dylai'r Gweinidog gyflwyno dau adroddiad grant arbennig: un i roi'r arian a wariwyd y llynedd yn ôl i'r cynghorau ac un i ariannu'n llawn y taliadau trothwy eleni. Efallai y dadleua'r Gweinidog fod hyn eisoes wedi ei gynnwys yn y setliad, ond dywed y cynghorau yn wahanol. Efallai y dywed nad yw'r arian yno, ond os nad yw yno, i ble yr aeth ac ar gyfer beth y cafodd ei ddefnyddio? Yn sicr, ni chafodd ei ddefnyddio i ariannu taliadau trothwy athrawon. Pam y dylai

that money up front out of other services? Why is that money being sat on here when it should be going to councils? The blame for any delay in payments, or for problems caused, lies squarely at the feet of Assembly ministers and not with local authorities. This situation is a disgrace and it has happened time and time again. There have been too many instances of the late payment of grants and the late transfer of money to local authorities, causing untold problems and situations where raised public expectations of new or improved services have been dashed when grants are late. Councils are blamed for their residents' problems, which in reality are caused by this Labour and Liberal Democrat Assembly Government.

cynghorau orfod dod o hyd i'r arian hwnnw ar y dechrau allan o wasanaethau eraill? Pam y cedwir yr arian hwnnw pan ddylai fod yn mynd i'r cynghorau? Gweinidogion y Cynulliad sydd i'w beio am unrhyw oedi mewn taliadau, neu am y problemau a achoswyd, ac nid yr awdurdodau lleol. Mae hon yn sefyllfa warthus ac mae wedi digwydd dro ar ôl tro. Bu gormod o enghreifftiau o dalu grantiau'n hwyr a throsglwyddo arian i awdurdodau lleol yn hwyr, gan achosi problemau a sefyllfaoedd dirifedi lle y chwalwyd gobeithion y cyhoedd am wasanaethau newydd neu rai gwell oherwydd bod grantiau yn cael eu talu'n hwyr. Caiff y cynghorau eu beio am broblemau eu trigolion, a achosir mewn gwirionedd gan Lywodraeth Lafur a Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol y Cynulliad hwn.

11:35 a.m.

No doubt, the Minister will tell us that councillors are elected locally to govern locally and that that entails taking hard decisions. However, the blame is not theirs if they are not given sufficient money in time to put in place and carry out services that are not of their choice. The blame lies with the Cabinet. Why is the Welsh Local Government Association not making a louder protest? Could it be anything to do with the protocol that was drawn up to ensure that Labour's elected representatives across the board are working to achieve common objectives, where they are instructed not to publicly criticise other Labour representatives? This settlement is far better than anything that was achieved under a Conservative Government and one which, on the surface, is good, but the Minister has the powers to reduce all council tax rises by fully funding issues such as special payments to teachers, pay increases and free bus passes. Plaid Cymru accepts that the formula cannot be changed at this stage, but wants an assurance today that the Minister will address the shortfall in funding for threshold pay and free bus passes. Without that, when you look inside the settlement, it is sadly lacking.

Mae'n siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn dweud wrthym bod cynghorwyr yn cael eu hethol yn lleol i lywodraethu'n lleol ac mae hyn yn golygu gwneud penderfyniadau anodd. Fodd bynnag, nid eu bai hwy ydyw os na chânt ddigon o arian mewn pryd i roi gwasanaethau nad ydynt wedi eu dewis ar waith a'u cyflawni. Bai'r Cabinet yw hyn. Pam nad yw Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn gwrthdystio'n fwy ffyrnig? A yw'n rhywbeth i'w wneud â'r protocol a luniwyd i sicrhau bod cynrychiolwyr etholedig Llafur yn gyffredinol yn gweithio i gyflawni amcanion cyffredin, lle y cânt eu cyfarwyddo i beidio â beirniadu cynrychiolwyr eraill Llafur yn gyhoeddus? Mae'r setliad hwn yn llawer gwell nag unrhyw beth a gyflawnwyd o dan Lywodraeth Geidwadol ac yn un sydd, ar yr wyneb, yn dda, ond mae gan y Gweinidog y pwerau i leihau pob cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor drwy ariannu'n llawn faterion fel taliadau arbennig i athrawon, codiadau cyflog a thocynnau bws am ddim. Derbynia Plaid Cymru na ellir newid y fformiwla ar yr adeg hon, ond mae am gael sicrwydd heddiw y bydd y Gweinidog yn ymdrin â'r diffyg yn yr arian ar gyfer tâl trothwy a thocynnau bws am ddim. Heb hynny, pan edrychwch y tu mewn i'r setliad, mae'n ddiffygiol iawn yn anffodus.

Gwenda Thomas: Plaid Cymru has raised and is raising its voice much louder today

Gwenda Thomas: Mae Plaid Cymru wedi codi ei llais ac yn codi ei llais yn gryfach o

against the Labour Government than it ever did against the Conservatives, despite the fact that the Conservatives cut the funds for local government again and again.

While I recognise that funding for local government in Wales will increase in 2002-03, I have serious reservations about the distribution of those funds. Last year, I welcomed the new distribution formula, recognising that it provided some benefit to the poorest areas of Wales. I hoped that we would have some years of stability. Therefore, I am disappointed that instability has returned to Neath Port Talbot. Once again, we have the lowest increase in the standard spending assessment formula in Wales, and we face the highest council tax increases in an area where the tax is already one of the highest in Wales.

I ask you to take steps to ensure that this instability does not return in the future. Specifically, I ask for measures to be developed that will limit the variations in the changes to SSA and grants in any one year. I also ask that the element of the formula that relates to special educational needs is revisited quickly. The new factors in the formula relating to social services are not being implemented because of a lack of data. I must ask that Assembly and local government officials work together to make that data available as soon as possible.

Gareth Jones: Yn ôl Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a chynrychiolwyr penaethiaid ysgolion, dim ond ychydig o arian ychwanegol a fydd ar gael o setliad 2002-03 ar gyfer gwella gwasanaethau. Mae hynny'n arbennig o wir ym maes addysg ac yn deillio'n bennaf o'r dryswch ynghylch chwyddiant ac ariannu codiadau cyflog a thaliadau trothwy athrawon.

Mae'n amlwg na ddyrannwyd digon o arian y llynedd ac y mae'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes wedi addo £5.3 miliwn ar gyfer hynny. Fodd bynnag, amcangyfrifir y bydd mwy o ddyled eleni o hyd at £20

lawer heddiw yn erbyn y Llywodraeth Lafur nag a wnaeth erioed yn erbyn y Ceidwadwyr, er gwaetha'r ffaith bod y Ceidwadwyr wedi cwtogi'r arian ar gyfer llywodraeth leol dro ar ôl tro.

Er fy mod yn cydnabod y bydd arian ar gyfer llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru yn cynyddu yn 2002-03, mae gennyf amheuan difrifol ynglŷn â dosbarthu'r arian hwnnw. Y llynedd, croesewais y fformiwla dosbarthu newydd, gan gydnabod ei bod yn rhoi rhywfaint o fudd i ardaloedd tlotaf Cymru. Gobeithiais y byddem yn cael rhai blynyddoedd sefydlog. Felly, yr wyf yn siomedig i weld yr ansefydlogrwydd hwnnw yn dychwelyd i Gastell-nedd Port Talbot. Unwaith eto, mae gennym y cynnydd isaf yn y fformiwla asesiad gwariant safonol yng Nghymru, a wynebwn y cynnydd mwyaf yn y dreth gyngor mewn ardal lle mae'r dreth eisoes ymhlith yr uchaf yng Nghymru.

Gofynnaf ichi gymryd camau i sicrhau nad yw'r ansefydlogrwydd hwn yn dychwelyd yn y dyfodol. Yn benodol, hoffwn weld mesurau yn datblygu a fydd yn cyfyngu ar yr amrywiadau yn y newidiadau i'r asesiad gwariant safonol a'r grantiau mewn unrhyw flwyddyn benodol. Hoffwn hefyd weld yr elfen o'r fformiwla sy'n ymwneud ag anghenion addysgol arbennig yn cael ei haildrafod yn gyflym. Ni weithredir y ffactorau newydd yn y fformiwla sy'n ymwneud â gwasanaethau cymdeithasol oherwydd prinder data. Gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad a swyddogion llywodraeth leol gydweithio i sicrhau bod y data hwnnw ar gael cyn gynted â phosibl.

Gareth Jones: According to the Welsh Local Government Association and representatives of headteachers, it seems that little additional money will be available from the 2002-03 settlement for improvements to services. That is especially true of education and stems mainly from the confusion arising from inflation and the funding of pay increases and teachers' threshold payments.

It is clear that not enough money was allocated last year, and the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning has promised £5.3 million to take that into account. However, it is estimated that this

miliwn, ac nid oes addewid ar gyfer 2002-03. Mae'r ffaith eich bod yn talu'r arian hwn fel ôl-daliadau yn peri llawer o ddryswch, pryderon, ac amheuan i'n hysgolion. Ni allant gynllunio'n strategol na phenodi staff hyd yn oed. Maent hefyd yn bygwth lleihau gwariant ar wasanaethau addysgol pwysig megis addysg anghenion arbennig a llyfrgelloedd. Dyna yw realiti y math hwn o daliadau, sydd yn tanseilio ffydd awdurdodau lleol ac ysgolion yn ei Llywodraeth. A yw'r Trysorlys wedi trosglwyddo'r arian hwn i'r Cynulliad? Os ydyw, pa bryd y gwnaed hynny ac onid yw'n bryd i'r Gweinidog beidio â chwarae cuddio ariannol gydag addysg ein plant a throsglwyddo'r arian hwn ar unwaith i'r awdurdodau i'w ddsbarthu?

William Graham: I declare an interest as a member of Newport County Borough Council, which sets one of the lowest rates in Wales. Three of the four motions for our consideration concern the transitional grants, or increasing transitional grants that have already been approved by the Assembly. We note the reasoning behind these transitional grants and we examine the councils that continue to benefit from them and the amounts involved. Again, we note the blatant political engineering continued by their allocation. It is sad that these four motions have been covered in a single debate as that draws time away from a considered debate on the local government finance report for 2002-03.

Peter Law: As a regional Member for South Wales East, do you still purport to represent part of Blaenau Gwent, which you have just criticised for receiving a transitional grant? Would you like to join me in a public meeting somewhere central in Blaenau Gwent to explain why you would reject it for people who live in deprived communities?

William Graham: I will address your point later. It is time to consider abandoning this current standard spending assessment formula and consign it, together with Best Value, to substantial revision. Both have failed to provide the efficient services required by a modern democracy. Wales

year's debt will increase by up to £20 million, and there are no guarantees for 2002-03. The fact that you are paying this money in back-payments causes a great deal of confusion, concern and doubt for our schools. They cannot plan strategically or even appoint staff. They also threaten to decrease spending on important educational services such as special educational needs and libraries. That is the reality of this type of payment, which undermines schools' and local authorities' faith in their Government. Has the Treasury transferred this money to the Assembly? If it has, when was it done and is it not time for the Minister to stop playing financial hide and seek with our children's education and transfer this money immediately to the authorities so that it may be distributed?

William Graham: Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Casnewydd, sy'n gosod un o'r cyfraddau isaf yng Nghymru. Mae tri o'r pedwar cynnig i'w hystyried yn ymwneud â grantiau trosiannol, neu gynyddu grantiau trosiannol a gymeradwywyd eisoes gan y Cynulliad. Nodwn y rhesymeg y tu ôl i'r grantiau trosiannol hyn ac archwiliwn y cynghorau sy'n parhau i elwa arnynt a'r symiau dan sylw. Unwaith eto, nodwn y cynllwynio gwleidyddol amlwg sy'n parhau yn sgîl eu dyraniad. Mae'n drist bod y pedwar cynnig hyn wedi eu cwmpasu mewn un ddadl gan fod hynny'n mynd ag amser oddi ar ddadl ystyriol ar adroddiad cyllid llywodraeth leol ar gyfer 2002-03.

Peter Law: Fel Aelod rhanbarthol dros Ddwyrain De Cymru, a ydych yn honni o hyd eich bod yn cynrychioli rhan o Flaenau Gwent, yr ydych newydd ei beirniadu am dderbyn grant trosiannol? A hoffech ymuno â mi mewn cyfarfod cyhoeddus mewn lle canolog ym Mlaenau Gwent i egluro pam y byddech yn ei wrthod i bobl sy'n byw mewn cymunedau difreintiedig?

William Graham: Ymdriniaf â'ch pwynt yn ddiweddarach. Mae'n bryd ystyried rhoi'r gorau i'r fformiwla asesiad gwariant safonol hon a'i diwygio'n sylweddol, ynghyd â Gwerth Gorau. Mae'r ddau wedi methu â darparu'r gwasanaethau effeithlon sydd eu hangen ar ddemocratiaeth fodern. Mae angen

requires a funding formula that is fully transparent, needs no moderation of impact, and equally reflects the challenges of service provision in all our communities. There is still a major concern, which has already been voiced, about funding for education, and, particularly, for teachers' pay. I am sure that the Minister will remark on this again later.

We signal our concern regarding police authorities, and hope that the Minister will not find it necessary once again to surcharge them. That is a complete non sequitur. The Minister must have learned financial manipulation by stealth during discussions on budget proposals that she did not hold with the Chancellor. Had the Minister discussed her proposals with the Treasury, she might have been assured that it would not implement its right, under the funding settlement, to reduce the Assembly budget, as I warned during our debate on non-domestic rates.

I think that Peter Law has now left the Chamber—

Brian Gibbons: You are waiting for a coup de grâce.

William Graham: A small one, perhaps. I see that Peter is still here.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I would like interventions to be taken and responded to in an orderly manner rather than having an argy-bargy across the Chamber.

William Graham: Llywydd, I am sure that neither Mr Law nor I would indulge in an argy-bargy.

To answer Peter's earlier question, I will ask him what he expects after he asks:

'What do you expect after 18 years of Conservative Government?'

How will you explain to your constituents that in the last 40 years, a Conservative Government has been in power for 23 years and a Labour one for 17? While that gap

fformiwla ariannu ar Gymru sy'n hollol eglur, nad oes angen cymedroli ei heffaith, ac sy'n adlewyrchu heriau darparu gwasanaethau yn gyfartal ymhob un o'n cymunedau. Mae pryder mawr o hyd, ac fe'i lleisiwyd eisoes, ynglŷn ag arian ar gyfer addysg, ac yn arbennig, ar gyfer cyflog athrawon. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn crybwyll hyn eto yn nes ymlaen.

Nodwn ein pryder ynglŷn ag awdurdodau'r heddlu, a gobeithiwn na fydd yn rhaid i'r Gweinidog godi tâl ychwanegol arnynt unwaith eto. Nid yw hynny'n dilyn o gwbl. Rhaid bod y Gweinidog wedi dysgu camddefnyddio arian drwy dwyll yn ystod trafodaethau ar gynigion cyllidebol nas cynhaliwyd rhyngddi hi a'r Canghellor. Pe bai'r Gweinidog wedi trafod ei chynigion gyda'r Trysorlys, efallai y byddai wedi cael sicrwydd na fyddai'n gweithredu ei hawl, o dan y setliad ariannu, i leihau cyllideb y Cynulliad, fel y'i rhybuddiais yn ystod ein dadl ar drethi annomestig.

Credaf fod Peter Law wedi gadael y Siambr erbyn hyn—

Brian Gibbons: Yr ydych yn aros am coup de grâce.

William Graham: Un fach efallai. Gwelaf fod Peter yma o hyd.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Hoffwn i ymyriadau gael eu cymryd ac ymateb iddynt mewn ffordd drefnus yn hytrach na malu awyr ar draws y Siambr.

William Graham: Lywydd, yr wyf yn siŵr na fyddwn i na Mr Law yn malu awyr.

I ateb cwestiwn Peter yn gynharach, byddaf yn gofyn iddo beth y mae'n ei ddisgwyl ar ôl iddo ofyn:

'Beth a ddisgwylwch ar ôl 18 mlynedd o Lywodraeth Geidwadol?'

Sut yr eglurwch wrth eich etholwyr fod Llywodraeth Geidwadol, dros y 40 mlynedd diwethaf, wedi bod mewn grym am 23 o flynyddoedd a Llywodraeth Lafur am 17?

closes, their situation becomes more dire, according to you. In terms of statistics published by the Office of National Statistics, the public sector net cash requirement is now £9.4 billion. That is the highest since March 1996. What has the Labour Government been doing during that period? I will tell you: engaging in wonderful spin-doctoring about the amounts that have actually been spent. That is the reality of the money received.

Peter Law: Do you now have an answer as to why you object to the transitional grant that my colleague, the Minister, rightly gives to these depressed areas, which need it? Although you do not support that, you still ask the people of Blaenau Gwent to vote for you as a regional Member, which is contradictory.

William Graham: Year after year, under successive Governments, Labour authorities in Wales have had substantial moneys expended on them. Peter is speaking about how they spend their money. That is the test of accountability at each local election. The Minister said that she was announcing the final settlement earlier than in previous years, which will give local authorities more time to plan their budgets. We all recall how, for last year's settlement, the targets were released in October, when the partnership agreement proposed an average level of increase to council tax of 3 per cent. This year, the settlement of 8 per cent proposed by the Minister allows growth in council tax targets. However, we have already learnt that many local authorities in Wales propose an increase in rates. It is the old story of Old and New Labour's tax and spend policies.

We appreciate the clarity of the Minister's presentation. Her delivery illuminated this issue as her previous presentations lit up the subject of Best Value—

Alison Halford: Forgive me for interrupting what is an excellent speech from the Conservatives. Could you repeat what you said about police authorities? Were you implying that more funding should be given to police authorities without question? Did you make that point?

Wrth i'r bwlch hwnnw gau, daw eu sefyllfa, yn ôl chi, yn fwy enbyd. O ran ystadegau a gyhoeddwyd gan y Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol, £9.4 biliwn yw gofyniad ariannol net y sector cyhoeddus erbyn hyn. Dyna'r ffigur uchaf ers Mawrth 1996. Beth fu'r Llywodraeth Lafur yn ei wneud yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw? Dywedaf wrthyhch: buont yn lliwio storïau gwych am y symiau a wariwyd mewn gwirionedd. Dyna realiti'r arian a dderbyniwyd.

Peter Law: A oes gennych ateb yn awr o ran pam y gwrthwynebwyd y grant trosiannol gennych y mae fy nghyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog, yn ei roi yn briodol i'r ardaloedd dirwasgedig hyn, y mae ei angen arnynt? Er na chefnogwch hynny, gofynnwch i bobl Blaenau Gwent bleidleisio drosoch fel Aelod rhanbarthol, sy'n gwrth-ddweud hyn.

William Graham: Flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn, o dan Lywodraethau olynol, gwariwyd symiau mawr o arian ar awdurdodau Llafur yng Nghymru. Mae Peter yn sôn am sut y gwariant eu harian. Dyna brawf atebolrwydd ymhob etholiad lleol. Dywedodd y Gweinidog ei bod yn cyhoeddi'r setliad terfynol yn gynharach nag mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol, a fydd yn rhoi mwy o amser i awdurdodau lleol gynllunio eu cyllidebau. Cofiwn oll sut y rhyddhawyd y targedau ar gyfer setliad y llynedd ym mis Hydref, pan gynigiodd y cytundeb partneriaeth gynnydd cyfartalog i'r dreth gyngor o 3 y cant. Eleni, mae'r setliad o 8 y cant a gynigiwyd gan y Gweinidog yn caniatáu twf yn nhargedau'r dreth gyngor. Fodd bynnag, dysgasom eisoes fod llawer o awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru yn bwriadu codi trethi. Hen hanes polisiau treth a gwario Hen Lafur a Llafur Newydd yw hyn.

Gwerthfawrogwn gyflwyniad eglur y Gweinidog. Taflodd ei thraddodiad olau ar y mater hwn fel y goleuodd ei chyflwyniadau blaenorol fater Gwerth Gorau—

Alison Halford: Maddeuwch imi am dorri ar draws araith ragorol gan y Ceidwadwyr. A wnewch ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedasochoch am awdurdodau'r heddlu? A oeddech yn awgrymu y dylid rhoi mwy o arian i awdurdodau'r heddlu yn ddi-gwestiwn? A wnaethoch y pwynt hwnnw?

11:45 a.m.

William Graham: To clarify, surcharging police authorities, who have already identified their expenditure, thereby increasing the amount that they have to spend, is unwise and fails to live up to the public's perception.

Alison Halford: I just wanted to clarify that point. You are aware that police authorities are autonomous, corporate bodies and that no-one can challenge their authority. Therefore, you should think carefully before giving more funding to these bodies because you cannot challenge them in any shape or form, whatever they do.

William Graham: Thank you for your remark.

To conclude, we are grateful, Minister, for your presentation, and I hope that you have the courage to call for a revision of the standard spending assessment formula before we are required to consider the Local Government Finance Report for 2003.

Peter Black: I declare an interest as a member of Swansea City and County Council. I welcome this settlement. The Minister outlined an 8 per cent increase in funding for local councils and 7 per cent in real growth above inflation over two years—an exceptional settlement. We should commend it, not pick holes in it as the previous speakers did.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Do you include Gwenda Thomas among those speakers?

Peter Black: I was only referring to Janet Ryder and William Graham. William Graham said that Wales needs a fully transparent funding formula. After listening to his speech, I am concerned by that statement. Wales clearly needs a fair funding formula that treats areas of deprivation properly and ensures that they receive the funding they need, not only to keep council tax levels down, but also to provide services for people in those areas. The kind of transparent funding formula that was in place during 18 years of Conservative Government meant

William Graham: I egluro, mae codi tâl ychwanegol ar awdurdodau'r heddlu, sydd eisoes wedi nodi eu gwariant, gan gynyddu'r swm sydd ganddynt i'w wario, yn annoeth ac nid yw'n bodloni amgyffred y cyhoedd.

Alison Halford: Yr oeddwn am egluro'r pwynt hwnnw. Yr ydych yn ymwybodol bod awdurdodau'r heddlu yn gyrff hunanlywodraethol, corfforaethol ac na all neb herio eu hawdurdod. Felly, dylech feddwl yn ofalus cyn rhoi mwy o arian i'r cyrff hyn gan na allwch eu herio mewn unrhyw ffordd, beth bynnag a wnânt.

William Graham: Diolch ichi am eich sylw.

I gloi, yr ydym yn ddiolchgar, Weinidog, am eich cyflwyniad, a gobeithiaf eich bod yn ddigon dewr i alw am ddiwygiad o'r fformiwla asesiad gwariant safonol cyn ei bod yn ofynnol inni ystyried yr Adroddiad Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol ar gyfer 2003.

Peter Black: Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o Gyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe. Croesawaf y setliad hwn. Amlinellodd y Gweinidog gynnydd o 8 y cant mewn cyllid ar gyfer cynghorau lleol a 7 y cant mewn twf gwirioneddol yn uwch na chwyddiant dros ddwy flynedd—setliad rhagorol. Dylem ei gymeradwyo, nid pigo brychau ynddo fel y gwnaeth y siaradwyr blaenorol.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A ydych yn cynnwys Gwenda Thomas ymhlith y siaradwyr hynny?

Peter Black: Dim ond cyfeirio at Janet Ryder a William Graham yr oeddwn. Dywedodd William Graham fod angen fformiwla ariannu hollol dryloyw ar Gymru. Ar ôl gwrando ar ei araith, pryderaf ynglŷn â'r datganiad hwnnw. Yn amlwg, mae angen fformiwla ariannu deg ar Gymru sy'n trin ardaloedd difreintiedig yn gywir ac sy'n sicrhau y cânt yr arian sydd ei angen arnynt, nid yn unig i gadw lefelau'r dreth gyngor yn isel, ond hefyd er mwyn darparu gwasanaethau i bobl yn yr ardaloedd hynny. Golygai'r math o fformiwla ariannu eglur a

less money for local government, cuts in services and higher council tax. The Conservatives would impose a similarly unacceptable funding formula on us again if they were running Wales. However, that is unlikely to happen.

This settlement will boost public services and improve quality of life for people in Wales. We should also welcome the extra support for new burdens, which is quite substantial and will assist local government in dealing with them. I remember that in the days of the Conservative Government, central Government gave no support to local authorities to deal with new burdens.

David Melding: There is a great deal of knocking directed at the last Conservative Government. In what capacity are you speaking at the moment? Are you making a speech as Deputy Minister or as an ordinary Assembly Member?

Peter Black: You will know from reading the guidance that I speak as a Liberal Democrat spokesperson, since the Minister is speaking on behalf of the Government in this debate. However, I support the Government line because the Liberal Democrats are part of the partnership Government. We are delivering a good local government settlement, which will help the people of Wales and will help keep down the level of council tax in Wales.

Janet Ryder raised several issues. We all know that Plaid Cymru tries to be all things to all people, but it is not even consistent in this Chamber. We talk about local democracy, but I have sat through many contributions by Plaid Cymru about how local councils should deliver services according to local priorities without interference from the Assembly. However, at the same time, it says that the Assembly is responsible for local council tax and should effectively tell local councils how to order their finances. That is not consistent and not a democratic way forward at a local level.

oedd ar waith yn ystod 18 mlynedd o Lywodraeth Geidwadol lai o arian i lywodraeth leol, toriadau mewn gwasanaethau a threth gyngor uwch. Byddai'r Ceidwadwyr yn gosod fformiwla ariannu annerbyniol tebyg arnom eto pe baent yn llywodraethu Cymru. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n annhebygol o ddigwydd.

Bydd y setliad hwn yn hybu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ac yn gwella ansawdd bywyd pobl yng Nghymru. Dylem hefyd groesawu'r gefnogaeth ychwanegol i feichiau newydd, sydd yn eithaf sylweddol ac a fydd yn helpu llywodraeth leol i ddelio â hwy. Cofiaf na roddodd Llywodraeth ganolog, ar adeg y Llywodraeth Geidwadol, unrhyw gefnogaeth i awdurdodau lleol i ddelio â beichiau newydd.

David Melding: Mae cryn feirniadaeth o'r Llywodraeth Geidwadol ddiwethaf. Ym mha rinwedd yr ydych yn siarad ar hyn o bryd? A ydych yn rhoi araith fel Dirprwy Weinidog neu fel Aelod Cynulliad cyffredin?

Peter Black: Gwyddoch o ddarllen yr arweiniad fy mod yn siarad fel llefarydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, gan fod y Gweinidog yn siarad ar ran y Llywodraeth yn y ddadl hon. Fodd bynnag, cefnogaf safbwynt y Llywodraeth oherwydd mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn rhan o'r Llywodraeth bartneriaeth. Yr ydym yn cyflwyno setliad llywodraeth leol da a fydd yn helpu pobl Cymru ac yn cadw lefel y dreth gyngor yn isel yng Nghymru.

Cododd Janet Ryder sawl pwynt. Gwyddom oll fod Plaid Cymru yn ceisio bod yn bopeth i bawb, ond nid yw hyd yn oed yn gyson yn y Siambr hon. Soniwn am ddemocratiaeth leol, ond yr wyf wedi eistedd drwy sawl cyfraniad gan Plaid Cymru ar sut y dylai cynghorau lleol gyflwyno gwasanaethau yn ôl blaenoriaethau lleol heb ymyriad gan y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, ar yr un pryd dywed fod y Cynulliad yn gyfrifol am y dreth gyngor leol a dylai mewn gwirionedd ddweud wrth gynghorau lleol sut i roi trefn ar eu harian. Nid yw hynny'n gyson ac nid yw'n ffordd ddemocrataidd ymlaen ar lefel leol.

It is right that funding is not hypothecated and, since local councillors are also elected and accountable to the electorate, it is important that our relationship is based on partnership, although that might involve creative tensions.

Janet Ryder: Do you not agree that the level of council tax set is governed by the amount of settlement the councils receive from this body, and by other issues, if they are not funded properly? That forces the councils, in some instances, to set high council tax. It is not a question of taking away their local democratic right to set their own level; it happens because the Government, of which you are a part, is not funding them properly.

Peter Black: I find it difficult to see how you have come to that conclusion, Janet, with an 8 per cent increase in funding and 7 per cent real growth. The Welsh Local Government Association has welcomed the extra funding. Therefore, we are funding local government properly. I would like to hear from where you would find the extra money that you believe should be going to local government, as it is not available unless you make cuts in the funding for health and education.

Janet Ryder: Are you telling me, in that case, that Westminster has not transferred money to the Assembly to pay for teachers' threshold pay?

Peter Black: If you had bothered to study the figures, you would know that the Assembly has passed money to local government to pay for teachers' threshold pay, and has given assurances to local government about that. Money is being made available for extra burdens—[*Interruption.*] I will not take another intervention because it will turn into a debate between you and me only. Money has been transferred to the Assembly which, in turn, is giving money to local government, including provision for that extra funding.

On partnerships, such as that which we have with local government, where we talk with it and deal with it on an equal basis, creative tensions are being resolved in the policy

Mae'n briodol na chaiff yr arian ei bridianu a, chan fod cynghorwyr lleol hefyd yn cael eu hethol ac yn atebol i'r etholwyr, mae'n bwysig bod ein perthynas yn seiliedig ar bartneriaeth, er y gallai hynny greu tensiynau creadigol.

Janet Ryder: Oni chytunwch y rheolir lefel y dreth gyngor a bennir gan swm y setliad a gaiff y cynghorau gan y corff hwn, a chan faterion eraill, os na chânt eu hariannu'n gywir? Mae hynny'n gorfodi'r cynghorau, mewn rhai achosion, i bennu treth gyngor uwch. Nid mater o fynd â'u hawl democrataidd lleol i bennu eu lefel eu hunain oddi wrthynt yw hyn; mae'n digwydd gan nad yw'r Llywodraeth, yr ydych yn rhan ohoni, yn eu hariannu'n gywir.

Peter Black: Ni ddeallaf sut y daethoch i'r casgliad hwnnw, Janet, gyda chynnydd o 8 y cant mewn arian a 7 y cant mewn twf gwirioneddol. Mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru wedi croesawu'r arian ychwanegol. Felly, yr ydym yn ariannu llywodraeth leol yn gywir. Hoffwn glywed o ba le y byddech yn dod o hyd i'r arian ychwanegol y credwch y dylai fod yn mynd i lywodraeth leol, gan nad yw ar gael oni wnewch doriadau yn y cyllid ar gyfer iechyd ac addysg.

Janet Ryder: A ydych yn dweud wrthyf felly, nad yw San Steffan wedi trosglwyddo arian i'r Cynulliad i dalu am daliadau trothwy athrawon?

Peter Black: Pe baech wedi trafferthu i astudio'r ffigurau, byddech yn gwybod fod y Cynulliad wedi trosglwyddo arian i lywodraeth leol i dalu am daliadau trothwy athrawon, ac wedi rhoi sicrwydd i lywodraeth leol ynglŷn â hynny. Bydd arian ar gael ar gyfer beichiau ychwanegol—[*Torri ar draws.*] Ni chymeraf ymyriad arall gan y bydd yn troi yn ddadl rhyngoch chi a fi yn unig. Trosglwyddwyd arian i'r Cynulliad a fydd, yn ei dro, yn rhoi arian i lywodraeth leol, gan gynnwys darpariaeth ar gyfer yr arian ychwanegol hwnnw.

O ran partneriaethau, fel yr un sydd gennym gyda llywodraeth leol, lle y siaradwn â hi a deliwn â hi ar sail gyfartal, caiff tensiynau creadigol eu datrys yn y cytundeb polisi. Mae

agreement. Wales is leading the way in taking forward and funding our priorities and local council priorities, and measuring the output of those partnership agreements, not just the input, as other people seem to want to do. That is more constructive than the hypothecated funding regime advocated by the Conservatives, which would enable them to continue with their policies for destroying local government; a goal that they pursued when they were in Government.

I particularly welcome the fact that the assessment has been agreed earlier this year, to enable councils to plan their finances better—

The Presiding Officer: Order. You have had six minutes.

Pauline Jarman: I declare an interest as leader of Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and a member of the Welsh Local Government Association. Is Peter Black prepared to support the Minister and give a commitment to local government in Wales that the Government will find an additional £20 million to £30 million to underwrite the cost of threshold pay in the current round? That is the size of the gap that local government will be expected to fund as it is not provided for in this budget. Many public services will suffer as a consequence.

The range of increases in council tax throughout Wales is startling. The poorer communities in Wales will have a council tax rise of around 9 per cent. Despite the damping grants for Blaenau Gwent, the council intends to increase its council tax by approximately 8.8 per cent. Similarly, council tax will rise in Merthyr and Neath Port Talbot by 8.8 per cent, and by 8.2 per cent in Torfaen. Based on the current spending plans and this settlement, the council tax rises based on those assumed budgets are clear. The range of increase has failed to bridge the gap. We supported a review of the formula, but the formula, combined with the Minister's settlement, has so far not delivered for those poorer communities.

On the funding for free transport, it is clear

Cymru ar flaen y gad wrth weithredu ein blaenoriaethau a blaenoriaethau cyngorau lleol a'u hariannu, gan fesur allbwn y cytundebau partneriaeth hynny, nid y mewnbyn yn unig, fel yr ymddengys y mae pobl eraill am ei wneud. Mae hynny'n fwy adeiladol na'r drefn ariannu wedi ei phridiannu a hyrwyddir gan y Ceidwadwyr, a fyddai'n eu galluogi i barhau â'u polisiâu i ddinistrio llywodraeth leol; nod yr oeddent yn anelu ato pan oeddent mewn grym.

Yn arbennig, croesawaf y ffaith y cytunwyd ar yr asesiad yn gynharach eleni, i alluogi cyngorau i gynllunio eu harian yn well—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Fe gawsoch chwe munud.

Pauline Jarman: Datganaf fuddiant fel arweinydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf ac aelod o Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. A yw Peter Black yn barod i gefnogi'r Gweinidog a rhoi ymrwymiad i lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru y bydd y Llywodraeth yn dod o hyd i rhwng £20 miliwn a £30 miliwn ychwanegol i warantu cost tâl trothwy yn y cylch presennol? Dyna faint y bwloch y bydd disgwyl i lywodraeth leol ei ariannu gan na ddarperir ar ei gyfer yn y gyllideb hon. Bydd llawer o wasanaethau cyhoeddus yn dioddef o ganlyniad.

Mae ystod y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor ledled Cymru yn syfrdanol. Bydd cynnydd o tua 9 y cant yn y dreth gyngor i'r cymunedau tlotach yng Nghymru. Er gwaetha'r grantiau dampio ar gyfer Blaenau Gwent, bwriada'r Cyngor gynyddu ei dreth gyngor tua 8.8 y cant. Yn yr un modd, bydd y dreth gyngor yn codi ym Merthyr Tudful a Chastell-nedd Port Talbot 8.8 y cant, ac 8.2 y cant yn Nhor-faen. Yn seiliedig ar y cynlluniau gwario presennol a'r setliad hwn, mae'r cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor sy'n seiliedig ar y cyllidebau tybiedig hynny yn glir. Mae ystod y cynnydd wedi methu â phontio'r bwloch. Cefnogwyd adolygiad o'r fformiwla gennym, ond nid yw'r fformiwla, ynghyd â setliad y Gweinidog, wedi darparu eto ar gyfer y cymunedau tlotach hynny.

O ran ariannu cludiant am ddim, mae'n glir

that the Government of Wales now accepts that it is not wholly responsible for funding free transport for the elderly and disabled throughout Wales. Local authorities, which act as agents for the National Assembly, have found significant funding gaps. The reason the Government has been forced to admit this is clear; local authorities are now allowed to put on the back of the bus passes that this initiative is funded by the National Assembly—or the preferred title of the Cabinet, WAG—and the individual local authority. There is clear evidence. I want a commitment from the Minister that instead of awarding retrospectively—I know that she has a working party examining the real cost—she will acknowledge that there is a desperate need, when the evidence becomes apparent in the current round. Otherwise, council tax payers who are not entitled to free bus passes will have to underwrite the cost. In my authority, that is equivalent to a 0.5 per cent increase in council taxes.

11:55 a.m.

David Davies: It is outrageous and wrong for the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities to stand before this Chamber and tell us that how much council tax a local authority has to spend is none of the Assembly's business. The Assembly is responsible for anything up to 85 per cent, or the vast majority, of money that a local authority has to spend. The less money coming from the Assembly, the more council taxes rise. She is perfectly aware of that—or she should be. She should not stand before us and tell us that there is no relationship between what the Assembly does and the levels at which council taxes are set.

The increases in this budget, such as they are, have been based on previous spending and not on standard spending assessments. Standard spending assessments, as she also knows, are largely determined by population, which means that areas with an increase in population have lost out.

We were told that there would be no more need for damping grants. However, yet again, because of the actions of the same Labour-controlled local authorities spending over and

bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn derbyn yn awr nad yw'n llwyr gyfrifol am ariannu cludiant am ddim i'r henoed a'r anabl ledled Cymru. Mae awdurdodau lleol, sy'n gweithredu fel asiantau ar ran y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, wedi dod o hyd i fylchau ariannu mawr. Mae'r rheswm y gorfodwyd y Llywodraeth i gyfaddef hyn yn glir; caniateir awdurdodau lleol yn awr i nodi ar gefn y tocynnau bws bod y fenter hon wedi ei hariannu gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol—neu deitl dewisol y Cabinet, WAG—a'r awdurdod lleol unigol. Ceir tystiolaeth glir. Yr wyf am i'r Gweinidog ymrwymo y bydd, yn lle dyfarnu'n ôl-weithredol—gwn fod ganddi weithgor sy'n archwilio'r gost wirioneddol—yn cydnabod bod angen dirfawr, pan ddaw'r dystiolaeth yn amlwg yn y cylch presennol. Fel arall, bydd yn rhaid i dalwyr y dreth gyngor, nad oes ganddynt hawl i docynnau bws am ddim, warantu'r gost. Yn fy awdurdod, mae hynny'n gyfwerth â chynnydd o 0.5 y cant yn nhrethi'r cyngor.

David Davies: Mae'n warthus ac yn gyfeiliornus i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau sefyll gerbron y Siambr hon a dweud wrthym nad yw swm y dreth gyngor y mae gan awdurdod lleol i'w wario yn fusnes i'r Cynulliad o gwbl. Mae'r Cynulliad yn gyfrifol am unrhyw beth hyd at 85 y cant, neu'r mwyafrif helaeth, o'r arian sydd gan awdurdod lleol i'w wario. Po leiaf yr arian a ddaw o'r Cynulliad, po fwyaf y bydd trethi'r cyngor yn codi. Mae'n ymwybodol iawn o hynny—neu fe ddylai fod. Ni ddylai sefyll ger ein bron a dweud wrthym nad oes unrhyw berthynas rhwng yr hyn a wna'r Cynulliad a'r lefelau y pennir trethi'r cyngor arnynt.

Seiliwyd y cynnydd yn y gyllideb hon, fel ag y mae, ar wariant blaenorol ac nid ar asesiadau gwariant safonol. Mae asesiadau gwariant safonol, fel y gŵyr hi hefyd, wedi eu pennu i raddau helaeth yn ôl y boblogaeth, sy'n golygu bod ardaloedd gyda chynnydd yn y boblogaeth ar eu colled.

Dywedwyd wrthym na fyddai angen grantiau dampio byth eto. Fodd bynnag, unwaith eto, oherwydd gweithrediadau'r un awdurdodau lleol a reolir gan Lafur yn gwario mwy na'u

above their SSAs, we have seen damping grants reintroduced.

Peter Law talked about public meetings a moment ago, challenging one of my colleagues to attend a public meeting in Blaenau Gwent. He used to be Secretary for the Environment and Local Government. I know that he was asked to attend public meetings on numerous occasions in Monmouthshire, yet he never came. Where were you, Peter? We asked you time and again to come to a public meeting—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am about to call him, after you have spoken.

David Davies: I will also mention the comments of the Assembly Member for Neath, Gwenda Thomas, for whom I have a certain amount of respect. She is nobody's fool. However, I had to hide a wry smile when she started to complain about the council tax increases to be seen by her constituents. Why did not she speak up for Monmouthshire, when my constituents saw rises of 25 per cent, 14 per cent, and will next year see 10 per cent?

Michael German: Does David Davies recommend that Monmouthshire County Council turn down the transitional grant arrangement that it will get this year?

David Davies: No; it will need every penny. I recommend that the leader of the Liberal Democrats starts to stand up for the people of Monmouthshire. It was all very well before he entered Government, when he attended the public meetings that Peter Law would not. He was happy to speak against the arrangement and the revenue support grant from the Assembly. As soon as he got his feet into a ministerial car, it was another matter. Suddenly he is telling us that we should support it.

Mick Bates: They are getting more money.

David Davies: I will not take any lectures from the Liberal Democrats. If we want to solve these problems, it is high time that we dragged in those who spend over and above their SSAs, the same old Labour-controlled

hasesiadau gwariant safonol, gwelsom grantiau dampio yn cael eu hailgyflwyno.

Soniodd Peter Law am gyfarfodydd cyhoeddus ychydig funudau yn ôl, gan herio un o'm cyd-Aelodau i fynychu cyfarfod cyhoeddus ym Mlaenau Gwent. Arferai fod yn Ysgrifennydd yr Amgylchedd a Llywodraeth Leol. Gwn iddo gael gwahoddiad i fynychu cyfarfodydd cyhoeddus ar sawl achlysur yn Sir Fynwy, ac eto ni ddaeth erioed. Ble yr oeddech chi Peter? Gofynnwyd ichi dro ar ôl tro i ddod i gyfarfod cyhoeddus—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf ar fin ei alw, ar ôl ichi siarad.

David Davies: Soniaf hefyd am sylwadau'r Aelod Cynulliad dros Gastell-nedd, Gwenda Thomas, y mae gennyf ryw faint o barch ati. Chymer hi mo'i thwylo gan neb. Fodd bynnag, bu'n rhaid imi guddio gwên gam pan ddechreuodd gwyno am y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor y bydd ei hetholwyr yn ei weld. Pam na siaradodd o blaid Sir Fynwy pan welodd fy etholwyr i gynnydd o 25 y cant, 14 y cant a phan welant 10 y cant y flwyddyn nesaf?

Michael German: A yw David Davies yn argymhell bod Cyngor Sir Fynwy yn gwrthod y cytundeb grant trosiannol a gaiff eleni?

David Davies: Nac ydw; bydd angen pob ceiniog arno. Argymhellaf fod arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn dechrau sefyll o blaid pobl Sir Fynwy. Yr oedd yn iawn iddo fynychu'r cyfarfodydd cyhoeddus nad oedd Peter Law am eu mynychu, cyn iddo ymuno â'r Llywodraeth. Yr oedd yn fodlon siarad yn erbyn y trefniant a'r grant cynnal refeniw gan y Cynulliad. Cyn gynted ag y rhoddodd ei draed mewn car gweinidogol, yr oedd yn fater arall. Yn sydyn mae'n dweud wrthym y dylem ei gefnogi.

Mick Bates: Maent yn cael mwy o arian.

David Davies: Ni wrandawaf ar unrhyw bregeth gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Os ydym am ddatrys y problemau hyn, mae'n hen bryd inni gynnwys y rheini sy'n gwario mwy na'u hasesiadau gwariant safonol, yr un

local authorities and their friends in the Welsh Local Government Association—and Noel Crowley is one of them—and ask why they cannot spend within the Assembly's set limits. If we started doing that, we might ensure that local authorities got a fair slice of the cake, instead of penalising well-run and efficient local authorities of all political colours.

Peter Law: I am delighted at the Minister's excellent announcement, because it is a good settlement. I was listening to Peter Black earlier, when he talked about Plaid Cymru being all things to all people. I thought that it had stolen the Liberal Democrats' clothes.

Phil Williams *rose*—

Peter Law: The fact is that I have some sympathy with Peter Black today, because Plaid Cymru is in a fantasy world, when its members say what they do on this issue. [PLAID CYMRU MEMBERS: 'Give way.'] It is like being in a pantomime, with cries of 'look behind you'.

Phil Williams: Do you agree that when you were Secretary for the Environment and Local Government, Plaid Cymru pressed for a £27 million damping grant in a year when we had £180 million underspend on the budget, and you cut it down to, I believe, £16 million?

Peter Law: I agree that Plaid Cymru asked for a £27 million damping grant. However, when it came to the vote, Plaid Cymru voted against the damping grant and voted to reduce it, which is why it had to be cut down. As always, Plaid Cymru lives in a fantasy world. Plaid Cymru could say that there ought to be a 20 per cent or a 30 per cent increase, because it does not have the responsibility to provide it. If we lived in Plaid Cymru's world, in an independent state, we would all be on the road with our begging bowls. That is what life would be like were Plaid Cymru in government.

Let us get the realities right. This is a generous settlement. When we examine it, we

hen awdurdodau lleol o dan reolaeth Llafur a'u ffrindiau yng Nghymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru—ac mae Noel Crowley yn un ohonynt—a gofyn pam na allant wario o fewn terfynau penodedig y Cynulliad. Pe baem yn dechrau gwneud hynny, efallai y gallwn sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn cael cyfran deg o'r dorth, yn lle cosbi awdurdodau lleol o bob plaid gwleidyddol sy'n cael eu rhedeg yn dda ac effeithlon.

Peter Law: Yr wyf wrth fy modd gyda chyhoeddiad rhagorol y Gweinidog, oherwydd mae'n setliad da. Yr oeddwn yn gwranddo ar Peter Black yn gynharach, pan soniodd fod Plaid Cymru yn bopeth i bawb. Credais ei bod wedi dwyn dillad y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

Phil Williams *a gododd*—

Peter Law: Y gwir yw fy mod yn cydymdeimlo rhywfaint â Peter Black heddiw, gan fod Plaid Cymru mewn byd ffantasi, pan ddywed ei haelodau yr hyn a wnânt ynglŷn â'r mater hwn. [AELODAU PLAID CYMRU: 'Ildiwch.'] Mae fel bod mewn pantomeim, gyda phobl yn bloeddio 'edrychwch y tu ôl ichi'.

Phil Williams: A gytunwch i Blaid Cymru, pan oeddech yn Ysgrifennydd dros yr Amgylchedd a Llywodraeth Leol, bwysu am grant dampio o £27 miliwn mewn blwyddyn pan oedd gennym £180 miliwn o danwariant ar y gyllideb, ac fe'i cwtogwyd gennych, fe gredaf, i £16 miliwn?

Peter Law: Cytunaf fod Plaid Cymru wedi gofyn am grant dampio o £27 miliwn. Fodd bynnag, pan ddaeth yn adeg pleidleisio, pleidleisiodd Plaid Cymru yn erbyn y grant dampio ac o blaid ei leihau, a dyna pam y bu'n rhaid ei gwtogi. Fel bob tro, mae Plaid Cymru yn byw mewn byd o ffantasi. Gallai Plaid Cymru ddweud y dylai fod cynnydd o 20 y cant neu 30 y cant, gan nad oes ganddi'r cyfrifoldeb i'w ddarparu. Pe baem yn byw ym myd Plaid Cymru, mewn gwladwriaeth annibynnol, byddai pob un ohonom ar y stryd yn cardota. Dyna fel y byddai hi pe bai Plaid Cymru mewn grym.

Gadewch inni gael y gwir am y sefyllfa. Mae hwn yn setliad hael. Pan archwiliwn y setliad,

see that money given to us for teachers' pay is being passed down for that purpose to local authorities. I am pleased that the Minister has managed to do that. We are working in partnership. The Welsh Local Government Association welcomed the settlement as being generous to all parties. Plaid Cymru is one of those parties. Let us be realistic; it is a good settlement.

When we had the top-sliced transitional grant, Plaid Cymru was against top-slicing. Now that the grant is not top-sliced, it is against that, because it thinks that there should be more money. We cannot win. I am grateful that the Minister has included the transitional grant, because poor people are currently living in deprived communities. I represent a community that needs to be helped.

There is a marked contrast today—people who wanted to shove £56 million of public money into a concert hall last Tuesday are crying crocodile tears about a transitional grant today. That is the reality of priorities when considering and dealing with social exclusion.

Janet Davies: Do you acknowledge, Peter, that investing £56 million—not all of it Assembly money—into the Wales Millennium Centre is a policy of your front bench?

Peter Law: Yes, and you have heard my view on it. However, your party also totally supports that policy, with the exception of one member. Let that be clear.

The £56 million is all Assembly money; it comes from the Assembly block whichever way you look at it. If £10 million was from the lottery for the Arts Council for Wales, it was intended for the people of Wales generally and not only for this project.

Let us talk about the Conservatives and the privileged people of Monmouthshire, and how they see matters. Are David Davies and his leader prepared to come to Blaenau Gwent and apologise for the devastation caused in my community over the 18 years

gwelwn fod yr arian a roddir inni ar gyfer tâl athrawon yn cael ei drosglwyddo at y diben hwnnw i awdurdodau lleol. Yr wyf yn falch bod y Gweinidog wedi llwyddo i wneud hynny. Yr ydym yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth. Croesawodd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru y setliad fel un hael i bob plaid. Mae Plaid Cymru yn un o'r pleidiau hynny. Gadewch inni fod yn realistig; mae'n setliad da.

Pan oedd y grant trosiannol wedi ei frigidorri gennym, yr oedd Plaid Cymru yn erbyn brigdorri. Gan fod y grant erbyn hyn heb ei frigidorri, mae yn erbyn hynny, oherwydd cred y dylai fod mwy o arian. Ni allwn ennill. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar bod y Gweinidog wedi cynnwys y grant trosiannol, oherwydd mae pobl dlawd ar hyn o bryd yn byw mewn cymunedau difreintiedig. Cynrychiolaf gymuned y mae angen help arni.

Mae cyferbyniad llwyr heddiw—mae pobl a oedd am wario £56 miliwn o arian cyhoeddus ar neuadd gyngerdd ddydd Mawrth diwethaf yn wylo dagrau ffug ynglŷn â grant trosiannol heddiw. Dyna realiti blaenoriaethau wrth ystyried a delio ag allgáu cymdeithasol.

Janet Davies: A gydnabyddwch, Peter, fod buddsoddi £56 miliwn—nid arian y Cynulliad i gyd—yng Nghanolfan Mileniwm Cymru yn un o bolisiau'ch mainc flaen?

Peter Law: Ydy, a chlywsoch fy marn ar hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae eich plaid chithau hefyd, heblaw un aelod, yn cefnogi'r polisi hwnnw. Gadewch i hynny fod yn glir.

Arian y Cynulliad yw'r £56 miliwn i gyd; daw o flocc y Cynulliad pa ffordd bynnag yr ystyriwch ef. Os oedd £10 miliwn yn dod o'r loteri ar gyfer Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, fe'i bwriadwyd ar gyfer pobl Cymru yn gyffredinol ac nid ar gyfer y prosiect hwn yn unig.

Gadewch inni sôn am y Ceidwadwyr ac am bobl freintiedig Sir Fynwy, a sut y maent yn ystyried pethau. A yw David Davies a'i arweinydd yn barod i ddod i Flaenau Gwent ac ymddiheuro am y llastr a achoswyd yn fy nghymuned yn ystod y 18 mlynedd pan

that the Conservatives were in power?

David Davies *rose—*

Peter Law: I am going to be savaged by a muppet.

David Davies: Is Peter Law suggesting that, at last, he is ready to come to Monmouthshire and explain to my constituents why their council taxes have increased? He was not prepared to do that and could not be bothered to do it when he was the Secretary responsible for making such decisions.

Peter Law: The only reason that I was not there was because I was on ministerial business. When you brought rent-a-crowd to the Assembly in three buses, I spent 40 minutes explaining to them why we had to deal with the transitional grant and why some people need help. Sadly, some of them did not understand because they were tarnished with the same selfishness as you have shown in this Chamber, by not understanding the plight of poor people. Yet Monmouthshire neighbours Blaenau Gwent; you know how badly it is affected.

David Davies: Will you explain to us why Blaenau Gwent spends so much more per head than Monmouthshire on simple services such as waste disposal and collection? Is it not the case that Blaenau Gwent council is hopelessly inefficient, and that a council in such a built-up area should not spend anything like as much money on such services as a rural area like Monmouthshire?

Peter Law: Blaenau Gwent has to provide services that do not exist in the private sector. You have private sector services in Monmouthshire, yet we would never have them. Blaenau Gwent is affected by previous arrangements from the eight large counties, from which we never got away. Even with this additional new formula, matters still need fine-tuning, as Gwenda mentioned this morning.

David Davies: This is your formula; you drew it up.

fu'r Ceidwadwyr mewn grym?

David Davies *a gododd—*

Peter Law: Yr wyf yn mynd i gael fy nhynnu yn gareiau gan fyped.

David Davies: A yw Peter Law yn awgrymu ei fod, o'r diwedd, yn barod i ddod i Sir Fynwy ac egluro wrth fy etholwyr paham y mae eu trethi cyngor wedi cynyddu? Pan oedd yn dal swydd yr Ysgrifennydd a oedd yn gyfrifol am wneud penderfyniadau o'r fath, nid oedd yn fodlon gwneud hynny ac ni allai drafferthu gwneud hynny.

Peter Law: Yr unig reswm nad oeddwn yno oedd am fy mod ar fusnes gweinidogol. Pan ddaethoch â'r dorf broffesiynol arferol i'r Cynulliad mewn tri bws, treuliais 40 munud yn egluro wrthynt pam y bu'n rhaid inni ddelio â'r grant trosiannol a pham mae angen help ar rai pobl. Yn anffodus, nid oedd rhai ohonynt yn deall hynny gan eu bod wedi eu difwyno â'r un hunanoldeb â ddangoswyd gennych chi yn y Siambr hon, yn yr ystyr nad ydych yn deall cyflwr pobl dlawd. Ac eto mae Sir Fynwy yn ffinio â Blaenau Gwent; fe wyddoch pam mor wael yr effeithir arni.

David Davies: A eglurwch inni pam mae Blaenau Gwent yn gwario gymaint mwy y pen na Sir Fynwy ar wasanaethau syml fel gwaredu a chasglu gwastraff? Onid yw'n wir bod cyngor Blaenau Gwent yn anobeithiol o aneffeithlon, ac na ddylai cyngor mewn ardal adeiledig o'r fath wario unrhyw beth tebyg i'r swm o arian a warir ar wasanaethau o'r fath mewn ardal wledig fel Sir Fynwy?

Peter Law: Rhaid i Flaenau Gwent ddarparu gwasanaethau nad ydynt yn bodoli yn y sector preifat. Mae gennych wasanaethau sector preifat yn Sir Fynwy, ac eto ni fyddent byth gennym ni. Effeithir ar Flaenau Gwent gan drefniadau blaenorol sy'n deillio o'r wyth sir fawr, ac nid ydym erioed wedi dianc rhag hynny. Hyd yn oed gyda'r fformiwla ychwanegol hyn, mae angen mireinio materion, fel y crybwyllodd Gwenda y bore yma.

David Davies: Eich fformiwla chi yw hon; chi a'i lluniodd.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am already about to allow Peter Law 30 seconds for interventions.

Peter Law: To conclude, we have a duty to all communities in Wales.

Pauline Jarman: Will you give way?

The Presiding Officer: Order. I cannot allow more than 30 seconds for interventions, I am sorry.

Pauline Jarman: Peter, how will you explain to the people of Blaenau Gwent that the council tax increase in Newport is minus 1 per cent, and the council tax increase in Cardiff is plus 1 per cent, based on the Minister's figures?

Peter Law: Under the arrangements of the last Conservative Government, the council tax increase in Blaenau Gwent was 13 per cent, and it has gone down continuously under National Assembly funding to 8.8 per cent. Although that is still high, people in deprived communities with few resources are pleased that it is decreasing. It shows that this Minister is listening and that this Assembly Government is working on behalf of deprived people. I thank them for that.

12:05 p.m.

Dafydd Wigley: Difyr yw gweld bod Gwenda Thomas yn cytuno â beirniadaeth Janet Ryder o'r Llywodraeth. Yr wyf yn falch nad oedd Peter Black yn anghytuno â Gwenda. Mae'n amlwg bod y Llywodraeth dan y lach, o wrando ar Peter Law yn anghytuno â hi ar Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru. Mae'n amlwg nad oes cytundeb ymhlith y Llywodraeth ar y setliad hwn, ac nid wyf yn synnu. Dywedodd Ian Miller yn ddiweddar fod y cynnydd, mewn gwirionedd, yn 5.6 y cant, nid 8 y cant. Os yw Llundain wedi trosglwyddo digon o arian i dalu athrawon, pam mae angen talu £5.3 miliwn yn awr, a hynny, yn angenrheidiol, yn ôl-weithredol?

Yr wyf am ganolbwyntio ar effaith y setliad hwn ar yr heddlu yng Nghymru, ac ar ogledd Cymru, yn arbennig. Cyllidir yr heddlu o dair

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf eisoes ar fin caniatáu 30 eiliad i Peter Law am ymyriadau.

Peter Law: I gloi, mae gennym ddyletswydd i bob cymuned yng Nghymru.

Pauline Jarman: A ildiwch?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni allaf ganiatáu mwy na 30 eiliad ar gyfer ymyriadau, mae'n ddrwg gennyf.

Pauline Jarman: Peter, sut yr eglurwch wrth bobl Blaenau Gwent fod y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor yng Nghasnewydd 1 y cant yn llai, a bod y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor yng Nghaerdydd 1 y cant yn fwy, yn seiliedig ar ffigurau'r Gweinidog?

Peter Law: O dan drefniadau'r Llywodraeth Geidwadol ddiwethaf, yr oedd y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor ym Mlaenau Gwent yn 13 y cant, ac mae wedi gostwng yn barhaus o dan system ariannu'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i 8.8 y cant. Er bod hynny'n uchel o hyd, mae pobl mewn cymunedau difreintiedig sydd heb lawer o adnoddau yn falch ei fod yn gostwng. Dengys fod y Gweinidog yn gwranddo a bod y Llywodraeth Cynulliad hon yn gweithio ar ran pobl ddifreintiedig. Diolchaf iddynt am hynny.

Dafydd Wigley: It is interesting to see that Gwenda Thomas agrees with Janet Ryder's criticism of the Government. I am pleased that Peter Black did not disagree with Gwenda. It is obvious that the Government is under attack, given Peter Law's disagreement with it over the Wales Millennium Centre. It is clear that, unsurprisingly, there is some disagreement within the Government on this settlement, and no wonder. Ian Miller recently said that this increase, in reality, is not 8 per cent but 5.6 per cent. If London has transferred sufficient funds to pay teachers, why does £5.3 million need to be paid now and, of necessity, retrospectively?

I will concentrate on this settlement's effect on the police in Wales, and on north Wales, in particular. The police is funded from three

ffynhonnell. Daw 46 y cant o'i arian o'r Swyddfa Gartref, 32 y cant o grant cynnal refeniw a 22 y cant o drethi cyngor, drwy'r awdurdodau lleol. Mae'r ddadl heddiw yn berthnasol i 54 y cant o gyllid yr heddlu. Mae'r cyfraniad tuag at gyllid yr heddlu yn rhan hanfodol o fil y dreth gyngor, er nad yw llawer o dalwyr y dreth gyngor yn sylweddoli hynny. Ar gyfer 2002-03, mae'r heddlu'n amcangyfrif y bydd angen cynnydd o tua 6 y cant yn ei gyllid. Yn wir, mae'r Swyddfa Gartref yn cyfeirio at gynnydd o 6 y cant yn y cyllid am y gwaith. Er gwaethaf hynny, argymhellodd y Swyddfa Gartref gynnydd cyffredinol o ddim ond 2.8 y cant yng nghyllid uniongyrchol lluoedd yr heddlu. Dim ond 2.3 y cant yw'r cynnydd a ddarperir ar gyfer Heddlu Gogledd Cymru. Mae'n wir bod cronfeydd ychwanegol ar gael—er enghraifft, y gronfa ymladd trosedd—ond mae amodau tynn ar yr rhain ac nid yw lluoedd yn eu cael yn awtomatig. Dychwelaf at hynny.

Mewn cyferbyniad â'r cynnydd o 2.8 y cant, mae awdurdodau'r heddlu yn wynebu cynnydd o 3.5 y cant mewn cyflogau, a chyflogau yw deuparth costau'r heddlu. Mae'n wynebu cynnydd uwch o lawer mewn cost pensiynau. Disgrifiodd Ruth Henig, cadeirydd Cymdeithas Awdurdodau'r Heddlu, y cynnydd fel un mynegrifol. O ystyried hyn oll, mae cyfartaledd chwyddiant yng Nghymru yn 4.9 y cant, a thyfiant anochel costau—megis costau yswiriant—yn 1 y cant. Dyna gyfanswm o 5.9 y cant. Yn y setliad, yn nyraniad y Cynulliad i'r heddlu, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gosod ffigur o 4 y cant ar gyfer cyfraniad y Cynulliad. Pe bai'r cynnydd yng nghyfraniad llywodraeth leol yn debyg, byddai Heddlu Gogledd Cymru yn wynebu diffyg o 1.9 y cant, sef £1.6 miliwn. Byddai'n gorfod gwaredu tua 30 o heddweision er mwyn ymdopi â'r diffyg hwnnw a, thrwy wneud hynny, byddai'n colli ei hawl i gael arian ychwanegol o'r gronfa yn Llundain. Felly, byddai'n colli 30 heddwac ac yn colli'r cyfle posibl i gael 38 heddwac ychwanegol wedi'u cyllido gan y gronfa arbennig honno. Dyna 68 o heddweision yn llai o ganlyniad.

Fe all, wrth gwrs, droi at y dreth gyngor. Dyna pam y gwneuthum ymyriad yn ystod

sources. Forty-six per cent of its money comes from the Home Office, 32 per cent from the revenue support grant and 22 per cent from council tax, through the local authorities. Today's debate is relevant to 54 per cent of police funding. The contribution to police funding is an essential part of the council tax bill, though many council tax payers do not realise that. For 2002-03, the police estimate that an increase of 6 per cent is needed in its budget. Indeed, the Home Office refers to a 6 per cent increase in the budget for the work. Despite that, the Home Office only recommended a 2.8 per cent general increase in terms of direct funding for police forces. The increase provided for North Wales Police is only 2.3 per cent. It is true that additional sources of funding are available—for example, the crime fighting fund—but there are stringent conditions on these funds and the forces do not get them as a matter of course. I will return to that matter.

In contrast to the increase of 2.8 per cent police authorities face wage increases of 3.5 per cent, and wages make up for two thirds of police costs. They face substantially higher increases in pension costs. Ruth Henig, the chair of the Association of Police Authorities, described the increase as an exponential one. Taking all this into account, the average inflation level in Wales is 4.9 per cent, and unavoidable increases in costs—such as insurance costs—are at 1 per cent. That is a total of 5.9 per cent. In the settlement, in the police allocation that comes from the Assembly, the Government of Wales has set a figure of 4 per cent for the Assembly's contribution. If the increase in the local government contribution were about the same, North Wales Police would be facing a deficit of 1.9 per cent, or £1.6 million. It would be forced to cut back around 30 officers in order to deal with that deficit and, in doing so, it would lose its right to receive additional funding from the reserve in London. Therefore, it would lose 30 officers and miss out on a potential increase of 38 additional officers funded by that special reserve. That is 68 fewer police officers as a consequence.

It could, of course, turn to the council tax. That is why I intervened during the

araith agoriadol y Gweinidog, i ofyn am sicrwydd bod gan yr heddlu yr hawl i ofyn am fwy na 4 y cant o'r dreth gyngor er mwyn diogelu'r cynnydd hwnnw yn nifer yr heddwision, rhywbeth y mae pobl gogledd Cymru ei eisiau. Mae pŵl yn seiliedig ar ffigurau mis Rhagfyr 2001, yn dangos bod 75 y cant o bobl gogledd Cymru yn fodlon cyllido'r cynnydd hwnnw. Mae angen heddwision yn ein pentrefi a'n trefi. Mae pobl eisiau hynny. Gobeithio y bydd y Llywodraeth yn caniatáu cynnydd digonol, o'r Cynulliad neu drwy'r dreth gyngor, i sicrhau hynny.

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): I will deal with Dafydd Wigley and William Graham's points on police funding first. Members have already raised this issue directly with me as a result of police authorities' representations and their excellent media campaign on policing matters. We must make it clear that the Home Office increased the grant by only 2.8 per cent, as Dafydd said, instead of 4 per cent. In Wales, unlike England, we have allowed the police authorities to retain the resources that previously would have been paid to support the National Crime Squad and the National Criminal Intelligence Service. That has given them a windfall of £4 million, the equivalent of 1 per cent of their budgets. Therefore, in terms of the settlement that it has provided, the National Assembly for Wales has dealt fairly with the police. The Home Office, by reducing its grant support, is centralising its control by challenging police authorities to submit competitive bids to get money back. It is effectively a grant regime. I hope that the police authorities put sufficient effort into trying to get this money back from the Home Office by this grants mechanism. It is not an issue that we have a locus within, because we have consistently supported the police in the areas that we can in the National Assembly for Wales.

I have not capped police authorities, I have only asked them to act responsibly and consider the views of local taxpayers. Of course, councillors who serve on police

Minister's opening speech, to seek an assurance that the police has the right to request more than 4 per cent from the council tax to safeguard that increase in the number of police officers, something that the people of north Wales wish to see. A poll based on figures from December 2001, shows that 75 per cent of people in north Wales are prepared to finance that increase. Police officers are needed in our villages and towns. People want that. I hope that the Government allows a sufficient increase, from the Assembly or via the council tax, to ensure that.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Ymdriniaf yn gyntaf â phwyntiau Dafydd Wigley a William Graham ar ariannu'r heddlu. Mae'r Aelodau eisoes wedi codi'r mater hwn yn uniongyrchol gyda mi o ganlyniad i sylwadau awdurdodau'r heddlu a'u hymgyrch wych ar y cyfryngau ar faterion plismona. Rhaid inni egluro mai dim ond 2.8 y cant y cynyddodd y Swyddfa Gartref y grant, fel y dywedodd Dafydd, yn lle 4 y cant. Yng Nghymru, yn wahanol i Loegr, yr ydym wedi caniatáu i awdurdodau'r heddlu gadw'r adnoddau a fyddai wedi eu talu'n flaenorol i gefnogi'r Heddlu Troseddau Cenedlaethol a'r Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth Droseddol Cenedlaethol. Rhoddodd hynny y swm annisgwyl o £4 miliwn iddynt, sy'n cyfateb i un y cant o'u cyllidebau. Felly, o ran y setliad a roddodd, mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru wedi delio'n deg â'r heddlu. Mae'r Swyddfa Gartref, drwy leihau ei chymorth grantiau, yn canoli ei rheolaeth drwy herio awdurdodau'r heddlu i gyflwyno cynigion cystadleuol i adennill yr arian. Yn y bôn, system grantiau ydyw. Gobeithiaf y bydd awdurdodau'r heddlu yn gwneud digon o ymdrech i adennill yr arian oddi wrth y Swyddfa Gartref drwy gyfrwng y dull grantiau hwn. Nid yw'n fater y mae gennym gyfrifoldeb yn ei gylch, oherwydd yr ydym wedi cefnogi'r heddlu'n gyson yn yr ardaloedd lle y gallwn yng Nghynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

Nid wyf wedi capio awdurdodau'r heddlu, yr wyf ond wedi gofyn iddynt ymddwyn yn gyfrifol ac ystyried safbwyntiau trethdalwyr lleol. Wrth gwrs, y cynghorwyr sy'n

authorities will be best placed to take those views into account. I hope that Members understand my position on police funding clearly.

I will also comment on another few points. David, you had better start reading the papers on this, because you have the sixth lowest rate of council tax in Wales and the highest percentage increase in standard spending assessments. I do not want to hear any moaning from you about council tax levels, or anything else, in Monmouthshire, which has done nicely over a range of areas.

I am surprised at Pauline Jarman's comments, given that she is the leader of a local authority and a member of the Welsh Local Government Association. I do not know of any local authorities that have set their council tax yet. Please name one that has discussed it. I do not know of one that has yet finalised its budget. When you talk about concessionary travel for pensioners and the £16.5 million in the settlement, there has been extensive discussion with local authorities and bus operators in the groups that were established to take this forward. The additional funding reflects the local authorities' assessment. The WLGA had an opportunity to propose changes in the distribution formula. That has yet to be taken up. I am always mindful that if you want changes in the distribution formula and want to consider these issues, there is a venue for them to be taken up.

Let us turn now to the myth of teachers' pay. A sum of £26 million was included in the revenue support grant baseline recurrently, which is upgraded. In 2001-02 we agreed to meet the cost. In 2003 we have given the authorities sufficient resources. I have had representations from the Welsh Local Government Association about the pressures of teachers' pay and teachers' special pay in particular. I have said that I am prepared to consider the issue this year in the light of any further information that local authorities can give me. This threshold is not a scientific art. You cannot guarantee that some people will get this much and that others will get that much and that everything will be in position. You must be flexible at times. There is

gwasanaethu ar awdurdodau'r heddlu fydd y bobl orau i ystyried y safbwyntiau hynny. Gobeithiaf y bydd yr Aelodau yn deall fy safbwynt ar ariannu heddluoedd yn glir.

Nodaf hefyd rai pwyntiau eraill. David, byddai'n well i chi ddechrau darllen y papurau ynglŷn â hyn, oherwydd chi sydd â'r chweched gyfradd treth gyngor isaf yng Nghymru a'r cynnydd canrannol uchaf mewn asesiadau gwariant safonol. Nid wyf am glywed unrhyw gwyno gennyh ynglŷn â lefelau'r dreth gyngor, nac unrhyw beth arall, yn Sir Fynwy, sydd wedi gwneud yn eithaf da dros ag ystod o feysydd.

Synnaf at sylwadau Pauline Jarman, o gofio ei bod yn arweinydd awdurdod lleol ac yn aelod o Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. Ni wn am unrhyw awdurdod lleol sydd wedi pennu ei dreth gyngor eto. Enwch un sydd wedi trafod hyn. Ni wn am un sydd wedi cwblhau ei gyllideb eto. Pan soniwyd am docynnau mantais i bensynwyr a'r £16.5 miliwn yn y setliad, bu cryn drafodaeth gydag awdurdodau lleol a gweithredwyr bysiau yn y grwpiau a sefydlwyd i ddatblygu hyn. Mae'r arian ychwanegol yn adlewyrchu asesiad yr awdurdodau lleol. Cafodd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru gyfle i gynnig newidiadau i'r fformiwla ddsbarthu. Ni thrafodwyd hynny eto. Cadwaf mewn cof bob tro, os ydych am newid y fformiwla ddsbarthu ac am ystyried y materion hyn, bod lleoliad ar gael i'w trafod.

Gadewch inni droi yn awr at fyth tâl athrawon. Cynhwyswyd £26 miliwn yn y grant cynnal refeniw sylfaenol ar sail reolaidd, a gaiff ei uwchraddio. Yn 2001-02 cytunasom i dalu'r gost. Yn 2003 yr ydym wedi rhoi digon o adnoddau i'r awdurdodau. Cefais sylwadau gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ynglŷn â phwysau tâl athrawon a thâl arbennig athrawon yn benodol. Dywedais fy mod yn barod i ystyried y mater eleni yng ngoleuni unrhyw wybodaeth bellach y gall yr awdurdodau lleol ei rhoi i mi. Nid gwyddor mo'r trothwy hwn. Ni allwch warantu y bydd rhai pobl yn cael un swm ac eraill yn cael swm arall ac y bydd popeth yn ei le. Rhaid ichi fod yn hyblyg bob tro. Mae llawer o arian yn y setliad eisoes a

already a lot of money in the settlement and we have made a full commitment in that regard.

It is important that we consider the other issues raised in today's discussion. I do not take too kindly to Janet Ryder's comments. You either believe in local democracy, whereby local councils get on with the business, or you do not. You either believe that there should be hypothecation or that there should not. You cannot say that local authorities should have more money for these new burdens and so on, when you are not prepared to say how you would redistribute the budget.

Yesterday, I watched with interest the discussions in the Health and Social Services Committee, when Jane made an excellent announcement on debt issues. This is generally welcomed across Wales. Some people have said that it is unfair to those health authorities that have been prudent. However, there are issues over and above that. We must improve the service. You cannot take actions to improve the service and at the same time say that more money is needed for local government and so on. You must be clear that if you want to change things, you must change the overall budget. Do not come here and whinge that you want more money for waste management and so on. You must be prepared to say from where that money will come.

Several serious points were made during the debate. I will refer to comments made by Gwenda Thomas, the Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee. She is also a member of the consultative forum on finance.

Huw Lewis: I do not want to let the debate pass without echoing some of Gwenda's concerns. I share her serious concerns about the effects of the formula, which continue to punish rather than support some of the most deprived communities in Wales. In Merthyr, for example, the formula, which converts changes in population into grant, exacerbates the problem of a population decreasing as a result of deprivation. There is no doubt that that will entail a disproportionate council tax increase. Do you agree that, because of the

gwnaethom ymrwymiad llawn yn hynny o beth.

Mae'n bwysig inni ystyried y materion eraill a godwyd yn nhrefodaeth heddiw. Ni chroesawaf sylwadau Janet Ryder. Yr ydych naill ai'n credu mewn democratiaeth leol, lle y mae cynghorau lleol yn cyflawni eu busnes neu ddim yn credu. Yr ydych naill ai'n credu y dylid pridiannu neu na ddylid pridiannu. Ni allwch ddweud y dylai awdurdodau lleol gael mwy o arian ar gyfer y beichiau newydd hyn ac yn y blaen, pan nad ydych yn barod i ddweud sut y byddech yn ailddosbarthu'r gyllideb.

Ddoe gwyliais y trafodaethau yn y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol gyda diddordeb, pan wnaeth Jane gyhoeddiad rhagorol ar faterion dyledion. Croesewir hyn yn gyffredinol ledled Cymru. Mae rhai pobl wedi dweud ei bod yn annheg i'r awdurdodau iechyd hynny a fu'n ddarbodus. Fodd bynnag, mae materion eraill i'w hystyried. Rhaid inni wella'r gwasanaeth. Ni allwch gymryd camau i wella'r gwasanaeth ac ar yr un pryd ddweud bod angen rhagor o arian ar gyfer llywodraeth leol ac yn y blaen. Rhaid ichi fod yn glir bod yn rhaid newid y gyllideb gyffredinol os ydych am newid pethau. Peidiwch â dod yma a chwyno eich bod am gael rhagor o arian i reoli gwastraff ac yn y blaen. Rhaid ichi fod yn barod i ddweud o ble y daw'r arian hwnnw.

Gwnaed sawl pwynt pwysig yn ystod y ddadl. Cyfeiriaf at sylwadau a wnaed gan Gwenda Thomas, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai. Mae hefyd yn aelod o'r fforwm ymgynghorol ar gyllid.

Huw Lewis: Nid wyf am i'r ddadl orffen heb adleisio rhai o bryderon Gwenda. Rhannaf ei phryderon difrifol ynglŷn ag effeithiau'r fformiwla, sy'n parhau i gosbi yn hytrach na chefnogi rhai o'r cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Ym Merthyr Tudful, er enghraifft, mae'r fformiwla, sy'n trosi newidiadau yn y boblogaeth yn grantiau, yn dwysáu'r broblem o boblogaeth yn lleihau o ganlyniad i amddifadedd. Yn ddiau, bydd hynny'n golygu cynnydd anghyfartal yn y dreth gyngor. A gytunwch, oherwydd y gerio

high gearing, a small variation in grant has an unacceptably large effect on the level of council tax paid by my constituents? Can you assure me that the formula will be revisited in light of these problems, particularly as they impact upon school enrolments? It is not working in my constituency.

12:15 p.m.

Edwina Hart: You raise a serious issue, which has begun to emerge, of how grant distribution should respond to the circumstances of a declining population. It is also an issue in Neath Port Talbot, particularly where the school population is declining rapidly.

When the grants for the local authority directly and rapidly follow such decline, we may be adding to the problems in that community, encouraging further population decline. That is an issue. It might also be contradictory to reduce the support contained in the local government settlement while investing large sums of money in special regeneration initiatives.

I accept that there is a problem. Limiting the rate of change in the standard spending assessment in any year would help in the short term. To be honest, I do not have a full answer to your question, because you are only talking about between 6 and 9 per cent. If it is helpful, Huw, I will raise this issue at the consultative forum on finance and report back to Members. The Assembly and local government might want to debate the issue in that particular arena.

If I can continue to respond to Gwenda's points—

Karen Sinclair: On the formula, Denbighshire County Council is having a problem with data, which will impact on its budget. Ann Jones and I have made representations to the Assembly on this, but only in the last day or so. Will you take a sympathetic look at the matter, and see what you can do for Denbighshire council, which is in a difficult position through no fault of its own?

uchel, y caiff amrywiad bach yn y grant effaith fawr ar lefel y dreth gyngor a delir gan fy etholwyr? A allwch fy sicrhau yr aildrafodir y fformiwla yng ngoleuni'r problemau hyn, yn arbennig gan eu bod yn effeithio ar gofrestrïadau ysgolion? Nid yw'n gweithio yn fy etholaeth i.

Edwina Hart: Codwch fater difrifol, sydd wedi dechrau dod i'r golwg, sef sut y dylai dosbarthiad grantiau ymateb i amgylchiadau poblogaeth sy'n lleihau. Mae hefyd yn broblem yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot, lle mae nifer y plant ysgol yn gostwng yn gyflym.

Pan fydd y grantiau ar gyfer yr awdurdod lleol yn uniongyrchol ac yn gyflym yn dilyn gostyngiad o'r fath, efallai ein bod yn ychwanegu at y problemau yn y gymuned honno, gan annog gostyngiad pellach yn y boblogaeth. Mae hynny'n broblem. Efallai ei fod yn anghyson hefyd i leihau'r gefnogaeth a gynhwysir yn y setliad llywodraeth leol tra'n buddsoddi symiau mawr o arian mewn mentrau adfywio arbennig.

Derbyniaf fod yna broblem. Byddai cyfyngu'r gyfradd newid yn yr asesiad gwariant safonol mewn unrhyw flwyddyn yn helpu yn y byrdymor. A bod yn onest, nid oes ateb gennyf i'ch cwestiwn, oherwydd yr ydych ond yn sôn am rhwng 6 a 9 y cant. Huw, fe godaf y mater hwn yn y fforwm ymgynghorol ar gyllid ac adrodd yn ôl i'r Aelodau, os bydd hynny o gymorth. Efallai yr hoffai'r Cynulliad a llywodraeth leol drafod y mater yn yr arena benodol honno.

Os gallaf barhau i ymateb i bwyntiau Gwenda—

Karen Sinclair: O ran y fformiwla, mae Cyngor Sir Ddinbych yn cael problem gyda'r data, a fydd yn effeithio ar ei gyllideb. Gwnaeth Ann Jones a minnau sylwadau i'r Cynulliad ar hyn, ond dim ond yn y diwrnod neu ddau diwethaf. A ystyriwch y mater â chydymdeimlad, a gweld beth y gallwch ei wneud ar gyfer cyngor Sir Ddinbych, sydd mewn sefyllfa anodd er nad hwy sydd ar fai am hyn?

Edwina Hart: This refers to data that was prepared by consultants early on. I am carefully considering Denbighshire council's position, and can, hopefully, advise you next week.

To continue with my response to Gwenda's points, I agree that we cannot be satisfied with the implementation of the formula until the new data, particularly on social services, is incorporated. We are reliant on local government to provide that data. I have been told that it is not yet available, even for next year. However, I will revisit the issue to speed up the provision, to try to ensure that data is available next year, because it impacts on the formula.

Gwenda also argued that there has been too much instability in the factors contributing to the standard spending assessment formula. She cited Neath Port Talbot in this respect, where a collection of factors have emerged to give the lowest increases in SSA in Wales. I share your concerns. I commit myself to investigating the means of placing proper limits on how much the percentage increase in the SSA, or grant, to any authority deviates from the average increase. We can examine that over the next year.

To return to the comments on the formula, we are where we are. Peter Law did not pluck it from the air; nor did the WLGA. Much work was done on it, and it was hoped that certain authorities would benefit from it. It is important to recognise that work on the formula is ongoing.

Finally, I am sick and tired of people referring to those local authorities in receipt of arranged transitional relief as high-spending, Labour, profligate authorities. They are not. Those shouting that they are should get their facts right about who is receiving the money. They are not all Labour authorities. You should also read my report in that respect.

It is useful to remember that many of these authorities face real difficulties—population

Edwina Hart: Cyfeiria hyn at ddata a baratowyd gan ymgynghorwyr yn gynnar yn y broses. Yr wyf yn ystyried sefyllfa cyngor Sir Ddinbych yn ofalus a gallaf, gobeithio, eich hysbysu yr wythnos nesaf.

I barhau â'm hymateb i bwyntiau Gwenda, cytunaf na allwn fod yn fodlon ar weithredu'r fformiwla hyd nes yr ymgorfforir y data newydd, yn arbennig ar wasanaethau cymdeithasol. Yr ydym yn dibynnu ar lywodraeth leol i ddarparu'r data hwnnw. Dywedwyd wrthyf nad yw ar gael eto, hyd yn oed ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf. Fodd bynnag, byddaf yn dychwelyd at y mater i gyflymu'r ddarpariaeth, er mwyn ceisio sicrhau bod data ar gael y flwyddyn nesaf, oherwydd mae'n effeithio ar y fformiwla.

Dadleuodd Gwenda hefyd y bu gormod o ansefydlogrwydd o lawer yn y ffactorau sy'n cyfrannu at y fformiwla asesiad gwariant safonol. Enwodd Gastell-nedd Port Talbot yn hyn o beth, lle mae casgliad o ffactorau wedi dod i'r golwg i roi'r cynnydd isaf yn yr asesiad gwariant safonol yng Nghymru. Rhannaf eich pryderon. Yr wyf yn ymrwymo i ymchwilio i'r modd y pennir terfynau cywir ar faint y mae'r cynnydd canrannol yn yr asesiad gwariant safonol, neu'r grant, i unrhyw awdurdod, yn gwyro oddi wrth y cynnydd cyfartalog. Gallwn archwilio hynny yn ystod y flwyddyn nesaf.

I ddychwelyd at y sylwadau ar y fformiwla, yr ydym lle yr ydym. Ni thynnwd hyn o het gan Peter Law; na Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ychwaith. Gwnaed llawer o waith ar hyn, a'r gobaith oedd y byddai awdurdodau penodol yn elwa arno. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod bod gwaith ar y fformiwla yn mynd rhagddo.

Yn olaf, yr wyf wedi hen flino ar bobl sy'n cyfeirio at yr awdurdodau lleol hynny sy'n cael rhyddhad trosiannol a drefnir fel awdurdodau Llafur, afrad, â gwariant uchel. Nid ydynt. Dylai'r rheini sy'n bloeddio hyn sicrhau bod eu ffeithiau ynglŷn â phwy sy'n cael yr arian yn gywir. Nid awdurdodau Llafur mohonynt i gyd. Dylech hefyd ddarllen fy adroddiad yn hynny o beth.

Mae'n ddefnyddiol cofio bod llawer o'r awdurdodau hyn yn wynebu anawsterau

decline and changing circumstances. We are duty bound to help these poor areas, and not to criticise them in the Chamber. Council tax is a matter for local authorities. We have given them a good settlement this year and last year, but you cannot quickly undo the damage done over a long period of time by a previous administration.

gwirioneddol—lleihad mewn poblogaeth ac amgylchiadau sy'n newid. Mae'n ddyletswydd arnom i helpu'r ardaloedd tlawd hynny, a pheidio â'u beirniadu yn y Siambr. Mater i awdurdodau lleol yw'r dreth gyngor. Rhoddwyd setliad da iddynt eleni a'r llynedd, ond ni allwch ddadwneud y difrod a wnaed dros gyfnod hir o amser gan weinyddiaeth flaenorol.

Y Llywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar y cynnig cyntaf.

The Presiding Officer: We will now vote on the first motion.

*Cynnig: O blaid 38, Ymatal 13, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 38, Abstain 13, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Dafis, Cynog
Davies, Geraint

Hancock, Brian
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar yr ail **The Presiding Officer:** We will now vote on the second motion.

*Cynnig: O blaid 50, Ymatal 1, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 50, Abstain 1, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny

Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

Ymataliodd yr Aelod canlynol:
The following Member abstained:

Davies, Janet

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar y **The Presiding Officer:** We will now vote
trydydd cynnig. on the third motion.

*Cynnig: O blaid 37, Ymatal 13, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 37, Abstain 13, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Dafis, Cynog
Davies, Geraint
Hancock, Brian
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar y **The Presiding Officer:** We will now vote
pedwerydd cynnig. on the fourth motion.

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

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David

Lloyd, Val
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Rogers, Peter
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 12.20 p.m.
 The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 12.20 p.m.*

Datganiad gan y Trefnydd Statement by the Minister for Assembly Business

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): The motion on the annual sustainable development report scheduled for debate today will not be proposed because of the time. I have informed party business managers of this. I will reschedule the debate at the earliest possible opportunity, hopefully for 5 February.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *rose—*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Are you going to propose the motion?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: No. I want to respond to the Minister for Assembly Business.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Unless you are proposing the motion, you cannot speak. There cannot be a debate on this motion if it is not proposed.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: In that case, I raise a point of order. The Minister for Assembly Business said that this item would not be debated today because of the time. The motion asked us to approve the annual report. There is no annual report. Is the Minister telling us that this debate is being pulled because there is no annual report to approve? Does it not prove again that all his attempts

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Ni chaiff y cynnig ar yr adroddiad datblygu cynaliadwy blynyddol a amserlenwyd ar gyfer dadl heddiw ei gynnig oherwydd diffyg amser. Yr wyf wedi hysbysu rheolwyr busnes y pleidiau o hyn. Byddaf yn ail-drefnu'r ddadl cyn gynted â phosibl, gobeithio ar gyfer 5 Chwefror.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *a gododd—*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: A ydych am gynnig y cynnig?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Nac ydwyf. Yr wyf am ymateb i'r Trefnydd.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Os nad ydych yn cynnig y cynnig, ni chewch siarad. Ni ellir cynnal dadl ar y cynnig hwn os na chaiff ei gynnig.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Os felly, codaf bwynt o drefn. Dywedodd y Trefnydd na chaiff y mater hwn ei drafod heddiw oherwydd yr amser. Gofynnodd y cynnig inni gymeradwyo'r adroddiad blynyddol. Nid oes adroddiad blynyddol. A yw'r Gweinidog yn dweud wrthym y caiff y ddadl hon ei gohirio am nad oes adroddiad blynyddol i'w gymeradwyo? Onid yw'n profi unwaith eto

to organise business in the Chamber are unsustainable?

bod ei holl ymdrechion i drefnu busnes yn y Siambr yn anghynnaladwy?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That is not a point of order for me. The motion will not be proposed today. The Minister has heard your comments, Rhodri. I am sure that we will return to the substance of this report in due course.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Nid yw hynny yn bwynt o drefn imi. Ni chaiff y cynnig ei gynneg heddiw. Clywodd y Gweinidog eich sylwadau, Rhodri. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwn yn dychwelyd at sylwedd yr adroddiad hwn maes o law.

Cymeradwyo'r Datganiad ar yr Amserlen o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 5.2 Approval of the Periodic Timetable Statement under Standing Order No. 5.2

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): I propose that

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly notes the proposed three-month timetable of Assembly business laid in the Table Office on 16 January 2002, under Standing Order No. 5.1. (NDM927)

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn nodi'r amserlen tri mis arfaethedig o fusnes y Cynulliad a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 16 Ionawr 2002, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 5.1.(NDM927)

The Deputy Presiding Officer: As there are no speakers on this motion, we will move to a vote.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gan nad oes unrhyw siaradwyr ar y cynnig hwn, awn ymlaen i bleidleisio.

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

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David

Lloyd, Val
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Randerson, Jenny
 Rogers, Peter
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion approved.*

Pwyntiau o Drefn Points of Order

Gareth Jones: Pwynt o drefn. Yn ystod y ddadl flaenorol, anghofiais ddatgan buddiant fel athro cofrestredig ac aelod o Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy.

Gareth Jones: Point of order. During the previous debate, I forgot to declare an interest as a registered teacher and a member of Conwy County Borough Council.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pwynt o drefn. Gofynnais gwestiwn atodol yn gynharach ynglŷn â chais Caerdydd i fod yn Brifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop yn 2008. Dylwn fod wedi datgan fy mod yn aelod o'r bwrdd ar gyfer y cais hwnnw.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Point of order. Earlier this morning, I asked a supplementary question about Cardiff's bid to be Cultural Capital of Europe in 2008. I should have declared that I am a member of the board of directors for that bid.

Sue Essex: Point of order. During the debate on higher education on Tuesday, I should have declared an interest as a registered lecturer.

Sue Essex: Pwynt o drefn. Yn ystod y ddadl ar addysg uwch ddydd Mawrth, dylwn fod wedi datgan buddiant fel darlithydd cofrestredig.

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Nid yw Curo Pobl yn Iawn, ac mae Plant yn Bobl Hefyd Hitting People is Wrong, and Children are People Too

Christine Chapman: I have received requests from Pauline Jarman, John Griffiths and Kirsty Williams to contribute to the debate.

Christine Chapman: Derbyniais geisiadau gan Pauline Jarman, John Griffiths a Kirsty Williams i gyfrannu i'r ddadl.

Is this scene familiar to you? You are out shopping in the street, and a toddler who is red in the face refuses to remain in his pushchair. A fed-up mother tries without success to coax him back in. Time is against her. She must return home to pick up her older child from school. The toddler lies on the pavement whining while passers-by look on, some with sympathy and others with

A yw'r olygfa hon yn gyfarwydd ichi? Yr ydych allan ar y stryd yn siopa, ac mae plentyn bach â'i wyneb yn goch yn gwrthod aros yn ei goets. Mae ei fam wedi diflasu ac yn aflwyddiannus yn ei hymgais i'w ddenu yn ôl i'r goets. Mae amser yn ei herbyn. Rhaid iddi ddychwelyd gartref er mwyn casglu'r plentyn hŷn o'r ysgol. Mae'r plentyn yn gorwedd ar y palmant yn cwyno wrth i

annoyance. Growing more embarrassed by the minute, she remembers how late she is. She cannot take the accusing looks any longer. Her patience finally snaps and, without further thought, she grabs the child and gives him a sharp blow to the legs. The child stops for a moment then lets out a scream.

12:25 p.m.

To smack or not to smack is often a taboo subject. It is also a subject that generates strong emotion. As a parent, I admit to having smacked my children, but the sense of guilt is still with me today. Many people claim, 'It did not do me any harm'. I would argue that it does harm. To be blunt, smacking is a euphemism for physical assault, which is a human rights issue. As a newly devolved institution, with the core value of equality underpinning our deliberations, human rights should matter to us all. In recent weeks, outrage has been expressed about the possible violation of human rights suffered by Afghan prisoners in Guantanamo Bay. There is nothing wrong with expressing such views, but should not children's human rights be just as important to us?

The UK, along with 182 countries, formally recognised children's equal right to protection from all physical and mental violence when it ratified the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child. That right is routinely upheld for most children in institutional settings and foster care but, worryingly, it is contravened daily in countless homes where children are smacked.

Public opinion needs to be challenged from time to time. The proposals to abolish slavery and wife-beating generations ago were once met with resistance and outrage, but who would want to turn the clock back? Smacking will be seen in the same light in years to come. The Assembly should bring pressure to bear to end the physical punishment of children. Let us build on the progress that we have made so far in Wales. We have created the UK's first children's commissioner, with the aim of ensuring that the children of Wales

bobl fynd heibio a syllu, rhai mewn cydymdeimlad ac eraill yn flin. Gan deimlo mwy o gywilydd wrth y funud, mae'r fam yn cofio mor hwyr ydyw. Ni all oddef yr edrychiadau cynhuddgar mwyach. Mae'n colli ei hamynedd, a heb feddwl rhagor, mae'n gafael yn y plentyn a rhoi ergyd galed ar ei goesau. Mae'r plentyn yn tawelu am eiliad ac yna'n rhoi sgrech.

Mae curo neu beidio â churo yn aml yn bwnc tabŵ. Mae hefyd yn bwnc sy'n cyffroi'r emosiynau. Fel rhiant, cyfaddefaf imi guro fy mhlant, ond mae'r euogrwydd wedi aros gyda mi hyd heddiw. Mae llawer o bobl yn hawlio, 'Ni wnaeth unrhyw ddrwg imi'. Byddwn i'n dadlau ei bod yn gwneud drwg. A bod yn blaen, mae curo yn air llednais am drais corfforol, sy'n fater hawliau dynol. Fel sefydliad newydd-ddatganoledig, gyda gwerthoedd canolog cydraddoldeb yn sail i'n trafodaethau, dylai hawliau dynol fod yn fater i bob un ohonom. Ers rhai wythnosau, mynegwyd dicter am yr ymyriad posibl â hawliau dynol carcharorion Affgan ym Mae Guantanamo. Nid oes unrhyw beth o'i le ynglŷn â mynegi barn o'r fath, ond oni ddylai hawliau dynol plant fod yr un mor bwysig inni?

Mae'r DU, ynghyd â 182 o wledydd eraill, wedi cydnabod yn ffurfiol hawliau plant i gael eu diogelu rhag pob trais corfforol a meddyliol pan gadarnhaodd Gofensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau Plant. Caiff yr hawl honno ei chynnal fel mater o reol yn achos y rhan fwyaf o blant o fewn sefydliadau a gofal maeth, ond caiff ei thorri yn ddyddiol mewn cymaint o gartrefi lle y caiff plant eu curo, sy'n peri pryder.

Rhaid herio barn gyhoeddus o bryd i'w gilydd. Gwrthwynebwyd y cynigion i ddileu caethwasiaeth a churo gwragedd flynyddoedd yn ôl a chythruddwyd pobl, ond pwy fyddai am droi'r cloc yn ôl? Ymhen ychydig flynyddoedd, ystyrir curo yn yr un modd. Dylai'r Cynulliad bwysu am derfyn i gosbi plant yn gorfforol. Gadewch inni adeiladu ar yr hyn a gyflawnwyd gennym eisoes yng Nghymru. Crëwyd comisiynydd plant cyntaf y DU gan Gymru, gyda'r nod o sicrhau y caiff plant eu diogelu a'u cynrychioli ym

are safeguarded and represented in all that we do. We also went our own way on childminding. While Westminster decided to allow parents to give consent to childminders to use physical punishment, the Assembly has proposed that childminders in Wales should never shake, smack or humiliate children.

However, more needs to be done. The law as it stands states that the defence of 'reasonable chastisement' can be used if an assault charge is made as a consequence of the physical punishment of a child. I question that. A case recently came to light in which a four-year-old child was whipped by his father with a belt for, among other things, refusing to write his name. The father was acquitted of assault on the grounds that it constituted reasonable chastisement. Last November, the Government refused to change this law, and simply agreed to keep it under review. However, I believe that there should be a total ban.

We cannot ignore the voices of children in all of this. Yesterday, I talked to a group of children who, almost unanimously, wanted smacking to be banned. Recent surveys carried out in England and Wales have provided interesting perspectives. Given the acknowledged risks of hitting young children around the head, it was worrying to hear from children who still had experience of such punishment. Children also pointed out that smacking may also encourage similar patterns of behaviour. One nine-year-old stated that

'children probably behave worse because they will go around doing it to other children in the playground'.

A seven-year-old boy maintained that the reason children did not hit their parents back was because

'they are bigger and older and they might hurt you back, and they might be silly when they are drunk and they might hit you'.

The children were fully aware that adults are bigger and more powerful than they are. However, does this not simply reinforce the notion that someone more powerful is entitled to use violence to get his or her own way? Is this the message that we want our

mhopeth a wnawn. Yr ydym wedi torri ein cwys ein hunain hefyd ym maes gwarchod plant. Er i San Steffan benderfynu caniatáu i rieni roi'r hawl i warchodwyr plant ddefnyddio cosb gorfforol, cynigiodd y Cynulliad na ddylai gwarchodwyr plant yng Nghymru fyth ysgwyd, curo na bychanu plant.

Fodd bynnag, rhaid gwneud mwy. Mae'r gyfraith fel y saif yn nodi y gellir defnyddio 'cerydd rhesymol' fel amddiffyniad os cyhuddir rhywun o ymosodiad yn dilyn cosbi plentyn yn gorfforol. Cwestiynaf hynny. Daeth achos i'r wyneb yn ddiweddar lle y cafodd plentyn pedair oed ei chwipio â belt gan ei dad am wrthod ysgrifennu ei enw, ymysg pethau eraill. Rhyddfarnwyd y tad o ymosod ar y sail ei fod yn gerydd rhesymol. Fis Tachwedd diwethaf, gwrthododd y Llywodraeth newid y gyfraith hon, gan gytuno i'w hadolygu yn unig. Fodd bynnag, credaf y dylid cael gwaharddiad llwyr.

Ni allwn anwybyddu llais plant yn hyn i gyd. Ddoe, siaradais a grŵp o blant oedd yn unfryd o blaid gwahardd curo. Mae arolygon diweddar a gynhaliwyd yng Nghymru a Lloegr yn cynnig safbwyntiau diddorol. O gofio'r risgiau cydnabyddedig o guro plant ifanc o amgylch eu pen, yr oedd yn peri pryder imi glywed plant yn dweud eu bod yn parhau i brofi'r fath gerydd. Nodai'r plant hefyd y gallai curo annog plant i ymddwyn yn debyg. Dywedodd un plentyn naw oed:

Mynnodd bachgen saith oed mai'r rheswm nad oedd plant yn curo eu rheini yn ôl oedd

Yr oedd y plant yn llwyr ymwybodol bod oedolion yn fwy na hwy ac yn fwy grymus. Fodd bynnag, onid yw hyn yn atgyfnerthu'r syniad bod hawl gan rywun mwy grymus i ddefnyddio trais i gael ei ffordd ei hun? Ai dyma'r neges yr ydym am i'n plant ei

children to hear?

Hitting children is an attack on their human rights. It hurts children emotionally as well as physically, and has the potential to escalate and cause serious injury. Also, as a parent, I do not think that it works; it is therefore an ineffective form of discipline.

In the UK, many organisations feel that the Government's approach to this issue must change. The UK-wide alliance, Children are Unbeatable—an umbrella organisation of a host of groups and individuals with an interest in children's welfare—has consistently campaigned to get the Government to ban all forms of physical punishment. We need to consider how other countries are tackling this issue. In comparison with other countries, Wales and England have much to learn. In Scotland, the physical punishment of children under three years of age has been banned, and Northern Ireland has included the option of a total ban in its consultation document. Other countries, including Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Austria, Latvia, Croatia and Israel, have put an end to physical punishment.

The guiding principles for such change rest on a number of factors: the aspiration to raise children in a society that does not tolerate violence; a growing recognition of children's human rights in international law; and the fact that most research confirms that physical punishment is ineffective. Harsh physical punishment is associated with later criminal behaviour, substance abuse, violent family relationships and mental health problems. Sweden is a good example that could serve to alleviate many of the fears expressed by parents in Wales about a ban. Sweden abolished corporal punishment over 20 years ago. Studies on the effects of the ban show that, contrary to concerns about a rise in the number of parents prosecuted for smacking children, there has not been an increase in such prosecutions. Public opinion has now shifted; smacking is regarded as less acceptable than it was a generation ago and is used less frequently. Do young people in Sweden lack discipline and self-control? No. Youth crime rates have remained steady since

chlywed?

Mae curo plant yn ymosodiad ar eu hawliau dynol. Mae'n brifo plant yn emosiynol yn ogystal ag yn gorfforol, ac mae'r potensial iddo waethygu ac achosi niwed difrifol. Hefyd, fel rhiant, ni chredaf ei fod yn gweithio; felly mae'n ffordd aneffeithiol o ddisgyblu plant.

Yn y DU, teimla llawer o sefydliadau fod yn rhaid i ymagwedd y Llywodraeth at hyn newid. Mae'r gynghrair DU-gyfan, Children are Unbeatable—sefydliad ambarél o grwpiau ac unigolion sydd â diddordeb mewn lles plant—wedi ymgyrchu'n ddiwedd i ddarbwylllo'r Llywodraeth i wahardd pob math o gosb gorfforol. Rhaid inni ystyried sut y mae gwledydd eraill yn mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn. Mewn cymhariaeth â gwledydd eraill, mae gan Gymru a Lloegr lawer i'w ddysgu. Yn yr Alban, gwaharddwyd cosb gorfforol i blant o dan 3 oed, ac mae Gogledd Iwerddon wedi cynnwys y dewis o waharddiad llwyr o fewn ei dogfen ymgynghori. Mae gwledydd eraill, gan gynnwys Sweden, Ffindir, Denmarc, Norwy, yr Almaen, Awstria, Latfia, Croatia ac Israel wedi rhoi terfyn ar gosb gorfforol.

Mae'r egwyddorion arweiniol ar gyfer newid o'r fath yn dibynnu ar lawer o ffactorau: yr awydd i fagu plant mewn cymdeithas nad yw'n goddef trais; cydnabyddiaeth gynyddol o hawliau dynol plant o fewn cyfraith ryngwladol; a'r ffaith bod yr ymchwil ddiweddaraf yn cadarnhau bod cosb gorfforol yn aneffeithiol. Cysylltir cosb gorfforol lym ag ymddygiad troseddol diweddarach, camddefnyddio sylweddau, perthynas deuluol dreisgar a phroblemau iechyd meddwl. Mae Sweden yn enghraifft dda y gellid ei defnyddio i leddfu llawer o'r pryderon a fynegwyd gan rieni yng Nghymru ynglŷn â gwaharddiad. Gwaharddodd Sweden gosb gorfforol dros 20 mlynedd yn ôl. Yn groes i'r pryderon y byddai cynnydd yn nifer y rhieni a erlynwyd am guro plant, dangosodd astudiaethau ar effeithiau'r gwaharddiad na fu cynnydd mewn erlyniadau o'r fath. Mae barn y wlad wedi newid bellach; ystyrir curo yn llai derbyniol nag oedd genhedlaeth yn ôl ac fe'i defnyddir yn llai aml. A oes diffyg disgyblaeth a hunan-reolaeth ymhlith pobl

1983, and there has been a reduction in drug and alcohol intake and suicide among young people.

It is vital that we do not stigmatise parents. Being a parent is probably one of the most demanding jobs most of us will ever do. Unfortunately, when children arrive, they do not come with instruction booklets, and most new parents have to make it up as they go along. It is important that parents are given good advice and support. There is already a large amount of information on positive parenting available from the various organisations campaigning on this issue. There are also several successful practical projects in Wales.

Public education must go hand in hand with legal reform, so that parents realise that children's behaviour can be improved without their resorting to physical punishment. There is a wide range of opinion on this issue, as well as uncertainty. I have spoken to Assembly Members, parents and teachers—not so much to children because most would agree that they do not like smacking—and know therefore that there is much uncertainty among adults. The Assembly could do much to tackle this uncertainty, through holding a Plenary debate at least. A large-scale education campaign would also be welcome: think of the effectiveness of campaigns such as those to encourage the use of seatbelts in cars and to prevent drink driving. If the next generation in Wales is to have a happier and healthier future, the Assembly must provide leadership on this issue. Our children deserve nothing less.

Pauline Jarman: I thank Christine for the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I have met hundreds of children in this Chamber and almost all totally opposed any attempt by a parent to chastise them through smacking. We need a change of attitude, which can only be brought about by making better parenting advice and family support units available throughout Wales. I am reminded of the saying, 'sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me'. That is not true; names can harm.

ifanc yn Sweden? Nac oes. Mae cyfraddau troseddu ymhlith ieuenctid wedi aros yn sefydlog ers 1983, a bu gostyngiad mewn defnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol a hunan-laddiad ymysg pobl ifanc.

Mae'n hanfodol nad ydym yn pardduo rhieni. Mae'n debyg mai bod yn rhiant fydd un o'r swyddi anoddaf a wnaiff y rhan fwyaf ohonom. Yn anffodus, pan gyrhaedda plant, ni cheir llyfryn cyfarwyddiadau gyda hwy, a rhaid i'r rhan fwyaf o rieni newydd ymdopi wrth fynd yn eu blaenau. Mae'n bwysig eu bod yn cael cyngor da a chefnogaeth. Ceir llawer o wybodaeth eisoes am fod yn rhiant da sydd ar gael gan wahanol fudiadau sy'n ymgyrchu dros y mater hwn. Mae llawer o brosiectau ymarferol llwyddiannus yng Nghymru hefyd.

Rhaid i addysg gyhoeddus fynd law yn llaw â diwygio'r gyfraith, fel bod rhieni'n sylweddoli y gellir gwella ymddygiad plant heb droi at gosb gorfforol. Mae ystod barn eang ar y mater hwn, yn ogystal ag ansicrwydd. Yr wyf wedi siarad ag Aelodau'r Cynulliad, rhieni ac athrawon—nid yn gymaint â phlant gan y byddai'r rhan fwyaf yn cytuno nad ydynt yn hoffi cael eu curo—a gwn felly fod ansicrwydd ymysg oedolion. Gallai'r Cynulliad wneud llawer i fynd i'r afael â'r ansicrwydd hwn, drwy gynnal dadl mewn Cyfarfod Llawn, o leiaf. Byddai croeso hefyd i ymgyrch addysg ar raddfa fawr: ystyriwch ymgyrchoedd effeithiol megis y rhai a fu'n annog y defnydd o wregys diogelwch mewn ceir ac ymgyrch atal yfed a gyrru. Er mwyn i'r genhedlaeth nesaf yng Nghymru gael dyfodol hapusach ac iachach, rhaid i'r Cynulliad roi arweiniad ar y mater hwn. Nid yw ein plant yn haeddu dim llai.

Pauline Jarman: Diolch i Christine am y cyfle i gyfrannu i'r ddadl hon. Cyfarfûm â channoedd o blant yn y Siambr hon ac yr oedd bron bob un ohonynt yn llwyr wrthwynebu unrhyw ymgais gan riant i'w ceryddu drwy eu curo. Mae angen newid agwedd arnom, a fydd ond yn bosibl drwy sicrhau bod cyngor ar fod yn rhieni gwell ac unedau cymorth teuluol ar gael ledled Cymru. Caf fy atgoffa o'r dywedriad '*sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me*'. Nid yw hynny'n wir; gall

We have dealt successfully with language insensitive to people from ethnic backgrounds and other equality issues. We now need a national campaign to ensure that parenting and family support is offered in Wales to end the smacking of children.

John Griffiths: I congratulate Christine on her choice of subject for a short debate. It is an important matter, and therefore I hope that it will lead to the wider debate for which she called. As a parent, I sympathise with Christine because, having smacked my children, I also feel guilty about it. I now believe that it is counter-productive and wrong. The Assembly should provide a lead on opening up this debate and on calling for legal reform and public education to make the smacking of children a thing of the past.

12:35 p.m.

People ask, what is a soft smack in a loving relationship? However, soft smacks often lead to harder ones because that is the logic of smacking. If the soft smack does not achieve the desired result, a harder smack may follow. It sends out a message that violence is the answer, and I am sure that none of us would condone that.

Parenting is difficult, but it is also hugely rewarding, and it would be even more so if parents accepted the advice that smacking is counter-productive and wrong. Therefore, I would like to see legal reform combined with public education and much greater support for parents, who I believe want to develop alternatives, but need good advice and support through publications, leaflets, health visitors and so on to do so.

Kirsty Williams: Thank you, Christine, for raising this important subject. The UK Government's decision not to follow suit with the Scottish Parliament in outlawing punishment for under-threes simply sends out a message that it is acceptable to hit babies and toddlers in England and Wales. It is not acceptable. The law has to be changed and accompanied with the provision of support and information to parents on how they can

enwau niweidio. Yr ydym wedi ymdrin yn llwyddiannus ag iaith sy'n ansensitif i bobl o gefndiroedd ethnig a materion cydraddoldeb eraill. Mae angen ymgyrch genedlaethol arnom yn awr i sicrhau ein bod yn cynnig cymorth i rieni a theuluoedd yng Nghymru i ddod â churo plant i ben.

John Griffiths: Yr wyf yn llongyfarch Christine ar ei dewis o bwnc ar gyfer y ddadl fer. Mae'n fater pwysig, felly gobeithiaf y bydd yn arwain at y ddadl ehangach y galwodd amdani. Fel rhiant, cydymdeimlaf â Christine gan fy mod innau hefyd yn teimlo euogrwydd am guro fy mhlant. Credaf bellach ei bod yn wrthgynhyrchiol ac yn anghywir. Dylai'r Cynulliad roi arweiniad wrth agor y ddadl hon a galw am ddiwygio'r gyfraith ac addysg gyhoeddus i sicrhau bod curo plant yn rhywbeth sy'n perthyn i'r oes a fu.

Bydd pobl yn gofyn, beth yw ergyd ysgafn mewn perthynas gariadus? Fodd bynnag, arweinia ergyd ysgafn at rai caletach yn aml gan mai dyna resymeg curo. Os na chaiff yr ergyd ysgafn yr effaith a ddymunir, rhoddir ergyd drymach o bosibl. Mae'n rhoi'r neges mai trais yw'r ateb, ac yr wyf yn sicr na fyddai neb ohonom yn cytuno ar hynny.

Mae'n anodd bod yn rhiant, ond mae hefyd yn werth chweil, a byddai'n fwy felly pe bai rhieni'n derbyn y cyngor bod curo yn wrthgynhyrchiol ac yn anghywir. Felly, hoffwn weld y gyfraith yn cael ei diwygio ynghyd ag ymgyrch i addysgu'r cyhoedd a llawer mwy o gymorth i rieni sydd, fe gredaf, am ddatblygu ffyrdd eraill o ddisgyblu plant, ond sydd angen cyngor da a chymorth drwy gyhoeddiadau, taflenni, ymwelwyr iechyd ac yn y blaen i wneud hynny.

Kirsty Williams: Diolch, Christine, am godi'r pwnc pwysig hwn. Mae penderfyniad Llywodraeth y DU i beidio â dilyn esiampl Senedd yr Alban a gwahardd cosbi plant o dan dair oed yn rhoi'r neges syml ei bod yn dderbyniol i guro babanod a phlant bach yng Nghymru a Lloegr. Nid yw'n dderbyniol. Rhaid newid y gyfraith ac ar yr un pryd rhoi cymorth a gwybodaeth i rieni ar sut y gallant ddisgyblu eu plant gyda chariad. Fel y

discipline their children lovingly. As John Griffiths said, there is no such thing as a loving smack. A smack is a smack. I was smacked as a child, and I choose not to smack my daughter. People should have the opportunity to learn how best to discipline their children so that the practice is not passed on from generation to generation.

Glyn Davies: After hearing Members' contributions, I think that, in principle, there is general agreement that we do not want children to be smacked. Those of us who are parents talk from personal experience. I learnt that it was wrong after my second child. My second two children were better treated than my first two, for which they will be forever grateful.

There are many questions about how we might change the law to deal with this issue. This is a major argument across the country, but a great deal could be achieved by the Assembly and everybody in a position of responsibility accepting that smacking is wrong. Until now, it has often been perceived as the proper way to bring up children. More of us pointing out that it is the wrong way forward will probably be more effective than changing the law.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): Christine has made a powerful contribution today in drawing our attention to this important, often taboo, subject of smacking children. People feel uncertain about it, and as Christine said, it justifies a bigger debate in the Assembly. We must recognise that physical punishment of children evokes strong reactions, as well as uncertainty. I have considerable personal sympathy with all the views expressed today and I thank John, Pauline, Kirsty and Glyn for their thoughtful contributions.

I have agreed to a meeting with representatives from the Children are Unbeatable campaign in Wales so that we can discuss how to take this forward. This debate has led to recognition that the Assembly could stimulate a positive parenting campaign in Wales. Although we do not have devolved responsibility for the law on physical punishment, in June and July

dywedodd John Griffiths, nid oes y fath beth ag ergyd gariadus. Ergyd yw ergyd. Cefais i fy nghuro pan oeddwn yn blentyn, a dewisaf beidio â churo fy merch. Dylai pawb gael y cyfle i ddysgu beth yw'r ffordd orau o ddisgyblu eu plant fel na chaiff yr arfer ei drosglwyddo o un genhedlaeth i'r llall.

Glyn Davies: Ar ôl clywed cyfraniadau'r Aelodau, credaf fod cytundeb cyffredinol, mewn egwyddor, nad ydym am i blant gael eu curo. Mae'r rhai ohonom sy'n rhieni yn siarad o brofiad personol. Dysgais ei bod yn anghywir ar ôl fy ail blentyn. Cafodd fy nau blentyn olaf eu trin yn well na'r ddau blentyn cyntaf, a byddant yn ddiolchgar am hynny am byth.

Mae llawer o gwestiynau ynglŷn â sut y gallem newid y gyfraith i ddelio â'r mater hwn. Mae hon yn ddadl fawr ledled y wlad, ond byddai'n bosibl cyflawni llawer pe bai'r Cynulliad a phawb sydd â chyfrifoldeb yn derbyn bod curo yn anghywir. Hyd yma, y teimlad yn aml oedd mai dyna'r ffordd gywir o fagu plant. Pe bai mwy ohonom yn datgan mai dyma'r ffordd anghywir ymlaen, efallai y byddai'n fwy effeithiol na newid y gyfraith.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Gwnaeth Christine gyfraniad grymus heddiw drwy dynnu ein sylw at y pwnc pwysig hwn o guro plant, sy'n bwnc tabŵ yn aml. Teimla pobl yn ansicr amdano ac, fel y dywedodd Christine, mae'n haeddu mwy o ddadl yn y Cynulliad. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod cosbi plant yn gorfforol yn ennyn ymateb cryf, yn ogystal ag ansicrwydd. Yr wyf yn bersonol yn cydymdeimlo'n fawr iawn â'r holl safbwyntiau a fynegwyd heddiw a diolch i John, Pauline, Kirsty a Glyn am eu cyfraniadau ystyriol.

Cytunais i gyfarfod â chynrychiolwyr Cymru o'r ymgyrch Children are Unbeatable fel y gallwn drafod sut i symud hyn ymlaen. Mae'r ddadl hon wedi arwain at gydnabod y gall y Cynulliad ysgogi ymgyrch rhieni da yng Nghymru. Er nad oes cyfrifoldeb datganoledig arnom dros y gyfraith yn ymwneud â chosb gorfforol, ym Mehefin a Gorffennaf 2000, cydlynwyd ymgyngoriad

2000 we co-ordinated, on behalf of the UK Government, consultation on 'Protecting Children, Supporting Parents'. We received around 90 responses from individuals and organisations in Wales, which the Health and Social Services Committee and the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee considered. There was no clear consensus, but approximately 40 per cent of people were totally opposed to physical punishment, while 25 per cent were against a ban. Immediately after those Committee discussions, I met with representatives from children's organisations who were concerned about our uncertainty and lack of clarity regarding coming out against smacking and physical punishment. We must reconsider how we can respond to the concern in Wales and to the issues that you have raised, Christine.

As you said, we have already started to make strides in Wales. We have the Children's Commissioner for Wales. We have also, as you said, ensured that the physical punishment of children is banned in every form of public care. Our recent consultation on minimum standards for child minders included the proposal that the smacking of children should also be prohibited in those settings. That will mean that physical punishment will be banned in all regulated children's services in Wales. However, we must influence the attitudes and behaviour of parents and others who care for children. That is key.

As other Assembly Members who are parents have said, bringing up children is a complex, demanding and stressful task. We know that there are pressures on families, and you described such situations, and we know that people's lives lead to stress and pressure. We must ensure that parents have access to information and advice. We will ensure that we are actively involved in the positive parenting campaign which the National Family and Parenting Institute is developing. It will develop educational materials that will be tailored to meet the needs of parents in Wales. Children in Wales, with Catriona Williams as its chief executive, is the key link. She is engaged in the positive parenting project, which will provide valuable support

gennym ar ran Llywodraeth y DU ar 'Diogelu Plant, Cynorthwyo Rhieni'. Daeth tua 90 o ymatebion i law oddi wrth unigolion a sefydliadau yng Nghymru, ac fe'u hystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Ni chafwyd cytundeb clir, ond yr oedd tua 40 y cant o bobl yn gwrthwynebu cosb gorfforol yn llwyr, a 25 y cant yn erbyn gwaharddiad. Yn syth ar ôl y trafodaethau hynny yn y Pwyllgor, cyfarfûm a chynrychiolwyr mudiadau plant a oedd yn pryderu am ein hansicrwydd a diffyg eglurder ynglŷn â gwneud safiad yn erbyn curo a chosb gorfforol. Rhaid inni ailystyried sut y gallwn ymateb i'r pryder yng Nghymru a'r materion a godwyd gennych, Christine.

Fel y dywedsoch, yr ydym eisoes wedi dechrau cymryd camau breision yng Nghymru. Mae gennym Gomisiynydd Plant i Gymru. Yr ydym hefyd, fel y dywedsoch, wedi sicrhau bod cosbi plant yn gorfforol wedi ei wahardd o bob sefydliad gofal cyhoeddus. Yr oedd ein hymgyngoriad diweddar ar isafswm safonau sylfaenol i warchodwyr plant yn cynnwys yr argymhelliad y dylid gwahardd curo plant yn y mathau hynny o sefyllfaoedd hefyd. Golyga hynny y gwaharddir cosb gorfforol o bob gwasanaeth plant a reoleiddir yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni ddylanwadu ar agweddau ac ymddygiad rhieni ac eraill sy'n gofalu am blant. Dyna'r allwedd.

Fel y dywedodd Aelodau eraill o'r Cynulliad sy'n rhieni, mae magu plant yn waith dyrys, ymestynnol a llawn straen. Gwyddom fod pwysau ar deuluoedd, a disgrifiasoch sefyllfaoedd o'r fath, a gwyddom fod bywydau pobl yn arwain at straen a phwysau. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod gan rieni fynediad i wybodaeth a chynghor. Byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn chwarae rhan weithgar yn yr ymgyrch i fod yn rhieni da y mae Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Teuluoedd a Rhieni yn ei datblygu. Bydd yn datblygu deunyddiau addysgol a gaiff eu teilwra i ddiwallu anghenion rhieni yng Nghymru. Mudiad Plant yng Nghymru, gyda Catriona Williams yn brif weithredwraig arno, yw'r cyswllt allweddol. Mae'n rhan o'r prosiect bod yn

to all parents in Wales. We have also seen practical examples of support, some of which were stimulated through Sure Start and parenting projects in communities.

For progress to be made on those issues, we will, perhaps, need to draw them into the wider campaign that Members have talked about today in relation to positive parenting and our response in Wales. Perhaps we will be able to have a wider political debate about it. I am grateful that Christine raised the subject. Our discussions will have to be taken forward with the Children are Unbeatable Cymru campaign. I am glad that there is cross-party support that we should consider what we can do.

We are committed to championing the rights of children and young people, of which encouraging positive parenting is an important part. When I launched the child and adolescent mental health strategy in Bangor last year, I was pleased that it had adopted an important charter that was originally produced by Parents Anonymous in the USA. I have a copy of it on my kitchen wall. It is entitled 'Children learn what they live'. I will quickly remind us of what it states:

'A child who is criticised learns to condemn. A child who lives with hostility learns to fight. A child who is ridiculed learns to be shy. A child who lives with shame learns to feel guilt. A child who lives with tolerance learns to be patient. A child who is encouraged learns confidence. A child who is praised learns to appreciate others. A child who lives with fairness learns justice. A child who lives with security learns to have faith in people. A child who lives with approval learns to like themselves. Children who live with acceptance and friendship learn to find love in the world.'

I hope that we in the Assembly would embrace that in how we would want our children in Wales to be raised.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close.

rhieni da, a fydd yn rhoi cymorth gwerthfawr i bob rhiant yng Nghymru. Gwelwyd enghreifftiau ymarferol o gymorth hefyd, rhai ohonynt a symbylwyd drwy Gychwyn Cadarn a phrosiectau i rieni mewn cymunedau.

Er mwyn gwneud cynnydd ar y materion hyn, efallai y bydd angen inni eu cynnwys yn yr ymgyrch ehangach y siaradodd yr Aelodau amdani heddiw mewn cysylltiad â bod yn rhieni da a'n hymateb ni yng Nghymru. Efallai y byddwn yn gallu cael dadl wleidyddol ehangach arno. Yr wyf yn falch bod Christine wedi codi'r pwnc. Bydd yn rhaid i'n trafodaethau barhau ag ymgyrch Children are Unbeatable Cymru. Yr wyf yn falch bod cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol y dylem ystyried beth allwn ei wneud.

Yr ydym yn ymrwymedig i hyrwyddo hawliau plant a phobl ifanc, ac mae hybu bod yn rhieni da yn rhan bwysig o hynny. Pan lansiais strategaeth iechyd meddwl plant a phobl ifanc ym Mangor y llynedd, yr oeddwn yn falch ei bod wedi mabwysiadu siarter bwysig a gynhyrchwyd gyntaf gan Parents Anonymous yn yr Unol Daleithiau. Mae gennyf gopi ohono ar wal y gegin. Y teitl yw 'Children learn what they live.' Fe'n hatgoffaf ni yn gyflym o'r hyn y mae'n ei ddatgan:

Gobeithiaf y byddwn ni yn y Cynulliad yn ymrwymo i hynny yn y modd yr ydym am i blant Cymru gael eu magu.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 12.43 p.m.
The session ended at 12.43 p.m.*