



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

**Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth Rhif 3
Legislation Committee No. 3**

**Dydd Iau, 5 Tachwedd 2009
Thursday, 5 November 2009**

Cynnwys
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Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal,
cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee.
In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol
Committee members in attendance

Peter Black	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats
Christine Chapman	Llafur Labour
William Graham	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Helen Mary Jones	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales
David Lloyd	Plaid Cymru (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) The Party of Wales (Committee Chair)

Eraill yn bresennol
Others in attendance

Dr Nick Fenwick	Cyfarwyddwr Polisi, Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru Director of Policy, Farmers' Union of Wales
Gwyn Howells	Prif Weithredwr, Hybu Cig Cymru Chief Executive, Hybu Cig Cymru
Euron Prysor Jones	Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Da Byw, Gwlân a Marchnadoedd, Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru Chairman of the Livestock, Wool and Marts Committee, Farmers' Union of Wales

Swyddogion Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn bresennol
National Assembly for Wales officials in attendance

Fay Bowen	Clerc Clerk
Gwyn Griffiths	Cynghorydd Cyfreithiol Legal Adviser
Ruth Hatton	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk
Carys Jones	Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau Members' Research Service

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 1.30 p.m.
The meeting began at 1.30 p.m.

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon
Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

[1] **David Lloyd:** Galwaf y cyfarfod i drefn. Croeso i gyfarfod diweddaraf Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth Rhif 3 Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Diben y cyfarfod yw trafod y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch y Diwydiant Cig Coch (Cymru). Dyma'r sesiwn dystiolaeth gyntaf.

David Lloyd: I call the meeting to order. Welcome to the latest meeting of Legislation Committee No. 3 of the National Assembly for Wales. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Proposed Red Meat Industry (Wales) Measure. This is the first evidence session.

[2] Yr ydym wedi derbyn ymddiheuriadau oddi wrth Janice Gregory. Nid ydym wedi derbyn ymddiheuriadau oddi wrth unrhyw Aelod arall.

We have received apologies from Janice Gregory. We have not received apologies from any other Members.

[3] Os bydd larwm tân, dylai Aelodau adael yr ystafell drwy'r allanfeydd tân penodol gan ddilyn cyfarwyddiadau'r tywysyddion. Nid ydym yn disgwyl prawf y prynhawn yma. Dylai pawb ddiffodd eu ffonau symudol, galwyr a'u 'mwyar duon' gan eu bod yn amharu ar yr offer darlledu. Bydd pawb yn ymwybodol erbyn hyn bod y Cynulliad yn gweithredu'n ddwyieithog. Mae clustffonau ar gael i glywed y cyfieithiad ar y pryd ac i addasu lefel y sain i bobl sy'n drwm eu clyw. Mae'r cyfieithiad ar y pryd ar gael ar sianel 1, a darllediad gair-am-air i glywed y sain yn well ar sianel 0. Peidiwch â chyffwrdd y botymau ar y meicroffonau gan y gallai hynny ddiffodd y system, a chofiwch sicrhau bod golau coch ar y meicroffon cyn ichi ddechrau siarad.

Should there be a fire alarm, Members should exit the room through the designated fire exits, and follow instructions from the ushers. We are not expecting a drill this afternoon. Everyone should switch off their mobile phones, pagers and BlackBerrys as they affect the broadcasting equipment. Everyone will be aware that the Assembly operates bilingually. Headsets are available to hear the interpretation and to amplify the sound for those who may be hard of hearing. Interpretation is available on channel 1, and amplification of the sound is available on channel 0. Please do not touch the buttons on the microphones as this can disable the system, and please ensure that the red light is showing on the microphones before you start to speak.

1.31 p.m.

**Y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch y Diwydiant Cig Coch (Cymru): Cyfnod 1—
Sesiwn Dystiolaeth 1
The Proposed Red Meat Industry (Wales) Measure: Stage 1—
Evidence Session 1**

[4] **David Lloyd:** Wrth inni gymryd tystiolaeth ar lafar mewn cysylltiad â'r Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch y Diwydiant Cig Coch (Cymru), mae'n bleser gennyf groesawu Gwyn Howells, prif weithredwr Hybu Cig Cymru. Nes ymlaen, cawn sesiwn gydag Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru. Y drefn arferol yw ein bod yn mynd yn syth i mewn i'r cwestiynau sydd wedi eu paratoi—ac mae nifer helaeth ohonynt. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddant yn cwmpasu pob agwedd posibl ar y Mesur arfaethedig. Felly, nid oes rhaid i'r cwestiynau fod yn hir ac nid yw'n angenrheidiol i'r atebion fod yn hir ychwaith.

David Lloyd: As we take oral evidence on the Proposed Red Meat Industry (Wales) Measure, it is my pleasure to welcome Gwyn Howells, the chief executive of Meat Promotion Wales. Later on, we will have a session with the Farmers' Union of Wales. The usual procedure is that we move straight into the questions that have been prepared—and there are a great many of them. I am sure that they will cover all possible aspects of the proposed Measure. Therefore, there is no need for the questions to be lengthy nor is it necessary for the responses to be lengthy.

[5] Gofynnaf y cwestiwn gyntaf, sy'n gwestiwn gyffredinol. Mr Howells, a wnewch egluro paham ei bod yn angenrheidiol cael fframwaith deddfwriaethol i hybu a marchnata'r sector cig coch Cymreig?

I will ask the first question, which is a general question. Mr Howells, will you explain why it is necessary to have a legislative framework to promote and market the Welsh red meat sector?

[6] **Mr Howells:** Diolch yn fawr,

Mr Howells: Thank you, Chair, for the

Gadeirydd, am y croeso. Mae'r diwydiant cig coch yn bwysig iawn i Gymru gyfan. Mae'n werth dros £400 miliwn y flwyddyn i economi Cymru erbyn hyn, a hwyrach y bydd y gwerth yn fwy pan welwn ffigurau 2009. Felly, mae'n bwysig iawn ein bod yn cael diwydiant sy'n broffidiol ar gyfer y gadwyn fwyd i gyd a bod y diwydiant yn gynaliadwy ar gyfer y dyfodol.

welcome. The red meat industry is extremely important to the whole of Wales. It is now worth over £400 million each year to the Welsh economy, and we may find that it is worth even more when the 2009 figures are published. Therefore, it is extremely important that we have an industry that is profitable for the entire food chain and that the industry is sustainable for the future.

[7] Un peth sy'n bwysig o ran fframwaith arbennig y Mesur arfaethedig yw bod angen ardoll statudol yn y diwydiant cig coch oherwydd yr hyn y mae economegwyr yn ei alw'n 'diffyg yn y farchnad', sef y ffaith bod y rhan fwyaf o fusnesau o fewn y gadwyn cig coch yn rhy fach i wneud, er enghraifft, gwaith ymchwil a datblygu, dod o hyd i wybodaeth am y farchnad, neu hybu a marchnata eu cynnyrch fel unigolion. Felly, mae angen ardoll sy'n cael ei chasglu ar ran y diwydiant cyfan er mwyn helpu yn hynny o beth. Am y rheswm hwn, mae angen y ddeddfwriaeth a'r fframwaith yr ydym yn eu trafod heddiw.

One important factor with regard to the specific framework of the proposed Measure is that a statutory levy is needed in the red meat industry as a result of what economists call 'market failure', namely the fact that most businesses within the red meat chain are too small to, for example, undertake research and development work, compile market intelligence, or promote and market their produce as individuals. We therefore need a levy to be collected on behalf of the entire industry in order to help in that respect. It is for this reason that we need the legislation and the framework that we are discussing today.

[8] Rheswm pwysig arall y dylwn ei nodi yn gyflym iawn yw bod angen newid yr hyn a ddechreuwyd ddwy flynedd yn ôl, a sicrhau bod Hybu Cig Cymru yn ateb yn uniongyrchol i Weinidogion Llywodraeth Cymru yn hytrach na thrwy gorff dros dro fel Bwrdd Ardollau Cymru. Mae hwnnw'n fater i'w cadarnhau a'i dacluso yn y Mesur arfaethedig hwn.

Another important reason that I should mention quickly is that there is a need to change the process that was begun two years ago, and ensure that Meat Promotion Wales is directly accountable to Ministers within the Welsh Assembly Government rather than through a temporary body like the Welsh Levy Board. That needs to be confirmed and tidied up in this proposed Measure.

[9] **David Lloyd:** Diolch ichi am eich ateb cynhwysfawr. Mae'r gyfres o gwestiynau nesaf o dan law William Graham.

David Lloyd: Thank you for your comprehensive answer. The next series of questions are from William Graham.

[10] **William Graham:** What are the failings of the current legislative arrangements and how does the proposed Measure improve on these arrangements?

[11] **Mr Howells:** The main failing of the current procedures is that we, as a body, are not directly accountable to Welsh Ministers; we are accountable to them through the Welsh Levy Board. The issue with that arose from the Welsh Levy Board Order 2008, which was a Westminster Order under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Under that Act, only through an Assembly-sponsored public body could Wales have its own levy body that was directly accountable to Welsh Ministers. Therefore, to move things forward at that time on a temporary basis, the Welsh Levy Board was created. We work according to a delegation agreement with the Welsh Levy Board, which, in turn, reports to Ministers. However, this proposed Measure offers an opportunity to undertake some housekeeping and to have a direct route to Welsh Ministers as opposed to one via a dogleg.

[12] **William Graham:** What are your views on the intention of the proposed Measure to

provide a framework that is sufficiently flexible to enable Welsh Ministers to respond to the needs of the red meat sector?

[13] **Mr Howells:** A flexible Measure is crucially important. We are dealing with a large and important industry. Issues frequently arise and we do not know what those will be from week to week or month to month. We need sufficient flexibility in the Measure to enable not only our response and delivery to our levy payers, but also to enable Hybu Cig Cymru to have a coherent approach and relationship with Welsh Ministers so that we can ensure a joined-up approach to policy and delivery on behalf of the industry.

[14] **William Graham:** What are your views on the objectives of the proposed Measure? Are they sufficiently broad as to enable the Minister to achieve her policy objectives for the red meat sector?

[15] **Mr Howells:** Having looked through the proposed Measure, we think that its functions are sufficiently broad and appropriate at this time to help the industry over the forthcoming years.

[16] **William Graham:** What are your views on the breadth of powers outlined in section 3 and Schedule 1 in relation to the functions that can be undertaken?

[17] **Mr Howells:** The functions are comprehensive, including everything from research and development, marketing and promotion to helping the industry to become more efficient. They would certainly be in line with the strategic plan that we announced on behalf of the industry back in April 2009, which seeks to achieve a profitable and sustainable industry for all in the supply chain going forward. The functions in this proposed Measure will help us to achieve that.

[18] **William Graham:** The explanatory memorandum that accompanies the proposed Measure explains that the fundamental purpose of the proposed Measure is to remove the need for a public body to be in place for the marketing, promotion and development of the red meat industry, and to make the Minister directly accountable for these activities. What are your views on this intention?

[19] **Mr Howells:** We support that because of the direct approach rather than the use of an intermediary body.

[20] **William Graham:** To what extent would abolishing the Welsh Levy Board and giving direct accountability for the sector to Welsh Ministers lead to greater streamlining and efficiency with regard to the red meat levy and the promotion of the red meat sector in Wales?

[21] **Mr Howells:** Joining up policy and delivery is quite important and to be welcomed. However, no efficiency will be gained in terms of collecting the levy because we now undertake that through a delegation of powers from the Welsh Levy Board. So, there will be no mileage in improvements in efficiency.

1.40 p.m.

[22] **David Lloyd:** Mae'r pum cwestiwn nesaf dan ofal Christine Chapman. **David Lloyd:** The next five questions are from Christine Chapman's hands.

[23] **Christine Chapman:** In your evidence, you highlight the importance of retaining a separate red meat body in Wales and section 7 of the proposed Measure makes provision for Welsh Ministers to delegate functions under the proposed measure that would allow for the continuation of the current arrangements with you. Could you clarify why you believe that it

is important for these functions to be undertaken by an organisation that is outside the Welsh Government?

[24] **Mr Howells:** Yes, certainly. I think that we made that clear in our evidence. The rationale for us to undertake that approach is that while we, on behalf of Government and for the benefit of the industry, use public grant moneys from the Assembly to help the industry, approximately two thirds of the income that we use and expend on behalf of the industry is derived from the industry itself by statutory levy, which is paid by both farmers and the processing sector, that is, the abattoirs. That is industry money as opposed to direct Government money. Therefore, I think that the arm's-length approach is important in that it encourages industry ownership of the work that we undertake on its behalf, as opposed to the work being seen as a delivery vehicle for Welsh Ministers. I think that that is an important point to bear in mind.

[25] **Christine Chapman:** The proposed Measure provides for flexibility with these arrangements in the future. Given your views on the importance of retaining existing arrangements, do you think that it is necessary to provide for flexibility in the future?

[26] **Mr Howells:** Following on from the points that I made earlier, flexibility is key to this industry, in that it faces different issues from day to day, and certainly from week to week and month to month. Therefore, we need that flexibility in order to best react on behalf of our industry, which is a very important contributor to the economy of Wales in general.

[27] **Christine Chapman:** I will move on now to look at section 4, which is about imposing a levy and the designation of persons liable. This proposed Measure is broadly defined to provide Welsh Ministers with the flexibility to impose a levy on all those in the red meat supply chain, if this were required. Do you agree with this approach? If so, why is this necessary?

[28] **Mr Howells:** That is where the answer becomes slightly more complicated. The levy provision that we have at the moment is based on the collection of levies from farmers and processors with the mechanism for collection in the abattoir. The problem with the present system, and the NERC Act that governs it, is that neither we nor Welsh Ministers have any control over where those abattoirs happen to be. The failing is that if we say that we had 24 abattoirs operating in Wales in 2008, and if for some reason—and you could argue that it is possible—four of those abattoirs, which account for 80 per cent of the throughput of sheep, closed, we would not have any means of collecting the levy in Wales because the stock would be slaughtered elsewhere, possibly in England or even Scotland. Therefore, the approach that we would encourage is for the present system within Great Britain to be looked at so that there is an equality of distribution of levy based on where the animals were born and reared, and therefore moving away from the arbitrary position of collecting the levy where the abattoir happens to be. There is no common sense in that.

[29] We hope that there is consensus and agreement at ministerial level within Great Britain to collect the levy as we are doing now—independently in England, Scotland and Wales—but for there to be a mechanism whereby the levy that is collected is shared out on the basis of where the stock happened to be. You could ultimately have a situation where we would have no abattoirs in Wales and all the levies would be collected in England and Scotland, and therefore we would be devoid of any body to help the industry and Welsh farmers and processors.

[30] While that will not be directly dealt with by this Measure, the proposed Measure provides us with the security or safety net that should those ministerial discussions not achieve what we require to safeguard the industry, there is a fallback position here through which we can look at other means of collecting the levy and therefore safeguard the interests

of the industry going forward.

[31] **Christine Chapman:** Just to move on, although I think that you have partly answered this, should the general provisions on persons subject to a levy be more specific, or do you believe that they need to be flexible, as drafted?

[32] **Mr Howells:** I think they need to be flexible, and we are quite content with the drafting.

[33] **Christine Chapman:** Again, we have touched on this, but, for the record, what impact would collecting a levy from other parts of the supply chain have, and would you welcome a change in the way the levy is collected?

[34] **Mr Howells:** The first point would be that the way in which the levy is collected now is fine as long as we sort out the inequity to which I referred a few minutes ago. We need that flexibility in the provision and the proposed Measure. Should we not be able to agree among other countries on a fairer system, then we need the flexibility within the proposed Measure, which, as it is drafted, we are content with, Chair.

[35] **David Lloyd:** Diolch. Mae'r gyfres o **David Lloyd:** Thank you. The next series of gwestiynau nesaf o dan ofal Peter Black. questions are from Peter Black.

[36] **Peter Black:** I will just follow on from that series of questions. In terms of the levy as it is collected in England at the moment, is it collected at the abattoir?

[37] **Mr Howells:** Yes, it is.

[38] **Peter Black:** So, if Wales changes its way of collecting the levy, for example, if it collects the levy on the basis of where the animal is reared, but England does not, and some abattoirs close in Wales and the animals have to be slaughtered in England, do you not pay the levy twice?

[39] **Mr Howells:** No. I think that there is provision within the legislation that is operating in England at the moment. It applies to live animals coming from European states, for example. If they are slaughtered in Great Britain but do not reside here for a given length of time, they are exempt from the levy. Therefore, Welsh producers could be exempt from levy in other parts of the UK.

[40] **Peter Black:** Okay. I will stick to the questions that I have now. What is your view of the intention to broaden the legislation to include those involved in secondary activities in the sector? What is your understanding of what secondary activities are?

[41] **Mr Howells:** It is an interesting question. The answer to that is a bit nebulous at the moment, shall we say. The Measure, as drafted, gives us the flexibility to perhaps, at some point not defined in the future, to jointly fund the levy. For example, were there a need to develop certain parts of the supply chain that ordinarily do not pay levy, for example, distributors of meat or perhaps retailers, who for a specific purpose would wish to get the nutritional messages of eating a balanced healthy diet, and meat as part of that, over to the general public, there may be an opportunity for them to jointly fund the levy on the basis of a project. As drafted, the Measure would give us that flexibility if the need arose.

[42] **Peter Black:** In your evidence, you refer to the need for industry-wide consultation should the Welsh Ministers intend to make changes to the levy mechanism. Do you think that we need to put in the Measure itself that that consultation should take place, or do you trust the Minister to do it anyway?

[43] **Mr Howells:** I will answer the first part of that. We do not specifically need that in the proposed Measure, because it is generally accepted that there is consultation on any changes. In fact, I mentioned the strategic plan that we announced and worked on with the Welsh Assembly Government back in the spring. We launched that after extensive consultation with industry, and to consult, inform and communicate is important, because then there is ownership and buy-in from industry and that would prevail. I do not think that it would need to be drafted in the proposed Measure.

[44] **Peter Black:** You have referred already to the discussions with English and Scottish Ministers about getting a more equitable levy mechanism for the future, and you have also indicated that we might go our own way if those discussions break down. Do you think that those discussions will have an impact on the proposed Measure as drafted, or do you think that we can just proceed regardless?

1.50 p.m.

[45] **Mr Howells:** I think that we can proceed on the basis of how it is drafted. Hopefully, common sense will prevail at ministerial level elsewhere so that we do not need to go to the next step and find our own particular system. We hope that it will not come to that, but we will have to review the matter in the light of discussions with England and Scotland.

[46] I should add for your information that we understand that the Scottish Minister and the Scottish Executive support the redistribution or repatriation of levy, and that will therefore be helpful.

[47] **Peter Black:** So we can gang up on the English, can we? [*Laughter.*]

[48] **Mr Howells:** This is not a new subject, and it has come to the fore again. When we undertook a review of levying bodies back in 2006, we raised this problem, but our concerns unfortunately fell on deaf ears in Whitehall. We hope to have more success this time.

[49] **Peter Black:** I have two more questions, and they are on sections 8 and 9 to do with returns, estimates and the provision of information. These two sections contain provisions to make it an offence not to provide accurate information on which a levy calculation will be based or to submit returns outside of the designated timescales. Is it reasonable to make such actions an offence punishable by a fine?

[50] **Mr Howells:** I think that it is reasonable and proportionate, and the precedent has already been set with regard to how we collect the levy and how returns are made. Non-payment of levy may result in legal proceedings. I therefore think it reasonable to include that in the proposed Measure.

[51] **Peter Black:** What are your views on the flexibility contained in section 8 to allow the Minister to change the timing and information required in a return? What impact would this have on those who are subject to a levy?

[52] **Mr Howells:** As long as any change is communicated clearly and in a timely manner, it is not a problem. We have to do it from time to time anyway, so I think that it is reasonable.

[53] **Peter Black:** Do you think that these measures are enforceable in practice? Do you foresee any problems enforcing them?

[54] **Mr Howells:** No, I think that they are enforceable. It is just a case of getting the correct process to enforce what is, after all, a statutory levy.

[55] **Peter Black:** Thank you.

[56] **David Lloyd:** Byddwch yn falch o nodi ein bod yn dirwyn tua'r terfyn. Mae cwestiynau gan William Graham, ac wedyn mae Helen Mary i orffen.

David Lloyd: You will be glad to note that we are drawing towards the end of this session. William Graham has some questions, and Helen Mary will finish.

[57] **William Graham:** Turning to sections 10 and 11, do you think it is necessary for the proposed Measure to provide for a Justice of the Peace to issue a warrant to enter land or premises and search that land or premises?

[58] **Mr Howells:** As long as there are reasonable grounds for doing so, I think that such action is appropriate.

[59] **William Graham:** Do you think that the general and specific conditions set out in section 11 of the proposed Measure are appropriate?

[60] **Mr Howells:** Which ones are those, sorry?

[61] **Williams Graham:** They are to do with the 'appointed person'.

[62] **Mr Howells:** Yes, I think that they are reasonable and appropriate, too.

[63] **William Graham:** Do you also think that the need for a warrant offers sufficient protection to those whose dwellings, premises, documentation, and so on it applies to?

[64] **Mr Howell:** Yes, and I think that it is appropriate.

[65] **Helen Mary Jones:** Mae hwn yn mynd yn ôl i bwnc yr ydym wedi cyffwrdd ag ef eisoes, sef y trafodaethau i geisio sicrhau y dosberthir yn deg rhwng y tair gwlad. Yn eich tystiolaeth, yr ydych yn awgrymu y gellid defnyddio'r Mesur arfaethedig i amddiffyn diwydiant cig coch Cymru os yw'r Gweinidogion yn methu cytuno ar ffordd decach o rannu yr ardoll fel y'i codir ar hyn o bryd. A allwch egluro mwy ar fel yr ydych yn gweld y Mesur arfaethedig yn ffordd o amddiffyn y diwydiant o dan yr amgylchiadau hynny?

Helen Mary Jones: This goes back to a subject that we have already touched on, namely the discussions to try to ensure a fair distribution between the three nations. In your evidence, you suggest that the proposed Measure could be used to protect the Welsh red meat industry if Ministers fail to agree a fairer means of sharing the levy as it is currently raised. Can you explain further how you see the proposed Measure as a means of defending the industry under such circumstances?

[66] **Mr Howells:** Mae hynny pe na bai'r trafodaethau'n dwyn ffrwyth ar lefel Prydain. Ar hyn o bryd, yr ydym ryw £1 filiwn ar ein colled oherwydd anifeiliaid, megis eidion, a leddir yn Lloegr, ac mae hynny'n lawer o arian. Pe bai hyd at dri lladd-dy yn cau, gallai'r golled honno fod llawer yn waeth dros nos. Rhaid i ni felly sicrhau bod gennym y pwerau a'r adnoddau i wneud rhywbeth yn fuan i amddiffyn buddiannau ffermwyr Cymru.

Mr Howells: That would be if the discussions fail to bear fruit at the British level. Currently, we are some £1 million out of pocket due to some animals, such as beef cattle, being slaughtered in England, and that is a lot of money. If up to three slaughterhouses were to close, that financial loss would be much worse overnight. We must therefore ensure that we have the powers and resources to do something soon to protect the interests of Welsh farmers.

[67] Yn gryno, ein rôl yw helpu'r gadwyn ddatblygu a bod yn fwy effeithlon—hynny yw, y ffermydd a'r lladd-dai. Rhan helaeth o'n gwaith yw hybu'r cynnyrch sy'n dod o ddiwydiant Cymru, sef y brandiau cig oen a chig eidion Cymru. Gallem fod mewn sefyllfa lle nad oes adnoddau ariannol o'r ardoll i wneud hynny, a bod yr arian yn diweddu yn Lloegr neu'r Alban a'u bod hwy yn defnyddio'r arian hwnnw i gystadlu yn erbyn ffermwyr Cymru. Dyna pam yr ydym yn sôn am ddiogelu buddiannau ffermwyr Cymru yn ein tystiolaeth.

[68] **David Lloyd:** Diolch. Dyna ddiwedd y cwestiynau i chi, Mr Howells—yr wyf yn swnio braidd fel cyflwynydd *Mastermind* wrth ddweud hynny. Cyn gorffen, mae cyfle ichi ychwanegu unrhyw sylwadau. A oes unrhyw bwyntiau na chafodd eu cwmpasu eisoes?

[69] **Mr Howells:** Na, yr wyf yn credu ein bod wedi cwmpasu popeth yn dda iawn.

[70] **David Lloyd:** Diolch am eich cyfraniad ac am ateb y cwestiynau mewn ffordd mor raenus. Bydd y clerc yn anfon trawsgrifiad drafft o'r trafodion hyn atoch er mwyn cadarnhau ei gywirdeb cyn ei gyhoeddi'n derfynol. Diolch am fod yma a diolch am eich cyfraniad at y drafodaeth ar y Mesur arfaethedig hwn.

[71] Symudwn yn awr at ein tystion nesaf. Yr wyf yn croesawu y ddau i'r bwrdd. Byddwch yn falch o glywed fod y cwestiynau a fydd yn eich wynebu rhywfaint yn debyg, gan eich bod wedi bod yma yn clywed atebion y tystion blaenorol, nid y dylai'r rheini ddylanwadu ar unrhyw atebion y byddwch yn eu rhoi, yn naturiol. Hoffwn groesawu Dr Nick Fenwick, cyfarwyddwr polisi Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru ac hefyd Euron Prysor Jones, cadeirydd pwyllgor da byw, gwlan a marchnadoedd, Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru. Byddwch wedi dod i adnabod y drefn—mae cyfres o gwestiynau wedi eu didoli eisoes rhyngom, a gobeithio y byddwn yn cwmpasu popeth sydd angen ei gwmpasu gyda'r rheini. Dechreuaf gyda'r cwestiwn cyntaf. Nid oes raid i'r ddau ohonoch ateb bob cwestiwn—cewch fynd yn ôl ag ymlaen. I ba raddau y mae'n angenrheidiol gwneud darpariaeth statudol

In brief, our role is to assist the chain to develop and to be more efficient—that is, the farms and slaughterhouses. A large part of our work involves promoting the produce from Welsh industry, that is, the Welsh lamb and beef brands. We could be in a situation where there are no financial resources from the levy to do that, and the money ends up in England or Scotland and they use that money to compete against Welsh farmers. That is why we talk about protecting the interests of Welsh farmers in our evidence.

David Lloyd: Thank you. That brings us to the end of the questions for you, Mr Howells—I sound a little like the presenter of *Mastermind* when I say that. Before we finish, you have an opportunity to add any comments. Are there any points that have not already been covered?

Mr Howells: No, I think that we have covered everything very well.

David Lloyd: Thank you for your contribution and for answering the questions so effectively. The clerk will send you a draft transcript of these proceedings for you to confirm its accuracy before it is finally published. Thank you for being here and thank you for your contribution to the discussion on the proposed Measure.

We now move on to our next witnesses. I welcome them both to the table. You will be glad to hear that the questions that you will be face will be somewhat similar, as you have been present and have heard the answers of the previous witnesses, not that those should influence any answers that you give, naturally. I welcome Dr Nick Fenwick, policy director of Farmers' Union of Wales and also Euron Prysor Jones, chairman of the livestock, wool and marts committee, Farmers' Union of Wales. You will know the drill—we have a series of questions that have already been distributed between us, and we hope that we will cover everything that needs to be covered with those. I will start with the first question. Both of you need not answer every question—you can go back and forth. To what extent is it necessary to make statutory provision through a legislative framework to promote and market the Welsh

drwy fframwaith ddeddfwriaethol i hybu a marchnata'r sector cig coch Cymreig? red meat sector?

[72] **Dr Fenwick:** Mae Gwyn Howells wedi ateb y cwestiynau hynny eisoes, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd teimlad mawr o déjà vu o ran llawer o'n atebion. 'Housekeeping' oedd y term a ddefnyddiodd Gwyn, a dyna yw'r ffordd yr ydym ni yn ei weld hefyd. Mae'n hollbwysig symud pethau ymlaen. Yr ydym yn gwybod bod yr hyn a ddigwyddodd dros 12 mis yn ôl yn rhywbeth dros dro—mae hwn yn gam naturiol ymlaen i'r diwydiant, ac mae hynny'n cynnwys y pwerau ychwanegol sydd yn y Mesur arfaethedig hwn, ac yr ydym yn gefnogol iawn o hynny hefyd.

Dr Fenwick: Gwyn Howells has already answered those questions, and I am sure that there will be a strong feeling of déjà vu with regard to many of our answers. Gwyn used the phrase 'housekeeping', and that is the way that we also see it. It is vital that things move on. We know that what happened over 12 months ago was temporary—this is a natural step forward for the industry, and that includes the extra powers in this proposed Measure, of which we are also very supportive.

[73] **David Lloyd:** I ba raddau yr ydych yn credu fod ffaeleddau yn y trefniadau deddfwriaethol presennol, a sut y bydd y Mesur arfaethedig yn gwella hynny?

David Lloyd: To what extent do you believe that there are flaws in the present legislative arrangements, and how will the proposed Measure improve that?

[74] **Dr Fenwick:** Eto, fel yr eglurwyd yn barod, nid yw'r ffordd mae pwerau'n cael eu trosglwyddo i'r Gweinidog yn glir iawn. Byddai'n gwneud llawer fwy o synnwyr i'w brif-ffrydio fel bod Hybu Cig Cymru yn uniongyrchol atebol i'r Gweinidog.

Dr Fenwick: Again, as has already been explained, the way in which the powers are transferred to the Minister is not very clear. It would make much more sense to mainstream them so that Meat Promotion Wales is directly accountable to the Minister.

[75] **Helen Mary Jones:** A gaf i ofyn cwestiwn ychwanegol? Dywedodd Mr Howells wrthym mai'r rheswm pam fod angen corff annibynnol yw mai eich arian chi fel y diwydiant yw'r arian, yn hytrach nag arian y Llywodraeth. Felly, a yw cael Hybu Cig Cymru yn uniongyrchol atebol i'r Gweinidog yn berthnasol, gan mai eich pres chi mae'n ei wario?

Helen Mary Jones: May I ask a supplementary question? Mr Howells told us that the reason why an independent body is required is because it is your money as an industry, rather than the Government's money. So, is having Meat Promotion Wales directly accountable to the Minister relevant, as it is your money that she is spending?

[76] **Dr Fenwick:** O ran a ydyw yn dderbyniol i'r corff wneud hynny, mae hefyd yn atebol i'r diwydiant gan fod y rhan fwyaf o'r bwrdd yn ffermwyr eu hunain a benodwyd yn dilyn proses Nolan. Felly, er bod Hybu Cig Cymru yn atebol i'r Gweinidog, mae hefyd yn atebol i'r diwydiant. Mae'n bwysig iddo fod ar wahân i'r Llywodraeth, neu byddai'n cael ei weld fel treth, ar ddiwedd y dydd. Dyna a fyddai pe bai'r Gweinidog neu Weinidogion yn rhydd i'w wario lle bynnag yr oeddynt eisiau.

Dr Fenwick: On whether it is acceptable for the body to do that, it is also accountable to the industry because most of the board are farmers themselves and were appointed according to the Nolan process. So, although Meat Promotion Wales is accountable to the Minister, it is also accountable to the industry. It is important that it is at arm's length from the Government, otherwise, it would be viewed as a tax, in effect. That is what it would be, if the Minister or Ministers were free to spend it wherever they wished.

2.00 p.m.

[77] **David Lloyd:** Mae'r gyfres o **David Lloyd:** The next series of questions

gwestiynau nesaf o dan law Peter Black. comes from Peter Black.

[78] **Peter Black:** What are your views on the objectives of the proposed Measure? Are they sufficiently broad to enable the Minister to achieve her policy objectives and respond to the needs of the red meat sector?

[79] **Dr Fenwick:** Yes.

[80] **Peter Black:** Excellent. What are your views on the breadth of powers outlined in section 3 and Schedule 1 in relation to the functions that can be undertaken?

[81] **Dr Fenwick:** I have not memorised the sections in any great detail. I assume that the functions are in terms of granting powers or extending current powers to Hybu Cig Cymru. It is a natural progression or, in many cases, a continuation of the status quo, so that is normal, and it is proper that it is in there.

[82] **Peter Black:** It is essentially a list of functions that the Minister may undertake to further the objectives of the Measure, such as promoting the production and marketing of standard products, and so on.

[83] **Dr Fenwick:** Those functions are the entire purpose of Hybu Cig Cymru and have been since it was established.

[84] **Peter Black:** In your evidence, you say that you welcomed the Welsh Levy Board's establishment as a temporary measure. Can you clarify why you do not believe that the Welsh Levy Board is viable as a permanent solution and why you support the proposed Measure rather than the continuation of the existing arrangements?

[85] **Dr Fenwick:** The answer to the first or second question that was asked earlier mentioned that this is a process of streamlining and natural progression. I refer you to that answer.

[86] **Peter Black:** Your evidence also states that during the Radcliffe review, your members expressed the view that Hybu Cig Cymru should be directly accountable to WAG to ensure that the specific needs of the Welsh industry are addressed appropriately. Can you clarify how the proposed Measure will ensure that the needs of the Welsh industry are addressed appropriately?

[87] **Dr Fenwick:** There are two sides to that. The first is the continuation of the status quo and the point that this is an important housekeeping exercise, which therefore allows Hybu Cig Cymru to continue what it is doing. However, as was referred to at the end of your last question session, it includes safeguards against possible future problems that may face the industry, which is essential. We would not want to see any measures being drawn up hurriedly following an overnight disaster in the red meat industry.

[88] **David Lloyd:** Mae'r cwestiynau nesaf o dan ofal Christine Chapman. **David Lloyd:** The next questions are from Christine Chapman.

[89] **Christine Chapman:** I want to ask you a couple of questions about section 7, on delegation and subsidiaries. Section 7 of the proposed Measure makes provision for Welsh Ministers to delegate functions under the Measure, which would allow for the continuation of the current arrangements with Hybu Cig Cymru. What is your view of the role of Hybu Cig Cymru and to what extent is it necessary for these functions to be undertaken by an organisation that is outside the Government?

[90] **Mr Jones:** The industry looks at Hybu Cig Cymru favourably. I am sure that it would be much more prepared to pay a levy to Hybu Cig Cymru than to the Welsh Government. It sees that it has some kind of control.

[91] **Christine Chapman:** The proposed Measure provides for flexibility under these arrangements in the future. What alternative arrangements could the Welsh Ministers make, and under which circumstances would they be likely to amend the arrangements?

[92] **Dr Fenwick:** The major circumstance, to which I have already referred, would be a significant problem facing an abattoir or abattoirs in Wales. The fact that it has the flexibility to safeguard against possible eventualities is key. Otherwise, as I have already said, you would have to introduce emergency measures and we know that the process of transferring those powers to Wales is not necessarily quick, if that is the right word.

[93] **Christine Chapman:** I will now move on to ask questions about section 4, which is about imposing a levy and the designation of persons liable. Can you clarify why the current method of distributing levies between the devolved regions based upon the location of abattoirs is inequitable? What risks does this present for the Welsh red meat sector?

[94] **Mr Jones:** It could be disastrous. There is no stability at the moment, and although you need flexibility, the key issue is stability in the end. The industry is very shaky, if that is the right word, and things can change in a couple of days if a particular business or the industry as a whole gets into trouble. It could leave the industry more or less penniless overnight.

[95] **Dr Fenwick:** Over the last twenty years, we have seen consolidation of slaughtering within larger and larger slaughterhouses, caused partially by the regulatory burden that has been increasingly introduced since the early 1990s. We have lost something like 70 per cent or 80 per cent of the slaughterhouses in the UK, and naturally that means that while we may have 24 or 26 slaughterhouses within Wales, just a handful of those deal with 80 per cent of the livestock in Wales. There is a threat of losing crucial funding for Hybu Cig Cymru overnight. Those budgets pay for essential research as well as marketing, including, for instance, very important research that was used to influence Europe's change to legislation on fallen stock and animal by-products; that evidence was crucial to that change in legislation. Without Hybu Cig Cymru and the money that goes to it through the levy, we would not have had that important legislative change.

[96] **Mr Jones:** Most of the abattoirs that are operating at the moment are in foreign hands, and that does not make the situation easier, either.

[97] **Christine Chapman:** This proposed Measure is broadly defined to provide Welsh Ministers with the flexibility to impose a levy on all those in the red meat supply chain if this were required. Do you agree with that approach, and, if so, why is it necessary?

[98] **Dr Fenwick:** Flexibility is important because of the risk to the industry. However, it is certainly not something that should be rushed into. It would be better to get an agreement on an equitable distribution of levies between the different regions of the UK. However, it is there as a fallback position. Even so, you would have to consider carefully how to implement it in a way that does not disadvantage the Welsh industry, which already faces, potentially, two levies on one animal. We must have faith in the system and understand that there will be careful consideration and, ultimately, a solution. The power is there to find that solution and implement it.

[99] **Christine Chapman:** Should the general provisions on persons subject to a levy be more specific, or do you believe that they need to be flexible, as drafted?

[100] **Dr Fenwick:** They need to be flexible, given that we do not know what will happen in the future.

[101] **Christine Chapman:** What is your view of the intention to broaden the legislation to include those involved in secondary activities in the sector, and what is your understanding of those activities?

[102] **Dr Fenwick:** The provision is there in case something happens and there is a significant change to the structure of the industry. Retailers have already been referred to, and I am sure that many farmers would like to see retailers levied; members of the public might feel the same. However, I do not think that it is something that is needed now, and hopefully not ever, provided the Ministers can agree to a better system. At least it gives us that flexibility, so it is important that it is there.

[103] **Christine Chapman:** What impact would collecting a levy from other parts of the supply chain have, and would you welcome a change in the way that the levy is collected?

[104] **Mr Jones:** The present system of collecting the levy seems quite adequate. If you are talking about second retailers, the process might change, and that could create a problem.

2.10 p.m.

[105] **Dr Fenwick:** I agree. Potential problems would need to be considered before any significant decisions were taken in that regard. It is a volatile supply chain and you must be very careful, because there is always a risk that if you have a levy in the wrong place in the chain, it will always get passed on to the farmer, one way or another. Nevertheless, we still need that source of income to develop research and marketing. So, it is there for an important reason, but, hopefully, we can find a solution.

[106] **Mr Jones:** It is currently collected from the farmer at the point of sale, so at least you see something coming back before you lose it.

[107] **Christine Chapman:** Finally, you state in your evidence that you would like to see an approach that gives each devolved levy body a fair share of UK levies, but that, failing this, it is important that a mechanism exists by which new methods of levy collection may be introduced. Can you give examples of the methods that you would suggest?

[108] **Dr Fenwick:** There are many examples throughout the world of different forms of levy. Some are analogous to transfer taxes or transfer levies, and others are levies per animal held on a holding, or per breeding animal. So, there are a range of different models that could be examined to find out what potentially would be the best. However, as I have made clear, it would have to be a process that was handled very carefully and the decision would have to be taken with great care.

[109] **David Lloyd:** Symudwn ymlaen yn awr at y cwestiynau nesaf, sydd o dan law Helen Mary. **David Lloyd:** We will move on to the next questions, which come from Helen Mary.

[110] **Helen Mary Jones:** Yr wyf am gyfeirio at adrannau 8 a 9 y Mesur arfaethedig, sy'n delio â'r wybodaeth sydd angen ei throsglwyddo, ac yn y blaen. Mae adrannau 8 a 9 yn ei gwneud hi'n drosedd os nad ydych yn trosglwyddo'r wybodaeth gywir er mwyn cyfrifo'r lefi, ac maent hefyd **Helen Mary Jones:** I will be referring to sections 8 and 9 of the proposed Measure, which deal with the information that needs to be transferred, and so on. Sections 8 and 9 contain provisions that make it an offence to fail to provide accurate information on which a levy calculation would be based, and to not

yn ei gwneud hi'n drosedd i beidio â chyflwyno'r datganiadau mewn pryd. A gredwch ei fod yn rhesymol i wneud hynny'n drosedd sy'n rwyngwrth ddirwy?

[111] **Mr Jones:** Fe fyddai'n rhaid ichi osod canllawiau yn rhywle neu ni fyddai neb yn datgan dim byd. Rhaid cael rhyw gymhelliad i lenwi'r ffurflenni.

[112] **Dr Fenwick:** Ni ellir cael sefyllfa o rywrai'n codi lefi ar ffermwr ac yna'n bod yn gelwyddog ynghylch yr hyn y maent yn ei roi i Hybu Cig Cymru, heb gael deddfwriaeth i fod yn gefn i Hybu Cig Cymru pan mae'n mynd i'r afael â'r mater.

[113] **Helen Mary Jones:** Felly, fe fyddech chi, fel ffermwyr, yn colli allan mewn dwy ffordd pe bai rhywun yn cymryd yr arian oddi wrthyhych chi ond heb ei drosglwyddo i Hybu Cig Cymru. Deallaf hynny. Yr ydym yn sôn am uchafswm o £5,000. A gredwch taw dyna'r lefel gywir?

[114] **Dr Fenwick:** Nid wyf yn arbenigwr o ran y gyfraith a'r ffordd y caiff dirwyon o'r fath eu pennu, ond fe fyddwn yn pwysleisio bod system yn bodoli eisoes a'i fod yn bwysig bod y pwerau hynny'n parhau yn y dyfodol.

[115] **Helen Mary Jones:** A fyddai hynny i sicrhau ei fod yn gweithio?

[116] **Dr Fenwick:** Byddai.

[117] **Mr Jones:** Mae cymaint o wahaniaeth ynghylch maint y lladd-dai a'u gwaith—mae rhai yn fawr iawn ac eraill yn fach iawn. Felly, byddai'n rhaid gwahaniaethu.

[118] **Helen Mary Jones:** Yr wyf yn siŵr, pe bai rhywbeth felly yn dod o flaen y llys, y byddai'n ystyried hynny. Os yw lladd-dy yn delio â miloedd bob blwyddyn, dylai dalu mwy os nad ydyw'n cydymffurfio.

[119] **Dr Fenwick:** Pwynt pwysig o safbwynt y system bresennol yw nad yw pobl yn mynd i mewn gyda'r heddlu y munud yr aiff rywbeth o'i le. Os yw rhywbeth difrifol yn digwydd, gellir ei drafod yn syth, ac mae proses i'w ddilyn pan aiff rywbeth o'i le, megis tân dros nos. Felly, mae hyblygrwydd

submit returns within required timescales. Do you think that it is reasonable to make such actions an offence subject to a fine?

Mr Jones: You would need to have guidance somewhere otherwise no-one would declare anything. You must have some incentive to fill in the forms.

Dr Fenwick: You cannot have a situation where someone charges the farmer a levy only for them to be mendacious in what they pass on to Hybu Cig Cymru, without having legislation behind that in order to support Hybu Cig Cymru when it tackles the matter.

Helen Mary Jones: So, you, as farmers, would lose out twice if someone took the money from you and did not pass it on to Hybu Cig Cymru. I understand that. We are talking about a maximum of £5,000. Do you think that that is the correct level?

Dr Fenwick: I am not an expert in the law or on how these sorts of fines are determined, but I would emphasise that there is a system already in place and it is important that those powers remain in the future.

Helen Mary Jones: Would that be to ensure that it works?

Dr Fenwick: Yes.

Mr Jones: There is so much of a difference with regard the throughput of abattoirs—some are very big and some are very small. So, there is a need to differentiate.

Helen Mary Jones: I am sure, if something like that came before a court, it would take that into consideration. If an abattoir is dealing with thousands annually, then it should pay more if it does not comply.

Dr Fenwick: An important point as regards the current system is that people do not go in with the police the minute something goes wrong. If something serious happens, it can be discussed, and there is a process to be followed if something goes wrong, such as a fire overnight. So, there is flexibility in the

yn y broses, ac nid oes rhaid mynd i mewn yn syth oherwydd ei fod i lawr ar bapur yn y Ddeddf.

process, and there is no need to go in immediately just because it is written in the Act.

[120] **Helen Mary Jones:** Yn union. Mae rhyw fath o hyblygrwydd yn adran 8 y Mesur arfaethedig ynglŷn â rhoi caniatâd i'r Gweinidog i newid yr amserlen i gyflwyno gwybodaeth. A yw hynny'n berthnasol ac a ddylai gael yr hawl i newid y terfyn amser ar ymateb?

Helen Mary Jones: Exactly. There is some degree of flexibility in section 8 of the proposed Measure with regard to allowing the Minister to change the timetable for providing information. Is that relevant and should she have the right to change the timescale for responses?

[121] **Mr Jones:** Byddwn yn meddwl ei fod yn eithaf rhesymol. Mae problemau anorfod weithiau, sy'n rhesymau digon dilys dros oedi. Droeon eraill, fodd bynnag, efallai eu bod yn hollol fwriadol. Os aiff y peth ymlaen ar yr un sail, mae lle i symud, onid oes?

Mr Jones: I would have thought that it was quite reasonable. Some problems are inevitable and are valid reasons for a delay. Sometimes, however, they might be totally deliberate. If it continues in the same vein, one should be able to follow it through.

[122] **Helen Mary Jones:** Pe bai'n rhaid cynnwys pobl eraill yn yr ardoll yn y dyfodol, er enghraifft, efallai y bydd angen rhoi mwy neu lai o amser iddynt ymateb.

Helen Mary Jones: If other people were to be included in the levy in future, for example, they might need to be given more or less time in which to respond.

[123] Yn y system bresennol, a ydych yn ymwybodol o unrhyw broblemau o ran sicrhau bod hyn yn cael ei weithredu o dan *enforcement procedures*?

Within the present system, are you aware of any problems regarding ensuring that this is carried out under enforcement procedures?

[124] **Dr Fenwick:** Nid wyf yn ymwybodol o hynny.

Dr Fenwick: I am not aware of any.

[125] **Helen Mary Jones:** Mae'n siŵr gennyf y byddech yn ymwybodol pe bai problem fawr. A yw'r system a awgrymir gan y Mesur arfaethedig yn debygol o waethygu'r sefyllfa, neu a gredwch nad oes problem?

Helen Mary Jones: I am sure that you would know if there was a huge problem. Do you believe that the system suggested in the proposed Measure would make things worse, or do you not think that it is a problem?

[126] **Dr Fenwick:** Os nad yw wedi torri, ni ddylid ei drwsio. O leiaf y mae pŵer i'w drwsio os bydd angen gwneud hynny.

Dr Fenwick: If ain't broke, don't fix it. At least there is the power to fix it if becomes necessary.

[127] **David Lloyd:** Daw'r gyfres olaf o gwestiynau am heddiw oddi wrth William Graham.

David Lloyd: The final series of questions for today are in the hands of William Graham.

[128] **William Graham:** I will now turn to sections 10 and 11. Do you think it necessary for the proposed Measure to provide for a justice of the peace to issue a warrant to enter land or premises and search that land or premises?

[129] **Dr Fenwick:** Are you asking whether it is proportionate?

[130] **William Graham:** Yes.

[131] **Dr Fenwick:** My understanding is that that is a fairly standard procedure with regard to

a range of legislation, whether it is a matter of police raids or other things. Therefore, it is completely proportionate and it also provides some security to the business. It is a fair balance. We have trust in the JPs to make the decision and provide those warrants.

[132] **William Graham:** Do you think that the general and specific conditions set out in section 11 of the proposed Measure are appropriate?

[133] **Dr Fenwick:** Yes. I imagine that they reflect other legislation.

[134] **William Graham:** So, your view on the powers conferred by the warrant is that they are quite adequate. Do you think that the need for a warrant offers sufficient protection to those whose dwellings, premises and documentation are affected?

[135] **Mr Jones:** Yes.

[136] **Dr Fenwick:** We have to have faith in our JP system, as we do with other laws.

[137] **William Graham:** Good. Thank you.

[138] **David Lloyd:** Diolch yn fawr. Dyna ddiwedd y cwestiynu. A oes gennych unrhyw sylwadau ychwanegol i'w gwneud cyn cloi? **David Lloyd:** Thank you. Those were the final questions. Do you have any final remarks to make in closing?

[139] **Dr Fenwick:** Nid oes gennyf ddim i'w ychwanegu. Diolch yn fawr. **Dr Fenwick:** I have nothing to add. Thank you.

[140] **David Lloyd:** A wyt ti'n iawn? **David Lloyd:** Are you all right?

[141] **Mr Jones:** Yr wyf yn iawn, diolch. **Mr Jones:** I am fine, thank you.

[142] **David Lloyd:** Diolch yn fawr ichi felly am ateb y cwestiynau mewn ffordd mor raenus a galluog. Fel y dywedais wrth Gwyn Howells, bydd y clerch yn anfon trawsgrifiad drafft o drafodion heddiw atoch er mwyn cadarnhau eu cywirdeb cyn inni eu cyhoeddi yn derfynol. Diolch yn fawr am eich presenoldeb a'ch cyfraniad i'r trafodion am y Mesur arfaethedig sydd gerbron. **David Lloyd:** Thank you therefore for answering the questions in such a professional and able manner. As I told Gwyn Howells, the clerk will send you a draft transcript of this afternoon's proceedings to confirm their accuracy before the final version is published. Thank you for your attendance and for your contribution to the deliberations on the proposed Measure.

[143] Wrth ddirwyn i ben, hysbysaf fy nghyd-Aelodau y cynhelir cyfarfod nesaf y pwyllgor hwn ddydd Iau nesaf, sef 12 Tachwedd, pan fyddwn yn cymryd tystiolaeth gan y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig. Byddwn hefyd yn casglu tystiolaeth gan Undeb Cenedlaethol Amaethwyr Cymru a Chymdeithas Arwerthwyr Da Byw. Tan ddydd Iau nesaf, diolch yn fawr i bawb am eich presenoldeb a diolch i'r cyfieithwyr. In bringing the meeting to a close, I inform my fellow Members that the next meeting of this committee will be held next Thursday, on 12 November, when we will be taking evidence from the Minister for Rural Affairs. We will also be taking evidence from the National Farmers' Union of Wales and the Livestock Auctioneers' Association. Until next Thursday, I thank everyone for their attendance and I thank the interpreters.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 2.18 p.m.
The meeting ended at 2.18 p.m.*

