



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

**Cofnod y Trafodion  
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 1 Rhagfyr 2010  
Wednesday, 1 December 2010**

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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy yn ddi yn y Siambra. Yn y golofn dde, cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad.

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

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 1.30 p.m. gyda'r Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) yn y Gadair.*  
*The Assembly met at 1.30 p.m. with the Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) in the Chair.*

## **Ethol Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro** **Election of a Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer**

**The Deputy Presiding Officer:** In the absence of the Presiding Officer, I will ask the Assembly to elect a temporary Deputy Presiding Officer for the duration of today's Plenary meeting. I therefore invite nominations.

**Peter Black:** I nominate William Graham.

**The Deputy Presiding Officer:** I therefore declare that William Graham is elected as temporary Deputy Presiding Officer for the duration of today's Plenary meeting. I see that that is a welcome appointment.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Yn absenoldeb y Llywydd, gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad ethol Dirprwy Lywydd dros dro ar gyfer Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw. Felly, gwahoddaf enwebiadau.

**Peter Black:** Enwebaf William Graham.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Yr wyf felly'n datgan bod William Graham wedi'i ethol yn Ddirprwy Lywydd dros dro ar gyfer Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw. Gwelaf fod y penodiad hwnnw'n cael ei groesawu.

## **Cwestiynau i'r Cwnsler Cyffredinol** **Questions to the Counsel General**

### **Trafodaethau gyda Llywodraeth y DU**

**1. Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Cwnsler Cyffredinol wedi'u cael yn ddiweddar gyda Llywodraeth y DU.  
OAQ(3)0155(CGE)

**Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Rhaglen Ddeddfwriaethol (John Griffiths):** Yr wyf yn cynnal trafodaethau rheolaidd gyda Llywodraeth y DU, a chefais gyfarfod yn ddiweddar gyda'r Twrnai Cyffredinol.

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Byddwch yn ymwybodol o'r trafodaethau yn San Steffan ynglŷn â thymor penodol ar gyfer y Senedd honno. Byddwch yn ymwybodol hefyd fod gan hynny'r potensial i greu sefyllfa a allai greu dryswch i etholwyr yn 2015, yn enwedig lle bydd rhai etholaethau ar gyfer San Steffan yn wahanol i etholaethau'r Cynulliad. Yr oedd dadl ar hyn yn ddiweddar yn San Steffan. Arweiniodd Jonathan Edwards, Aelod Seneddol Dwyrrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr, y drafodaeth ar y gwelliant, a chael gan y Gweinidog sicrwydd y byddai modd symud etholiadau'r Cynulliad hyd at chwe mis o'r dyddiad sydd wedi ei bennu. Pa drafodaethau ydych chi wedi eu cael â'r Llywodraeth yn San Steffan ar y

### **Discussions with the UK Government**

**1. Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** What recent discussions has the Counsel General had with the UK Government.  
OAQ(3)0155(CGE)

**The Counsel General and Leader of the Legislative Programme (John Griffiths):** I have regular discussions with the UK Government and have recently met with the Attorney General.

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** You will be aware of the discussions in Westminster about a fixed term for Parliament. You will also be aware that that has the potential to create confusion for electors in 2015, particularly where Westminster constituencies are different from those for the Assembly. There was a debate on this recently in Westminster. Jonathan Edwards, the Member of Parliament for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, led the discussion on the amendment, and received an assurance from the Minister that it would be possible to move the Assembly elections by up to six months from the appointed date. What discussions have you had with the Westminster Government on this subject? Do you believe that we should consider moving

pwnc hwn? A gredwch y dylem ystyried symud dyddiad etholiadau'r Cynulliad a sicrhau bod etholwyr yn llawn sylweddoli goblygiadau'r etholiadau iddynt? A fyddch yn ffafrio symud yr etholiadau hynny fwy na chwe mis o'r dyddiad sydd wedi ei bennu eisoes?

**John Griffiths:** As Counsel General, I have not had any direct discussions with the UK Government on these issues. However, the First Minister has been in correspondence with the UK Government and has made it clear that the Welsh Assembly Government is concerned that the Assembly elections in 2015 might be overshadowed, to some extent, if there is that clash with the UK general election. The First Minister is also concerned that a proposed solution that would involve moving the Assembly elections by a few months, which would also risk disrupting the Assembly's budget process, would not be a solution that we would favour. Therefore, as I understand it, the UK Government has made it clear that it has no fixed ideas as to the best solution to these issues, and so, at this stage, we look to it to come forward with a better solution than has been mooted thus far.

the date of the Assembly elections and ensure that electors fully realise the implication of the elections for them? Would you favour moving those elections by more than six months from the appointed date?

**John Griffiths:** Fel Cwnsler Cyffredinol, nid wyf wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau uniongyrchol gyda Llywodraeth y DU ynglŷn â'r materion hyn. Serch hynny, mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi bod yn gohebu â Llywodraeth y DU, ac mae wedi nodi'n glir bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n bryderus y byddai etholiad cyffredinol y DU yn taflu cysgod dros etholiadau'r Cynulliad yn 2015, i ryw raddau, pe baent yn cael eu cynnal yr un pryd. Mae'r Prif Weinidog hefyd yn bryderus na fyddai ateb arfaethedig, a fyddai'n golygu newid dyddiad etholiadau'r Cynulliad o ychydig fisoeedd, ac a fyddai hefyd o bosibl yn amharu ar broses gyllideb y Cynulliad, yn ateb y byddem yn ei ffafrio. Felly, o'r hyn a ddeallaf, mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi nodi'n glir nad oes ganddi syniadau penodol ynglŷn â'r ateb gorau i'r materion hyn, ac ar hyn o bryd, felly, disgwyliwn iddi gynnig ateb gwell nag y mae wedi'i gynnig hyd yn hyn.

## Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Gyflawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

### Masnachu mewn Pobl

**1. Joyce Watson:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am fentrau i fynd i'r afael â masnachu mewn pobl yng Nghymru. OAQ(3)1437(SJL)

**The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Carl Sargeant):** Funding for the anti-human-trafficking co-ordinator and the launch of the online child trafficking training resource, which raises awareness of child trafficking, show that the eradication of human trafficking is a priority for the Welsh Assembly Government. The domestic abuse budget line has also been protected from any reductions this year.

### Human Trafficking

**1. Joyce Watson:** Will the Minister provide an update on initiatives to tackle human trafficking in Wales. OAQ(3)1437(SJL)

**Y Gweinidog dros Gyflawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Carl Sargeant):** Mae cylid ar gyfer y cydgysylltydd atal masnachu mewn pobl a lansio'r adnodd ar-lein ar gyfer atal masnachu mewn plant, sy'n cynyddu ymwybyddiaeth o fasnachu mewn plant, yn dangos bod dileu masnachu mewn pobl yn un o flaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Mae llinell cam-drin domestig y gyllideb hefyd wedi cael ei diogelu rhag unrhyw gwtogiadau eleni.

**Joyce Watson:** Thank you for that answer, Minister. I wish to congratulate and thank you for your personal dedication and determination to tackle this issue head on. ‘The Right to be Safe’ strategy, which was launched in March, firmly set the agenda on the Assembly Government’s commitment to supporting the victims of human trafficking. The recent announcement that a new post of anti-human-trafficking co-ordinator would be set up in line with the recommendations in my report, ‘Knowing No Boundaries’, makes clear the Assembly Government’s commitment to exposing this abhorrent crime and bringing more traffickers to justice. Will the Minister confirm that in the run-up to the Olympics, and other major events, there will be extra vigilance to stamp out trafficking before it has a chance to establish in communities? We all know that no area or event is immune from this largely hidden crime, and recent police intelligence clearly indicates that it is on the increase.

**Carl Sargeant:** As you are aware, I have made a commitment on this and it is one of my priorities to stop domestic abuse, violence against women and trafficking, and I know that you have made a huge contribution in this field by publishing a report earlier in the year. Your report highlighted this crime and, on the back of that report, we developed the anti-human-trafficking post, which is due to be filled early in the new year. Again, the issue around the Olympics and other major sporting events is something that I am aware of. In addition to this, I have asked my colleagues to work very closely with the British Transport Police, the bus companies and other transport providers around large events to ensure that the communications that they use keep women and children safe on the potential trafficking routes that could be used.

**The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne):** On behalf of everyone in the Assembly, I congratulate Joyce Watson on

**Joyce Watson:** Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Hoffwn eich llonyfarch a diolch i chi am eich ymrwymiad a’ch ymrwymiad personol i fynd i’r afael â’r mater hwn ar ei ben. Yr oedd strategaeth ‘Yr Hawl i fod yn Ddiogel’, a lansiwyd ym Mawrth, yn gosod yr agenda’n glir o ran ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i gefnogi dioddefwyr masnachu mewn pobl. Mae’r cyhoeddiad yn ddiweddar ynglŷn â sefydlu swydd newydd cydgysylltydd atal masnachu mewn pobl, yn unol â’r argymhellion yn fy adroddiad, ‘Knowing No Boundaries’, yn arwydd clir o ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i dynnu sylw at y drosedd ffiaidd hon a dod â mwy o fasnachwyr o flaen eu gwell. A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau y bydd yn cadw mwy o wyliadwriaeth, cyn y gemau Olympaidd, a digwyddiadau mawr eraill, er mwyn dileu masnachu mewn pobl cyn iddo gael cyfle i wreiddio mewn cymunedau? Gŵyr pob un ohonom nad oes unrhyw faes na digwyddiad yn rhydd rhag y drosedd gudd hon, ac mae cudd-wybodaeth a gafwyd gan yr heddlu yn ddiweddar yn dangos yn glir ei bod ar gynnydd.

**Carl Sargeant:** Fel y gwyddoch, yr wyf wedi gwneud ymrwymiad ynglŷn â hyn ac un o’m blaenoriaethau yw atal cam-drin domestig, traus yn erbyn merched a masnachu mewn pobl. Gwn eich bod chithau wedi gwneud cyfraniad aruthrol yn y maes hwn drwy gyhoeddi adroddiad yn gynharach yn y flwyddyn. Yr oedd eich adroddiad yn tynnu sylw at y drosedd hon ac, yn dilyn yr adroddiad hwnnw, datblygasom y swydd atal masnachu mewn pobl, a fydd yn cael ei llenwi yn gynnar yn y flwyddyn newydd. Mae’r gemau Olympaidd a digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr eraill hefyd yn faterion yr wyf yn ymwybodol ohonynt. Yn ychwanegol at hyn, yr wyf wedi gofyn i’m cyfeillion weithio mewn cysylltiad agos iawn â Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain, y cwmniau bysiau a darparwyr trafnidiaeth eraill sy’n ymwneud â digwyddiadau mawr er mwyn sicrhau bod y dulliau cyfathrebu a ddefnyddir ganddynt yn cadw merched a phlant yn ddiogel ar y llwybrau masnachu posibl a allai gael eu defnyddio.

**Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne):** Ar ran pawb yn y Cynulliad, hoffwn llonyfarch Joyce Watson am sicrhau bod y

keeping this important issue high on the agenda. I also commend the Minister on the work that he has undertaken, and I am sure that he has the support of the whole Chamber for that. This does particularly relate to big events and I welcome the Minister's proactive approach. I ask that we keep this high on the agenda by having periodic written statements of progress on this issue; that would be most welcome.

mater pwysig hwn yn dal yn uchel ar yr agenda. Yr wyf hefyd yn canmol y Gweinidog am y gwaith y mae ef wedi ei wneud, ac rwy'n siŵr bod pawb yn y Siambwr yn cefnogi'r gwaith hwnnw. Nid oes a wnelo hyn â digwyddiadau mawr yn benodol ac rwy'n croesawu agwedd ragweithiol y Gweinidog. Mae angen inni gadw'r mater hwn yn uchel ar yr agenda drwy gael datganiadau ysgrifenedig bob hyn a hyn ynglŷn â chynnydd; byddai hynny'n cael ei groesawu'n fawr.

**Carl Sargeant:** Thank you, Nick. I am grateful for the support that the Assembly has given to me, and thank Members for it. Joyce Watson has led the charge on this and keeps knocking on my door at regular intervals to ensure that we are fully appraised of the situation across Wales and the UK. I am committed to this and, on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government, I will be happy to keep you updated through letters or the occasional statement in the Chamber.

**Carl Sargeant:** Diolch, Nick. Rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r Cynulliad am y gefnogaeth, a hoffwn fynegi fy niolch i'r Aelodau. Mae Joyce Watson wedi dangos y ffordd ac mae'n dal i guro ar fy nrws bob hyn a hyn er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn cael darlun llawn o'r sefyllfa mewn gwahanol rannau o Gymru ac yn y DU. Rwyf wedi ymrwymo i hyn a byddwn yn fodlon rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ichi, ar ran Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, drwy lythyrau neu ddatganiad achlysuol yn y Siambwr.

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Cyfeiriaf at ddau beth y mae'r Llywodraeth yn San Steffan wedi'u penderfynu yn ddiweddar. Yn y lle cyntaf, penderfynodd y glymblaidd yn San Steffan beidio â dod yn rhan o'r cyfarwyddyd Ewropeaidd a fyddai wedi cryfhau'r pwerau o fewn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd i geisio rheoli'r fasnach mewn pobl a sicrhau bod pobl a oedd yn ceisio elwa ohoni yn cael eu cosbi. Byddwn yn falch iawn o gael eich barn ar hynny. Hefyd, mae'r glymblaidd yn San Steffan wedi penderfynu lleihau'n sylweddol y cyfraniad ariannol a wneir i Gyngor y Ffoaduriaid. Beth fydd effaith hynny yng Nghymru?

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** I refer to two things that the Westminster Government has decided recently. In the first place, the coalition in Westminster decided not to become part of the European directive that would have strengthened powers within the European Union to try to control human trafficking and ensure that people who tried to benefit from it were punished. I would be keen to hear your views on that. Also, the coalition in Westminster has decided to significantly reduce the financial contribution it makes to the Refugee Council. What impact will that have in Wales?

**Carl Sargeant:** Obviously, I am not responsible for the non-devolved issues that Westminster presides over, but there are huge implications for the people who live, work and travel through and around Wales. On your last point on the funding support for refugees in Wales, I am extremely concerned about the level of support that has indicatively been issued to the Welsh Refugee Council. I have asked my department to look at this very closely because the closure of services and non-service provision across Wales will have a

**Carl Sargeant:** Wrth gwrs, nid wyf yn gyfrifol am y materion heb eu datganoli sy'n cael eu goruchwyllo gan San Steffan, ond mae goblygiadau aruthrol i'r bobl sy'n byw, gweithio a theithio drwy Gymru ac o amgylch Cymru. O ran eich pwynt olaf ynglŷn â'r cymorth ariannol i ffroaduriaid yng Nghymru, rwy'n bryderus iawn ynglŷn â faint o gymorth sydd wedi cael ei roi'n ddangosol i Gyngor Ffoaduriaid Cymru. Rwyf wedi gofyn i'm hadran edrych yn ofalus iawn ar hyn oherwydd bydd terfynu gwasanaethau a darpariaeth arall ar wahân i

huge impact.

### Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol

**2. Darren Millar:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyllid llywodraeth leol. OAQ(3)1408(SJL)

**Carl Sargeant:** I announced details of the local government settlement on 23 November. For 2011-12, local authorities in Wales will receive over £4 billion through the local government revenue settlement, which is a reduction of 1.4 per cent on the 2010-11 settlement.

**Darren Millar:** Thank you for that answer, Minister. As you know, the local authority settlement is a challenging one for the next few years, and local authorities will be required to find some efficiency savings in order to drive down costs for the benefit of local taxpayers.

1.40 p.m.

Can you tell me whether you have any plans to adopt the approach that is being taken in England to help to identify efficiencies, which is to unleash armchair auditors across the country and to request that local authorities publish online details of any expenditure over £500? There have already been significant results in some parts of the country, with the armchair auditors identifying significant savings for local councils. Would you consider introducing that approach here?

**Carl Sargeant:** I am aware of those proposals in England, but I do not propose to follow the same track in Wales, as I believe that the figures that local government already provides allow for good levels of scrutiny. Should you have any specific concerns in that regard, I would be happy for you to write to me on those.

**Ann Jones:** Minister, although it is a challenging settlement, I am sure that local authorities realise that they are better off with a Labour-led Assembly Government setting out their revenue support grant. Clearly, the

wasanaethau ledled Cymru'n cael effaith fawr iawn.

### Local Government Finances

**2. Darren Millar:** Will the Minister make a statement on local government finances. OAQ(3)1408(SJL)

**Carl Sargeant:** Cyhoeddais fanylion y setliad i lywodraeth leol ar 23 Tachwedd. Ar gyfer 2011-12, bydd awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru'n cael dros £4 biliwn drwy'r setliad refeniu llywodraeth leol, sef 1.4 y cant yn llai na setliad 2010-11.

**Darren Millar:** Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Fel y gwyddoch, mae'r setliad awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer y blynnyddoedd nesaf yn un anodd, a bydd yn ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol ddod o hyd i arbedion effeithlonrwydd er mwyn lleihau costau er budd trethdalwyr lleol.

A allwch ddweud wrthyf a oes gennych unrhyw gynlluniau i fabwysiadu'r dull sy'n cael ei ddefnyddio yn Lloegr er mwyn helpu i nodi arbedion, sef rhoi archwiliwyr cadair freichiau ar waith ar hyd a lled y wlad a gofyn i awdurdodau lleol gyhoeddi manylion ar-lein am unrhyw wariant dros £500? Gwelwyd canlyniadau arwyddocaol yn barod mewn rhai rhannau o'r wlad, gyda'r archwiliwyr cadair freichiau'n nodi arbedion sylweddol i gynghorau lleol. A fydd yn ystyried cyflwyno'r dull hwnnw yma?

**Carl Sargeant:** Rwy'n ymwybodol o'r cynlluniau hynny yn Lloegr, ond nid wyf yn bwriadu dilyn yr un trywydd yng Nghymru, gan fy mod yn credu bod y ffigurau y mae llywodraeth leol yn eu darparu'n barod yn caniatáu lefelau craffu da. Pe bai gennych unrhyw bryderon penodol ynglŷn â hynny, byddai croeso i chi ysgrifennu ataf ynglŷn â hwy.

**Ann Jones:** Weinidog, er bod y setliad yn un anodd, rwy'n siŵr bod awdurdodau lleol yn sylweddoli eu bod yn well eu byd â Llywodraeth Cynulliad dan arweiniad Llafur yn pennu eu grant cynnal refeniu. Mae'n

average reduction in Wales of 1.4 per cent is far better than the 2.3 per cent reduction that English authorities will receive from the Westminster Government. Do you know the difference in monetary terms between that 1.4 and 2.3 per cent, to help Denbighshire County Council to celebrate the fact that it is a Labour-led Assembly Government that is looking at its revenue support grant?

**Carl Sargeant:** That is an interesting question, Ann. It is a tribute to the Welsh Assembly Government that the local government settlement has been supported throughout the UK over the past two weeks. Tony Travers from the London School of Economics said that,

‘The Welsh Assembly Government has given councils in Wales an early Christmas present’.

The 22 authorities in Wales have all been relatively positive in their response to the settlement, which has never been known before. Yesterday, my colleague, the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning, announced that Wales would once again be going down a different path, which we should celebrate. The difference between England and Wales is significant. This is a rough estimate, Ann, but if Denbighshire had received the settlement given to English authorities, there would have been a difference of about £1 million. In total, the difference equates to local government in Wales being around £40 million better off than local government in England.

**Jenny Randerson:** Minister, the settlement is indeed tight, and we fully appreciate that there is no choice about it. In fact, Cardiff Council has done relatively well out of the settlement, compared with other local authorities, but, although it appreciates its position, its finance spokesperson pointed out to me that the increase of 0.54 per cent in its funding amounts to less than the cost of sending one child with special needs away to school. That puts the situation for all local authorities in perspective. Therefore, the tendency may be for authorities to feel that they have to increase the council tax by a considerable amount. I asked you before the

amlwg bod y gostyngiad cyfartalog o 1.4 y cant yng Nghymru yn llawer gwell na'r gostyngiad o 2.3 y cant y bydd awdurdodau Lloegr yn ei gael gan Lywodraeth San Steffan. A ydych yn gwybod y gwahaniaeth mewn termau ariannol rhwng yr 1.4 a'r 2.3 y cant, er mwyn helpu Cyngor Sir Ddinbych i ddathlu'r ffaith mai Llywodraeth Cynulliad dan arweiniad Llafur sy'n edrych ar ei grant cynnal refeniw?

**Carl Sargeant:** Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn diddorol, Ann. Mae'n deyrnged i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru bod y setliad llywodraeth leol wedi cael ei gefnogi ledled y DU yn ystod y pythefnos diwethaf. Yn ôl Tony Travers o Ysgol Economeg Llundain,

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi rhoi anrheg Nadolig cynnar i gynghorau Cymru.

Mae'r 22 awdurdod yng Nghymru i gyd wedi ymateb yn wedol gadarnhaol i'r setliad, ac nid yw hynny erioed wedi digwydd o'r blaen. Ddoe, cyhoeddodd fy nghyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, y byddai Cymru'n dilyn llwybr gwahanol unwaith eto, a dylem ddathlu hynny. Mae gwahaniaeth mawr rhwng Cymru a Lloegr. Bras amcan yw hwn, Ann, ond pe bai sir Ddinbych wedi cael y setliad sydd wedi cael ei roi i awdurdodau yn Lloegr, byddai gwahaniaeth o tua £1 miliwn. Yn ei grynwth, mae'r gwahaniaeth yn golygu bod llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru tua £40 miliwn yn well ei byd na llywodraeth leol yn Lloegr.

**Jenny Randerson:** Weinidog, mae'r setliad yn un llym iawn, ac rydym yn deall yn iawn nad oes dewis arall. A dweud y gwir, mae'r setliad wedi bod yn un cymharol dda i Gyngor Caerdydd, o'i gymharu ag awdurdodau lleol eraill, ond, er ei fod yn deall y sefyllfa, dywedodd y llefarydd cyllid wrthyf fod y cynnydd o 0.54 y cant yn ei gyllid yn llai na chost anfon un plentyn ag anghenion arbennig i ffwrdd i ysgol. Mae hynny'n rhoi'r sefyllfa ar gyfer yr holl awdurdodau mewn perspectif. Felly, y duedd efallai yw i awdurdodau deimlo bod yn rhaid iddynt gyflwyno cynnydd sylweddol yn y dreth gyngor. Gofynnais ichi cyn y gyllideb a

budget whether you were planning to put a cap in place, and you said that I should wait until after the budget was published. I ask you again, therefore, Minister: are you planning to put a cap on council tax increases this year?

**Carl Sargeant:** My position is that I stand ready to use my capping powers if necessary, and I believe that local authorities would be wise to consider that in their precept-setting arrangements. I have not received any indication as yet that authorities are considering large increases in their precepts, but I will use my capping powers if I need to.

**Chris Franks:** Minister, what discussions have you and the Minister for education had about school reserves and council reserves? Regardless of who is speaking for the opposition today on finance and health matters, what would be the impact on local government finances and on school budgets if the Conservative Party's spending plans were introduced in Wales?

**Carl Sargeant:** This was referred to yesterday and in the many mixed messages that we have received over the past few weeks. There has been a reshuffle on the Conservative benches and I should have welcomed Jonathan Morgan earlier to his new role, shadowing my portfolio over the coming months. It is nice to see him on the front benches.

The leader of the opposition mentioned a figure of around 20 per cent cuts to the education budget if his party were to ring-fence the health budget. You can take from that what you will, Chris, but if we were to follow the same programme as the Conservatives and the Lib Dems wish to pursue, that would mean school closures and cuts to education services.

**Alun Davies:** Minister, I was fascinated by your answer to Ann Jones's question. It would be useful for us all if you were able to publish the figures for all local authorities, so that we could all see for ourselves the real impact of your policies and the policies and approach of this Government. Can you also give an assurance that, unlike the Conservative Government in London, you

oeddech yn bwriadu gosod cap, a dywedasoch y dylwn aros tan ar ôl i'r gyllideb gael ei chyhoeddi. Gofynnaf ichi eto, felly, Weinidog: a ydych yn bwriadu capio cynnydd mewn trethi cyngor eleni?

**Carl Sargeant:** Rwy'n barod i ddefnyddio fy mhwerau capio os bydd angen, a chredaf y byddai'n ddoeth i awdurdodau lleol ystyried hynny yn eu trefniadau pennu praecept. Nid wyf wedi cael unrhyw awgrym eto bod awdurdodau'n ystyried cynnydd sylweddol yn eu praeceptau, ond byddaf yn defnyddio fy mhwerau capio os bydd angen.

**Chris Franks:** Weinidog, pa drafodaethau yr ydych chi a'r Gweinidog dros addysg wedi eu cael ynglŷn â chronfeydd wrth gefn ysgolion a chyngchorau? Pwy bynnag sy'n siarad ar ran yr wrthblaid heddiw ar faterion cyllid ac iechyd, beth fyddai'r effaith ar gyllid llywodraeth leol ac ar gyllidebau ysgolion pe bai cynlluniau gwariant y Blaid Geidwadol yn cael eu cyflwyno yng Nghymru?

**Carl Sargeant:** Cyfeiriwyd at hyn ddoe ac yn y negeseuon cymysg niferus yr ydym wedi eu cael yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf. Mae meinciau'r Ceidwadwyr wedi cael eu hadn-drefnu a dylwn fod wedi croesawu Jonathan Morgan yn gynharach i'w rôl newydd yn cysgodi fy mhortffolio yn ystod y misoedd nesaf. Mae'n braf ei weld ar y meinciau blaen.

Cyfeiriodd arweinydd yr wrthblaid at doriadau o tua 20 y cant i'r gyllideb addysg pe bai ei blaid ef yn neilltuo'r gyllideb iechyd. Gallwch ddehongli hynny fel y mynnwch, Chris, ond pe baem yn dilyn yr un rhaglen ag y mae'r Ceidwadwyr a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn dymuno ei dilyn, byddai hynny'n golygu cau ysgolion a thorri gwasanaethau addysg.

**Alun Davies:** Weinidog, yr oeddwn yn gwrando'n astud ar eich ateb i gwestiwn Ann Jones. Byddai'n ddefnyddiol i bob un ohonom pe galleg gyhoeddi'r ffigurau ar gyfer pob awdurdod lleol, er mwyn inni i gyd allu gweld drosom ein hunain beth yw gwir effaith eich polisiau chi a pholisiau a dull gweithredu'r Llywodraeth hon. A allwch hefyd ein sicrhau y byddwch chi, yn wahanol

will ensure that we continue to defend local services and local authorities and place an emphasis on protecting local government, rather than dismantling it?

i'r Llywodraeth Geidwadol yn Llundain, yn sicrhau ein bod yn dal i amddiffyn gwasanaethau lleol ac awdurdodau lleol ac yn rhoi pwyslais ar ddiogelu llywodraeth leol, yn hytrach na'i datgymalu?

**Carl Sargeant:** Thank you, Alun, for your consensual question. On the £40 million, it is only a rough measure, but it is quite accurate as a figure for all authorities. As I said, Denbighshire would receive around £1 million less if we followed the English model. I have similar figures for the other 21 authorities, which I would be happy to share with Members, but on the basis that they are rough and ready figures.

**Carl Sargeant:** Diolch, Alun, am eich cwestiwn cydysniol. O ran y £40 miliwn, dim ond bras amcan yw hynny, ond mae'n ddigon cywir fel ffigur ar gyfer yr holl awdurdodau. Fel y dywedais, byddai sir Ddinbych yn cael tua £1 miliwn yn llai pe baem yn dilyn model Lloegr. Mae gennyf ffigurau tebyg ar gyfer yr 21 awdurdod arall, a byddwn yn fodlon eu dangos i'r Aelodau, ond ar y sail mai ffigurau ffwrdd â hi ydynt.

### Hyrwyddo Cydraddoldeb y Rhywiau

### Promoting Gender Equality

**3. David Melding:** *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb rhwng y rhywiau yng Nghymru. OAQ(3)1426(SJL)*

**3. David Melding:** *Will the Minister make a statement on promoting gender equality in Wales. OAQ(3)1426(SJL)*

**Carl Sargeant:** The Sex Discrimination Act 1975, as amended by the Equality Act 2006, places a requirement on the Welsh Ministers in carrying out its functions to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment, and to promote equality of opportunity between men and women.

**Carl Sargeant:** Mae Deddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Rhyw 1975, fel y'i diwygiwyd gan Ddeddf Cydraddoldeb 2006, yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i Weinidogion Cymru roi sylw dyledus, wrth gyflawni swyddogaethau'r ddeddf, i'r angen i ddileu gwahaniaethu anghyfreithlon ac aflonyddu, a hybu cyfle cyfartal rhwng dynion a merched.

**David Melding:** Minister, last year, the Equality and Human Rights Commission polled Wales's top 100 companies, and not one had a chief executive who was a woman. The public sector does not do particularly well either, given that only three of the 16 chief executives in the NHS are women. Your Government, in fairness, has done a lot to close the pay gap, but there is still an awfully long way to go for women who aspire to achieve high executive office because, it would appear, there are substantial barriers in their way.

**David Melding:** Weinidog, y llynedd, holodd y Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol y 100 cwmni mwyaf yng Nghymru, ac nid oedd gan yr un ohonynt brif weithredwr benywaidd. Nid yw'r sector cyhoeddus yn gwneud yn dda iawn ychwaith, ac ystyried mai dim ond tri o'r 16 prif weithredwr yn y GIG sy'n ferched. Mae eich Llywodraeth chi, a bod yn deg, wedi gwneud llawer i gau'r bwlch cyflogau, ond mae llawer o waith i'w wneud eto er mwyn galluogi merched i ddal swyddi gweithredol uchel, oherwydd mae'n ymddangos bod rhwystrau mawr yn eu hatal.

**Carl Sargeant:** This is very challenging. I meet with the EHRC regularly—indeed, I met its representatives yesterday—and we have a good dialogue on achieving the objective of closing the pay gap and on equality duties. We should be proud of the delivery of services in Wales compared with what is happening in England and Scotland. I

**Carl Sargeant:** Mae hon yn her fawr. Ryw'n cyfarfod y Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol yn rheolaidd—cyfarfum â'i gynrychiolwyr ddoe fel mae'n digwydd—ac rydym yn cael trafodaethau da ynglŷn â chyflawni'r nod o gau'r bwlch cyflogau ac ynglŷn â dyletswyddau cydraddoldeb. Dylem fod yn falch o'r modd y mae gwasanaethau'n

understand that some budget issues in England and Scotland are being challenged by the EHRC, but in Wales we do not appear to be subject to the same levels of concern, which is good. On equal pay and closing the pay gap, I am pushing the boundaries, through the equality duty and specific duties under the Equality Act 2006 that will come into place in April, to ensure that we are all in this together across the public sector. Unless there is a good excuse why a public body should not be a part of the programme, it will have to come to me to explain why it wants to opt out of the specific equal opportunity duties, which must be complied with.

cael eu darparu yng Nghymru o'i gymharu â'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn Lloegr a'r Alban. Deallaf fod rhai materion cyllidebol yn Lloegr a'r Alban yn cael eu herio gan y Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol, ond nid yw'n ymddangos bod cymaint o bryder yma yng Nghymru, ac mae hynny'n beth da. O ran cyflog cyfartal a chau'r bwlcw cyflogau, rwy'n gwthio'r ffiniau, drwy'r ddyletswydd cydraddoldeb a dyletswyddau penodol dan Ddeddf Cydraddoldeb 2006 a fydd yn dod i rym yn Ebrill, er mwyn sicrhau ein bod i gyd yn wynebu hyn gyda'n gilydd yn y sector cyhoeddus. Os nad oes gan gorff cyhoeddus reswm da dros beidio â bod yn rhan o'r rhaglen, bydd yn rhaid iddo ddod ataf fi ac egluro pam y mae'n dymuno cael ei eithrio o'r dyletswyddau cyfle cyfartal penodol y mae'n rhaid cydymffurfio â hwy.

### **Brwydro yn erbyn Trais Domestig**

**4. Joyce Watson:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am fentrau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i frwydro yn erbyn traes domestig yng Nghymru. OAQ(3)1436(SJL)

**Carl Sargeant:** The Welsh Assembly Government published 'The Right to be Safe', a six-year integrated strategy for tackling forms of violence against women, in March 2010. An implementation plan for 2010-13 has been developed to support the delivery of that strategy and the existing domestic abuse strategy, 'Tackling Domestic Abuse'.

**Joyce Watson:** Thank you for that answer. I will start by welcoming the decision by the Welsh Assembly Government to protect the budget line for domestic abuse services, which amounts to £4.4 million for the coming year. The Assembly Government has put considerable investment into the Wales domestic abuse helpline, for example, and in Meic, which is a helpline service for children and young people so that they get the help and support that they need. We all know that tackling the issue is about more than simply being able to spend money; it is about changing society's attitude towards domestic abuse. The huge support shown for White Ribbon Day only last week clearly reveals

### **Combating Domestic Violence**

**4. Joyce Watson:** Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to combat domestic violence in Wales. OAQ(3)1436(SJL)

**Carl Sargeant:** Cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru 'Yr Hawl i fod yn Ddiogel', strategaeth integredig chwe blynedd i fynd i'r afael â gwahanol fathau o drais yn erbyn merched, ym Mawrth 2010. Mae cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer 2010-13 wedi cael ei ddatblygu er mwyn helpu i weithredu'r strategaeth honno a'r strategaeth bresennol ar gyfer cam-drin domestig, 'Mynd i'r Afael â Cham-drin yn y Cartref'.

**Joyce Watson:** Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. Dechreuaf drwy groesawu'r penderfyniad gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ddiogelu llinell y gyllideb ar gyfer gwasanaethau cam-drin domestig, sy'n £4.4 miliwn ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi buddsoddi llawer yn llinell gymorth cam-drin domestig Cymru, er enghraifft, ac yn Meic, sef gwasanaeth llinell gymorth i blant a phobl ifanc er mwyn iddynt gael y cymorth a'r gefnogaeth y mae arnynt ei hangen. Gwyddom i gyd fod angen gwneud mwy na gwario arian er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r broblem; mae angen newid agwedd cymdeithas tuag at gam-drin domestig. Mae'r gefnogaeth aruthrol a

the public's warmth towards helping women and children suffering from various forms of abuse and violence. Will the Minister join me in calling on all those suffering from abuse to reach out for help by calling the domestic abuse helpline and using the Meic child helpline?

ddangoswyd yr wythnos diwethaf i'r Diwrnod Rhuban Gwyn yn dangos yn glir pa mor awyddus yw'r cyhoedd i helpu merched a phlant sy'n dioddef o wahanol fathau o gamdriniaeth a thrais. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ymuno â mi i alw ar bawb sy'n cael ei gamdrin i ofyn am gymorth drwy ffonio'r llinell gymorth cam-drin domestig a defnyddio Meic, y llinell gymorth ar gyfer plant?

1.50 p.m.

**Carl Sargeant:** We take this very seriously. I have visited about 10 domestic abuse support centres across Wales since becoming Minister—that is around one a month. That shows my commitment and support to the people on the front line delivering these services. We have supported the domestic abuse helpline. Unfortunately, it is extremely successful—and I say ‘unfortunately’ because it means that people are calling the line increasingly. That is what it is there for, but it is sad that we have to have it. I would encourage those who are going through this to be brave enough to call the domestic abuse helpline. You will be pleased to hear that I have signed off a submission today to support a Christmas campaign to tackle domestic abuse. That will be announced within the next week or two.

**Carl Sargeant:** Rydym yn cymryd hyn o ddifrif. Rwyf wedi ymweld â thua 10 canolfan gymorth cam-drin domestig ledled Cymru ers dod yn Weinidog—oddeutu un y mis. Mae hynny'n dangos fy ymrwymiad a'm cefnogaeth i'r bobl ar y rheng flaen sy'n darparu'r gwasanaethau hyn. Rydym wedi cefnogi'r llinell gymorth cam-drin domestig. Yn anffodus, mae'n hynod lwyddiannus—ac rwy'n dweud 'yn anffodus' oherwydd mae'n golygu bod mwy a mwy o bobl yn galw'r llinell. Dyna pam y mae yno, ond mae'n drist ein bod yn gorfod ei chael. Byddwn yn annog y rhai hynny sy'n mynd drwy hyn i fod yn ddigon dewr i alw'r llinell gymorth cam-drin domestig. Byddwch yn falch o glywed fy mod wedi cymeradwyo cyflwyniad i gefnogi ymgyrch Nadolig i fynd i'r afael â cham-drin domestig heddiw. Bydd cyhoeddiad yn cael wneud ymhen wythnos neu ddwy.

**William Graham:** Will you join me in paying tribute to Pontypool Rugby Football Club, which has recently launched and played the white ribbon cup to raise awareness and funds to combat domestic abuse in Torfaen? With two people killed by their partners in the United Kingdom each week, the work of White Ribbon Day internationally and of the likes of Torfaen Women's Aid is clearly invaluable. Minister, you have already suggested that you have signed off something to do with the Wales domestic abuse hotline. I presume that you will clarify how you will publicise that very useful provision.

**William Graham:** A wnewch ymuno â mi i roi teyrnged i Glwb Rygbi Pont-y-pŵl, sydd wedi lansio a chwarae am y cwpan rhuban gwyn yn ddiweddar i gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth a chodi arian er mwyn mynd i'r afael â cham-drin domestig yn Nhorfaen? Mae dau unigolyn yn cael eu lladd gan eu partneriaid yn y Deyrnas Unedig bob wythnos, felly mae'n amlwg bod gwaith y Diwrnod Rhuban Gwyn yn rhyngwladol a mudiadau tebyg i Gymorth i Fenywod Torfaen yn amhrisiadwy. Weinidog, rydych eisoes wedi awgrymu eich bod wedi cymeradwyo rhywbeth sy'n gysylltiedig â llinell gymorth cam-drin domestig Cymru. Rwy'n cymryd y byddwch yn egluro sut y byddwch yn rhoi cyhoeddusrwydd i'r ddarpariaeth hynod ddefnyddiol honno.

**Carl Sargeant:** As you are aware, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was on 25

**Carl Sargeant:** Fel y gwyddoch, dydd Iau diwethaf, 25 Tachwedd oedd Diwrnod Rhyngwladol Diddymu Trais yn erbyn

November, Thursday of last week. Many Members supported that event, and Joyce Watson supported it by selling white ribbons. We are keen to ensure that the Welsh Assembly Government plays its part in combating this scourge on society. As part of the Christmas campaign, there will be advertising on billboards and radio. There is a huge link between alcohol consumption and domestic abuse, and so we will also put posters in pubs and public toilets, which will be seen by many. There will be a target audience, and I will write to Members about the detail of the campaign when I release the information at the end of this week.

**Helen Mary Jones:** Minister, I know that you believe, as I do, that work with children in refuges and directly with children and young people who have suffered domestic abuse or witnessed it is very important, and I know that you and your officials have been engaged in ongoing discussions about the long-term funding of that work, both with the Women's Aid movement and with voluntary sector funders where there may be some threats to those funds. Can you give the Assembly an update on those discussions, and will you take this opportunity to confirm this Government's ongoing support for work not only with children and young people on awareness-raising, but direct work with children and young people in refuges?

**Carl Sargeant:** Of course. Thank you for that very important question. My officials have been working with many organisations, including BBC Children in Need. My understanding is that there is no immediate threat of a reduction in the service. I would be happy to write to you on the detail, but this Government takes this matter very seriously, which is why I have not made a reduction to that budget line. We believe that this is absolutely the right thing to do to support women and children in refuges who need the support that many voluntary organisations provide.

Menywod. Cefnogwyd y digwyddiad hwnnw gan nifer o'r Aelodau, a chefnogodd Joyce Watson ef drwy werthu rhurbanau gwyn. Rydym yn awyddus i sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r pla hwn yn ein cymdeithas. Fel rhan o'r ymgyrch Nadolig, defnyddir hysbysebion ar fyrrdau arddangos ac ar y radio. Mae cysylltiad agos iawn rhwng yfed alcohol a cham-drin domestig, felly byddwn hefyd yn rhoi posteri mewn tafarnau a thoiledau cyhoeddus, fel bod llawer o bobl yn eu gweld. Targedir cynulleidfa benodol, a byddaf yn ysgrifennu at yr Aelodau i roi manylion yr ymgyrch pan fyddaf yn rhyddhau'r wybodaeth ddiwedd yr wythnos hon.

**Helen Mary Jones:** Weinidog, gwn eich bod chi, fel fi, yn credu bod gweithio gyda phlant mewn llochesau, a gweithio'n uniongyrchol gyda phlant a phobl ifanc sydd wedi dioddef cam-drin domestig, neu sydd wedi bod yn dyst iddo, yn bwysig iawn, a gwn eich bod chi a'ch swyddogion wedi bod yn cymryd rhan mewn trafodaethau ynglŷn â chyllid hirdymor ar gyfer y gwaith hwnnw, gyda mudiad Cymorth i Fenywod a chydag arianwyr y sector gwirfoddol lle mae'n bosibl bod rhywfaint o fygythiad i'r cyllid hwnnw. A allwch ddweud wrth y Cynulliad beth yw'r diweddaraf ynglŷn â'r trafodaethau hynny, ac a wnewch fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i gadarnhau cefnogaeth barhaus y Llywodraeth hon i waith gyda phlant a phobl ifanc er mwyn cynyddu ymwybyddiaeth, ynghyd â gwaith uniongyrchol gyda phlant a phobl ifanc mewn llochesau?

**Carl Sargeant:** Wrth gwrs. Diolch am y cwestiwn hynod bwysig hwnnw. Mae fy swyddogion wedi bod yn gweithio gyda llawer o sefydliadau, gan gynnwys Plant mewn Angen y BBC. Nid oes bygythiad uniongyrchol o leihad yn y gwasanaeth hyd y gwelaf. Byddwn yn fodlon ysgrifennu atoch ynglŷn â'r manylion, ond mae'r Llywodraeth hon yn cymryd y mater hwn o ddifrif, a dyna pam nad wyf wedi cwtogi'r llinell honno yn y gyllideb. Credwn mai dyma'r peth iawn i'w wneud, heb os nac oni bai, er mwyn cynorthwyo merched a phlant mewn llochesau sydd angen y gefnogaeth y mae llawer o fudiadau gwirfoddol yn ei darparu.

Amcanion	Objectives
<b>5. Darren Millar:</b> A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei amcanion ar gyfer y 12 mis nesaf. OAQ(3)1443(SJL)	<b>5. Darren Millar:</b> Will the Minister outline his objectives for the next 12 months. OAQ(3)1443(SJL)
<b>Carl Sargeant:</b> We will ensure the delivery of our ‘One Wales’ commitments. We will continue to promote safe, sustainable and fair communities and to protect the vulnerable. A review of local authority services is under way, and the Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure will strengthen the operation of local government.	<b>Carl Sargeant:</b> Byddwn yn sicrhau bod ein hymrwymiadau yn ‘Cymru’n Un’ yn cael eu cyflawni. Byddwn yn dal i hybu cymunedau diogel, cynaliadwy a theg ac yn diogelu’r rhai sy’n agored i niwed. Mae adolygiad o wasanaethau awdurdodau lleol yn cael ei gynnal, a bydd y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) yn cryfhau gweithrediad llywodraeth leol.
<b>Darren Millar:</b> Minister, estimates suggest that about 27 per cent of the amount collected from the current rate of council tax at band D is being used to fund employer contributions to local authority pension schemes. Clearly, that is unsustainable. Taxpayers cannot be expected to foot this bill, which is increasing year on year, indefinitely. Do you agree that local authority pension schemes need to be looked at to make them more sustainable in the long term and that, while acknowledging that existing benefits should be protected for current employees, different arrangements should be made for new entrants to those schemes?	<b>Darren Millar:</b> Weinidog, mae'r amcangyfrifon yn awgrymu bod tua 27 y cant o'r swm sy'n cael ei gasglu o gyfradd bresennol y dreth gyngor ym mand D yn cael ei ddefnyddio i ariannu cyfraniadau cyflogwyr tuag at gynlluniau pensiwn awdurdodau lleol. Mae'n amlwg nad yw hynny'n gynaliadwy. Ni ellir disgwyl i drethdalwyr dalu'r bil hwn, sy'n cynyddu o'r naill flwyddyn i'r llall, yn ddi-ben-draw. A ydych yn cytuno bod angen edrych ar gynlluniau pensiwn awdurdodau lleol er mwyn eu gwneud yn fwy cynaliadwy yn yr hirdymor, a chan gydnabod y dylid diogelu'r buddion sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd i'r gweithwyr presennol, y dylid gwneud trefniadau gwahanol ar gyfer rhai sy'n ymuno â'r cynlluniau hynny o'r newydd?
<b>Carl Sargeant:</b> I am glad that you have raised the issue of council tax levels. As you will be aware from my answer to a similar question asked by Ann Jones, the level charged for band D properties in Wales is significantly different from that in England. That is well documented, as you have asked me about the matter on several occasions.	<b>Carl Sargeant:</b> Rwy'n falch eich bod wedi codi mater lefelau'r dreth gyngor. Fel y gwyddoch o'm hateb i gwestiwn tebyg a ofynnwyd gan Ann Jones, mae'r swm a godir ar gyfer eiddo band D yng Nghymru'n wahanol iawn i'r swm a godir yn Lloegr. Mae hynny'n dra hysbys, oherwydd rydych wedi fy holi ynglŷn â'r mater droeon.
The pension element is a matter for local authorities. I know that you keep pressing me on the issue, but it is a decision that the 22 Welsh local authorities make individually.	Mater i awdurdodau lleol yw'r elfen bensiwn. Gwn eich bod yn rhoi pwysau arnaf ynglŷn â'r mater o hyd, ond penderfyniad sy'n cael ei wneud yn unigol gan y 22 awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru ydyw.
<b>Sandy Mewies:</b> Minister, as a result of the cuts to capital imposed by the UK Government, I note that the Welsh Assembly Government's capital budget has been drastically reduced, and that has had an	<b>Sandy Mewies:</b> Weinidog, o ganlyniad i'r toriadau i gyfalaf sy'n cael eu gorfodi gan Lywodraeth y DU, sylwaf fod cylideb gyfalaf Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cael ei lleihau'n aruthrol, ac mae hynny wedi

impact on what the Assembly Government has been able to pass through to local government. Given the current weather conditions and with more snow predicted, what steps are you taking to assist local authorities to deal with adverse weather conditions?

**Carl Sargeant:** Thank you, Sandy, for that topical question. We see daily through the media the impact of the problems currently being caused by snow and ice in the UK. I am pleased to be able to announce an extra £7 million for local authorities to purchase salt to grit the roads and to pay for mending potholes in our communities. I suggest that local authorities give priority to the needs of the elderly and the young by concentrating on areas around schools and shopping centres where, unfortunately, pavements are not always gritted or given priority.

**David Lloyd:** Minister, in relation to the social justice portfolio, can you give us the latest on any discussions that you are having with the Minister for Health and Social Services on the tobacco action plan and the intention to move on the removal of point-of-sale tobacco displays?

**Carl Sargeant:** As you rightly noted, this is a matter that the Minister for Health and Social Services is taking up. I can give you a brief update on some of the issues, however. As you will be aware, we took action to protect the public and workers from exposure to second-hand smoke in April 2007, with the support of the Assembly. Public safety and protection is important, particularly for our children and most vulnerable. The Minister is drafting regulations, which have been consulted on, and they will be to do with limiting exposure to tobacco products. Therefore, displays connected to the sale of tobacco products will be prohibited in shops and businesses across Wales.

**Irene James:** Minister, the Welsh Local Government Association has come out

cael effaith ar yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gallu ei basio ymlaen i lywodraeth leol. Ac ystyried y tywydd presennol, a'r rhagolygon am ragor o eira, pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd er mwyn cynorthwyo awdurdodau lleol i ymdrin â thywydd garw?

**Carl Sargeant:** Diolch, Sandy, am y cwestiwn amserol hwnnw. Mae effaith y problemau sy'n cael eu hachosi ar hyn o bryd gan eira a rhew yn y DU i'w gweld bob dydd ar y cyfryngau. Rwy'n falch o allu cyhoeddi £7 miliwn yn rhagor i awdurdodau lleol er mwyn prynu halen i raeanu'r ffyrdd a thalu am drwsio tyllau ynddynt yn ein cymunedau. Awgrymaf fod awdurdodau lleol yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i anghenion yr hen a'r ifanc drwy ganolbwytio ar ardaloedd o amgylch ysgolion a chanolfannau siopa lle nad yw palmentydd, yn anffodus, yn cael eu graeanu bob amser neu'n cael blaenoriaeth.

**David Lloyd:** Weinidog, o ran y portffolio cyflawnder cymdeithasol, a allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni ynglŷn ag unrhyw drafodaethau yr ydych yn eu cael gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ynglŷn â'r cynllun gweithredu ar dybaco a'r bwriad i gynnig y dylid rhoi'r gorau i arddangos tybaco yn y mannau gwerthu?

**Carl Sargeant:** Fel yr ydych wedi nodi, yn gwbl briodol, mae hwn yn fater y mae'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn edrych arno. Er hynny, gallaf roi diweddariad byr ichi ar rai o'r materion. Fel y byddwch yn ymwybodol, cymerasom gamau yn Ebrill 2007, â chefnogaeth y Cynulliad, er mwyn diogelu'r cyhoedd a gweithwyr rhag dod i gysylltiad â mwg ail law. Mae diogelu ac amddiffyn y cyhoedd yn bwysig, yn enwedig plant a'r bobl fwyaf agored i niwed. Mae'r Gweinidog yn drafftio rheoliadau, sydd wedi bod yn destun ymgynghoriad, a byddant yn ymwneud â chyfyngu cysylltiad â chynnyrch tybaco. O ganlyniad, bydd arddangosfeydd sy'n gysylltiedig â gwerthu cynnyrch tybaco yn cael eu gwahardd mewn siopau a busnesau ledled Cymru.

**Irene James:** Weinidog, mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru wedi cyhoeddi ei

strongly in favour of the budget approach taken by the Welsh Government. It recognises that, in these tough times, the draft budget protects key front-line services. It was even more pleasing to read how it saw that as evidence of a good working relationship between the Welsh Assembly Government and local government. Will you make it one of your objectives to oppose talk from the opposition of massive cuts to many front-line services, and to continue this good relationship between the Welsh Assembly Government and local government?

**Carl Sargeant:** Of course, Irene. The issue is that we face difficult times with our finances, and so we will have to have some grown-up conversations about service delivery. I have been very open with colleagues from the WLGA and local authorities, and I have shared with them my vision of how we can transform public services. We must ensure that we have the service user at the heart of service delivery. I am encouraged by the developments among local authorities, which is why we have given them a fair settlement. The 22 authority leaders have not come out screaming and shouting that there is a problem. They have accepted the difficult challenges that they face and I will work closely with them to ensure that there is good service delivery for the citizens of Wales.

bod yn gefnogol iawn i agwedd Llywodraeth Cymru at y gyllideb. Mae'n cydnabod bod y gyllideb ddrafft, mewn cyfnod anodd fel hwn, yn diogelu gwasanaethau rheng flaen allweddol. Cefais fwy fyfth o foddhad o ddarllen sut yr oedd yn gweld hynny fel tystiolaeth o berthynas waith dda rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a llywodraeth leol. A wnewch sicrhau mai un o'ch amcanion yw gwrthwynebu unrhyw sôn gan yr wrtblaid am doriadau anferth i lawer o wasanaethau rheng flaen, a pharhau â'r berthynas dda hon rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a llywodraeth leol?

**Carl Sargeant:** Wrth gwrs, Irene. Y broblem yw ein bod yn wynebu cyfnod anodd yn ariannol, felly bydd yn rhaid inni gael trafodaeth aeddfed am ddarparu gwasanaethau. Rwyf wedi bod yn agored iawn gyda chyfeillion o Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol, ac rwyf wedi rhannu fy ngweledigaeth ynglŷn â sut y gallwn drawsnewid gwasanaethau cyhoeddus gyda hwy. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod y defnyddiwr gwasanaeth yn ganolog i'r broses o ddarparu gwasanaeth. Mae'r datblygiadau ymhliith awdurdodau lleol yn fy nghalonogi, a dyna pam yr ydym wedi rhoi setliad teg iddynt. Nid yw arweinwyr y 22 awdurdod wedi ymateb drwy sgrechian a gweiddi bod ganddynt broblem. Maent wedi derbyn yr heriau anodd y maent yn eu hwynebu a byddaf yn gweithio mewn cysylltiad agos â hwy er mwyn sicrhau bod gwasanaeth da'n cael ei ddarparu i ddinasyddion Cymru.

2.00 p.m.

### Blaenorriaethau

**6. Nerys Evans:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am flaeoniaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer y portffolio Cyflawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol. OAQ(3)1419(SJL)

**Carl Sargeant:** My priorities are to continue to protect the most vulnerable in our society and to promote safe, sustainable and fair communities. The Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure will strengthen the operation of local government, and a review of which local authority services are

### Priorities

**6. Nerys Evans:** Will the Minister make a statement regarding the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for the Social Justice and Local Government portfolio. OAQ(3)1419(SJL)

**Carl Sargeant:** Fy mlaenorriaethau yw dal i ddiogelu'r bobl fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas a hybu cymunedau diogel, cynaliadwy a theg. Bydd y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) yn cryfhau gweithrediad llywodraeth leol, ac mae adolygiad i

best delivered where is under way.

**Nerys Evans:** One of the most important elements in your portfolio has already had attention this afternoon, namely the violence against women strategy. Thank you for protecting the budget line for that strategy. I was also glad to hear of the Christmas campaign that the Assembly Government will be funding. As we all know, the prevalence of domestic abuse increases over the Christmas period. I am looking forward to hear more details of that campaign. Reducing the prevalence of violence against women requires working with non-devolved bodies such as the police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the courts system. Those bodies are taking a financial hit from the UK Government. What discussions have you had with Ministers in Westminster regarding the cuts to the budgets of the police and the judiciary and their effect on the success of your violence against women strategy in Wales?

**Carl Sargeant:** I recently met with Theresa May and also with Nick Herbert to discuss issues around policing and equality duties. I cannot respond regarding the decisions that they make in Westminster, which are entirely a matter for them. However, I am conscious of the knock-on effect on the delivery of services. I am very concerned about policing numbers and the police's ability to operate in certain realms. Tackling domestic abuse involves working in partnership with many agencies and the police play a primary role in prevention and in supporting people who are suffering from domestic abuse. A reduction in police numbers will have an impact on service delivery, so I have raised it with Westminster colleagues. Those are decisions that are not devolved. We will try to do everything that we can to mitigate the cuts, but we cannot replicate services when such huge, wholesale reductions in funding come across the M4 to Wales.

**Jonathan Morgan:** Thank you for

ddarganfod pa wasanaethau awdurdodau lleol sy'n cael eu darparu orau ym mhle yn cael ei gynnal.

**Nerys Evans:** Mae un o'r elfennau pwysicaf yn eich portffolio wedi cael sylw yn barod y prynhawn yma, sef y strategaeth ar drais yn erbyn menywod. Diolch am ddiogelu'r llinell yn y gyllideb ar gyfer y strategaeth honno. Roeddwn innau'n falch o glywed am yr ymgyrch Nadolig y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei hariannu. Fel y gŵyr pob un ohonom, mae nifer yr achosion o gam-drin domestig yn cynyddu dros gyfnod y Nadolig. Rwy'n edrych ymlaen at glywed rhagor o fanylion am yr ymgyrch honno. Er mwyn lleihau nifer yr achosion o drais yn erbyn menywod mae angen gweithio gyda chyrff nad ydynt wedi cael eu datganoli fel yr heddlu, Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron a system y llysoedd. Mae'r cyrff hynny'n cael eu taro'n ariannol gan Lywodraeth y DU. Pa drafodaethau yr ydych wedi eu cael gyda Gweinidogion yn San Steffan ynglŷn â'r toriadau i gyllidebau'r heddlu a'r farnwriaeth a'u heffaith ar lwyddiant eich strategaeth ar drais yn erbyn menywod yng Nghymru?

**Carl Sargeant:** Cyfarfum yn ddiweddar â Theresa May a hefyd â Nick Herbert i drafod materion yn ymwneud â phlismona a dyletswyddau cydraddoldeb. Ni allaf ymateb ynglŷn â'r penderfyniadau y maent yn eu gwneud yn San Steffan, gan mai mater iddynt hwy yn unig yw hynny. Serch hynny, rwy'n ymwybodol o'r effaith ganlyniadol ar ddarparu gwasanaethau. Rwy'n bryderus iawn ynglŷn â nifer y plismyn a gallu'r heddlu i weithredu mewn rhai meysydd. Mae angen gweithio mewn partneriaeth â llawer o asiantaethau er mwyn mynd i'r afael â chandrin domestig ac mae'r heddlu'n chwarae rhan sylfaenol wrth atal cam-drin domestig a chefnogi dioddefwyr. Bydd lleihau nifer yr heddlu'n effeithio ar y gwasanaeth sy'n cael ei ddarparu, felly rwyf wedi dwyn hynny i sylw fy nghyfeillion yn San Steffan. Mae'r rheini'n benderfyniadau nad ydynt wedi cael eu datganoli. Byddwn yn ceisio gwneud popeth posibl i liniaru'r toriadau, ond ni allwn atgynhyrchu gwasanaethau pan fydd y fath gwtogiadau cyffredinol enfawr yn dod ar hyd yr M4 i Gymru.

**Jonathan Morgan:** Diolch am fy

welcoming me to my new role, Minister. I am looking forward to our exchanges in the Chamber. You mentioned earlier that you have identified resources for local authorities to grit roads and to fix roads and pavements. I raised this issue yesterday because we have to be certain that our local authorities can manage winter pressures adequately and properly. You will know that, last year, many local authorities coped with the grit shortfall by reducing the number of roads that they would grit over a two or three-month period and, in many cases, local authorities took grit supplies from local schools in order to keep roads and pavements safe. How confident are you, with a proper analysis, that you will see more roads and schools open if the winter deteriorates, as it may well do?

nghroesawu i'm rôl newydd, Weinidog. Rwy'n edrych ymlaen at ymgiprys â chi yn y Siambr. Dywedasoch yn gynharach eich bod wedi dynodi adnoddau ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol er mwyn graeanu a thrwsio ffyrdd a phalmentydd. Codais y mater hwn ddoe oherwydd rhaid inni fod yn siŵr y bydd ein hawdurdodau lleol yn gallu rheoli pwysau'r gaeaf yn ddigonol ac yn briodol. Byddwch yn gwybod bod llawer o awdurdodau lleol wedi dygymod â'r prinder graean y llynedd drwy leihau nifer y ffyrdd y byddent yn eu graeanu dros gyfnod o ddu neu dri mis ac, mewn llawer o achosion, cymerodd awdurdodau lleol gyflenwadau graean oddi ar ysgolion lleol er mwyn cadw ffyrdd a phalmentydd yn ddiogel. Pa mor hyderus ydych chi, â dadansoddiad priodol, y byddwch yn gweld mwy o ffyrdd ac ysgolion ar agor os bydd y gaeaf yn gwaethygu, fel y gallai wneud?

**Carl Sargeant:** That is an open-ended question. I understand what you are asking, but we do not know what the weather may bring. This could be our only cold spell or it could last from now until April. We do not know what will happen. My announcement today of an additional £7 million to support gritting and pothole repairs across Wales will help local authorities. We have engaged with them, and I know that the Minister for transport has also engaged with them on their current ability to cope. This will additionally help them. They were not expecting this amount of money and I am sure that it will come as a relief to them, particularly if this early cold snap continues. I have also had discussions with the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning about gritting around schools, which, as I mentioned earlier, is a priority on which I want to see local authorities concentrating, to give people access to schools and so on.

**Carl Sargeant:** Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn penagored. Deallaf yr hyn yr ydych yn ei ofyn, ond ni wyddom pa dywydd a gawn. Efallai mai hwn fydd yr unig gyfnod oer ac efallai y bydd yn para tan fis Ebrill. Ni wyddom beth fydd yn digwydd. Bydd fy nghyhoeddiad heddiw ynglŷn â £7 miliwn yn rhagor i gefnogi gwaith graeanu a thrwsio tyllau ledled Cymru'n helpu awdurdodau lleol. Rydym wedi cysylltu â hwy, a gwn fod y Gweinidog dros drafnidiaeth hefyd wedi cysylltu â hwy ynglŷn â'u gallu presennol i ddygymod. Bydd hyn yn gymorth ychwanegol iddynt. Nid oeddent yn disgwyl y swm hwn ac rwy'n siŵr y bydd yn rhyddhad iddynt, yn enwedig os bydd y cyfnod oer cynnar hwn yn parhau. Rwyf wedi cael trafodaethau hefyd gyda'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ynglŷn â graeanu o amgylch ysgolion, sydd, fel y dywedais yn gynharach, yn flaenoriaeth y byddwn yn hoffi gweld awdurdodau lleol yn canolbwytio arni, er mwyn sicrhau bod pobl yn gallu mynd i ysgolion ac ati.

**Jonathan Morgan:** Thank you for that reply, Minister, but you will know that one of the consequences of a harsh winter is that the quality of roads and pavements tends to deteriorate. You may not know that, over the past four years, almost £12 million in compensation has been paid out by local authorities in Wales for injuries sustained on

**Jonathan Morgan:** Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog, ond byddwch yn gwybod mai un o ganlyniadau gaeaf caled yw bod ansawdd ffyrdd a phalmentydd yn tueddu i ddirywio. Efallai nad ydych yn gwybod bod awdurdodau lleol Cymru wedi talu bron i £12 miliwn o iawndal, yn ystod y pedair blynedd diwethaf, am anafiadau a gafwyd ar ffyrdd a

roads and pavements. It seems to be the case that many local authorities shy away from investing in fixing roads but have to deal with the consequences when someone is injured. What are you doing with the Welsh Local Government Association to ensure that local authorities start prioritising the early fixing of roads, instead of having to pay out when somebody is injured? Will you confirm this afternoon whether the £7 million is truly additional money or whether it has been recycled?

**Carl Sargeant:** This is additional money. This £7 million is additional to the local government budget, unlike what has happened in England with the capping of council taxes. I will be passing this additional money on to local authorities. We have to recognise that, over the next three years, there will be some difficulties on capital spend for local authorities and the whole public sector. I hope that local authorities will grasp the opportunity to spread salt where it is needed, and, where it is not needed, they can repair potholes.

**Brian Gibbons:** Minister, you will be aware that hypothecated grants cost a not inconsiderable sum of money to administer, though, as the recent expenditure sub-group report shows, they cost nothing like the £64 million sum that used to be hawked around the Chamber by opposition spokespeople. What role do you see outcome agreements playing in reducing the level of special grants and hypothecation?

**Carl Sargeant:** Outcome agreements are an important tool in driving through improvements to local authorities, but they also give us an overview of the commitment from an individual authority and its ability to spend the money where it should be spent. I have spoken to colleagues across the Cabinet about how to reduce the costs of specific grants. We have to have confidence that some services are being delivered—grants are hypothecated for good reason. If local authorities can show us that they are capable of delivering services in a different way—so that funding is not through a specific grant or

phalmentydd. Ymddengys bod llawer o awdurdodau lleol yn gyndyn o fuddsoddi er mwyn trwsio ffyrdd ond maent yn gorfod ymdopi â'r canlyniadau pan mae rhywun yn cael ei anafu. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru er mwyn sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn dechrau rhoi blaenoriaeth i drwsio ffyrdd yn gynnar, yn hytrach na gorfod talu pan fydd rhywun yn cael ei anafu? A wnewch gadarnhau y prynhawn yma a yw'r £7 miliwn yn arian ychwanegol mewn gwirionedd ynteu a yw wedi ei ailgylchu?

**Carl Sargeant:** Mae hwn yn arian ychwanegol. Mae'r £7 miliwn hwn yn ychwanegol at gyllideb llywodraeth leol, yn wahanol i'r hyn sydd wedi digwydd yn Lloegr lle mae trethi cyngor wedi cael eu capio. Byddaf yn trosglwyddo'r arian ychwanegol hwn i awdurdodau lleol. Rhaid inni gydnabod y bydd rhywfaint o anawsterau â gwariant cyfalaf i awdurdodau lleol ac i'r sector cyhoeddus yn ei gyfanrwydd yn ystod y tair blynedd nesaf. Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn manteisio ar y cyfle i daenu halen lle mae ei angen, a lle nad oes ei angen, gallant drwsio tyllau.

**Brian Gibbons:** Weinidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol bod grantiau sydd wedi cael eu neilltuo yn costio swm sylweddol o arian i'w gweinyddu, er, fel y dengys adroddiad yn ddiweddar gan yr is-grŵp gwariant, nid ydynt yn costio dim byd tebyg i'r swm o £64 miliwn a arferai gael ei bedlera o amgylch y Siambra gan lefarwyr yr wrthblaid. Pa rôl yr ydych yn gweld cytundebau canlyniadau'n ei chwarae yn y gwaith o leihau lefel grantiau arbennig a neilltuo arian?

**Carl Sargeant:** Mae cytundebau canlyniadau'n arf pwysig er mwyn cyflwyno gwelliannau i awdurdodau lleol, ond maent hefyd yn rhoi trosolwg inni o'r ymrwymiad gan awdurdod unigol a'i allu i wario'r arian lle dylai gael ei wario. Rwyf wedi siarad â chyd-Aelodau ar draws y Cabinet ynglŷn â sut i leihau costau grantiau penodol. Rhaid inni gael ffydd bod rhai gwasanaethau'n cael eu darparu—mae grantiau'n cael eu neilltuo am reswm da. Os gall awdurdodau lleol ddangos inni eu bod yn gallu darparu gwasanaethau mewn ffordd wahanol—fel nad yw'r cyllid drwy grant penodol neu

hypothecated—my colleagues will be more at ease in releasing money into the local government settlement wholesale.

**Veronica German:** You have just referred to the subject that I was about to raise. Do you agree that local government is there to set its own priorities and deliver on them for local communities, or are you more sympathetic with some of your colleagues who seem to think that local government is there simply as the delivery arm of the Welsh Government? Which way do you lie?

**Carl Sargeant:** It is not a matter of what I think, Veronica; it is about what the general public thinks. As a Government and at the local government level, we all have to understand that the general public is quite rightly paying for service delivery. If I have to guide local authorities in their delivery of services, then I will, but the fact of the matter is that I am quite keen to encourage local authorities to deliver for members of the public, at the most appropriate level. If their decision-making processes can deliver, I will let them do that.

**Veronica German:** Can you explain why only £10 million of specific grants has been brought into the revenue support grant this year, even though you have said that you are looking to bring in more of these grants? That leaves local government with an administrative bill not of £64 million, as Brian just said, but of around £35 million, which is very similar to the sum that you were bandying about earlier in relation to differences. We could have £35 million to deliver front-line services for people in their local communities by local government, if you would just give them the money in the first place. Is it that you do not trust them—which is what you seem to be saying today—or that you cannot let go?

**Carl Sargeant:** You raise an interesting question about specific grants. You are quoting figures that I have not yet seen, because the specific grants are not complete, as my colleagues have not yet indicated what is in and what is out. Only a small amount

wedi'i neilltuo—bydd fy nghyd-Aelodau'n fwy parod i ryddhau arian i'r setliad llywodraeth leol yn gyffredinol.

**Veronica German:** Rydych newydd gyfeirio at y pwnc yr oeddwn ar fin ei godi. A ydych yn cytuno bod llywodraeth leol yn bodoli er mwyn pennu ei blaenoriaethau ei hun a'u cyflawni er budd cymunedau lleol, ynteu a ydych yn cydymdeimlo mwy â rhai o'ch cyd-Aelodau sydd fel petaent yn credu bod llywodraeth leol yn bodoli fel cangen gyflawni i Lywodraeth Cymru? Â pha un yr ydych chi'n cytuno?

**Carl Sargeant:** Nid fy marn i sy'n cyfrif, Veronica; mae a wnelo hyn â barn y cyhoedd. Fel Llywodraeth ac ar lefel llywodraeth leol, rhaid i bob un ohonom ddeall bod y cyhoedd, yn gwbl briodol, yn talu am wasanaethau sy'n cael eu darparu. Os oes rhaid i mi roi arweiniad i awdurdodau lleol ynglŷn â sut i ddarparu eu gwasanaethau, yna gwnaf hynny, ond y gwir amdani yw fy mod yn awyddus iawn i annog awdurdodau lleol i gyflawni er budd aelodau o'r cyhoedd, ar y lefel fwyaf priodol. Os gall eu prosesau gwneud penderfyniadau gyflawni, gadawaf iddynt wneud hynny.

**Veronica German:** A allwch egluro pam mai dim ond £10 miliwn o grantiau penodol sydd wedi cael eu dwyn i mewn i'r grant cynnal refeniw eleni, er eich bod wedi dweud eich bod yn ystyried dod â mwy o'r grantiau hyn i mewn? Mae hynny'n gadael llywodraeth leol â bil gweinyddol, nid o £64 miliwn, fel y dywedodd Brian, ond o tua £35 miliwn, sy'n debyg iawn i'r swm yr oeddech yn cyfeirio ato'n gynharach yng nghyswilt gwahaniaethau. Gallem gael £35 miliwn i ddarparu gwasanaethau rheng flaen i bobl yn eu cymunedau lleol gan lywodraeth leol, pe baech yn rhoi'r arian iddynt yn y lle cyntaf. Ai methu ag ymddiried ynddynt yr ydych—mae'n ymddangos mai dyna beth yr ydych yn ei ddweud heddiw—ynteu methu â gollwng eich gafael?

**Carl Sargeant:** Rydych yn codi cwestiwn diddorol ynglŷn â grantiau penodol. Rydych yn dyfynnu ffigurau nad wyf wedi eu gweld eto, oherwydd nid yw'r grantiau penodol yn gyflawn, gan nad yw fy nghyd-Aelodau wedi dweud eto beth sydd i mewn a beth sydd

has been identified up to now. Therefore, you are raising a question that is based on data that are not wholly accurate at this particular moment.

2.10 p.m.

You ask whether I trust local authorities, and my answer to that would be, 'Yes, more often than not'. The issue for me is public service delivery. I am not precious about who delivers which service; it is about the service being delivered. That is the most important thing for me and should be the most important thing for them. Authorities that fail to improve sometimes need a little push along in order to help and encourage them to deliver the right things with regard to public services. Rest assured, I will be there to push them along should they fail.

**Alun Davies:** That is always good news and I am sure that they would also welcome that. Minister, it would be useful if you could write to us on the matter that you raised earlier in answer to Jonathan Morgan on dealing with adverse weather. All Members would appreciate knowing what the Government's views are on that. That might be useful.

My question continues on the subject of education, which you have made some significant commitments to support. There is consensus across the Chamber that we need to protect schools and education spending. How will the spending commitments that you have made protect education, in comparison with the policy that is being pursued the other side of Offa's Dyke?

**Carl Sargeant:** I am sure that the Minister for education will want to discuss this a little later, but I am happy to say that that will be delivered through the RSG, with regard to the protection of the 1 per cent additionality, and we expect that to be monitored through individual school budgets. That is a commitment made by the First Minister, honoured by the Minister for education, and delivered through the RSG. That

allan. Dim ond swm bach sydd wedi cael ei nodi hyd yma. Felly, rydych yn codi cwestiwn sy'n seiliedig ar ddata nad ydynt yn gwbl gywir ar yr adeg benodol hon.

Gofynnwch a wyf yn ymddiried yn yr awdurdodau lleol, a'm hateb i hynny fyddai, 'Ydwyt, yn amlach na pheidio'. Y broblem i mi yw darparu gwasanaeth cyhoeddus. Nid wyf yn fursennaidd ynglŷn â phwy sy'n darparu pa wasanaeth; mae a wnelo hyn â'r gwasanaeth ddim yn cael ei ddarparu. Dyna'r peth pwysicaf i mi a dylai fod yn bwysicach na dim iddynt hwy. Ambell waith mae ar awdurdodau sy'n methu â gwella angen gwthiad bach yn eu blaenau er mwyn eu helpu a'u hannog i gyflawni'r pethau iawn yng Nghyweddol gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Gallwch fod yn dawel eich meddwl, oherwydd byddaf yno i'w gwthio yn eu blaenau pe baent yn methu.

**Alun Davies:** Mae hynny bob amser yn newyddion da ac rwy'n siŵr y byddent hwythau'n croesawu hynny. Weinidog, byddai'n fuddiol pe gallech ysgrifennu atom ynglŷn â'r mater a godwyd gennych yn gynharach wrth ateb Jonathan Morgan ynglŷn ag ymdrin â thywydd garw. Byddai'r Aelodau i gyd yn hoffi gwybod beth yw barn y Llywodraeth ynglŷn â hynny. Gallai hynny fod yn ddefnyddiol.

Mae fy nghwestiwn yn parhau ynglŷn â phwnc addysg, ac yr ydych wedi gwneud ymrwymiadau sylweddol i'w gefnogi. Mae consensws ar draws y Siambwr bod angen inni diogelu ysgolion a gwariant addysg. Sut y bydd yr ymrwymiadau gwariant yr ydych wedi eu gwneud yn diogelu addysg, o'i gymharu â'r polisi sy'n cael ei ddilyn yr ochr arall i Glawdd Offa?

**Carl Sargeant:** Rwy'n siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog dros addysg yn awyddus i drafod y mater hwn yn nes ymlaen, ond rwy'n fodlon dweud y bydd hynny'n cael ei gyflawni drwy'r grant cynnal refeniw, o ran diogelu'r ychwanegedd o 1 y cant, a disgwyliwn y bydd hynny'n cael ei fonitro drwy gyllidebau ysgolion unigol. Mae hynny'n ymrwymiad a wnaethpwyd gan y Prif Weinidog, sydd wedi cael ei anrhydeddu

demonstrates true partnership working across the Cabinet.

On a serious note, we believe in Government that we need to tackle and support education policy right across the age groups. That has been done with the uplift in the budget this term for the foundation phase and the additionality in school budgets at the front-line of service delivery, which the Minister for education is keen to secure. If that does not happen, in 12 months' time, there may be a very different model of delivering this service with regard to the additionality going to schools.

### Ffioedd Parcio Ceir Cynghorau

**7. Bethan Jenkins:** *A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ffioedd parcio ceir cynghorau. OAQ(3)1421(SJL)*

**Carl Sargeant:** Local authorities are responsible for on-street and some off-street car parking. It is for them to consider the level of car parking charges and the need for any dispensation or waiver of the charge for disabled people. The landowner is responsible for setting parking charges on private land.

**Bethan Jenkins:** Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. Efallai nad yw'n gwneud synnwyr i ofyn y cwestiwn hwn, ond a oes unrhyw gyngor y gallwch ei roi i awdurdodau lleol ynghylch ffioedd parcio mewn trefi llai? Yr ydym yn gwybod bod cynghorau lleol yn wynebu cyllidebau anodd iawn yn y dyfodol, ond yn y dref yr wyf yn byw yn ddi, er enghraifft, sef Pontardawe, mae'r cyngor yn bwriadu codi tâl am barcio, ac mae pobl wedi dweud yn barod na fyddant yn gallu fforddio'r ffioedd hynny. A oes modd i'r Llywodraeth nid i ddweud wrth gynghorau lleol beth i'w gwneud yn hynny o beth, ond i roi cyngor ar sut i ymdrin â'r sefyllfa pan na fydd pobl leol yn cytuno â'r hyn y mae cynghorau lleol yn ei gwneud?

**Carl Sargeant:** Thank you for your question. It is quite a difficult one, and I suppose that it goes back to the question about whether I want to micromanage local authorities. I

gan y Gweinidog dros addysg, a'i gyflawni drwy'r grant cynnal refeniw. Mae hynny'n dangos gwir bartneriaeth yn gweithio ar draws y Cabinet.

Ar nodyn difrifol, credwn yn y Llywodraeth bod angen inni fynd i'r afael â pholisi addysg a'i gefnogi ar draws y grwpiau oedran. Mae hynny wedi cael ei wneud â'r cynnydd yn y gyllideb y tymor hwn ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen a'r ychwanegedd mewn cyllidebau ysgol ar reng flaen darparu gwasanaeth, y mae'r Gweinidog dros addysg yn awyddus i'w sicrhau. Oni fydd hynny'n digwydd, efallai y bydd model gwahanol iawn o ddarparu'r gwasanaeth hwn, ymhen 12 mis, o ran yr ychwanegedd yn mynd i ysgolion.

### Council Car Parking Charges

**7. Bethan Jenkins:** *Will the Minister provide an update on council car parking charges. OAQ(3)1421(SJL)*

**Carl Sargeant:** Awdurdodau lleol sy'n gyfrifol am barcio ceir ar y stryd ac am rywfaint o barcio oddi ar y stryd. Eu cyfrifoldeb hwy yw ystyried faint i'w godi am barcio a'r angen i gyflwyno goddefeb neu i hepgor y tâl i bobl anabl. Perchenog y tir sy'n gyfrifol am bennu ffioedd parcio ar dir preifat.

**Bethan Jenkins:** Thank you for that reply. This question may not make sense, but is there any advice that you could give to local authorities regarding parking charges in smaller towns? We know that local councils face very difficult budgets in future, but in Pontardawe, where I live, for example, the council intends to charge for parking, and people have already said that they will not be able to afford those charges. Is it possible for the Government not to tell local councils what do do in this regard but to give advice on how to deal with the situation when local people do not agree with what local councils are doing?

**Carl Sargeant:** Diolch am eich cwestiwn. Mae'n un anodd iawn, a thybiaf ei fod yn mynd yn ôl at y cwestiwn a oes arnaf eisau microreoli awdurdodau lleol. Hoffwn feddwl

would like to think that local authorities share best practice through the WLGA. There are some authorities that have innovative ways of encouraging and helping people to park in town centres, offsetting that cost in other ways. You may wish to write to the WLGA about this issue and ask it to share that programme across Wales. However, car parking charges is not a matter on which I wish to issue specific guidance to local authorities.

**Angela Burns:** I listened to your answer to Bethan with great interest. My concern is that, in some areas, such as Pembroke Dock, there are an awful lot of streets where you are not allowed to park. Since car parking charges have been applied in Pembroke Dock, people can no longer park in the main car parks around the supermarkets, so there is now a ridiculous situation where those people are clogging up other people's residential streets, which makes them mad because they cannot park anywhere near their houses. It is affecting disabled people and people on very low incomes, as they now have to pay quite substantial car parking charges in order to park at places like the George Street car park. I have approached Pembrokeshire County Council on this issue, but I have not had a positive response. Is there anything that you can do? It is an unfortunate situation, and it does not help those who need help the most. It is plain crazy.

**Carl Sargeant:** As I said to Bethan, this is not a matter for me to decide. It is ultimately the local authority's responsibility to set local parking charges. What I would say is that local government was expecting a 3 per cent cut this year, next year and the year after—it had projected around a 9 per cent reduction in funding. However, after three years, it will be around a 0.1 per cent uplift. That is a significant difference, and you may want to write to your authority again and ask it to reconsider in light of the settlement that has just been announced.

bod awdurdodau lleol yn rhannu arferion gorau drwy Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. Mae gan rai awdurdodau ddulliau arloesol o annog a helpu pobl i barcio yng nghanol trefi, sy'n gwrthbwys o'r gost honno mewn ffyrdd eraill. Efallai yr hoffech ysgrifennu at Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ynglŷn â'r mater hwn a gofyn iddi rannu'r rhaglen honno drwy Gymru. Serch hynny, nid yw taliadau parcio ceir yn fater yr wyf yn dymuno rhoi canllawiau penodol arno i awdurdodau lleol.

**Angela Burns:** Gwrandawais ar yr ateb a roddasoch i Bethan â chrynn ddiddordeb. Fy mhryder i yw bod llawer iawn o strydoedd, mewn rhai ardaloedd, fel Doc Penfro, lle na chaniateir ichi barcio. Ers cyflwyno taliadau parcio ceir yn Noc Penfro, nid yw pobl yn gallu parcio yn y prif feysydd parcio o amgylch yr archfarchnadodd, felly mae gennych sefyllfa hurt erbyn hyn lle mae'r bobl hynny'n achosi tagfeydd yn strydoedd preswyl pobl eraill, sy'n eu gwneud hwy'n flin gan nad ydynt yn gallu parcio yn agos at eu tai. Mae'n effeithio ar bobl anabl a phobl ar incwm isel iawn, gan eu bod yn gorfol talu taliadau parcio pur sylweddol yn awr er mwyn parcio mewn lleoedd fel maes parcio George Street. Rwyf wedi cysylltu â Chyngor Sir Penfro ynglŷn â'r mater hwn, ond nid wyf wedi cael ymateb cadarnhaol. A oes rhywbeth y gallwch ei wneud? Mae'n sefyllfa anffodus, ac nid yw'n helpu'r rhai hynny sydd angen cymorth fwyaf. Mae'n holol hurt.

**Carl Sargeant:** Fel y dywedais wrth Bethan, nid mater i mi benderfynu yn ei gylch yw hwn. Yn y pen draw, cyfrifoldeb yr awdurdod lleol yw pennu taliadau parcio lleol. Yr hyn y byddwn i'n ei ddweud yw bod llywodraeth leol yn disgwyl toriad o 3 y cant eleni, y flwyddyn nesaf a'r flwyddyn ar ôl hynny—roedd wedi rhagweld gostyngiad o tua 9 y cant mewn cyllid. Serch hynny, ar ôl tair blynedd, bydd yn gynnydd o tua 0.1 y cant. Mae hynny'n wahaniaeth mawr, ac efallai y byddech yn hoffi ysgrifennu at eich awdurdod unwaith eto a gofyn iddo ailystyried yng ngoleuni'r setliad sydd newydd gael ei gyhoeddi.

## Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes Questions to the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

**Chris Franks:** I welcome today's figures showing that the number of pupils leaving education without qualifications—. I beg your pardon. That is the wrong question.

**The Deputy Presiding Officer:** Please try again.

**Chris Franks:** Sorry. I will be consigned to the backbenches if I am not careful.

**The Deputy Presiding Officer:** Before you continue, I remind Members that this is a question and answer session, and it would be helpful if you kept your questions short and to the point.

### Cefnogaeth i NEETs

**1. Chris Franks:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i NEETs. OAQ(3)1558(CEL)

**The Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning (Leighton Andrews):** Tackling the issue and preventing young people from becoming not in education, employment or training remains one of our top priorities, which is why we are keeping education maintenance allowances in Wales, unlike England.

**Chris Franks:** I welcome today's figures showing that the number of pupils leaving education without qualifications continues to fall. The foundation phase introduced by the coalition in Wales is a step in the right direction. However, would you agree that this innovation and creativity in education cannot stop at age seven? Would you back Cardiff Council's Power Readers literacy competition, open to anyone aged between seven and 16 in the capital? A lot of good work is being done by groups such as the Rathbone committee in my region—

**Chris Franks:** Rwy'n croesawu ffigurau heddiw sy'n dangos bod nifer y disgyblion sy'n gadael addysg heb gymwysterau—. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf. Nid dyna'r cwestiwn cywir.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Rhowch gynnig arall arni os gwelwch yn dda.

**Chris Franks:** Mae'n ddrwg gennyf. Byddaf yn cael fy anfon i'r meinciau cefn oni fyddaf yn ofalus.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Cyn ichi fynd yn eich blaen, hoffwn atgoffa'r Aelodau mai sesiwn holi ac ateb yw hwn, a byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe baech yn cadw eich cwestiynau'n fyr ac yn gryno.

### Support for NEETs

**1. Chris Franks:** Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government support for NEETs. OAQ(3)1558(CEL)

**Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Leighton Andrews):** Mae mynd i'r afael â'r broblem ac atal pobl ifanc rhag canfod eu hunain heb fod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant yn dal yn un o'n prif flaenoriaethau, a dyna pam yr ydym yn cadw lwfansau cynhaliaeth addysg yng Nghymru, yn wahanol i Loegr.

**Chris Franks:** Rwy'n croesawu ffigurau heddiw sy'n dangos bod nifer y disgyblion sy'n gadael addysg heb gymwysterau'n dal i ddisgyn. Mae'r cyfnod sylfaen a gyflwynwyd gan y glymblaid yng Nghymru'n gam i'r cyfeiriad cywir. Serch hynny, a fydddech yn cytuno na all yr arloesi a'r creadigrwydd hwn ym maes addysg ddod i ben pan fo plant yn saith oed? A fydddech yn cefnogi cystadleuaeth llythrennedd Gymr Darllen Cyngor Caerdydd, sy'n agored i unrhyw un rhwng saith ac 16 oed yn y brif ddinas? Mae llawer o waith da'n cael ei wneud gan grwpiau fel pwylgor Rathbone yn fy rhanbarth i—

**The Deputy Presiding Officer:** Order. Could you come to the question, please?

**Chris Franks:** Would you agree?

**Leighton Andrews:** The foundation phase is an important part of our programme for early years, and we have put an additional £21 million into the budget over three years. Also, earlier this year, I announced a national literacy programme for seven to 11-year-olds, to which we are very committed, and I was pleased to be at a launch today for some Welsh-language project materials associated with that programme. I welcome any initiatives by local authorities to focus on reading skills. We must do more to ensure that young people leave primary school with the right reading age.

**Paul Davies:** You will know that the Enterprise and Learning Committee has recently published a report on its inquiry into those not in education, employment or training. As part of that inquiry, the committee visited Info-Nation in Swansea to hear about its project for young people not in education, employment or training. The visit highlighted the fact that a multi-agency targeted approach was successful in that area, and, therefore, we recommended that the Assembly Government evaluate local authority and regional approaches to addressing the issue. This could help to develop a best-practice model and guidance for delivering and monitoring effective services. Will the Minister outline what the Welsh Assembly Government is doing to address local authority and regional approaches for those who are not in education, employment or training?

**Leighton Andrews:** Indeed, we had already been looking at the scheme in Swansea to bring together the different agencies that are providing support to young people who are not in education, employment or training. We carried that out as part of our departmental work looking at youth engagement, which we

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Trefn. A allech ddod at y cwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda?

**Chris Franks:** A fyddch yn cytuno?

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae'r cyfnod sylfaen yn rhan bwysig o'n rhaglen ar gyfer y blynnyddoedd cynnar, ac rydym wedi rhoi £21 miliwn yn ychwanegol yn y gyllideb dros dair blynedd. Hefyd, yn gynharach eleni, cyhoeddais raglen llythrennedd genedlaethol ar gyfer plant saith i 11 oed. Rydym yn ymrwymedig iawn i'r rhaglen hon, ac roeddwn yn falch o fod mewn lansiad heddiw ar gyfer deunydd prosiect Cymraeg sy'n gysylltiedig â hi. Rwy'n croesawu'r cynlluniau hyn gan awdurdodau lleol er mwyn canolbwytio ar sgiliau darllen. Rhaid inni wneud mwy i sicrhau bod pobl ifanc yn gadael yr ysgol gynradd â'r oed darllen priodol.

**Paul Davies:** Byddwch yn gwybod bod y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu wedi cyhoeddi adroddiad yn ddiweddar ar ei ymchwiliad i'r rhai hynny nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant. Fel rhan o'r ymchwiliad hwnnw, ymwelodd y pwyllgor ag Info-Nation yn Abertawe i glywed am ei brosiect ar gyfer pobl ifanc nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant. Nodwyd yn ystod yr ymweliad bod dull amlasiantaethol wedi'i dargedu'n llwyddiannus yn yr ardal honno, ac, o ganlyniad, argymellasom y dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad arfarnu dulliau awdurdodau lleol a dulliau rhanbarthol o fynd i'r afael â'r mater. Gallai hyn helpu i ddatblygu model arferion gorau a chanllawiau ar gyfer darparu a monitro gwasanaethau effeithiol. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r hyn y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n ei wneud er mwyn rhoi sylw i ddulliau awdurdodau lleol a dulliau rhanbarthol o fynd i'r afael â'r rhai hynny nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant?

**Leighton Andrews:** Ar bob cyfrif, roeddem wedi bod yn edrych yn barod ar y cynllun yn Abertawe i ddod â'r gwahanol asiantaethau sy'n darparu cymorth i bobl ifanc nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant at ei gilydd. Gwnaethom hynny fel rhan o'n gwaith adrannol a oedd yn edrych ar

followed through with materials for the Cabinet for further discussion. We are committed to doing what we can to reduce the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training, and that is why we are keeping the education maintenance allowance, unlike the Government at Westminster.

2.20 p.m.

**Paul Davies:** I am aware that the children and young people's partnerships, or the 14-19 networks, are responsible for co-ordinating local delivery. It must be recognised that there is a lack of guidance as to which organisations should be included in strategies or lead on this work. Do you not agree, Minister, that it would be much simpler for there to be one lead local agency that was responsible for co-ordinating partnerships and networks, which would then have the overall responsibility for those in that area who are not in education, employment or training?

**Leighton Andrews:** In theory, yes, but the situation is, unfortunately, rather more complicated than that. There are services that we support, but there are also services that are supported through the Department for Work and Pensions. Indeed, some schemes, such as the Future Jobs fund, which was supported by the Department for Work and Pensions, were a valuable route for helping young people not in education, employment or training. We are rather disappointed that the UK coalition Government has decided to abandon the Future Jobs fund, which has been helping so many young people in Wales. I have visited some good schemes that were supported under the Future Jobs fund. Around £60 million of additional revenue came to Wales as a result of that fund, and it will be disappointing to see it go. Therefore, in theory, there could be a case for having a single lead organisation, but, in practice, there are a number of schemes, and they require co-ordination.

#### Trafodaethau â Phrifysgol Cymru

**2. Jenny Randerson:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog

ymgysylltu â phobl ifanc, ac yn dilyn hynny cyflwynwyd deunyddiau i'r Cabinet ar gyfer trafodaeth bellach. Rydym wedi ymrwymo i wneud cymaint ag y gallwn i leihau nifer y bobl ifanc nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant, a dyna pam yr ydym yn cadw'r lwfans cynhaliaeth addysg, yn wahanol i'r Llywodraeth yn San Steffan.

**Paul Davies:** Rwy'n ymwybodol bod y partneriaethau plant a phobl ifanc, neu'r rhwydweithiau 14-19, yn gyfrifol am gydgysylltu'r ddarpariaeth leol. Rhaid cydnabod bod prinder canllawiau ynglŷn â pha sefydliadau a ddylai gael eu cynnwys mewn strategaethau neu a ddylai arwain y gwaith hwn. Onid ydych yn cytuno, Weinidog, y byddai'n llawer haws pe bai un asiantaeth leol arweiniol yn gyfrifol am gydgysylltu partneriaethau a rhwydweithiau, a phe bai gan yr asiantaeth leol gyfrifoldeb cyffredinol wedyn am y rhai hynny yn yr ardal honno nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant?

**Leighton Andrews:** Yn ddamcaniaethol, ydwyf, ond mae'r sefyllfa, yn anffodus, grym dipyn yn gymhlethach na hynny. Mae gwasanaethau sy'n cael eu cefnogi gennym ni, ac mae gwasanaethau sy'n cael eu cefnogi gan yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau hefyd. Yn wir, roedd rhai cynlluniau, fel cronfa Swyddi'r Dyfodol, a oedd yn cael ei chefnogi gan yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, yn drywydd defnyddiol er mwyn helpu pobl ifanc nad oeddent mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant. Rydym braidd yn siomedig bod Llywodraeth glymbiaid y DU wedi penderfynu rhoi'r gorau i gronfa Swyddi'r Dyfodol, sydd wedi bod yn helpu cynifer o bobl ifanc yng Nghymru. Rwyf wedi ymweld â rhai cynlluniau da a gefnogwyd dan gronfa Swyddi'r Dyfodol. Daeth tua £60 miliwn o refeniw ychwanegol i Gymru o ganlyniad i'r gronfa honno, ac rwy'n siomedig ei bod yn dod i ben. Felly, yn ddamcaniaethol, gellid dadlau bod angen un sefydliad arweiniol, ond, yn ymarferol, mae nifer o gynlluniau, ac mae angen eu cydgysylltu.

#### Discussions with the University of Wales

**2. Jenny Randerson:** Will the Minister make

*ddatganiad am y trafodaethau y mae wedi'u cael gyda Phrifysgol Cymru.*  
OAQ(3)1577(CEL)

*a statement on what discussions he has had with the University of Wales.*  
OAQ(3)1577(CEL)

**Leighton Andrews:** I made it clear to the vice-chancellor of the University of Wales, in front of other vice-chancellors, that I believe that the quality of the University of Wales brand is at stake, and that there is a danger that the University of Wales is damaging the international reputation of higher education in Wales and of Wales as a whole, and I stand by that assessment.

**Jenny Randerson:** Since concerns were raised on BBC Wales about the college and the validation of degrees, I have looked in some detail at this issue, and 60 per cent of the income of the University of Wales comes from validation. Do you consider that to be a reliable and acceptable financial structure for the university?

**Leighton Andrews:** There are a number of issues regarding the operation of the University of Wales. As you know, I wrote to the chief executive of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and to the chairman of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, asking them to look at the allegations that were raised in the BBC Wales programme. I have received initial responses from them, and I have published those. I would prefer to refrain from further comment on this matter until I have the final results of the inquiries that they are making.

**Jenny Randerson:** Thank you for that, and I look forward to your further comments with great interest. However, my concern in raising this issue is specifically about the reputation of Wales as a whole, and particularly that of the five alliance members, that is, the five colleges that remain as constituent parts of the University of Wales. Have you had contact with their vice-chancellors to deal with the concerns that I am sure that their graduates have about the impact on the reputation of the University of Wales's degrees?

**Leighton Andrews:** I am grateful for the support that I have received from the Member in respect of the issues that I have

**Leighton Andrews:** Eglurais wrth is-ganghellor Prifysgol Cymru, o flaen is-gangellorion eraill, fy mod yn credu bod ansawdd brand Prifysgol Cymru yn y fantol, a bod perygl bod Prifysgol Cymru'n gwneud drwg i enw da rhynghladol addysg uwch yng Nghymru ac i enw da Cymru'n gyffredinol, ac rwy'n cadw at yr asesiad hwnnw.

**Jenny Randerson:** Ers i bryderon gael eu mynigi ar BBC Cymru ynglŷn â'r coleg a diliysu graddau, rwyf wedi edrych yn fanylach ar y mater hwn, ac mae tua 60 y cant o incwm Prifysgol Cymru'n dod o ddilysu. A ydych yn credu bod hynny'n strwythur ariannol dibynadwy a derbyniol i'r brifysgol?

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae nifer o faterion sy'n ymwneud â gweithrediad Prifysgol Cymru. Fel y gwyddoch, ysgrifennais at brif weithredwr yr Asiantaeth Sicrhau Ansawdd ar gyfer Addysg Uwch ac at gadeirydd Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru, a gofyn iddynt edrych ar yr honiadau a wnaethpwyd yn rhaglen BBC Cymru. Rwyf wedi cael ymatebion cychwynnol ganddynt, ac rwyf wedi cyhoeddi'r rheini. Byddai'n well gennyl beidio â gwneud rhagor o sylwadau ar y mater hwn nes y byddaf wedi cael canlyniadau terfynol yr ymholiadau y maent yn eu gwneud.

**Jenny Randerson:** Diolch ichi am hynny. Edrychaf ymlaen at eich sylwadau pellach â chrynn ddiddordeb. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn sy'n peri pryder penodol i mi wrth godi'r mater hwn yw enw da Cymru gyfan, yn enwedig pum aelod y gynghrair, hynny yw, y pum coleg sy'n dal yn rhannau cyfansoddiadol o Brifysgol Cymru. A ydych wedi cysylltu â'u his-gangellorion hwy er mwyn ymdrin â'r pryder sydd gan eu graddedigion hwy rwy'n siŵr ynglŷn â'r effaith ar enw da graddau Prifysgol Cymru?

**Leighton Andrews:** Rwy'n ddiolchgar am y gefnogaeth yr wyf wedi ei chael gan yr Aelod yng nghyswilt y materion yr wyf wedi eu

raised with regard to the University of Wales. There is considerable concern among academics at many higher education institutions in Wales about the way in which they see the reputation of higher education in Wales being damaged by the revelations in the BBC Wales programme and by other issues. Clearly, some of the vice-chancellors of the five alliance universities were present when I made my comments to the vice-chancellor of the University of Wales. I made the point to them then that a number of them are represented on the governing body of the University of Wales, and they are in a position to do something about this matter.

**Nerys Evans:** Ers y cyhoeddiad ddoe na fydd myfyrwyr Cymreig yn talu ffioedd ychwanegol, mae llawer o sylw wedi bod yn y wasg, hyd yn oed yn y wasg Brydeinig. Am unwaith, diolch byth, maent wedi eu deffro i ddatganoli a'r ffaith y gallwn ni yng Nghymru wneud pethau'n wahanol. A ydych yn rhannu fy siom bod rhai papurau asgell dde Brydeinig wedi defnyddio iaith fel 'apartheid addysgol' i ddisgrifio penderfyniad Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau nad yw myfyrwyr o Gymru yn talu hyd at £30,000 ar gyfer gradd? Nid apartheid addysgol yw hwn, ond blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cymru ar waith, a datganoli ar waith.

**Leighton Andrews:** I completely agree with your point. In interviews, I have said that we are responsible for student support for students from Wales, the Scottish Government is responsible for support for students from Scotland, the Northern Ireland Government for students from Northern Ireland, and the Westminster Government for students from England. I invite the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Vince Cable, and the Minister for Universities and Science, David Willetts, to follow the example that we have set in Wales.

**Angela Burns:** I appreciate, Minister, that you are currently undertaking an investigation into the University of Wales, but, during the course of that investigation, I would like you to note the number of courses that the university currently validates. Some of those courses are definitely on the fringes

codi ynglŷn â Phrifysgol Cymru. Mae cryn dipyn o bryder ymhliad academyddion mewn llawer o sefydliadau addysg uwch yng Nghymru ynglŷn â'r ffordd y maent yn gweld enw da addysg uwch yng Nghymru'n cael ei bardduo gan y datgeliadau ar raglen BBC Cymru a chan faterion eraill. Wrth gwrs, roedd rhai o is-gangellorion y pum prifysgol sy'n rhan o'r gynghrair yn bresennol pan gyflwynais fy sylwadau i is-ganghellor Prifysgol Cymru. Dywedais wrthynt bryd hynny fod nifer ohonynt yn cael eu cynrychioli ar gorff llywodraethu Prifysgol Cymru, ac maent mewn sefyllfa i wneud rhywbeth ynglŷn â'r mater hwn.

**Nerys Evans:** Since the announcement yesterday that Welsh students will not pay additional fees, there has been a great deal of attention in the press, even in the British press. For once, thank goodness, they have woken up to devolution and the fact that we can do things differently in Wales. Do you share my disappointment that some right-wing British papers have used such language as 'educational apartheid' to describe the decision made by the Welsh Government to ensure that students from Wales do not have to pay up to £30,000 for a degree? This is not educational apartheid, but the priorities of the Welsh Government at work, and devolution at work.

**Leighton Andrews:** Rwy'n cytuno'n llwyr â'ch pwyt. Rwyf wedi dweud mewn cyfweliadau ein bod ni'n gyfrifol am gymorth i fyfyrwyr o Gymru, bod Llywodraeth yr Alban yn gyfrifol am gymorth i fyfyrwyr o'r Alban, Llywodraeth Gogledd Iwerddon yn gyfrifol am gymorth i fyfyrwyr o Ogledd Iwerddon, a Llywodraeth San Steffan yn gyfrifol am gymorth i fyfyrwyr o Loegr. Gwahoddaf yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Fusnes, Arloesi a Sgiliau, Vince Cable, a'r Gweinidog dros Brifysgolion a Gwyddoniaeth, David Willetts, i ddilyn yr esiampl yr ydym wedi ei rhoi yng Nghymru.

**Angela Burns:** Rwy'n sylweddoli, Weinidog, eich bod yn cynnal ymchwiliad i Brifysgol Cymru ar hyn o bryd, ond, yn ystod yr ymchwiliad hwnnw, hoffwn ichi nodi nifer y cyrsiau y mae'r brifysgol yn eu dilysu ar hyn o bryd. Mae rhai o'r cyrsiau hynny yn sicr yn ymylol i fyd addysg ac, yn y bôn,

of education and, in essence, it validates more courses than the Open University, which has an absolutely outstanding reputation. In some ways, Jenny's point about where the university gets its funds must have a bearing.

**Leighton Andrews:** The Open University is a very fine institution, and the creation of a Labour Government in the 1960s. It is very well led in Wales. I had better declare an interest, as my brother is a senior tutor for the Open University, although not in Wales. The issues that have been raised by the University of Wales episode are serious and they need to be dealt with seriously. There is no running away from some of the revelations that came out in the BBC Wales programme. We want higher education in Wales to have a high-quality international reputation. What we saw in that BBC Wales programme did not help that.

### Recriwtio Athrawon yng Nghanol De Cymru

**3. David Melding:** *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am recriwtio athrawon yng Nghanol De Cymru. OAQ(3)1562(CEL)*

**Leighton Andrews:** Teacher recruitment in South Wales Central broadly follows the same patterns as for Wales generally, although it has a higher average number of applications for teaching posts than for Wales as a whole.

**David Melding:** Do you share my concern that only two thirds of mathematics teachers have a degree in mathematics and only a third of physics teachers have a degree in physics? When it comes to teacher recruitment, we need the brightest and the best to at least consider entering the teaching profession. Is it not time to offer some inducements to mathematics and physics graduates to teach those subjects, which are very exciting subjects, but ones that need great speciality and expertise given their difficulty, to pupils in our secondary schools?

**Leighton Andrews:** It is important that we

mae'n dilysu mwy o gyrsiau na'r Brifysgol Agored, sydd ag enw eithriadol o dda. Mewn rhai ffyrdd, mae'n rhaid bod pwynt Jenny ynglŷn ag o ble y mae'r brifysgol yn cael ei harian yn berthnasol.

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae'r Brifysgol Agored yn sefydliad da iawn, a grëwyd gan Lywodraeth Lafur yn y 1960au. Mae'n cael ei harwain yn dda iawn yng Nghymru. Byddai'n well imi ddatgan buddiant, gan fod fy mrawd yn uwch diwtor i'r Brifysgol Agored, er nad yng Nghymru. Mae'r materion sydd wedi cael eu codi yn yr helynt hwn gyda Phrifysgol Cymru'n rhai difrifol ac mae angen eu cymryd o ddifrif. Ni ellir rhedeg i ffwrdd oddi wrth rai o'r pethau a ddatgelwyd yn rhaglen BBC Cymru. Mae arnom eisiau i addysg uwch yng Nghymru gael enw da am safonau uchel drwy'r byd i gyd. Nid oedd yr hyn a welsom yn y rhaglen honno gan BBC Cymru'n helpu hynny.

### Teacher Recruitment in South Wales Central

**3. David Melding:** *Will the Minister make a statement on teacher recruitment in South Wales Central. OAQ(3)1562(CEL)*

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae recriwtio athrawon yng Nghanol De Cymru yn dilyn yr un patrwm ar y cyfan ag ar gyfer Cymru'n gyffredinol, er bod yno nifer cyfartalog uwch o geisiadau am swyddi dysgu nag ar gyfer Cymru gyfan.

**David Melding:** A ydych yn pryderu, fel fi, mai dim ond dau o bob tri athro mathemateg sydd â gradd mewn mathemateg ac mai dim ond un o bob tri athro ffiseg sydd â gradd mewn ffiseg? Pan ddaw'n fater o recriwtio athrawon, mae arnom angen i'r rhai disgleiriaf a gorau o leiaf ystyried ymuno â'r proffesiwn dysgu. Onid yw'n bryd inni gynnig rhyw gymhelliant i ddenu graddedigion mathemateg a ffiseg i addysgu'r pynciau hynny, sy'n bynciau cyffrous iawn, ond yn rhai y mae angen cryn dipyn o arbenigrwydd ac arbenigedd o ystyried pa mor anodd ydynt, i ddisgyblion yn ein hysgolion uwchradd?

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae'n bwysig ein bod

get the best and brightest into teaching in Wales, and we have had a good track record on that in the past. For some time, there have been difficulties with the recruitment of mathematics and physics teachers, and we want to see an increase in the numbers taking science, technology, engineering and mathematics. I know that that is the subject of an inquiry by the Enterprise and Learning Committee, and I look forward to its deliberations. This is also an area that the chief scientific adviser is looking at, in conjunction with my colleague, the Deputy Minister for Science, Innovation and Skills. The developments that we have undertaken in recent months, such as the creation of the National Science Academy, are moves in the right direction.

**Leanne Wood:** Minister, I have heard anecdotal evidence that suggests that newly qualified primary school teachers in some subjects are finding it difficult to find employment in South Wales Central and in south Wales more widely due to a shortage of vacancies. Conversely, a recent survey found that there is an acute teacher shortage in some parts of London and the south-east of England. Are there any initiatives that the Welsh Assembly Government can implement to ensure that Wales does not lose teaching recruits over the border as a result of a lack of classroom opportunities in Wales?

**Leighton Andrews:** I think that we have historically had a tradition in Wales of producing rather more teachers than we have had vacancies for. We have exported teachers around the UK for many years. One of the issues that we are having to get to grips with in Wales—we have been doing that in recent years—has been getting a proper balance in the number of teachers that we are putting through training. We cannot be in a position where we continually over-produce teachers, which is why we have taken steps to rationalise teacher training in Wales.

yn cael y graddedigion gorau a disgleiriaf i addysgu yng Nghymru, ac rydym wedi llwyddo i wneud hynny'n dda iawn yn y gorffennol. Rydym wedi bod yn cael anhawster, ers tipyn nawr, i recriwtio athrawon mathemateg a ffiseg, a hoffem weld cynnydd yn y niferoedd sy'n cymryd gwyddoniaeth, technoleg, peirianneg a mathemateg. Gwn fod hynny'n destun ymchwiliad gan y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu, ac edrychaf ymlaen at ei drafodaethau. Mae hwn hefyd yn faes y mae'r prif gynghorydd gwyddonol yn edrych arno, ar y cyd â'm cyd-Aelod, y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wyddoniaeth, Arloesi a Sgiliau. Mae'r datblygiadau yr ydym wedi eu gwneud yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf, megis creu'r Academi Wyddoniaeth Genedlaethol, yn gam i'r cyfeiriad cywir.

**Leanne Wood:** Weinidog, rwyf wedi clywed dystiolaeth anecdotaidd sy'n awgrymu bod athrawon ysgol gynradd sydd newydd gymhwys o yn cael anhawster mewn rhai pynciau i gael gwaith yng Nghanol De Cymru ac yn ne Cymru yn gyffredinol oherwydd prinder swyddi gweigion. Ar y llaw arall, canfu arolwg yn ddiweddar bod prinder dybryd o athrawon mewn rhai rhannau o Lundain ac yn ne-ddwyrain Lloegr. A oes unrhyw gynnlluniau y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru eu rhoi ar waith er mwyn sicrhau nad yw Cymru'n colli athrawon dros y ffin o ganlyniad i ddiffyg cyfleoedd ystafell ddosbarth yng Nghymru?

**Leighton Andrews:** Credaf ein bod wedi bod â thraddodiad yng Nghymru, yn y gorffennol, o gynhyrchu tipyn bach mwy o athrawon nag y mae gennym swyddi ar eu cyfer. Rydym wedi anfon athrawon i wahanol rannau o'r DU ers blynnyddoedd. Un o'r problemau yr ydym yn gorfol mynd i'r afael â hwy yng Nghymru—rydym wedi bod yn gwneud hynny yn ystod y blynnyddoedd diwethaf—yw cael cydbwysedd priodol o ran nifer yr athrawon yr ydym yn eu hyfforddi. Ni allwn fod mewn sefyllfa lle rydym yn cynhyrchu gormod o athrawon o hyd, a dyna pam yr ydym wedi cymryd camau i resymoli hyfforddiant athrawon yng Nghymru.

2.30 p.m.

## Gwella Sgiliau Sylfaenol

**4. Alun Davies:** Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Gweinidog i wella sgiliau sylfaenol ar gyfer pob oed. OAQ(3)1602(CEL)

**Leighton Andrews:** My priority is to raise literacy standards in primary schools so that every child has the literacy skills that are essential to access learning before they leave primary school. We support basic skills at all ages also.

**Alun Davies:** Can you update us on the Employer Pledge scheme? I understand that you have created a scheme whereby employers will work with employees to increase and develop their basic skills. This is fundamental to the economic renewal programme that we debated in Plenary yesterday, and I hope that it will enable people to develop skill levels, as well as to broaden and deepen existing skills. Could you update us on this scheme and tell us how many employers are engaged in it, and how many employees you expect to benefit from it?

**Leighton Andrews:** I will need to write to you on the specific figures, or ask my colleague, the Deputy Minister for Science, Innovation and Skills, to write to you on the operation of the Employer Pledge. However, it is an important part of our armoury in helping to upskill the workforce as a whole. We have redesignated our work on skills as 'Skills for Economic Renewal', as we want our skills programme to work in harmony with the Deputy First Minister's economic renewal programme. The focus that we are now giving, including support for anchor companies, demonstrates that we are trying to ensure that the skills support that we provide matches the demand of industry.

**William Graham:** The Welsh Conservatives warmly welcome the newly built £35 million city centre campus of the University of Wales, Newport. Work has finished ahead of schedule, and the campus is opening next

## Improving Basic Skills

**4. Alun Davies:** What plans does the Minister have to improve basic skills for all ages. OAQ(3)1602(CEL)

**Leighton Andrews:** Fy mlaenoriaeth yw codi safonau llythrenedd mewn ysgolion cynradd fel bod pob plentyn yn meddu ar y sgiliau llythrenedd sy'n hanfodol er mwyn cael mynediad at ddysgu cyn iddo adael yr ysgol gynradd. Rydym yn cefnogi sgiliau sylfaenol ar gyfer pob oedran hefyd.

**Alun Davies:** A allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i ni ynglŷn â'r cynllun Adduned Cyflogwr? Deallaf eich bod wedi creu cynllun lle bydd cyflogwyr yn gweithio gyda gweithwyr er mwyn cynyddu a datblygu eu sgiliau sylfaenol. Mae hyn yn sylfaenol ar gyfer y rhaglen adnewyddu'r economi y buom yn ei thrafod yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ddoe, ac rwy'n gobeithio y bydd yn galluogi pobl i ddatblygu lefelau sgiliau, yn ogystal ag ehangu a dyfnhau'r sgiliau presennol. A allech roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am y cynllun hwn a dweud wrthym faint o gyflogwyr sy'n ymwneud ag ef, a faint o weithwyr y disgwyliwch iddynt gael budd ohono?

**Leighton Andrews:** Bydd angen imi ysgrifennu atoch ynglŷn â'r ffigurau penodol, neu ofyn i'm cyd-Aelod, y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wyddoniaeth, Arloesi a Sgiliau, ysgrifennu atoch ynglŷn â gweithrediad yr Adduned Cyflogwr. Serch hynny, mae'n rhan bwysig o'n harfogaeth er mwyn helpu i wella sgiliau'r gweithlu cyfan. Rydym wedi ail-ddynodi'n gwaith ar sgiliau fel 'Sgiliau ar gyfer Adnewyddu'r Economi', gan fod arnom eisiau i'n rhaglen sgiliau weithio mewn cytgord â rhaglen adnewyddu'r economi y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog. Mae'r canolbwyt sydd gennym yn awr, gan gynnwys cefnogaeth i gwmniâu angori, yn dangos ein bod yn ceisio sicrhau bod y cymorth sgiliau rydym yn ei ddarparu'n cyfateb i ofynion diwydiant.

**William Graham:** Mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru'n croesawu campws canol dinas newydd Prifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd, a adeiladwyd ar gost o £35 miliwn. Mae'r gwaith wedi'i gwblhau'n gynharach na'r

month, as you know. How will you work with the University of Wales, Newport, as well as with the Universities Heads of the Valleys Institute, to enable greater access to university-standard courses in Gwent, bearing in mind the large number of adults in the 35 to 59 age range in south-east Wales who lack qualifications but have indicated that they would like to get back into learning?

**Leighton Andrews:** We are proud of the success that we have had in creating the initiative behind Universities Heads of the Valleys Institute, in which the University of Wales, Newport and the University of Glamorgan are participants; others are helping through the further education sector, such as Coleg Gwent, Coleg Morgannwg, Coleg Ystrad Mynach, and so on. This is an important development; it should reach over 650 students this year, rising to about 1,400 next year. In my announcement yesterday on tuition fees, I made it clear that higher education institutions that wish to have access to a higher fees regime must demonstrate that they are meeting the targets that have been set by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales in its corporate strategy, including targets for access and participation. I will be making it clear to vice-chancellors later this week that we will expect to see real progress being made, not only on that agenda, but on the reconfiguration agenda as well, if they want access to that new fees regime.

**Bethan Jenkins:** With the loss of large-scale manufacturers in my area, such as Linamar and TRW, I am becoming increasingly concerned about how we can retain the skills in those companies, especially in the south Wales Valleys. We might be able to retain, and even increase, those skills if we had more entrepreneurs in those areas. What educational provision do you have in schools and further education colleges so that we can utilise those entrepreneurial skills, so that they can be retained in those key south Wales areas?

**Leighton Andrews:** We have several schemes under way. For example, all learners who are aged 14 to 19 and studying for the

disgwyld, a bydd y campws yn agor y mis nesaf, fel y gwyddoch. Sut y byddwch yn gweithio gyda Phrifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd, yn ogystal ag Athrofa Prifysgol Blaenau'r Cymoedd, er mwyn galluogi mwy o fynediad at gyrsiau safon prifysgol yng Ngwent, gan gofio bod cynifer o oedolion rhwng 35 a 59 oed yn ne-ddwyrain Cymru heb gymwysterau ond wedi dweud y byddent yn hoffi mynd yn ôl i ddysgu?

**Leighton Andrews:** Rydym yn falch o'r llwyddiant rydym wedi'i gael wrth greu'r fenter y tu ôl i Athrofa Prifysgol Blaenau'r Cymoedd, y mae Prifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd a Phrifysgol Morgannwg yn rhan ohoni; mae eraill yn helpu drwy'r sector addysg bellach, megis Coleg Gwent, Coleg Morgannwg, Coleg Ystrad Mynach, ac yn y blaen. Mae hwn yn ddatblygiad pwysig; dylai gyrraedd dros 650 o fyfyrwyr eleni, gan godi i tua 1,400 y flwyddyn nesaf. Yn fy nghyhoeddiad ddoe ar ffioedd dysgu, eglurais fod yn rhaid i sefydliadau addysg uwch sy'n dymuno cael mynediad at drefniadau ffioedd uwch ddangos eu bod yn bodloni'r targedau a osodwyd gan Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru yn ei strategaeth gorfforaethol, gan gynnwys targedau ar gyfer mynediad a chyfranogiad. Byddaf yn nodi'n glir wrth is-gangellorion yn ddiweddarach yr wythnos hon y byddwn yn disgwl gweld cynnydd gwirioneddol yn cael ei wneud, a'r agenda honno, a hefyd â'r agenda ad-drefnu, os oes arnynt eisiau mynediad at y trefniadau ffioedd newydd hynny.

**Bethan Jenkins:** Wrth inni golli gweithgynhyrchwyr mawr yn fy ardal i, megis Linamar a TRW, rwy'n fwyfwy pryderus ynglŷn â sut y gallwn gadw'r sgiliau yn y cwmniau hynny, yn enwedig yng Nghymoedd y de. Efallai y gallem gadw, a hyd yn oed gynyddu, y sgiliau hynny pe bai gennym fwy o entrepreneuriaid yn yr ardaloedd hynny. Pa ddarpariaeth addysgol sydd gennych mewn ysgolion a cholegau addysg bellach er mwyn inni allu defnyddio'r sgiliau entrepreneuriaidd hynny, er mwyn eu cadw yn yr ardaloedd allweddol hynny yn ne Cymru?

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae gennym nifer o gynlluniau ar y gweill. Er enghraift, rhaid i bob dysgwr sydd rhwng 14 a 19 oed ac sy'n

Welsh baccalaureate must take part in a team enterprise activity. That provides opportunities to engage in the world of work, and activities that encourage an entrepreneurial approach and develop entrepreneurial skills. We have also developed a national programme of Dynamo role model visits by successful entrepreneurs to schools. Only two weeks ago, we launched the youth entrepreneurship strategy, which has specific actions and targets to support young people in entrepreneurial learning.

**Veronica German:** According to a survey that measures literacy and numeracy levels in colleges across Wales on entry, 43 per cent of incoming students, when tested, were found to lack basic literacy, and nearly 50 per cent lacked basic numeracy skills. Obviously, some of these are adults coming back into further education, but a great many of them are students coming directly from school. I understand your emphasis on improving basic skills as children move through primary education, but in the meantime, more students will be coming into these colleges over the next few years, and as many as 80 per cent of them are not achieving the expected level at that stage. What are you doing to improve that situation for these people?

**Leighton Andrews:** Similar figures were presented to me by ColegauCymru when its representatives came to meet me a couple of weeks ago. It is absolutely clear that the system is not delivering for a significant proportion of young people. In our school effectiveness framework, I have laid down three priorities: literacy, numeracy and tackling the link between poverty and achievement. One of the messages that we are now giving out is that we expect all teachers, whether primary or secondary, to see themselves not only as specialists in their own subjects, but also as teachers of literacy.

### Moderneiddio Addysg

**5. Darren Millar:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ragleni moderneiddio addysg yng Nghonwy a Sir Ddinbych.

astudio ar gyfer baglriaeth Cymru gymryd rhan mewn gweithgaredd menter tîm. Mae hynny'n darparu cyfleoedd i ymgysylltu â byd gwaith, a gweithgareddau sy'n annog agwedd entreprenaidd ac yn datblygu sgiliau entreprenaidd. Rydym hefyd wedi datblygu rhaglen genedlaethol o ymweliadau modelau rôl Dynamo gan entreprenaiaid llwyddiannus ag ysgolion. Bythefnos yn ôl, roeddem yn lansio'r strategaeth entreprenaeth ieuenciad, sydd â gweithredoedd a thargedau penodol i gefnogi pobl ifanc mewn dysgu entreprenaidd.

**Veronica German:** Yn ôl arolwg sy'n mesur lefelau llythrennedd a rhifedd mewn colegau ledled Cymru ar adeg mynediad, canfuwyd bod 43 y cant o'r myfyrwyr a oedd yn dod i mewn, pan brofwyd hwy, heb sgiliau llythrennedd sylfaenol, a bron i 50 y cant heb sgiliau rhifedd sylfaenol. Wrth gwrs, mae rhai o'r rhain yn oedolion sy'n dod yn ôl i addysg bellach, ond mae llawer iawn ohonynt yn fyfyrwyr sy'n dod yn syth o'r ysgol. Deallaf eich pwyslais ar wella sgiliau sylfaenol wrth i blant symud drwy addysg gynradd, ond yn y cyfamser, bydd mwy o fyfyrwyr yn dod i'r colegau hyn yn ystod y blynnyddoedd nesaf, ac nid yw cynifer â 80 y cant ohonynt yn cyrraedd y lefel ddisgwylledig ar yr adeg honno. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud er mwyn gwella'r sefyllfa honno i'r bobl hyn?

**Leighton Andrews:** Cyflwynwyd ffigurau tebyg i mi gan ColegauCymru pan ddaeth ei gynrychiolwyr i'm cyfarfod ychydig wythnosau yn ôl. Mae'n holol glir nad yw'r system yn cyflawni gofynion cyfran helaeth o'n pobl ifanc. Rwyf wedi nodi tair blaenoriaeth yn ein fframwaith effeithiolrwydd ysgolion: llythrennedd, rhifedd a mynd i'r afael â'r cysylltiad rhwng tlodi a chyrhaeddiad. Un o'r negeseuon rydym yn ceisio'i chyfleu nawr yw ein bod yn disgwyl i bob athro, cynradd neu uwchradd, weld ei hun fel arbenigwr yn ei bwnc ei hun, a hefyd fel athro neu athrawes llythrennedd.

### Education Modernisation

**5. Darren Millar:** Will the Minister make a statement on education modernisation programmes in Conwy and Denbighshire.

*OAQ(3)1599(CEL)*

**Leighton Andrews:** In accordance with their statutory responsibilities, Conwy and Denbighshire local authorities are actively engaged in the review of schools provision in their areas, and in bringing forward proposals for change as and when they believe it is appropriate.

**Darren Millar:** As you will be aware, many people in my constituency are very concerned at proposals that are emerging from Conwy and Denbighshire local authorities for their modernisation programmes, which could see a significant number of schools across my constituency threatened with closure. We know that change is needed and that a case for change is being made, but what assurances can you give to my constituents, to the hardworking teachers and governors of the schools that may be affected, that their views, when they make them known to decision makers, whether they are in the local authorities themselves, or here in the Assembly, will not be just registered, but will be able to influence the outcome of the consultations that might take place?

**Leighton Andrews:** I do not propose to comment on any school organisation proposals in either Denbighshire or Conwy that may come to me subsequently for determination. However, let me say this: the assurance I can give is that the representations that they make will be listened to properly in accordance with the guidance that we have published and laid down. The other assurance I can give them is that because we are not adopting the policy that the Member wanted, of ring-fencing the health service, there will be £1.5 billion more in the education budgets over the next three years than would otherwise have been the case.

**Janet Ryder:** We all very pleased that that stance has been taken, so that authorities will have that extra leeway where possible. To take you back to Darren's point about people's voices being heard, a number of us who live in the Denbighshire area have been through this on other occasions, and there is a really strong feeling that, despite regulations

*OAQ(3)1599(CEL)*

**Leighton Andrews:** Yn unol â'u cyfrifoldebau statudol, mae awdurdodau lleol Conwy a sir Ddinbych yn ymwneud â'r adolygiad o ddarpariaeth ysgolion yn eu hardaloedd, ac yn cyflwyno cynigion ar gyfer newid pan maent yn credu bod hynny'n briodol.

**Darren Millar:** Fel y gwyddoch, mae llawer o bobl yn fy etholaeth yn bryderus iawn ynglŷn â chynlluniau sy'n cael eu gwneud gan awdurdodau lleol Conwy a sir Ddinbych ar gyfer eu rhagleni moderneiddio, a allai weld nifer sylweddol o ysgolion yn fy etholaeth i dan fygythiad o gael eu cau. Gwyddom fod angen newid a bod achos dros newid yn cael ei gyflwyno, ond pa sicrwydd y gallwch ei roi i'm hetholwyr, i athrawon a llywodraethwyr sy'n gweithio'n galed yn yr ysgolion hynny a allai gael eu heffeithio, y bydd eu barn hwy, pan fyddant yn ei dwyn i sylw pobl sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau, boed yn yr awdurdodau lleol eu hunain, neu yma yn y Cynulliad, yn cael ei nodi, ac y byddant hefyd yn gallu dylanwadu ar ganlyniad yr ymgyngoriadau a allai gael eu cynnal?

**Leighton Andrews:** Nid wyf yn bwriadu gwneud sylw am unrhyw gynigion i addrefnu ysgolion yn sir Ddinbych nac yng Nghonwy a allai gael eu hanfon ataf am benderfyniad yn dilyn hynny. Serch hynny, gadewch imi ddweud hyn: y sicrwydd y gallaf ei roi yw y bydd y sylwadau y byddant yn eu gwneud yn cael gwrandawiad priodol yn unol â'r canllawiau yr ydym wedi eu cyhoeddi a'u cyflwyno. Y sicrwydd arall y gallaf ei roi iddynt yw y bydd £1.5 biliwn yn rhagor yn y cyllidebau addysg dros y tair blynedd nesaf nag a fyddai wedi bod ar gael fel arall gan nad ydym yn mabwysiadu'r polisi yr oedd ar yr Aelod ei eisiau, sef neilltuo'r gwasanaeth iechyd.

**Janet Ryder:** Rydym i gyd yn falch iawn bod y safiad hwnnw wedi'i wneud, er mwyn i awdurdodau gael yr hyblygrwydd ychwanegol hwnnw lle bo modd. Os caf fynd â chi'n ôl at bwynt Darren ynglŷn â gwrandio ar leisiau pobl, mae nifer ohonom sy'n byw yn ardal sir Ddinbych wedi bod drwy hyn ar adegau eraill, ac mae teimlad cryf iawn, er

issued from the National Assembly, and despite assurances given that consultation exercises would take on board the views and responses put forward, it is in some respects a motion that councils go through to achieve the end that they had specified in the first instance. I note that you have given some assurances to Darren, but what further assurances can you give to those parents that when the National Assembly says that consultation has to be meaningful, local authorities are very mindful of that? Although many parents may not ultimately get their wish, as is always the case in consultation exercises, the authority does have to demonstrate that it is taking on board the views of all parents and professionals concerned.

**Leighton Andrews:** Our guidance is very clear, and when local authorities bring forward proposals to which objections are made, they are referred to Ministers. Our officials then have to assess whether local authorities have undertaken the proper consultation process. That is all very clear. We are also consulting on new proposals for school organisation in the future, and there will be every opportunity in that context for people to look at whether the consultation aspects are strong enough.

2.40 p.m.

#### Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer Ysgolion

**6. Mohammad Asghar:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei blaenoriaethau ar gyfer ysgolion yng Nghymru. OAQ(3)1581(CEL)

**Leighton Andrews:** My priority for schools is to raise standards in literacy and numeracy and to remove the link between poverty and low educational attainment. We need a relentless focus on improving standards in our schools.

**Mohammad Asghar:** Minister, you will be aware that the issue of school toilets once again featured in the annual report of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, much to the disappointment of Keith Towler and a number of Assembly Members. While I

gwaetha'r rheoliadau a gyhoeddwyd gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, ac er bod sicrwydd wedi'i roi y byddai ymgyngoriadau'n ystyried y safbwytiau a'r ymatebion a gyflwynid, ei fod i ryw raddau yn gam y mae cynghorau'n mynd drwyddo er mwyn cael y canlyniad yr oeddent wedi ei nodi yn y lle cyntaf. Deallaf eich bod wedi rhoi rhywfaint o sicrwydd i Darren, ond pa sicrwydd pellach y gallwch ei roi i'r rhieni hynny, pan fydd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn dweud bod yn rhaid i ymgynghoriad fod yn ystyrlon, y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn rhoi sylw priodol i hynny? Er na fydd llawer o rieni'n cael eu dynuniad yn y pen draw, fel sy'n digwydd bob amser mewn ymgynghoriad, mae'n rhaid i'r awdurdod ddangos ei fod yn ystyried barn yr holl rieni a'r gweithwyr proffesiynol dan sylw.

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae ein canllawiau'n glir iawn, a phan fo awdurdodau lleol yn cyflwyno cynigion y mynegir gwrthwynebiad iddynt, byddant yn cael eu cyfeirio at Weinidogion. Rhaid i'n swyddogion wedyn asesu a yw awdurdodau lleol wedi dilyn y broses ymgynghori briodol. Mae hynny'n glir iawn. Rydym i gyd yn ymgynghori ynglŷn â chynigion newydd ar gyfer ad-drefnu ysgolion yn y dyfodol, a bydd cyfleoedd yn y cyd-destun hwnnw i bobl edrych a yw'r agweddau ymgynghorol yn ddigon cryf.

#### Priorities for Schools

**6. Mohammad Asghar:** Will the Minister make a statement on his priorities for schools in Wales. OAQ(3)1581(CEL)

**Leighton Andrews:** Fy mlaenoriaeth ar gyfer ysgolion yw codi safonau llythrennedd a rhifedd a dileu'r cysylltiad rhwng tlodi a chyrhaeddiad addysgol isel. Mae angen inni ganolbwytio'n ddi-baid ar wella safonau yn ein hysgolion.

**Mohammad Asghar:** Weinidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol bod toiledau ysgolion yn bwnc sydd wedi cael sylw unwaith eto yn adroddiad blynnyddol Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, er mawr siom i Keith Towler a nifer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Rwy'n sylweddoli

appreciate that this is primarily a local authority responsibility, the Welsh Assembly Government has an important role to play, and we should be expecting better in this field. I welcome that, as part of its response to the E. coli inquiry, the Welsh Government has published a consultation document to seek views relating to the standards of toilets and related facilities in Welsh schools. Minister, how confident are you that the Assembly Government has done enough to tackle this important issue, given that a clear objective was set in 2003 to ensure that, by 2010, all schools in Wales should be in good physical shape and properly maintained, including the toilets? Have you achieved that objective?

**Leighton Andrews:** The responsibility for this primarily lies with local authorities. I think that the Member himself acknowledged that in his question. As he rightly says, we are currently consulting on this; the consultation is running at the moment. We have invested in school capital and in refurbishment. Indeed, the Minister for Business and Budget announced further investments just a week or so ago. We are facing an incredibly challenging capital funding settlement, which we received from the UK Government. Our capital is being cut by 10 per cent year on year, and that is going to have a very significant effect on our ability to make the capital improvements that we would like to see in schools throughout Wales.

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Weinidog, cyfeiriasoch at y toriadau llym i gyllideb cyfalaf y Cynulliad a'u heffaith ar fuddsoddi mewn adeiladau. A dychwelyd at y pwynt a wnaethoch am yr angen i godi safonau yn ein hysgolion, dywedasoch petai'r Toriaid wedi cael eu ffordd a gwarantu'r gyllideb iechyd yn ei chyfarwydd, y byddai hynny wedi golygu gostyngiad o 25 y cant yn y gyllideb ar gyfer addysg. A fyddch chi'n gallu sicrhau'r cynnydd mewn safonau yr ydych am ei weld o dan y fath amodau?

**Leighton Andrews:** I think that you are being a little ungenerous to the Conservatives, Rhodri Glyn. You said that they would have enforced a 25 per cent cut in

mai'r awdurdodau lleol sy'n bennaf gyfrifol am hyn, ond mae gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru rôl bwysig i'w chwarae, a dylem fod yn disgwyl gwell yn y maes hwn. Rwy'n falch bod Llywodraeth Cymru, fel rhan o'i hymateb i'r ymchwiliad E. coli, wedi cyhoeddi dogfen ymgynghori i ofyn am farn ynglŷn â safonau toiledau a chyfleusterau cysylltiedig yn ysgolion Cymru. Weinidog, pa mor hyderus ydych bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gwneud digon i fynd i'r afael â'r mater pwysig hwn, ac ystyried bod nod clir wedi'i bennu yn 2003 er mwyn sicrhau y dylai pob ysgol yng Nghymru fod mewn cyflwr ffisegol da, a chael ei chynnal a'i chadw'n briodol, gan gynnwys y toiledau, erbyn 2010? A ydych wedi cyflawni'r nod hwnnw?

**Leighton Andrews:** Awdurdodau lleol sy'n bennaf gyfrifol am hwn. Credaf fod yr Aelod ei hun wedi cydnabod hynny yn ei gwestiwn. Fel y dywed, yn gwbl briodol, rydym yn ymgynghori ynglŷn â hyn ar hyn o bryd; mae'r ymgynghoriad yn mynd rhagddo nawr. Rydym wedi buddsoddi mewn cyfalaf ysgolion ac mewn adnewyddu. Yn wir, cyhoeddodd y Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb ragor o fuddsoddiadau ychydig dros wythnos yn ôl. Mae'r setliad ariannu cyfalaf a gawsom gan Lywodraeth y DU yn un anodd iawn. Mae ein cyfalaf yn cael ei dorri 10 y cant y naill flwyddyn ar ôl y llall, ac mae hynny'n mynd i gael effaith fawr iawn ar ein gallu i gyflawni'r gwelliannau cyfalaf y byddem yn hoffi eu gweld mewn ysgolion ledled Cymru.

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Minister, you referred to the drastic budget cuts to the Assembly's capital budget and their impact on investing in buildings. Returning to the point about the need to raise standards in our schools, you said that if the Tories had their way and the entire health budget had been ring-fenced, that would have meant a reduction of 25 per cent in the budget for education. Would you be able to ensure the desired improvement in standards under such conditions?

**Leighton Andrews:** Credaf eich bod ychydig yn llym â'r Ceidwadwyr, Rhodri Glyn. Dywedasoch y byddent wedi gorfodi toriad o 25 y cant yn y gyllideb addysg, ond dim ond

the education budget, but it was only a 20 per cent cut that they would have enforced. We take that figure from the words spoken by the leader of the opposition two weeks ago on *BBC Wales Today*. When Betsan Powys, the distinguished BBC Wales political editor, said that the Conservatives' plans would mean cuts of up to 24 per cent in areas such as schools and education and asked him whether he was prepared to make those cuts, the leader of the opposition said that the cuts would be about 20 per cent, because that was his party's priority. They wanted a 20 per cent cut in the education budget.

**Kirsty Williams:** Minister, you will be aware that we do not have a Welsh-medium secondary school in Brecon and Radnorshire. The council, in response to demand among parents who want their children to be able to continue their post-11 education through the medium of Welsh, is looking to develop better access to Welsh-medium education at secondary level. One way in which it is looking to do this is to increase the number of subjects available in dual-stream high schools that already exist. Do you agree that dual-stream schools represent one way in which we can develop access to Welsh-medium secondary education, and are you content to see that model developed, rather than thinking that all Welsh-medium education should necessarily be delivered by stand-alone schools?

**Leighton Andrews:** I do not want to comment on the specific situation in Powys, but I understand the point that Kirsty is making. Clearly, there is a role for dual-stream schools. Regarding our transformation policy, in broad terms, we would not want to see proposals from local authorities that led to a diminution of Welsh-medium provision in their areas. However, certainly, if there are routes that can open up more opportunities for young people to access Welsh-medium education, we would want to see local authorities pursuing those. Of course, through our Welsh-medium education strategy, we would also want to see local authorities making a proper assessment of the demand for Welsh-medium education provision in their localities.

toriad o 20 y cant y byddent wedi ei orfodi. Rydym yn cymryd y ffigur hwnnw o'r hyn a ddywedwyd gan arweinydd yr wrthblaid bythefnos yn ôl ar *BBC Wales Today*. Pan ddywedodd Betsan Powys, golygydd gwleidyddol arbennig BBC Cymru, y byddai cynlluniau'r Ceidwadwyr yn golygu toriadau o hyd at 24 y cant mewn meysydd fel ysgolion ac addysg a gofyn iddo a oedd yn barod i wneud y toriadau hynny, dywedodd arweinydd yr wrthblaid mai oddeutu 20 y cant fyddai'r toriadau, gan mai dyna flaenoriaeth ei blaid. Roedd arnynt eisiau toriad o 20 y cant yn y gyllideb addysg.

**Kirsty Williams:** Weinidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol nad oes gennym ysgol uwchradd Gymraeg ym Mrycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed. Mae'r cyngor, mewn ymateb i'r galw gan rieni sydd eisiau i'w plant allu parhau â'u haddysg ôl-11 drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, yn ystyried datblygu gwell mynediad at addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ar lefel uwchradd. Un ffordd y mae'n ei hystyried yw cynyddu nifer y pynciau sydd ar gael mewn ysgolion uwchradd dwy ffrwd sy'n bodoli'n barod. A ydych yn cytuno bod ysgolion dwy ffrwd yn un ffordd o ddatblygu mynediad at addysg uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg, ac a ydych yn fodlon gweld y model hwnnw'n cael ei ddatblygu, yn hytrach na meddwl mai dim ond mewn ysgolion Cymraeg y dylai addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg gael ei darparu?

**Leighton Andrews:** Nid oes arnaf eisiau gwneud sylw ynglŷn â'r sefyllfa benodol ym Mhowys, ond dealaf y pwyt y mae Kirsty'n ei wneud. Mae'n amlwg bod rôl i ysgolion dwy ffrwd. O ran ein polisi trawsnewid, yn gyffredinol, ni fyddai arnom eisiau gweld cynigion gan awdurdodau lleol a fyddai'n arwain at leihau darpariaeth drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn eu hardaloedd. Serch hynny, yn sicr, os oes llwybrau a all arwain at ragor o gyfleoedd i bobl ifanc gael mynediad at addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, byddem yn hoffi gweld awdurdodau lleol yn mynd ar ôl y rheini. Wrth gwrs, drwy ein strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, byddem hefyd yn hoffi gweld awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud asesiad priodol o'r galw am ddarpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn eu hardaloedd.

## Brecwast am ddim mewn Ysgolion

**7. Brian Gibbons:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am frecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion. OAQ(3)1575(CEL)

**Leighton Andrews:** More than 67 per cent of primary schools are currently participating in this scheme, providing pupils with the opportunity to have a good start to the school day. The additional funding in the draft budget shows our commitment by bringing provision in line with projected growth in demand.

**Brian Gibbons:** It is excellent news to hear of the continuing growth of the free school breakfast scheme, a sure indication of the wisdom of the Assembly Government in bringing this scheme forward in the first place. Do you agree that not only do free school breakfasts have a very positive direct effect on things such as nutrition and educational achievement, but that they are beginning to make a significant contribution to economic goals by providing high-quality pre-school care for the children of those parents who need to get to work well before the usual school starting time?

**Leighton Andrews:** Yes, indeed, Brian. I am very pleased that we have been able to put additional money into the draft budget going forward. This is a very important scheme. We were delighted earlier this year when the thousandth school joined the scheme. It demonstrated the success that the scheme has had since it was launched. You are absolutely right to highlight not only the nutritional and educational benefits, but the benefits in the form of economic activity.

**Jonathan Morgan:** Minister, I hope that you agree that the success of your scheme as you put it will not just be down to how many schools are signed up to it, but whether it is having an impact on children. You will recall that, in 2003, one of your predecessors as Minister for education, Jane Davidson, told the Assembly that it was her fear that the education of children was being doubly compromised by missing breakfast, leaving a situation where undernourished children were missing school because of their susceptibility

## Free School Breakfasts

**7. Brian Gibbons:** Will the Minister make a statement on free school breakfasts. OAQ(3)1575(CEL)

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae mwy na 67 y cant o ysgolion cynradd yn cymryd rhan yn y cynllun hwn ar hyn o bryd, ac yn rhoi cyfle i ddisgyblion gael dechrau da i'r diwrnod ysgol. Mae'r arian ychwanegol yn y gyllideb ddrafft yn dangos ein hymrwymiad drwy wneud darpariaeth yn unol â thwf rhagamcanol mewn galw.

**Brian Gibbons:** Mae'n braff iawn clywed bod y cynllun brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion yn mynd o nerth i nerth, ac mae'n arwydd pendant o ddoethineb Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wrth gyflwyno'r cynllun hwn yn y lle cyntaf. A ydych yn cytuno bod brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion yn cael effaith gadarnhaol iawn ar bethau fel maethiad a chyrhaeddiad addysgol, a'i fod hefyd yn dechrau gwneud cyfraniad arwyddocaol tuag at amcanion economaidd drwy ddarparu gofal cyn-ysgol o safon uchel i blant y rhieni hynny y mae angen iddynt gyrraedd eu gwaith gryn dipyn cyn amser dechrau arferol yr ysgol?

**Leighton Andrews:** Ydwyt, yn sicr, Brian. Rwy'n falch iawn ein bod wedi gallu rhoi arian ychwanegol yn y gyllideb ddrafft ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae hwn yn gynllun pwysig iawn. Roeddym yn falch iawn yn gynharach eleni pan ymunodd y filfed ysgol â'r cynllun. Roedd yn arwydd o'r llwyddiant y mae'r cynllun wedi ei gael ers iddo gael ei lansio. Rydych yn llygad eich lle wrth gyfeirio at y manteision maethol ac addysgol, a hefyd at y manteision sydd i'w gweld ar ffurf gweithgaredd economaidd.

**Jonathan Morgan:** Weinidog, rwy'n gobeithio y byddwch yn cytuno nad nifer yr ysgolion sy'n cymryd rhan yn y cynllun sy'n dangos ei lwyddiant, fel yr ydych yn ei alw, ond a yw'n cael effaith ar blant. Byddwch yn cofio bod un o'ch rhagflaenwyr fel Gweinidog dros addysg, Jane Davidson, wedi dweud wrth y Cynulliad yn 2003 mai ei phryder hi oedd bod addysg plant yn cael ei roi yn y fantol mewn dwy ffordd, drwy fethu â chael brecwast, a thrwy arwain at sefyllfa lle mae plant sydd heb gael digon o faeth yn

to illness. Following her evidence-based approach, which she was very proud of as Minister for education, will you publish any evidence that you may have on whether free school breakfasts have addressed the fears that she expressed initially?

**Leighton Andrews:** The success of the programme is demonstrated by the commitment to it in schools throughout Wales. I would be alarmed if we were seeing a falling off in the number of schools seeking to take up this scheme, but we are not; we are seeing a growth in it. That demonstrates that there is real commitment, interest and support for the scheme throughout Wales.

#### Cronfa Ymddiriedolaeth Plant Cymru

**8. Sandy Mewies:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am Gronfa Ymddiriedolaeth Plant Cymru. OAQ(3)1579(CEL)

**The Deputy Minister for Children (Huw Lewis):** The Child Trust Fund Cymru will continue this year. It is important that parents of five-year-olds continue to apply for the money for which they are eligible. It will benefit around 32,000 children in Wales. However, because the UK Government is ending child trust funds, it will not be feasible to operate the scheme in future years. Instead, we have chosen to invest the funds in supporting disabled and looked-after children.

**Sandy Mewies:** Thank you for that response, Minister. I am sure that, like me, everyone on this side of the Chamber is delighted to see that children and young people are being protected as much as possible from the child-centred cuts imposed by the UK Tory-Lib Dem Government. I ask that we continue to use resources as well as we can to support disadvantaged children and young people.

**Huw Lewis:** I can only agree that the act of political spite of axing the child trust fund, at the Liberal Democrats' behest, has destroyed

colli ysgol gan eu bod yn fwy tueddol o gael salwch. Yn dilyn ei dull seiliedig ar dystiolaeth, yr oedd hi'n falch iawn ohono fel Gweinidog dros addysg, a wnewch gyhoeddi unrhyw dystiolaeth sydd gennych i ddangos a yw brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion wedi mynd i'r afael â'i hofnau cychwynnol?

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae llwyddiant y rhaglen yn cael ei amlyu drwy'r ymrwymiad iddi mewn ysgolion ledled Cymru. Byddwn yn synnu pe baem yn gweld gostyngiad yn nifer yr ysgolion sy'n manteisio ar y cynllun hwn, ond nid ydym; rydym yn gweld twf ynddo. Mae hynny'n dangos bod ymrwymiad, diddordeb a chefnogaeth wirioneddol i'r cynllun ledled Cymru.

#### Child Trust Fund Cymru

**8. Sandy Mewies:** Will the Minister provide an update on the Child Trust Fund Cymru. OAQ(3)1579(CEL)

**Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Blant (Huw Lewis):** Bydd Cronfa Ymddiriedolaeth Plant Cymru'n parhau eleni. Mae'n bwysig bod rhieni plant pump oed yn dal i wneud cais am yr arian y maent yn gymwys i'w gael. Bydd tua 32,000 o blant yn elwa ohono yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, gan fod Llywodraeth y DU yn dod â chronfeydd ymddiriedolaeth plant i ben, ni fydd yn ymarferol gweithredu'r cynllun yn y blynnyddoedd sydd i ddod. Yn lle hynny, rydym wedi dewis buddsoddi'r cronfeydd er mwyn cefnogi plant anabl a phlant sy'n derbyn gofal.

**Sandy Mewies:** Diolch am yr ymateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Rwy'n siŵr bod pawb yr ochr hon i'r Siambr, fel fi, yn falch iawn o weld bod plant a phobl ifanc yn cael eu diogelu cymaint ag sy'n bosibl rhag y toriadau sy'n canolbwytio ar blant sy'n cael eu gorfodi gan Lywodraeth Toraidd a Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol y DU. Gadewch inni ddal i ddefnyddio adnoddau crystal ag y gallwn er mwyn cefnogi plant a phobl ifanc sydd dan anfantais.

**Huw Lewis:** Ni allaf ond cytuno bod y malais gwleidyddol o ddileu'r gronfa ymddiriedolaeth plant, ar gais y Democratiaid

the most successful savings product ever devised in British history. It will affect generations of children to come. Of course, we will protect the most vulnerable by reinvesting those funds in transition grants for looked-after children as they move towards adulthood and to support families, including those with disabled children.

Rhyddfrydol, wedi dinistrio'r cynnyrch cynillion mwyaf llwyddiannus a ddyfeisiwyd erioed yn hanes Prydain. Bydd yn effeithio ar genedlaethau o blant. Wrth gwrs, byddwn yn diogelu'r rhai mwyaf agored i niwed drwy ail-fuddsoddi'r cronfeydd hynny mewn grantiau trosglwyddo ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal wrth iddynt ddatblygu i fod yn oedolion a chefnogi teuluoedd, gan gynnwys y rhai hynny sydd â phlant anabl.

**Mark Isherwood:** Child trust funds were based on the claim that young people would build up an asset that they could use later in life, but since UK Government payments into the scheme were funded by public borrowing, the Government was actually storing up debts that would have to be repaid by those same young people as they grew older.

**Mark Isherwood:** Roedd y cronfeydd ymddiriedolaeth plant yn seiliedig ar yr honiad y byddai pobl ifanc yn crynhoi ased y gallent ei defnyddio yn ddiweddarach yn eu bywydau, ond gan fod taliadau Llywodraeth y DU i'r cynllun yn cael eu hariannu drwy fenthyciadau cyhoeddus, roedd y Llywodraeth mewn gwirionedd yn crynhoi dyledion y byddai'n rhaid iddynt gael eu hadnal gan yr union bobl ifanc hynny wrth iddynt fynd yn hŷn.

2.50 p.m.

In September 2009, the Institute for Fiscal Studies stated that, in the current economic climate,

'When the time for tough choices about public spending arrives abolishing the Child Trust Fund could be one of the less unattractive options'.

Research has shown that 70 per cent of parents would continue to save, if they are abolished, and only 14 per cent said that they would stop. Do you therefore agree that the UK Government is right to, instead, focus increased support for low-income families and the most vulnerable on the path that you have also chosen to follow at a devolved level? Will you join me in assuring parents that existing accounts will continue to benefit from tax-free investments, and that friends and family will continue to be able to invest in those accounts?

**Huw Lewis:** These are weasel words, Mark, and I am sure that you know it. You might as well argue that any item of public expenditure over the last few years was financed by public borrowing. Your salary was financed by public borrowing, and what

Ym Medi 2009, dywedodd y Sefydliad Astudiaethau Cyllid, yn yr hinsawdd economaidd sydd ohoni,

pan ddaw'r adeg i wneud dewisiadau anodd ynglŷn â gwariant cyhoeddus gallai dileu'r Gronfa Ymddiriedolaeth Plant fod yn un o'r dewisiadau llai anatyniadol.

Dangosodd ymchwil y byddai 70 y cant o rieni'n dal i gynilo, pe baent yn cael eu diddymu, a dim ond 14 y cant ddywedodd y byddent yn rhoi'r gorau i gynilo. A ydych felly'n cytuno bod Llywodraeth y DU yn iawn, yn lle hynny, i ganolbwytio mwy o gefnogaeth i deuluoedd incwm isel a'r rhai mwyaf agored i niwed ar y llwybr yr ydych chithau hefyd wedi dewis ei ddilyn ar lefel ddatganoledig? A wnewch ymuno â mi i roi sicrwydd i rieni y bydd cyfrifon presennol yn dal i fanteisio ar fuddsodiadau di-dreth, ac y bydd cyfeillion a theulu'n dal i allu buddsoddi yn y cyfrifon hynny?

**Huw Lewis:** Mae'r rhain yn eiriau camarweiniol, Mark, ac rwy'n siŵr eich bod yn gwybod hynny. Byddai'n llawn cystal pe baech wedi dadlau bod unrhyw eitem o wariant cyhoeddus yn ystod y blynnyddoedd diwethaf yn cael ei hariannu gan

a great investment that has been.

It remains true that the child trust fund, at a time of austerity and economic distress for many families, was the most successful savings product ever devised. When many families will struggle to get by, the long-term security that that would have offered—for instance, for young people heading off to university—has suddenly been taken away. A very cheap scheme has been demolished, not because of your party, Mark, but because you are doing the bidding of the tail that wags the Conservative dog.

**Helen Mary Jones:** To bring us back to your alternative plans for the funding, I am very glad that you have been able to retain that as money that can be used for the direct benefit of children and young people. The proposed grant for young people leaving care is very welcome; that £500 could make an enormous difference. I am sure that you will agree, Deputy Minister, that it is important that advice is then available to those young people to ensure that it is either invested effectively for them, or that it is put to good use, whether that be by equipping a flat or making it possible for them to stay in education and training. What arrangements will be made to ensure that that £500 gets the maximum benefit for each single child leaving care?

**Huw Lewis:** That is a very good question, Helen Mary. My intention throughout this process is to ensure that we put ourselves in the place of a good parent. What would a good parent or guardian do in that circumstance? Discussions thus far have centred on input from 16 and 17-year-olds' personal advisers to ensure that the grant is invested wisely. However, at the same time, we are keeping very wide criteria about what a young person might want to invest that money in. The intention is for it to be aimed at moving towards independence in adult life. It could be for anything as varied as buying a fridge for a flat, heading out on your own, fees for an educational course or anything in

fenthyciadau cyhoeddus. Roedd eich cyflog chi'n cael ei ariannu gan fenthyciadau cyhoeddus, ac am fuddsoddiad gwych oedd hwnnw.

Mae'n dal yn wir mai'r gronfa ymddiriedolaeth plant, ar adeg o gynni a gofid economaidd i lawer o deuluoedd, oedd y cynnrych cynillion mwyaf llwyddiannus a ddyfeisiwyd erioed. Pan fydd llawer o deuluoedd yn cael anhawster i gael deopen llinyn ynghyd, mae'r sicrwydd hirdymor y byddai hynny wedi ei gynnig—er enghraifft, i bobl ifanc sy'n mynd i brifysgol—wedi ei dynnu ymaith yn sydyn. Mae cynllun rhad iawn wedi cael ei ddymchwel, nid oherwydd eich plaid chi, Mark, ond oherwydd eich bod fel y gynffon sy'n siglo'r ci Ceidwadol.

**Helen Mary Jones:** Os caf ddod yn ôl at eich cynlluniau amgen ar gyfer y cyllid, rwy'n falch iawn eich bod wedi gallu cadw hwnnw fel arian y gellir ei ddefnyddio er budd uniongyrchol i blant a phobl ifanc. Mae'r grant arfaethedig i bobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal yn cael ei groesawu'n fawr; gallai'r £500 hwnnw wneud gwahaniaeth aruthrol. Rwy'n siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno, Ddirprwy Weinidog, ei bod yn bwysig bod cyngor ar gael i'r bobl ifanc hynny wedyn er mwyn sicrhau ei fod naill ai'n cael ei fuddsoddi'n effeithiol iddynt, neu'n cael ei ddefnyddio'n briodol, boed drwy ddodrefnu fflat ynteu drwy ei gwneud yn bosibl iddynt aros mewn addysg a hyfforddiant. Pa drefniadau y gellir eu gwneud er mwyn sicrhau bod y £500 hwnnw'n arwain at y budd mwyaf i bob un plentyn sy'n gadael gofal?

**Huw Lewis:** Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn da iawn, Helen Mary. Fy mwriad drwy gydol y broses hon yw sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi ein hunain yn lle rhiant da. Beth y byddai rhiant neu warcheidwad da'n ei wneud yn yr amgylchiadau hynny? Mae'r trafodaethau hyd yn hyn wedi canolbwytio ar fewnbwn gan gynghorwyr personol pobl ifanc 16 a 17 oed er mwyn sicrhau bod y grant yn cael ei fuddsoddi'n ddoeth. Fodd bynnag, yr un pryd, rydym yn cadw meinu prawf eang iawn ar gyfer y mathau o bethau y byddai person ifanc yn dymuno buddsoddi'r arian hwnnw ynddynt. Y bwriad yw iddo gael ei anelu tuag at symud i gyfeiriad annibyniaeth fel oedolyn. Gallai fod ar gyfer pethau mor

between. Those young people who are over 18 years of age are adults and would have discretion, as any adult would, over where the £500 would end up. I feel very strongly that we should trust adults who have been looked-after children as much as we would trust any adult who might benefit from such a grant.

amrywiol â phrynu oergell ar gyfer fflat, cychwyn ar eich pen eich hun, ffioedd ar gyfer cwrs addysgol neu rywbed yn y canol. Mae'r bobl ifanc hynny sydd dros 18 oed yn oedolion a byddai ganddynt hawl i benderfynu drostynt eu hunain, fel unrhyw oedolyn, ar beth i wario'r £500. Rwy'n credu'n gryf iawn y dylem ymddiried mewn oedolion sydd wedi bod yn blant sy'n derbyn gofal cymaint ag y byddem yn ymddiried mewn unrhyw oedolyn a allai gael budd o grant o'r fath.

## Pynciau STEM

**9. Joyce Watson:** *Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i annog rhagor o bobl ifanc yng Nghymru i astudio pynciau STEM. OAQ(3)1582(CEL)*

**Leighton Andrews:** We are encouraging the take-up of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in Wales by developing teaching resources, assessment materials, and teaching and learning methodologies that support the school curriculum. We have established the National Science Academy for Wales, which will promote the take-up of STEM subjects from primary education through to higher education.

**Joyce Watson:** STEM Cymru recently announced a project to encourage youngsters from 12 to 19 years of age to participate in industry-linked engineering activities, including hands-on activities, work experience, competitions, events and career-related opportunities. Will the Welsh Assembly Government help organisations that are taking the opportunities open to them to help to break down any perceived or real barriers that will discourage learners from studying these key subjects?

**Leighton Andrews:** Yes, indeed. We have a number of schemes in place. The F1 in Schools challenge for key stages 2, 3 and 4, post-16 education and those undertaking apprenticeships has raised the profile of STEM-related subjects. We have embarked on a programme of supporting level 2 and 3 BTEC engineering courses and commissioned new bilingual resources. We are supporting a number of other schemes at

## STEM Subjects

**9. Joyce Watson:** *What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to encourage the take-up of STEM subjects by young people in Wales. OAQ(3)1582(CEL)*

**Leighton Andrews:** Rydym yn annog pobl ifanc i astudio gwyddoniaeth, technoleg, peirianneg a mathemateg yng Nghymru drwy ddatblygu adnoddau addysgu, deunyddiau asesu, a methodolegau dysgu ac addysgu sy'n cefnogi cwricwlwm yr ysgol. Rydym wedi sefydlu Academi Wyddoniaeth Genedlaethol Cymru, a fydd yn annog plant a phobl ifanc i astudio pynciau STEM o addysg gynradd i addysg uwchradd.

**Joyce Watson:** Cyhoeddodd STEM Cymru brosiect yn ddiweddar i annog pobl ifanc rhwng 12 a 19 oed i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau peirianneg sy'n gysylltiedig â diwydiant, gan gynnwys gweithgareddau ymarferol, profiad gwaith, cystadlaethau, digwyddiadau a chyfleoedd yn ymwneud â gyrfa. A wnaiff Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru helpu sefydliadau sy'n manteisio ar y cyfleoedd sydd ar agor iddynt i'w helpu i chwalu unrhyw rwystrau tybiedig neu real na fyddant yn annog dysgwyr i astudio'r pynciau pwysig hyn?

**Leighton Andrews:** Gwnaiff, ar bob cyfrif. Mae gennym nifer o gynlluniau. Mae'r her F1 mewn Ysgolion ar gyfer cyfnodau allweddol 2, 3 a 4, addysg ôl-16 a'r rhai hynny sy'n dilyn prentisiaethau wedi gwella proffil pynciau sy'n gysylltiedig â STEM. Rydym wedi dechrau rhaglen o gyrsiau peirianneg sy'n cefnogi BTEC lefel 2 a 3 ac wedi comisiynu adnoddau dwyieithog newydd. Rydym yn cefnogi nifer o

present through initiatives under the national science academy.

**Gareth Jones:** Ar y trywydd hwnnw, pan ydych yn sôn am ganolbwytio ar y cyfnodau cynnar, a ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn bwysig i ni fynd i'r afael ag addysgu'r pynciau hyn cyn gynted ag sy'n bosibl cyn belled ag y mae'r oedran addysgol yn y cwestiwn? Bu ichi gyfeirio at brosiectau. Efallai mai un o'r problemau sydd gennym yw bod prosiectau o'r fath yn tueddu i fod yn ddarniog yma ac awr drwy Gymru, a bod angen dynesiad llawer mwy cyson i gyfnodau allweddol 2 a 3 i sicrhau dilyniant yn y modd y mae pobl ifanc yn dysgu'r pynciau STEM.

**Leighton Andrews:** We are now building STEM subjects into the curriculum from an early age—children are introduced to STEM subjects from the foundation phase onwards through mathematical development, for example. There have also been a number of good initiatives by some of the education and business partnerships, working with primary schools on the science subjects. It is encouraging that entries for chemistry, biology and physics at GCSE level have doubled since 2007; therefore, we are finally starting to see an increase in the take-up of STEM subjects at GCSE and A-level.

### Cyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru

**10. Peter Black:** A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddyfodol y Cyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol. OAQ(3)1570(CEL)

**Leighton Andrews:** The Secretary of State for Education has announced his intention to abolish the General Teaching Council for England. I am considering our position and my intention is to seek the devolution of powers to help determine the future of the General Teaching Council for Wales.

**Peter Black:** Thank you for that answer, Minister. Can you give us more details on what powers you are seeking in respect of that? What consultation have you had with the various trade unions and with teachers as to the future of the General Teaching Council

gynlluniau eraill ar hyn o bryd drwy gynlluniau dan yr academi wyddoniaeth genedlaethol.

**Gareth Jones:** Along those lines, when you talk about focusing on the early phases, do you agree that it is important that we get to grips with teaching these subjects as soon as possible in educational age? You referred to projects. One of the problems that we perhaps have is that such projects tend to be scattered throughout Wales, and we need a much more consistent approach to key stages 2 and 3 to ensure continuity in the way in which young people are taught STEM subjects.

**Leighton Andrews:** Rydym yn cynnwys pynciau STEM yn y cwricwlwm o oedran cynnar yn awr—mae plant yn cael eu cyflwyno i bynciau STEM o'r cyfnod sylfaen ymlaen drwy ddatblygiad mathemategol, er enghraifft. Gwelwyd nifer o fentrau da hefyd gan rai o'r partneriaethau addysg a busnes, sy'n gweithio gydag ysgolion cynradd ar y pynciau gwyddonol. Mae'n galonogol bod nifer yr enwau ar gyfer cemeg, bioleg a ffiseg ar lefel TGAU wedi dyblu er 2007; felly, rydym o'r diwedd yn dechrau gweld cynnydd yn y nifer sy'n astudio pynciau STEM ar gyfer TGAU a safon uwch.

### The General Teaching Council for Wales

**10. Peter Black:** Will the Minister make a statement on the future of the General Teaching Council for Wales. OAQ(3)1570(CEL)

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Addysg wedi cyhoeddi ei fwriad i ddiddymu Cyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Lloegr. Rwy'n ystyried ein sefyllfa ni a bwriadaf wneud cais am bwerau wedi eu datganoli i helpu i benderfynu ynglŷn â dyfodol Cyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru.

**Peter Black:** Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. A allwch roi rhagor o fanylion inni ynglŷn â pha bwerau yr ydych yn eu ceisio ar gyfer hynny? I ba raddau yr ydych wedi bod yn ymgynghori â'r undebau llafur amrywiol a chydag athrawon ynglŷn â

for Wales?

dyfodol Cyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru?

**Leighton Andrews:** I am seeking framework powers that would allow us to determine the future of GTCW; the options for the future range from its abolition to the possible expansion of its role in further areas, such as the wider education workforce. A variety of views about the GTCW are held by the different teaching unions.

**Leighton Andrews:** Rwy'n gofyn am bwerau fframwaith a fyddai'n caniatáu inni benderfynu ynglŷn â dyfodol Cyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru; mae'r dewisiadau ar gyfer y dyfodol yn amrywio o'i ddiddymu i'r posibilrwydd o ehangu ei rôl mewn meysydd eraill, fel y gweithlu addysg ehangach. Mae barn y gwahanol undebau athrawon ynglŷn â Chyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru'n amrywio.

### Cynnig i Gymeradwyo Gorchymyn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Anghymhwys) 2010

#### Motion to Approve the National Assembly for Wales (Disqualification) Order 2010

*Cynnig NDM4607 Jane Hutt*

*Motion NDM4607 Jane Hutt*

*Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 24.4:*

*To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 24.4:*

*Yn cymeradwyo bod y fersiwn ddrafft o'r Gorchymyn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Anghymhwys) 2010 yn cael ei llunio yn unol â'r fersiwn ddrafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 10 Tachwedd 2010.*

*Approves that the draft National Assembly for Wales (Disqualification) Order 2010 is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 10 November 2010.*

**The First Minister (Carwyn Jones):** I move the motion.

**Y Prif Weinidog (Carwyn Jones):** Cynigiaf y cynnig.

Certain people, such as civil servants, are disqualified from being Assembly Members by the Government of Wales Act 2006. Holders of other offices can be disqualified by an Order in Council. The Order that is in force at present was made in 2006 and continues in force until revoked. If the Assembly approves this new draft Order, it will go to the Privy Council this month and come into force in January. That will provide prospective candidates with sufficient notice of offices that they would not be able to hold, or would not be able to hold any longer, if they were returned as Assembly Members.

Mae rhai pobl, megis gweision sifil, yn anghymwys i fod yn Aelodau Cynulliad yn rhinwedd Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006. Gall deiliaid swyddi eraill fod yn anghymwys o ganlyniad i Orchymyn yn y Cyfrin Gyngor. Cafodd y Gorchymyn sydd mewn grym ar hyn o bryd ei wneud yn 2006 a bydd yn dal mewn grym nes y bydd yn cael ei ddirymu. Os bydd y Cynulliad yn cymeradwyo'r Gorchymyn drafft newydd hwn, bydd yn mynd i'r Cyfrin Gyngor y mis hwn ac yn dod i rym yn Ionawr. Bydd hynny'n rhoi digon o rybudd i ddarpar ymgeiswyr ynglŷn â swyddi na fyddai modd iddynt eu dal, neu na fyddai modd iddynt eu dal mwyach, pe baent yn cael eu hethol yn Aelodau Cynulliad.

The criteria that we used for including offices in the new draft Order are stated in the explanatory memorandum. They are similar

Mae'r mein prawf a ddefnyddiasom ar gyfer cynnwys swyddi yn y Gorchymyn drafft newydd i'w gweld yn y memorandwm

to those applied in the 2006 Order, and I am not aware of any instances during this Assembly where problems have arisen about disqualification.

Since 2006, certain offices have been abolished and others have been created. The Assembly's legislative competence and Welsh Ministers' executive functions have also expanded, and new judgments have had to be made, even though the criteria being used are similar. The philosophy that has been adopted is to allow as many people as possible to stand in elections, subject to those criteria being met. I propose that certain postholders be disqualified in order to avoid the creation of unsustainable conflicts of interest, the prejudicing of the independence and impartiality of certain bodies or having Assembly Members beholden to the Government.

The Constitutional Affairs Committee has invited the Assembly to pay special attention to the draft Order, and I have responded to the Chair of the committee and my comments should be available to you. In particular, I confirm that any councillor may stand as an AM. The only restriction is where they also serve as a local authority member of a national park authority. They would have to cease to be a member of the national park authority before they could become an AM.

3.00 p.m.

**Janet Ryder:** I thank the First Minister for responding, but I wish to raise some of the issues that the Constitutional Affairs Committee considered. Previous disqualification Orders have been made under the Government of Wales Act 1998 and required either a parliamentary process or the approval of the Secretary of State for Wales. The Government of Wales Act 2006 simplified that procedure so that the Assembly can now make a direct recommendation to Her Majesty in Council. As the UK Parliament no longer has a role in making such Orders, the Constitutional Affairs Committee has been able to consider and report on this one under Standing Order

esboniadol. Maent yn debyg i'r rhai hynny a ddefnyddiwyd yng Ngorchymyn 2006, ac nid wyf yn ymwybodol o unrhyw achosion yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn lle mae problemau yn ymwneud ag anghymhwysedd wedi codi.

Er 2006, mae rhai swyddi wedi cael eu diddymu ac mae eraill wedi cael eu creu. Mae cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol y Cynulliad a swyddogaethau gweithredol Gweinidogion Cymru wedi ehangu hefyd, a bu'n rhaid gwneud dyfarniadau newydd, er bod y meini prawf sy'n cael eu defnyddio'n debyg. Yr atroniaeth sydd wedi cael ei mabwysiadu yw caniatáu i gynifer o bobl ag sy'n bosibl sefyll mewn etholiadau, ar yr amod bod y meini prawf hynny'n cael eu bodloni. Cynigiaf fod rhai deiliaid swyddi'n cael eu hanghymhwysedd er mwyn osgoi creu gwrthdaro anghynaladwy rhwng buddiannau, amharu ar annibyniaeth a didueddrwydd cyrff penodol neu gael Aelodau Cynulliad sy'n ddyledus i'r Llywodraeth.

Mae'r Pwyllgor Materion Cyfansoddiadol wedi gwahodd y Cynulliad i roi sylw arbennig i'r Gorchymyn drafft, ac rwyf wedi ymateb i Gadeirydd y pwyllgor a dylai fy sylwadau fod ar gael ichi. Yn fwyaf arbennig, cadarnhaf y gall unrhyw gynghorydd sefyll fel AC. Yr unig gyfyngiad yw lle bo'n gwasanaethu hefyd fel aelod awdurdod lleol o awdurdod parc cenedlaethol. Byddai'n rhaid iddo roi'r gorau i fod yn aelod o awdurdod y parc cenedlaethol cyn y gallai ddod yn AC.

**Janet Ryder:** Diolchaf i'r Prif Weinidog am ymateb, ond hoffwn godi rhai o'r pwyntiau a ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor Materion Cyfansoddiadol. Mae Gorchymynion anghymhwysedd blaenorol wedi cael eu gwneud dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998 ac roedd angen naill ai broses seneddol neu gymeradwyaeth gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru. Symleiddiodd Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 y weithdrefn honno fel bod y Cynulliad yn awr yn gallu gwneud argymhelliaid uniongyrchol i'w Mawrhydi yn y Cyngor. Gan nad oes gan Senedd y DU rôl mwyach mewn gwneud Gorchymynion o'r fath, mae'r Pwyllgor Materion Cyfansoddiadol wedi gallu ystyried

No. 15 and the committee's report is available on the Chamberweb as a supporting document for this debate.

To turn to the committee's report on the Order, the only technical point that we have identified on this occasion is that, although the Welsh Government has prepared a courtesy translation, the Order is to be made in English only. That is because the registrar of statutory instruments and the Privy Council office have decided that they will not accept the Order bilingually because it is being made by the Privy Council and will apply to the whole of the UK. The committee was not at all convinced by that argument. The Order, if approved today, is a direct recommendation to Her Majesty in Council from the National Assembly on a matter that is now wholly within the Assembly's legislative competence. That such a recommendation cannot be conveyed in both the languages of Wales, affording both equal status, is a matter of considerable concern to the committee. While it is true that the Order will have effect across the UK, the same applies to Assembly Measures, which can also have effect outside Wales. I have written to the First Minister outlining our concerns on that point. Unfortunately, it is not a matter that can be resolved here today, but I hope that he has noted our concerns and will take the matter up with the registrar of statutory instruments and the Privy Council office so that this situation does not arise in future.

To turn to some of the merits points of the Order, we were concerned that the explanatory memorandum did not clearly explain the changes that it would make. In particular, there was no information on which offices and bodies were newly disqualified by the Order or which were no longer disqualified. Although the Government was unable to offer that information formally before we reported, it supplied us with an informal list of changes late in the day, and I understand that that list has now been made available to Members as background information to this debate. It is regrettable, however, that that clear list of changes could

ac adrodd ar yr un yma dan Orchymyn Sefydlog Rhif 15 ac mae adroddiad y pwylgor ar gael ar We'r Siambra fel dogfen ategol ar gyfer y ddadl hon.

Gan droi at adroddiad y pwylgor ar y Gorchymyn, yr unig bwynt technegol yr ydym wedi ei nodi y tro hwn yw bod y Gorchymyn wedi ei wneud yn Saesneg yn unig, er bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi paratoi cyfieithiad er cwrteisi. Mae hynny oherwydd bod y cofrestrydd offerynnau statudol a swyddfa'r Cyfrin Gyngor wedi penderfynu na fyddant yn derbyn y Gorchymyn yn ddwyieithog gan ei fod yn cael ei wneud gan y Cyfrin Gyngor ac y bydd yn berthnasol i'r DU yn ei chyfanrwydd. Ni chafodd y pwylgor ei argyhoeddi o gwbl gan y ddadl honno. Mae'r Gorchymyn, os caiff ei gymeradwyo heddiw, yn argymhelliaid uniongyrehol i'w Mawrhydi yn y Cyngor gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar fater sydd erbyn hyn o fewn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol y Cynulliad yn gyfan gwbl. Mae'r ffaith na ellir cyfleu argymhelliaid o'r fath yn nwya iaith Cymru, gan roi statws cyfartal i'r ddwy, yn peri cryn bryder i'r pwylgor. Mae'n wir y bydd y Gorchymyn yn cael effaith ar draws y DU, ond mae'r un peth yn berthnasol i Fesurau Cynulliad, a all hefyd gael effaith y tu allan i Gymru. Rwyf wedi ysgrifennu at y Prif Weinidog i amlinellu ein pryderon ynglŷn â'r pwynt hwnnw. Yn anffodus, nid yw'n fater y gellir ei ddatrys yma heddiw, ond rwy'n gobethio ei fod wedi nodi ein pryderon ac y bydd yn codi'r mater gyda'r cofrestrydd offerynnau statudol a swyddfa'r Cyfrin Gyngor fel nad yw'r sefyllfa hon yn codi yn y dyfodol.

Gan droi at rai o bwyntiau rhinweddau'r Gorchymyn, roeddym yn bryderus nad oedd y memorandwm esboniadol yn egluro'n glir pa newidiadau y byddai'n eu gwneud. Yn fwyaf arbennig, nid oedd gwybodaeth ynglŷn â pha swyddfeydd a chyrff a oedd yn cael eu hanghymhwys o'r newydd gan y Gorchymyn neu nad oeddent yn cael eu hanghymhwys mwyach. Er na allai'r Llywodraeth gynnig yr wybodaeth honno'n ffurfiol cyn inni adrodd, rhoddodd inni restr anffurfiol o newidiadau yn hwyr, a deallaf fod y rhestr hon ar gael yn awr i'r Aelodau fel gwybodaeth gefndir i'r ddadl hon. Gresyn, foddy bynnag, na fyddai'r rhestr glir honno o

not be made available from the outset and that it has taken almost three weeks to provide an authoritative document.

To turn to the substance of the Order, we have specific concerns about the disqualification of members of national park authorities appointed by local councillors. The explanatory memorandum says that

'Posts filled by popular election rather than appointment (ie membership of local authorities) should not attract disqualification'.

However, most members of national park authorities are elected local councillors who are appointed to national park authorities because of their role as councillors. The disqualification of that group would therefore have the effect of disqualifying people who owe their membership of an authority mainly to their election to a post filled by popular election. That contrasts with bodies such as police and fire authorities that have roles that are at least as sensitive as those of national park authorities.

The Order also disqualifies the staff of a number of office-holders such as the Children's Commissioner for Wales or the forestry commissioners from standing for election. In contrast, the staff of other office-holders do not appear to be disqualified, such as those of the boundary commissioners or the chief inspector of education and training. While the explanatory memorandum lists a number of criteria for disqualifying office-holders, there is no explanation in relation to staff or the apparent inconsistency between the staff of different office-holders. While I am sure that there is a straightforward explanation for this, it would have been helpful if the reasons had been explained.

Finally, and more generally, we are concerned that this Order may be suffering from because-we've-always-done-it-this-way syndrome. On Wednesday, 29 November 2006, when a similar Order was debated, Mike German said

newidiadau wedi bod ar gael o'r dechrau a'i bod wedi cymryd bron i dair wythnos i ddarparu dogfen awdurdodol.

Gan droi at sylwedd y Gorchymyn, mae gennym bryderon penodol ynglŷn ag anghymhwys o aelodau o awdurdodau parciau cenedlaethol a benodwyd gan gyngorwyr lleol. Yn ôl y memorandwm esboniadol,

ni ddylai swyddi a lenwyd drwy etholiad poblogaidd yn hytrach na phenodiad (hy aelodaeth awdurdodau lleol) arwain at anghymhwys.

Er hyn, mae'r rhan fwyaf o aelodau awdurdodau parciau cenedlaethol yn gyngorwyr lleol etholedig sy'n cael eu penodi i awdurdodau parciau cenedlaethol oherwydd eu rôl fel cyngorwyr. Effaith anghymhwys o'r grŵp hwnnw felly fyddai anghymhwys pobl sy'n aelodau o awdurdod yn bennaf oherwydd eu bod wedi cael eu hethol i swydd sy'n cael ei llenwi drwy etholiad poblogaidd. Mae hynny mewn gwrthgyferbyniad â chyrrff fel awdurdodau'r heddlu a'r awdurdodau Tân sydd â rolau sydd yr un mor sensitif o leiaf â rhai awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol.

Mae'r Gorchymyn hefyd yn anghymhwys staff nifer o ddeiliaid swyddi fel Comisiynydd Plant Cymru neu'r comisiynwyr coedwigaeth rhag sefyll mewn etholiad. Ar y llaw arall, mae'n ymddangos nad yw staff swydd-ddeiliaid eraill yn cael eu hangymhwys, er enghrafft staff y comisiynwyr ffiniau neu'r prif arolygydd addysg a hyfforddiant. Er bod y memorandwm esboniadol yn rhestru nifer o feini prawf ar gyfer anghymhwys deiliaid swyddi, nid oes eglurhad ynglŷn â staff neu'r anghysonder ymddangosiadol rhwng staff gwahanol ddeiliaid swyddi. Mae'n siŵr bod eglurhad syml ar gyfer hyn, ond byddai wedi bod o gymorth pe bai'r rhesymau wedi cael eu hegluro.

Yn olaf, ac yn fwy cyffredinol, rydym yn bryderus y gallai'r Gorchymyn hwn fod yn dioddef o'r syndrom oherwydd-ein-bod-wedi-gwneud-pethau-fel-hyn-erioed. Pan drafodwyd Gorchymyn tebyg ddydd Mercher, 29 Tachwedd 2006, dywedodd Mike German mai

‘the purpose of raising it now is that we will get the same motion as we got the last time, just before the Assembly elections in 2011, and in 2003, and as was passed by Parliament in 1999, before the Assembly was set up.’

There are some posts and offices for which the conflict of interest is such that the only sensible way in which to proceed is to disqualify the holder from standing for election to the Assembly. However, are we really saying that there is a conflict of interest between membership of the National Assembly for Wales and working as a tree surgeon for the Forestry Commission in the Hiraethog forest? Perhaps the time has come to consider more fundamentally the philosophy underlying these Orders and whether they are striking the right balance to encourage as many people as possible to stand in elections.

**Peter Black:** I fully support the last point that Janet Ryder made, speaking as someone who was once disqualified from standing for the National Assembly for Wales. Even though I worked for a non-devolved civil service department, I had to resign from my job in order to stand for election. I feel that there are problems with some of the categories that have been identified, particularly when employing an individual has no direct consequence for the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government. It seems illogical to include every civil servant in Wales, irrespective of whether they work for a devolved department. I agree with Janet Ryder’s point about those who work for the Forestry Commission. The civil service has always made provision for staff in roles at or below a particular grade to resign their post and stand for election, with a guarantee that they can be re-employed afterwards. That did not apply to my grade, however, and we may want to look at that and at the philosophy behind it.

I am also in agreement with Janet on the national parks. It is completely bizarre that a councillor who has been directly elected by

pwrpas ei godi nawr yw sicrhau y byddwn yn cael yr un cynnig ag a gawsom y tro diwethaf, cyn etholiadau'r Cynulliad yn 2011, ac yn 2003, ac fel a basiwyd gan y Senedd yn 1999, cyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad.

Mae rhai swyddi lle mae cymaint o wrthdaro rhwng buddiannau fel mai'r unig ffordd synhwyrol o symud ymlaen fyddai drwy anghymhwys o deiliad y swydd rhag sefyll mewn etholiad ar gyfer y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, a ydym yn dweud mewn gwirionedd bod gwrtidaro rhwng buddiannau aelodaeth o Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a gweithio fel meddyg coed i'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth yng nghoedwig Hiraethog? Efallai ei bod yn bryd inni ystyried yr athoniaeth sydd wrth wraidd y Gorchmynion hyn yn fanylach ac a ydynt yn sicrhau'r cydbwysedd cywir er mwyn annog cynifer o bobl ag sy'n bosibl i sefyll mewn etholiadau.

**Peter Black:** Rwy'n gwbl gefnogol i'r pwynt diwethaf a wnaethwyd gan Janet Ryder, sy'n siarad fel un a oedd wedi ei hanghymhwys ar un adeg rhag sefyll etholiad Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Er fy mod yn gweithio i adran o'r gwasanaeth sifil nad oedd wedi cael ei datganoli, bu'n rhaid i mi ymddiswyddo er mwyn sefyll etholiad. Teimlaf fod problemau â rhai o'r categorïau sydd wedi cael eu nodi, yn enwedig pan nad yw cyflogi unigolyn yn arwain at unrhyw ganlyniadau uniongyrchol i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru nac i Lywodraeth Cenedlaethol Cymru. Mae cynnwys pob gwas sifil yng Nghymru, pa un a yw'n gweithio i adran sydd wedi cael ei datganoli ai peidio, yn swnio'n afresymegol. Rwy'n cytuno â phwynt Janet Ryder ynglŷn â'r rhai hynny sy'n gweithio i'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth. Mae'r gwasanaeth sifil bob amser wedi sicrhau darpariaeth sy'n galluogi staff mewn rolau ar raddfa benodol neu o dan y raddfa honno i ymddiswyddo a sefyll etholiad, â sicrwydd y gallant gael eu hailgyflogi ar ôl hynny. Nid oedd hynny'n berthnasol i'm graddfa i, fodd bynnag, ac efallai y byddai'n werth inni edrych ar hynny ac ar yr athoniaeth sydd y tu ôl i hynny.

Rwyf hefyd yn cytuno â Janet ynglŷn â'r parciau cenedlaethol. Nid yw'n gwneud synnwyr y dylai cyngphonydd sydd wedi cael

the electorate and who has been appointed by the council to the national park—as opposed to someone who has been appointed by the Assembly Government—should be disqualified from standing for the Assembly elections. We are missing a trick with how this is finessed. It is too late for this Order, but I hope that before we produce the next Order in four years' time, we can take a proper look at this, on an all-party basis, to see whether we can get it right, fair and equitable.

I have one question for the First Minister. The Order states that the disqualification applies only on taking your seat.

‘The offices described in the Schedule are designated as offices disqualifying the holders of such offices from being members of the National Assembly for Wales.’

The explanatory memorandum says that

‘The Order limits only a person who becomes a member of the Assembly.’

That is not the position as I understand it. My understanding is that it prevents you from standing or putting yourself up for nomination. Maybe the First Minister can clarify that. When you stand for election, you have to sign a declaration stating that you are not disqualified from standing. It is at that point that it becomes pertinent. The Order itself and the explanatory memorandum seem to be misleading on the point at which you become ineligible to stand for the National Assembly. Are you not eligible to stand or are you not eligible to take a seat? I think that you need to look at the explanatory memorandum once again in that respect.

**Alun Davies:** I thank the First Minister for discussing these matters and responding so quickly to the Constitutional Affairs Committee. The way in which he has responded to these matters has guided our thinking on these issues.

ei ethol yn uniongyrchol gan yr etholwyr ac sydd wedi cael ei benodi gan y cyngor i'r parc cenedlaethol—yn hytrach na rhywun sydd wedi cael ei benodi gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad—fod yn anghymwys i sefyll yn etholiadau'r Cynulliad. Rydym yn colli cyfle gan fod hyn yn cael ei reoli'n gyfrwys. Mae'n rhy hwyr i'r Gorchymyn hwn, ond rwy'n gobeithio, cyn inni gynhyrchu'r Gorchymyn nesaf ymhen pedair blynedd, y gallwn edrych o ddifrif ar hyn, ar sail drawsbleidiol, er mwyn gweld a allwn gael pethau'n iawn, yn deg ac yn gyfiawn.

Mae gennyf un cwestiwn i'r Prif Weinidog. Mae'r Gorchymyn yn dweud mai dim ond pan fyddwch yn cymryd eich sedd y mae'r anghymwyso'n berthnasol.

Mae'r swyddi sy'n cael eu disgrifio yn yr Atodlen yn cael eu dynodi fel swyddi sy'n gwneud deiliaid swyddi o'r fath yn anghymwys i fod yn aelodau o Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

Yn ôl y memorandwm esboniadol,

yr unig unigolion y cyfyngir arnynt gan y Gorchymyn yw rhai sy'n dod yn aelodau o'r Cynulliad.

Nid dyna'r sefyllfa o'r hyn a ddeallaf fi. O'r hyn a ddeallaf fi mae'n eich atal rhag sefyll neu gyflwyno eich hun ar gyfer enwebiad. Efallai y gall y Prif Weinidog egluro hynny. Pan fyddwch yn sefyll etholiad, rhaid ichi arwyddo datganiad sy'n nodi nad ydych yn anghymwys i sefyll. Dyna pryd y mae'n dod yn berthnasol. Mae'r Gorchymyn ei hun a'r memorandwm esboniadol yn ymddangos yn gamarweiniol ynglŷn â'r adeg yr ydych yn dod yn anghymwys i sefyll etholiad ar gyfer y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. A ydych yn anghymwys i sefyll ynteu'n anghymwys i gymryd sedd? Credaf fod angen ichi edrych ar y memorandwm esboniadol unwaith eto yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

**Alun Davies:** Diolch i'r Prif Weinidog am drafod y materion hyn ac am ymateb mor fuan i'r Pwyllgor Materion Cyfansoddiadol. Mae'r ffordd y mae wedi ymateb i'r materion hyn wedi llywio'r ffordd yr ydym yn meddwl amdanynt.

I very much agree with the points that were raised by the Chair of the committee and echoed by Peter Black. There seems to be a philosophical approach of erring on the side of caution, and of not seeking opportunities to expand and deepen democracy by enabling as many people as possible to stand for election. There was a consensus in the committee and I believe that there is a consensus in the Chamber that we should enable people to stand for election, rather than seek ways of barring them from doing so. I recognise that the First Minister has ensured that we disqualify far fewer posts than is the case in Scotland. I also recognise that the First Minister has rejected a number of proposals from Whitehall on extending the range of disqualified offices, and I think that there is a welcome across the Chamber for the way in which that has happened.

3.10 p.m.

I share the concerns about those who hold elected office. I do not believe that it is correct for anyone who holds elected office to be in any way disqualified from seeking elected office elsewhere. As has already been outlined, the Assembly Government funds a great deal of Welsh life. A number of different organisations and public bodies receive Assembly Government funding, and it surely cannot be right for everyone without exception who works in a post that is publicly funded to be prevented from standing for election by virtue of that post. The issues relating to the national parks have already been well made and well rehearsed, and I agree with those points.

The final point that I will make this afternoon is about the language issue. I do not understand why this Order is made in English only. We have a fundamental principle in this place that we legislate in both the languages of Wales. I understand and accept the point that has been made by the First Minister on the Privy Council in his introduction, but Her Majesty is a member of the Gorsedd of bards, and I am not convinced by the argument that she would be offended by the use of the Welsh language in her kingdom. We will be

Rwy'n cytuno'n llwyr â'r pwyntiau a godwyd gan Gadeirydd y pwylgor ac a adleisiwyd gan Peter Black. Ymddengys bod tuedd athrawiaethol i roi'r pwyslais ar fod yn ofalus, ac i beidio â chwilio am gyfleoedd i ehangu a dyfnhau democraciaeth drwy alluogi cynifer o bobl ag sy'n bosibl i sefyll mewn etholiad. Roedd consensws yn y pwylgor a chredaf fod consensws yn y Siambra y dylem alluogi pobl i sefyll mewn etholiad, yn hytrach na chwilio am ffyrdd o'u hatal rhag gwneud hynny. Rwy'n sylweddoli bod y Prif Weinidog wedi sicrhau bod llawer llai o swyddi'n cael eu hanghymhwys yma nag sy'n digwydd yn yr Alban. Rwy'n cydnabod hefyd bod y Prif Weinidog wedi gwrthod nifer o gynigion gan San Steffan yn ymwneud ag ehangu'r ystod o swyddi anghymwys, a chredaf fod y ffordd y mae hynny wedi digwydd yn cael ei chroesawu ar draws y Siambra.

Rwyf finnau'n pryderu ynglŷn â'r rhai sy'n dal swyddi etholedig. Nid wyf yn credu ei bod yn iawn i neb sy'n dal swydd etholedig gael ei ystyried yn anghymwys mewn unrhyw ffordd i ymgeisio am swydd etholedig yn rhywle arall. Fel yr amlinellwyd eisoes, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ariannu nifer o agweddau ar fywyd yng Nghymru. Mae nifer o wahanol sefydliadau a chyrff cyhoeddus yn cael arian gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, a go brin ei bod yn iawn i bawb yn ddiwahân sy'n gweithio mewn swydd sy'n cael ei hariannu ag arian cyhoeddus gael ei atal rhag sefyll etholiad oherwydd y swydd honno. Mae'r pwyntiau sy'n ymwneud â'r parciau cenedlaethol eisoes wedi cael eu mynegi'n glir a'u gwyntyllu'n dda, ac rwy'n cytuno â hwy.

Mae'r pwynt olaf y byddaf yn ei wneud y prynhawn yma yn ymwneud â mater yr iaith. Nid wyf yn deall pam y gwneir y Gorchymyn hwn yn Saesneg yn unig. Mae gennym egwyddor sylfaenol yn y lle hwn ein bod yn deddfu yn nwya iaith Cymru. Rwy'n deall ac yn derbyn y pwynt sydd wedi cael ei wneud gan y Prif Weinidog ynglŷn â'r Cyfrin Gyngor yn ei gyflwyniad, ond mae Ei Mawrhydi yn aelod o Orsedd y beirdd, ac nid wyf wedi cael fy argyhoeddi gan y ddadl y byddai defnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg yn ei

legislating next week on the language. It is clearly not appropriate that we proceed in this way. Given the mood of consensus here this afternoon, I hope that the Secretary of State for Wales will take this up on our behalf, and ensure that these matters are dealt with.

First Minister, you have addressed some of these issues, and I hope that, in your reply to the debate, you will also address the issue raised by Peter Black on the point at which the disqualification becomes live. If it is at the point of nomination, clearly an elected councillor will not be able to stand for election to the Assembly. However, if it is at the point of taking the oath and becoming a Member of this place, that is different and I think that people would accept that.

**The First Minister:** Dealing with the issue of the bilingualism of the Order, I agree, actually, with what Janet and Alun Davies said. However, this is a matter that has been imposed on us by the Privy Council office and the registrar of statutory instruments, and they have made it clear that they would not accept the Order bilingually. I will of course ensure that the views of the committee and, indeed, those expressed in the Chamber today are conveyed to those bodies.

With regard to some of the issues that have been mentioned, the Forestry Commission is, in effect, a department of the Assembly Government, and it would not be right for someone to work for an Assembly Government department while being an AM. There is a clear conflict of interest there.

I will deal with the other two examples that have been given. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training and his or her staff are already disqualified because they are civil servants. The Boundary Commission for Wales has no staff, as it shares its secretariat with the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales, which is included in the disqualification Order. There was therefore no need to deal with those bodies individually.

theyrnas yn peri tramgwydd iddi. Byddwn yn deddfu ar yr iaith yr wythnos nesaf. Mae'n amlwg nad yw'n briodol inni fynd yn ein blaenau fel hyn. Ac ystyried yr ymdeimlad o gonsensws sydd yma y prynhawn yma, rwy'n gobeithio y bydd Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru'n codi hyn ar ein rhan, ac yn sicrhau bod sylw'n cael ei roi i'r materion hyn.

Brif Weinidog, rydych wedi rhoi sylw i rai o'r materion hyn, ac rwy'n gobeithio, yn eich ateb i'r ddadl, y byddwch hefyd yn rhoi sylw i'r mater a godwyd gan Peter Black ynglŷn â pha bryd y mae'r anghymhwysô'n dod yn weithredol. Os yw'n digwydd ar adeg yr enwebiad, mae'n amlwg na fydd cynghorydd etholedig yn gallu sefyll mewn etholiad ar gyfer y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, os yw'n digwydd ar adeg tyngu'r llw a dod yn Aelod o'r lle hwn, mae hynny'n wahanol a chredaf y byddai pobl yn derbyn hynny.

**Y Prif Weinidog:** O ran mater dwyieithrwydd y Gorchymyn, rwy'n cytuno, mewn gwirionedd, â'r hyn a ddywedodd Janet ac Alun Davies. Serch hynny, mae hwn yn fater sydd wedi cael ei orfodi arnom gan swyddfa'r Cyfrin Gyngor a'r cofrestrydd offerynnau statudol, ac maent wedi nodi'n glir na fyddent yn derbyn y Gorchymyn yn ddwyieithog. Wrth gwrs, byddaf yn sicrhau bod sylwadau'r pwylgor ac, yn wir, y sylwadau a fynegwyd yn y Siambra heddiw, yn cael eu cyfleu i'r cyrff hynny.

O ran rhai o'r materion y cyfeiriwyd atynt, mae'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth, mewn gwirionedd, yn adran o Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, ac ni fyddai'n iawn i rywun weithio i un o adrannau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad tra byddai'n AC. Mae gwrthdaro amlwg rhwng buddiannau yno.

Ymdriniaf â'r ddwy enghraifft arall a roddwyd. Mae Prif Arolygydd Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant a'i staff eisoes yn anghymwys gan eu bod yn weision sifil. Nid oes gan Gomisiwn Ffiniau Cymru staff, gan ei fod yn rhannu ei ysgrifenyddiaeth â Chomisiwn Ffiniau Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, sy'n cael ei gynnwys yn y Gorchymyn anghymhwysô. O ganlyniad, nid oedd angen ymdrin â'r cyrff hynny'n unigol.

The national park authorities are in a different position from local government. We have to remember that, while elected councillors might be members of national park authorities, they are not elected to national park authorities directly. There is an important difference between being elected directly as a councillor through a popular vote and being appointed to a national park authority while being a councillor. The national park authorities are three different bodies when compared with local government, and they share a line of accountability to the Assembly Government that does not exist for local authorities. They also carry out certain executive functions that the police and fire authorities do not, and therefore the police and fire authorities are different bodies from the national park authorities in respect of the powers that they exercise. However, as I have said, there is no bar on councillors who are national park authority members becoming Assembly Members as long as they are not members of the national park authority at the point at which they become Assembly Members.

An important point has been raised by Peter on when disqualification might take place. It is not possible for those in posts included in the list of disqualified posts to become Assembly Members. The Electoral Commission takes the view that it is important that potential candidates clarify their positions before signing their consents to nomination. That is the advice given by the Electoral Commission. It is, therefore, clear that it would not be possible to take the oath of an Assembly Member if that person was in a disqualified category.

**Rhodri Morgan:** I am grateful to the First Minister for giving way. Is it not possible to meet the Electoral Commission's doubts in this area by saying that candidates must give an undertaking, at the time of nomination, that they will, if they win the election, instantaneously resign their post? Therefore, the objective of not being able to sit in the Assembly, not even for one second, while

Mae awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol mewn sefyllfa wahanol i lywodraeth leol. Rhaid inni gofio nad yw cynghorwyr etholedig, er eu bod o bosibl yn aelodau o awdurdodau parciau cenedlaethol, wedi eu hethol yn uniongyrchol i awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol. Mae gwahaniaeth pwysig rhwng cael eich ethol yn uniongyrchol fel cyngorydd drwy bleidlais boblogaidd a chael eich penodi i awdurdod parc cenedlaethol tra ydych yn gynghorydd. Mae awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol yn dri chorff gwahanol o'u cymharu â llywodraeth leol, ac maent yn rhannu llinell atebolwydd i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad nad yw'n bodoli ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol. Maent hefyd yn cyflawni rhai swyddogaethau gweithredol nad yw awdurdodau'r heddlu a'r awdurdodau tân yn eu cyflawni, felly mae awdurdodau'r heddlu a'r awdurdodau tân yn gyrrf gwahanol i awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol o ran y pwerau y maent yn eu hymarfer. Serch hynny, fel yr wyf wedi dweud, nid oes dim i rwystro cynghorwyr sy'n aelodau o awdurdodau parciau cenedlaethol rhag dod yn Aelodau Cynulliad cyn balled nad ydynt yn aelodau o awdurdod y parc cenedlaethol ar yr adeg y maent yn dod yn Aelodau Cynulliad.

Codwyd pwynt pwysig gan Peter ynglŷn â pha bryd y gallai anghymhwysedd digwydd. Nid yw'n bosibl i'r rhai hynny sydd mewn swyddi sydd wedi eu cynnwys yn y rhestr o swyddi wedi eu hangymhwysedd yn Aelodau Cynulliad. Mae'r Comisiwn Etholiadol o'r farn ei bod yn bwysig bod darpar ymgeiswyr yn egluro eu sefyllfa cyn arwyddo eu cydsyniad i gael eu henwebu. Dyna'r cyngor a roddwyd gan y Comisiwn Etholiadol. Mae'n amlwg, felly, na fyddai'n bosibl i'r unigolyn hwnnw dyngu llw Aelod Cynulliad pe bai mewn categori sydd wedi ei anghymhwysedd.

**Rhodri Morgan:** Rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r Prif Weinidog am ildio. Oni fyddai'n bosibl dileu amheuon y Comisiwn Etholiadol yn y maes hwn drwy ddweud bod yn rhaid i ymgeiswyr roi addewid, ar adeg yr enwebiad, y byddent yn ymddiswyddo o'u swydd ar unwaith, pe baent yn ennill yr etholiad? O ganlyniad, byddai'r amcan o beidio â gallu eistedd yn y Cynulliad, am eiliad hyd yn oed, tra byddech

also being a member of a national park authority, for example, would be achieved by signing, at the time of nomination, to say that, if elected, you would resign your post. That would get around this problem.

hefyd yn aelod o awdurdod parc cenedlaethol, er enghraifft, yn cael ei gyflawni drwy arwyddo, ar adeg yr enwebiad, i ddweud y byddech yn ymddiswyddo o'ch swydd pe baech yn cael eich ethol. Byddai hynny'n datrys y broblem hon.

**The First Minister:** The Order is concerned with people who are in the disqualified category when they become an Assembly Member. The Electoral Commission will need to make its view clear with regard to when it feels that that period begins. Thus far, what it has said is that potential candidates should check their nominations. However, it is absolutely clear that it would not be possible to be an Assembly Member and be within the disqualified categories.

**Y Prif Weinidog:** Mae'r Gorchymyn yn ymwneud â phobl sydd yn y categori anghymhwysyo pan maent yn dod yn Aelod Cynulliad. Bydd angen i'r Comisiwn Etholiadol fynegi ei farn yn glir ynglŷn â phabryd y mae'n teimlo y mae'r cyfnod hwnnw'n dechrau. Hyd yn hyn, yr hyn y mae wedi'i ddweud yw y dylai darpar ymgeiswyr wirio eu henwebiadau. Fodd bynnag, mae'n berffaith glir na fyddai'n bosibl bod yn Aelod Cynulliad a bod yn y categorïau anghymhwysyo.

**Peter Black:** First Minister, are you not aware that there is case law involving this particular issue? There are elected candidates who have been disqualified because, at the time of nomination, they were not eligible to stand for the post, even though they intended to resign from their job or alter their qualification status. A councillor in Tower Hamlets, I think, who reached the age of 18 in the period between the close of nominations and the election, was disqualified because he or she was not 18 at the time of nomination and had signed to state that he or she was not disqualified. There are also many other instances.

**Peter Black:** Brif Weinidog, onid ydych yn ymwybodol bod cyfraith achos yn ymwneud â'r mater penodol hwn? Mae ymgeiswyr etholedig sydd wedi cael eu hanghymhwysyo gan nad oeddent yn gymwys, ar adeg yr enwebiad, i sefyll am y swydd, er eu bod yn bwriadu ymddiswyddo o'u swydd neu addasu eu statws cymhwysyo. Cafodd cyngorydd yn Tower Hamlets, rwy'n credu, a gafodd ei ben-blwydd yn 18 oed yn ystod y cyfnod rhwng dyddiad cau'r enwebiadau a'r etholiad, ei anghymhwysyo gan nad oedd yn 18 ar adeg yr enwebiad a chan ei fod wedi arwyddo i ddweud nad oedd wedi ei anghymhwysyo. Mae nifer o achosion eraill hefyd.

**The First Minister:** There are rules governing eligibility to stand for election and this Order deals with the rules governing who may become an Assembly Member. As the Electoral Commission has said, it is important that potential candidates check before they sign their consents to nomination. I will ensure that the Electoral Commission provides fuller advice if there is any ambiguity surrounding any particular candidate who may wish to stand for the election in May.

**Y Prif Weinidog:** Mae rheolau yn ymwneud â chymhwyster i sefyll etholiad ac mae'r Gorchymyn hwn yn ymdrin â'r rheolau sy'n ymwneud â phwy all ddod yn Aelod Cynulliad. Fel y mae'r Comisiwn Etholiadol wedi dweud, mae'n bwysig bod darpar ymgeiswyr yn gwirio eu henwebiadau cyn arwyddo i ddangos eu bod yn cydsynio. Gwnaf yn siŵr bod y Comisiwn Etholiadol yn darparu cyngor llawnach os bydd unrhyw amwyster yn ymwneud ag unrhyw ymgeisydd penodol sy'n dymuno sefyll yn yr etholiad ym mis Mai.

**The Deputy Presiding Officer:** The proposal is that the motion be agreed. Does any Member object? I see that there are no

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Y cynnig yw derbyn y cynnig. A oes Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiadau. Felly,

objections. The motion is therefore agreed, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35.

derbynir y cynnig yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.  
Motion agreed.*

## **Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu ar Ddysgu ac Addysgu Cymraeg fel Ail Iaith**

### **The Enterprise and Learning Committee's Report on the Teaching and Acquisition of Welsh as a Second Language**

*Cynnig NDM4605 Gareth Jones*

*Motion NDM4605 Gareth Jones*

*Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:*

*To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:*

*Yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu ar Ddysgu ac addysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 30 Medi 2010.*

*Notes the Enterprise and Learning Committee's report on the teaching and acquisition of Welsh as a second language which was laid in the Table Office on 30 September 2010.*

**Gareth Jones:** Cynigiaf y cynnig.

**Gareth Jones:** I move the motion.

Fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu, mae'n bleser gennyf agor y ddadl hon ar ein hadroddiad ar ddysgu ac addysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith.

As Chair of the Enterprise and Learning Committee, I am delighted to open this debate on our report on the teaching and acquisition of Welsh as a second language.

Yr ysgogiad i ymgymryd â'r ymchwiliad oedd casgliadau nifer o adroddiadau blynnyddol gan Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru, sef Estyn, a oedd yn amlinellu gwendidau difrifol ym maes dysgu ac addysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith. Yn arbennig, nododd adroddiad blynnyddol 2007-08 fod

The committee's inquiry was sparked by the conclusions of a number of annual reports of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Wales—Estyn—which highlighted serious weaknesses in the teaching and acquisition of Welsh as a second language. In particular, the 2007-08 annual report found that

‘diffygion pwysig mewn dwy ran o dair o waith disgylion mewn Cymraeg fel ail iaith’

‘two-thirds of pupils’ work had some important shortcomings’

a bod yr

and that

‘addysgu mewn Cymraeg fel ail iaith yn waeth o lawer nag mewn pynciau eraill’.

‘teaching in Welsh second language is much worse than in other subjects’.

Yn dilyn llwyddiant ysgubol grŵp rapporteur y pwylgor ar ddyslecsia, a brofodd yn ffordd effeithiol o ymchwilio i'r cymorth sydd ar gael i bobl â dyslecsia yng Nghymru, penderfynodd y pwylgor ethol grŵp rapporteur trawsbleidiol i ystyried gwahanol agweddau ar ddwyieithrwydd yng Nghymru a chyflwyno adroddiad ar ei gasgliadau.

Following the overwhelming success of the committee's dyslexia rapporteur group, which proved an effective vehicle for investigating support for people with dyslexia in Wales, the committee decided to elect a cross-party rapporteur group to consider the different aspects of bilingualism in Wales and report its findings.

Hoffwn ddiolch i Jeff Cuthbert, David Melding a Jenny Randerson am eu gwaith caled. Fel grŵp, buom ar sawl ymweliad a siaradom â nifer o arbenigwyr ym maes dysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith. Gan fod y grŵp wedi ymgymryd â'i waith yn anffurfiol, cawsom gyfle i rannu llawer o brofiadau personol mewn amgylchedd didwyll ac agored. Felly, hoffwn ddiolch yn fawr i bawb, yn unigolion ac yn sefydliadau, a gyfrannodd at ein gwaith. Hoffwn hefyd nodi fy niolch i staff gwasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau am eu cymorth a'u cyngor dros gyfnod o rai misoedd.

3.20 p.m.

Yr ydym yn credu bod yr adroddiad yn cynnwys argymhellion teg, eang a chyraeddadwy i helpu Llywodraeth Cymru i ddatblygu'r ddarpariaeth ar gyfer pobl sy'n dysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith. Felly, yr wyf am droi at yr argymhellion ac ymateb y Gweinidog. Yr ydym yn hapus bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn y rhan fwyaf o'n hargymhellion, gan wrthod un a derbyn rhai mewn egwyddor yn unig. Mae'n dda cael gweld bod y Llywodraeth eisoes yn cymryd camau mewn perthynas ag argymhellion eraill.

Mae'r Gweinidog yn cytuno â safbwytiau'r pwylgor o ran yr angen i sicrhau bod digon o amser yn cael ei neilltuo i astudio Cymraeg fel ail iaith. Y bwriad hirdymor yw sicrhau bod y cwrs TGAU Cymraeg ail iaith llawn, neu'r cymhwyster cyfatebol, yn cael ei ddysgu mewn nifer cynyddol o ysgolion ac y bydd y cwrs TGAU byr yn cael ei ddiddymu yn y pen draw.

Edrychwn ymlaen at weld canlyniadau'r cynllun peilot i annog cydweithio agos rhwng awdurdodau lleol i adnabod a thargedu athrawon o leoliadau cynradd Saesneg eu hiaith neu ddwyieithog a allai gael budd o hyfforddiant Cymraeg drwy'r cynllun sabothol sylfaenol tri mis. Yr ydym hefyd yn falch o glywed y bydd y canolfannau Cymraeg i oedolion yn rhan o'r gwaith o roi'r cynllun hwnnw ar waith.

Mae'r pwylgor yn cydnabod bod rhywfaint o

I would like to thank Jeff Cuthbert, David Melding and Jenny Randerson, for their hard work. As a group, we undertook several visits and spoke to many experts in the field of the teaching of Welsh as a second language. Since the group conducted its work informally, we shared a lot of personal experiences in an honest and open environment. Therefore, we would like to warmly thank everyone—individuals and organisations—who contributed to our work. I would also like to place on record my thanks to Members' research service staff for their assistance and advice over many months.

We believe that the report contains fair, wide-ranging and achievable recommendations for the Welsh Government to develop the provision for people learning Welsh as a second language. I turn, therefore, to the recommendations and the Minister's response. We are pleased that the Minister has accepted most of our recommendations—rejecting one and accepting some only in principle. It is good to see that the Government is already taking action on others.

The Minister agrees with the committee's views on the need to ensure that sufficient time is allocated to the study of Welsh as a second language. The long-term aim is to ensure that the full Welsh second language GCSE or equivalent is taught at an increasing number of schools and that ultimately the GCSE short course is phased out.

We look forward to seeing the results of the pilot scheme encouraging close working between local authorities to identify and target teachers from English-medium or bilingual primary settings who could benefit from Welsh language training through the three-month foundation level sabbatical scheme. We are also glad to hear that the Welsh for adults centres will be involved in the delivery of the scheme.

The committee acknowledges that some good

waith da yn cael ei wneud yng Nghymru. Yn benodol, gwnaeth ein hymweliad ag Ysgol Gyfun Treorci argraff dda arnom. Yno, mae'r uwch dîm rheoli, athrawon, llywodraethwyr a rhieni yn cydweithio i greu ethos dwyieithog sy'n rhan annatod o ddiwylliant yr ysgol. Yr oedd yn glir i'r pwylgor fod egni ac ymroddiad y pennaeth a'r uwch dîm rheoli yn hanfodol i lwyddiant addysg Gymraeg yn yr ysgol. Credwn y gallai ysgolion eraill elwa ar brofiadau Treorci, ac y gallai canllawiau effeithiol fynd rhywfaint o'r ffordd tuag at gyflawni safonau uchel. Felly, yr ydym yn falch o glywed y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystyried ffyrdd o weithio gydag Estyn a phartneriaid eraill i wella'r arweiniad a'r cymorth sydd ar gael i ysgolion i'w helpu i baratoi polisiau dwyieithog.

Yn ystod ein hymchwiliad, cafodd gwaith diflino'r athrawon bro hefyd argraff dda arnom. Mae'r gwaith hwn yn elfen hanfodol o ddarparu cymorth a chyngor i ddisgyblion a'u hathrawon, gan gynnig cymorth yn yr ystafell ddosbarth, deunyddiau dysgu a chymorth mewn perthynas â materion polisi. Yr oedd yn amlwg o'r adborth a ddaeth i law y gwerthfawrogir eu cyfraniad a'u cyngor ar draws y sector. Mae'n hanfodol eu bod yn parhau i gael yr adnoddau sy'n eu galluogi i ddarparu eu gwasanaethau i ddysgwyr Cymraeg mewn ffordd mor effeithiol â phosibl.

Clywodd y grŵp hefyd, er mwyn helpu ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg i ddatblygu polisiau dwyieithog, fod angen gwella'r cysylltiadau rhwng ysgolion Saesneg eu hiaith ac ysgolion Cymraeg eu hiaith. Yr ydym yn argymhell bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystyried defnyddio'r fframwaith effeithiolwydd ysgolion i wella'r cysylltiadau hyn i ddatblygu cymunedau dysgu proffesiynol i rannu arbenigedd o ran addysgu Cymraeg. Felly, yr ydym yn hapus i nodi bod Llywodraeth Cymru wrthi'n datblygu cymunedau dysgu proffesiynol a fydd yn ffordd o helpu ysgolion ac awdurdodau lleol i rannu arfer da ym maes addysgu'r Gymraeg. Edrychwn ymlaen at weithredu'r cymunedau dysgu proffesiynol hyn yn y gwanwyn, a gobeithiwn y bydd y polisi yn cyflawni'r amcan o wella dysgu.

work is being undertaken in Wales. In particular, we were impressed by our visit to Treorchy Comprehensive School where the senior management, teachers, governors and parents work together to create a bilingual ethos that is imbedded in the culture of the school. It was clear to the committee that the drive and commitment of the headteacher and the senior management team were imperative to the success of Welsh language teaching in the school. We believe that other schools could benefit from the experiences gained by Treorchy and that effective guidance could go some way to achieving high standards. We are, therefore, glad to hear that the Welsh Government will consider ways of working with Estyn and other partners to improve the guidance and support available for schools in preparing bilingual policies.

During our inquiry, we were also impressed by the tireless work of the *athrawon bro*. Their work is a key aspect in providing support and advice for pupils and their teachers, offering classroom support, teaching materials and assistance with policy matters. From the feedback that we received, it was obvious that their contribution and advice is highly appreciated across the sector. It is vital that they continue to be provided with the tools that enable them to deliver their service to Welsh learners as effectively as possible.

The group also heard that, in order to assist English-medium schools in developing bilingual policies, there is a need to build bridges between English and Welsh schools. We recommended that the Welsh Government consider using the school effectiveness framework to build these bridges to develop professional learning communities to share Welsh language teaching expertise. We are, therefore, pleased to note that the Welsh Government is in the process of developing professional learning communities, which will provide a tool for schools and local authorities to share good practice in teaching the language. We look forward to the implementation of the professional learning communities in the spring and hope that the policy will deliver in its objective of improving learning.

Yn ôl adroddiad blynnyddol Estyn ar gyfer 2007-08, prin iawn yw'r cyfleoedd a ddarperir gan ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd cyfrwng Saesneg i ddysgwyr ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg mewn pynciau eraill a gweithgareddau allgyrsiol. Clywsom hefyd na ellir dysgu iaith yn llawn drwy addysg ffurfiol yn unig. Yr oedd rhai o'r tystion yn datgan bod lefelau hyfedredd ar eu hisaf ymhliith disgylion nad ydynt ond yn cael ychydig iawn o gyfle i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg y tu allan i'r ystafell ddosbarth. Mae'r teulu yn hanfodol er mwyn dysgu iaith a throsglwyddo iaith o'r naill genhedlaeth i'r llall. Yr oedd yn amlwg i ni fod angen gwneud mwy i hyrwyddo manteision yr iaith i rieni nad ydynt yn siarad Cymraeg er mwyn iddynt annog eu plant i'w dysgu. Yr ydym yn falch bod y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn cynnwys amcan i gyfleo gwybodaeth glir i rieni ynghyllch darpariaeth ieithyddol ac ethos ieithyddol ysgolion. Mae hefyd yn hanfodol bod adrannau'r Llywodraeth yn gweithio'n agosach â'u partneriaid i sicrhau y caiff negeseuon clir a chyson eu cyfleo ynghyllch manteision yr iaith Gymraeg a chyfleoedd i ddefnyddio'r iaith fel iaith fyw.

Un o'r themâu a darodd y pwylgor yn syth oedd yr angen i gyd-gysylltu a chydweithio. Er bod digon o frwdfrydedd ynghyllch datblygu dwyieithrwydd yn ein hysgolion, clywsom nad oedd yr un person na sefydliad unigol yn cynnig trosolwg o weithredu mentrau'r Llywodraeth, yn hyrwyddo'r gwaith o rannu arfer da, nac yn gwerthuso a monitro rhagleni. Un o brif argymhellion ein hadroddiad yw y dylai safbwytiau ysgolion yng Nghymru gael eu cynrychioli ar banol cyngori arfaethedig comisiynydd y Gymraeg. Hoffwn ategu'r safbwyt hwn, a gobeithiwn y bydd Gweinidogion Cymru yn ystyried yr argymhelliad hwn yn llawn pan fyddant yn penodi'r panel cyngori newydd.

Yn olaf, yng nghanol ein hymchwiliad, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru ei strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a gafodd ei llunio fel ymateb i'r ymrwymiadau yn 'Cymru'n Un'. Clywsom mai bwriad y strategaeth yw sicrhau bod y system addysg yng Nghymru yn ei gwneud yn bosibl i ragor

The Estyn annual report for 2007-08 found that English-medium primary and secondary schools provided very few opportunities for learners to use Welsh in other subjects and extra-curricular activities. We also heard that language acquisition cannot be fully achieved within the sphere of formal education alone. Some of the evidence stated that proficiency is at its lowest among those pupils with very little contact with the language outside the classroom. The family is a key component in the acquisition and inter-generational transmission of a language. It became clear to us that more needed to be done to promote the benefits of the Welsh language to non-Welsh-speaking parents so that they can encourage their children to learn Welsh. We are glad the Welsh-medium education strategy includes an objective to communicate language provision and the language ethos of schools with parents. It is also imperative that Government departments work more closely with partners to ensure that clear and consistent messages are communicated about the benefits of the Welsh language and the opportunities to use the language as a living language.

One of the themes that the committee immediately picked up on was the need for co-ordination and collaboration. We heard that, although there was plenty of enthusiasm to develop bilingualism in our schools, there was no single person or organisation with an overview of the implementation of Government initiatives, promoting the sharing of good practice and the evaluation and monitoring of programmes. One of the key recommendations of our report was that the views of schools in Wales should be represented on the proposed Welsh language commissioner's advisory panel. I would like to reinforce this view and hope that the recommendation will be given serious consideration by Welsh Ministers when appointing the new advisory panel.

Finally, during the course of our inquiry, the Welsh Government published its Welsh-medium education strategy, which was developed in response to commitments in 'One Wales'. We have heard that the aim of the strategy is to ensure that the education system in Wales enables more learners of all

o ddysgwyr o bob oedran ennill ystod ehangach o sgiliau Cymraeg, gan alluogi dysgwyr i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn gymdeithasol ac yn y gweithle. Yr ydym yn gwbl ymwybodol o'r heriau sylweddol y mae'n rhaid i'r Llywodraeth eu hwynebu i sicrhau ei bod yn mynd i'r afael â'r ymrwymiad hwn. Hyderwn y bydd y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn helpu i sicrhau bod safonau'n cael eu codi er mwyn i bob dysgrwr ddatblygu ei sgiliau Cymraeg i'w llawn botensial. Mae'n hen bryd i ni hyrwyddo'r iaith fel sgil, yn hytrach na rhoi sylw arwynebol iddi.

I gloi, mae'r grŵp rapporteur ar ddwyieithrwydd wedi profi'n ffordd effeithiol a hyblyg o weithio, a byddwn yn argymhell i bob pwylgor, boed yn bwylgorau presennol neu rai'r dyfodol, bod hon yn ffordd arbennig o effeithiol o osod dinasyddion wrth galon y gwaith craffu a wnawn ar eu rhan. Bwriadwn gyflwyno adroddiad ar gyfnod olaf ein hymchwiliad i ddwyieithrwydd yng ngwanwyn 2011. Bydd yn canolbwntio ar hyfforddiant dwyieithog, sgiliau yn y gweithle a'r ffordd y mae busnes yn ymwneud â'r cyhoedd.

**The Deputy Presiding Officer:** Minister, I understand that you wish to speak once; would you like to do so now or later?

**The Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning (Leighton Andrews):** I will speak later.

**Paul Davies:** Yr wyf yn falch o gael y cyfle i gymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon. Yn gyntaf, hoffwn ddiolch i Gadeirydd y pwylgor, y clerc a'i thîm am eu harweiniad a'u hymdrechion drwy gydol yr ymchwiliad. Mae'r adroddiad yn amserol iawn o ystyried y ffocws ar yr iaith Gymraeg, gan y byddwn yn trafod Mesur Arfaethedig y Gymraeg (Cymru) yr wythnos nesaf.

Yr wyf yn falch bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn, neu dderbyn yn rhannol, yr argymhellion i gyd ac eithrio un. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod pawb yn cytuno, er bod nifer o ddiffygion o ran addysgu'r Gymraeg fel ail iaith, fod rhywfaint o waith da hefyd wedi ei wneud.

ages to achieve a broader range of Welsh language skills and to use Welsh socially and in the workplace. We are fully aware of the significant challenges that the Government has to face to ensure that this commitment is addressed and we are hopeful that the Welsh-medium education strategy will go some way to ensure that standards are raised so that all learners can develop their Welsh-language skills to their full potential. It is about time that we promoted the language as a skill rather than just giving it a cursory nod.

In conclusion, the rapporteur group on bilingualism has proved to be a focused and flexible way of working, and we would recommend to all committees, present and future, that this method of working is an especially effective method for placing citizens at the heart of the scrutiny that we undertake on their behalf. We intend to report on the final stage of our inquiry into bilingualism in spring 2011, focusing on bilingual training and skills in the workplace and business interface with the public.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Weinidog, deallaf eich bod yn dymuno siarad unwaith; a fyddch yn hoffi gwneud hynny nawr ynteu yn nes ymlaen?

**Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Leighton Andrews):** Siaradaf yn nes ymlaen.

**Paul Davies:** I am pleased to have the opportunity to participate in today's debate. First, I thank the committee Chair, the clerk and her team for their guidance and efforts during the inquiry. This is a very timely report, given the focus on the Welsh language as we are to discuss the Proposed Welsh Language (Wales) Measure next week.

I am pleased that the Minister has accepted, or accepted in principle, all but one of the committee's recommendations. I am sure that we would all agree that, although there are a number of deficiencies in the teaching and acquisition of Welsh as a second language, some good work has also been done.

Fel yr amlinellwyd yn argymhelliaid cyntaf y pwylgor, mae'n bwysig bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gweithio yn agos gydag awdurdodau addysg lleol i weithredu diffiniad cliriach o'r ystod eang o ysgolion dwyieithog er mwyn sicrhau mwy o gysondeb ar draws Cymru wrth gynllunio, datblygu a gweithredu polisiau dwyieithrwydd. Edrychaf ymlaen at ddarllen adolygiad Estyn y flwyddyn nesaf sydd yn ystyried pa mor effeithiol yw ysgolion wrth ddatblygu darpariaeth Gymraeg yn y cyfnod sylfaen.

Mae'r diffiniad o 'ddwyieithrwydd' yn fater yr ydym wedi clywed amdano gan nifer o dystion. Nid yw rhai ysgolion yn gweithredu polisi dwyieithrwydd ond polisiau iaith ar wahân—naill ai yn Gymraeg yn unig, neu yn Saesneg yn unig. Mae'r pwylgor hefyd wedi clywed tystiolaeth o nifer o ffynonellau ar yr heriau o ddysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith.

3.30 p.m.

Er enghraifft, nododd uned datblygu'r iaith Gymraeg Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fod trefniadau dilyniant annigonol yn arwain at ailadrodd yr un gwaith a dadrithiad ymhlið disgublioni, yn enwedig rhwng cyfnodau allweddol 2 a 3. Yr wŷf yn falch bod y Gweinidog, mewn ymateb i'r her o ddysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith, wedi derbyn argymhellion 2, 3, 4 a 5—rhai yn llawn, ac eraill mewn egwyddor—sy'n cyfeirio at asesu ac ymchwilio sgiliau iaith Gymraeg yn gynharach yn yr ysgol, ac edrych ar effaith ail iaith orfodol Gymraeg ar lefel TGAU.

Croesawaf yn arbennig ymateb y Gweinidog i argymhelliaid 5. Mae hwn yn awgrymu bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ymchwilio i gyfleoedd ar gyfer buddsoddi pellach mewn hybu mwy o ddeunyddiau amrywiol ar gyfer addysgu Cymraeg ar gyfer dysgwyr ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd, yn enwedig darpariaeth ar gyfer y rhyngrywd a deunydd dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar dechnoleg gwybodaeth. Mae hwn yn fater o bwys sylweddol, o ystyried bod dewis cymharol fach o ran deunydd addysgu Cymraeg addas ar gyfer ysgolion cynradd.

As outlined in the committee's first recommendation, it is important that the Welsh Assembly Government works closely with local education authorities to implement a clearer definition of the wide range of bilingual schools, in order to ensure a greater consistency across Wales in the planning, development and implementation of bilingual policies. I look forward to reading the Estyn review next week as to how effective schools are in developing Welsh language provision at the foundation phase.

The definition of 'bilingualism' is something that we heard a great deal about from a number of witnesses. Some schools do not implement a bilingual policy but have separate language policies—in Welsh only or in English only. The committee also heard evidence from a number of sources on the challenges in teaching Welsh as a second language.

For example, the Assembly Government's Welsh-language development unit noted that inadequate continuity arrangements led to the same work being repeated and to pupils becoming disillusioned, particularly between key stages 2 and 3. I am pleased that the Minister, in response to the challenge of teaching Welsh as a second language, has accepted recommendations 2, 3, 4 and 5—some in full, and others in principle—which refer to assessment and research into Welsh-language skills at an earlier stage in schools, and to looking at the impact of compulsory Welsh language at GCSE level.

I particularly welcome the Minister's response to recommendation 5. This suggests that the Welsh Assembly Government explore opportunities for further investment into the promotion of more varied teaching materials for teaching Welsh to learners in primary and secondary schools, particularly internet and ICT-based provision. This is a very important issue, bearing in mind the quite limited choice of materials appropriate to the teaching of Welsh in primary schools.

Un maes sy'n cynnig nifer o gyfleoedd yw maes hyfforddi ymarferwyr. Yr wyf yn falch bod y Gweinidog yn derbyn argymhellion 8, 9 a 10, sy'n cyfeirio'n benodol at ddatblygu sgiliau iaith Gymraeg athrawon ar draws y wlad. Yr wyf yn cydnabod bod gan y Llywodraeth gynnlluniau i dreialu, am un mis yn yr haf, gwrs dwys ar gyfer athrawon sydd wedi cwblhau eu hyfforddiant cychwynnol ac sydd yn dymuno gweithio mewn lleoliadau cynradd cyfrwng Saesneg neu ddwyieithog. Fodd bynnag, mae angen i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wneud mwy i annog athrawon sydd heb unrhyw sgiliau iaith Gymraeg i ddysgu a datblygu sgiliau siarad Cymraeg; mae angen i ni gynhyrchu'r sgiliau hynny ymysteg ein gweithlu addysgu.

Fel pwyllgor, clywsom yn ein sesiynau tystiolaeth fod angen adfywio caffaol cynllunio ieithyddol, a bod eisiau canolbwntio mwy ar ddefnydd rhwngweithiol o'r iaith. Gobeithiaf weld mwy o gydweithio rhwng Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a sefydliadau megis CBAC yn y dyfodol i hyrwyddo manteision yr iaith Gymraeg ymhlið dysgwyr a rhieni. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y Gweinidog yn cytuno â'r pwyllgor fod caffaol iaith ar ei fwyaf effeithiol pan gaiff ei ddefnyddio fel cyfrwng ar gyfer addysgu pynciau eraill, megis drama a cherddoriaeth. Drwy annog disgyblion i wyllo S4C, a thrwy ddatblygu rhaglenni ail iaith Gymraeg gyda CBAC, caiff disgyblion y cyfle i drochi eu hunain yn yr iaith, a bydd hyn yn cynnig deunyddiau iaith Gymraeg y tu allan i'r ystafell ddosbarth.

I Gymru ddod yn genedl wirioneddol ddwyieithog, rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad sicrhau bod y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn parhau i fod yn effeithiol. Fel Cynulliad, gallwn weithio gyda'n gilydd i sicrhau ein bod yn manteisio ar y gefnogaeth bresennol i'r iaith ac yn ei datblygu. Mae nifer o heriau o'n blaenau os ydym am i'r iaith Gymraeg ffynnu drwy ein system addysg. Er bod llawer o arferion da ar draws Cymru, gobeithiaf y gall y Gweinidog, drwy'r strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, adeiladu ar hynny ar gyfer y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn falch bod mwyafrif argymhellion y pwyllgor wedi cael eu derbyn gan y Gweinidog, ac anogaf ef i weithredu'r

One area that offers opportunities is that of training practitioners. I am pleased that the Minister accepts recommendations 8, 9 and 10, which make specific reference to the development of Welsh-language skills among teachers throughout Wales. I recognise that the Government has plans to trial, for one month over the summer, an intensive course for teachers who have completed their initial training and who wish to work in English-medium or bilingual primary settings. However, the Welsh Assembly Government needs to do more to encourage teachers that do not have Welsh-language skills to develop those skills; we need to produce those skills in our teaching workforce.

As a committee, we heard in our evidence sessions that language acquisition planning needs to be regenerated, and that we need to concentrate more on the interactive use of the language. I hope to see more collaboration between the Assembly Government and organisations such as the WJEC in future to promote the benefits of the Welsh language among learners and parents. I am sure that the Minister would agree with the committee that language acquisition is at its most effective when it is used as a medium for the teaching of other subjects, such as drama and music. By encouraging pupils to watch S4C, and by developing second-language Welsh programming with the WJEC, pupils will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the language, and that will provide Welsh-language materials outside of the classroom.

For Wales to become a truly bilingual nation, the Assembly Government must ensure that the Welsh-medium education strategy continues to be effective. As an Assembly, we can work together to ensure that we take advantage of and develop the current support for the language. There are a number of challenges ahead if we want the Welsh language to prosper through our education system. Although there is a lot of good practice across Wales, I hope that the Minister, through the Welsh-medium education strategy, can build on that for the future. However, I am pleased that the majority of the committee's recommendations have been accepted by the

argymhellion hyn cyn gynted â phosibl.

**Jenny Randerson:** I wish to thank the Chair of the Enterprise and Learning Committee for his guidance and leadership during this interesting inquiry that we took part in over several months. I also wish to thank the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning for his largely positive response.

All our visits during this inquiry were interesting, but the one that had the most impact on me was the one to Treorchy Comprehensive School. That was an interesting example of developing the culture of bilingualism in education. I recall—I am going back a long way now—that, when I was Minister with responsibility for the Welsh language, I had conversations with the then Minister with responsibility for education, Jane Davidson, who was keen on this model. Looking back at the problems that there have been, and the problems pointed out by Estyn, with regard to the effective teaching of Welsh as a second language, it is evident that the Government needs to look again in detail at this kind of model, and the sort of approach that is taken at Treorchy Comprehensive School. I refer in particular to recommendation 2, which is that the Welsh Government commission research into the current levels of language continuity from key stage 1 to key stage 2 and then to key stage 3 in particular.

When I visit primary schools, and I am sure that other Assembly Members will recognise this, I see a very oddball approach to the Welsh language. In some English-medium primary schools, you see Welsh all around you; you are greeted in Welsh and the children use Welsh to greet you and discuss simple things such as the daily weather and so on. In others, in practice, very little Welsh is spoken outside of the allotted time in the timetable. The difference then, of course, is that when the children go on to secondary school, some will have a much better level of Welsh than others. The problem in secondary schools is that children are taught Welsh in one or two slots in the timetable per week, and, in that time, the tendency in many schools is for the teacher to teach to the

Minister, and I encourage him to implement these recommendations as soon as possible.

**Jenny Randerson:** Hoffwn ddiolch i Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu am ei gyfarwyddyd a'i arweiniad yn ystod yr ymchwiliad diddorol hwn y buom yn cymryd rhan yn ddro dros nifer o fisoeedd. Hoffwn hefyd ddiolch i'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes am ei ymateb cadarnhaol ar y cyfan.

Roedd pob un o'n hymweliadau yn ystod yr ymchwiliad hwn yn ddiddorol, ond yr ymweliad a gafodd yr effaith fwyaf arnaf fi oedd yr un ag Ysgol Gyfun Treorci. Roedd honno'n enghrafft ddiddorol o ddatblygu diwylliant dwyieithrwydd mewn addysg. Rwy'n cofio—amser maith yn ôl erbyn hyn—pan oeddwn yn Weinidog â chyfrifoldeb am yr iaith Gymraeg, cael sgyrsiau â'r Gweinidog â chyfrifoldeb am addysg ar y pryd, Jane Davidson, a oedd yn hoff iawn o'r model hwn. O edrych yn ôl ar y problemau a gafwyd, a'r problemau a nodwyd gan Estyn, o ran addysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith yn effeithiol, mae'n amlwg bod angen i'r Llywodraeth edrych unwaith eto ar y math hwn o fodel, a'r dull sy'n cael ei ddefnyddio yn Ysgol Gyfun Treorci. Rwy'n cyfeirio'n benodol at argymhelliad 2, y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gomisiynu ymchwil i'r lefelau presennol o ddilyniant ieithyddol o gyfnod allweddol 1 i gyfnod allweddol 2 ac yna i gyfnod allweddol 3 yn fwyaf arbennig.

Pan fyddaf yn ymweld ag ysgolion cynradd, ac rwy'n siŵr y bydd Aelodau Cynulliad eraill yn cydnabod hyn, gwelaf agwedd amrywiol iawn at yr iaith Gymraeg. Mewn rhai ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Saesneg, gwelwch Gymraeg o'ch cwmpas ym mhobman; cewch eich cyfarch yn Gymraeg ac mae'r plant yn defnyddio'r Gymraeg i'ch cyfarch ac i drafod pethau syml fel y tywydd ac ati. Mewn ysgolion eraill, yn ymarferol, ychydig iawn o Gymraeg sy'n cael ei siarad y tu allan i'r amser a neilltuwyd yn yr amserlen. Y gwahaniaeth wedyn, wrth gwrs, yw y bydd gan rai plant dipyn mwy o Gymraeg na'i gilydd pan fyddant yn mynd ymlaen i'r ysgol uwchradd. Y broblem mewn ysgolion uwchradd yw bod y Gymraeg yn cael ei dysgu i'r plant mewn un neu ddau slot

capacity of those with the lowest-level skills. Therefore, we are losing opportunities for those children who have been fired up with enthusiasm and have developed considerable skills in the Welsh language; those children are losing their edge, because the secondary schools are not making the best of things. Treorchy Comprehensive School not only had the approach of using Welsh throughout the curriculum in various ways, but also employed peripatetic teachers, and that is another recommendation.

To take a slightly different tack, I will refer to the problems associated with the short course at GCSE. It is significant that some schools are using that to a very considerable extent, and I would say that they are using it as an excuse to water down the commitment to the Welsh language. They are paying lip service to the requirement to carry on teaching Welsh as a second language to GCSE level, but provision is very minimal, and the sooner that we can encourage all schools to go to the full GCSE, the better. Finally, I draw attention to a couple of the recommendations that look beyond the GCSE level, and the importance of ensuring that a more intensive Welsh language course can be offered to children post-16, with a vocational slant. That would enable children to continue to develop their Welsh without having to take a full A-level course, which might not be appropriate for them, and might not be appropriate for their career aspirations. However, it is important that children are encouraged to carry on, because once you get to GCSE level, you have a satisfactory level that can act a springboard for further development. So often, I meet young people who say, ‘My Welsh used to be quite good, but I haven’t spoken it for 10 years and I have lost it’. We need to do everything that we can to prevent that from happening in future.

**Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Leighton Andrews):** Mae diffygion mewn dysgu ac addysg Cymraeg fel ail iaith wedi cael eu cydnabod ar sawl achlysur. Croesawaf felly adroddiad ac argymhellion y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu. Hoffwn ddiolch i aelodau’r grŵp rapporteur

yn yr amserlen bob wythnos, ac, yn y cyfnod hwnnw, y duedd mewn llawer o ysgolion yw i’r athro neu’r athrawes addysgu hyd at allu’r rhai hynny sydd â’r lefel isaf o sgiliau. Felly, rydym yn colli cyfleoedd i’r plant hynny sydd wedi ennyn brwd frydedd ac sydd wedi datblygu cryn dipyn o sgiliau yn yr iaith Gymraeg; mae’r plant hynny’n colli eu hawch, gan nad yw’r ysgolion uwchradd yn gwneud y gorau o bethau. Roedd Ysgol Gyfun Treorci yn defnyddio’r Gymraeg ym mhob rhan o’r cwricwlwm mewn ffyrdd amrywiol, ac roedd hefyd yn cyflogi athrawon teithiol, ac mae hynny’n argymhelliaid arall.

I ddilyn trywydd ychydig yn wahanol, cyfeiriaf at y problemau sy’n gysylltiedig â’r cwrs byr ar lefel TGAU. Mae’n arwyddocaol bod rhai ysgolion yn gwneud defnydd sylweddol iawn o hynny, a byddwn yn dweud eu bod yn ei ddefnyddio fel esgus i lastwreiddio’r ymrwymiad i’r iaith Gymraeg. Maent yn esgus cefnogi’r gofyniad i barhau i addysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith hyd at lefel TGAU, ond prin iawn yw’r ddarpariaeth, a gorau po gyntaf y gallwn annog pob ysgol i fynd am y TGAU llawn. Yn olaf, hoffwn dynnu sylw at ddau argymhelliaid sy’n edrych y tu hwnt i lefel TGAU, ac at bwysigrwydd sicrhau bod modd cynnig cwrs Cymraeg dwysach i blant ôl-16, â gogwydd galwedigaethol. Byddai hynny’n galluogi plant i ddal i ddatblygu eu Cymraeg heb orfol cymryd cwrs lefel A llawn, na fyddai’n briodol iddynt o bosibl, ac na fyddai’n briodol o bosibl ar gyfer eu dyheadau gyrfao. Serch hynny, mae’n bwysig bod plant yn cael eu hannog i ddal ati, oherwydd ar ôl ichi gyrraedd lefel TGAU, mae gennych lefel foddaol a all sbarduno datblygiad pellach. Yn aml iawn, rwy’n cyfarfod pobl ifanc sy’n dweud, ‘*My Welsh used to be quite good, but I haven’t spoken it for 10 years and I have lost it*’. Mae angen inni wneud popeth posibl er mwyn sicrhau na fydd hynny’n digwydd yn y dyfodol.

**The Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning (Leighton Andrews):** Shortcomings in the teaching and acquisition of Welsh as a second language have been highlighted on a number of occasions. I therefore welcome the Enterprise and Learning Committee report and its

am eu gwaith yn casglu'r dystiolaeth ac yn cyflwyno'u canfyddiadau. Mae'r argymhellion yn cyd-fynd yn agos â chyfeiriad pholisi cyfredol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, sydd wedi'i amlinellu yn y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.

recommendations. I would like to thank the members of the rapporteur group for their work in collecting the evidence and in presenting their findings. The recommendations fit closely with the Assembly Government's current policy direction as outlined in the Welsh-medium education strategy.

3.40 p.m.

Yr wyf yn falch fy mod wedi derbyn, neu wedi derbyn mewn egwyddor, pob un o'r argymhellion yn yr adroddiad heblaw un. Yr wyf hefyd yn falch o allu nodi bod y gwaith i weithredu nifer ohonynt eisoes wedi dechrau. Fodd bynnag, ni fydd safonau mewn Cymraeg ail iaith yn gwella dros nos. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gweithio ar ddatblygiadau tymor byr a thymor hir a fydd yn arwain at y gwelliannau sydd eu hangen.

Mae'r Cadeirydd a Jenny Randerson hefyd wedi sôn am Ysgol Gyfun Treorci yn y Rhondda. Wrth gwrs, yr wyf yn adnabod yr ysgol. Mae'r pennath, Bethan Guilfoyle, yn sefydlu safonau dwyieithog ardderchog yn yr ysgol.

Yr wyf yn ymwybodol iawn o'r safonau isel mewn Cymraeg ail iaith. Er bod y safonau yn gwella, Cymraeg ail iaith yw'r pwnc gwannaf o hyd, yn ôl adroddiadau Estyn. Yr wyf wrthi'n ystyried y camau nesaf i weithredu argymhellion adroddiad y pwylgor, ynghyd â rhai materion tymor hir. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn falch o allu datgan rhai camau a gaiff eu cymryd ar unwaith i symud yr agenda hwn yn ei flaen.

Ym mis Awst eleni, ymrwymais £4 miliwn ar gyfer darparu hyfforddiant i gynorthwywyr dosbarth drwy ragleni Cam wrth Gam a Geiriau Bach hyd at fis Mawrth 2013. Darperir y cwrs Geiriau Bach mewn 13 grŵp mewn naw lleoliad ar draws Cymru, ac mae'r cwrs yn agored i ymarferwyr y cyfnod sylfaen sy'n dymuno gwella eu sgiliau iaith Gymraeg. Yn ddiweddar, ymrwymais i ehangu'r cynllun sabothol i ddarparu cyrsiau ar lefel uwch a lefel sylfaen yn genedlaethol o fis Medi 2011. Bydd y cynllun hefyd yn arwain at gydweithio gwell gydag awdurdodau lleol er mwyn adnabod

I am pleased to have accepted, or accepted in principle, all but one of the recommendations in the report. I am also pleased to be able to indicate that work on implementing many of them is already under way. However, standards in Welsh as a second language are not going to improve overnight. The Welsh Assembly Government is currently working on short-term and long-term developments that will lead to the necessary improvements.

The Chair and Jenny Randerson also referred to Treorchy Comprehensive School in the Rhondda. I am familiar with the school, of course. The head, Bethan Guilfoyle, is establishing excellent bilingual standards in the school.

I am very much aware of the poor standards in Welsh as a second language. Although the standards are improving, Welsh as a second language is still the poorest performing subject, according to Estyn reports. I am considering the next steps in implementing the committee's report, as well as some long-term issues. However, I am pleased to be able to announce some immediate steps to be taken to move forward proactively on this agenda.

In August 2010, I committed £4 million to the delivery of training for classroom assistants through the Cam wrth Gam and Geiriau Bach programmes until March 2013. The Geiriau Bach course is delivered in 13 groups in nine locations across Wales, and is open to foundation phase practitioners who want to improve their Welsh-language skills. I recently committed to expanding the sabbaticals scheme to provide higher and foundation level courses nationally from September 2011. The scheme will also lead to improved collaboration with local authorities to identify practitioners who

ymarferwyr a fyddai'n elwa o'r hyfforddiant. Mae'r cyrsiau ar lefel sylfaen wedi eu hanelu at wella sgiliau iaith Gymraeg ymarferwyr mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg i'w galluogi i godi safonau Cymraeg ail iaith hyd at ddiwedd cyfnod allweddol dau.

Yr wyf wedi caniatáu cwrs peilot, mis o hyd, i'w gynnal dros yr haf, ar gyfer y rhai sydd wedi cwblhau eu hyfforddiant athrawon cychwynnol ac sy'n dymuno gweithio mewn lleoliadau cynradd cyfrwng Saesneg neu ddwyieithog. Y nod yw sicrhau bod ganddynt y sgiliau iaith Gymraeg digonol i allu cwrdd â gofynion y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol mewn perthynas ag addysgu Cymraeg ail iaith hyd at ddiwedd cyfnod allweddol 2. Bydd canlyniadau'r cwrs peilot hwn yn ystod haf 2011 yn arwain at ystyriaethau pellach ynghylch y dulliau gorau o wella sgiliau athrawon.

Mae angen i ni ddeall o dan ba amodau y mae Cymraeg ail iaith yn cael ei ddarparu yng nghyfnod allweddol 3 a 4. Mae tystiolaeth anedcotaidd yn awgrymu nad yw nifer yr oriau addysgu a chymwysterau athrawon Cymraeg ail iaith bob amser yn ddigonol i wella safonau yn y cyfnodau hyn. Yr wyf wedi caniatáu ymchwil i gasglu gwybodaeth fanwl ar sut mae Cymraeg ail iaith yn cael ei ddarparu a'i drefnu yng nghyfnodau allweddol 3 a 4.

Bydd cymunedau dysgu proffesiynol a sefydlir o dan y fframwaith effeithiolrwydd ysgolion yn gallu ystyried arfer da mewn Cymraeg ail iaith o ran methodolegau addysgu ac amgylcheddau dysgu. Byddwn yn casglu engrifftiau o arfer da ynghyd ar lefel genedlaethol er mwyn dangos sut y gall ysgolion symud ymlaen ac i hwyluso gwaith y cymunedau dysgu proffesiynol. Gall yr arfer da hwn fod yn gam cyntaf tuag at sefydlu cynllun 'Buddsoddi yn y Gymraeg' i godi safonau a chyrhaeddiad, ac i gryfhau ethos dwyieithog ysgolion.

Yr wyf hefyd yn cydnabod yr angen i hyrwyddo manteision dysgu Cymraeg, ac fel cam cyntaf, bydd fy adran yn adeiladu ar becyn ymwybyddiaeth iaith sydd yn bodoli eisoes er mwyn datblygu adnoddau aml-gyfrwng wedi'u teilwra at ddefnydd ysgolion. Bydd hyn yn galluogi ysgolion i

would benefit from the training. The foundation level courses are aimed at improving the Welsh-language skills of teachers in English-medium schools to enable them to raise standards in Welsh as a second language up to the end of key stage 2.

I have authorised the piloting of a one-month course, to be held over the summer, for primary school teachers who have completed their initial teacher training and wish to work in English-medium or bilingual primary settings. The aim is to ensure that they have sufficient Welsh-language skills to meet the requirements of the national curriculum for teaching Welsh as a second language up to the end of key stage 2. The results of this pilot course in summer 2011 will lead to further consideration of the best methods of improving teacher skills.

We need to understand the conditions in which Welsh as a second language is taught at key stages 3 and 4. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the number of hours taught and the qualifications of teachers of Welsh as a second language are not always sufficient to improve standards in these stages. I have authorised research to gather detailed information on how Welsh as a second language is delivered and organised at key stages 3 and 4.

The professional learning communities established under the school effectiveness framework will be able to consider best practice teaching methodologies and learning environments in Welsh as a second language. Best practice examples will be drawn together at a national level to illustrate how schools could move forward and aid the professional learning communities in their work. This best practice could be a first step in establishing an 'Investing in Welsh' scheme to raise standards and attainment and to strengthen the bilingual ethos of schools.

I also recognise the need to demonstrate the benefits of learning Welsh and, as a first step, my department will build on an existing language awareness pack to develop tailored multimedia resources for use in schools. This will enable schools to use the resources in class and place the language awareness

ddefnyddio'r adnoddau yn y dosbarth a rhoi'r adnoddau ymwybyddiaeth iaith ar eu platformau dysgu. Yn ogystal, byddwn yn ystyried sut i wella cyfleoedd i ddysgwyr Cymraeg ail iaith i ddefnyddio'u sgiliau y tu allan i'r dosbarth.

Yn y tymor hir, bydd materion ehangach i'w hystyried. Yn benodol, yr ydym yn ystyried sut i gryfhau ac ailffocysu gwasanaeth yr athrawon bro a ddarperir gan awdurdodau lleol er mwyn plethu eu gwaith i fframwaith hyfforddi ehangach ac adolygiad o hyfforddiant proffesiynol parhaus a ddarperir ar draws ardaloedd consortia awdurdodau lleol. Yn ogystal, bydd cynlluniau strategol y Gymraeg mewn addysg newydd a fydd yn cael eu monitro gan y Llywodraeth yn cynnwys mesurau perfformiad i wella safonau Cymraeg ail iaith. Byddaf yn gwneud cyhoeddiad pellach am y trefniadau yn fuan. Bydd angen i awdurdodau lleol ymrwymo i welliant parhaus mewn safonau Cymraeg ail iaith, a dangos bod yr ymrwymiad hwn yn cael ei adlewyrchu yn narpariaeth ac allbynna'u'r ysgolion.

Wrth symud ymlaen gyda'r agenda hwn, byddwn yn ystyried y pwytiau a wnaed gan y pwylgor, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'w aelodau am eu hargymhellion.

**Gareth Jones:** Mae'n gymaint o galondid i mi ein bod yn cael y drafodaeth hon y prynhawn yma, wedi cael y cyfre i gasglu tystiolaeth a'i chyflwyno ar ffurf yr adroddiad a'i argymhellion. Rhaid dweud fy mod yn hynod falch o glywed ymateb cadarnhaol y Gweinidog. Cyfeiriais yn fy sylwadau agoriadol at y ffaith mai ymhllith y pethau a ysgogodd yr adolygiad hwn oedd adroddiadau Estyn, a ddangosodd yn glir fod safonau dysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith yn rhywbeth y dylem ei ystyried o ddifrif ac edrych arno i'w wella. Ni allwn ond dyfalu am y profiadau gwael y mae rhai disgylion yn eu cael, a'n lle ni yw ceisio gwella a sicrhau'r perfformiadau gorau posibl.

Cysur imi yw'r hyn yr wyf wedi ei glywed y prynhawn yma. Atgoffodd Paul a Jenny ni o'r problemau sy'n bodoli. Nid gweld bai ar neb yw'n bwriad, ond mae'r sefyllfa yn anodd.

resources on their learning platforms for independent learning. In addition, consideration will be given to improving opportunities for learners of Welsh as a second language to use their skills outside the classroom.

In the longer term, there will be wider issues to consider. In particular, we are considering how to refocus and strengthen the *athrawon bro* service provided by local authorities to fit their work into a wider training framework and a review of continuing professional development provided across local authority consortia areas. In addition, the new Welsh in education strategic plans, to be monitored by the Government, will include performance measures for improving standards in Welsh as a second language. I will be making a further announcement about these arrangements soon. Local authorities will need to demonstrate that they are committed to the continued improvement of standards in Welsh as a second language and show that this commitment is reflected by schools in their delivery and outcomes.

In moving forward with this agenda, we will consider the points made by the committee, and I am grateful to committee members for their recommendations.

**Gareth Jones:** It is so encouraging for me that we are having this debate this afternoon, having had the opportunity to gather evidence and present it in this report along with our recommendations. I have to say that I was extremely pleased to hear the Minister's positive response. In my opening remarks, I referred to the fact that among the things that sparked this review were the Estyn reports, which demonstrated clearly that the standards of teaching Welsh as a second language were something that deserved our serious consideration and should be looked at with a view to improving them. We can only imagine some of the bad experiences that some pupils have, and our role is to seek improvements and ensure the best possible performance.

I am reassured by what I have heard this afternoon. Paul and Jenny reminded us of the problems that exist. It is not our intention to cast aspersions, but it is a challenging

Mae'n her arbennig i ddysgu'r Gymraeg fel ail iaith yn y lle cyntaf, a phan fydd rhywun yn ceisio gwneud hynny dan amodau anodd yn yr ysgol, oherwydd amser ac ati, mae hi bron yn amhosibl. Effaith hynny ar y plant sy'n bwysig. Os caiff plant brofiadau gwael, byddant yn cefnu ar yr iaith, ac ni welwch fai arnynt am wneud, ac maent yn colli hynny o afael sydd ganddynt ar yr iaith. Cyfeiriodd Paul a Jenny at y gwastraff, sef bod plant ac unigolion yn dysgu hyd at ryw lefel ac wedyn, os nad yw'r amgylchiadau'n iawn, maent yn mynd ar eu colled o ran cyfleoedd.

Clywsom wedyn ymateb y Gweinidog, ac mae'n amlwg bod yr adran, dan ei arweinyddiaeth, yn edrych o ddifrif mwyach ar y potensial sydd mewn dysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith i hyrwyddo'n gweledigaeth o gael Cymru ddwyieithog. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed, Weinidog, fod gennych yr holl brosiectau hyn ar waith. Soniasoch am y cynlluniau sabothol, y cynllun peilot, a sut y mae'r cyfan yn gweddu i'r fframwaith effeithiolwydd yn ein hysgolion; ac yn bwysicach na hyn oll, bydd monitro ac asesu ar y sefyllfa. Os ydym am lwyddo yn hyn o beth, mae'n rhaid inni fonitro a cheisio helpu'r sefydliadau, a'u cael i gydweithio wrth ddefnyddio'r adnoddau prin sydd ganddynt. Derbyniad hynny, ond efallai fod adnoddau dynol ar gael o sefydliad neu ysgol arall fel ei bod yn bosibl rhannu'r mathau hynny o adnoddau i hyrwyddo dwyieithrwydd.

3.50 p.m.

Dymunaf y gorau i chi a'ch arweiniad. Mae'n amlwg bod y maes hwn yn fater o bryder i chi, ac mae bellach yn fater o flaenoriaeth. Mae'n siŵr gennyf fy mod yn dweud ar ran holl aelodau'r pwylgor, ac yn sicr y grŵp rapporteur—ac yr wyf yn hynod ddiolchgar i aelodau'r grŵp hwnnw am eu gwaith—gymaint yr ydym yn cydnabod hynny, a'n bod yn falch iawn o glywed hynny.

Fel y dywedais, hoffwn ddiolch i'r grŵp rapporteur. Bu'n grŵp effeithiol iawn. Yr ydym felly wedi cael cyfarfod wyneb yn wyneb â'r rhai sydd yn byw'r peth, fel petai, a hwythau'n rhannu eu profiadau â ni o

situation. It is a particular challenge to learn Welsh as a second language in the first place, and when you try to do that under difficult conditions at school, because of timetabling and so on, it becomes almost impossible. The impact of that on the children is significant. If the children have bad experiences, they will turn their backs on the language, and you cannot blame them for doing so, and they will then lose what grasp they had of the language. Paul and Jenny made reference to the waste, in that children and individuals learn to a certain level but then, if the conditions are not right, they lose out on opportunities.

We then heard the Minister's response, and it is clear that the department, under his leadership, is now taking a serious look at the potential in teaching Welsh as a second language to promote our vision of a bilingual Wales. I was glad to hear, Minister, that you have all these projects in place. You mentioned sabbatical schemes, the pilot scheme, and how it all fits in with the effectiveness framework in our schools, and more important than all this, the situation will be monitored and assessed. If we succeed in this endeavour, we must monitor and seek to help those institutions, by getting them to work together in using what limited resources they have. I accept that, but human resources may be available in another school or organisation, thereby making it possible to share those kinds of resources to promote bilingualism.

I wish you and your leadership all the best. It is clear that this area is of concern to you, and it is now a matter of priority. I am sure that I speak on behalf of all the committee's members, and certainly the rapporteur group—and I am extremely grateful to the members of that group for its work—when I say how much we recognise that, and we are very pleased to hear that.

As I said, I would like to thank the rapporteur group. It has been a very effective group. Through it, we go to meet face to face those who live the thing, as it were, and they shared their experiences of learning Welsh with us.

safbwyt dysgu'r Gymraeg. Yr ydym ninnau wedi dysgu llawer oddi wrthynt hwy.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu, wrth gwrs, i'r staff sydd yn ymneud â'r pwylgor, ac yn enwedig i'r dirprwy glerc, Dan Collier, am ei waith dygn yn y maes hwn.

Fel y dywedais, bydd ail ran i'r gwaith hwn. Yr ydym wedi ceisio edrych ar y dilyniant o'r ysgol i'r gweithle, ac ar addysgu sgiliau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn y gweithle. Gobeithiwn adrodd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad yn gynnar yn y flwyddyn newydd. Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb.

**The Deputy Presiding Officer:** The proposal is to note the Enterprise and Learning Committee's report. Does any Member object? There are no objections. Therefore, the motion is agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.  
Motion agreed.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro (William Graham) i'r Gadair am 3.52 p.m.  
The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer (William Graham) took the Chair at 3.52 p.m.*

### **Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant, 'Gwneud yn Fawr o Ddigwyddiadau Chwaraeon Mawr yng Nghymru'** **The Communities and Culture Committee's Report 'Making the Most of Major Sporting Events in Wales'**

*Cynnig NDM4606 Sandy Mewies*

*Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:*

*Yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant, 'Gwneud yn Fawr o Ddigwyddiadau Chwaraeon Mawr yng Nghymru', a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 4 Mehefin 2010.*

**Sandy Mewies:** I move the motion.

I am pleased to open this debate on the Communities and Culture Committee's report on making the most of major sporting events. The thrilling climax of this year's Ryder Cup illustrated the phenomenal power of major sporting events to showcase countries to the world. The nail-biting finish of this event, the

We have learned a lot from them.

I would like to thank the Enterprise and Learning Committee, of course, and the staff involved with the committee, and especially the deputy clerk, Dan Collier, for his tireless work in this area.

As I said, there will be a second part to this work. We have tried to look at progression from school to workplace, and at the teaching of skills through the medium of Welsh in the workplace. We hope to report back to the Assembly early in the new year. Thank you very much, everyone.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Y cynnig yw nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Nid oes gwrthwynebiadau. Felly, derbynir y cynnig yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35.

*Motion NDM4606 Sandy Mewies*

*The National Assembly for Wales:*

*Notes the Report of the Communities and Culture Committee: Making the Most of Major Sporting Events which was laid in the Table Office on 4 June 2010.*

**Sandy Mewies:** Cynigiaf y cynnig.

Mae'n bleser gennyl agor y ddadl hon ar adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant ar wneud yn fawr o ddigwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr. Dangosodd uchafbwynt cyffrous Cwpan Ryder eleni allu aruthrol digwyddiadau chwaraeon i arddangos gwledydd i'r byd. Dyma sut y

flawless handling of the difficult conditions imposed by the weather, and the attendance of over 35,000 spectators on the final day delivered, in the words of *The Wall Street Journal*,

‘arguably the most exciting conclusion in 83 years of this biennial intercontinental dust-up’.

What is more, there is a clear legacy plan to ensure that the impact of this magnificent event does not fade away now that the crowds have gone.

However, the evidence of our inquiry suggested that such foresighted planning was the exception, rather than the norm. In our report, we therefore call for the Welsh Government to ensure that strategic plans are routinely in place to make sure that major sporting events in Wales leave behind more than memories. I am delighted that it has accepted our call to explicitly state that major events that seek its financial support will be required to include a post-event strategy. There is simply no point in using public money to assist bids to host major events unless there is a clear, justifiable plan for using such events to deliver on Government policy objectives. Bidding for events, and then retrospectively trying to shoehorn in a rationale for hosting them, is not a sustainable approach in the current economic climate, or in any economic climate, in my opinion.

Indeed, the Minister has fully accepted nine of the 14 recommendations in our report, accepting a further three in principle. In particular, I welcome the Minister’s decision to accept our recommendation that the major event unit provides event organisers with a central source of practical guidance and advice on the management of such events. Given that such advice may play a critical role in determining whether potential event organisers seek to host events in the first place, I would be grateful if the Minister can clarify that such advice will be accessible to

cyfeiriwyd at ddiweddglo cyffrous y digwyddiad hwn, y ffordd wych yr ymdriniwyd â'r amodau anodd a achoswyd gan y tywydd, a'r ffaith fod dros 35,000 o wylwyr yn bresennol ar y diwrnod olaf yn *The Wall Street Journal*:

‘arguably the most exciting conclusion in 83 years of this biennial intercontinental dust-up’.

Yn ychwanegol at hyn, cyflwynwyd cynllun gwaddol clir er mwyn sicrhau na fydd effaith y digwyddiad gwych hwn yn pylu ar ôl i'r tyrfaoedd fynd.

Fodd bynnag, roedd tystiolaeth ein hymchwiliad yn awgrymu mai eithriad oedd cynllunio rhagweledol o'r fath, yn hytrach na'r norm. Yn ein hadroddiad, rydym felly'n galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod cynlluniau strategol yn bodoli fel mater o drefn er mwyn sicrhau bod digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr yng Nghymru'n gadael mwy ar eu hôl nag atgofion yn unig. Rwy'n falch iawn ei bod wedi derbyn ein cais ar iddi nodi'n benodol y bydd yn ofynnol i ddigwyddiadau mawr sy'n gwneud cais am gymorth ariannol ganddi gynnwys strategaeth ar gyfer y cyfnod ar ôl y digwyddiad. Nid oes diben defnyddio arian cyhoeddus i gynorthwyo ceisiadau i gynnal digwyddiadau mawr oni bai fod cynllun clir y gellir ei gyfiawnhau ar gyfer defnyddio digwyddiadau o'r fath i gyflawni amcanion polisi'r Llywodraeth. Nid yw gwneud cais am ddigwyddiadau, a cheisio llunio sail resymegol dros eu cynnal ar ôl hynny, yn ddull cynaliadwy yn yr hinsawdd economaidd sydd ohoni, nac mewn unrhyw hinsawdd economaidd, yn fy marn i.

Yn wir, mae'r Gweinidog wedi derbyn naw o'r 14 argymhelliaid yn ein hadroddiad yn llawn, a thri arall mewn egwyddor. Yn fwyaf arbennig, rwy'n croesawu penderfyniad y Gweinidog i dderbyn ein hargymhelliaid y dylai'r uned digwyddiadau mawr ddarparu ffynhonnell ganolog o ganllawiau ymarfer a chyngor ynglŷn â rheoli digwyddiadau o'r fath i drefnwyr digwyddiadau. Gan gymryd y gallai cyngor o'r fath chwarae rôl hollbwysig wrth benderfynu a yw darpar drefnwyr digwyddiadau'n gwneud cais i gynnal digwyddiadau yn y lle cyntaf, byddwn yn

all, rather than only to those who have previously been formally awarded financial support by the Welsh Government.

I am also pleased that the Minister has accepted our call to establish a national calendar of major events, to enable the development of a strategic spread of events across the calendar. I note that the Minister states in his written response that the Government will consult on the format and presentation of such a calendar, and I would be grateful if he could outline indicative timescales for when this is to take place. Such a calendar will assist major sports organisations to collaborate in the interests of Wales, as will the Government's commitment to engaging with major events practitioners across Wales to share experience and specialist knowledge.

While I understand the rationale of his decision, I am disappointed that the Welsh Government has rejected our recommendation to support smaller events if they can achieve specific Welsh Government policy objectives. I agree that such events are less likely to have a wide economic and socio-cultural impact on an all-Wales level. However, the committee considered that such events could be strategically aligned to take place around larger events, enabling the surge of interest generated in a particular set of sports by a major event to be maintained, rather than forgotten about due to lack of activity. I am pleased that the Welsh Government's major events strategy acknowledges the importance of smaller events, but I remain concerned that the Welsh Government may be missing an opportunity to further progress its policy objectives by supporting such activity.

I am pleased that the Welsh Government has accepted our recommendation that it will determine whether it will support a major sporting event on the basis of how much progress the event would achieve against its main policy objectives, rather than requiring each event to try to tick off lots of different

ddiolchgar pe bai'r Gweinidog yn gallu egluro y bydd cyngor o'r fath ar gael i bawb, ac nid yn unig i'r rhai hynny sydd wedi cael cefnogaeth ariannol ffurfiol gan Lywodraeth Cymru o'r blaen.

Rwyf hefyd yn falch bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn ein cais i sefydlu calendr cenedlaethol o ddigwyddiadau mawr, fel bod modd datblygu rhychwant strategol o ddigwyddiadau drwy'r calendr cyfan. Sylwaf fod y Gweinidog yn nodi yn ei ymateb ysgrifenedig y bydd y Llywodraeth yn ymgynghori ynglŷn â fformat a chyflwyniad calendr o'r fath, a byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai amlinellu amserlen i roi rhyw syniad inni pa bryd y bydd hyn yn digwydd. Bydd calendr o'r fath yn helpu trefnwyr digwyddiadau mawr i gydweithio er budd Cymru, yn yr un modd ag ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i ymgysylltu â phobl sy'n ymwneud â digwyddiadau mawr ledled Cymru i rannu profiad a gwybodaeth arbenigol.

Er fy mod yn deall rhesymeg ei benderfyniad, rwy'n siomedig bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwrrhod ein hargymhelliaid i gefnogi digwyddiadau llai os gallant gyflawni amcanion polisi penodol Llywodraeth Cymru. Rwy'n cytuno bod digwyddiadau o'r fath yn llai tebygol o gael effaith economaidd a chymdeithasol-ddiwylliannol eang ar lefel Cymru gyfan. Fodd bynnag, teimlai'r pwylgor y gallai digwyddiadau o'r fath gael eu trefnu'n strategol o amgylch digwyddiadau mwy, fel bod y don o ddiddordeb a gynhyrchir mewn chwaraeon penodol gan ddigwyddiad mawr yn cael ei chynnal, yn hytrach na'i hanghofio oherwydd diffyg gweithgaredd. Rwy'n falch bod strategaeth digwyddiadau mawr Llywodraeth Cymru'n cydnabod pwysigrwydd digwyddiadau llai, ond rwy'n dal yn bryderus y gallai Llywodraeth Cymru fod yn colli cyfle i roi hwb pellach i'w hamcanion polisi drwy gefnogi gweithgaredd o'r fath.

Rwy'n falch bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn ein hargymhelliaid i benderfynu a yw am gefnogi digwyddiad chwaraeon mawr ar sail faint o gynnydd y byddai'r digwyddiad yn ei sicrhau yng nghyd-destun y prif amcanion polisi, yn hytrach na gofyn i bob digwyddiad geisio cyflawni llawer o

objectives. The evidence that we heard in our inquiry made it clear that it was far more effective for an event to seek to achieve something substantial on its main objectives than to achieve little on a wide range of targets. I am also pleased that the Minister has noted in his response that a simplified system for determining funding will be put in place for smaller events. I believe that these decisions will help smaller 'growth' events to play their part in progressing the Welsh Government's policy objectives.

In the current economic climate, I can understand the Minister's decision to refuse to confirm at this time that the current level of funding for the major events unit would be sustained. However, given the relative youth of the major events unit, I remain concerned that cuts in its budget would have a greater impact than those to other Welsh Government units, and I urge the Minister to make every effort to sustain its capacity to deliver on its objectives, and co-ordinate its work with other relevant Government departments.

In this context, I welcome the Welsh Government's decision to seek to increase public awareness of the major events unit. It was interesting to hear some witnesses say that they were not aware of what was going on in that unit. The committee considered that it would be extremely valuable for the unit to have a higher profile, to ensure that event organisers were aware of it and the strategic advice that it could provide them with. I would be grateful if the Minister could provide us with indicative timescales for the development of an outward-facing 'Event Wales' communications plan and major events website, referenced in his response to our report.

Partnership in the delivery of major events is vital, and in this context I am pleased that the Welsh Government has accepted in principle our recommendation that it develop guidance on local authorities' potential roles in enabling major events. I note the Minister's comments that local authorities are already developing their own strategic approach to major events. Indeed, the Welsh

amcanion gwahanol. Roedd y dystiolaeth a glywsom yn ein hymchwiliad yn dangos yn glir ei bod yn llawer mwy effeithiol i ddigwyddiad geisio cyflawni rhywbeth sylwedol yng nghyd-destun ei brif amcanion yn hytrach na chyflawni ychydig gydag ystod eang o dargedau. Rwy'n falch hefyd fod y Gweinidog wedi nodi yn ei ymateb y bydd system symlach ar gyfer pennu cyllid yn cael ei chyflwyno ar gyfer digwyddiadau llai. Credaf y bydd y penderfyniadau hyn yn helpu digwyddiadau 'twf' llai i chwarae eu rhan er mwyn cyflawni amcanion polisi'r Llywodraeth.

Yn yr hinsawdd economaidd sydd ohoni, gallaf ddeall penderfyniad y Gweinidog i wrthod cadarnhau ar hyn o bryd y byddai lefel bresennol y cyllid ar gyfer yr uned digwyddiadau mawr yn cael ei chynnal. Fodd bynnag, gan fod yr uned digwyddiadau mawr yn weddol ifanc, rwy'n dal yn bryderus y byddai toriadau yn ei chyllideb yn cael mwy o effaith na'r rhai i unedau eraill Llywodraeth Cymru, ac rwy'n annog y Gweinidog i wneud pob ymdrech i gynnal ei chapasiti i gyflawni ei hamcanion, a chydgyssylltu ei gwaith ag adrannau perthnasol eraill y Llywodraeth.

Yn y cyd-destun hwn, rwy'n croesawu penderfyniad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i geisio cynyddu ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd o'r uned digwyddiadau mawr. Roedd yn ddiddorol clywed rhai tystion yn dweud nad oeddent yn gwybod beth oedd yn digwydd yn yr uned honno. Credai'r pwylgor y byddai'n fuddiol iawn i'r uned gael gwell proffil, er mwyn sicrhau bod trefnwyr digwyddiadau'n ymwybodol ohoni ac o'r cyngor strategol y gallai ei roi iddynt. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai'r Gweinidog roi rhyw syniad inni pa bryd y bydd y cynllun cyfathrebu allblyg ar gyfer 'Digwyddiadau Cymru' a'r wefan digwyddiadau mawr, y cyfeirir atynt yn ei ymateb i'n hadroddiad, yn cael eu datblygu.

Mae gweithio mewn partneriaeth yn hanfodol wrth drefnu digwyddiadau mawr, ac yn y cyswllt hwn rwy'n falch bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn mewn egwyddor ein hargymhelliaid y dylai ddatblygu canllawiau ar rolau posibl awdurdodau lleol wrth alluogi digwyddiadau mawr. Rwy'n nodi sylwadau'r Gweinidog bod awdurdodau lleol eisoes yn datblygu eu hagweddau strategol eu hunain at

Government's response to our report noted the example of Conwy County Borough Council producing a three-year events strategy. However, I ask the Minister to note that Conwy County Borough Council stated in evidence to our committee that strengthened communication with local authorities would be a positive way forward. I urge the Minister to ensure that positive lines of communication are maintained with local authorities in the development of their strategic approaches to major events.

ddigwyddiadau mawr. Yn wir, roedd ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i'n hadroddiad yn cyfeirio at yr enghraifft o Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy'n cynhyrchu strategaeth ddigwyddiadau dair blynedd. Fodd bynnag, gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog nodi bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy wedi nodi mewn dystiolaeth i'n pwylgor y byddai cyfathrebu cryfach ag awdurdodau lleol yn gam cadarnhaol ymlaen. Rwy'n annog y Gweinidog i sicrhau bod llinellau cyfathrebu cadarnhaol gydag awdurdodau lleol yn cael eu cynnal wrth ddatblygu eu hagwedd strategol at ddigwyddiadau mawr.

4.00 p.m.

Finally, I am pleased that the Minister has accepted in principle our recommendation to undertake a strategic review of the accessibility of potential locations for major sporting events in Wales via public transport. The evidence in the inquiry consistently highlighted the importance of transport and accommodation in attracting major events to Wales, with a number of our witnesses suggesting that flaws in Wales's provision of such infrastructure had a significant impact on its ability to host major events and reputation in that regard. The successful delivery of the Ryder Cup illustrated that some of those challenges can be overcome, but I remain convinced that partnership planning around major events is vital to address these issues. I am therefore pleased that the Minister has stated that First Great Western and Arriva Trains Wales are already working on contingency plans for transport during the 2012 Olympics, and consider such advance planning absolutely vital.

Yn olaf, rwy'n falch bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn mewn egwyddor ein hargymhelliaid i gynnal adolygiad strategol o hygyrchedd lleoliadau possibl ar gyfer digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr yng Nghymru drwy drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus. Roedd y dystiolaeth yn yr ymchwiliad yn pwysleisio dro ar ôl tro pa mor bwysig yw trafnidiaeth a llety er mwyn denu digwyddiadau mawr i Gymru, ac awgrymodd nifer o'n tystion bod diffygion yn y ddarpariaeth o'r fath sy'n cael ei darparu yng Nghymru'n cael effaith sylwedol ar ei gallu i gynnal digwyddiadau mawr ac ar ei henw da yn hynny o beth. Dangosodd llwyddiant Cwpan Ryder bod modd goesgyn rhai o'r heriau hynny, ond rwy'n dal yn argyhoeddedig bod cynllunio digwyddiadau mawr mewn partneriaeth yn hanfodol er mwyn rhoi sylw i'r materion hyn. Rwy'n falch felly fod y Gweinidog wedi dweud bod First Great Western a Threnau Arriva Cymru eisoes yn gweithio ar gynlluniau wrth gefn ar gyfer trafnidiaeth yn ystod Gemau Olympaidd 2012, ac yn credu bod blaengyllunio o'r fath yn gwbl hanfodol.

I thank all the former and present members of the Communities and Culture Committee for their personal commitment to this inquiry. On behalf of the committee, I also offer my thanks to all those individuals and organisations that gave us the benefit of their experience and advice at formal committee meetings and through written evidence, and whose expertise greatly helped us in our deliberations. I thank the clerk, the Members' research service and everyone else who was involved in producing this report. Finally, I

Diolch i holl aelodau blaenorol a phresennol y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant am eu hymroddiad personol i'r ymchwiliad hwn. Ar ran y pwylgor, hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i'r holl unigolion a sefydliadau hynny a rannodd eu profiad ac a gynigiodd gyngor inni yng nghyfarfodydd ffurfiol y pwylgor a thrwy dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig. Roedd eu harbenigedd o gymorth mawr inni yn ein trafodaethau. Diolch i'r cleric, gwasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau a phawb arall a fu'n ymwneud â chynhyrchu'r adroddiad hwn. Yn

thank the Minister for his response to our report. I welcome that response and am pleased that he has accepted the majority of our recommendations, either fully or in principle.

**Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth (Alun Ffred Jones):** Diolch i Gadeirydd ac aelodau'r Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant am lunio'r fath adroddiad cadarnhaol a chytbwys. Bydd yn gyfraniad pwysig i ymgyrch Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i ddatblygu Cymru fel lleoliad allweddol yn y diwydiant digwyddiadau byd-eang. Yr wyf yn croesawu'n fawr y cyfle hwn i roi ymateb Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i'r adroddiad ac yr wyf yn edrych ymlaen at drafod ein dulliau gweithredu gyda chi heddiw.

In recent times, Wales has announced its arrival as a serious player on the world stage. Last year, Wales hosted a historic first Ashes test match in Cardiff, and we congratulate Paul Russell and his team at Glamorgan Cricket for their vision and effort in bidding for, and successfully staging, that most prestigious event. We are proud to have been part of a real team effort in that joint project involving Glamorgan Cricket Club, Cardiff Council, Cardiff and Co, and the England and Wales Cricket Board.

More recently, as was indicated in the Chair's remarks, Wales proved beyond any doubt its credentials as a world-class destination for major events with the resounding success of the 2010 Ryder Cup at the Celtic Manor. Nearly a decade ago, the hard work began on presenting the case for the Ryder Cup to be held in Wales in 2010. Against the odds, the bid by Sir Terry Matthews, the Welsh Assembly Government and the city of Newport was won in 2001. Once that bid was won, we set up and funded Ryder Cup Wales 2010 Ltd to work with us, the European Tour, the Celtic Manor Resort, the city of Newport and a range of other partners to deliver what has been hailed not only as a distinctly Welsh Ryder Cup but, in many quarters, as the best Ryder Cup ever. It would be remiss of me if I did not refer to the major investment made by Sir Terry Matthews. His contribution was crucial and will undoubtedly contribute to the

olaf, diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ymateb i'n hadroddiad. Rwy'n croesawu'r ymateb hwnnw ac rwy'n falch ei fod wedi derbyn y rhan fwyaf o'n hargymhellion, yn llawn neu mewn egwyddor.

**The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones):** I thank the Chair and members of the Communities and Culture Committee for producing such a positive and balanced report. It will make an important contribution to the Assembly Government's drive to build Wales's position as a key player in the global events industry. I very much welcome this opportunity to present the Assembly Government's response to the report and look forward to discussing our approach with you today.

Yn ddiweddar, mae Cymru wedi cyhoeddi ei bod yn gallu cystadlu â gweddill y byd. Y llynedd, am y tro cyntaf erioed, cynhalwyd un o gemau prawf cyfres y Lludw yng Nghaerdydd, ac rydym yn llonygfarch Paul Russell a'i dim yng Nghrized Morgannwg am eu gweledigaeth a'u hymdrehch yn gwneud cais am y digwyddiad arbennig hwn, ac yn ei lwyfannu'n llwyddiannus. Rydym yn falch ein bod wedi gallu bod yn rhan o waith tîm go iawn yn y prosiect ar y cyd hwnnw rhwng Clwb Criced Morgannwg, Cyngor Caerdydd, Cardiff and Co, a Bwrdd Criced Cymru a Lloegr.

Yn fwy diweddar, fel y nodwyd yn sylwadau'r Cadeirydd, profodd llwyddiant anhygoel pencampwriaeth Cwpan Ryder 2010 yn y Celtic Manor y gallai Cymru lwyfannu digwyddiadau mawr rhwngwladol. Bron i ddeng mlynedd yn ôl, dechreuodd y gwaith caled o gyflwyno'r ddadl o blaid cynnal pencampwriaeth Cwpan Ryder yng Nghymru yn 2010. Yn groes i'r disgwyl, yn 2001, enillwyd y cais gan Syr Terry Matthews, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a dinas Casnewydd. Ar ôl ennill y cais hwnnw, aethom ati i sefydlu ac ariannu Cwpan Ryder Cymru 2010 Cyf i weithio gyda ni, y Gylchdaith Ewropeaidd, gwesty'r Celtic Manor, dinas Casnewydd a nifer o bartneriaid eraill i gynnal pencampwriaeth y cyfeiriwyd ati fel Cwpan Ryder â naws Gymreig arbennig iddi, ac yn ôl llawer, y Cwpan Ryder gorau erioed. Byddwn ar fai pe na bawn yn cyfeirio at y buddsoddiad mawr a

economy of Wales for many years to come.

On 29 September, the Deputy First Minister and I launched ‘Event Wales: A Major Events Strategy for Wales 2010-2020’. It is Wales’s first major events strategy, which aims to build on the hugely successful team Wales effort in delivering the 2009 Ashes test and the 2010 Ryder Cup. ‘Event Wales’ is an important milestone in building Wales’s position as a consistently outstanding destination for major events. It sets out how the Assembly Government’s major events unit will lead a more co-ordinated and coherent approach to supporting major events. Our aim is to develop a balanced and sustainable portfolio of major events that will enhance Wales’s international reputation and the wellbeing of its people and communities. ‘Event Wales’ provides a framework that will enable us to work smarter with our partners to ensure that our investments in major events are targeted effectively to increase the prosperity and long-term wellbeing of the people of Wales and to ensure best value for the Welsh pound.

In this difficult financial climate, there is an even greater responsibility on the Government to articulate clearly its strategic priorities and to work in a proactive and cost-effective way with our many partners to deliver the best economic, social and cultural legacy for Wales. ‘Event Wales’ is our response to calls from the events industry in Wales and beyond for a more co-ordinated and coherent approach to future support for major events. The industry has made it clear to us that a more strategic Welsh approach was critical to our future success in a fiercely competitive global market.

Mae yr un mor bwysig ein bod yn ennill cefnogaeth pobl Cymru er mwyn dilyn ein gweledigaeth o Gymru fel lleoliad rhagorol cyson ar gyfer digwyddiadau o safon fydeang. Bydd canlyniadau diweddaraf arolwg

wnaethpwyd gan Syr Terry Matthews. Roedd ei gyfraniad ef yn bwysig iawn a bydd yn sicr yn cyfrannu at economi Cymru am flynyddoedd lawer.

Ar 29 Medi, lansiodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a minnau ‘Digwyddiadau Cymru: Strategaeth Digwyddiadau Mawr ar gyfer Cymru 2010-2020’. Hon yw strategaeth digwyddiadau mawr gyntaf Cymru, a’i nod yw adeiladu ar waith hynod lwyddiannus tîm Cymru wrth gynnal gêm brawf cyfres y Lludw yn 2009 a phencampwriaeth Cwpan Ryder 2010. Mae ‘Digwyddiadau Cymru’ yn garreg filltir bwysig wrth inni ddatblygu safle Cymru fel cyrchfan eithriadol bob amser ar gyfer digwyddiadau mawr. Mae’n nodi sut y bydd uned digwyddiadau mawr Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn arwain dull mwy cydgysylltiedig a chydlynol o gefnogi digwyddiadau mawr. Ein nod yw datblygu portffolio cytbwys a chynaliadwy o ddigwyddiadau mawr a fydd yn gwella enw da rhyngwladol Cymru a lles ei phobl a’i chymunedau. Mae ‘Digwyddiadau Cymru’ yn darparu fframwaith a fydd yn ein galluogi i weithio’n well gyda’n partneriaid er mwyn sicrhau bod ein buddsoddiadau mewn digwyddiadau mawr yn cael eu targedu’n effeithiol er mwyn cynyddu ffyniant a lles hirdymor pobl Cymru a sicrhau’r gwerth gorau am y bunt Gymreig.

Yn yr hinsawdd ariannol anodd hwn, mae mwy fyth o gyfrifoldeb ar y Llywodraeth i fynegi ei blaenoriaethau strategol yn glir ac i weithio mewn ffordd ragweithiol a chost-effeithiol gyda’n partneriaid niferus er mwyn sicrhau’r gwaddol economaidd, cymdeithasol a diwylliannol gorau i Gymru. ‘Digwyddiadau Cymru’ yw ein hymateb i alwadau gan y diwydiant digwyddiadau yng Nghymru a thu hwnt am ddull mwy cydgysylltiedig a chydlynol o gefnogi digwyddiadau mawr yn y dyfodol. Mae'r diwydiant wedi nodi'n glir wrthym bod dull mwy strategol yng Nghymru'n hollbwysig i'n llwyddiant yn y dyfodol mewn marchnad fyd-eang hynod gystadleuol.

Equally important is the support of the people of Wales to pursue our vision of Wales as a consistently outstanding destination for world class events. Members will be interested in the results of the latest Welsh omnibus

omnibws Cymru o ddiddordeb i'r Aelodau, lle datgelwyd bod dau draean o boblogaeth Cymru o'r farn ei bod yn 'wych' bod Cymru'n gallu cynnal digwyddiadau fel y Cwpan Ryder.

Fel y bydd Aelodau wedi nodi, o'r 14 argymhelliaid yn adroddiad y pwylgor, yr ydym yn derbyn pob un ond dau. Yr wyf yn credu bod hyn yn adlewyrchu'n parodrwydd i ymateb yn gadarnhaol i syniadau adeiladol a'n hymrwymiad i sicrhau cynifer o gyfleoedd i Gymru ag sy'n bosibl yn sgil digwyddiadau mawr. Nid yw'n syndod bod y pwylgor wedi gofyn i ni wneud ymrwymiad cyhoeddus i gynnal lefel bresennol y cyllid ar gyfer digwyddiadau mawr. Pan gyflwynais i a'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog dystiolaeth i'r pwylgor, rhoddwyd sicrwydd gennym y byddem yn rhoi cyllideb gystadleuol i ddigwyddiadau mawr yng Nghymru a dyna'n union yr ydym wedi'i wneud. Cyn belled ag y bydd y Cynulliad yn cymeradwyo'r gyllideb ddrafft, yr ydym yn cynnig cyfanswm cyllideb o £4.8 miliwn ar gyfer digwyddiadau mawr ym mlwyddyn ariannol 2011-12. Yn ein barn ni, bydd hyn yn rhoi Cymru mewn sefyllfa gystadleuol gref, yn enwedig o ystyried bod awdurdodau datblygu rhanbarthol yn cael eu dirwyn i ben yn Lloegr, a bod cyllideb sylfaenol yr Alban wedi bod oddeutu £5 miliwn yn y blynnyddoedd diwethaf. Bydd y gyllideb hon yn ein galluogi i gefnogi datblygiad diwydiant digwyddiadau cryf a chynaliadwy yng Nghymru, gydag ymdeimlad gwirioneddol o ddiben a chyfeiriad. Bydd hefyd yn ein galluogi i weithio o sefyllfa o gryfder sylweddol gyda darpar bartneriaid y tu allan i Gymru.

Yr wyf am wneud sylw neu ddau am y sylwadau agoriadol. Mae'n werth nodi bod rhoi cyngor i drefnwyr yn rhan annatod o'r broses o chwilio am gefnogaeth ariannol, pa un ai a yw'r trefnwyr yn llwyddiannus ai peidio. Hefyd, o ran y sylwadau bod angen cryfhau'r cysylltiadau ag awdurdodau lleol, mae'n werth nodi bod y digwyddiad a oedd yn gysylltiedig â Rali Cymru Prydain Fawr yng Nghonwy wedi bod yn llwyddiant aruthrol, a bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy, ei swyddogion a'i staff yn eithriadol o ganmliaethus am y trefniadau hynny a'r cysylltiadau â'r uned digwyddiadau mawr.

survey, which revealed that two thirds of the Welsh population thought it was 'great' for Wales that we are able to host events such as the Ryder Cup.

As Members will have noted, of the 14 recommendations made in the committee's report, we are accepting all but two. I think this reflects our willingness to respond positively to constructive ideas and indeed our commitment to ensuring we maximise the opportunities major events can bring to Wales. Not surprisingly, the committee asked us to make a public commitment to maintaining current levels of funding for major events. When the Deputy First Minister and I gave evidence to the committee, we gave an assurance that we would provide a competitive budget for major events in Wales and that is precisely what we have done. Subject to the Assembly's approval of the draft budget, we propose a total major events budget of £4.8 million in the financial year 2011-12. In our view, this will put Wales in a strong competitive position, particularly in the light of the winding down of the regional development agencies in England, while Scotland's baseline budget has been in the region of £5 million in recent years. This budget will also allow us to support the development of a strong and sustainable events industry in Wales with a real sense of purpose and direction. It will also enable us to engage from a position of not inconsiderable strength with potential partners outside Wales.

I will now make a few comments on the opening remarks. It is worth noting that giving advice to organisers is an essential part of the process of searching for financial support, whether the organisers are successful or not. Also, on the comment that we need to strengthen the links with local authorities, it is worth noting that the event connected with the Wales Rally GB in Conwy was a sweeping success, and that Conwy County Borough Council, its officers and staff were extremely complimentary about those arrangements and the direct contact with the major events unit.

**Mohammad Asghar:** I would like to start my contribution by thanking all committee members, particularly the Chair, Sandy Mewies. Additionally, I would like to thank the committee staff and the Members' research service. This is an important and timely debate, particularly given that the 10-year major events strategy was launched in September, Europe lifted the Ryder Cup in Newport this October, the 2012 Olympic Games are less than two years away, with Olympic football coming to the Wales Millennium Stadium, and, yesterday, the Rugby Football League confirmed that Wales will co-host the 2013 Rugby League World Cup. The Assembly Government must do all that it can to make the most of major sporting events and this comprehensive report makes some important points.

Major sporting events do not offer cast-iron guarantees. They provide unique opportunities for progress and the development of issues linked to tourism, economic development, sporting participation and regional regeneration. The Assembly Government has a significant role to play in generating and seizing such opportunities. The integrated, co-ordinated marketing of our nation is essential, Minister, and sporting events play an important role in the sector.

4.10 p.m.

Evidence heard by the committee confirmed the immensely important role of the media, so I welcome the acceptance of recommendation 10. Media coverage is hugely influential in spiking activity linked to sporting events. When you combine this with actually hosting an event, the potential is massive. Media outlets can be invaluable in promoting a venue, its surroundings and a location's culture and heritage around the globe. Two months ago, images of Newport and South Wales East were beamed to television sets across the world. Effective engagement with the media is crucial if Wales is to make the most of major sporting

**Mohammad Asghar:** Hoffwn ddechrau fy nghyfraniad drwy ddiolch i holl aelodau'r pwylgor, yn enwedig y Cadeirydd, Sandy Mewies. Yn ychwanegol at hyn, hoffwn ddiolch i staff y pwylgor a gwasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau. Mae hon yn ddadl bwysig ac amserol, yn enwedig gan fod y strategaeth 10 mlynedd ar gyfer digwyddiadau mawr wedi cael ei lansio ym mis Medi, Ewrop wedi codi Cwpan Ryder yng Nghasnewydd ym mis Hydref eleni, llai na dwy flynedd i fynd tan Gemau Olympaidd 2012, gemau pêl-droed y Gemau Olympaidd yn dod i Gymru, i Stadiwm y Mileniwm, a'r Gynghrair Rygbi'n cadarnhau ddoe y bydd Cymru'n cyd-gynnal Cwpan Rygbi'r Gynghrair y Byd 2013. Rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wneud popeth posibl i wneud y gorau o ddigwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr ac mae'r adroddiad cynhwysfawr hwn yn gwneud rhai pwyntiau pwysig.

Nid yw digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr yn cynnig sicrwydd pendant. Maent yn darparu cyfleoedd unigryw i symud ymlaen a datblygu materion sy'n gysylltiedig â thwristiaeth, datblygu economaidd, cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon ac adfywio rhanbarthol. Mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad rôl bwysig i'w chwarae drwy greu cyfleoedd o'r fath a manteisio arnynt. Mae'n hanfodol, Weinidog, ein bod yn marchnata'n gwlad mewn dull integredig a chydgylltiedig, ac mae digwyddiadau chwaraeon yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn y sector.

Cadarnhaodd tystiolaeth a glywyd gan y pwylgor pa mor bwysig yw rôl y cyfryngau, felly rwy'n falch bod argymhelliaid 10 wedi cael ei dderbyn. Mae sylw gan y cyfryngau yn ddylanwad mawr iawn wrth hybu gweithgaredd sy'n gysylltiedig â digwyddiadau chwaraeon. Pan fyddwch yn cyfuno hyn â chynnal digwyddiad, mae'r potensial yn aruthrol. Gall y cyfryngau fod o gymorth mawr drwy hyrwyddo lleoliad, ei amgylchedd a diwylliant a threftadaeth lleoliad mewn gwahanol rannau o'r byd. Ddeufis yn ôl, darlledwyd lluniau o Gasnewydd a Dwyrain De Cymru ar setiau teledu ar hyd a lled y byd. Mae cysylltiadau

events.

Recommendation 13 is also important, urging the Assembly Government to promote awareness of the range of sporting facilities available in Wales as potential venues for future sporting events. Seizing opportunities to promote sporting facilities is something I regularly highlight with the Minister, particularly the importance of Wales as a destination for pre-games training camps for the London Olympics in 2012. I understand advanced discussions are ongoing with the US Paralympic track-cycling team, the Irish triathlon team and the Trinidad and Tobago Olympic team, so we look forward to an update from the Minister.

I am disappointed that recommendation 3 was rejected. This calls for support for smaller sporting events—although perhaps they are major within their own field—if they contribute towards specific Welsh Assembly Government objectives. The Minister, in his response, noted how such events are unlikely to have wider economic or sociocultural impacts. However, the Minister agreed with the committee in accepting recommendation 2 that events that receive support will not be expected to meet all criteria listed in the major events strategy. If the event encourages health and wellbeing, stimulates local voluntary action or pushes diversification of the rural economy—all Government objectives listed in the major events strategy—then should it not be considered for support?

I would also appreciate clarification from the Welsh Assembly Government on recommendation 9, which has been accepted in principle. Local authorities have a huge role to play in the delivery of major events. I have eagerly praised the role that Newport City Council played in organising the Ryder Cup, for example, as well as the excellent work of the police. Given the large number of events hosted in Wales in recent years and

effeithiol â'r cyfryngau'n hollbwysig os yw Cymru am wneud y gorau o ddigwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr.

Mae argymhelliaid 13 yn bwysig hefyd. Mae'n annog Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i hybu ymwybyddiaeth o'r gwahanol gyfleusterau chwaraeon sydd ar gael yng Nghymru fel lleoliadau posibl ar gyfer digwyddiadau chwaraeon yn y dyfodol. Mae manteisio ar gyfleoedd i hyrwyddo cyfleusterau chwaraeon yn fater y byddaf yn ei godi'n rheolaidd gyda'r Gweinidog, yn enwedig pwysigrwydd Cymru fel cyrchfan i wersylloedd hyfforddi cyn Gemau Olympaidd Llundain yn 2012. Deallaf fod trafodaethau'n mynd rhagddynt yn dda gyda thîm beicio trac Paralympaidd yr Unol Daleithiau, tîm triathlon Iwerddon a thîm Olympaidd Trinidad a Thobago, felly edrychwn ymlaen at ddiweddarriad gan y Gweinidog.

Rwy'n siomedig bod argymhelliaid 3 wedi cael ei wrthod. Mae hwn yn galw am gefnogaeth i ddigwyddiadau chwaraeon llai—er eu bod yn rhai mawr yn eu meysydd eu hunain o bosibl—os ydynt yn cyfrannu tuag at amcanion penodol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Nododd y Gweinidog, yn ei ymateb, fod digwyddiadau o'r fath yn annhebygol o gael effaith economaidd neu gymdeithasol-ddiwylliannol ehangach. Er hynny, cytunodd y Gweinidog â'r pwyllgor drwy dderbyn argymhelliaid 2 na ddylid disgwyl i ddigwyddiadau sy'n cael cefnogaeth fodloni'r holl feini prawf sy'n cael eu rhestru yn y strategaeth digwyddiadau mawr. Os yw'r digwyddiad yn annog iechyd a lles, yn ysgogi gweithredu gwirfoddol lleol neu'n hybu arallgyfeirio'r economi leol—pob un yn amcanion i'r Llywodraeth sydd wedi eu rhestru yn y strategaeth digwyddiadau mawr—oni ddylid ystyried ei gefnogi?

Byddwn hefyd yn gwerthfawrogi eglurhad gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar argymhelliaid 9, sydd wedi cael ei dderbyn mewn egwyddor. Mae gan awdurdodau lleol rôl fawr iawn i'w chwarae wrth drefnu digwyddiadau mawr. Rwyf wedi canmol y rôl a chwaraeodd Cyngor Sir Casnewydd wrth drefnu Cwpan Ryder, er engrraith, yn ogystal â gwaith rhagorol yr heddlu. Gan fod cynifer o ddigwyddiadau wedi cael eu cynnal

the establishment of the major events unit, I hope that the Minister can clarify exactly how the Assembly Government will offer to work with local authorities.

Major sporting events have the potential to enthuse and energise wide sections of society, reaching far beyond traditional followers of a particular sport. Newport's Ryder Cup was a fine example of this, and every possible opportunity must be seized to ensure that major sporting events bring all possible benefits to Wales, and that improvements are sustainable and enjoyed in the long term.

**Joyce Watson:** I am grateful for the opportunity to speak in this debate. I would also like to thank the Chair for her good offices in driving this forward, as well as all the witnesses who gave time and evidence, sharing their expertise, and the staff who made it possible. Hosting sporting events provides a golden opportunity to promote Wales as a location for sport and tourism, as well as providing a lasting legacy for the people of Wales. As a member of the committee, I welcome the report's recommendations to build on the work of the Welsh Assembly Government in making Wales a prime location for those sporting events. Wales already has a strong record in hosting major sporting events, from several FA Cup finals to the Ashes to the Ryder Cup, recently, in Newport. The Ryder Cup attracted millions of television viewers worldwide, as well as 50,000 spectators each day. Wales has demonstrated that it can host some of the world's most prestigious sporting events. These successes are in no small part thanks to the support and commitment of the Labour-led Welsh Assembly Government.

I welcome recommendation 6 on continuing to build on the Government's work to require event organisers to consider the legacy of those events. It is important that events encourage overseas spectators to visit Wales,

ying Nghymru yn ystod y blynnyddoedd diwethaf a chan fod yr uned digwyddiadau mawr wedi cael ei sefydlu, gobeithio y gall y Gweinidog egluro sut yn union y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cynnig gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol.

Mae gan ddigwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr y potensial i sbarduno egni a brwd frydedd rhannau helaeth o'n cymdeithas, gan ennyn diddordeb pobl eraill ar wahân i ddilynwyr traddodiadol chwaraeon penodol. Roedd Cwpan Ryder Casnewydd yn engrafft wych o hyn, a rhaid manteisio ar bob cyfle posibl i sicrhau bod digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr yn dod â phob budd posibl i Gymru, a bod gwelliannau'n gynaliadwy ac yn cael eu mwynhau yn yr hirdymor.

**Joyce Watson:** Rwy'n ddiolchgar am y cyfle i siarad yn y ddadl hon. Hoffwn innau ddiolch i'r Cadeirydd am ei gwaith da yn bwrw ymlaen â hyn, yn ogystal â'r holl dystion a roddodd amser a thystiolaeth, gan rannu eu harbenigedd, a'r staff a wnaeth hyn yn posibl. Mae cynnal digwyddiadau chwaraeon yn gyfle gwych i hyrwyddo Cymru fel lleoliad ar gyfer chwaraeon a thwristiaeth, yn ogystal â darparu gwaddol parhaol i bobl Cymru. Fel aelod o'r pwylgor, rwy'n croesawu argymhellion yr adroddiad i adeiladu ar waith Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru er mwyn gwneud Cymru'n lleoliad o'r radd flaenaf i'r digwyddiadau chwaraeon hynny. Mae Cymru wedi gwneud enw da iddi ei hun yn barod drwy gynnal digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr, o gemau terfynol Cwpan y Gymdeithas Bêl-droed i gêm brawf cyfres y Lludw a phencampwriaeth Cwpan Ryder, yn ddiweddar, yng Nghasnewydd. Denodd Cwpan Ryder filiynau o wylwyr teledu ym mhob cwr o'r byd, yn ogystal â 50,000 o wylwyr bob diwrnod. Mae Cymru wedi dangos y gall gynnal rhai o ddigwyddiadau chwaraeon mwyaf y byd. Ni fyddai'r digwyddiadau hyn wedi bod mor llwyddiannus heb gefnogaeth ac ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru dan arweiniad Llafur.

Rwy'n croesawu argymhelliaid 6 ar ddal i adeiladu ar waith y Llywodraeth er mwyn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i drefnwyr digwyddiadau ystyried gwaddol y digwyddiadau hynny. Mae'n bwysig bod digwyddiadau'n annog

as well as giving spectators a reason for repeat visits, but the success of these events cannot simply be measured by economic benefits alone. Events must inspire young people, and potential young Welsh athletes, to achieve successes. These events should also provide an opportunity for sporting organisations to build their sports on a grass-roots level through increasing participation. Mass participation in sports would also help the Government to achieve its healthy living targets. However, it is important to support smaller events that provide a welcome boost to smaller communities in less discovered parts of Wales. There is even a chance that a small event could grow to become a major or signature event, as Oscar suggested earlier.

I believe that the recommendations, along with the work that the Government is already doing in this area, will serve to improve our nation's profile and inspire our younger generations.

**Mark Isherwood:** I welcome the committee's report, which centres on the legacy that major events can leave and how they can encourage more people to take up sport and increase tourism. Last year, I was a guest at the EuroHockey Nations Championship in Wrexham. Questioning the Welsh Hockey Union in committee about whether the event would effect lasting change, Mr Leatt replied that the development officer in the three authorities in north-east Wales had more time in schools leading up to the event and that now they were looking to maintain that level of activity. As the report states,

'Major events have been identified as a means to encourage physical exercise, enabling health benefits. Likewise, they have been identified as having the ability to increase a place's national and international profile, which can increase tourism, and thereby economic growth.'

It should be noted, however, that, in answering my questions on this in committee, Dr Calvin Jones from Cardiff Business

gwylwyr o dramor i ymweld â Chymru, yn ogystal â rhoi rheswm i wylwyr ddod yn ôl eto, ond ni ellir mesur llwyddiant y digwyddiadau hyn drwy fudd economaidd yn unig. Rhaid i ddigwyddiadau ysbrydoli pobl ifanc, a darpar athletwyr ifanc Cymru, i fod yn llwyddiannus. Dylai'r digwyddiadau hyn hefyd fod yn gyfle i sefydliadau chwaraeon ddatblygu eu chwaraeon ar lefel sylfaenol drwy gael mwy o bobl i gymryd rhan. Byddai cael llawer o bobl i gymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon hefyd yn helpu'r Llywodraeth i gyflawni ei thargedau byw'n iach. Er hyn, mae'n bwysig cefnogi digwyddiadau bach sy'n rhoi hwb i gymunedau bach yn y rhannau hynny o Gymru nad ydynt yn cael cymaint o sylw. Mae posiblwrwydd, hyd yn oed, y gallai digwyddiad bach dyfu i fod yn ddigwyddiad mawr neu unigryw, fel yr awgrymodd Oscar yn gynharach.

Credaf y bydd yr argymhellion, ynghyd â'r gwaith y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud yn barod yn y maes hwn, yn helpu i wella proffil ein gwlad ac yn ysbrydoli ein cenedlaethau iau.

**Mark Isherwood:** Rwy'n croesawu adroddiad y pwylgor, sy'n ymwneud â'r hyn y gall digwyddiadau mawr ei adael ar ôl a sut y gallant annog pobl i gymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon a chynyddu twristiaeth. Y llynedd, roeddwn yn westai ym Mhencampwriaeth EuroHockey Nations yn Wrecsam. Pan holwyd Undeb Hoci Cymru yn y pwylgor a fyddai'r digwyddiad yn cael effaith barhaol, atebodd Mr Leatt fod y swyddog datblygu yn y tri awdurdod yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru wedi treulio mwy o amser mewn ysgolion yn ystod y cyfnod cyn y digwyddiad a'u bod yn awyddus i gynnal y gweithgaredd hwnnw nawr. Yn ôl yr adroddiad,

'Mae digwyddiadau mawr wedi cael eu nodi fel cyfrwng i annog ymarfer corff, sy'n dod â manteision iechyd. Yn yr un modd, nodwyd bod ganddynt y gallu i gynyddu proffil cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol lle, sy'n gallu arwain at fwy o dwristiaeth ac, yn sgil hynny, dwf economaidd.'

Er hyn, dylid nodi'r hyn a ddywedodd Dr Calvin Jones o Ysgol Fusnes Caerdydd wrth ateb fy nghwestiynau ynglŷn â hyn yn y

School stated that

'It is not that there are no causal links between events and long-term growth, but it is just that there is no evidence of such links....The research that tends to happen around major events is only rarely what we would consider academic—of a good, rigorous methodological standard.'

Witnesses suggested that major events can increase the national and international profile of Wales and specific locations within Wales, thereby increasing the potential for future tourism to such destinations. We considered that the potential for that may be increased if an event were strategically focused on such an objective. During the inquiry, which included evidence from the Welsh Rugby Union and Ryder Cup Wales 2010 Ltd, the committee found that major events can encourage physical exercise. One example came from the Glamorgan Cricket Club, which noted that the 2009 Ashes test match led to engagement with more than 65,000 children and young people in Wales. However, as the report states,

'Sporting events can increase participation, will not automatically do so, but can be made more likely to have such an effect by being strategically targeted and managed towards achieving such an objective.'

The report also calls for the Welsh Government to demand that major sporting events receiving public funding produce a post-event strategy to ensure that the economy and community benefit once the fans have gone. I therefore welcome the Minister's acceptance of recommendation 6. As the Football Association of Wales stated in evidence,

'There is no point in bidding for major events and hosting them if there is no long-term legacy plan in place.'

Dr Huw Jones, the chief executive of Sport Wales, stated that hosting major sporting events can potentially play a role in raising

pwyllgor, sef,

Ni ellir dweud nad oes cysylltiadau achosol rhwng digwyddiadau a thwf hirdymor, dim ond nad oes tystiolaeth o gysylltiadau o'r fath....Yn anaml iawn y mae'r ymchwil sy'n tueddu i gael ei gwneud o gwmpas digwyddiadau mawr yn ymchwil y byddem yn ei hystyried yn academaidd—o safon fethodolegol, drylwyr, dda.

Awgrymodd tystion y gall digwyddiadau mawr wella proffil cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol Cymru a lleoliadau penodol yng Nghymru, a thrwy hynny gynyddu'r potensial ar gyfer twristiaeth i gyrchfannau o'r fath yn y dyfodol. Credem y gellid cynyddu'r potensial ar gyfer hynny pe bai digwyddiad yn canolbwytio'n strategol ar amcan o'r fath. Yn ystod yr ymchwiliad, a oedd yn cynnwys tystiolaeth gan Undeb Rygbi Cymru a Chwpan Ryder Cymru 2010 Cyf, canfu'r pwyllgor y gall digwyddiadau mawr annog ymarfer corff. Gwelwyd un enghraifft gan Glwb Criced Morgannwg, a nododd eu bod wedi ymwneud â thros 65,000 o blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru o ganlyniad i gêm brawf cyfres y Lludw 2009. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywed yr adroddiad, mae

'digwyddiadau chwaraeon yn gallu cynyddu cyfranogiad, er nad ydynt yn gwneud hynny'n awtomatig. Gellir eu gwneud yn fwy tebygol o gael yr effaith honno drwy dargedu strategol a rheoli digwyddiadau mewn ffordd sy'n anelu at gyrraedd y nod hwnnw.'

Mae'r adroddiad hefyd yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i fynnu bod digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr sy'n cael arian cyhoeddus yn cynhyrchu strategaeth ôl-ddigwyddiad er mwyn sicrhau bod yr economi a'r gymuned yn cael budd ar ôl i'r cefnogwyr fynd. Rwy'n falch felly fod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn argymhelliaid 6. Fel y dywedodd Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru mewn tystiolaeth,

Nid oes diben gwneud cais am ddigwyddiadau mawr a'u cynnal heb gynllun gwaddol hirdymor.

Dyweddodd Dr Huw Jones, prif weithredwr Chwaraeon Cymru, y gall cynnal digwyddiadau chwaraeon helpu i gynyddu

awareness of a particular activity or in encouraging people to become more active. He said that what was important with the Ryder Cup was that significant planning and investment had gone into ensuring that the event left a lasting legacy. Our report recommends that Ministers give more advice and support to event organisers to make sure that that happens, and that the Welsh Government should organise an annual seminar for local authorities, the media, charities, private sector companies and sporting bodies to discuss good practice and greater partnership initiatives. In this context, I note that the Minister accepts recommendation 7 in principle, and I hope that that becomes practice.

ymwybyddiaeth o weithgaredd penodol neu annog pobl i fod yn fwy egniol. Dywedodd mai'r peth pwysig gyda Chwpan Ryder oedd bod gwaith cynllunio a buddsoddi sylweddol wedi'i wneud er mwyn sicrhau bod y digwyddiad yn gadael gwaddol parhaol. Mae ein hadroddiad yn argymhell y dylai Gweinidogion roi mwy o gyngor a chefnogaeth i drefnwyr digwyddiadau er mwyn sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd, ac y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru drefnu seminar flynyddol ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol, y cyfryngau, elusennau, cwmniâu'r sector preifat a chyrrff chwaraeon i drafod arferion da a mwy o gynlluniau partneriaeth. Yn y cyswllt hwn, gwelaf fod y Gweinidog yn derbyn argymhelliaid 7 mewn egwyddor, ac rwy'n gobeithio y bydd hynny'n cael ei roi ar waith.

4.20 p.m.

The evidence that the committee received showed that major sporting events have the potential to have positive impacts for Wales. The challenge is to keep those benefits going once the event has finished. I am concerned that the Minister has rejected recommendation 3, which calls on the Welsh Government to support smaller sporting events. Stating that the Welsh Government's major events strategy makes clear the types of events that it will support, the Minister fails to recognise the evidence of Dr Calvin Jones that, even in Cardiff, the biggest events that we hold are not necessarily enough to result in change in the longer term, and that, with a big event that has a small economic base in a small locality, you can start to think about real net additional marginal benefits that are trackable and that might change the whole focus of that local economy. Wales has had sustained involvement in hosting a number of major sporting events over recent years. We need to ensure that future events, large and small, improve Wales's international reputation, leaving a lasting legacy and benefits for people throughout Wales.

Roedd y dystiolaeth a gafodd y pwylgor yn dangos bod gan ddigwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr y potensial i gael effeithiau cadarnhaol yng Nghymru. Yr her yw cadw'r budd hwnnw ar ôl i'r digwyddiad ddod i ben. Rwy'n bryderus bod y Gweinidog wedi gwrthod argymhelliaid 3, sy'n galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i gefnogi digwyddiadau chwaraeon llai. Er bod y Gweinidog yn cydnabod bod strategaeth digwyddiadau mawr Llywodraeth Cymru'n nodi'n glir pa fath o ddigwyddiadau y bydd yn eu cefnogi, nid yw'n cydnabod dystiolaeth Dr Calvin Jones nad yw'r digwyddiadau mwyaf a gynhelir gennym, hyd yn oed yng Nghaerdydd, yn ddigon o reidrwydd i arwain at newid hirdymor, ac, â digwyddiad mawr sydd â sail economaidd fach mewn ardal fechan, y gallwch ddechrau meddwl am fanteision ymylol ychwanegol net go iawn y gellir eu holrhain ac a allai newid holl ganolbwyt yr economi leol honno. Mae Cymru wedi ymwneud â chynnal nifer o ddigwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr yn ystod y blynnyddoedd diwethaf. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod digwyddiadau bach a mawr yn y dyfodol yn gwella enw da Cymru'n rhyngwladol, gan adael etifeddiaeth barhaol a budd i bobl ym mhob rhan o Gymru.

**Bethan Jenkins:** Diolch i Gadeirydd y pwylgor am ei gwaith yn hyn o beth ac i'r clercod am lunio adroddiad mor

**Bethan Jenkins:** I thank the Chair of the committee for her work on this and to the clerks for compiling such a comprehensive

gynhwysfawr. Diolch hefyd i'r Gweinidog am y dystiolaeth a roddodd i'r pwylgor. Yr wyf yn cytuno â llawer o'r hyn sydd wedi cael ei ddweud ynghylch sut i wneud digwyddiadau yn llwyddiannus yng Nghymru, ond, yn fy marn i, y peth pwysicaf a ddaeth o'r adroddiad oedd y dylem fel cenedl deimlo hyder gan ein bod yn llwyddo i drefnu digwyddiadau mor fawr yma yng Nghymru. Pwy fyddai wedi meddwl, 15 mlynedd yn ôl, y byddai Cwpan Ryder a Chwpan Rygbi'r Byd yn cael eu cynnal yma yng Nghymru? Felly, yr her inni yn awr yw meddwl y tu allan i'r bocs, fel petai, a meddwl am ddigwyddiadau newydd y gallem eu denu yma i Gymru. Er enghraifft, nid yw ceisio am fwy o ddigwyddiadau bocsio y tu hwnt i'n gallu yn awr. Yn y dyfodol, gall Cymru geisio am gael cynnal rownd derfynol cwpan UEFA, gemau Cynghrair y Pencampwyr a digwyddiadau eraill na fyddem wedi meddwl ceisio amdanyst o'r blaen.

There was one element in the report that I was firm about. While I appreciate the work that many officials in the Welsh Assembly Government do, we heard a lot of evidence from people who were frustrated because they wanted Ministers to have the final say about the strategic way forward for the many major events taking place in Wales. Therefore, I urge the Government to give more direction on its priorities for major events. I found that there was some confusion in that respect, especially in the case of smaller-scale events, which were trying to build on past successes, but which were not given as much attention as witnesses would have liked them to receive. That touches on what Mark said earlier.

On the bidding process, it was said in the evidence from some of the smaller major events teams—I think by the witnesses representing the sport of badminton—that the process was complicated and bureaucratic. I hope that that can be changed for the future so that we can streamline the bidding processes and so that that confusion does not prove to be a hindrance to successful events taking place time and again.

report. I also thank the Minister for the evidence that he gave to the committee. I agree with much of what has been said about how to make events successful in Wales, but, in my opinion, the most important thing that came out of the report was that, as a nation, we should feel confident as we have succeeded in hosting such large events in Wales. Who would have thought, 15 years ago, that the Ryder Cup and the Rugby World Cup would be held here in Wales? Therefore, the challenge for us now is to think outside the box, as it were, and think of new events that we could attract here to Wales. For example, trying to attract more boxing events is not beyond our current capabilities. In future, Wales could try to attract the UEFA cup final, Champions League matches and other events that we would not even have thought of trying to attract before.

Roedd un elfen yn yr adroddiad yr oeddwn yn holol bendant yn ei chylch. Er fy mod yn gwerthfawrogi'r gwaith a wneir gan lawer o swyddogion yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, clywsom lawer o dystiolaeth gan bobl a oedd yn teimlo'n rhwystredig gan eu bod yn awyddus i Weinidogion gael y gair olaf ynglŷn â'r cyfeiriad strategol ar gyfer llawer o ddigwyddiadau mawr sy'n cael eu cynnal yng Nghymru. Felly, rwy'n annog y Llywodraeth i roi mwy o gyfarwyddyd ynglŷn â'i blaenoriaethau ar gyfer digwyddiadau mawr. Gwelais fod rhywfaint o ddryswch yn y cyswllt hwnnw, yn enwedig yn achos digwyddiadau llai, a oedd yn ceisio adeiladu ar lwyddiant y gorffennol, ond nad oeddent yn cael cymaint o sylw ag y byddai'r tystion wedi hoffi iddynt ei gael. Mae hynny'n cysylltu â'r hyn a ddywedodd Mark yn gynharach.

O ran y broses o wneud cais, dywedwyd yn y dystiolaeth gan rai o'r timau digwyddiadau mawr llai—gan y tystion a oedd yn cynrychioli camp badminton rwy'n credu—bod y broses yn gymhleth ac yn fiwrocrataidd. Gobeithio y gellir newid hynny yn y dyfodol er mwyn inni allu symleiddio'r prosesau gwneud cais a sicrhau nad yw dryswch yn rhwystro digwyddiadau llwyddiannus rhag cael eu cynnal dro ar ôl

tro.

The Government needs to look proactively at events that may not be related to golf, rugby or football, that may not be big earners at the moment but may be in the future. I have mentioned boxing, which is a south Wales Valleys sport that deserves much more recognition than it currently receives. We could learn a few lessons from what is happening in the Philippines, and hopefully mirror the success of boxing there.

Business should be intertwined with sport more. In the future, when events are held in Wales, the chief executive officers of every company in the *Fortune 500* should be invited to a special reception to showcase their work, so that we can establish more trade links, especially with India, given their interest in the world of cricket, and China. We need to exercise more of those business links, as perhaps we are not doing as much as we could be.

My final point is on the legacy. We need a more robust measure of how the legacy affects our young people and communities, so that we can justify holding more events such as the Ryder Cup in Wales in the future.

**Kirsty Williams:** I begin by thanking the Chair, the members of the committee, and the support staff for the work that they have done on this important report. On the whole, I also welcome the Government's response to the committee's recommendations.

As a nation that loves sport—perhaps spectating more than participating—and that loves to celebrate and hero-worship our athletes, sportsmen and sportswomen who succeed, it is only right that we look to develop that as a nation and ensure that we can hold world-class and world-entertaining sporting events in our country. We did that with some panache earlier this year with the hosting of the Ryder Cup. However, as the Minister rightly said, that built upon a long tradition of Wales hosting major sporting

Mae angen i'r Llywodraeth edrych yn rhagweithiol ar ddigwyddiadau nad ydynt yn gysylltiedig â golff, rygbi neu bêl-droed, ac nad ydynt yn ennill llawer o arian ar hyn o bryd, ond a allai wneud hynny yn y dyfodol. Rwyf wedi cyfeirio at focsio, un o gampau Cymoedd y de sy'n haeddu llawer mwy o gydnabyddiaeth nag y mae'n ei gael ar hyn o bryd. Gallem ddysgu gwers neu ddwy o'r hyn sy'n digwydd ar Ynysoedd y Philipinos, gan obeithio y bydd bocsio'n cael yr un llwyddiant yma ag y mae'n ei gael yno.

Dylai busnes a chwaraeon gydblethu'n well. Yn y dyfodol, pan gynhelir digwyddiadau yng Nghymru, dylid gwahodd prif weithredwyr pob cwmni yn y *Fortune 500* i dderbyniad arbennig i arddangos eu gwaith, er mwyn inni allu sefydlu mwy o gysylltiadau masnach, yn enwedig gydag India, o gofio eu diddordeb mewn criced, a Tsieina. Mae angen inni fanteisio mwy ar y cysylltiadau busnes hynny, gan nad ydym o bosibl yn gwneud cymaint ag y gallem fod yn ei wneud ar hyn o bryd.

Mae fy mhwynt olaf yn ymwneud â'r gwaddol. Mae arnom angen ffordd well o fesur pa effaith y mae'r gwaddol yn ei gael ar ein pobl ifanc a'n cymunedau, er mwyn inni allu cyflawnhau cynnal mwy o ddigwyddiadau fel Cwpan Ryder yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol.

**Kirsty Williams:** Dechreuaef drwy ddiolch i'r Cadeirydd, aelodau'r pwylgor, a'r staff cymorth am y gwaith y maent wedi'i wneud ar yr adroddiad pwysig hwn. Ar y cyfan, rwyf hefyd yn croesawu ymateb y Llywodraeth i argymhellion y pwylgor.

Fel cenedl sydd wrth ei bodd â chwaraeon—gwylio yn fwy na chymryd rhan efallai—sy'n mwynhau dathlu ac sy'n ystyried athletwyr a phencampwyr llwyddiannus yn arwyr, mae'n briodol inni geisio datblygu hynny fel cenedl a sicrhau ein bod yn gallu cynnal digwyddiadau chwaraeon o'r radd flaenaf i ddiddanu'r byd yn ein gwlad. Gwnaethom hynny â chryn steil yn gynharach eleni drwy gynnal pencampwriaeth Cwpan Ryder. Fodd bynnag, fel y mae'r Gweinidog wedi dweud, yn gwbl briodol, roedd hynny'n adeiladu ar

events, such as international cricket or rugby matches in Cardiff, and the FA Cup final while Wembley was being rebuilt. I know that many people now look back fondly on the days when the Millennium Stadium held those football matches, because they felt that it was much more of an event to come to Wales and enjoy that fantastic stadium rather than having to put up with some of the shortcomings of Wembley, even after its redevelopment. Therefore, we have a long history of being able to host such events, and it is right that this report looks at how we can build on that, to ensure that we get cross-sectoral benefit from holding these events, whether in the form of the immediate economic impacts of people coming to a certain venue and spending their money, in promoting Wales as a tourist destination for future trips to our country, or in providing lasting regeneration for the communities that hold these events. That was obvious in the case of the facilities that were developed in and around Newport to support the hosting of the Ryder Cup.

I want to look at some of the recommendations in the report, and I will begin by looking at recommendation 6. If the Welsh Assembly Government is to commit resources, especially financial resources, we need to ensure that there is a lasting benefit. Everyone has focused on that. One of the great successes of the Ryder Cup was not just the event itself but the very careful planning that went into ensuring that it would have a lasting legacy, and I know that that is regarded as an example of very good practice when hosting and supporting events. However, we need to get over the thorny issue of how to translate the hosting of a sporting event into higher levels of participation in sports among our population, and the committee was not able to find a way to evidence that in the end. It is incredibly difficult and we need to be more successful at that. However, I welcome the Government's intention to present very clear criteria to any event looking for support, demonstrating that its legacy will be a crucial factor when deciding whether to give support.

draddodiad maith o gynnal digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr yng Nghymru, fel gemau criced neu rygbi rhyngwladol yng Nghaerdydd, a gêm derfynol Cwpan y Gymdeithas Bêl-droed pan oedd Wembley'n cael ei hailadeiladu. Gwn fod gan lawer o bobl atgofion melys am y dyddiau pan oedd y gemau pêl-droed hynny'n cael eu cynnal yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm, gan eu bod yn teimlo rhyw gyffro ychwanegol wrth ddod i Gymru a mwynhau'r stadiwm wych honno yn hytrach na gorfol dioddef rhai o ddiffygion Wembley, hyd yn oed ar ôl ei ailddatblygu. Felly, mae gennym hanes maith o allu cynnal digwyddiadau o'r fath, ac mae'n briodol bod yr adroddiad hwn yn ystyried sut y gallwn adeiladu ar hynny, er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn cael budd traws-sectoraidd o gynnal y digwyddiadau hyn, drwy effaith economaidd uniongyrchol pobl yn dod i leoliad penodol ac yn gwario'u harian, gan hybu Cymru fel cyrchfan i ymwelwyr a fydd yn ymweld â'n gwlad yn y dyfodol, neu drwy ddarparu adfywiad parhaol i'r cymunedau sy'n cynnal y digwyddiadau hyn. Roedd hynny'n amlwg yn achos y cyfleusterau a ddatblygwyd yng Nghanseydd a'r cylch i gefnogi cynnal Cwpan Ryder.

Hoffwn edrych ar rai o argymhellion yr adroddiad, a dechreuaaf drwy edrych ar argymhelliaid 6. Os yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am ymrwymo adnoddau, yn enwedig adnoddau ariannol, mae angen inni sicrhau bod budd parhaol. Mae pawb wedi canolbwytio ar hynny. Yn ogystal â'r digwyddiad ei hun, un o lwyddiannau mwyaf Cwpan Ryder oedd y gwaith cynllunio gofalus iawn a wnaethpwyd er mwyn sicrhau gwaddol parhaol, a gwn fod hynny'n cael ei ystyried yn engrhrafft o ymarfer da iawn wrth gynnal a chefnogi digwyddiadau. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni ddatrys y broblem anodd o sicrhau bod cynnal digwyddiad chwaraeon yn arwain at gynnydd yn nifer y bobl sy'n cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon, ac ni lwyddodd y pwylgor i ganfod ffordd o gael tystiolaeth o hynny yn y diwedd. Mae'n anodd iawn ac mae angen inni allu gwneud hynny'n fwy llwyddiannus. Er hynny, rwy'n croesawu bwriad y Llywodraeth i gyflwyno meini prawf clir iawn ar gyfer unrhyw ddigwyddiad sy'n chwilio am gefnogaeth, gan ddangos y bydd ei waddol yn ffactor hollbwysig wrth benderfynu a ddylid

cefnogi'r cais ai peidio.

I welcome the Government's acceptance of recommendation 1 on the national calendar. That could be not only a practical working tool, but also a statement of our intention and our ambition for Wales to be a country that supports international events.

Much of the debate this afternoon has focused on recommendation 3 and the Government's decision not to support it, on the potential for smaller events. My understanding from the evidence given to the committee by academics from Cardiff University was that smaller events should not be ruled out as they could have a major impact on smaller areas of Wales. Believe it or not, earlier this year, Rhayader in my constituency hosted the world championship fly-fishing competition. Competitors came there from Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and continental Europe, all coming to use the natural resources in Wales that enabled us to host that international event. It was a huge fillip and boost for the local economy at that time of year. In proportional terms, the impact of that event on the local community was much greater than that of a larger event somewhere else. It is disappointing that the Government has ruled such events out. We should not be ruling out smaller events if they can demonstrate an ability to add to stated Government goals.

4.30 p.m.

Turning to recommendation 10 and the media, Bethan Jenkins rightly pointed out the limitations of the media's coverage of sport, which centres on a few core sports, not reflecting, perhaps, the true sporting nature of our country. Bethan talked about having a truer reflection of sport in the Valleys. I am particularly interested in the coverage of women's sports—traditional women's sports or coverage of women playing what are perceived to be traditional men's sports.

Rwy'n croesawu'r ffaith fod y Llywodraeth wedi derbyn argymhelliaid 1 ar y calendr cenedlaethol. Gallai hynny fod yn offeryn ar gyfer gwaith ymarferol, a hefyd yn ddatganiad o'n bwriad a'n huchelgais i Gymru fod yn wlad sy'n cefnogi digwyddiadau rhyngwladol.

Mae rhan helaeth o'r ddadl y prynhawn yma wedi ymwneud ag argymhelliaid 3, ynglŷn â'r potensial ar gyfer digwyddiadau llai, a phenderfyniad y Llywodraeth i beidio â'i gefnogi. Yn ôl yr hyn a ddeallaf, o'r dystiolaeth a roddwyd i'r pwylgor gan academyddion o Brifysgol Caerdydd, ni ddylid diystyru digwyddiadau llai oherwydd gallent gael effaith sylweddol ar ardaloedd llai o Gymru. Credwch neu beidio, yn gynharach eleni, cynhalwyd pencampwriaeth pysgota â phlu y byd yn Rhaeadr Gwy yn fy etholaeth i. Daeth cystadleuwyr yno o Awstralia, Seland Newydd, Iwerddon a chyfandir Ewrop, i ddefnyddio'r adnoddau naturiol a'n galluogodd i gynnal y digwyddiad rhyngwladol hwnnw yng Nghymru. Roedd yn hwb aruthrol i'r economi leol yr adeg honno o'r flwyddyn. Roedd effaith y digwyddiad hwnnw ar y gymuned leol, o'i gymharu, yn llawer mwy nag effaith digwyddiad mwy yn rhywle arall. Rwy'n siomedig bod y Llywodraeth wedi diystyru digwyddiadau bach o'r fath. Ni ddylem fod yn diystyru digwyddiadau llai os gallant ddangos bod ganddynt y gallu i ychwanegu at amcanion datganedig y Llywodraeth.

Gan droi at argymhelliaid 10 a'r cyfryngau, cyfeiriodd Bethan Jenkins yn gwbl briodol at gyfngiadau'r sylw a roddir i chwaraeon gan y cyfryngau, sy'n canolbwytio ar ychydig o chwaraeon craidd, a hynny, o bosibl, heb adlewyrchu'r union gampau sydd i'w gweld yn ein gwlad. Siaradodd Bethan am gael gwell adlewyrchiad o chwaraeon yn y Cymoedd. Mae gennyl ddiddordeb penodol yn y sylw a roddir i chwaraeon merched—chwaraeon traddodiadol merched neu sylw a roddir i ferched sy'n cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon sy'n cael eu hystyried yn draddodiadol fel chwaraeon dynion.

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:** Order. Kirsty, could you draw your remarks to a close now, please?

**Kirsty Williams:** That issue can be problematic, and I welcome the recommendation made on it. I will conclude my remarks by thanking the committee for its work in this area.

**The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones):** I understand that I only have a couple of minutes, so I will concentrate on two aspects. There has been a call for greater clarity with regard to strategy. However, the strategy is there to provide clarity for organisers, so that they know exactly what is expected of them before they engage with the major events unit. The criteria include the legacy and benefits arising from holding or hosting an event of that nature.

There has also been quite a lot of discussion on the issue of major events versus smaller events. I do not think that we have ever said that we will not support smaller events; in fact what we are looking for are smaller events with the potential to grow. That is why the major events unit has supported the Green Man festival and Wakestock, and will be looking to assist other permanent and new festivals and events that have the potential to grow. That is the correct approach. After all, there is a danger of spreading our resources too thinly and not achieving anything of note or worth. The point was well made that, if you try to hit too many targets, you may end up not achieving any of them. That is why the major events unit is there: to develop skills within the events industry in Wales so that we can benefit fully from supporting and hosting events.

**Sandy Mewies:** I understand that we are quite short of time. The great news to come out of all this, of course, is that £4.8 million will be committed in the budget for the major events unit in the future. I was very glad to hear the Minister state that smaller events

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro:** Trefn. Kirsty, a allech ddirwyn eich sylwadau i ben nawr, os gwelwch yn dda?

**Kirsty Williams:** Gall y mater hwnnw achosi problemau, ac rwy'n croesawu'r argymhelliaid a wnaethpwyd arno. Hoffwn gloi fy sylwadau drwy ddiolch i'r pwylgor am ei waith yn y maes hwn.

**Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth (Alun Ffred Jones):** Deallaf nad oes gennfy ond ychydig funudau, felly canolbwytiaf ar ddwy agwedd. Galwyd am fwy o eglurder ynglŷn â strategaeth. Fodd bynnag, mae'r strategaeth yno i ddarparu eglurder i drefnwyd, er mwyn iddynt wybod beth yn union a ddisgwylir ganddynt cyn iddynt ymwneud â'r uned digwyddiadau mawr. Mae'r meini prawf yn cynnwys y gwaddol a'r buddion sy'n deillio o gynnal neu groesawu digwyddiad o'r math hwnnw.

Cafwyd cryn dipyn o drafod hefyd ynglŷn â digwyddiadau mawr ar y naill law a digwyddiadau llai ar y llaw arall. Nid wyf yn credu ein bod erioed wedi dweud na fyddwn yn cefnogi digwyddiadau llai; mewn gwirionedd yr hyn yr ydym yn chwilio amdano yw digwyddiadau llai sydd â'r potensial i dyfu. Dyna pam y mae'r uned digwyddiadau mawr wedi cefnogi gwyl y Dyn Gwyrrd a Wakestock, ac y bydd yn ceisio cynorthwyo gwyliau a digwyddiadau parhaol a newydd eraill sydd â'r potensial i dyfu. Dyna'r dull gweithredu cywir. Wedi'r cyfan, mae perygl inni daenu'n hadnoddau'n rhy denau a phedio â chyflawni dim byd gwerth sôn amdano. Codwyd pwyt da, sef, os ydych yn ceisio cyflawni gormod o dargedau, efallai y byddwch yn canfod eich hunain yn methu â chyflawni dim un ohonynt. Dyna pam y mae'r uned digwyddiadau mawr yn bodoli: i ddatblygu sgiliau yn y diwydiant digwyddiadau yng Nghymru er mwyn inni allu manteisio i'r eithaf ar gefnogi a chynnal digwyddiadau.

**Sandy Mewies:** Deallaf nad oes gennym lawer o amser. Y newyddion da sy'n dod o hyn oll, wrth gwrs, yw y bydd £4.8 miliwn yn cael ei ymrwymo yn y gyllideb yn y dyfodol ar gyfer yr uned digwyddiadau mawr. Roeddwn yn falch iawn o glywed y

will not be ignored. This is, perhaps, something on which we could build in the future; quite a good start has been made.

Minister, you referred to the successful partnership arrangements and private investment needed so that events are successful, as seen with the Ashes and the Ryder Cup. Joyce made the point that economic success is very important. Of course it is, but it is not the only marker. Leaving a legacy of increasing enthusiasm for a sport and increasing participation also plays an important part. Several people, including Oscar, mentioned the potential spin-offs for the economy, tourism and regeneration. Mark talked about the importance of strategic planning for major sporting events and for smaller events. Of course, that is also extremely important. Bethan, I think that you were absolutely right about the feeling that the Ryder Cup left in Wales. The Minister gave us evidence that two thirds of people in Wales felt ‘great’ about the Ryder Cup. We should be very proud indeed that we have started hosting events like that. It is great to say that we should be building upon that in the future.

Gweinidog yn dweud na fydd digwyddiadau llai yn cael eu hanwybyddu. Efallai fod hyn yn rhywbeth y gallem adeiladu arno yn y dyfodol; mae dechrau da wedi'i wneud.

Weinidog, cyfeiriasoch at y trefniadau partneriaeth llwyddiannus a'r buddsoddiad preifat sydd ei angen er mwyn i ddigwyddiadau fod yn llwyddiannus, fel y gwelwyd â chyfres y Lludw a'r Cwpan Ryder. Gwnaeth Joyce y pwynt fod llwyddiant economaidd yn bwysig iawn. Wrth gwrs ei fod, ond nid dyna'r unig ddangosydd. Mae gadael gwaddol o frwdfrydedd cynyddol am chwaraeon a chynyddu cyfranogiad hefyd yn chwarae rhan bwysig. Cyfeiriodd llawer o bobl, gan gynnwys Oscar, at y deilliannau posibl i'r economi, i dwristiaeth ac i adfywio. Siaradodd Mark am bwysigrwydd cynllunio strategol ar gyfer digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr ac ar gyfer digwyddiadau llai. Wrth gwrs, mae hynny'n hynod o bwysig hefyd. Bethan, credaf eich bod yn hollol gywir ynglŷn â'r teimlad a adawyd ar ôl yng Nghymru ar ôl pencampwriaeth Cwpan Ryder. Rhoddodd y Gweinidog dystiolaeth inni fod dau o bob tri unigolyn yng Nghymru'n teimlo'n 'dda iawn' ynglŷn â Chwpan Ryder. Dylem fod yn falch iawn ein bod wedi dechrau cynnal digwyddiadau fel hynny. Mae'n braf iawn dweud y dylem fod yn adeiladu ar hynny yn y dyfodol.

Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer, thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond. As I said, I know that we are short of time. In conclusion, we are grateful to the Welsh Government for its positive response to the report. I thank everyone who has participated in today's debate. Thank you for the opportunity to present this report to the Assembly this afternoon.

Ddirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro, diolch am roi cyfle imi ymateb. Fel y dywedais, gwn ein bod yn brin o amser. I gloi, rydym yn ddiolchgar i Lywodraeth Cymru am ei hymateb cadarnhaol i'r adroddiad. Diolch i bawb sydd wedi cymryd rhan yn y ddadl heddiw. Diolch am y cyfle i gyflwyno'r adroddiad hwn i'r Cynulliad y prynhawn yma.

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:** The proposal is to note the Communities and Culture Committee's report. Are there any objections? I see that there are none. The motion is therefore agreed, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro:** Y cynnig yw nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant. A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiadau? Gwelaf nad oes. Derbynir y cynnig felly, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.  
Motion agreed.*

## Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

### Cau Ysgolion School Closures

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:** The Deputy Presiding Officer has selected amendment 1 in the name of Jane Hutt.

*Cynnig NDM4604 Nick Ramsay*

*Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:*

*1. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau bod ystyriaeth lawn yn cael ei rhoi i'r canlynol cyn cau ysgol:*

- (a) asesiad o'r effaith ar y gymuned;*
- (b) asesiad o'r effaith ar yr iaith; ac*
- (c) asesiad o safon addysg yr ysgol.*

*2. Yn credu y dylai'r broses ymgynghori ar gau ysgolion fod yn fwy tryloyw a chadarn ac yn holol agored i'r cyhoedd.*

**Paul Davies:** I move the motion.

It gives me great pleasure to move the motion on behalf of the Welsh Conservatives. We tabled this motion because concerns about school reorganisation across Wales continue to be raised regularly with Members by parents and groups who feel anxious about the reorganisation process. This is indeed a difficult, emotive and sensitive issue. Let me make it absolutely clear that I am not arguing for all schools in Wales to remain open. I fully accept that there are thousands of surplus school places across Wales and that, inevitably, local authorities, along with the Welsh Assembly Government, have to address this issue. Indeed, there are communities where area schools have been established that are very successful, and, with hindsight, parents, teachers and pupils would have it no other way.

Of course, we should not rule out investment in new schools and brand-new facilities to

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro:** Mae'r Dirprwy Lywydd wedi dewis gwelliant 1 yn enw Jane Hutt.

*Motion NDM4604 Nick Ramsay*

*The National Assembly for Wales:*

*1. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that before a school is closed full account is taken of the following:*

- (a) the Community impact assessment;*
- (b) the Language impact assessment; and*
- (c) an assessment of the school's standard of education.*

*2. Believes that the school closure consultation process must be more transparent, robust and fully accessible to the public.*

**Paul Davies:** Cynigiaf y cynnig.

Mae'n bleser gennyf gynnig y cynnig ar ran Ceidwadwyr Cymru. Cyflwynasom y cynnig hwn gan fod pryderon ynglŷn ag ad-drefnu ysgolion ledled Cymru'n dal i gael eu dwyn i sylw'r Aelodau'n rheolaidd gan rieni a grwpiau sy'n poeni am y broses ad-drefnu. Mae hwn yn sicr yn fater anodd, emosiynol a sensitif. Gadewch imi nodi'n holol glir nad wyf yn dadlau y dylai pob ysgol yng Nghymru aros ar agor. Rwy'n derbyn ar bob cyfrif bod miloedd o leoedd gwag mewn ysgolion ledled Cymru a bod yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol, a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru roi sylw i'r mater hwn. Yn wir, mae cymunedau lle mae ysgolion bro llwyddiannus iawn wedi cael eu sefydlu, ac, wrth edrych yn ôl, ni fyddai'r rhieni, yr athrawon na'r disgyblion am weld sefyllfa wahanol.

Wrth gwrs, ni ddylem ddiystyru buddsoddi mewn ysgolion newydd a chyfleusterau

deliver education to children. However, when considering the closure of the school, we need to see a thorough assessment of the impact of a school closure on all aspects of the school, from its importance to the local community to the impact of specific language provisions in the local area. As I have said on numerous occasions in the Chamber, schools can be the lifeblood of a community, particularly in more rural areas of Wales. Existing school facilities are ideal for community activities outside school hours, and communities can work with schools to acquire new facilities for everyone's benefit in a cost-effective and sustainable way. Fitzalan High School in Cardiff is a fine example of this. With funding from the Assembly Government and the lottery, Fitzalan's sports hall, sports equipment, pool and changing rooms are used by children from other schools and hundreds of community users.

**Rhodri Morgan:** The Member mentions a school in my constituency, which has received its Estyn report this morning. It got a good rating, which we are very pleased about. However, I ask him to make absolutely clear that there is absolutely no threat of closure in relation to Fitzalan. I want him to steer away from any implication along those lines.

**Paul Davies:** Yes, I fully accept that point from the former First Minister. I also understand that Fitzalan High School runs clubs for isolated young people as well as gardening and internet clubs for the whole community. I fully accept that the Welsh Assembly Government has supported the development of community-focused schools, providing funding to create schools that provide facilities and services for the whole community. However, we must give greater consideration to existing schools in our communities, so it is essential that a thorough analysis of a school's contribution to the local community as well as the standard of its education is taken into account when considering its closure.

We need to look at other innovative ways of using our schools to keep them viable, particularly if a school is the only community building left in a village or town that has

newydd sbon er mwyn rhoi addysg i blant. Fodd bynnag, wrth ystyried cau'r ysgol, mae angen inni weld asesiad trylwyr o effaith cau ysgol ar bob agwedd ar yr ysgol, o'i phwysigrwydd i'r gymuned leol i effaith darpariaethau iaith penodol yn yr ardal leol. Fel yr wyf wedi dweud droeon yn y Siambwr, ysgolion weithiau yw calon y gymuned, yn enwedig yn ardaloedd gwledig Cymru. Mae cyfleusterau ysgolion presennol yn ddelfrydol ar gyfer gweithgareddau cymunedol y tu allan i oriau ysgol, a gall cymunedau weithio gydag ysgolion i gael cyfleusterau newydd er budd pawb mewn ffordd gost-effeithiol a chynaliadwy. Mae Ysgol Uwchradd Fitzalan yng Nghaerdydd yn engrafft wych o hyn. Â chyllid gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r loteri, defnyddir neuadd chwaraeon, cyfarpar chwaraeon, pwllnofio ac ystafelloedd newid Fitzalan gan blant o ysgolion eraill a channoedd o ddefnyddwyr cymunedol.

**Rhodri Morgan:** Cyfeiria'r Aelod at ysgol yn fy etholaeth i, sydd wedi cael adroddiad gan Estyn y bore yma. Cafodd raddau da, ac rydym yn falch iawn o hynny. Fodd bynnag, gofynnaf iddo nodi'n holol glir nad oes unrhyw fygythiad y bydd Fitzalan yn cau. Mae arnaf eisaiu iddo gadw'n glir oddi wrth unrhyw awgrym ar hyd y llinellau hynny.

**Paul Davies:** Derbyiaf yn llwyr y pwynt hwnnw gan y cyn Brif Weinidog. Deallaf hefyd fod Ysgol Uwchradd Fitzalan yn rhedeg clybiau i bobl ifanc unig yn ogystal â chlybiau garddio a chlybiau rhyngrywd i'r gymuned gyfan. Derbyiaf yn llwyr fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cefnogi datblygu ysgolion bro, gan ddarparu cyllid i greu ysgolion sy'n darparu cyfleusterau a gwasanaethau ar gyfer y gymuned gyfan. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni roi mwy o ystyriaeth i ysgolion sy'n bodoli'n barod yn ein cymunedau, felly mae'n hanfodol bod dadansoddiad trylwyr o gyfraniad ysgol i'r gymuned leol yn ogystal â safon ei haddysg yn cael ei bwys o a'i fesur wrth ystyried ei chau.

Mae angen inni edrych ar ffyrdd arloesol eraill o ddefnyddio'n hysgolion er mwyn eu cadw'n hyfwy, yn enwedig os ysgol yw'r unig adeilad cymunedol sydd ar ôl mewn

already lost its shop, post office, library and pub. For example, schoolrooms and facilities could be rented out to private individuals and businesses. Therefore, it is imperative that community impact assessments are given more weight in the school closure process, and I acknowledge that the Assembly Government has, in the past few days, issued a new consultation document with the intention of making community impact assessments part of its statutory process. Of course, at present, community impact assessments are only a consideration for local authorities and Ministers; they are not considered a key consideration. I hope that the Welsh Assembly Government, after the consultation process, will ensure that community impact assessments are given the weight that they deserve. I am sure that the Minister will receive many representations on this matter.

Another impact assessment that needs to be given full consideration is that with regard to the effect of a proposed reorganisation or closure on Welsh language provision in an area. The Welsh language is vital to the integrity, future and diversity of our communities in Wales. Closing a small rural school, particularly in a Welsh-speaking area, is like ripping the heart out of that community. Therefore, it is crucial that any decision to close schools be taken on the basis of not only education but the impact on the culture and language of the community.

4.40 p.m.

Currently, Welsh Assembly Government guidance to local authorities states that they will need to consider the impact that proposals may have on local families and the community through the preparation of a community impact assessment. However, that is not statutory; it is, after all, only guidance. I fully appreciate that the new consultation process that the Minister has issued in the last few days is looking to make this part of a new statutory code. I believe that a thorough language impact assessment must be undertaken for all schools earmarked for reorganisation. The demands for specific media of education need to be addressed, and the demand for this education needs to be

pentref neu dref sydd eisoes wedi colli ei siop, swyddfa bost, llyfrgell a thafarn. Er enghraift, gellid rhentu ystafelloedd a chyfleusterau ysgolion i unigolion a busnesau preifat. Felly, mae'n anorfol bod mwy o bwys yn cael ei roi ar asesiadau o'r effaith ar y gymuned yn y broses o gau ysgolion, ac rwy'n cydnabod bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, yn y diwrnodau diwethaf, wedi cyhoeddi dogfen ymgynghori newydd â'r bwriad o wneud asesiadau o'r effaith ar y gymuned yn rhan o'i phroses statudol. Wrth gwrs, ar hyn o bryd, dim ond awdurdodau lleol a Gweinidogion sy'n ystyried asesiadau o'r effaith ar y gymuned; nid ydynt yn cael eu hystyried yn ystyriaeth allweddol. Rwy'n gofeithio y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, yn dilyn y broses ymgynghori, yn sicrhau bod asesiadau o'r effaith ar y gymuned yn cael y pwys y maent yn ei haeddu. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn cael llawer o sylwadau ar y mater hwn.

Asesiad effaith arall y mae angen ei ystyried yn drylwyr yw'r asesiad o'r effaith y bydd ad-drefnu neu gau ysgol yn ei chael ar y ddarpariaeth Gymraeg mewn ardal. Mae'r iaith Gymraeg yn hanfodol i gyfarwydd, dyfodol ac amrywiaeth ein cymunedau yng Nghymru. Mae cau ysgol fach wledig, yn enwedig mewn ardal Gymraeg, fel rhwygo calon cymuned. Felly, mae'n hollbwysig bod unrhyw benderfyniad i gau ysgolion yn cael ei wneud ar sail yr addysg a hefyd ar sail yr effaith ar ddiwylliant ac iaith y gymuned.

Ar hyn o bryd, mae canllawiau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i awdurdodau lleol yn nodi y bydd angen iddynt ystyried yr effaith y gallai cynigion ei chael ar deuluoedd lleol ac ar y gymuned drwy baratoi asesiad o'r effaith ar y gymuned. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny'n statudol; wedi'r cyfan, canllawiau yn unig yw'r rhain. Rwy'n sylweddoli'n llwyr bod y broses ymgynghori newydd y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i chyhoeddi yn ystod y diwrnodau diwethaf yn ceisio gwneud hyn yn rhan o god statudol newydd. Credaf fod yn rhaid gwneud asesiad trylwyr o'r effaith ar yr iaith ar gyfer pob ysgol sydd wedi'i chlustnodi ar gyfer ad-drefnu. Mae angen rhoi sylw i'r galw am gyfryngau addysg

met. I hope that this will be part of the new guidance once the consultation process has been completed.

Section (c) of point 1 of our motion refers to the standard of education provided by schools earmarked for closure. We have seen time and again schools that Estyn has judged to be producing a high standard of education earmarked for closure. I appreciate that Ministers do not wish to approve the closure of an effective school unless there is sufficient mitigating evidence for closure, but local authorities continue to look at reorganising schools where their education standards are high. Given the emotive nature of school reorganisation, announcing such proposals with apparent disregard for the standard of education provided sends a negative message to pupils and parents that cutting costs is a priority and that retaining quality is not. I hope that the new guidance to be issued next year will reaffirm that education standards must be a prime consideration for school reorganisation, as outlined in the new consultation document.

One issue that remains a concern for many communities is the consultation process. I am aware that the Minister, in the new consultation document, is looking to address the consultation process. Where a school is earmarked for closure it is essential that robust consultation processes are put in place and that education authorities listen to the voice of the communities that they serve. Some communities feel that, once a local authority announces its school reorganisation proposals, it is a done deal and that the consultation process is just a case of going through the motions. Some communities feel that consultation open days are used as a promotional exercise and that their voices have very little impact on the process. Parents become very sceptical if local authorities only receive new funding from the Welsh Assembly Government on the condition that school reorganisation actually takes place. The Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities must take serious and meaningful consideration of all consultation responses.

penodol, ac mae angen bodloni'r galw am yr addysg hon. Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd hyn yn rhan o'r canllawiau newydd pan fydd y broses ymgynghori wedi cael ei chwblhau.

Mae adran (c) o bwynt 1 yn ein cynnig yn cyfeirio at safon yr addysg a ddarperir gan ysgolion sydd wedi'u clustnodi ar gyfer eu cau. Dro ar ôl tro rydym wedi gweld ysgolion sydd yn ôl Estyn yn darparu addysg o safon uchel yn cael eu clustnodi ar gyfer eu cau. Rwy'n sylweddoli nad yw'r Gweinidogion yn dymuno cymeradwyo cau ysgol effeithiol oni bai fod digon o dystiolaeth liniaru ar gyfer cau, ond mae awdurdodau lleol yn dal i ystyried ad-drefnu ysgolion lle mae safonau eu haddysg yn uchel. O ystyried natur emosynnol ad-drefnu ysgolion, mae cyhoeddi cynigion o'r fath, gan anwybyddu safon yr addysg a ddarperir yn ôl pob golwg, yn anfon neges negyddol i ddisgyblion a rhieni bod lleihau costau'n flaenoriaeth ond nad yw cadw ansawdd yn un. Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd y canllawiau newydd a fydd yn cael eu cyhoeddi y flwyddyn nesaf yn cadarnhau bod yn rhaid i safonau addysg fod yn un o'r prif ystyriaethau ar gyfer ad-drefnu ysgolion, fel sy'n cael ei amlinellu yn y ddogfen ymgynghori newydd.

Un mater sy'n dal i beri pryder i lawer o gymunedau yw'r broses ymgynghori. Rwy'n ymwybodol bod y Gweinidog yn awyddus i roi sylw i'r broses ymgynghori yn y ddogfen ymgynghori newydd. Lle mae ysgol wedi cael ei chlustnodi ar gyfer ei chau, mae'n hanfodol bod prosesau ymgynghori cadarn yn cael eu sefydlu a bod awdurdodau addysg yn gwrando ar lais y cymunedau y maent yn eu gwasanaethu. Mae rhai cymunedau'n teimlo bod popeth drosodd ar ôl i awdurdod lleol gyhoeddi ei gynlluniau ar gyfer ad-drefnu ysgolion, ac nad yw'r broses ymgynghori'n golygu dim. Mae rhai cymunedau'n teimlo bod diwrnodau ymgynghori agored yn cael eu defnyddio fel ymarfer hyrwyddo ac nad yw eu lleisiau'n cael llawer iawn o effaith ar y broses. Mae rhieni'n mynd yn amheus iawn os yw awdurdodau lleol yn cael arian newydd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar yr amod eu bod yn mynd ati o ddifrif i ad-drefnu ysgolion. Rhaid i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol ystyried yr holl ymatebion i'r broses ymgynghori yn ddwys ac yn ystyrlon.

I accept that the Minister has made it absolutely clear that he wants to try to remove himself and future Ministers from the school reorganisation process, and I agree with him on that. I happen to believe that consideration should be given to totally replacing the Minister in the process by imposing, for example, an independent body or adjudicator instead. That would help to depoliticise the process.

I accept that local authorities and the Welsh Assembly Government will face financial pressures over the next few years. However, it is absolutely essential that financial considerations are not given overriding priority when looking at school reorganisation. I know that the Minister is determined to divert funds to the front line, and I am pleased that he is considering all options in this process. One way of ensuring that more money goes directly to schools, and that some of our existing small schools are protected, is by bypassing local education authorities. According to the figures that I have received, that could lead to a saving of around £102 million. This would lead to further investment in some of our smaller schools. In an answer to me last week during a budget scrutiny session at a meeting of the Assembly's Enterprise and Learning Committee, the Minister made clear that he would be looking at all options, which, I assume, would include this idea.

Before a school in any community closes, each and every sensible option must be considered. I am pleased that a new consultation document has been released, addressing some of our concerns and looking to change the legal processes relevant to school reorganisation. The message that we convey today must be absolutely clear: schools are not just places in which our children are taught; they play an important role in our communities. We have a responsibility to ensure that we protect those communities. I urge Members to support our motion. Thank you.

*Gwelliant 1 Jane Hutt*

*Dileu'r cyfan a rhoi'r canlynol yn ei le:*

Derbyniaf fod y Gweinidog wedi datgan yn hollol glir ei fod yn awyddus i geisio pellhau ei hun a Gweinidogion oddi wrth y broses ad-drefnu ysgolion yn y dyfodol, ac rwy'n cytuno ag ef ynglŷn â hynny. Rwy'n digwydd credu y dylid ystyried tynnu'r Gweinidog o'r broses yn gyfan gwbl a chael corff annibynnol neu ddyfarnwr, er enghraifft, yn ei le. Byddai hynny'n helpu i ddadwleidyddoli'r broses.

Derbyniaf y bydd awdurdodau lleol a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n wynebu pwysau ariannol yn ystod y blynnyddoedd nesaf. Fodd bynnag, mae'n gwbl hanfodol nad yw ystyriaethau ariannol yn cael mwy o flaenoriaeth wrth ystyried ad-drefnu ysgolion. Gwn fod y Gweinidog yn benderfynol o gyfeirio arian i'r llinell flaen, ac rwy'n falch ei fod yn ystyried yr holl ddewisiadau yn y broses hon. Un ffordd o sicrhau bod mwy o arian yn mynd yn uniongyrchol i ysgolion, a bod rhai o'n hysgolion bach presennol yn cael eu diogelu, yw drwy fynd heibio i awdurdodau addysg lleol. Yn ôl y ffigurau a gefais i, gallai hynny arwain at arbediad o tua £102 miliwn. Bydd hyn yn arwain at fuddsoddiad pellach yn rhai o'n hysgolion lleiaf. Mewn ateb i mi yr wythnos diwethaf yn ystod sesiwn craffu ar y gyllideb mewn cyfarfod o Bwyllgor Menter a Dysgu'r Cynulliad, dywedodd y Gweinidog yn glir y byddai'n edrych ar yr holl ddewisiadau, a fyddai, rwy'n cymryd, yn cynnwys y syniad hwn.

Cyn y bydd ysgol mewn unrhyw gymuned yn cau, rhaid ystyried pob dewis synhwyrol. Rwy'n falch bod dogfen ymgynghori newydd wedi cael ei rhyddhau, a'i bod yn rhoi sylw i rai o'n pryderon ac yn ystyried newid y prosesau cyfreithiol sy'n berthnasol i ad-drefnu ysgolion. Rhaid i'r neges yr ydym yn ei gyfleo heddiw fod yn hollol glir: mae ysgolion yn fwy na lleoedd lle mae ein plant yn cael eu haddysgu; maent yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn ein cymunedau. Mae gennym gyfrifoldeb i sicrhau ein bod yn diogelu'r cymunedau hynny. Anogaf yr Aelodau i gefnogi'n cynnig. Diolch.

*Amendment 1 Jane Hutt*

*Delete all and replace with:*

*Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:*

*1. Yn nodi bod Cylchlythyr 21/2009, canllawiau polisi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar drefniadaeth ysgolion, yn datgan bod yn rhaid rhoi, cyn cau ysgol, sylw llawn i'r canlynol:*

*(a) asesiad o'r effaith ar y gymuned;*

*(b) asesiad o'r effaith ar y Gymraeg; ac*

*(c) asesiad o safon addysg yr ysgol a safon addysg unrhyw ysgol y bwriedir trosglwyddo disgylion iddi.*

*2. Yn croesawu cynlluniau sydd eisoes wedi'u gosod gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i ddatblygu proses ar gyfer cau ysgolion sy'n fwy tryloyw, cadarn a chwbl hygrych i'r cyhoedd.*

**The Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning (Leighton Andrews):** I move amendment 1.

**Angela Burns:** I am delighted to contribute to this important debate. Like my colleague, Paul Davies, I welcome the consultation document that you have put forward. However, although it is a great idea and a good policy will possibly come out of it, it is all about the implementation. I noted with interest that the amendment put forward by your colleague, Jane Hutt, states that circular 21/2009, the Welsh Assembly Government's policy guidance on school organisation, states that before a school is closed there should be a community impact assessment, a Welsh-language impact assessment and an assessment of the school's standard of education and that of any school to which it is proposed that pupils will transfer.

As in yesterday's debate on the economic renewal programme, there is a distinct disjoint between policy and reality. I can cite examples in relation to schools in my patch where that is not happening. As in many other areas, such as planning, the community impact assessments that are undertaken seem to be binned. We talk about localism and how important it is for us in the Assembly to

*The National Assembly for Wales:*

*1. Notes that Circular 21/2009, the Welsh Assembly Government's policy guidance on school organisation, stipulates that before a school is closed full account is taken of the following:*

*(a) the Community impact assessment;*

*(b) the Welsh Language impact assessment and*

*(c) an assessment of the school's standard of education and that of any school to which it is proposed that pupils will transfer.*

*2. Welcomes plans that have already been put in place by the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a school closure process which is more transparent, robust and fully accessible to the public.*

**Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Leighton Andrews):** Cynigiaf welliant 1.

**Angela Burns:** Rwy'n falch o gael cyfrannu at y ddadl bwysig hon. Fel fy nghyd-Aelod, Paul Davies, rwy'n croesawu'r ddogfen ymgynghori a gyflwynwyd gennych. Fodd bynnag, er ei fod yn syniad gwych ac y bydd yn arwain at bolisi da o bosibl, mae'r cyfan yn ymwneud â gweithredu. Sylwais â diddordeb fod y gwelliant a gyflwynwyd gan eich cyd-Aelod, Jane Hutt, yn nodi bod cylchlythyr 21/2009, canllawiau polisi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar drefniadaeth ysgolion, yn datgan, cyn cau ysgol, y dylid cael asesiad o'r effaith ar y gymuned, asesiad o'r effaith ar yr iaith Gymraeg ac asesiad o safon addysg yr ysgol dan sylw ac unrhyw ysgol y bwriedir trosglwyddo disgylion iddi.

Fel yn y ddadl a gawsom ddoe ar y rhaglen adnewyddu'r economi, mae polisi a realiti yn gwbl ar wahân. Gallaf gyfeirio at enghreifftiau yn ymwneud ag ysgolion yn fy ardal i lle nad yw hynny'n digwydd. Fel mewn llawer o feysydd eraill, fel cynllunio, mae'n ymddangos bod yr asesiadau o'r effaith ar y gymuned yn cael eu rhoi yn y fasged. Rydym yn siarad am leoliaeth a pha

devolve powers to local councils, and for them, in turn, to devolve powers to community councils, and that we want to ensure that we engage the electorate in all the decisions that affect their lives. We talk the talk, but we are not walking the walk. I am not necessarily saying that this is down to you, Minister, but local authorities are not engaging well with their local communities and taking their opinions on board.

As is the case with health, schooling is an emotive area, because parents want the best for their children or village. Schools are seen as an integral part of community life. People are prepared to go to the wall on this, and that should be recognised by local authorities as well as the Welsh Assembly Government so that we give people due space and consideration to fight for what they believe in. After all, if localism is the driver, we have to walk the walk and enable people to play a fulfilled part in determining their communities. I am concerned that the shortened consultation time frames might jeopardise the quality and quantity of the responses.

I see also that the Welsh-language impact assessment is not designated as a key consideration. If it is not a key consideration, the people making these decisions will be able to bin that assessment. Therefore, I urge the Minister to strongly consider having an independent, impartial adjudicator, because there are too many instances of good schools being closed. If the standard of education is good, the curriculum is achieved and the facilities are comparable with those elsewhere, why fix what is not broken? If a community wants to keep its school and that school wants to remain, that must be the ultimate reason. I completely agreed with you when you said on television that it was absolutely bonkers that a school in Carmarthen had stayed open for a year with no pupils. That was down to a lack of planning and foresight, and it was an incredibly daft situation.

I would like to raise the issue of one school with you: Llangain school, near Laugharne,

mor bwysig yw hi ein bod ni yn y Cynulliad yn dirprwyo pwerau i gynghorau lleol, a'u bod hwythau, yn eu tro, yn dirprwyo pwerau i gynghorau cymuned, a bod arnom eisiau sicrhau ein bod yn cysylltu â'r etholwyr ynglŷn â phob penderfyniad sy'n effeithio ar eu bywydau. Rydym yn siarad, ond nid ydym yn gweithredu. Nid wyf yn dweud o reidrwydd mai arnoch chi y mae'r bai, Weinidog, ond nid yw awdurdodau lleol yn ymgysylltu'n dda â'u cymunedau lleol ac yn gwrando ar eu barn.

Mae addysg, fel iechyd, yn faes emosiynol, oherwydd mae ar rieni eisiau'r gorau i'w plant neu eu pentref. Mae ysgolion yn cael eu gweld fel rhan annatod o fywyd cymunedol. Mae pobl yn barod i sefyll yn gadarn dros hyn, a dylai hynny gael ei gydnabod gan awdurdodau lleol yn ogystal â Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, fel ein bod yn rhoi lle ac ystyriaeth ddyledus i bobl i ymladd dros yr hyn y maent yn credu yn ddo. Wedi'r cyfan, os lleoliaeth yw'r sbardun, rhaid inni weithredu a galluogi pobl i chwarae rhan lawn yn y broses o benderfynu ynglŷn â'u cymunedau. Rwy'n bryderus y gallai'r cyfnod ymgynghori byrrach amharu ar ansawdd a nifer yr ymatebion.

Gwelaf hefyd nad yw'r asesiad o'r effaith ar yr iaith Gymraeg wedi'i ddynodi'n ystyriaeth allweddol. Os nad yw'n ystyriaeth allweddol, bydd y bobl sy'n gwneud y penderfyniadau hyn yn gallu rhoi'r asesiad hwnnw yn y fasged. Felly, anogaf y Gweinidog i ystyried o ddifrif cael dyfarnwr annibynnol, diduedd, gan fod gormod o achosion o ysgolion da'n cael eu cau. Os yw safon yr addysg yn dda, y cwricwlwm yn cael ei gyflawni a'r cyfleusterau'n cymharu â'r rhai a gedi yn rhywle arall, pam trwsio rhywbeth nad yw wedi torri? Os yw cymuned am gadw'i hysgol a bod yr ysgol honno am aros ar agor, rhaid i hynny gael ei ystyried fel y rheswm yn y pen draw. Roeddwn yn cytuno'n llwyr â chi pan ddywedasoch ar y teledu ei bod yn holol hurt bod ysgol yng Nghaerfyrddin wedi aros ar agor am flwyddyn heb unrhyw ddisgyblion. Roedd hynny oherwydd diffyg cynllunio a rhagweld, ac roedd yn sefyllfa ynfyd iawn.

Hoffwn ddwyn un ysgol i'ch sylw: ysgol Llan-gain, ger Talacharn, yn fy ardal i. Mae'n

in my patch. It is a super school, which has had £100,000 spent on it recently by the local authority. It has a new roof, new fascias, new guttering, all the basic facilities, such as indoor loos, separate facilities for different age groups and staff, and it has a well-equipped school hall. It is an integral part of the community, and it is open to the community at all times. The playing field is shared with the village, and it is used for junior touch rugby, football and school sports. It meets all present and future criteria for curriculum needs. It has skilled, experienced and totally dedicated teachers. It has had excellent Estyn reports, and it is a category-A Welsh-medium school. The alternative school is oversubscribed and is not as good as this little village school. The problem is that it only has 36 pupils, but it has excellent prospects. It has a big nursery section and a community that will do absolutely anything to support the school to make it work. It has an absolutely dedicated head teacher. Therefore, why do we fiddle with stuff that is not broken? Why cannot that community have that school? We have taken enough away from rural communities. They have lost their village shops and post offices. Let us try to keep the schools. Minister, I urge you to turn your consultation document into reality in a way that what is stated in amendment 1 in the name of your colleague never has been.

4.50 p.m.

**Nerys Evans:** Mae hwn yn bwnc pwysig, fel yr oedd Paul yn amlinellu, ac yn effeithio ar bob un o'n hetholaethau a'n rhanbarthau. Mae cau ysgolion yn bwnc emosiyadol ac felly mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod y broses cyn cau ysgol yn dryloyw ac yn dilyn camau pendant a phenodol, er mwyn sicrhau nid yn unig fod y penderfyniadau cywir yn cael eu gwneud ond bod ffydd yn y broses, fel bod ein cymunedau, a rhieni, plant a llywodraethwyr, yn teimlo eu bod wedi cael chwarae teg.

Ychydig fisoeedd yn ôl, cynhaliai ddisgyblion yn y Senedd gyda Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach. Yr oedd HYB wedi cyhoeddi adroddiad a oedd yn cynnwys gwaith

ysgol wych, ac mae'r awdurdod lleol wedi gwario £100,000 arni yn ddiweddar. Mae ganddi do newydd, ffasgia newydd, cefnau a pheipiau glaw newydd, yr holl gyfleusterau sylfaenol, fel toiledau yn yr adeilad, cyfleusterau ar wahân ar gyfer gwahanol grwpiau oedran a staff, a neuadd â chyfarpar da. Mae'n rhan annatod o'r gymuned, ac mae ar agor i'r gymuned bob amser. Rhennir y cae chwarae â'r pentref, a defnyddir ef ar gyfer rygbi plant, pêl-droed a chwaraeon ysgol. Mae'n bodloni'r holl feini prawf presennol, a rhai'r dyfodol, ar gyfer anghenion y cwricwlwm. Mae ganddi athrawon medrus, profiadol a chwbl ymroddedig. Mae wedi cael adroddiadau rhagorol gan Estyn, ac mae'n ysgol Gymraeg categori A. Mae'r ysgol amgen yn orlawn ac nid yw cystal â'r ysgol bentref fechan hon. Y broblem yw mai dim ond 36 o ddisgyblion sydd ganddi, ond mae'r rhagolygon ar gyfer y dyfodol yn dda iawn. Mae ganddi adran feithrin fawr a chymuned a wnaiff unrhyw beth i gefnogi'r ysgol a gwneud iddi weithio. Mae ganddi bennaeth cwbl ymroddedig. Felly, pam yr ydym yn ymyrryd â rhywbeth sy'n gweithio'n iawn? Pam na all y gymuned honno gael yr ysgol honno? Rydym wedi cymryd digon oddi ar gymunedau gwledig. Mae pentrefi wedi colli eu siopau a'u swyddfeydd post. Gadewch inni geisio cadw'r ysgolion. Weinidog, rwy'n eich annog i droi eich dogfen ymgynghori'n realiti yn wahanol i'r hyn a nodir yng ngwelliant 1 yn enw eich cyd-Aelod.

**Nerys Evans:** This is an important subject, as Paul has outlined, and it affects all our constituencies and regions. The closure of schools is an emotive subject and therefore it is important to ensure that the pre-closure process is transparent and follows definite, specific steps, to ensure not only that the correct decisions are taken, but that there is confidence in the process, so that our communities, and parents, children and governors, feel that they have had fair play.

A few months ago, I held an event in the Senedd with Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach: Promoting Small Schools. HYB had published a report that included research on

ymchwil ar effaith cau ysgolion. Prif gasgliad y gwaith ymchwil oedd nad oedd data digonol er mwyn gweld effaith neu ganlyniadau cost ac yn y blaen cau ysgolion cynradd bach. Mae gwaith Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach yn dangos nad oes ystyriaeth ddigonol wedi bod yng Nghymru o effaith cau ysgol ar y gymuned er mwyn cyfoethogi ein trafodaeth ar gau ysgolion.

Wrth edrych ar y cynnig, mae'n glir bod y gwrthbleidiau yn cefnogi mesurau'r Llywodraeth yn unol â chylchlythyr 21/2009 a chanllawiau polisi Llywodraeth Cymru ar drefniadaeth ysgolion i sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn ystyried ffactorau cwbl allweddol megis effaith cau ysgolion ar y gymuned ac ar yr iaith. Yn anffodus, wrth edrych ar y realiti ar lawr gwlaid, mae'n amlwg nad yw rhai o'n hawdurdodau yn dilyn y cyfarwyddiadau hyn yn ddigonol. Mae angen i ni felly gryfhau'r cyfarwyddiadau i'n hawdurdodau lleol, yn enwedig wrth i'r Gweinidog newid y broses apelio yn erbyn cau ysgolion. Yr wyf yn croesawu'r newidiadau i'r system apelio, ond wrth leihau'r nifer o apeliadau a fydd yn cael eu dyfarnu ar lefel genedlaethol gan y Gweinidog a chynyddu'r grym ar y lefel leol i ddyfarnu ar ddyfodol ysgolion, mae angen rheolau mwy pendant ar ein hawdurdodau lleol wrth iddynt edrych ar ba system addysg sydd orau.

Gadewch i ni gymryd esiampl. Yn fy etholaeth enedigol, Gorllewin Caerfyrddin a De Sir Benfro, aeth Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin ati i aildrefnu addysg gynradd. Yr wyf yn derbyn bod yn rhaid gwneud hynny am fod problemau o ran lleoedd gwag a chyllid, ond mae'r cyngor sir wedi cyhoeddi rhestr o ysgolion a fydd yn cau heb ymgynghori neu roi ystyriaeth eang i'r mater fel a ddisgrifir yn y cylchlythyr. Cawn edrych ar esiampl Ysgol Llan-gain. Cyfeiriodd Angela Burns ati, ond nid yw Llan-gain, fy mhentref genedigol, ar bwys Talacharn, gyda llaw, a 26 disgyl sydd yn yr ysgol, nid 36. Penderfynodd Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin gau Ysgol Llan-gain, ond y tro cyntaf y gwnaeth trigolion y pentref—[*Tori ar draws.*] A ydych eisiau ymyrryd?

**Angela Burns:** I was not talking to you.

the impact of school closures. The main conclusion of the research was that there was not enough data to see the impact or cost implications and so on of the closure of small primary schools. HYB's work shows that not enough consideration has been given in Wales to the impact of school closures on our communities in order to enrich our discussion on school closures.

In looking at the motion, it is clear that the opposition parties support the Government's measures contained in circular 21/2009 and the Welsh Government's policy guidelines on school organisation to ensure that local authorities consider key factors such as the impact of school closures on the community and the Welsh language. Unfortunately, when you look at the reality on the ground, it is obvious that some of our authorities are not following this guidance closely enough. We therefore need to strengthen the guidance given to our local authorities, especially when the Minister is changing the process to appeal against school closures. I welcome the changes to the appeal process, but in reducing the number of appeals that will be decided at a national level by the Minister and increasing the power to decide the future of schools at a local level, our local authorities need more definite rules as they consider which education system is best.

Let us look at an example. In my native constituency, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire County Council started to rearrange primary education. I accept that that has to be done as there are problems with surplus places and funding, but the county council has announced a list of schools that will close without consulting or giving wide consideration to the matter as outlined in the circular. We can look at the example of Ysgol Llangain. Angela Burns referred to it, but Llangain, the village of my birth, is not near Laugharne, by the way, and there are 26 pupils at the school, not 36. Carmarthenshire County Council decided to close Ysgol Llangain, but the first time that the villagers—[*Interruption.*] Do you wish to intervene?

**Angela Burns:** Nid oeddwn yn siarad gyda

chi.

**Nerys Evans:** Y tro cyntaf y cafodd y pentref, y llywodraethwyr a'r rhieni glywed am y penderfyniad i gau'r ysgol oedd drwy'r *Carmarthen Journal*. Yn ogystal â hynny, mae ffigurau'r cyngor sir yn dweud bod 17 o ddisgyblion yn yr ysgol, ond 26 sydd—ac nid 36, fel yr oeddech yn dweud, Angela. Mae'r ysgol bron wedi dyblu yn y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf. Gwariodd y cyngor £100,000 ar yr ysgol y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Nid yw'n 'superschool' ychwaith, gyda llaw. Nid oedd ystyriaeth i'r strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ac nid oedd capaciti yn yr ysgol—

**Angela Burns:** When I referred to it as 'a super school', I meant that it was a lovely little school. That is my definition of the word 'super'. I do not know what your interpretation was, but I want to ensure that you understood what I was saying.

**Nerys Evans:** I know that it is a super school. It is my old school, Angela. Have you ever been there?

**Angela Burns:** Yes, I have.

**Nerys Evans:** Oh, I doubt it. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Oh.]

Nid oedd capaciti i ddarparu addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg mewn ysgol gyfagos.

Yr oedd yr ymgyrch gryf leol yn seiliedig ar ffeithiau, nid ar emosiwn yn unig. Yr wyf yn falch bod y cyngor llawn wedi penderfynu ddydd Llun beidio â'i chau ar unwaith ond adolygu'r sefyllfa gyda sefyllfa oedd dwy ysgol arall yn y dyfodol. Er gwaethaf sylwadau arweinydd y cyngor ein bod yn chwarae gwleidyddiaeth gyda'r ymgyrch yn lleol, mae'n bwysig bod unrhyw benderfyniad i gau ysgol yn seiliedig ar ffeithiau. Yn amlwg, nid oedd hynny'n wir yn achos Llan-gain. Wrth i ni newid y system apelio—a gefnogir gan bob plaid—mae angen mwy o rym y tu ôl i'r asesiad effaith cymunedol a'r asesiad effaith cymdeithasol. Rhaid i ni hefyd fynd i'r afael â'r fformiwlw gyllidol. Yng Nghymru, yr ydym yn parhau i wireddu polisi Thatcher o ariannu y pen ac mae'r cyllid yn dilyn y plentyn i ba ysgol bynnag y mae'n mynd. Yr ydym am weld ein

**Nerys Evans:** The first that the village, the governors and the parents heard about the decision to close the school was in the *Carmarthen Journal*. Also, the county council's figures say that there are 17 pupils at the school, but there are 26—not 36, as you said, Angela. The school has almost doubled in size in the last two years. The council has spent £100,000 on the school in the last year. It is not a superschool also, by the way. No consideration was given to the Welsh-medium education strategy and there was no capacity at—

**Angela Burns:** Pan gyfeiriais ati fel 'super school', roeddwn yn golygu ei bod yn ysgol braf. Dyna fy niffiniad i o'r gair 'super'. Ni wn beth oedd eich dehongliad chi, ond hoffwn wneud yn siŵr eich bod yn deall yr hyn yr oeddwn yn ei ddweud.

**Nerys Evans:** Gwn ei bod yn ysgol braf. Fy hen ysgol i yw hi, Angela. Ydych chi wedi bod yno erioed?

**Angela Burns:** Do, rwyf wedi bod yno.

**Nerys Evans:** O, rwy'n amau'n fawr. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'O.]

There was no capacity to provide Welsh-medium education at a neighbouring school.

There was a strong, local campaign based on facts, not emotion. I am glad that the full council decided on Monday not to close it immediately, but to review the situation and the situation of two other schools in future. Despite the leader of the council's comments that we were playing politics with the local campaign, it is important that any decision to close a school is based on the facts. Obviously, that was not true in the case of Llangain. As we change the appeal process—a change that is supported by all parties—there needs to be more force behind the community impact assessment and the social impact assessment. We also need to deal with the funding formula. In Wales, we are continuing to implement Thatcher's policy of funding per head and the funding follows the child to whichever school he or she attends. We want to see the funding of our

cymunedau a'n dalgylchoedd ysgol yn cael eu hariannu. Mae angen edrych o'r newydd ar y ffordd yr ydym yn cyllido ein cymunedau. Felly, yr wyf yn poeni er bod addysg ac ad-drefnu ysgolion wedi'i ddatganoli i awdurdodau lleol, fod angen cyfarwyddiadau clir a phenodol gan Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau na fydd camgymeriadau, fel y rhai a wnaethpwyd yn Llan-gain a sir Gaerfyrddin, yn cael eu gwneud eto.

**Mark Isherwood:** Local authorities that have been forced to consider the closure of small schools tell me that that is in accordance with Welsh Government agendas and funding. When I questioned Jane Hutt on this issue and called for a statement by the Welsh Government, she said:

'The challenge for you and your party, and for Welsh local authorities, is to look at the importance of removing surplus places.'

Denbighshire County Council's consultation document on the potential rationalisation of primary schools in the Edeyrnion area states that this is in order to improve all existing school buildings so that they meet the Welsh Government definition of a twenty-first century school.

Who would believe that there has been a steep rise in the birth rate, rising across England and Wales, since the dip in 2001? The level of live births in Wales reached 34,937 in 2009. Who would believe that this year's report by Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach—Promoting Small Schools concluded that village school closures in Wales are going ahead in the absence of sound cost information and that the available information suggests that school closures will result in little or no cost savings?

Last month, I asked the Minister:

'Is it not time to liberate teachers, parents, pupils and the communities themselves to play a key role in deciding the future of their schools, especially as they say that the school is often the lynchpin of their communities and that the report by Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach—Promoting Small Schools...found that village school closures are going ahead in the

communities and school catchment areas. We need to look again at how we fund our communities. So, I am concerned that although education and school reorganisation are devolved to local authorities, there is still a need for clear and specific direction from the Welsh Government to ensure that mistakes like those that were made in Llangain and Carmarthenshire will not be made again.'

**Mark Isherwood:** Mae awdurdodau lleol sydd wedi cael eu gorfodi i ystyried cau ysgolion bach yn dweud wrthyf fod hynny yn unol ag agendâu a chyllid Llywodraeth Cymru. Pan holais Jane Hutt ynglŷn â'r mater hwn a galw am ddatganiad gan Lywodraeth Cymru, dywedodd:

Yr her i chi a'ch plaid, ac i awdurdodau lleol Cymru, yw edrych ar bwysigrwydd cael gwared ar leoedd gwag.

Mae dogfen ymgynghori Cyngor Sir Ddinbych ar ad-drefnu possibl ysgolion cynradd yn ardal Edeyrnion yn nodi mai pwrpas yr ad-drefnu yw gwella holl adeiladau presennol ysgolion er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn unol â diffiniad Llywodraeth Cymru o ysgol yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

Pwy fyddai'n meddwl bod cynydd mawr wedi bod yng nghyfradd y genedigaethau, yng Nghymru ac yn Lloegr, ers y gostyngiad yn 2001? Cyrhaeddodd lefel y genedigaethau byw yng Nghymru 34,937 yn 2009. Pwy fyddai'n meddwl bod adroddiad Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach eleni'n dod i'r casgliad bod cau ysgolion pentrefi yng Nghymru'n mynd rhagddo er nad oes gwybodaeth ddibynadwy am y costau a bod yr wybodaeth sydd ar gael yn awgrymu na fydd cau ysgolion yn arwain at lawer o arbedion os o gwbl?

Y mis diwethaf, gofynnais i'r Gweinidog:

Onid yw'n bryd inni ryddhau athrawon, rhieni, disgyblion a'r cymunedau eu hunain i chwarae rhan allweddol yn y broses o benderfynu ynglŷn â dyfodol eu hysgolion, yn enwedig gan eu bod yn dweud mai'r ysgol yn aml yw calon y gymuned a bod yr adroddiad gan Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach wedi canfod bod cau ysgolion pentrefi yn

absence of sound cost information?’

The Minister said that he did not agree with that and claimed that

‘evidence shows that there are significant savings to be achieved that can be recirculated into the provision of education and training for young people.’

The Minister must therefore explain which parts of the Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach—Promoting Small Schools report he does not agree with. However, before he does so, he may wish to consider that the report was compiled by Cambridge Policy Consultants, whose brief was to review recent research on the cost of small primary schools and primary school closures in Wales. In fact, the Welsh Government itself has commissioned Cambridge Policy Consultants to produce other reports. The report found that no analysis or evidence had been provided for the cost of small school closures in Wales, or for the potential resulting cost savings, and that closing every small school of 90 pupils or fewer in Wales would only save 2 per cent in the budget. That would be more than offset by the increased costs of travelling to the new schools. We, therefore, welcome the good news that the Association of Communities in Wales with Small Schools has joined forces with Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach—Promoting Small Schools to extend the small Welsh schools fund, in order to support HYB’s initiatives, carrying out essential research into the benefits of small schools.

Gwynedd Council was forced back to the drawing board after protests against school closures became a council election issue. The authority was forced to extend the consultation after complaints that villages were not properly consulted in the Tywyn area. In Conwy, parents, teachers and governors expressed their concerns to me about the way in which the uncertainty surrounding the future of a school can undermine its ability to attract new pupils and can lead to closure by default, adding that schools are at the heart of their local communities and Conwy should undertake community impact assessments and, where

mynd rhagddo heb wybodaeth ddibynadwy am gostau?

Dyweddodd y Gweinidog nad oedd yn cytuno â hynny, a honnodd fod

y dystiolaeth yn dangos y gellir gwneud arbedion sylweddol y gellir eu hailddosbarthu er mwyn darparu addyssg a hyfforddiant i bobl ifanc.

Rhaid i'r Gweinidog felly egluro pa rannau o adroddiad Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach nad yw'n cytuno â hwy. Fodd bynnag, cyn iddo wneud hynny, efallai y byddai'n hoffi ystyried bod yr adroddiad wedi cael ei lunio gan Cambridge Policy Consultants, ac mai eu briff oedd adolygu ymchwil ddiweddar i gost ysgolion cynradd bychain a chau ysgolion cynradd yng Nghymru. Mewn gwirionedd, mae Llywodraeth Cymru ei hun wedi comisiynu Cambridge Policy Consultants i lunio adroddiadau eraill. Canfu'r adroddiad nad oedd unrhyw ddadansoddiad na thystiolaeth wedi ei darparu ar gyfer cost cau ysgolion bychain yng Nghymru, nac ar gyfer yr arbedion posibl o ran cost o ganlyniad i hynny, ac na fyddai cau pob ysgol fach â 90 o ddisgyblion neu lai yng Nghymru yn arwain at fwy na 2 y cant o arbedion yn y gyllideb. Byddai'r cynnydd yn y costau teithio i'r ysgolion newydd yn dipyn mwy. Felly, rydym yn croesawu'r newyddion da bod Cymdeithas Cymunedau ag Ysgolion Bach yng Nghymru wedi ymuno â Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach i gynyddu cronfa ysgolion bach Cymru, er mwyn cefnogi cynlluniau HYB, a gwneud ymchwil hanfodol i fanteision ysgolion bach.

Gorfodwyd Cyngor Gwynedd i ailfeddwel am ei gynlluniau ar ôl i brotestiadau yn erbyn cau ysgolion ddod yn un o'r pynciau llosg yn etholiadau'r cyngor. Gorfodwyd yr awdurdod i ymestyn yr ymgynghoriad yn dilyn cwynion nad ymgynghorwyd yn briodol â phentrefi yn ardal Tywyn. Yng Nghonwy, mynegodd rhieni, athrawon a llywodraethwyr eu pryder wrthyf ynglŷn â'r ffordd y gall yr ansicrywydd ynglŷn â dyfodol ysgol danseilio ei gallu i ddenu disgyblion newydd fel nad oes ganddi unrhyw ddewis ond cau, gan ychwanegu mai'r ysgol yw calon eu cymunedau lleol ac y dylai Conwy gynnal asesiadau o'r effaith ar y gymuned a, lle bo'n briodol, asesiadau o'r

appropriate, Welsh-language impact assessments, before decisions are finalised. They said that closing a school should be the option of last resort, and that good schools that are able to deliver the national curriculum should not close, unless there is agreement to do so between parents, teachers and governors.

5.00 p.m.

The parents of Ysgol Penmachno in Betws-y-Coed said that the school is the hub of their community and the lynch pin and that young families have slowly been moving back to the village because it is somewhere they want their children to grow up. With the proposed closure of this school, they say that you are effectively killing their village. Conwy County Borough Council's reply—guess what? It stated that it was in the process of reviewing its primary schools in an attempt to work with the Welsh Government to ensure that its schools are fit for purpose as described under the twenty-first century schools programme. Ysgol Betws Gwerfil Goch in Corwen, a Welsh-medium school, wrote to me to say that it understands that costs must be looked at, and the empty-places situation addressed, but bigger schools are not the answer. In Flintshire, I have had representations from parents, teachers and governors regarding the proposed closure of Ysgol Rhes-y-cae under the council's Welsh Government-imposed school modernisation strategy. They said that Estyn reports showed that the school was value for money and an integral part of the local community, with a high profile in community publications and events. It has been brought to my attention, however, that there is a clear and verifiable instance of deliberate measures being used to cause an unnatural decline in new pupils.

This Welsh Government ignores concerns about the general erosion of community life and the rural services that provide the social glue that binds communities together. It practices the politics of the coward and the bully, launching a policy of school closures at national level and refusing to admit and debate this openly and publicly and honestly, passing the buck to local authorities.

effaith ar yr iaith Gymraeg, cyn i'r penderfyniadau terfynol gael eu gwneud. Dywedasant na ddylid cau ysgol oni bai fod pob dewis arall wedi methu, ac na ddylai ysgolion da sy'n gallu cyflwyno'r cwricwlwm cenedlaethol gau, oni bai fod cytundeb i wneud hynny rhwng y rhieni, yr athrawon a'r llywodraethwyr.

Dyweddodd rhieni Ysgol Penmachno ger Betws-y-Coed mai'r ysgol yw calon a chanolbwyt eu cymuned, a bod teuluoedd ifanc wedi bod yn dod yn ôl i'r pentref yn raddol gan eu bod yn awyddus i fagu eu plant yno. Dywedant eich bod, drwy fygwth cau'r ysgol hon, mewn gwirionedd yn lladd eu pentref. Ateb Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy—a allwch ddyfalu? Dywedodd ei fod wrthi'n adolygu ei ysgolion cynradd mewn ymdrech i weithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru er mwyn sicrhau bod ei ysgolion yn addas i'r diben yn unol â'r rhaglen ysgolion yr unfed ganrif ar hugain. Ysgrifennodd Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch ataf—ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg, ger Corwen—i ddweud ei bod yn deall bod yn rhaid edrych ar gostau, a rhoi sylw i fater lleoedd gwag, ond nad ysgolion mwy yw'r ateb. Yn sir y Fflint, rwyf wedi cael sylwadau gan rieni, athrawon a llywodraethwyr ynglŷn â'r bwriad i gau Ysgol Rhes-y-cae dan strategaeth foderneiddio ysgolion y cyngor sy'n cael ei gorfodi gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Dywedasant fod adroddiadau Estyn yn dangos bod yr ysgol yn rhoi gwerth am arian, ei bod yn rhan annatod o'r gymuned leol, a'i bod yn cael llawer o sylw mewn cyhoeddiadau a digwyddiadau cymunedol. Dywedwyd wrthyf, fod bynnag, fod achos amlwg a gwiriadwy o ddefnyddio camau bwriadol i achosi gostyngiad annaturiol yn nifer y disgyblion newydd.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n anwybyddu pryderon ynglŷn ag eryriad cyffredinol bywyd cymunedol a'r gwasanaethau gwledig sy'n darparu'r glud cymdeithasol sy'n dal cymunedau at ei gilydd. Mae'n ymarfer gwleidyddiaeth y llwfrgi a'r bwli, gan lansio polisi o gau ysgolion ar lefel genedlaethol a gwrthod cyfaddef a thrafod hyn yn agored ac yn gyhoeddus ac yn onest, a thaflu'r baich ar awdurdodau lleol.

**Jenny Randerson:** The Welsh Liberal Democrats will not be supporting the Conservatives' motion today, because it does not recognise what we believe to be the reality of the framework of schools reorganisations. It would mean a massive increase of power at the centre, when what we need is to trust local authorities to deal with this problem themselves, within Government guidelines. It is my belief that Ministers in Cardiff are less able to judge the needs of communities and schools than local authorities, which understand the communities that they represent.

School reorganisation is essential. Members will be relieved that I will not be talking about the colour of the corridor and arguing with Nerys across the room, because if I mention the colour of the corridor, she will tell me that it is wrong. I will keep to generalities.

Falling school rolls across Wales and the increase in demand for Welsh-medium education are two considerable pressures on local authorities, and when you have a choice between paying for the surplus places or for a pupil's education, I would choose the pupil's education every time. However, it is always difficult. No-one wants their local school to close. It is a politically complex issue and it is complex for communities. The examples of Cardiff and Gwynedd prove how difficult it is. I do not believe that these decisions will be made any easier or better by increasing the level of intrusion from the Assembly Government in the process, as suggested by the Conservative proposal.

I have previously expressed my support for the Minister's plans to reduce the amount of bureaucracy that these reorganisations entail, and to reduce the number of decisions made by Ministers. I have read the consultation document carefully, and I fully support the move to have most decisions made by local authorities. They are at the sharp end, they are making the proposals, and it is up to them to deal with local difficulties. The thing that people complain about most to me regarding school reorganisation is the phenomenal

**Jenny Randerson:** Ni fydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru'n cefnogi cynnig y Ceidwadwyr heddiw, gan nad yw'n cydnabod yr hyn yr ydym ni'n ei weld fel realiti'r fframwaith ad-drefnu ysgolion. Byddai'n golygu cynnydd aruthrol mewn pŵer yn y canol, ar adeg pan mae arnom angen gallu ymddiried mewn awdurdodau lleol i ymdrin â'r broblem hon eu hunain, yn unol â chanllawiau'r Llywodraeth. Yn fy marn i, nid yw Gweinidogion yng Nghaerdydd mor abl i farnu anghenion cymunedau ac ysgolion ag awdurdodau lleol, sy'n deall y cymunedau y maent yn eu cynrychioli.

Mae ad-drefnu ysgolion yn hanfodol. Bydd yr Aelodau'n falch na fyddaf yn siarad am liw'r corridor ac yn dadlau â Nerys ar draws yr ystafell, oherwydd os dywedaf beth yw lliw'r corridor, bydd yn dweud wrthyf fy mod yn anghywir. Rwyf am gyfeirio at bethau'n gyffredinol.

Mae gostyngiad yn nifer y disgyblion ledled Cymru a'r cynnydd yn y galw am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn fater sy'n rhoi llawer o bwysau ar awdurdodau lleol, a phan fo angen ichi ddewis rhwng talu am y lleoedd gwag neu am addysg disgybl, byddwn i'n dewis addysg y disgybl bob tro. Fodd bynnag, mae'n anodd bob amser. Nid oes neb yn dymuno gweld ei ysgol leol yn cau. Mae'n fater cymhleth o safbwyt gwleidyddol ac mae'n gymhleth i gymunedau. Mae'r enghreifftiau yng Nghaerdydd a Gwynedd yn profi pa mor anodd ydyw. Nid wyf yn credu y bydd y penderfyniadau hyn yn cael eu gwneud yn haws nac yn well drwy fwy o myriad gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn y broses, fel sy'n cael ei awgrymu yng nghynnig y Ceidwadwyr.

Rwyf wedi mynegi fy nghefnogaeth o'r blaen i gynlluniau'r Gweinidog i leihau'r fiwrocratiaeth sy'n gysylltiedig â'r ad-drefnu hwn, ac i leihau nifer y penderfyniadau sy'n cael eu gwneud gan Weinidogion. Rwyf wedi darllen y ddogfen ymgynghori'n ofalus, ac rwy'n llwyr gefnogi'r cynnig i sicrhau bod y rhan fwyaf o'r penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud gan awdurdodau lleol. Yr awdurdodau lleol sydd yn ei chanol hi, ac yn gwneud y cynigion, a'u lle hwy yw ymdrin ag anawsterau lleol. Y prif beth y mae pobl

length of time that it takes. Many of you will remember that I have raised this issue here several times. Once a decision reaches the civil service and the Minister's advisers, the ministerial involvement adds considerably to what is already a complex and lengthy process.

I want to say one thing very specifically about the proposals in the Minister's consultation: they do not include possible mergers, as proposed here by Mike German when he won the legislative ballot. He put forward a proposal that would enable two schools to be merged without the current situation where two schools have to close and a new one created. Once you use that dreaded 'closure' word, you trigger alarm bells, and people lose trust in the final process. Therefore, I urge the Minister to look again at the possibility of creating a merger process that avoids the need to close one or both of the schools.

The level of consultation currently mandated to councils by Assembly Government guidance is very thorough, and some would say that it is phenomenally bureaucratic. As I have said, the delays are not due to a lack of consultation, but due to the fact that these are very sensitive and controversial issues. Delays have also occurred because Welsh Assembly Government officials have been deluged with proposals, which were not envisaged in such numbers when the process was first suggested.

Finally, I want to mention the part of the Conservative's motion that states that emphasis should be put on the schools' achievements. Actually, that is already in the guidance, and according to the consultation, it is proposed to be emphasised in the future. You need to be very aware that the proposal, if the Conservative motion were to pass, would mean that local authorities could never change the balance of achievement. They would have to give up on the idea that good schools could be created everywhere. Call me a crazy idealist, but I hang on to the idea that we can create good schools everywhere. I do not think that we should regard existing good schools as necessary magnets to which all

yn cwyno amdano wrthyf ynglŷn ag ad-drefnu ysgolion yw'r holl amser y mae'n ei gymryd. Bydd llawer ohonoch yn cofio fy mod wedi codi'r mater hwn yma droeon. Pan fo penderfyniad yn cyrraedd y gwasanaeth sifil a chyngorwyr y Gweinidog, mae ymyriad y gweinidog yn ychwanegu llawer iawn o amser at yr hyn sydd eisoes yn broses faith a chymhleth.

Hoffwn ddweud un peth yn benodol iawn am y cynigion yn ymgynghoriad y Gweinidog: nid ydynt yn cynnwys y posibilrwydd o uno, fel a gynigiwyd yma gan Mike German pan enillodd y bleidlais ddeddfwriaethol. Cyflwynodd gynnig a fyddai'n galluogi dwy ysgol i gael eu huno heb y seyllfa bresennol lle mae'n rhaid cau dwy ysgol a chreu un newydd. Ar ôl i chi ddefnyddio'r gair 'cau' melltigedig, mae'r larymau'n canu, ac mae pobl yn colli ffydd yn y broses derfynol. Felly, rwy'n annog y Gweinidog i edrych eto ar y posibilrwydd o greu proses uno sy'n osgoi'r angen i gau un ysgol neu i gau'r ddwyd honyn.

Yn ôl canllawiau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad mae'n ofynol i gynghorau ymgynghori'n drylwyr iawn, a byddai rhai'n dweud bod hynny'n eithriadol o fiwrocrataidd. Fel yr wyf wedi dweud, nid diffyg ymgynghori sy'n gyfrifol am yr oedi, ond yn hytrach, y ffaith fod y rhain yn faterion sensitif a dadleul iawn. Gwelwyd oedi hefyd gan fod swyddogion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cael cynifer o gynigion—llawer mwy nag a ragwelwyd pan awgrymwyd y broses yn y lle cyntaf.

Yn olaf, hoffwn gyfeirio at y rhan o gynnig y Ceidwadwyr sy'n nodi y dylid rhoi pwyslais ar lwyddiannau'r ysgolion. Mewn gwirionedd, mae hynny yn y canllawiau yn barod, ac yn ôl yr ymgynghoriad, bwriedir rhoi pwyslais arno yn y dyfodol. Mae angen ichi fod yn ymwybodol iawn y byddai'r cynnig, pe bai cynnig y Ceidwadwyr yn cael ei dderbyn, yn golygu na allai awdurdodau lleol byth newid cydbwysedd llwyddiant. Byddai'n rhaid iddynt roi'r gorau i'r syniad y gellid creu ysgolion da ym mhobman. Galwch fi'n ddelfrydwr gwirion, ond rwy'n dal i gredu y gallwn greu ysgolion da ym mhobman. Nid wyf yn meddwl y dylem ystyried yr ysgolion da presennol fel

other schools have to adhere and all pupils should look to attend. It is essential that we take account of the idea that, in different parts of larger cities and towns, we must create good schools.

**Rhodri Morgan:** Jenny Randerson has asked us to trust local authorities more. Speaking as a representative for Cardiff West, I must say that she must be on planet Zog, not on planet Cardiff. I must tell her that 26 May 2010 was probably one of the best days, if not the best daily, of my constituency life in 23 years as a public representative, either as a Member of Parliament or as an Assembly Member. Had we not campaigned to reverse the proposal to close Lansdowne Primary School in Canton in my constituency, and had the First Minister not exercised his function to uphold the school's appeal against the council's proposal, I cannot imagine where we would now be, because the four English-medium primary schools and the two Welsh-medium primary schools in inner-city Cardiff West, in Canton and Riverside, are now bursting at the seams in the younger age groups, as they will also be very shortly in the older age groups. Therefore, had that proposal gone through without any opposition, Cardiff Council would now be thinking of building a new school to replace the one that it had just closed down, which would have been a crazy situation.

Jenny tells us to trust the local authorities, but I am afraid that our experience in inner-city Cardiff West is that we had to draw the council's attention to the demographic changes that had occurred since the drop in the birth rate between 1990 and 2001, because it changed sharply from 2001 when the trend reached the bottom of the V and started to come up the other side. The impact of that change was not seen evenly across Wales; it has been seen much more in Cardiff and in other cities in Wales than elsewhere. Even within Cardiff, that change was quite patchy, because outer-city Cardiff still has serious problems with surplus school places, including some in my constituency, whereas inner-city schools in Cardiff West, as in inner-city Cardiff South and Penarth and

tynfeydd angenrheidiol y mae'n rhaid i bob ysgol arall lynn wrthynt ac y dylai pob disgybl geisio mynd iddynt. Mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn ystyried y syniad bod yn rhaid inni greu ysgolion da mewn gwahanol rannau o drefi a dinasoedd mawr.

**Rhodri Morgan:** Mae Jenny Randerson wedi gofyn inni ymddiried mwy mewn awdurdodau lleol. Gan siarad fel cynrychiolydd Gorllewin Caerdydd, mae'n rhaid ei bod hi ar blaned Zog, ac nid ar blaned Caerdydd. Rhaid imi ddweud wrthi mai 26 Mai 2010, mae'n debyg, oedd un o'r diwrnodau gorau, os nad y cyfnod gorau o ddydd i ddydd, wrth imi ymwneud â'm hetholaeth, mewn 23 blynedd o gynrychioli'r cyhoedd, fel Aelod Seneddol neu fel Aelod Cynulliad. Pe na baem wedi ymgyrchu i wrthdroi'r cynnig i gau Ysgol Gynradd Lansdowne yn Nhreganna yn fy etholaeth i, a phe na bai'r Prif Weinidog wedi ymarfer ei swyddogaeth i gefnogi apêl yr ysgol yn erbyn cynnig y cyngor, ni allaf ddychmygu lle y byddem nawr, oherwydd mae'r pedair ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Saesneg a'r ddwy ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ardal canol dinas Gorllewin Caerdydd, yn Nhreganna a Glan yr Afon, yn llawn i'r ymylon erbyn hyn yn y grwpiau oedran iau, fel y byddant cyn bo hir hefyd yn y grwpiau oedran hŷn. Felly, pe bai'r cynnig hwnnw wedi mynd drwodd yn ddiwrthwynebiad, byddai Cyngor Caerdydd yn awr yn meddwl am adeiladu ysgol newydd yn lle'r un yr oedd newydd ei chau, a fyddai'n sefyllfa hurt.

Mae Jenny yn dweud wrthym am ymddiried yn yr awdurdodau lleol, ond mae arnaf ofn mai ein profiad ni yn ardal canol dinas Gorllewin Caerdydd yw ein bod wedi gorfod tynnu sylw'r cyngor at y newidiadau demograffig a oedd wedi digwydd ers y gostyngiad yn y gyfradd genedigaethau rhwng 1990 a 2001, oherwydd newidiodd yn sydyn o 2001 ymlaen pan gyrhaeddodd y duedd waelod y V a dechrau dod i fyny'r ochr arall. Ni welwyd effaith y newid hwnnw'n gyfartal drwy Gymru; mae wedi'i weld yn llawer mwy yng Nghaerdydd ac mewn dinasoedd eraill yng Nghymru nag mewn mannau eraill. Hyd yn oed yng Nghaerdydd, roedd y newid hwnnw'n amrywio, oherwydd mae problemau difrifol o hyd o ran lleoedd gwag mewn ysgolion yng

Cardiff Central—as the Member will know—are bursting at the seams.

nghyrion dinas Caerdydd, gan gynnwys rhai ysgolion yn fy etholaeth i, tra mae ysgolion canol dinas Gorllewin Caerdydd, fel yng nghanol dinas De Caerdydd a Phenarth a Chanol Caerdydd—fel y gŵyr yr Aelod—yn orlawn.

**Jenny Randerson:** Are you saying, Rhodri, that you oppose the Minister's proposals to make the process much more local authority-centred, because I was supporting the Minister's proposals?

5.10 p.m.

**Rhodri Morgan:** I am not sure that that is what the proposals involve. They still involve the local authority having a responsibility to plan its schools to meet the demand for English-medium and Welsh-medium education, according to the child population and the prospective child population, looking at the birth rate. It then decides to put its proposals forward, if rationalisation is required. After that, a separate body considers appeals, whether it is the Minister or, under the new proposals, an independent tribunal-type of body, which we are happy to support. However, the issue is that we, the campaigners, had to draw the attention of the city council to the demographic change. Therefore, there was total vindication of the campaign that was run by the parents, teachers and everyone else, including the political representatives, in getting that decision reversed, and thank goodness we did. That is now accepted by all. The decision to close Lansdowne Primary School was wrong. Another solution is needed to solve the issue of the overcrowding in the Welsh-medium schools, which affects Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna and Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch—the school that serves part of Cardiff south as well as inner-city Cardiff West. The council has recognised that it was wrong, but it will still not withdraw the threat of bringing a judicial review against the First Minister's decision. That is absurd, because what it is seeking to do, and has not succeeded in doing, is to blight the school. It likes to pretend that there is still a possibility that it might take the First Minister to court, win a judicial review and reinstate the decision to close Lansdowne, even though it has accepted that that was a foolish thing to

**Jenny Randerson:** A ydych yn dweud, Rhodri, eich bod yn gwrthwynebu cynigion y Gweinidog i wneud y broses yn fwy o broses i awdurdodau lleol, gan fy mod i'n cefnogi cynigion y Gweinidog?

**Rhodri Morgan:** Nid wyf yn siŵr ai dyna y bydd y cynigion yn ei olygu. Maent yn dal i olygu bod gan yr awdurdod lleol gyfrifoldeb i gynllunio ei ysgolion er mwyn bodloni'r galw am addysg cyfrwng Saesneg a chyfrwng Cymraeg, yn ôl poblogaeth y plant a'r rhagolygon ar gyfer poblogaeth y plant, gan edrych ar y gyfradd genedigaethau. Mae wedyn yn penderfynu cyflwyno'i gynigion, os oes angen ad-drefnu. Ar ôl hynny, mae corff ar wahân yn ystyried apeliadau, a gall hynny olygu'r Gweinidog neu, dan y cynigion newydd, gorff annibynnol newydd tebyg i dribiwnlys, y byddem yn barod i'w gefnogi. Fodd bynnag, y broblem yw ein bod ni, yr ymgrychwr, wedi gorfod tynnu sylw cyngor y ddinas at y newid demograffig. Felly, roedd pob cyfiawnhad dros yr ymgrych a drefnwyd gan y rhieni, yr athrawon a phawb arall, gan gynnwys y cynrychiolwyr gwleidyddol, er mwyn gwrthdroi'r penderfyniad hwnnw, a diolch byth ein bod wedi gwneud. Derbynnir hynny gan bawb bellach. Roedd y penderfyniad i gau Ysgol Gynradd Lansdowne yn gamgymeriad. Mae angen ateb arall er mwyn datrys problem yr ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg gorlawn, sy'n effeithio ar Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna ac Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch—yr ysgol sy'n gwasanaethu rhan o dde Caerdydd yn ogystal â chanol dinas Gorllewin Caerdydd. Mae'r cyngor wedi cydnabod ei fod wedi gwneud camgymeriad, ond mae'n dal i wrthod tynnu'n ôl y bygythiad o gychwyn adolygiad barnwrol yn erbyn penderfyniad y Prif Weinidog. Mae hynny'n hurt, oherwydd yr hyn y mae'n ceisio ei wneud, ond nad yw wedi llwyddo i'w wneud, yw difetha'r ysgol. Mae'n hoffi cymryd arno bod posibilrwydd o hyd y gallai fynd â'r Prif Weinidog i'r llys,

propose in the first place.

Fortunately, the loyalty of the community in Canton to Lansdowne has not been blighted. It has not voted with its feet and said, ‘Oh, there is a cloud of uncertainty; we had better take the children out’. It has completely ignored the intent of the council, but the council still will not withdraw the threat of a judicial review. That is playing silly politics with the future of our children. Luckily, it has had no effect on the loyalty of the parents and children to the school, but it could have done. Blighting is an issue, and we must make sure that councils are grown-up and do not throw their toys out of the pram and say, ‘We can still go to judicial review on this’, even though the 13-week window for judicial review has long gone by. We know that, up to the beginning of the recession, the birth rate was rising strongly. Therefore, the child population of inner-city Cardiff is growing strongly, and the council will have to find a method of bringing forward new proposals for a Welsh-medium school. Let us hope that it can find the money to do that.

**Jonathan Morgan:** I will start by saying how much I agreed with Rhodri Morgan. I do not mean to upset him by saying that, but he was absolutely accurate in outlining the flaws in Cardiff Council’s response to the challenge of reorganising school places in his constituency. I am afraid that the local authority’s behaviour there has been similar to its behaviour in my constituency, and perhaps there are local authorities throughout Wales that find themselves in a similar position.

This is an important debate, because the Minister is consulting on the guidance, and there are two specific points that I would like to make as a contribution to that review. The first relates to the accuracy and quality of the data that are used by local authorities to support their rationale for either the closure of a school or a reduction in the number of pupils attending. The second relates to

ennill adolygiad barnwrol ac ailgyflwyno’r penderfyniad i gau Lansdowne, er ei fod wedi derbyn bod hynny’n beth ynfyd i’w gynnig yn y lle cyntaf.

Yn ffodus, nid yw teyrngarwch y gymuned yn Nhreganna i Lansdowne wedi cael ei ddifetha. Nid yw wedi pleidleisio â’i thraed a dweud, ‘O, mae cwmwl o ansicrwydd; byddai’n well inni symud y plant’. Mae wedi anwybyddu bwriad y cyngor yn llwyr, ond mae’r cyngor yn dal i wrthod tynnu’r bygythiad o adolygiad barnwrol yn ôl. Chwarae gwleidyddiaeth wirion â dyfodol ein plant yw hynny. Yn ffodus, nid yw wedi cael unrhyw effaith ar deyrngarwch y rhieni a’r plant i’r ysgol, ond gallai fod wedi gwneud. Mae amharu ar amgylchiadau ysgolion yn broblem, a rhaid inni wneud yn siŵr bod cynghorau’n ymddwyn yn aeddfeid ac nad ydynt yn taflu eu teganau o’r pram ac yn dweud, ‘Gallwn ofyn am adolygiad barnwrol ynglŷn â hyn o hyd’, er bod y ffenestr 13-wythnos ar gyfer adolygiad barnwrol wedi hen fynd heibio. Gwyddom fod y gyfradd genedigaethau’n cynyddu’n gryf, hyd at ddechrau’r dirwasgiad. Felly, mae poblogaeth plant canol dinas Caerdydd yn tyfu’n gryf, a bydd yn rhaid i’r cyngor ddod o hyd i ffordd o gyflwyno cynigion newydd ar gyfer ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg. Gadewch inni obeithio y gall ddod o hyd i’r arian i wneud hynny.

**Jonathan Morgan:** Dechreuaef drwy ddweud cymaint yr oeddwn yn cytuno â Rhodri Morgan. Nid wyf yn bwriadu ei gynhyrfu drwy ddweud hynny, ond yr oedd yn llygad ei le wrth amlinellu’r diffygion yn ymateb Cyngor Caerdydd i her ad-drefnu lleoedd mewn ysgolion yn ei etholaeth. Ofnaf fod ymddygiad yr awdurdod lleol yno wedi bod yn debyg i’w ymddygiad yn fy etholaeth i, ac efallai fod awdurdodau lleol eraill ledled Cymru sy’n canfod eu hunain mewn sefyllfa debyg.

Mae hon yn ddadl bwysig, oherwydd mae’r Gweinidog yn ymgynghori ynglŷn â’r canllawiau, ac mae dau bwynt penodol y byddwn yn hoffi eu gwneud fel cyfraniad i’r adolygiad hwnnw. Mae’r cyntaf yn ymwneud â chywirdeb ac ansawdd y data a ddefnyddir gan awdurdodau lleol i gefnogi eu rhesymau naill ai dros gau ysgol neu dros leihau nifer y disgyblion sy’n mynd iddi. Mae’r ail yn

whether the process that is set out by the Minister should extend some control beyond what constitutes consultation for the purposes of a statutory notice to consultation that takes place prior to statutory notice being given. In my constituency, in the community of Whitchurch, a number of options have been consulted on. There were four options in total, before the local authority published its statutory notice. The publication of the fourth option gave people just three weeks to respond to the detail of that proposal—it gave governors, parents, families and local politicians a mere three weeks to consider its impact.

I accept that the statutory notice provisions in the guidance clearly set out the time frame and the expectations in the consultation, but they do not extend to a point before statutory notice is given. That should perhaps be examined as part of the consultation process. The example in Whitchurch highlights considerable failures on the part of the local authority, and it has resulted in a total loss of confidence. The one point on which I agreed with Jenny is that this is a very complicated picture. It is an extremely complicated matter to resolve when you are reorganising school places, but in my area, there has been a loss of confidence in Cardiff Council among the public, and a loss of confidence in the process. As a result of that, there is a huge degree of uncertainty as to what the outcome might be when the Minister and his department reach a conclusion.

For our excellent Welsh-medium primary school in Whitchurch, the local authority was using pupil data on its website that showed that a substantial number of pupils attending that school came from outside the school's catchment area. That was completely inaccurate, and yet the data were being used on the council's website. For the two English-medium schools under threat, the council relied on pupil projection figures supplied to the Assembly Government in 2008, although it had already submitted its 2009 data two months before publishing the consultation document. Unsurprisingly, the 2009 pupil projection data were far healthier than the data that it had submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government 12 months

ymwneud ag a ddylai'r broses sy'n cael ei hamlinellu gan y Gweinidog ymestyn rhywfaint o reolaeth y tu hwnt i'r hyn sy'n ymgynghori i ddibenion hysbysiad statudol yngylch ymgynghori sy'n digwydd cyn i'r hysbysiad statudol gael ei roi. Yn fy etholaeth i, yng nghymuned yr Eglwys Newydd, ymgynghorwyd ynglŷn â nifer o ddewisiadau. Roedd pedwar dewis i gyd, cyn i'r awdurdod lleol gyhoeddi ei hysbysiad statudol. Ar ôl cyhoeddi'r pedwerydd dewis, dim ond tair wythnos a roddwyd i ymateb i fanylion y cynnig hwnnw—roedd yn rhoi cwta dair wythnos i lywodraethwyr, rhieni, teuluoedd a gwleidyddion lleol ystyried ei effaith.

Derbyniaf fod darpariaethau'r hysbysiad statudol yn y canllawiau yn nodi'n glir yr amserlen a'r disgwyliadau yn yr ymgynghoriad, ond nid ydynt yn ymestyn at bwynt cyn rhoi hysbysiad statudol. Efallai y dylid archwilio hynny fel rhan o'r broses ymgynghori. Mae'r enghraifft yn yr Eglwys Newydd yn tynnu sylw at fethiannau mawr ar ran yr awdurdod lleol, ac mae wedi arwain at golli pob hyder. Yr un pwynt yr oeddwn yn cytuno â Jenny arno yw bod hwn yn ddar�un cymhleth iawn. Mae'n fater eithriadol o gymhleth i'w ddatrys pan fyddwch yn ad-drefnu lleoedd mewn ysgolion, ond yn fy ardal i, mae'r cyhoedd wedi colli hyder yng Nghyngor Caerdydd, ac wedi colli hyder yn y broses. O ganlyniad i hynny, mae llawer iawn o ansierwydd ynglŷn â beth y gallai'r canlyniad fod pan fydd y Gweinidog a'i adran yn ceisio dod i gasgliad.

Ar gyfer ein ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg ragorol yn yr Eglwys Newydd, roedd yr awdurdod lleol yn defnyddio data disgylion ar ei wefan a oedd yn dangos bod nifer sylweddol o'r disgylion a oedd yn mynd i'r ysgol honno yn dod o'r tu allan i ddalgyll yr ysgol. Roedd hynny'n gwbl anghywir, ac eto roedd y data'n cael eu defnyddio ar wefan y cyngor. Ar gyfer y ddwy ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg a oedd dan fygythiad, roedd y cyngor yn dibynnu ar amcanestyniadau disgylion a gyflenwyd i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn 2008, er ei fod eisoes wedi cyflwyno ei ddata 2009 ddeufis cyn cyhoeddi'r ddogfen ymgynghori. Nid yw'n syndod bod data amcanestyniadau disgylion 2009 yn llawer iachach na'r data

before. Therefore, it had ignored the up-to-date data. This is not the action of a responsible local authority. How can it gain confidence among the people of Whitchurch by relying on out-of-date data when it had already given the Minister the up-to-date picture? I thought that that was disgraceful and demonstrated the attitude of the local authority in taking this process forward.

On the birth-rate trend, the council has also failed to take into account updated information, including the fact that, for the past seven successive years, there has been an increase in the live birth rate in Cardiff. The Assembly Government's own figures demonstrate that, by 2031, there will be a 24 per cent increase in the population of the city.

**Jenny Randerson:** Will you accept that there is considerable doubt about that 24 per cent increase, because it has been discovered that the statistics included every young adult of childbearing age? As you well know, a large percentage of your constituency and mine are students who are passing through Cardiff. That approach has proved inaccurate for any university city.

**Jonathan Morgan:** My understanding is that that is not the correct picture. If that is not the correct picture, Cardiff Council should be explicit in saying so. My understanding is that it has looked at the live birth rate figures, which show a consistent improvement in the past seven years—

**Rhodri Morgan:** He is absolutely right. The student population is specifically exempt from the estimate of the likely birth rate from the number of females aged between 15 and 40, or whatever the figures are. The student population is disregarded because it knows that, by and large, female students do not have babies. [Laughter.]

**Jonathan Morgan:** I agree with Rhodri Morgan on that point.

I agree with the Minister when he says that

yr oedd wedi eu cyflwyno i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru 12 mis yn gynharach. Felly, roedd wedi anwybyddu'r data cyfredol. Ni fyddem yn disgwl hyn gan awdurdod lleol cyfrifol. Sut y gall ennyn hyder pobl yr Eglwys Newydd drwy ddibynnau ar ddata sydd wedi dyddio ac yntau wedi rhoi'r darlun diweddaraf i'r Gweinidog yn barod? Roeddwn yn meddwl bod hynny'n gywilyddus ac yn dangos agwedd yr awdurdod lleol wrth symud ymlaen â'r broses hon.

O ran patrwm y gyfradd genedigaethau, mae'r cyngor hefyd wedi methu ag ystyried gwybodaeth wedi ei diweddu, gan gynnwys y ffaith bod cynnydd wedi bod yng nghyfradd y genedigaethau byw yng Nghaerdydd yn ystod y saith mlynedd olynol diwethaf. Mae ffigurau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ei hun yn dangos y bydd cynnydd o 24 y cant ym mhoblogaeth y ddinas erbyn 2031.

**Jenny Randerson:** A dderbyniwch fod cryn amheuaeth ynglŷn â'r cynnydd hwnnw o 24 y cant, oherwydd darganfuwyd bod yr ystadegau'n cynnwys pob oedolyn ifanc mewn oed i gael plant? Fel y gwyddoch yn iawn, mae canran helaeth o'ch etholaeth chi a'm hetholaeth i yn fyfyrwyr sy'n pasio drwy Gaerdydd. Mae'r dull hwnnw wedi'i brofi'n anghywir ar gyfer unrhyw ddinas prifysgol.

**Jonathan Morgan:** Nid hwnnw yw'r darlun cywir o'r hyn a ddeallaf. Os nad hwnnw yw'r darlun cywir, dylai Cyngor Caerdydd ddweud hynny'n glir. Yn ôl yr hyn a ddeallaf, mae wedi edrych ar ffigurau cyfraddau'r genedigaethau byw, sy'n dangos gwelliant cyson yn ystod y saith mlynedd diwethaf—

**Rhodri Morgan:** Mae'n holol gywir. Mae myfyrwyr wedi eu heithrio'n benodol o amcangyfrif y gyfradd enedigaethau debygol ymhlih menywod rhwng 15 a 40 oed, neu beth bynnag yw'r ffigurau. Mae poblogaeth y myfyrwyr yn cael ei hanwybyddu gan nad yw myfyrwyr benywaid, ar y cyfan, yn cael babanod. [Chwerthin.]

**Jonathan Morgan:** Cytunaf â Rhodri Morgan ynglŷn â'r pwynt hwnnw.

Cytunaf â'r Gweinidog pan ddywed fod arno

he wants to ensure that the guidance is absolutely right with regard to the way in which we take forward the school reorganisation proposals. I sympathise with the fact that he does not want to be seen as the arbitrator in all these cases. However, it is important that we have accurate data, proper information, and that the consultation, even prior to the statutory notice and even if it merely offers a few different options, gives people enough time to contemplate what the outcome of those options might be if a local authority were to proceed with them. That has not happened in this particular instance in Cardiff. It may well be the case in other parts of Wales as well.

In the circular and in the guidance, the Minister talks a lot about the quality of provision. I agree with him. Sadly, much of the debate that we have seen in Cardiff and elsewhere has centred on the reduction of pupil places in popular schools in order, I am afraid, to shore up parental preferences being geared towards schools that have falling rolls. This has to be less about pure numbers and more about quality.

**The Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning (Leighton Andrews):** I should start by saying how grateful I am to have this unexpected opportunity to publicise the Welsh Assembly Government's consultation on potential changes to the school organisation process, which commenced only last Friday. We all recognise how emotive the issue of school closures can be, but, as policymakers and legislators, we need to take an objective view of these issues.

5.20 p.m.

School reorganisation and rationalisation, including the closure of schools, will sometimes be necessary in order to ensure that the pattern of school provision continues to deliver education that is effective and of high quality. Our role is to ensure that reorganisation is carried out in a fair and reasonable way, and that it gives due account to the views of all those who will be directly affected. Above all, we must ensure that the

eisiau sicrhau bod y canllawiau ynglŷn â'r ffordd orau o symud ymlaen â'r cynigion i ad-drefnu ysgolion yn holol iawn. Ryw'n sylweddoli nad oes arno eisiau cael ei weld fel cymrodeddwr yn yr holl achosion hyn. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig bod gennym ddata cywir a gwybodaeth briodol, a bod yr ymgynghoriad, hyd yn oed cyn yr hysbysiad statudol, a hyd yn oed os yw'n cynnig ychydig o wahanol ddewisiodau yn unig, yn rhoi digon o amser i bobl feddwl beth allai canlyniad y dewisiadau hynny fod pe bai awdurdod lleol yn bwrw ymlaen â hwy. Nid yw hynny wedi digwydd yn yr achos penodol hwn yng Nghaerdydd. Mae'n ddigon posibl bod hynny'n wir mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru hefyd.

Mae'r Gweinidog yn sôn llawer am ansawdd y ddarpariaeth yn y cylchlythyr ac yn y canllawiau. Ryw'n cytuno ag ef. Yn anffodus, mae'r ddadl yr ydym wedi ei gweld yng Nghaerdydd ac mewn mannau eraill wedi ymwneud i raddau helaeth â'r lleihad yn nifer y lleoedd i ddisgyblion mewn ysgolion poblogaidd, a hynny, mae arnaf ofn, er mwyn ceisio cael rhieni i ddewis ysgolion sydd â'u niferoedd yn gostwng. Rhaid i hyn ymwneud llai â niferoedd a mwy ag ansawdd.

**Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Leighton Andrews):** Dylwn ddechrau drwy ddweud pa mor ddiolchgar ydwyf o gael y cyfre annisgwyl hwn i roi cyhoeddusrwydd i ymgynghoriad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar newidiadau posibl i'r broses ad-drefnu ysgolion, a ddechreuodd ddydd Gwener diwethaf. Rydym i gyd yn sylweddoli pa mor emosiynol y gall mater cau ysgolion fod, ond, fel llunwyr polisiau a deddfau, mae angen inni edrych yn wrthrychol ar y materion hyn.

Ambell waith, bydd angen ad-drefnu ysgolion a rhesymoli'r ddarpariaeth, a chau rhai ysgolion hefyd, er mwyn sicrhau bod y ddarpariaeth ysgolion yn dal i gynnig addysg effeithiol o safon uchel. Ein rôl yw sicrhau bod ad-drefnu'n digwydd mewn ffordd deg a rhesymol, a bod ystyriaeth briodol yn cael ei rhoi i farn pob unigolyn y bydd hynny'n effeithio arno. Yn bennaf oll, rhaid inni sicrhau bod y broses yn darparu'r canlyniad

process followed delivers the best possible outcome for learners gorau posibl i ddysgwyr.

Current Welsh Assembly Government guidance is contained in circular No. 021/2009, on school organisation proposals. We issued this document in September 2009. It sets out the factors that local authorities and others should take into account when bringing forward proposals to reconfigure schools. It also sets out the criteria that Welsh Ministers will apply in reaching decisions on proposals that come to them for determination. It emphasises that, for local authorities and Ministers, the effect of a proposal on educational standards will be the prime consideration. This must be right. The principal and overriding purpose of schools is to educate our children and young people so that they develop to their full potential. All other factors are of secondary consideration.

However, circular No. 021/2009 also introduced, for the first time, an expectation that local authorities and other proposal promoters would consider the impact that proposals may have on the local community through the preparation of a community impact assessment, and the effect on the Welsh language through the preparation of a language impact assessment if any schools affected are Welsh-medium or bilingual. Consideration of both of these factors is also expected of the Welsh Ministers in making determinations on proposals remitted to them.

This new circular has applied to all proposals published after January 2010. It is therefore a little early to comment on the effectiveness of the impact assessments. However, I believe that they will make a significant contribution to the future shaping of school organisation proposals. I hope that all local authorities recognise the importance of ensuring that proposals for change maintain—and, wherever possible, improve—the standard of education provided. Certainly, when Ministers consider proposals, assessments of the educational impact are the top priority.

The second element shaping school organisation proposals is the legislative

Mae canllawiau presennol Llywodraeth Cymru i'w gweld yng Nghylchlythyr 021/2009, ar y cynigion i ad-drefnu ysgolion. Cyhoeddasiom y ddogfen hon ym Medi 2009. Mae'n nodi'r ffactorau y dylai awdurdodau lleol ac eraill eu hystyried wrth gyflwyno cynigion i ad-drefnu ysgolion. Mae hefyd yn nodi'r meini prawf y bydd Gweinidogion Cymru'n eu defnyddio wrth wneud penderfyniadau ynglŷn â chynigion sy'n cael eu hanfon atynt hwy ar gyfer penderfyniad. Mae'n pwysleisio mai effaith cynnig ar safonau addysgol fydd y brif ystyriaeth, i awdurdodau lleol ac i Weinidogion. Rhaid i hyn fod yn iawn. Prif bwrrpas ysgolion yw addysgu ein plant a'n pobl ifanc er mwyn iddynt ddatblygu i'w llawn botensial. Ystyriaeth eilaidd yw pob ffactor arall.

Fodd bynnag, roedd cylchlythyr 021/2009 hefyd yn nodi, am y tro cyntaf, y disgwylid i awdurdodau lleol, ac eraill sy'n hybu cynigion, ystyried yr effaith y gallai cynigion ei chael ar y gymuned leol drwy baratoi asesiad o'r effaith ar y gymuned, ac ystyried yr effaith ar yr iaith Gymraeg drwy baratoi asesiad o'r effaith ar yr iaith os yw unrhyw ysgolion sy'n cael eu heffeithio yn ysgolion Cymraeg neu ddwyieithog. Disgwylir i Weinidogion Cymru ystyried y ffactorau hyn hefyd wrth benderfynu ynglŷn â chynigion sy'n cael eu cyfeirio atynt hwy.

Mae'r cylchlythyr newydd hwn wedi bod yn berthnasol i bob cynnig a gyhoeddwyd ar ôl Ionawr 2010. Mae braidd yn gynnar felly i wneud sylw ynglŷn ag effeithiolrwydd yr asesiadau effaith. Serch hynny, credaf y byddant yn gwneud cyfraniad sylweddol i'r broses o lunio cynigion ar gyfer ad-drefnu ysgolion yn y dyfodol. Rwy'n gobeithio bod pob awdurdod lleol yn sylweddoli pa mor bwysig yw sicrhau bod cynigion ar gyfer newid yn cynnal—a, lle bynnag y bo modd, yn gwella—safon yr addysg a ddarperir. Yn sicr, pan fydd Gweinidogion yn ystyried cynigion, asesiadau o'r effaith addysgol yw'r brif flaenoriaeth.

Yr ail elfen sy'n dylanwadu ar gynigion ad-drefnu ysgolion yw'r fframwaith

framework. Under current legislation, when significant changes to schools are proposed by local authorities, diocesan authorities or governing bodies, statutory proposals must be consulted upon and then published, with the opportunity for objections to be made in relation to them. If objections are received, the proposals are referred to Welsh Ministers for determination, normally by me, as the relevant Minister. Members are aware that I have been very concerned this year about the timeliness of decisions on school reorganisation. I therefore recently consulted on amendments to the current regulations, which would see the length of the objection period reduced from two months to one, and a reduction in the time allowed for local authorities to submit objections, together with their responses, to the Welsh Ministers. I expect to be able to act upon the outcome of this consultation soon, thus cutting a potential month and a half from the time taken for any determination.

However, as I have said before, I want to go further. I believe that, under the current system, too many decisions are made by Ministers; this has been widely agreed in this Chamber. This does not support the robustness of local processes. I would like to see decision making at local levels in the vast majority of cases. We have therefore launched a consultation on a possible overhaul of the existing system, including: providing a local appeal mechanism, to save proposals being referred to Ministers other than in exceptional cases; making all local authorities conform to existing best practice when consulting, through requiring the publication of consultation documents that fully inform parents and others; changing the threshold for objections, so that a single objection from someone with no direct interest in the matter can no longer delay a proposal; and having streamlined arrangements for closures of schools with few or no pupils, such as the situation in Carmarthenshire that I described as ‘bonkers’ in the summer. The consultation will conclude on 18 February 2011.

deddfwriaethol. Dan y ddeddfwriaeth bresennol, pan gynigir newidiadau sylweddol i ysgolion gan awdurdodau lleol, awdurdodau esgobaethol neu gyrrf llywodraethu, rhaid ymgynghori ynglŷn â chynigion statudol ac yna'u cyhoeddi, a rhoi cyfle i bobl fynegi gwirthwynebiadau sy'n gysylltiedig â hwy. Os derbynir gwirthwynebiadau, cyfeirir y cynigion at Weinidogion Cymru am benderfyniad, fel arfer ataf fi, fel y Gweinidog perthnasol. Mae'r Aelodau'n ymwybodol fy mod wedi bod yn bryderus iawn eleni ynglŷn â phrydlondeb penderfyniadau sy'n ymwneud ag ad-drefnu ysgolion. O ganlyniad, ymgynghorais yn ddiweddar ynglŷn â gwelliannau i'r rheoliadau presennol, a fyddai'n gweld hyd y cyfnod gwirthwynebu'n cael ei leihau o ddau fis i un, a lleihad hefyd yn yr amser a ganiateir i awdurdodau lleol gyflwyno gwirthwynebiadau, ynghyd â'u hymatebion, i Weinidogion Cymru. Rwy'n gobeithio y gallaf weithredu ar ganlyniad yr ymgynghoriaid hwn yn fuan, gan gwtogi'r amser y mae'n ei gymryd i wneud penderfyniad fis a hanner o bosibl.

Fodd bynnag, fel yr wyf wedi dweud o'r blaen, rwy'n awyddus i fynd ymhellach. Credaf fod gormod o benderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud gan Weinidogion dan y system bresennol; cafwyd cytundeb cyffredinol ynglŷn â hyn yn y Siambra hon. Nid yw hyn yn cefnogi cadernid prosesau lleol. Hoffwn weld penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud yn lleol yn y rhan fwyaf o achosion. O ganlyniad, rydym wedi lansio ymgynghoriaid ar newidiadau posibl i'r system bresennol, gan gynnwys: darparu mechanwaith apelio lleol, fel nad yw cynigion yn cael eu cyfeirio at Weinidogion ac eithrio mewn achosion eithriadol; gwneud i bob awdurdod lleol gydymffurfio â'r arferion gorau presennol wrth ymgynghori, drwy ei gwneud yn ofynnol iddynt gyhoeddi dogfennau ymgynghori sy'n rhoi gwybodaeth lawn i rieni ac eraill; newid y trothwy ar gyfer gwirthwynebiadau, fel na all un gwirthwynebiad gan rywun nad oes iddo fudd uniongyrchol o'r mater ddal cynnig yn ôl mwyach; a chael trefniadau syml ar gyfer cau ysgolion sydd ag ychydig o ddisgyblion neu ddim o gwbl, fel y sefyllfa yn sir Gaerfyrddin y cyfeiriai ati fel un ‘hurt’ yn yr haf. Bydd yr ymgynghoriaid yn dod i ben ar 18

Chwefror 2011.

There will still be a role for Ministers under the new system. That role will be to set policy and to provide substantial guidance and materials in order to assist promoters as they develop proposals for change. However, it would be mostly at the local level that proposals for change would be conceived, developed, debated and determined. Clear and precise statutory guidance would be used to back up the legislation and ensure transparency and robustness in the process.

I have to say that I do not think that it is true to suggest that the current system does not take into account the views of those directly affected by school closures. Clearly, that is the perception of some and, in some instances, the consultation conducted has fallen short of what might be considered best practice. There is considerable scope for improvement, and I believe that the proposed changes that I have outlined will help to secure this.

The consultation that we have commenced on the reform of the school reorganisation process is an opportunity for everyone with an interest in this matter to get involved in shaping the future. I have no doubt that community and Welsh-language impact assessments will remain an important part of the process. However, I am equally certain that the primacy of educational standards will, and should, continue as the factor of greatest significance.

In large measure, this has been a consensual debate, with one or two entertaining spats, which lead us to look forward to the elections next year. However, I have to say that I cannot possibly allow the Conservatives to represent themselves today as the defenders of small schools. They have put forward budget proposals that would have cut £1.5 billion from the education budget, from my budget and the budget of the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government. That would have led to wholesale school closures throughout Wales. They cannot try to use this debate on school organisation proposals to claim, as Mark Isherwood did, that they are the champions of small schools, because their proposals on the budget would result in the

Bydd rôl i Weinidogion o hyd dan y system newydd. Y rôl honno fydd pennu polisi a darparu digon o ganllawiau a deunyddiau er mwyn cynorthwyo hyrwyddwyr wrth iddynt ddatblygu cynigion ar gyfer newid. Fodd bynnag, ar y lefel leol y byddai'r rhan fwyaf o'r cynigion ar gyfer newid yn cael eu llunio, eu datblygu, eu trafod a'u penderfynu. Defnyddid canllawiau statudol clir a manwl i gefnogi'r ddeddfwriaeth a sicrhau tryloywder a chadernid yn y broses.

Rhaid imi ddweud nad wyf yn credu ei bod yn wir awgrymu nad yw'r system bresennol yn ystyried barn y rhai hynny sy'n cael eu heffeithio'n uniongyrchol gan gau ysgolion. Mae'n amlwg mai dyna'r argraff a roddir i rai ac, mewn rhai achosion, ni ellir dweud bod yr ymgynghoriad yn dangos yr hyn y byddid yn eu hystyried fel yr arferion gorau. Mae cryn dipyn o le i wella, a chredaf y bydd y newidiadau arfaethedig yr wyf wedi eu hamlinellu yn helpu i sicrhau hyn.

Mae'r ymgynghoriad yr ydym wedi ei ddechrau ar ddiwygio'r broses ad-drefnu ysgolion yn gyfle i bawb sydd â diddordeb yn y mater hwn ddylanwadu ar y dyfodol. Rwy'n berffaith sicr y bydd asesiadau o'r effaith ar y gymuned ac ar yr iaith Gymraeg yn dal yn rhan bwysig o'r broses. Er hynny, rwyf yr un mor sicr y bydd rhoi blaenoriaeth i safonau addysgol yn dal i gael ei weld fel y ffactor pwysicaf, ac y dylai hynny barhau.

Mae hon wedi bod yn ddadl gydsyniol, i raddau helaeth, gydag ambell gweryl difyr, a'n harweiniodd i edrych ymlaen at yr etholiadau y flwyddyn nesaf. Serch hynny, rhaid imi ddweud na allaf ganiatâu i'r Ceidwadwyr geisio rhoi'r argraff heddiw mai hwy yw amddiffynwyr yr ysgolion bach. Maent wedi cyflwyno cynigion cyllidebol a fyddai'n tynnu £1.5 biliwn o'r gyllideb addysg, o'm cyllideb i ac o gyllideb y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol. Byddai hynny wedi arwain at gau ysgolion ar raddfa fawr ledled Cymru. Ni allant geisio defnyddio'r ddadl hon ar gynigion ad-drefnu ysgolion i honni, fel y gwnaeth Mark Isherwood, mai hwy yw hyrwyddwyr yr ysgolion bychain, oherwydd

closure of schools throughout Wales.

**Darren Millar:** I have to say that I am astonished by that little rant at the end of what was a reasonable speech up until that point. Let us remember why we are in such a financial mess as a country. It was your party that destroyed our public finances and put us on the brink of ruin—[*Interruption.*]

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:**  
Order. We all want to hear the speaker.

**Darren Millar:** That is why we have had a poorer settlement in the Welsh block grant.

**Leighton Andrews:** Your party called for the ring-fencing of health spending—

**Darren Millar:** Yes, we have.

**Leighton Andrews:** And your party knows, because your leader said so on *Wales Today* two weeks ago—and I am reading from the transcript—that, as a result of that, there would be cuts ‘of about 20 per cent’.

**David Melding:** He did not say in education.

**Leighton Andrews:** He did say education. He was responding to Betsan Powys, who had identified cuts of 24 per cent in areas such as schools and education. She asked whether he was prepared to do that and Nick Bourne said, ‘It’s about 20 per cent and that’s our priority’.

**Darren Millar:** It does not matter how much you spin it, the financial mess that we are in is still the responsibility of the previous UK Government. Of course, the Conservative Government has had to take swift action in order to restore confidence in our public finances.

Let us get back to reality and earth this again in order to ensure that we actually discuss this very important issue of school closures. This is a subject that is dear to the hearts of many of us in the Chamber. For the best part,

byddai eu cynigion hwy ar y gyllideb yn arwain at gau ysgolion ledled Cymru.

**Darren Millar:** Rhaid imi ddweud fy mod yn synnu eich bod wedi mynd i refru braidd ar ddiwedd eraith a oedd yn ddigon rhesymol cyn hynny. Gadewch inni gofio pam y mae'r wlad mewn cymaint o lanastr ariannol. Eich plaid chi a wnaeth lanastr o'n cylid cyhoeddus ac a'n gwthiodd at ymyl y dibyn—[*Torri ar draws.*]

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro:** Trefn. Mae arnom i gyd eisiau clywed y siaradwr.

**Darren Millar:** Dyna pam yr ydym wedi cael setliad gwaelach yn grant bloc Cymru.

**Leighton Andrews:** Mae eich plaid chi wedi galw am neilltuo gwariant iechyd—

**Darren Millar:** Do, mae wedi gwneud hynny.

**Leighton Andrews:** Ac mae eich plaid chi'n gwybod, oherwydd dywedodd eich arweinydd hynny ar *Wales Today* bythefnos yn ôl—ac rwy'n darllen o'r trawsysgrif—y byddai toriadau ‘o tua 20 y cant’ o ganlyniad i hynny.

**David Melding:** Ni ddywedodd y byddent ym maes addysg.

**Leighton Andrews:** Cyfeiriodd at addysg. Roedd yn ymateb i Betsan Powys, a oedd wedi nodi toriadau o 24 y cant mewn meysydd fel ysgolion ac addysg. Gofynnodd hi a oedd yn barod i wneud hynny a dywedodd Nick Bourne, ‘Mae tua 20 y cant, a dyna'n blaenoriaeth’.

**Darren Millar:** Nid yw'n gwneud unrhyw wahaniaeth faint yr ydych yn ei sbinio, Llywodraeth flaenorol y DU sy'n dal yn gyfrifol am y lanastr ariannol yr ydym ynddo. Wrth gwrs, mae'r Llywodraeth Geidwadol wedi gorfod gweithredu'n gyflym er mwyn adfer hyder yn ein cylid cyhoeddus.

Gadewch inni ddod yn ôl at realiti a chael ein traed ar y ddaear unwaith eto er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn trafod mater gwirioneddol bwysig cau ysgolion. Mae hwn yn bwnc sy'n agos iawn at galon llawer ohonom yn y

it has been a grown-up debate this afternoon. Paul Davies opened the debate by, quite rightly, reminding everybody that we are having this debate today because there are widespread concerns about the future of schools and communities the length and breadth of Wales. Schools are at the heart of our communities; they make a huge contribution to villages and smaller centres of population around Wales. We have to recognise that many of our villages and towns have lost other essential services, such as their post offices, libraries, pubs and shops, during the past few years of Labour rule. The school is very often the only public building left standing in many of these communities. So, we must remember that, and that is why we tabled this motion, which requests a decent community impact assessment, alongside a language assessment of the impact of a proposed school closure.

5.30 p.m.

I have to say that we were quite pleased with the consultation that the Minister commenced, because it took on board many of the policies that this party has been putting forward for a long time with regard to the need to improve the consultation process, to make it more acceptable to the public, and to make sure that the public is properly consulted and involved in the decision-making process, while also taking out the politics from school closures by ensuring that there is an independent arbitrator when a proposal comes forward to close a school. Angela Burns made reference to some specific issues in her constituency and reminded us that we should not rush decisions. I appreciate that we do not want any uncertainty hanging around because that might have an impact on school rolls, but we need to take time to make sure that decisions are made on the basis of decent evidence that is up to date and accurate, as Jonathan Morgan and Rhodri Morgan said—and I must say that the weather outside may be cold, but a warm front developed in here this afternoon between the two misters Morgan. It is clear that some local authorities are using outdated information and inaccurate data, and they are not taking account of all the factors when drawing up their school modernisation proposals. It is not just a matter of the current

Siambr. Ar y cyfan, rydym wedi cael dadl aeddfeud y prynhawn yma. Agorodd Paul Davies y ddadl drwy atgoffa pawb, yn gwbl briodol, ein bod yn cael y ddadl hon heddiw gan fod pryder cyffredinol ynglŷn â dyfodol ysgolion a chymunedau ym mhob cwr o Gymru. Ysgolion yw calon ein cymunedau; maent yn gwneud cyfraniad aruthrol i bentrefi a chanolfannau poblogaeth llai ledled Cymru. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod llawer o'n pentrefi a'n treffi wedi colli gwasanaethau hanfodol eraill, fel eu swyddfeydd post, llyfrgelloedd, tafarnau a siopau, yn ystod y blynnyddoedd diwethaf dan lywodraeth Lafur. Yr ysgol, yn aml iawn, yw'r unig adeilad cyhoeddus sydd ar ôl yn llawer o'r cymunedau hyn. Felly, rhaid inni gofio hynny, a dyna pam y cyflwynasom y cynnig hwn, sy'n gofyn am asesiad digonol o'r effaith ar y gymuned, ynghyd ag asesiad o effaith cynnig i gau ysgol ar yr iaith.

Rhaid imi ddweud ein bod yn ddigon bodlon â'r ymgynghoriad a ddechreuydyd gan y Gweinidog, oherwydd roedd yn ystyried nifer o'r polisiau y mae'r blaid hon wedi bod yn eu cyflwyno ers tro o ran yr angen i wella'r broses ymgynghori, i'w gwneud yn fwy derbyniol i'r cyhoedd, ac i wneud yn siŵr bod ymgynghori priodol yn digwydd gyda'r cyhoedd a'u bod yn rhan o'r broses o wneud penderfyniadau, gan dynnu gwleidyddiaeth o'r drafodaeth ar gau ysgolion drwy sicrhau bod cymrodeddwr annibynnol ar gael pan gyflwynir cynnig i gau ysgol. Cyfeiriodd Angela Burns at rai materion penodol yn ei hetholaeth hi ac atgoffodd ni na ddylem ruthro i wneud penderfyniadau. Rwy'n sylweddoli nad oes arnom eisai unrhyw ansicrywydd o gwmpas, oherwydd gallai hynny effeithio ar nifer y disgylion mewn ysgolion, ond mae angen inni gymryd amser i wneud yn siŵr bod penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud ar sail tystiolaeth ddigonol sy'n gyfredol ac yn gywir, fel y dywedodd Jonathan Morgan a Rhodri Morgan—a rhaid imi ddweud, er ei bod yn oer y tu allan, bod ffrynt cynnes wedi datblygu yn y Siambr y prynhawn yma rhwng y ddau Mr Morgan. Mae'n amlwg bod rhai awdurdodau lleol yn defnyddio gwybodaeth sydd wedi dyddio a data anghywir, ac nad ydynt yn ystyried yr holl ffactorau wrth lunio eu cynigion i

demographics and population figures; we have to look at local development plans and how they will have an impact on the population of school-aged children in certain areas.

Mark Isherwood reminded us that the criteria were set by the Assembly Government. That is why many of these local authorities are embarking on modernisation programmes. It was Rhodri Morgan himself who indicated in the Chamber as a former First Minister that he expected to see 170 schools closed in Wales over the next few years as part of the Assembly Government's plans to deal with surplus places. We all know that the Assembly Government has got many local authorities over a barrel in respect of capital resources, and authorities are being told that they must go through a modernisation programme before capital finances will be released for investment in our schools—and, boy, do our schools need capital investment after being run down for such a long time under successive Assembly Governments.

Therefore, I think that everyone here today agrees that we need to involve the public in the decision-making processes, we need to make sure that it is more than just a tick-box exercise, and that people are not presented with a *fait accompli* but are made to feel as though their involvement has an influence on the outcome of the decision-making process for any proposal to close a school.

We have set out a clear way forward in the motion that has been put before Assembly Members today. We will reject the amendment because it does not add anything whatsoever to what we have already said. It is bizarre that it has been framed in such a way. Therefore, we will reject the amendment tabled in the name of the Minister for Business and Budget because we are quite clear that there should be a community impact assessment and a language assessment, and we need to make sure that assessments on the standard of education are also undertaken, which we agree are paramount. Above all, we need a more robust, transparent process so that the

foderneiddio ysgolion. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â mwy na'r ddemograffeg a'r ffigurau poblogaeth diweddaraf; rhaid inni edrych ar gynlluniau datblygu lleol a sut y byddant yn effeithio ar boblogaeth plant oed ysgol mewn ardaloedd penodol.

Atgoffodd Mark Isherwood ni fod y meini prawf wedi cael eu pennu gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Dyna pam y mae llawer o'r awdurdodau lleol hyn yn cyflwyno rhaglenni moderneiddio. Rhodri Morgan ei hun a ddywedodd yn y Siambwr, fel cyn Brif Weinidog, ei fod yn disgwyli gweld 170 o ysgolion yn cael eu cau yng Nghymru yn ystod y blynnyddoedd nesaf fel rhan o gynlluniau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i ymdrin â lleoedd gwag. Gwyddom i gyd fod llawer o awdurdodau lleol ar drugaredd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o ran adnoddau cyfalaf, a dywedir wrth awdurdodau bod yn rhaid iddynt fynd drwy raglen foderneiddio cyn y rhyddheir cyllid cyfalaf i'w fuddsoddi yn ein hysgolion—a bois bach, mae ar ein hysgolion angen buddsoddiad cyfalaf ar ôl cael eu gadael i ddifywio am gymaint o amser dan Lywodraethau olynol y Cynulliad.

Felly, rwy'n credu bod pawb yma heddiw'n cytuno bod angen inni gynnwys y cyhoedd yn y prosesau gwneud penderfyniadau a bod angen inni wneud yn siŵr bod hyn yn fwy nag ymarfer ticio bocsys. Mae angen inni sicrhau nad yw pobl yn cael eu cyflwyno â threfniadau *fait accompli*, a'u bod yn teimlo bod eu rhan hwy yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau wedi cael dylanwad ar ganlyniad unrhyw gynnig i gau ysgol.

Rydym wedi nodi ffordd glir o symud ymlaen yn y cynnig a roddwyd gerbron Aelodau'r Cynulliad heddiw. Byddwn yn gwrthod y gwelliant gan nad yw'n ychwanegu dim byd o gwbl at yr hyn yr ydym wedi'i ddweud yn barod. Mae'n od ei fod wedi cael ei lunio yn y fath fodd. Felly, byddwn yn gwrthod y gwelliant a gyflwynwyd yn enw'r Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb gan ein bod yn holol siŵr y dylid cael asesiad o'r effaith ar y gymuned ac asesiad o'r effaith ar yr iaith, ac mae angen inni wneud yn siŵr bod asesiadau o safon yr addysg yn cael eu gwneud hefyd, ac rydym yn cytuno bod hynny'n bwysicach na dim. Yn bennaf oll, mae arnom angen

public feels that its voice is being heard. We do not have that at the moment, and we need to ensure that that is the case. I give way to Gareth.

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:**

Order. You will have to be very quick because we are almost out of time.

**Gareth Jones:** Would you not accept that your party has a lot to answer for in that you introduced the pupil-funded regime that we have in schools, which allows parents to take children from one school catchment area to another, depriving that school and therefore leading to the threat of closure? It all started with your lot years ago. Are you still supporting that system?

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:**

Order. That is enough.

**Darren Millar:** Thank you for your speech. We usually agree on a lot, Gareth, because, as a Conservative, you usually agree with us. The current situation in Wales is that you and your party have a lot to answer for, in addition to the Labour Party, because you have allowed this funding gap per pupil to develop, which is more than £500 per year per pupil in Wales. You should be ashamed of that. Even in the good years, that gap has not closed; in fact, it has widened. You should be ashamed of that, and you, as a party, will have to try to defend that in the elections next year.

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:**

The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? I see that there are objections. Therefore, I will defer voting on this item until voting time.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.  
Votes deferred until voting time.*

proses dryloyw a chadarnach fel bod y cyhoedd yn teimlo bod eu llais yn cael ei glywed. Nid yw hynny'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd, ac mae angen inni sicrhau bod y sefyllfa'n newid. Ildiaf i Gareth.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro:** Trefn. Bydd yn rhaid ichi fod yn sydyn iawn oherwydd mae'r amser bron ar ben.

**Gareth Jones:** Oni fydddech yn derbyn bod gan eich plaid lawer i ateb drosto gan eich bod wedi cyflwyno'r system ariannu drwy ddisgyblion sydd gennym mewn ysgolion. Mae'r system hon yn caniatáu i rieni symud plant o un dalgylch i un arall, gan amddifadu ysgol o ddisgyblion a thrwy hynny arwain at y bygythiad o'i chau? Dechreuodd y cyfan â'ch criw chi flynyddoedd yn ôl. A ydych yn dal i gefnogi'r system honno?

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro:** Trefn. Dyna ddigon.

**Darren Millar:** Diolch am eich arraith. Rydym fel arfer yn cytuno ar lawer o bethau, Gareth, oherwydd, fel Ceidwadwr, rydych fel arfer yn cytuno â ni. Y sefyllfa bresennol yng Nghymru yw bod gennych chi a'ch plaid lawer i ateb drosto, yn ogystal â'r Blaid Lafur, oherwydd rydych wedi caniatáu i'r bwlcw cyllid hwn ddatblygu, i fod yn fwy na £500 y flwyddyn y disgyl yng Nghymru. Dylech fod â chywilydd o hynny. Hyd yn oed yn y blynnyddoedd da, nid yw'r bwlcw hwnnw wedi cau; mewn gwirionedd, mae wedi cynyddu. Dylech fod â chywilydd o hynny, a bydd yn rhaid i chi, fel plaid, geisio amddiffyn hynny yn yr etholiadau y flwyddyn nesaf.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro:** Y cynnig yw derbyn y cynnig heb welliant. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod gwrrthwynebiadau. Felly, gohiriaf y pleidleisio ar yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

## Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

**Angela Burns:** I simply inquire of you, temporary Deputy Presiding Officer, whether the remarks made by Nerys Evans AM when she implied that I was, or called me, a liar in the debate that we have just had conflict in any way with current Standing Orders.

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:** If you were called a liar, that clearly would conflict with our Standing Orders and I would have to ask the Member to withdraw those remarks. In this case, I am advised that the remarks were in order, but they may not have been overly elegant. I invite Nerys Evans to reply.

**Nerys Evans:** Ni wneuthum eich galw yn gelwyddgi o gwbl; y cyfan a wneuthum oedd cywiro eich ffeithiau. Bu ichi honni bod Llan-gain ger Talacharn, ac nid oeddech yn gwybod faint o ddisgyblion oedd yn yr ysgol. Cymerais o hynny nad oeddech yn gwybod ble mae Llan-gain, ond ymddiheuraf os ydych.

**Angela Burns:** I agree that I said that the school had 36 pupils instead of 26 pupils. They are on the same peninsula, but the point was that she asked me whether I had been to the school, to which I replied ‘yes’, and she said that she doubted it. I wanted to know whether it was okay for her to say that.

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:** Very good. I accept that. Before proceeding to voting time, do three Members wish for the bell to be rung and the meeting to be adjourned? I see that you do not.

## Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time

*Cynnig NDM4604: O blaid 9, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 36.  
Motion NDM4604: For 9, Abstain 0, Against 36.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad  
Burns, Angela

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:  
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton  
Barrett, Lorraine

Davies, Andrew R.T.	Bates, Mick
Davies, Paul	Black, Peter
Isherwood, Mark	Davidson, Jane
Melding, David	Davies, Andrew
Millar, Darren	Davies, Jocelyn
Morgan, Jonathan	Evans, Nerys
Ramsay, Nick	Franks, Chris
	German, Veronica
	Gibbons, Brian
	Gregory, Janice
	Griffiths, John
	Hart, Edwina
	Hutt, Jane
	James, Irene
	Jenkins, Bethan
	Jones, Alun Ffred
	Jones, Ann
	Jones, Carwyn
	Jones, Elin
	Jones, Gareth
	Jones, Helen Mary
	Lewis, Huw
	Lloyd, David
	Lloyd, Val
	Mewies, Sandy
	Morgan, Rhodri
	Neagle, Lynne
	Randerson, Jenny
	Ryder, Janet
	Sargeant, Carl
	Thomas, Gwenda
	Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
	Watson, Joyce
	Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.  
Motion not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM4604: O blaid 36, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 9.  
Amendment 1 to NDM4604: For 36, Abstain 0, Against 9.*

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

Andrews, Leighton  
Barrett, Lorraine  
Bates, Mick  
Black, Peter  
Davidson, Jane  
Davies, Andrew  
Davies, Jocelyn  
Evans, Nerys  
Franks, Chris  
German, Veronica  
Gibbons, Brian  
Gregory, Janice  
Griffiths, John  
Hart, Edwina  
Hutt, Jane  
James, Irene  
Jenkins, Bethan  
Jones, Alun Ffred  
Jones, Ann  
Jones, Carwyn  
Jones, Elin  
Jones, Gareth

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:  
The following Members voted against:

Asghar, Mohammad  
Burns, Angela  
Davies, Andrew R.T.  
Davies, Paul  
Isherwood, Mark  
Melding, David  
Millar, Darren  
Morgan, Jonathan  
Ramsay, Nick

Jones, Helen Mary  
 Lewis, Huw  
 Lloyd, David  
 Lloyd, Val  
 Mewies, Sandy  
 Morgan, Rhodri  
 Neagle, Lynne  
 Randerson, Jenny  
 Ryder, Janet  
 Sargeant, Carl  
 Thomas, Gwenda  
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn  
 Watson, Joyce  
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.*

*Amendment agreed.*

Cynnig NDM4604 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

*Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:*

1. *Yn nodi bod Cylchlythyr 21/2009, canllawiau polisi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar drefniadaeth ysgolion, yn datgan bod yn rhaid rhoi, cyn cau ysgol, sylw llawn i'r canlynol:*

(a) *asesiad o'r effaith ar y gymuned;*

(b) *asesiad o'r effaith ar y Gymraeg; ac*

(c) *asesiad o safon addysg yr ysgol a safon addysg unrhyw ysgol y bwriedir trosglwyddo disgylion iddi.*

2. *Yn croesawu cynlluniau sydd eisoes wedi'u gosod gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i ddatblygu proses ar gyfer cau ysgolion sy'n fwy tryloyw, cadarn a chwbl hygrych i'r cyhoedd.*

*Cynnig NDM4604 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaids 36, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 9.*

*Motion NDM4604 as amended: For 36, Abstain 0, Against 9.*

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

Andrews, Leighton  
 Barrett, Lorraine  
 Bates, Mick  
 Black, Peter  
 Davidson, Jane  
 Davies, Andrew  
 Davies, Jocelyn  
 Evans, Nerys  
 Franks, Chris  
 German, Veronica  
 Gibbons, Brian

Motion NDM4604 as amended:

*The National Assembly for Wales:*

1. *Notes that Circular 21/2009, the Welsh Assembly Government's policy guidance on school organisation, stipulates that before a school is closed full account is taken of the following:*

(a) *the Community impact assessment;*

(b) *the Welsh Language impact assessment and*

(c) *an assessment of the school's standard of education and that of any school to which it is proposed that pupils will transfer.*

2. *Welcomes plans that have already been put in place by the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a school closure process which is more transparent, robust and fully accessible to the public.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:  
 The following Members voted against:

Asghar, Mohammad  
 Burns, Angela  
 Davies, Andrew R.T.  
 Davies, Paul  
 Isherwood, Mark  
 Melding, David  
 Millar, Darren  
 Morgan, Jonathan  
 Ramsay, Nick

Gregory, Janice  
Griffiths, John  
Hart, Edwina  
Hutt, Jane  
James, Irene  
Jenkins, Bethan  
Jones, Alun Ffred  
Jones, Ann  
Jones, Carwyn  
Jones, Elin  
Jones, Gareth  
Jones, Helen Mary  
Lewis, Huw  
Lloyd, David  
Lloyd, Val  
Mewies, Sandy  
Morgan, Rhodri  
Neagle, Lynne  
Randerson, Jenny  
Ryder, Janet  
Sargeant, Carl  
Thomas, Gwenda  
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn  
Watson, Joyce  
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig NDM4604 fel y'i diwygiwyd.  
Motion NDM4604 as amended agreed.*

### **Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion**

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:** I have been notified by Darren Millar that he wishes to move a procedural motion in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.26 to postpone the short debate tabled in his name.

*Cynnig Trefniadol*

*Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 7.26, yn gohirio'r ddadl fer a gyflwynwyd yn enw Darren Millar.*

**Darren Millar:** I move the motion.

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:** The proposal is to agree the procedural motion to postpone the short debate. Does any Member object? I see that there is no objection. Therefore, the motion is agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.  
Motion agreed.*

**The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:** That concludes today's proceedings.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro:** Rwyf wedi cael fy hysbysu gan Darren Millar ei fod yn dymuno cynnig trefniadol yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.26 i ohirio'r ddadl fer a gyflwynwyd yn ei enw ef.

*Procedural Motion*

*The National Assembly for Wales, under Standing Order No. 7.26, postpones the short debate tabled in the name of Darren Millar.*

**Darren Millar:** Cynigiaf y cynnig.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro:** Y cynnig yw derbyn y cynnig trefniadol i ohirio'r ddadl fer. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiad. Felly, derbynir y cynnig yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 7.35.

**Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro:** Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.38 p.m.  
The meeting ended at 5.38 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau  
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)  
 Asghar, Mohammad (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)  
 Bates, Mick (Democrat Rhyddfrydol Annibynnol – Independent Liberal Democrat)  
 Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)  
 Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)  
 Burns, Angela (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)  
 Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)  
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)  
 Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)  
 Davies, Alun (Llafur – Labour)  
 Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)  
 Davies, Andrew R.T. (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Davies, Paul (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Evans, Nerys (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Franks, Chris (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 German, Veronica (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)  
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)  
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)  
 Griffiths, Lesley (Llafur – Labour)  
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)  
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)  
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)  
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)  
 Jenkins, Bethan (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)  
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)  
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Jones, Gareth (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Law, Trish (Annibynnol – Independent)  
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)  
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)  
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)  
 Millar, Darren (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)  
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)  
 Ramsay, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)  
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)  
 Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)  
 Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)  
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)  
 Watson, Joyce (Llafur – Labour)  
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)  
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)  
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)