



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

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

**Dydd Mercher, 2 Rhagfyr 2009
Wednesday, 2 December 2009**

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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.

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.

Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol
Committee members in attendance

Eleanor Burnham	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats
Alun Cairns	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Janice Gregory	Llafur (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) Labour (Committee Chair)
Lesley Griffiths	Llafur Labour
Bethan Jenkins	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales
David Lloyd	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales

Eraill yn bresennol
Others in attendance

Heather Davidson	Is-adran Busnes a Sgiliau, yr Adran Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Business and Skills Division, Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Welsh Assembly Government
Alun Ffred Jones	Aelod Cynulliad, Plaid Cymru, (y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth) Assembly Minister, Plaid Cymru, (the Minister for Heritage)
Usha Ladwa-Thomas	Is-adran Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a Dŵr, Adran yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Climate Change and Water Division, Department for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing, Welsh Assembly Government
Peter Owen	Pennaeth Strategaeth Ddiwylliannol a Changen y Loteri, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Head of Cultural Strategy and Lottery Branch, Welsh Assembly Government

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

Tom Jackson	Clerc Clerk
Sarah Bartlett	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 9.15 a.m.
The meeting began at 9.15 a.m.

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon
Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

[1] **Janice Gregory:** Welcome to this morning's meeting of the Communities and Culture Committee. Before we start, I will run through the normal procedures for committee meetings

at the National Assembly for Wales. As I am sure you are aware, the National Assembly for Wales operates through the media of the Welsh and English languages. Headsets are therefore available, with translation on channel 1 and sound amplification on channel 0. I ask everyone in the room to switch off their mobile phones or any other electronic devices that they might have about their person because these can interfere with the sensitive sound equipment. I understand that there is no fire drill this morning, so if the alarm sounds we will be required to leave the building. In that event, please follow the guidance of the ushers, who will ensure that we leave safely.

[2] I have received apologies from Lynne Neagle, and I am not aware of any substitutions.

9.16 a.m.

**Craffu ar Waith y Gweinidog—Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth—Cynllun
Cyfrifon Segur i Gymru
Ministerial Scrutiny—The Minister for Heritage—Dormant Accounts Scheme
for Wales**

[3] **Janice Gregory:** I thank Members for arriving early this morning. It is important that we are here to scrutinise the Minister for Heritage, Alun Ffred Jones, on the dormant accounts scheme for Wales. You will recall that we mentioned this in our discussions on funding for the voluntary sector.

[4] Thank you, Minister, for coming to the committee this morning to answer our questions on the dormant accounts scheme, and thank you for the papers that you have already provided to Members. We will follow the usual pattern. I am sure that you will want to make some introductory remarks in relation to the papers, and you also have your officials with you. The Members will then have a series of questions for you. So, let me hand things over to you, Minister.

[5] **Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth (Alun Ffred Jones):** Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ddiolch ichi am y cyfle i ddod yma i drafod y cynllun cyfrifon segur i Gymru. **The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones):** I would like to start by thanking you for the opportunity to come here to discuss the dormant accounts scheme for Wales.

[6] Ar y chwith imi mae Peter Owen, pennaeth strategaeth ddiwylliannol a changen y loteri, ac ar y dde mae Usha Ladwa-Thomas, o Is-adran Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a Dŵr. Yr ydym hefyd yn disgwyl y bydd aelod o staff Is-adran Busnes a Sgiliau yr Adran Plant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, yn cyrraedd rhywbryd.

To my left is Peter Owen, head of cultural strategy and lottery branch, and on my right is Usha Ladwa-Thomas, from the Climate Change and Water Division. We also expect that a colleague from the Business and Skills Division of the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, will arrive later.

[7] Hoffwn wneud rhai sylwadau cyn ichi ddechrau gofyn cwestiynau. Mae'r cynllun hwn wedi bod yn yr arfaeth ers amser hir oherwydd yr angen i ymgynghori. Fodd bynnag, mae'r cynigion yn ategu'r ddau ddiben gwario a gyflwynwyd yn wreiddiol gan y Cabinet yn 2007, ac y buom yn ymgynghori arnynt yn 2008. Bydd y rhan fwyaf o'r arian yn dod i mewn ac yn cael ei wario dros gyfnod byr—rhwng blwyddyn a

I would like to make a few comments before you start the questions. This scheme has been in the pipeline for a long time because of the need for consultation. However, the proposals endorse the two areas of expenditure that were originally introduced by the Cabinet in 2007, and that we consulted on in 2008. Most of the funding will come in and be spent over a short period of time—possibly between one and two years.

dwy flynedd, efallai. Serch hynny, bydd ffrwd fach o arian yn parhau i fod ar gael ar gyfer y dyfodol.

However, there will be a small stream of funding available for the future.

[8] Yr ydych yn ymwybodol o'r ddwy elfen: helpu plant a phobl ifanc, yn enwedig y rhai nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant; a mynd i'r afael â'r newid yn yr hinsawdd. Mae'r pwyslais ar yr elfen gyntaf, ac mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r arian wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer hynny.

You are aware of the two elements: to support children and young people, especially those who are not in education, employment or training; and to address climate change. The emphasis is on the first element, and most of the money has been allocated to that.

[9] Y cam nesaf yw cyflwyno Gorchymyn i bennu'r ddau brif ddben gwario. Wedyn, bydd angen i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol gymeradwyo'r Gorchymyn, yn dilyn dadl. Ar ôl hynny, bydd angen rhoi cyfarwyddiadau i'r Gronfa Loteri Fawr er mwyn i'r gronfa allu mynd ati i baratoi'r cynllun yn fanwl. Os aiff popeth yn iawn, dylai hyn ganiatáu i'r Gronfa Loteri Fawr wahodd ceisiadau o fis Medi 2010 ymlaen, a gallai grantiau gael eu talu, felly, ar ddiwedd 2010 neu ar ddechrau 2011. Hoffwn adael pethau yn y fan honno oherwydd yr wyf yn sicr y bydd eich cwestiynau yn ein tywys yn ôl dros y manylion.

The next step is to present an Order to establish the two main areas of expenditure, and the National Assembly will need to approve the Order after a debate. Following that, we will need to give the Big Lottery Fund direction so that it can prepare the detailed scheme. If everything goes smoothly, this should allow the Big Lottery Fund to invite applications from September 2010, and grants could therefore be paid out at the end of 2010 or at the beginning of 2011. I would like to leave matters there because I am sure that your questions will take us back over the details.

[10] **Janice Gregory:** Thank you, Minister. The first question is from Lesley Griffiths.

[11] **Lesley Griffiths:** In looking at the way that the funding is going to be allocated, Minister, you note that the funds will be distributed based on the Barnett formula. How does that reflect the Big Lottery Fund's financial formula, and are you happy with the way the funds are to be allocated across the UK?

9.20 a.m.

[12] **Alun Ffred Jones:** The power to apportion the money between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland rests with the Secretary of State. Early on in the passage of the Bill through Parliament, Treasury Ministers ruled that the share would be determined via the Barnett formula. My predecessor made efforts to secure a better deal for Wales by arguing that the share should be determined on the basis of the Big Lottery Fund's own formula, which is weighted for deprivation, and currently stands at 6.2 per cent of the total lottery funding for Wales. However, the decision was taken to go with the Barnett formula. In the light of the Holtham report, I intend to write again to the Treasury arguing for a better deal for Wales, but we should not hold our breath.

[13] **Alun Cairns:** I would like to press you on that. The Barnett formula for Wales amounts to 5.95 per cent of the increase in spending in UK Government departments. This is not an increase, is it? It is a new initiative. Therefore, how could the Government apply one formula in one instance, and then a completely different formula in relation to these funds?

[14] **Alun Ffred Jones:** I am not the person to answer that question.

[15] **Alun Cairns:** Have you not made that point?

[16] **Alun Ffred Jones:** This decision had been made previous to my taking up this job. Rhodri Glyn Thomas, as my predecessor, had made that case, writing to the Treasury arguing for a better deal for Wales along the lines of the Big Lottery Fund's own formula. I intend to make that case again in the light of the Holtham report. However, we will have to wait and see.

[17] **Alun Cairns:** It is not about the Holtham report, although that is an important influencer. The issue is that Barnett applies to increases in spending at UK Government departments. This is not an increase. It is a new fund—a new stream of money.

[18] **Alun Ffred Jones:** All that I am saying is that that was the decision taken by the Treasury when the scheme was set up. That is what I inherited, and I intend to make the case again that the money should be distributed according to need rather than according to the Barnett formula.

[19] **Alun Cairns:** I will move on to my next question. To identify its priorities, the Welsh Assembly Government ran a consultation offering two main spending options. Why did it choose to limit the consultation in this way?

[20] **Alun Ffred Jones:** The priorities were agreed by Cabinet after internal discussions between the then-Minister for Heritage and his ministerial colleagues. They could have gone out and asked 'what would you like us to spend the money on?', but that would have led to 101 replies, so it was right for the Cabinet to give a steer to the consultation. The money will be spent, in the main, by the third sector, and Cabinet came to the conclusion that these broad categories were the ones that would provide the best return. There was a consultation on how the money should be distributed—whether it should be strategic or demand-led, and whether it should be in the form of grants or loans, or a mixture of both. I do not think that the fact that the Cabinet chose two areas was a bad decision.

[21] **Alun Cairns:** You mentioned in your opening statement that the emphasis would be on the first priority. Does that mean that you suggest a split between the two priorities in terms of the proportion of funding? Supplementary to that, how did you arrive at those priorities?

[22] **Alun Ffred Jones:** The two priorities had been decided by Cabinet before I took up the post.

[23] **Alun Cairns:** With respect, Minister, we are inviting you to this committee as the office-holder for your post, which carries the responsibility of your predecessor with it.

[24] **Alun Ffred Jones:** I am not disputing that or arguing against it. I am just saying that the decision had been made by Cabinet, and we then consulted. The Big Lottery Fund went out to consultation on the suggested areas, and we discussed with it the balance of emphasis between the two. Its advice was that, because funds are limited, one area should be given priority rather than splitting the funds 50:50. After the consultation, it was decided that more emphasis should be placed on young people.

[25] **Alun Cairns:** So, do you expect the ratio to be 60:40, 70:30, 80:20, or what?

[26] **Alun Ffred Jones:** The decision is to have a ratio of roughly 80:20, but that is not hard and fast, and if the demand is not sufficient for young people, we would be open to varying it.

[27] **Alun Cairns:** Finally, did anyone respond negatively to the consultation, or were any other spending priorities suggested during the consultation?

[28] **Alun Ffred Jones:** No. As you would expect, the responses were mostly favourable, although Community Transport Cymru expressed that it was very disappointed that its particular demands were not being met.

[29] **David Lloyd:** Mae canllawiau ariannu'r loteri yn mynnu bod prosiectau yn ychwanegu gwerth yn hytrach na'n disodli gwasanaethau craidd. A fydd angen y gofyniad hwnnw wrth ddefnyddio arian y cyfrifon segur?

David Lloyd: The lottery's funding guidelines require that projects add value rather than replace core services. Will that requirement be needed when using funding from the dormant accounts, too?

[30] **Alun Ffred Jones:** Dyna'r union fwriad, sef bod yr arian hwn yn ychwanegol ac na fyddai fel arfer ar gael i'r cyrff hyn a fydd yn ceisio amdano. Credaf fod sôn yn y ddeddfwriaeth am yr angen i'r arian hwn fod yn arian ychwanegol ac yn newydd. Gan y bydd y mwyafrif o'r arian yn cael ei wario gan y sector gwirfoddol, yn hytrach na'r sector statudol ar y cyfan, dyna'r ceisiadau y byddai rhywun yn ei ddisgwyl eu derbyn am yr arian. Felly bydd yn arian ychwanegol at yr hyn sy'n cael ei wario ar hyn o bryd.

Alun Ffred Jones: That is precisely the intention, namely that it be additional funding and not normally available to the bodies that will be applying for it. I believe that it is mentioned in the legislation that this funding must be additional, new funding. Given that most of this funding will be spent by the voluntary sector and not by the statutory sector on the whole, those are the applications that one would expect for the funding. So, it will be funding additional to what is already being spent.

[31] **David Lloyd:** Sut y byddech yn ymateb i bryderon y byddai arian y cyfrifon segur yn cael ei ddefnyddio i gyflawni blaenoriaethau 'Cymru'n Un' yn hytrach na'r blaenoriaethau a bennwyd ar gyfer y sector gwirfoddol?

David Lloyd: How would you respond to the concerns that moneys from dormant accounts will be used to achieve 'One Wales' priorities rather than the priorities determined for the voluntary sector?

[32] **Alun Ffred Jones:** Er ein bod wedi pennu'r ddau faes hwn i'w blaenoriaethu, ac er mai yn y sector gwirfoddol y caiff yr arian ei wario, bydd yn ategu'r gwaith a'r blaenoriaethu a amlinellwyd gan y Llywodraeth yn rhaglen 'Cymru'n Un'. Nid ar raglenni'r Llywodraeth fydd yr arian hwn yn cael ei wario, ond ar gynlluniau newydd a mentrus, gobeithio—rhai y byddai'r sector statudol yn fwy amharod i fynd amdanynt. Gobeithio, felly, y bydd yr arian hwn, er ei fod yn gyfyngedig, yn ychwanegu gwerth ac yn llwyddo i wneud gwahaniaeth.

Alun Ffred Jones: Even though we have identified these two areas to prioritise, and even though it is in the voluntary sector that the funding will be spent, it will complement the work and priorities set out by the Government in the 'One Wales' programme. This funding will not be spent on Government programmes, but on new and innovative schemes, hopefully—ones that the statutory sector would be less willing to go for. Hopefully, therefore, this funding, limited though it is, will add value and will succeed in making a difference.

[33] **Eleanor Burnham:** A wnewch chi egluro rhywbeth imi? Mae eich papur yn nodi, yn Saesneg yn unig, mae arnaf ofn:

Eleanor Burnham: Could you explain something to me? Your paper states, in English only, I am afraid, that

[34] 'Since the consultation, Big Lottery Fund's case for targeting fewer policy aims within support for young people' has been strengthened by new estimates of the amount of money likely to be available. HM Treasury still cannot give a precise figure, as account holders can reclaim their assets at any time, and because the Reclaim Fund is still being set up. However its current estimates for Wales are for £8-10 million initially, plus a trickle in future years from newly dormant accounts. This is significantly less than the original forecast of £15-20

million.’

[35] A wnewch chi egluro beth yw’r *reclaim fund*, a beth a olygir gan ‘*account holders can reclaim their assets at any time*’? Will you please explain what the *reclaim fund* is, and what is meant by ‘*account holders can reclaim their assets at any time*’?

9.30 a.m.

[36] **Alun Ffred Jones:** Gofynnaf i Peter esbonio yn fwy manwl ond, hyd y deallaf, rhaid sefydlu cronfa ganolog i ddechrau, ond o’r hyn yr wyf yn ei ddeall, rhaid ichi sefydlu cronfa ganolog i ddechrau oherwydd mae’r arian hwn yn gorwedd mewn banciau; arian personol ydyw. Bydd angen i’r banciau a’r sefydliadau ariannol drosglwyddo’r arian hwnnw i mewn i’r gronfa ganolog. Honno, pa faint bynnag ydyw, fydd yn cael ei rhannu rhwng gwahanol wledydd Prydain. Felly, nid oes neb yn siŵr beth fydd maint y gronfa honno a dyna pam nad oes neb yn siŵr faint o arian fydd ar gael i’w wario yng Nghymru. **Alun Ffred Jones:** I will ask Peter to explain in more detail, but, as I understand it, you need to set up a central fund to start with, but, as I understand it, you need to set up a central fund to start with, because this money is lying in the banks; it is personal money. The banks and financial institutions will have to transfer that money into the central fund. It is that fund, whatever its size, that will be shared between the different countries of Britain. Therefore, no-one is sure what the size of the fund will be and that is why no-one is sure how much money will be available to spend in Wales.

[37] Yr oedd ymgyrch o’r enw *My Lost Account*, sy’n atgoffa pobl y dylent edrych am eu harian. Bu’r ymgyrch yn llwyddiannus iawn ac mae pobl wedi dod o hyd i arian yr oeddent wedi anghofio oedd gyda nhw. There was a campaign called *My Lost Account*, which reminded people to look for their money. The campaign has been very successful and people have come across money that they had forgotten they had.

[38] **Eleanor Burnham:** Dyna’r ‘*reclaim fund*’, ai e? Arian sydd wedi cronni gan nad yw pobl wedi’i dynnu allan o’r banc. **Eleanor Burnham:** So, that is the ‘*reclaim fund*’, is it? Money that has accrued because it has not been withdrawn from the bank.

[39] **Alun Ffred Jones:** Gofynnaf i Peter esbonio’r peth yn gliriach. **Alun Ffred Jones:** I will ask Peter to explain this more clearly.

[40] **Mr Owen:** The *reclaim fund* is, in effect, an intermediary body or a holding fund between the banks and building societies that currently hold all these dormant accounts and the Big Lottery Fund, which will be distributing the money. So, the banks and the building societies will pass money from their dormant accounts to the *reclaim fund* and, in due course, the *reclaim fund* will pass sums to the Big Lottery Fund in each of the home countries. It will also have to hold back a little of that money, because people have an ongoing right to *reclaim* their money.

[41] **Eleanor Burnham:** The word ‘*reclaim*’ is what was puzzling me. It is important that this is clarified for those who will be reading this, so I am grateful for your explanation.

[42] **Mr Owen:** It is because members of the public can *reclaim* their money from this central fund. They will not go back to their original bank or building society if they remember this lost money; they will go to the *reclaim fund*.

[43] **Eleanor Burnham:** Diolch yn fawr.

[44] **Janice Gregory:** I have £1.12 in an old Abbey National account, which I do not think that I will be *reclaiming*. However, if people went through an old box and found some

information about an old account of theirs, they would still be entitled to show that proof and ask to reclaim their money.

[45] **Mr Owen:** Absolutely. You will not lose your right to get your money back.

[46] **Eleanor Burnham:** Weinidog, a fedrwch egluro pam mae'r amcangyfrif o faint y gronfa wedi lleihau? Maddeuwch imi os ydych wedi gwneud hyn yn barod.

Eleanor Burnham: Minister, can you explain why the estimate of the size of the fund has reduced? Forgive me if you have already done so.

[47] **Alun Ffred Jones:** Yr wyf yn mynd yn ôl yr amcangyfrif y mae'r Trysorlys wedi'i roi inni. Un rheswm y mae'r swm yn llai ar hyn o bryd nag ydoedd yn wreiddiol yw am fod pobl wedi edrych am eu harian ac amcangyfrifir fod llai o arian ar gael. Fodd bynnag, os wyf yn iawn, nid yw'r gronfa wedi'i sefydlu eto. Mae trafodaethau yn mynd yn eu blaen i sefydlu'r gronfa hon. Nes iddi gael ei sefydlu, ni fydd neb yn gwybod faint o arian sydd ar gael. Felly, amcangyfrif yw popeth ar hyn o bryd. Mae pobl yn meddwl y bydd llai o arian yn y cyfrifon hyn oherwydd y sefyllfa ariannol.

Alun Ffred Jones: I am going by the estimate given to us by the Treasury. One reason the amount is lower at the moment than it was originally is because people have been looking for their money and it is estimated that less money is available. However, if I am right, the fund has not yet been established. Discussions are ongoing to establish that fund. Until it is established, no-one will know how much money is available. So, everything is a guesstimate at the moment. People think that less money may be available from the accounts because of the financial situation.

[48] **Eleanor Burnham:** Mae gennyf un cwestiwn arall. Ar ôl y gyfran gychwynnol, amcangyfrifwyd y byddai symiau o tua £1 filiwn y flwyddyn yn cael eu talu yn y blynyddoedd sydd i ddod. A oes gennych amcangyfrif mwy diweddar o faint fydd ar gael i'r gronfa yn y blynyddoedd sydd i ddod?

Eleanor Burnham: I have one further question. After the initial tranche of funding, it has been estimated that sums of around £1 million per year would be paid in the years to come. Do you have a more recent estimate of how much will be available to the fund in the years to come?

[49] **Alun Ffred Jones:** Nac oes.

Alun Ffred Jones: No.

[50] **Bethan Jenkins:** Pa lefel o reolaeth dros y gronfa sydd gan y Llywodraeth neu'r cyrff sy'n dosrannu'r arian? Er enghraifft, a fedrir defnyddio'r cyllid i ffurfio gwaddol a ellid ei ddosrannu dros amser, neu a oes amserlen benodol i wario'r arian?

Bethan Jenkins: What level of control over the fund does the Government or the distributing bodies have? For example, could the funds be used to form an endowment that could be distributed over time, or is there a finite timetable for spending the money?

[51] **Alun Ffred Jones:** Mae'r Ddeddf yn caniatáu cryn dipyn o reolaeth i'r Llywodraeth ar sut i ddosbarthu'r arian hwn. Mae'n debyg y gallai'r cronfeydd gael eu defnyddio ar gyfer rhyw fath o gronfa gwaddol, ond tra bod hynny'n caniatáu ichi ystyried y byddai'r grantiau ar gael dros gyfnod hir, gyda llogau fel ag y maent, ni fyddai llawer o gynnydd mewn cronfeydd o'r fath. Yr ydym yn sôn am swm cymharol fach o arian. Hynny yw, mae'n arian mawr i fudiadau gwirfoddol, ond pe baech yn

Alun Ffred Jones: The Act allows the Government considerable control over how the moneys are distributed. I suppose that the moneys could be used to create some sort of endowment fund. However, while that would lead you to think that grants would be available over a longer period of time, with interest rates as they are, there would not be much of an increase in the funds. We are talking about a relatively small sum of money. That is, it would be a big sum for voluntary organisations, but if you were to

ystyried creu cronfa gwerth £1 filiwn ac wedyn yn cyfrif faint o log y byddai'n ei dalu mewn blwyddyn, ni fyddai'n swm mawr iawn. Felly, tybiwn na fyddai hynny'n ddewis doeth iawn, er, mewn theori, credaf y gallem ddefnyddio'r arian yn y modd hwnnw.

consider creating a £1 million fund and then assessed how much interest it would pay in a year, it would not be a large sum. So, I presume that that would not be a very wise choice although, in theory, I think that we could use the money in that way.

[52] **Lesley Griffiths:** In your paper, Minister, you refer to the 80:20 split for the two spending purposes and the fact that some of the community climate change projects often require relatively small sums of money. Could you give us some examples of the kinds of project that you envisage this funding going towards?

[53] **Alun Ffred Jones:** I will turn to Usha Ladwa-Thomas for the examples, but, from my own experience, I would say that Environment Wales distributes money to community projects and they are usually small-scale projects, often involved in the provision of advice and information on a local level to try to change the way in which we live. For some specific examples, perhaps we could have a comment from Usha Ladwa-Thomas.

[54] **Ms Ladwa-Thomas:** What we have found is that there are lots of small projects that want the money, and those small projects range from things like transition towns to low-carbon communities. That work might be about arranging small discussion groups or education programmes for small groups of people to raise awareness in their communities. We have had some interesting research done with the third sector, and about 75 per cent of the third sector do not see climate change as part of its agenda. We have been working with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action to stimulate some action, and we have set up a leadership group with mainstream community groups. We know that that is stimulating an appetite for doing more. The real barrier is the small amounts of funding, which could be anything from £50 to £50,000, depending on the ambitions of the project. However, there is a growing need and a growing willingness to act.

[55] **Eleanor Burnham:** That is very interesting. I presume that these are all timed and therefore, with the third sector being under slight—well, considerable—pressure, that may not be that helpful. It is wonderful to have the money, as the Minister has just said, but if it is only on a timed basis for one-off projects—

[56] **Alun Ffred Jones:** There is no time limit on the spend, and I presume that the project could lead on for a number of years. The fact that there is also what is referred to as 'a steady trickle of money' might be able to help some of these projects to extend their time.

[57] **Eleanor Burnham:** Right, that was really the point of my question. They could reapply, but they would not know until they reapplied, so to speak.

[58] **Alun Ffred Jones:** As far as I know, there is no reason why a project could not reapply.

[59] **Ms Ladwa-Thomas:** I think that the Big Lottery Fund also has a longer-term ambition to make climate change a priority, so this would create a bedrock of activities, and they could then apply—

[60] **Eleanor Burnham:** Thank you for that.

[61] **Alun Cairns:** The Minister for Heritage has stated in the past that he was considering using the money available as match funding and convergence funding to maximise the benefits of the dormant accounts fund. Minister, have you considered that any further and, if

so, what progress has been made in that regard?

[62] **Alun Ffred Jones:** It will not be a requirement for applicants to the scheme to secure match funding from other sources, but we are keen to encourage ways of making the money go further. As I said, there will be no requirement for them to seek match funding or European money, but there is nothing to stop them from seeking them.

[63] **Alun Cairns:** My interpretation of the Minister's comments were that this could be used as match funding for European aid, which would, effectively, grow the sum of money available to applicants. So, it is not that applicants would need match funding, just that you would end up with a bigger pot in the first instance.

[64] **Alun Ffred Jones:** That is not the intention now.

[65] **Alun Cairns:** Why? Has there been a change in policy?

[66] **Alun Ffred Jones:** As I understand it, that is not the intention and that is not what we have been discussing with the Big Lottery Fund. I presume that there is nothing to stop us from going down that path, but at the moment there are no plans to do so.

9.40 a.m.

[67] **Alun Cairns:** On 26 June 2008, the Minister for Heritage was clear that that was an avenue that he wanted to pursue. So, are you saying that no progress has been made since 26 June 2008 in this respect, or has there been a change in policy? We need to know whether there has been a change in policy or whether this is an option that you wish to consider.

[68] **Alun Ffred Jones:** I will ask Peter to elaborate on this.

[69] **Mr Owen:** To some extent, it is to do with timing. When the previous Minister was originally questioned about this, we envisaged that the scheme would have proceeded slightly quicker than it has, because we are now some way into the convergence programme. As the Minister said, it will still be possible for individual organisations to pursue the option with the Big Lottery Fund. The problem is that the scheme is not yet established, and the Big Lottery Fund cannot enter discussions with colleagues in European funding until the scheme is established, and it will then take time. The other barrier is that that route tends to involve a procurement process and contracts. We envisage that the beneficiaries of the funding will be small voluntary sector organisations who would find it very difficult to get into that kind of contractual arrangement, unless they were in some sort of consortium. It is something that will be considered when the time comes, and it is reflected in the draft policy directions that we have issued, whereby we will look for opportunities to secure match funding. However, as the Minister said, it is not seen as the main priority for the bulk of the programme.

[70] **Alun Cairns:** Thank you; that is helpful.

[71] **Lesley Griffiths:** Minister, to return to the ratio of 80:20, you stated in your paper that the ratio can be reviewed. Would it be reviewed at the end of the year, because I assume that a larger sum of money would be available in the first year?

[72] **Alun Ffred Jones:** It can be reviewed at any time, presumably. There are a number of reasons for the ratio, one being that because the sum of money is seen as being comparatively small, you would need it to concentrate on one area in order to make a difference, or at least to give priority to one area. That is why we recognise help for young people as that area. However, if the demand did not reflect those priorities for some reason, the Big Lottery Fund could come back to us at any period, or we could review that balance in our regular

discussions, if needed.

[73] **Janice Gregory:** Thank you to you and your officials for attending the committee this morning, Minister. You will be sent a transcript of this morning's proceedings. The committee also looks forward to seeing you when you come back to us in the new year with the Deputy First Minister, when we will ask you questions as part of our new inquiry into making the most of major sporting events in Wales.

[74] **Alun Ffred Jones:** I will look forward to that.

9.43 a.m.

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

[75] **Janice Gregory:** We will now move on to our draft report on the inquiry into youth justice and the experience of Welsh children in the secure estate. To do so, we will go into private session. Therefore, I move that

the committee resolves to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.37(vi).

[76] I see that the committee is in agreement.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

*Daeth rhan gyhoeddus y cyfarfod i ben am 9.44 a.m.
The public part of the meeting ended at 9.44 a.m.*