



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth**

**The National Assembly for Wales
Environment, Planning and Transport Committee**

**Astudiaeth o Safle Tirlenwi Nantygwyddon
Investigation into Nantygwyddon Landfill Site**

Dydd Iau 12 Hydref 2000

Thursday 12 October 2000

Aelodau o'r Cynulliad yn bresennol: Richard Edwards (Cadeirydd), David Davies, Geraint Davies, Delyth Evans, Sue Essex (Ysgrifennydd yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth), John Griffiths, Christine Humphreys, Helen Mary Jones, John Marek, Rhodri Glyn Thomas.

Swyddogion yn bresennol: Martin Evans, Pennaeth y Grwp Trafnidiaeth, Cynllunio a'r Amgylchedd; Angela Parkes, Swyddfa'r Cwnsler Cyffredinol.

Tystion: Mrs June Bacon, Mr Frank Baker, Ms Linda Baker, Mr Ron Davey, Ms Annette Ellis, Mr Sam Griffiths, Mr and Mrs D. Hann, Mrs Audrey Long, Mr Len Long, Mr John Nicholas, Mr Paul Nicholls-Jones, Mr Brian Mabbett, Mr Garrod Owen, Mr Anthony Scates, Mr A.F. Tree, Ms Joan Thomas, Mr W.M. Thomas, Mr Graham Wayman.

Assembly Members present: Richard Edwards (Chair), David Davies, Geraint Davies, Delyth Evans, Sue Essex (Secretary for the Environment, Planning and Transport), John Griffiths, Christine Humphreys, Helen Mary Jones, John Marek, Rhodri Glyn Thomas.

Officials present: Martin Evans, Head of Transport, Planning and Environment Group; Angela Parkes, Office of the Counsel General.

Witnesses: Mrs June Bacon, Mr Frank Baker, Ms Linda Baker, Mr Ron Davey, Ms Annette Ellis, Mr Sam Griffiths, Mr and Mrs D. Hann, Mrs Audrey Long, Mr Len Long, Mr John Nicholas, Mr Paul Nicholls-Jones, Mr Brian Mabbett, Mr Garrod Owen, Mr Anthony Scates, Mr A.F. Tree, Ms Joan Thomas, Mr W.M. Thomas, Mr Graham Wayman.

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 3.00 p.m.

The meeting began at 3.00 p.m.

Richard Edwards: I welcome Members, officials and members of the public to this meeting. This is the second meeting that this Committee has held outside Cardiff since its inception in April. This is the first of two Committee sessions being held as part of the Committee's investigation into the Nantygwyddon landfill site. The next meeting will be held here at Rhondda Heritage Park next Wednesday, 18 October, at 2 p.m.

The first item on the agenda is apologies and substitutions. I have been advised that Glyn Davies has given his apologies and that Delyth Evans is substituting for Carwyn Jones. I also welcome Helen Mary Jones and Rhodri Glyn Thomas to their first meeting as fully-fledged members of the Committee.

Geraint Davies: As the Member for the Rhondda, I welcome the Committee to the Rhondda—the heart of the Valleys. I would have liked to have welcomed a full public inquiry. However, we are prepared to accept the findings if we are proved to be wrong in

Richard Edwards: Croesawaf Aelodau, swyddogion ac aelodau'r cyhoedd i'r cyfarfod hwn. Dyma'r ail gyfarfod i'r Pwyllgor hwn ei gynnal y tu allan i Gaerdydd ers ei sefydlu ym mis Ebrill. Dyma'r cyntaf o ddau sesiwn pwyllgor a gynhelir yn rhan o astudiaeth y Pwyllgor i safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon. Cynhelir y cyfarfod nesaf yma ym Mharc Treftadaeth y Rhondda ddydd Mercher nesaf, 18 Hydref, am 2 p.m.

Ymddiheuriadau a dirprwyadau yw'r eitem gyntaf ar yr agenda. Fe'm hysbyswyd fod Glyn Davies wedi rhoi ei ymddiheuriadau a bod Delyth Evans yn dirprwyo dros Carwyn Jones. Croesawaf Helen Mary Jones a Rhodri Glyn Thomas hefyd i'w cyfarfod cyntaf fel aelodau llawn o'r Pwyllgor.

Geraint Davies: Fel Aelod dros y Rhondda, croesawaf y Pwyllgor i'r Rhondda—calon y Cymoedd. Buaswn wedi hoffi croesawu ymchwiliad cyhoeddus llawn. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn barod i dderbyn y canfyddiadau os profir ein bod yn anghywir yn hynny o

that. We will accept an investigation but, if it is found that we have not got to the bottom of Nantygwyddon, we will insist that we have a public inquiry in the long term.

Richard Edwards: This might be an appropriate time to ask all Committee members to make any declarations of interest in line with Standing Order No. 4.5.

Geraint Davies: I am a member of Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

Richard Edwards: I emphasise to Committee members the importance of not saying anything today that prejudices the Committee or the independent nature of this investigation. Please be mindful of that when you have the chance to make comments towards the end of today's session. I will ask Angela Parkes, our legal adviser, to say a few words at this point.

Ms Parkes: Committee members, you are exercising a statutory power on behalf of the Assembly. This Committee meeting today marks the start of the investigation that the Assembly has charged you to undertake. The proceedings, therefore, must be conducted fairly. For Committee members, that means that you should listen to and consider the evidence that will be presented to you. You need to keep an open mind about the events that will be described and wait until you have all the evidence available, which will enable you, as Committee members, to make decisions in due course, at the end of this process. It is important for you to keep that in mind in the coming months.

Richard Edwards: Today, primarily, the Committee is in listening mode, hearing the views and concerns of local residents about the Nantygwyddon landfill site. Several local residents have indicated their desire to speak. It is crucial that they are heard, and the participation of local people is crucial to the success of this investigation.

Before we listen, I will explain briefly the scope of the Committee's investigation. On 4 July, the National Assembly resolved to undertake an investigation into the Nantygwyddon landfill site, to be conducted

beth. Fe dderbyniwn astudiaeth, ond, os canfyddir nad ydym wedi mynd at waelod Nantygwyddon, byddwn yn mynnu ein bod yn cael ymchwiliad cyhoeddus yn y tymor hir.

Richard Edwards: Efallai fod hwn yn amser priodol i ofyn i holl aelodau'r Pwyllgor wneud unrhyw ddatganiadau buddiant yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 4.5.

Geraint Davies: Yr wyf i'n aelod o Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Richard Edwards: Pwysleisiaf wrth aelodau'r Pwyllgor mor bwysig yw peidio â dweud dim heddiw sydd yn peryglu'r Pwyllgor neu natur annibynnol yr astudiaeth hon. Cofiwch hynny, os gwelwch yn dda, pan gewch gyfle i wneud sylwadau tua diwedd sesiwn heddiw. Gofynnaf i Angela Parkes, ein cynghorydd cyfreithiol, ddweud ychydig eiriau yn y fan hon.

Ms Parkes: Aelodau'r Pwyllgor, yr ydych yn gweithredu grym statudol ar ran y Cynulliad. Mae'r cyfarfod Pwyllgor hwn heddiw'n fan cychwyn i'r astudiaeth y mae'r Cynulliad wedi'ch gorchymyn chi i'w gynnal. Rhaid, felly, i'r trafodaethau gael eu gweithredu'n deg. I aelodau'r Pwyllgor, golyga hynny y dylech wrando ar y dystiolaeth a gyflwynir i chi, a'i hystyried. Mae angen ichi gadw meddwl agored ynglŷn â'r digwyddiadau a ddisgrifir a disgwyl nes bydd yr holl dystiolaeth gennych, a fydd yn eich galluogi chi, fel aelodau'r Pwyllgor, i wneud penderfyniadau maes o law, ar ddiwedd y broses hon. Mae'n bwysig ichi gadw hynny mewn cof yn y misoedd a ddaw.

Richard Edwards: Heddiw, yn bennaf, gwranddo fydd gwaith y Pwyllgor, gan glywed sylwadau a phryderon trigolion lleol ynghylch safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon. Mae nifer o drigolion lleol wedi mynegi'u hawydd i siarad. Mae'n hanfodol y clywir eu llais, ac mae cyfranogiad pobl leol yn allweddol i lwyddiant yr astudiaeth hon.

Cyn inni wrando, egluraf yn gryno beth yw hyd a lled astudiaeth y Pwyllgor. Ar 4 Gorffennaf, penderfynodd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ymgymryd ag astudiaeth i safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon, i'w gynnal gan y

by this Committee with the assistance of an independent investigator. I want to underline that this is an entirely new procedure. The National Assembly is pioneering an innovative, distinctively Welsh approach to investigating matters of great public concern that have ramifications throughout the country. We are testing this new procedure on what is clearly a big, highly emotive issue. Therefore, there is no question of this being in any way a soft option.

The primary focus of the investigation is forward-looking and will seek to identify lessons for the future, both in relation to the Nantygwyddon landfill site and to waste management issues generally. Improving waste management in Wales is one of this Committee's highest priorities. Our detailed terms of reference were agreed on 13 September and are available to all members of the public.

The Committee will hold two public sessions. The first is today's session with local residents and the second is on Wednesday 18 October, with organisations involved in the management, regulation and other issues associated with the site. The investigation is being held under Section 40 of the Government of Wales Act 1998. That does not give the National Assembly power to require organisations or individuals to attend committee sessions, nor to require them to produce documentation. The Committee has invited the organisations concerned to do so voluntarily. Evidence given before the Committee today and next Wednesday, in accordance with Section 77 of the Government of Wales Act 1998, will be privileged for purposes of the law of defamation. There will be a verbatim record of both committee sessions. The record will be available on the National Assembly's website within 15 working days of the meeting. It will also be available to everyone on request and draft copies will be sent to all those who speak today for their approval.

The sessions before the Committee are the first stage in the investigation. Detailed information will be gathered by an independent investigator who will assist the Committee in conducting the investigation. The investigator's report will assist the

Pwyllgor hwn gyda chymorth ymchwilydd annibynnol. Hoffwn danlinellu fod hon yn drefn newydd sbon. Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn arloesi gyda ffordd newydd, unigryw Gymreig o ymchwilio i faterion o bwys cyhoeddus mawr sydd yn berthnasol i'r wlad i gyd. Yr ydym yn profi'r drefn newydd hon ar fater sydd yn amlwg yn un mawr ac yn ysgogi teimladau cryf. Felly, nid oes unrhyw gwestiwn o fynd am y dewis hawdd yma mewn unrhyw ffordd.

Prif ffocws yr astudiaeth yw edrych ymlaen, a cheisir nodi gwersi ar gyfer y dyfodol, yng nghyd-destun safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon ac yng nghyswllt materion rheoli gwastraff yn gyffredinol fel ei gilydd. Mae gwella rheolaeth gwastraff yng Nghymru'n un o flaenoriaethau uchaf y Pwyllgor hwn. Cytunwyd ar ein cylch gorchwyl manwl ar 13 Medi ac mae ar gael i holl aelodau'r cyhoedd.

Bydd y Pwyllgor yn cynnal dau sesiwn cyhoeddus. Sesiwn heddiw gyda'r trigolion lleol yw'r cyntaf, a chynhelir yr ail ddydd Mercher 18 Hydref, gyda sefydliadau sydd yn ymwneud â rheoli, rheoleiddio a materion eraill yn gysylltiedig â'r safle. Cynhelir yr astudiaeth dan Adran 40 Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998. Nid yw hynny'n rhoi'r hawl i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol fynnu bod sefydliadau neu unigolion yn mynychu sesiynau'r pwyllgor, na mynnu eu bod yn cyflwyno dogfennau. Mae'r Pwyllgor wedi gwahodd y sefydliadau dan sylw i wneud hynny'n wirfoddol. Bydd tystiolaeth a roddir ger bron y Pwyllgor heddiw a dydd Mercher nesaf, yn unol ag Adran 77 Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, yn freintiedig i ddibenion cyfraith ddifennad. Ceir cofnod air-am-air o'r ddau sesiwn pwyllgor. Bydd y cofnod ar gael ar wefan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol o fewn 15 diwrnod gwaith i'r cyfarfod. Bydd ar gael hefyd i bawb ar gais ac anfonir copiau drafft at bawb sydd yn siarad heddiw iddynt eu cymeradwyo.

Y sesiynau ger bron y Pwyllgor yw'r cam cyntaf yn yr astudiaeth. Cesglir gwybodaeth fanwl gan ymchwilydd annibynnol a fydd yn cynorthwyo'r Pwyllgor i gynnal yr astudiaeth. Bydd adroddiad yr ymchwilydd yn cynorthwyo'r Pwyllgor i wneud ei

Committee in making its recommendations to the Assembly as a whole. I am pleased to say that the independent investigator was appointed yesterday. His name is David Purchon and he is the President of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and an adviser to the Chief Medical Officer for England on improving public health and managing communicable disease. He was the Director of Environment Services at Sheffield City Council for 13 years and he handled the aftermath of the Hillsborough tragedy. During his time at Sheffield, he was a director of a local authority waste disposal company, founder of the regional Green Business Club and a founder member of Eurocities Environment Commission.

There will be 22 speakers today. We have an agreed running order, which I will read out so that speakers know when it is their turn to speak: Mr W.M. Thomas; Joan Thomas; June Bacon; Mr Graham Wayman; Mr and Mrs L. Long; Mr and Mrs D. Hann; Mr Paul Nicholls-Jones; Anthony Scates; Frank Baker; Brian Mabett; Gwyn Evans; John Nicholas; Jeff Gregory; Linda Baker; Brian Dee; Sylvia Jones; Annette Ellis; Ron Davey and Dennis Stone. Garrod Owen will conclude.

It has been agreed that the first six speakers will speak for a maximum of 10 minutes, the following 15 speakers for a maximum of 2 minutes and the final speaker for a maximum of 15 minutes. To protect everyone's opportunity to speak, time limits will have to be rigorously applied. Speakers may speak in English or Welsh and there will be simultaneous translation. I will explain to the speakers in turn how to use the headphones, as they see fit, and the microphones.

I call on Mr W.M. Thomas to begin the meeting. Please press the button on the microphone before speaking.

Mr Thomas: I am rather surprised that there is a time limit. When the information was sent out, we were not aware of what time we were going to take up or what we were to discuss. My speech could be rather provocative after listening to your opening remarks, but nevertheless I shall plod on and hope that you will take this in the way that I

argymhellion i'r Cynulliad cyfan. Mae'n dda gennyf ddweud y penodwyd yr ymchwilydd annibynnol ddoe. David Purchon yw ei enw ac mae'n Llywydd y Sefydliad Siartredig dros Iechyd yr Amgylchedd ac yn gynghorydd i Brif Swyddog Meddygol Lloegr ar wella iechyd cyhoeddus a rheoli afiechyd heintus. Bu'n Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Amgylchedd yng Nghyngor Dinas Sheffield am 13 blynedd a bu'n gyfrifol am ddelio â sgîl-effeithiau trychineb Hillsborough. Yn ystod ei gyfnod yn Sheffield, bu'n gyfarwyddwr cwmni gwaredu gwastraff awdurdod lleol, yn sylfaenydd y Clwb Busnes Gwyrdd rhanbarthol ac yn un o sefydlwyr Comisiwn Amgylchedd yr Ewroddinasoedd.

Bydd 22 o siaradwyr heddiw. Yr ydym wedi cytuno ar drefn siarad, ac fe'i darllenaf yn awr fel bod siaradwyr yn gwybod pa bryd y daw eu tro i siarad: Mr W.M. Thomas; Joan Thomas; June Bacon; Mr Graham Wayman; Mr a Mrs L. Long; Mr a Mrs D. Hann; Mr Paul Nicholls-Jones; Anthony Scates; Frank Baker; Brian Mabett; Gwyn Evans; John Nicholas; Jeff Gregory; Linda Baker; Brian Dee; Sylvia Jones; Annette Ellis; Ron Davey a Dennis Stone. Garrod Owen fydd yn cloi.

Cytunwyd y bydd y chwe siaradwr cyntaf yn siarad am 10 munud ar y mwyaf, y 15 siaradwr nesaf am 2 funud ar y mwyaf a'r siaradwr olaf am 15 munud ar y mwyaf. Er mwyn gwarchod cyfle pawb i siarad, bydd yn rhaid glynu'n gaeth at y terfynau amser. Caiff siaradwyr siarad yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg a cheir cyfieithu ar y pryd. Egluraf i'r siaradwyr yn eu tro sut i ddefnyddio'r clustffonau, yn ôl eu dymuniad, a'r meicroffonau.

Galwaf ar Mr W.M. Thomas i gychwyn y cyfarfod. Pwyswch y botwm ar y meicroffon cyn siarad, os gwelwch yn dda.

Mr Thomas: Yr wyf yn synnu braidd fod terfyn amser. Pan anfonwyd yr wybodaeth allan, nid oeddem yn ymwybodol faint o amser y byddem yn ei gymryd na beth y byddem yn ei drafod. Gallai f'araith i fod ychydig yn heriol ar ôl gwranddo ar eich sylwadau agoriadol, ond serch hynny fe rygnaf ymlaen gan obeithio y cymerwch hyn

present it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for giving me the opportunity to address it. My name is Bill Thomas and I live at 51 Berw Road, Tonypany. I am one of the residents of the Rhondda whose life has been detrimentally affected by the operation of Nantygwyddon landfill site. For the past five years, the enjoyment of my home has been affected by the noxious odours and fumes emanating from the site. I have also seen the value of my home drop because of the site and, indeed, have won a ratings tribunal that lowered the banding of my home.

I am not here to speak as an individual but as a supporter of, and a spokesman for, Rhondda Against Nantygwyddon Tip. The opinions that I express are representative of those of many supporters of our organisation, though not all. I would like to start not five years ago but this July—4 July, to be exact. To our American cousins, 4 July is independence day, but to me and others it is a day of shame. That was the day when the National Assembly voted for an investigation into the Nantygwyddon landfill site rather than a public inquiry. It was an infamous day for democracy and the ordinary man but a victory for the battalions of big business and bureaucracy. We, as an organisation, knew from the legal advice that we had been given that an investigation did not have the power to subpoena witnesses nor to make them answer questions placed before them. In the debate, our future deputy leader of the Assembly confidently stated that the Committee would have such powers. As you well know, it now transpires that no such powers exist. You now, however, expect us to place our trust in politicians who could not even be bothered to ascertain the true position as to the powers of the Assembly in this very contentious matter.

Given this state of affairs, I and many others have no faith in the Committee's nor the Assembly's ability to reach the same conclusions that a public inquiry would have reached. I would like to be able to state

yn y ffordd y'i cyflwynaf.

Hoffwn fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i ddiolch i'r Pwyllgor am roi'r cyfle imi ei annerch. Fy enw yw Bill Thomas ac yr wyf yn byw yn 51 Berw Road, Tonypany. Yr wyf yn un o drigolion y Rhondda yr effeithiwyd yn niweidiol ar ei fywyd gan weithrediad safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon. Ers pum mlynedd bellach, effeithiwyd ar fwynhad fy nghartref gan yr arogleuon a'r mygdarth gwenwynig a ddaw o'r safle. Yr wyf hefyd wedi gweld gwerth fy nghartref yn disgyn oherwydd y safle ac, yn wir, wedi ennill achos tribiwnlys trethi a ostyngodd werth trethiannol fy nghartref.

Nid wyf yma i siarad fel unigolyn ond fel cefnogwr a llefarydd ar ran Ymgyrch y Rhondda yn Erbyn Tomen Nantygwyddon, sef RANT. Mae'r farn a fynegaf yn gynrychioliadol o farn llawer o gefnogwyr ein hymgyrch, er nad pob un. Hoffwn ddechrau nid pum mlynedd yn ôl ond fis Gorffennaf eleni—4 Gorffennaf, i fod yn fanwl gywir. I'n cefndryd Americanaidd, diwrnod annibyniaeth yw 4 Gorffennaf, ond i mi ac eraill mae'n ddiwrnod gwaradwydd. Dyna'r diwrnod pryd y pleidleisiodd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol dros astudiaeth i safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon yn hytrach nag ymchwiliad cyhoeddus. Yr oedd yn ddiwrnod cywilyddus i ddemocratiaeth a'r dyn cyffredin ond yn fuddugoliaeth i fataliynau byd busnes a biwrocraiaeth. Gwyddem ni, fel corff, yn sgîl yr wybodaeth gyfreithiol a gawsem, nad oedd gan astudiaeth y grym i roi *subpoena* i dystion nac i'w gorfodi i ateb cwestiynau a roddid ger eu bron. Yn y ddadl, dywedodd y sawl a fydd yn ddirprwy arweinydd y Cynulliad yn hyderus y byddai'r cyfryw bwerau gan y Pwyllgor. Fel y gwyddoch yn iawn, gwelir bellach nad oes pwerau o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, disgwyliwch yn awr inni roi'n hymddiriedaeth mewn gwleidyddion na allai hyd yn oed fynd i'r drafferth o sicrhau beth oedd y gwir sefyllfa parthed pwerau'r Cynulliad yn y mater dadleuol iawn hwn.

Yn wyneb y sefyllfa hon, nid oes dim ffydd gennyf i na llawer o bobl eraill yng ngallu'r Pwyllgor na'r Cynulliad i gyrraedd yr un casgliadau ag y buasai ymchwiliad cyhoeddus wedi'u cyrraedd. Hoffwn allu

otherwise, but I know that I cannot. The Assembly has played and is still playing politics with people's lives, health and welfare. This is a deplorable situation and one that you should all be ashamed of and apologise for.

The terms of reference that have been drawn up are such that they are incompatible and will not give a true picture of the Nantygwyddon landfill site and those responsible for the failures in its operation. The terms of reference state that the investigation is to look into the future of waste management practice in Wales by considering what occurred at the Nantygwyddon landfill site. That is patent nonsense, as you well know. A waste management strategy needs to be formulated against best practice as it stands. That is what the future needs, together with complying with the European directives and targets. That is what a waste management strategy should be about, not looking at the Nantygwyddon landfill site for the future. To place the investigation of Nantygwyddon landfill site together with future waste management strategy proposals is to misdirect the time and effort of all concerned. There is little doubt that the Nantygwyddon landfill site is a prime example of how not to run a landfill site, but we all know that before we start.

What needs to be done is to find out who the guilty parties are, why they did what they did and who profited from the abysmal way in which the site has been run, and then make the individuals responsible for their actions. That requires powers that you do not have and, I am afraid to say, because you do not have those powers you cannot get at the truth and any conclusions that you reach will be fatally flawed. You cannot do anything on the cheap and have a good product. This investigation is a prime example of doing something on the cheap. It is paying £300 per day for an investigator when you would be hard pressed to have somebody who met the criteria do the work for £300 per hour. It is a joke, a sick joke at our expense. The investigator will have expert advice. Where from? The civil servants, the Environment Agency, Bro Taf Health Authority and the University of Wales? That is wonderful.

dweud fel arall, ond gwn na allaf. Mae'r Cynulliad wedi chwarae ac mae'n dal i chwarae gwleidyddiaeth gyda bywydau, iechyd a lles pobl. Dyma sefyllfa warthus y dylech i gyd fod â chywilydd ohoni ac ymddiheuro amdani.

Mae'r cylch gorchwyl a luniwyd yn gyfryw fel ei fod yn anghydawns, ac ni wnaiff roi darlun gwir o safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon a'r bobl sydd yn gyfrifol am y methiannau yn y modd y'i gweithredwyd. Dywed y cylch gorchwyl y bydd yr astudiaeth yn edrych i mewn i ddyfodol arferion rheoli gwastraff yng Nghymru drwy ystyried yr hyn a ddigwyddodd ar safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon. Nonsens pur yw hynny, fel y gwyddoch yn iawn. Mae angen llunio strategaeth reoli gwastraff ar sail ymarfer gorau fel y mae'n sefyll. Dyna beth sydd ei angen ar y dyfodol, ynghyd â chydymffurfio â chyfarwyddebau a thargedau Ewrop. Dyna ddylai ffurfio sail strategaeth reoli gwastraff, nid edrych ar safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae cyfuno'r ymchwiliad i safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon â chynigion ar gyfer strategaeth reoli gwastraff yn y dyfodol yn gamddefnydd o amser ac ymdrech pawb dan sylw. Nid oes fawr ddim amheuaeth bod safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon yn enghraifft berffaith o sut i beidio â rhedeg safle tirlenwi, ond yr ydym i gyd yn gwybod hynny cyn dechrau.

Yr hyn sydd angen ei wneud yw canfod pwy yw'r rhai euog, pam y gwnaethant yr hyn a wnaethant a phwy a elwodd o'r ffordd ddifrifol wael y rhedwyd y safle, ac wedyn gwneud i'r unigolion dan sylw gymryd cyfrifoldeb am eu gweithredoedd. Mae hynny'n galw am bwerau nad ydynt gennych chi, ac, mae'n ddrwg gennyf ddweud, oherwydd nad yw'r pwerau hynny gennych, ni allwch gyrraedd y gwir a bydd unrhyw gasgliadau a gyrhaeddych yn dyngedfennol ddiffygiol. Ni allwch wneud dim yn rhad a chael cynnyrch da. Mae'r astudiaeth hon yn enghraifft berffaith o wneud rhywbeth yn rhad. Mae'n talu £300 y dydd am ymchwilydd pan fyddai'n anodd cael rhywun a fyddai'n cwrdd â'r meini prawf i wneud y gwaith am £300 yr awr. Jôc ydyw, jôc wael ar ein traul ni. Caiff yr ymchwilydd gyngor arbenigol. O ble? Gan y gweision sifil, Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, Awdurdod

Those organisations or bodies are the ones that should be investigated, not the ones providing expert advice to the investigator.

I hate to say it, but as things stand, this will be a whitewash. We, as individuals, cannot even have legal assistance to help us prepare our case, while everybody else has the wherewithal to pay for top quality legal advice. We should be entitled to legal representation under the Human Rights Act 1998, but we have been denied it to date. Justice needs to be done and seen to be done. This investigation cannot do either, as it stands. However, to paraphrase the founder of English law, King Alfred, no man is above the law and no man is outside the law. I accept that to be the case and, however reluctant I am to place my evidence before the Committee to the best of my ability, I trust that the other individuals and organisations appreciate that they are neither outside the law nor above it. However, given the way that they have acted over the years, one cannot be confident that this is the case and that they will act in good faith.

Much against my better judgment, given that I doubt that the investigation will provide satisfactory answers, I will address the following issues, which are just some examples of where fault lies. I paraphrased King Alfred earlier. One of the most recent examples of people and organisations being above the law is that of the District Auditor and his report into certain aspects of the Nantygwyddon landfill site. The District Auditor even had the gall to clearly state in the report that, even after obtaining counsel and his barrister's advice to the contrary, it was permissible for the legal officer to ignore this legal advice and advise Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to act outside the law. That process has since been repeated. It was justified by the District Auditor on the grounds that, in his opinion, it saved money. Never mind the *ultra vires* behaviour; that could be ignored. Are the District Auditor and the council's legal officers above the law? That is the position at present. Will the Committee do anything about that or will it condone operating

Iechyd Bro Taf a Phrifysgol Cymru? Dyna wych. Y sefydliadau neu'r cyrff hynny yw'r rhai a ddylai fod yn destun ymchwiliad, nid yn darparu cyngor arbenigol i'r ymchwilydd.

Mae'n gas gennyf ddweud hyn, ond fel y mae pethau, gwyngalchiad fydd hyn. Ni allwn ni, fel unigolion, hyd yn oed gael cymorth cyfreithiol i'n helpu i baratoi'n hachos, tra bod gan bawb arall y modd i dalu am gyngor cyfreithiol o'r radd flaenaf. Dylai fod gennym hawl i gynrychiolaeth gyfreithiol dan Ddeddf Iawnderau Dynol 1998, ond fe'i gwrthodwyd inni hyd yn hyn. Mae angen cyfiawnder, ac mae angen inni weld cyfiawnder. Ni all yr astudiaeth hon gyflawni'r un o'r ddau beth, fel y saif. Fodd bynnag, i aralleirio sefydlydd cyfraith Lloegr, y Brenin Alfred, nid oes neb uwchlaw'r gyfraith ac nid oes neb y tu allan i'r gyfraith. Derbyniaf fod hynny'n wir ac, er mor gyndyn ydywfyf o osod fy nhystiolaeth ger bron y Pwyllgor hyd eithaf fy ngallu, hyderaf fod yr unigolion a'r cyrff eraill yn sylweddoli nad ydynt y tu allan i'r gyfraith nac uwchlaw iddi. Fodd bynnag, o gofio'r ffordd y maent wedi gweithredu ar hyd y blynyddoedd, ni ellir bod yn hyderus mai felly y mae hi ac y gweithredant yn ddiffuant.

Yn anfoddog iawn, gan fy mod yn amau a wnaiff yr astudiaeth ddarparu atebion boddhaol, cyfeiriaf at y materion canlynol, sef rhai enghreifftiau'n unig o ar bwy y mae'r bai yn disgyn. Aralleiriais y Brenin Alfred gynnau. Un o'r enghreifftiau diweddaraf o bobl a sefydliadau'n gosod eu hunain uwchlaw'r gyfraith yw'r Archwilydd Dosbarth a'i adroddiad ar rai agweddau ar safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon. Yr oedd gan yr Archwilydd Dosbarth yr wyneb hyd yn oed i ddatgan yn glir yn yr adroddiad, hyd yn oed ar ôl cael cyngor gan gwmsler a'i fargyfreithiwr i'r gwrthwyneb, fod hawl gan y swyddog cyfreithiol i anwybyddu'r cyngor cyfreithiol hwn a chynghori Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf i weithredu y tu allan i'r gyfraith. Ailadroddwyd y broses honno ers hynny. Fe'i cyfiawnhawyd gan yr Archwilydd Dosbarth ar y sail ei fod yn arbed arian, yn ei farn ef. Nid oes ots am yr ymddygiad *ultra vires*; gellid anwybyddu hynny. A ydyw'r Archwilydd Dosbarth a swyddogion cyfreithiol y cyngor uwchlaw'r gyfraith?

outside the law?

I shall continue with the subject of the District Auditor's report, because it is topical. We, as an organisation, pointed out a good number of years ago that, against good practice and the law, there was no bond on the Nantygwyddon landfill site. Our advice was ignored. However, when it came to his report, the District Auditor blamed RANT for the financial state of the now defunct Rhondda Waste Disposal Limited. When questioned, he had to concede that he had not paid much attention to the audited accounts of the company when preparing his report. Had he done so, he would have known the true state of the operation. It is clearly stated in the audited accounts that the company's finances were satisfactory, even after the site had been closed by peaceful popular protests of local people, who were merely trying to protect their health and environment. The satisfactory financial position of the company was endorsed by the directors. So why did the District Auditor libel the supporters of RANT by blaming them for the financial position of the company? The District Auditor was happy to use RANT as a scapegoat, against all the evidence, for Rhondda Waste Disposal having to go into administration, but then approved an ultra vires and potentially illegal act of the council on the advice of the legal officer. Why were the police not called in to investigate this very serious matter? It has been brushed under the carpet. The same thing has been done with the present council on the advice of the very same legal officer. Where is the accountability that we are owed?

Secondly, I come to the local Environment Agency plan report of April this year. In the report the Environment Agency stated that hydrogen sulphide emissions from the Nantygwyddon landfill site were above average. Above average? That statement hid the fact that the hydrogen sulphide emissions were 5,000 times greater than those of any other landfill site in the United Kingdom. To any normal person, the fact that the emissions

Dyna'r sefyllfa ar hyn o bryd. A wnaiff y Pwyllgor unrhyw beth ynglŷn â hynny ynteu a wnaiff esgusodi gweithredu y tu allan i'r gyfraith?

Af ymlaen ar bwnc adroddiad yr Archwilydd Dosbarth, gan ei fod yn amserol. Bu i ni fel corff nodi flynyddoedd lawer yn ôl nad oedd bond ar safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon, a hynny'n groes i ymarfer da a'r gyfraith. Anwybyddwyd ein cyngor. Fodd bynnag, yn ei adroddiad, rhoddodd yr Archwilydd Dosbarth y bai ar RANT am gyflwr ariannol Cwmni Cyfyngedig Rhondda Waste Disposal, sydd bellach ddim yn bod. Pan holwyd ef, bu raid iddo gyfaddef nad oedd wedi talu llawer o sylw i gyfrifon archwiliedig y cwmni wrth baratoi ei adroddiad. Pe bai wedi gwneud hynny, buasai wedi gwybod beth oedd y wir sefyllfa. Dywedir yn glir yn y cyfrifon archwiliedig fod sefyllfa ariannol y cwmni'n foddhaol, hyd yn oed wedi i'r safle gael ei gau gan wrthdystiadau poblogaidd heddychlon y bobl leol, nad oedd ond yn ceisio gwarchod eu hiechyd a'r amgylchedd. Cadarnhawyd sefyllfa ariannol foddhaol y cwmni gan y cyfarwyddwyr. Felly pam y bu i'r Archwilydd Dosbarth enllibio cefnogwyr RANT drwy eu beio hwy am sefyllfa ariannol y cwmni? Yr oedd yr Archwilydd Dosbarth yn hapus i ddefnyddio RANT fel bwch dihangol, yn erbyn pob tystiolaeth, am i gwmni Rhondda Waste Disposal orfod mynd i weinyddiad, ond wedyn cymeradwyodd weithred *ultra vires* ac o bosibl anghyfreithlon gan y cyngor ar sail cyngor y swyddog cyfreithiol. Pam na alwyd yr heddlu i mewn i ymchwilio'r mater difrifol iawn hwn? Cafodd ei sgubo dan y carped. Gwnaethpwyd yr un peth gyda'r cyngor presennol ar gyngor yr un swyddog cyfreithiol. Ble mae'r atebolrwydd sydd yn ddyledus inni?

Yn ail, cyfeiriai at adroddiad cynllun lleol Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ym mis Ebrill eleni. Yn yr adroddiad dywedodd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd fod gollyngiadau hydrogen sylffid o safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon yn uwch na'r cyfartaledd. Uwch na'r cyfartaledd? Yr oedd y gosodiad hwnnw'n cuddio'r ffaith fod y gollyngiadau hydrogen sylffid 5,000 gwaith yn fwy nag o unrhyw safle tirlenwi arall yn y Deyrnas Unedig. I

were 5,000 times greater than those of any other landfill site would have set alarm bells ringing, but, because it was the Nantygwyddon landfill site, it was fine. It was only above average. They are certainly not fooling the residents, even if they are fooling others.

The third example concerns water samples. At a meeting chaired by Mr Geraint Davies, when asked about the readings of water samples taken from the Nantygwyddon stream, David Williams from the Environment Agency emphasised how clean the water was, and that the average reading showed how pure the stream was. It took determined questioning for him to give individual readings and, when he had done so, two answers showed that the stream was heavily polluted when these readings were taken. The average was low but the peaks were high, showing that the stream was heavily polluted at the time of the readings. Did that set alarm bells ringing in the Environment Agency? No, because the average was fine.

Next, the failure of the Environment Agency with regard to monitoring the Nantygwyddon landfill site is legendary among the residents. The failure to determine true levels of air pollution can be shown by just one very important example. There seems to be little urgency to respond to residents' calls when the pollution from the site is unbearable. The example that I will give occurred on 25 January 2000. On this occasion, the air pollution was so dire that it was affecting myself and my family. We were all suffering physical symptoms of burning and watering eyes, difficulty in breathing and skin itching and burning. Naturally, we were frightened and under severe stress. I phoned the Environment Agency and Mrs Pauline Jarman, leader of Rhondda Cynon Taff council and also an Assembly Member, and told them of our dire predicament. I asked the Environment Agency to have the odour emissions read. It refused. All the telephoning took place at approximately 10.15 p.m. The following morning, 26 January, David Williams of the Environment Agency phoned to say that Jeff Edwards, its

unrhyw berson normal, byddai'r ffaith fod y gollyngiadau 5,000 gwaith yn fwy nag o unrhyw safle tirlenwi arall wedi canu clychau larwm, ond oherwydd mai safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon oedd dan sylw, yr oedd popeth yn iawn. Dim ond uwch na'r cyfartaledd ydoedd. Yn sicr, nid ydynt yn twyllo'r trigolion, hyd yn oed os ydynt yn twyllo eraill.

Mae a wnelo'r drydedd enghraifft â samplau dŵr. Mewn cyfarfod a gadeiriwyd gan Mr Geraint Davies, pan holwyd ef ynglŷn â darlenniadau samplau dŵr a gymerwyd o nant Nantygwyddon, pwysleisiodd David Williams o Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd mor lân yr oedd y dŵr, a bod y darlenniad cyfartalog yn dangos mor bur oedd y nant. Bu'n rhaid ei holi'n galed i gael y darlenniadau unigol ganddo, a phan gafwyd y rheini, dangosodd dau ateb fod y nant yn llygredig iawn pan gymerwyd y darlenniadau hyn. Yr oedd y cyfartaledd yn isel, ond yr oedd yr uchafbwyntiau'n uchel, gan ddangos fod y nant wedi'i llygru'n drwm ar adeg y darlenniadau. A wnaeth hynny ganu clychau larwm yn Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd? Naddo, am fod y cyfartaledd yn iawn.

Nesaf, mae methiant Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd o ran monitro safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon yn chwedlonol ymhlith y trigolion. Gellir dangos y methiant i bennu gwir lefelau llygredd aer drwy ddim ond un enghraifft bwysig iawn. Mae'n ymddangos mai ychydig iawn o frys sydd i ymateb i alwadau trigolion pan fydd y llygredd o'r safle'n annioddefol. Digwyddodd yr enghraifft a roddaf yn awr ar 25 Ionawr 2000. Ar yr achlysur hwn, yr oedd y llygredd yn yr awyr mor ddrwg nes ei fod yn effeithio arnaf fi a'm teulu. Yr oeddem i gyd yn dioddef syntomau corfforol sef bod ein llygaid yn llosgi ac yn dyfrio, anhawster anadlu a bod ein croen yn cosi ac yn llosgi. Yn naturiol, yr oeddem wedi dychryn a dan gryn straen. Ffoniais Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd a Mrs Pauline Jarman, arweinydd cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf ac Aelod o'r Cynulliad hefyd, a dweud wrthynt am ein trybini enbyd. Gofynnais i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd wneud darlenniad o'r gollyngiadau arogleuon. Gwrthododd. Digwyddodd yr holl ffonio oddeutu 10.15 p.m. Fore trannoeth, 26 Ionawr, ffoniodd David Williams o

operator, had been outside my home at the time that I had made the complaints and had smelled nothing. I responded immediately to this implication that I was lying by asking him directly if he was accusing me of that and suggesting that the horrible miasmic odours that had engulfed my home had not occurred but were a figment of my imagination and that of my family.

I feel this sort of response, from a body set up to prevent environmental pollution, to be absolutely amazing but not unexpected, given its track record of dealing with people's complaints. Residents, for the most part, have long since ceased to telephone and complain about the odours because of the Environment Agency's lack of action. It is regarded as a waste of time. The Environment Agency, however, trumpets the fact that the numbers of complaints have dropped. Yes, they have dropped—because people have not been getting a response and have given up complaining. The ineptitude of the Environment Agency is unbelievable. However, enough of the aside. I return to my complaint. On 26 January, at approximately 8.15 p.m., Jeff Edwards and another officer from the agency called at my home—22 hours after the original complaint. They took an air sample for monitoring purposes. During a conversation with the officers they admitted that they had been in the Gelli area the night before for two hours before the complaints were made. They most certainly had not been outside my home at the time. David Williams had said that they were. Given this state of affairs, how can an independent investigator get at the truth? How can he get at the truth when the air monitor readings are not representative of the true state of affairs? When that is the case, he cannot have the evidence to enable him to reach an objective decision. The available evidence from the Environment Agency is such that we all live in paradise.

My next point is one that a public inquiry would have delved into, but whether an investigation can do so is a moot point, especially an investigation that has the prime aim of looking into a future waste management strategy for Wales. I turn to the

Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd i ddweud fod Jeff Edwards, ei weithredwr, wedi bod y tu allan i'm cartref ar yr amser y gwneuthum fy nghwynion ac nad oedd wedi gwynto dim. Ymatebais yn syth i'r awgrym fy mod yn dweud celwydd drwy ofyn iddo'n uniongyrchol a oedd yn fy nghyhuddo o hynny ac yn awgrymu nad oedd yr arogleuon drewllyd erchyll a oedd wedi llenwi fy nghartref wedi digwydd ond eu bod yn ffrwyth fy nychymyg i a'm teulu.

Teimlaf fod y math hwn o ymateb, gan gorff a sefydlwyd i rwystro llygredd amgylcheddol, yn gwbl ryfeddol ond nid yn annisgwyl, o gofio'i record o ddelio â chwynion pobl. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o drigolion wedi hen roi'r gorau i ffonio a chwyno am yr arogleuon oherwydd diffyg gweithredu Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Teimlir mai gwastraff amser ydyw. Mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, fodd bynnag, yn cyhoeddi'n dalog fod nifer y cwynion wedi cwmpo. Do, maent wedi cwmpo—oherwydd nad yw pobl wedi bod yn cael ateb a'u bod wedi rhoi'r gorau i gwyno. Mae anfedrusrwydd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn anhygoel. Fodd bynnag, dyna ddigon am hynny. Dychwelaf at fy nghwyn. Ar 26 Ionawr, am oddeutu 8.15 p.m., galwodd Jeff Edwards a swyddog arall o'r asiantaeth yn fy nghartref—22 awr ar ôl y gwyn wreiddiol. Cymerasant sampl aer ar gyfer dibenion monitro. Yn ystod sgwrs gyda'r swyddogion cyfaddefasant iddynt fod yn ardal y Gelli y noson gynt am ddwy awr cyn i'r cwynion gael eu gwneud. Yn sicr nid oeddent wedi bod y tu allan i'm cartref ar y pryd. Yr oedd David Williams wedi dweud eu bod. Yn wyneb sefyllfa fel hyn, sut all ymchwilydd annibynnol gyrraedd y gwir? Sut all gyrraedd y gwir pan nad yw'r darlleniadau monitro aer yn gynrychioliadol o'r wir sefyllfa? Ni all gael y dystiolaeth i'w alluogi i ddod i benderfyniad gwrthrychol. Yn ôl y dystiolaeth sydd ar gael gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yr ydym i gyd yn byw ym mharadwys.

Mae fy mhwynt nesaf yn un y byddai ymchwiliad cyhoeddus wedi tyrchu i mewn iddo, ond mae'n gwestiwn a all ymchwiliad gwirfoddol wneud hynny, yn enwedig ymchwiliad sydd â'r prif nod o edrych i mewn i strategaeth reoli gwastraff ar gyfer y

morning after the well-publicised tyre fire on the Nantygwyddon landfill site. The dumping of tyres in the first place needs to be fully investigated, especially the Environment Agency's role in the matter. Others will undoubtedly deal with that. I am concerned with events that occurred on the morning after the tyre fire when a public meeting was held. I was approached by a gentleman whom I had never met before nor seen since. He informed me that beryllium had been taken to the Nantygwyddon landfill site from the Royal Ordnance Factory in Llanishen. He knew that this had occurred because he was a higher executive officer at the time. I challenged him to declare this publicly, but he said that he could not because he was covered by the Official Secrets Act. Can you get to the bottom of that matter?

I now turn my attention to the local council. Complaints to Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and its officers, which were made during meetings, that a statutory nuisance existed were denied for a considerable period of time, stretching over two years. The council even suggested that it was not its responsibility but that of the Environment Agency to enforce action under current legislation regarding statutory nuisance.

I now address the roles of Bro Taf Health Authority and Dr Mukerjee. When presenting his report to Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, Dr Mukerjee stated that there had been a very poor response from residents to the clinics that had been set up over a period of six weeks. That process involved filling in a questionnaire and associated incidence forms. The person appointed in charge of this, Mrs Alison M. Pierry, forwarded me a copy of the minutes of a meeting between supporters of RANT and Dr Mukerjee in which she said that Bro Taf Health Authority was unable to cope with the numbers that had responded. That is typical of the health reports concerning Nantygwyddon landfill site. The flaws are there for all to see, if they want to see them. The Casella report, which cost the council £80,000, was supposed to run concurrently with Dr Mukerjee's investigation to attempt to establish cause and effect. The Casella

dyfodol i Gymru. Cyfeiriaf at y bore wedi'r tân teiars ar safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon, a gafodd gryn gyhoeddusrwydd. Mae angen ymchwiliad llawn i'r arfer o daflu teiars yno yn y lle cyntaf, ac yn enwedig rôl Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn y mater. Bydd eraill yn delio â hynny, mae'n siŵr. Fy nghonsyrn i yw'r hyn a ddigwyddodd ar y bore wedi'r tân pryd y cynhaliwyd cyfarfod cyhoeddus. Daeth gŵr bonheddig ataf a oedd yn gwbl ddieithr imi, ac nad wyf wedi'i weld ers hynny. Dywedodd wrthyf fod beryliwm wedi'i gymryd i safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon o Ffatri'r Ordnans Brenhinol yn Llanisien. Gwyddai fod hyn wedi digwydd am ei fod yn swyddog gweithredol uwch ar y pryd. Heriais ef i ddatgan hyn ar goedd, ond dywedodd na allai wneud hynny gan ei fod dan reolaeth y Ddeddf Cyfrinachau Swyddogol. Allwch chi fynd at wraidd y mater hwnnw?

Trof fy sylw yn awr at y cyngor lleol. Dros gryn gyfnod o amser, yn ymestyn dros ddwy flynedd, gwadwyd cwynion i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf a'i swyddogion, a wnaethpwyd yn ystod cyfarfodydd, fod niwsans statudol yn bodoli. Awgrymodd y cyngor hyd yn oed nad ei gyfrifoldeb ef ydoedd, ond cyfrifoldeb Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, i orfodi gweithredu dan ddeddfwriaeth gyfredol ar niwsans statudol.

Cyfeiriaf yn awr at rolau Awdurdod Iechyd Bro Taf a Dr Mukerjee. Pan gyflwynodd ei adroddiad i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf, dywedodd Dr Mukerjee mai ymateb gwael iawn a gafwyd gan drigolion i'r clinigau a sefydlwyd dros gyfnod o chwe wythnos. Yr oedd y broses honno'n golygu llenwi holiadur a ffurflenni digwyddiadau cysylltiedig. Anfonodd y person a benodwyd i fod â gofal am hyn, Mrs Alison M. Pierry, gopi ataf o gofnodion cyfarfod rhwng cefnogwyr RANT a Dr Mukerjee lle dywedodd nad oedd Awdurdod Iechyd Bro Taf yn gallu ymdopi â'r niferoedd a oedd wedi ymateb. Mae hynny'n nodweddiadol o'r adroddiadau iechyd ynglŷn â safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon. Mae'r diffygion yno i bawb eu gweld, os oes arnynt eisiau eu gweld. Yr oedd adroddiad Casella, a gostiodd £80,000 i'r cyngor, i fod i gydredeg ag ymchwiliad Dr Mukerjee i geisio sefydlu achos ac effaith. Cafodd adroddiad Casella ei

report was delayed by two months. Why? I do not know. Will you be able to find out why this was, as Dr Mukerjee's report into health was dependent upon it? I will not hold my breath on that point.

Why was at least 30,000 tonnes of filter cake allowed to be deposited in Nantygwyddon landfill site with household refuse, when it has been a well-known fact within waste disposal circles for years that when the two are mixed, problems are created. That has now been proven by the fact that the emissions of hydrogen sulphide from the Nantygwyddon site are 5,000 times greater than from any other landfill site in the United Kingdom. It seems that the Environment Agency was unaware of what had been deposited. Only residents' protestations on this matter drew any response from it. I, like many residents, feel that the Environment Agency has not responded adequately to the problems associated with the tip and that there have been many occasions when it should have suspended the tip's licence.

We have all suffered dreadfully from the odours. We have been physically assaulted by them and had our environment destroyed, but the site has not even been closed for one day. That demands an answer, but will you ask the necessary questions? Finally, the siting of a landfill on top of a mountain 1,000 feet high, among 20,000 residents, with old people's homes, schools and hospitals all within Dr Dolk's three kilometre radius is nothing short of madness and beggars belief. The emissions could only descend into the communities below.

These are only some representative examples of what is wrong with the Nantygwyddon site. There are many other examples, but for them to be properly developed, we need legal assistance. That is a necessity, not a luxury and a necessity that we have been denied. We have also been denied the time to develop our points. As things stand, the results of the investigation can only be fatally flawed and viewed as a whitewash. No definitive answers to the Nantygwyddon landfill site will be determined.

ddal yn ôl am ddau fis. Pam? Ni wn i ddim. A fyddwch chi'n gallu darganfod pam y bu hyn, gan fod adroddiad Dr Mukerjee ar iechyd yn ddibynnol arno? Ni ddaliaf fy ngwynt ar y pwynt hwnnw.

Pam y caniatwyd gollwng o leiaf 30,000 o dunelli o dalpiau hidlo yn safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon gyda gwastraff domestig, a hithau'n ffaith adnabyddus o fewn cylchoedd gwaredu gwastraff ers blynyddoedd y ceir problemau pan gymysgir y ddau? Profwyd hynny bellach gan y ffaith fod gollyngiadau hydrogen sylffid o safle Nantygwyddon 5,000 gwaith yn fwy nag o unrhyw safle tirlenwi arall yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae'n ymddangos nad oedd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn gwybod beth oedd wedi'i ollwng yno. Dim ond protestiadau'r trigolion ar y mater hwn a dynnodd unrhyw ymateb ganddi. Yr wyf fi, fel llawer o drigolion, yn teimlo nad yw Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd wedi ymateb yn ddigonol i'r problemau cysylltiedig â'r domen ac y bu sawl achlysur pryd y dylid bod wedi atal trwydded y domen.

Yr ydym i gyd wedi dioddef yn ofnadwy gan yr aroglau. Maent wedi ymosod yn gorfforol arnom a dinistrio'n hamgylchedd, ond ni chafodd y safle ei gau hyd yn oed am un diwrnod. Mae hynny'n mynnu ateb, ond a wnewch chi ofyn y cwestiynau angenrheidiol? Yn olaf, mae lleoli tirlenwad ar ben mynydd 1,000 o droedfeddi o uchder, ymysg 20,000 o drigolion, gyda chartrefi hen bobl, ysgolion ac ysbytai i gyd o fewn cylch tri chilometr Dr Dolk yn wallgofrwydd llwyr ac yn anghredadwy. Ni allai'r gollyngiadau beidio â disgyn i'r cymunedau islaw.

Dim ond rhai enghreifftiau cynrychioliadol yw'r rhain o'r hyn sydd o'i le gyda safle Nantygwyddon. Mae llawer o enghreifftiau eraill, ond er mwyn eu datblygu'n iawn mae arnom angen cymorth cyfreithiol. Anghenraid yw hyn, nid moethusrwydd, ac anghenraid a wadwyd inni. Gwrthodwyd inni hefyd yr amser i ddatblygu'n pwyntiau. Fel y saif pethau, ni all canlyniadau'r ymchwiliad ond bod yn dyngedfennol ddiffygiol a chael eu gweld fel gwyngalchiad. Ni phenderfynir ar unrhyw atebion pendant i broblem safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon.

Your brief is such that the people who have done this have nothing to fear from your investigation, while we, as residents, do not know what effects this site has had on our health, whether short, medium or long term. We do not even know what has been buried on the site. This investigation certainly will not get to the bottom of that. It cannot do so because it does not have the necessary powers to delve that deeply. Thank you for listening to me, but I do not hold out any hope that you will get to the bottom of the problems that exist and which have blighted my life and that of many others.

Richard Edwards: Thank you for that comprehensive and obviously heartfelt submission. I allowed you to speak for 17 minutes. I ask subsequent speakers to stick to the time limit if possible. I call Joan Thomas to speak.

Mrs Thomas: My name is Joan Thomas, 31 Jones Street, Blaenclydach.

For the people living near Nantygwyddon tip, life is a living hell. Night after night, and often in the daytime, we breathe the poisonous gases. If only one person had been harmed, that should have been enough to close the tip. The clinic reports over 1,000 cases. Even that was not enough. Rhondda Cynon Taff council paid Casella to monitor the area. The monitoring should have started at the same time as the clinic. It would then have proved that the tip was causing ill-health. Who is responsible for this farce? I took part in both studies.

The ill-health in the area is a disgrace, even today. We do not need to be geniuses to know that the following are symptoms of some kind of poisoning: headaches, vomiting, dysentery, depression, flu symptoms, sore throats, chest problems, eye problems, aching bodies, blurred vision and many more. Many of us use inhalers.

In June 1997, my son and I could smell the gases coming into our home. We got sicker by the day. Then we discovered that we both had high carbon monoxide poisoning. We

Oherwydd y briff sydd gennych, nid oes gan y bobl a wnaeth hyn ddim i'w ofni gan eich ymchwiliad, tra'n bod ni, drigolion, yn dal heb wybod pa effeithiau y mae'r safle hwn wedi'u cael ar ein hiechyd, boed dymor byr, canolig neu hir. Ni wyddom hyd yn oed beth sydd wedi'i gladdu ar y safle. Yn sicr ni wnaiff yr ymchwiliad hwn ganfod yr ateb i hynny. Ni all wneud hynny oherwydd nid oes ganddo'r pwerau angenrheidiol i dyrchu mor ddwfn â hynny. Diolch am wrando arnaf fi, ond nid wyf yn coleddu unrhyw obaith y llwyddwch i gyrraedd gwaelod y problemau sydd yn bodoli ac sydd wedi andwyo fy mywyd i a bywydau llawer o bobl eraill.

Richard Edwards: Diolch am y cyflwyniad cynhwysfawr hwnnw a oedd yn amlwg o'r galon. Caniateais ichi siarad am 17 munud. Gofynnaf i siaradwyr o hyn ymlaen gadw at y terfyn amser os oes modd. Galwaf ar Joan Thomas i siarad.

Mrs Thomas: Fy enw i yw Joan Thomas, 31 Jones Street, Blaenclydach.

I'r bobl sydd yn byw'n agos at domen Nantygwyddon, mae bywyd yn uffern ar y ddaear. Bob nos, ac yn ystod y dydd yn aml, byddwn yn anadlu'r nwyon gwenwynig. Pe na bai ond un person wedi'i niweidio, dylasai hynny fod yn ddigon i gau'r domen. Mae'r clinig wedi cofnodi dros 1,000 o achosion. Nid oedd hynny'n ddigon hyd yn oed. Talodd cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf i Casella am fonitro'r ardal. Dylasai'r monitro fod wedi dechrau ar yr un pryd â'r clinig. Wedyn byddai wedi profi fod y domen yn achosi afiechyd. Pwy sydd yn gyfrifol am y ffars hon? Cymerais ran yn y ddwy astudiaeth.

Mae'r afiechyd yn yr ardal yn warth, hyd yn oed heddiw. Nid oes angen inni fod yn athrylith i wybod fod y canlynol yn syntomau rhyw fath o wenwyn: cur pen, cyfogi, dysentri, iselder, syntomau ffliw, llwnc tost, problemau'r frest, problemau llygaid, poenau yn y corff, cymylu'r golwg a llawer mwy. Mae llawer ohonom yn defnyddio anadlyddion.

Ym Mehefin 1997, gallai fy mab a mi arogl'i'r nwyon yn dod i mewn i'n cartref. Yr oeddem yn mynd yn salach bob dydd. Wedyn canfuom fod gennym ein dau wenwyn carbon

went to another house in the area to sleep and suffered the same symptoms. No one took any notice. Since then, I have slept on the settee downstairs. My bedroom stinks of the tip. A bed and a night's sleep have now become a luxury. Our tap water tastes and smells foul. We buy our own water and filter it. Our windows are closed at night, even in hot weather. Our pets suffer and our homes are devalued, all because of greed. This is supposed to be a civilised country, but it is not for we who live near Nantygwyddon.

Richard Edwards: Thank you, Joan Thomas. I call June Bacon.

Mrs Bacon: When an activity poses a threat to human life or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken, even if some cause and effect relationship has not been established scientifically. In this context, it is the proponent of the activity, rather than the public, who should bear the burden of proof. That is the basis of the precautionary principle, and it is the lack of application of that principle to the Nantygwyddon landfill site that I challenge.

I have chosen to discuss two of the commissioned health reports into the Nantygwyddon area. It is my firm conviction that both indicate harm to residents of the Nantygwyddon area. On that basis alone, the precautionary principle should have been invoked and the landfill site closed, at least on a temporary basis.

The first of these reports is the epidemiological study conducted by Professor Palmer in 1997. His team compared indices of health of five areas lying within two kilometres of the landfill sites and designated the exposed wards, with 22 other wards within the same unitary authority and matched for similar socio-economic status—the unexposed wards. That leads to my first question. In his list of references, Professor Palmer included Helen Dolk's EUROHAZCON study. That is a definitive study into the effects of landfills on exposed populations. Professor Dolk defines exposed wards as those lying within three kilometres of a landfill. Why, then, did Professor Palmer

monocsid uchel. Aethom i dŷ arall yn yr ardal i gysgu a dioddef yr un syptomau. Ni chymerodd neb unrhyw sylw. Ers hynny, yr wyf fi wedi cysgu ar y soffâ i lawr llawr. Mae drewdod y domen yn fy llofft. Erbyn hyn moethusrwydd yw gwely a noson o gwsg. Mae blas ac arogl aflan ar ein dŵr tap. Yr ydym yn prynu'n dŵr ein hunain ac yn ei hidlo. Mae'n ffenestri ar gau yn ystod y nos, hyd yn oed mewn tywydd twym. Mae'n hanifeiliaid anwes yn dioddef a'n tai wedi colli'u gwerth, i gyd oherwydd trachwant. Gwlad wâr yw hon i fod, ond nid felly i ni sydd yn byw ger Nantygwyddon.

Richard Edwards: Diolch, Joan Thomas. Galwaf ar June Bacon.

Mrs Bacon: Pan fydd gweithgaredd yn bygwth bywyd dynol neu'r amgylchedd, dylid cymryd rhagofalon, hyd yn oed os nad oes rhyw berthynas achos ac effaith wedi'i sefydlu'n wyddonol. Yn y cyd-destun hwn, ar awdur y gweithgaredd, yn hytrach na'r cyhoedd, y dylai'r baich profi orffwys. Dyna sail yr egwyddor rhagofalgar, a'r methiant i weithredu'r egwyddor hwn gyda safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon yw'r hyn yr wyf fi'n ei herio.

Yr wyf wedi dewis trafod dau o'r adroddiadau iechyd a gomisiynwyd i ardal Nantygwyddon. Fy argyhoeddiad pendant i yw bod y ddau'n dangos niwed i drigolion ardal Nantygwyddon. Ar y sail honno yn unig, dylasid bod wedi gweithredu'r egwyddor o ragofal a chau'r safle tirlenwi, o leiaf dros dro.

Y cyntaf o'r adroddiadau hyn yw'r astudiaeth epidemiolegol a wnaed gan yr Athro Palmer yn 1997. Cymharodd ei dîm fynegeion iechyd pum ardal sydd o fewn dau gilometr i'r safleoedd tirlenwi a dynododd y wardiau a oedd wedi'u dinoethi, gyda 22 o wardiau eraill o fewn yr un awdurdod unedol o statws cymdeithasol-economaidd tebyg—y wardiau heb eu dinoethi. Dyna arwain at fy nghwestiwn cyntaf. Yn ei restr o gyfeiriadau, cynhwysodd yr Athro Palmer astudiaeth EUROHAZCON Helen Dolk. Astudiaeth ddiffiniol yw honno i effeithiau tirlenwadau ar boblogaethau sydd wedi'u dinoethi iddynt. Mae'r Athro Dolk yn diffinio wardiau dinoethedig fel rhai sydd o fewn tri chilometr

choose a two kilometre zone?

For the study, Palmer and company used Office of National Statistics data, hospital admission data, data from Bro Taf Health Authority and prescription data. I challenge the use of ONS data and I will demonstrate why. One of the most important outcomes of this study was the establishment of a birth defect registry at Singleton Hospital, Swansea. In 1999, the Congenital Anomaly Register and Information Service, CARIS, published the number of congenital birth defects that had been registered in Wales in 1998. It was 849. It also published the number that had been predicted from ONS data—426. So much for the accuracy of ONS data.

One of Professor Palmer's findings was that no difference was found between exposed and unexposed wards for recorded hospital admissions for general medical conditions such as respiratory disease, asthma or neoplastic disease. What he neglected to reinforce at this point was that, according to his own survey, 36 per cent of hospital admissions in general medicine went uncoded, 21 per cent of gynaecological admissions went uncoded and 39 per cent of geriatric admissions were uncoded. As for neoplastic disease, we are all aware of the latent period between exposure to a carcinogen and the development of a malignancy. It may take another five years before the cancer rates of the exposed wards begin to accelerate.

The prescription data, however, is the most likely data to indicate the health of the people in the Nantygwyddon zone. Using the three Tonypandy groups of general practitioners as a proxy for the whole of these exposed wards, Palmer compared this prescription data with other practices in the Rhondda Cynon Taff and Bro Taf Health Authority areas. He found that, for respiratory complaints, those wards had a consistently higher rate of prescription for bronchiolitis and corticosteroids. For skin complaints, there were similarly higher rates for skin preparations and emollients. For eye preparations, there was a consistently higher rate for anti-

i dirilenwad. Pam, felly, y dewisodd yr Athro Palmer gylch dau gilometr?

Ar gyfer yr astudiaeth, defnyddiodd Palmer a'r cwmni ddata'r Swyddfa Ystadegau Cenedlaethol (ONS), data derbyniadau i ysbytai, data gan Awdurdod Iechyd Bro Taf a data presgripsiynau. Heriaf y defnydd o ddata ONS a dangosaf pam. Un o ganlyniadau pwysicaf yr astudiaeth hon oedd sefydlu cofrestrfa diffygion geni yn Ysbyty Singleton, Abertawe. Yn 1999, cyhoeddodd y Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth a Chofrestru Namau Genedigol, CARIS, y nifer o namau genedigol a gofrestrwyd yng Nghymru yn 1998, sef 849. Cyhoeddodd hefyd y nifer a ragwelwyd ar sail data'r ONS—426. Dyna fesur o gywirdeb data'r ONS.

Un o ganfyddiadau'r Athro Palmer oedd na chanfuwyd unrhyw wahaniaeth rhwng wardiau dinoethedig a rhai heb eu dinoethi yn y niferoedd y cofnodwyd eu derbyn i'r ysbyty am gyflyrau meddygol cyffredinol fel clefydau anadlu, asthma neu afiechyd neoplastig. Yr hyn na phwysleisiwyd ganddo yn y fan hon oedd fod, yn ôl ei arolwg ei hun, 36 y cant o dderbyniadau i'r ysbyty mewn meddygaeth gyffredinol yn mynd yn ddi-gôd, bod 21 y cant o dderbyniadau gynaecolegol yn mynd yn ddi-gôd a bod 39 y cant o dderbyniadau geriatrig yn mynd yn ddi-gôd. O ran afiechyd neoplastig, yr ydym i gyd yn ymwybodol o'r cyfnod cwsg rhwng dinoethiad i garsinogen a datblygiad cancer. Gall gymryd pum mlynedd arall cyn i gyfraddau cancer y wardiau dinoethedig ddechrau cyflymu.

Y data presgripsiynau, fodd bynnag, yw'r data mwyaf tebygol i ddangos iechyd y bobl yng nghylch Nantygwyddon. Gan ddefnyddio tri grŵp Tonypandy o feddygon teulu i gynrychioli'r holl wardiau dinoethedig hyn, cymharodd Palmer y data presgripsiynau hyn â phractisau eraill yn ardaloedd Rhondda Cynon Taf ac Awdurdod Iechyd Bro Taf. Canfu fod gan y wardiau hynny, o ran cwynion anadlu, gyfradd gyson uwch o bresgripsiwn ar gyfer bronciolitis a steroidau corticaidd. O ran cwynion y croen, roedd cyfraddau uwch tebyg ar gyfer cymysgeddau ac elïau lleddfoll i'r croen. O ran cyflyrau llygaid, roedd cyfradd gyson uwch ar gyfer

inceptive and anti-inflammatory eye preparations. There was also a higher rate of prescription for angiolytics and hypnotics. Are we surprised, living in Nantygwyddon?

In the exposed wards, Palmer recognised the existence of a cluster of babies born with the birth defect gastroschisis. All but one had been born since the opening of the landfill, and the number did not include those who had been therapeutically aborted, so it was greater than he actually stated. His study also demonstrated that there was a 1.9 greater chance of a woman bearing a child with a birth defect in the exposed wards than in the unexposed wards. Curiously however, this predated the tip. While RANT still questions the accuracy of ONS data, it is prepared to offer a hypothesis for this phenomenon. The five exposed wards are surrounded by forestry. We postulate that it is possible that the forestry could have been subjected to treatment with herbicides or fungicides and that these could account for the high rate of birth defects in the affected wards prior to the landfill. In recent years, the Forestry Commission has adopted a stringent programme of control. Perhaps the Committee could help to establish the accuracy of this hypothesis.

I move on now to the Bro Taf Health Authority information and collection clinics, which is the second study. The primary objective of the study was to determine the health problems of the people of the Nantygwyddon zone and to determine the availability of primary health care. A concurrent environmental monitoring programme was agreed but did not, in fact, take place. This was, to say the least, unfortunate, since it presented the first opportunity to match cause and effect. Perhaps the investigation will examine the reason why this did not take place.

A summary of the results of the clinics are as follows. Only 6 per cent of the population of the exposed wards participated. Those living nearest the landfill showed an increase in the numbers of symptoms, which included sore and dry throats, headaches, runny eyes, sore

cymysgeddau llygaid gwrthgychwynnol a gwrthlidiol. Ceid hefyd gyfradd uwch o bresgripsiynau ar gyfer angiolytigau a hypnotigau. A yw hyn ein synnu, a ninnau'n byw yn Nantygwyddon?

Yn y wardiau dinoethedig, cydnabu Palmer fodolaeth clwstwr o fabanod a anwyd gyda'r nam genedigol gastroschisis. Roedd pob un ond un wedi'u geni ers agor y safle tirlenwi, ac nid oedd y nifer yn cynnwys y rheini a erthylwyd yn therapiwtig, felly yr oedd yn fwy nag a nododd mewn gwirionedd. Dangosodd ei astudiaeth hefyd fod 1.9 gwaith yn fwy o gyfle i ferch esgor ar blentyn â nam genedigol yn y wardiau dinoethedig nag yn y wardiau heb eu dinoethi. Yn rhyfedd, fodd bynnag, yr oedd hyn yn wir cyn sefydlu'r domen. Tra bod RANT yn dal i amau cywirdeb data'r ONS, mae'n barod i gynnig damcaniaeth am y ffenomen hwn. Mae'r pum ward dinoethedig wedi'u hamgylchynu gan goedwigaeth. Cynigiwn ei bod yn bosibl y gallai'r goedwig fod wedi cael triniaeth gyda chwynladdwyr neu ffwngladdwyr ac y gallai'r rhain fod yn gyfrifol am y gyfradd uchel o namau genedigol yn y wardiau dan sylw cyn y tirlenwi. Yn y blynyddoedd diweddar, mae'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth wedi mabwysiadu rhaglen reoli gaeth. Efallai y gallai'r Pwyllgor helpu i sefydlu cywirdeb y ddamcaniaeth hon.

Symudaf ymlaen yn awr at glinigau casglu gwybodaeth Awdurdod Iechyd Bro Taf, sef yr ail astudiaeth. Prif amcan yr astudiaeth oedd darganfod problemau iechyd pobl cylch Nantygwyddon a phennu'r gofal iechyd sylfaenol a oedd ar gael. Cytunwyd i redeg rhaglen fonitro'r amgylchedd ar yr un pryd, ond ni ddigwyddodd hynny. Yr oedd hynny'n anffodus, â dweud y lleiaf, gan ei fod yn cynnig y cyfle cyntaf i gymharu achos ac effaith. Efallai y gwnaiff yr ymchwiliad archwilio'r rheswm pam na ddigwyddodd hyn.

Dyma grynodeb o ganlyniadau'r clinigau. Dim ond 6 y cant o boblogaeth y wardiau dinoethedig a gymerodd ran. Dangosodd y rhai a oedd yn byw agosaf at y safle tirlenwi gynnydd yn nifer y symptomau, a oedd yn cynnwys llwnc tost a sych, cur pen, llygaid

eyes, chest infections, nausea, sickness, lethargy, insomnia, sensory deprivation, giddiness and skin rashes. Many of the residents complained of difficulty in obtaining a doctor's appointment. RANT's comments are that the designated clinics were badly advertised and sometimes ill conceived and that the questionnaires were complex and difficult to understand and complete. In fact, 1,822 questionnaires were distributed but only 1,223 were completed, which just goes to show. The nature of the symptoms reported, however, were consistent with the prescription data of the epidemiological study. That is important.

When toxic chemicals enter our body or those of our children without our informed consent, it is toxic trespass. Such a trespass is wrong. We all have the right to enjoy an environment free from fear. Those who allow toxic chemicals into our environment deny us that fundamental right. Everyone here must surely realise that such a denial is wrong.

I would like to thank Dr Stuart of the cancer registration agency, CARIS and the American agency that helped us. We cannot thank the Environment Agency, because it has not given us any help whatsoever.

Richard Edwards: Thank you, June Bacon. I ask Graham Wayman to come forward.

Mr Wayman: Mr Chairman, Committee, ladies and gentlemen, we are all rather nervous because it is difficult to convey intrinsic information in a short period of time and, unfortunately, overlapping will occur. I have been unable, more or less, to cooperate with Mrs Bacon. My name is Graham Wayman, as has been announced. I am a member of Mrs Bacon's RANT health committee. The committee was set up urgently some time ago when such illnesses as Mrs Bacon has already discussed arose. I will try to eliminate that subject from my notes; I was going to speak for some time but now that I realise that I only have 10 minutes, I had better get on with it.

yn rhedeg, llygaid poenus, heintiau brest, cyfog, salwch, colli egni, methu cysgu, colled synhwyrdd, pendro a llid ar y croen. Cwynodd llawer o'r trigolion am anhawster cael apwyntiad gyda meddyg. Dywed RANT fod y clinigau dynodedig wedi'u hysbysebu'n wael ac weithiau wedi'u cynllunio'n sâl a bod yr holiaduron yn gymhleth ac yn anodd eu deall a'u cwblhau. Mewn gwirionedd, dosbarthwyd 1,822 o holiaduron ond dim ond 1,223 a gwblhawyd, sydd yn cadarnhau'r ffaith. Yr oedd natur y symptomau a adroddwyd, fodd bynnag, yn gyson â data presgripsiynau'r astudiaeth epidemiolegol. Mae hynny'n bwysig.

Pan fydd cemegau gwenwynig yn ymdreiddio i'n cyrff neu i gyrff ein plant heb ein cydsyniad ymwybodol, mae'n dresmasu gwenwynig. Camwedd yw tresmasu o'r fath. Mae gan bawb ohonom yr hawl i fwynhau amgylchedd di-ofn. Mae'r rheini sydd yn gadael cemegau gwenwynig i mewn i'n hamgylchedd yn gwadu'r hawl sylfaenol hwnnw inni. Siawns nad yw pawb yma'n sylweddoli fod hynny'n gamwedd.

Hoffwn ddiolch i Dr Stuart o'r asiantaeth gofrestru cancr, CARIS, a'r asiantaeth Americanaidd a'n cynorthwyodd. Ni allwn ddiolch i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, oherwydd nid yw wedi rhoi unrhyw gymorth o gwbl inni.

Richard Edwards: Diolch i chi, June Bacon. Gofynnaf i Graham Wayman ddod ymlaen.

Mr Wayman: Mr Cadeirydd, Bwyllgor, foneddigion a boneddigesau, yr ydym i gyd braidd yn nerfus oherwydd mae'n anodd cyfleu gwybodaeth hanfodol mewn cyfnod byr ac, yn anffodus, fe fydd gorgyffwrdd. Yr wyf wedi methu, fwy neu lai, â chydweithredu â Mrs Bacon. Graham Wayman yw fy enw, fel a gyhoeddwyd. Yr wyf yn aelod o bwyllgor iechyd RANT Mrs Bacon. Sefydlwyd y pwyllgor ar frys dro yn ôl pan gododd clefydau fel a drafodwyd eisoes gan Mrs Bacon. Ceisiaf ddileu'r pwnc hwnnw o'm nodiadau; yr oeddwn yn mynd i siarad am sbel ond gan fy mod yn sylweddoli bellach mai dim ond 10 munud sydd gennyf, gwell fyddai imi fwrw ymlaen.

As I said, it is difficult to get across intrinsic information in such a short period. We are constantly being accused of not providing evidence that can be backed up. I believe that some of what I am about to say is very definitely definitive proof that things have occurred in the area, unless of course a heck of a lot of people were not telling the truth. Apparently Wales's greatest single asset is its environment. Twenty per cent of its land is within a national park. The quality of our coastline is internationally renowned. We have 40 per cent of the UK's Blue Flag beaches and our river quality is supposed to exceed that of any English region. We have much of which to be proud. Or do we? When you consider that there are two sides to a coin, then one side is what I have just said. The other side is littered with grim statistics that are often filed and forgotten. Tip sites, chemical spraying of forests: there are over 50 years of this in the Rhondda Valley, as well as highly suspicious tap water. The Rhondda has all three when one would be ominous enough.

It is difficult to engineer an understanding of what is going on at the Nantygwyddon tip when nobody has any idea as to what is contained on that tip site. Great concern and severe stress levels are part of everyday life in and around the tip area. The thought of chemical fumes, incinerated fumes, of which types are carcinogenic, and bacteria and fungal spores—and once again types of fungal spores are carcinogens—migrating daily from the site is very serious news indeed.

Early in 1997, Rhondda Against Nantygwyddon Tip became aware of concerns relating to children in and around the wards nearest the tip. The RANT health committee decided to carry out a survey of some of the schools in close proximity to the tip site. Doctor Van Steenis, a retired Pembroke GP, was asked to check the questionnaire form that RANT had compiled before it was sent out to schools. Although some effort was made by a member of Bro Taf Health Authority to prevent the survey from taking place, after much effort and communication with heads and governors of schools the survey commenced. Information

Fel y dywedais, mae'n anodd cyfleu gwybodaeth hanfodol mewn cyfnod mor fyr. Fe'n cyhuddir o hyd o beidio â darparu tystiolaeth y gellir ei chefnogi. Credaf fod rhyw gymaint o'r hyn yr wyf am ei ddweud yn brawf pendant heb unrhyw amheuaeth fod pethau wedi digwydd yn yr ardal, oni bai wrth gwrs fod nifer fawr ar y diawl o bobl heb fod yn dweud y gwir. Mae'n debyg mai amgylchedd Cymru yw ei hased unigol fwyaf. Mae 20 y cant o'i thir o fewn parc cenedlaethol. Mae bri rhyngwladol i ansawdd ein harfordir. Yma y mae 40 y cant o draethau Baner Las y DU a thybir fod ansawdd ein hafonydd yn well nag unrhyw ranbarth yn Lloegr. Mae gennym lawer i ymfalchïo ynddo. Tybed? Pan ystyriwch fod dwy ochr i geiniog, dyna un ochr yr wyf fi newydd ei disgrifio. Mae'r ochr arall yn llawn ystadegau hyll a gaiff eu ffeilio a'u hanghofio'n aml. Safleoedd tomennydd, chwistrellu cemegau ar goedwigoedd: cafwyd dros 50 mlynedd o hyn yng Nghwm Rhondda, yn ogystal â dŵr tap amheus iawn. Mae'r tri pheth hyn yn y Rhondda pan fyddai un yn ddigon arswydus.

Mae'n anodd dod i ddealltwriaeth o'r hyn sydd yn digwydd yn nhomen Nantygwyddon pan nad oes gan neb unrhyw syniad beth sydd ar y safle tomen hwinnw. Mae pryderon mawr a lefelau straen uchel yn rhan o fywyd bob dydd yn ardal y domen ac o'i chwmpas. Mae'r syniad o fygdarth cemegol, mygdarth llosgi, sydd yn gallu bod yn garsinogenaid, a bacteria a sborau ffyngaid—sydd eto'n gallu bod yn garsinogenau—yn dianc o'r safle yn ddyddiol yn newyddion difrifol iawn yn wir.

Yn gynnar yn 1997, daeth Ymgyrch y Rhondda yn Erbyn Tomen Nantygwyddon (RANT) i wybod am bryderon ynghylch plant yn y wardiau agosaf at y domen a'u cyffiniau. Penderfynodd pwyllgor iechyd RANT gynnal arolwg o rai o'r achosion agos at safle'r domen. Gofynnwyd i Dr Van Steenis, meddyg teulu wedi ymddeol o Benfro, fwrw golwg dros y ffurflen holiadur yr oedd RANT wedi'i llunio cyn iddi gael ei hanfon i'r ysgolion. Er y gwnaed cryn ymdrech gan aelod o Awdurdod Iechyd Bro Taf i rwystro'r arolwg rhag digwydd, wedi llawer o ymdrech a chyfathrebu â phrifathrawon a llywodraethwyr ysgolion

was gained via the questionnaire, which was issued and returned in February 1997 and completed by the parents of children between the ages of three and 13 in Clydach Vale, Blaenclydach, Llwynypia, Tonpentre and Gelli. Bronllwyn Welsh school also took part in the survey. We were told at the time that this issue was not included in the survey, but in one class in Tonpentre all the pupils were wearing spectacles—every single child.

At this point I was going to refer to—but Mrs Bacon has already covered this—some of the statistics on the symptoms that the children are suffering. I have brought with me our very simplified form. Unlike the Bro Taf Health Authority form that was issued, this form is quite simple and was very successful, because we only went by what we were told that the children were suffering from. Out of 400 forms, I believe that only 22 forms were not returned, which I think you will agree is a very successful percentage indeed. The forms covered what Mrs Bacon mentioned: reoccurring sore and dry throats. The word ‘reoccurring’ is important, because many of these illnesses at the time, and even today, are reoccurring. We have already been told by Mrs Bacon that once chemicals enter the body, very small amounts migrate from the body, and the liver and other organs will push them to one side, thinking that they are doing their job. However, then, of course, the bloodstream and other organs will be contaminated and be in this condition and position for some time until, perhaps, more ominous things begin to occur.

I will leave that subject in the name of time. Before I conclude, I will simply mention that what the health form showed and what we can really take strength from, is that adults in the health survey—1,800 attended the clinics but, unfortunately, not all returned the forms because of their complexity—said more or less what the children were saying. That was very frightening indeed. It certainly frightened the RANT group as a whole. However, obviously, whether it occurred to

aeth yr arolwg yn ei flaen. Casglwyd gwybodaeth drwy'r holiadur, a anfonwyd allan a'i ddychwelyd yn Chwefror 1997 wedi'i gwblhau gan rieni plant rhwng tair a 13 oed yng Nghwm Clydach, Blaenclydach, Llwynypia, Tonpentre a'r Gelli. Cymerodd Ysgol Gymraeg Bronllwyn ran yn yr arolwg hefyd. Dywedwyd wrthym ar y pryd nad oedd y cwestiwn hwn wedi'i gynnwys yn yr arolwg, ond mewn un dosbarth yn Nhonpentre yr oedd pob disgybl yn gwisgo sbectol—pob un plentyn.

Yn y fan hon yr oeddwn yn mynd i gyfeirio—ond mae Mrs Bacon eisoes wedi mynd dros hyn—at rai o'r ystadegau ar y symtomau y mae'r plant yn eu dioddef. Yr wyf wedi dod â'n ffurflen syml iawn gyda mi. Yn wahanol i'r ffurflen a gyhoeddwyd gan Awdurdod Iechyd Bro Taf, mae'r ffurflen hon yn eithaf syml a bu'n llwyddiannus iawn, gan inni lynu at yr hyn y dywedwyd wrthym fod y plant yn dioddef ohono yn unig. O 400 o ffurflenni, credaf mai dim ond 22 o ffurflenni a oedd heb eu dychwelyd, sydd, yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch, yn ganran lwyddiannus iawn yn wir. Trafodai'r ffurflenni yr hyn a grybwyllwyd gan Mrs Bacon: llwnc tost a sych yn ailddigwydd dro ar ôl tro. Mae'r geiriau 'ailddigwydd dro ar ôl tro' yn bwysig, gan fod llawer o'r clefydau hyn ar y pryd, a hyd yn oed heddiw, yn ailddigwydd o hyd. Dywedodd Mrs Bacon wrthym eisoes unwaith y bydd cemegau'n mynd i mewn i'r corff, y bydd symiau bach iawn yn mudo o'r corff, ac y bydd yr afu a'r organau eraill yn eu gwthio o'r neilltu, gan feddwl eu bod yn gwneud eu gwaith. Fodd bynnag, wedyn, wrth gwrs, caiff y gwaed ac organau eraill eu halogi a byddant yn y cyflwr a'r sefyllfa hon am gryn amser hyd nes, efallai, y dechreu pethau mwy bygythiol ddigwydd.

Gadawaf y pwnc hwnnw yn enw amser. Cyn cloi, dywedaf yn syml mai'r hyn a ddangosodd y ffurflen iechyd, a'r hyn y gallwn gymryd cryfder ohono, yw fod oedolion yn yr arolwg iechyd—mynychodd 1,800 y clinigau ond, yn anffodus, ni ddychwelodd pawb y ffurflenni oherwydd eu cymhlethdod—wedi dweud fwy neu lai yr hyn yr oedd y plant yn ei ddweud. Yr oedd hynny'n frawychus dros ben. Yn sicr fe ddychrynodd y grŵp RANT cyfan. Fodd

Bro Taf Health Authority that something had to be done in terms of tests on the tip site and on what people were saying they believed were the effects of the tip, is not clear. Tests were not, in our opinion, or to our knowledge, ever conducted. What I will say is that it appears that the deposits of industrial waste since 1995 had some effect on the health of the children within the tip vicinity. That is something that RANT took very seriously. However, apart perhaps from visits to doctors' surgeries and hospital referrals—and we have some evidence of that on some of the forms returned by the parents—I do not think that any specific tests were carried out.

I want people to take on board what I said earlier. Very, very few of these chemicals will migrate out of the body once they are contained in it. I think that that is a very important point. I suppose that it was rather a long time ago that the survey was conducted—three years. Had tests been conducted then, we might have come up with some alarming findings. We can all begin to imagine why they were not conducted. We also produced the full report called 'Concerns in Relation to Child Health in the Vicinity of Nantygwyddon Landfill Site, Gelli, Rhondda'. That report is available and will be made available to the Committee. It is our attempt and effort to try to clarify matters and perhaps—we thought at the time—to help health professionals to proceed further with their greater skills. However, up until the present day, to our knowledge, it has been largely ignored, but it is available to anyone who would like a copy.

Finally, I do not believe that all these people were not telling the truth. Parents filled in the forms on behalf of their children with true feeling at the time, because they thought that the tip was causing the health effects from which they were suffering. I do not believe that anybody in any shape or form tried to fabricate any information in the belief that they were going to help RANT's cause to close the site. I believe that this was done in genuine circumstances, from the heart, and because people are suffering. I am a fellow

bynnag, yn amlwg, nid yw'n glir a feddyliodd Awdurdod Iechyd Bro Taf fod yn rhaid gwneud rhywbeth yn nhermau profion ar safle'r domen ac ar effeithiau'r domen yn ôl cred y bobl. Yn ein barn ni, a hyd y gwyddom, ni chynhaliwyd profion byth. Yr hyn a ddywedaf fi yw ei bod yn ymddangos bod dyddodion gwastraff diwydiannol ers 1995 wedi cael rhyw effaith ar iechyd y plant yng nghyffiniau'r domen. Dyna rywbeth a ystyriodd RANT yn ddifrifol iawn. Fodd bynnag, ar wahân efallai i ymweliadau â meddygfeydd a chyfeiriadau at ysbytai—ac mae gennym rywfaint o dystiolaeth o hynny ar rai o'r ffurflenni a ddychwelwyd gan y rhieni—nid wyf yn credu y gwnaethpwyd unrhyw brofion penodol.

Yr wyf am i bobl ystyried yr hyn a ddywedais yn gynharach. Ychydig iawn, iawn o'r cemegau hyn wnaiff fudo allan o'r corff unwaith y byddant wedi treiddio iddo. Credaf fod hynny'n bwynt pwysig iawn. Mae'n debyg fod cryn amser wedi mynd heibio ers cynnal yr arolwg—tair blynedd. Petai profion wedi'u cynnal bryd hynny, efallai y buasem wedi canfod pethau dychrynlyd. Gallwn i gyd ddechrau dychmygu pam na'u cynhaliwyd. Bu inni hefyd gynhyrchu'r adroddiad llawn 'Concerns in Relation to Child Health in the Vicinity of Nantygwyddon Landfill Site, Gelli, Rhondda'. Mae'r adroddiad hwnnw ar gael a bydd ar gael i'r Pwyllgor. Ein hymgais a'n hymdrech ni yw hwn i geisio egluro pethau ac efallai—yr oeddem yn meddwl ar y pryd—helpu pobl broffesiynol y byd iechyd i fynd ymhellach gyda'u sgiliau ehangach hwy. Fodd bynnag, hyd heddiw, hyd y gwyddom ni, fe'i hanwybyddwyd i raddau helaeth, ond mae ar gael i unrhyw un a hoffai gopi.

Yn olaf, nid wyf yn credu nad oedd yr holl bobl hyn yn dweud y gwir. Llenwodd rhieni y ffurflenni ar ran eu plant gyda gwir deimlad ar y pryd, am eu bod yn meddwl fod y domen yn achosi'r effeithiau yr oeddent yn eu dioddef ar eu hiechyd. Nid wyf yn credu i neb mewn unrhyw fodd na ffurf geisio ffugio unrhyw wybodaeth yn y gred y byddent yn helpu ymgyrch RANT i gau'r safle. Credaf y gwnaethpwyd hyn mewn amgylchiadau gwirioneddol, o'r galon, ac oherwydd bod pobl yn dioddef. Yr wyf innau'n gyd-

sufferer. My eyes are burning and I have had terrible trouble during the last few weeks, let alone three years ago, because the tip is still migrating gases, fumes, bacteria and everything else daily.

I will leave you with the thought that something must be done. We produced another leaflet that I should have mentioned—I have eliminated so much that it is difficult to keep to my agenda. The leaflet is called ‘Urgent Action for Rhondda Children’ and it clearly indicates everything that is happening in the area. The leaflet is available to those who require it. It also points out that over 14,000 children live beneath the landfill site and that everyone knows that what goes up must come down. Surely the professionals that put the tip there could not have forgotten this. If they had, then seemingly they are guilty of gross professional misconduct. If they were aware of that ordinary piece of knowledge, then perhaps they are guilty of crimes against humanity. However, up until the present time, those people seem to be getting away with things. I hope that this Committee finally realises that if adults do not matter in a place called the Rhondda, then surely children do in this millennium year.

Richard Edwards: Thank you for that, Mr Wayman, and for adapting your speech to meet the time limit.

Could the next speakers, Mr and Mrs Len Long, come forward?

Mrs Long: Good afternoon. I am Mrs Audrey Long. I have come here today not really knowing what is expected of me and I am very nervous. My format is a little different from the rest. I will start with a potted history of my village. I will talk about BT—now I have got you interested, haven’t I?—‘before tip’. I live on the main road leading to Nantygwyddon tip. At one end of the village was the Gelli Colliery and at the other end were spoil tips from previous mines because the valley is pitted with old mines, workings and shafts. However, they decided to close the Gelli Colliery in 1960 and we thought that our problems were over, but the

ddioddefwr. Mae fy llygaid yn llosgi a chefais drafferth ofnadwy yn yr ychydig wythnosau diwethaf, heb sôn am dair blynedd yn ôl, gan fod y domen yn dal i ollwng nwyon, mygdarth, bacteria a phopeth arall bob dydd.

Fe’ch gadawaf gyda’r gosodiad fod yn rhaid gwneud rhywbeth. Cynhyrchwyd taflen arall gennym y dylaswn fod wedi’i chrybwyll—yr wyf wedi dileu cymaint fel ei bod yn anodd cadw at f’agenda. Enw’r daflen yw ‘Urgent Action for Rhondda Children’ ac mae’n nodi’n glir bopeth sydd yn digwydd yn yr ardal. Mae’r daflen ar gael i bawb sydd ei heisiau. Mae’n nodi hefyd fod dros 14,000 o blant yn byw islaw y safle tirlenwi a bod pawb yn gwybod fod yn rhaid i bopeth sydd yn mynd i fyny ddod i lawr. Nid oes bosibl y gallai’r bobl broffesiynol a roddodd y domen yn y fan honno fod wedi anghofio hyn. Os do, yna mae’n debyg eu bod yn euog o gamymddwyn proffesiynol difrifol. Os oeddent yn ymwybodol o’r darn gwybodaeth cyffredin hwnnw, yna efallai eu bod yn euog o droseddau yn erbyn y ddynoliaeth. Fodd bynnag, hyd yn hyn, mae’n ymddangos fod y bobl hyn yn osgoi unrhyw gosb. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Pwyllgor hwn yn sylweddoli o’r diwedd, os nad oes ots am oedolion yn y Rhondda, yna nid oes bosibl mae ots am blant yn y flwyddyn milflwyddiant hon.

Richard Edwards: Diolch ichi am hynny, Mr Wayman, ac am addasu’ch araith i gwrdd â’r terfyn amser.

A ddaw’r siaradwyr nesaf, Mr a Mrs Len Long, ymlaen?

Mrs Long: Prynawn da. Mrs Audrey Long ydwyf fi. Deuthum yma heddiw heb wybod yn iawn beth a ddisgwylir gennyf ac yr wyf yn nerfus iawn. Mae fy mhattrwm i ychydig yn wahanol i’r lleill. Fe ddechreuaf gyda chrynodeb o hanes fy mhentref. Fe soniaf am BT—yr wyf wedi ennyn eich diddordeb yn awr, on’ d do?—‘before tip’. Yr wyf yn byw ar y ffordd fawr yn arwain at domen Nantygwyddon. Ar un pen i’r pentref yr oedd Pwll Glo’r Gelli ac ar y pen arall yr oedd tomenni gwastraff o hen lofeydd, oherwydd mae’r cwm yn frith o hen byllau, gweithfeydd a siafftau. Fodd bynnag, penderfynwyd cau Glofa’r Gelli yn 1960 ac

spoil tips at the other end of the village started to slip. Flooding of homes occurred and blocked culverts and this caused a lot of concern because there was a large school nearby.

On 21 October 1966, Aberfan happened. You know what happened there. I know more than anyone because at the time I worked with people who lost children in Aberfan. A campaign was started to remove all spoil tips and that took until 1980. The fight was not with the council but with the coal owners. By that time, Rhondda Borough Council was running out of tipping space. So it, in its wisdom, decided to put a tip on top of a mountain. First, it had to build a road to get to the top of the mountain, with money from Europe. The first one collapsed because the mountain was unstable. The road was rebuilt with £2.2 million of European Community money. I quote from *The Western Mail*, 26 September 1986:

‘A mile-long road is being constructed to the waste disposal site and protected by a giant section of wall.’

I have heard that you can see it from outer space.

From then on, our problems started: leachate leaking, flooding, heavy refuse lorries passing my front door. We were all promised, by Mr Gwyn Evans, that the tip would not be visible from the valley floor. That is totally untrue. Then, in 1995, we started to experience smells, flies, seagulls, and started to suffer headaches, sore throats and runny eyes. We still do.

After investigation, we discovered that other villages had suffered the same, so RANT was formed. We protested for months, and because of the protests, Rhondda Waste Disposal stopped taking filter cake. By that time the Environment Agency had commissioned Entec to monitor the area. Entec stated that Nantygwyddon was a disaster from day one. The Environment Agency instructed Rhondda Waste Disposal to cap the site by November 1998. Now, in October 2000, the tip is still not capped and

yr oeddem yn meddwl fod ein problemau ar ben, ond dechreuodd y tomenni gwastraff ar ben arall y pentref lithro. Cafwyd llifogydd mewn tai a rhwystrwyd cwlffertydd ac achosodd hyn lawer o bryder oherwydd yr oedd ysgol fawr gerllaw.

Ar 21 Hydref 1966, digwyddodd Aberfan. Gwyddoch beth ddigwyddodd yno. Gwn i fwy na neb oherwydd ar y pryd bûm yn gweithio gyda phobl a gollodd blant yn Aberfan. Dechreuwyd ymgyrch i symud yr holl domenni gwastraff a chymerodd hynny tan 1980. Nid gyda'r cyngor yr oedd y frwydr ond gyda'r perchenogion glo. Erbyn hynny, yr oedd Cyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda'n rhedeg allan o le tipio. Felly, yn ei ddoethineb, penderfynodd osod tomen ar ben mynydd. Yn gyntaf, yr oedd yn rhaid iddo adeiladu ffordd i gyrraedd pen y mynydd, gydag arian o Ewrop. Chwalodd y gyntaf am fod y mynydd yn ansad. Ailadeiladwyd y ffordd gyda £2.2 miliwn o arian y Gymuned Ewropeaidd. Dyfynnaf o *The Western Mail*, 26 Medi 1986:

‘Adeiledir ffordd filltir o hyd at y safle gwaredu gwastraff wedi'i gwarchod gan wal anferth.’

Yr wyf wedi clywed y gallwch ei gweld o'r gofod.

O hynny ymlaen, dechreuodd ein problemau: gollwng trwytholchion, llifogydd, lorïau gwastraff trwm yn pasio fy nrws ffrynt. Addawyd inni i gyd, gan Mr Gwyn Evans, na fyddai'r domen yn weladwy o lawr y cwm. Mae hynny'n gwbl anwir. Wedyn, yn 1995, dechreuasom brofi aroglau, clêr, gwyllanod, a dechreuasom ddioddef pen tost, llwnc tost a llygaid dyfrllyd. Yr ydym yn dal i ddioddef.

Wedi ymchwilio, canfuom fod pentrefi eraill wedi dioddef yr un peth, felly ffurfiwyd RANT. Protestiwyd am fisoedd, ac oherwydd ein protestiadau, rhoddodd Rhondda Waste Disposal y gorau i dderbyn talpiau hidlo. Erbyn hynny yr oedd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd wedi comisiynu Entec i fonitro'r ardal. Dywedodd Entec fod Nantygwyddon yn drychineb o'r diwrnod cyntaf un. Dywedodd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd wrth Rhondda Waste Disposal am roi cap ar y safle erbyn Tachwedd 1998.

we do not know when it will be.

Richard Edwards: Thank you very much, Mrs Long.

I remind members of the public that there will be a verbatim record of all the submissions. However, if any of the speakers feel that they have not been able to say everything that they wanted to say in the time limit—and I know that Mr Wayman felt that—then I will be very pleased to receive all your notes and they will be fed into the investigation.

Mr Long: Good afternoon. My name is Leonard Long and I have never had to face such an august body of people in all my life.

I would like to start with the problems of Nantygwyddon. Our biggest problem has been to convince the authorities—people like you—of the problems associated with Nantygwyddon: bad design, bad planning, bad management and, furthermore, complete disregard of the residents' needs. As RANT, we have been to see everybody: Rhondda Borough Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, the Welsh Office, the Houses of Parliament and the Assembly, to name but a few. We do not seem to be getting anywhere.

I will begin with the leachate pipe. That is the biggest joke of the lot. On the open day that Rhondda council held for the residents to see this famous landfill site, I was told by the then borough engineer that it was impossible for the leachate pipe to leak. If he had said that at the Palladium he would have had the biggest laugh ever, because within a month he was fetched out of a meeting because there was leachate all over Nantygwyddon road. It has been like that ever since. I have photographs here, if the Committee wants to see them, of manholes where every manhole is covered in leachate.

They have even had to put a new pipe all the way down the main road and renew all the manholes, and they are still not right. Furthermore, they did that without any

Bellach, yn Hydref 2000, mae'r domen yn dal heb ei chapio ac ni wyddom pa bryd y digwydd hynny.

Richard Edwards: Diolch yn fawr, Mrs Long.

Atgoffaf aelodau'r cyhoedd y bydd cofnod gair-am-air o'r holl gyflwyniadau. Fodd bynnag, os teimla unrhyw un o'r siaradwyr nad ydynt wedi gallu dweud popeth yr oeddent am ei ddweud o fewn y cyfyngiad amser—a gwn fod Mr Wayman yn teimlo hynny—yna byddaf yn falch iawn o dderbyn eich nodiadau i gyd a chânt eu bwydo i mewn i'r ymchwiliad.

Mr Long: Prynawn da. Leonard Long yw fy enw i ac nid wyf erioed yn fy mywyd wedi gorfod wynebu corff mor urddasol o bobl.

Hoffwn ddechrau gyda phroblemau Nantygwyddon. Ein problem fwyaf fu darbwylllo'r awdurdodau—pobl fel chi—o'r problemau cysylltiedig â Nantygwyddon: dyluniad gwael, cynllunio gwael, rheoli gwael ac, ar ben hynny, diystyrru'n llwyr anghenion y trigolion. Fel RANT, yr ydym wedi bod i weld pawb: Cyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf, y Swyddfa Gymreig, y Senedd a'r Cynulliad, ac enwi dim ond ychydig. Nid ydym fel pe baem yn cyrraedd unman.

Dechreuaf gyda'r bibell drwytholchion. Dyna'r jôc mwyaf o'r cyfan. Ar y diwrnod agored a gynhaliodd cyngor y Rhondda i'r trigolion gael gweld y safle tirlenwi enwog hwn, dywedwyd wrthyf gan beiriannydd y fwrdeistref ar y pryd ei bod yn amhosibl i'r bibell drwytholchion ollwng. Pe buasai wedi dweud hynny yn y Palladium buasai wedi ennyn y chwerthin mwyaf erioed, oherwydd o fewn mis cafodd ei alw allan o gyfarfod am fod trwytholchion dros ffordd Nantygwyddon i gyd. Mae felly byth ers hynny. Mae gennyf luniau yma, os hoffai'r Pwyllgor eu gweld, o dyllau archwilio â thrwytholchion dros bob un.

Maent hyd yn oed wedi gorfod rhoi pibell newydd yr holl ffordd i lawr y ffordd fawr ac adnewyddu'r tyllau archwilio i gyd, ac nid ydynt yn iawn o hyd. Ar ben hynny,

planning permission. They went through there with their machines with complete disregard for the environment. We even had to call the Environment Agency out on Boxing Night at 11 p.m.—they were pleased about that. The agency took a sample of the leachate, took it back to Cardiff and put it in the fridge and—lo and behold—when they next looked at it, it was black. So that is the problem that we have with the Environment Agency.

That happened under Rhondda Waste Disposal. Amgen Rhondda Limited is no better because, this summer, it put a new leachate pipe down through Glynconel woods, which is a site of special scientific interest. Amgen put the new pipe down but it has not had planning permission, although it has applied for retrospective planning permission. It knocked down eight trees and, incidentally, does not even intend to replace them. Glynconel woods appears in a booklet published by Rhondda Cynon Taff council, 'Action for Nature', which states that all planning applications for Glynconel woods are notified to the council's countryside section and comments are made on applications affecting known or suspected wildlife sites. That does not apply to these people. They put the pipe down and nothing can be done about it now. It is there and that is the end of the story. I walk those woods, or I used to, quite a lot. However, I have not been able to walk through Glynconel woods since last March because of the work being carried out.

No one knows the cost of the leachate pipe. I do not know whether you are aware of it, but when Rhondda Waste Disposal was formed, apportionment of liability was written into its contract. I do not know whether the leachate pipe comes under the apportionment of liability or whether the apportionment of liability is carried on into Amgen's contract. The only people who pick up the tab under this apportionment of liability are us, the ratepayers of the Rhondda. That is enough about leachate pipe.

gwnaethant hynny heb ganiatâd cynllunio. Aethant drwy'r lle gyda'u peiriannau heb falio dim am yr amgylchedd. Bu raid inni alw Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd allan am 11 o'r gloch ar noson San Steffan hyd yn oed—yr oeddent wrth eu boddau gyda hynny. Cymerodd yr asiantaeth sampl o'r trwytholchiad, mynd â hi'n ôl i Gaerdydd a'i rhoi yn yr oergell a—wele—y tro nesaf iddynt edrych arni, yr oedd yn ddu. Felly dyna'r broblem sydd gennym gydag Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd.

Digwyddodd hynny dan gwmni Rhondda Waste Disposal. Nid yw Amgen Rhondda Cyfyngedig damaid gwell oherwydd, yr haf yma, rhoddodd bibell drwytholchion newydd i lawr drwy goed Glynconel, sydd yn safle o ddiddordeb gwyddonol arbennig. Gosododd Amgen y bibell newydd ond nid oedd wedi cael caniatâd cynllunio, er ei fod wedi gwneud cais am ôl-ganiatâd cynllunio. Torrodd wyth coeden i lawr ac nid yw hyd yn oed yn bwriadu rhoi coed eraill yn eu lle. Mae coed Glynconel yn ymddangos mewn llyfryn a gyhoeddwyd gan gyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf, 'Gweithredu dros Natur', sydd yn datgan y caiff pob cais cynllunio ar gyfer coed Glynconel ei gyflwyno i adran cefn gwlad y cyngor ac y gwneir sylwadau ar geisiadau sydd yn effeithio ar safleoedd lle ceir bywyd gwyllt neu lle amheuir fod bywyd gwyllt. Nid yw hynny'n berthnasol i'r bobl hyn. Rhoesant y bibell i lawr ac ni ellir gwneud dim amdani bellach. Yno y mae hi a dyna ddiwedd y stori. Byddaf i'n cerdded yn y coed hynny, neu arferwn wneud, gryn dipyn. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf wedi gallu cerdded drwy goed Glynconel ers mis Mawrth diwethaf oherwydd y gwaith oedd yn cael ei wneud.

Nid oes neb yn gwybod cost y bibell drwytholchion. Ni wn a ydych yn ymwybodol o hyn, ond pan ffurfiwyd cwmni Rhondda Waste Disposal, yr oedd dosraniad atebolrwydd wedi'i ysgrifennu i mewn yn y contract. Ni wn a yw'r bibell drwytholchion yn dod dan y dosraniad atebolrwydd ynteu a ydyw'r dosraniad atebolrwydd wedi'i gario ymlaen i gontract Amgen. Yr unig bobl sydd yn talu'r bil dan y dosraniad atebolrwydd hwn yw nyni, drethdalwyr y Rhondda. Dyna ddigon am y bibell drwytholchion.

On capping, the amazing thing is, as my wife said, that the tip has not been capped yet. However, the top capping is to be sealed to the bottom capping, the membrane. However, lo and behold, on one side they have gone down 10 to 15 metres and cannot find the base liner at all. That is not our words; that is from the council's agenda for 12 May 1998.

In September 1999, the Environment Agency transferred the licence to Amgen from the administrator, after Amgen had proved that it was an approved status company. I do not know how it could do that when it had not even been formed. If that was the case and if it was such a good company, why did it need £910,000 from Rhondda Cynon Taff council to start? It is the same with the bond. Bill Thomas referred to the bond, so I will not enter into that.

The District Auditor has been criticised, and quite rightly so, about the £1.1 million and about £500,000 worth of shares. What nobody told him was that, between 1995 and 1997, Rhondda Waste Disposal took 30,000 tonnes of filter cake at £400 per tonne. It was getting £30 per tonne for household refuse. Thirty thousand tonnes at £400 per tonne—and I did not have a very good education—is £12 million. If I am wrong, somebody will tell me. Therefore, why did it need £1.1 million from Rhondda Cynon Taff council?

The survey carried out by Entec cost £100,000 and the CL report cost £20,000. The Casella report cost £58,000 and then Casella came back and asked for another £20,000 for a two-week extension. I have a newspaper cutting here that states that that was illegal. I do not know whether it was; I am not a lawyer. On odours entering the homes, I have a printout from Entec here that states that the odour threshold for odours in the European Union is 5 parts per billion. In my home, 15 ppb were registered.

Finally, ever since this site was brought into being, the operators have paid no regard at all to the residents. I have a map here showing the right of way. This is a map from 1811. The right of way was there then and, lo and

Ynghylch y capio, y peth rhyfeddol yw, fel y dywedodd fy ngwraig, nad yw'r domen wedi'i chapio eto. Fodd bynnag, mae'r cap uchaf i gael ei selio ar y cap gwaelod, y bilen. Fodd bynnag wele, ar un ochr maent wedi mynd i lawr 10 i 15 metr ac yn methu dod o hyd i'r leinin gwaelod o gwbl. Nid ein geiriau ni yw'r rheini, daw hynny o agenda y cyngor am 12 Mai 1998.

Ym Medi 1999, trosglwyddodd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd y drwydded i Amgen oddi wrth y gweinyddwr, wedi i Amgen brofi ei fod yn gwmni o statws cymeradwy. Ni wn i sut y gallai wneud hynny pan nad oedd hyd yn oed wedi'i ffurfio. Os oedd hynny'n wir a'i fod yn gystal cwmni, pam yr oedd angen iddo gael £910,000 gan gyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf i gychwyn? Mae'r un peth yn wir am y bond. Cyfeiriodd Bill Thomas at y bond, felly nid af i mewn i hynny.

Beirniadwyd yr Archwilydd Dosbarth, a hynny'n ddigon teg, am yr £1.1 miliwn ac am werth £500,000 o gyfranddaliadau. Yr hyn na ddywedodd neb wrtho oedd bod Rhondda Waste Disposal, rhwng 1995 a 1997, wedi cymryd 30,000 o dunelli o dalpiau hidlo ar £400 y dunell. Yr oedd yn cael £30 y dunell am wastraff tŷ. Mae 30,000 o dunelli ar £400 y dunell—ac ni chefais i addysg dda iawn—yn £12 miliwn. Os ydwyf i'n anghywir, fe wnaiff rhywun ddweud wrthyf. Felly, pam yr oedd angen £1.1 miliwn oddi wrth gyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf?

Costiodd yr arolwg a wnaethpwyd gan Entec £100,000 a chostiodd adroddiad CL £20,000. Costiodd adroddiad Casella £58,000 ac wedyn daeth Casella'n ôl a gofyn am £20,000 arall am estyniad o bythefnos. Mae gennyf doriad papur newydd yma sydd yn datgan fod hynny'n anghyfreithlon. Nid wyf yn gwybod a ydoedd; nid cyfreithiwr ydwyf. Ynghylch aroglau'n mynd i mewn i gartrefi, mae gennyf allbrint gan Entec yma sydd yn datgan mai 5 rhan i'r biliwn yw'r trothwy aroglau yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Yn fy nghartref i, cofrestrwyd 15 rhan i'r biliwn.

Yn olaf, byth oddi ar i'r safle hwn ddod i fodolaeth, nid yw'r gweithredwyr wedi talu unrhyw sylw i'r trigolion. Mae gennyf fap yma'n dangos yr hawl tramwy. Map o 1811 yw hwn. Yr oedd yr hawl tramwy yno bryd

behold, they put the Nantygwyddon landfill site straight across the right of way. I objected at the time, which was a long time ago. I was not listened to then and I am not being listened to now. I still had a big fight with them but they have been a little bit more co-operative about this last right of way.

By the way, I have been informed that it was £12 million.

Richard Edwards: Thank you. I call Mr and Mrs Hann.

Mr Hann: Unfortunately, we have made no notes. We are members of the general public who were asked to present our concerns about this tip site. First, we will stipulate where we are living. We are half a mile from the tip, which is elevated 300 feet above us. It was not until the smell started to come that we realised that there was such a large landfill site up there. We were being stunk out on occasions and we had flies. In fact, on one occasion when we had visitors it was quite embarrassing. Of course, when you put food out, you cannot use a fly spray because it does not do much for the food. You had to wave one hand above the food—I know it sounds silly—to keep the flies off the food.

Mrs Hann: You could not open the window even though it was a warm, sunny day. You could not open the window and you dare not open the door or you would have another army in.

Mr Hann: It was very embarrassing. At that time in fact—allright, it was extreme—there was not one shop in Tonypandy that had fly spray left. They had sold out. That was one of the extremes. What we are concerned about is the medical problems that we have had. My son picked up a bug that is believed to have come from one of the local lakes. He has been told that he is not to enter that lake. He has spent about nine months in hospital altogether. When I talk about abscesses, I talk about an abscess that was maybe three inches in diameter by an inch high. He was treated as a dirty case in East Glamorgan hospital. The hospital even put a lecture on for the

hynny ac, wele, dyma nhw'n rhoi safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon yn blwmp ar draws yr hawl tramwy. Gwrthwynebais ar y pryd, sef amser maith yn ôl. Ni wrandawyd arnaf bryd hynny ac ni wrandewir arnaf yn awr. Eto cefais ffeit fawr gyda nhw ond maent wedi bod fymryn bach yn fwy cydweithredol ynghylch yr hawl tramwy diwethaf hwn.

Gyda llaw, yr wyf wedi cael gwybod mai £12 miliwn oedd y swm.

Richard Edwards: Diolch. Galwaf ar Mr a Mrs Hann.

Mr Hann: Yn anffodus, nid ydym wedi gwneud unrhyw nodiadau. Aelodau o'r cyhoedd ydym a ofynnwyd i gyflwyno'n pryderon ynghylch safle'r domen hon. Yn gyntaf, nodwn ble yr ydym yn byw. Yr ydym hanner milltir o'r domen, sydd 300 troedfedd yn uwch na ni. Dim ond pan ddechreuodd yr arogl ddod y sylweddolasom fod safle tirlenwi mor fawr i fyny yn y fan honno. Yr oeddem yn cael ein drewi allan ar adegau ac yr oedd clêr gennym. Yn wir, ar un achlysur pan oedd ymwelwyr gennym yr oedd yn dipyn o embaras. Wrth gwrs, pan roddwch fwyd allan, ni allwch ddefnyddio chwistrell clêr oherwydd nid yw'n gwneud llawer o les i'r bwyd. Yr oedd yn rhaid chwifio un llaw uwchben y bwyd—gwn fod hyn yn swnio'n wirion—i gadw'r clêr oddi ar y bwyd.

Mrs Hann: Ni allech agor y ffenestr er ei bod yn ddiwrnod cynnes, heulog. Ni allech agor y ffenestr ac ni feiddiech agor y drws neu byddai byddin arall wedi dod i mewn.

Mr Hann: Yr oedd yn embaras mawr. Ar y pryd, a dweud y gwir—iawn, yr oedd yn eithafol—nid oedd un siop yn Nhonypandy lle'r oedd chwistrell clêr ar ôl. Yr oeddent wedi gwerthu allan. Dyna un o'r eithafion. Yr hyn yr ydym ni'n bryderus yn ei gylch yw'r problemau meddygol a gawsom. Cododd fy mab afiechyd y credir ei fod yn dod o un o'r llynnoedd lleol. Dywedwyd wrtho nad yw i fynd i'r llyn hwnnw. Mae wedi treulio tua naw mis yn yr ysbyty at ei gilydd. Pan soniaf am grawniadau, yr wyf yn sôn am grawniad a oedd efallai'n dair modfedd ar ei draws ac yn fodfedd o uchder. Cafodd ei drin fel achos brwnt yn ysbyty Dwyrain Morgannwg.

paediatricians of Wales to try to get some information from other paediatricians as to what might have caused the bug. All they came up with was for him to stay away from this water.

Mrs Hann: This lake is directly below this landfill site. Every stream running down from the Clydach Vale side of the tip runs into this lake.

Mr Hann: In fact, someone complained in the local paper recently about the smell coming from this local lake. We will leave that with them. My son was ill for nine months and no one knows what this bug was. It was a weird bug because it made its way up his leg. He would have a big abscess at the bottom of his leg. He could be sent home from hospital on a Monday and be back in on a Thursday with another abscess that would have occurred slightly higher up his leg. To this day, no one knows what it was.

Mrs Hann: We are talking about a child who was just about to do his GCSEs. It took a big chunk out of his school year. There are a lot of women among you. I can imagine how you would feel if your child was back and fore into hospital for nine months only having a few days off in between. He had to undergo general anaesthetic each time to have his leg drained. He was on crutches and at one time we had to hire a wheelchair for him.

Mr Hann: It is not only that. On one occasion we attended Llwynypia Hospital where one of the consultants who saw him said that the abscess could have come from the lake. The consultant said that he played rugby at the local rugby ground, Cambrian Welfare. He said that he did not think that you would see more flies in the Amazon than he saw up there and that something needed to be done about the tip. My wife has developed a chest problem—

Mrs Hann: I also have a skin complaint, which I have only developed in these last few years. I never had problems before.

Trefnodd yr ysbyty ddarlith hyd yn oed i bediatregwyr Cymru i geisio cael gwybodaeth gan bediatregwyr eraill ynghylch beth a allasai fod wedi achosi'r afiechyd. Yr unig ateb a gynigiasant oedd iddo gadw draw oddi wrth y dŵr hwn.

Mrs Hann: Mae'r llyn yn union o dan y safle tirlenwi hwn. Mae pob nant sydd yn rhedeg i lawr ochr Cwm Clydach y domen honno'n llifo i'r llyn hwn.

Mr Hann: Yn wir, cwynodd rhywun yn y papur lleol yn ddiweddar am yr arogl a ddaw o'r llyn lleol hwn. Gadawn hynny gyda hwy. Yr oedd fy mab i'n sâl am naw mis ac nid oes unrhyw un yn gwybod beth oedd yr afiechyd hwn. Yr oedd yn afiechyd od oherwydd byddai'n gweithio'i ffordd i fyny ei goes. Byddai ganddo grawniad mawr ar waelod ei goes. Gallai gael ei anfon adref o'r ysbyty ar ddydd Llun a bod yn ôl i mewn ar ddydd Iau gyda chrawniad arall ychydig yn uwch i fyny ei goes. Hyd heddiw, nid oes unrhyw un yn gwybod beth ydoedd.

Mrs Hann: Yr ydym yn sôn am blentyn a oedd ar fin gwneud ei arholiadau TGAU. Cymerodd dalp mawr allan o'i flwyddyn ysgol. Mae llawer o wragedd yn eich plith. Gallaf ddychmygu sut y byddech chi'n teimlo petai'ch plentyn chi i mewn ac allan o'r ysbyty am naw mis heb ond ychydig ddyddiau rhydd yma ac acw. Yr oedd yn rhaid iddo gael anesthetig cyffredinol bob tro i gael draenio'i goes. Yr oedd ar faglau ac ar un adeg bu'n rhaid inni logi cadair olwyn ar ei gyfer.

Mr Hann: Nid dyna'r unig beth. Ar un achlysur aethom i Ysbyty Llwynypia lle dywedodd un o'r ymgynghorwyr a'i gwelodd y gallai'r crawniad fod wedi dod o'r llyn. Dywedodd yr ymgynghorydd ei fod yn chwarae rygbi ar y cae rygbi lleol, Cambrian Welfare. Dywedodd nad oedd yn meddwl y gwelech fwy o glêr yn yr Amason nag a welodd i fyny yn y fan honno a bod angen gwneud rhywbeth am y domen. Mae problem wedi datblygu ar frest fy ngwraig—

Mrs Hann: Mae gennyf gyflwr ar y croen, hefyd, sydd wedi datblygu yn yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf. Ni chefais broblemau erioed o'r blaen.

Mr Hann: You go to bed at night and wake up half way through the night and have to brush your teeth and wash your mouth out. Unfortunately, I am unemployed so I can go away for periods. We go down to west Wales. I get up in the morning and my mouth is as fresh as it can be. I come back home and I am up in the middle of the night to wash my mouth and clean my teeth. In fact, when we went to the hospital one time, we inadvertently left the front window open—

Mrs Hann: It was our bedroom window.

Mr Hann: It is strange for us because we get stunk out in the back not in the front. It may sound queer to you but that is the truth. It comes mostly to the back. We had left our front bedroom window open and we were coming home from the hospital about 10 p.m. The door was shut upstairs. We entered the bedroom and we had to go back downstairs because of the foul smell of the bedroom.

Mrs Hann: We could not smell it in the rest of the house but because this bedroom window had been left open, we could not go to bed for a few hours that night because the smell was so horrendous.

Mr Hann: People may say that it is psychological. You go away and you feel better. I cannot argue against that but we have a three-year-old grandson who uses an inhaler, like a lot of children in the area. My daughter took him to Spain for 17 days and took all the gear, but he did not use it. He came home and he had not been in the house for more than a couple of hours when he started gasping and rubbing his chest. There is no way that that can be psychological with a three-year-old child. It must be real.

We are also told that some people phoning the Environment Agency are exaggerating and not telling the truth. On one occasion, we were up on Cambrian Welfare and there was a strong south-westerly wind. The tip was in a north-easterly direction. Basically, the wind would have been blowing into my face and the tip would have been at the back of my

Mr Hann: Yr ydych yn mynd i'ch gwely yn y nos ac yn deffro hanner ffordd drwy'r nos ac yn gorfod glanhau eich dannedd a golchi'ch ceg. Yn anffodus, yr wyf fi'n ddi-waith felly gallaf fynd i ffwrdd am gyfnodau. Awn i lawr i orllewin Cymru. Codaf yn y bore ac mae fy ngheg mor ffres ag y gallai fod. Deuaf yn ôl adref ac yr wyf yn codi yng nghanol y nos i olchi fy ngheg a glanhau fy nannedd. Yn wir, pan aethom i'r ysbyty un tro, gadawsom y ffenestr flaen ar agor drwy ddamwain—

Mrs Hann: Ffenestr ein llofft oedd hi.

Mr Hann: Mae'n rhyfedd i ni, oherwydd yn y cefn ac nid yn y blaen y mae'r drewdod. Efallai fod hynny'n swnio'n od i chi ond dyna'r gwir. I'r cefn y daw gan mwyaf. Yr oeddem wedi gadael ffenestr ein llofft yn y blaen ar agor ac yr oeddem yn dod adref o'r ysbyty am tua 10 p.m. Yr oedd y drws wedi'i gau i fyny'r grisiau. Aethom i mewn i'r llofft a bu'n rhaid inni fynd yn ôl i lawr y grisiau oherwydd arogl aflan y llofft.

Mrs Hann: Ni allem ei wynto yng ngweddill y tŷ ond oherwydd bod ffenestr y llofft hon wedi'i gadael yn agored, ni allem fynd i'r gwely am rai oriau y noson honno am fod yr arogl mor ffaidd.

Mr Hann: Gallai pobl ddweud mai peth seicolegol ydyw. Mae rhywun yn mynd i ffwrdd ac yn teimlo'n well. Ni allaf ddadlau yn erbyn hynny, ond mae gennym ŵyr teirblwydd sydd yn defnyddio anadlydd, fel llawer o blant yn yr ardal. Aeth fy merch ag ef i Sbaen am 17 diwrnod ac aeth â'r offer i gyd, ond ni wnaeth eu defnyddio. Daeth adref ac nid oedd wedi bod yn y tŷ am fwy nag awr neu ddwy pan ddechreuodd ymladd am wynt a rhwbio'i frest. Nid oes modd o gwbl i hynny fod yn seicolegol gyda phlentyn teirblwydd. Mae'n rhaid ei fod yn wir.

Dywedir wrthym hefyd fod rhai pobl sydd yn ffonio Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn gor-ddweud ac yn dweud anwiredd. Ar un achlysur, yr oeddem i fyny ar Cambrian Welfare ac yr oedd gwynt de-orllewinol cryf. Yr oedd y domen i gyfeiriad y gogledd-ddwyrain. Yn y bôn, byddai'r gwynt wedi bod yn chwythu i'm hwyneb a buasai'r

head. The wind was really blowing, yet that tip was stinking up there. Another occasion, May Day in 1998, also stands out. My son and I were walking across one of the roads and he started coughing. That is another problem that he has and they cannot find out why; he has a terrible cough. He has had x-ray after x-ray, but they cannot find anything. We were walking back and he started to cough. A minute or two later we walked into the smell. He could run out of it, but I could not. I pulled my coat up over my face, because of the obnoxious smell and by the time I had got away from it, the front of my coat was saturated with tears. We are not exaggerating anything. That is the truth. As far as the Environment Agency goes, I think that it wants looking into—

Mrs Hann: I have a letter from the Environment Agency. When we complained to the agency in May about the terrible smell, we received a letter from it that said that the tip was working 'normally'. I question 'normally'. Was it telling us that the tip was working normally and so we are liars, or was it saying that it was working normally, so that this is what we have to live with? Which is it?

Mr Hann: I have no confidence in the Environment Agency. Our boy probably picked his infection up from the lake. That is medical opinion, not ours. He has been told to keep away from there and he does so. Mr Long mentioned the leachate pipe. The agency has now put a leachate pipe in that is about a foot diameter. That goes directly into the sewage system in the Rhondda, but you must take into account the fact that this sewage system is already overloaded. Much of the time, even when there is not much rainwater around, the sewage from the pipe is being dumped into the river. Therefore, when you increase possibly a two foot six inches diameter pipe—I could be wrong—by adding another pipe that is a foot in diameter to it, the sewage has either to flow back and come out through a manhole above it, or down from it. So the leachate will go into the river anyway. You could say allright, there is no problem, there are floodwater conditions and

domen y tu cefn i'm pen. Yr oedd y gwynt yn chwythu'n gryf, eto i gyd yr oedd y domen honno'n drewi i fyny yn y fan honno. Mae achlysur arall, Calan Mai yn 1998, yn sefyll yn y cof hefyd. Yr oedd fy mab a mi'n cerdded ar draws un o'r ffyrdd pan ddechreuodd ef besychu. Dyna broblem arall sydd ganddo ac ni allant ganfod pam; mae ganddo beswch ofnadwy. Mae wedi cael pelydr-x ar ôl pelydr-x, ond ni allant ddod o hyd i unrhyw beth. Yr oeddem yn cerdded yn ôl a dechreuodd besychu. Funud neu ddau yn ddiweddarach cerddasom i mewn i'r arogl. Gallai ef redeg allan ohono, ond ni allwn i. Tynnais fy nghot i fyny dros fy wyneb, oherwydd y drewdod, ac erbyn imi ddianc oddi wrtho, yr oedd blaen fy nghot yn wlyb drwyddo gyda dagrau. Nid ydym yn gor-ddweud unrhyw beth. Dyna'r gwir. O ran Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, yr wyf i o'r farn fod angen edrych i mewn iddi—

Mrs Hann: Mae gennyf lythyr oddi wrth Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Wedi inni gwyno i'r asiantaeth ym Mai am yr arogl ofnadwy, cawsom lythyr ganddi yn dweud bod y domen yn gweithredu'n 'normal'. Cwestiynaf y gair 'normal'. Ai dweud yr oedd fod y domen yn gweithredu'n normal ac felly'n bod ni'n dweud celwydd, neu ai dweud ei bod yn gweithredu'n normal, felly dyma sydd yn rhaid inni fyw gydag ef? Pa un?

Mr Hann: Nid oes gennyf fi unrhyw hyder yn Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Mae'n debyg i'n bachgen ni godi ei haint o'r llyn. Barn feddygol yw honno, nid ein barn ni. Dywedwyd wrtho am gadw draw o'r fan ac mae'n gwneud hynny. Soniodd Mr Long am y bibell drwytholchion. Mae'r asiantaeth bellach wedi gosod pibell drwytholchion sydd tua troedfedd o ddiamedr. Aiff honno yn syth i mewn i'r system garthffosiaeth yn y Rhondda, ond rhaid cofio bod y system garthffosiaeth hon eisoes wedi'i gorlwytho. Lawer o'r amser, hyd yn oed pan nad oes llawer o ddŵr glaw o gwmpas, caiff y carthion o'r bibell eu lluchio i'r afon. Felly, pan gynyddwch bibell sydd efallai'n ddwy droedfedd a hanner o ddiamedr—efallai fy mod yn anghywir—drwy ychwanegu pibell arall ati sydd yn droedfedd o ddiamedr, rhaid i'r carthion naill ai lifo'n ôl a dod allan drwy dwll archwilio uwchlaw iddi, neu i lawr oddi wrthi. Felly aiff y trwytholchion i'r afon beth

it is pushed downstream, but someone is going to have it.

Our son-in-law has had to take tablets because of it—

Mrs Hann: It has played on his nerves. He is a young boy, he is struggling to pay a mortgage and his house is not worth now what he paid for it and what it was valued at when he took out his mortgage.

Mr Hann: To go back to the Environment Agency, as I said, I should have made notes. We asked it about carrying out a survey on one of the lakes. It did not cover the issues that we needed it to cover. It carried out a survey on another lake, which is in Glyn cornel and stated that the water is of good quality, yet local analysts said that it is of poor quality and gave a list of the pollutants contained in it.

We also get problems when we telephone the Environment Agency. Sometimes we phone it and are told that we are the only people who have phoned, which makes us think, 'oh well, I am the only one, there is something wrong here'. However, you find out the next day that a number of people have phoned. On other occasions when you phone, you cannot get through, so you put the phone down, dial 141 and within a second or two, you get an answer or you are told 'I am sorry, but I cannot help you as I am on the other phone'.

Mrs Hann: One man even asked me once what I wanted him to do about it.

Mr Hann: We have even been told that the flies we complained about came from Devon.

Mrs Hann: Yes. That is what one man told us when we complained about flies. He said that they were probably fruit flies from Devon.

Mr Hann: How they know that, I do not know.

bynag. Gallech ddweud, iawn, nid oes problem, mae yma amodau llifogydd ac maent yn cael eu gwthio i lawr yr afon, ond bydd yn rhaid i rywun eu cael.

Bu'n rhaid i'n mab-yng-nghyfraith gymryd tabledi oherwydd y peth—

Mrs Hann: Mae wedi chwarae ar ei nerfau. Bachgen ifanc ydyw, mae'n ei chael hi'n anodd talu morgais ac nid yw ei dŷ bellach yn werth yr hyn a dalodd amdano a'r gwerth a roddwyd arno pan gymerodd ei forgais.

Mr Hann: I ddychwelyd at Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, fel y dywedais, dylaswn fod wedi gwneud nodiadau. Fe'i holasom ynghylch gwneud arolwg ar un o'r llynnoedd. Ni roddodd sylw i'r materion yr oeddem ni angen rhoi sylw iddynt. Gwnaeth arolwg ar lyn arall, sydd yng Nglyn cornel, a dywedodd fod y dŵr o ansawdd da, ond dywedodd dadansoddwyr lleol ei fod o ansawdd gwael a rhoesant restr o'r llygrynnau a geid ynddo.

Cawn broblemau hefyd wrth ffonio Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Weithiau byddwn yn ffonio a dywedir wrthym mai ni yw'r unig bobl sydd wedi ffonio, sydd yn gwneud inni feddwl, 'o, wel, fi yw'r unig un, mae rhywbeth o'i le yma', Fodd bynnag, cawn wybod drannoeth fod nifer o bobl wedi ffonio. Ar adegau eraill pan ffoniwch, ni allwch fynd drwodd, felly byddwch yn rhoi'r ffôn i lawr, deialu 141 ac o fewn eiliad neu ddwy cewch ateb neu dywedir wrthyh 'mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ond ni allaf eich helpu am fy mod ar y ffôn arall'.

Mrs Hann: Fe wnaeth un dyn hyd yn oed ofyn imi unwaith beth yr oeddwn am iddo ef ei wneud ynghylch y peth.

Mr Hann: Maent hyd yn oed wedi dweud wrthym fod y clêr yr oeddem yn cwyno amdanynt wedi dod o Ddyfnaint.

Mrs Hann: Do. Dyna ddywedodd un dyn wrthym wedi inni gwyno am glêr. Dywedodd ei bod yn debygol mai clêr ffrwythau o Ddyfnaint oeddent.

Mr Hann: Sut maent yn gwybod hynny, ni wn i.

Mrs Hann: Perhaps it was the accent, I do not know.

Mr Hann: They say now that the number of calls—

Mrs Hann: That is how they are treating us. They are treating us with contempt. We are nothing to them. They treat us like rubbish.

Mr Hann: They say that the number of calls is falling. I have not called. It stunk us out the night before last. There was heavy rain, it was not a still night, but why telephone the agency when it does not take a blind bit of notice of people? It is not that the problem has lessened, it is that people are getting fed up with phoning an agency that does nothing about the problem.

That is about it. I am sorry if it was a bit ad-hoc, but we are not accustomed to this. Thank you very much.

Richard Edwards: Thank you, Mr and Mrs Hann. It may have been ad-hoc, but I thought that it was a very effective double act. The next speakers have agreed to speak for a maximum of two minutes each. I would be grateful if you could abide by that time limit, if possible.

Mr Nicholls-Jones: I do not think that I agreed to speak for two minutes. However, most of what I have to say is documented and I will lay that before you. The problem of the tip, which is a disaster, started from day one. I have an excerpt from the Rhondda Borough Council newspaper that states how wonderful it is that this huge tip was to be built and that it had double the amount of cash from the EC.

That breaks this up into three main problems. The first was the grant. I was told by a councillor, who is now deceased, that the Welsh Office had instructed Rhondda Borough Council to take waste from outside the Rhondda in order to make the tipping facility available to people outside the Rhondda, as it had received significant public funds. As a result, a pricing strategy was adopted that was different from any other

Mrs Hann: Efallai mai'r acen ydoedd, ni wn i.

Mr Hann: Maent yn dweud yn awr fod nifer y galwadau—

Mrs Hann: Dyna sut y maent yn ein trin ni. Maent yn ein trin ni â dirmyg. Nid ydym ni'n ddim iddynt. Maent yn ein trin fel baw.

Mr Hann: Maent yn dweud fod nifer y galwadau ar i lawr. Nid wyf fi wedi galw. Cawsom ein drewi allan echnos. Yr oedd glaw trwm, nid oedd yn noson lonydd, ond pam ffonio'r asiantaeth pan nad yw'n cymryd iot o sylw o bobl? Nid yw'n fater bod y broblem wedi lleihau, ond bod pobl yn cael llond bola ar ffonio asiantaeth nad yw'n gwneud dim ynglŷn â'r broblem.

Dyna fe. Mae'n flin gennyf os oedd ychydig yn fyrfyfyr, ond nid ydym wedi arfer â hyn. Diolch yn fawr ichi.

Richard Edwards: Diolch i chi, Mr a Mrs Hann. Efallai ei fod yn fyrfyfyr, ond yr oeddwn i o'r farn ei fod yn ddeuawd effeithiol iawn. Mae'r siaradwyr nesaf wedi cytuno i siarad am uchafswm o ddau funud yr un. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech gadw at y terfyn amser hwnnw, os oes modd.

Mr Nicholls-Jones: Nid wyf yn credu i mi gytuno i siarad am ddau funud. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o'r hyn sydd gennyf i'w ddweud wedi'i gofnodi ar bapur a rhoddaf hwnnw ger eich bron. Dechreuodd problem y domen, sydd yn drychineb, o'r diwrnod cyntaf un. Mae gennyf ddyfyniad o bapur newydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda yn dweud mor fendigedig ydoedd fod y domen anferth hon i gael ei hadeiladu a'i bod wedi cael dwbl yr arian oddi wrth y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd.

Mae hynny'n torri hyn yn dair prif broblem. Y gyntaf oedd y grant. Dywedwyd wrthyf gan gynghorydd, sydd bellach wedi marw, fod y Swyddfa Gymreig wedi dweud wrth Gyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda am gymryd gwastraff o'r tu allan i'r Rhondda er mwyn i'r cyfleuster tipio fod ar gael i bobl y tu allan i'r Rhondda, gan ei bod wedi derbyn arian cyhoeddus sylweddol. O ganlyniad, mabwysiadwyd strategaeth brisio a oedd yn

pricing strategy in any other landfill site in south Wales. The tip charged by the number of wheels on your vehicle, not by the type, quantity or any other criteria related to the waste, but just by the number of wheels. The pricing structure was so cheap that the tip attracted waste from as far afield as Llanelli and Bristol. From my contacts in the industry, I know that two companies, Cleanaway, which operates a sludge landfill site in Essex, and Shanks and McEwan, which operates a site in Bedford, were concerned at the amount of money that they were losing as a result of Nantygwyddon. That is how far the web went.

I will not talk about health. I would rather that the inquiry concentrated on following the money, because purolite waste was a filter cake case in point, where the charges in the accounts do not relate to the actual moneys that were being paid. I hope that you ask David Jones, the director of Purolite International Ltd, to come to give evidence before the company disappears off to China, which is where it intends to go.

The main and fundamental problem of the tip started at its opening, because Rhondda Borough Council had the licensing function, the collection of waste function and the disposal function in the same office. So the people who were policing the disposal of the waste were sitting next to the people disposing of the waste, all of which was controlled by Mr Malcolm Clark, who is mentioned in this report here several times. He also designed the incinerator that poisoned people in Porth and had to be closed down.

The filter cake was being taken to Trecati and there was an Entec report. I would like you to follow up when the Entec report was made available to Rhondda Borough Council and why it was that the licence conditions were allowed to be changed before the local authority waste disposal company was allowed to take over, with a licence as wide as you would want it to be. Basically, I believe that the licence was widened because the site had been taking waste that it was not supposed to take, and that the council was

wahanol i unrhyw strategaeth brisio arall mewn unrhyw safle tirlenwi arall yn ne Cymru. Codai'r domen dâl yn ôl nifer yr olwynion ar eich cerbyd, nid yn ôl y math, y maint nac unrhyw faen prawf arall cysylltiedig â'r gwastraff, ond dim ond yn ôl nifer yr olwynion. Yr oedd y strwythur prisio mor rhad nes bod y domen yn denu gwastraff o gyn belled i ffwrdd â Llanelli a Bryste. Ar sail fy nghysylltiadau yn y diwydiant, gwn fod dau gwmni, sef Cleanaway, sydd yn gweithredu safle tirlenwi slwtsh yn Essex, a Shanks and McEwan, sydd yn gweithredu safle yn Bedford, yn bryderus oherwydd yr arian yr oeddent yn ei golli o ganlyniad i Nantygwyddon. Dyna pa mor bell y lledaenodd y we.

Ni soniaf am iechyd. Byddai'n well gennyf fi i'r ymchwiliad ganolbwyntio ar ddilyn yr arian, oherwydd yr oedd gwastraff purolite yn un enghraifft o achos talpiau hidlo, lle nad yw'r taliadau yn y cyfrif yn cyfateb i'r arian gwirioneddol a dalwyd. Gobeithiaf y gofynnwch i David Jones, cyfarwyddwr Purolite International Cyf, ddod i roi tystiolaeth cyn i'r cwmni ddiplannu i China, sef y lle y mae'n bwriadu mynd.

Dechreuodd prif broblem sylfaenol y domen wrth ei hagor, oherwydd yr oedd gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda y swyddogaeth drwyddedu, y swyddogaeth gasglu gwastraff a'r swyddogaeth waredu yn yr un swyddfa. Felly yr oedd y bobl a oedd yn plismona'r gwaith gwaredu gwastraff yn eistedd wrth ochr y bobl a oedd yn gwaredu'r gwastraff, a'r cyfan dan reolaeth Mr Malcolm Clark, a grybwyllir sawl gwaith yn yr adroddiad yma. Ef hefyd a ddyluniodd y llosgydd a wenwynodd bobl yn y Porth ac y bu'n rhaid ei gau i lawr.

Yr oedd y talpiau hidlo'n cael eu cludo i Drecati a chafwyd adroddiad gan Entec. Hoffwn ichi ganfod pa bryd y rhoddwyd adroddiad Entec ar gael i Gyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda a pham y caniatwyd newid amodau'r drwydded cyn caniatáu i gwmni gwaredu gwastraff yr awdurdod lleol gymryd rheolaeth, gyda thrwydded mor llydan ag y gellid ei deisyfu. Yn y bôn, credaf i'r drwydded gael ei lledu oherwydd bod y safle wedi bod yn cymryd gwastraff nad oedd i fod i'w gymryd, a bod y cyngor yn iro llaw'r

giving a sweetener to the company that was going to take over the landfill site at the same time as the Environment Agency was coming in to regulate the council separately from within its own department.

This is not just a question of calcium sulphate. It is a question of a number of other sludges. There is only one way to find out what they are, which is to put bore holes into the old Rhondda Borough Council tipping area. We might even find a liner when we put those bore holes down.

Mrs Bacon: I doubt it.

Mr Nicholls-Jones: Exactly—we might find a liner.

There are two steps. The first is that closure is the only option for Nantygwyddon and we will have to find alternative methods of disposing of our waste. The second step will be far more difficult: what do you do with the material that is up there?

I would like to place with the Committee a report that was written by Daniel Sandrof, covering calcium sulphate deposits and codisposal deposits of calcium sulphate with household waste. That report will tell you that household waste emits a gas that is known as methane. This is known locally as fire damp, because it occurs in the mines. It is the damp element that agitates the calcium sulphate so that it gives off volumes of gas. The correct disposal method for calcium sulphate is to mix it 3:1 with inert wastes. That way it does not produce volumes of gas. The calcium sulphate that came into the tip was from purolite, an industrial process. I must declare an interest here, because I was running an inert landfill site at the time and was offered the opportunity to take this material at £350 per load. I was told that the correct way to dispose of it was to mix it 3:1 with inert wastes. I did not take the material because I was also told by the then environmental officer for Taff Ely Borough Council, Mr Dyers, who currently works for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, that there was concern about the trace elements in the filter cake as a result of the industrial process. The other reason why I turned it down, although it was extremely

cwmni a oedd yn mynd i ymgymryd â rheolaeth y safle tirlenwi ar yr un pryd ag yr oedd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn dod i mewn i reoleiddio'r cyngor ar wahân oddi mewn i'w adran ei hun.

Nid cwestiwn o sylffad calsiwm yn unig yw hwn. Mae a wnelo â nifer o fathau eraill o slwtsh. Dim ond un ffordd sydd o ganfod beth ydynt, sef tyllu i mewn i safle tomen hen Gyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda. Efallai y gallem hyd yn oed ddod o hyd i leinin pan fyddwn yn tyllu.

Mrs Bacon: Mae'n amheus gennyf fi.

Mr Nicholls-Jones: Yn gymwys—efallai y gallem ddod o hyd i leinin.

Mae dau gam i'w cymryd. Y cyntaf yw mai cau yw'r unig ddewis i Nantygwyddon ac y bydd raid inni ganfod dulliau eraill o waredu'n gwastraff. Bydd yr ail gam yn llawer anoddach: beth wnewch chi gyda'r defnydd sydd i fyny yno?

Hoffwn gyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor adroddiad a ysgrifennwyd gan Daniel Sandrof, ynghylch dyddodion sylffad calsiwm a dyddodion cydwaredu sylffad calsiwm â gwastraff tŷ. Dywed yr adroddiad hwnnw wrthyf fod gwastraff tŷ'n gollwng nwy o'r enw methan. Gelwir hwn yn lleol yn llosgnwy neu damp, am ei fod yn digwydd yn y pyllau glo. Yr elfen damp hon sydd yn corddi'r sylffad calsiwm fel ei fod yn gollwng cymylau o nwy. Y dull cywir o waredu sylffad calsiwm yw ei gymysgu 3:1 gyda gwastraffau anadweithiol. Fel hynny ni fydd yn cynhyrchu cymylau nwy. Yr oedd y sylffad calsiwm a ddaeth i'r domen yn deillio o purolite, proses ddiwydiannol. Rhaid imi ddatgan buddiant yma, oherwydd yr oeddwn i'n rhedeg safle tirlenwi anadweithiol ar y pryd a chefais gynnig y cyfle i gymryd y defnydd hwn am £350 y llwyth. Dywedwyd wrthyf mai'r ffordd gywir i'w waredu oedd ei gymysgu 3:1 â gwastraffau anadweithiol. Ni chymerais y defnydd oherwydd dywedwyd wrthyf hefyd gan y swyddog amgylcheddol ar y pryd i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Taf Elái, Mr Dyers, sydd yn gweithio erbyn hyn i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful, fod pryder ynghylch yr elfennau hybrin yn y talpiau hidlo o ganlyniad i'r broses ddiwydiannol. Y

lucrative, was that the biological oxygen demand would have killed the streams around my site.

I will submit further written evidence but I hope that you will follow the money, especially in relation to the fact that no bond was asked for from the local authority waste disposal company. It was very interesting that Cardiff and Newport did not create local authority waste disposal companies, but in Rhondda Cynon Taff, which had little interest in attending environmental meetings, there was some unholy haste in bringing together this LAWDC in advance of when they needed to do so. I think that the council was the first in Wales to put one into place without a bond. That preceded the Environment Agency's involvement. The other problem was that the regulatory officers in Rhondda Borough council who were in charge of Nantygwyddon then became the employees of the Environment Agency and were put in charge of regulating Nantygwyddon.

Richard Edwards: Thank you, Mr Nicholls-Jones for that and for any further evidence that you wish to submit to the Committee. I ask the next three speakers, Anthony Scates, Frank Baker and Brian Mabbett, to make their way to the front table and to speak in that order, please.

Mr Scates: Basically, I want to speak about the Environment Agency. I was one of the first people to go around with a petition to try to stop the establishment of the Nantygwyddon tip in the first place, approximately 12 years ago. When we had a site visit there, they were putting the liner down. At the time, there was a dumper running back and forth putting a metre of soil over the top of the liner. As you can imagine with anything driving over polythene, it was ripping big holes in it, which were never filled. When I complained to the Environment Agency that there were holes in the liner I was told by Mr John Harrison on a one-to-one basis in the courthouse in Llwynypia that the liner was designed to break down. I would like to find out how you

rheswm arall imi ei wrthod, er ei fod yn hynod o broffidiol, oedd y byddai'r galw biolegol am ocsigen wedi lladd y nentydd o gwmpas fy safle.

Byddaf yn cyflwyno tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig bellach ond yr wyf yn gobeithio y gwnewch chi ddilyn yr arian, yn enwedig yng nghyswllt y ffaith na ofynnwyd am fond gan gwmni gwaredu gwastraff yr awdurdod lleol. Yr oedd yn ddiddorol iawn na chrëwyd cwmnïau gwaredu gwastraff gan awdurdodau lleol Caerdydd a Chasnewydd, ond yn Rhondda Cynon Taf, lle nad oedd fawr ddim diddordeb mewn mynychu cyfarfodydd amgylcheddol, yr oedd brys cythreulig i ffurfio'r cwmni gwaredu gwastraff hwn gan yr awdurdod lleol cyn bod angen iddynt wneud hynny. Yr wyf yn meddwl mai'r cyngor oedd y cyntaf yng Nghymru i sefydlu un heb fond. Yr oedd hynny cyn i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ymwneud â'r mater. Y broblem arall oedd fod y swyddogion rheoleiddiol yng Nghyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda a fu'n gyfrifol am Nantygwyddon wedi mynd i weithio i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd a chael y cyfrifoldeb o reoleiddio Nantygwyddon.

Richard Edwards: Diolch, Mr Nicholls-Jones, am hynny ac am unrhyw dystiolaeth bellach y dymunwch ei chyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor. Gofynnaf i'r tri siaradwr nesaf, Anthony Scates, Frank Baker a Brian Mabbett, ddod at y bwrdd yn y blaen a siarad yn y drefn honno, os gwelwch yn dda.

Mr Scates: Yn y bôn, yr wyf am siarad am Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Fi oedd un o'r bobl gyntaf i fynd o amgylch gyda deiseb i geisio atal sefydlu tomen Nantygwyddon yn y lle cyntaf, oddeutu 12 mlynedd yn ôl. Pan gawsom ymweliad â'r safle yno, yr oeddent yn gosod y leinin i lawr. Ar y pryd, yr oedd dadlwythwr yn rhedeg yn ôl a blaen yn rhoi metr o bridd dros ben y leinin. Fel y gallwch ddychmygu gydag unrhyw beth yn gyrru dros bolythen, yr oedd yn rhwygo tyllau mawr ynddo, na chafodd eu llenwi byth. Pan gwynais wrth Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd fod tyllau yn y leinin dywedodd Mr John Harrison wrthyf ar sail un-i-un yn y llys yn Llwynypia fod y leinin wedi'i gynllunio i dorri i lawr. Hoffwn wybod sut y gellir gosod leinin uchaf, pan fyddant yn capio'r domen,

can fix a top liner, when they cap the tip, to a bottom liner that is designed to break down. I think that it is impossible. That is all I have to say.

Mr Baker: My name is Frank William Baker and I live in Clydach Vale. I am an ordinary resident of Clydach Vale and I have been fighting against this tip for the last six years. It is detrimental to people's health in every shape or form. Many people are suffering from different types of dementia, something which we cannot prove because nobody will take any notice. Other people have mentioned problems with their eyes, throat and everything else. There has been a report from America this week—I will leave it here with you—about pollution. We in Clydach Vale live just a quarter of a mile away from the tip, closer than anybody, right below it. It states in this report that Eskimos living 1,800 miles away from a toxic trail in America have been affected by it. Now, if they have been affected, what have we been? It is right on top of our children and everybody else. I have the article here. This is a new report that has come out this week; I will leave the article here for you. What I am saying is that everybody in this area is being affected and, before long, if they put an incinerator on top of that tip, which they are talking about doing, people as far away as Cardiff, Porthcawl and everywhere else will be affected—even as far away as Bristol. Now, that is a fact and it tells you in this article that is a fact, but we have had to put up with this for six years.

I went to see Mr Lucas, who is the solicitor for the council. He is supposed to be the spokesman for ordinary people. He has been designated by the council. Anyone who wants to see someone—he is the man to see. I took my case to him on the Entec report of the nuisance that is being caused in Clydach Vale with smell, nausea and everything else. Three times I met that man and every time I was turned away, when he should have taken my case forward. These people should answer to someone, but they have not been doing so. Even the Environment Agency, which was then in a meeting with me, never took any notice and did not even bother to

yn sownd wrth leinin gwaelod sydd wedi'i gynllunio i dorri i lawr. Yr wyf i'n meddwl fod hynny'n amhosibl. Dyna'r cyfan sydd gennyf i'w ddweud.

Mr Baker: Frank William Baker yw fy enw i ac yr wyf yn byw yng Nghwm Clydach. Un o drigolion cyffredin Cwm Clydach ydwyf ac yr wyf yn ymladd yn erbyn y domen hon ers chwe blynedd bellach. Mae'n niweidiol i iechyd pobl ym mhob ffordd. Mae llawer o bobl yn dioddef gwahanol fathau o ddrwsych, rhywbeth na allwn ei brofi am na wnaiff unrhywun gymryd unrhyw sylw. Mae pobl eraill wedi sôn am broblemau gyda'u llygaid, eu llwnc a phopeth arall. Cafwyd adroddiad o America'r wythnos hon—fe'i gadawaf yma i chi—ynghylch llygredd. Yr ydym ni yng Nghwm Clydach yn byw cwta chwarter milltir i ffwrdd o'r domen, yn agosach na neb, yn union oddi tani. Dywed yr adroddiad hwn fod Esgimos sydd yn byw 1,800 milltir i ffwrdd o gwmwl gwenwynig yn America wedi'u heffeithio ganddo. Nawr, os effeithiwyd arnynt hwy, beth ddigwyddodd i ni? Mae'n union uwchben ein plant a phawb arall. Mae'r erthygl gennyf yn y fan yma. Adroddiad newydd a ddaeth allan yr wythnos hon yw hwn; fe adawaf yr erthygl yma ichi. Yr hyn yr wyf yn ei ddweud yw yr effeithir ar bawb yn yr ardal hon a, chyn hir, os rhoddant losgydd ar ben y domen honno fel y maent yn sôn am wneud, effeithir ar bobl cyn belled i ffwrdd â Chaerdydd, Porthcawl a phob man arall—hyd yn oed cyn belled i ffwrdd â Bryste. Yn awr, mae hynny'n ffaith, ac mae'n dweud yn yr erthygl hon fod hynny'n ffaith, ond yr ydym ni wedi gorfod goddef hyn ers chwe blynedd.

Euthum i weld Mr Lucas, cyfreithiwr y cyngor. Mae ef i fod yn llefarydd dros bobl gyffredin. Cafodd ei benodi gan y cyngor. Os oes ar unrhyw un eisiau gweld rhywun—dyma'r dyn i'w weld. Euthum i â'm hachos ato ar adroddiad Entec am y niwsans a achosir yng Nghwm Clydach gydag aroglau, cyfog a phopeth arall. Dair gwaith fe gyfarfûm â'r dyn hwnnw a phob tro cefais fy nhroi ymaith, pan ddylai fod wedi dwyn fy achos ymlaen. Dylai'r bobl hyn ateb i rywun, ond nid ydynt wedi gwneud hynny. Ni chymerwyd unrhyw sylw hyd yn oed gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, a oedd mewn cyfarfod gyda mi ar y pryd, ac ni wnaethant

take samples or do anything at all about it. These people should answer for all that they have done to the residents of the Rhondda. We even asked for samples to be taken from the tip. There was an aerial photograph taken of that tip, which I have here. As you can see there is a big red piece in that tip. What is there? Would the agency answer, would it take any samples? No. Time and time again, it refused to take any samples from that tip. It will not do it to let us know what has been buried up that tip. Thank you very much.

Richard Edwards: Thank you very much, Mr Baker. Before anybody else speaks, I ask that if any other speakers have any professional knowledge relating to this issue they please declare it so that the Committee is aware of that. The next speaker is Mr Brian Mabett.

Mr Mabett: A fortnight—or three weeks—last Tuesday, we were taken on a tour around the tip. Coming back to the office, I happened to ask whether they had had the report about the stability of the coal tip in front of it. The manager of the tip looked at me blankly and asked what I meant. I said that we were on the committee, as has been mentioned before, of the Beaufort tips when they cleared them. Ryan Engineers went up there and came back, Blackwood's Engineers went up there and came back, and both of them gave exactly the same report: for God's sake, do not touch that spoil tip, otherwise it will come down because it is on unstable land. They have now taken the top off that tip, which is exposing it to all the elements. What will the water do? Instead of running off like it would off a pyramid, it is now sinking down underneath it. We are only waiting for that lot to start sliding.

Speaking on a personal note, health and Bro Taf Health Authority have been mentioned before. I think that I spent more time with the woman running that authority than anybody. She promised me that as soon as it got the results that she would send me a copy. A fortnight before the results came out, she was sacked. We never had a copy.

hyd yn oed drafferthu cymryd samplau na gwneud dim o gwbl ynghylch y peth. Dylai'r bobl hyn ateb am bopeth y maent wedi'i wneud i drigolion y Rhondda. Gofynasom hyd yn oed am i samplau gael eu cymryd o'r domen. Tynnwyd llun o'r domen o'r awyr, a dyma fe. Fel y gwelwch, mae darn mawr coch yn y domen yna. Beth sydd yno? A wnâi'r asiantaeth ateb, a wnâi gymryd samplau? Na. Dro ar ôl tro, gwrthododd gymryd unrhyw samplau o'r domen. Ni wnaiff y tro iddi adael inni wybod beth sydd wedi'i gladdu yn y domen yna. Diolch yn fawr.

Richard Edwards: Diolch yn fawr i chi, Mr Baker. Cyn i neb arall siarad, gofynnaf, os oes gan unrhyw siaradwyr eraill unrhyw wybodaeth broffesiynol ynglŷn â'r mater hwn, a fyddech cystal â datgan hynny fel bod y Pwyllgor yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith. Y siaradwr nesaf yw Mr Brian Mabett.

Mr Mabett: Bythefnos—neu dair wythnos—i ddydd Mawrth diwethaf, cawsom ein hebrwng ar daith o gwmpas y domen. Wrth ddod yn ôl i'r swyddfa, digwyddais ofyn a oeddent wedi cael yr adroddiad ynghylch sadrwydd y domen lo o'i blaen. Edrychodd rheolwr y domen arnaf yn syn a gofyn beth oeddwn yn ei feddwl. Dywedais ein bod ni, fel y crybwyllwyd o'r blaen, ar bwyllgor tomenni Beaufort pan gliriwyd y rheini. Aeth Ryan Engineers i fyny acw a dod yn ôl, aeth Peirianwyr Coed-duon i fyny acw a dod yn ôl, a rhoesant ill dau yr un adroddiad yn union: er mwyn Duw, peidiwch â chyffwrdd y domen wastraff honno, neu daw i lawr oherwydd mae ar dir ansad. Bellach maent wedi tynnu'r top oddi ar y domen honno, fel ei bod yn agored i'r elfennau i gyd. Beth fydd y dŵr yn ei wneud? Yn lle rhedeg oddi arni fel y rhedai oddi ar byramid, yn awr mae'n suddo i lawr oddi tani. Dim ond disgwyl i'r cyfan ddechrau llithro yr ydym ni.

Â siarad ar nodyn personol, soniwyd eisoes am iechyd ac Awdurdod Iechyd Bro Taf. Yr wyf yn credu i mi dreulio mwy o amser gyda'r wraig sydd yn rhedeg yr awdurdod hwnnw na neb. Addawodd imi y byddai'n anfon copi ataf cyn gynted ag y byddai wedi cael y canlyniadau. Bythefnos cyn i'r canlyniadau ddod allan, cafodd ei diswyddo. Ni chawsom gopi byth.

On another personal note—this is personal to me—my wife was dying, she was in the front room and the doctor came. He said ‘For goodness’ sake, Brian, why don’t you open a window?’ I told him that I could not and he asked why. We went outside and then he understood why. My wife was taken to Llwynypia hospital a fortnight before she died. I went outside the hospital at 12.00 a.m. or 1.00 a.m. for a bit of fresh air and the smell was terrible. There was a doctor’s portacabin there, as they are on duty all night. I talked to the doctors. They said that the smell there is terrible all the time. I asked them why they did not write a letter of protest, but funnily enough, they said that the smell had disappeared. That is what we are up against all the time. As soon as we get someone in a corner, they say that the smell has gone, they are alright, everything is great. That is what we have had all along. That is why I am fighting against it; my wife could not die in comfort, with the obnoxious smell that was around. She was in a boiling hot room but we could not open the windows because of the smell.

Richard Edwards: Thank you, Mr Mabett. Could Gwyn Evans, John Nicholas and Jeff Gregory please come to the front table and speak in that order please?

I am told that Jeff Gregory and Mr Evans will not speak. I call Mr Nicholas.

Mr Nicholas: My opening remarks are that whoever gave permission for this tip—and it is a tip, not a landfill site—to go ahead and be designed as it has been should be certified. My next remarks are about the change of life that has happened since the tip was opened. I do not want to go into a long story. I never was in the boy scouts, so I do not have any notes and I have not come prepared. However, at one time, I was a chap who was very interested in show dogs. Every day, without fail, I walked up that mountain with my dogs until such time as they tipped filter cake or purolite, whatever you wish to call it, there. I had to stop walking that mountain and have not walked it since. That goes for other people as well, not only me. That is the change in my life. However, it also affects

Ar nodyn personol arall—mae hyn yn bersonol i mi—yr oedd fy ngwraig yn marw, yr oedd hi yn yr ystafell ffrynt a daeth y meddyg. Dywedodd ‘Er mwyn popeth, Brian, pam nad agori di ffenestr?’ Dywedais wrtho na allwn a gofynnodd yntau pam. Aethom allan ac wedyn dealodd pam. Cymerwyd fy ngwraig i ysbyty Llwynypia bythefnos cyn iddi farw. Euthum allan o’r ysbyty am 12:00 a.m. neu 1.00 a.m. am ychydig o awyr iach ac yr oedd yr arogl yn ofnadwy. Yr oedd portacabin meddygon yno, gan eu bod ar ddyletswydd drwy’r nos. Siaradais â’r meddygon. Dywedasant fod y drawdod yno’n ofnadwy o hyd. Gofynnais iddynt pam nad ysgrifennent lythyr o brotest, ond yn rhyfedd ddigon, dywedasant fod y drawdod wedi diflannu. Dyna sydd yn ein herbyn bob tro. Cyn gynted ag y rhoddwn rywun mewn cornel, dywedant fod yr arogl wedi mynd, eu bod yn iawn, bod popeth yn wych. Dyna beth yr ydym wedi’i gael drwy’r amser. Dyna pam yr wyf yn ymladd yn ei erbyn; ni allodd fy ngwraig farw mewn cysur, gyda’r drawdod ffiaidd o’i chwmpas. Yr oedd hi mewn ystafell chwilboeth ond ni allem agor y ffenestri oherwydd yr arogl.

Richard Edwards: Diolch, Mr Mabett. A fyddai Gwyn Evans, John Nicholas a Jeff Gregory gystal â dod at y bwrdd yn y blaen a siarad yn y drefn honno os gwelwch yn dda?

Dywedir wrthyf nad yw Jeff Gregory a Mr Evans am siarad. Galwaf ar Mr Nicholas.

Mr Nicholas: Fy sylwadau agoriadol yw y dylai pwy bynnag a roddodd ganiatâd i’r domen hon—a thomen yw hi, nid safle tirlenwi—fynd yn ei blaen a chael ei dylunio fel y cafodd, gael ei ardystio’n wallgof. Mae fy sylwadau nesaf yn ymdrin â’r newid a fu ym mywydau pobl ers agor y domen. Nid oes arnaf eisiau mynd i mewn i stori hir. Ni fûm erioed yn y sgowtiaid, felly nid oes gennyf nodiadau ac nid wyf wedi paratoi. Fodd bynnag, ar un adeg, yr oeddwn yn ddyn a oedd â diddordeb mawr mewn cŵn arddangos. Bob dydd yn ddi-ffael byddwn yn cerdded i fyny’r mynydd acw gyda’r cŵn hyd yr adeg yr arllwyswyd talpiau hidlo neu purolite, beth bynnag y mynnwch ei alw, yno. Bu raid imi roi’r gorau i gerdded y mynydd hwnnw ac ni cherddais ef wedyn. Mae

my property. In the summer, although we do not have very good summers in the Rhondda, as most of you probably know, it is not nice to have your doors and windows closed 24 hours a day. If you left a window open, you would get this obnoxious smell coming into your house. I would not like to say what the value of my house is now compared to its value before the tip, but I am sure that I will not get the money back that I paid for my house before the tip arrived.

Last week, I had occasion to speak to a councillor who is now, I believe, a council representative on the board of directors of Amgen. I spoke to the gentleman and complained about the smell the night before. I also referred him to Mr Thomas. His answer, as I took it, was 'how do you know that it was the tip?' I told him that it was the same smell that I have experienced for years. He said that it could be coming from underground workings. I cannot understand this, because there have not been any underground workings in the Rhondda for 32 or 34 years. Have there? I am not sure. However, I am not prepared to accept him telling me that it could be coming from underground workings. This is a councillor who represents the council on the board of directors of Amgen. Mr Chairman, all I can do is reiterate my first statement: whoever designed and gave permission to put the tip where it is should have been certified in the beginning. Thank you very much.

Richard Edwards: Thank you, Mr Nicholas. Will the next three speakers, Linda Baker, Brian Dee and Sylvia Jones please make their way to the front table and speak in that order?

Ms Baker: I do not wish to speak and neither do Brian Dee and Sylvia Jones. All I want to say has been said.

Richard Edwards: In that case I call Annette Ellis to speak.

Ms Ellis: I feel the same. I do not wish to speak either.

hynny'n wir am bobl eraill hefyd, nid fi yn unig. Dyna'r newid yn fy mywyd i. Fodd bynnag, mae'n effeithio ar fy eiddo hefyd. Yn yr haf, er na fyddwn yn cael hafau da iawn yn y Rhondda, fel y gŵyr y rhan fwyaf ohonoch mae'n debyg, nid yw'n braf cadw'ch drysau a'ch ffenestri ar gau 24 awr y dydd. Petaech yn gadael ffenestr ar agor, fe gaech y drewdod ffaidd yma'n dod i mewn i'ch tŷ. Ni hoffwn ddweud beth yw gwerth fy nhŷ yn awr o gymharu â'i werth cyn y domen, ond yr wyf yn siŵr na chaf yr arian yn ôl a delais am fy nhŷ cyn i'r domen ddod.

Yr wythnos diwethaf, cefais achos i siarad â chynghorydd sydd bellach, mi gredaf, yn gynrychiolydd ar ran y cyngor ar fwrdd cyfarwyddwyr Amgen. Siaradais â'r gŵr bonheddig a chwyno am yr arogl y noson gynt. Cyfeiriais ef at Mr Thomas hefyd. Ei ateb ef, fel y deallais i ef, oedd 'sut y gwyddoch chi mai'r domen ydoedd?' Dywedais wrtho mai dyma'r un arogl yr wyf wedi ei brofi ers blynyddoedd. Dywedodd yntau y gallai fod yn dod o weithfeydd tanddaearol. Ni allaf ddeall hyn, oherwydd ni fu gwaith tanddaearol yn y Rhondda ers 32 neu 34 o flynyddoedd. Do fe? Nid wyf yn siŵr. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf yn barod i dderbyn hwn yn dweud wrthyf y gallai fod yn dod o weithfeydd tanddaearol. Dyma gynghorydd sydd yn cynrychioli'r cyngor ar fwrdd cyfarwyddwyr Amgen. Mr Cadeirydd, y cyfan y gallaf ei wneud yw ailadrodd fy ngosodiad cyntaf: dylasai pwy bynnag a ddyluniodd ac a roddodd ganiatâd i roi'r domen yn y lle y mae fod wedi'i ardystio'n wallgof yn y dechreuad. Diolch yn fawr.

Richard Edwards: Diolch i chi, Mr Nicholas. A fydd y tri siaradwr nesaf, Linda Baker, Brian Dee a Sylvia Jones gystal â dod at y bwrdd yn y tu blaen a siarad yn y drefn honno?

Ms Baker: Nid wyf fi, Brian Dee na Sylvia Jones eisiau siarad. Mae popeth yr oeddwn am ei ddweud wedi cael ei ddweud.

Richard Edwards: Os felly galwaf ar Annette Ellis i siarad.

Ms Ellis: Yr wyf fi'n teimlo'r un fath. Nid wyf innau'n dymuno siarad chwaith.

Richard Edwards: I call Ron Davey to speak.

Mr Davey: I live about a quarter of a mile from the tip gates; it might be closer. Over the last three years, my health has deteriorated a lot. I support and endorse everything that RANT is doing, but I do not want to go over that because this is my own story. I suffer from asthma, hay fever and psoriasis and like a lot of other sufferers with those complaints, I am affected more by the gas emissions and smells than a healthy person would be. As I cannot keep my windows and doors open all the time, I suffer more again because I have to have fresh air. At times my eyes water and itch, my throat is dry, I suffer from headaches and sores and pimples come out on my face and arms. I try to get away from the area as much as possible and find that when I do my health improves, but as soon as I come home, I feel terrible.

I do not agree with this investigation, as all this Committee wants to do, in my opinion, is cover up what the council has done in the past and safeguard what the tip company will want to do in the future. However, do not forget that the criminal acts that have taken place—and we were told only last week or this week that criminal acts have taken place—will affect our children in the future. The criminals who have carried out these acts should be brought to justice. I have over 8,000 signatures in my possession on behalf of RANT, from people who want the tip closed and a full public inquiry. I do not think that anything will be done until, first, this tip is closed and then a public inquiry is held because all the time that this tip is open, the smells coming from it are still affecting us. Nothing has changed in my opinion.

Richard Edwards: Thank you, Mr Davey. Mr Dennis Store is not here. I therefore ask Mr Garrod Owen to conclude the submissions from the members of the public.

Mr Griffiths: Is there a chance to speak

Richard Edwards: Galwaf ar Ron Davey i siarad.

Mr Davey: Yr wyf fi'n byw ryw chwarter milltir o glwydi'r domen, efallai'n nês. Dros y tair blynedd diwethaf, mae fy iechyd wedi dirywio gryn dipyn. Yr wyf yn cefnogi ac yn ategu popeth y mae RANT yn ei wneud, ond nid oes arnaf eisiau mynd dros hynny oherwydd fy stori i yw hon. Yr wyf yn dioddef o asthma, twymyn y gwair a soriasis ac fel llawer o ddioddefwyr eraill gyda'r cyflyrau hyn, effeithir yn waeth arnaf gan y gollyngiadau nwy a'r arogleuon nag ar berson iach. Gan na allaf gadw fy ffenestri a'm drysau ar agor drwy'r amser, yr wyf yn dioddef mwy eto oherwydd mae'n rhaid imi gael awyr iach. Weithiau bydd fy llygaid yn dyfrio ac yn cosi, bydd fy llwnc yn sych, byddaf yn dioddef pen tost a chaf ddoluriau a phlorynnod ar fy wyneb a'm breichiau. Ceisiaf fynd o'r ardal gymaint ag y gallaf, a gwelaf fod fy iechyd yn gwella pan wnaif hynny, ond cyn gynted ag y dof adref, byddaf yn teimlo'n ofnadwy.

Nid wyf yn cytuno â'r ymchwiliad hwn, gan mai'r cwbl y mae'r Pwyllgor am ei wneud, yn fy marn i, yw cuddio'r hyn a wnaeth y cyngor yn y gorffennol a diogelu'r hyn y bydd cwmni'r domen am ei wneud yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, peidiwch ag anghofio y bydd y gweithredoedd troseddol a ddigwyddodd—a dywedwyd wrthym o fewn yr wythnos ddiwethaf fod gweithredoedd troseddol wedi digwydd—yn effeithio ar ein plant yn y dyfodol. Dylid dod â'r troseddwr a gyflawnodd y gweithredoedd hyn o flaen eu gwell. Mae gennyf dros 8,000 o lofnodion yn fy meddiant ar ran RANT, gan bobl sydd am weld cau'r domen a chynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus llawn. Nid wyf yn credu y gwneir dim hyd nes, yn gyntaf, y caeir y domen yma ac wedyn y cynhelir ymchwiliad cyhoeddus oherwydd tra bo'r domen yma'n dal yn agored, mae'r aroglau a ddaw ohoni'n dal i effeithio arnom. Nid oes dim wedi newid yn fy marn i.

Richard Edwards: Diolch, Mr Davey. Nid yw Mr Dennis Store yma. Felly gofynnaf i Mr Garrod Owen gloi'r cyflwyniadau gan aelodau'r cyhoedd.

Mr Griffiths: Oes yna gyfle i siarad cyn i'r

before proceedings close?

Richard Edwards: Yes, I will allow you to speak, but if you could keep it brief, I would be grateful.

Mr Griffiths: My name is Sam Griffiths of 68 Ton Row, Tonpentre. I noticed in the *Rhondda Leader* this week that this meeting was being held and that is why I am here. I was taken into Church Village Hospital in December 1994 with chest pains and coughing up blood. They treated me for pneumonia and since then I frequently have bouts of pleurisy and have been told that, owing to the pneumonia, my lungs have been scarred. I attribute this disorder to the fumes from the tip. I have given 50 years of my life to singing in local amateur operatics and I have had the privilege of being a baritone soloist to that famous Treorchy male voice choir—towards which Mr Geraint Davies's father, John Davies, contributed so much and I spent more than 40 years as a baritone soloist for that choir and had no effects on my lungs whatsoever because I had to do my stint as a baritone soloist. However, over the last—well, since 1994—I have had to give up the choir owing to my health. I attribute that to the fumes from this disastrous tip. That is all I can say. It has affected me and my life. I enjoyed so much giving pleasure, I hope, to others. I wish I could sing for you now, but there you are. That is how it is.

Richard Edwards: Thank you very much, Mr Griffiths. I am actually trying to track down a particular tape of the Treorchy Male Voice Choir.

Mr Griffiths: I have many of them.

Richard Edwards: I will have a word with you later. I need to get it for a friend. Thank you very much for your contribution.

I have been notified that Mr A.F. Tree would like to give evidence. Again, Mr Tree, I would be grateful if you could be brief. If you have lots of evidence to give, then you can submit it in written form or at a later stage to the independent investigator.

Mr Tree: I appreciate that and thank you

trafodion ddod i ben?

Richard Edwards: Oes, fe ganiatâf ichi siarad, ond pe gallech fod yn fyr, byddwn yn ddiolchgar.

Mr Griffiths: Fy enw i yw Sam Griffiths o 68 Ton Row, Tonpentre. Sylwais yn y *Rhondda Leader* yr wythnos hon fod y cyfarfod hwn i gael ei gynnal a dyna pam yr wyf yma. Fe'm cymerwyd i Ysbyty Gartholwg yn Rhagfyr 1994 gyda phoenau yn y frest ac yn pesychu gwaed. Cefais driniaeth am niwmonia ac ers hynny caf byliau aml o blewrisi a dywedwyd wrthyf fod y niwmonia wedi creithio f'ysgyfaint. Priodolaf yr anhwylder hwn i'r mygdarth o'r domen. Rhoddais 50 mlynedd o'm bywyd i ganu mewn cwmnïau opera amatur lleol a chefais y fraint o fod yn unawdydd bariton i gôr meibion enwog Treorci—y cyfrannodd tad Mr Geraint Davies, John Davies, gymaint ato. Treuliais dros 40 mlynedd yn unawdydd bariton i'r côr hwnnw heb unrhyw effaith ar fy ysgyfaint o gwbl am fod yn rhaid imi wneud fy rhan fel unawdydd bariton. Fodd bynnag, dros y—wel, oddi ar 1994—yr wyf wedi gorfod rhoi'r gorau i'r côr oherwydd fy iechyd. Priodolaf hynny i'r mygdarth o'r domen drychinebus hon. Dyna'r cwbl y gallaf ei ddweud. Mae wedi effeithio arnaf fi a'm bywyd. Yr oeddwn yn mwynhau'n fawr roi boddhad, gobeithio, i eraill. Hoffwn pe gallwn ganu ichi yn awr, ond dyna ni. Fel yna y mae hi.

Richard Edwards: Diolch yn fawr iawn ichi, Mr Griffiths. A dweud y gwir, yr wyf yn ceisio dod o hyd i dâp arbennig o Gôr Meibion Treorci.

Mr Griffiths: Mae gennyf fi lawer ohonynt.

Richard Edwards: Caf air gyda chi wedyn. Mae angen imi ei gael i ffrind. Diolch yn fawr iawn i chi am eich cyfraniad.

Fe'm hysbyswyd yr hoffai Mr A.F. Tree roi tystiolaeth. Eto, Mr Tree, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech fod yn fyr. Os oes gennych lawer o dystiolaeth i'w rhoi, yna gallwch ei chyflwyno ar bapur neu yn ddiweddarach i'r ymchwilydd annibynnol.

Mr Tree: Yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi hynny a

very much. First of all, my name is Andrew Frank Tree. I was elected the health and safety representative on behalf of the General Municipal Boilermakers Union. I was also the shop steward of the tip. The tip ground had a covenant on it whereby no pollution should be tipped. When it found out that RANT knew about this document, Rhondda Borough Council ordered the destruction of the document by shredding. There are witnesses in this room to that effect. I believe that someone's son here was present when that document was shredded.

There is a document somewhere and I am trying to find it so that I can produce it for you. From 1980 to 1990 Taff Ely Borough Council had a problem with filter cake. It took the company into court, summonsed it and the company was fined and continued to be fined until the only place that it could tip filter cake was in England. Taff Ely council knew all about the properties of that filter cake and yet it still allowed it to be tipped in the Rhondda after the local authority amalgamation. Rhondda Borough Council knew about the dangers. It was told about them and totally ignored them. All this happened after 20 March 1995, which was when the private company took over, in other words Mr Collier and Mr Hother. They were the ones responsible.

In all the health and safety regulations from 1974 onwards and also in the health and safety directives of Europe, it states that you must consult with the representatives of the workers. Rhondda Borough Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff council never did that, the company never did that and it never had a health and safety management paper on the tip at all. In fact, because it knew of my past record and my knowledge about toxicology and so on, the company got rid of me, because I blew the whistle on it. I do not want to take up too much time and I will give to you at a later date the documentation and proof that I have. However, what I do have to say is that on health and safety the Environment Agency will not look at facts. It will not look at this in a scientific manner. If it had, it would have closed the tip down. People have been subjected to fumes from the tip. The Environment Agency closed a

diolch yn fawr iawn ichi. Yn gyntaf oll, fy enw yw Andrew Frank Tree. Fe'm hetholwyd yn gynrychiolydd iechyd a diogelwch ar ran Undeb y Gwneuthurwyr Bwyleri Bwrdeistrefol a Chyffredinol. Fi hefyd oedd swyddog undeb y domen. Yr oedd gan dir y domen gyfarnod arno yn mynnu na ddylid arllwys llygredd yno. Pan ganfu fod RANT yn gwybod am y ddogfen hon, gorchmynnodd Cyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda y dylid dinistrio'r ddogfen mewn peiriant rhwygo. Mae tystion i hynny yn yr ystafell hon. Credaf fod mab rhywun yma'n bresennol pan ddinistriwyd y ddogfen honno.

Y mae dogfen yn rhywle ac yr wyf yn ceisio dod o hyd iddi fel y gallaf ei dangos ichi. O 1980 hyd 1990 yr oedd gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Taf Elái broblem gyda thalpiau hidlo. Aeth â'r cwmni i'r llys, ei wysio a chafodd y cwmni ddirwy ar ôl dirwy nes mai Lloegr oedd yr unig lle lle y gallai ollwng talpiau hidlo. Gwyddai cyngor Taf Elái yn iawn am briodoleddau'r talpiau hidlo hynny ond eto caniatodd iddynt gael eu harllwys yn y Rhondda ar ôl uno'r awdurdodau lleol. Gwyddai Cyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda am y peryglon. Dywedwyd wrtho amdanynt ac fe'u hanwybyddodd yn llwyr. Digwyddodd hyn i gyd ar ôl 20 Mawrth 1995, sef y dyddiad y cymerwyd yr awenau gan y cwmni preifat, hynny yw Mr Collier a Mr Hother. Hwy oedd yn gyfrifol.

Yn yr holl reoliadau iechyd a diogelwch o 1974 ymlaen a hefyd yng nghyfarwyddbau iechyd a diogelwch Ewrop, dywedir bod yn rhaid ymgynghori â chynrychiolwyr y gweithwyr. Ni wnaeth Cyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda na chyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf hynny erioed, ni wnaeth y cwmni hynny erioed ac ni fu ganddo bapur iechyd a diogelwch ar safle'r domen o gwbl. Mewn gwirionedd, am ei fod yn gwybod am fy record i yn y gorffennol a'm gwybodaeth am wenwyneg ac yn y blaen, cafodd y cwmni wared ohonof oherwydd i mi chwythu'r chwib arno. Nid oes arnaf eisiau cymryd gormod o amser a rhoddaf y ddogfennaeth a'r prawf sydd gennyf ichi eto. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn sydd gennyf i'w ddweud yw nad yw Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn fodlon edrych ar ffeithiau, o ran iechyd a diogelwch. Mae'n gwrthod edrych ar hyn mewn modd gwyddonol. Pe bai wedi gwneud hynny,

factory in Pontyclun because people were being subjected to fumes, until the factory put that right. Yet the tip is still open and, as you have heard from the residents, they are still being bombarded with these highly toxic chemicals. They say that it is hydrogen sulphide. There are over 200 different chemicals and the majority of them are toxic. I have done a genetic survey on the damage done to human beings from the chemicals coming from the site. I gave it to the Environment Agency. It said that it was sorry, but it could not understand it. I also drew up a document on the tip, showing that liners will not be sufficient to keep the toxic chemicals and fumes in the tip, as well as evidence from America. The answer that I got from the Environment Agency was that it was sorry, but it could not understand it.

Although the agency received all the evidence, it intends to cap that tip with a plastic liner that will break down within weeks. There is no liner underneath. All the rivers are polluted and I will give you evidence of that. Also, the dust in people's attics has come from the tip, and I will give you evidence of that.

The whole area is being bombarded with chemical and biological warfare. It is about time that the tip was closed. I will leave it at that, but I thought that I would let you know that there should not have been a tip there because there was a covenant on that ground forbidding it.

Richard Edwards: Thank you very much for that, Mr Tree. Obviously we would be very grateful to receive any documentation you may wish to submit to the investigation. I ask Mr Garrod Owen to conclude the submissions from the floor.

Mr Owen: Thank you, Mr Chairman. My name is Garrod Owen and I live at 27 Berw Road, Tonypany, which, like the houses of most of the residents who have already spoken, is within a half-mile radius of the landfill site. I will not go over any of the ground that the others have covered because I think that they have put their cases forward in

byddai wedi cau'r domen. Mae pobl wedi dioddef mygdarth o'r domen. Caeodd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ffatri ym Mhontyclun am fod pobl wedi dioddef mygdarth, hyd nes y cywirwyd y broblem gan y ffatri. Eto mae'r domen yn dal ar agor ac, fel y clywsoch gan y trigolion, maent yn dal i gael eu peledu â'r cemegau gwenwynig iawn hyn. Dywedant mai hydrogen sylffid ydyw. Mae dros 200 o wahanol gemegau a'r rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn wenwynig. Yr wyf wedi gwneud arolwg genetig ar y niwed a wneir i bobl gan y cemegau a ddaw o'r safle. Fe'i rhoddais i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Dywedodd ei bod yn flin ganddi, ond ni allai ei deall. Lluniais ddogfen ar y domen hefyd, yn dangos na fydd y leinin yn ddigon i gadw'r cemegau a'r mygdarth gwenwynig yn y domen, ynghyd â thystiolaeth o America. Yr ateb a gefais gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd oedd ei bod yn ddrwg ganddi, ond ni allai ei deall.

Er i'r asiantaeth gael y dystiolaeth i gyd, mae'n bwriadu capio'r domen yna â leinin plastig a fydd yn chwalu o fewn wythnosau. Nid oes leinin oddi tanodd. Mae'r afonydd i gyd wedi'u llygru ac fe roddaf dystiolaeth ichi o hynny. Hefyd, mae'r llwch yn nenlofftydd pobl wedi dod o'r domen, ac fe roddaf dystiolaeth ichi o hynny.

Mae'r ardal gyfan yn cael ei pheledu â rhyfel cemegol a biolegol. Mae'n hen bryd i'r domen gael ei chau. Fe'i gadawaf ar hynny, ond yr oeddwn yn meddwl y byddwn yn gadael ichi wybod na ddylasai tomen fod yno gan fod cyfamod ar y tir hwnnw yn gwahardd hynny.

Richard Edwards: Diolch yn fawr am hynny, Mr Tree. Yn amlwg byddem yn ddiolchgar iawn o dderbyn unrhyw ddogfennaeth yr hoffech ei chyflwyno i'r ymchwiliad. Gofynnaf i Mr Garrod Owen gloi'r cyfraniadau o'r llawr.

Mr Owen: Diolch, Mr Cadeirydd. Fy enw yw Garrod Owen ac yr wyf yn byw yn 27 Berw Road, Tonypany, sydd, fel tai'r rhan fwyaf o'r trigolion a siaradodd eisoes, o fewn cylch hanner milltir i'r safle tirlenwi. Nid af dros ddim o'r tir y mae'r lleill wedi'i drafod oherwydd yr wyf o'r farn eu bod wedi cyflwyno'u hachosion yn eu ffordd eu

their own way and, I think, in a very understandable way.

I would just like to go back to the beginning, however, and explain that the site at Nantgywyddon was intended to replace two other landfill sites that had come to the end of their working lives. I would like to ask the investigation to find out who actually made the decision to place this tip on the top of a mountain. How was the land acquired? Someone has already mentioned the covenants that were on the land. The ground was formerly owned by farmers and there was some—in words that have come back to us—wheeling and dealing carried out so that the area of ground which now holds the landfill site came into the ownership of the former Rhondda Borough Council. As I said, the covenants on it were quite strict, but these covenants do not appear to have been transferred into the planning applications or the planning permissions. That is a serious omission and should be investigated.

We have complained about the planning methods regarding this site. There have been so many different retrospective planning applications, it is almost unbelievable. They will do something, then when they are found out, they say, 'well, yes, we'll have to apply for planning permission'. Planning permission is almost certain to be granted afterwards.

One example is when they were stripping the ground, which was not in the tipping area, but in areas around it, albeit within the leasehold of the land. They were stripping this to provide top cover because they could not get top cover, and the rules were changing so that they had to be paid to bring in top cover from outside. People were not prepared to do this, so they stripped the ground of its cover down to the bare rock. When I complained about this it was all washed over. No one took any notice, but planning permission was given in retrospect.

At the beginning, the council called a public meeting in the Clydach Vale area—and I believe that it called one in the Tonpentre, Gelli and Ystrad areas—to explain what the landfill site was going to be doing, why it

hunain, ac mewn ffordd ddealladwy iawn, mi dybiaf.

Hoffwn fynd yn ôl i'r dechreuad, fodd bynnag, ac egluro y bwriedid i'r safle yn Nantgywyddon gymryd lle dau safle tirlenwi arall a ddaethai i ben eu hoes. Hoffwn ofyn i'r ymchwiliad ganfod pwy mewn gwirionedd a wnaeth y penderfyniad i osod y domen hon ar ben mynydd. Sut y prynwyd y tir? Mae rhywun eisoes wedi crybwyll y cyfamodau a oedd ar y tir. Yr oedd y tir gynt yn eiddo ffermwyr a bu rhywfaint o—mewn geiriau sydd wedi dod yn ôl atom ni—sgemio a sgilio cyn i'r darn tir sydd bellach yn dal y safle tirlenwi ddod i feddiant hen Gyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda. Fel y dywedais, yr oedd y cyfamodau ar y tir yn eithaf llym, ond nid yw'n ymddangos fod y cyfamodau hyn wedi'u trosglwyddo i'r ceisiadau cynllunio na'r caniatadau cynllunio. Mae hynny'n fater difrifol a dylid ymchwilio iddo.

Yr ydym wedi cwyno am y dulliau cynllunio yn ymwneud â'r safle hwn. Cafwyd cymaint o wahanol geisiadau cynllunio ôl-weithredol, mae bron yn anghredadwy. Byddant yn gwneud rhywbeth, wedyn pan gânt eu dal, dywedant 'wel, ie, bydd raid inni wneud cais am ganiatâd cynllunio'. Mae caniatâd cynllunio bron yn sicr o gael ei roi wedyn.

Un enghraifft yw pan oeddent yn stripio'r tir, nad oedd yn y lle'r oedd y domen, ond mewn mannau o'i chwmpas, er o fewn prydles y tir. Yr oeddent yn stripio'r tir hwn i ddarparu gorchudd uchaf oherwydd nid oeddent yn gallu cael gorchudd uchaf, ac yr oedd y rheolau'n newid fel bod yn rhaid talu iddynt am ddod â gorchudd uchaf o'r tu allan. Nid oedd pobl yn barod i wneud hyn, felly stripiwyd y tir o'i orchudd i lawr at y graig foel. Pan gwynais am hyn golchwyd drosto i gyd. Ni chymerodd neb ronyn o sylw, ond rhoddwyd caniatâd cynllunio yn ôl-weithredol.

Ar y dechrau, galwodd y cyngor gyfarfod cyhoeddus yn ardal Cwm Clydach—a chredaf iddo alw un yn ardaloedd Tonpentre, y Gelli ac Ystrad—i esbonio beth y byddai'r safle tirlenwi'n ei wneud, pam yr oedd yno a

was there and what it was replacing. The meetings were very poorly attended because they were so badly advertised. I do not think that there were more than six people in the public meeting in Clydach Vale. However, there were assertions and advice given by the officers and members that were there—and you have already been told that people were told this—that you would never see this site from the valley base.

In the original planning application—there were two main planning applications—no final working height was determined. One of the conditions that was in both planning applications was that before tipping was allowed on that site, the final formation level of that site must be stated. The name of the engineer for the Rhondda Borough Council at that time has already been mentioned. He was constantly being requested to provide that final working height. However, it never arose. He never gave that information to the planners. In effect, both those original planning applications should be null and void, but they still continued to tip there. I assume that this was because it was an internal planning application made by Rhondda Borough Council to Rhondda Borough Council. I believe that there should have been, and there usually are, strict controls on planning applications made in that way. I do not know whether, and I have never been able to find the records to show it, the council did comply with the very strict regulations that apply when you are making a planning application and giving permission yourself.

I will return to the location of the site. The tip was designed in-house by Rhondda Borough Council engineering staff. The engineering staff were well aware that this location was probably about the worst possible location in the whole of the Rhondda. It is an extremely exposed site and it was known to the engineers who designed the site that the wind speeds there exceed those of the western isles of Scotland. They have had recorded wind speeds up there of over 80 miles per hour. The rainfall in that area is probably among the heaviest in the whole of the Rhondda and yet they still put a tip site in that location. I believe that the site was designed as a containment site and that all the gases in it

beth yr oedd yn ei ddisodli. Ychydig iawn o bobl a fynychodd y cyfarfodydd am eu bod wedi'u hysbysebu mor wael. Nid wyf yn meddwl fod mwy na chwech o bobl yn y cyfarfod cyhoeddus yng Nghwm Clydach. Fodd bynnag, rhoddwyd haeriadau a chyngor gan y swyddogion a'r aelodau a oedd yno—ac yr ydych eisoes wedi clywed y dywedwyd hyn wrth bobl—na fyddech byth yn gweld y safle hwn o lawr y cwm.

Yn y cais cynllunio gwreiddiol—yr oedd dau brif gais cynllunio—ni phennwyd uchder gweithio terfynol. Un o'r amodau a gynhwyswyd yn y ddau gais gynllunio oedd y byddai'n rhaid datgan lefel ffurfiant terfynol y safle cyn caniatáu arllwys ar y safle hwnnw. Eisoes crybwyllwyd enw'r peiriannydd dros Gyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda ar y pryd. Yr oedd gofyn cyson arno i roi'r uchder gweithio terfynol hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, ni ddaeth fyth. Ni roddodd yr wybodaeth honno i'r cynllunwyr byth. Mewn gwirionedd, dylai'r ddau gais cynllunio gwreiddiol hynny fod yn ddi-rym, ond fe ddaliasant ati i arllwys yno. Yr wyf yn tybio mai'r rheswm am hyn oedd mai cais cynllunio mewnol ydoedd a wnaethpwyd gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda i Gyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda. Credaf y dylasai fod, ac y mae fel arfer, reoliadau caeth ar geisiadau cynllunio a wneir yn y modd hwnnw. Ni wn, ac ni lwyddais byth i ddod o hyd i'r cofnodion i ddangos hynny, a wnaeth y cyngor gydymffurfio â'r rheoliadau caeth iawn sydd yn bodoli pan fyddwch yn gwneud cais cynllunio ac yn rhoi caniatâd eich hun.

Dychwelaf at leoliad y safle. Cafodd y domen ei dylunio'n fewnol gan staff peirianyddol Cyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda. Yr oedd y staff peirianyddol yn gwybod yn iawn mai'r lleoliad hwn mae'n debyg oedd y lleoliad gwaethaf posibl yn y Rhondda i gyd. Mae'n safle agored iawn ac yr oedd yn hysbys i'r peirianwyr a ddyluniodd y safle fod cyflymderau'r gwynt yn y fan honno'n fwy nag a geir ar ynysoedd gorllewinol yr Alban. Cofnodwyd gwyntoedd i fyny yn y fan honno o dros 80 milltir yr awr. Mae'n debyg fod y glawiad yn yr ardal honno ymysg y trymaf yn y Rhondda gyfan ac eto rhoesant safle tomen yn y fan honno. Credaf fod y safle wedi'i ddylunio fel safle cyfyngiant ac y byddai'r

would be generated up into the air and disperse. Someone said that the engineers should be certified and I think that with a conclusion like that they should be certified, because what goes up must come back down, and it comes back down onto the residents who are living closest to the site.

The other problem that I have come across is the lease that was given to the company running the site. I brought this up with Rhondda Cynon Taff council in the very early days when we met with officers from the authority. I tried to plead with them at the time that it must be that this lease was being broken. I asked them to take action to do something about it. However, not one letter was sent, that we were aware of, to this company to condemn it for the way in which the site was being operated. I am certain that if a similar lease had been given to someone running an allotment, and that person had set bonfires, that the full weight of the law would have been thrust upon that poor individual. However, the council would not take any action against the company running the site. I asked them why it would not do anything. Unofficially, the council was afraid that it would end up in the High Court in the same way as I and six others had, when were charged with trespass and were going to have damages in the region of £1 million claimed against us for protesting. I felt then, and still feel now, that it was my right to protest about something that I felt was harming myself and my family.

It is still going on, but at that time I felt so strongly that something had to be done that, as I say, I ended up in front of the High Court. I think that we got away with it, in a manner of speaking, but it still frightened an awful lot of people. It concerned me so much that I transferred all my assets—my house and my bank accounts, everything—to my wife, to try to avoid any sort of repercussions from it.

I will go on to ask a question about how the LAWDC was formed, who actually set it up, and how it was set up. What I understand is that the original directors of Rhondda Waste Disposal were not the same people as those

holl nwyon ynddo'n cael eu gwthio i fyny i'r awyr ac yn gwasgaru. Dywedodd rhywun y dylai'r peirianwyr gael eu hardystio'n wallgof ac yr wyf finnau'n meddwl gyda chasgliad fel yna y dylid eu hardystio'n wallgof, oherwydd mae'n rhaid i'r hyn sydd yn esgyn ddisgyn eto, ac mae'n disgyn ar y trigolion sydd yn byw agosaf at y safle.

Y broblem arall y deuthum ar ei thraws yw'r brydles a roddwyd i'r cwmni sydd yn rhedeg y safle. Codais hyn gyda chyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf yn y dyddiau cynnar iawn pan gyfarfuom â swyddogion o'r awdurdod. Ceisiais bledio gyda hwy ar y pryd fod yn rhaid fod y brydles hon yn cael ei thorri. Gofynnais iddynt weithredu i wneud rhywbeth ynglŷn â'r peth. Fodd bynnag, nid anfonwyd un llythyr, hyd y gwyddem, at y cwmni hwn i'w gondemnio am y modd y gweithredid y safle. Yr wyf yn sicr petasai prydles debyg wedi'i rhoi i rywun a oedd yn rhedeg allotment, a bod y person hwnnw wedi cynnau coelcerthi, y byddid wedi dwyn holl bwysau'r gyfraith ar y truan hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, ni wnâi'r cyngor weithredu o gwbl yn erbyn y cwmni a oedd yn rhedeg y safle. Gofynnais iddynt pam na wnaent rywbeth. Yn answyddogol, yr oedd y cyngor yn ofni y byddai'n glanio yn yr Uchel Lys yn yr un modd ag y gwneuthum i a chwech arall, pan gawsom ein cyhuddo o dresmasu a bygwth hawlio rhyw £1 filiwn o iawndal yn ein herbyn am wrthdystio. Teimlais bryd hynny, ac yr wyf yn dal i deimlo'n awr, mai fy hawl oedd gwrthdystio yn erbyn rhywbeth y credwn ei fod yn fy niweidio i a'm teulu.

Mae'n dal i fynd ymlaen, ond bryd hynny yr oeddwn yn teimlo mor gryf fod yn rhaid gwneud rhywbeth nes imi, fel y dywedais, lanio gerbron yr Uchel Lys. Yr wyf yn meddwl inni osgoi cael ein cosbi, mewn ffordd o siarad, ond eto fe ddychrynodd lawer iawn o bobl. Fe achosodd gymaint o bryder i mi nes imi drosglwyddo fy holl asedion—fy nhŷ a'm cyfrifon banc, popeth—i'm gwraig, i geisio osgoi unrhyw fath o ôl-effeithiau yn sgîl y mater.

Af ymlaen i ofyn cwestiwn ynghylch sut y ffurfiwyd cwmni gwaredu gwastraff yr awdurdod lleol, pwy a'i sefydlodd a sut y'i sefydlwyd. Yn ôl a ddeallaf fi, nid yr un bobl oedd cyfarwyddwyr gwreiddiol Rhondda

who actually ran the company at a later date, namely the three directors that have been mentioned—Collier, Hother and Evans. Somebody else started up this company and I would like to see whether an investigation could cover that and check how and why it was done. I think that these are important questions that really need answers, as much as the problem with the fumes.

Regarding the bond, which has already been mentioned very briefly, I worked as an architect for the authority many years ago. Now, a financial bond is a very important part of any contract. It is there to meet any eventuality should anything go wrong with the site or with the people who are operating it, and yet a bond never was put on the contract. I questioned the former management of Rhondda Borough Council about this and their response, which has been reiterated many times, was that Rhondda Waste Disposal was a cash-rich company. I fail to understand how a company that could only have been formed for one or two years could have become a cash-rich company. However, I think that the answer has been given to you. When it accepted this purolite there seemed to be plenty of cash flowing in then. The bond again was a subject that we brought up when—sorry, am I going on too long for you?

Richard Edwards: No. It is fine.

Mr Owen: The question of the bond was also brought up with the Environment Agency when the inevitable happened and Rhondda Waste Disposal went into financial administration. We were assured—there were 14 or 18 of us in a meeting with senior management, and I am talking top management here, of the Environment Agency—that no company would be put in to run Nantygwyddon landfill site and replace Rhondda Waste Disposal without a substantial bond being put up, and those were the words used, to avoid any repercussions from the problems that we had had with Rhondda Waste Disposal. From what I understand now, there is still no bond. The company is now going to rely on the same principle that was adopted for Rhondda Waste Disposal. Sums of money will be put

Waste Disposal â'r rheini a oedd yn rhedeg y cwmni'n ddiweddarach, sef y tri chyfarwyddwr a grybwyllwyd—Collier, Hother ac Evans. Cychwynwyd y cwmni hwn gan rywun arall a hoffwn weld a allai ymchwiliad edrych ar hynny a gweld sut a pham y digwyddodd. Credaf fod y rhain yn gwestiynau pwysig y mae gwir angen ateb iddynt, yn gymaint â'r broblem gyda'r mygdarth.

Ynglŷn â'r bond, y bu sôn byr iawn amdano'n barod, gweithiais fel pensaer i'r awdurdod flynyddoedd lawer yn ôl. Yn awr, mae bond ariannol yn rhan bwysig dros ben o unrhyw gontract. Mae yno i gwrdd ag unrhyw ddigwyddiad pe bai unrhyw beth yn mynd o'i le â'r safle neu gyda'r bobl sydd yn ei weithredu, ac eto ni roddwyd bond ar y contract byth. Holais gyn-reolwyr Cyngor Bwrdeistref y Rhondda ynglŷn â hyn, a'u hateb, sydd wedi'i ailadrodd sawl gwaith, oedd fod Rhondda Waste Disposal yn gwmni ariannol gyfoethog. Yr wyf yn methu deall sut y gallai cwmni na allai ond bod wedi'i ffurfio ers blwyddyn neu ddwy fod wedi dod yn gwmni ariannol gyfoethog. Fodd bynnag, credaf fod yr ateb wedi'i roi ichi. Pan dderbyniodd y purolite yma mae'n debyg fod digonedd o arian yn llifo i mewn bryd hynny. Yr oedd y bond eto'n bwnc a godwyd gennym pan—maen ddrwg gennyf, a wyf yn mynd ymlaen yn rhy hir ichi?

Richard Edwards: Na. Mae'n iawn.

Mr Owen: Codwyd cwestiwn y bond hefyd gydag Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd pan ddigwyddodd yr anochel ac yr aeth Rhondda Waste Disposal i weinyddiaeth ariannol. Fe'n sicrhawyd—yr oedd 14 neu 18 ohonom mewn cyfarfod gydag uwch reolwyr Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, ac yr wyf yn sôn am reolwyr y lefel uchaf yma—na châi unrhyw gwmni ei roi i redeg safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon a chymryd lle Rhondda Waste Disposal heb i fond sylweddol gael ei gynnig, a dyna'r geiriau a ddefnyddiwyd, i osgoi unrhyw ôl-ffeithiau o'r problemau a gawsem gyda Rhondda Waste Disposal. O'r hyn a ddeallaf yn awr, nid oes bond eto. Mae'r cwmni bellach yn mynd i ddibynnu ar yr un egwyddor ag a fabwysiadwyd ar gyfer Rhondda Waste Disposal. Neilltuir symiau o arian yn rheolaidd i edrych ar ôl y gwaith

aside on a regular basis to look after the remedial works that are always necessary and, in fact, required under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. There is no bond. The life span of the tip has been reputed to be just another five years. We would like to see it closed tomorrow, but if it is five years, how on earth is a company going to put sufficient money aside, wherever it goes, to be able to carry out remedial works on Nantygwyddon landfill site when the Entec report states clearly that the hydrogen sulphide emissions caused by the amount of purolite waste that was put in there reacting with the household refuse will last for 985 years. I think that we are now two years into that, so it is now 983 years.

Amgen Rhondda is now putting sums of money away to cover a legal responsibility that will last that length of time. Rhondda Waste Disposal could not do it and it was a cash-rich company. How on earth is Amgen Rhondda going to do it? I cannot see it doing it. What I can see happening—and I do not want it to happen—is that it will go down the same road as the former company, Rhondda Waste Disposal, which threatened many times to go into liquidation but chose an easier option of going into financial administration. I am not certain of the exact term, but it chose that route. I can see now why, because going down that route does not prohibit individuals in the company from becoming directors or being involved in any future landfill site. If the company had become bankrupt through going into liquidation, they would not have been able to carry out any more duties in that business. I am not certain, but that is my understanding of the law.

One of the four speakers for RANT mentioned the fire up on the site that was caused when tyres were set alight. In the words of the site management at the time, it was an act of vandalism. There are security cameras up on the site, but, lo and behold, the cameras were not working that night. The watchman who was on duty when the fire—which could be seen from just about anywhere in the valley—started, did not

adfer sydd bob amser yn angenrheidiol ac sydd, mewn gwirionedd, yn ofynnol dan Ddeddf Gwarchod yr Amgylchedd 1990. Nid oes dim bond. Dywedir mai cwta bum mlynedd arall yw oes y domen. Hoffem ni weld ei chau yfory, ond os yw'n bum mlynedd, sut ar wyneb y ddaear y mae cwmni'n mynd i neilltuo digon o arian, ble bynnag yr â, i allu gwneud gwaith adfer ar safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon pan ddywed adroddiad Entec yn glir y bydd y gollyngiadau hydrogen sylffid a achosir gan yr holl wastraff purolite a roddwyd yno yn adweithio â'r gwastraff domestig, yn para am 985 o flynyddoedd. Yr wyf yn meddwl ein bod ddwy flynedd i mewn i'r cyfnod hwnnw yn awr, felly 983 o flynyddoedd ydyw bellach.

Mae Amgen Rhondda bellach yn rhoi symiau o arian i gadw i ofalu am gyfrifoldeb cyfreithiol a fydd yn para cyhyd â hynny. Ni allai Rhondda Waste Disposal wneud hynny ac yr oedd hwnnw'n gwmni ariannol gyfoethog. Sut ar y ddaear y mae Amgen Rhondda'n mynd i wneud hynny? Ni allaf i ei weld yn gwneud hynny. Yr hyn a welaf fi'n digwydd—ac nid oes arnaf eisiau iddo ddigwydd—yw y bydd yn mynd i lawr yr un ffordd â'r hen gwmni, Rhondda Waste Disposal, a fygythiodd lawer gwaith ddiddymu'i hun ond a ddewisodd y dewis haws o fynd i weinyddiaeth ariannol. Nid wyf yn sicr o'r union derm, ond dyna'r llwybr a ddewisodd. Gallaf weld pam yn awr, oherwydd nid yw mynd i lawr y llwybr hwnnw'n gwahardd unigolion yn y cwmni rhag mynd yn gyfarwyddwyr neu fod ynglŷn ag unrhyw safle tirlenwi yn y dyfodol. Petasai'r cwmni wedi mynd yn fethdalwr drwy ddiddymu'i hun, ni fuasent wedi gallu gwneud unrhyw waith pellach yn y busnes hwnnw. Nid wyf yn sicr, ond dyna sut yr wyf fi'n deall y gyfraith.

Soniodd un o'r pedwar siaradwr dros RANT am y tân i fyny ar y safle a achoswyd pan gyneuwyd teiars. Yng ngeiriau rheolwyr y safle ar y pryd, gweithred o fandaliaeth oedd hon. Mae camerâu diogelwch i fyny ar y safle, ond, wele, nid oedd y camerâu'n gweithio y noson honno. Ni wnaeth y gwyliwr a oedd ar ddyletswydd pan gychwynnodd y tân—y gellid ei weld o bron unrhyw le yn y cwm—ddim sylwi arno.

notice it. It was reported to the fire service by A.N. Other. It took hours for the fire to be controlled, but to come back to the issue, there were a large quantity of tyres on the site. Tyres, I believe, are considered a special item under waste control. I do not know for certain, but that is my impression. Nantygwyddon landfill site, within its licence, is not allowed to take special waste or special items, yet a large quantity of tyres arrived on the site. It is quite remarkable that the fire was on the day or the night before the tyres were going to be removed and the company would have had to pay for the removal of those tyres. One has only got to put two and two together to get the five that we often get from the operators.

I have tried to have an input into the waste licence, to try to show that we are having problems from the materials that are allowed to be deposited on the site. It appears again to me that the licensing body—the Environment Agency, which has been mentioned quite often this afternoon—appears as if it is looking to find a reason why any waste can be taken on the site, rather than at the alternative of why waste should be refused from the site. It took protests from us to get the purolite stopped from going up there. However, the Environment Agency did not stop it from going up there completely—it amended the licence so that calcium sulphate could be delivered to the site as 10 per cent of a load. That does not mean that it is stopping the material going up there. The Environment Agency also stated clearly to me that calcium sulphate is like plasterboard. It may well be similar to plasterboard—you could eat it. I would love to give them a piece of filter cake and see them eat it.

I will not go on to the main technical reports, which were the CL report commissioned by Rhondda Waste Disposal, the Entec report commissioned by the Environment Agency and the Casella report brought about by Rhondda Cynon Taff local authority, because they are well documented. The only thing that I will ask of you is that you read the reports and not just the conclusions, because there is a little word, which is very meaningful, in the conclusions of the Entec report. It states that 'it is unlikely to be

Galwyd y gwasanaeth tân gan berson anhysbys. Cymerodd oriau i reoli'r tân, ond i ddod yn ôl at y mater, yr oedd swm mawr o deiars ar y safle. Credaf fod teiars yn cael eu hystyried yn eitem arbennig dan reolau rheoli gwastraff. Nid wyf yn gwybod i sicrwydd, ond dyna'r argraff sydd gennyf. Nid yw safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon, o fewn ei drwydded, yn cael cymryd gwastraff arbennig nac eitemau arbennig, ond eto daeth swm mawr o deiars i'r safle. Mae'n beth hynod iawn y digwyddodd y tân ar y diwrnod neu'r noson cyn yr oedd y teiars i gael eu symud ac y byddai'r cwmni wedi gorfod talu am symud y teiars hynny. Nid oes ond angen rhoi dau a dau at ei gilydd i gael y pump a gawn yn aml gan y gweithredwyr.

Yr wyf wedi ceisio cael mewnbwn i'r drwydded wastraff, i geisio dangos ein bod yn cael problemau gan y defnyddiau y caniateir eu gadael ar y safle. Mae'n ymddangos eto i mi fod y corff trwyddedu—Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, sydd wedi cael ei chrybwyll yn eithaf aml y prynhawn yma—yn ymddangos fel pe bai'n chwilio am reswm pam y gellir cymryd unrhyw wastraff ar y safle, yn hytrach nag edrych ar pam y dylid gwrthod gadael gwastraff ar y safle. Bu'n rhaid cael gwrthdystiadau gennym ni i atal y purolite rhag mynd i fyny yno. Fodd bynnag, ni roddodd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd waharddiad llwyr ar fynd ag ef i fyny yno—newidiodd y drwydded fel y gellid cludo sylffad calsiwm i'r safle fel 10 y cant o unrhyw lwyth. Nid yw hynny'n golygu ei fod yn atal y defnydd rhag mynd yno. Dywedodd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn glir wrthyf fi hefyd fod sylffad calsiwm fel bwrdd plastr. Efallai'n wir ei fod yn debyg i fwrdd plastr—gallech ei fwyta. Mi garwn roi tamaid o dalpiau hidlo iddynt a'u gweld yn ei fwyta.

Nid af ymlaen at y prif adroddiadau technegol, sef adroddiad CL a gomisiynwyd gan Rhondda Waste Disposal, adroddiad Entec a gomisiynwyd gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ac adroddiad Casella a ysgogwyd gan awdurdod lleol Rhondda Cynon Taf, oherwydd mae digon wedi'i ysgrifennu amdanynt. Yr unig beth y gofynnaf ichi ei wneud yw darllen yr adroddiadau yn hytrach na'r casgliadau'n unig, oherwydd mae yna air bach, sydd yn llwythog iawn, yng nghasgliadau adroddiad

harmful to health'. If something is 'unlikely' to cause harm, why do they not reverse that and say it will not cause harm? There is no one in any authority—and I have asked everyone that I have been to see, and you know of the various authorities that we have visited—who would say that the landfill site is safe. No one will answer that question. They have all refused to comment.

The actions taken by the Environment Agency have been very few. It seems to be waking up now because it has realised that an investigation is going on, albeit that we would wish to have a full public inquiry. It has realised that this is going on and is suddenly looking around and doing little bits and pieces. However, I am going back four, maybe five, years to one of the first major incidents of odour in the area, when the Environment Agency clearly promised a group of people standing at the top of my street, which included Bill Thomas, Graham Wayman and a number of others, that they would take action against Rhondda Waste Disposal because of the fumes coming from the site. I think that that was at least four years ago, and the Environment Agency did nothing about it. The only time that Rhondda Waste Disposal appeared in court was because it took almost two years to non-complete a licence variation. It ended up in the Magistrates Court at Llwynypia, where the stipendiary magistrate fined them the maximum that she was allowed to in that court—£20,000. The company was also charged about £11,000 in costs. In her summing up, the stipendiary magistrate made it absolutely clear that she was minded to take that action and transfer it to a higher court, where the penalties would have been far greater and could have resulted in a prison sentence for the directors. However, because the solicitor in that hearing, at long last, pleaded guilty to the charge, the magistrate was then not prepared to take it further forward and to a higher court.

I have referred to a meeting that I attended when I asked the local authority clearly—in fact things became rather heated—to take

Entec. Dywed ei fod 'yn annhebygol o fod yn niweidiol i iechyd'. Os yw rhywbeth yn 'annhebygol' o achosi niwed, pam na throir y peth o gwmpas a dweud na wnaiff achosi niwed? Nid oes neb mewn unrhyw awdurdod—ac yr wyf wedi holi pawb y bûm i'w gweld, a gwyddoch am y gwahanol awdurdodau y buom i'w gweld—a fyddai'n dweud bod y safle tirlenwi yn ddiogel. Ni wnaiff neb ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw. Maent i gyd wedi gwrthod gwneud sylw.

Ychydig iawn y mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd wedi'i wneud. Mae'n ymddangos ei bod yn dihuno yn awr gan ei bod wedi sylweddoli bod ymchwiliad ar droed, er y buasem wedi dymuno cael ymchwiliad cyhoeddus llawn. Mae wedi sylweddoli bod hyn yn mynd ymlaen ac yn sydyn mae'n chwilio o gwmpas ac yn gwneud rhyw damaid bach yma ac acw. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf fi'n mynd yn ôl bedair, efallai bum, mlynedd at un o'r digwyddiadau mawr cyntaf o ddreudod yn yr ardal, pan roddodd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd addewid glir i griw o bobl oedd yn sefyll ar ben fy stryd, yn cynnwys Bill Thomas, Graham Wayman a nifer o rai eraill, y byddent yn gweithredu yn erbyn Rhondda Waste Disposal oherwydd y mygdarth oedd yn dod o'r safle. Credaf fod hynny o leiaf bedair blynedd yn ôl, ac ni wnaeth Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ddim oll ynghylch y peth. Yr unig bryd i Rhondda Waste Disposal ymddangos ger bron y llys oedd oherwydd iddo gymryd bron i ddwy flynedd i fethu cwblhau amrywiad trwydded. Ymddangosodd yn Llys yr Ynadon yn Llwynypia, lle rhoddodd yr ynad cyflogedig y ddirwy uchaf y caniateid iddi ei rhoi yn y llys hwnnw—£20,000. Gorchmynnwyd i'r cwmni dalu rhyw £11,000 mewn costau hefyd. Wrth grynhoi, dywedodd yr ynad cyflogedig yn gwbl glir ei bod yn ystyried mynd â'r achos hwnnw a'i drosglwyddo i lys uwch, lle buasai'r cosbau'n llawer mwy ac y gallasai'r cyfarwyddwyr wynebu dedfryd o garchar. Fodd bynnag, oherwydd i'r cyfreithiwr yn y gwrandawriad hwnnw, o'r diwedd, bledio'n euog i'r cyhuddiad, wedyn nid oedd yr ynad yn barod i fynd â'r achos ymhellach ymlaen ac i lys uwch.

Yr wyf wedi cyfeirio at gyfarfod y bûm yn bresennol ynddo pryd y gofynnais i'r awdurdod lleol yn glir—aeth pethau braidd

action, because as the owner of the ground it had a responsibility, under the statutory undertaking, for the nuisances and so on. The council's answer at that time, which came from the Director of the Environment, was that it was not its responsibility. That point has been made to me and others of our group time after time. The council throws the responsibility away from itself and onto others. Clearly, it is at fault in doing that.

I have mentioned the High Court action and I still feel strongly about it. When the administration changed in Rhondda Cynon Taff and the majority became of a different political persuasion, the seven of us were promised that this matter would be looked at to see if the High Court action could be rescinded, but it has never been done.

I was asked to mention the District Auditor, but I think that that has been covered quite concisely. When evidence is going to be prepared and put forward, we will set it out in chapter and verse. I am sorry that I have taken a little longer than I intended to. As you know, whenever we have met—I have met several of you—I have usually been the principal speaker, but I felt it wrong to do that today, in this sort of forum. I felt that people who have suffered should come forward and state their case. Their case has been stated and I think that they have been proven right in what they have said.

Richard Edwards: Thank you, Mr Owen, for that clear presentation. I thank all speakers for their contributions this afternoon. I know that many of you have participated with some misgivings, but I have been impressed by the depth of feeling conveyed today and by the spread of concerns. I have been moved by some of the views expressed about the public health dimension of this issue and I am sure that I speak for all members of the Committee in saying so.

Before I ask fellow Committee members to comment, if they so wish, in response to what they have heard today, I want to emphasise two or three points. First, detailed

yn boeth, a dweud y gwir—weithredu, oherwydd fel perchennog y tir yr oedd ganddo gyfrifoldeb, dan yr ymgymeriad statudol, am y niwsans ac yn y blaen. Ateb y cyngor ar y pryd, o enau Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd, oedd nad ei gyfrifoldeb ef ydoedd. Mae'r pwynt hwnnw wedi'i wneud i mi ac i eraill o'n grŵp dro ar ôl tro. Mae'r cyngor yn taflu'r cyfrifoldeb i ffwrdd oddi wrtho'i hun ac ar eraill. Yn amlwg, mae ar fai'n gwneud hynny.

Soniais am yr achos yn yr Uchel Lys ac yr wyf yn dal i deimlo'n gryf ynglŷn ag ef. Pan newidiodd y weinyddiaeth yn Rhondda Cynon Taf ac y cafwyd mwyafrif o blaid wleidyddol wahanol, addawyd i'r saith ohonom yr edrychid ar y mater hwn i weld a ellid diddymu gweithred yr Uchel Lys, ond ni wnaethpwyd hynny byth.

Gofynnwyd imi sôn am yr Archwilydd Dosbarth, ond yr wyf yn meddwl bod hwnnw wedi'i drafod yn eithaf cryno. Pan fydd tystiolaeth yn cael ei pharatoi a'i chyflwyno, fe'i hamlinellwn bennod ac adnod. Mae'n flin gennyf am gymryd ychydig yn fwy o amser nag a fwriadais. Fel y gwyddoch, pryd bynnag yr ydym ni wedi cwrdd—yr wyf wedi cwrdd â sawl un ohonoch—fi fu'r prif siaradwr fel arfer, ond teimlais na fyddai'n iawn gwneud hynny heddiw, mewn fforwm o'r math hwn. Teimlais y dylai pobl sydd wedi dioddef ddod ymlaen a datgan eu hachos. Mae eu hachos wedi'i ddatgan ac yr wyf yn meddwl eu bod wedi cael eu profi'n gywir yn yr hyn y maent wedi'i ddweud.

Richard Edwards: Diolch, Mr Owen, am y cyflwyniad clir hwnnw. Diolchaf i bob siaradwr am eu cyfraniadau y prynhawn yma. Gwn fod llawer ohonoch wedi cymryd rhan gyda rhai amheuan, ond gwnaethpwyd argraff arnaf gan ddyfnder y teimlad a gyflëwyd heddiw a chan ehangder y pryderon. Fe'm cyffyrddwyd gan rai o'r safbwyntiau a fynegwyd ynghylch y dimensiwn iechyd cyhoeddus i'r mater hwn ac yr wyf yn siŵr fy mod yn siarad dros holl aelodau'r Pwyllgor pan ddywedaf hynny.

Cyn imi ofyn i gyd-aelodau ar y Pwyllgor roi sylwadau, os mynnant, mewn ymateb i'r hyn a glywsant heddiw, hoffwn bwysleisio dau neu dri phwynt. Yn gyntaf, bydd yr

information will be taken by the investigator and he will investigate it. I cannot emphasise too strongly that the investigator will be independent. In response to a comment made earlier, he certainly will not take advice from experts who have any associations whatsoever with the statutory or regulatory bodies or anybody who has anything to do with Nantygwyddon. I can give you that clear undertaking. Any technical expertise that the investigator will call upon will be truly and unequivocally independent. Secondly, we can take further information or any documents that anybody may have and may not have had an opportunity to refer to. We will be pleased to take those on board today.

In opening the discussion to Committee members, I remind them of the comments that I made about declarations of interest, and Angela Parkes's comments about not saying anything that will in any way jeopardise the Committee in terms of the independence of the investigation.

Helen Mary Jones: I do not want to take up much time. I just want, as the lead spokesperson for the main opposition party, to echo what the Chair has said about thanking everybody for giving their testimony today. I know that some people are concerned about this inquiry, but I want to give my assurance and, I am sure, that of all Committee members, that we will not tolerate a whitewash. Apart from anything else, a whitewash is not in anyone's interest. Yes, we want to learn lessons for the future but it is worth remembering that if the independent investigator feels that he cannot get at the facts, he is still in a position to recommend a full public inquiry if that is what it takes to get the information.

As a member of this Committee, I feel that I now have a much fuller picture of all your concerns. I am very impressed by the coherent way in which you have presented your evidence and I feel that we now have a good basis on which to take this investigation forward and on which to begin asking some questions next week of the agencies that will appear before us. Thank you all for time and for participating despite your doubts and

ymchwilydd yn cymryd gwybodaeth fanwl ac yn ymchwilio iddi. Ni allaf bwysleisio'n rhy gryf y bydd yr ymchwilydd yn annibynnol. Mewn ymateb i sylw a wnaethpwyd yn gynharach, yn sicr ni fydd yn cymryd cyngor gan arbenigwyr sydd ag unrhyw gysylltiadau o gwbl â'r cyrff statudol neu reoleiddiol na neb sydd ag unrhyw beth i'w wneud â Nantygwyddon. Gallaf roi'r addewid glir honno ichi. Bydd unrhyw arbenigedd technegol y bydd yr ymchwilydd yn galw arno yn wirioneddol ac yn ddiamheuol annibynnol. Yn ail, gallwn gymryd gwybodaeth bellach neu unrhyw ddogfennau a fo gan unrhyw un a hwythau efallai heb gael cyfle i gyfeirio atynt. Byddwn yn falch o dderbyn y rheini heddiw.

Wrth agor y drafodaeth i aelodau'r Pwyllgor, fe'u hatgoffaf o'r sylwadau a wneuthum ynghylch datganiadau buddiant, a sylwadau Angela Parkes ynghylch peidio â dweud dim a fydd mewn unrhyw fodd yn rhagfarnu'r Pwyllgor o ran annibyniaeth yr ymchwiliad.

Helen Mary Jones: Nid oes arnaf eisiau cymryd llawer o amser. Yr unig beth yr hoffwn ei ddweud, fel prif lefarydd y brif wrthblaid, yw adleisio'r hyn a ddywedodd y Cadeirydd ynghylch diolch i bawb am roi eu tystiolaeth heddiw. Gwn fod rhai pobl yn bryderus ynglŷn â'r ymchwiliad hwn, ond hoffwn roi fy sicrwydd ac, yr wyf yn siŵr, sicrwydd holl aelodau'r Pwyllgor, na wnawn oddef gwyngalchiad. Heblaw am ddim byd arall, nid yw gwyngalchiad o fudd i neb. Oes, mae arnom eisiau dysgu gwersi ar gyfer y dyfodol ond mae'n werth cofio bod yr ymchwilydd annibynnol, os yw'n teimlo na all gael at y ffeithiau, yn dal i fod mewn sefyllfa i argymhell ymchwiliad cyhoeddus llawn os mai dyna sydd ei angen er mwyn cael yr wybodaeth.

Fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor hwn, teimlaf fod gennyf bellach ddarlun llawer llawnach o'ch holl bryderon. Yr wyf yn edmygu'n fawr y ffordd gydlynol y cyflwynasoch eich tystiolaeth a theimlaf fod gennym bellach sail dda i fynd ymlaen â'r ymchwiliad hwn ac i ddechrau gofyn ambell i gwestiwn yr wythnos nesaf i'r asiantaethau a fydd yn ymddangos ger ein bron. Diolch ichi i gyd am eich amser ac am gymryd rhan er

concerns. I assure you that no one at this table will tolerate a whitewash.

Richard Edwards: Thank you, Helen Mary and hear, hear to that. Does anyone else wish to comment?

John Marek: Just to associate myself with those comments. You have said it all. I have nothing further to add.

Geraint Davies: I would just like to thank the people here, as Helen Mary said. It was good to see ordinary members of the public telling their stories and to learn exactly how the decisions that have been taken at Nantygwyddon by various bodies have affected ordinary people's lives. It is our responsibility to get to the bottom of those problems and to get answers. I hope that the statutory bodies and the other organisations that have been invited to give evidence before us will come as readily as you have today. That is fundamental because we really want to get to the bottom of this and if we do not, we want an inquiry, as I said earlier.

Christine Humphreys: If you will excuse me, Mr Chairman, I must leave now because I have to get back to north Wales. I thank all the people who have spoken this afternoon. I thank them for the dignity with which they have spoken. Their comments will certainly be taken on board. Please excuse me that I have to leave because it takes about four and a half hours to get back home and I need to attend meetings tomorrow morning. Thank you very much for the way and manner in which you have approached this Committee.

John Griffiths: I would like to echo Christine's remarks and what all the other speakers from this table have said so far. It was really very impressive to hear people speak with dignity in a calm and controlled way when obviously they could have succumbed to the temptation to be very loud and vociferous given the nature of these events. People have obviously suffered a great deal over a considerable period of time and heartfelt contributions were made. I was

gwaethaf eich amheuon a'ch pryderon. Yr wyf yn eich sicrhau chi na wnaiff neb wrth y bwrdd yma oddef gwyngalchiad.

Richard Edwards: Diolch, Helen Mary a clywch, clywch i hynny. A hoffai unrhyw un arall wneud sylw?

John Marek: Dim ond i gysylltu fy hun â'r sylwadau hynny. Yr ydych wedi dweud y cyfan. Nid oes gennyf ddim byd pellach i'w ychwanegu.

Geraint Davies: Hoffwn innau ddiolch i'r bobl yma, fel y dywedodd Helen Mary. Yr oedd yn dda gweld aelodau cyffredin o'r cyhoedd yn dweud eu storïau a dysgu sut yn union y mae'r penderfyniadau a wnaethpwyd yn Nantygwyddon gan amryfal gyrff wedi effeithio ar fywydau pobl gyffredin. Ein cyfrifoldeb ni yw mynd at wraidd y problemau hyn a chael atebion. Gobeithiaf y bydd y cyrff statudol a'r sefydliadau eraill a wahoddwyd i roi tystiolaeth ger ein bron mor barod i ddod ag y buoch chi heddiw. Mae hynny'n hanfodol oherwydd ein bod yn wirioneddol awyddus i fynd at wraidd hyn ac os na wnawn, bydd arnom eisiau ymchwiliad cyhoeddus, fel y dywedais yn gynharach.

Christine Humphreys: Os gwnewch chi fy esgusodi i, Mr Cadeirydd, mae'n rhaid imi ymadael yn awr gan fod yn rhaid imi fynd yn ôl i'r gogledd. Diolch i'r holl bobl a siaradodd y prynhawn yma. Diolchaf iddynt am eu hurddas wrth siarad. Yn sicr fe ystyrir eu sylwadau. Esgusodwch fi, os gwelwch yn dda, fod yn rhaid imi ymadael gan ei bod yn cymryd rhyw bedair awr a hanner i fynd yn ôl adref ac mae angen imi fynychu cyfarfodydd bore yfory. Diolch yn fawr ichi am y ffordd a'r modd y cyflwynasoch eich hunain i'r Pwyllgor hwn.

John Griffiths: Hoffwn innau adleisio sylwadau Christine a'r hyn a ddywedodd pob siaradwr arall o'r bwrdd hwn hyd yn hyn. Yr oedd yn wirioneddol drawiadol clywed pobl yn siarad ag urddas mewn ffordd dawel a than reolaeth pryd y gallent yn amlwg fod wedi ildio i'r demtasiwn i weiddi'n groch a llafar iawn o gofio natur y digwyddiadau hyn. Mae'n amlwg bod pobl wedi dioddef llawer iawn dros gyfnod sylweddol o amser a chafwyd cyfraniadau o'r galon. Fe'm trawyd

very impressed by their dignity and the way in which those contributions were made.

Sue Essex: Just to endorse what Helen Mary said, we really do want this investigation to get to the root causes of the problems that you have had in Nantygwyddon. I must say that there is a very salutary lesson here. I have met many of you in the past and heard your stories, but to hear them put forward in such a comprehensive and dignified way is salutary. Many of you whom I spoke to beforehand I know were worried and nervous. I can say that you have been a tribute to yourselves and to the community and I thank you very much for the manner in which this has been done. It has been very good and you can rest assured that we will take up the things that you have said. Thank you.

Richard Edwards: Thank you, Sue. I would like to say that I understand that there is a great deal of anger, resentment and frustration here and I think that it is a tremendous testament to you and to the community that you have been able to present your views with such clarity and dignity this afternoon. I thank all the members of the public for turning up this afternoon. I also thank Rhondda Heritage Park for hosting the meeting. I would like to remind you before we finish that the next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 18 October, again here at the Heritage Park. The meeting will be open to members of the public but unfortunately they will not be able to participate in the way that they have done today. It will be a meeting where all the statutory and regulatory bodies concerned with the Nantygwyddon landfill site issue will be submitting their evidence to the Committee. Thank you all very much indeed.

Mr Thomas: Will we have the pleasure of meeting you again? Will all the evidence now be taken on board by the investigator?

Richard Edwards: The investigator is assisting the Committee. The investigator will be reporting back to the Committee. It will be for the Committee to make a recommendation to the National Assembly. Obviously, before making a recommendation

yn fawr gan eu hurddas a'r ffordd y gwnaethpwyd y cyfraniadau hynny.

Sue Essex: Dim ond i ategu'r hyn a ddywedodd Helen Mary, mae arnom yn wirioneddol eisiau i'r ymchwiliad hwn fynd at wraidd y problemau a gawsoch chi yn Nantygwyddon. Rhaid imi ddweud bod gwrs fuddiol iawn yma. Yr wyf wedi cwrdd â llawer ohonoch yn y gorffennol ac wedi clywed eich storïau, ond mae eu clywed yn cael eu cyflwyno mewn ffordd mor gynhwysfawr ac urddasol yn fuddiol. Yr oedd llawer ohonoch y siaradais â chi ymlaen llaw, mi wn, yn poeni ac yn nerfus. Gallaf ddweud eich bod wedi dwyn clod arnoch eich hunain ac ar y gymuned a diolchaf yn fawr iawn ichi am y modd y gwnaethpwyd hyn. Bu'n dda iawn a gallwch fod yn sicr y gwnawn gymryd y pethau a ddywedasochn ymlaen. Diolch.

Richard Edwards: Diolch i chi, Sue. Hoffwn ddweud fy mod yn deall bod llawer iawn o ddieter, drwgdeimlad a rhwystredigaeth yma ac yr wyf yn meddwl ei fod yn destament ardderchog i chi ac i'r gymuned eich bod chi wedi gallu cyflwyno'ch sylwadau gyda chymaint o eglurder ac urddas y prynhawn yma. Diolchaf i holl aelodau'r cyhoedd am ddod heddiw. Diolchaf hefyd i Barc Treftadaeth y Rhondda am roi cartref i'r cyfarfod. Hoffwn eich atgoffa cyn gorffen y bydd y cyfarfod nesaf am 2 p.m. ddydd Mercher 18 Hydref, eto yma yn y Parc Treftadaeth. Bydd y cyfarfod yn agored i aelodau'r cyhoedd ond yn anffodus ni fyddant yn gallu cyfranogi yn y modd y gwnaethant heddiw. Bydd yn gyfarfod lle bydd yr holl gyrff statudol a rheoleiddiol sydd yn ymwneud â mater safle tirlenwi Nantygwyddon yn cyflwyno'u tystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor. Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb.

Mr Thomas: A gawn ni'r pleser o gwrdd â chi eto? A gaiff yr holl dystiolaeth yn awr ei gymryd i'w ystyried gan yr ymchwilydd?

Richard Edwards: Mae'r ymchwilydd yn cynorthwyo'r Pwyllgor. Bydd yr ymchwilydd yn adrodd yn ôl i'r Pwyllgor. Mater i'r Pwyllgor fydd gwneud argymhelliad i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Yn amlwg, cyn gwneud argymhelliad bydd y Pwyllgor yn

the Committee will take on board whatever the independent investigator recommends to it. You will have the opportunity to see me again and I look forward to it.

Member of the public: If we do not get what we want from this investigation, will we have a full public inquiry?

Richard Edwards: All I can tell you is what Helen Mary Jones said earlier, which is that the investigator may well recommend to the Committee that there should be a public inquiry.

ystyried beth bynnag a argymhellir iddo gan yr ymchwilydd annibynnol. Fe gewch chi'r cyfle i gwrdd â mi eto ac edrychaf ymlaen at hynny.

Aelod o'r cyhoedd: Os na chawn ni'r hyn yr ydym ei eisiau o'r ymchwiliad hwn, a gawn ni ymchwiliad cyhoeddus llawn?

Richard Edwards: Y cyfan y gallaf ei ddweud wrthyh yw'r hyn a ddywedodd Helen Mary Jones yn gynharach, sef ei bod yn ddigon posibl y gall yr ymchwilydd argymhell i'r Pwyllgor y dylid cael ymchwiliad cyhoeddus.

Daeth y Cyfarfod i ben am 5.15 p.m
The meeting ended at 5.15 p.m.