



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

**Y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant
The Communities and Culture Committee**

**Dydd Iau, 26 Mehefin 2008
Thursday, 26 June 2008**

Cynnwys
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Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal, cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg. Mae hon yn fersiwn ddrafft o'r cofnod. Cyhoeddir fersiwn derfynol ymhen pum diwrnod gwaith.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee. In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included. This is a draft version of the record. The final version will be published within five working days.

Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol
Committee members in attendance

Peter Black	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats
Paul Davies	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Nerys Evans	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales
Janice Gregory	Llafur (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) Labour (Committee Chair)
Lesley Griffiths	Llafur Labour
Mark Isherwood	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Joyce Watson	Llafur Labour

Eraill yn bresennol
Others in attendance

John Howells	Cyfarwyddwr Diwylliant, Adran dros Faterion Gwledig a Threftadaeth Director of Culture, Department for Rural Affairs and Heritage
Rhodri Glyn Thomas	Aelod Cynulliad, Plaid Cymru (y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth) Assembly Member, The Party of Wales (the Minister for Heritage)

Swyddogion Gwasanaeth Seneddol y Cynulliad yn bresennol
Assembly Parliamentary Service officials in attendance

Sarah Bartlett	Clerc Clerk
Lara Date	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 2.31 p.m.
The meeting began at 2.31 p.m.

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon
Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

[1] **Janice Gregory:** Good morning, everybody, and welcome to the Communities and Culture Committee. Please switch off any electronic devices such as mobile phones, BlackBerrys and pagers. In the event of an emergency, an alarm will sound and the ushers will direct us to the nearest safe exit. I do not believe that a fire drill is to be held today, so, if the alarm sounds, we will be asked to leave the building.

[2] I have received apologies from Lynne Neagle and Dai Lloyd, but there are no substitutions for them.

2.32 p.m.

Craffu ar Waith y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth Ministerial Scrutiny—the Minister for Heritage

[3] **Janice Gregory:** The purpose of this meeting is to scrutinise the Minister for Heritage, Rhodri Glyn Thomas. Good afternoon, Minister, and thank you for coming to committee, and thank you for the paper that you have submitted. I ask you please to make a presentation, and then Members will ask you questions.

[4] **Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth (Rhodri Glyn Thomas):** Diolch am y gwahoddiad i'r pwyllgor. Deallaf eich bod yn awyddus i drafod elfennau y celfyddydau, chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg o fy mhortffolio y prynhawn yma. Felly, efallai mai'r ffordd orau o ddechrau yw imi amlinellu rhai o'r pethau sydd wedi digwydd yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf o ran yr elfennau hynny.

The Minister for Heritage (Rhodri Glyn Thomas): Thank you for the invitation to the committee. I understand that you are keen to discuss the arts, sports and Welsh-language elements of my portfolio this afternoon. So, perhaps the best way of starting would be for me to outline some of the things that have happened over the past year as they relate to those elements.

[5] Ym myd y celfyddydau, buom yn gweithio ar ein haddewid i weithredu argymhellion adroddiad Stephens. Eisoed, mae'r theatr genedlaethol cyfrwng Saesneg wedi ei sefydlu. Yr ydym hefyd wedi sefydlu cronfa i wobrwyo rhai o gwmnïau disgleiriaf Cymru, ac yr wyf yn disgwyl gallu gwneud cyhoeddiad am hynny yn gynnar yn y mis nesaf.

With regard to the arts, we have been working on our commitment to implement the recommendations of the Stephens report. Already, the English-language national theatre has been established. We have also set up a fund to reward some of the leading lights of Wales's companies, and I expect to be able to make an announcement on that early next month.

[6] Yr wyf hefyd wedi sefydlu bwrdd strategaeth, sy'n golygu y gall pobl y celfyddydau ddod ynghyd i fwrw gorolwg dros y maes hwn a bwydo i mewn i'r broses o benderfynu sut y gweithredir polisiâu'r Llywodraeth. Yr wyf wedi ceisio creu sefyllfa sy'n glir iawn. Fy ngwaith a'm cyfrifoldeb fel Gweinidog, a chyfrifoldeb y Llywodraeth, yw creu polisi, a chyfrifoldeb Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yw gweithredu ar y polisi hwnnw ac ariannu prosiectau yn y celfyddydau. Felly, mae'r egwyddor o gadw hyd braich wedi'i sefydlu yn gadarn iawn. Nid yw'r bwrdd yn ceisio gweithredu ar lawr daear; mae'n ceisio cael darlun eang o'r hyn sy'n digwydd yng nghyd-destun y celfyddydau a diwylliant.

I have also established a strategy board, which means that people from the arts can come together to take an overview of this field and to feed into the process of deciding how Government policy will be implemented. I have sought to create a crystal clear situation. My work and my responsibility, as well as the responsibility of the Government, is to create policy, and it is the responsibility of the Arts Council of Wales to implement that and to fund projects in the arts. Therefore, the arm's-length principle has been most firmly established. The board does not seek to operate on the ground, seeking, rather, to get a wider picture of what is happening in the context of the arts and culture.

[7] O ran chwaraeon, bu'n flwyddyn arbennig o dda. Mae nifer o bethau i'w dathlu gan gynnwys y gamp lawn, Caerdydd yn cyrraedd rownd derfynol Cwpan yr FA, Joe Calzaghe yn profi efallai mai ef yw'r bocsiwr gorau, pwys am bwys, yn y byd, Abertawe yn cael dyrchafiad fel pencampwyr ac wedi cael tymor arbennig o dda, ac mae tîm y Gweilch

With regard to sport, it has been an excellent year. There are several things to celebrate, including the grand slam, Cardiff reaching the FA Cup final, Joe Calzaghe proving himself to be possibly the best boxer, pound for pound, in the world, Swansea getting promoted after a very good season, and the Ospreys team has also been successful in a

hefyd wedi bod yn llwyddiannus mewn cup competition.
cystadleuaeth gwpan.

[8] Fodd bynnag, yr hyn a roddodd fwyaf o foddhad a phleser i mi fel Gweinidog yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, wrth i ni arwain at y Gemau Paralympaidd yn Beijing, yw gweld llwyddiant mawr ein hathletwyr sy'n cystadlu mewn cystadlaethau Paralympaidd. Erbyn hyn, mae tîm o 29 o athletwyr eisoes wedi ei ddewis ar gyfer gemau Beijing. Mae gobeithion am fwy ac mae gobeithion am ryw 25 o fedalau. Byddai hynny yn gyflawniad aruthrol ar ran y tîm hwnnw.

[9] Yr ydym newydd weld cwpan rygbi'r byd dan 20 yn cael ei chynnal ym mhob rhan o Gymru, gan gynnwys Casnewydd, Caerdydd, Abertawe a Wrecsam yn y gogledd. Yr oedd y trefnwyr yn llongyfarch pawb a oedd yn gysylltiedig â'r trefniadau yn Wrecsam yn arbennig—yr oeddynt wedi cael derbyniad a chroeso mawr yn y gogledd, ac yr oeddent yn falch eu bod wedi llwyddo i gynnal gemau yno.

[10] O ran yr iaith Gymraeg, mae'r gwaith yn mynd yn ei flaen ar y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol. Yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio gosod y Gorchymyn erbyn hyn, ond mae'r broses ddeddfwriaethol yn hir ac yn gymhleth. Mae'n rhaid imi bwysleisio nad oes unrhyw fath o oedi wedi bod nag unrhyw rwystrau wedi eu gosod—dim ond mater o'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yn ein galluogi fel Cynulliad i wneud popeth sydd angen ei wneud o ran yr iaith Gymraeg ydyw. Os yw'r Gorchymyn yn ddiffygiol yn y lle cyntaf, mae perygl y byddwn yn canfod ein bod yn methu â chyflwyno Mesurau neu ein bod yn gorfod mynd yn ôl i San Steffan i gael yr hawl honno. Felly, rhaid inni sicrhau nad yw'n ddiffygiol. Mae'r gwaith yn mynd yn ei flaen, mae'r trafodaethau gyda San Steffan yn mynd yn eu blaenau, a'r hyn yr ydym yn ceisio ei wneud yw sicrhau nad oes rhwystrau yn codi mewn rhai adrannau yn San Steffan, fel sydd yn gallu digwydd weithiau pan fo rhyw adran neu'i gilydd yn gofyn 'Beth yw arwyddocâd hyn i ni—oni ddylem ni fod yn edrych ar hyn?'. Yr ydym yn ceisio cael y trafodaethau hynny yn awr er mwyn ceisio sicrhau bod taith y Gorchymyn yn San Steffan yn un hwylus iawn.

However, what has given me the greatest satisfaction and pleasure as Minister during the past year, as we lead up to the Paralympics in Beijing, is the great success of our athletes who are competing in Paralympic events. A team of 29 nine athletes has already been selected for the Beijing games. There are hopes for more and for around 25 medals. That would be a massive achievement on the part of that team.

We have just seen the under-20 rugby world cup being held in every part of Wales, including Newport, Cardiff, Swansea and Wrexham in the north. The organisers particularly congratulated everyone associated with the arrangements in Wrexham—they had received a great reception in the north, and they were glad that they had succeeded in staging the games there.

In terms of the Welsh language, work is proceeding on the legislative competence Order. I had hoped to lay the Order by now, but the legislative process is long and complex. I must emphasise that there has not been a delay of any kind nor have any barriers been put up—it is just a matter of the legislative competence Order enabling us as an Assembly to do everything required in terms of the Welsh language. If the Order is deficient initially, there is a risk that when we attempt to introduce Measures, we will find that we are not able to do so or that we will have to go back to Westminster to get that right. So, we must ensure that it is not deficient. The work is proceeding, the discussions with Westminster are proceeding, and we are trying to ensure that there are no barriers in Westminster departments, which can sometimes happen when some department or another asks 'How is this significant to us—should we not be looking at this?'. We are trying to have those discussions now in an attempt to ensure that the Order's journey in Westminster is as seamless as possible.

[11] Yr ydym hefyd wedi penderfynu ar y cwmni fydd yn darparu newyddion drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn ddyddiol, ac yr ydym wedi dewis cwmni a oedd yn cynnig gwasanaeth gan ddefnyddio'r dechnoleg ddiweddaraf. Felly, bydd y newyddion yn y Gymraeg yn cael ei diweddarau nid wrth yr awr na'r funud ond wrth yr eiliad, fel mae pethau'n digwydd. Mae *Golwg* wrthi yn symud ymlaen gyda'i baratoadau ar gyfer cynnig y gwasanaeth hwnnw. Mae'n gynnig uchelgeisiol iawn, ac mae bob math o gyfleoedd i sefydliadau, gan gynnwys Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, i fod yn rhan o hynny, gan y bydd yn wasanaeth aml-lwyfan a bydd gwahanol safleoedd y bydd pobl yn gallu bwydo i fewn iddynt.

We have also decided on the company that will provide daily news in the Welsh language, and we have selected a company that offered a service using the latest technology. So, the news in Welsh will be updated not by the hour or the minute but by the second, as events happen. *Golwg* is proceeding with its preparations for offering that service. It is a highly ambitious proposal, and there are many opportunities available for institutions, including the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government, to be part of that, because it will be a multiplatform service and there will be different sites that people can feed into.

[12] Dyna rai o'r pethau sydd wedi digwydd yn ystod y flwyddyn, ond mae'n siŵr y byddai'n well i Aelodau ofyn cwestiynau nag i mi restru mwy o bethau o fewn y portffolio.

Those are some of the things that have happened during the year, but I am sure that Members would prefer to ask questions than for me to list more things within my portfolio.

[13] **Janice Gregory:** Thank you, Minister. Members do have questions to ask, and Nerys is first.

[14] **Nerys Evans:** Diolch am yr adroddiad. Hoffwn ofyn tri chwestiwn penodol am yr elfen ieithyddol. A ydych wedi cael unrhyw adborth negyddol gan y 57 o gyrff a enwyd o dan Ddeddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993 o ran ychwanegu atynt?

Nerys Evans: Thank you for the report. I wish to ask three specific questions on the Welsh language element. Have you received any negative feedback from the 57 bodies named under the Welsh Language Act 1993 in terms of adding to them?

[15] Ynglŷn â'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol ar yr iaith Gymraeg, a allwch roi mwy o fanylion inni ynglŷn â'r cynnwys? A oes unrhyw broblemau wedi codi yn y trafodaethau gyda San Steffan?

On the legislative competence Order on the Welsh language, can you give us more details on its content? Have any problems arisen in the discussions with Westminster?

[16] O ran defnyddio'r Gymraeg yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, clywsom gan Rhodri Morgan yn y Pwyllgor Ewropeaidd a Materion Allanol yr wythnos diwethaf nad yw'r Cynulliad wedi gwneud cais i gael yr iaith Gymraeg yn iaith swyddogol. A wnewch ymhelaethu ar hynny?

On using the Welsh language in the European union, we heard from Rhodri Morgan in the European and External Affairs Committee last week that the Assembly has not made a request for the Welsh language to be an official language. Can you elaborate on that?

2.40 p.m.

[17] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** I ddechrau gyda'r 57 sefydliad a enwyd o dan Deddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993 nid ydym wedi derbyn

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: On the 57 establishments named under the Welsh Language Act 2003 we have not received any

unrhyw gwyn gan y cwmnïau hynny; maent wedi derbyn y sefyllfa ac yn paratoi i weithredu cynlluniau iaith yn ôl deddfwriaeth 1993. Dywedodd un cwmni wrthyf ei bod yn fanteisiol i'r cwmnïau hynny sydd a'u pencadlys yr ochr draw i'r ffin oherwydd nad oes rhaid iddynt ddadlau'r achos dros gynnig gwasanaethau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg gan ei fod yn orfodol o dan y ddeddfwriaeth. Gall hynny fod yn fantais gan nad oes angen i bobl dreulio llawer o amser yn paratoi cais manwl ar gyfer y byrddau canolog nad ydynt bob amser yn deall y cyd-destun yng Nghymru.

[18] Yr ydym hefyd yn trafod gyda nifer o gwmnïau eraill ar hyn o bryd ac yn derbyn pob math o gymorth gan y cwmnïau hynny, yn enwedig y cwmnïau sy'n cynnig gwasanaethau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Maent yn rhannu gyda ni rai o'r problemau maent wedi eu hwynebu ac yn rhannu rhai o'r llwyddiannau sy'n deillio o'r cynlluniau hynny. Mae pawb wedi sôn am y ffaith mai ychydig iawn o bobl sy'n manteisio ar y gwasanaethau sydd ar gael. Mae rhesymau diwylliannol a hanesyddol dros hynny, ond yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod yn rhaid i'r Llywodraeth fynd i'r afael â hwn. Mae'n rhaid i ni annog pobl i ddefnyddio'r gwasanaethau Cymraeg a mynd i'r afael â'r meddylfryd y dylid gwneud unrhyw beth swyddogol yn Saesneg yn hytrach nag yn y Gymraeg. Mae nifer o bobl yn y sector preifat yn hynod gefnogol o'r hyn yr ydym yn ceisio ei wneud er mwyn sicrhau mynediad i wasanaethau cyhoeddus drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg i bobl sy'n dymuno eu defnyddio.

[19] O ran y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol, nid oes rhwystrau; yr ydym wedi derbyn cydweithrediad llawn gan y Swyddfa Gymreig. Y Dirprwy Weinidog, Huw Irranca-Davies, sy'n delio yn benodol â'r achos, ond mae Paul Murphy yn ymwybodol o'r hyn sy'n digwydd. Mae'r gweision sifil yn San Steffan wedi bod yn barod iawn i drafod gyda ni ac maent yn barod iawn gyda'u cyngor a'u cydweithrediad. Proses gyfreithiol yw'r rheswm dros yr oedi. Mae'n cymryd amser hir. Mae'r cyfreithwyr wedi bod yn hynod gydweithredol hefyd.

complaints from those companies; they have accepted the situation and are preparing to implement language policies under the 1993 legislation. One company told me that it was advantageous for those companies whose headquarters are situated over the border, because they do not have to argue the case for providing services through the medium of Welsh because it is mandatory under the legislation. That can be an advantage as people do not need to spend a considerable amount of time preparing a detailed case for centralised boards that do not always understand the context in Wales.

We are also holding discussions with a number of other companies at the moment and are receiving help on various issues from those companies, particularly those who offer services through the medium of Welsh. They share with us some of the problems that they face and some of the successes they enjoy as a result of those plans. Everyone has mentioned that few people make use of the services that are available. There are cultural and historic reasons for that, but I am aware that the Government has to get to grips with this. We have to encourage people to use Welsh-language services and tackle the mindset that anything official should be done through the medium of English rather than Welsh. A number of people in the private sector are extremely supportive of what we are trying to achieve in order to ensure access to public services through the medium of Welsh for those people who wish to use them.

With regard to the legislative competence Order, there are no restrictions; we have received full co-operation from the Welsh Office. The Deputy Minister, Huw Irranca-Davies, deals specifically with this, but Paul Murphy is aware of what is happening. Civil servants in Westminster have been ready to discuss with us and have been ready to give us their advice and their co-operation. The legal process is the cause of the delay. It takes a long time. The lawyers have also been extremely co-operative.

[20] O ran yr elfennau yn y GCD, y bwriad yw edrych ar yr ymrwymadau yng 'Nghymru'n Un' sy'n ymwneud â chadarnhau statws yr iaith Gymraeg. Y gwir yw nad oes gan y Gymraeg na'r Saesneg statws swyddogol yng Nghymru gan nad oes gennym gyfansoddiad; nid oes modd cael statws i'r ieithoedd heb gyfansoddiad. Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau bod y Gymraeg a Saesneg yn gydradd, a gwneud hynny o fewn Mesur; bod mynediad i wasanaethau cyhoeddus drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, a bod cyfrifoldeb ar gwmnïau sy'n cynnig gwasanaethau cyhoeddus i'w cynnig drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg; a bod comisiwn a chomisiynydd ar gyfer yr iaith Gymraeg yn cael eu sefydlu.

[21] Y maes yr ydym wedi ei ystyried yn ddiweddar ac sydd wedi achosi rhywfaint o oedi—ac sy'n gyfrifol am y ffaith nad ydym wedi llwyddo i osod y Gorchymyn cyn yr haf—yw'r hawl i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y gweithle. Mae hynny wedi codi pob math o gwestiynau diddorol ynglŷn â'r modd y byddai'n bosibl gosod hwn mewn Mesur. Yr oedd yn syndod i mi fod y cyfreithwyr wedi dechrau gofyn, rhyw ddeufis yn ôl, am y Mesurau a'u cynnwys. Ymatebais drwy ddweud bod angen i ni gwblhau'r gwaith ar y Gorchymyn yn gyntaf. Fodd bynnag, mae blwyddyn wedi pasio a dywed y cyfreithwyr bod yn rhaid i ni weithio ar y Mesurau neu ni fyddant yn eu lle cyn diwedd tymor presennol y Cynulliad yn 2011. Mae'r gwaith hwnnw yn mynd ymlaen o ddydd i ddydd.

[22] Ar yr iaith Gymraeg yn Ewrop, yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd yw bod yn rhaid i'r cais ddod gan y wladwriaeth ac felly mae'n rhaid iddo ddod gan San Steffan—nid yw'n gallu dod o wlad sy'n rhan o wladwriaeth; aelod wladwriaeth sy'n gorfod gwneud y cais. Mae'r cais hwnnw wedi mynd i'r Swyddfa Gartref yn San Steffan ac mae ar fin cael ei gyflwyno i Ewrop. Bydd hynny'n golygu y bydd gan bobl yr hawl i ohebu â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd a'r comisiwn drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

[23] **Nerys Evans:** Felly, ni fydd y Gymraeg yn cael ei gwneud yn iaith swyddogol.

[24] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Nid oes cais

With regard to the elements in the LCO, the intention is to look at the commitments in 'One Wales' that relate to confirming the status of the Welsh language. The truth is that neither Welsh nor English have official status in Wales as we do not have a constitution; it is not possible for the languages to have status without a constitution. We have committed to ensuring that Welsh and English are equal and that that will be ensured through a Measure; ensuring access to public services through the medium of Welsh and ensuring that companies providing public services do so through the medium of Welsh; and to establishing a commission and a commissioner for the Welsh language.

The area that we have considered recently and which has caused some delay—and is responsible for the fact that we have not succeeded in laying the Order before the summer—is the right to use Welsh in the workplace. That has raised all sorts of interesting questions regarding how it would be possible to include that in a Measure. I was surprised that the lawyers started asking, around two months ago, about the Measures and their content. I responded by saying that we needed to complete the work on the Order first. However, a year has passed and the lawyers tell me that it is necessary to work on the Measures or they will not be passed by the end of the current Assembly in 2011. That work is ongoing from day to day.

On the Welsh language in Europe, what has happened is that the request must come from the state and therefore it must come from Westminster—it cannot come from a country that is part of a state; a member state must make the request. That request has gone to the Home Office in Westminster and it is about to be put to Europe. That will mean that people will have the right to correspond with the European Union and the commission through the medium of Welsh.

Nerys Evans: So, the Welsh language will not be made an official language.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: No such request has

wedi'i wneud o ran hynny. Mae'r cais i gydnabod yr iaith Gymraeg o fewn gweithgareddau'r Undeb Ewropeaidd ac i alluogi unigolion a chyrff yng Nghymru i gysylltu â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Yr wyf yn credu bod hynny wedi ei gyfyngu i ohebiaeth bron yn gyfan gwbl, oherwydd ni fyddai disgwyl i rywun fod ar ben arall y ffôn â'r gallu i siarad Cymraeg, o reidrydd, pe bai rhywun yn dewis cysylltu yn y ffordd honno, ond bydd modd anfon unrhyw ohebiaeth drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

[25] **Paul Davies:** Bu ichi sôn, Weinidog, fod y Llywodraeth yn bwriadu mynd i'r afael â'r ffaith bod cyn lleied o bobl yn defnyddio gwasanaethau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. A wnewch ehangu ychydig ar hynny? Beth mae'r Llywodraeth yn mynd i'w wneud i annog pobl i ddefnyddio gwasanaethau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg?

[26] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Yr wyf yn meddwl bod angen i ni weithio gyda chwmnïau i wneud yn siŵr bod pobl yn ymwybodol, yn y lle cyntaf, fod y gwasanaethau hyn ar gael a hefyd mae'n rhaid i ni eu hannog i'w defnyddio. Mae meddylfryd yn bodoli lle mae pobl yn ofni nad yw eu Cymraeg yn ddigon da, yn ddigon ffurfiol, nac yn ddigon gramadegol gywir er mwyn llenwi ffurflenni swyddogol yn y Gymraeg. Nid ydynt byth yn poeni a yw eu Saesneg yn ddigon da. Bu tuedd i lawer o Gymry Cymraeg, gan gynnwys Cymry Cymraeg iaith gyntaf sy'n defnyddio'r Gymraeg o ddydd i ddydd, ddefnyddio gwasanaethau drwy gyfrwng y Saesneg ar gyfer unrhyw beth swyddogol neu unrhyw beth sy'n ymwneud â busnes. Mae'n fater o hysbysebu bod y gwasanaethau ar gael ac wedyn gweithio gyda chwmnïau i sicrhau bod mwy o bobl yn eu defnyddio. Mae nifer o'r cwmnïau sy'n cynnig gwasanaethau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg wedi dweud eu bod am weld ffordd o ddod â chwmnïau sy'n cynnig gwasanaethau o'r fath at ei gilydd, fel eu bod yn gallu mynd ati, ar y cyd, i geisio codi ymwybyddiaeth o'r gwasanaethau ac annog pobl i'w defnyddio. Yr wyf yn meddwl bod rôl benodol yn hynny o beth i Lywodraeth, i sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd.

[27] **Paul Davies:** Yr ydych wedi sôn bod

been made. The request is for the Welsh language to be acknowledged within the European Union's activities and to enable individuals and organisations in Wales to contact the European Union through the medium of Welsh. I think that that is almost entirely restricted to correspondence because you would not expect there to be someone at the other end of a phone who could speak Welsh, if one decided to make contact in that way, but it will be possible to send any correspondence through the medium of Welsh.

Paul Davies: You mentioned, Minister, that the Government intends to tackle the fact that so few people use Welsh-medium services. Will you expand a little on that? What is the Government going to do to encourage people to use Welsh-medium services?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I think that we need to work with companies to ensure that people are aware that these services are available in the first place, and we must also encourage them to use them. People worry that their Welsh is not good enough, not formal enough or not grammatically correct enough to fill in official forms in Welsh. They never worry that their English is not good enough. There has been a tendency for many Welsh speakers, including first-language Welsh speakers who use the language every day, to do anything official or anything that concerns business through the medium of English. It is a matter of advertising that the services are available and then working with companies to ensure that more people use them. Many of the companies that offer services through the medium of Wales have said that they want to see a way of bringing companies that offer such services together so that they can work together to try to raise awareness of the services and to encourage people to use them. I think that there is specific role for Government in that, to ensure that that happens.

Paul Davies: You have mentioned that the

amserlen Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yr iaith Gymraeg wedi newid. Credaf ichi ddweud bod hynny wedi digwydd am resymau cyfreithiol. Ai rhesymau cyfreithiol yw'r unig resymau dros y newidiadau hynny?

[28] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Nid rhesymau cyfreithiol yn yr ystyr bod problemau cyfreithiol ydynt, ond bod y broses gyfreithiol—y trafodaethau manwl gyda'r cyfreithwyr—yn cymryd llawer iawn mwy o amser nag yr oeddem wedi ei ragweld. Mae pob peth yr ydym wedi ei gael gan y cyfreithwyr wedi bod yn hynod o gadarnhaol, ond wrth fod yn gadarnhaol, mae'r cyfreithwyr bob amser yn gofyn cwestiynau ychwanegol nad oeddem wedi eu rhagweld, felly mae'n rhaid i ni fynd yn ôl ac archwilio'r rheini. Er enghraifft, pan fo rhywun yn sôn am hawl i wasanaethau, rhaid ystyried beth yw ystyr 'hawl' yn gyfreithiol. Wedyn, mae'n rhaid mynd drwy'r broses i gyd o feddwl sut y mae modd gweithredu hawl a beth sy'n digwydd os yw'r hawl honno yn cael ei gwrthod. Mae pob math o gwestiynau ac mae'n rhaid diffinio'n fanwl iawn beth yw hyd a lled yr hawl honno.

[29] Wrth gwrs, o ran y gyfraith, fel yr ydym yn cofio o gyfraith 1993, mae bob amser yn mynd yn ôl at yr hyn sy'n ymarferol ac yn rhesymol—'*reasonable and practical*' yw'r geiriau a welir bob amser mewn deddfwriaeth. Nid oes modd bod yn gwbl benodol a dweud, 'Mae'r gyfraith yn caniatáu hyn' mewn modd cwbl gynhwysfawr ac eang. Mae'n rhaid bod elfen yn hynny o'r hyn sy'n ymarferol ac yn bosibl ac y mae hynny'n golygu bod yn rhaid geirio'r Gorchymyn yn ofalus. Rhaid sicrhau, fel y dywedais yn gynharach, na fyddwn yn canfod ein hunain mewn sefyllfa lle na fyddwn yn gallu llunio Mesur i'r graddau y byddem yn dymuno ei wneud oherwydd bod y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yn annigonol.

2.50 p.m.

[30] **Paul Davies:** Felly, nid oes rhwystrau eraill o gwbl.

[31] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Nac oes. Nid oes rhwystr wedi bod yn wleidyddol nac yn

timetable for the legislative competence Order on the Welsh language has changed. I think that you said that that had happened for legal reasons. Are legal reasons the only reasons for those changes?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: They are not legal reasons in the sense that there are legal problems, just that the legal process—the detailed discussions with the lawyers—is taking much more time that we had foreseen. Everything that we have had from the lawyers has been extremely positive, but while being positive, the lawyers always ask additional questions that we had not foreseen, so we have had to go back and consider those. For example, when someone mentions a right to services, the meaning of 'right' in a legal sense must be considered. Then, we have to go through the whole process of considering how a right may be delivered and what happens if that right is refused. There are all sorts of questions, and the length and breadth of that right must be defined in very great detail.

Of course, in law, as we remember from the law of 1993, it always comes back to what is practical and reasonable—those are the words that are always used in legislation. It is not possible to be completely specific and say, 'The law allows this' in a completely comprehensive and broad way. There must be an element in that of what is practical and possible, and that means that the Order must be worded carefully. We must ensure, as I said earlier, that we do not find ourselves in a position where we would not be able to draw up a Measure to the degree that we would like because the legislative competence Order was inadequate.

Paul Davies: So, there are no other barriers.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: No. There have been no political or legal barriers. There is no

gyfreithiol. Nid oes lle i ofni na fyddwn yn gallu gwneud hyn, ond nid ydym wedi llwyddo i'w osod cyn toriad yr haf.

[32] **Paul Davies:** Yr ydych wedi sôn am gwmmi Golwg Cyf yn llwyddo gyda'i gais i ddarparu gwasanaeth newyddion Cymraeg yn ddyddiol. Hoffwn gofnodi fy llongyfarchiadau i'r cwmni am hynny. Mae llawer o ddadlau wedi bod ynglŷn â lefel ariannu'r prosiect hwn. A allwch esbonio, felly, ar ba sail y daethpwyd at y ffigur o £200,000 y flwyddyn? A edrychodd y Llywodraeth ar gynllun busnes penodol?

[33] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Nid oedd cynllun busnes penodol. Yn y lle cyntaf, o fewn mis imi gael fy mhenodi, comisiynais adolygiad o'r wasg brintiedig drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg gan Dr Tony Bianchi, a chefais adroddiad cynhwysfawr yn ôl oddi wrtho. Mae'n deg dweud mai prif gasgliad yr adroddiad oedd bod y sefyllfa o ran y wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Gymraeg yn anwastad ac yn fregus. O edrych ar hynny, deuthum i'r casgliad y gallai gormod o fenter—a fyddai'n bell o fod yn sicr o lwyddo—arwain at sefyllfa lle byddai'r fenter honno yn methu, gan effeithio'n andwyol ar weddill y wasg brintiedig drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Ar ddydd Mercher, byddai papur dyddiol printiedig—gwnaed cais am bapur newydd printiedig—yn cystadlu gyda *Golwg* ac *Y Cymro*. Nid oedd unrhyw un a oedd yn deall unrhyw beth am newyddiaduriaeth yn barod i ddadlau y byddai Cymry Cymraeg yn prynu'r tri chyhoeddiad ar yr un diwrnod.

[34] Byddent hefyd yn cystadlu am arian hysbysebu, ac mae'r dystiolaeth i gyd yn dweud fod lefelau buddsoddiad hysbysebu mewn print yn lleihau'n gyflym iawn ar hyn o bryd. Felly, gallai'r gystadleuaeth honno effeithio ar y cyhoeddiadau sydd eisoes yn bodoli. Byddai'n gallu effeithio ar Trinity Mirror hefyd, sydd yn ddibynnol ar hysbysebion i raddau helaeth, o ran y *Western Mail* a'r *Daily Post*, er mwyn bod yn hyfyw. Felly, y rheswm dros ddewis y pecyn ariannol hwn—sy'n mynd â'r cyllid sydd ar gael ar gyfer y wasg brintiedig i ymhell dros £1 miliwn dros dair blynedd—yw ei fod yn ddigonol i adeiladu yn sylweddol ar y ddarpariaeth sydd eisoes ar gael.

reason to worry that we will be unable to do this, but we have not managed to lay it before the summer recess.

Paul Davies: You have mentioned the success of Golwg Ltd with its tender for providing a daily Welsh-language news service. For the record, I would like to congratulate the company for that. There has been a great deal of debate about the level of funding for this project. Can you, therefore, explain the basis on which the figure of £200,000 a year was reached? Did the Government consider a specific business plan?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: There was no specific business plan. In the first place, within a month of my appointment, I commissioned Dr Tony Bianchi to undertake a review of the Welsh-language print media, and received a comprehensive report from him. It is fair to say that the main conclusion of that report was that the Welsh-language print media was uneven and fragile. Having looked at that, I came to the conclusion that too much risk—which would be far from certain of success—could lead to a situation where that scheme would fail, which would have a detrimental effect on the rest of the Welsh-language print media. On a Wednesday, a printed daily paper—an application was made for a printed newspaper—would be in competition with *Golwg* and *Y Cymro*. No-one who understood anything about journalism was willing to argue that Welsh speakers would buy all three publications on the same day.

They would also be competing for advertising revenue, and all the evidence says that the level of advertising investment in print is currently shrinking rapidly. Therefore, competition in that area could have an impact on existing publications. It could also affect Trinity Mirror, which is dependent on advertisements to a great extent, in terms of the *Western Mail* and the *Daily Post*, for its viability. Therefore, the reason that we went for this financial package—which takes the funding available for print media to well over £1 million over three years—is because it can build significantly on the provision that is already available.

[35] Penderfynwyd hefyd ein bod yn benodol yn chwilio am gynulleidfa ifanc, a'n bod am annog pobl ifanc i ddarllen newyddion drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae'r dystiolaeth i gyd yn dweud wrthym fod nifer darllenwyr y wasg brintiedig yn lleihau yn gyflym iawn a bod pobl ifanc bellach yn chwilio am eu newyddion drwy dechnoleg gwybodaeth. Dyna pam y daethpwyd i'r casgliad mai cynllun felly a oedd yn apelio, ac y byddai'r swm o £200,000 yn addas i alluogi hynny i ddigwydd.

[36] Wedi i hynny ddigwydd, gan arwain at sefyllfa lle'r oedd Dyddiol Cyf wedi gorfod cyfaddef na fyddai'n bosibl iddo weithredu ei gynllun uchelgeisiol, *Y Byd*, cafwyd pum cais arbennig o dda. Ni fyddai'r ceisiadau hynny wedi dod i law pe bai cynllun *Y Byd* fwy neu lai wedi meddiannu'r tir; gan mai yng Nghymru, ac yn y Gymru Gymraeg, yr ydym yn gweithredu, yr oedd pawb arall yn dweud, 'Dydym ni ddim yn mynd i gyflwyno unrhyw gais tan fod penderfyniad wedi ei wneud ar gynllun Dyddiol Cyf—nid oeddynt eisiau cael eu gweld yn cystadlu'n uniongyrchol gyda Dyddiol Cyf. Unwaith y dywedodd Dyddiol Cyf nad oedd hynny'n ddigon o arian i'w alluogi i fynd ymlaen â phrosiect *Y Byd*, daeth pobl at ei gilydd i greu partneriaethau.

[37] Gyda chwmmi Golwg Cyf, nid yn unig yr ydych yn cael 20 mlynedd o brofiad—mae wedi bod yn gwmni arbennig o lwyddiannus, er nad yw'r nifer sy'n ei ddarllen heb groesi'r 3,000, a hynny er ei fod wedi ceisio gwneud pob math o bethau, sy'n dweud rhywbeth wrthym am arferion darllen y Cymry Cymraeg—ond hefyd mae wedi llunio partneriaeth gyda Tinopolis a Telesgôp Cyf, dau gwmni teledu, a chyda chwmmi sy'n arbenigo ar ddarparu newyddion ar y we. Felly, mae partneriaethau a chwmmiau cryf iawn y tu ôl i'r cais hwnnw hefyd. Yr wyf yn ffyddiog iawn y bydd yn llwyddiant a'i fod yn cynnig llawer iawn mwy o opsiynau. Eto, cadwais at yr egwyddor hyd braich; Cyngor Llyfrau Cymru a fu'n cyfweld a phwyso a mesur y ceisiadau, gan ddod i'r casgliad mai cais Golwg Cyf oedd y gorau.

[38] **Paul Davies:** Felly, daethoch i'r casgliad hwn ar sail adroddiad Dr Tony

It was also decided that we would specifically target a young audience, and encourage young people to read the news through the medium of Welsh. All the evidence tells us that the readership of the printed media is shrinking rapidly, and that young people are now using information technology to access news. That is why we came to the conclusion that it was a scheme of this kind that was the most appealing, and that the sum of £200,000 would be appropriate to enable that to happen.

Once that occurred, leading to a situation where Dyddiol Ltd had to admit that its ambitious scheme, *Y Byd*, was unviable, we received five excellent applications. We would not have received those applications if *Y Byd* was more or less monopolising the situation; because we were working in Wales, and in Welsh-speaking Wales, everyone else was saying, 'We will not make any application until a decision has been taken on the Dyddiol Ltd scheme'—people did not want to be seen to be in direct competition with Dyddiol Ltd. Once Dyddiol Ltd said that the funding was not adequate to enable it to go ahead with the *Y Byd* project, people came together to forge partnerships.

With Golwg Ltd, not only do you have 20 years' experience—it has been a very successful company, although its readership has not crossed the 3,000 barrier, despite its trying all sorts of initiatives, which tells us something about the reading habits of Welsh speakers—but it has also gone into partnership with Tinopolis and Telesgôp Ltd, two television companies, and also with a company that specialises in providing news on the internet. So, there are partnerships and strong companies behind that bid. I am very confident that it will be a success and that it offers far more options. Once again, I kept to the arm's-length principle; it was the Welsh Books Council that carried out the interviews and evaluated the applications, and came to the conclusion that the Golwg Ltd bid was the strongest.

Paul Davies: So, you came to this conclusion on the basis of Dr Tony Bianchi's report,

Bianchi, er nad oedd ffigurau yn yr adroddiad? even though there are no figures in that report?

[39] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Fy nghasgliad, ar sail yr adroddiad, oedd y byddai mentro gormod yn golygu buddsoddi gormod o arian; y mwyaf mae rhywun yn ei fuddsoddi, y mwyaf uchelgeisiol yw'r cais a'r mwyaf o beryglon a fyddai i'r wasg brintiedig yng Nghymru o ganlyniad. Dyna pam y penderfynwyd ar swm o arian ychwanegol ar gyfer y wasg brintiedig o £200,000 y flwyddyn dros dair blynedd.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: My conclusion, on the basis of the report, was that too much risk would mean investing too much funding; the more you invest, the more ambitious the application, bringing more dangers for the print media in Wales as a result. So, that is why I decided on an additional sum of £200,000 a year for the print media over three years.

[40] **Joyce Watson:** Thank you for your report; it was quite comprehensive and I read it with great interest. My questions will focus on sports, because that is my area of interest. The Welsh Assembly Government took over the transfer of strategic planning functions from the Sports Council for Wales, so, ultimately, it rests within your ministerial portfolio. I notice that we have had a very good year in sport, which you mention in your opening comments, so I join you in celebration of those achievements. However, I cannot help but notice that they were male achievements; therefore, do you feel that you have a responsibility to help promote women's and girls' participation in sport and the media representation of that involvement in sport?

[41] My other area of interest—because of the area that I cover, being a coastal region, from Llanelli right up to the Llŷn peninsula—is our commitment, writ large in 'One Wales' and in other documents, to teaching swimming to young people and also to providing additional access to free swimming for the elderly, disabled and children. I know that various swimming pools are coming to the end of their life, notably in coastal regions, for example in Harlech, which is fighting closure now, so has the Assembly carried out an assessment of pools that might be coming to their sell-by date, shall we say, and of what we might need to do to keep those open or to replace them? I am particularly concerned about the need to do that. Having read this report extensively, I could not see any figures, unless I missed them, next to the sport element of this portfolio.

3.00 p.m.

[42] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** I will start with the reference to swimming pools, and it is quite correct to say that a number of swimming pools and leisure centres are coming to the end of their lives, for various reasons. They were basically all built at the same time, and that means that we now face a problem. Most Assembly Members have contacted me about a leisure centre or swimming pool in their constituency that is under threat of closure. The sports council has prepared a strategic document about swimming pools, and is now looking to create a strategy that will ensure that everyone has access to a swimming pool and leisure centre. It is fair to say that the feeling of the sports council is that, originally, there was no strategy on this, and that these leisure centres and swimming pools were built haphazardly throughout Wales. We now need to look at where they are located, to ensure that everyone has access to them.

[43] In terms of free swimming, yes, we are looking at reviewing the schemes that are in place to see how effective they have been. We will be publishing plans next year to extend those schemes, according to the commitment in 'One Wales'.

[44] On participation by girls and women in sport, it is true that there is a tendency to see sport as being male-dominated, to a large extent. However, there are some very successful

sportswomen in Wales, with Tanni Grey-Thompson probably being the most iconic of them, having won more medals than anyone in Paralympic sport. However, we are doing a great deal to promote participation by girls and women in sport. The Ryder Cup is coming to Newport in 2010 and, as part of that, we have rolled out extensive schemes to encourage young people to partake in golf—participation by girls and young women has gone up 50 per cent. In our schools programmes, both Dragon Sport and, more importantly, the 5x60 initiative in secondary schools, a lot of pupils who have opted out of sport, or have been left out because they do not manage to get into the school teams, are being encouraged to undertake all kinds of activities, and the levels of participation there are very high, especially for girls in secondary schools—they take part in activities like dance, and not just formal sport. That appeals a lot more to some of the female pupils. Not only do they take part in it, but they become leaders, and develop all sorts of skills. So, there is a lot of work going on to try to encourage girls and young women to take part in sport, and of course, that will be good for the rest of their lives, and not just in terms of health.

[45] **Joyce Watson:** I am pleased to hear that answer. However, the question that you avoided was the one on promotion, and whether you thought that your role as Minister should involve encouraging some media representation of women in sport. It would be nice to know what you think about that. Also, I note that you said that we have to make swimming more accessible, and the region that I have just described—which you know well—is very much part of rural Wales. I am particularly interested in how you define ‘access’, because in rural Wales, if you shut a pool, the next one could be four or five miles down the road, and we do not have a system in place that would allow access, unless you provide transport to drive people to and from pools.

[46] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** On the first question, yes, it is my responsibility to promote sporting achievement by women, and I am happy to talk to the media about that. I will point out that this issue has been raised, and that there is a feeling that the media does not give sufficient coverage to women in sport at present.

[47] In terms of where we are, the strategy is not only looking at where the swimming pools are, it also includes an assessment of the condition of swimming pools. We have several swimming pools that are coming to the end of their life, others have some life left in them, and others are fairly new. We need to make that assessment and look at everything—not only where we are now, but where we want to be in 10 or 15 years’ time in terms of access. However, I take your point that, as with all these things, in terms of access to provision, it is always more difficult in rural areas, because of population levels and distances, whereas, in more populated areas—larger towns and cities—it is easier to do that, and the sports council will be taking that into account as well.

[48] **Peter Black:** I wish to go back briefly to the issue of the use of Welsh in the European Union. I have read reports that there is a fairly substantial cost involved in that, and that the Welsh Assembly Government will be meeting that cost. Could you put on the record what the position is?

[49] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** I am not aware of a substantial cost to the Assembly from this—

[50] **Peter Black:** What is the cost to the Assembly then?

[51] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** There will be a cost to the Assembly if those services are used, because we will have to ensure that translation is available. We also have simultaneous translators being trained so that they can meet the standards of the European Union, including several translators from this institution. The standards there are very high, and it is quite an achievement to be accredited within that service. However, we have some wonderful

translators here, who are more than able to reach those standards. Therefore, there will be an element of cost, but I am not sure where you are getting the idea of a substantial cost.

[52] **Peter Black:** That is why I asked you the question, because I did not believe that what I saw was realistic. Regarding the translators who are being trained, I presume that we are paying for the training; would we pay for the use of those translators in the European Union, or would the EU pick up that cost?

[53] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** John has the answer to this.

[54] **Mr Howells:** We pay.

[55] **Peter Black:** So, what sort of cost are we talking about in terms of using those translators to provide the translation facilities?

[56] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** It depends on the uptake. Obviously, translating correspondence does not have a huge cost attached to it, but there will be some cost. However, if there are meetings, they will not be official EU meetings. For example, I was speaking at a meeting some months ago in Europe that was being translated into something like 50 languages—or there was translation from 50 languages. It was a strange situation, because the Minister from the Republic of Ireland, where about 3 per cent of the population speaks Irish, was able to speak in his native tongue, whereas I, representing a country where more than 21 per cent of the population speaks Welsh, was unable to speak in Welsh, because, at that point, Welsh was not officially recognised in Europe.

[57] Therefore, in those sorts of circumstances, it would be possible to have simultaneous translation from Welsh as well—and there would be a cost element to it. I am not sure whether we are in a position to give you any figures; I am prepared to see whether we can come up with some figures, but I have not seen any figures.

[58] **Mr Howells:** The best that we can say is that we expect it to be modest. In a sense, it would be a nice problem to have, if the demand became significant. However, we have agreed to this development on the basis that we believe that we can accommodate these costs without busting the bank.

[59] **Peter Black:** What is ‘modest’? Is it £50,000?

[60] **Mr Howells:** I would say less than that.

[61] **Peter Black:** Okay, that is fine—I just wanted to get that on the record.

[62] I wanted to ask in particular about the impact of the Olympic Games on Wales. As well as some of the benefits that the Olympic Games can bring to Wales, there is clearly a huge impact in terms of the money that is available for the arts and for sports organisations around Wales, and, with the cost of the Olympic Games rising once more, that will possibly put a further demand on lottery moneys. Do you have any idea as yet as to the exact cost impact of this on Wales? What can you do to try to alleviate that impact on organisations?

3.10 p.m.

[63] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** The figure that I have heard for the total loss of lottery revenue to Wales over the period is some £70 million. The figures that I have heard for the different sectors in my portfolio are £8 million for the arts and £7 million for sport. In a sense, one can understand the contribution of £7 million going from sports to the Olympic Games, but it is a bit more difficult to justify £8 million going from the arts. There are organisations and events

that will suffer as a consequence. It is important to remember, however, that if you go back further than seven years, there was no lottery money, so organisations and events were operating without lottery funding. It may be that, during the period since the lottery began, we have created something of a dependency culture, in which it is felt that there should be money for everything. Clearly, it will be more difficult, and choices, some of them difficult, will have to be made. However, there is now an opportunity to look quite critically at where that investment from lottery money has gone over the last seven years and at whether the best possible use has been made of it.

[64] Although we are losing sums of money, it is important to remember that far more money is available than the money we are losing, so bids can still be accepted by all the lottery funders. Following 2012, it will come back on stream. There will be an Olympic legacy at some point, and we will be making the case very strongly that, as lottery revenue has been lost, that should come back to Wales through the legacy as soon as everything is sold off after the Olympics. That might take up to 10 years, realistically. There is the cultural Olympiad at the moment, and we are working very hard on that. We have appointed Gwyn Williams as director for the Welsh programme—he used to be the director of Llangollen eisteddfod. Gwyn has come forward with a very ambitious and inspiring programme of events for the cultural Olympiad.

[65] Some 31 facilities throughout Wales have been accredited as acceptable to be Olympic training camps, 16 of which are multisport facilities accredited for the Paralympics. That is about 5 per cent of Olympic facilities and 9 per cent of Paralympic facilities. That reflects our track record and the structures that have been put in place for disabled sportspeople in Wales. Already, we have ensured that the Australian Paralympic team will use facilities at the Newport velodrome and at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff. There are other possibilities in the pipeline, and the Games' organisers have told us that we are very much ahead of the game and that they are confident that Wales will attract a number of other teams to use those facilities. That will bring a substantial amount of money in to the economy—you are talking about 350 athletes and support staff for the Australian team, which is a big team.

[66] In addition, there will be a knock-on effect in terms of the Games in London being an inspiration to athletes in Wales who will want to take part, because they are on their doorstep. That will have a beneficial effect on sporting activity in Wales.

[67] It is a matter now for organisations and sectors that have borne the brunt of lost lottery revenue to look creatively at what can be done to maximise the benefits of the Games. We were discussing this with the voluntary sector yesterday, and it is keen to look positively at what it can do to maximise the benefits and ensure that its activities are supported by the fact that the Games are coming to London in 2012.

[68] **Peter Black:** I notice that you are carrying out a consultation on the use of money from dormant bank and building society accounts. Is there a sense that some of that money will be used to replace part of the lost lottery money, or will you be using that to other ends?

[69] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Money from dormant accounts has been ring fenced to go to the voluntary sector, by and large, although there may be some other areas too. It has been targeted to provide opportunities for young people, and a section of it will go towards policies on climate change and sustainability. Initially, there will be a sum of between £10 million and £15 million, and, subsequently, in the following years, there will be a sum of between £1 million and £1.5 million. So, we do not want to start too many things in the first year that are dependent on revenue funding only for them to come to an end in the second year because they do not have any funding. That takes us back to looking at what can be done in terms of capital and build, and some of the things that you suggested earlier about facilities. That is why it is very important that we have strategies in place and that someone has done a strategic

review of the situation, so that we know that we are making the best possible investments.

[70] Sums of £10 million to £15 million pounds sound like a lot of money, but when you try to spread them throughout Wales, that is not the case. I have had discussions with lottery funders to see whether or not there are any options in terms of match funding, and we could also look at convergence funding, to see whether we could maximise that money and create a far larger pot that could be used strategically. So, it is very good news in a sense, and if you managed to maximise the initial £10 million to £15 million, and were talking about £30 million or £35 million, you would have a substantial pot of money that went a long way to addressing shortfalls in lottery revenue.

[71] I did not answer the question that you asked me about further raids on lottery funding. I raised this matter with James Purnell when he was Secretary of State at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and I have then spoken to Andy Burnham about it. I think that one of the last things that James Purnell did before he became Secretary of State for Work and Pensions was to make a statement in Parliament that there would be no further raids on lottery funding. I noticed that Tessa Jowell, as the Minister directly responsible for the Olympics, has said that the budget of £9.325 billion is a finite budget and that there will be no further money, although I know that there are difficulties facing the Games' organisers in terms of building the Olympic village. However, the Minister has said that that is it—there is no more money.

[72] **Peter Black:** I have one more question. Can you give us an update on the dot.cym campaign, which is mentioned in 'One Wales'?

[73] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** It does not come under my portfolio—it comes under creative industries and, therefore, under the Deputy First Minister's portfolio. I have had discussions with him about that particular campaign, which is ongoing. As a Government, we are looking at how we can actively support that campaign. I do not know if you have any detail on it, John.

[74] **Mr Howells:** That is a fair summary.

[75] **Mark Isherwood:** Should I ask my questions individually or group them together?

[76] **Janice Gregory:** I have no doubt that Mark has a list, so we will take his questions one at a time.

[77] **Mark Isherwood:** My first question builds on your comments about arts funding and sports funding. What policy directions, if any, have been issued to the Arts Council of Wales in the context of the budget environment that you described? I should declare that my wife is chair of Clwyd Theatr Cymru, which I know you will be visiting shortly. There are clearly repercussions; larger organisations will need to look at their business plans, but I am sure that many Members are being approached by small community projects in more rural areas concerned about transition plans until these alternative funding streams become available. What consideration is being given to facilitating that, or will that not be feasible?

3.20 p.m.

[78] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Individual funding decisions are very much a matter for the arts council and I would not want to intervene in those situations. I do not think that it is right for politicians to intervene in artistic decisions. The arts council has to take some difficult decisions about funding and what it is appropriate for it to fund. Perhaps because there was a lot of lottery money around, it used to have money and was therefore funding events and organisations, but it no longer feels as though those events and organisations need funding. In

the latest round, when six companies were facing either a reduction in, or a complete cut of, their revenue funding, the decision was made by the arts council on the basis of artistic choices. It looked at the companies carefully. There were reviews and consultation, and it made its decision. Ultimately, the appeal by St Donat's Arts Centre in the Vale of Glamorgan was upheld, and there are now discussions between the arts council and St Donat's regarding the way forward. However, it is very much a matter for the arts council.

[79] The Government has created a policy for the arts that is based on participation, access, and ensuring that everyone in Wales, wherever they are, has equal access to artistic and cultural events. We have increased the budget. The English-language national theatre is over and above budget, as is the merit pot for the beacon companies. Clwyd Theatr Cymru will get support from the merit pot—although deciding that is not a decision for me—and there will be an announcement on that soon. National companies like Clwyd Theatr Cymru will be strong contenders for that money. In response to the Stephens report, we have looked at what can be done strategically to help national companies. So, the budget is tight, but there is more money available, and tough decisions have to be made.

[80] The funding system that we have for the arts at the moment is, to a large extent, based on historical payment. If a company has had money in the past, it gets it now and it will get it in the future. The Government gives the arts council £29 million—

[81] **Mr Howells:** It is £25 million.

[82] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** No, it is £29 million. I checked that figure the other day. I had thought that it was £27 million, but the arts council tells me that it is in the region of £29 million.

[83] That money is then distributed by the arts council to organisations throughout Wales on a historic basis. I do not think that that is sustainable, and it creates a difficult situation for anyone coming through with a new idea, a new concept, or a new organisation. During the year, several such people have come to see me, and Dai Smith at the arts council, and I have just had to say that we have no money. We have no new money, and we have no money that offers an opportunity. That stifles creativity, which totally counteracts what we are trying to do with the arts. I have said that we need to have a dialogue. I am not going to impose that because I do not think that that would be productive either, but we need to have the dialogue and we need to find a way of creating greater flexibility in the funding system. Until now, the response to it has been positive. However, ultimately, there will still be difficult choices.

[84] **Mark Isherwood:** What would your message be to the small community projects that are contacting us about their own survivability?

[85] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** The small ventures that have depended on lottery funding need to look at other potential funders. Given that lottery money was available, perhaps the mentality was that there was no need to look to other areas for funding. Now that we have a credit crunch, it is not the easiest time to look for sponsorship from the private sector. However, there are possibilities there, as well as with local authorities, given some of the money that they have. They have had a tight settlement, as we all have, and it is difficult, but they have to look at that and they have to look back at their business cases. They have to try to find a way of creating greater viability within their own organisations. As I said, up to seven years ago, they had to do that on their own, as there was very little money out there; over the past seven years, lottery money has been available.

[86] **Mark Isherwood:** We will move on. On libraries, you have referred to the modernisation grant programme. My understanding is that largely, and very effectively, it has been targeted at libraries in more urban areas—those in towns rather than small communities.

At the same time, libraries in small and often remote communities that are providing a community resource, such as computer access and lifelong learning facilities, have been threatened with closure. I know that this is a local government matter, but there is a need for a national steer to ensure that there is a network of access for everyone, in an ideal world. What sort of national strategic position are you taking on this provision, not just in the larger towns, but in those more remote areas?

[87] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** We have invested £10.5 million in the refurbishment of libraries throughout Wales, which will mean that, at the end of the three-year period, about a quarter of libraries in Wales will have been totally refurbished. That means that you will ask, ‘What about the other 75 per cent?’, and I would answer that you have to start somewhere. It is important to reach that figure of a quarter of the total number of libraries. There are 300 public libraries in Wales, so you are talking about a good number—nearly 80 libraries—being refurbished over three years.

[88] I do not think that there is a bias in favour of urban rather than rural areas. I have been to a number of libraries that have been refurbished, such as that in Rhosllannerchrugog, which I do not think is an urban area, although it is in close proximity to Wrexham. I went there to open the newly refurbished library, and it now offers a wide range of services, including information technology. You talk about the pressures and the possibility of the closure of some libraries, and I have certainly heard reports about the situation in Conwy, which is what I think you are referring to, where the local authority has held a review of its libraries. No decision has been taken as yet, as far as I know. The review has to come back now to the new council and it will look at it. I know that it is not a simple matter of saying, ‘We have too many libraries and so we want to close some’; there are all sorts of issues there to do with health and safety, and access. A library in a very sparsely populated area may have only one person working there, and then you have to ask whether that is to be encouraged as regards health and safety. There are several issues there and I am monitoring the situation.

[89] Our policy—that everyone should have access to library services in Wales—is based on access. We have been talking about all these things that we are doing with IT, and we have tried to ensure that IT provision is available in libraries, because not everyone has a computer or broadband at home. However, they can go into their libraries to access those services. So, this is very much based on looking at the situation throughout Wales and trying to ensure access for all to a wide range of services through libraries. The number of people who use library services is surprising, when you look at the figures. Out of a population of 3 million, 1 million people are using libraries in Wales. When I saw that figure, it really surprised me.

[90] **Mark Isherwood:** In some of those libraries, usage is actually increasing. On my visits to libraries, I have noticed just how well used they are. However, I will now move on to my next point on the sustainable tourist forum, which, of course, is trade led, which is a positive thing. In the interim, as you know, the sector is expressing concern about marketing in the context of falling tourist revenue over the past 12 months. What action is being taken to plug the gap now, both in online promotion and in broader publicity for the Wales—the Big Country campaign?

3.30 p.m.

[91] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Last week or the week before, I announced that we have now been given an additional £4.2 million from the European structural funds, the Objective 1 funds, because of the exchange rate between the pound and the euro. That money is going specifically towards marketing campaigns. I know that the marketing team is very busy; there are five different marketing brands that are either being used or have been used, and the team is using a wide range of communication with people.

[92] You say that the sector is unhappy but, in fact, it is working with us. The Tourism Alliance, which represents the sector and providers, is working with us to undertake a review of the situation. We have had nothing but co-operation from the Tourism Alliance. Despite what is happening in England and the difference in how the industry is responding to Westminster and the UK Minister—I understand that she was heckled recently at a conference—in Wales, we are working together. Yes, we had a bad season, especially in June and July last year, which has put pressure on providers. There is also the credit crunch, which means that people are spending less money. That is a challenge, but we are working with the industry to make sure that we make the best of the situation in Wales.

[93] **Mark Isherwood:** Providers are very keen to contribute and be involved, but they also have concerns.

[94] My final point is on historic buildings. There are two different aspect to this, one of which relates to Cadw's role. I know of two recent examples of historic castles in north Wales with different uses that submitted planning applications, but they are not going ahead for various reasons now. Bats were found in one castle, and there were issues around a flood plain with the other. However, were it not for those reasons, they could well have gone ahead. What greater role do you feel that Cadw could have in protecting those historic monuments and the historic environment in which they sit against such possible planning incursions?

[95] On safeguarding the stock of historic buildings, a lot of stock in north Wales—Gwrych castle for example—has sadly deteriorated over many years. Organisations such as the British Georgian Society, the Victorian Society and others have stated that, without Government money but with other forms of practical Assembly support, they could safeguard the viability of many such buildings. What discussions are you having with them? If you are not already having such discussions, would you be open to that to agree on a non-cost way forward?

[96] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** I would certainly be happy to have those discussions, as I am sure would Cadw. There is a recognition now that Cadw has changed as an organisation. There was a perception—at one time at least—that Cadw saw its role as protecting various historic and heritage sites in Wales while making it as difficult as possible for the public to go anywhere near them. However, that has all changed; it now has a far more flexible view of things. It wants to promote those historic buildings and be a part of our strategy of cultural and heritage tourism.

[97] On planning applications, Cadw has a statutory duty to comment on listed buildings. I know that its role is to try to protect those buildings, but it must take a realistic view, and sometimes it has to ask whether, in the long term, it is best for there to be some development of those buildings, as long as that does not impact detrimentally on the historic building or site, and if, through that development, there is a means of safeguarding the site. It is not an easy option for Cadw, but it tries to look at planning applications in that way.

[98] **Nerys Evans:** Mae gennyf ddau gwestiwn byr. A allwch chi ein diweddarau ynghylch eich trafodaethau gyda Llywodraeth yr Alban ynghylch cynnal pencampwriaeth pêl-droed Ewrop 2016 ar y cyd? Credaf y byddai'n ddigwyddiad gwych i ni ei gynnal yng Nghymru, yn enwedig o ystyried y cyfleusterau sydd gennym.

Nerys Evans: I have two brief questions. Can you give us an update on your discussions with the Scottish Government regarding jointly hosting the 2016 European football championship? I think that it would be an excellent event to hold in Wales, particularly given the facilities that we have available.

[99] Yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Darlledu ychydig wythnosau'n ôl, bu Mark Thompson yn trafod ein hatebolrwydd yng Nghymru a

In the Broadcasting Committee's meeting a few weeks ago, Mark Thompson discussed with us our accountability in Wales and how

sut i adeiladu mecanwaith cyfathrebu rhwng y Cynulliad a'r BBC. Sut ydych chi'n gweld hynny'n gweithio yn y dyfodol?

[100] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** O ran y sefyllfa gyda'r cais ar gyfer cystadleuaeth cwpan Ewrop, yn y lle cyntaf, mae'n rhaid i Gymdeithas Bêl-droed yr Alban a Chymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru gynnal trafodaethau. Deallaf fod rhywfaint o drafod wedi bod. Gwn fod y Prif Weinidog wedi siarad gyda Phrif Weinidog yr Alban, Alex Salmond, ynghylch y mater yn ystod un o'u cyfarfodydd arferol. Felly, mae trafodaethau yn mynd yn eu blaenau ac, ar hyn o bryd, yr ydym yn disgwyl i weld a fydd cais. Yn y pen draw, bydd yn rhaid i'r cais ddod oddi wrth y cymdeithasau pêl-droed; nid oes modd i lywodraeth wneud cais. Bydd yn rhaid inni edrych yn fanwl ar y cais wedyn, ond mae'r trafodaethau yn mynd yn eu blaenau ar hyn o bryd.

[101] O ran y sefyllfa gyda'r BBC, yr oedd adroddiad yr Athro Anthony King, a gomisiynwyd gan Ymddiriedolaeth y BBC, yn un damniol ynghylch methiant y BBC o ran ei gyfrifoldeb i roi sylw i faterion o Gymru. Yn dilyn ymweliad Mark Thompson â'r Pwyllgor Darlledu, cafodd y Prif Weinidog, y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ, Carwyn Jones, a minnau gyfarfod gydag ef a gwnaethpwyd yn glir iawn iddo ein bod yn anhapus gyda'r sefyllfa a'n bod yn disgwyl iddo weithredu i sicrhau bod mwy o degwch o ran sut mae materion o Gymru, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon yn cael sylw. Mae hyn yn wir o ran rhanbarthau Lloegr hefyd, oherwydd os ystyriwch lle mae rhai o'r safleoedd darlledu, mae pryder mai dim ond adlewyrchu'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn Llundain mae'r BBC a'i fod yn canolbwyntio ar hynny. Nid wyf yn cael llawer o amser i wyllo'r teledu, ond deallaf fod newid wedi bod o ran sut y portreadir y newyddion ar y BBC a bod ymgais o leiaf i ddweud, 'Wel, dyma sy'n digwydd yn Lloegr, ond mae'r sefyllfa'n wahanol yng Nghymru, Gogledd Iwerddon a'r Alban oherwydd datganoli'.

[102] Gofynnais hefyd i Mark Thompson gadw mewn cysylltiad â ni, ac mae wedi addo gwneud hynny. Cynigiodd gynnal cyfarfod arall â ni yn syth i ni gael trafodaeth

to build a communication mechanism between the Assembly and the BBC. How do you see that working in the future?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: In terms of the situation regarding the bid to host the European cup competition, first of all, the Scottish Football Association and the Football Association of Wales must hold discussions. I understand that some discussions have already taken place. I know that the First Minister has spoken with the Scottish First Minister, Alex Salmond, about this matter during one of their regular meetings. Therefore, discussions are ongoing and, at the moment, we are waiting to see whether a bid is made. Ultimately, the football associations will have to make the bid; governments cannot make such bids. We will then have to look in detail at the bid, but the discussions are ongoing at present.

In terms of the situation regarding the BBC, Professor Anthony King's report, commissioned by the BBC Trust, was very critical of the BBC's failure in terms of its responsibility to give due coverage to Welsh affairs. Following Mark Thompson's appearance before the Broadcasting Committee, the First Minister, the Counsel General and Leader of the House, Carwyn Jones, and I held a meeting with him and we made it quite clear that we were unhappy with the situation and that we expected him to take action to ensure more equity in terms of the way in which issues relating to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were covered. This is also true of the English regions, because if you consider the location of some broadcasting centres, there is concern that the BBC only reflects what happens in London and focuses on that. I do not have much time to watch television, but I understand that there has been a change in the way in which the news is portrayed on the BBC and that it is attempting, at least, to state, 'Well, this is what is happening in England, but the situation is different in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland because of devolution'.

I also asked Mark Thompson to keep in touch with us, and he has promised to do so. He offered us another meeting immediately following that meeting so that we can have a

bellach—gan fod y Pwyllgor Darlledu wedi ei gadw braidd yn hir, dim ond rhyw 20 munud a gawsom i siarad ag ef. Fodd bynnag, gwnaethom ein pwyntiau yn glir iawn iddo yn ystod yr amser hwnnw. Holais ef hefyd ynghylch cael cynrychiolaeth o BBC Cymru ar fyrddau rheoli canolog y BBC yn Llundain. Yr oeddwn yn teimlo bod hynny'n eithriadol o bwysig, ac na ddylai fod ar sail hap a damwain bod Cymro yn digwydd bod ar y byrddau. Mae'n rhaid cael strwythur clir iawn i sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd. Addawodd i edrych ar sut y byddai modd sicrhau bod rheolwr/rheolwraig y BBC yng Nghymru yn cael cynrychioli buddiannau Cymru ar y byrddau canolog hynny. Felly, yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd y berthynas rhwng y BBC yn Llundain a ninnau yng Nghymru yn llawer mwy agored yn y dyfodol.

[103] **Paul Davies:** Mae gennyf gwestiwn ynghylch Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru. Mae dros chwe mis yn awr ers i chi gyhoeddi'r pecyn ariannol ar ei chyfer. A ydych yn bwriadu gwneud datganiad yn fuan ar sefyllfa ariannol y ganolfan ar hyn o bryd? Os nad ydych yn bwriadu gwneud hynny, a allwch ddweud sut mae'r pecyn ariannol hwnnw'n gweithio yn awr?

3.40 p.m.

[104] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Gofynnaf i John fynd drwy fanylion y pecyn ariannol, gan ei fod yn fwy cyfarwydd â'r trafodaethau uniongyrchol. Bu inni gynnig pecyn ychydig dros chwe mis yn ôl, yn Nhachwedd 2007. Yr ydym wedi bod yn trafod gyda chanolfan y mileniwm gytundeb ar gyllido a sut y byddai'r cyllid hwnnw'n cael ei gyflwyno i'r ganolfan. Cawsom hefyd drafodaeth ar lywodraethu o fewn y ganolfan. Mae'r trafodaethau hynny yn dod i ben. Yr oeddent yn fanwl, ond yr wyf yn mawr obeithio y byddant yn dod i ben yn y pythefnos nesaf, gan fod angen inni gael cytundeb arnynt cyn i ni allu trosglwyddo arian refeniw i'r ganolfan, sydd angen chwistrelliad o'r arian refeniw hwnnw.

[105] Yr wyf yn cadw golwg manwl iawn ar y sefyllfa. Y peth olaf yr wyf yn ei ddymuno yw i'r ganolfan fod mewn sefyllfa lle mae'n gorfod benthyg arian. Byddai Paul yn fwy ymwybodol nag unrhyw un o'r math o gostau

further discussion—as the Broadcasting Committee kept him for a long time, we only have around 20 minutes with him. However, we made our points very clearly to him during that time. I asked a question regarding representation from BBC Wales on the BBC's central management boards in London. I felt that that was extremely important and that it should not just be left to chance that a Welsh person happened to be a member of the boards. We must have a very clear structure to ensure that that happens. He promised to look at how he could ensure that the controller of the BBC in Wales could represent the interests of Wales on those central boards. Therefore, I hope that the relationship between the BBC in London and us in Wales will be much more open in the future.

Paul Davies: I have a question about the Wales Millennium Centre. Six months have gone by since you announced the funding package for the centre. Do you intend to make a statement soon on the centre's current financial situation? If not, could you tell us how that financial package currently operates?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I will ask John to go through the financial details of the package as he is more directly familiar with the discussions. We offered a package a little over six months ago, in November 2007. We have been discussing with the millennium centre an agreement on budgetary matters and how that money would be presented to the centre. We also had discussions on the centre's governance. Those discussions are due to end soon. They were detailed, but I sincerely hope that those discussions will come to an end in the next fortnight, because we need to reach agreement on those before we can transfer revenue funding to the centre, which is in need of a financial boost.

I am keeping a close eye on the situation. The last thing that I want is for the centre to be in a situation where it has to borrow money. Paul would be more aware than anyone of the type of costs incurred by that. Therefore, we

a fyddai'n dod yn sgîl hynny. Felly, yr ydym yn gweithio'n agos gyda swyddogion y ganolfan ar hyn o bryd er mwyn dod â'r trafodaethau i ben a bod mewn sefyllfa i gyflwyno rhan gyntaf yr arian refeniw ychwanegol.

[106] **Mr Howells:** Mae ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i'r ganolfan yn glir, ond mae gwaith papur ynghlwm wrth yr ymrwymiad hwnnw ac yr ydym yn mynd drwy'r broses o roi'r gwaith papur yn ei le; bydd yr arian yn llifo yn sgîl hynny.

[107] **Paul Davies:** Felly, byddwch yn gwneud datganiad yn fuan yn sgîl y trafodaethau hyn.

[108] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Nid wyf yn siŵr am beth yr wyt yn chwilio o ran gofyn am ddatganiad. Os oes teimlad bod angen datganiad, yr wyt yn ddigon hapus i wneud datganiad ysgrifenedig.

[109] **Mr Howells:** Bydd datganiad yn dilyn yr adolygiad. Cyn gynted ag y bydd hwnnw'n dechrau'n ffurfiol, byddwn yn darparu'r wybodaeth honno.

[110] **Janice Gregory:** Thank you. We have come to the end of our scrutiny session. Thank you, Minister, and John for your full, comprehensive and frank answers to Members' questions this afternoon.

[111] I remind you that we are in Wrexham next Thursday. I thank you for your attendance and declare the meeting closed.

are currently working closely with the centre's officials to bring those discussions to a conclusion so that we are in a position to hand over the first part of the additional revenue funding.

Mr Howells: The Government's commitment to the centre is clear, but there is paper work linked to that commitment and we are going through the process of putting that paperwork in place; the funding will follow that.

Paul Davies: So, you will make a statement in due course, in the wake of these discussions.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I am not sure what you are looking for in asking for a statement. If there is a feeling that a statement is required, then I am happy to make a written statement.

Mr Howells: A statement will follow the review. As soon as that formally starts, we will provide that information.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 3.43 p.m.
The meeting ended at 3.43 p.m.*