



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Y Cofnod Swyddogol)**

**The National Assembly for Wales
(The Official Record)**

Dydd Mercher 4 Rhagfyr 2002

Wednesday 4 December 2002

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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynddi yn y Siambr.
Yn y golofn dde, cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad o'r areithiau hynny.

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 of those speeches has been included.

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 2 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 2 p.m. with the Presiding Officer in the Chair.*

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg Questions to the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language

Pobl Ifanc a'r Celfyddydau Young People and the Arts

Q1 Christine Chapman: Will the Minister make a statement about measures to engage young people in the arts? (OAQ20813)

C1 Christine Chapman: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y camau sy'n cael eu cymryd i annog pobl ifanc i ymwneud â'r celfyddydau? (OAQ20813)

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): The strategy 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol' recognises the vital importance of engaging young people in the arts. The 'Laying the Foundations' action plan is dedicated to young people. I have asked the Arts Council of Wales to establish a youth arts fund, which will be worth £500,000 and called supporting young creativity; it will be launched in January. In addition, I am making almost £1.2 million available over three years to the arts council for the development of theatre in education.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson): Mae'r strategaeth 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol' yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd hanfodol annog pobl ifanc i ymwneud â'r celfyddydau. Mae'r cynllun gweithredu 'Gosod y Sylfeini' yn canolbwyntio ar bobl ifanc. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru sefydlu cronfa gelfyddydau ieuencid, a fydd werth £500,000 ac yn dwyn y teitl cynnal creadigrwydd pobl ifanc; fe'i lansir yn Ionawr. Yn ogystal, yr wyf yn darparu bron £1.2 miliwn dros dair blynedd i'r cyngor celfyddydau ar gyfer datblygu theatr mewn addysg.

Christine Chapman: I welcome those initiatives. However, do you agree that we must ensure that funding is accessible and sustainable for the development of the arts, particularly in less prosperous communities? Do you also agree that art has the potential to be meaningful to young people through the use of contemporary issues? Jenny, I know you are aware of the Showcase group in my constituency. Will you join me in congratulating the group in bringing young people in the community together to make a film about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy and bullying?

Christine Chapman: Croesawaf y mentrau hynny. Fodd bynnag, a gytunwch fod yn rhaid inni sicrhau bod modd cael gafael ar arian ar gyfer datblygu'r celfyddydau a'i fod yn gynaliadwy, yn arbennig mewn cymunedau llai llewyrchus? A gytunwch hefyd fod gan gelfyddyd y potensial i fod yn ystyrlon i bobl ifanc os defnyddir materion cyfoes? Jenny, gwn eich bod yn ymwybodol o'r grŵp Sioe Gerdd yn fy etholaeth. A ymunwch â mi i longyfarch y grŵp am ddod â phobl ifanc yn y gymuned at ei gilydd i wneud ffilm am beryglon camddefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol, beichiogrwydd ymhlith merched yn eu harddegau a bwlio?

Jenny Randerson: I congratulate Showcase. The group comes from a strong community base. Not only is its work important and positive—particularly its work in relation to drug abuse—but also it provides an excellent, almost professional standard of entertainment. Thus it combines both aspects.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn llongyfarch Sioe Gerdd. Mae sail gymunedol gryf i'r grŵp. Mae ei waith nid yn unig yn bwysig ac yn gadarnhaol—yn arbennig ei waith mewn cysylltiad â chamddefnyddio cyffuriau—ond mae hefyd yn rhoi adloniant o safon ardderchog sydd bron o safon broffesiynol.

Felly mae'n cyfuno'r ddwy agwedd.

In terms of sustainability of funding, we are working with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to decide on the future of lottery funding with a view to making the distribution of lottery funding more flexible. Many people have commented on sustainability, which is a key issue. We have tried to take those comments on board.

O ran cynaliadwyedd ariannu, yr ydym yn gweithio gyda'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon er mwyn penderfynu ar ddyfodol arian loteri gyda'r bwriad o sicrhau y caiff arian loteri ei ddosbarthu mewn ffordd fwy hyblyg. Mae llawer o bobl wedi gwneud sylwadau ar gynaliadwyedd, sy'n fater allweddol. Yr ydym wedi ceisio ystyried y sylwadau hynny.

David Davies: Poetry is an art that seems to be going out of fashion at the moment, particularly among younger people. Given the very good example of verse that we heard yesterday during the Irish President's visit, will you consider sponsoring some form of poetry contest for young people in Wales?

David Davies: Ymddengys fod barddoniaeth yn gelfyddyd sy'n mynd allan o ffasiwn ar hyn o bryd, yn arbennig ymhlith pobl ifanc. O ystyried yr enghraifft dda iawn o farddoniaeth a glywsom ddoe yn ystod ymweliad Arlywydd Iwerddon, a ystyriwch noddi rhyw fath o gystadleuaeth farddoniaeth ar gyfer pobl ifanc yng Nghymru?

Jenny Randerson: It is possible that some of the £500,000 funding that I announced this afternoon for the youth arts fund will go towards funding such a contest. There is a wide spectrum of application. However, the youth arts fund could consider funding that kind of competition, which is often organised by local education authorities or by organisations via local education authorities.

Jenny Randerson: Mae'n bosibl y bydd rhywfaint o'r £500,000 a gyhoeddais y prynhawn yma ar gyfer cronfa gelfyddydau ieuencid yn mynd tuag at ariannu cystadleuaeth o'r fath. Gellir defnyddio'r arian ar gyfer ystod o bethau. Fodd bynnag, gallai'r gronfa gelfyddydau ieuencid ystyried ariannu cystadleuaeth o'r fath, a drefnir yn aml gan awdurdodau addysg lleol neu gan sefydliadau drwy awdurdodau addysg lleol.

Owen John Thomas: There is evidence that individual bodies are attempting to appeal to young people, and I congratulate Welsh National Opera on its initiative in presenting an abbreviated version of *Carmen*, which will be performed later this week and which is aimed at schoolchildren. Does the Minister share my concern that the demands of the national curriculum are marginalising creative subjects such as music and the arts, and will she consider pursuing the matter with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning?

Owen John Thomas: Mae tystiolaeth bod cyrff unigol yn ceisio apelio i bobl ifanc, a llongyfarchaf Gwmni Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru am ei fenter wrth gyflwyno fersiwn talfyredig o *Carmen*, a gaiff ei berfformio yn ddiweddarach yr wythnos hon ac sydd wedi'i anelu at blant ysgol. A yw'r Gweinidog yn rhannu fy mhryder bod gofynion y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol yn gwrthio pynciau creadigol megis cerddoriaeth a'r celfyddydau i'r cyrion, ac a wnaiff ystyried codi'r mater gyda'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes?

Jenny Randerson: The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and I have discussed that issue, but it is up to schools how they organise the school day; I am sure that you would not wish to interfere with that freedom. However, we are both well aware of the issue that you raise, and the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning is as deeply committed as I am to ensuring that culture

Jenny Randerson: Mae'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes a minnau wedi trafod y mater hwnnw, ond cyfrifoldeb ysgolion yw sut y maent yn trefnu'r diwrnod ysgol; yr wyf yn siŵr na fydddech am ymyrryd â'r rhyddid hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym ni'n dwy yn ymwybodol iawn o'r mater a godwch, ac mae'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes mor ymrwymedig â

and the arts are at the heart of the school curriculum. One way in which we work jointly on this matter is by funding the Shakespearean festival, which is aimed at schools, which was tremendously successful and to which the Assembly Government was able to commit £100,000.

minnau i sicrhau bod diwylliant a'r celfyddydau wrth wraidd y cwricwlwm ysgol. Un o'r ffyrdd yr ydym yn gweithio ar y cyd ar y mater hwn yw drwy ariannu'r wyl Shakespearaid, sydd wedi'i hanelu at ysgolion, a oedd yn llwyddiannus iawn ac y gallodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad neilltuo £100,000 iddi.

Hybu Theatr ymhlith Plant Promoting Theatre among Children

Q2 Eleanor Burnham: What is being done to promote theatre among young children? (OAQ20811)

Jenny Randerson: The Arts Council of Wales provides nearly £1.1 million to the eight theatre-in-education companies. The aim is to ensure that every child in Wales, at each key stage, has at least one theatre-in-education experience. In north Wales, the education department of Clwyd Theatr Cymru has developed services for schools, and this year we have provided almost £465,000 to support the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff.

Eleanor Burnham: I am sure that you will agree that the development of theatre in north Wales should be highly commended, and I commend you, Minister, for engaging many people in a partnership across north-east Wales. Theatre helps engage youngsters and develop their confidence—this is the other side of the issue of disengagement that we discussed yesterday. Will you help and tell us about the other projects in north Wales, apart from Clwyd Theatr Cymru in Mold?

Jenny Randerson: There is also Cwmni'r Fran Wen in Anglesey and it is important that the significant contribution of each of the eight theatre-in-education projects is recognised. Funding is also being made available by the Millennium Commission to ensure that children are able to experience visiting the theatre and I believe that is important. That money will be coming into Wales, and Welsh schools have already made bookings.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Byddai pawb yn cytuno bod y cwmnïau theatr mewn addysg

C2 Eleanor Burnham: Beth sy'n cael ei wneud i hyrwyddo theatr ymysg plant ifanc? (OAQ20811)

Jenny Randerson: Mae Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yn darparu bron £1.1 miliwn i'r wyth cwmni theatr mewn addysg. Y nod yw sicrhau bod pob plentyn yng Nghymru, ym mhob cyfnod allweddol, yn cael o leiaf un profiad ym maes theatr mewn addysg. Yn y Gogledd, mae adran addysg Clwyd Theatr Cymru wedi datblygu gwasanaethau ar gyfer ysgolion, ac eleni yr ydym wedi darparu bron £465,000 i gynorthwyo Theatr y Sherman yng Nghaerdydd.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno y dylid cymeradwyo datblygiad theatr yn y Gogledd yn fawr, a llongyfarchaf chi, Weinidog, am gynnwys llawer o bobl mewn partneriaeth ledled y Gogledd-ddwyrain. Mae'r theatr yn helpu pobl ifanc i ddatblygu eu hyder—dyma ochr arall ymddieithriad, a drafodasom ddoe. A wnewch helpu a dweud wrthym am y prosiectau eraill yn y Gogledd, heblaw am Clwyd Theatr Cymru yn yr Wyddgrug?

Jenny Randerson: Ceir hefyd Gwmni'r Frân Wen yn Ynys Môn, ac mae'n bwysig cydnabod cyfraniad sylweddol pob un o'r wyth prosiect theatr mewn addysg. Darperir arian hefyd gan Gomisiwn y Mileniwm er mwyn sicrhau bod plant yn gallu cael profiad o ymweld â'r theatr a chredaf fod hynny'n bwysig. Daw'r arian hwnnw i Gymru, ac mae ysgolion yng Nghymru wedi archebu tocynnau eisoes.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Everyone would agree that the theatre-in-education companies

yn gwneud cyfraniad pwysig. Gwnaethoch gyfeirio at waith Clwyd Theatr Cymru yn y Gogledd a Chwmni Theatr y Sherman yn y De. A gytunwch fod bwlbh o ran y ddarpariaeth yn ne-orllewin Cymru? Byddai'n dda hybu'r cyfle i blant a phobl ifanc gyfranogi o berfformiadau a byddai sefydlu cwmni theatr yn y De-orllewin yn rhoi'r cyfle hwnnw i blant a phobl ifanc.

Jenny Randerson: I am well aware of the issue that you have raised and the Finance Minister and I are discussing the many issues related to theatre throughout Wales. The position of Clwyd Theatr Cymru is an issue frequently aired here; however, the idea of a theatre in south-west Wales is on the agenda as a possibility for the future, but no more than that.

Jonathan Morgan: You will be aware that projects from the Prince of Wales Arts and Kids Foundation will be delivered across Wales between now and next March. It is an innovative idea, involving some of the flagship organisations in Wales. It was the brainchild of the Prince of Wales. Do you not believe that the Assembly should be more instrumental in devising initiatives of this kind to promote theatre to young people across the country?

Jenny Randerson: I am not sure whether you were here to hear my answer to Christine Chapman, when I announced significant additional money for the innovative ideas that were announced last February in 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol'. They are far-reaching and exciting and they have been taken forward into the Arts Council of Wales's five-year strategy, which mirrors in detail the principles in our action plan. The significant amounts of money that I announced this afternoon will ensure that that can happen.

make an important contribution. You referred to the work of Clwyd Theatr Cymru in the North and the Sherman Theatre Company in the South. Do you agree that there is a gap as regards provision in south-west Wales? It would be good to promote the opportunity for children and young people to partake of performances, and establishing a theatre company in the South-west would give children and young people that opportunity.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol iawn o'r mater yr ydych wedi ei godi ac mae'r Gweinidog Cyllid a minnau yn trafod nifer o faterion sy'n gysylltiedig â theatr ledled Cymru. Mae sefyllfa Clwyd Theatr Cymru yn fater a wyntyllir yn aml yma; fodd bynnag, mae'r syniad o theatr yn ne-orllewin Cymru ar yr agenda fel posibilrwydd ar gyfer y dyfodol, ond dim mwy na hynny.

Jonathan Morgan: Byddwch yn ymwybodol y caiff prosiectau y Prince of Wales Arts and Kids Foundation eu cyflwyno ledled Cymru rhwng nawr a mis Mawrth nesaf. Mae'n syniad dyfeisgar, yn cynnwys rhai o'r sefydliadau amlycaf yng Nghymru. Syniad Tywysog Cymru ydoedd. Oni chredwch y dylai'r Cynulliad fod yn fwy gweithredol wrth ddyfeisio mentrau o'r fath er mwyn hyrwyddo theatr i bobl ifanc ledled y wlad?

Jenny Randerson: Nid wyf yn siŵr a oeddech yn bresennol i glywed fy ateb i Christine Chapman, pan gyhoeddais arian ychwanegol sylweddol ar gyfer y syniadau dyfeisgar a gyhoeddwyd fis Chwefror diwethaf yn 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol'. Maent yn bell gyrhaeddol ac yn gyffrous ac maent wedi'u cynnwys yn strategaeth pum mlynedd Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, sy'n adlewyrchu egwyddorion ein cynllun gweithredu yn fanwl. Bydd y symiau sylweddol o arian a gyhoeddais y prynhawn yma yn sicrhau y gall hynny ddigwydd.

Cymorth Ariannol i Rygbi a Phêl-droed yng Nghymru Financial Support for Rugby and Football in Wales

Q3 John Griffiths: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government financial support for rugby and football in Wales? (OAQ20802)

C3 John Griffiths: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y cymorth ariannol y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei roi i rygbi a phêl-droed yng Nghymru?

(OAQ20802)

Jenny Randerson: Approximately £2 million, including £1.3 million of new funding, will be directed to the Football Association of Wales Trust over the next few years to galvanise football development in a structured and managed way. The Sports Council for Wales's funding for rugby remains at a minimum, while structure, finance and value for money is addressed by the Welsh Rugby Union.

John Griffiths: It is important to Wales that football and rugby thrive and that they are successful from grass roots level to our national teams. Our football players are doing fantastically well at a national level, under the superb management of Mark Hughes. However, our national rugby side continues to struggle, as the domestic league structure is long overdue a radical overhaul. Funding is vital. Given recent important changes at the Welsh Rugby Union, will you meet with the new group chief executive to discuss Welsh Assembly Government funding for rugby in Wales on a partnership basis, recognising the need for transparency and proper accountability for public funding?

2:10 p.m.

Jenny Randerson: I recognise the need to develop rugby. I also recognise the need to deal with the funding issue. The Assembly only provides funding on the basis of complete accounts and transparency. The WRU has been made aware of that by the sports council, which is the channel for funding. I have already expressed my wish to meet David Moffett, and I hope to do so in the near future.

Gareth Jones: Yn fy etholaeth, mae Clwb Pêl-droed Conwy mewn trafferthion ariannol dybryd, sy'n deillio yn bennaf o'r ffaith iddo chwarae yng Nghynghrair Cymru ac na ddeuai digon o arian gan Gymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru i'w gynnal. O ystyried

Jenny Randerson: Caiff oddeutu £2 filiwn, gan gynnwys £1.3 miliwn o arian newydd, ei roi i Ymddiriedolaeth Cymdeithas Pêl-droed Cymru dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf er mwyn ysgogi datblygiad pêl-droed mewn modd strwythuredig sydd wedi'i reoli. Dim ond y lleiafswm a roddir i rygbi gan Gyngor Chwaraeon Cymru ar hyn o bryd, tra bod Undeb Rygbi Cymru yn mynd i'r afael â strwythur, cyllid a gwerth am arian.

John Griffiths: Mae'n bwysig i Gymru bod pêl-droed a rygbi yn ffynnu a'u bod yn llwyddiannus o lefel llawr gwlad hyd at ein timau cenedlaethol. Mae ein chwaraewyr pêl-droed yn gwneud yn eithriadol o dda ar lefel genedlaethol, o dan reolaeth ardderchog Mark Hughes. Fodd bynnag, parhau i ddygnu ymlaen mae ein tîm rygbi cenedlaethol gan fod angen ailwampio strwythur y gynghrair ddomestig yn llwyr ers tro. Mae arian yn hanfodol. O ystyried newidiadau pwysig diweddar yn Undeb Rygbi Cymru, a fyddwch yn cyfarfod â phrif weithredwr newydd y grŵp er mwyn trafod arian Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer rygbi yng Nghymru ar sail partneriaeth, gan gydnabod yr angen am dryloywder a gwir atebolrwydd am arian cyhoeddus?

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn cydnabod yr angen i ddatblygu rygbi. Yn ogystal, yr wyf yn cydnabod yr angen i ymdrin â'r mater o ariannu. Dim ond ar sail cyfrifon cyflawn a thryloywder y bydd y Cynulliad yn darparu arian. Gwnaethpwyd Undeb Rygbi Cymru yn ymwybodol o hynny gan y cyngor chwaraeon, sef y sianel ar gyfer ariannu. Yr wyf eisoes wedi mynegi fy nymuniad i gyfarfod â David Moffett, a gobeithiaf wneud hynny yn y dyfodol agos.

Gareth Jones: In my constituency, Conwy Football Club is in dire financial difficulties, mainly arising from the fact that it played in the League of Wales and that the funding from the Football Association of Wales was insufficient to sustain it. Considering the

pwysigrwydd clybiau megis Conwy i'r gymdeithas leol, a bod gan y gymdeithas bêl-droed arian sylweddol, a wnewch ddarbwylllo'r gymdeithas i roi cymorth ariannol penodol i glwb Conwy a chlybiau eraill y mae eu parhad yn y fantol? Pa neges gadarnhaol sydd gennych i reolwyr a chefnogwyr Conwy yn ystod yr amser argyfyngus hwn?

Jenny Randerson: I am aware of the difficult issues that clubs such as Conwy face. The league has secured funding this year—the first time in seven years. However, that only equates to £1,500 for each club, which, though it helps, is not significant. I have written to David Collins of the FAW following the funding that I announced some weeks ago for football, asking what the FAW can do to assist in the development of football in Wales. I have a reasonable expectation that it faces a more favourable funding position now that our national team is doing so well. I have not received a reply to my letter.

importance of clubs such as Conwy to the local community, and that the football association has significant resources, will you persuade the FAW to provide specific financial support to Conwy football club and other clubs whose future is threatened? What positive message do you have for the managers and fans of Conwy during this critical time?

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r materion anodd y mae clybiau megis Conwy yn eu hwynebu. Mae'r gynghrair wedi sicrhau arian eleni am y tro cyntaf mewn saith mlynedd. Fodd bynnag, dim ond £1,500 ar gyfer pob clwb yw hynny, ac er ei fod o gymorth, nid yw'n swm sylweddol. Yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu ar David Collins o'r Gymdeithas yn dilyn yr arian a gyhoeddais rhai wythnosau yn ôl ar gyfer pêl-droed, yn gofyn beth y gall y gymdeithas ei wneud i gynorthwyo datblygiad pêl-droed yng Nghymru. Mae gennyf ddisgwyliad rhesymol ei bod yn wynebu sefyllfa well o ran ariannu gan fod ein tîm cenedlaethol yn gwneud cystal. Nid wyf wedi derbyn ateb i'm llythyr.

Arddangos Celfyddyd Cymru Displaying Welsh Art

Q4 Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the consultation by the National Museums and Galleries of Wales on the future display of Welsh art? (OAQ20845)

Jenny Randerson: Representatives of the national museum recently appeared before the Culture Committee to outline the museum's initial findings from the public consultation exercise on the future display of its art collection. I look forward to meeting the museum's president to discuss its final report. However, it would not be appropriate for me to comment before receiving the report.

Helen Mary Jones: You obviously cannot tell us today if you will support the call for establishing a Welsh gallery of modern art, which was a clear finding in the consultation. However, if you decide on behalf of the Government to support this proposal, will you ensure that the gallery is located in a

C4 Helen Mary Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ymgynghoriad Amgueddfeydd ac Oriolau Cenedlaethol Cymru ar arddangos celfyddyd Cymru yn y dyfodol? (OAQ20845)

Jenny Randerson: Ymddangosodd cynrychiolwyr yr amgueddfa genedlaethol gerbron y Pwyllgor Diwylliant yn ddiweddar er mwyn amlinellu canfyddiadau cychwynnol yr amgueddfa o'r ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ar arddangos ei chasgliad celf yn y dyfodol. Edrychaf ymlaen at gyfarfod â llywydd yr amgueddfa er mwyn trafod ei adroddiad terfynol. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddai'n briodol imi wneud sylwadau cyn derbyn yr adroddiad.

Helen Mary Jones: Yn amlwg ni allwch ddweud wrthym heddiw a ydych yn cefnogi'r galw am sefydlu oriel gelf fodern Gymreig, a oedd yn ganfyddiad clir o'r ymgynghoriad. Fodd bynnag, os byddwch yn penderfynu cefnogi'r cynnig hwn ar ran y Llywodraeth, a wnewch sicrhau y lleolir yr oriel mewn

deprived community? I make a case for Llanelli, but Peter Law may wish to make a case for somewhere in the heads of the Valleys area. To locate a gallery in those areas would act as an economic driver, as in the case of the Guggenheim.

Jenny Randerson: I am aware of the issues you raise. However, the report's recommendations were complex; they were not just a case of whether we have a gallery or not. For example, some use the term 'contemporary art', others use 'modern art'. Your colleague, Phil Williams, would be interested in that debate. It is not a question of where a gallery should be located either. There was the option of a number of galleries for the wider dissemination of art, and I am aware that such a scheme could impact much more quickly; that is an option we could consider as well as a gallery. However, until the ideas and the funding are developed—funding was far from clear in the report—we cannot take the issue any further. It would be wrong of me to make a commitment based on an unclear picture of funding.

Peter Black: I support Helen Mary Jones's bid to ensure that a national gallery is based outside Cardiff; preferably in a deprived community. Do you agree, Minister, that if we are to maximise access to Welsh art, we need to find ways of getting art into communities across Wales, and that a national gallery may not be the most appropriate way to do that? We should make use of new technology and find other venues to which Welsh art could be loaned out to try to achieve maximum spread.

Jenny Randerson: The report referred to the importance of new technology, and the museum is already working proactively and positively on that in partnership with several organisations, especially the National Library of Wales. The museum is also working with the Arts Council of Wales in terms of developing gallery spaces throughout Wales. I draw your attention to the Cyfoeth Cymru Gyfan—Sharing the Treasures project, which is already being exhibited in three galleries in

cymuned difreintiedig? Yr wyf yn pledio achos Llanelli, ond efallai y bydd Peter Law o blaid rhywle yn ardal blaenau'r Cymoedd. Byddai lleoli oriel yn yr ardaloedd hynny yn gweithredu fel hwb economaidd, fel yn achos y Guggenheim.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r materion a godwch. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd argymhellion yr adroddiad yn gymhleth; nid rhoi'r ddadl dros gael oriel ai peidio yn unig a wnaethant. Er enghraifft, mae rhai'n defnyddio'r term 'celf gyfoes', eraill yn defnyddio 'celf fodern'. Byddai gan eich cyd-Aelod, Phil Williams, ddiddordeb yn y ddadl honno. Nid yw'n fater o ble y dylid lleoli oriel ychwaith. Yr oedd opsiwn am nifer o oriellau ar gyfer dosbarthu celf yn ehangach, ac yr wyf yn ymwybodol y gallai cynllun o'r fath gael effaith llawer cynt; mae hynny'n opsiwn y gallem ei ystyried yn ogystal ag oriel. Fodd bynnag, hyd nes y datblygir y syniadau a'r arian—yr oedd yr arian ymhell o fod yn glir yn yr adroddiad—ni allwn fynd â'r mater ymhellach. Ni fyddai'n briodol imi wneud ymrwymiad yn seiliedig ar ddarlun aneglur o ran ariannu.

Peter Black: Cefnogaf gais Helen Mary Jones i sicrhau y caiff oriel genedlaethol ei lleoli y tu allan i Gaerdydd; gorau oll mewn cymuned ddifreintiedig. A gytunwch, Weinidog, er mwyn sicrhau bod y nifer mwyaf o bobl yn cael cyfle i weld celf Gymreig, mae angen inni ddod o hyd i dulliau o sicrhau bod celf yn cyrraedd cymunedau ledled Cymru, ac nad oriel genedlaethol yw'r ffordd fwyaf priodol o wneud hynny efallai? Dylem wneud defnydd o dechnoleg newydd a dod o hyd i leoliadau eraill y gellid benthyca celf Gymreig iddynt er mwyn ceisio cyrraedd cymaint o bobl â phosibl.

Jenny Randerson: Cyfeiriodd yr adroddiad at bwysigrwydd technoleg newydd, ac mae'r amgueddfa eisoes yn gweithio'n rhagweithiol ac yn gadarnhaol ar hynny mewn partneriaeth ag amryw o sefydliadau, yn enwedig Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru. Yn ogystal, mae'r amgueddfa yn gweithio gyda Chyngor Celfyddydau Cymru o ran datblygu oriellau ledled Cymru. Tynnaf eich sylw at y prosiect Cyfoeth Cymru Gyfan—Sharing the Treasures, sydd wedi'i arddangos mewn tair

north and mid Wales. This pilot project, which will be followed by others, will ensure that galleries and museums are brought up to the appropriate specification so that our national treasures can be shared. The importance of achieving accessibility throughout Wales is something that I have in mind. There is no greater way of achieving that than by ensuring access to art—within a reasonable travelling distance.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): Cardiff must be unique in Europe in not having a dedicated national art gallery—it is high time it had one. Minister, we had hoped that you would have demonstrated leadership on this issue: we have pressed you on it for goodness knows how long.

Jenny Randerson: We have a dedicated national gallery.

Nick Bourne: We do not, but when we get such an art gallery—as I am sure we ultimately will—will you ensure that Mick Bates is placed as a permanent exhibit in the surreal and bizarre section? It seems that he has just gone off to volunteer. Will you organise that for us, Minister?

The Presiding Officer: Order. That supplementary does not arise from the question.

Jenny Randerson: I was not going to reply to it.

I say again: I wish that Nick would get on a bus and go over to our dedicated national gallery and see what is there. The gallery is larger than many dedicated galleries, it has far more exhibits, and is of a far higher quality. The only difference is that it happens to be in the same building as a museum. I had a conversation yesterday with one of its curators, who referred to it throughout as ‘our national gallery’. She works there so she knows. It is a pity that you have not visited it.

oriel yn y Gogledd a'r Canolbarth eisoes. Bydd y prosiect peilot, a ddilynir gan brosiectau eraill, yn sicrhau y caiff orielau ac amgueddfeydd eu diweddarau yn ôl y fanyleb briodol er mwyn rhannu ein trysorau cenedlaethol. Mae pwysigrwydd sicrhau bod modd gweld celf ledled Cymru yn rhywbeth yr wyf yn meddwl amdano. Nid oes ffordd well o gyflawni hynny na sicrhau bod pobl yn gallu gweld celfyddyd—o fewn pellter teithio rhesymol.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Rhaid bod Caerdydd yn unigryw yn Ewrop gan nad oes ganddi oriel gelf genedlaethol—mae'n hen bryd iddi gael un. Weinidog, yr oeddem wedi gobeithio y byddech wedi dangos arweiniad ar y mater hwn: yr ydym wedi rhoi pwysau arnoch ar y mater hwn am ni wn ba hyd.

Jenny Randerson: Mae gennym oriel genedlaethol benodol.

Nick Bourne: Nac oes, ond pan fyddwn yn cael oriel gelf o'r fath—fel yr wyf yn sicr y cawn yn y pen draw—a sicrhewch y gosodir Mick Bates fel arddangosyn parhaol yn yr adran swrealaidd a rhyfedd? Ymddengys ei fod wedi mynd i wirfoddoli. A drefnwch hynny drosom, Weinidog?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw'r cwestiwn atodol hwnnw yn codi o'r cwestiwn.

Jenny Randerson: Nid oeddwn yn mynd i'w ateb.

Dywedaf eto: hoffwn pe bai Nick yn dringo ar fws ac yn mynd draw i'n horiel genedlaethol benodol a gweld yr hyn sydd yno. Mae'r oriel yn fwy na nifer o orielau penodol, mae llawer mwy o arddangosion yno, ac mae o ansawdd llawer gwell. Yr unig wahaniaeth yw ei bod yn digwydd bod yn yr un adeilad ag amgueddfa. Cefais sgwrs ag un o'i churaduron ddoe, a gyfeiriodd ati drwodd draw fel 'ein horiel genedlaethol'. Mae'n gweithio yno felly dylai hi wybod. Trueni nad ydych wedi ymweld â'r oriel.

**Pêl-droed yng Nghymru
Football in Wales**

Q5 Janet Ryder: Will the Minister make a statement on public funding available for football in Wales? (OAQ20848)

C5 Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar yr arian cyhoeddus sydd ar gael ar gyfer pêl-droed yng Nghymru? (OAQ20848)

Jenny Randerson: As I said earlier, approximately £2 million will go towards the development of football in Wales over the next three years. That follows recommendations made to the Football Forum, which I established last year. That will build on the £220,000 currently provided annually by the Sports Council for Wales for football development.

Jenny Randerson: Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, bydd tua £2 filiwn yn mynd tuag at ddatblygu pêl-droed yng Nghymru dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Mae hynny'n dilyn argymhellion a wnaethpwyd i'r Fforwm Pêl-droed, y sefydlais y llynedd. Bydd hynny'n adeiladu ar y £220,000 a ddarperir yn flynyddol ar hyn o bryd gan Gyngor Chwaraeon Cymru, ar gyfer datblygu pêl-droed.

Janet Ryder: I welcome that new money, but it would appear however, that the level of resources being made available will not fund the report's recommendations on facility development in football clubs. Many small clubs, such as those in Ruthin and Denbigh, need to develop changing and training facilities for young players. How do you intend to address that, Minister, since that is surely a priority if we are to ensure that our young people are given the best opportunities?

Janet Ryder: Croesawaf yr arian newydd hwnnw, ond ymddengys, fodd bynnag, na fydd y lefel adnoddau a ryddheir yn ariannu argymhellion yr adroddiad ar ddatblygu cyfleusterau mewn clybiau pêl-droed. Mae angen i nifer o glybiau bach, megis y rhai yn Rhuthun a Dinbych, ddatblygu cyfleusterau newid a hyfforddi ar gyfer chwaraewyr ifanc. Sut yr ydych yn bwriadu mynd i'r afael â hynny, Weinidog, oherwydd rhaid bod hynny'n flaenoriaeth os ydym am sicrhau bod ein pobl ifanc yn cael y cyfleoedd gorau.

Jenny Randerson: The Football Forum's remit was to consider player development, not facility development. However, the report did refer to facility development. I mentioned earlier that I had written to the Football Association of Wales on the issue of funding for football. It should consider the issue of funding, and we will consider our commitment—or any potential commitment, particularly regarding a national training facility as opposed to individual clubs. We would consider that only after the FAW indicated that it was also looking to commit significant funds. You will be aware that it has funding to commit if it chose to do so.

Jenny Randerson: Cylch gwaith y Fforwm Pêl-droed oedd ystyried datblygiad chwaraewyr, nid datblygu cyfleusterau. Fodd bynnag, cyfeiriodd yr adroddiad at ddatblygu cyfleusterau. Soniais yn gynharach fy mod wedi ysgrifennu at Gymdeithas Pêl-droed Cymru at y mater o ariannu pêl-droed. Dylai ystyried y mater o ariannu, a byddwn yn ystyried ein hymrwymiad—neu unrhyw ymrwymiad posibl, yn arbennig o ran cyfleuster hyfforddi cenedlaethol yn hytrach na chlybiau unigol. Byddwn yn ystyried hynny dim ond ar ôl i'r gymdeithas ddynodi ei bod hefyd yn disgwyl neilltuo arian sylweddol. Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod ganddi arian i'w neilltuo pe byddai'n dewis gwneud hynny.

2:20 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: Questions 6 (OAQ20814) and 7 (OAQ20818) have been

Y Llywydd: Mae cwestiynau 6 (OAQ20814) a 7 (OAQ20818) wedi'u trosglwyddo ar

transferred for written answer.

gyfer ateb ysgrifenedig.

Oriel Gelf Genedlaethol ar gyfer Cymru
National Art Gallery for Wales

Q8 Jonathan Morgan: Would the Minister make a statement on plans for a national art gallery for Wales? (OAQ20832)

C8 Jonathan Morgan: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gynlluniau i sefydlu oriel gelf genedlaethol ar gyfer Cymru? (OAQ20832)

Jenny Randerson: I have received a report from the National Museums and Galleries of Wales on its initial findings following the public consultation exercise on the display of its art collection. I look forward to meeting the museum's president to discuss the final report. It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the report before receiving it.

Jennry Randerson: Yr wyf wedi cael adroddiad gan Amgueddfeydd ac Oriellau Cenedlaethol Cymru ar ei ganfyddiadau cychwynnol yn dilyn yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ar arddangos ei gasgliad celf. Edrychaf ymlaen at gyfarfod â llywydd yr amgueddfa i drafod yr adroddiad terfynol. Ni fyddai'n briodol imi wneud sylwadau ar yr adroddiad cyn iddo ddod i law.

Jonathan Morgan: It would be appropriate for you to comment because as the Minister responsible for culture, you should take a firm lead on this. It is sad that when people come to the capital city, the largest art gallery that they can currently visit is the National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff bay, which boasts a huge collection of art because there is nowhere else to show it at the moment.

Jonathan Morgan: Byddai'n briodol ichi wneud sylwadau oherwydd fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am ddiwylliant, dylech roi arweiniad cadarn ar hyn. Mae'n drist pan fydd pobl yn dod i'r brifddinas, mai'r oriel gelf fwyaf y gallant ymweld â hi yw Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ym mae Caerdydd, lle mae casgliad anferth o gelf am nad oes unrhyw le arall i'w arddangos ar hyn o bryd.

It is a joke to suggest that the National Museums and Galleries of Wales in the centre of Cardiff is a proper art gallery. If that is the case, it must be the smallest art gallery in Europe, boasting a tiny collection. We need a proper sized national art gallery that can boast some of our best Welsh talent. We have a great deal to celebrate in this country and it is sad that your approach, as Minister responsible for culture, is not ambitious enough.

Ffolineb yw awgrymu bod Amgueddfeydd ac Oriellau Cenedlaethol Cymru yng nghanol Caerdydd yn oriel gelf go iawn. Os yw hynny'n wir, rhaid mai hi yw'r oriel gelf leiaf yn Ewrop, â chanddi gasgliad bach iawn. Mae angen oriel gelf genedlaethol o faint priodol a all arddangos peth o'n talent gorau yng Nghymru. Mae gennym lawer i'w ddatlu yn y wlad hon ac mae'n drist nad yw eich ymagwedd, fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am ddiwylliant, yn ddigon uchelgeisiol.

Jenny Randerson: Once again, this is a Conservative obsession with buildings and not with what goes in them. Your facts are wildly inaccurate. There is a national art gallery. I repeat that I will write to the museum's president and ask him to invite your group to enjoy what it has on display. However, on a more serious point, you are confusing two issues. The report that it has produced for me and for Wales as a whole is

Jenny Randerson: Unwaith eto, mae hyn yn obsesiwn Ceidwadol ag adeiladau ac nid yr hyn sy'n mynd i mewn iddynt. Mae eich ffeithiau yn gwbl anghywir. Mae oriel gelf genedlaethol yn bodoli. Dywedaf eto y byddaf yn ysgrifennu at lywydd yr amgueddfa a gofyn iddo wahodd eich grŵp i fwynhau'r hyn y mae'n ei arddangos. Fodd bynnag, ar bwynt mwy difrifol, yr ydych yn cymysgu dau fater. Mae'r adroddiad a

based on the question of whether we want a modern or contemporary art gallery that is different from the truly excellent facilities that are already available. A need for greater facilities to exhibit a range of contemporary or modern art—I distinguish carefully between the two because there is currently a debate on this—has been identified. Once we have considered where we want to display modern or contemporary art, the role of the Cathays park facilities would then be considered. The overwhelming majority of people in Wales, unlike the nine gentlemen in the Conservative group, want a wider dispersal of art throughout Wales.

gynhyrchodd imi ac i Gymru gyfan yn seiliedig ar y cwestiwn o pa un a ydym yn dymuno cael oriel gelf fodern neu gyfoes sy'n wahanol i'r cyfleusterau ardderchog sydd ar gael eisoes. Nodwyd angen am fwy o gyfleusterau i arddangos amrywiaeth o gelf gyfoes neu fodern—yr wyf yn gwahaniaethu'n ofalus rhwng y ddau oherwydd fod dadl ynglŷn â hyn ar hyn o bryd. Ar ôl inni ystyried lle y dymunwn arddangos celf fodern neu gyfoes, yna caiff rôl cyfleusterau parc Cathays ei ystyried. Mae mwyafrif llethol pobl Cymru, yn wahanol i'r naw gŵr bonheddig yn y grŵp Ceidwadol, am weld celf yn cael ei gwasgaru'n ehangach.

Cwestiynau i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Gwledig a Chymru Dramor

Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad

Polisi ar Addasu Genetig Policy on Genetic Modification

Q1 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's policy on GM? (OAQ20868)

C1 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar bolisi GM Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru? (OAQ20868)

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad (Michael German): The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to operating the most restrictive policy possible within the framework of European Union legislation. We are actively supporting the forthcoming debate that will focus on possible commercial growing of GM crops. I will report to Members on the developing position in terms of national listing of seeds, the associated Chardon LL hearing and the forthcoming regulation on deliberate release. I am also looking at retaining the definition of harm in the forthcoming regulations.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Gwledig a Chymru Dramor (Michael German): Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ymrwymedig i weithredu'r polisi mwyaf cyfyngol posibl o fewn fframwaith deddfwriaeth yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Cefnogwn y ddadl sydd ar ddod a fydd yn canolbwyntio ar dyfu cnydau a addaswyd yn enetig yn fasnachol o bosibl. Byddaf yn cyflwyno adroddiad i'r Aelodau ar y sefyllfa sy'n datblygu o ran rhestr genedlaethol o hadau, gwrandawriad Chardon LL cysylltiedig a'r rheoliad arfaethedig ar ollwng yn fwiadol. Yn ogystal, yr wyf yn edrych ar gadw'r diffiniad o niwed yn y rheoliadau arfaethedig.

Peter Black: How can we use the more restrictive stance of the Assembly on GM crops to stimulate an extensive and vigorous public debate on the future commercialisation of GM? What is the UK Government's stance on this?

Peter Black: Sut y gallwn ddefnyddio safbwynt mwy cyfyngol y Cynulliad ar gnydau a addaswyd yn enetig i symbylu dadl gyhoeddus helaeth a bywiog ar dyfu cnydau a addaswyd yn enetig yn fasnachol yn y dyfodol? Beth yw safbwynt Llywodraeth y DU ar hyn?

Michael German: The proposal from the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission for the UK is to have a public dialogue on GM crops. We have invited, along with the other Ministers, the chair of that committee to steer such a debate. There will be three strands to it, the first of which will be a public debate on the principles surrounding GM crops. I am anxious to have a vigorous debate within Wales because by exposing the issues to the widest public audience, we can have a vigorous debate, which I hope will result in supporting the Assembly's present position.

Jocelyn Davies: Minister, what is your view on the news that Whitehall's own public relations body, the Central Office of Information, has warned that the public debate to which you have referred is in danger of becoming meaningless in the face of growing suspicion that it is merely a propaganda exercise?

Michael German: We will conduct our own debate in Wales to supplement the debate that Professor Malcolm Grant has been invited to lead. Members of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee met Professor Grant to discuss these matters. My view is that we should supplement that debate with a vigorous debate in Wales. By exposing these issues to the public, we will get support for our policy in Wales of taking the most restrictive approach.

Peter Rogers: Minister, have you discussed the National Assembly for Wales's GM-free crops policy with your Westminster and Scottish counterparts, and what was their view on our stance?

Michael German: You know that the various administrations within the United Kingdom have different views. The Assembly, supported by all parties, has the most restrictive regime, which is an indication of devolution in action—sometimes we act differently.

Michael German: Y cynnig gan Gomisiwn Biotechnoleg Amaeth a'r Amgylchedd y DU yw cynnal trafodaeth gyhoeddus ar gnydau a addaswyd yn enetig. Yr ydym wedi gwahodd, ynghyd â'r Gweinidogion eraill, gadeirydd y pwyllgor hwnnw i lywio dadl o'r fath. Bydd tair elfen i'r ddadl, a'r cyntaf fydd dadl gyhoeddus ar yr egwyddorion sy'n ymwneud â chnydau a addaswyd yn enetig. Yr wyf yn awyddus i gynnal dadl fywiog yng Nghymru oherwydd drwy godi ymwybyddiaeth am y materion ymhlith y gynulleidfa ehangaf bosibl, gallwn gael dadl fywiog, a gobeithiaf y bydd hyn yn arwain at gefnogi safbwynt presennol y Cynulliad.

Jocelyn Davies: Weinidog, beth yw eich barn ar y newyddion bod corff cysylltiadau cyhoeddus Whitehall ei hun, y Swyddfa Hysbysrwydd Ganolog, wedi rhybuddio bod y ddadl gyhoeddus y cyfeiriasoch ati mewn perygl o ddod yn ddiystyr yn wyneb amheuan cynyddol mai ymarfer propaganda yn unig ydyw?

Michael German: Byddwn yn cynnal ein dadl ein hunain yng Nghymru er mwyn atodi'r ddadl y gwahoddwyd yr Athro Malcolm Grant i'w harwain. Cyfarfu Aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig â'r Athro Grant i drafod y materion hyn. Fy marn i yw y dylem ategu'r ddadl honno â dadl fywiog yng Nghymru. Drwy godi ymwybyddiaeth am y materion hyn ymhlith y cyhoedd, byddwn yn ennill cefnogaeth i'n polisi yng Nghymru o fod mor gyfyngol â phosibl.

Peter Rogers: Weinidog, a ydych wedi trafod polisi cnydau sy'n rhydd o organebau a addaswyd yn enetig â'ch cyd-Weinidogion yn San Steffan a'r Alban, a beth oedd eu barn hwy ar ein safbwynt?

Michael German: Gwyddoch fod gan wahanol weinyddiaethau o fewn y Deyrnas Unedig wahanol safbwyntiau. Y Cynulliad, â chefnogaeth pob plaid, sydd â'r weithdrefn fwyaf cyfyngol, sy'n enghraifft o ddatganoli ar waith—weithiau gweithredwn yn wahanol.

**Plant sy'n Gyrru Tractorau
Children who Drive Tractors**

Q2 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the recent International Labour Organization directive on tractor driving and children? (OAQ20897)

Michael German: I presume that your question refers to International Labour Organisation convention 184 (2001), a general convention relating to health and safety in agriculture. The convention fully reflects the principles of existing UK health and safety law, including the protection of young people at work. Health and safety is not a devolved function, and the UK Government is expected to make a statement on the ratification of the convention shortly. However, safety is important, and the Prevention of Accidents to Children in Agriculture Regulations 1998, currently under review, prohibit a child under the age of 13 from riding on, or driving, a tractor or other self-propelled vehicle used for agricultural operations.

Ann Jones: Do you agree that we cannot afford to ignore child safety on farms, and we should treat farms the same as we treat factories and other workplaces, where children are not allowed to roam unsupervised, or even to be present on the premises? I congratulate the Transport and General Workers' Union on its campaign to ban children under 16 years of age from driving tractors, and to strengthen the use of a roving safety representative around Welsh farms. Do you agree that this is the way forward for farming work practices?

Michael German: I agree that farms are not adventure playgrounds; they are workplaces and need to be treated as such. In 2001-02, one child was involved in a fatal accident on a Welsh farm and, on average over the last 16 years, around five children a year have been killed on farms in Great Britain. This is a serious matter and the Health and Safety Executive is working with farming organisations and others to raise awareness of the risks to children on farms.

C2 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gyfarwydddeb ddiweddar y Sefydliad Llafur Rhyngwladol ar blant a gyrru tractorau? (OAQ20897)

Michael German: Cymeraf yn ganiataol bod eich cwestiwn yn cyfeirio at gonfensiwn 184 (2001) y Sefydliad Llafur Rhyngwladol, sef confensiwn cyffredinol sy'n ymwneud ag iechyd a diogelwch mewn amaethyddiaeth. Mae'r confensiwn yn adlewyrchu egwyddorion cyfraith iechyd a diogelwch bresennol y DU yn llawn, gan gynnwys diogelu pobl ifanc yn y gwaith. Nid yw iechyd a diogelwch yn swyddogaeth ddatganoledig, a disgwylir i Lywodraeth y DU wneud datganiad ar gadarnhau'r confensiwn yn fuan. Fodd bynnag, mae diogelwch yn bwysig, ac mae Rheoliadau Atal Damweiniau i Blant ar Ffermydd 1998, sydd yn cael eu hadolygu ar hyn o bryd, yn atal plentyn o dan 13 oed rhag eistedd ar, neu yrru, tractor neu gerbyd arall hunanyredig a ddefnyddir ar gyfer gwaith amaethyddol.

Ann Jones: A gytunwch na allwn fforddio anwybyddu diogelwch plant ar ffermydd, a dylem drin ffermydd yn yr un ffordd ag y caiff ffatrïoedd a gweithleoedd eraill eu trin gennym, lle na chaniateir i blant grwydro heb oruchwyliaeth, na hyd yn oed i fod yn bresennol ar yr eiddo? Hoffwn longyfarch Undeb y Gweithwyr Trafnidiaeth a Chyffredinol ar ei ymgyrch i wahardd plant o dan 16 oed rhag gyrru tractorau, ac i gryfhau'r defnydd o gynrychiolydd diogelwch crwydrol o amgylch ffermydd Cymru. A gytunwch mai dyma'r ffordd orau ymlaen ar gyfer arferion gwaith fferm?

Michael German: Cytunaf nad meysydd chwarae antur yw ffermydd; gweithleoedd ydynt ac mae angen eu trin felly. Yn 2001-02, bu un plentyn mewn damwain anghueol ar fferm yng Nghymru ac, ar gyfartaledd yn ystod y 16 flynedd diwethaf, lladdwyd tua phump o blant ar ffermydd ym Mhrydain Fawr. Mae hwn yn fater difrifol ac mae'r Awdurdod Gweithredol Iechyd a Diogelwch yn gweithio gyda sefydliadau ffermio ac eraill i godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r risgiau i

blant ar ffermydd.

William Graham: Minister, while being in total agreement with the ILO on child labour and recognising the inherent dangers on farms, will you comment on the impact that strict application of European Union directive 2002/44/EC on physical agents (vibration) will have on agriculture?

William Graham: Weinidog, er fy mod yn cytuno'n llwyr â'r Sefydliad Llafur Rhyngwladol ynghylch defnyddio plant i weithio ac er fy mod yn cydnabod y peryglon cynhenid ar ffermydd, a wnewch chi sôn am yr effaith y caiff cymhwyso'n llym gyfarwyddeb 2002/44/EC yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar gyfryngau ffisegol (dirgryndod) ar amaethyddiaeth?

Michael German: The Health and Safety Executive will consider the matter of young people—which was the question to which I presume you were referring—in terms of that directive, in its forthcoming revision of the guidelines for young people working on agricultural premises. It is not a devolved matter, but if you have specific worries about young people in relation to that directive, I will be pleased to hear them.

Michael German: Bydd yr Awdurdod Gweithredol Iechyd a Diogelwch yn ystyried pobl ifanc—sef y cwestiwn y tybiais yr oeddech yn cyfeirio ato—mewn perthynas â'r gyfarwyddeb honno, yn ei ddiwygiad buan o'r canllawiau i bobl ifanc sy'n gweithio ar eiddo amaethyddol. Nid mater datganoledig ydyw ond os oes gennych bryderon penodol am bobl ifanc mewn perthynas â'r gyfarwyddeb honno, byddwn yn falch i'w clywed.

Helen Mary Jones: To press you a little further on your response to Ann Jones, Minister, it is difficult to balance child safety and protection with the economic necessity of children participating in work, particularly on small family farms. You said that health and safety is not a devolved matter, but I would expect this Government to have a view on it. Can you tell us where you think that balance will be?

Helen Mary Jones: I bwysio arnoch ychydig yn fwy ar eich ymateb i Ann Jones, Weinidog, mae'n anodd cydbwysu diogelu ac amddiffyn plant gyda'r rheidrwydd economaidd i blant weithio, yn arbennig ar ffermydd bach teuluol. Dywedasoeh nad yw iechyd a diogelwch yn fater datganoledig, ond byddwn yn disgwyl i'r Llywodraeth hon arddel barn arno. A allwch ddweud wrthym ble bydd y cydbwysedd hwnnw yn eich barn chi?

Michael German: The revision of the Prevention of Accidents to Children in Agriculture Regulations 1998 is a matter for consideration. The issue of whether the regulations' definition of a child should remain as being someone under the age of 13, or whether it should rise to someone under the age of 16, is a matter for debate. The protection of young people concerns other Ministers, as the issue does not relate only to my portfolio. When the Assembly makes its position known to the UK Government on whether or not it should ratify ILO convention 184 (2001), I will ensure that the information is placed in the public domain and is accessible to all Assembly Members.

Michael German: Mae diwygio Rheoliadau Atal Damweiniau i Blant ar Ffermydd 1998 yn fater i'w ystyried. Mae pa un a ddylai'r rheoliadau barhau i ddiffinio plentyn fel rhywun o dan 13 oed neu a ddylai godi i rywun o dan 16 oed, yn fater i'w drafod. Mae diogelu pobl ifanc yn fater sy'n gofidio Gweinidogion eraill, gan nad yw'r broblem yn ymwneud â'm portffolio i yn unig. Pan fydd y Cynulliad yn gwneud ei safbwynt yn hysbys i Lywodraeth y DU ar ba un a ddylai gadarnhau confensiwn 184 (2001) y Sefydliad Llafur Rhyngwladol ai peidio, byddaf yn sicrhau bod y wybodaeth ar gael i'r cyhoedd a'i bod yn hygyrch i bob Aelod o'r Cynulliad.

2:30 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: Question 3 (OAQ20891) has been withdrawn.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 3 (OAQ20891) yn ôl.

Cyswllt Ffermio Farming Connect

Q4 Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the effect of Farming Connect on the farming community in Wales? (OAQ20876)

C4 Kirsty Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar effaith Cyswllt Ffermio ar y gymuned ffermio yng Nghymru? (OAQ20876)

Michael German: Farming Connect has been received positively by the whole of the farming community, with 4,794 registrations to date. During the first year, the programme has been developed and expanded; this will continue over the coming years to take account of the needs of farming families in Wales. There have been 1,926 registrations for the business planning service in mid Wales, 374 of which have been completed. The Welsh Assembly Government office in Llandrindod Wells has received 182 applications for farm improvement grants and farm enterprise grants, of which 114 have been approved, with a total grant commitment of £1.3 million.

Michael German: Derbyniwyd Cyswllt Ffermio yn gadarnhaol gan y gymuned ffermio gyfan, gyda 4,794 o gofrestrïadau hyd yma. Yn ystod y flwyddyn gyntaf, cafodd y rhaglen ei datblygu a'i hehangu; bydd hyn yn parhau dros y blynyddoedd nesaf i ystyried anghenion teuluoedd ffermio yng Nghymru. Bu 1,926 o gofrestrïadau ar gyfer y gwasanaeth cynllunio busnes yn y Canolbarth, a chwblhawyd 374 ohonynt. Derbyniodd swyddfa Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn Llandrindod 182 o geisiadau am grantiau gwella ffermydd a grantiau menter ffermydd, a chymeradwywyd 114 ohonynt gyda chyfanswm ymrwymiad grant o £1.3 miliwn.

Kirsty Williams: You are right to say that Farming Connect has been well received. This is particularly true of farmers in my constituency. Do you agree that the provision of free business advice is key to ensuring that we have an agriculture industry fit for the next 50 years? What provision has been made to ensure that agencies offering different types of business advice, such as the Business Connect service, work in close conjunction with Farming Connect so that other business opportunities for farmers can also be pursued?

Kirsty Williams: Yr ydych yn iawn i ddweud bod Cyswllt Ffermio wedi cael croeso brwd. Mae hyn yn arbennig o wir am ffermwyr yn fy etholaeth i. A gytunwch fod darparu cyngor busnes am ddim yn allweddol i sicrhau bod gennym ddiwydiant amaethyddol sy'n gymwys ar gyfer yr 50 mlynedd nesaf? Pa ddarpariaeth a wnaed i sicrhau bod asiantaethau sy'n cynnig mathau gwahanol o gyngor busnes, megis y gwasanaeth Cyswllt Busnes, yn cydweithio'n agos â Chyswllt Ffermio fel y gellir mynd ar drywydd cyfleoedd busnes eraill i ffermwyr?

Michael German: Understanding the business side of farming is crucial to making a successful business and, in some cases, to diversify or improve the farm business. For many farmers, the process of going through a business plan has been a successful exercise in that it has made them realise the cost of running their own business. Farming Connect has been well received. The pace at which consultancy arrangements and agreements for farmers are coming through is increasing. The service was a victim of its own success at the outset due to the vast number of

Michael German: Mae deall ochr fusnes ffermio yn hollbwysig i wneud busnes yn llwyddiannus, ac, mewn rhai achosion, i arallgyfeirio neu wella'r busnes ffermio. I lawer o ffermwyr, bu'r broses o fynd drwy gynllun busnes yn ymarfer llwyddiannus yn yr ystyr ei fod wedi gwneud iddynt sylweddoli cost rhedeg eu busnes eu hunain. Cafodd Cyswllt Ffermio ei groesawu'n frwd. Mae'r trefniadau ymgynghori a chytundebau i ffermwyr yn cynyddu'n gyflym. Dioddefodd y gwasanaeth o ganlyniad i'w lwyddiant ei hun ar y cychwyn oherwydd y

applications. I am pleased to say that the service has been well received across Wales, and that we will be able to meet the needs of all those who have made grant applications to improve their businesses or diversify in order to make the essential changes arising from the mid-term review of the common agricultural policy.

Dafydd Wigley: Onid ydych yn gwerthfawrogi gwaith swyddogion cyswllt ffermydd, o safbwynt cynnal amaethwyr? Os felly, a wnewch chi esbonio pam y caiff y swyddi hyn eu symud o Gaernarfon, Caerfyrddin a Llandrindod? Bydd Caernarfon yn colli tri o swyddogion, a deallaf y byddant yn gweithio ar y system integredig gweinyddu a rheoli, sydd heb gyllid digonol. Pam na chyflogir swyddogion priodol i weithio ar y system honno, fel y gall swyddogion cyswllt ffermydd barhau â'u gwaith hanfodol?

Michael German: There is a difference between the consultants, who help farmers prepare business plans, and the facilitators, who assist them with the handholding aspects. As you know, the consultancy draws on a wide range of experience in order to allow farmers the opportunity to draw up the business plans that they want. The people who provide the service directly to farmers have not informed me that the service is wanting in any way. Some months ago, I faced the issue raised by consultants regarding the shortage of time available to them to carry out their work. We have taken steps to improve that situation, and more consultant time is now available to farmers across Wales through Farming Connect.

nifer fawr o geisiadau. Mae'n bleser gennyf ddweud bod y gwasanaeth wedi ei groesawu'n frwd ledled Cymru, ac y byddwn yn gallu diwallu anghenion pawb sydd wedi gwneud cais am grant i wella eu busnes neu arallgyfeirio er mwyn gwneud y newidiadau hanfodol sy'n deillio o adolygiad canol tymor y polisi amaethyddol cyffredin.

Dafydd Wigley: Do you not appreciate the work undertaken by farm liaison officers in terms of supporting farmers? If so, will you explain why those posts are to be moved from Caernarfon, Carmarthen and Llandrindod Wells? Caernarfon will lose three officers and I understand that they will work on the integrated administration and control system, which is insufficiently funded. Why do you not employ appropriately trained officers to undertake IACS work, so that farm liaison officers can continue with their crucial work?

Michael German: Mae gwahaniaeth rhwng yr ymgynghorwyr, sy'n helpu ffermwyr i baratoi cynlluniau busnes, a'r hwyluswyr, sy'n eu cynorthwyo gyda'r agweddau dal dwylo. Fel y gwyddoch, mae'r ymgynghoriaeth yn defnyddio ystod eang o brofiad er mwyn rhoi cyfleoedd i ffermwyr lunio'r cynlluniau busnes sydd eu hangen arnynt. Nid yw'r bobl sy'n darparu'r gwasanaeth yn uniongyrchol i ffermwyr wedi fy hysbysu bod y gwasanaeth yn ddiffygiol mewn unrhyw ffordd. Rai misoedd yn ôl, wynebais y broblem a godwyd gan ymgynghorwyr o ran y prinder amser sydd ar gael iddynt gyflawni eu gwaith. Yr ydym wedi cymryd camau i wella'r sefyllfa honno, ac mae mwy o amser ymgynghori ar gael yn awr i ffermwyr ledled Cymru drwy Cyswllt Ffermio.

Hybu Cynnyrch Bwyd Cymru Dramor Promoting Welsh Food Produce Abroad

Q5 David Melding: What measures are in place to promote Welsh food produce abroad? (OAQ20869)

Michael German: Work is continuously being carried out by the National Assembly, working with the Welsh Development Agency food directorate and the agri-food partnership, to aid the promotion and selling

C5 David Melding: Pa fesurau sydd mewn grym i hyrwyddo cynnyrch bwyd Cymru dramor? (OAQ20869)

Michael German: Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn gwneud gwaith parhaus, gan weithio gyda chyfarwyddiaeth bwyd a phartneriaeth bwyd-amaeth Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, i gynorthwyo'r gwaith o

of Welsh agricultural produce at home and overseas. The WDA food directorate offers a range of support services to help Welsh food companies in pursuing opportunities internationally.

David Melding: Do you agree that there is a great opportunity to finish produce in Wales before marketing it abroad? There is huge interest in Welsh produce—wine, laverbread, and wonderful meat, which an Indian chef is now even flying to New York. We must focus on the higher end of the market, and encourage the exploitation of Welsh produce.

Michael German: I recently met the National Assembly's consultants who work for Food from Britain around Europe, and when I asked them what message they would like me to bring back to the National Assembly, the answer was 'more products'. A real opportunity exists for Welsh food producers to get their produce onto tables around the world. We are having some success, but to ensure that it operates well we must create a greater market-oriented framework for the food processing industry in Wales. That will allow us to deliver internationally. There is a major opportunity here, and the work that is being done through the WDA food directorate is paying dividends.

Mick Bates: I am sure that you are aware that a large amount of Welsh wool is being exported to China through Irish middlemen. What actions can you take to ensure that we export our own wool directly to China, so that our producers receive a greater share of the return?

Michael German: Thank you, Mick, for a supplementary question on wool, following an original question about food. This question is about trade restriction. I have been in contact with the UK Government—which is responsible for ensuring free trade—to ask it to seek to remove the current restrictions placed on the UK. I will report back to you as soon as I have firm information on that.

hybu a gwerthu cynnyrch amaethyddol o Gymru yn y wlad hon a thramor. Mae cyfarwyddiaeth bwyd y WDA yn cynnig ystod o wasanaethau cymorth i helpu cwmnïau bwyd o Gymru i fanteisio ar gyfleoedd yn rhyngwladol.

David Melding: A gytunwch fod cyfle mawr i gwblhau cynnyrch yng Nghymru cyn ei farchnata dramor? Mae diddordeb enfawr mewn cynnyrch Cymreig—gwin, bara lawr a chig gwych, ac mae cogydd Indiaidd hyd yn oed yn ei hedfan i Efrog Newydd erbyn hyn. Rhaid inni ganolbwyntio ar ben uchaf y farchnad, ac annog pobl i ddefnyddio cynnyrch Cymreig.

Michael German: Yn ddiweddar, cyfarfûm ag ymgynghorwyr y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol sy'n gweithio i Food from Britain ledled Ewrop, a phan ofynnais iddynt pa neges y byddent yn hoffi imi ei throsglwyddo i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yr ateb oedd 'mwy o gynhyrchion'. Mae cyfle gwirioneddol yn bodoli i gynhyrchwyr bwyd Cymreig gael eu cynnyrch ar fyrddau ledled y byd. Yr ydym yn cael rhywfaint o lwyddiant, ond er mwyn sicrhau ei fod yn gweithredu'n dda rhaid inni greu fframwaith sy'n canolbwyntio mwy ar y farchnad ar gyfer y diwydiant prosesu bwyd yng Nghymru. Bydd hynny yn caniatáu inni ddarparu'n rhyngwladol. Mae cyfle mawr yma, ac mae'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud drwy gyfarwyddiaeth bwyd y WDA yn dwyn ffrwyth.

Mick Bates: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol bod llawer o wllân Cymreig yn cael ei allforio i Tsieina drwy ryngfasnachwyr Gwyddelig. Pa gamau y gallwch eu cymryd i sicrhau ein bod yn allforio ein gwllân ein hunain yn uniongyrchol i Tsieina, fel bod ein cynhyrchwyr yn cael cyfran fwy o'r elw?

Michael German: Diolch ichi, Mick, am gwestiwn atodol ar wllân, yn dilyn cwestiwn gwreiddiol am fwyd. Mae a wnelo'r cwestiwn hwn â chyfyngiadau masnach. Bûm mewn cysylltiad â Llywodraeth y DU—sy'n gyfrifol am sicrhau masnach rydd—i ofyn iddi geisio dileu'r cyfyngiadau cyfredol a osodwyd ar y DU. Adroddaf yn ôl ichi cyn gynted ag y caf wybodaeth gadarn am hynny.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Onid yw cwestiwn David Melding yn tynnu sylw at y broblem fawr sydd yn wynebu'r diwydiant yng Nghymru? Gwnaed gwaith eithriadol o dda o ran hyrwyddo cynnyrch Cymru dramor gan Hybu Cig Oen ac Eidion Cymru Cyf, ymhlith asianataethau eraill, a'r bartneriaeth bwyd-amaeth, y cyfeirioch ati. Fodd bynnag, cymharol ychydig o waith a wnaed ar farchnata a darganfod marchnadoedd go iawn ar gyfer cynnyrch o Gymru. A allwch ein sicrhau y bydd y cwmni hyrwyddo cig newydd yn canolbwyntio ar farchnata cynnyrch o Gymru, yn hytrach na darganfod mwy a mwy o feysydd lle y gellid ei hyrwyddo?

Michael German: The task of the new Welsh meat body will be to promote and market our produce externally. There is an opportunity, as we all realise, to increase the market share for Welsh red meat. That is the purpose of the new organisation, and I am pleased to say that, with the industry's support, it will have the opportunity—and substantial resources—to do so. We are finding, more generally, that we can also use other aspects of Welsh food promotion throughout Europe. If all the agencies in Wales—the WDA, the Meat and Livestock Commission, farming interests, and Welsh Lamb and Beef Promotions Ltd—work together, we can ensure a united front for promoting Welsh food.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Does David Melding's question not highlight the great problem that faces the industry in Wales? Much exemplary work has been done in terms of promoting Welsh produce abroad by Welsh Lamb and Beef Promotions Ltd, among other agencies, and the agri-food partnership, to which you referred. However, relatively little work has been done on marketing, and finding real markets for Welsh produce. Can you assure us that the new meat promotion company will focus on marketing Welsh produce, rather than finding more and more places where it could be promoted?

Michael German: Tasg y corff cig Cymreig newydd fydd hybu a marchnata ein cynnyrch yn allanol. Mae cyfle, fel y sylweddola pob un ohonom, i gynyddu cyfran y farchnad ar gyfer cig coch Cymru. Dyna bwrpas y sefydliad newydd, ac mae'n bleser gennyf ddweud, gyda chefnogaeth y diwydiant, y caiff y cyfle—ac adnoddau sylweddol—i wneud hynny. Gwelwn, yn fwy cyffredinol, y gallwn ddefnyddio agweddau eraill hefyd ar hybu bwyd Cymreig ledled Ewrop. Pe bai pob un o'r asiantaethau yng Nghymru—y WDA, y Comisiwn Cig a Da Byw, buddiannau ffermio, a Hybu Cig Oen ac Eidion Cymru Cyf—yn cydweithio, gallwn sicrhau undod ar gyfer hybu bwyd Cymreig.

Cynhyrchu Ffrwythau Fruit Production

Q6 David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on fruit production? (OAQ20864)

Michael German: There is a relatively small scale of fruit production in Wales. The WDA's speciality food programme is available to support producers, and to exploit markets in Wales, the UK, and further afield. Fruit production has been included in the new horticultural strategy, which will be delivered to Wales shortly.

David Melding: Do you agree that this may provide marketing possibilities and developmental opportunities for the rural

C6 David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gynhyrchu ffrwythau? (OAQ20864)

Michael German: Ni chynhyrchir llawer o ffrwythau yng Nghymru. Mae rhaglen fwyd arbenigol y WDA ar gael i gefnogi cynhyrchwyr, ac i fanteisio ar farchnadoedd yng Nghymru, y DU, ac ymhellach i ffwrdd. Cynhwyswyd cynhyrchu ffrwythau yn y strategaeth arddwriaethol newydd, a gaiff ei chyflwyno i Gymru yn fuan.

David Melding: A gytunwch y gall hyn gynnig posibiliadau marchnata a chyfleoedd datblygu i'r economi wledig? Os ystyriwch y

economy? If you consider the finished products that can be made from fruit—most notably in alcohol, such as wine, perry, calvados, and many other fruit liqueurs—should we not seriously encourage that?

Michael German: Indeed; I would be pleased to take any opportunity to promote Welsh fruit, particularly in the derived forms that you suggest. I would also be pleased to join you in any measures that you wish to take, to ensure that I have a much better understanding of this complex matter.

Eleanor Burnham: According to recent figures, 90 per cent of organic fruit consumed in the UK is imported. Where possible, do you not think that it should be our ambition in Wales to produce more of our own organic fruit for consumption here and for export, in line with the Assembly's sustainable development goals, and in order to enhance Wales's green image?

2:40 p.m.

Michael German: The organic sector is important to Wales, and we are seeking to expand it. I have already given a commitment to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee that we will seek to ensure that the support measures for organic stewardship in Wales will be no less than that which is being offered in England. I hope to make a statement on that soon.

Janet Ryder: In the vale of Clwyd, soft fruit production is particularly important. What measures will you introduce to develop fruit production in north-east Wales?

Michael German: As I indicated, the horticultural strategy will include fruit production. The chair of the horticultural panel is Dr Mark Simpkin, who is the Principal of the Welsh College of Horticulture in your area, and he will present a report to me shortly. The group is making good progress. I expect to receive the draft strategy before Christmas, and I intend to report on it to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee in January. The publication of the strategy will follow; that

cynhyrchion terfynol y gellir eu gwneud o ffrwythau—alcohol yn bennaf, megis gwin, perai, calvados, a llawer o wirodydd ffrwythau eraill—oni ddylem annog hynny o ddifrif?

Michael German: Yn wir; byddai'n bleser gennyf fanteisio ar unrhyw gyfle i hyrwyddo ffrwythau Cymru, yn arbennig yn y ffurfiau deilliedig a awgrymwch. Byddai'n bleser gennyf hefyd ymuno â chi mewn unrhyw gamau yr hoffech eu cymryd, er mwyn sicrhau fy mod yn deall y mater cymhleth hwn yn well o lawer.

Eleanor Burnham: Yn ôl ffigurau diweddar, mewnforir 90 y cant o'r ffrwythau organig a fwyteir yn y DU. Lle bo'n bosibl, oni chredwch y dylai fod yn uchelgais gennym yng Nghymru i gynhyrchu mwy o'n ffrwythau organig ni ein hunain i'w bwyta yma ac i'w hallforio, yn unol â nodau datblygu cynaliadwy y Cynulliad, ac er mwyn gwella delwedd werdd Cymru?

Michael German: Mae'r sector organig yn bwysig i Gymru, ac yr ydym yn ceisio ei ymestyn. Yr wyf eisoes wedi addo i'r Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig y byddwn yn ceisio sicrhau na fydd y mesurau cymorth ar gyfer stiwardiaeth organig yng Nghymru yn llai na'r hyn sy'n cael ei gynnig yn Lloegr. Gobeithiaf wneud datganiad ar hynny'n fuan.

Janet Ryder: Yn nyffryn Clwyd, mae cynhyrchu ffrwythau meddal yn arbennig o bwysig. Pa fesurau a gyflwynwch i ddatblygu gwaith cynhyrchu ffrwythau yn y Gogledd-ddwyrain?

Michael German: Fel y nodais, bydd y strategaeth arddwriaethol yn cynnwys cynhyrchu ffrwythau. Cadeirydd y panel garddwriaethol yw Dr Mark Simpkin, sef Prifathro Coleg Garddwriaethol Cymru yn eich ardal chi, a bydd yn cyflwyno adroddiad i mi yn fuan. Mae'r grŵp yn gwneud cynnydd da. Disgwyliaf gael y strategaeth ddrafft cyn y Nadolig, a bwriadaf gyflwyno adroddiad arni i'r Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig ym mis Ionawr. Caiff y strategaeth ei chyhoeddi wedyn a fydd,

will, I hope, indicate the measures that we intend to take as a result of that strategy.

gobeithiaf, yn nodi'r camau y bwriadwn eu cymryd o ganlyniad i'r strategaeth honno.

Clwy'r Traed a'r Genau Foot and Mouth Outbreak

Q7 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement on the European Parliament report into the foot and mouth disease outbreak? (OAQ20856)

C7 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar adroddiad y Senedd Ewropeaidd ar yr achos o glwy'r traed a'r genau? (OAQ20856)

Michael German: The European Parliament temporary committee on the foot and mouth disease has adopted the final draft of its report, which will be considered by the European Parliament in a plenary meeting during the December session, either on 17 or 18 December. It would be inappropriate for me to comment on the draft, not least because it only exists in German. We will consider the final version of the report when it has been approved by the European Parliament, and when we receive a copy.

Michael German: Mae pwyllgor dros dro Senedd Ewrop ar glwy'r traed a'r genau wedi mabwysiadu drafft terfynol ei adroddiad, a gaiff ei ystyried gan Senedd Ewrop mewn cyfarfod llawn yn ystod sesiwn Rhagfyr, naill ai ar 17 neu 18 Rhagfyr. Byddai'n amhriodol imi roi sylwadau ar y drafft, yn bennaf am mai yn Almaeneg yn unig y mae ar gael. Byddwn yn ystyried fersiwn terfynol yr adroddiad pan fydd wedi ei gymeradwyo gan Senedd Ewrop, a phan dderbyniwn gopi.

William Graham: Will you confirm that contingency plans to tackle foot and mouth disease—which we hope will never happen again—will include an immediate ban on animal movements and the use of vaccination rather than wholesale culling, to contain the spread of the disease?

William Graham: A wnewch chi gadarnhau y bydd cynlluniau wrth gefn i fynd i'r afael â chlwy'r traed a'r genau—y gobeithiwn na fydd yn digwydd byth eto—yn cynnwys gwahardd symud anifeiliaid ar unwaith a chynllun brechu yn hytrach na difa ar raddfa eang, i gadw'r clefyd rhag lledu?

Michael German: The interim draft strategy for the future, if we had another outbreak, would immediately apply a ban on all animal movements. That was one of the lessons learnt in the UK inquiry. I have previously told the Assembly that the science is still not exact enough to deal with the matter of vaccination accurately. However, it is important that vaccination-to-live is part of the strategy for ring-fencing incidents of foot and mouth disease. As science gives us a properly controlled and able vaccination regime, we will be able to implement it and include it in the policy agreement. Vaccination will be part of the future strategy for foot and mouth disease outbreaks should there, unfortunately, be another incident in Wales.

Michael German: Byddai'r strategaeth ddrafft dros dro ar gyfer y dyfodol, pe bai achosion eraill o'r clwyf, yn gwahardd holl symudiadau anifeiliaid ar unwaith. Dyna oedd un o'r gwersi a ddysgwyd yn ymchwiliad y DU. Yr wyf wedi sôn wrth y Cynulliad o'r blaen nad yw gwyddoniaeth o hyd yn ddigon manwl gywir i ddelio â brechu yn gywir. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig bod brechu i fyw yn rhan o'r strategaeth i gyfyngu achosion o glwy'r traed a'r genau. Wrth i wyddoniaeth ddarparu cyfundrefn brechu gymwys wedi ei rheoli'n briodol i ni, byddwn yn gallu ei rhoi ar waith a'i chynnwys yn y cytundeb polisi. Bydd brechu yn rhan o strategaeth y dyfodol ar gyfer achosion o glwy'r traed a'r genau pe bai, yn anffodus, yn digwydd eto yng Nghymru.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch ei bod yn anffodus na chafwyd ymchwiliad cyhoeddus i glwy'r traed a'r genau yng Nghymru. Pan gyhoedda'r Undeb

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I am sure that you will agree that it is unfortunate that there was no public inquiry into foot and mouth disease in Wales. When the European Union

Ewropeaidd ei ganfyddiadau, mewn iaith y gallwn ei deall, a wnewch ymrwymo i sicrhau y cawn drafodaeth lawn mewn cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig, ac mewn Cyfarfod Llawn ynglŷn â'r gwersi i Gymru eu dysgu o'r ymchwiliad hwnnw?

Michael German: The inquiry was not obligated to report to the Government of Wales, or to the UK Government. As you know, neither the Welsh Assembly Government, nor its officials, were invited to give evidence to the inquiry. The Minister previously responsible for rural affairs asked to give evidence to it, and he went to Strasbourg to do so. I understand from reports that the document makes no mention of the outbreak in Wales. When I receive it, I will consider what action is necessary to bring it before the Assembly.

publishes its findings, in a language that we can understand, will you give a commitment that you will ensure that we have a full discussion in a meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, and in Plenary, on the lessons that Wales can learn from that inquiry?

Michael German: Nid oedd rheidrwydd ar yr ymchwiliad i gyflwyno adroddiad i Lywodraeth Cymru, nac i Lywodraeth y DU. Fel y gwyddoch, ni wahoddwyd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, na'i swyddogion, i roi tystiolaeth i'r ymchwiliad. Gofynnodd y Gweinidog a oedd â chyfrifoldeb blaenorol dros faterion gwledig am y cyfle i gyflwyno tystiolaeth, ac aeth i Strasbourg i wneud hynny. Deallaf o'r adroddiadau nad yw'r ddogfen yn sôn am yr achosion yng Nghymru o gwbl. Pan dderbyniaf ef, byddaf yn ystyried pa gamau sydd angen eu cymryd i'w ddwyn gerbron y Cynulliad.

Cwestiynau ar Lywodraeth Agored i'r Trefnydd Questions on Open Government to the Business Minister

Is-adrannau o fewn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Divisions within the Welsh Assembly Government

Q1 Ann Jones: What plans does the Minister have to publish to the internet a guide to the various divisions within the Welsh Assembly Government? (OAQ20795)

The Business Minister (Carwyn Jones): In due course, we intend to publish as much information about the responsibilities of Assembly divisions and Assembly staff on the internet as is consistent with the Data Protection Act 1998 and other considerations. A senior management organisation chart is already published, and officials are currently researching the approach of other public bodies. We will then seek to draw on best practice in terms of publishing this type of information.

Ann Jones: I am pleased that we are looking at that. Many feel that the openness of the Assembly's work is a great asset to the Assembly and to Wales. However, confusion remains over Ministers' policy portfolios and the corresponding civil service divisions.

C1 Ann Jones: Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Gweinidog i gyhoeddi arweiniad ar y gwahanol is-adrannau o fewn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar y rhyngwrwyd? (OAQ20795)

Y Trefnydd (Carwyn Jones): Maes o law, bwriadwn gyhoeddi cymaint o wybodaeth am gyfrifoldebau is-adrannau'r Cynulliad a staff y Cynulliad ar y rhyngwrwyd ag sy'n gyson â Deddf Diogelu Data 1998 ac ystyriaethau eraill. Cyhoeddwyd siart drefniadaeth yr uwch reolwyr eisoes, ac mae swyddogion ar hyn o bryd yn ymchwilio i'r ymagwedd a fabwysiedir gan gyrff cyhoeddus eraill. Yna byddwn yn ceisio defnyddio arferion gorau o ran cyhoeddi'r math hwn o wybodaeth.

Ann Jones: Yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn ystyried hynny. Teimla llawer fod natur agored gwaith y Cynulliad yn ased gwerthfawr i'r Cynulliad ac i Gymru. Fodd bynnag, erys dryswch ynghylch portffolios polisi y Gweinidogion ac is-adrannau

When people search the internet site, they cannot find that information. Will you consider extending the information that is provided on the intranet to the internet, with a guide in plain English, so that people can easily access that information?

Carwyn Jones: As I said earlier, where it is possible to provide that information, and it does not contravene the law or good practice, then that can be done. However, that is part of the review currently underway. I take your point, because finding information is quite difficult when portfolios are not always coterminous with divisional responsibilities.

Alun Cairns: The internet provides an innovative way of developing public services and saving money. Is the Assembly Government considering advertising job vacancies on the internet, drawing attention to the posting of new jobs on the website through the media perhaps? That could be done monthly and would save on the vast sums currently spent on advertising in the Welsh media.

Carwyn Jones: There are two difficulties with just using the internet to advertise posts. The first is that we must follow the UK civil service code of practice. We cannot depart from that. The second is the question of equality of access. The National Assembly has a statutory responsibility on equality of opportunity. Your suggestion would effectively mean that only those with internet access could apply for positions, rather than all those who can read about such opportunities and vacancies through the newspapers. I accept that advertising on the internet is useful, and there is no difficulty with that, but replacing newspaper advertising with advertising on the internet would not be viable given the current state of technology and the civil service code of practice's terms on advertising posts.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I thought that the Minister was taking his job very seriously when he promised to publish divisions in the Welsh Assembly Government. We know that

cyfatebol y gwasanaeth sifil. Pan fydd pobl yn chwilio safle'r rhyngwryd, ni allant ddod o hyd i'r wybodaeth honno. A ystyriwch ehangu'r wybodaeth a ddarperir ar y fewnwyd i'r rhyngwryd, gyda chanllawiau mewn iaith syml, fel y gall pobl gael gafael ar y wybodaeth honno yn hawdd?

Carwyn Jones: Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, lle bo'n bosibl darparu'r wybodaeth honno, ac os nad yw'n torri'r gyfraith neu arferion da, yna gellir gwneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n rhan o'r adolygiad sy'n cael ei gynnal ar hyn o bryd. Derbyniaf eich pwynt, oherwydd gall fod yn eithaf anodd dod o hyd i wybodaeth pan nad yw'r portffolios bob amser yn cyd-fynd â chyfrifoldebau'r is-adrannau.

Alun Cairns: Darpara'r rhyngwryd ffordd arloesol o ddatblygu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ac arbed arian. A yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ystyried hysbysebu swyddi gwag ar y rhyngwryd, gan dynnu sylw at swyddi newydd a gyhoeddwyd ar y wefan drwy'r cyfryngau efallai? Gellid gwneud hynny'n fisol a byddai'n arbed llawer iawn o'r arian a gaiff ei wario ar hyn o bryd ar hysbysebu yn y cyfryngau Cymreig.

Carwyn Jones: Mae dau anhawster wrth ddefnyddio'r rhyngwryd yn unig i hysbysebu swyddi. Y cyntaf yw bod yn rhaid inni ddilyn cod ymarfer gwasanaeth sifil y DU. Ni allwn wyro oddi wrth hynny. Yr ail yw'r cwestiwn o sicrhau mynediad cyfartal. Mae gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol gyfrifoldeb statudol o ran cyfle cyfartal. Yn y bôn, byddai eich awgrym yn golygu mai dim ond y rheini â chysylltiad i'r rhyngwryd a allai wneud cais am swyddi, yn hytrach na'r holl bobl hynny sy'n gallu darllen am gyfleoedd a swyddi gwag o'r fath yn y papurau newydd. Derbyniaf fod hysbysebu ar y rhyngwryd yn ddefnyddiol, ac nid oes unrhyw anhawster gyda hynny, ond ni fyddai'n ymarferol hysbysebu ar y rhyngwryd yn lle hysbysebu mewn papurau newydd o gofio cyflwr presennol technoleg a thelerau cod ymarfer y gwasanaeth sifil ar hysbysebu swyddi.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Credais fod y Gweinidog yn cymryd ei swydd o ddifrif pan addawodd gyhoeddi *divisions* yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Gwyddom

there are divisions in the Welsh Assembly Government, but I am glad that Carwyn is prepared to publish them on the internet. At present, all we have is the Deputy First Minister taking the credit for everything the Government does, and even what it does not do. I am therefore glad that we will now learn of the divisions in the Welsh Assembly Government.

Carwyn Jones: Well— [Laughter.]

The Presiding Officer: Order. That misinterpretation of English does not arise from this question.

fod *divisions* yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ond yr wyf yn falch bod Carwyn yn barod i'w cyhoeddi ar y rhyngwrwd. Ar hyn o bryd, y cyfan sydd gennym yw'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn cymryd y clod am bopeth a wna'r Llywodraeth, a hyd yn oed yr hyn nad yw'n ei wneud. Yr wyf yn falch felly y byddwn yn awr yn dysgu am y *divisions* yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Carwyn Jones: Wel—[Chwerthin.]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw'r camddechongliad hwnnw o'r Saesneg yn deillio o'r cwestiwn hwn.

Deddf Diogelu Data 1998 Data Protection Act 1998

Q2 David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on the implications for open government of the Data Protection Act 1998? (OAQ20773)

C2 David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar oblygiadau'r Ddeddf Diogelu Data 1998 i lywodraeth agored? (OAQ20773)

Carwyn Jones: The Data Protection Act regulates how information on individuals is obtained and used. It provides individuals with the right of access to personal data held on them. It is based on respect for the privacy of personal information and the individual's right to know what information is kept on him or her. The Assembly's Code of Practice on Public Access to Information is intended to maximise transparency of decision-making and access to information while respecting the privacy of personal information of the kind covered in the Data Protection Act.

Carwyn Jones: Mae'r Ddeddf Diogelu Data yn rheoleiddio'r modd y cesglir gwybodaeth am unigolion a'r modd y'i defnyddir. Rhydd yr hawl i unigolion weld data personol a gedwir amdanynt hwy. Fe'i seilir ar barch i breifatrwydd gwybodaeth bersonol a hawl yr unigolyn i wybod pa wybodaeth a gedwir amdano ef neu amdani hi. Bwriedir i God Ymarfer y Cynulliad ar Ganiatáu i'r Cyhoedd Weld Gwybodaeth wneud y broses gwneud penderfyniadau a chael gafael ar wybodaeth mor dryloyw â phosibl tra'n parchu preifatrwydd gwybodaeth bersonol o'r math a gwmpesir yn y Ddeddf Diogelu Data.

David Melding: One Assembly source has maintained that the Data Protection Act prevents the Assembly from publishing Assembly Members' allowances. The Data Protection Act is a UK Act, yet such allowances are published in Northern Ireland and Scotland. The publication of allowances there does not seem to contravene the UK Act. Here, however, it somehow does. Can you give an assurance that the Executive will seek definitive legal advice on this issue and circulate it to Members so that we can decide once and for all whether our allowances should be published?

David Melding: Mae rhywun o'r Cynulliad wedi honni bod y Ddeddf Diogelu Data yn atal y Cynulliad rhag cyhoeddi lwfansau Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Mae'r Ddeddf Diogelu Data yn Ddeddf i'r DU, ac eto cyhoeddir lwfansau o'r fath yng Ngogledd Iwerddon a'r Alban. Nid yw'n ymddangos bod cyhoeddi lwfansau yno yn mynd yn groes i Ddeddf y DU. Fodd bynnag, ymddengys ei fod yn gwneud hynny yma. A allwch roi sicrwydd y bydd y Weithrediaeth yn ceisio cyngor cyfreithiol pendant ar y mater hwn ac yn ei ddosbarthu i bob Aelod fel y gallwn benderfynu unwaith ac am byth a ddylid cyhoeddi ein lwfansau?

Carwyn Jones: Legal advice is being sought at present. I have asked officials to look at the situation in Scotland and Northern Ireland in particular. The preliminary advice—and I emphasise that it is preliminary—is that, if staff salaries are to be disclosed, then the affected support staff's consent should be obtained by the Assembly Member beforehand. That is the preliminary advice at present. It may be that, in Scotland and Northern Ireland, there is an express term in the contracts of those employed by members of those institutions that their salary will be made public. That would not normally be inserted in contracts of staff employed by Assembly Members. However, work has already begun on obtaining definitive legal advice.

Carwyn Jones: Ceisir cyngor cyfreithiol ar hyn o bryd. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i swyddogion edrych ar y sefyllfa yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon yn arbennig. Y cyngor rhagarweiniol—a phwysleisiaf mai rhagarweiniol ydyw—yw, os datgelir cyflogau'r staff, dylai'r Aelod Cynulliad gael caniatâd y staff cymorth yr effeithir arnynt ymlaen llaw. Dyna'r cyngor rhagarweiniol ar hyn o bryd. Efallai, yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon, fod term pendant yng nghontractau'r rheini a gyflogir gan aelodau'r sefydliadau hynny y caiff eu cyflogau eu cyhoeddi. Ni fyddai hynny fel arfer yn cael ei gynnwys yng nghontractau staff a gyflogir gan Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, mae gwaith eisoes wedi dechrau ar gael cyngor cyfreithiol pendant.

2:50 p.m.

Gwefan Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru The National Assembly for Wales Website

Q3 Brian Gibbons: Will the Minister make a statement on whether the National Assembly for Wales website is sufficiently user-friendly? (OAQ20788)

C3 Brian Gibbons: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar p'un a yw gwefan Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn ddigon hawdd i'w defnyddio? (OAQ20788)

Carwyn Jones: There is always scope to improve the content and organisation of material on a large internet site, such as ours in the Assembly. Given such a large site, there are bound to be weaknesses, and I know that officials are working to make it better and easier to use. One recent addition for example is the hyperlinked version of the publication scheme, which was launched about a fortnight ago. The introduction of an A to Z index is another scheme, and there will be more improvements in time.

Carwyn Jones: Mae wastad yn bosibl gwella cynnwys a threfn deunydd ar safle rhyngwyd mawr, fel ein safle ni yn y Cynulliad. O gofio ei fod yn safle mor fawr, mae gwendidau yn siŵr o godi, a gwn fod swyddogion yn gweithio i'w wella a'i wneud yn haws i'w ddefnyddio. Un ychwanegiad diweddar, er enghraifft, yw'r fersiwn hypergyswllt o'r cynllun cyhoeddi, a lansiwyd tua phythefnos yn ôl. Mae cyflwyno mynegai A i Z yn gynllun arall, a bydd mwy o welliannau maes o law.

Brian Gibbons: I do not believe that there is a sense of urgency about addressing the despondency that I imagine that most users who approach the website, which is of labyrinthine complexity, feel. The site is unintuitive, and the search engine is more of a boohoo than a yahoo in terms of its capacity. We must do better if we are to project a good public image of the Assembly's activities.

Brian Gibbons: Ni chredaf fod brys mawr i ymdrin â'r anobaith y dychmygaf y mae'r rhan fwyaf o ddefnyddwyr sy'n mynd i'r wefan, sydd yn eithriadol o gymhleth, yn ei deimlo. Nid yw'r safle yn sythweledol, ac mae'r peiriant chwilio yn fwy o bŵ-hŵ na yahoo o ran ei gapasiti. Rhaid inni wneud yn well os ydym am greu delwedd gyhoeddus dda o weithgareddau'r Cynulliad.

Carwyn Jones: As I said, work is being

Carwyn Jones: Fel y dywedais, mae gwaith

carried forward. The search engine is one of the difficulties. If you put in a word, it will pick out every single mention of that word, often prioritising the Record of Proceedings, rather than documentation such as Committee papers and so on. That is being considered, although, given the size of the site, it is anticipated that all problems will take some time to resolve. However, those problems are being addressed urgently.

Janice Gregory: I support Brian's complaint about our website. However, I have visited the House of Commons website—as I am sure other Members have—and it is even more dire than ours is. There is an important issue here. In its newsletter, the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations stated how difficult it is to access information on funding. As you know, it provides information to voluntary groups. If it is having difficulty, then God help our voluntary groups.

Carwyn Jones: I accept your point. I reiterate that it has been made clear to me that it is difficult for the public and members of this institution to access information. Progress is being made, although it is probably right to concede that it could be made faster, to ensure that the site becomes more user-friendly. I welcome Members' comments and I will take them on board.

William Graham: To move on from the failure of the Assembly's website to be user-friendly, will you specify how many requests for information were not provided within the 15 working days stated in the Code of Practice on the Provision of Information?

Carwyn Jones: I will write to you with those figures.

Brian Hancock: Given your comments about the difficulty of finding information on the website, are enough members of staff being employed to maintain and develop it, and do you have any comparative figures with any other devolved institutions in that regard?

Carwyn Jones: I am not sure whether that is

yn mynd rhagddo. Mae'r peiriant chwilio yn un o'r anawsterau. Os rhoddwch air i mewn, bydd yn dewis pob enghraifft o'r gair hwnnw, gan flaenoriaethu Cofnod y Trafodion yn aml, yn hytrach na dogfennaeth megis papurau Pwyllgorau ac yn y blaen. Mae hyn yn cael ei ystyried, er, o gofio maint y safle, rhagwelir y bydd yn cymryd peth amser i ddatrys yr holl broblemau. Fodd bynnag, ymdrinnir â'r problemau hynny ar frys.

Janice Gregory: Cefnogaf gŵyn Brian am ein gwefan. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wedi edrych ar wefan Tŷ'r Cyffredin—fel y mae Aelodau eraill wedi gwneud mae'n siŵr—ac mae hyd yn oed yn fwy enbyd na'n gwefan ni. Mae hyn yn fater pwysig. Yn ei gylchlythyr, nododd Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr pa mor anodd yw cael gwybodaeth am ariannu. Fel y gwyddoch, darpara wybodaeth i grwpiau gwirfoddol. Os yw'r gymdeithas yn cael anhawster, yna Duw a helpo ein grwpiau gwirfoddol.

Carwyn Jones: Derbyniaf eich pwynt. Dywedaf unwaith eto imi gael y neges yn glir ei bod yn anodd i'r cyhoedd ac aelodau'r sefydliad hwn gael gafael ar wybodaeth. Mae cynnydd yn cael ei wneud, er ei fod yn iawn cyfaddef, mae'n siŵr, y gellid ei wneud yn gynt, er mwyn sicrhau bod y safle yn dod yn fwy hwylus i ddefnyddwyr. Croesawaf sylwadau'r Aelodau ac fe'u hystyriaif.

William Graham: I symud ymlaen o fethiant gwefan y Cynulliad i fod yn hwylus i ddefnyddwyr, a nodwch faint o geisiadau am wybodaeth nas darparwyd o fewn y 15 diwrnod gwaith a nodwyd yn y Cod Ymarfer ar Ddarparu Gwybodaeth?

Carwyn Jones: Ysgrifennaf atoch gyda'r ffigurau hynny.

Brian Hancock: O gofio eich sylwadau am yr anhawster i ddod o hyd i wybodaeth ar y wefan, a gyflogir digon o aelodau staff i'w chynnal a'i datblygu, ac a oes gennych unrhyw ffigurau cymharol gydag unrhyw sefydliadau datganoledig eraill yn hynny o beth?

Carwyn Jones: Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw

a Government matter. I am also not sure whether it is the Presiding Office or the Government that is responsible for such staff. However, as a general principle, any institution would need to ensure that sufficient staff are available to properly maintain websites.

The Presiding Officer: Question 4 (OAQ20771) has been transferred for written answer.

hynny'n fater i'r Llywodraeth. Nid wyf yn siŵr ychwaith ai Swyddfa'r Llywydd neu'r Llywodraeth sy'n gyfrifol am staff o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, fel egwyddor gyffredinol, byddai angen i unrhyw sefydliad sicrhau bod digon o staff ar gael i gynnal gwefannau yn briodol.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 4 (OAQ20771) i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

Darparu Gwybodaeth i Aelodau Providing Information to Assembly Members

Q5 Phil Williams: What guidelines has the Assembly Government adopted to ensure that government officials are free to provide Members of Assembly Committees with all non-sensitive factual information relevant to their contribution to the development of Assembly policy? (OAQ20796)

Carwyn Jones: The guidelines are set out in the Code of Practice on the Provision of Information to Assembly Members, and in Standing Order No. 17. The code of practice notes that officials

'will aim to provide Members with relevant, accurate and timely information in order for Members to carry out their duties'

and that Committee members may seek information

'to enable them to make an effective contribution to Committee business.'

Phil Williams: Assembly Members are now on a separate computer domain, and there is little chance of sensitive e-mails going astray. What plans does the Government have to remove the block that prevents officials sending e-mails to Assembly Members, while the same officials can send the same e-mails to anyone else? I would like a clear answer, because I recently received a letter suggesting the problem that I experienced in receiving papers had been resolved after the first meeting of the Committee in question. However, that was not the case. The same

C5 Phil Williams: Pa ganllawiau y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi'u mabwysiadu er mwyn sicrhau bod swyddogion y llywodraeth yn gallu darparu i Aelodau Pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad yr holl wybodaeth ffeithiol ansensitif sy'n berthnasol i'w cyfraniad hwy o ran datblygu polisiau'r Cynulliad? (OAQ20796)

Carwyn Jones: Nodir y canllawiau yn y Cod Ymarfer ar Ddarparu Gwybodaeth i Aelodau'r Cynulliad, ac yn Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 17. Noda'r cod ymarfer y bydd swyddogion

'yn anelu at gynnig gwybodaeth berthnasol, manwl a phrydlon i Aelodau er mwyn iddynt allu gwneud eu dyletswyddau'

ac y gall aelodau'r Pwyllgorau geisio gwybodaeth

'i'w galluogi i wneud cyfraniad effeithiol at fusnes Pwyllgor.'

Phil Williams: Mae Aelodau'r Cynulliad mewn parth cyfrifiadurol ar wahân yn awr, ac nid yw'n debygol yr â negeseuon e-bost sensitif ar gyfeiliorn. Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Llywodraeth i ddileu'r rhwystr sy'n atal swyddogion rhag anfon negeseuon e-bost at Aelodau'r Cynulliad, er y gall yr un swyddogion anfon yr un negeseuon e-bost at unrhyw un arall? Hoffwn gael ateb clir, oherwydd yn ddiweddar derbyniais lythyr yn awgrymu bod y broblem a gefais i gael papurau wedi ei datrys ar ôl cyfarfod cyntaf y Pwyllgor dan sylw. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd

problem occurred in the Committee's second and most recent meeting, and it affected my ability to represent the Assembly on that Committee.

Carwyn Jones: It is not correct to say that all Assembly officials cannot send e-mails directly to Assembly Members and their support staff. You are right that the system has been changed recently; a security block has been applied following several difficulties in the past. The Code of Practice on the Provision of Information to Assembly Members makes it clear that Members should not normally contact staff directly below head of division level, and staff can route e-mails through their heads of division. I understand that heads of division are able to e-mail Assembly Members directly, which fits in with the code of practice.

I do not recall having sight of the letter you mentioned. It would be helpful, therefore, if I could see it.

hynny'n wir. Digwyddodd yr un broblem yn ail gyfarfod a chyfarfod diweddaraf y Pwyllgor, ac effeithiodd ar fy ngallu i gynrychioli'r Cynulliad ar y Pwyllgor hwnnw.

Carwyn Jones: Nid yw'n gywir dweud na all pob swyddog yn y Cynulliad anfon negeseuon e-bost yn uniongyrchol at Aelodau'r Cynulliad a'u staff cymorth. Yr ydych yn iawn bod y system wedi ei newid yn ddiweddar; gosodwyd rhwystr diogelwch yn dilyn sawl anhawster yn y gorffennol. Mae'r Cod Ymarfer ar Ddarparu Gwybodaeth i Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn egluro na ddylai'r Aelodau gysylltu fel arfer â staff yn uniongyrchol o dan lefel pennaeth is-adran, a gall staff anfon negeseuon e-bost drwy eu penaethiaid is-adrannau. Deallaf fod penaethiaid is-adrannau yn gallu anfon negeseuon e-bost yn uniongyrchol at Aelodau'r Cynulliad, sy'n cydweddu â'r cod ymarfer.

Nid wyf yn cofio gweld y llythyr y soniwyd amdano. Byddai'n ddefnyddiol, felly, pe bawn yn gallu ei weld.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Owens Corning Fibreglass (GB) Ltd Owens Corning Fibreglass (GB) Cyf

The Presiding Officer: I have accepted an urgent question to the Minister for Economic Development from Janet Ryder under Standing Order No. 6.31.

Janet Ryder: Will the Minister make a statement on the announcement yesterday that 230 jobs are to be lost with the closure of Owens Corning Fibreglass (GB) Ltd in Wrexham? (EAQ21242)

The Minister for Economic Development (Andrew Davies): It was announced yesterday that Owens Corning is to close its Wrexham plant, with the loss of 230 jobs, in order to improve the company's overall performance and profitability. I understand that the company's decision followed a comprehensive review of its global business. I think that I speak for all Members when I

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi derbyn cwestiwn brys i'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd gan Janet Ryder o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.31.

Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gyhoeddiad ddoe y bydd 230 swydd yn cael eu colli yn sgil cau Owens Corning Fibreglass (GB) Cyf yn Wrecsam? (EAQ21242)

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd (Andrew Davies): Cyhoeddwyd ddoe y bydd Owens Corning yn cau ei waith yn Wrecsam, ac y collir 230 o swyddi, er mwyn gwella perfformiad a phroffidoldeb y cwmni'n gyffredinol. Deallaf fod penderfyniad y cwmni wedi digwydd ar ôl adolygiad cynhwysfawr o'i fusnes byd-eang. Credaf fy mod yn siarad ar ran pob Aelod pan

say that I was disappointed to hear of the job losses, which will be a significant blow to the local economy in Wrexham. Our thoughts are with those made redundant, their families and the local community.

The decision was taken despite significant performance improvements achieved by the employees at Wrexham. However, I understand that manufacturing costs were too high to allow the company to compete in its major European markets. In its statement, the company paid tribute to the strong team effort by the quality management and workforce in Wrexham and the determination of the workforce to try to save the plant.

The company has stated on record that no amount of financial support from the Welsh Assembly Government or UK Government would alter the fundamental problems of operating the Wrexham facility, which relate to competing on cost. Following yesterday's announcement, I have asked for an immediate report on the latest situation. I am encouraged that Team Wales is already on the case and that the Welsh Development Agency is in discussion with Wrexham County Borough Council to identify any assistance that might be available to support those affected. Jobcentre Plus and Careers Wales have arranged sessions for staff next week to discuss future employment opportunities and any retraining needs. I assure Members that Team Wales will do everything possible to help the workers affected to gain alternative employment or to retrain.

Janet Ryder: I share your disappointment that, despite great efforts by the workforce to reduce costs, this decision was taken. This is another blow to the manufacturing industry in the Wrexham area. The jobs at Owens Corning were highly paid, and I am pleased to hear that the WDA is involved. What pressure have you placed on the WDA to replace the jobs with equally highly-paid employment?

This is a great blow to the employees, but, as you said, this is not the first company in Wales to close because it cannot produce

ddywedaf fy mod yn siomedig o glywed am y colledion o ran swyddi, a fydd yn ergyd drom i economi leol Wrecsam. Yr ydym yn meddwl am y rhai fydd yn colli eu swyddi, eu teuluoedd a'r gymuned leol.

Gwnaed y penderfyniad er gwaethaf gwelliannau sylweddol mewn perfformiad a gyflawnwyd gan y gweithwyr yn Wrecsam. Fodd bynnag, deallaf fod y costau gweithgynhyrchu yn rhy uchel i alluogi'r cwmni gystadlu yn ei farchnadoedd Ewropeaidd mawr. Yn ei ddatganiad, talodd y cwmni deyrnged i'r ymdrech dîm gref gan y rheolwyr a'r gweithlu o safon yn Wrecsam a phenderfyniad y gweithlu i geisio achub y gwaith.

Cofnodwyd bod y cwmni wedi datgan na fyddai unrhyw gymorth ariannol gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru na Llywodraeth y DU yn newid y problemau sylfaenol o weithredu'r gwaith yn Wrecsam, sy'n ymwneud â chystadlu o ran cost. Yn dilyn y cyhoeddiad ddoe, gofynnais am adroddiad ar unwaith ar y sefyllfa ddiweddaraf. Cefais fy nghalonogi fod Tîm Cymru eisoes yn gweithio ar hyn a bod Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn cynnal trafodaethau â Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam i nodi unrhyw gymorth a allai fod ar gael i gefnogi'r rhai yr effeithir arnynt. Mae'r Ganolfan Byd Gwaith a Gyrfa Cymru wedi trefnu sesiynau i'r staff yr wythnos nesaf i drafod cyfleoedd cyflogaeth ar gyfer y dyfodol ac unrhyw ofynion ailhyfforddi. Sicrhaf yr Aelodau y bydd Tîm Cymru yn gwneud popeth o fewn ei allu i helpu'r gweithwyr yr effeithiwyd arnynt i gael gwaith arall neu i ailhyfforddi.

Janet Ryder: Rhannaf eich siom fod y penderfyniad hwn wedi ei gymryd, er gwaethaf ymdrechion mawr gan y gweithlu i ostwng costau. Mae hon yn ergyd arall i'r diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu yn ardal Wrecsam. Yr oedd y swyddi yn Owens Corning yn talu'n dda, ac yr wyf yn falch o glywed bod y WDA yn ymwneud â'r achos. Pa bwysau a osodwyd gennych ar y WDA i sicrhau swyddi newydd sy'n talu cystal.

Mae hon yn ergyd fawr i'r gweithwyr, ond, fel y dywedasochoch nid dyma'r cwmni cyntaf yng Nghymru i gau oherwydd na all

goods at a competitive rate. That is due to the high pound and cheap labour costs abroad. In response to a question in Plenary yesterday, the First Minister said that the only way manufacturers can respond to such situations is to produce slightly different goods. What are you doing to ensure that the goods produced by manufacturing industries in Wales are different to those produced abroad? Also, what pressure will you bring to bear on Westminster colleagues to alter the value of the pound?

Andrew Davies: The Welsh Development Agency is always on the look out for any inward investment it could attract to Wales. A factor taken into account in the location of any such investment is the quality and adaptability of the local workforce. It is recognised that the Owens Corning workforce was second to none, and the company has paid tribute to the quality and commitment of its employees at Wrexham. Therefore, this workforce would be a significant resource for an alternative employer to tap into.

3:00 p.m.

Unemployment, by Welsh standards, is relatively low. There is consistent demand for highly skilled and adaptable employees. I am therefore reasonably and quietly confident that many, if not all, of these workers will find alternative employment. We will certainly do all we can, in working with our Team Wales partners, to get the employees affected into alternative employment.

One major reason that the company identified as contributing to its closure in response to global trading conditions was raw material costs, as well as the relatively high labour costs here compared with those in other parts of its European and global operation. That was also a factor in the case of Dewhirst and many other companies that have decided to relocate, because wage costs are a significant factor in production costs.

I am sorry, Janet, but I have forgotten the last part of your question.

gynhyrchu nwyddau am brisiau cystadleuol. Mae hynny oherwydd y bunt gref a chostau llafur isel dramor. Mewn ymateb i gwestiwn yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ddoe, dywedodd y Prif Weinidog mai'r unig ffordd y gall gweithgynhyrchwyr ymateb i sefyllfaoedd o'r fath yw cynhyrchu nwyddau sydd ychydig yn wahanol. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod nwyddau a gynhyrchir gan ddiwydiannau gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru yn wahanol i'r rhai a gynhyrchir dramor? Hefyd, sut fyddwch yn pwysu ar gyd-aelodau yn San Steffan i newid gwerth y bunt?

Andrew Davies: Mae Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru bob amser yn chwilio am unrhyw fewnffuddsoddiad y gallai ei ddenu i Gymru. Ffactor sy'n cael ei hystyried wrth leoli unrhyw ffuddsoddiad o'r fath yw ansawdd a chymhwysedd y gweithlu lleol. Cydnabyddir bod gweithlu Owens Corning yn ddiguro, a thalodd y cwmni deyrnged i ansawdd ac ymrwymiad ei weithwyr yn Wrecsam. Felly, byddai'r gweithlu hwn yn adnodd sylweddol i gyflogwr amgen fanteisio arno.

Mae diweithdra yn ôl safonau Cymru, yn gymharol isel. Mae galw cyson am weithwyr crefftus a hyblyg. Yr wyf felly'n gymharol ac yn dawel hyderus y bydd llawer, os nad pob un, o'r gweithwyr hyn yn dod o hyd i swyddi eraill. Byddwn yn sicr yn gwneud popeth o fewn ein gallu, wrth weithio gyda'n partneriaid yn Nhîm Cymru, i gael swyddi amgen i'r gweithwyr yr effeithir arnynt.

Un o'r prif resymau a nodwyd gan y cwmni fel un sy'n cyfrannu at gau'r gwaith mewn ymateb i amgylchiadau masnach fyd-eang oedd costau deunydd crai, ynghyd â chostau llafur cymharol uchel o gymharu â rhannau eraill o'i weithgaredd Ewropeaidd a byd-eang. Yr oedd hynny hefyd yn ffactor yn achos Dewhirst a llawer o gwmnïau eraill sydd wedi penderfynu adleoli, oherwydd mae costau cyflogau yn ffactor sylweddol mewn costau cynhyrchu.

Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Janet, ond yr wyf wedi anghofio rhan olaf eich cwestiwn.

Janet Ryder: What pressure are you putting on your Westminster colleagues to alter the value of the pound?

Andrew Davies: Clearly, the value of the pound has less to do with the Government than the exchange rate. It is not for the Government to decide the exchange rate. That is the clear conclusion. The exchange rate was a factor, but the company pointed to high labour and raw material costs as the most significant factors in its decision to close the Wrexham facility.

John Marek: To take the matter a bit further, the problem lies with the high pound, not the low euro. Statistics over the past seven or eight years show that, compared with the basket of world currencies, the euro has more or less kept its place and that, uniquely, the pound, with the dollar, has risen. The dollar, which was about \$1.40 to the pound, is now about \$1.55 to the pound. We are left with a very high value pound, and that is the problem. As a consequence, personnel costs are higher too. Will you make representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this, because it is his job to ensure that Wales can survive as a manufacturing nation in having a level for the pound that is comparable with other currencies in Europe?

I thank you, Minister, for saying that Team Wales will do everything that it can to find jobs for the workers at Owens Corning Fiber Glas. Can you give us further assurance that you will not hold Team Wales back in any way and that your department will give it every assistance so that it can do the job?

Andrew Davies: I can certainly give that commitment. Whenever we have been faced with significant job losses, the efforts of Team Wales have been exemplary—for example, in response to the job losses at Allied Steel and Wire here in Cardiff. Both the former company of ASW and its receivers, KPMG, said on record that they had never come across such a focused effort from any Government in the UK. Clearly the exchange rate was a factor in this matter. However, I repeat the point that I made to Janet: it is not just the exchange rate that was a factor here. From the company's point of

Janet Ryder: Pa bwysau a roddwch ar eich cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan i newid gwerth y bunt?

Andrew Davies: Yn amlwg mae a wnelo'r Llywodraeth lai â gwerth y bunt na'r gyfradd gyfnewid. Nid mater i'r Llywodraeth yw penderfynu ar y gyfradd gyfnewid. Dyna yw'r casgliad amlwg. Yr oedd y gyfradd gyfnewid yn ffactor, ond nododd y cwmni gostau llafur a nwyddau crai uchel fel y ffactorau mwyaf arwyddocaol yn ei benderfyniad i gau'r cyfleuster yn Wrecsam.

John Marek: I fynd â'r mater gam ymhellach, gorwedd y broblem gyda gwerth uchel y bunt nid gwerth isel yr ewro. Dengys ystadegau'r saith neu wyth mlynedd diwethaf, o gymharu â basged arian y byd, bod yr ewro fwy neu lai wedi dal ei thir, ac, yn unigryw, bod y bunt, ynghyd â'r ddoler, wedi codi. Mae'r ddoler, a arferai fod tua \$1.40 i'r bunt yn awr yn \$1.55 i'r bunt. Oherwydd hynny mae gwerth y bunt yn uchel iawn, a dyna'r broblem. O ganlyniad, mae costau personél yn uwch hefyd. A wnewch sylwadau i Ganghellor y Trysorlys ar hyn, oherwydd ei waith ef yw sicrhau y gall Cymru oroesi fel cenedl weithgynhyrchiol drwy sicrhau bod lefel y bunt i'w chymharu ag arian cyfred eraill yn Ewrop?

Diolchaf ichi, Weinidog, am ddweud y gwnaiff Tîm Cymru bopeth o fewn ei allu i ddod o hyd i swyddi i weithwyr Owens Corning Fiberglass. A allwch roi sicrwydd pellach inni na wnewch ddal Tîm Cymru yn ôl mewn unrhyw fodd ac y gwnaiff eich adran roi pob cymorth iddo fel y gall wneud ei waith yn iawn?

Andrew Davies: Gallaf roi'r ymrwymiad hwnnw'n sicr. Pryd bynnag yr ydym wedi wynebu colledion swyddi sylweddol, mae ymdrechion Tîm Cymru wedi bod yn rhagorol—er enghraifft, mewn ymateb i'r colledion swyddi yn Allied Steel and Wire yma yng Nghaerdydd. Cofnodwyd i gyn gwmi ASW a'i dderbynwyr, KPMG, ddweud nad oeddent wedi dod ar draws ymdrech ag iddi gystal ffocws gan unrhyw Lywodraeth yn y DU. Yn amlwg, yr oedd y gyfradd gyfnewid yn ffactor yn y mater hwn. Fodd bynnag, ailadroddaf y pwynt a wneuthum wrth Janet: nid y gyfradd

view, the major factors were, as I understand, the high cost of raw materials and, in particular, the high labour costs.

Janet asked how we could ensure that manufacturing companies are more responsive. The clear thrust of the innovation action plan that I published for consultation recently is on how we can make our manufacturing sector more responsive, innovative and customer-focused. One of the officials of the President of the Irish Republic whom I met yesterday told me that 13 years ago a company called Intel opened a factory just outside Dublin and that now it is making a completely different product range. That is a major challenge for any manufacturing company. Our job in Government is to help companies to be more adaptable, innovative and to ensure that they have the resources to make new products and employ the latest and best production processes. Once again, the Government and the public sector can help companies and industrial sectors to do that.

Alun Cairns: First I wish to endorse the Minister's opening comments about his regret, which I am sure every Assembly Member feels, about the fact that, once again, people in north Wales have lost their jobs. It is particularly regrettable that the losses have occurred at this time of year, which is the worst time of year to become unemployed. Reference has been made to the high pound and to cheap labour and I do not doubt that those factors have played a part. However, no reference has been made to the increased taxes imposed by the Westminster Government on manufacturers. In relation to this manufacturer in particular, the climate change tax has made it uncompetitive compared with other operators located elsewhere in the world. Given our disproportionate dependence on manufacturing, what action is the Assembly Government proposing to help Welsh manufacturers overcome the increased costs incurred as a result of the climate change levy?

We are yet to experience the largest tax

gyfnewid oedd yr unig ffactor yma. O safbwynt y cwmni, y prif ffactorau oedd, fel y deallaf, cost uchel deunyddiau crai ac, yn arbennig, y costau llafur uchel.

Gofynnodd Janet sut y gallem sicrhau bod cwmnïau gweithgynhyrchu yn fwy ymatebol. Thema eglur y cynllun gweithredu arloesedd a gyhoeddais ar gyfer ymgynghoriad yn ddiweddar yw sut y gallwn sicrhau bod ein sector gweithgynhyrchu yn fwy ymatebol, arloesol ac yn canolbwyntio'n fwy ar y cwsmer. Dywedodd un o swyddogion Arlywydd Gweriniaeth Iwerddon a gyfarfûm ddoe wrthyf fod cwmni o'r enw Intel wedi agor ffatri ar gyrion Dulyn 13 mlynedd yn ôl a'i fod erbyn hyn yn cynhyrchu deunydd cwbl wahanol. Mae hynny'n her fawr i unrhyw gwmni gweithgynhyrchu. Ein gwaith ni yn y Llywodraeth yw cynorthwyo cwmnïau i fod yn fwy hyblyg, arloesol ac i sicrhau bod ganddynt yr adnoddau i gynhyrchu deunydd newydd a defnyddio'r prosesau cynhyrchu diweddaraf a gorau. Unwaith eto, gall y Llywodraeth a'r sector cyhoeddus gynorthwyo cwmnïau a'r sectorau diwydiannol i wneud hynny.

Alun Cairns: Yn gyntaf hoffwn gymeradwyo sylwadau agoriadol y Gweinidog am ei ofid, y mae pob Aelod Cynulliad yr wyf yn siŵr yn ei rannu, ynghylch y ffaith, unwaith eto, bod pobl yn y Gogledd wedi colli eu swyddi. Mae'n resyn mawr i'r colledion ddigwydd ar yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn, yr adeg waethaf o'r flwyddyn i golli eich swydd. Cyfeiriwyd at werth uchel y bunt uchel ac at lafur rhad ac nid wyf yn amau o gwbl bod y ffactorau hynny wedi cyfrannu at y sefyllfa. Fodd bynnag ni wnaed unrhyw gyfeiriadau at y cynnydd mewn trethi a osodwyd gan Lywodraeth San Steffan ar weithgynhyrchwyr. Mewn perthynas â'r gweithgynhyrchydd hwn yn arbennig, parodd y dreth newid hinsawdd iddo fod yn anghystadleuol o'i gymharu â gweithredwyr eraill mewn mannau eraill o'r byd. O gofio'n dibyniaeth anghymesur ar weithgynhyrchu pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn eu cynnig i gynorthwyo gweithgynhyrchwyr yng Nghymru i oresgyn y costau cynyddol a ddaw i'w rhan o ganlyniad i'r ardoll newid hinsawdd?

Yr ydym eto i brofi'r codiad treth uchaf—y

hike—the increase in national insurance contributions from next April. Although the increase will affect the employees, employers and the self-employed, it is the employers who will have to increase salaries to compensate for it and which will then face higher non-wage labour costs as a result of that announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In light of that, does the Minister agree that Britain is now a worse place in which to do business, as was confirmed by industrialists from the whole of the United Kingdom and beyond at the Confederation of British Industry conference? Does he accept that the survey conducted by the CBI is accurate, and that the UK is a worse place in which to do business now than it was five years ago? The Minister often comments on Team Wales and, no doubt, it is a useful soundbite in situations—

The Presiding Officer: Order. This is an urgent question, not a statement. I would be grateful if you would bring your questioning to a close.

Alun Cairns: I will. Will the Minister tell us what he intends asking Team Wales to do in north Wales to offer hope to these people who have lost their jobs, as well as those who lost their jobs in Zurich Warranty Management Services last week? When is the Minister planning to visit north Wales, because he would not commit last week to visiting the employees made redundant at Zurich?

Andrew Davies: I share your regret that the decision was made at all, particularly just before Christmas, which is a bad time for employees, their families and the local community to face job losses. I return to the point on costs. I am sorry to disappoint you, Alun, but the company did not refer to increased costs due to taxation, either direct or indirect. It referred to higher labour, raw material, and energy costs. So the company itself did not mention taxation as an issue. I hear what the CBI says, but I do not agree with it and take issue with some of the figures quoted. Treasury figures show that the UK, including Wales of course, has the most favourable corporate tax regime of all

cynnydd yn y cyfraniadau yswiriant gwladol o fis Ebrill nesaf. Er y bydd y cynnydd yn effeithio ar y gweithwyr, y cyflogwyr a'r hunan-gyflogedig, y cyflogwyr fydd yn gorfod codi cyflogau i wneud iawn amdano a hwy fydd wedyn yn gorfod wynebu costau uwch nad ydynt yn gysylltiedig â chyflogau o ganlyniad i'r cyhoeddiad hwnnw gan Ganghellor y Trysorlys. O gofio hyn a gytuna'r Gweinidog fod Prydain yn awr yn lle gwaeth i wneud busnes, fel y cadarnhawyd gan ddiwydianwyr o bob rhan o'r Deyrnas Unedig a'r tu hwnt yng nghynhadledd Cydffederasiwn Diwydiannau Prydain? A dderbynia fod yr arolwg a gynhaliwyd gan y CBI yn gywir, a bod y DU yn lle gwaeth i wneud busnes yn awr nag yr oedd bum mlynedd yn ôl? Mae'r Gweinidog yn aml yn gwneud sylw am Dîm Cymru ac, yn ddiuos, mae'n frawddeg fachog mewn amgylchiadau—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Cwestiwn brys yw hwn nid datganiad. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe baech yn dirwyn eich holi i ben.

Alun Cairns: Gwnaf hynny. A ddywed y Gweinidog wrthym beth y bwriada ofyn i Dîm Cymru yn y Gogledd ei wneud i gynnig gobaith i'r bobl hynny a gollodd eu swyddi, ynghyd â'r rheini a gollodd eu swyddi yn Zurich Warranty Management Services yr wythnos diwethaf? Pryd y mae'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu ymweld â'r Gogledd, oherwydd gwrthododd ymrwymo yr wythnos diwethaf i ymweld â'r gweithwyr a ddiswyddwyd yn Zurich?

Andrew Davies: Gresynaf fel chithau fod y penderfyniad wedi ei wneud o gwbl, yn enwedig yn union cyn y Nadolig, sydd yn amser gwael i weithwyr, eu teuluoedd a'r gymuned leol i wynebu colledion swyddi. Dychwelaf at y pwynt ar gostau. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf eich siomi, Alun, ond ni chyfeiriodd y cwmni at y costau cynyddol oherwydd trethiant, naill ai'n uniongyrchol nac anuniongyrchol. Cyfeiriodd at gostau llafur, costau deunydd crai a chostau ynni uwch. Felly ni chyfeiriodd y cwmni ei hun at drethiant fel mater. Deallaf yr hyn a ddywed y CBI, ond ni chytunaf ag ef ac anghytunaf a rhai o'r ffigurau a ddyfynnir. Dengys ffigurau'r Trysorlys bod gan y DU, yn

the G7 economies if you consider national, local and regional taxes on aggregate. Therefore, I take issue with the CBI's figures. I will not go into detail at this stage—I will do so on another occasion—but the figures quoted by the CBI do not reflect reality. I am sure that we can discuss that elsewhere, for example in the Economic Development Committee.

Eleanor Burnham: The Welsh Liberal Democrats also extend our sympathies to the employees of Owens Corning Fibreglas (GB) Ltd and their families—particularly before Christmas. Losing a job has the most traumatic effect on people, as I am aware from personal experience. I am reassured by the fact that our effective taskforce is working to ensure that everything possible is being done to alleviate the situation. I am also reassured by the fact that you will be taking strong measures to secure other investment and employment in the Wrexham area. However, I hope that you can also assure us that you will lobby Westminster hard, as other Members have requested. Manufacturing is deteriorating in this country. I hope that you can assure us that you will talk to the Chancellor about the effects of the strong pound and the increase in taxation—particularly the increase in national insurance contributions in April—so that he can act to help us in Wales.

3:10 p.m.

Andrew Davies: As ever, the various agencies—the Welsh Development Agency, Jobcentre Plus, Careers Wales, the local authority and the Assembly—will work closely to help those employees. The company has made its decision based on costs; it will relocate and has no intention of keeping the facility going. Therefore, it is now a matter of helping employees into alternative employment or retraining them. There has already been a rapid response. Those who have previously been placed in a similar position in other areas of Wales have commented favourably on the rapidity and directness of our response to their situation.

The last 18 years have been difficult for

cynnwys Cymru wrth gwrs y system dreth gorfforaethol fwyaf ffafriol o holl economïau gwledydd yr G7 os ystyriwch drethi cenedlaethol, lleol a rhanbarthol yn gyfansymiol. Felly, anghytunaf â ffigurau'r CBI. Ni fanylaf yn awr—gwnaf hynny ar adeg arall—ond nid yw ffigurau'r CBI yn adlewyrchu'r gwir sefyllfa. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gallwn drafod hynny mewn man arall, er enghraifft yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru hefyd yn estyn ein cydymdeimlad i weithwyr Owens Corning Fibreglass (GB) Cyf a'u teuluoedd—yn enwedig cyn y Nadolig. Caiff colli swydd yr effaith fwyaf ysgytwol ar bobl, fel y gwn o brofiad personol. Caf fy nghalonogi gan y ffaith bod ein tasglu effeithiol yn gweithio i sicrhau y gwneir popeth posibl i liniaru'r sefyllfa. Fe'm calonogir hefyd gan y ffaith y byddwch yn cymryd camau cadarn i sicrhau buddsoddiad a chyflogaeth newydd yn ardal Wrecsam. Fodd bynnag, gobeithiaf y gallwch hefyd roi sicrwydd inni y byddwch yn lobbïo San Steffan yn frwd, fel y gofynnodd Aelodau eraill. Mae gweithgynhyrchu'n dirywio yn y wlad hon. Gobeithiaf y gallwch roi sicrwydd inni y byddwch yn siarad â'r Canghellor am effaith y bunt gref a'r cynnydd mewn trethi—yn enwedig y cynnydd mewn cyfraniadau yswiriant gwladol ym mis Ebrill—er mwyn iddo allu gweithredu i'n helpu ni yng Nghymru.

Andrew Davies: Fel ag erioed, bydd yr amrywiol asiantaethau—Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, Canolfan Byd Gwaith, Gyrfa Cymru, yr awdurdod lleol a'r Cynulliad—yn cydweithio'n agos i gynorthwyo'r gweithwyr hynny. Gwnaeth y cwmni ei benderfyniad ar sail costau; bydd yn adleoli ac nid oes ganddo fwriad o gwbl i gadw'r cyfleuster ar agor. Felly, mae bellach yn fodd o gynorthwyo'r cyflogeion i gael gwaith arall neu eu hailhyfforddi. Bu ymateb cyflym yn barod. Mae'r rheini a roddwyd mewn sefyllfa debyg yn flaenorol mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru wedi gwneud sylwadau ffafriol ar gyflymdra ac uniongyrchedd ein hymateb i'w sefyllfa.

Bu'r 18 mlynedd diwethaf yn anodd i'r

manufacturing, and many jobs have been lost in Wales. In the last year, 30,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in Wales. However, 25,000 jobs were created. The headline that manufacturing is in meltdown or deteriorating does not reflect reality. Manufacturing is at the sharp end in terms of global pressures and cost pressures, but the most successful companies are those innovative companies that can respond to global conditions and to customer needs. As I said to Janet Ryder earlier, the companies that identify those areas of the market in which they can have competitive advantage are the most innovative. Our job, in Government, is to ensure that companies are well equipped to do that. The most successful companies in Wales are able to do that, despite often difficult trading conditions.

Karen Sinclair: As a former employee of Owens Corning Fibreglass (GB) Ltd—or Pilkington as it was in the early 1970s—and one of the original employees on that site, I know many staff and I grieve for them. It was well-paid employment. However, I received an important assurance yesterday that all redundancy and pension payments will be protected.

I went to great lengths yesterday to try to persuade the company to keep its glass tank going, to give us the time to find a possible buyer. I spoke to the company no fewer than three times during the afternoon, as well as making numerous calls to the local authority and the WDA. To my deep disappointment—indeed to my disgust—the company is adamant that the tank will be cooled, ensuring that no competitor can enter the market. As a consequence of its determination, it seems that the only way forward is to give maximum assistance to employees in finding alternative employment. Can I have your assurance that that will be done urgently? I almost do not need to ask you that question, because I spoke to you about this at length yesterday.

Can you also ensure that the company is made to bear the considerable cost of removing the massive debris that will be an

diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu a chollwyd llawer o swyddi yng Nghymru. Yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, collwyd 30,000 o swyddi gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, crewyd 25,000 o swyddi. Nid yw'r pennawd bod gweithgynhyrchu yn diflannu neu'n dirywio yn adlewyrchu'r gwir realiti. Gweithgynhyrchu sy'n dioddef waethaf o ran pwysau byd-eang a phwysau o ran costau, ond y cwmnïau mwyaf llwyddiannus yw'r cwmnïau arloesol hynny sy'n gallu ymateb i amodau byd-eang ac i anghenion y cwsmeriaid. Fel y dywedais wrth Janet Ryder yn gynharach, y cwmnïau sy'n nodi'r meysydd hynny o'r farchnad lle mae ganddynt fantais gystadleuol yw'r rhai mwyaf arloesol. Ein tasg, mewn Llywodraeth, yw sicrhau bod cwmnïau wedi eu harfogi'n dda i wneud hynny. Mae'r cwmnïau mwyaf llwyddiannus yng Nghymru yn gallu gwneud hynny, er gwaethaf amodau masnachu anodd yn aml.

Karen Sinclair: Fel cyn weithiwr yn Owens Corning Fibreglass (GB) Cyf—neu Pilkington fel y'i galwyd ar ddechrau'r 1970au—ac un o'r gweithwyr gwreiddiol ar y safle hwnnw, yr wyf yn adnabod llawer o'r staff ac yn galaru drostynt. Yr oeddent yn swyddi a oedd yn talu'n dda. Fodd bynnag, cefais sicrwydd ddoe y diogelir yr holl daliadau diswyddo a phensiwn.

Gwneuthum ymdrech fawr ddoe i geisio darbwyllo'r cwmni i barhau â'i waith tanciau gwydr, er mwyn rhoi amser inni ddarganfod prynwr posibl. Siaradais â'r cwmni o leiaf dair gwaith yn ystod y prynhawn, yn ogystal â gwneud sawl galwad i'r awdurdod lleol a'r WDA. Er mawr siom imi—yn wir er ffieidd-dod imi—mae'r cwmni yn benderfynol o oeri'r tanc, gan sicrhau nad all unrhyw gystadleuydd ddod i mewn i'r farchnad. O ganlyniad i'w agwedd benderfynol, ymddengys mai'r unig ffordd ymlaen yw rhoi'r cymorth mwyaf posibl i'r gweithwyr i ddod o hyd i waith arall. A gaf eich sicrwydd y gwneir hynny ar frys? Bron nad oes angen imi ofyn y cwestiwn hwnnw i chi, gan i mi gael sgwrs faith â chi ddoe ynglŷn â hyn.

A allwch hefyd sicrhau y gorfodir y cwmni i ysgwyddo'r gost sylweddol o symud y sbwriel a fydd yn ganlyniad anorfod

inevitable consequence of decommissioning that tank, so that the taxpayer does not have to face what will be a large bill?

Andrew Davies: I put on record my thanks to you for your work in the last 24 hours in trying to help the employees and to find alternative options for the facility. I share your regret that the company has decided to close the facility. I can understand it from a commercial point of view, but in terms of the future of the local economy and of those employees, it is a matter of regret.

The company will suspend production, and will consult with trade union representatives and employees to ensure a safe and efficient closure process. The employees will remain home on full pay until notified. There is outplacement support for employees, in partnership with the local Employment Service and consultants, and an employee counselling service will be provided. I will ask the WDA and my officials to take up your points on the effect of the facilities on the local environment with the company, and will liaise with you on this and other matters.

datgomisiynu'r tanc, fel na fydd yn rhaid i'r trethdalwr wynebu yr hyn a fydd yn fil mawr?

Andrew Davies: Cofnodaf fy niolch i chi am eich gwaith yn ystod y 24 awr ddiwethaf i geisio helpu'r cyflogeion a cheisio dod o hyd i ddewisiadau amgen i'r cyfleuster. Rhannaf eich siom bod y cwmni wedi penderfynu cau'r cyfleuster. Gallaf ei ddeall o safbwynt masnachol, ond o ran dyfodol yr economi leol a'r cyflogeion hynny, mae'n resyn.

Bydd y cwmni yn atal cynhyrchu, a bydd yn ymgynghori â chynrychiolwyr undebau llafur a gweithwyr i sicrhau proses gau ddiogel ac effeithlon. Bydd y cyflogeion yn aros gartref ar dâl llawn hyd nes y cânt eu hysbysu. Ceir cymorth y tu allan i'r gweithle i gyflogeion, mewn partneriaeth â'r Gwasanaeth Cyflogi lleol ac ymgynghorwyr, a darperir gwasanaeth cynghori ar gyfer cyflogeion. Gofynnaf i'r WDA a'm swyddogion i godi eich pwyntiau ar effaith y cyfleusterau ar yr amgylchedd lleol gyda'r cwmni, a byddaf yn cyd-drafod â chi ar y mater hwn a materion eraill.

Datganiad ar Ddiwrnod Rhyngwladol HIV/AIDS Statement on World HIV/AIDS Day

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I want to mark World AIDS Day, which was on 1 December, by bringing the Assembly up to date on recent developments in Wales. Global figures suggest that 42 million people live with HIV/AIDS. Of these, 5 million are thought to have been infected during 2002, and 3.1 million died. At the end of 2000, an estimated 33,500 adults aged between 15 and 59 living in the UK were infected with HIV, of whom almost a third were unaware of their infection. By the end of September 2002, a cumulative total of 52,729 patients infected with HIV was recorded for the UK. Of that total, 91.7 per cent were from England, 6.4 per cent from Scotland, 1.4 per cent from Wales, 0.4 per cent from Northern Ireland, and 0.1 per cent from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

There is still no cure or vaccine for HIV

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Yr wyf am nodi Diwrnod Rhyngwladol AIDS, a oedd ar 1 Rhagfyr, drwy roi gwybod i'r Cynulliad am y datblygiadau diweddar yng Nghymru. Mae'r ffigurau byd-eang yn nodi bod 42 miliwn o bobl yn dioddef o HIV/AIDS. O'r rhain, credir bod 5 miliwn wedi eu heintio yn ystod 2002, a bu 3.1 miliwn farw. Ar ddiwedd 2000, amcangyfrifwyd bod 33,500 o oedolion rhwng 15 a 59 oed sy'n byw yn y DU wedi eu heintio â HIV, a bod bron traean o'r rheini heb wybod eu bod wedi eu heintio. Erbyn diwedd Medi 2002, cofnodwyd cyfanswm o 52,729 o gleifion wedi eu heintio â HIV yn y DU. O'r cyfanswm hwnnw, yr oedd 91.7 y cant yn Lloegr, 6.4 y cant yn yr Alban, 1.4 y cant yng Nghymru, 0.4 yng Ngogledd Iwerddon, a 0.1 y cant yn Ynysoedd y Sianel ac Ynys Manaw.

Nid oes gwellhad na brechiad ar gyfer yr

infection, and the duration of the treatment effect is unknown. Therefore, it is vital that we continue to progress work in this area to establish the best way forward. At present, Assembly Government funding for HIV is mainstreamed into health authorities' main allocations. We monitor investment in HIV prevention through the NHS performance management framework and through information provided in the returns submitted by health authorities under the AIDS (Control) Act 1987. We have changed the reporting systems in Wales to ensure that the information that we receive is consistent and relevant and can be used to inform service delivery.

Wales's 1.4 per cent of the UK total may be relatively low, but HIV has profound social, emotional and physical implications for all those diagnosed with the virus. I therefore established an HIV action planning group last year. The group advises the Office of the Chief Medical Officer on initiatives to improve the quality of local services, to secure the application of nationally agreed standards of service for those living with HIV or AIDS, and for initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV. In particular, the group has been formed to identify and develop the HIV policy agenda in relation to local and national policy making; to work in partnership to raise the profile of the HIV agenda within the broader health and social policy programmes; to review evidence of the effectiveness of interventions designed to improve sexual health, and to identify examples of good practice in relation to HIV.

The group's membership represents the cross-sectoral approach needed to meet the challenge of HIV, and the group's approach must encompass the need for professional and self-help responses supported by the public, private and voluntary sectors. The intention is to make clear links with other issues and policy areas, and suggest where responsibility and accountability should lie.

HIV affects people across the board. There has been a rise in HIV prevalence in

haint HIV eto, ac nid yw hyd effaith y driniaeth yn wybyddus. Felly, mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn parhau â'r gwaith yn y maes hwn i ganfod y ffordd orau ymlaen. Ar hyn o bryd caiff arian gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer HIV ei brif-ffrydio i brif ddyraniadau'r awdurdodau iechyd. Yr ydym yn monitro'r buddsoddiad mewn atal HIV drwy fframwaith rheoli perfformiad y GIG a thrwy wybodaeth a ddarperir ar y ffurflenni a gyflwynir gan awdurdodau iechyd o dan Ddeddf (Rheoli) AIDS 1987. Yr ydym wedi newid y systemau cofnodi yng Nghymru i sicrhau bod y wybodaeth a dderbyniwn yn gyson ac yn berthnasol a bod modd ei defnyddio i lywio'r broses o ddarparu'r gwasanaeth.

Efallai fod cyfran Cymru o 1.4 y cant o gyfanswm y DU yn gymharol isel, ond mae i HIV oblygiadau cymdeithasol, emosiynol a chorfforol dirfawr i bob un o'r rhai y canfyddir eu bod yn cario'r feirws. Felly sefydlais grŵp cynllunio camau gweithredu HIV y llynedd. Mae'r grŵp yn cynghori Swyddfa'r Prif Swyddog Meddygol ar fentrau i wella ansawdd y gwasanaethau lleol, i sicrhau y cymhwysir safonau gwasanaeth y cytunwyd arnynt yn genedlaethol i'r rheini sy'n byw gyda HIV neu AIDS, ac i fentrau atal lledaeniad HIV. Yn arbennig, ffurfwyd y grŵp i nodi a datblygu agenda'r polisi HIV mewn perthynas â llunio polisiau lleol a chenedlaethol; i weithio mewn partneriaeth i godi proffil agenda HIV o fewn rhaglenni iechyd a pholisi cymdeithasol ehangach; i adolygu tystiolaeth o effeithiolrwydd ymyriadau a gynlluniwyd i wella iechyd rhywiol, ac i nodi enghreifftiau o arferion da mewn perthynas â HIV.

Mae aelodaeth y grŵp yn arwydd o'r ymagwedd traws-sectoraidd sydd ei hangen i ymdopi â her HIV, a rhaid i ymagwedd y grŵp gwmpasu'r angen am ymatebion proffesiynol a hunan-gymorth wedi eu cefnogi gan y sectorau cyhoeddus, preifat a gwirfoddol. Y bwriad yw creu cysylltiadau pendant gyda materion a meysydd polisi eraill, ac awgrymu pwy ddylai fod yn gyfrifol ac yn atebol.

Mae HIV yn effeithio ar bawb. Bu cynnydd yn nifer yr achosion o HIV mewn pobl

heterosexual attendees of genito-urinary medicine clinics. There has also been a worrying increase in the number of sexually transmitted diseases generally, which can itself be a proxy for HIV prevalence. A national programme of HIV antenatal screening is also being rolled out across Wales, and work has begun on integrating HIV screening in an all-Wales antenatal screening project. In July last year, the Assembly Government commissioned the Terrence Higgins Trust to carry out a programme of HIV health promotion action that targets gay men, as proposed in the sexual health strategy action plan.

It is important that young people are aware of HIV and know how to prevent it and other sexually transmitted infections. Every year, the Assembly Government supports local HIV health promotion initiatives on World AIDS Day, through the supply of red ribbons and HIV prevention leaflets. In December 2001, we launched a national campaign on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The campaign targeted 16 to 30-year-olds and is ongoing.

Stigma still surrounds HIV and, as we know, stigma damages people's lives and discourages individuals from coming forward for testing and treatment. It also thwarts progress in developing services to deal with the disease. It is important that policy makers and service providers engage with people living with HIV to ensure the provision of appropriate services. The Welsh Assembly Government has awarded the Terrence Higgins Trust a grant to bring together community groups, such as Positive Tongue and the Network of People Living with HIV in Wales, with statutory providers and policy makers to share agendas across sectors throughout Wales.

In our homes and workplaces we can all stop the prejudice and discrimination that people living with HIV still face.

David Lloyd: World AIDS Day was on Sunday so it is appropriate to remark on the phenomenal worldwide impact of HIV/AIDS. It is, after all, the world's fourth largest killer;

hetrorywiol sy'n mynychu clinigau meddyginiaeth cenedlol-droethol. Hefyd bu cynnydd yn nifer yr heintiau a drosglwyddir drwy ryw yn gyffredinol a all fod yn brocsi ynddo'i hun i fynychter HIV. Mae rhaglen genedlaethol sgrinio HIV cyn-geni hefyd yn cael ei chyflwyno ledled Cymru, a dechreuwyd ar y gwaith o integreiddio sgrinio HIV mewn prosiect sgrinio cyn-geni Cymru gyfan. Ym mis Gorffennaf y llynedd, comisiynodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad Ymddiriedolaeth Terrence Higgins i ddarparu rhaglen o gamau gweithredu hybu iechyd HIV sy'n targedu dynion hoyw, fel a gynigir yng nghynllun gweithredu'r strategaeth iechyd rhywiol.

Mae'n bwysig bod pobl ifanc yn ymwybodol o HIV ac yn gwybod sut i'w atal a sut i atal heintiau eraill a drosglwyddir drwy ryw. Bob blwyddyn cefnoga Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fentrau hybu iechyd HIV lleol ar Ddiwrnod Rhyngwladol AIDS, drwy gyflenwi rhubanau coch a thafenni atal HIV. Ym mis Rhagfyr 2001, lanswyd ymgyrch genedlaethol gennym ar atal heintiau a drosglwyddir drwy ryw, gan gynnwys HIV. Targedodd yr ymgyrch bobl 16 i 30 oed ac mae'n parhau.

Mae stigma o hyd ynglŷn â HIV ac, fel y gwyddom, mae stigma yn niweidio bywydau pobl ac yn atal unigolion rhag cael profion a thriniaeth. Mae hefyd yn llesteirio cynnydd mewn datblygu gwasanaethau i ymdrin â'r clefyd. Mae'n bwysig bod gwneuthurwyr polisi a darparwyr gwasanaethau yn cysylltu â phobl sy'n byw gyda HIV i sicrhau y darperir gwasanaethau priodol. Dyfarnodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru grant i Ymddiriedolaeth Terrence Higgins i ddod â grwpiau cymunedol at ei gilydd, megis Positive Tongue a Rhwydwaith Pobl sy'n Byw gyda HIV yng Nghymru, ynghyd â darparwyr statudol a llunwyr polisiau i rannu agenda'u ar draws sectorau ledled Cymru.

Yn ein cartrefi a'n gweithloedd gall pob un ohonom atal y rhagfarn a'r gwahaniaethu y mae pobl sy'n byw â HIV yn ei wynebu o hyd.

David Lloyd: Yr oedd hi'n Ddiwrnod Rhyngwladol AIDS ddydd Sul felly mae'n briodol gwneud sylw ar effaith fyd-eang anhygoel HIV/AIDS. Hwn, wedi'r cyfan, yw

poverty and access to treatment are issues worldwide.

Nearer to home—we heard the figures—there was a 25 per cent increase in the number of cases of HIV/AIDS diagnosed in the last year in the United Kingdom, paralleled with huge increases in the incidence of other sexually transmitted diseases, such as chlamydia. As we heard from the Minister, this is a matter of reinforcing the message about safe sex and the importance of avoiding intravenous drug use with infected needles. Above all, it is matter of increasing vigilance and avoiding complacency. The Minister mentioned that the reporting systems for HIV/AIDS in this country have changed. Can she clarify how they have changed? How is the sexual health strategy changing in response to the increasing incidence of infection?

3:20 p.m.

Jane Hutt: As you said, this is a worldwide phenomenon and it is right that we give attention to its impact on Wales, but we must also consider its impact around the world. Our sexual health strategy is the vehicle and tool that we have developed and endorsed to ensure that those messages are promoted and delivered, especially to our young people. Of course, we have developed the antenatal screening project and a baseline of services has now been established across Wales to ensure that all women will have access to antenatal screening. Our work, especially with the Terence Higgins Trust, is also important.

We have discussed the AIDS (Control) Act 1987 on previous occasions. It is the legislative guide to obtaining information from health authorities to ensure that we have a clear picture and that the infection levels in Wales are monitored. We have changed the reporting system to ensure that we receive consistent information so that we can inform the service delivery. That consistent information has enabled us to review evidence and assess the effectiveness of interventions. I have set up the HIV action-planning group to ensure that we have that

pedwerydd clefyd angheuol mwya'r byd; mae tlodi a mynediad i driniaeth yn broblemau ym mhob rhan o'r byd.

Yn nes adref—clywsom y ffigurau—yr oedd cynnydd o 25 y cant yn nifer yr achosion o HIV/AIDS a ganfuwyd yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig, law yn llaw â chynnydd enfawr yn nifer yr achosion o heintiau eraill a drosglwyddir drwy ryw, megis clamydia. Fel y clywsom gan y Gweinidog, mae hwn yn fater o atgyfnerthu'r neges am ryw diogel a phwysigrwydd osgoi defnyddio cyffuriau mewnythiennol â nodwyddau wedi eu heintio. Yn bwysicach na dim, mae'n fater o fod yn fwy gwyliadwrus ac o osgoi difaterwch. Soniodd y Gweinidog fod systemau cofnodi HIV/AIDS yn y wlad hon wedi newid. A all egluro sut y maent wedi newid? Sut y mae'r strategaeth iechyd rhywiol yn newid mewn ymateb i'r cynnydd yn nifer yr achosion o heintio?

Jane Hutt: Fel y dywedasoch mae hwn yn ffenomenon byd-eang ac mae'n briodol ein bod yn rhoi sylw i'w effaith ar Gymru, ond rhaid inni hefyd ystyried ei effaith ar draws y byd. Ein strategaeth iechyd rhywiol yw'r cyfrwng a'r offeryn a ddatblygwyd ac a gymerdawywyd gennym i sicrhau bod y negeseuon hyn yn cael eu hyrwyddo a'u cyflwyno, yn arbennig i'n pobl ifanc. Wrth gwrs, yr ydym wedi datblygu'r prosiect sgrinio cyn-geni a sefydlwyd gwasanaethau sylfaenol ledled Cymru i sicrhau y caiff pob menyw fynediad i sgrinio cyn-geni. Mae ein gwaith, yn enwedig gydag Ymddiriedolaeth Terence Higgins, hefyd yn bwysig.

Yr ydym wedi trafod Deddf (Rheoli) AIDS 1987 yn y gorffennol. Dyma'r arweiniad deddfwriaethol i gael gwybodaeth gan awdurdodau iechyd i sicrhau bod gennym ddarlun eglur a bod lefelau heintio yng Nghymru yn cael eu monitro. Yr ydym wedi newid y system gofnodi i sicrhau ein bod yn derbyn gwybodaeth gyson fel ein bod yn gallu llywio'r broses o ddarparu'r gwasanaeth. Mae'r wybodaeth gyson honno wedi ein galluogi i adolygu tystiolaeth ac asesu effeithiolrwydd ymyriadau. Sefydlais y grŵp cynllunio camau gweithredu HIV i

cross-sectoral approach and consistency across Wales. That is fundamentally important in taking forward our sexual health strategy.

Lorraine Barrett: While we are all concerned about the effects of HIV/AIDS in Wales and the UK, I do not think that any of us can comprehend the human devastation that HIV/AIDS cause in southern Africa. Will you join me in thanking Oxfam and Save the Children in particular for their work in raising awareness of this issue and in trying to get the UN to deliver on its promises? A successful fundraising art auction was held last week in the Oriol Washington Gallery in Penarth. It was organised by Tearfund, which works to help children in Africa who suffer from HIV/AIDS or who have been orphaned as a result of that terrible disease. Some 40 Welsh artists each donated a piece of artwork and £14,500 was raised in one evening. When I tell myself that I spent too much money that night, I simply look at the photographs of the children in Africa and remind myself of how they suffer in that most dreadful way. As a Minister in the Welsh Assembly, what can you do to put pressure on the UK Government and other wealthier nations to do their bit and to provide the money and resources that are needed? That request is really nothing when we consider the big picture and the need to alleviate the suffering that we see every day on our televisions and in the newspapers.

Jane Hutt: Thank you for drawing our attention to the tragedy in Africa again, particularly in southern Africa. Of course Oxfam must be congratulated on its work. I was also pleased to hear that the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, took steps to raise this issue when he was visiting South Africa for the world summit on sustainable development. It is important that leaders such as Rhodri are able to raise those issues when they visit such places. Every community can assist by taking part in the kind of fundraising events that you mentioned. Of course, HIV is on our doorstep, but is on a much greater scale in Africa.

sicrhau bod gennym ymagwedd traws-sectoraidd a chysondeb ledled Cymru. Mae hynny'n hanfodol bwysig i ddatblygu ein strategaeth iechyd rhywiol.

Lorraine Barrett: Er ein bod i gyd yn bryderus am effeithiau HIV/AIDS yng Nghymru a'r DU, ni chredaf y gall unrhyw un ohonom ddirnad y distryw dynol a achosir gan HIV/AIDS yn ne Affrica. A ymunwch â mi i ddiolch i Oxfam a Chronfa Achub y Plant yn arbennig am eu gwaith wrth godi ymwybyddiaeth ar y mater hwn ac i geisio cael y Cenhedloedd Unedig i gyflawni ei addewidion? Cynhaliwyd arwerthiant gwaith celf llwyddiannus yr wythnos diwethaf i godi arian yn Oriol Washington ym Mhenarth. Fe'i trefnwyd gan Tearfund sy'n gweithio i helpu plant yn Affrica sy'n dioddef o HIV/AIDS neu sydd wedi eu gadael yn amddifad oherwydd y clefyd difrifol hwnnw. Cyfrannodd rhyw 40 o arlunwyr Cymreig ddarn o waith celf a chodwyd £14,500 mewn un noson. Pan ddywedaf wrthyf fi hun imi wario gormod o arian y noson honno, ni wnaf ond edrych ar luniau plant yn Affrica ac atgoffa fy hun am sut y dioddefant yn y modd mwyaf erchyll hwnnw. Fel Gweinidog yng Nghynullaid Cymru, beth allwch chi ei wneud i bwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU a chenhedloedd cyfoethocach eraill i wneud eu rhan ac i ddarparu'r arian a'r adnoddau sydd eu hangen? Nid yw'r cais hwnnw'n ddim pan ystyriwn y darlun mawr a'r angen i liniaru'r dioddefaint a welwn yn feunyddiol ar ein setiau teledu ac yn y papurau newydd.

Jane Hutt: Diolch ichi am dynnu ein sylw eto at y drasiedi yn Affrica, yn enwedig yn ne Affrica. Wrth gwrs bod yn rhaid llongyfarch Oxfam ar ei waith. Yr oedd yn dda gennyf glywed hefyd bod y Prif Weinidog, Rhodri Morgan, wedi cymryd camau i godi'r pwnc hwn pan ymwelodd â De Affrica ar gyfer yr uwch-gynhadledd ar ddatblygu cynaliadwy. Mae'n bwysig bod arweinwyr megis Rhodri yn gallu codi'r materion hyn pan fyddant yn ymweld â mannau o'r fath. Gall pob cymuned gynorthwyo drwy gymryd rhan mewn digwyddiadau codi arian fel yr un y soniasoch amdano. Wrth gwrs, mae HIV ar garreg ein drws, ond mae ar raddfa lawer iawn mwy yn Affrica.

Recently I met a Member of the Parliament

Yn ddiweddar, cyfarfûm â Dr Ethiopia

of Ethiopia, Dr Ethiopia Beyene Tedela, who chairs the women's committee of Members of Parliament in Ethiopia. She reported on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and on the lack of information on health promotion, which is still not reaching the communities that need it. Some excellent examples of health promotion exist in Uganda, as the Government and non-governmental organisations have taken that forward. The reported increase in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS partly reflects the success of combination antiretroviral drugs. That is what is so important in terms of recognising our responsibilities across the world. These drugs delay the progression of the disease, and reduce the number of deaths caused by HIV/AIDS. We must put health promotion on the Wales in the World agenda.

David Melding: In the mid and late 1980s, Britain led the way in terms of public health information on AIDS, and our public health programme was emulated in many countries across Europe and North America. However, we seem to have lost our way since then. We have perhaps lowered our guard. People feel that they are not under as direct a threat from AIDS as they once were, or that the disease is more treatable nowadays, as indeed it is in many cases. However, prevention is always better than cure, and I urge the Minister to revisit public information and health policies, particularly in schools, universities and colleges. I commend the booklet that was recently produced by the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning—I do not often say nice things about her. It is a good information guide, which is, I think, handed out to all secondary school pupils. It is a good model of how to get information across to that age group in an unfussy and effective way. It talks their language. We must be direct and honest about what the risk behaviour is, and be more explicit than many of us possibly might feel comfortable with in general conversation. It is better to be explicit and prevent disease than be too polite and let these diseases spread. The Minister is right to point to the general increase in the number of sexually transmitted diseases. They stand as proxy to the general danger that we face. Many sexually transmitted diseases have a traumatic impact on health. It is not only with regard to AIDS that a general strategy is

Beyene Tedela, Aelod o Senedd Ethiopia, sy'n cadeirio pwyllgor menywod Aelodau Seneddol Ethiopia. Rhoddodd adroddiad ar fynychter HIV/AIDS, ac ar y diffyg gwybodaeth ar hybu iechyd, sydd yn dal i fethu â chyrraedd y cymunedau sydd ei hangen. Ceir rhai enghreifftiau ardderchog o hybu iechyd yn Uganda, gan i'r Llywodraeth a'r cyrff an-llywodraethol ddatblygu hynny. Mae'r cynnydd a gofnodir ym mynychter HIV/AIDS yn adlewyrchu'n rhannol lwyddiant cyffuriau gwrthretrofeiriol cyfunol. Dyna sydd mor bwysig o ran cydnabod ein cyfrifoldebau yn fyd eang. Mae'r cyffuriau hyn yn gohirio datblygiad y clefyd ac yn lleihau nifer y marwolaethau a achosir gan HIV/AIDS. Rhaid inni roi hybu iechyd ar agenda Cymru yn y Byd.

David Melding: Yng nghanol a diwedd y 1980au, arweiniodd Prydain y ffordd o ran gwybodaeth iechyd cyhoeddus ar AIDS, ac efelychwyd ein rhaglen iechyd cyhoeddus mewn sawl gwlad yn Ewrop a Gogledd America. Fodd bynnag, ymddengys ein bod wedi colli ein ffordd ers hynny. Efallai ein bod wedi mynd yn esgeulus braidd. Mae pobl yn teimlo nad ydynt o dan fgythiad uniongyrchol oddi wrth AIDS fel ag yr oeddent o'r blaen, neu y gellir trin y clefyd yn well heddiw, ac mae hyn yn wir mewn sawl achos. Fodd bynnag, mae rhwystro clwyf bob amser yn well na cheisio'I wella, ac anogaf y Gweinidog i ailedrych ar bolisiau gwybodaeth a iechyd cyhoeddus, yn arbennig mewn ysgolion, colegau a phrifysgolion. Cymeradwyaf y llyfryn a gynhyrchwyd yn ddiweddar gan y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes—nid wyf yn aml yn dweud pethau da amdani. Mae'n ganllaw gwybodaeth da, sydd, mi gredaf, yn cael ei ddosbarthu i bob disgybl ysgol uwchradd. Mae'n fodel da o sut i gyfleu gwybodaeth i'r grŵp oedran hwnnw mewn modd di-ffws ac effeithiol. Mae'n defnyddio iaith debyg iddynt hwy. Rhaid inni fod yn uniongyrchol ac yn onest ynghylch yr ymddygiad sy'n achosi risg, a bod yn llawer mwy plaen nag y byddai'r rhan fwyaf ohonom yn gyffyrddus ag ef mewn sgwrs gyffredin. Mae'n well siarad yn blaen ac atal clefydau na bod yn rhy gwrtais a gadael i'r clefydau hyn ledu. Mae'r Gweinidog yn iawn i gyfeirio at y cynnydd cyffredinol mewn clefydau a drosglwyddir

appropriate.

Several Members have pointed to the fact that access to drugs is an issue in the developing world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Fifty thousand people in the UK are being treated with complicated combination treatments, which are costly. They are worthwhile because of the years of quality life that they ensure. However, such treatments allow drugs companies to recoup a lot of their investment: that happens in other European countries and in North America. That recoupment should be used as a lever to acquire drugs at cost—with us perhaps directly providing for the cost—for countries such as South Africa. However, we must be aware that there are many weak Governments in sub-Saharan Africa. There is an issue surrounding generic drugs getting back onto first world markets at greatly inflated prices, and drugs not being made available in communities by the Governments concerned, either through malice or, most probably, because governmental structures are weak and primary health programmes are poor. Many issues must be considered. However, it is surely a scandal that effective drugs that have been developed in the west are not given to many people in the developing countries. These people are young and have young families. They are the hope of their nations insofar as economic development is concerned. They are dying by their millions before they reach the age of 35. We can do something: we must use our power to lever change in these countries.

Jane Hutt: One reason why I made this statement to the Assembly was because, in our first year as Assembly Members, we held a significant event to mark this day, and we met with many organisations in the voluntary sector that were actively addressing HIV/AIDS in the community. It is important that we do not take this issue off the top of the agenda. That is why I established the Wales HIV action planning group. Although the figures may be lower in Wales, we know that this is an issue that we should address.

drwy ryw. Maent yn arwydd o'r perygl cyffredinol a wynebwn. Caiff llawer o glefydau a drosglwyddir drwy ryw effaith ysgytwol ar iechyd. Nid gydag AIDS yn unig y mae strategaeth gyffredinol yn briodol.

Cyfeiriodd sawl Aelod at y ffaith bod mynediad i gyffuriau yn broblem yn y byd sy'n datblygu, yn arbennig yn Affrica islaw'r Sahara. Mae 50,000 o bobl yn y DU yn cael eu trin â thriniaethau cyfunol cymhleth, sy'n gostus. Maent yn werthfawr oherwydd y blynyddoedd o fywyd o ansawdd y maent yn eu sicrhau. Fodd bynnag caniatâ thriniaethau o'r fath i gwmnïau cyffuriau adennill llawer o'u buddsoddiad: mae hyn yn digwydd mewn gwledydd Ewropeaidd eraill ac yng Ngogledd America. Dylid defnyddio'r arian hwn a adenillir fel modd o gael cyffuriau am bris cost—efallai gyda ni yn darparu yn uniongyrchol ar gyfer y gost—ar gyfer gwledydd fel De Affrica. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni fod yn ymwybodol bod llawer o Lywodraethau gwan yn Affrica islaw'r Sahara. Mae problem o ran cyffuriau generig yn dychwelyd i farchnadoedd y byd cyntaf am bris uchel iawn, a'r Llywodraeth dan sylw yn peidio â darparu cyffuriau mewn cymunedau naill ai oherwydd malais neu, fwy na thebyg, oherwydd bod strwythurau'r llywodraeth yn wan a bod rhaglenni iechyd sylfaenol yn wael. Rhaid ystyried sawl mater. Fodd bynnag mae'n sicr yn warthus nad yw cyffuriau effeithiol a ddatblygwyd yn y gorllewin yn cael eu rhoi i lawer o bobl yn y gwledydd datblygedig. Mae'r bobl hyn yn ifanc a chanddynt deuluoedd ifanc. Hwy yw gobaith eu cenhedloedd o ran datblygiad economaidd. Maent yn marw yn eu miliynau cyn iddynt gyrraedd 35 oed. Gallwn wneud rhywbeth: rhaid inni ddefnyddio ein grym i sicrhau newid yn y gwledydd hyn.

Jane Hutt: Un rheswm pam y gwneuthum y datganiad hwn i'r Cynulliad oedd oherwydd inni gynnal digwyddiad arwyddocaol i nodi'r diwrnod hwn yn ein blwyddyn gyntaf fel Aelodau Cynulliad, a chawsom gyfarfodydd gyda nifer o gyrff yn y sector gwirfoddol a oedd yn mynd i'r afael â HIV/AIDS yn y gymuned. Mae'n bwysig bod y pwnc hwn yn aros ar frig yr agenda. Dyna pam y sefydlais grŵp cynllunio camau gweithredu HIV Cymru. Er bod y ffigurau efallai'n is yng Nghymru, gwyddom fod hwn yn fater y

dylem fynd i'r afael ag ef.

3:30 p.m.

I hope that we can get service standards to ensure that we monitor compliance. We must engage with people who need this information. The information leaflet for schools that the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning has presented does that. There are many opportunities for young people to access information via Canllaw Online and Funky Dragon, the children and young people's assembly. Sexual health matters are high on Funky Dragon's agenda; that is positive. Our work on health promotion must help us to recognise that there is a new audience, and that there are opportunities to provide young people with information through our school councils and youth fora.

As I said in my reply to Lorraine Barrett, Wales in the World has responsibility to consider issues further afield, such as generic drugs. We must understand and learn about the political sub-context of the situation in Africa, as David Melding pointed out. Oxfam can inform us and raise awareness about these issues. We must ensure that we take that forward with our colleagues in Westminster.

Ann Jones: Like previous speakers, I also welcome this statement and the fact that we are discussing this issue so shortly after World AIDS Day on Sunday. David already referred to the way that people are perhaps becoming more complacent because HIV can be treated. The panic of the 1980s and 1990s seems to have subsided, and people now feel that they do not have to be as careful. That complacency may be a contributing factor in the increase in new cases of HIV throughout the UK. While I acknowledge the other priorities facing the NHS, we must ensure that HIV is not permitted to fall to the bottom of the list of local priorities. Minister, will you take effective measures to ensure that the local health boards put HIV prevention at the forefront of their public health strategies, with, if necessary, ring-fenced funding?

Gobeithiwn y gallwn gael safonau gwasanaeth i sicrhau ein bod yn monitro cydymffurfriad. Rhaid inni gysylltu â phobl sydd angen y wybodaeth hon. Mae'r daflen wybodaeth i ysgolion y mae'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes wedi ei chyflwyno yn gwneud hynny. Ceir llawer o gyfleoedd i bobl ifanc i gyrchu gwybodaeth drwy Canllaw Ar-lein a'r Ddraig Ffyncci, sef cynulliad y plant a'r bobl ifanc. Mae materion iechyd rhywiol yn uchel ar agenda'r Ddraig Ffyncci; mae hynny'n gadarnhaol. Rhaid i'n gwaith ni ar hybu iechyd ein helpu i gydnabod bod cynulleidfa newydd, a bod cyfleoedd i ddarparu gwybodaeth i bobl ifanc drwy ein cynghorau ysgolion a'n fforymau ieuencid.

Fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i Lorraine Barrett, mae gan Cymru yn y Byd gyfrifoldeb dros dystyried pynciau ehangach, megis cyffuriau generig. Rhaid inni ddeall a dysgu am is gyddestun gwleidyddol y sefyllfa yn Affrica, fel y nododd David Melding. Gall Oxfam roi gwybodaeth inni a chodi ymwybyddiaeth am y materion hyn. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn datblygu hynny gyda'n cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan.

Ann Jones: Fel y siaradwyr blaenorol, yr wyf innau hefyd yn croesawu'r datganiad hwn a'r ffaith ein bod yn trafod y mater mor fuan ar ôl Diwrnod Rhyngwladol AIDS ddydd Sul. Cyfeiriodd David eisoes at sut y mae pobl efallai'n dod yn fwy hunan-fodlon oherwydd bod modd trin HIV. Mae panig yr 1980au a'r 1990au yn ymddangos fel ei fod wedi tawelu, ac mae pobl bellach o'r farn nad oes angen iddynt fod mor ofalus. Gall yr hunan-fodlonrwydd hwnnw fod yn ffactor sy'n cyfrannu at y cynnydd yn nifer yr achosion newydd o HIV ledled y DU. Er fy mod yn cydnabod y blaenoriaethau eraill y mae'r GIG yn eu hwynebu, rhaid inni sicrhau na fydd HIV yn mynd i waelod y rhestr o flaenoriaethau lleol. Weinidog a wnewch chi gymryd mesurau effeithiol i sicrhau bod byrddau iechyd lleol yn ceisio atal HIV fel rhan flaenllaw o'u strategaethau iechyd cyhoeddus, gydag arian a bridianwyd os oes angen.

Finally, what feedback have you received from the Terrence Higgins Trust about the work it has carried out with the help of the health promotion grant provided by the Assembly?

Jane Hutt: Developing all-Wales service standards, with the support of the new Health Commission Wales, is vital to pave the way for commissioning responsibilities for the local health boards. That will take us forward into the new arrangements from 1 April onwards. In terms of the sexual health strategy, we awarded £545,000 to the health authorities in July 2001 towards their sexual health strategy action plans, which they had developed as a result of the strategic approach. That is vital. This is an important message from you about how we put this issue on the agenda of our local health boards as part of their health, social care and wellbeing strategies.

In terms of our work with our colleagues in the voluntary sector, we have, as I said, given £90,000 to the Terrence Higgins Trust to carry out a programme on HIV health promotion. We have also provided the trust with a grant of £12,800 for health promotion issues over two years. That enables the trust to participate in policy development through the sexual health strategy monitoring group, HIV services planning group, the health and social care network, and, importantly, the NHS restructuring review group. Sexual health issues are on the agenda. Many smaller community groups also need to come on board. This is about the kind of capacity building that we recognise we need to develop when we ask the voluntary sector and key users of our service to implement and help shape policy. That public involvement will ensure that our Wales HIV/AIDS partnership and strategy are taken forward appropriately.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'r Gweinidog am ymuno â mi i longyfarch trefnwyr gwasanaeth arbennig yn y gadeirlan

Yn olaf, pa adborth a gawsoch gan Ymddiriedolaeth Terrence Higgins am y gwaith a wnaeth gyda chymorth y grant hybu iechyd a ddarparwyd gan y Cynulliad?

Jane Hutt: Mae datblygu safonau gwasanaeth Cymru gyfan gyda chefnogaeth y Comisiwn Iechyd Cymru newydd yn hanfodol i baratoi'r ffordd ar gyfer cyfrifoldebau comisiynu i'r byrddau iechyd lleol. Bydd hynny'n ein harwain at y trefniadau newydd o 1 Ebrill ymlaen. O ran y strategaeth iechyd rhywiol, dyfarnwyd £545,000 gennym i'r awdurdodau iechyd yng Ngorffennaf 2001 tuag at eu cynlluniau gweithredu'r strategaeth iechyd rhywiol, yr oeddent wedi eu datblygu o ganlyniad i'r ymagwedd strategol. Mae'n hynny'n hanfodol. Mae hon yn neges bwysig gennych ynglŷn â'r modd y rhown y mater hwn ar agenda ein byrddau iechyd lleol fel rhan o'u strategaethau iechyd, gofal cymdeithasol a lles.

O ran ein gwaith gyda'n cydweithwyr yn y sector gwirfoddol, yr ydym, fel y dywedais, wedi rhoi £90,000 i Ymddiriedolaeth Terrence Higgins i gynnal rhaglen ar hybu iechyd HIV. Yr ydym hefyd wedi darparu grant o £12,800 i'r ymddiriedolaeth ar gyfer materion hybu iechyd, dros ddwy flynedd. Mae hyn yn galluogi'r ymddiriedolaeth i gyfranogi mewn datblygiad polisi drwy'r grŵp monitro strategaeth iechyd rhywiol, grŵp cynllunio gwasanaethau HIV, y rhwydwaith iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol, ac, yn bwysig, grŵp adolygu ailstrwythuro'r GIG. Mae materion iechyd rhywiol ar yr agenda. Mae angen i grwpiau cymunedol llai ymuno hefyd. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â'r broses o adeiladu capasiti yr ydym yn cydnabod bod angen inni ei datblygu pan ofynnwn i'r sector gwirfoddol a defnyddwyr allweddol ein gwasanaeth i weithredu ac i helpu llunio polisi. Bydd y cydweithio cyhoeddus hwnnw yn sicrhau bod ein partneriaeth a'n strategaeth HIV/AIDS yn cael eu datblygu'n briodol.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I am sure the Minister would wish to join me in congratulating the organisers of a special service in Bangor cathedral on

ym Mangor ddydd Sul ar gyfer Diwrnod Rhyngwladol AIDS. Yr oedd cynrychiolydd o gartref Ymddiriedolaeth Tyddyn Bach ym Mhenmaenmawr yn y gwasanaeth. Nos Wener diwethaf, mewn digwyddiad yn Llandudno, enillodd yr ymddiriedolaeth wobram ei gwasanaeth yn y gymuned. A wŷr y Gweinidog am waith Tyddyn Bach? Ymwelais ag ef yn ddiweddar gyda Gareth Jones a Janet Ryder. Yr hyn sydd yn werthfawr am ddarpariaeth Tyddyn Bach yw'r gofal arbennig i deuluoedd, plant a phobl ifanc, gan gynnwys gofal seibiant a gofal dwys, mewn cyfnodau pwysig ym mywydau dioddefwyr HIV/AIDS. Yn anffodus, mae bygythiad i ddyfodol y ganolfan gan na all gael hyd i arian. A wnaiff y Gweinidog addo y bydd yn edrych ar anghenion Tyddyn Bach iddi sicrhau pobl Cymru fod y Llywodraeth nid yn unig yn cydnabod bod gennym broblem, ond y gall gymryd camau ymarferol hefyd?

Jane Hutt: The service at Bangor was, I am sure, fitting for the occasion. Indeed, there were many such services across Wales on Sunday. I thank organisers who ensured that World AIDS Day, 1 December, was acknowledged in that way. I have recently received representations from Tyddyn Bach about its situation and have asked my officials to follow the matter up. I have not visited personally, though I am aware of the concerns for the future funding of this important project. I assure you that I am taking the matter up and I will inform you of the feedback I get.

Peter Black: Following on from David Melding's remarks, I remember when HIV first arose in the 1980s. Much publicity and public health information was made available, including celebrities demonstrating on television how to fit a condom and so on. Young people have a high level of awareness in particular about the risks of HIV and unprotected sex. I knew people who visited schools to talk to young people about HIV. They were impressed by the level of awareness among young people, who were possibly more aware than adults. Consequentially, the spread of HIV infection was curtailed for a short time in Britain.

Sunday for World AIDS Day. A representative of the Tyddyn Bach Trust home at Penmaenmawr was present at that service. Last Friday evening, at an event in Llandudno, the trust won an award for its service in the community. Is the Minister aware of the work of Tyddyn Bach? I visited it recently along with Gareth Jones and Janet Ryder. A valuable aspect of Tyddyn Bach's provision is the special care for families, children and young people, including respite care and intensive care, at important periods in the lives of HIV/AIDS sufferers. Unfortunately, the centre's future is threatened because it cannot find funding. Will the Minister give a commitment that she will examine the needs of Tyddyn Bach so that she can assure the people of Wales that the Government not only acknowledges that we have a problem, but that it can also take practical measures?

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd y gwasanaeth ym Mangor, yr wyf yn siŵr, yn addas ar gyfer yr achlysur. Yn wir, cynhaliwyd nifer o wasanaethau tebyg ledled Cymru ddydd Sul. Diolchaf i'r trefnwyr a sicrhodd y cafodd Diwrnod Rhyngwladol AIDS, 1 Rhagfyr, ei gydnabod yn y ffordd honno. Yr wyf yn ddiweddar wedi derbyn sylwadau oddi wrth Tyddyn Bach am ei sefyllfa ac yr wyf wedi gofyn i'm swyddogion fynd ar drywydd y mater. Nid wyf wedi ymweld ag ef yn bersonol, er fy mod yn ymwybodol o'r pryderon ynghylch ariannu'r prosiect pwysig hwn yn y dyfodol. Fe'ch sicrhaf fy mod yn mynd ar drywydd y mater hwn a byddaf yn eich hysbysu am yr adborth a dderbyniaf.

Peter Black: Yn dilyn sylwadau David Melding, cofiaf pan ddaeth HIV i'r amlwg gyntaf yn y 1980au. Yr oedd llawer o gyhoeddusrwydd a gwybodaeth iechyd cyhoeddus ar gael, yn cynnwys sêr ar y teledu yn dangos sut i wisgo condom ac yn y blaen. Mae gan bobl ifanc lefel uchel o ymwybyddiaeth yn enwedig am risgiau HIV a rhyw heb ddefnyddio dulliau diogelu. Gwyddwn am bobl a ymwelodd ag ysgolion i siarad â phobl ifanc am HIV. Yr oeddent wedi cael argraff dda o lefel yr ymwybyddiaeth ymhlith pobl ifanc, a oedd o bosibl yn fwy ymwybodol nag oedolion. O ganlyniad, rheolwyd lledaeniad yr haint HIV

There is a huge problem in Africa, but we also have a problem here now, with HIV infection spreading more quickly. More people are becoming infected, and that is a matter for concern. We must address this issue head-on and be more up-front and proactive in promoting health information, the dangers of unprotected sex and the use and availability of condoms. I was talking to workers with homeless people in Swansea, who complained that they could not get condoms to give to young people sleeping rough and others. That is a matter for concern. How should the National Assembly address that, Minister, to make awareness of HIV and the dangers of unprotected sex more prominent in people's minds? In terms of public health, how will it make barrier contraception and information more widely available to young people and others to curtail the spread of HIV infection in Wales?

Jane Hutt: That demonstrates the importance of today's statement in that the Assembly is raising awareness. It reflects ongoing awareness in the community among our professionals, who are taking the sexual health strategy forward. For example, the sexually transmitted infections prevention campaign, which I mentioned in my statement, has run over the last year to raise awareness of infection, including HIV, among 16 to 30-year olds. That is a crucial group. The campaign was promoted through what are described as humorous and non-judgmental posters in pubs, clubs, universities and colleges across Wales. Evaluation has shown that eight out of 10 of over 1,000 young people who were interviewed recalled seeing the campaign poster. One third of respondents stated that seeing the posters prompted comments from themselves or from someone else, and one-fifth claimed that it sparked off a discussion on sexually transmitted infections and their prevention.

3:40 p.m.

The Assembly will not necessarily be aware of this work, but it is important that it is acknowledged. That work is also taking

am amser byr ym Mhrydain. Mae problem enfawr yn Affrica, ond mae gennym ninnau hefyd broblem yma yn awr gyda haint HIV yn lledu ynghynt. Mae mwy o bobl yn cael eu heintio ac mae hynny'n destun pryder. Rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â mater hwn yn uniongyrchol a bod yn fwy amlwg a gweithredol wrth hybu gwybodaeth am iechyd, peryglon rhyw anniogel a defnydd ac argaeledd condomau. Yr oeddwn yn siarad â rhai sy'n gweithio gyda phobl ddigartref yn Abertawe, a gwynai na allent gael condomau i'w rhoi i bobl ifanc sy'n cysgu ar y strydoedd ac eraill. Mae hynny'n destun pryder. Sut dylai'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol fynd i'r afael â hynny, Weinidog, i wneud ymwybyddiaeth o HIV a pheryglon rhyw anniogel yn fwy amlwg ym meddyliau pobl? O ran iechyd cyhoeddus, sut y gwnaiff sicrhau bod dulliau atal cenhedlu gwrthfur a gwybodaeth ar gael yn ehangach i bobl ifanc ac eraill i atal lledaeniad yr haint HIV yng Nghymru?

Jane Hutt: Mae hynny'n dangos pwysigrwydd datganiad heddiw yn yr ystyr bod y Cynulliad yn codi ymwybyddiaeth. Mae'n adlewyrchu ymwybyddiaeth barhaus yn y gymuned ymhlith ein gweithwyr proffesiynol, sy'n datblygu ein strategaeth iechyd rhywiol. Er enghraifft, mae'r ymgyrch atal heintiau a drosglwyddir drwy ryw, y soniais amdani yn fy natganiad, wedi parhau dros y flwyddyn i godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r haint yn cynnwys HIV, ymhlith y rhai rhwng 16 a 30 oed. Mae hwnnw'n grŵp hollbwysig. Hyrwyddwyd yr ymgyrch drwy'r hyn a ddisgrifiwyd fel posteri llawn hiwmor ac anfeirniadol mewn tafarndai, clybiau, prifysgolion a cholegau ledled Cymru. Dangosodd gwerthusiad fod wyth o bob 10 o dros 1,000 o bobl ifanc a gafodd eu cyfweld yn cofio iddynt weld poster yr ymgyrch. Datganodd traean o'r ymatebwyr fod gweld y poster wedi cymell sylwadau ganddynt hwy eu hunain neu gan rywun arall, ac yr oedd un rhan o bump yn honni iddo ddechrau trafodaeth ar heintiau a drosglwyddir drwy ryw a'r ffyrdd o'u hatal.

Ni fydd y Cynulliad o anghenreidrwydd yn ymwybodol o'r gwaith hwn, ond mae'n bwysig ei fod yn cael ei gydnabod. Mae'r

forward our particular focus on chlamydia, for example. We have discussed that before in this Chamber. The major theme of our sexually transmitted infections campaign was the rising incidence of chlamydia, and its possible effects on health, including infertility. As I said, evaluation has shown that the campaign has been well received by young people. The genito-urinary medicine clinics are reporting an increase in the number of people who are coming forward for testing. However, the campaign must be ongoing, and we must ensure that it is properly resourced and evidence-based and gives regard to what makes a difference to people's lives. I hope that gives you some indication of the commitment to taking forward our sexual health strategy in the community.

David Ian Jones: I draw your attention to the successful north Wales needle-exchange scheme, which has operated for several years. It has resulted in the recording of a zero incidence of AIDS being acquired from the shared use of needles and syringes by drug users. Community pharmacists at 65 outlets across north Wales administer that scheme. They are paid 98p each time that they dispense a new needle to a registered drug user. You will appreciate, therefore, that they are not involved in the scheme through any desire to make money, but rather out of a sense of public duty. I am sorry to say that as a result of a recent investigation by HM Customs and Excise, pharmacists have been informed that they should count value-added tax on that 98p. They had previously thought that the supply was exempt from VAT. One pharmacist has recently been assessed as owing £1,000 in back taxes and, to add insult to injury, he was also charged £80 in interest.

I am sure that you will appreciate that this has had a devastating effect upon the morale of the pharmacists involved in this scheme. Many of them are wondering whether they should bother to continue participating in the scheme. If they were not to participate, the effect upon public health in north Wales would be disastrous. The scheme cannot be allowed to collapse. There is no real

gwaith hwnnw hefyd yn datblygu ein ffocws penodol ar glamydia er enghraifft. Yr ydym wedi trafod hynny o'r blaen yn y Siambr hon. Prif thema ein hymgyrch heintiau a drosglwyddir drwy ryw oedd achosion cynyddol clamydia, a'u heffaith bosibl ar iechyd, yn cynnwys anffrwythlondeb. Fel y dywedais, mae gwerthusiad wedi dangos bod yr ymgyrch wedi ei chroesawu gan bobl ifanc. Mae'r clinigau meddyginiaeth cenhedllo-droethol yn cofnodi cynnydd yn nifer y bobl sy'n mynd am brawf. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i'r ymgyrch fod yn un barhaus a rhaid inni sicrhau ei bod yn cael yr adnoddau priodol, a'i bod yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth ac yn rhoi sylw i'r hyn sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth i fywydau pobl. Gobeithiaf fod hynny yn rhoi rhyw arwydd ichi o'n hymrwymiad i ddatblygu ein strategaeth iechyd rhywiol yn y gymuned.

David Ian Jones: Tynnaf eich sylw at gynllun cyfnewid nodwyddau llwyddiannus y Gogledd, sydd wedi bod yn weithredol ers sawl blwyddyn. Arweiniodd at gofnodi dim achosion o AIDS yn deillio o rannu nodwyddau a chwistrellyddion gan ddefnyddwyr cyffuriau. Mae fferyllwyr cymunedol mewn 65 o fannau ledled y Gogledd yn gweinyddu'r cynllun hwnnw. Telir 98c iddynt bob tro y byddant yn dosbarthu nodwydd newydd i ddefnyddiwr cyffuriau cofrestredig. Byddwch yn gwerthfawrogi, felly, nad ydynt yn ymwneud â'r cynllun oherwydd awydd i wneud arian, ond yn hytrach o safbwynt dyletswydd cyhoeddus. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf orfod dweud, o ganlyniad i ymchwiliad diweddar gan Dollau Tramor a Chartref EM, hysbyswyd fferyllwyr y dylent gyfrif treth ar werth ar y 98c hwnnw. Cyn hynny yr oeddent yn credu bod y cyflenwiad yn rhydd o TAW. Yn ddiweddar aseswyd bod un fferylllydd mewn dyled o £1,000 ar drethi ac, i roi halen ar y briw, codwyd £80 o log arno hefyd.

Yr wyf yn sicr y byddwch yn gwerthfawrogi'r effaith ddinistriol a gafodd hyn ar ysbryd y fferyllwyr sydd yn rhan o'r cynllun hwn. Mae llawer ohonynt yn ystyried a ddylent drafferthu i barhau i gyfranogi yn y cynllun. Pe na baent yn cyfranogi, byddai'r effaith ar iechyd cyhoeddus yn y Gogledd yn drychinebus. Ni ellir gadael i'r cynllun chwalu. Nid oes gwir ddull amgen yn y

alternative in north Wales that provides the necessary degree of coverage throughout the region. The pharmacists are asking Customs and Excise to reconsider their case, or to at least consider making a concessionary exemption. This scheme is a vital component in public health in north Wales. Will you make representations to the commissioners of HM Customs and Excise to ensure that this vital service is preserved?

Jane Hutt: Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. Needle-exchange schemes are an essential part of the strategy to reduce the spread of HIV. I have recently been made aware of this problem in north Wales, where such services are classified as business rather than professional services, although I understand that some contracts between health authorities and community pharmacists are regarded as professional services. That seems to be the right route in terms of the zero VAT rating. I am investigating the matter, and I am glad that you brought it to the Assembly's attention. I hope that we can resolve it satisfactorily.

Gogledd sy'n darparu'n ddigonol ar gyfer y rhanbarth cyfan. Mae'r fferyllwyr yn gofyn i Dollau Tramor a Chartref ailystyried eu hachos, neu o leiaf ystyried rhoi eithriad consensiynol. Mae'r cynllun hwn yn elfen hollbwysig o iechyd cyhoeddus yn y Gogledd. A wnewch sylwadau i gomisiynwyr Tollau Tramor a Chartref EM i sicrhau y diogelir y gwasanaeth hollbwysig hwn?

Jane Hutt: Diolch i chi am ddwyn y mater hwn i'n sylw. Mae cynlluniau cyfnewid nodwyddau yn rhan hanfodol o'r strategaeth i leihau lledaeniad HIV. Deuthum yn ymwybodol o'r broblem hon yn y Gogledd yn ddiweddar, lle mae gwasanaethau o'r fath yn cael eu cyfrif fel busnesau yn hytrach na gwasanaethau proffesiynol, er y deallaf yr ystyrir rhai cytundebau rhwng awdurdodau iechyd a fferyllwyr cymunedol fel gwasanaethau proffesiynol. Ymddengys mai dyna'r trywydd iawn o ran cyfradd sero TAW. Yr wyf yn ymchwilio i'r mater, ac yr wyf yn falch eich bod wedi'i ddwyn i sylw'r Cynulliad. Gobeithiaf y gallwn ei ddatrys yn foddhaol.

Pwyntiau o Drefn Points of Order

Nick Bourne: Point of order. I have informed you of this, Presiding Officer, and sought to e-mail the Minister for Economic Development to warn him also. It relates to Standing Order No. 6.34 and late answers to written questions. These were to the Minister for Economic Development in this case, although this problem is not limited to him. I asked nine questions that were due to be answered on 28 November. Being a reasonable sort of guy, I rang up to remind the Minister of this and was told that I would receive the answers on 1 December. No answers came on that day. I received the answers at 5.26 p.m. yesterday but, in every case, the answer given was 'I will write to you and a copy of my letter will be published on the intranet and the internet'. Some of those questions were straightforward. Do you agree that it should not take such a long time to provide answers to straightforward questions such as ones on the purpose of a visit to Brittany?

Nick Bourne: Pwynt o drefn. Yr wyf wedi eich hysbysu o hyn, Lywydd, a cheisiais anfon e-bost at y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd i'w rybuddio yntau. Mae'n ymwneud â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 6.34 ac atebion hwyr i gwestiynau ysgrifenedig. Rhai ar gyfer y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd oeddynt yn yr achos hwn, er nad yw'r broblem yn ymwneud ag ef yn unig. Gofynnais naw cwestiwn a oedd i'w hateb ar 28 Tachwedd. Gan fy mod yn ddyn rhesymol, ffoniais y Gweinidog i'w atgoffa o hynny a dywedwyd wrthyf y byddwn yn derbyn yr atebion ar 1 Rhagfyr. Ni dderbyniais atebion y diwrnod hwnnw. Derbyniais yr atebion am 5.26 p.m. ddoe, ond ym mhob achos, yr ateb a roddwyd oedd 'Ysgrifennaf atoch a chyhoeddir copi o'm llythyr ar y rhyngwyd a'r fewnwyd.' Yr oedd rhai o'r cwestiynau hynny yn syml. A gytunwch na ddylai gymryd cyhyd i roi atebion i gwestiynau syml megis y rhai yn ymwneud â diben ymweliad â Llydaw?

The Presiding Officer: I follow with interest the activity of Members, including the esteemed Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, in asking questions, and I applaud such diligence. However, answering questions is not a matter for me; it is the responsibility of Ministers, as they are aware. Points of order on this issue have been raised on several occasions in the Chamber and Ministers have undertaken to answer written questions within eight working days, as is reflected in guidance. I hope that it does not take longer than that to answer questions, except on those occasions when there are valid reasons for that.

The Minister for Economic Development (Andrew Davies): Further to that point of order, I apologise to Nick for the late replies. It is unacceptable and I will put in place measures to ensure that it does not happen again.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to the Minister for that frank and forthright response. It must be Christmas already.

Alun Cairns: Point of order. I wish to raise this, as sensitively as possible, under Standing Order No. 7.8, which refers to discourteous or unbecoming conduct in the Assembly. I seek your guidance as to whether this Standing Order covers dress code in the Chamber. I am sure that those Members who dress up in an unusual manner do so with good intentions, but I question whether this is the most appropriate forum for them to do so. I am concerned that today's events may set a precedent for dressing up to raise funds for a range of good causes, which may detract from the serious nature of this legislature. I am aware that I am leaving myself open to comments such as 'Scrooge' or 'humbug'. However, I hope that you will address my concerns.

Mick Bates *rose—*

The Presiding Officer: I am not sure whether you heard all of that point of order, Mick, but you may comment on it if you so

Y Llywydd: Dilynaf weithgareddau yr Aelodau â diddordeb, gan gynnwys Arweinydd parchus Ceidwadwyr Cymru, wrth ofyn cwestiynau, a chymeradwyaf ddiwydrwydd o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, nid mater i mi yw ateb cwestiynau; cyfrifoldeb y Gweinidogion ydyw, fel y gwyddant. Codwyd pwyntiau o drefn ar y mater hwn ar sawl achlysur yn y Siambr ac mae Gweinidogion wedi ymgymryd i ateb cwestiynau ysgrifenedig o fewn wyth diwrnod gwaith, fel yr adlewyrchwyd yn y canllawiau. Gobeithiaf na chymer fwy o amser na hynny i ateb cwestiynau, ac eithrio ar achlysuron arbennig pan fydd rhesymau dilydros hynny.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd (Andrew Davies): Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwnnw, ymddiheuraf i Nick am yr ymatebion hwyr. Mae'n annerbyniol a gweithredaf fesurau i sicrhau na fydd yn digwydd eto.

Y Llywydd: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am yr ymatebion gonest a di-lol hwnnw. Mae'n siŵr fod y Nadolig wedi cyrraedd yn barod.

Alun Cairns: Pwynt o drefn. Dymunaf godi'r mater hwn, mor sensitif â phosibl, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 7.8, sy'n cyfeirio at ymddygiad anghwrtais neu amhriodol yn y Cynulliad. Ceisiaf eich arweiniad ynglŷn â pha un a yw'r Rheol Sefydlog hon yn cwmpasu cod gwisg o fewn y Siambr. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod yr Aelodau hynny sy'n gwisgo mewn modd anarferol yn gwneud hynny gyda bwriadau da, ond mae'n amheus gennyf ai dyma'r fforwm mwyaf priodol iddynt wneud hynny. Yr wyf yn bryderus y gallai digwyddiadau heddiw osod cynsail ar gyfer gwisgo i fyny i godi arian at ystod o achosion da, a allai dynnu sylw oddi wrth natur ddifrifol y ddeddfwrfa hon. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol fy mod yn agor y drws i sylwadau megis 'Scrooge' neu 'hymbyg'. Fodd bynnag, gobeithiaf y byddwch yn ystyried fy mhryderon.

Mick Bates *a gododd—*

Y Llywydd: Nid wyf yn siŵr a glywsoch y pwynt o drefn hwnnw i gyd, Mick, ond cewch wneud sylw arno os ydych yn

wish.

Mick Bates: Further to the point of order rightly raised by Alun Cairns, I point out that Members have worn t-shirts advertising various issues in the Chamber on previous occasions. Some people may take offence to a red suit. However, other Members sometimes wear red suits. Although Members are entitled to their opinions, I believe that, since there is no official dress code—I stand to be corrected if there is one—

The Presiding Officer: You will be corrected in a moment.

Mick Bates: As Alun said, the intentions on this occasion and the two previous occasions have been good. I dressed up today in the same spirit as the two other Members who have worn particular t-shirts in the Chamber previously.

Peter Law: Further to that point of order, some of us thought that Mick was displaying the traditional Liberal Democrat costume today. Whatever the reason for dressing up—I am sure that there are good reasons, as I have heard of such fundraising—it does not add to the Assembly's dignity and decorum to be decked out in that fashion, even if Christmas is approaching. It gives new meaning to the phrase 'they are not all locked up yet'. I hope that Mick Bates will take note of that.

3:50 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: I will not discuss in public any exchanges that may or may not have taken place between the presiding bench and Mick Bates earlier in today's proceedings. However, there is a dress code in the Chamber, namely that Members should appear in normal dress. I will not call Members to address the Chamber if they are abnormally dressed. There is a simple reason for that, as Members of certain parties may wish to come to the Chamber in hunting pink, Fireman Sam costumes or other such clothing to make a point. They could also wear sporting gear, which could be seen as a form of free advertising. There are other parliamentary bodies in which officials—

dymuno.

Mick Bates: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn a godwyd yn gywir gan Alun Cairns, nodaf fod Aelodau wedi gwisgo crysau-t yn hysbysebu materion amrywiol o fewn y Siambr ar achlysuron blaenorol. Gallai siwt goch beri tramgwydd i rai pobl. Fodd bynnag, bydd Aelodau eraill ar adegau yn gwisgo siwtiau coch. Er bod hawl i'r Aelodau fynegi barn, credaf, gan nad oes cod gwisg swyddogol—caf fy nghywiro os oes un—

Y Llywydd: Cewch eich cywiro ymhen eiliad.

Mick Bates: Fel y dywedodd Alun, mae'r bwriad ar yr achlysur hwn a'r ddau achlysur blaenorol wedi bod yn rhai da. Gwisgais i fyfyr heddiw yn yr un ysbryd â'r ddau Aelod arall sydd wedi gwisgo crysau-t arbennig yn y Siambr ar achlysuron blaenorol.

Peter Law: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwnnw, credai rhai ohonom fod Mick yn arddangos gwisg draddodiadol y Democrat Rhyddfrydol heddiw. Beth bynnag fo'r rheswm am wisgo i fyfyr—yr wyf yn siŵr fod rhesymau da, gan fyfyr mod wedi clywed am achosion codi arian o'r fath—nid yw'n ychwanegu at urddas a pharchusrwydd y Cynulliad i fod wedi gwisgo yn y fath fodd, hyd yn oed os ydym ar drothwy'r Nadolig. Mae'n rhoi ystyr newydd i'r term 'nid ydynt i gyd dan glo eto'. Gobeithiaf y bydd Mick Bates yn cymryd sylw o hynny.

Y Llywydd: Ni thrafodaf yn gyhoeddus unrhyw drafodaethau a all neu na all fod wedi digwydd rhwng y fainc lywyddol a Mick Bates yn gynharach yn nhrefodion y dydd. Fodd bynnag, mae cod gwisg ar gyfer y Siambr, sef y dylai Aelodau ymddangos mewn gwisg arferol. Ni alwaf ar Aelodau i gyfarch y Siambr os ydynt wedi gwisgo yn anarferol. Mae rheswm syml dros hynny, gan y byddai Aelodau o rai pleidiau yn dymuno dod i'r Siambr mewn cotiau hela, gwisgoedd Sam Tân neu ddillad eraill o'r fath i wneud pwynt. Gallent hefyd wisgo gwisgoedd chwaraeon, a gellid gweld hynny fel math o hysbysebu am ddim. Mae cyrff seneddol eraill lle y gallai swyddogion—gan gynnwys

including those who hold my office and that of the learned Clerk—wear ceremonial dress. People do not dress up in this Chamber. We should maintain the dignity of proper suits and ties for gentlemen and proper— [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: ‘Oh.’] Order. That is, I expect gentlemen to dress as we on the presiding bench dress. We will now move on.

y rhai yn fy swydd i a’r dysgedig Glerc— wisgo gwisg seremoni. Ni fydd pobl yn gwisgo i fyny yn y Siambr hon. Dylem gynnal urddas siwt a thei priodol ar gyfer y dynion a—[AELODAU’R CYNULLIAD: ‘O.’] Trefn. Hynny yw, disgwyliaf i’r dynion wisgo fel y byddwn ni ar y fainc lywyddu yn gwisgo. Symudwn ymlaen yn awr.

Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Deddf Diwygio Deiliadaeth ar y Cyd a Lesddaliad 2002 (Cychwyn Rhif 1) (Arbedion a Darpariaethau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2002
Approval of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (Commencement No. 1) (Savings and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Order 2002

The Finance Minister (Edwina Hart): I propose that

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Edwina Hart): Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly considers the principle of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (Commencement No. 1) (Savings and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Order 2002, laid in the Table Office on 5 November 2002. (NDM1237)

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Deddf Diwygio Deiliadaeth ar y Cyd a Lesddaliad 2002 (Cychwyn Rhif 1) (Arbedion a Darpariaethau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2002, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 5 Tachwedd 2002. (NDM1237)

I propose that

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly:

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee which does not draw the special attention of the Assembly to any matter under Standing Order No. 11.5, in relation to the draft Order, the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (Commencement No. 1) (Savings and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Order 2002, laid in the Table Office on 19 November 2002;

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau, nad yw’n tynnu sylw arbennig y Cynulliad at unrhyw fater o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5 mewn perthynas â’r Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Deddf Diwygio Deiliadaeth ar y Cyd a Lesddaliad 2002 (Cychwyn Rhif 1) (Arbedion a Darpariaethau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2002, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 19 Tachwedd 2002;

2. approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 5 November 2002. (NDM1238)

2. yn cymeradwyo gwneud y Gorchymyn yn unol â’r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 5 Tachwedd 2002. (NDM1238)

The Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 received Royal Assent in May of this year. Part I of the Act introduces a new form of tenure called commonhold, which will be implemented by the Lord Chancellor’s Department in England and Wales, while part II—the provisions of which are devolved to the Assembly—makes major changes to residential leasehold reform.

Cafodd y Ddeddf Diwygio Deiliadaeth ar y Cyd a Lesddaliad 2002 Gydsyniad Brenhinol ym mis Mai eleni. Mae Rhan I y Ddeddf yn cyflwyno math newydd o ddaliadaeth a elwir yn ddeiliadaeth ar y cyd, a gaiff ei weithredu gan Adran yr Arglwydd Ganghellor yng Nghymru a Lloegr, a bydd rhan II—y darpariaethau a gaiff eu datganoli i’r Cynulliad—yn gwneud newidiadau mawr i ddiwygio llesddaliad preswyl.

This Order brings into force in Wales the major provisions of the new Act. These reforms give leaseholders new rights and enhance their existing rights. Under the new arrangements, leaseholders in Wales will find it easier to buy their freeholds or extend their leases. The reforms remove unnecessary obstacles to enfranchisement by abolishing the residence test and numerous other unjustified restrictions. The provisions will also, in the case of premises that have been converted into flats where there is a resident landlord, limit the resident landlord exemption to landlords who have owned the freehold since before the conversion. The commercial limit for blocks of flats will be raised from 10 per cent to 25 per cent, and the requirement for at least two-thirds of qualifying leaseholders to participate in collective enfranchisement will be removed, although participating leaseholders would still be required to own at least half the flats in the block. New rights will be given to personal representatives of deceased leaseholders of flats and houses. The Act will also improve the rights of leaseholders of houses who have extended their leases under the terms of the Leasehold Reform Act 1967. Such people will be given the right to buy their freehold and the right to security of tenure if and when their extended lease expires. The Act also provides that marriage value—the extra value when freehold and leasehold interests are under the same control—should be disregarded where leases have more than 80 years left to run. It will also provide that, where marriage value applies, it should be split 50:50 in all cases. The right to seek the appointment of a new manager for a block of flats where the existing management is at fault will be widened, as will the specific grounds under which the terms of a lease can be varied by a court.

The Act contains other provisions that will help leaseholders, including a new right to manage, protection against unreasonable service charges, and restrictions on the use of forfeiture. These additional provisions will require changes to secondary legislation and the proposals are currently out to consultation. I am sure that the new arrangements contained in this commencement Order will benefit

Mae'r Gorchymyn hwn yn dwyn i rym yng Nghymru brif ddarpariaethau'r Ddeddf newydd. Mae'r diwygiadau hyn yn rhoi hawliau newydd i lesddeiliaid ac yn gwella eu hawliau presennol. O dan y trefniadau newydd, bydd yn haws i lesddeiliaid yng Nghymru brynu eu rhydd-ddaliad neu ymestyn eu les. Mae'r diwygiadau yn dileu rhwystrau diangen i freinio drwy ddiddymu'r prawf preswyl a sawl rhwystr arall na ellir ei gyfiawnhau. Yn achos eiddo sydd wedi ei addasu'n fflatiau lle mae landlord preswyl, bydd y darpariaethau hefyd yn cyfyngu eithriad landlord preswyl i landlordiaid sydd wedi bod yn berchen ar y rhydd-ddaliad ers cyn i'r eiddo gael ei addasu. Caiff y cyfyngiad masnachol ar gyfer bloc o fflatiau ei gynyddu o 10 y cant i 25 y cant, a chaiff yr angen i o leiaf ddwy ran o dair o lesddeiliaid cymwys gymryd rhan mewn breinio ar y cyd ei ddileu, er y byddai'n ofynnol i lesddeiliaid cyfranogol fod yn berchen ar o leiaf hanner y fflatiau yn y bloc. Rhoddir hawliau newydd i gynrychiolwyr personol lesddeiliaid fflatiau a thai sydd wedi marw. Bydd y Ddeddf hefyd yn gwella hawliau lesddeiliaid tai sydd wedi ymestyn eu les o dan amodau Deddf Diwygio Lesddeiliad 1967. Rhoddir yr hawl i'r bobl hynny brynu eu rhydd-ddaliad a'r hawl i sicrwydd daliadaeth os neu pan ddaw eu les estynedig i ben. Mae'r Ddeddf hefyd yn darparu bod gwerth cyfunol—y gwerth ychwanegol pan fydd buddiannau rhydd-ddaliad a lesddaliad o dan yr un rheolaeth—yn cael ei ddiystyru pan fydd mwy nag 80 mlynedd yn weddill ar y les. Pan fo gwerth cyfunol yn berthnasol, bydd hefyd yn darparu y dylai gael ei rannu 50:50 ym mhob achos. Caiff yr hawl i benodi rheolwr newydd i floc o fflatiau lle mae bai ar y rheolaeth bresennol, ei ehangu, yn ogystal â'r amodau penodol lle y gall amodau les gael eu newid gan y llysoedd.

Mae'r Ddeddf yn cynnwys darpariaethau eraill a fydd o gymorth i lesddeiliad, gan gynnwys hawl newydd i reoli, diogelwch rhag costau gwasanaethu afresymol, a chyfyngiadau ar y defnydd o fforffediad. Bydd y darpariaethau hyn yn golygu newidiadau i is-ddeddfwriaeth ac ymgynghori ar y cynigion ar hyn o bryd. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y trefniadau newydd yn y Gorchymyn cychwyn hwn o fantais i

leaseholders in Wales. I commend it to Members, and I trust that the National Assembly will welcome these new arrangements.

Owen John Thomas: I recognise the benefits that this Act brings to leaseholders living in flats. However, the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002—which was written in London and passed there with reference to England—is another example of Wales's needs being overlooked. It emphasises again the iniquity of the current devolution settlement, which denies primary lawmaking powers to the National Assembly.

I have been involved in campaigns for leasehold reform for longer than I care to recall. For longer than that, the people of Wales have suffered the iniquities of a system whereby one person owns the land under the home of another. Forty per cent of all the 99-year leasehold houses in England and Wales are located in Wales. Over 100 years ago, Lloyd George described leasehold as legalised robbery. Gwynfor Evans branded the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 a landlord's charter, and his prophecy proved to be correct.

When the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill, which dealt almost exclusively with flats rather than houses, was being debated at Westminster, Plaid Cymru MP Elfyn Llwyd put it to the Government that several aspects of existing leasehold legislation which were not touched upon in the Bill should be addressed. He was told that there had been consultation and that the Government was satisfied that the Bill, as it stood, addressed everyone's needs. I wrote to Edwina Hart before the Bill was presented to the House of Commons and drew her attention to the absence in the Bill of measures to deal with the iniquities that arise when leaseholders seek to purchase the freeholds of their homes. She was advised that there were no such problems and, yet again, an opportunity to influence Westminster legislation for the benefit of Wales was turned down. Yet again, we see an absence of political leadership and the

lesddeiliaid yng Nghymru. Fe'i cymeradwyaf i'r Aelodau, a hyderaf y bydd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn croesawu'r trefniadau newydd hyn.

Owen John Thomas: Cydnabyddaf y buddiannau y bydd y Ddeddf hon yn eu rhoi i lesddeiliaid sy'n byw mewn fflatiau. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Ddeddf Diwygio Deiliadaeth ar y Cyd a Lesddaliad 2002—a ysgrifennwyd yn Llundain ac a basiwyd yno mewn cysylltiad â Lloegr—yn enghraifft arall o anghenion Cymru yn cael eu diystyru. Mae'n pwysleisio eto anghyfiawnder y setliad datganoli presennol, sy'n gwrthod rhoi pwerau deddfu sylfaenol i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

Yr wyf wedi chwarae rhan mewn ymgyrchoedd dros ddiwygio lesddeiliad am fwy o amser nag y dymunaf gofio. Am fwy o amser na hynny, mae pobl Cymru wedi dioddef anghyfiawnder system lle mae unigolyn yn berchen y tir o dan gartref rhywun arall. Mae 40 y cant o dai o dan lesddaliad yng Nghymru a Lloegr wedi eu lleoli yng Nghymru. Dros 100 mlynedd yn ôl, disgrifiodd Lloyd George lesddaliad fel ysbeilio wedi'i gyfreithloni. Galwodd Gwynfor Evans Ddeddf Diwygio Lesddaliad 1967 yn siarter i landlordiaid, a daeth ei broffwydoliaeth yn wir.

Pan oedd y Mesur Diwygio Deiliadaeth ar y Cyd a Lesddaliad, a oedd yn mynd i'r afael fwy neu lai yn gyfan gwbl â fflatiau yn hytrach na thai, yn cael ei drafod yn San Steffan, awgrymodd Elfyn Llwyd, AS Plaid Cymru, i'r Llywodraeth y dylai sawl agwedd ar y ddeddfwriaeth bresennol ynglŷn â lesddaliad nad oeddent yn cael eu hystyried yn y Mesur gael eu trafod. Dywedwyd wrtho fod ymgyngoriad wedi ei gynnal a bod y Llywodraeth yn fodlon fod y Mesur, fel yr oedd yn mynd i'r afael â gofynion pawb. Ysgrifennais at Edwina Hart cyn i'r Mesur gael ei gyflwyno i Dŷ'r Cyffredin a thynnu ei sylw at y ffaith nad oedd mesurau yn y Mesur i ymdrin ag anghyfiawnder sy'n codi pan fydd lesddeiliaid am brynu rhydd-ddaliad eu cartrefi. Fe'i cynghorwyd nad oedd problem o'r fath yn bodoli ond, unwaith eto, gwrthodwyd y cyfle i ddylanwadu ar ddeddfwriaeth San Steffan er budd Cymru. Unwaith eto, gwelwn ddiffyg arweinyddiaeth

consequent need for Ministers to take their steer from civil servants. During a short debate in the summer I presented an extensive list of iniquities relating to the valuation and purchase process of freeholds, which should be addressed by new legislation. How much longer does the Minister think that the people of Wales will accept the Assembly Government's acquiescence and apparent complacency concerning the Westminster Government's shabby treatment of Wales—whether that be in relation to leasehold reform, its failure to implement European directives to help former Allied Steel and Wire workers to obtain their pension rights, or merely the request of the National Assembly to make St David's Day a national holiday?

Eleanor Burnham: Welsh Liberal Democrats have always opposed the principle of leasehold. As has been said, 100 years ago David Lloyd George described the system as legalised robbery. Our aim is to abolish leasehold outright. That would be most easily achieved by making the conversion from leasehold to commonhold as simple as possible. This could be done by proposing an automatic right of ballot for leaseholders in a block of flats and so on. If a majority of leaseholders voted in favour, then ownership could be transferred. The freeholder would be compensated by being bought out by the leaseholder at a price determined by an independent tribunal. Where such arrangements do not exist, we would strengthen leaseholders' legal rights to take freeholders and management agents to court for negligence and/or mismanagement. However, given the constraints of the Assembly's powers we cannot implement these policies. We recognise that this legislation is a step in the right direction. If the Assembly were to have powers akin to those of Scotland then we would need to reconsider the issue. In the meantime, will the Minister take up these matters with Westminster?

William Graham: The revision of the principal Act has been long-awaited and these measures propose a major change to the

wleidyddol a'r angen wedyn i Weinidogion gael eu harwain gan weision sifil. Yn ystod dadl fer yn ystod yr haf, cyflwynais restr gynhwysfawr o agweddau anghyfiawn ar weithdrefn gwerthuso a phrynu rhydd-daliad, y dylid mynd i'r afael â hwy o dan ddeddfwriaeth newydd. Am faint rhagor, ym marn y Gweinidog, y bydd pobl Cymru yn derbyn cydsyniad a bodlonrwydd ymddangosiadol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad mewn cysylltiad â'r ffordd wael y mae Llywodraeth San Steffan wedi trin Cymru—boed hynny yn ymwneud â diwygio lesddaliad, ei methiant i weithredu cyfarwyddebau Ewropeaidd i helpu cynweithwyr Allied Steel and Wire i gael eu hawliau pensiwn, neu hyd yn oed cais y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i wneud Dydd Gŵyl Dewi yn ŵyl genedlaethol.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru wedi bod yn erbyn yr egwyddor o lesddaliad erioed. Fel y dywedwyd, 100 mlynedd yn ôl, disgrifiodd Lloyd George y system fel ysbeiliad wedi'i gyfreithloni. Ein nod yw diddymu lesddaliad yn gyfan gwbl. Y ffordd rwyddaf o gyflawni hynny fyddai drwy sicrhau bod trosglwyddo o lesddaliad i ddeiliadaeth ar y cyd mor syml â phosibl. Gellid gwneud hyn drwy gynnig hawl i bleidlais yn awtomatig i lesddeiliaid mewn blociau fflatiau ac yn y blaen. Pe bai mwyafrif o lesddeiliaid yn pleidleisio o blaid, byddai'n bosibl trosglwyddo'r berchenogaeth. Câi'r rhydd-ddeiliad ei ddigolledu wrth i'r lesddeiliad brynu ei ran ef am bris a gâi ei bennu ymlaen llaw gan dribiwnlys annibynnol. Lle nad oes trefniadau o'r fath yn bodoli, byddem yn cryfhau hawliau cyfreithiol y lesddeiliad i ddwyn achos cyfreithiol o esgeulustod a/neu gamreoli yn erbyn rhydd-ddeiliaid a rheolwyr. Fodd bynnag, o ystyried cyfyngiadau pwerau'r Cynulliad, ni allwn weithredu'r polisiau hyn. Cydnabyddwn fod y ddeddfwriaeth hon yn gam i'r cyfeiriad cywir. Pe bai'r Cynulliad yn cael pwerau tebyg i rai yr Alban byddai angen inni ailystyried y mater. Yn y cyfamser, a wnaiff y Gweinidog drafod y materion hyn â San Steffan.

William Graham: Yr ydym wedi aros yn hir am ddiwygio'r brif Ddeddf ac mae'r mesurau hyn yn cynnig newidiadau mawr i gyfraith

law of real property, although similar forms of tenure exist in many other countries, particularly Australia. However, the Act does not provide for a mix of commonhold and leasehold tenure in one building. A notable theme is the exclusion of residential requirements so that the virtue of ownership is confirmed, rather than the occupation of a flat or house as a home. The rights of residential leaseholders are strengthened and good management is encouraged on a statutory basis. Forfeiture of tenure when small sums are owed is now prohibited, as are restrictive insurance provisions. However the right to forfeit a valuable long lease of residential property for breach of covenant remains. The Minister should explain why the implementation of these measures has been delayed for so long in Wales, given that they have been in force in England since 1 July.

The Finance Minister (Edwina Hart): Like Eleanor Burnham, I regard this as a step in the right direction, and it is a measure that we can implement in Wales under the terms of the devolution settlement. There have been a number of leasehold reforms over the last 30 years that have attempted to remedy some of the worst defects. However, the protection afforded by the law remains incomplete and the remedies available to leaseholders are unduly difficult and costly to use—I think that we would all accept that. The commonhold system introduced by part I of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 will help to provide a new form of tenure for properties containing several units that is free of the drawbacks of the current leasehold system. Many existing leaseholders are unlikely to be able to convert to commonhold and therefore there is a need to address the problems that they face within the existing scheme. I accept that there are issues to be addressed in that regard. Part II relates to leasehold reform, which is devolved to the Assembly, and makes reforms to residential leasehold law; it is quite good in that respect. We could ask why the Act has not gone further—that has come out in this debate. The measures in the Act are those which the UK Government saw as the highest priority for action and as those which will have the greatest effect in tackling the problems within the existing leasehold system. Difficult

eiddo tiriog, er bod mathau tebyg o ddaliadaeth yn bodoli mewn sawl gwlad arall, yn arbennig Awstralia. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r Ddeddf yn darparu ar gyfer daliadaeth ar y cyd a lesddaliad mewn un adeilad. Un thema amlwg yw eithrio gofynion preswyl er mwyn cadarnhau mantais perchenogaeth, yn hytrach na phreswyl mewn fflat neu dŷ fel cartref. Caiff hawliau lesddeiliaid preswyl eu cryfhau ac anogir rheolaeth dda ar sail statudol. Bellach gwaherddir fforffediad daliadaeth pan fo symiau bach yn ddyledus, a hefyd darpariaethau yswiriant cyfyngol. Fodd bynnag, erys yr hawl i fforffedio daliadaeth hir gwerthfawr ar eiddo preswyl am dorri cymundeb. Dylai'r Gweinidog egluro pam yr oedd cymaint o oedi cyn gweithredu'r mesurau hyn yng Nghymru, o gofio eu bod yn weithredol yn Lloegr ers 1 Gorffennaf.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Edwina Hart): Fel Eleanor Burnham, ystyriaf hyn yn gam i'r cyfeiriad cywir, ac mae'n fesur y gallwn ei weithredu yng Nghymru o dan amodau'r setliad datganoli. Cafodd lesddaliad ei ddiwygio sawl tro dros y 30 mlynedd diwethaf, er mwyn cywiro rhai o'r diffygion gwaethaf. Fodd bynnag, mae'r diogelwch a rydd y gyfraith yn parhau'n anghyflawn ac mae'r dulliau cywiro sydd ar gael i lesddeiliaid yn rhy anodd a chostus i'w defnyddio—credaf ein bod i gyd yn derbyn hynny. Bydd y system deiliadaeth ar y cyd a gyflwynwyd fel rhan I o Ddeddf Diwygio Deiliadaeth ar y Cyd a Lesddaliad 2002 yn helpu i gynnig math newydd o ddaliadaeth ar gyfer eiddo sy'n cynnwys sawl uned sy'n rhydd o rwystrau'r system lesddaliad bresennol. Mae'n debyg y bydd llawer o lesddeiliaid presennol yn methu â throsglwyddo i ddeiliadaeth ar y cyd felly mae angen mynd i'r afael â'r problemau sy'n eu hwynebu o fewn y cynllun presennol. Derbynaf fod materion yn codi yn hynny o beth. Mae rhan II yn ymwneud â diwygio lesddaliad, sydd wedi ei ddatganoli i'r Cynulliad, ac yn diwygio cyfraith lesddaliad preswyl; mae'n weddol dda yn hynny o beth. Gallem ofyn pam nad yw'r Ddeddf wedi mynd ymhellach—cododd hynny o'r ddadl hon. Y mesurau yn y Ddeddf yw'r rhai a oedd â'r flaenoriaeth uchaf ar gyfer eu gweithredu a'r rhai a gaiff yr effaith fwyaf

decisions had to be made about what to include. It was decided that it was better to have some reforms than none, and I concur with that. However, the UK Government has committed to a broader package of reforms. I think that we would all want to support that. I will take on board any comments made in the Chamber about further reforms required through the legislative process.

wrth fynd i'r afael â'r problemau o fewn y system lesddaliad bresennol (ym marn Llywodraeth y DU). Yr oedd yn rhaid gwneud penderfyniadau anodd am yr hyn i'w gynnwys. Penderfynwyd ei bod yn well cael rhai diwygiadau yn hytrach na dim, a chytunaf â hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi ymrwymo i becyn ehangach o ddiwygiadau. Credaf y byddwn i gyd yn dymuno cefnogi hynny. Byddaf yn ystyried unrhyw sylwadau a wnaed yn y Siambr am ddiwygiadau pellach sydd eu hangen drwy'r broses ddeddfwriaethol.

4:00 p.m.

Further consultation has been undertaken in Wales, William, and I am mindful that it is right and proper that we should try to implement promptly anything that is good news for Wales in terms of secondary legislation.

Cafwyd ymgynhori pellach yng Nghymru, William, ac yr wyf yn ymwybodol ei bod yn iawn ac yn briodol inni geisio gweithredu ar unwaith unrhyw beth sy'n newyddion da i Gymru o ran is-ddeddfwriaeth.

Cynnig (NDM1237): O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM1237): For 44, Abstain 0, Against 0.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Edwards, Richard
 Essex, Sue
 Evans, Delyth
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, David Ian
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val

Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM1238): O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1238): For 44, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gibbons, Brian
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, David Ian
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Law, Peter
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.02 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.02 p.m.*

Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Trefniadau ar gyfer Lleoli Plant (Cyffredinol) ac Adolygu Achosion Plant (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002
Approval of the Arrangement for Placement of Children (General) and the Review of Children's Cases (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I propose that

the National Assembly considers the principle of the Arrangement for the Placement of Children (General) and the Review of Children's Cases (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, laid in the Table Office on 5 November 2002. (NDM1239)

I propose that

the National Assembly:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee which does not draw the special attention of the Assembly to any matter under Standing Order No. 11.5, in relation to the draft Order, the Arrangement for the Placement of Children (General) and the Review of Children's Cases (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, laid in the Table Office on 19 November 2002; and

2. approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 5 November 2002. (NDM1240)

The intended effect of this instrument is to ensure that looked-after children have an annual health assessment which is holistic in nature and which includes a review of their emotional and mental health needs as well as their physical health. This will replace the current requirement for an annual medical. This instrument will update and extend the number of relevant agencies requiring notification when a looked-after child moves to a new placement and it will make it possible for follow-up assessments to be delegated from a doctor to a registered nurse or midwife where appropriate.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Trefniadau ar gyfer Lleoli Plant (Cyffredinol) ac Adolygu Achosion Plant (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 5 Tachwedd 2002. (NDM1239)

Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau, nad yw'n tynnu sylw arbennig y Cynulliad at unrhyw fater o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5 mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Trefniadau ar gyfer Lleoli Plant (Cyffredinol) ac Adolygu Achosion Plant (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 19 Tachwedd 2002; ac

2. yn cymeradwyo gwneud y Gorchymyn yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 5 Tachwedd 2002. (NDM1240)

Bwriad yr offeryn hwn yw sicrhau bod plant sy'n derbyn gofal yn cael asesiad iechyd blynyddol sy'n gyfannol o ran natur ac sy'n cynnwys adolygiad o'u hanghenion iechyd emosiynol a meddyliol yn ogystal â'u hiechyd corfforol. Bydd hyn yn disodli'r gofyniad presennol am archwiliad meddygol blynyddol. Bydd yr offeryn hwn yn diweddarau ac yn estyn nifer yr asiantaethau perthnasol y mae'n ofynnol eu hysbysu pan fydd plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal yn symud i leoliad newydd a bydd yn ei gwneud yn bosibl i asesiadau dilynol gael eu dirprwyo o feddyg i nyrs neu fydwraig gofrestredig lle y

bo'n briodol.

Children and young people who are looked after are among the most socially excluded groups within the United Kingdom. The welfare of this group is a high priority for the Assembly, and I have given a commitment to promote the health and development of children and young people who are looked after by local authorities. It is essential that we ensure that they receive the standard of healthcare they need in order to achieve good health.

Historically, there has been a poor attendance rate at annual medicals for looked-after children. Many young people find the requirement to attend such medicals stigmatising. This barrier, coupled with the focus on medical intervention and ill health, frequently leads to young people refusing to attend. Consultation responses to the proposed guidance on the health of looked-after children have suggested that young people, carers and social care staff consider that a holistic health assessment would be more appropriate and acceptable than the current medical.

The early years of life are crucial to a child's development. Currently, only children under the age of two receive health assessments twice a year. This Order will require that children up to the age of five will now have this more frequent rate of health assessments. Together, these provisions will bring about relatively minor but worthwhile changes in healthcare for looked-after children.

Helen Mary Jones: Mae grŵp Plaid Cymru yn cefnogi ac yn croesawu'r rheoliadau hyn yn fawr. Pan fydd plant sy'n derbyn gofal yn cael eu symud yn rhy aml mae'r effeithiau arnynt yn niweidiol a difrifol. Mae'n bwysig bod plant yn cael cyfle i drafod eu teimladau ac i fynegi pryderon pan fydd yn rhaid iddynt symud. Bydd y rheoliadau hyn yn caniatáu i hynny ddigwydd.

Mae gennyf gwestiwn i'r Gweinidog ac awgrym pellach yng nghyd-destun y rheoliadau. Fel y gŵyr y Gweinidog, mae nifer o blant, yn enwedig o ddinasoedd mawr

Mae plant a phobl ifanc sy'n derbyn gofal ymysg y grwpiau a gaiff eu hallgáu yn gymdeithasol yn fwyaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae lles y grŵp hwn yn flaenoriaeth uchel i'r Cynulliad, ac yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i hyrwyddo iechyd a datblygiad plant a phobl ifanc sy'n derbyn gofal gan awdurdodau lleol. Mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn sicrhau eu bod yn derbyn gofal iechyd o'r safon sydd ei angen arnynt i gadw'n iach.

Yn hanesyddol, bu nifer y plant sy'n derbyn gofal sy'n mynychu archwiliadau meddygol blynyddol yn iestl. I lawer o bobl ifanc, mae'r gofyniad i gael archwiliad meddygol o'r fath yn stigma. Bydd y rhwystr hwn, ynghyd â'r ffocws ar ymyriad meddygol a salwch, yn aml yn gwneud i bobl ifanc wrthod mynd i gael archwiliad. Mae ymatebion i ymgynghoriadau i'r canllawiau arfaethedig ar iechyd plant sy'n derbyn gofal wedi awgrymu bod pobl ifanc, gofalwyr a staff gofal cymdeithasol yn ystyried y byddai asesiad iechyd mwy cyfannol yn fwy priodol a derbyniol na'r archwiliad meddygol presennol.

Mae blynyddoedd cynnar bywyd yn hollbwysig i ddatblygiad plentyn. Ar hyn o bryd, dim ond plant o dan ddwy oed a gaiff asesiad iechyd ddwywaith y flwyddyn. Bydd y Gorchymyn hwn yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i blant hyd at bum mlwydd oed gael asesiad iechyd mor aml â hyn. Gyda'i gilydd, bydd y darpariaethau hyn yn cynnig newidiadau bach ond gwerth chweil i ofal iechyd plant sy'n derbyn gofal.

Helen Mary Jones: The Plaid Cymru group warmly welcomes and supports these regulations. Moving looked-after children too frequently can have serious and damaging effects on those children. It is important that children have an opportunity to discuss their feelings and raise concerns when they are to be moved. These regulations will ensure that that opportunity is afforded to children.

I have a question for the Minister and a further suggestion as regards these regulations. As the Minister is aware, many children, particularly those from large

Lloegr, yn derbyn gofal gyda theuluoedd maeth yng nghefn gwlad Cymru. Gall gofal mewn lleoliad o'r fath fod yn llwyddiannus ac o fudd i bobl ifanc. Serch hynny, mae hyn hefyd yn creu problemau gan fod plant yn aml bellter oddi wrth eu teuluoedd ac, o ganlyniad, yn fwy bregus na phlant o Gymru sy'n derbyn gofal yn agosach at eu cartrefi. A fydd y rheoliadau hyn yn berthnasol i'r grŵp hwn o blant sy'n derbyn gofal? Os nad ydynt, mae'n bwysig bod y Gweinidog yn ceisio dod o hyd i ffordd o estyn y rheoliadau i'w cynnwys. Gall y sefyllfa fod yn gymhleth o ran cyfrifoldeb yn ôl y gyfraith: ai sir Gâr sydd yn gyfrifol pan fo'r plant yno, neu Birmingham, neu ble bynnag y maent wedi dod ohono? Nid yw'r gyfraith yn glir bob tro ynglŷn â phob plentyn. Pwy bynnag sydd yn gyfrifol yn ôl y gyfraith, mae gan y Cynulliad gyfrifoldeb moesol dros y plant hyn. A gaiff y plant hyn eu cynnwys yn y rheoliadau newydd?

Mae gennyf awgrym pellach. A oes modd cyfuno'r asesiad meddygol â'r asesiadau o ddatblygiad a phrofiadau addysgiadol y plentyn? Gwyddom fod plant a phobl ifanc mewn gofal yn aml yn dioddef yn ddifrifol yn addysgiadol gan y gallant gael eu symud yn llawer rhy aml. Caiff hynny effaith ddifrifol ar eu datblygiad—yn emosiynol yn ogystal ag yn addysgiadol. A oes modd, Weinidog, i chi drafod â'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes i sicrhau eich bod fel Llywodraeth yn defnyddio'r asesiad meddygol a'r asesiad emosiynol, sydd yn cyd-fynd ag ef, i asesu datblygiad y plentyn a'i brofiad addysgiadol? Os nad yw hynny'n berthnasol, a oes ffordd arall i chi weld sut y gallwch wneud yr asesiad rheolaidd hwnnw o ddatblygiad ac addysg y plentyn? Mae'n broblem enfawr i blant a phobl ifanc, fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog. Mae plant sy'n derbyn gofal ymhlith y rhai sydd wedi'u hallgáu fwyaf yn gymdeithasol yn ein gwlad, ac mae addysg yn rhan o hynny.

Mae gan bob Aelod o'r Cynulliad gyfrifoldeb arbennig am ddyfodol plant sy'n derbyn gofal yn ein gwlad. Yr ydym wedi bod yn barod i dderbyn y cyfrifoldeb hwnnw'n ddifrifol. Croesawn y rheoliadau hyn fel cam bach, ond cam pwysig, tuag at weithredu'r cyfrifoldeb hwnnw.

English cities, are looked after by foster parents in rural parts of Wales. These placements can prove successful and beneficial for young people. However, they also cause problems in that children are often a long way away from their families and, as a result, are more vulnerable than Welsh children who are being looked after closer to home. Will these regulations apply to this category of looked-after children? If not, it is important that the Minister tries to find a way of extending the regulations to include them. The situation can be complex with regard to legal responsibility: is Carmarthenshire responsible when the children are there, or is it Birmingham or wherever they have come from? The law is not always clear about every child. Whoever is legally responsible, the Assembly has a moral responsibility for these children. Will these children be included in the new regulations?

I have a further suggestion. Would it be possible to combine the medical assessment with the assessments of the child's development and educational experiences? We know that the education of children and young people in care can often seriously suffer as they can be moved far too frequently. That has a serious impact on their development—emotionally as well as educationally. Would it be possible, Minister, for you to hold discussions with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning to ensure that you as a Government use the medical assessment and the corresponding emotional assessment to assess the child's development and educational experience? If that is not relevant, is there another way for you to see how you could conduct that regular assessment of the child's development and education? It is a huge problem for children and young people, as the Minister has said. Children in care are often among the most socially excluded in our country, and education is a part of that.

All Assembly Members have a particular responsibility for the future of looked-after children in our country. We have been willing to take that responsibility seriously. We welcome these regulations as a small, but significant step, towards implementing that responsibility.

David Melding: The Welsh Conservative Party welcomes these regulations. These reforms are a modest but appropriate development, and will deliver a more holistic assessment of looked-after children's health. It is important that medical practitioners take the health of looked-after children seriously. There are particular challenges in delivering appropriate healthcare, particularly with regard to chronic conditions and conditions that require careful assessment as they develop, as well as around issues such as general dental care and other matters that can slip if there is a lack of stability in the domestic arrangements of looked-after children. The Minister's approach, which is backed up by thorough consultation, is appropriate, and we support it.

Kirsty Williams: I join Helen Mary and David Melding in welcoming these regulations. As all speakers have said, the health of looked-after children is often not what it should be. These children suffer from worse levels of health and wellbeing than one would normally expect to find in their peer group. Given the sometimes difficult situations in which children can find themselves, being moved from placement to placement when relationships break down, it can be difficult to maintain continuity in children's healthcare. It is also appropriate to mention that these regulations raise the age limit at which children are required to have a six-month check-up to the age of five. It is appropriate that due care and attention is paid to the youngest children, who may find themselves being looked after by local authorities. It is a timely reminder, when several reports have criticised local authorities' role as corporate parents, that we too should consider the Assembly's role in corporate parenting. These regulations demonstrate our commitment to trying to improve services for our most vulnerable children.

4:10 p.m.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I thank colleagues for their support for these regulations. In approving this Order, the Assembly will fulfil

David Melding: Mae Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn croesawu'r rheoliadau hyn. Mae'r diwygiadau hyn yn ddatblygiad cymharol fach ond priodol, a bydd yn rhoi asesiad mwy cyfannol o iechyd plant sy'n derbyn gofal. Mae'n bwysig bod ymarferwyr meddygol yn cymryd iechyd plant sy'n derbyn gofal o ddifrif. Mae heriau arbennig yn codi wrth ddarparu gofal iechyd priodol, yn arbennig o ran cyflyrau cronig a chyflyrau sy'n galw am asesiad gofalus wrth iddynt ddatblygu, yn ogystal â materion yn ymwneud â gofal deintyddol cyffredinol a materion eraill a all gael eu hanghofio os oes diffyg sefydlogrwydd yn nhrefniadau domestig plant sy'n derbyn gofal. Mae ymagwedd y Gweinidog, a ategir gan ymgynghoriad trylwyr, yn briodol, ac fe'i cefnogwn.

Kirsty Williams: Ymunaf â Helen Mary a David Melding i groesawu'r rheoliadau hyn. Fel y dywedodd yr holl lefarwyr, nid yw iechyd plant sy'n derbyn gofal bob amser cystal ag y dylai fod. Mae'r plant hyn yn dioddef lefelau iechyd a lles gwaeth na'r hyn y byddai rhywun yn disgwyl eu canfod ymysg eu cyfoedion. O gofio'r sefyllfaoedd anodd ar adegau y bydd plant ynddynt, yn cael eu symud o un lleoliad i'r llall pan fydd perthynas yn chwalu, gall fod yn anodd cynnal parhad mewn gofal iechyd plant. Mae hefyd yn briodol sôn bod y rheoliadau hyn yn codi'r terfyn oedran y mae'n ofynnol i blant gael archwiliad bob chwe mis i bum mlwydd oed. Mae'n briodol rhoi'r gofal a'r sylw dyledus i'r plant ieuengaf, a allai fod yng ngofal awdurdodau lleol. Mae'n amser priodol i'n hatgoffa, ar ôl i sawl adroddiad feirniadu rôl awdurdodau lleol fel rhieni corfforaethol, y dylem ninnau hefyd ystyried rôl y Cynulliad o ran gweithredu fel rhiant corfforaethol. Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn dangos ein hymrwymiad i geisio gwella gwasanaethau ar gyfer ein plant mwyaf diamddiffyn.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Diolchaf i'm cyd-Aelodau am gefnogi'r rheoliadau hyn. Wrth gymeradwyo'r Gorchymyn hwn, bydd

its commitment to promoting the health and wellbeing of looked-after children in Wales. On Helen Mary's points, this will be a holistic health assessment, which is far more appropriate for looked-after children. We have placed a large number of looked-after children with foster parents. Cross-border issues relate to our looked-after children and those who come from England to Wales. All looked-after children, whatever the setting, would come under these regulations, and the Department of Health has already amended the regulations to reflect these changes. The responsibility would then be on the originating authority, in partnership with the foster carer, wherever the children are based.

On the holistic health assessment, I am sure it would open doors to other matters, such as education. That does not fall within these regulations, but it would be clear to the registered medical practitioner, the nurse, or the midwife following up the assessment, that the child might show signs of other needs. I will consider further developments for the education of looked-after children with my colleague, Jane Davidson. We will publish guidance early next year on the health of looked-after children, which will cover the legal framework, the roles and responsibilities of the NHS and local authorities, health assessments, the planning implementation review, principles of good healthcare, corporate parenting, health promotion, mental health, and children in special circumstances. This will emerge in terms of the wider health and wellbeing perspective. It is important, as David and Kirsty said, that we recognise that these regulations will support our most vulnerable children, particularly in their early years, and will be an important step forward.

y Cynulliad yn cyflawni ei ymrwymiad i hyrwyddo iechyd a lles plant sy'n derbyn gofal yng Nghymru. O ran pwyntiau Helen Mary, bydd hwn yn asesiad iechyd cyfannol, sy'n llawer mwy priodol ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal. Yr ydym wedi lleoli nifer fawr o blant mewn gofal gyda rhieni maeth. Mae materion trawsffiniol yn berthnasol i blant mewn gofal yng Nghymru a'r rhai a ddaw o Loegr i Gymru. Byddai pob plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal, beth bynnag fo'r sefyllfa, yn dod o dan y rheoliadau hynny, ac mae'r Adran Iechyd eisoes wedi diwygio'r rheoliadau i adlewyrchu'r newidiadau hynny. Byddai hyn yn gosod y cyfrifoldeb ar yr awdurdod sy'n gofalu am y plentyn, mewn partneriaeth â'r gofalwr maeth, lle bynnag y byddai'r plant wedi eu lleoli.

O ran yr asesiad iechyd cyfannol, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'n agor y drysau i faterion eraill, megis addysg. Ni ddaw hynny o fewn y rheoliadau hyn, ond byddai'n eglur i'r ymarferydd meddygol cofrestredig, y nyrs neu'r fydwraig sy'n gweithredu ar yr asesiad, bod y plentyn yn dangos arwyddion o anghenion eraill. Ystyriaf ddatblygiadau pellach ar gyfer addysg plant sy'n derbyn gofal gyda fy nghyd-Weinidog, Jane Davidson. Byddwn yn cyhoeddi canllawiau yn gynnar y flwyddyn nesaf am iechyd plant sy'n derbyn gofal, a fydd yn cwmpasu'r fframwaith cyfreithiol, rolau a chyfrifoldebau'r GIG ac awdurdodau lleol, asesiadau iechyd, yr adolygiad gweithredu cynlluniau, egwyddorion gofal iechyd da, bod yn rhieni corfforaethol, hybu iechyd, iechyd meddwl, a phlant mewn amgylchiadau arbennig. Caiff hyn ei ddatgelu o ran iechyd a lles ehangach. Mae'n bwysig, fel y dywedodd David a Kirsty, ein bod yn cydnabod y bydd y rheoliadau hyn yn cynnal ein plant mwyaf diamddiffyn, yn arbennig yn ystod eu blynyddoedd cynnar, a bydd yn gam pwysig ymlaen.

*Cynnig (NDM1239): O blaid 35, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1239): For 35, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick

Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gibbons, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, David Ian
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM1240): O blaid 37, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1240): For 37, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gibbons, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, David Ian
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw

Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) Adroddiad Grant Arbennig
 (Rhif 15) (Cymru) 2002**
**Approval of the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No.
 15) (Wales) 2002**

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I propose that

the National Assembly, under section 88(B) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.8, approves the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No. 15) (Wales) 2002 which was laid in the Table Office on 25 November 2002. (NDM1241)

The purpose of this special grant report is to enable the National Assembly to continue to provide financial support to local authorities to help cover the additional costs incurred in providing mainstream education and associated support for those asylum seekers who come to Wales.

Education is a vital component of any package of measures aimed at ensuring that these people are able to integrate into the communities in which they find themselves. Such measures include bilingual support, education psychology support, library resources, and provision of school transport and uniforms. It is not only school-age children who need help. Many adults too will seek assistance to learn English or Welsh to be able to communicate effectively and become active members of society. They are also catered for in these arrangements.

The level of support has been based on information provided by local education

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Cynigiai fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o dan adran 88(b) o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1988, ac yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.8, yn cymeradwyo Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) Adroddiad Grant Arbennig (Rhif 15) (Cymru) 2002 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 25 Tachwedd 2002. (NDM1241)

Diben yr adroddiad grant arbennig hwn yw galluogi'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i barhau i ddarparu cymorth ariannol i awdurdodau lleol i helpu i gwmpasu'r costau ychwanegol a gronwyd wrth ddarparu addysg prif ffrwd a chymorth cysylltiedig i geiswyr lloches sy'n dod i Gymru.

Mae addysg yn elfen hanfodol o unrhyw becyn o fesurau a anelir at sicrhau y gall y bobl hyn integreiddio i'r cymunedau y byddant yn byw ynddynt. Mae mesurau o'r fath yn cynnwys cymorth dwyieithog, cymorth seicoleg addysg, adnoddau llyfrgell, ynghyd â thalu am drafnidiaeth ysgol a gwisg ysgol. Nid dim ond plant oedran ysgol sydd angen help. Bydd llawer o oedolion hefyd yn ceisio cymorth i ddysgu Cymraeg neu Saesneg er mwyn eu galluogi i gyfathrebu'n effeithiol a dod yn aelodau gweithredol o'r gymdeithas. Mae'r trefniadau hyn yn darparu ar eu cyfer hwy hefyd.

Bu'r lefel o gymorth yn seiliedig ar wybodaeth a ddarparwyd gan awdurdodau

authorities on the number of asylum-seeker pupils and adults entering school or accessing language courses. It will also be checked against monthly data provided by the National Asylum Support Service. This will be the second year of specific funding allocated by the Assembly to support the education of asylum seekers in Wales. Last year, £711,500 was made available to LEAs for this purpose. It should be noted, however, that the numbers of asylum seekers are considerably higher this year, particularly in the Cardiff and Swansea areas, where additional contracts have been signed with the National Asylum Support Service.

The total sum being set aside for allocation to local authorities in Wales for 2002-03 is £1,228,261. However, no forecast can be expected to be completely accurate, and we will review the position as information becomes available. I am pleased to see that authorities are responding well to the many and varied educational needs of asylum seekers who have already arrived in Wales. The continued support that I am proposing is the right way to ensure that local authorities do not lose out financially in enabling asylum seekers to become fully integrated members of our society.

Jonathan Morgan: The Welsh Conservative Party will support this special grant report. We recognise that we must support local education authorities' responsibilities in meeting the needs of the children of asylum seekers within their areas. I wish to raise a few points with the Minister. Bearing in mind that these people are in Wales as a result of the Home Office's dispersal arrangements under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, what additional budget support will we receive from the UK Government to provide the required services? I would be concerned if the money was coming from within our existing budgetary forecast. I hope that, as these responsibilities are the result of Home Office decisions, we will receive additional money from the UK Government to meet them. We note the amount that has been allocated for the 2002-03 financial year. How many grants have been awarded for these purposes since the introduction of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999? What is the total amount spent to date, not including

addysg lleol ar nifer y ceiswyr lloches, yn blant ac oedolion, sy'n mynychu ysgol neu'n dilyn cyrsiau iaith. Caiff ei gwirio yn erbyn data misol a ddarperir gan y Gwasanaeth Cynnal Cenedlaethol i Geiswyr Lloches. Hon fydd ail flwyddyn y cyllid penodol a ddyrennir gan y Cynulliad i gynorthwyo addysg ceiswyr lloches yng Nghymru. Y llynedd, sicrhawyd bod £711,500 ar gael i AALLau at y diben hwn. Dylid nodi, fodd bynnag, fod nifer y ceiswyr lloches yn sylweddol uwch eleni, yn enwedig yn ardal Caerdydd ac Abertawe, lle y llofnodwyd contractau ychwanegol gyda'r Gwasanaeth Cynnal Cenedlaethol i Geiswyr Lloches.

Cyfanswm y swm sy'n cael ei neilltuo i'w ddyrannu i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru ar gyfer 2002-03 yw £1,228,261. Fodd bynnag, ni ellir disgwyl i unrhyw ragolwg fod yn hollol gywir, a byddwn yn adolygu'r sefyllfa wrth i wybodaeth ddod i law. Yr wyf yn falch o weld bod awdurdodau yn ymateb yn dda i anghenion addysgol niferus ac amrywiol ceiswyr lloches sydd eisoes wedi cyrraedd Cymru. Y cymorth parhaus yr wyf yn ei gynnig yw'r ffordd gywir o sicrhau nad yw awdurdodau lleol ar eu colled yn ariannol drwy alluogi ceiswyr lloches i ddod yn aelodau cwbl integredig o'n cymdeithas.

Jonathan Morgan: Bydd Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn cefnogi'r adroddiad grant arbennig hwn. Cydnabyddwn fod yn rhaid inni gefnogi cyfrifoldebau awdurdodau addysg lleol i ddiwallu anghenion plant ceiswyr lloches yn eu hardaloedd. Dymunaf godi ychydig bwyntiau gyda'r Gweinidog. O gofio bod y bobl hyn yng Nghymru o ganlyniad i drefniadau gwasgaru'r Swyddfa Gartref o dan Ddeddf Llochesu a Mewnfudo 1999, pa gymorth cyllideb ychwanegol a gawn gan Lywodraeth y DU i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau sydd eu hangen? Byddwn yn poeni pe bai'r arian yn dod o'n rhagolwg cyllidebol presennol. Gobeithiaf, gan fod y cyfrifoldebau hyn yn deillio o benderfyniadau'r Swyddfa Gartref, y byddwn yn derbyn arian ychwanegol gan Lywodraeth y DU i'w cyflawni. Nodwn y swm a ddyrannwyd ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol 2002-03. Sawl grant a ddyfarnwyd at y dibenion hyn ers cyflwyno Deddf Llochesu a Mewnfudo 1999? Faint yw'r cyfanswm a wariwyd hyd yn hyn, heb gynnwys y

this financial allocation?

Eleanor Burnham: The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome this special grant report, as it continues the delivery of the partnership agreement pledge to work with local authorities to ensure that the educational needs of asylum seekers receive the necessary attention and that sufficient resources are secured to meet those needs. The Welsh Liberal Democrats have consistently argued that local authorities should receive additional resources to offset the costs resulting from the Westminster Government's dispersal scheme, so that money is not diverted from existing budgets. In particular, we welcome the fact that local authorities can use the grant funding for a range of support and services, including the provision of school uniforms. The children of asylum-seeking families who cannot afford school uniforms can be picked upon, as they stand out. This grant helps to address that problem.

Brian Gibbons: I also welcome this educational assistance. There is no doubt that asylum seekers arriving in certain areas mean that authorities will incur additional costs, in terms of the children's and adult's education, as the Minister said. Also, given the home countries of the majority of our asylum seekers—13 per cent come from Afghanistan, 9 per cent from Iraq, 9 per cent from Somalia, 8 per cent from Sri Lanka and 5 per cent from Iran—we can expect these people to have substantial health needs, in terms of mental and physical damage. We discussed HIV and AIDS earlier in today's Plenary, and we know that the prevalence of tuberculosis is increasing. It is therefore important that the necessary resources are in place to provide support for asylum seekers, as Jonathan said. It can be fairly easily to accommodate small numbers of asylum seekers. However, if there is a significant deployment of asylum seekers to Wales, it is important to ensure that the necessary resources are supplied so that we can carry out our humanitarian and international obligations and duties. This subject is particularly emotive for me in light of the comments made at the Irish Consulate last night, when the First Minister and the Irish President referred to the fact that this

dyraniad ariannol hwn?

Eleanor Burnham: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu'r adroddiad grant arbennig hwn, am ei fod yn parhau i gyflawni addewid y cytundeb partneriaeth i weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau bod anghenion ceiswyr lloches yn derbyn y sylw dyledus ac y sicrheir adnoddau digonol i ddiwallu'r anghenion hynny. Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru wedi dadlau'n gyson y dylai awdurdodau lleol dderbyn adnoddau ychwanegol i wrthbwyso'r costau sy'n deillio o gynllun gwasgaru Llywodraeth San Steffan, er mwyn sicrhau na chaiff arian ei ailgyfeirio o gyllidebau presennol. Yn arbennig, croesawn y ffaith y gall awdurdodau lleol ddefnyddio'r cyllid grant ar gyfer ystod o gymorth a gwasanaethau, gan gynnwys darparu gwisg ysgol. Gall plant eraill bigo ar blant o deuluoedd ceiswyr lloches na allant fforddio gwisg ysgol, am eu bod yn sefyll allan. Mae'r grant hwn yn helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem honno.

Brian Gibbons: Croesawaf innau hefyd y cymorth addysgol hwn. Nid oes amheuaeth y bydd awdurdodau yn wynebu costau ychwanegol o ran addysg y plant ac oedolion wrth i geiswyr lloches gyrraedd eu hardaloedd, fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog. Yn ogystal, o ystyried gwledydd genedigol y rhan fwyaf o'n ceiswyr lloches—daw 13 y cant o Affganistan, 9 y cant o Irac, 9 y cant o Somalia, 8 y cant o Sri Lanca a 5 y cant o Iran—gallwn ddisgwyl y bydd gan y bobl hyn anghenion iechyd sylweddol, yn sgîl niwed meddyliol a chorfforol. Trafodwyd HIV ac AIDS yn gynharach heddiw yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, a gwyddom fod nifer yr achosion o dwbercwlosis ar gynnydd. Mae felly'n bwysig bod yr adnoddau angenrheidiol ar waith i ddarparu cymorth i geiswyr lloches, fel y dywedodd Jonathan. Gall fod yn weddol hawdd darparu tai ar gyfer niferoedd bach o geiswyr lloches. Fodd bynnag, os caiff nifer sylweddol o geiswyr lloches eu hanfon i Gymru, mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod yr adnoddau angenrheidiol ar gael er mwyn inni allu cyflawni rhwymedigaethau a dyletswyddau dyngarol a rhyngwladol. Mae hwn yn bwnc emosiynol iawn i mi yng ngoleuni'r sylwadau a wnaed yng Nghonswliaeth Iwerddon neithiwr, pan

country was a haven and a refuge for many Irish people during Ireland's most difficult economic times.

gyfeiriodd y Prif Weinidog ac Arlywydd Iwerddon at y ffaith y bu'r wlad hon yn hafan ac yn noddfa i lawer o bobl o Iwerddon yn ystod cyfnod economaidd anoddaf Iwerddon.

4:20 p.m.

History also shows that many suffered a hostile reaction, even though the hand of friendship was extended to the majority. It is important that the negative aspects of that experience are not replicated here. We must remember that Britain only accepts 1 per cent of applications from the world's refugees. The right-wing media in this country would have us believe that people are coming to Britain by the truckload to avail themselves of our hospitality and benevolence. That is not the case. Even though the voucher scheme has gone, people on assistance are living on a pittance—a fraction of income support—under the refugee support system. Given what they have been through, and depending on your point of view regarding charity and social solidarity, we owe it to these people to give them our support and to reach out and give them a new and, hopefully, better start.

Dengys hanes hefyd yr ymatebwyd yn elyniaethus i lawer o bobl, er y rhoddwyd croeso cynnes i'r rhan fwyaf. Mae'n bwysig nad yw'r agweddau negyddol ar y profiad hwnnw yn cael ei ailadrodd yma. Rhaid inni gofio bod Prydain ond yn derbyn 1 y cant o geisiadau gan ffoaduriaid y byd. Byddai'r cyfryngau adain dde yn y wlad hon am inni gredu bod un llond lori o bobl ar ôl y llall yn dod i Brydain er mwyn manteisio ar ein lletygarwch a'n caredigrwydd. Nid dyna'r achos. Er bod y cynllun talebau wedi dod i ben, mae pobl sy'n derbyn cymorth yn byw ar arian pitw—cyfran fach iawn o gymhorthdal incwm—o dan y system cymorth i ffoaduriaid. O ystyried yr hyn y maent wedi ei ddioddef, ac yn dibynnu ar eich safbwynt ynglŷn ag elusengarwch ac undod cymdeithasol, mae'n ddyletswydd arnom i roi ein cymorth i'r bobl hyn ac ymestyn allan a rhoi bywyd newydd a, gobeithio, gwell fywyd iddynt.

Janet Ryder: For local authorities, the key is access to allow the special teaching support to be developed. The report notes, however, that authorities should send a completed form for February 2002 to October 2002 to the Assembly by the end of November 2002. This deadline has already passed before the Assembly has approved this special grant. It is another example of retrospective payment by the Assembly. Surely, councils need this funding in advance to provide the services in the most efficient way. How many applications has the Minister received for this money? Also, what provision exists to develop teachers who are able to communicate with these children and adults in their first language?

Janet Ryder: Ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol, yr allwedd yw mynediad i alluogi'r cymorth dysgu arbennig hwn i gael ei ddatblygu. Fodd bynnag, noda'r adroddiad y dylai awdurdodau anfon ffurflen wedi'i chwblhau ar gyfer Chwefror 2002 i Hydref 2002 i'r Cynulliad erbyn diwedd Tachwedd 2002. Mae'r terfyn amser hwn eisoes wedi pasio cyn i'r Cynulliad gymeradwyo'r grant arbennig hwn. Mae'n enghraifft arall o'r Cynulliad yn gwneud ad-daliad. Onid oes angen y cyllid hwn ymlaen llaw ar gynghorau er mwyn darparu'r gwasanaethau yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithlon. Sawl cais a dderbyniodd y Gweinidog ar gyfer yr arian hwn? Hefyd, pa ddarpariaeth sy'n bodoli i ddatblygu athrawon sy'n gallu cyfathrebu â'r plant a'r oedolion hyn yn eu hiaith gyntaf?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I am grateful for Members' support for this initiative. Jonathan asked about the overall funding from the Home Office. Funding is delivered to the National Assembly via the block grant but,

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am gymorth yr Aelodau ar gyfer y fenter hon. Holodd Jonathan ynghylch cyfanswm y cyllid gan y Swyddfa Gartref. Darperir cyllid i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol drwy'r grant bloc

last year, for the first time, we operated a separate amount of funding for education needs, which the Assembly supported. We allocated £711,500 in such funding last year, but local authority claims amounted to only £522,300. On Janet's points, this is retrospective because, when looking at grants relating to actual numbers of people, at the point of entry into Wales, we do not know whether asylum seekers will be single adults, children or families. The allocation of money varies, as you see from annex A to the report. Local authorities have been happy and secure in the knowledge that, because of this grant, actual costs incurred for actual people will be met. That is why the grant is retrospective. However, I am grateful for Members' support. I remember from last year that Members were keen to emphasise the Assembly's social responsibility, such as the importance of school uniforms being eligible costs under the grant, and I reaffirm that today.

ond, y llynedd, am y tro cyntaf, gweithredwyd swm ar wahân o gyllid ar gyfer anghenion addysg, yr oedd y Cynulliad yn ei gefnogi. Dyranasom £711,500 o gyllid o'r fath y llynedd, ond dim ond tua £522,300 oedd cyfanswm ceisiadau awdurdodau lleol. Ynglŷn â phwyntiau Janet, mae hyn yn system o wneud ad-daliadau oherwydd, wrth edrych ar grantiau sy'n ymwneud â niferoedd gwirioneddol o bobl, ar yr adeg pan fyddant yn dod i Gymru, ni wyddom p'un a fydd ceiswyr lloches yn oedolion sengl, yn blant neu'n deuluoedd. Mae'r broses o ddyrannu arian yn amrywio, fel y gwelwch o atodiad A yr adroddiad. Bu awdurdodau lleol yn fodlon ac yn sicr eu meddyliau, yn sgîl y grant hwn, y bodlonir y costau gwirioneddol a gronnir ar gyfer pobl wirioneddol. Dyna pam mae'r grant hwn yn cael ei ad-dalu. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am gefnogaeth yr Aelodau. Cofiaf ers y llynedd bod Aelodau yn awyddus i bwysleisio cyfrifoldeb cymdeithasol y Cynulliad, megis pwysigrwydd y ffaith bod talu am wisg ysgol yn gost cymwys o dan y grant, a gallaf gadarnhau hynny heddiw.

*Cynnig (NDM1241): O blaid 38, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1241): For 38, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gibbons, Brian
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, David Ian
Jones, Gareth
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val

Law, Peter
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) Adroddiad Grant Arbennig
 (Rhif 16) (Cymru) 2002
 Approval of the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No.
 16) (Wales) 2002**

The Finance Minister (Edwina Hart): I propose that

the National Assembly, under section 88(B) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.8, approves the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No. 16) (Wales) 2002 which was laid in the Table Office on 25 November 2002. (NDM1242)

This special grant will provide support towards expenditure incurred by local authorities in developing information technology software in relation to new Supporting People funding arrangements. The Welsh Local Government Association and local authorities have expressed concerns about their capacity to establish the necessary IT infrastructure to allow successful implementation in time for April without additional resources. I propose that an additional payment of £50,000 be made to each local authority in Wales this financial year. It will be a one-off payment to assist them in developing their IT systems before the Supporting People programme comes on-stream on 1 April 2003.

Alun Cairns: The Welsh Conservative Party is happy to support this motion. However, I would like the Minister to respond to a point on hypothecation. Will this funding be hypothecated for this purpose within the local authority? If this principle is accepted in this case, why is it not accepted for other areas of

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Edwina Hart): Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o dan adran 88(b) o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1988, ac yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.8, yn cymeradwyo Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) Adroddiad Grant Arbennig (Rhif 16) (Cymru) 2002 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 25 Tachwedd 2002. (NDM1242)

Bydd y grant arbennig hwn yn darparu cymorth tuag at wariant a gronnir gan awdurdodau lleol wrth ddatblygu meddalwedd technoleg gwybodaeth i ymdrin â threfniadau ariannu newydd Cefnogi Pobl. Mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol wedi mynegi pryderon ynglŷn â'u capasiti i sefydlu'r seilwaith TG angenrheidiol i'w galluogi i'w weithredu'n llwyddiannus erbyn mis Ebrill heb adnoddau ychwanegol. Cynigiau fod taliad ychwanegol o £50,000 yn cael ei wneud i bob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol hon. Bydd yn daliad unigryw i'w cynorthwyo i ddatblygu eu systemau TG cyn gweithredu'r rhaglen Cefnogi Pobl ar 1 Ebrill 2003.

Alun Cairns: Mae Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn fodlon cefnogi'r cynnig hwn. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn i'r Gweinidog ymateb i bwynt ar bridianu. A gaiff y cyllid hwn ei bridianu at y diben hwn o fewn yr awdurdod lleol? Os derbynnir yr egwyddor hon yn yr achos hwn, pam na chaiff ei derbyn ar gyfer

policy, such as social services, care for the elderly and education?

Kirsty Williams: The Welsh Liberal Democrats support this special grant report. Supporting People is a highly complex agenda—even though it is less complicated than what preceded it—which we ask local government to implement on our behalf. It is appropriate that we use IT in a way that will help them deliver this programme for their clients. Software for these IT systems is expensive to develop, therefore it is acceptable in this instance to make a special grant available to local authorities to offset the expenses of developing this system.

The Finance Minister (Edwina Hart): Kirsty is correct that the Supporting People programme is a difficult area for local government to get to grips with, but it is certainly simpler than previous arrangements. On Alun Cairns's points, a series of special grants are made for many purposes and for many policy areas. I refer you to my opening remarks—this was a request from Welsh local government.

meysydd polisi eraill, megis gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, gofal am yr henoed ac addysg?

Kirsty Williams: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cefnogi'r adroddiad grant arbennig hwn. Mae Cefnogi Pobl yn agenda gymhleth iawn—er ei bod yn llai cymhleth na'r hyn a'i rhagflaenodd—y gofynnwn i lywodraeth leol ei gweithredu ar ein rhan. Mae'n briodol ein bod yn defnyddio TG mewn ffordd a fydd yn eu helpu i gyflwyno'r rhaglen hon i'w cleientiaid. Mae meddalwedd ar gyfer y systemau TG hyn yn gostus i'w datblygu, felly mae'n dderbyniol yn yr achos hwn i sicrhau bod grant arbennig ar gael i awdurdodau lleol i wrthbwyso'r gost o ddatblygu'r system hon.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Edwina Hart): Mae Kirsty yn iawn i ddweud bod y rhaglen Cefnogi Pobl yn faes anodd i lywodraeth leol fynd i'r afael ag ef, ond mae'n sicr yn symlach na'r trefniadau blaenorol. O ran pwyntiau Alun Cairns, gwneir cyfres o grantiau arbennig at lawer o ddibenion ac ar gyfer llawer o feysydd polisi. Fe'ch cyfeiriaf at fy sylwadau agoriadol—yr oedd hyn yn gais gan lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru.

*Cynnig (NDM1242): O blaid 40, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1242): For 40, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gibbons, Brian
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, David Ian
Jones, Elin

Jones, Gareth
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Pwyntiau o Drefn Points of Order

Karen Sinclair: Point of order. As you know, the new headed paper with our smart logo is not yet available to Members. Indeed, we have been told that we are not to have any until all the other paper has been used. I am sure that you agree, Deputy Presiding Officer, that all Members are equal, so could you explain why your letter to me yesterday was typed on new paper when the stationery office still has old stock? [*Laughter.*]

Karen Sinclair: Pwynt o drefn. Fel y gwyddoch, nid yw'r papur swyddogol newydd gyda'n logo smart ar gael i Aelodau eto. Yn wir, dywedwyd wrthym na allem ei gael hyd nes y bydd yr holl bapur arall wedi cael ei ddefnyddio. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch, Ddirprwy Lywydd, fod yr holl Aelodau yn gyfartal, felly a allech egluro pam yr oedd y llythyr a dderbyniais gennych ddoe wedi'i deipio ar bapur newydd er bod gan y swyddfa defnyddiau ysgrifennu hen stoc?
 [*Chwerthin.*]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have been issued with six pieces of new paper. You are fortunate that I chose to use one of them to write to you. We must look after our money and it is right that we try to use our existing resources.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Rhoddwyd chwe darn o bapur newydd imi. Yr ydych yn ffodus fy mod wedi dewis un ohonynt i ysgrifennu atoch chi. Rhaid inni ofalu am ein harian ac mae'n iawn ein bod yn ceisio defnyddio ein hadnoddau presennol.

Gareth Jones: Pwynt o drefn. A yw'n iawn i Aelod o'r Cynulliad bleidleisio ar ran Aelod arall?

Gareth Jones: Point of order. Is it right for an Assembly Member to vote on behalf of another Member?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: No, it is not right and if anyone has any such suspicions, he or she should see the Presiding Officer.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Nac ydyw, nid yw'n iawn ac os bydd gan unrhyw un amheuan o'r fath, dylai weld y Llywydd.

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Pwll Glo Navigation Navigation Colliery

Brian Hancock: It is fortunate that my name was drawn out of the ballot for this short debate because I wanted to raise the profile and opportunity for economic regeneration of the Navigation Colliery site at Crumlin in my constituency of Islwyn. I will allow Peter Law, William Graham and Mike German to contribute.

At this time Caerphilly County Borough Council's planning committee is deciding on whether to grant planning permission for a company to stockpile and load onto rail trucks and then transport Blue Pennant stone from a nearby quarry. This application is not properly thought through and involves tipping on a short-term basis and transportation by rail. Now on the face of it, this may sound like a good scheme. However, I can assure you that the scheme is to dump stone on a base that has been designated as structurally weak and is a culvert for the Ebbw river. The rail trucks would remain on the rail waiting to be full enough for them to be transported throughout the UK. This scenario is not sustainable.

4:30 p.m.

Let me tell you a few facts about this site. The shafts of the former Navigation Colliery site in Crumlin, now in the Ebbw valley, were begun in 1907 by Partridge Jones and Company Ltd. The mine was in full production in 1911. The two shafts were sunk to a depth of 512 yards or 469 metres. The 'Navi', as it was called locally, was well known for the size of the 'blackvein' seam of coal, which in fact reached a thickness of 18 feet. The navigation had a sister coal pit, Aberbeeg South, known locally as 'Budd's' after its owner, Budds and Co. It also worked the 'tillery' seam. Navigation Colliery employed 439 people in its heyday in 1945. It was closed in 1967. I have not been able to establish how much coal it produced—more research is required by me.

In *The Buildings of Wales—Gwent / Monmouthshire* by John Newman, it is recognised that three important complexes of colliery structures remain. Historically the most significant is Glyn Pits, Pontypool,

Brian Hancock: Mae'n ffodus mai fy enw i a ddewiswyd ar gyfer y ddadl fer hon oherwydd yr oeddwn am godi proffil safle Pwll Glo Navigation yng Nghrymlyn yn fy etholaeth i yn Islwyn a sôn am y cyfle i'w adfywio'n economaidd. Caniatâf i Peter Law, William Graham a Mike German gyfrannu at y ddadl.

Ar hyn o bryd mae pwyllgor cynllunio Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili wrthi'n penderfynu a ddylid rhoi caniatâd cynllunio i gwmni i storio, llwytho a chludo carreg Blue Pennant ar dryciau rheilffordd o chwarel gyfagos. Ni roddwyd ystyriaeth briodol i'r cais hwn, sy'n golygu tipio yn y tymor byr a chludo ar reilffordd. Ar yr wyneb, efallai fod hwn yn ymddangos yn gynllun da. Fodd bynnag, gallaf eich sicrhau mai nod y cynllun yw gwaredu carreg ar safle a nodwyd fel un sy'n wan yn strwythurol ac sy'n geuffos ar gyfer afon Ebwy. Byddai'r tryciau rheilffordd yn sefyll ar y rheilffordd tra'n aros i fod yn ddigon llawn i gael eu cludo ledled y DU. Nid yw'r sefyllfa hon yn un gynaliadwy.

Gadewch imi ddweud ychydig o ffeithiau wrthyhych ynglŷn â'r safle hwn. Agorwyd siaffftiau hen safle Pwll Glo Navigation yng Nghrymlyn, sydd bellach yng nglyn Ebwy, ym 1907 gan Partridge Jones and Company Cyf. Yr oedd y pwll glo yn gweithredu'n llawn yn 1911. Suddwyd y ddwy siafft i ddyfnder o 512 llath neu 469 medr. Yr oedd y 'Navi', fel y'i galwyd yn lleol, yn enwog am faint y 'wythien ddu' o lo, a oedd mewn gwirionedd yn 18 troedfedd o drwch. Yr oedd gan y navigation chwaer bwll glo, Aberbeeg South, a alwyd yn lleol yn 'Budd's' ar ôl ei berchennog, Budds and Co. Yr oedd hefyd yn gweithio ar wythien y 'tyleri'. Yr oedd Pwll Glo Navigation yn cyflogi 439 o bobl yn ystod ei gyfnod prysuraf yn 1945. Fe'i caewyd yn 1967. Nid wyf wedi llwyddo i ddarganfod faint o lo a gynhyrchwyd ganddo—mae angen imi wneud mwy o ymchwil.

Yn *The Buildings of Wales—Gwent / Monmouthshire* gan John Newman, cydnabyddir bod tri set o adeiladau glofaol pwysig yn parhau o hyd. Yn hanesyddol, y mwyaf arwyddocaol yw Glyn Pits, Pont-y-

where there are two early steam engine houses, one dated 1845 and the other 1860. The book states that:

‘The structurally finest set of colliery buildings in the whole of Wales survive at Crumlin where the symmetrical group of red and yellow brick buildings erected at Navigation Colliery during the period of 1907-11 are still almost intact, eloquently representing the pride of the Edwardian boom years.’

The third is recognised as Big Pit, Blaenafon.

Navigation Colliery is a Grade II* listed complex with a 46m high square stack chimney. The whole site is impressive. The pithead baths are one of the 12 remaining in Wales—only four of which have listable qualities. The pithead baths at the Navi are of significant historical importance even though the buildings are in poor physical condition. The Navigation Colliery site is owned by Pontypool Park Estates, which, along with CADW, has spent many hundreds of thousands of pounds on the site to safeguard the roofs. Four buildings are currently occupied: a garage and a scrap dealer are situated in units to the south of the site and a furniture store to the north. The site remains in limbo, waiting for a time when it might go the same way as the Dunlop Semtex building in Brynmawr as the site owners realise that eventually, it will have to come to an end. Alternatively, it could be used for further economic regeneration—a site for jobs, where small businesses are welcomed and encouraged and a site that should be a hub, with modern communications.

Geographically, Navigation Colliery is on the A467, which is the main road from Newport to Ebbw Vale, being just north of Newbridge and south of Llanhilleth, Aberbeeg and Abertillery. The road runs parallel to the site. Notably the rail line, which I have been promoting for passenger rail travel, is the main Ebbw Vale to Newport rail line, which runs through the site. Many studies have been conducted involving the former Gwent County Council, Islwyn Borough Council, the Welsh Development Agency, Caerphilly

pŵl, lle ceir dau dŷ injan stêm cynnar, un o 1845 a'r llall o 1860. Mae'r llyfr yn datgan:

Mae'r adeiladau glofaol gorau yng Nghymru i'w gweld yng Nghrymlyn. Codwyd y grŵp cydffurfiol hwn o adeiladau, a wnaed o frics coch a melyn, ym Mhwll Glo Navigation rhwng 1907-11, ond nid yw cyflwr yr adeiladau wedi dirywio bron o gwbl. Maent yn symbol o falchder blynyddoedd ffyniannus y cyfnod Edwardaidd.

Nodir mai'r Pwll Mawr, Blaenafon yw'r trydydd.

Mae Pwll Glo Navigation yn cynnwys adeiladau rhestredig Gradd II* â chorn simnai sgwâr sy'n 46m o uchder. Mae'r safle cyfan yn drawiadol. Mae baddon pen y pwll ymhlith y 12 sydd ar ôl yng Nghymru—a dim ond pedwar o'r rheini sydd â nodweddion rhestredig. Mae baddon pen y pwll yn y Navi o bwysigrwydd hanesyddol sylweddol er bod yr adeiladau mewn cyflwr gwael. Ystadau Parc Pont-y-pŵl sy'n berchen ar safle Pwll Glo Navigation, ac mae, ynghyd â CADW, wedi gwario cannoedd ar filoedd o bunnoedd ar y safle i ddiogelu'r toeon. Defnyddir pedwar adeilad ar hyn o bryd: lleolir garej a deliwr sgrap mewn unedau i'r de o'r safle a siop ddodrefn i'r gogledd. Mae dyfodol y safle yn dal yn ansicr, gan aros am amser pan fydd o bosibl yn dilyn hynt adeilad Dunlop Semtex ym Brynmawr wrth i berchenogion y safle sylweddoli y bydd yn rhaid iddo, yn y pen draw, ddod i ben. Fel arall, gellid ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer adfywio economaidd pellach—safle ar gyfer swyddi, lle y croesewir ac anogir busnesau bach, a safle a ddylai fod yn ganolfan, â chysylltiadau modern.

Yn ddaearyddol, mae Pwll Glo Navigation ar yr A467, sef y brif heol o Gasnewydd i Lynebwy, ychydig i'r gogledd o Drecelyn ac i'r de o Lanhilledd, Aber-big ac Abertylleri. Mae'r heol yn rhedeg ochr yn ochr â'r safle. Yn nodedig, y rheilffordd, y bûm yn ei hyrwyddo ar gyfer teithio ar drên, yw'r prif reilffordd o Lynebwy i Gasnewydd, sy'n rhedeg drwy'r safle. Bu i hen Gyngor Sir Gwent, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Islwyn, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili ac Ystadau Parc

County Borough Council and Pontypool Park Estates. All the studies have recognised its location and position, and yet none have recognised its potential. My objective is to raise the profile and potential of this site, not just with the Minister, but with the Welsh Development Agency, Caerphilly County Borough Council and potential entrepreneurs.

This site is absolutely prime. As I mentioned previously, it is parallel to the main north/south road. It has road connections that go into the Valleys via Hafodyrynys to Pontypool and via Kendon Hill to Oakdale Business Park. As I said, the Ebbw valley rail line runs through the site with links to Newport and Cardiff—I hope that that line becomes active sooner rather than later. Despite all this, the site does not figure as a park and ride rail station. It could have a station with a long platform, a car park with closed circuit television and an integrated bus link for the convenience of all the passengers. It is ideal and needs to be recognised.

My vision is that this is an obvious site for regeneration. Furthermore, I am glad that the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Economic Development are present. I trust that they will consult each other on this site—they have an opportunity to do a phoenix job because this is an obvious site for regeneration.

There are many examples of similar regeneration projects: for example, Westoe Colliery, South Shields. It was closed in 1993 and is now being redeveloped based on the urban village principles. Penallta Colliery in the former mid Glamorgan area is the largest remaining Edwardian colliery in south Wales, where there are proposals to restore all listed buildings and create a new community with a mix of apartments, offices and facilities for sport and recreation.

Calder and Hebble navigation warehouse in Wakefield is located in the old industrial core of Wakefield and fronts the Calder river. It was subject to a detailed feasibility study. The refurbished warehouse will now be used

Pont-y-pŵl gynnal sawl astudiaeth o'r pwll. Mae'r holl astudiaethau wedi cydnabod ei leoliad a'i safle, ac eto nid oes yr un ohonynt wedi cydnabod ei botensial. Fy nod yw codi proffil a photensial y safle hwn, nid yn unig gyda'r Gweinidog, ond gydag Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili a darpar entrepreneuriaid.

Mae'r safle hwn yn ardderchog. Fel y crybwyllais yn gynharach, mae'r prif heol sy'n mynd o ogledd yr ardal i'r de yn rhedeg ochr yn ochr ag ef. Mae ganddo gysylltiadau ffordd sy'n arwain i'r Cymoedd drwy Hafodyrynys i Bont-y-pŵl a thrwy Bryn Kendon i Barc Busnes Oakdale. Fel y dywedais, mae rheilffordd glyn Ebwy yn rhedeg drwy'r safle gyda chysylltiadau â Chasnewydd a Chaerdydd—gobeithio y daw'r llinell yn weithredol cyn gynted â phosibl. Er gwaethaf hyn oll, ni chaiff y safle ei ystyried fel gorsaf reilffordd parcio a theithio. Gallai gael gorsaf â phlattform hir, maes parcio â theledu cylch cyfyng a chyswllt bws integredig er mwyn cynnig gwasanaeth cyfleus i bob teithiwr. Mae'n ddelfrydol ac mae angen ei gydnabod.

Fy ngweledigaeth i yw bod hwn yn amlwg yn safle i'w adfywio. At hynny, yr wyf yn falch bod y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd yn bresennol. Hyderaf y byddant yn ymgynghori â'i gilydd ynglŷn â'r safle hwn—mae ganddynt gyfle i wneud gwaith arbennig oherwydd bod hwn yn amlwg yn safle i'w adfywio.

Ceir llawer o enghreifftiau o brosiectau adfywio tebyg: er enghraifft, Pwll Glo Westoe, South Shields. Fe'i caewyd yn 1993 ac mae bellach yn cael ei ailddatblygu ar sail egwyddorion pentref trefol. Pwll Glo Penallta yn ardal Morgannwg ganol gynt yw'r pwll glo Edwardaidd mwyaf sy'n dal i fodoli yn y De, lle ceir cynigion i wella pob adeilad rhestredig a chreu cymuned newydd â chymysgedd o fflatiau, swyddfeydd a chyfleusterau ar gyfer chwaraeon a hamdden.

Lleolir warws ager Calder and Hebble yn Wakefield, mewn ardal a oedd yn ganolfan ddiwydiannol y dref, ac mae'n wynebu afon Calder. Bu'n destun astudiaeth dichonoldeb fanwl. Bellach defnyddir y warws ar ei

as a new gallery for the national collection of sculptures by Barbara Hepworth, who was born in Wakefield. Locally, the regeneration programme for Barry waterfront in the Vale of Glamorgan covers a vast area. It is opening up the waterfront and creating a high-quality environment for housing, shopping, leisure and business development. There are many such examples, but I do not have time to mention them all now.

Therefore, how can we regenerate the Navigation Colliery site? The Grade II* listed buildings are impressive and large enough to warrant regeneration into an economic development unit—with small business starter units, skills and ICT and growth units where those businesses could develop; a site of cluster businesses working together, supporting each other and providing business supply sources to each other. One extremely important condition is to attract and extend broadband from Newport into the Valleys. The Ebbw valley needs broadband and I know of a company that is interested in a large site for development where broadband is essential. Therefore there is a great deal of potential.

Tomorrow morning I will attend a briefing that has been organised by BT in partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council to promote the use of broadband communications within the county. BT is upgrading the Caerphilly telephone exchange so that it can provide ADSL technology. It is important that we actively encourage people to register for broadband so that other exchanges including Blackwood, Newbridge and Crumlin can be similarly upgraded.

Pontypool Park Estates is also extensively involved in Welsh wood. Up until 1985, Government grants dictated that the woods and forests of Wales should be continually replanted with soft wood that grew quickly in small diameters with low structural density. The Navigation Colliery site is below Trinant woods and could be used to convert Welsh timber from cheap wood to high-value-added end-grain wood flooring using modern computerised numerical control manufacturing methods. I have a piece of a

newydd wedd fel oriel newydd ar gyfer y casgliad cenedlaethol o gerfluniau gan Barbara Hepworth, a anwyd yn Wakefield. Yn lleol, mae rhaglen adfywio glannau y Barri ym Mro Morgannwg yn cwmpasu ardal eang. Mae'n gwneud y mwyaf o ardal y glannau ac yn creu amgylchedd o safon uchel ar gyfer tai, siopau, datblygiadau hamdden a busnes. Mae llawer o enghreifftiau o'r fath, ond nid oes gennyf amser i'w crybwyll i gyd yn awr.

Felly, sut gallwn adfywio safle Pwll Glo Navigation? Mae'r adeiladau rhestredig Gradd II* yn drawiadol ac yn ddigon mawr i warantu eu hadfywio a'u troi yn uned ddatblygu economaidd—gydag unedau busnesau bach newydd, sgiliau a TGCh, ac unedau twf lle y gallai'r busnesau hynny ddatblygu; safle o fusnesau clwstwr yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd, yn cynnal ei gilydd ac yn darparu ffynonellau cyflenwi busnes i'w gilydd. Un amod hynod bwysig yw denu ac ymestyn band eang o Gasnewydd i'r Cymoedd. Mae angen band eang ar lyn Ebwy a gwn am gwmni sydd â diddordeb mewn datblygu safle mawr lle mae band eang yn hanfodol. Felly ceir cryn dipyn o botensial.

Bore yfory byddaf yn mynychu sesiwn frifffio a drefnwyd gan BT mewn partneriaeth â Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili i hyrwyddo'r defnydd o gysylltiadau band eang yn y sir. Mae BT yn uwchraddio cyfnewidfa ffôn Caerffili er mwyn iddo allu darparu technoleg ADSL. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn annog pobl yn weithredol i gofrestru i ddefnyddio band eang er mwyn i gyfnewidfeydd eraill, gan gynnwys y Coed Duon, Trecelyn a Chrymlyn, gael eu huwchraddio yn yr un ffordd.

Mae Ystadau Parc Pont-y-pŵl hefyd yn ymwneud yn helaeth â choed Cymru. Hyd at 1985, gorchmynnodd grantiau'r Llywodraeth y dylai coedwigoedd a fforestydd Cymru gael eu hailblannu'n barhaus â phren meddal a oedd yn tyfu'n gyflym mewn diamedrau bach â dwysedd strwythurol isel. Mae safle Pwll Glo Navigation islaw coedwigoedd Trinant a gellid ei ddefnyddio i drawsnewid coed Cymru o bren rhad i loriau pren graen pen ag iddynt werth ychwanegol uchel gan ddefnyddio dull gweithgynhyrchu modern â

typical CNC tile. End-grain Welsh timber is sound-proofed on the back with recycled tyre and cork. I will hold a piece up for you to see the markings in the wood.

Peter Law: Is that one you made earlier?

Brian Hancock: Yes, in true *Blue Peter* fashion.

This is an example of using a traditional method and product and modernising it for this century. We could use that sort of training and background. The timber residue could be developed into a sustainable heat and power generation cycle.

4:40 p.m.

I strongly encourage the Minister for Economic Development and the Minister for Environment to direct their departments to take an interest in this site, and I call upon the Minister for Economic Development to accept a copy of this report—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You must not leave the lectern.

Brian Hancock: I will give you the report when I have finished speaking.

Gobeithiaf y cawn ganolfan a fydd yn creu swyddi, hyrwyddo busnesau Cymreig, a hybu a datblygu economi Cymru.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call the Minister for Economic Development to reply.

Brian Hancock: I have allowed one minute each for Peter Law, Mike German and William Graham to contribute.

Peter Law: It is difficult to follow that, but in the spirit of cross-constituency co-operation with my friend Brian Hancock, I want to support him because, although the site is in the Islwyn constituency, it is situated on the Blaenau Gwent border. It has united support from the people of Islwyn,

rheolaeth rifol gyfrifiadurol. Mae gennyf ddarn o deil nodweddiadol a wnaed drwy ddefnyddio'r dull hwnnw. Mae coed graenpen o Gymru wedi'u seinglosio ar y cefn â theiar a chore a ailgylchwyd. Dangosaf ddarn i chi gael gweld y marciau yn y pren.

Peter Law: Ai un a wnaethoch yn gynharach yw hwn?

Brian Hancock: Ie, yn arddull nodweddiadol *Blue Peter*.

Mae hon yn enghraifft o ddefnyddio dull a chynnyrch traddodiadol a'i foderneiddio ar gyfer defnydd y ganrif hon. Gallem ddefnyddio'r math hwnnw o hyfforddiant a chefnidir. Gellid defnyddio gweddillion y coed i greu cylch o gynhyrchu gwres ac ynni cynaliadwy.

Anogaf y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a'r Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd i ddweud wrth eu hadrannau i gymryd diddordeb yn y safle hwn, a galwaf ar y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd i dderbyn copi o'r adroddiad hwn—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid oes hawl gennyh i adael y ddarllenfa.

Brian Hancock: Rhoddaf yr adroddiad ichi ar ôl imi orffen siarad.

I hope that we get a centre that will create jobs, promote Welsh businesses, and stimulate and develop the Welsh economy.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gofynnaf ar y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd i ymateb.

Brian Hancock: Yr wyf wedi caniatáu un funud yr un i Peter Law, Mike German a William Graham gyfrannu.

Peter Law: Mae'n anodd dilyn hynny, ond yn ysbryd cydweithrediad traws-etholaethol gyda'm cyfaill Brian Hancock, hoffwn ei gefnogi oherwydd, er bod y safle yn etholaeth Islwyn, mae ar ffin Blaenau Gwent. Mae ganddo gefnogaeth unfrydol pobl Islwyn, sydd am warchod yr ased pensaernïol pwysig

who want to preserve this great architectural asset, which should not be compared to the former Dunlop Semtex plant. Navigation Colliery is an architectural asset, believe you me, and many people comment on it. The recommendations outlined in the report give us the opportunity to regenerate the Valleys communities because the site is strategically placed between the mid Glamorgan and Gwent valleys, at the entrance to the upper valleys, where there is great potential for economic, community and tourism development.

My minute is almost up. Regenerating this site will provide many benefits, and I hope that the Minister for Economic Development will be able to provide Assembly funding for this purpose, because it is in the interests of the Valleys as a whole to develop this site.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German):

Thank you, Brian, for allowing me to contribute. Navigation Colliery is a fine structure, with Edwardian brick buildings. It is difficult to finance the regeneration of old buildings of this sort. To get the maximum benefit we would need to transfer some form of community ownership to them. However, it is equally important to have a degree of private sector involvement and, since house prices have risen so dramatically in parts of the Valleys, it might be useful to reconsider the appropriateness of some of these buildings being converted into residential accommodation, as well as the heritage, office space and other uses to which they could be put. This site is close to the Oakdale Business Park, which is a major asset in terms of investment in the mid Valleys. I also encourage the Minister for Environment to consider leaving open the option of creating a station at this site because if the site were redeveloped, a station would be required.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: William Graham, you have half a minute.

William Graham: Llongyfarchiadau, Brian, on bringing this to our attention. I thought that it was at the end of the canal from

hwn, na ddylid ei gymharu â safle Dunlop Semtex. Mae Pwll Glo Navigation yn ased pensaernïol, credwch chi fi, ac mae llawer o bobl yn cyfeirio ato. Mae'r argymhellion a amlinellir yn yr adroddiad yn rhoi cyfle inni adfywio cymunedau'r Cymoedd oherwydd bod y safle wedi'i leoli rhwng cymoedd Morgannwg ganol a Gwent, ger y ffordd i'r cymoedd uchaf, lle ceir potensial mawr ar gyfer datblygu economaidd, cymunedol a thwristiaeth.

Mae fy munud bron ar ben. Daw llawer o fuddiannau yn sgil adfywio'r safle hwn, a gobeithiaf y gall y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd ddarparu arian y Cynulliad at y diben hwn, oherwydd y bydd datblygu'r safle hwn er budd y Cymoedd yn gyffredinol.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German):

Diolch ichi Brian, am adael imi gyfrannu. Mae Pwll Glo Navigation yn adeiladwaith cain, gydag adeiladau brics o'r cyfnod Edwardaidd. Mae'n anodd ariannu'r broses o adfywio hen adeiladau o'r math hwn. Er mwyn sicrhau'r budd mwyaf posibl byddai angen inni drosglwyddo rhyw fath o berchenogaeth gymunedol iddynt. Fodd bynnag, mae yr un mor bwysig i gael rhywfaint o gyfraniad gan y sector preifat a, chan fod prisiau tai wedi codi mor ddramatig mewn rhannau o'r Cymoedd, efallai y byddai'n ddefnyddiol ailystyried pa mor briodol fyddai trawsnewid rhai o'r adeiladau hyn yn adeiladau preswyl, yn ogystal â'u defnyddio ar gyfer treftadaeth a swyddfeydd ymhlith pethau eraill. Mae'r safle yn agos at Barc Busnes Oakdale, sy'n ased mawr o ran buddsoddiad yng nghanol y Cymoedd. Anogaf y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd hefyd i beidio â diystyrru'n llwyr yr opsiwn i greu gorsaf ar y safle hwn oherwydd pe cai'r safle ei ailddatblygu, byddai angen gorsaf.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: William Graham, mae gennych hanner eiliad.

William Graham: Llongyfarchiadau, Brian, am ddod â hyn i'n sylw. Yr oeddwn yn meddwl ei fod ar ddiwedd y gamlas o

Newport. It is an important local landmark and its fate should not follow that of the Crumlin viaduct, which previously stood above it. This site could be well developed without vast expenditure if the Assembly were to underpin the investment with private and public finance. I commend the proposal to you.

The Minister for Economic Development (Andrew Davies): I thank Brian for raising this issue and for giving me a copy of the report. Regeneration is at the top of my political agenda in view of the challenges facing many communities across Wales. I will begin by discussing Navigation Colliery and the issues affecting its potential, and will then explain the Assembly Government's holistic approach to economic regeneration.

As Brian and others have mentioned, the former Crumlin Navigation Colliery is an architecturally and historically important site. As he also said, it was constructed in the early 1900s and was closed in 1967. It remains visually impressive and is regarded as one of the best coal industry sites to survive the demise of the industry. There are approximately 14 listed buildings on the site, some of which are listed as Grade II*. The Historic Buildings Council for Wales has assessed the buildings as being of outstanding architectural and historical interest, and they would also qualify for a CADW repair grant. Unfortunately, in recent times, the site has suffered from vandalism. Extensive discussions between the local authority, CADW, the site owners and Pontypool Park Estates have resulted in CADW offering a grant for temporary works. This welcome development should help to protect the buildings from the elements while further discussions take place on the site's long-term future.

With regard to future use, the Welsh Development Agency, in conjunction with CADW, the local authority and the owners, has partly funded a feasibility study into the site's potential. A steering group comprising Caerphilly County Borough Council, the WDA, CADW and Pontypool Park Estates has also been established to consider all the

Gasnewydd. Mae'n adeilad lleol pwysig ac ni ddylai ddilyn tynged traphont Crymlyn, a oedd yn arfer sefyll uwch ei ben. Gellir datblygu'r safle yn helaeth heb gostau sylweddol, pe bai'r Cynulliad yn sicrhau bod cyllid preifat a chyhoeddus yn sail i'r buddsoddiad. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig ichi.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd (Andrew Davies): Diolchaf i Brian am godi'r mater hwn ac am roi copi o'r adroddiad imi. Mae adfywio ar frig fy agenda wleidyddol o ran yr heriau sy'n wynebu llawer o gymunedau ledled Cymru. Dechreuaf drwy drafod Pwll Glo Navigation a'r materion sy'n effeithio ar ei botensial, ac yna byddaf yn egluro ymagwedd gyfannol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad tuag at adfywio economaidd.

Fel y mae Brian ac eraill wedi crybwyll, mae hen Bwll Glo Navigation, Crymlyn yn safle pwysig o safbwynt pensaernïol a hanesyddol. Fel y dywedodd hefyd, fe'i hadeiladwyd ar ddechrau'r ugeinfed ganrif ac fe'i caewyd yn 1967. Mae'n safle trawiadol o hyd ac fe'i hystyrir yn un o'r safleoedd gorau sydd wedi goroesi ers diflaniad y diwydiant glo. Ceir tua 14 o adeiladau rhestredig ar y safle, y mae rhai ohonynt wedi'u rhestru fel Gradd II*. Mae Cyngor Adeiladau Hanesyddol Cymru wedi asesu'r adeiladau fel rhai sydd o ddiddordeb mawr yn bensaernïol a hanesyddol, a byddent hefyd yn gymwys i dderbyn grant atgyweirio gan CADW. Yn anffodus, mae'r safle wedi dioddef fandaliaeth yn ddiweddar. O ganlyniad i drafodaethau helaeth rhwng yr awdurdod lleol, CADW, perchenogion y safle ac Ystadau Parc Pont-y-pŵl, cynigiodd CADW grant i wneud gwaith dros dro ar y safle. Dylai'r datblygiad derbynol hwn helpu i amddiffyn yr adeiladau rhag yr elfennau tra chynhelir trafodaethau pellach ar ddyfodol y safle yn yr hirdymor.

O ran ei ddefnydd yn y dyfodol, mae Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, ar y cyd â CADW, yr awdurdod lleol a'r perchenogion, wedi talu cyfran o gostau astudiaeth dichonoldeb i botensial y safle. Sefydlwyd grŵp llywio yn cynnwys Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, y WDA, CADW a Pharc Ystadau Pont-y-pŵl hefyd i ystyried yr holl

options. I am pleased to report that the final draft report is now available, and seeks to explain some of the issues that Brian raised today. The study concludes that a major project or public sector use is necessary to bring the site and its buildings back into use. It would require a public or private sector project champion to plan and deliver the regeneration process. While the colliery is in a densely populated area, which could make the project successful, there is a clear need to identify a major project to attract that population there.

The report also recognises the site's inherent difficulties. The buildings are not well suited to modern industrial use and adapting them for modern commercial use may well present many challenges. However, we should remain positive. Examples exist of regeneration projects that have become successful, despite a lack of private sector interest, because of the enthusiasm and energy of key individuals, public bodies or trusts. I support the regeneration of the former colliery complex and hope that a viable solution can be found. I assure you that the WDA will play a full part in trying to identify a solution for the site.

On regenerating the area, the Corus package is a significant Assembly Government contribution to addressing the area's difficulties, which have resulted from the closure of its steelworks. The proposed upgrade of the railway between Ebbw Vale and the south Wales main line is a key part of the package. This will introduce a direct passenger service between Ebbw Vale and Cardiff/Newport, and will offer new service opportunities for several communities along the route. The improved connections will enable people to commute to work more easily and, more importantly, encourage companies to locate to the area and make use of the valuable skills and experience of the local workforce. This increased accessibility may also enhance the viability of the Crumlin site. I understand that the Ebbw valley railway line runs through the Crumlin site,

opsiynau. Mae'n bleser gennyf nodi bod y drafft terfynol bellach ar gael, a'i fod yn ceisio egluro rhai o'r materion a gododd Brian heddiw. Daw'r astudiaeth i'r casgliad bod angen prosiect mawr neu i'r sector cyhoeddus ddefnyddio'r safle er mwyn sicrhau bod y safle a'i adeiladau'n cael eu defnyddio unwaith eto. Byddai'n gofyn am arweinydd prosiect yn y sector cyhoeddus neu breifat i gynllunio a darparu'r broses adfywio. Er bod y pwll glo mewn ardal boblog, a allai olygu y byddai'r prosiect yn llwyddo, mae'n amlwg bod angen canfod prosiect mawr i ddenu'r boblogaeth honno i'r safle.

Mae'r adroddiad hefyd yn cydnabod anawsterau cynhenid y safle. Nid yw'r adeiladau yn addas iawn ar gyfer defnydd diwydiannol modern a gallai eu haddasu ar gyfer defnydd masnachol modern gyflwyno llawer o heriau. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni barhau i fod yn bositif. Ceir enghreifftiau o brosiectau adfywio a fu'n llwyddiannus, er gwaethaf diffyg diddordeb gan y sector preifat, oherwydd brwdfrydedd ac egni unigolion allweddol, cyrff cyhoeddus neu ymddiriedolaethau. Cefnogaf y broses o adfywio adeiladau yr hen bwll glo a gobeithiaf y gellir dod o hyd i ateb dichonadwy. Fe'ch sicrhaf y bydd y WDA yn chwarae rhan gyflawn wrth geisio canfod ateb i'r cwestiwn o beth i'w wneud â'r sefyllfa.

O ran adfywio'r ardal, mae pecyn Corus yn gyfraniad sylweddol gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad at y gwaith o fynd i'r afael ag anawsterau'r ardal, a ddeilliodd o gau'r gwaith dur. Mae'r broses arfaethedig o uwchraddio'r rheilffordd rhwng Glynebwy a phrif linell de Cymru yn rhan allweddol o'r pecyn hwn. Bydd hyn yn cyflwyno gwasanaeth uniongyrchol i deithwyr rhwng Glynebwy a Chaerdydd/Casnewydd, a bydd yn gyfle i gynnig gwasanaeth newydd i lawer o gymunedau sydd wedi'u lleolir ar hyd y llwybr hwn. Bydd y cysylltiadau gwell yn galluogi pobl i deithio i'r gwaith yn haws ac, yn bwysicach, yn annog cwmnïau i symud i'r ardal a gwneud defnydd o sgiliau a phrofiad gwerthfawr y gweithlu lleol. Gallai'r hygyrchedd cynyddol hwn hefyd wella hyfywedd safle Crymlyn. Deallaf fod rheilffordd Glynebwy yn rhedeg drwy safle

and it is possible that the location could act as an interchange, especially as it is near the A467. I will discuss this with my colleague, Sue Essex.

The Welsh Assembly Government seeks to address the holistic regeneration of the Ebbw valley and, while I realise that some projects are not located in your constituency, Brian, good progress is being made on the Valleys innovation and communication centre, which is a £2.8 million information and communications technology development. It is hoped that the Ebbw valley railway and the learning campus will form part of the first phase of the redevelopment of the former Ebbw Vale steelworks site.

I thank Brian once again for raising the issue, and I will take a close interest in the development of this site's potential.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close.

Crymlyn, ac mae'n bosibl y gallai'r lleoliad weithredu fel cyfnewidfa, yn enwedig gan ei fod ger yr A467. Byddaf yn trafod hyn gyda'm cyd-Weinidog, Sue Essex.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ceisio mynd i'r afael â'r broses gyfannol o adfywio glyn Ebwy ac, er fy mod yn sylweddoli nad yw rhai o'r prosiectau yn eich etholaeth chi, Brian, gwneir cynnydd da ar ganolfan arloesi a chyfathrebu'r Cymoedd. Mae hwn yn ddatblygiad technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu gwerth £2.8 miliwn. Gobeithir y bydd rheilffordd glyn Ebwy a'r campws dysgu yn rhan o gam cyntaf ailddatblygiad hen safle gwaith dur Glynebwy.

Diolchaf i Brian unwaith eto am godi'r mater, a byddaf yn cymryd diddordeb manwl yn y broses o ddatblygu potensial y safle hwn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 4.48 p.m.
The session ended at 4.48 p.m.*