



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Cofnod y Trafodion**

**The National Assembly for Wales
The Record of Proceedings**

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Tuesday, 20 March 2007**

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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi 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.

Anerchiad gan Mario Das Neves, Llywodraethwr Talaith Chubut, yr Ariannin
Address by Mario Das Neves, Governor of the Chubut Province, Argentina

Y Llywydd: Mae'n bleser arbennig gennyf heddiw estyn croeso i lywodraethwr Chubut a gofyn iddo annerch y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

The Presiding Officer: It gives me great pleasure to welcome the governor of Chubut today, and to ask him to address the National Assembly.

Traddodwyd yr anerchiad yn Sbaeneg. Darperir isod drawsgrifiad o'r cyfieithiad ar y pryd. The address was delivered in Spanish. A transcription of the simultaneous translation follows.

Mr Mario Das Neves: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Thanks to a handful of dreamers, who dared to defy the limits of reason by embarking on a challenge with an uncertain future, moved by the strength of their faith, we are here today before this young National Assembly for Wales, representing the province of Chubut. Thanks to them, not only was Chubut possible, but Argentina could also consolidate its sovereign presence in a territory such as Patagonia, which was claimed by so many different powers. Of course, I am referring to those 153 Welsh settlers who arrived on the coast of Golfo Nuevo on 28 July 1865, where the beautiful city of Puerto Madryn is located today. Thanks to the fact that they allowed themselves to dream of a different future, today, we can speak on behalf of a province that tries to make that dream come true every day.

Mr Mario Das Neves: Prynawn da, foneddigion a boneddigesau. Diolch i lond llaw o freuddwydwr, a feiddiodd herio terfynau rheswm drwy ymgymryd â her ac iddi ddyfodol ansicr, wedi'u hysgogi gan gryfder eu ffydd, yr ydym yma heddiw gerbron y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ifanc hwn, yn cynrychioli talaith Chubut. Diolch iddynt hwy, nid yn unig yr oedd Chubut yn bosibl, ond gallodd yr Ariannin hithau gyfnerthu'i phresenoldeb sofran mewn tiriogaeth megis Patagonia, yr oedd cynifer o wahanol bwerau yn ei hawlio. Wrth gwrs, cyfeirio yr wyf at y 153 o wladychwyr hynny o Gymru a gyraeddodd arfordir Golfo Nuevo ar 28 Gorffennaf 1865, lle y mae dinas brydferth Porth Madryn heddiw. Diolch i'r ffaith iddynt ganiatáu iddynt eu hunain freuddwydio am ddyfodol gwahanol, heddiw gallwn siarad ar ran talaith sydd yn ceisio gwireddu'r freuddwyd honno bob dydd.

The visionary spirit of those Welsh people is reflected today not only in their descendants, who live and work all over the province, but also in all citizens of Chubut, who every day honour with love the legacy of those settlers.

Adlewyrchir ysbryd gweledigaethol y Cymry hynny nid yn unig yn eu disgynyddion, sydd yn byw ac yn gweithio ar hyd a lled y dalaith, ond hefyd yn holl ddinasyddion Chubut, sydd bob dydd yn anrhydeddu treftadaeth y gwladychwyr hynny â chariad.

Today, the Chubut province is changing. It leads a process of regional transformation, which will consolidate Patagonia's integration in the world. Patagonia not only offers natural and cultural resources, but also demands an harmonic and sustainable development of its resources. Patagonia's economy is growing considerably in industries such as tourism, energy, fishing and mining, to mention some of the most outstanding examples.

Heddiw, mae talaith Chubut yn newid. Mae'n arwain proses o drawsnewid rhanbarthol, a fydd yn cyfnerthu integreiddiad Patagonia yn y byd. Mae Patagonia nid yn unig yn cynnig adnoddau naturiol a diwylliannol, ond mae hefyd yn mynnu datblygiad harmonig a chynaliadwy i'w hadnoddau. Mae economi Patagonia'n tyfu'n sylweddol mewn diwydiannau megis twristiaeth, ynni, pysgota a mwyngloddio, ac enwi rhai o'r enghreifftiau mwyaf amlwg.

However, it is not because of this that culture

Fodd bynnag, nid oherwydd hyn y cedwir

is preserved. On the contrary, we update it to the times and requirements of modern society. Today, in Chubut, we give culture the place and the value that it deserves, which is why our Government has given matters of culture a ministry and all cultural matters are reported directly to the governor. Such a decision was a response to the people's demands.

That objective is no more than the implementation of a true cultural policy that will also consolidate the process of defining the Chubutense identity. That is why the Secretariat of Culture always prioritises the values, traditions and customs of the people in every gesture, action and project. Those values take on and recognise the Welsh culture that is deeply rooted in the Chubut province, and which is integrated with the system of values of other cultures that make up the identity of the Chubut people.

The Welsh settlers left here for an unknown destination. They were looking for freedom. They quickly understood that freedom does not depend only on a connection between the people and their land—you must also be aware of what you are and what you are trying to be. That is why we are here today: to tell you that the dream followed by those Welsh people is in our hands—yours and ours. We are the ones who ultimately have the opportunity to continue expanding the Welsh cultural inheritance of union and fraternity. That is why we express our firm will to establish links and work together on such significant objectives as teaching the Welsh language, practising the musical and choral arts, preserving the architectural heritage and the dissemination of culture, among others.

We are working—and working seriously—because culture is not frivolous or light-hearted, nor is it a space for public entertainment. Culture defines us. It says who and what we are. That is why we take it so seriously, because our most important asset is people.

The transformation process that we are undertaking in our province does not only

diwylliant. I'r gwrthwyneb, fe'i diweddarwn i weddu i'r amserau a gofynion cymdeithas fodern. Heddiw, yn Chubut, rhoddwn i ddiwylliant y lle a'r gwerth y mae'n eu teilyngu, a dyna pam y bu i'n Llywodraeth ddarparu gweinyddiaeth i faterion diwylliant a bod pob mater diwylliannol yn cael ei adrodd yn uniongyrchol i'r llywodraethwr. Ymateb i alwadau'r bobl yr oedd penderfyniad o'r fath.

Y nod yn syml yw gweithredu polisi diwylliannol gwirioneddol a fydd hefyd yn cyfnerthu'r broses o ddiffinio hunaniaeth pobl Chubut. Dyna pam y mae'r Ysgrifenyddiaeth Ddiwylliant bob amser yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i werthoedd, traddodiadau ac arferion y bobl ym mhob arwydd, gweithred a phrosiect. Mae'r gwerthoedd hynny'n arddel ac yn cydnabod y diwylliant Cymreig sydd wedi ymwreiddio'n ddwfn yn nhalaith Chubut, ac sydd wedi ymdoddi â system werthoedd diwylliannau eraill sy'n ffurfio hunaniaeth pobl Chubut.

Ymadawodd y gwladychwyr o Gymry â'r wlad hon i fynd i gyrchfan anhysbys. Yr oeddent yn chwilio am ryddid. Deallasant yn fuan nad yw rhyddid yn dibynnu'n unig ar gysylltiad rhwng y bobl a'u tir—rhaid bod yn ymwybodol hefyd o'r hyn ydych a'r hyn yr ydych yn ceisio bod. Dyna pam yr ydym yma heddiw: i ddweud wrthyhch fod y freuddwyd a ddilynwyd gan y Cymry hynny yn ein dwylo—eich dwylo chi a'n dwylo ni. Ni yw'r rhai yn y pen draw sydd â'r cyfle i barhau i ehangu etifeddiaeth ddiwylliannol y Cymry o undeb a brawdoliaeth. Dyna pam y mynegwn ein hewyllys gadarn i sefydlu cysylltiadau a chydweithio ar amcanion pwysig megis dysgu'r iaith Gymraeg, arfer y celfyddydau cerddorol a chorawl, cadw'r dreftadaeth bensaernïol a lledaenu diwylliant, ymysg eraill.

Yr ydym yn gweithio—a hynny o ddifrif—oherwydd nid peth gwamal nac ysgafn yw diwylliant, na gofod ar gyfer adloniant cyhoeddus ychwaith. Mae diwylliant yn ein diffinio. Dywed pwy ydym a beth ydym. Dyna pam yr ydym gymaint o ddifrif yn ei gylch, oherwydd pobl yw ein hased pwysicaf.

Mae'r broses o drawsnewid yr ydym yn ymgymryd â hi yn ein talaith yn cyfeirio nid

refer to the cultural environment, but also to production. We do not lose sight of the fact that globalisation is a reality that we cannot ignore—a fact to which we cannot be indifferent. Fundamentally, it is up to us to play the effective role that our countries must perform.

We know that only actions planned today will allow us to envisage a great future. In the province of Chubut, we are clear about how we want to connect to the world. We must have a proactive attitude towards globalisation. We live in an era of information and knowledge; we live in a world of change and uncertainty, where the worst that could happen would be to have to prepare ourselves to face a world that has already changed.

In this plan to survive, we must be competitive. Nevertheless, competitiveness is built and created. It is created with businesses and entrepreneurs that are willing and ready to sell globally; the private sector and Government can profit by working together. However, that will not happen with just any Government, but with one that is willing to encourage the process of change and to adapt to global competition. We believe in the fundamental concept of development. The market on its own lacks a social approach and the opportunity to take advantage of what is outside the market context. The state has the role of establishing the appropriate mechanism through which to promote sustainable development.

Our exportable goods are some of the most diverse in Argentina. We have stable customers and we are constantly open to new markets. Our exports from Chubut are well above the national standards. Today, we are one of the main exporting provinces in Argentina. Ninety-five per cent of Argentinean aluminium is produced in Chubut; 95 per cent of exported wool is produced in Chubut; 30 per cent of Argentina's fishing exports are generated in the waters and ports around Chubut; and more than 40 per cent of the oil exported by Argentina is extracted from the bottom of the same land. Our horizon is marked by the internationalisation of the region, enabling access to opening new markets.

yn unig at yr amgylchedd diwylliannol, ond hefyd at gynhyrchu. Nid ydym yn colli golwg ar y ffaith bod globaleiddio'n wirionedd na allwn ei anwybyddu—yn ffaith na allwn ei diystyru. Yn y bôn, mater i ni yw chwarae'r rôl effeithiol y mae'n rhaid i'n gwledydd ei chyflawni.

Gwyddom mai dim ond drwy weithredoedd a gynllunnir heddiw y cawn ragweld dyfodol gwych. Yn nhalaith Chubut, yr ydym yn glir ynghylch sut y mae arnom eisiau cysylltu â'r byd. Rhaid inni ymagweddu'n rhagweithiol tuag at globaleiddio. Yr ydym yn byw mewn oes o hysbysrwydd a gwybodaeth; yr ydym yn byw mewn byd o newid ac ansicrwydd, a'r gwaethaf a allai ddigwydd fyddai gorfod ymbaratoi i wynebu byd sydd eisoes wedi newid.

Yn y cynllun hwn i oroesi, rhaid inni fod yn gystadleuol. Serch hynny, rhywbeth a adeileddir ac a grëir yw'r gallu i gystadlu. Fe'i crëir gyda busnesau ac entrepreneuriaid sydd yn fodlon ac yn barod i werthu'n fyd-eang; gall y sector preifat a Llywodraeth elwa drwy gydweithio. Fodd bynnag, ni wnaiff hynny ddigwydd gydag unrhyw Lywodraeth, ond gydag un sy'n fodlon annog newid ac ymaddasu i gystadlueaeth fyd-eang. Credwn yng nghysyniad sylfaenol datblygiad. Ar ei phen ei hun, nid oes gan y farchnad agwedd gymdeithasol a chyfle i fanteisio ar yr hyn sydd y tu allan i gyd-destun y farchnad. Gan y wladwriaeth y mae'r rôl o sefydlu'r peirianwaith priodol ar gyfer hyrwyddo datblygu cynaliadwy.

Mae'r nwyddau y gallwn eu hallforio ymhlith y mwyaf amrywiol yn yr Ariannin. Mae gennym gwsmeriaid sefydlog ac yr ydym yn agored o hyd i farchnadoedd newydd. Mae ein hallforion o Chubut ymhell uwchlaw'r safonau cenedlaethol. Heddiw, ni yw un o brif daleithiau allforio'r Ariannin. Cynhyrchir 95 y cant o alwminiwm yr Ariannin yn Chubut; cynhyrchir 95 y cant o'r gwlan a allforir yn Chubut; cynhyrchir 30 y cant o allforion pysgota'r Ariannin yn nyfroedd a phorthladdoedd Chubut; a thynnir dros 40 y cant o'r olew a allforir gan yr Ariannin o waelod yr un tir. Mae ein gorwel wedi'i farcio gan natur ryngwladoleddig y rhanbarth, sy'n caniatáu mynediad i farchnadoedd newydd sy'n ymagor.

It would not be possible for us to be among the five biggest exporting provinces without the adequate infrastructure. The facilities in Chubut allow us to export our products directly to the world. The road and airport infrastructure, in which we have invested, and continue to invest, put us in a perfect position to face the future.

It is our duty, and an obligation for future generations, to establish our own strategy to gain international presence, with a Patagonian brand that is updated to the new ways of conducting business in the twenty-first century.

Our Government's commitment to the productive system is to generate the necessary trust to promote investment, which will allow us to exploit and industrialise our great natural resources in the right way: by respecting the proper environmental equilibrium. We will help exporters by training them and giving them the necessary know-how to add value to their products and to enter new markets, which will retain the quality in our province.

2.00 p.m.

Our Government encourages and accompanies small and medium-sized enterprises to the opening of international markets, according to the niche of the market. We have a clear and defined strategy to support the participation of companies in trade fairs and to connect the products with the markets.

Where there are strategic advantages and links that offer concrete possibilities of business for our companies, we work tirelessly to try to support them. In this way, we strongly support the metallurgical industry. Another example is the food industry, and fresh and frozen foods that are directed to European markets. The diversity of products in our province, their environmental quality and the fact that they are produced in the opposite season to Europe's gives us a competitive advantage in the worldwide market. This, coupled with the

Ni fyddai'n bosibl i ni fod ymhlith y pum talaith allforio fwyaf heb seilwaith digonol. Mae'r cyfleusterau yn Chubut yn caniatáu inni allforio ein nwyddau'n uniongyrchol i'r byd. Mae'r seiwaith ffyrdd a meysydd awyr, yr ydym wedi buddsoddi, ac yn parhau i fuddsoddi, ynddo, yn ein rhoi mewn sefyllfa berffaith i wynebu'r dyfodol.

Mae'n ddyletswydd arnom, ac yn rhywbeth y mae'n rhaid i ni ei wneud er mwyn cenedlaethau'r dyfodol, sefydlu ein strategaeth ein hunain i sicrhau presenoldeb rhyngwladol, gyda brand Patagonia sydd wedi'i ddiweddarau ar gyfer y dulliau newydd o wneud busnes yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

Ymrwymiad ein Llywodraeth i'r system gynhyrchu yw ysgogi'r ymddiriedaeth angenrheidiol i hyrwyddo buddsoddiad, a fydd yn caniatáu inni ddefnyddio a diwydiannu ein hadnoddau naturiol mawr yn y modd iawn: drwy barchu'r cydbwysedd amgylcheddol priodol. Byddwn yn helpu allforwyr drwy eu hyfforddi a rhoi'r wybodaeth angenrheidiol iddynt i ychwanegu gwerth at eu cynhyrchion a chael mynediad i farchnadoedd newydd, a fydd yn cadw'r ansawdd yn ein talaith.

Mae ein Llywodraeth yn annog busnesau bach a chanolig, ac yn mynd gyda hwy, i agor marchnadoedd rhyngwladol, yn ôl arbenigedd y farchnad. Mae gennym strategaeth eglur a diffiniedig i gynorthwyo cwmnïau i gyfranogi mewn ffeiriau masnach a chysylltu'r nwyddau â'r marchnadoedd.

Lle y ceir manteision a chysylltiadau strategol sy'n cynnig posibiliadau busnes pendant i'n cwmnïau, gweithiwn yn ddiflino i geisio'u cefnogi. Yn y modd hwn, cefnogwn y diwydiant metelegol yn gryf. Enghraifft arall yw'r diwydiant bwyd, a bwydydd ffres ac wedi'u rhewi ar gyfer marchnadoedd Ewropeaidd. Mae amrywiaeth y cynhyrchion yn ein talaith, eu hansawdd amgylcheddol a'r ffaith nad ydynt yn cael eu cynhyrchu yn yr un tymor â rhai Ewrop yn rhoi mantais gystadleuol inni yn y farchnad fyd-eang. Mae hyn, ynghyd â'r ffaith bod ein cynhyrchion

fact that our products are natural or organic, is one of the pillars of our exporting strategies.

The quality of our lamb makes it one of the meats most appreciated by the most renowned chefs in the world. The cherries produced in our province are not only of international quality, but are also available at the most favourable time for the European market. We have a priceless capital. Patagonia is a synonym for purity in the world. In Chubut, we know that and we appreciate it. We appreciate our way of life, our rich history of pioneers, our people's working habits and the way in which we interact with the environment.

In Chubut, we open our doors and hearts to thousands of visitors who enjoy our natural resources and our hospitality. That is why we strongly bet on domestic and international tourism by trying to offer more and better services to our guests. We work every day to give value to each tourist attraction in our territory.

Honourable Assembly, to conclude, I would like to tell you an anecdote that reflects what happened in Chubut during the Welsh settlement. This is a quotation from Ms Neved Jones, a granddaughter of one of the first settlers, who arrived on the sailboat Mimosa. She states:

'On a Sunday during the religious service, when I was seven or eight years old I was sitting next to my mother, I heard the door open and I turned around and saw an aborigine wrapped up in his clothes, with two younger people. I whispered in Welsh: "Aborigines!" In the same language my mother said: "They are children of God, like us." The three of them sat in front of us and remained listening to the rest of the service. It was the chief, Nahuelquir, and his two sons, smartly dressed in light coloured clothes. When the prayer ended everybody stood up and greeted each other.'

The most peaceful settlement in the world had begun then. The Welsh settlers took care of settling and letting their traditions last. The aborigines shared their bread and poetry. Today the history remains alive: the roots of

yn naturiol neu'n organig, yn un o gonglfeini ein strategaethau allforio.

Mae ansawdd ein cig oen yn ei wneud yn un o'r cigoedd a werthfawrogir fwyaf gan y cogyddion enwocaf yn y byd. Mae'r ceirios a gynhyrchir yn ein talaith nid yn unig o ansawdd rhyngwladol, ond hefyd ar gael ar yr adeg fwyaf ffafriol i'r farchnad Ewropeaidd. Mae gennym ragoriaeth amhrisiadwy. Mae Patagonia'n gyfystyr â phurdeb yn y byd. Yn Chubut, gwyddom hynny ac yr ydym yn ei werthfawrogi. Gwerthfawrogn ein ffordd o fyw, ein hanes cyfoethog o arloeswyr, arferion gweithio ein pobl a'r ffordd y rhyngweithiwn gyda'r amgylchedd.

Yn Chubut, agorwn ein drysau a'n calonnau i filoedd o ymwelwyr a ddaw i fwynhau ein hadnoddau naturiol a'n croeso. Dyna pam y buddsoddwn yn gryf mewn twristiaeth gartref a rhyngwladol drwy geisio cynnig mwy o wasanaethau, a rhai gwell, i'n gwsteion. Gweithiwn bob dydd i roi gwerth i bob atyniad twristaidd yn ein tiriogaeth.

Hybarch Gynulliad, i gloi, hoffwn ddweud hanesyn wrthych sy'n adlewyrchu'r hyn a ddigwyddodd yn Chubut yn ystod y gwladychu gan y Cymry. Dyma ddyfyniad gan Ms Neved Jones, wyres i un o'r gwladychwyr cyntaf, a gyrhaeddodd ar long hwyliau'r Mimosa. Dywed:

Ryw Ddydd Sul yn ystod y gwasanaeth crefyddol, pan oeddwn yn saith neu wyth mlwydd oed, yr oeddwn yn eistedd wrth ochr fy mam; clywais y drws yn agor a throis fy mhen a gweld brodor wedi'i lapio yn ei ddillad, gyda dau o bobl iau. Sibrydais yn Gymraeg: 'Brodorion!' Yn yr un iaith, dywedodd fy mam: 'Plant Duw ydyn nhw, fel ni.' Eisteddodd y tri o'n blaenau a dal i wrando ar weddill y gwasanaeth. Y pennaeth, Nahuelquir, ydoedd, a'i ddau fab, wedi'u gwisgo'n drwsiadus mewn dillad o liw golau. Pan ddaeth y weddi i ben safodd pawb a chyfarch ei gilydd.

Yr oedd y gwladychiad mwyaf heddychlon yn y byd wedi dechrau. Gofalodd y gwladychwyr Cymreig am wladychu a gadael i'w traddodiadau barhau. Rhannodd y brodorion o'u bara a'u barddoniaeth. Heddiw

both cultures are in the same land. Being of mixed blood, and with our souls open, we live sharing the same dreams. Thank you. [*Applause.*]

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Croeso cynnes iawn i Gymru ac i'n Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Byddai wedi bod yn amhosibl dychmygu'r fath gyfarfod ac achlysur â hwn yn ystod oes y Mimosa, bron canrif a hanner yn ôl. Diolch i chi hefyd am y croeso cynnes a gefais ym Mhatagonia a Chubut gennych, a chan bobl y Cymry a phobl eraill yn Chubut yn ystod fy ymweliad ddwy flynedd yn ôl. Diolch hefyd am eich dadansoddiad a'ch gweledigaeth am y ffordd orau o ddyfnhau y berthynas rhwng Cymru a Chubut. Yr ydym wedi cael yr argraff—a chredaf eich bod wedi profi bod honno'n argraff gywir—bod dylanwad y Cymry ar Chubut yn mynd lawer ymhellach na'r niferoedd bach.

I wish you the same warm welcome to Wales as you gave to me when I visited Patagonia. It was a strange experience to go to the eisteddfod in Trelew and find it thriving there. Of course, Trelew is not the only Welsh settlement in Patagonia. It was a strange experience, when walking to the hotel at which I was staying, to be greeted in Welsh. The first words I heard while there were,

'Rhodri, beth ydych chi'n ei wneud yma yn Nhrelew, mor bell o'ch cartref?'

The reason for that is that Trelew is now on the international tourist trail.

Mae cymaint o bethau gwahanol i'w gweld yn Nhrelew sydd o ddiddordeb i bobl o Gymru, ac nid dim ond y manau traddodiadol fel y capeli, mynwentydd a'r ystafelloedd bwyd. Mae'r rhain yn rhan o'r llwybr twristiaeth poblogaidd ym Mhatagonia, ond mae'r ardal hefyd yn un gyfoethog yng nghyd-destun byd natur.

It is perhaps a great good fortune that the very place that the Mimosa landed, namely Puerto Madryn—or Porth Madryn in Welsh—happens to be one of the seven

mae'r hanes yn dal yn fyw: mae gwreiddiau'r ddau ddiwylliant yn yr un tir. Yn gymysg ein gwaed, ac yn agored ein heneidiau, yr ydym yn byw gan rannu'r un breuddwydion. Diolch yn fawr. [*Cymeradwyaeth.*]

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I wish you a warm welcome to Wales and to the National Assembly. It would have been impossible to imagine such a meeting and occasion as this during the time of the Mimosa, nearly a century and a half ago. I thank you for the warm welcome that I received in Patagonia and Chubut from you, and from the descendants of the Welsh settlers and others in Chubut during my visit two years ago. I also thank you for your analysis and vision of the way forward in strengthening the relationship between Wales and Chubut. We have been given the impression—and I think that you have shown that it is true—that Wales's influence on Chubut extends far further than our small numbers suggest.

Rhoddaf yr un croeso cynnes i chi i Gymru ag a roesoch chi i mi pan ymwelais â Phatagonia. Profiad rhyfedd oedd mynd i'r eisteddfod yn Nhrelew a'i chael yn ffynnu yno. Wrth gwrs, nid Trelew yw'r unig le y mae'r Cymry wedi'i wladychu ym Mhatagonia. Yr oedd yn brofiad rhyfedd cael fy nghyfarch yn Gymraeg wrth imi gerdded i mewn i'r gwesty lle'r oeddwn yn aros. Y geiriau cyntaf a glywais pan oeddwn yno oedd,

'Rhodri, what are you doing here in Trelew, so far from home?'

Y rheswm dros hynny yw bod Trelew yn awr ar y llwybr twristiaeth rhyngwladol.

There are so many different things to see in Trelew that are of interest to people from Wales, and not only the traditionally popular sites such as the chapels, cemeteries and tea rooms. These are all part of the popular tourist trail in Patagonia, but the area is also rich in natural heritage.

Efallai mai lwc dda iawn yw bod yr union le y glaniodd y Mimosa ynddo, sef Puerto Madryn—neu Porth Madryn yn y Gymraeg—yn digwydd bod yn un o saith

wonders of the world in being the location for so many extraordinary natural sights, from Southern Right whales giving birth to their young, to killer whales, elephant seals and penguins. People who visit the area have the trip of a lifetime.

There are many ways in which we will wish to continue deepening the relationship between Wales and Chubut, beyond the teacher support that we continue to provide to help the preservation of the Welsh language in Patagonia.

Felly, byddwn yn cymryd y materion hyn ymhellach heno, gydag ailarwyddo y memorandwm cyd-ddealltwriaeth. Trafodwn y materion pwysig hyn i ni ein dau ymhellach heno. Am y tro, diolchaf i chi am eich anerchiad ac am eich ymweliad â'r Cynulliad a Chymru. [Cymeradwyaeth.]

rhyfeddod y byd o ran yr holl bethau naturiol anhygoel a welir yno—o weld morfilod 'Southern Right' yn rhoi genedigaeth i'w rhai bach, i weld morfilod danheddog, eliffantod môr a phengwiniad. Bydd pobl sy'n ymweld â'r ardal yn cael taith unwaith-mewn-oes.

Mae llawer o ffyrdd y byddwn yn dymuno parhau i gryfhau'r berthynas rhwng Cymru a Chubut, y tu hwnt i'r gefnogaeth yr ydym yn dal i'w chynnig i athrawon er mwyn cynorthwyo i gadw'r iaith Gymraeg yn fyw ym Mhatagonia.

Therefore, we will take these matters further this evening, as we re-sign the memorandum of understanding. We will further discuss these issues, which are of importance to us both, this evening. For the time being, I thank you for your address and for your visit to the Assembly and Wales. [Applause.]

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 2.08 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 2.08 p.m. with the Presiding Officer in the Chair.*

Ethol Pwyllgor Penderfyniadau Cynllunio Election of a Planning Decision Committee

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales resolves:

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cynigaf fod
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn penderfynu:

1. that a Committee, to be known as Planning Decision Committee (2) 2007-2, be established in accordance with Standing Order No. 17 of the Assembly to discharge those functions of the Assembly in respect of the matters identified in the Schedule to this motion which are indicated in respect of each matter in that schedule and that the Assembly's functions in those respects be delegated to that committee;

2. that the members of that Committee be: Carwyn Jones (Chair), Lorraine Barrett, Mick Bates, Elin Jones;

3. that the Committee shall cease to exist when the Chair of the Committee signs the decision letter in accordance with Standing Order No. 17.16 or on the 30 March 2007, whichever is the earlier;

1. bod Pwyllgor, i'w adnabod fel Pwyllgor Penderfyniadau Cynllunio (2) 2007-2, yn cael ei sefydlu yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 17 y Cynulliad i gyflawni swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad yng nghyswllt y materion y cyfeirir atynt yn yr Atodlen i'r cynnig hwn a nodir yng nghyswllt pob mater yn yr atodlen honno a bod swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad yng nghyswllt y rheini'n cael eu dirprwyo i'r pwyllgor hwnnw;

2. mai aelodau'r Pwyllgor hwnnw fydd: Carwyn Jones (Cadeirydd), Lorraine Barrett, Mick Bates, Elin Jones;

3. bod y Pwyllgor yn peidio â bod pan fydd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor yn llofnodi'r llythyr penderfynu yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 17.16 neu ar 30 Mawrth 2007, pa un bynnag a fydd gyntaf;

4. that if the Committee shall cease to exist without the Chair having signed a decision letter in respect of the matter identified in the Schedule to this motion then in that event the functions identified in paragraph 1 above are, in relation to such matter, delegated to the First Minister.

4. os bydd y Pwyllgor yn peidio â bod heb i'r Cadeirydd lofnodi llythyr penderfynu mewn perthynas â'r mater a nodir yn yr Atodlen i'r cynnig hwn, yna, yn yr achos hwnnw, bod y swyddogaethau a nodir ym mharagraff 1 uchod, yng nghyswllt mater o'r fath, yn cael eu dirprwyo i'r Prif Weinidog.

Schedule

Atodlen

1. Called-in planning application under section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by S.V. Owen Ltd for proposed residential development of 34 three-storey dwellings at the Old Cricket Ground, Trearddur Bay, Anglesey:

1. Cais cynllunio a alwyd i mewn o dan adran 77 o Ddeddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 gan S.V. Owen Ltd ar gyfer datblygiad preswyl arfaethedig o 34 annedd tri llawr ar yr Hen Faes Criced, Bae Trearddur, Ynys Môn:

2. Planning appeal under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd for new residential development consisting of 41 three-storey town houses, 221 apartments in six six-storey pavilions, 1 block rising from three storeys to seven storeys and 1 block rising from four storeys to 10 storeys along with associated car parking, landscaping and infrastructure requirements at Pentreguinea Road, St Thomas, Swansea.

2. Apêl cynllunio o dan adran 78 o Ddeddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 gan Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd ar gyfer datblygiad preswyl newydd o 41 o dai tref tri llawr, 221 rhandy mewn chwe phafiliwn chwe llawr, 1 bloc yn codi o dri llawr i saith llawr ac 1 bloc yn codi o bedwar llawr i ddeg llawr ynghyd â gofynion parcio, seilwaith a thirlunio cysylltiedig yn Pentreguinea Road, St Thomas, Abertawe.

3. Planning appeals under section 78 of the town and country planning act 1990 by Newbridge Construction Ltd, Mr R.A.E. Herbert and Mrs M.G. Herbert for:

3. Apeliadau cynllunio o dan adran 78 o Ddeddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 gan Newbridge Construction Ltd, Mr R.A.E. Herbert a Mrs M.G. Herbert ar gyfer:

(appeal a) residential development, public open space, flood alleviation works and associated environmental improvements at the former Tredegar Park Golf Course, Newport;

(apêl a) datblygiad preswyl, man agored cyhoeddus, gwaith lliniaru llifogydd a gwelliannau amgylcheddol cysylltiedig ar hen Gwrs Golff Parc Tredegar, Casnewydd;

(appeal b) proposed works to provide flood storage and flood control facilities at Tredegar Park Sports Field and Recreation Ground, Newport. (NDM3547)

(apêl b) gwaith arfaethedig i ddarparu cyfleusterau rheoli llifogydd a chronni dŵr llifogydd ym Maes Chwarae a Maes Hamdden Parc Tredegar, Casnewydd. (NDM3547)

Cynnig (NDM3547): O blaid 34, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3547): For 34, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick

Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Dunwoody, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lloyd, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister

Ffermio Mynydd Upland Farming

Q1 Brynle Williams: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to secure the sustainability of upland farming in Wales? OAQ2442(FM)

C1 Brynle Williams: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i sicrhau cynaliadwyedd ffermio mynydd yng Nghymru? OAQ2442(FM)

The First Minister: Among the many forms of support given to farming in general, including upland farming, was the prompt payment of single farm payments in December 2005 and December 2006. Seventy-five per cent of Welsh farmers received their payments on the first day.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ymhlith yr amryw fathau o gymorth a roddir i ffermio yn gyffredinol, gan gynnwys ffermio mynydd, talwyd y taliadau sengl yn brydlon yn Rhagfyr 2005 a Rhagfyr 2006. Derbyniodd 75 y cant o ffermwyr Cymru eu taliadau ar y diwrnod cyntaf.

Brynle Williams: Thank you for your response and for the prompt payments. Regrettably, the average net income of an upland farmer has fallen by almost £9,000, and this is before the reduction in Tir Mynydd support comes into effect. If this

Brynle Williams: Diolch am eich ymateb ac am y taliadau prydlon. Gwaetha'r modd, mae incwm net ffermwyr mynydd, ar gyfartaledd, wedi gostwng £9,000 bron, ac mae hyn cyn i'r gostyngiad yn y cymorth Tir Mynydd ddod i rym. Os bydd y pwysau ariannol hwn

financial pressure on upland farms continues, we will see the large-scale abandonment of land. What alternative do you have for managing the uplands when there are no farmers left there?

ar ffermydd mynydd yn parhau, byddwn yn gweld tir yn cael ei adael ar raddfa helaeth. Pa ddewisiadau eraill sydd gennych o ran rheoli'r ucheldir pan na fydd ffermwyr ar ôl yno?

2.10 p.m.

The First Minister: That is far too gloomy a picture. As with any commodity, such as lamb and beef, which dominate upland farming, it is true that you get the cyclical rise and fall in payments. If you have a fall in payment, you will find that it usually rises the following year. We will have to see what happens when the latest data come out. The important thing, as we have made clear in our farming policy on the future of upland farming, is that it will be based increasingly on trying to encourage farmers to move towards the greater generation of income, including off-farm income, and the greater concentration of the support system on the agri-environment side.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r darlun hwnnw yn llawer rhy dywyll. Megis gydag unrhyw fath o nwyddau, fel ŵyn ac eidion, sef yr hyn a geir fwyaf mewn ffermydd mynydd, mae'n wir y bydd taliadau'n codi ac yn gostwng yn gylchol. Os bydd taliadau'n gostwng, byddant fel arfer yn codi y flwyddyn ddilynol. Bydd rhaid inni weld beth fydd yn digwydd pan gyhoeddir y data diweddaraf. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig, fel yr amlygwyd gennym yn ein polisi ffermio ar ddyfodol ffermio mynydd, yw y seilir ef fwyfwy ar geisio annog ffermwyr i gynhyrchu mwy o incwm, gan gynnwys incwm a wneir oddi ar y fferm, a bod y system gymorth yn canolbwyntio mwy ar yr ochr amaeth-amgylchedd.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yn y ddogfen 'Iaith Pawb', mae brawddeg sy'n darllen,

Alun Ffred Jones: There is a sentence in the document, 'Iaith Pawb', which reads,

'Bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru hefyd yn cynnwys yr iaith Gymraeg fel ffactor wrth asesu patrwm daearyddol cyffredinol cymorth i ffermio yng Nghymru'.

'The Welsh Assembly Government will in addition include the Welsh language as a factor in assessing the overall geographical pattern of support for farming in Wales'.

Ym mha ffordd y mae'r Llywodraeth yn gwneud hynny?

In which way is the Government doing that?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n fater o ffaith fod ffarmio yn rhan o asgwrn cefn yr iaith Gymraeg, fel yr oedd y diwydiant llechi a glo carreg yn ne-orllewin Cymru. Felly, mae'r diwydiannau hyn wedi bod yn gysylltiedig â'r Gymraeg, a bydd hynny yn parhau.

The First Minister: It is a matter of fact that farming has been part of the backbone of the Welsh language, as were the slate and coal-mining industries in south-west Wales. Therefore, these industries have close ties to the Welsh language, and that will continue.

Anhwyldeira Bwyta Eating Disorders

Q2 Lisa Francis: Will the First Minister make a statement on provision for patients with eating disorders in Wales? OAQ2451(FM)

C2 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am y ddarpariaeth ar gyfer cleifion sydd ag anhwylderau bwyta yng Nghymru? OAQ2451(FM)

The First Minister: We are committed to the development of specialist in-patient services for patients with eating disorders: in south

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i ddatblygu gwasanaethau mewnol arbenigol i gleifion sydd ag anhwylderau bwyta: yn y de,

Wales, a new purpose-built facility will be built at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, and a similar purpose-built development for north Wales will be sited at Abergele, at a cost of some £8 million. A public consultation on these two proposals will begin in May.

Lisa Francis: A constituent of mine in Carmarthenshire has been in contact with me for the past three years about her anorexic daughter. Apparently, Health Commission Wales is working closely with NHS trusts to develop proposals to improve in-patient treatment. Do you know whether that would include the setting up of a community intensive therapy team in an area such as Carmarthenshire, and resourcing it properly? If not, how is it proposed to deal with people such as my constituent's daughter, who, in addition to having anorexia—and this is not uncommon—have a range of mental disorders, and for whom in-patient treatment would not be beneficial? I understand that you may not be in a position to give me a definitive answer on that now, but I would appreciate it if you would write to me before the end of the second Assembly, First Minister.

The First Minister: You will understand that I chose to highlight the capital developments for those who do require in-patient treatment, Lisa. Of course, the vast majority of people with eating disorders are normally dealt with far closer to home and do not require in-patient treatment, so they are treated as part of either adolescent or adult mental health services. That is very important. You cannot always include everything that you want to ask in one question, but the fact that I emphasised capital development for in-patient treatment does not mean that we do not accept that the base of the pyramid is far bigger and will be concentrating on community-based services.

bydd cyfleuster newydd pwrpasol yn cael ei adeiladu yn Ysbyty Tywysoges Cymru, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, a bydd datblygiad pwrpasol tebyg ar gyfer y gogledd yn cael ei leoli yn Abergele. Bydd hyn yn costio tua £8 miliwn. Bydd ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ynghylch y ddau gynnig hyn yn dechrau fis Mai.

Lisa Francis: Mae un o'm hetholwyr yn sir Gaerfyrddin wedi bod mewn cysylltiad â mi yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf ynglŷn â'i merch sydd ag anorecsia. Yn ôl pob tebyg, mae Comisiwn Iechyd Cymru yn gweithio'n agos ag ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG er mwyn datblygu cynigion i wella triniaeth i gleifion mewnol. A wyddoch a fyddai hynny'n cynnwys sefydlu tîm therapi dwys cymunedol mewn ardal megis sir Gaerfyrddin, a rhoi'r adnoddau priodol iddo? Os nad yw hynny'n bod, sut y bwriedir delio â phobl megis merch fy etholwraig, sydd, yn ogystal â bod ag anorecsia—ac nid yw hyn yn anghyffredin—ag ystod o anhwylderau meddyliol, ac na fyddai'n elwa o driniaeth i gleifion mewnol? Deallaf nad ydych, efallai, yn gallu rhoi ateb terfynol imi ynghylch hynny yn awr, ond byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi pe baech yn ysgrifennu ataf cyn diwedd yr ail Gynulliad, Brif Weinidog.

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddwch yn deall imi ddewis tynnu sylw at y datblygiadau cyfalaf ar gyfer y rhai y mae angen triniaeth i gleifion mewnol arnynt, Lisa. Wrth gwrs, ymdrinnir â'r mwyafrif llethol o bobl sydd ag anhwylderau bwyta yn llawer nes i'w cartrefi fel arfer, ac nid oes angen triniaeth i gleifion mewnol arnynt. Cânt eu trin felly fel rhan o'r gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl ar gyfer pobl ifanc neu oedolion. Mae hynny'n bwysig iawn. Ni allwch gynnwys popeth y dymunwch ei ofyn mewn un cwestiwn bob amser, ond nid yw'r ffaith imi roi pwyslais ar ddatblygu cyfalaf ar gyfer triniaeth i gleifion mewnol yn golygu nad ydym yn derbyn bod gwaelod y pyramid yn llawer mwy, ac y byddwn yn canolbwyntio ar wasanaethau sydd wedi'u seilio yn y gymuned.

Tai Fforddiadwy Affordable Housing

C3 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pa drafodaethau diweddar y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi'u cynnal ynghylch cynyddu

Q3 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What recent discussions has the Welsh Assembly Government held regarding increasing the

faint o dai fforddiadwy sydd ar gael?
 OAQ2435(FM)

availability of affordable housing?
 OAQ2435(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r gyllideb, yn ystyr ymbarél y grant tai cymdeithasol, wedi ei chynyddu o ryw £60 miliwn bedair blynedd yn ôl i £100 miliwn, bron â bod, yn y flwyddyn ariannol sydd ar fin dechrau. Dyna gynnydd o 60 y cant. Gallaf ddweud bod Llafur wedi ymrwymo i wario £450 miliwn ar dai fforddiadwy dros y pedair blynedd nesaf, pe bai'n cael ei haillethol i'r weinyddiaeth.

The First Minister: The budget, in the sense of the umbrella of the social housing grant, was increased from some £60 million four years ago to nearly £100 million in the financial year about to commence. That is an increase of 60 per cent. I can tell you that Labour has pledged to spend £450 million on affordable housing over the next four years, if it is re-elected to Government.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Er gwaethaf y cynnydd hwnnw yn y cyllid sydd ar gael, Brif Weinidog, onid ydych yn cytuno ei bod hi'n anoddach yn awr i bobl—a phobl ifanc, yn arbennig—gael mynediad i'r farchnad dai ac i dai fforddiadwy nag ydoedd yn 1999 pan ddaeth y Llywodraeth hon i rym yn y Cynulliad?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Despite that increase in the funding that is available, First Minister, do you not agree that it is now more difficult for people—and especially young people—to gain access to the housing market and to affordable housing than it was in 1999 when this Government came to power in the Assembly?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n anodd dweud, onid ydyw? Mae'n dibynnu ar sut yr ydych yn cydbwysu'r ffaith fod llawer mwy o bobl yn gweithio yn awr ar y naill law—a'r cwestiwn mawr iddynt hwy yw a oes tai fforddiadwy ar gael iddynt fel cam cyntaf tuag at brynu tŷ—a'r angen am dai fforddiadwy i'w rhentu, yn y sector preifat neu'r sector cyhoeddus, ar y llaw arall, a'r rheini ar gyfer y bobl hynny sydd yn gweithio ond nid yw'n talu digon iddynt allu prynu tŷ, neu i'r sawl sydd heb waith o gwbl. Felly, mae'n dibynnu yn llwyr ar batrwm y teulu neu'r person yr ydych yn sôn amdano. Nid yw prisiau tai yn codi am ddim rheswm; maent yn codi am fod mwy o arian a mwy o waith yn yr economi.

The First Minister: It is hard to say, is it not? It depends on how you balance the fact that, on the one hand, many more people are in work now—and so the important question for them is whether they can access affordable housing as a first step towards purchasing property—with the need for affordable housing for people to rent, in the private or public sector, on the other hand, for those people who are in work but who do not earn enough to buy a house, or for those who are unemployed. Therefore, it depends entirely on the family set-up or the person you are talking about. House prices do not increase for no reason; they go up because there is more money and there are more jobs in the economy.

Leighton Andrews: First Minister, there has been another of those estate agency surveys today, suggesting that the most affordable place to buy housing in the UK is in Ystrad in the Rhondda. As usual with these surveys, the house prices that are quoted are significantly lower than the actual house prices that one would have to pay today. I think that this survey suggests that houses can be bought for £33,000, when in fact I believe that people would be talking about two and a half times more than that. However, do you agree that, in the Valleys, we have a stock of affordable housing, and

Leighton Andrews: Brif Weinidog, cafwyd un arall o'r arolygon hynny gan gwmni gwerthu tai heddiw. Awgryma mai'r man mwyaf fforddiadwy i brynu tŷ yn y Deyrnas Unedig yw Ystrad yn y Rhondda. Yn ôl yr arfer gyda'r arolygon hyn, mae prisiau'r tai a ddyfynnir yn sylweddol is na'r prisiau gwirioneddol y byddai'n rhaid i rywun eu talu heddiw. Yr wyf yn meddwl bod yr arolwg hwn yn awgrymu y gellir prynu tai am £33,000 ond, mewn gwirionedd, tybiaf y byddai'n rhaid i bobl dalu cymaint ddwywaith a hanner â hynny. Fodd bynnag, a gytunwch fod gennym yn y Rhondda stoc o

with the investments being made by the Welsh Assembly Government, such as the new Porth-Rhondda Fach relief road and the lengthening of platforms on the Treherbert to Cardiff line, we have a stock of housing, in an attractive area, which is attractive for those who want to commute to work in Cardiff?

The First Minister: I agree that the single most important achievement that any Assembly Government could make in terms of balancing out the supply and demand of housing and work would be to normalise the housing market in the Valleys—not just for people in the Rhondda valley, but for the 750,000 people who live in the 20 or so Valleys in industrial south Wales, who have, in general, been excluded in the past from rising capital values and participation in the housing market. If you live in the Valleys, but you want to move out, or if you live outside the Valleys and you want to move in, you will, at present, encounter two separate housing markets. We would want to see a normalised housing market, because that would be healthy for balancing the supply and demand for housing across Wales.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I fynd yn ôl at eich ateb i Rhodri Glyn Thomas, bu i chi awgrymu ei bod yn dibynnu sut ydych yn edrych ar y pethau yma i weld a oes problem gyda tai fforddiadwy. Fodd bynnag, y realiti yw bod nifer y bobl ifanc yn 2006 nad oedd yn gallu fforddio prynu tŷ bedair gwaith yn uwch na'r hyn ydoedd yn 2001. Hynny yw, mae llai o bobl heddiw yn gallu fforddio prynu tŷ nag a allai wneud hynny yn 2001—dyna'r ystadegau. A ydych yn derbyn hynny? Os ydych yn derbyn hynny, beth yw'r ateb?

Y Prif Weinidog: Y peth pwysig yw'r ateb i'r broblem ac nid y chwarae plant rhyngom ni ynglŷn ag ystadegau. Mae'n bwysig bod pobl yn cofio bod gan lawer mwy o bobl yn awr siawns i brynu tŷ oherwydd eu bod mewn gwaith, o'i gymharu â'r sefyllfa wyth mlynedd yn ôl. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny wedi creu pwysau mawr ar y lefelau isel, sef y tai mwyaf fforddiadwy, ble byddai pobl yn cymryd eu cam cyntaf fel arfer. Nid oes digon o dai yn cael eu hadeiladu yn y sector hwnnw, ond, weithiau, daw cyfleodd yn y

dai fforddiadwy, a chyda buddsoddiadau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, megis ffordd liniaru Porth-Rhondda Fach ac ymestyn platfformau ar y rheilffordd rhwng Treherbert a Chaerdydd, fod gennym stoc o dai mewn ardal ddeniadol, sy'n ddeniadol i'r rhai sy'n dymuno teithio i Gaerdydd i'r gwaith?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf mai'r gamp fwyaf y gallai unrhyw Gynulliad ei chyflawni o ran cydbwysu'r cyflenwad a'r galw o ran tai a gwaith fyddai normaleiddio'r farchnad dai yn y Cymoedd—nid ar gyfer pobl yng nghwm Rhondda yn unig, ond ar gyfer y 750,000 o bobl sy'n byw yng Nghymoedd y de diwydiannol (tuag 20 ohonynt) sydd, yn gyffredinol, wedi cael eu heithrio yn y gorffennol rhag cynnydd mewn cyfalaf a rhag cyfranogaeth yn y farchnad dai. Ar hyn o bryd, os ydych yn byw yn y Cymoedd, ond yn dymuno symud oddi yno, neu os ydych yn byw oddi allan i'r Cymoedd ac yn dymuno symud i mewn, byddwch yn dod ar draws dwy farchnad dai ar wahân. Hoffem weld marchnad dai wedi'i normaleiddio oherwydd byddai hynny'n llesol o ran cydbwysu'r cyflenwad a'r galw am dai ledled Cymru.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): To return to your response to Rhodri Glyn Thomas, you suggested that this depends on how we consider the issues as to whether there is a problem as regards affordable housing. However, the reality is that there has been a fourfold increase in the number of young people who cannot afford to buy a house between 2001 and 2006. That means that fewer people can afford to buy a house today than was the case in 2001—that is what the statistics show. Do you accept that? If you do, what is the solution?

The First Minister: The solution to the problem is the important point and not the child's play or knockabout between us with regard to the statistics. It is important to bear in mind that far more people have the chance to buy a house now because they are in work than was the case eight years ago. However, this has had the effect of putting pressure on the stock of the most affordable housing available, where people would normally take their first step on the ladder. Not enough houses in this sector are built, but,

Cymoedd nad ydynt ar gael efallai yng Nghaerdydd, Casnewydd ac Abertawe.

Nid wyf wedi gweld yr ystadegau sy'n cymharu sefyllfa rhywun sydd mewn gwaith yn awr nad oedd, efallai, mewn gwaith wyth mlynedd yn ôl. Beth yw eu siawns hwy, yn awr bod swydd ganddynt, ac a allant fforddio tŷ yn awr?

Yr hyn sy'n bwysig wedyn yw ein bod yn derbyn hefyd fod rhai ardaloedd â chanddynt farchnad ddwbl—lle nad yw cost y tai yn gysylltiedig â lefel y tâl yn yr ardal. Yr ydym yn derbyn bod honno'n broblem arbennig, a dyna pam yr ydym wedi bod yn siarad am ddeddf arbennig i ddelio â'r broblem leol honno.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Nid chwarae plant yw gofyn y cwestiynau hyn. Yr hyn sydd yma yw asesiad, a chyn belled â'n bod yn deall maint y broblem, efallai y bydd gennym ddealltwriaeth wedyn o'r hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud i ateb y broblem. Yr wyf wedi dweud wrthyfch fod pedair gwaith yn fwy o bobl ifanc yn 2006, o gymharu â 2001, wedi methu fforddio prynu tŷ. Mae hynny'n awgrymu'n gryf fod pobl ifanc yn ei chael yn gynyddol anodd prynu tŷ.

Yn ail, erbyn hyn, pe bai pobl ifanc eisiau morgais i brynu tŷ, byddai'n rhaid iddynt gael morgais sy'n chwe gwaith cymaint â'u cyflog, ar gyfartaledd. Felly, mae'r broblem yn ddiffrifol. O'ch atebion, Brif Weinidog, yr wyf yn amau a ydych yn derbyn bod problem. Os ydym yn derbyn bod problem gyda chyflogau a chyda'r ffaith na all pobl gael mynediad i'r farchnad, yr ydym yn mynd i ofyn beth yw'r atebion. A ydych yn derbyn bod hon yn broblem ar draws Cymru ac nid mewn pocedi? Mae'n broblem, boed yn Ynys Môn neu ganol Caerdydd, fod pobl ifanc yn methu cael tai. Os ydym ni'n dau yn derbyn hynny, beth yw'r ateb?

Y Prif Weinidog: Fel y dywedais yn yr ateb i Rhodri Glyn, yr ydym, fel Plaid Lafur, wedi gwneud ymrwymiad—os cawn ein hailethol i rym—i wario £450 miliwn ar dai fforddiadwy yn ystod y Cynulliad nesaf. Felly, mae'r ymrwymiad hwnnw yn hollol

sometimes, opportunities arise in the Valleys that are perhaps not available in Cardiff, Newport and Swansea.

I have not seen the statistics that compare the situation of someone who was not in work eight years ago and who is now in work. What chance do they have, now that they have a job, of buying a house, and can they afford to do that?

It is important that we accept that some areas have a double market, where the cost of houses is not linked to salary levels. We accept that that is a particular problem, and that is why we have been talking about legislation to deal with this problem at a local level.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Asking these questions is not child's play. What we have here is an assessment, and as long as we understand the scale of the problem, we will probably understand what we need to do to solve that problem. I have told you that the number of people who could not afford to buy a house in 2006 was four times higher than it was in 2001. That strongly suggests that young people are finding it increasingly difficult to buy a house.

Furthermore, if young people need a mortgage to buy a house, they would now have to borrow six times as much as their salary, on average. This is a serious problem. From your responses, First Minister, I doubt whether you accept that there is a problem. If you do accept that there is a problem with salaries and with the fact that people cannot access the housing market, that is when we will ask for the solutions. Do you accept that this is a serious problem across Wales and not just in certain pockets? Whether in Anglesey or the centre of Cardiff, the fact that young people cannot afford to buy houses is a problem. If we both accept that that is a problem, what is the solution?

The First Minister: As I said in response to Rhodri Glyn, we, as the Labour Party, have made a commitment—if we are re-elected to Government—to spending £450 million on affordable housing during the next Assembly. Therefore, that is a clear commitment in the

glir yng nghyd-destun yr adnoddau yr ydym yn meddwl y dylent gael eu gwario ar yr holl sector. Nid wyf yn sôn am dai fforddiadwy i'w prynu yn unig, ond, i'r rhai nad ydynt yn gallu fforddio prynu tŷ, hyd yn oed gyda help oddi wrth y Llywodraeth, yr wyf hefyd yn sôn am help i rentu tai fforddiadwy a help i brynu a chymryd y cam cyntaf ar ysgol y farchnad dai.

2.20 p.m.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Let us assume, for the sake of argument, that we both accept—and all parties would probably accept this—that there is a major housing issue in Wales. I know that you have mentioned the issue of the rented sector, which I accept is a separate problem that needs to be addressed, perhaps by substantial capital investment, but I want to take you back to this genuine desire among many young people to buy their own homes. We need to look at ways in which we can make those homes more affordable for young people, whether they are first-time buyers or not. Those who are not first-time buyers also face a problem because after they have their affordable home, they face the problem of continuation and getting a larger home as their families grow, and so on. Do you not agree that, in addition to capital investment, we need to look at the planning system, because the way in which land is now released for planning means that the cost of the land makes any house built on that land totally unaffordable? Do you not agree that we need to look at a more flexible approach to the planning system so that the purchase of land helps in the provision of affordable homes?

The First Minister: I agree with a lot of what you said, but I do not agree with how you regard the inability to rent as a separate issue from the inability to buy affordable homes; they are absolutely wrapped up with one another, and I do not accept your analysis on that. On the question of more planning permissions, that is exactly why we published a comprehensive package of measures last summer, including technical advice notes 1 and 2, the ministerial planning policy statement, the affordable housing toolkit and

context of the resources we believe should be allocated to the sector as a whole. I am not just talking about affordable houses for purchase, but, for those people who cannot afford to buy, even with Government assistance, I am talking about assistance to find affordable rented accommodation, and subsequently to buy a house and take the first step on the housing ladder.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Gadewch inni gymryd, er mwyn dadl, ein bod ni'n dau'n derbyn—a byddai pob plaid mae'n debyg yn derbyn hyn—fod problem sylweddol o ran tai yng Nghymru. Gwn eich bod wedi crybwyll mater y sector rhentu, ac yr wyf yn derbyn ei fod yn fater ar wahân y mae angen mynd i'r afael ag ef, efallai drwy fuddsoddiad cyfalaf mawr, ond mae arnaf eisiau mynd â chi'n ôl at y dymuniad gwirioneddol sydd ymhlith llawer o bobl ifanc i brynu eu cartref eu hunain. Mae angen inni edrych ar ffyrdd o wneud y cartrefi hynny'n fwy fforddiadwy ar gyfer pobl ifanc, boed yn brynwyr tro cyntaf neu fel arall. Mae'r rhai nad ydynt yn brynwyr tro cyntaf hefyd yn wynebu problem oherwydd, wedi iddynt gael eu cartref fforddiadwy, wynebant broblem parhad a chael cartref mwy wrth i'w teuluoedd dyfu, ac yn y blaen. Onid ydych yn cytuno, yn ogystal â buddsoddi cyfalaf, fod angen inni edrych ar y system gynllunio, oherwydd y mae'r ffordd y caiff tir ei ryddhau ar gyfer cynllunio y dyddiau hyn yn golygu bod cost y tir yn gwneud unrhyw dŷ a godir ar y tir hwnnw'n gwbl anfforddiadwy? Onid ydych yn cytuno bod angen inni edrych ar weithredu mwy hyblyg o ran y system gynllunio fel bod prynu tir yn helpu wrth ddarparu cartrefi fforddiadwy?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn cytuno â llawer o'r hyn a ddywedsoch, ond nid wyf yn cytuno â'r modd yr ydych yn ystyried anallu i rentu fel mater ar wahân i'r anallu i brynu cartrefi fforddiadwy; maent yn gwbl glwm â'i gilydd, ac nid wyf yn derbyn eich dadansoddiad ar hynny. O ran y cwestiwn yn ymwneud â mwy o ganiatadau cynllunio, dyna'n union paham y cyhoeddwyd pecyn cynhwysfawr o fesurau yr haf diwethaf, gan gynnwys nodiadau cyngor technegol 1 a 2, y datganiad polisi cynllunio gweinidogol, y

the local housing market assessment guide. Local authorities are therefore obliged to draw up an analysis of the affordable housing problems in their area and what they propose to do about them via the release of land, including the release of publicly owned land, and through section 106 agreements. These agreements mean that if you give planning permission for conventional housing, you must include what you believe to be necessary as a percentage of land to be released for houses or apartments to be built for people who will not be able to afford them through conventional means. That was all part of the package that we published last summer, and we hope that local authorities will act on it promptly.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): On your watch, homelessness has gone up 127 per cent since 1999. We now have the worst figures since 1978, which is when they reached a previous high. How is it that your Government has let things slip so badly?

The First Minister: The homelessness problem is now showing solid signs of improvement. It will be evident to you that the whole question is how to balance out the big improvement in the economy and the way that that has caused people to move into Wales and not leave, thereby putting pressure on the housing market. That is combined with our redefinition of homelessness in the past eight years, so that we have a wider definition of homelessness. Therefore, I am not sure that it is a like-for-like comparison, because certain categories that would not have been included in the homelessness statistics eight years ago are now included. We accept that homelessness is an issue that must be addressed. We started addressing it seriously two or three years ago, and there has been a considerable improvement since then.

Nick Bourne: I am pleased that the First Minister accepts that it is a serious situation and that the figures have risen during that period, even if it is not absolutely on a like-for-like basis. The Government figures, as published, do not indicate that it is not a valid

pecyn tai fforddiadwy a'r canllaw asesu tai lleol. O'r herwydd, mae'n ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol lunio dadansoddiad o'r problemau tai fforddiadwy yn eu hardal a'r hyn y bwriadant ei wneud yn eu cylch drwy ryddhau tir, gan gynnwys rhyddhau tir sy'n eiddo cyhoeddus, a thrwy gytundebau adran 106. Mae'r cytundebau hyn yn golygu, os rhoddwch ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer tai arferol, fod rhaid ichi gynnwys yr hyn sydd yn eich barn chi'n angenrheidiol fel canran o dir i'w ryddhau ar gyfer tai neu fflatiau i'w hadeiladu ar gyfer pobl na fyddant yn gallu eu fforddio drwy ddulliau arferol. Yr oedd hyn i gyd yn rhan o'r pecyn a gyhoeddwyd gennym yr haf diwethaf, a gobeithiwn y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn gweithredu arno'n ddi-oed.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Yn eich cyfnod chi mewn grym, mae digartrefedd wedi cynyddu 127 y cant ers 1999. Bellach, mae gennym y ffigurau gwaethaf ers 1978, sef yr adeg y cyrhaeddwyd penllanw o'r blaen. Sut y mae eich Llywodraeth wedi gadael i bethau ddirywio cymaint?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae problem ddigartrefedd bellach yn dangos arwyddion cadarn ei bod yn gwella. Bydd yn amlwg ichi mai'r prif gwestiwn yw sut i gydbwyso'r gwelliant mawr yn yr economi â'r modd y mae hynny wedi achosi i bobl symud i Gymru yn hytrach na gadael, gan roi pwysau ar y farchnad dai o'r herwydd. Cyfunir hyn â'n hailddiffiniad o ddigartrefedd yn yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf, fel bod gennym ddiffiniad ehangach o ddigartrefedd. Felly, nid wyf yn sicr a yw hon yn gymhariaeth deg, oherwydd bod rhai categorïau penodol na fyddent wedi cael eu cynnwys yn yr ystadegau digartrefedd wyth mlynedd yn ôl, bellach yn cael eu cynnwys. Yr ydym yn derbyn bod digartrefedd yn fater y mae angen mynd i'r afael ag ef. Dechreuasom roi sylw o ddifrif iddo ddwy neu dair blynedd yn ôl, a bu gwelliant sylweddol ers hynny.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn falch bod y Prif Weinidog yn derbyn ei bod yn sefyllfa ddifrifol a bod y ffigurau wedi codi yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, hyd yn oed os nad yw ar sail gwbl debyg. Nid yw ffigurau'r Llywodraeth, fel y cyhoeddwyd hwy, yn

comparison, so I rather think that it must be. Does the First Minister accept that the issue of homelessness leads to many other problems—health problems, educational underattainment, and a lack of entrepreneurial flair—and that all of these problems are fed by not tackling the homelessness situation as radically as it should be tackled? What will he now do that he has not done previously to reverse that trend, which is undoubtedly going upwards?

The First Minister: You had the timing slightly wrong, and it is a case of what did we do, some three years ago, when we decided that this was an issue that required special attention. That is the reason why the social housing grant has shot up by 64 per cent during this Assembly, and, allowing for the inclusion of next year's figures, it will reach £100 million. It is also the reason why the special measures that we took to try to discourage local authorities from using dodgy bed and breakfasts and to provide proper hostel accommodation have been successful. That is why the homelessness figures are now on a downward, and not upward, trend.

Nick Bourne: Official homelessness peaked in 2005 and that does not include hidden homelessness, which is excluded from the statistics. Therefore, you need to check that. It is a valid comparison.

Government figures show that, in the first six years of devolution, housing associations and councils built just 4,436 new dwellings, compared with nearly 17,500 in the last six years of the previous Conservative Government. Again, is the fact that you have not been building enough social housing as a Government not feeding the problem?

The First Minister: Budget allocations are argued through the Assembly every year. I do not recall many pleas being made to give housing associations or local authorities a different way of funding their housing requirements in the social rental sector. You will be aware that there has been a long-running argument with the Treasury, which

nodi nad yw'n gymhariaeth ddilys, felly, yr wyf yn tueddu i gredu ei bod yn un deg. A yw'r Prif Weinidog yn derbyn bod mater digartrefedd yn arwain at lawer o broblemau eraill—problemau iechyd, tangyflawni addysgol, a diffyg gallu entrepreneuriaid—a bod yr holl broblemau hyn yn cael eu gwaethygu drwy beidio â mynd i'r afael â sefyllfa digartrefedd mewn dull mor radical ag y dylid gwneud? Beth a wna yn awr, nad yw wedi ei wneud o'r blaen, i wrthdroi'r duedd hon, sy'n cynyddu, nid oes dim dwywaith amdani?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr oedd yr amseru ychydig yn anghywir gennyh, a'r cwestiwn yw beth a wnaethom dair blynedd yn ôl, pan benderfynwyd bod hwn yn fater a oedd angen sylw arbennig. Dyna paham y mae'r grant tai cymdeithasol wedi codi cymaint â 64 y cant yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn, a, chan gynnwys ffigurau'r flwyddyn nesaf, bydd yn cyrraedd £100 miliwn. Dyma'r rheswm hefyd dros lwyddiant y mesurau a gymerwyd gennym i geisio annog awdurdodau lleol i beidio â defnyddio llety gwely a brecwast amheus ac i ddarparu llety iawn mewn hosteli. Dyma paham y mae ffigurau digartrefedd bellach yn gostwng, yn hytrach na chynyddu.

Nick Bourne: Cyrhaeddodd digartrefedd swyddogol ei benllanw yn 2005, ac nid yw hynny'n cynnwys digartrefedd cudd, sydd wedi'i eithrio o'r ystadegau. Felly mae angen ichi gadarnhau hynny. Mae'n gymhariaeth ddilys.

Dengys ffigurau'r Llywodraeth, yn ystod chwe blynedd cyntaf datganoli, nad adeiladodd cymdeithasau tai a chynghorau ond 4,436 o anheddau newydd, o'i gymharu â bron 17,500 yn chwe blynedd olaf y Llywodraeth Geidwadol flaenorol. Unwaith eto, onid yw'r ffaith nad ydych fel Llywodraeth wedi bod yn adeiladu digon o dai cymdeithasol yn gwaethygu'r broblem?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cynhelir dadl ar ddyraniadau'r gyllideb yn y Cynulliad bob blwyddyn. Nid wyf yn cofio llawer yn pleidio dros roi i gymdeithasau tai neu awdurdodau lleol ffordd wahanol o gyllido'u gofynion tai yn y sector rhentu cymdeithasol. Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod dadl ers tro gyda'r Trysorlys, sy'n dyddio'n ôl i gyfnod y

goes back to the Conservative period, about whether local authority housing should be recommenced on a large scale or whether stock transfer should take place and whether that is the right way to release resources into the housing sector. By and large, that has required ballots. We have lost the argument with the Treasury, despite my best efforts and those of Edwina Hart. Ballots are now taking place to spend large sums of money modernising the social housing sector. It means that new housing associations, including mutual housing associations, will have considerably increased budgets, although, due to the Treasury pressure on this front, they will not be allowed to capitalise on money from us.

Ceidwadwyr, ynghylch a ddylai awdurdodau lleol ailddechrau codi tai ar raddfa fawr, ynteu a ddylid trosglwyddo stoc ac ai dyma'r ffordd gywir o ryddhau adnoddau i'r sector tai. Yn gyffredinol, mae hynny wedi galw am bleidleisio. Yr ydym wedi colli'r ddadl gyda'r Trysorlys, er i mi ac Edwina Hart ymdrechu ein gorau glas. Mae pleidleisio bellach yn digwydd i wario symiau mawr o arian i foderneiddio'r sector tai cymdeithasol. Mae'n golygu y bydd gan gymdeithasau tai newydd, gan gynnwys cymdeithasau tai cydfuddiannol, gyllidebau mwy o lawer, ond oherwydd pwysau gan y Trysorlys ar y mater hwn, ni fydd modd iddynt fanteisio ar arian gennym ni.

Iechyd Meddwl Mental Health

Q4 David Melding: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's progress to improve child and adolescent mental health services? OAQ2452(FM)

C4 David Melding: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am gynnydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i wella gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasod? OAQ2452(FM)

The First Minister: Progress in this area includes the recruitment of a new cadre of primary mental health workers to act as an interface between universal health services and specialist services for children and adolescents with mental health needs. The current NHS funding of £1.2 million has resulted in the employment of 27 such workers in Wales.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae cynnydd yn y maes hwn yn cynnwys recriwtio cnewyllyn newydd o weithwyr iechyd meddwl sylfaenol i weithredu fel rhyng-gysylltiad rhwng gwasanaethau iechyd cyffredinol a gwasanaethau arbenigol ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc yn eu harddegau sydd ag anghenion iechyd meddwl. Mae cyllid cyfredol y GIG o £1.2 miliwn wedi golygu cyflogi 27 o weithiwr o'r fath yng Nghymru.

David Melding: The late children's commissioner repeatedly passed comment on the progress of the strategy to improve child and adolescent mental health services and pointed out that services were still not at an acceptable level. Do you agree that it will be a top priority of the next Welsh Assembly Government to accelerate improvement in this area so that we have a step change and can ensure that the outrage of having children on adult in-patient wards, for example, does not continue?

David Melding: Cyflwynodd y diweddar gomisiynydd plant sylwadau lawer gwaith ar gynnydd y strategaeth i wella gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl i blant a phobl ifanc a nododd nad oedd y gwasanaethau byth wedi cyrraedd lefel dderbyniol. A ydych yn cytuno y bydd yn brif flaenoriaeth i Lywodraeth nesaf y Cynulliad gyflymu'r gwelliant yn y maes hwn, fel y cawn newid sylweddol ac y gallwn sicrhau na fydd yr arfer gwarthus o roi plant mewn wardiau i oedolion sy'n gleifion mewnol, er enghraifft, yn parhau?

The First Minister: My colleague, Jane Davidson, the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, who has

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd fy nghyd-Aelod, Jane Davidson, y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, sydd â

responsibility for children, will make a statement giving our formal response to the annual report of the children's commissioner and the references to CAMHS a week from today, and I do not want to jump the gun in that regard.

On the criticism that had been made of the CAMHS strategy, we believe that our investment of £150 million in Children First, £154 million in Cymorth and £40-odd million in Flying Start is probably the best way to ensure that children in Wales get the best possible opportunity to exploit their talents to the full and that, in terms of their family lives and development, especially as they hit the difficult adolescent years, we have the best possible means of preventing the mental health problems that afflict some.

Christine Chapman: You will know that there has been a huge demand for child and adolescent mental health services in my constituency over the years and I am pleased that the new community hospital in Mountain Ash will provide high-quality services for children and young people with mental health problems. Do you agree that this new hospital is an example of the progress that the Welsh Assembly Government is making in establishing effective assessment, treatment and support services for children, young people and their families across Wales?

The First Minister: I agree that it is a major investment in health in the Cynon valley and the commitment of £64 million to building that community health hospital for the 70,000-odd people who live in the Cynon valley is enormously important. I am pleased that it is a considerable, across-the-board kind of hospital. It is not a district general hospital with hundreds of in-patient beds but it will have a dental facility and a mental health facility. I think that it will be comprehensive and fit for purpose in terms of the Cynon valley's needs.

2.30 p.m.

Helen Mary Jones: First Minister, I refer you back to David Melding's question on the views of the children's commissioner. I must point out that this is not something that the

chyfrifoldeb dros blant, yn gwneud datganiad i roi ein hymateb ffurfiol i adroddiad blynyddol y comisiynydd plant a'r cyfeiriadau at CAMHS wythnos i heddiw, ac nid wyf am achub y blaen arni yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

O ran y feirniadaeth a roddwyd ar y strategaeth CAMHS, credwn mai ein buddsoddiad o £150 miliwn yn y rhaglen Plant yn Gyntaf, £154 miliwn yn Cymorth a thua £40 miliwn yn Dechrau'n Deg yw'r ffordd orau mae'n debyg o sicrhau bod plant yng Nghymru'n cael y cyfle gorau posibl i ddefnyddio'u doniau i'r eithaf, a bod gennym, o ran eu bywyd teuluol a'u datblygiad, yn enwedig wrth iddynt gyrraedd blynyddoedd anodd glasod, y dull gorau posibl o atal y problemau iechyd meddwl sy'n effeithio ar rai.

Christine Chapman: Byddwch yn gwybod bod galw enfawr wedi bod am wasanaethau iechyd meddwl i blant a phobl ifanc yn fy etholaeth dros y blynyddoedd, ac yr wyf yn falch y bydd yr ysbyty cymuned newydd yn Aberpennar yn darparu gwasanaethau o ansawdd da ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc sydd â phroblemau iechyd meddwl. A ydych yn cytuno bod yr ysbyty newydd hwn yn enghraifft o'r cynnydd a wneir gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wrth sefydlu gwasanaethau asesu, trin a chymorth effeithiol ar gyfer plant, pobl ifanc a'u teuluoedd ledled Cymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf fod hwn yn fuddsoddiad mawr yn iechyd cwm Cynon a bod yr ymrwymiad o £64 miliwn i godi'r ysbyty cymuned hwnnw ar gyfer y 70,000 neu fwy o bobl sy'n byw yng nghwm Cynon yn hynod bwysig. Yr wyf yn falch ei fod yn ysbyty sylweddol, eang ei ddarpariaeth. Nid ysbyty cyffredinol dosbarth ydyw gyda channoedd o welyau i gleifion mewnol, ond bydd yno gyfleusterau deintyddol a chyfleusterau iechyd meddwl. Credaf y bydd yn gynhwysfawr ac yn addas i'r diben o ran anghenion cwm Cynon.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf yn eich cyfeirio'n ôl at gwestiwn David Melding ar farn y comisiynydd plant. Rhaid i mi nodi nad rhywbeth a ddywedodd y comisiynydd

children's commissioner said once—sadly, he had to include it in every report that he made to your Government and the Assembly. I draw your attention to the fact that, in one of the counties that I represent, the only staff working with children who are self harming are the hard-pressed school nurses. That is just one example of where community services are practically non-existent. A study last year by the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales stated that there is a funding gap of about £7 million between the revenue that is being put in annually for child and adolescent mental health services and what is needed. Do you agree that it reflects badly on us all that the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales is considering undertaking a formal inquiry into your Government's progress on child and adolescent mental health? In that context, will you commit your Government—if you are re-elected—to closing that funding gap, which is at the root of the difficulties?

The First Minister: It would certainly be improper for me to comment on anything that may be under consideration by the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, because it is a fundamental principle that the office is independent. However, contrary to the impression that you gave in the introduction to your question, the number of primary mental health workers, 27, which I referred to earlier, is above the ratio of posts to population that was proposed by the Children's Commissioner for Wales in his 2004-05 report.

Jenny Randerson: It is true that child and adolescent mental health services are appalling in some parts of Wales and in some aspects. However, general mental health services across Wales also fall well below an acceptable standard, as do the services designed to prevent ill health. It is well known that heart disease can lead to depression, feelings of isolation and a lack of confidence. The healthy hearts clubs have performed an excellent service in preventing this kind of mental illness as well as in preventing further heart attacks. Yet, across Wales, the healthy hearts clubs are facing

plant unwaith yn unig yw hyn—yn anffodus, bu'n rhaid iddo ei gynnwys ym mhob adroddiad a wnaeth i'ch Llywodraeth ac i'r Cynulliad. Tynnaf eich sylw at y ffaith mai'r unig staff sy'n gweithio gyda phlant sy'n hunan-niweidio yn un o'r siroedd a gynrychiolir gennyf, yw'r nyrsys ysgol, sydd dan bwysau mawr. Un enghraifft yn unig yw hyn o sefyllfa lle nad yw gwasanaethau cymunedol yn bodoli o gwbl i bob diben. Mewn astudiaeth y llynedd gan Fwrdd y Cyngorau Iechyd Cymuned yng Nghymru datganwyd bod bwloch cyllido o tua £7 miliwn rhwng y refeniw a ddarperir bob blwyddyn ar gyfer gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl i blant a phobl ifanc, a'r hyn sydd ei angen. A ydych yn cytuno ei fod yn adlewyrchu'n wael ar bawb ohonom fod Swyddfa Comisiynydd Plant Cymru'n ystyried cynnal ymchwiliad ffurfiol i gynnydd eich Llywodraeth ym maes iechyd meddwl plant a phobl ifanc? Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, a wnewch ymrwymo y bydd eich Llywodraeth—os cewch eich ailethol—yn cau'r bwloch cyllido hwnnw, sef yr hyn sydd wrth wraidd y trafferthion?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn sicr, byddai'n amhriodol i mi gyflwyno sylwadau ar unrhyw beth a allai fod dan ystyriaeth gan Swyddfa Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, gan ei bod yn egwyddor sylfaenol bod y swyddfa'n annibynnol. Fodd bynnag, yn groes i'r argraff a roesoch yn y rhagarweiniad i'ch cwestiwn, mae nifer y gweithwyr iechyd meddwl sylfaenol, 27, y cyfeiriais atynt yn flaenorol, yn uwch na'r gymhareb o nifer y swyddi yn ôl y boblogaeth a gynigiwyd gan Gomisiynydd Plant Cymru yn ei adroddiad ar gyfer 2004-05.

Jenny Randerson: Mae'n wir bod gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl i blant a phobl ifanc yn echrydus mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru, ac o ran rhai agweddau. Fodd bynnag, mae gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl cyffredinol ar draws Cymru hefyd yn is o dipyn na'r safon dderbyniol, ac felly hefyd y gwasanaethau sydd â'r nod o atal afiechyd. Gwyddys yn dda y gall clefyd y galon arwain at iselder, teimlad o fod yn ynysig a diffyg hyder. Mae'r clybiau calonnau iach wedi rhoi gwasanaeth ardderchog wrth atal y math hwn o iechyd meddwl yn ogystal ag atal trawiadau pellach ar y galon. Er hynny, mae'r clybiau

closure because the lottery funding that supports them is running out. In Cardiff, several clubs face closure. I have talked to those who attend them and they are concerned about the loss of this valuable service. The Minister for Health and Social Services says that it is up to the local health boards to fill the gap, but that is not acceptable in terms of your Government's strategic vision of the health service. First Minister, do you share my concern about the loss of the healthy hearts clubs and will you discuss this matter urgently with the Minister for Health and Social Services as it is such a key part of your Government's strategic vision for the future of the health service?

The First Minister: I never know whether you are asking questions or making statements when you throw around phrases about the appalling quality of mental health services. It is important that we should accept that we have just completed a budget round. It is a matter for the Health and Social Services Committee to make the case, if it believes that the draft budget is not making a sufficient commitment in this area. Then, of course, as soon as we have voted the budget through—and I honestly do not remember your party making a special plea for the lottery-funded project that you are referring to—and immediately after the budget is completed on 13 December, you will be lobbied by some bodies that say, 'Our lottery funding is running out'. It is a matter of asking, 'For how long do you expect the lottery funding to continue?' and then, if they want to lobby political parties to bring it up during the budget process, they can do that. I do not know whether that happened or whether you did not put it forward during the budget process. You did put it forward after the budget process, and that is not how we go about things. The clubs have to lobby the local health boards for a fair share of LHB money.

calonnau iach ledled Cymru'n wynebu cael eu cau am fod y cyllid loteri sy'n eu cynnal yn dod i ben. Yng Nghaerdydd, mae sawl clwb yn wynebu cau. Yr wyf wedi siarad â rhai sy'n eu mynychu ac maent yn bryderus ynghylch colli'r gwasanaeth gwerthfawr hwn. Dywed y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol mai mater i'r byrddau iechyd lleol yw llenwi'r bwloch, ond nid yw hynny'n dderbyniol o ran gweledigaeth strategol eich Llywodraeth ar gyfer y gwasanaeth iechyd. Brif Weinidog, a ydych chi, fel fi, yn pryderu ynghylch colli'r clybiau calonnau iach ac a wnewch drafod y mater hwn ar frys gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, gan ei fod yn rhan allweddol o weledigaeth strategol eich Llywodraeth ar gyfer dyfodol y gwasanaeth iechyd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni fyddaf byth yn gwybod ai gofyn cwestiynau ai cyflwyno sylwadau yr ydych pan fyddwch yn taranu ynghylch ansawdd echrydus gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl. Mae'n bwysig ini dderbyn ein bod newydd orffen cylch cyllideb. Mater i'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yw cyflwyno'r ddatl, os cred nad yw'r gyllideb ddrafft yn gwneud ymrwymiad digonol yn y maes hwn. Yna, wrth gwrs, cyn gynted ag y byddwn wedi pleidleisio dros y gyllideb—ac yn wir nid wyf yn cofio i'ch plaid wneud ple arbennig dros y prosiect loteri y cyfeiriwch ato—a chyn gynted ag y cwblheir y gyllideb ar 13 Rhagfyr, byddwch yn cael eich lobio gan rai cyrff a fydd yn dweud 'Mae ein harian loteri'n dod i ben'. Mater ydyw o ofyn 'Am ba hyd yr ydych yn disgwyl i arian y loteri barhau?' ac yna, os ydynt am lobio pleidiau gwleidyddol i godi'r mater yn ystod y broses gyllidebu, gallant wneud hynny. Ni wn a ddigwyddodd hynny ynteu na chyflwynasoch y mater yn ystod y broses gyllidebu. Fe wnaethoch ei gyflwyno ar ôl y broses gyllidebu, ac nid fel yna yr ydym yn gwneud pethau. Rhaid i'r clybiau lobio'r byrddau iechyd lleol am gyfran deg o gyllid y BILlau.

Meysydd Glo Coalfield Areas

Q5 Gwenda Thomas: Will the First Minister make a statement on the regeneration of

C5 Gwenda Thomas: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am adfywio hen

former coalfield areas across Wales?
 OAQ2439(FM)

The First Minister: We fund the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and have provided £5.5 million over the past three years to regenerate former coalfield communities. These areas have also benefited from projects funded by European structural funds, via the town centre regeneration toolkit, the physical regeneration fund, the Heads of the Valleys programme, the community facilities and activities programme and Communities First.

Gwenda Thomas: A recent report written by leading academics from the interdisciplinary panel at Massachusetts Institute of Technology states that

‘carbon capture and sequestration... is the critical enabling technology to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions significantly while also allowing coal to meet the world’s pressing energy needs.’

This report demonstrates that technological advances have been made that could reduce emissions from coal and herald a bright future for the coal industry. Would you, therefore, join me in welcoming the proposal to develop a new coal mine in Glynneath, which is in my constituency?

The First Minister: Indeed; we have been discussing that very project in the office with people from Tower colliery, who are hoping that it may provide an avenue for people who are to lose their jobs as the Tower coalmine becomes the first Welsh coalmine in history to completely exhaust its coal reserves. The idea that there might be another development, over the hill at the top of the Neath valley, that could absorb many of the Tower workers is a highly attractive prospect, and we will do whatever we can to ensure that it goes ahead as proposed.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): First Minister, tomorrow’s budget is perhaps the Chancellor’s best chance to assist Wales’s most deprived industrial communities. Given Lord Turnbull’s comments, describing the

ardaloedd meysydd glo ledled Cymru?
 OAQ2439(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn cyllido Ymddiriedolaeth Adfywio’r Meysydd Glo ac wedi darparu £5.5 miliwn dros y tair blynedd diwethaf i adfywio cymunedau glofaol gynt. Mae’r ardaloedd hyn hefyd wedi manteisio ar brosiectau a ariannwyd gan gronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop, drwy’r pecyn adfywio canol trefi, y gronfa adfywio ffisegol, rhaglen Blaenau’r Cymoedd, y rhaglen gweithgareddau a chyfleusterau cymunedol a Chymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Gwenda Thomas: Mewn adroddiad diweddar a ysgrifennwyd gan academyddion blaenllaw o’r panel rhyngddisgyblaethol yn Sefydliad Technoleg Massachusetts nodwyd mai

hidlo a storio carbon...yw’r dechnoleg alluogi hollbwysig i helpu i leihau yn sylweddol y carbon deuocsid a ryddheir ac sydd ar yr un pryd yn gadael i lo ddiwallu anghenion ynni difrifol y byd.

Dengys yr adroddiad hwn fod datblygiadau technolegol ar droed a allai leihau’r gollyngiadau o lo a bod yn arwydd o ddyfodol disglair i’r diwydiant glo. A fydddech, felly, yn ymuno â mi i groesawu’r cynnig i ddatblygu pwll glo newydd yng Nglyn-nedd, sydd yn fy etholaeth i?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn sicr; yr ydym wedi bod yn trafod yr union brosiect yn y swyddfa gyda phobl o bwll glo’r Tŵr, sy’n gobeithio y bydd hyn yn rhoi cyfle i bobl sydd i golli eu gwaith yno gan mai pwll glo’r Tŵr fydd y pwll glo cyntaf erioed yng Nghymru i ddisbyddu eu cyflenwadau glo. Mae’r syniad y gellid cael datblygiad arall dros y bryn ym mlaen cwm Nedd a allai roi gwaith i lawer o weithwyr y Tŵr yn ddeniadol iawn, a gwnawn y cyfan sy’n bosibl i sicrhau bod hyn yn mynd rhagddo yn unol â’r cynnig.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Brif Weinidog, efallai mai cyllideb yfory yw cyfle gorau’r Canghellor i helpu cymunedau diwydiannol mwyaf difreintiedig Cymru. O wybod am sylwadau’r Arglwydd Turnbull,

Chancellor as treating Cabinet colleagues with more or less complete contempt, when you spoke to the Chancellor and put your case for Wales for tomorrow's budget settlement, how did he treat you?

The First Minister: I have dealt with the Treasury for 35 years, on and off, and Andrew Turnbull's criticisms of Gordon Brown in today's *Financial Times* are the criticisms that most people make of the Treasury as an institution. It is the ultimate mandarin and, as it is not a spending department, it does not know what it is like to be a spending department, and tends to lord it over all the other departments—that is the nature of the Treasury, and that criticism has been heard for decades. It really is not a personal criticism of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to my mind, in any objective sense; it is a criticism that you could direct at the Treasury. Probably, people in other countries will say the same. Luckily, the relationship with the Assembly's Finance Department and the Finance Minister is totally different.

Michael German: From your lobbying for tomorrow's budget, can you tell us, First Minister, what will be your benchmark for a successful budget for Wales?

The First Minister: The one thing that you cannot argue about with Gordon Brown is that he has provided 40 consecutive quarters of economic growth for the UK and Wales. That is an extraordinary record—no-one has ever done that before, and no-one has ever combined it with low inflation as well. We have previously seen short bursts of boom conditions, which are then destroyed by high inflation. No-one can argue against the fact that Gordon Brown has provided 40 successive quarters of economic growth, with not one recession, not even for three months, let alone the usual six-month definition of a recession. We have benefited enormously from that, and we want to see Gordon set the terms for another 40 quarters of successive economic growth.

Michael German: I asked you specifically what the benchmarks for success might be,

sy'n disgrifio'r Canghellor yn trin ei gyd-aelodau yn y Cabinet gyda dirmyg llwyr, fwy neu lai, pan siaradasoch â'r Canghellor a chyflwyno'ch achos ar ran Cymru ar gyfer y setliad cyllideb yfory, sut y cawsoch eich trin ganddo?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf wedi delio â'r Trysorlys ers 35 o flynyddoedd, fwy neu lai, a beirniadaethau Andrew Turnbull ar Gordon Brown yn rhifyn heddiw'r *Financial Times* yw'r beirniadaethau y mae'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn eu hanelu at y Trysorlys fel sefydliad. Dyma'r fandariniaeth eithaf ac, oherwydd nad yw'n adran wario, nid yw'n gwybod sut beth yw bod yn adran wario ac mae'n tueddu i'w lordio hi dros bob adran—dyna natur y Trysorlys, ac mae'r feirniadaeth honno wedi'i chlywed ers degawdau. Yn sicr nid beirniadaeth bersonol ydyw ar Ganghellor y Trysorlys, yn fy marn i, mewn unrhyw ystyr gwrthrychol; mae'n feirniadaeth y gallech ei chyfeirio at y Trysorlys. Yn ôl pob tebyg, bydd pobl mewn gwledydd eraill yn dweud yr un peth. Yn ffodus, mae'r berthynas gydag Adran Gyllid y Cynulliad a'r Gweinidog Cyllid yn gwbl wahanol.

Michael German: Yn sgîl eich lobio ar gyfer y gyllideb yfory, a allwch ddweud wrthym, Brif Weinidog, beth fydd eich meincnod ar gyfer cyllideb lwyddiannus i Gymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr un peth na allwch ddadlau yn ei gylch gyda Gordon Brown yw ei fod wedi darparu 40 chwarter yn olynol o dwf economaidd ar gyfer y DU a Chymru. Mae hynny'n record eithriadol—nid oes neb wedi gwneud hynny o'r blaen, ac nid oes neb wedi cyfuno hynny gyda chwyddiant isel hefyd. Yr ydym wedi gweld o'r blaen gyfnodau bach o amodau lle y cafwyd ffyniant sydd wedyn yn cael eu dinistrio gan chwyddiant uchel. Ni all neb wadu'r ffaith bod Gordon Brown wedi darparu 40 chwarter yn olynol o dwf economaidd, heb yr un dirwasgiad, nid am dri mis hyd yn oed, heb sôn am y diffiniad chwe misol arferol o ddirwasgiad. Yr ydym wedi elwa'n enfawr o hynny, ac yr ydym am weld Gordon yn gosod yr amodau ar gyfer 40 chwarter arall o dwf economaidd olynol.

Michael German: Gofynnais yn benodol i chi beth fydd y meincnodau ar gyfer

and you told me about what the Chancellor has done in the past rather than what he might do in the future. What I am trying to find out from you, First Minister, is what would make tomorrow's budget a successful one for Wales. I noticed that, in your answer, you mentioned nothing about the additional match-funding that we might need—you have said before that we will have to wait and see—but tomorrow may be the chance for the Chancellor to do it. Will you give him that chance, or do we have to wait and see again?

The First Minister: You only listened to half my sentence. I said that you cannot argue with the fact that he has given us 40 quarters of successive economic growth, and I also said that I want him to lay down the platform for 40 more successive quarters of economic growth—another 10 years of economic growth. That would be of enormous benefit to Wales, combined with low inflation and low mortgage rates and, therefore, people's ability to access the housing market.

Janice Gregory: My constituents in Ogmere who live in the former coalfield communities will not forget that we had seven pit closures during the 18 dark and dreadful years when the Tories were in power. Regenerating these communities is incredibly difficult, but we in Welsh Labour understand the importance of our coal-mining communities, and we have made significant strides in the Ogmere constituency in regenerating these villages.

2.40 p.m.

I am grateful that you were able to come to the Ogmere constituency recently to see an excellent example of good practice in the Creation Development Trust, which is part-funded by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, which you mentioned in your response to Gwenda Thomas. Will you join me in congratulating all those people who work in the Creation Development Trust? The trust emphasises its vitally important role in Wales's ex-coal mining constituencies and valleys. You may also wish to comment on Timecentre credits, which is an innovative way in which the Creation Development

llwyddiant, a dywedasoch wrthyf beth y mae'r Canghellor wedi'i wneud yn y gorffennol yn hytrach na'r hyn y gallai ei wneud yn y dyfodol. Yr hyn yr wyf am ei ganfod gennych, Brif Weinidog, yw beth fyddai'n gwneud cyllideb yfory yn un llwyddiannus i Gymru. Sylwais, yn eich ateb, na soniasoch ddim am arian cyfatebol ychwanegol y bydd ei angen arnom o bosibl—yr ydych wedi dweud o'r blaen y bydd yn rhaid inni aros i weld—ond efallai mai yfory fydd y cyfle i'r Canghellor wneud hynny. A wnewch roi'r cyfle hwnnw iddo, neu a fydd yn rhaid inni aros i weld eto?

Y Prif Weinidog: Dim ond ar hanner fy mrawddeg y gwrandawsoch. Dywedais na allwch ddadlau â'r ffaith ei fod wedi rhoi inni 40 chwarter o dwf economaidd olynol, a dywedais hefyd fy mod am iddo osod y llwyfan ar gyfer 40 chwarter olynol arall o dwf economaidd—10 mlynedd arall o dwf economaidd. Byddai hynny o fudd enfawr i Gymru, ynghyd â chwyddiant isel a chyfraddau morgais isel ac, felly, gallu pobl i gael mynediad i'r farchnad dai.

Janice Gregory: Ni fydd fy etholwyr yn Ogwr sy'n byw yn yr hen gymunedau glofaol yn anghofio ein bod wedi gweld saith pwll glo yn cau yn ystod y 18 mlynedd tywyll a dychrynlyd pan oedd y Torïaid mewn grym. Mae adfywio'r cymunedau hyn yn hynod o anodd, ond yr ydym ni, aelodau Plaid Lafur Cymru, yn deall pwysigrwydd ein cymunedau glofaol, ac yr ydym wedi cymryd camau breision yn etholaeth Ogwr i adfywio'r pentrefi hyn.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar eich bod wedi gallu ymweld ag etholaeth Ogwr yn ddiweddar i weld enghraifft ardderchog o arfer da sef Ymddiriedolaeth Ddatblygu Creation, a noddir yn rhannol gan Ymddiriedolaeth Adfywio'r Meysydd Glo, y soniasoch amdani yn eich ymateb i Gwenda Thomas. A wnewch ymuno â mi i longyfarch pawb sy'n gweithio yn Ymddiriedolaeth Ddatblygu Creation? Mae'r ymddiriedolaeth yn pwysleisio ei rôl hollbwysig yng nghymoedd ac etholaethau Cymru a arferai fod yn rhai glofaol. Efallai hefyd yr hoffech gyflwyno sylwadau ar gredydau Timecentre, sef ffordd

Trust is involving communities in the Garw valley.

The First Minister: It was a great pleasure to visit Blaengarw, which is a typical example of a former coalmining village where there is now no sign of that industry. It is at the top of the valley—you cannot get out except with hiking boots and a lot of energy—but it looks remarkably renewed, compared with where it would have been 10 or 15 years ago. To some extent, that is credit to Wales's general economic revival, but also to the efforts that have been made to revive that particular village. I was knocked out by the way that the Timecentre credit system had been introduced. That system draws on the reserves of the wish of the people of Blaengarw to see what they can do to help themselves by volunteering. It shows the commitment of the young kids, the teenagers—who might have been tearaways in other circumstances—and people of all ages to say that they would create a better Blaengarw, and to do it in an innovative way through time credits.

William Graham: You will know that, in reality, more collieries were closed in Wales and the United Kingdom during Harold Wilson's Government than any other period in our history. However, to return to the question on regeneration, your Government—we pay tribute to this—has managed to create better transport links, so will you recommit to opening the railway line between Ebbw Vale and Newport, not Cardiff?

The First Minister: If you had listened carefully, Gwenda Thomas's question was about opening a colliery and not about closing one down. We are at an interesting phase, given that there is a demand for coal and that it is attracting a high price. There are still major coal reserves in Wales, but we must mine it in a way that is environmentally sustainable through carbon sequestration, carbon capture or by much cleaner methods of burning.

On the question of the Ebbw valley railway, I suppose that it was the closure of the tinplate works rather than the end of the coal industry

arloesol y mae Ymddiriedolaeth Ddatblygu Creation yn ei defnyddio i gynnwys cymunedau cwm Garw.

Y Prif Weinidog: Pleser mawr oedd ymweld â Blaengarw, sy'n enghraifft nodweddiadol o hen bentref glofaol lle nad oes dim arwydd bellach o'r diwydiant hwnnw. Mae ym mlaen y cwm—ni allwch fynd allan heb esgidiau cerdded a llawer o egni—ond mae'n edrych yn hynod o ran ei adfywiad, o'i gymharu â sut y byddai wedi bod 10 neu 15 mlynedd yn ôl. I ryw raddau mae hynny'n glod i adfywiad economaidd cyffredinol Cymru, ond hefyd i'r ymdrechion a wnaethpwyd i adfywio'r pentref neilltuol hwnnw. Cefais fy synnu'n fawr gan y ffordd y mae system credydau Timecentre wedi ei chyflwyno. Mae'r system honno'n manteisio ar ddymuniadau pobl Blaengarw i weld beth y gallant ei wneud i helpu eu hunain drwy wirfoddoli. Mae'n dangos ymroddiad plant ifanc, y bobl ifanc—a allai fod wedi bod yn gwneud drygioni fel arall—a phobl o bob oed i ddweud y byddent yn creu gwell Blaengarw, a gwneud hynny mewn ffordd arloesol drwy gredydau amser.

William Graham: Byddwch yn gwybod, mewn gwirionedd, fod mwy o byllau glo wedi cau yng Nghymru a'r Deyrnas Unedig yn ystod Llywodraeth Harold Wilson nag mewn dim un cyfnod arall yn ein hanes. Ond, a dychwelyd at y cwestiwn ar adfywio, mae eich Llywodraeth—yr ydym yn rhoi teyrnged i hyn—wedi llwyddo i greu cysylltiadau trafnidiaeth gwell, felly a wnewch ymrwymo i agor y rheilffordd rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd, nid Caerdydd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Petaech wedi gwranddo'n ofalus, yr oedd cwestiwn Gwenda Thomas yn ymwneud ag agor pwll glo ac nid cau pwll. Yr ydym ar ganol cyfnod diddorol, o wybod bod galw am lo a bod pris uchel i'w gael. Mae gennym gyflenwadau sylweddol o lo wrth gefn yng Nghymru o hyd, ond mae'n rhaid inni ei gloddio mewn ffordd sy'n amgylcheddol gynaliadwy drwy storio carbon, hidlo carbon neu drwy ddulliau llosgi llawer glanach.

Ar fater rheilffordd Glyn Ebwy, mae'n debyg mai cau'r gwaith tunplat yn hytrach na diwedd y diwydiant glo a arweiniodd at roi

that caused priority to be given to developing the railway down the Ebbw valley, but it does benefit the coalmining areas that were devastated during 1984-85. There is strong cross-party support for spending a large sum of money on reconnecting it to the M4, initially to Cardiff, but then to Newport as well, I am sure, once the signalling difficulties at the Gaer tunnel have been resolved.

Jeff Cuthbert: No matter how many times the Conservative Party says it, the fact is that Valleys communities and the former coalmining areas were decimated during its 18 years in power in Wales. You and I recently visited the Norgine factory near Hengoed, which manufactures high-quality drug products and which has just won its licence to export to north America. Do you agree that this, taken together with the Bargoed relief road, the angel way, the planned redevelopment of Bargoed, the development of the new hospital in Ystrad Fawr and the massive investment in the Rhymney valley rail line, shows where the Valleys are heading under this Labour administration?

The First Minister: Yes, I do, because you are talking about a commitment of £200 million of public money from us for three or four projects along the lines that you described. I also compliment the extraordinary growth of Norgine, which has gone from 100 employees to 400 employees over the past five or six years, manufacturing high-quality drug products; it now has the gold standard in drug manufacturing, namely an FDA licence to export to the USA. It has done that because it has found a workforce in the Rhymney Valley with a high work ethic and a good attitude towards a quality product.

Janet Davies: You and Gwenda Thomas mentioned carbon storage and sequestration. However, in a recent meeting of the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee, we were told that the most effective way of exploiting energy sources in the coalfield at present would be through methane gas extraction from underground.

blaenoriaeth i ddatblygu'r rheilffordd i lawr Glyn Ebwy, ond mae o fudd i'r ardaloedd glofaol a gafodd eu hanrheithio yn ystod 1984-85. Mae cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol gref i wario swm mawr o arian ar ei hailgysylltu â'r M4, i Gaerdydd i ddechrau, ond wedyn i Gasnewydd hefyd, yr wyf yn sicr, wedi i'r anawsterau gyda'r signalau yn nhwnnel Gaer gael eu datrys.

Jeff Cuthbert: Ni waeth faint o weithiau y mae'r Blaid Geidwadol yn dweud hynny, y ffaith yw bod cymunedau'r Cymoedd a'r hen ardaloedd glofaol wedi cael eu hanrheithio yn ystod ei 18 mlynedd mewn grym yng Nghymru. Yn ddiweddar, ymwelsoch chi a minnau â ffatri Norgine ger yr Hengoed, sy'n cynhyrchu cynnyrch o ansawdd da ym maes cyffuriau ac sydd newydd sicrhau trwydded i allforio i Ogledd America. A ydych yn cytuno bod hyn, ynghyd â ffordd osgoi'r Bargoed, ffordd yr angel, yr ailddatblygu sydd yn yr arfaeth ar gyfer Bargoed, datblygu ysbyty newydd yn Ystrad Fawr, a'r buddsoddiad enfawr yn rheilffordd Cwm Rhymni, yn dangos i ba gyfeiriad y mae'r Cymoedd yn mynd dan y weinyddiaeth Lafur hon?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ydwyf, oherwydd yr ydych yn siarad am ymrwymiad o £200 miliwn o arian cyhoeddus gennym ar gyfer tri neu bedwar prosiect a ddisgrifiwyd gennych. Yr wyf hefyd yn canmol twf anhygoel Norgine, sydd wedi tyfu o fod â 100 gweithiwr i 400 gweithiwr dros y pump neu chwe blynedd diwethaf, yn cynhyrchu cynnyrch o ansawdd uchel ym maes cyffuriau; yn awr mae wedi cael y safon aur o ran gweithgynhyrchu ym maes cyffuriau, sef trwydded gan yr FDA i allforio i UDA. Mae wedi gwneud hynny oherwydd ei fod wedi cael gafael ar weithlu yng Nghwm Rhymni sydd â moeseg gwaith arbennig ac agwedd dda at gynnyrch o ansawdd.

Janet Davies: Yr ydych chi a Gwenda Thomas wedi sôn am hidlo a storio carbon. Fodd bynnag, mewn cyfarfod diweddar o'r Pwyllgor Menter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau, dywedwyd wrthym mai'r ffordd fwyaf effeithiol o ddefnyddio'r adnoddau ynni yn y maes glo ar hyn o bryd fyddai drwy echdynnu nwy methan o'r ddaear. Ond mae

However, there are problems in funding the initial research into the best ways of distributing methane gas underground. Would you, in principle, look sympathetically at assisting with such funding?

The First Minister: I will have to read your question carefully when the Record is available, as I am not sure whether you were referring to methane extraction from existing coalfields or to underground gasification of the coal so that you can burn it in a power station with double the efficiency that you get from turning the coal into coal dust, as happens at Aberthaw. Methane extraction provides an important energy source, and it needs to be captured, because methane, per kilo, is around 20 times as pernicious as carbon dioxide in terms of the production of greenhouse gases. However, we must also remember that there are cleaner coal-powered stations that can burn coal at 60 per cent efficiency compared to, say, 40 per cent efficiency, as is the case at Aberthaw. There are 100 per cent clean coal-fired power stations that capture the carbon dioxide, but that is easier to do on the east coast of the UK than on the west coast, because there are old North sea gas reserves on the east coast into which you can inject the carbon dioxide.

problemau gydag ariannu'r ymchwil gychwynnol i'r ffyrdd gorau o ddsbarthu nwy methan o dan y ddaear. A fyddech, mewn egwyddor, yn ystyried helpu gyda chyllid o'r fath?

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd rhaid imi ddarllen eich cwestiwn yn ofalus pan fydd y Cofnod ar gael, gan nad wyf yn sicr a oeddech yn cyfeirio at echdynnu methan o'r meysydd glo presennol neu at nweiddio'r glo o dan y ddaear er mwyn ei losgi mewn gorsaf bŵer gyda dwywaith yr effeithlonrwydd a gewch o droi'r glo yn llwch glo, fel sy'n digwydd yn Aberddawan. Mae echdynnu methan yn darparu ffynhonnell ynni bwysig ac mae'n rhaid ei hidlo, oherwydd bod methan, fesul cilo, tuag 20 gwaith yn fwy niweidiol na charbon deuocsid o ran cynhyrchu nwyon tŷ gwydr. Ond rhaid inni gofio hefyd fod gorsafedd pŵer glo glanach ar gael sy'n gallu llosgi glo ar gyfradd effeithlonrwydd o 60 y cant o'i gymharu, dyweder, â chyfradd effeithlonrwydd o 40 y cant, fel yn achos Aberddawan. Ceir gorsafedd pŵer glo sydd â chyfradd glendid o 100 y cant sy'n hidlo'r carbon deuocsid, ond mae'n haws gwneud hynny ar arfordir dwyrain y DU nag ar arfordir y gorllewin, oherwydd bod hen gyflenwadau wrth gefn o nwy Môr y Gogledd ar arfordir y dwyrain y gallwch chwistrellu'r carbon deuocsid iddynt.

Polisiau Datblygu Economaidd Policies on Economic Development

C6 Elin Jones: Pa drafodaethau diweddar y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi eu cynnal ynghylch ei pholisiau datblygu economaidd yng Ngheredigion? OAQ2437(FM)

Q6 Elin Jones: What recent discussions has the Welsh Assembly Government held regarding its policies on economic development in Ceredigion? OAQ2437(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Bu datblygu economaidd yn arbennig o lwyddiannus yng Ngheredigion yn ystod y blynyddoedd diweddar. Gallwch weld hynny o edrych ar y ffigur diweithdra yn y sir ers 1999—mae wedi gostwng 54 y cant, ac 1.4 y cant yw yn awr, sef y gyfradd isaf yng Nghymru. Mae'r lefelau cyflogaeth wedi cynyddu 10 y cant hefyd ers 2001, o'u cymharu â 5 y cant ledled Cymru a 2.6 y cant ledled y DU.

The First Minister: Economic development has been extremely successful in Ceredigion over the past few years. You can see that by looking at the unemployment figure in the county since 1999—it has fallen by 54 per cent, and currently stands at 1.4 per cent, which is the lowest rate in Wales. Employment levels have also increased by 10 per cent since 2001, compared with 5 per cent across the whole of Wales and 2.6 across the whole of the UK.

Elin Jones: Byddwch yn gwybod ein bod wedi croesawu buddsoddiad eich Llywodraeth yn nhref ac ardal Aberteifi yn dilyn colli nifer fawr o swyddi yn yr ardal honno. Fodd bynnag, un o broblemau mawr tref Aberteifi yw'r ffaith bod un o'r ddwy gyffordd sy'n arwain i'r dref ar gau ers rhyw bedair blynedd—dyma'r gyffordd y cyfeirir ati fel y 'Tesco junction' yn lleol. Bu i'ch Gweinidog trafnidiaeth gadarnhau i mi yn ddiweddar nad yw'n bwriadu ailagor y gyffordd honno a'i fod yn bwriadu ei chadw ar gau yn barhaol yn hytrach na buddsoddi mewn cylchfan newydd ar gyfer y ffordd fynediad bwysig honno i Aberteifi. Bu hyn yn siom fawr i dref Aberteifi. A ydych yn cytuno y dylid ailagor y gyffordd hon a bod peidio â gwneud hynny yn newyddion gwael i fusnesau ac o ran y drafnidiaeth sy'n tagu canol y dref ar hyn o bryd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Credaf fy mod yn gyfarwydd â'r gornel lle bu sawl damwain ger archfarchnad Tesco. Am resymau diogelwch, caewyd un o'r ffyrdd bach sy'n arwain at y gyffordd ar gyfer y ffordd fawr. Oni ellir llunio cynllun newydd ar gyfer y cysylltiad rhwng yr hen A487 a'r un newydd, bydd y rhesymau diogelwch hynny'n parhau. A oes ateb? Credaf fod pawb yn ardal Aberteifi yn awyddus i'r gyffordd aros ar gau ac nid ydynt yn awyddus i'w gweld yn cael ei hailagor os nad oes syniad newydd i sicrhau bod y ffordd yn fwy diogel.

Lisa Francis: I understand that, of the 500 people who will be dispersed to work in the new Assembly office in Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, just over 320 will be civil servants relocating from nine other long-established public sector offices in Aberystwyth, Aberaeron and Machynlleth; therefore, those are not actually new jobs. There is a theory that a further 179 Assembly staff currently working in Cardiff will be transferred to Aberystwyth at a later date. However, if they choose not to do so—and they may well do so for family reasons—what are your Government's hard and fast plans regarding job creation to replace staff who have declined to move? As the headline of 18 months ago stated that 500 new jobs would be created in Aberystwyth, I am sure that you will be anxious to ensure that that shortfall is made up.

Elin Jones: You will know that we have welcomed your Government's investment in Cardigan town and the surrounding area following the loss of many jobs in that area. However, one of the major problems facing the town of Cardigan is the fact that one of the two junctions leading into the town has been closed for around four years—that is the junction that is called 'the Tesco junction' locally. Your transport Minister confirmed to me recently that he does not intend to reopen that junction and that he intends to keep it closed permanently rather than invest in a new roundabout for that important road into Cardigan. That has been a huge disappointment for the town of Cardigan. Do you agree that that junction should be reopened and that not doing so is very bad news for businesses and in terms of the traffic currently clogging the town centre?

The First Minister: I think that I am familiar with the corner where there were a number of accidents close to the Tesco supermarket. For safety reasons, one of the slip roads leading into the junction for the main road was closed. If a new scheme for linking the old A487 with the new one cannot be found, those safety reasons will remain. Is there a solution? I believe that everyone in Cardigan is eager for that junction to remain closed and for it not to be reopened unless there is a new idea to ensure that the road is safer.

Lisa Francis: O'r 500 o bobl a fydd yn cael eu gwasgaru i weithio yn swyddfa newydd y Cynulliad yn Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, deallaf y bydd ychydig dros 320 yn weision sifil sy'n adleoli o naw swyddfa'r sector cyhoeddus yn Aberystwyth, Aberaeron a Machynlleth; felly, nid yw'r rheini'n swyddi newydd mewn gwirionedd. Mae theori y bydd 179 arall o staff y Cynulliad sy'n gweithio ar hyn o bryd yng Nghaerdydd yn cael eu trosglwyddo i Aberystwyth yn ddiweddarach. Fodd bynnag, os dewisant beidio â gwneud hynny—ac mae'n ddigon posibl y gwnânt hynny am resymau teuluol—beth yw cynlluniau pendant eich Llywodraeth o ran creu swyddi i gymryd lle'r staff sydd wedi gwrthod symud? Gan i'r pennawd 18 mis yn ôl nodi y byddai 500 o swyddi newydd yn cael eu creu yn Aberystwyth, yr wyf yn sicr y byddwch am

sicrhau bod y diffyg hwnnw'n cael ei leihau.

2.50 p.m.

The First Minister: No-one was ever misled by any of the job figures for the accommodation to be provided at the new Assembly office. We always made it clear that the Aberystwyth office would be to concentrate services from a large number of other offices. It reverses the relocation from Aberystwyth to Cardiff that occurred under the former Secretary of State for Wales—the one whom you and Nick Bourne hate for me to mention: John Redwood—who perpetrated the lunacy of closing the agricultural office in Aberystwyth and moving it to Cardiff. We have simply said that we will reverse what John Redwood did. There may be people from mid Wales who were obliged to move from Aberystwyth to Cardiff, and we are encouraging them to move back, by reversing John Redwood's lunacy.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni chafodd neb erioed ei gamarwain gan ddim un o'r ffigurau ynglŷn â'r swyddi ar gyfer yr adeilad a ddarperir yn swyddfa newydd y Cynulliad. Yr ydym wedi nodi'n glir bob amser mai pwrpas swyddfa Aberystwyth fyddai dod â gwasanaethau o nifer fawr o swyddfeydd eraill at ei gilydd. Mae'n gwrthdroi'r adleoli o Aberystwyth i Gaerdydd a ddigwyddodd dan gyn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru—yr un y mae'n gas gennych chi a Nick Bourne fy nghlywed yn cyfeirio ato: John Redwood—a oedd yn gyfrifol am y syniad gwallgof o gau'r swyddfa amaeth yn Aberystwyth a'i symud i Gaerdydd. Y cyfan yr ydym wedi ei ddweud yw y byddwn yn gwrthdroi'r hyn a wnaeth John Redwood. Mae'n bosibl bod pobl o'r canolbarth wedi gorfod symud o Aberystwyth i Gaerdydd, ac yr ydym yn eu hannog i symud yn ôl, drwy wrthdroi syniad gwallgof John Redwood.

Gwella Bywydau Pobl yng Nghonwy Improving the Lives of People in Conwy

Q7 Denise Idris Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement about Welsh Assembly Government initiatives which are improving the lives of people in Conwy? OAQ2427(FM)

C7 Denise Idris Jones: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am fentrau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sy'n gwella bywydau pobl yng Nghonwy? OAQ2427(FM)

The First Minister: In addition to the £11 million redevelopment of the north Wales theatre, Venue Wales, which is now the No. 1 conference centre in Wales, a further £26 million of Objective 1 grant has been committed to 46 local projects in Conwy, resulting in the safeguarding of 6,500 jobs gross, and of course there is also the new £2 million acute medicine unit at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn ychwanegol at y gwaith ailddatblygu gwerth £11 miliwn yn theatr Gogledd Cymru, Venue Cymru, y ganolfan gynadleddau orau yng Nghymru erbyn hyn, mae £26 miliwn o grant Amcan 1 wedi ei addo ar gyfer 46 o brosiectau lleol yng Nghonwy, a fydd yn helpu i ddiogelu cyfanswm o 6,500 o swyddi, ac wrth gwrs mae gennych hefyd uned meddygaeth aciwt newydd gwerth £2 filiwn yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

Denise Idris Jones: Thank you for your answer, First Minister, which made for sound listening. Would you agree that the Government's strategy to decentralise public sector jobs in Wales will deliver an economic boost to my constituency with the start of work at Llandudno Junction? Would you also agree that, combined with extra investment

Denise Idris Jones: Diolch ichi am eich ateb, Brif Weinidog, a'r wybodaeth yr oedd yn braf ei chlywed. A fydddech yn cytuno y bydd strategaeth y Llywodraeth i ddatganoli swyddi sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru yn rhoi hwb economaidd i'm hetholaeth i pan ddechreuir gweithio yng Nghyffordd Llandudno? A fydddech hefyd yn cytuno bod

such as the new bone scanner at Llandudno Hospital and the new engineering and environmental consultancy firm of Egniol Ltd in Penmaenmawr, which has created 24 new jobs, this demonstrates that people across the Conwy constituency are becoming more prosperous?

The First Minister: Indeed, the new Llandudno Junction office will be located at the key crossroads in north Wales, where the A470 meets the A55, and it happens to have the two railway lines crossing as well, the east-west and north-south railways, so it is a superbly located centre. People across a huge area of north Wales will be able to access not only jobs, but also services, without undue commuting. The point that you make about the wider range of benefits that we have provided to people in the Conwy area could be supplemented by the enormous programme of school modernisation that you and I have seen at first hand across the borough.

Janet Ryder: Does that not fly in the face of the facts, given that, between 1995 and 2005, the west Wales and the Valleys region, of which Conwy is a major part, has seen its measure of wealth fall from 74 per cent to 66 per cent of the UK average? Under the Tories and New Labour, our poorest communities have suffered an unprecedented collapse in wealth, unsurpassed perhaps since the great depression of 1930, and the amount of money that has gone in has not produced a massive turnaround. Is it not time to introduce, as Plaid Cymru proposes, a genuine regional economic policy to kick-start the Welsh economy by slashing business rates and taking more than 50,000 businesses out of the rates net all together? Do you not think that that would be a much better way to change Wales for the better?

The First Minister: On the planet that you inhabit, where there has been a collapse in wealth, no doubt Plaid Cymru wins power and is able to introduce its policies. However, there is nowhere in Wales that has had a collapse in wealth. The normal measure of wealth would be gross domestic household

hyn, ynghyd â buddsoddiad ychwanegol fel y sganiwr esgryn newydd yn Ysbyty Llandudno a chwmni ymgynghorwyr peirianyddol ac amgylcheddol newydd Egniol Cyf ym Mhenmaen-mawr, sydd wedi creu 24 o swyddi newydd, yn dangos bod pobl ym mhob rhan o etholaeth Conwy yn dod yn well eu byd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn sicr, bydd swyddfa newydd Cyffordd Llandudno wedi ei lleoli ar y brif groesffordd yng Ngogledd Cymru, lle y mae'r A470 yn cyfarfod yr A55, ac fel y mae'n digwydd mae dwy linell y rheilffordd yn croesi yno hefyd, y rheilffordd dwyrain-gorllewin a'r rheilffordd gogledd-de, felly mae'r ganolfan mewn lleoliad rhagorol. Bydd pobl o ran helaeth o'r gogledd yn gallu cael swyddi, a gwasanaethau hefyd, heb orfod teithio mwy nag sydd raid. Gellid ategu'r pwynt yr ydych yn ei wneud ynglŷn â'r ystod ehangach o fanteision yr ydym wedi eu darparu i bobl yn ardal Conwy drwy gyfeirio at y rhaglen aruthrol o waith moderneiddio ysgolion yr ydych chi a minnau wedi ei gweld drosom ein hunain yn y fwrdeistref.

Janet Ryder: Onid yw hynny'n groes i'r ffeithiau, o gofio, rhwng 1995 a 2005, fod rhanbarth gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, y mae Conwy'n rhan bwysig ohono, wedi gweld ei gyfran o gyfoeth yn gostwng o 74 y cant i 66 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU? Dan y Toriaid a Llafur Newydd, mae'n cymunedau tlotaf wedi gweld lleihad aruthrol mewn cyfoeth, lleihad na welwyd ei debyg o bosibl ers dirwasgiad mawr 1930, ac nid yw'r holl arian sydd wedi ei fuddsoddi wedi llwyddo i newid y sefyllfa echrydus hon. Onid yw'n bryd, fel y mae Plaid Cymru'n cynnig, inni gyflwyno polisi economaidd rhanbarthol go iawn er mwyn rhoi hwb i economi Cymru drwy ostwng ardrethi busnes a rhyddhau dros 50,000 o fusnesau o'r rhwyd ardrethi yn gyfan gwbl? Onid ydych yn credu y byddai hynny'n llawer gwell ffordd o newid Cymru er gwell?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ar y blaned yr ydych chi'n byw arni, lle y cafwyd lleihad mawr mewn cyfoeth, mae'n debyg bod Plaid Cymru'n ennill grym ac yn gallu cyflwyno'i pholisïau. Fodd bynnag, nid oes unman yng Nghymru sydd wedi gweld lleihad mawr mewn cyfoeth. Y ffordd arferol o fesur

income—and everybody accepts that that is the standard measure of wealth—and that shows that, in west Wales and the Valleys, wealth has not been collapsing but rising, and rising faster than in the rest of Wales, while Wales itself has seen its wealth rise faster than that of the rest of the United Kingdom. Your idea that there is some collapse in wealth is a trick with smoke and mirrors. You ought to look at the figures, because you would see that there is a relative as well as an absolute rise in wealth, and that west Wales and the Valleys is benefiting enormously from the Labour Government and from Objective 1 funding.

Mark Isherwood: Actually, on that point, relative wealth has fallen by more than 3 percentage points since you became First Minister. However, how will the lives of people in Conwy be improved by the news of the 41 per cent, or £24 million, increase in non-medical staff costs in the three north Wales NHS trusts over the last three years, at a time when services are being threatened at Llandudno Hospital, and other smaller hospitals are having to close, and when community nursing is being inundated because of people being discharged too early, and community nurses tell me that they have had no extra resources to deal with this, due to the lack of funding?

The First Minister: Mark, I have to ask you to look at the figures again. Have a look at the figures for gross domestic household income and you will see that they have risen relative to Wales and, even more so, relative to the United Kingdom in west Wales and the Valleys. That is the most generally accepted measure of wealth.

Secondly, if you want to talk about how we are developing shared service centres to economise on the back-office cost of running the health service, I can tell you that we are developing such a shared service centre to cover all the health providers in north Wales, and it will be functional very soon. You will also have heard about the huge improvements

cyfoeth fyddai incwm aelwydydd mewnwladol crynswth—ac mae pawb yn derbyn mai dyma'r ffordd safonol o fesur cyfoeth—ac mae hyn yn dangos nad lleihau y mae cyfoeth wedi bod yn ei wneud yng ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd ond cynyddu, a chynyddu'n gynt nag yng ngweddill Cymru, tra bo Cymru ei hun wedi gweld ei chyfoeth yn cynyddu'n gynt na gweddill y Deyrnas Unedig. Ystumio'r gwir y mae eich syniad chi bod rhywfaint o leihad mewn cyfoeth. Dylech edrych ar y ffigurau, oherwydd byddech yn gweld bod cynnydd cymharol yn ogystal ag absoliwt mewn cyfoeth, a bod gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn elwa'n fawr iawn o'r Llywodraeth Lafur ac o arian Amcan 1.

Mark Isherwood: Mewn gwirionedd, ar y pwynt hwnnw, mae cyfoeth cymharol wedi gostwng mwy na 3 phwynt canran ers i chi ddod yn Brif Weinidog. Fodd bynnag, sut y bydd pobl yng Nghonwy yn well eu byd o ganlyniad i'r newyddion ynglŷn â'r cynnydd o 41 y cant, neu £24 miliwn, mewn costau staff anfeddygol yn nhair ymddiriedolaeth GIG y gogledd yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf, ar adeg pan fo gwasanaethau dan fygythiad yn Ysbyty Llandudno, ac ysbytai bach eraill yn gorfod cau, a phan fo nyrsio cymunedol dan bwysau gan fod pobl yn cael eu rhyddhau'n rhy gynnar, ac mae nyrsys cymunedol yn dweud wrthyf nad ydynt wedi cael rhagor o adnoddau i ddelio â hyn, oherwydd prinder arian?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mark, rhaid imi ofyn ichi edrych ar y ffigurau eto. Edrychwch ar y ffigurau ar gyfer incwm aelwydydd mewnwladol crynswth a byddwch yn gweld eu bod wedi cynyddu o'u cymharu â ffigurau Cymru ac, yn fwy fyth, o'u cymharu â ffigurau'r Deyrnas Unedig yng ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd. Hynny yw'r dull o fesur cyfoeth sy'n cael ei dderbyn gan y rhan fwyaf o bobl.

Yn ail, os ydych am siarad am y ffordd yr ydym yn datblygu canolfannau gwasanaethau a rennir er mwyn arbed rhywfaint ar gostau cefn swyddfa rhedeg y gwasanaeth iechyd, gallaf ddweud wrthyf ein bod yn datblygu canolfan gwasanaethau a rennir o'r fath ar gyfer holl ddarparwyr iechyd y gogledd, a bydd yn cael ei gweithredu yn fuan iawn.

and investment in the provision of hospital care across north Wales, including in bone densitometry, in the acute medicine unit, and in the provision of linear accelerators.

Eleanor Burnham: First Minister, there are a lot of unhappy people in Conwy. I also remind you that Ysbyty Glan Clwyd is not in the constituency of Conwy; it is actually in the constituency of Clwyd West, as far as I know.

Ann Jones: It is in the Vale of Clwyd constituency.

Eleanor Burnham: I do beg your pardon—at least that shows that we are all awake.

First Minister, how can you reassure the older people of Conwy, particularly in Llandudno, who are growing in number—*[Interruption.]* Thank you. How can you reassure them, while you are overseeing the downgrading and possible closure of Llandudno Hospital, that that will not have an absolutely devastating effect on the area? How can you or your Minister for Health and Social Services allow that to happen, when you have been praising—and still are on the Welsh Assembly Government website—the care given in the elderly rehabilitation unit, which opened in Llandudno only in November 2003, and the new osteoporosis and bone densitometry unit, which opened in December 2006? How can you and your Minister for health allow the possible downgrading of Llandudno Hospital when all these wonderful facilities are already being used there?

The First Minister: I am sorry that you have been meeting a lot of unhappy people in Llandudno recently—perhaps they were unhappy after they met you; I am not sure which way around it was. If you were telling them that we were going to close Llandudno Hospital, there is no doubt that they would be very unhappy. However, there are no proposals to close Llandudno Hospital, so I think that you should get your story straight. Perhaps the Liberal Democrat meetings in the area are focusing on gloomy prospects for

Byddwch hefyd wedi clywed am y gwelliannau a'r buddsoddiad aruthrol mewn gofal ysbyty sy'n cael ei ddarparu yn y gogledd, gan gynnwys mewn dwysfureg esgyrn, yn yr uned meddygaeth aciwt, ac o ran darparu cyflymyddion unionlin.

Eleanor Burnham: Brif Weinidog, mae llawer o bobl drist yng Nghonwy. Yr wyf hefyd yn eich atgoffa nad yw Ysbyty Glan Clwyd yn etholaeth Conwy; yn etholaeth Gorllewin Clwyd y mae, hyd y gwn.

Ann Jones: Yn etholaeth Dyffryn Clwyd y mae.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf—o leiaf mae hyn yn dangos ein bod i gyd yn effro.

Brif Weinidog, sut y gallwch roi sicrwydd i bobl hŷn Conwy, yn enwedig yn Llandudno, sydd ar gynnydd—*[Torri ar draws.]* Diolch. Sut y gallwch roi sicrwydd iddynt, tra ydych yn goruchwyllo'r gwaith o israddio ac o gau Ysbyty Llandudno o bosibl, na fydd hyn yn cael effaith gwbl ddiistriol ar yr ardal? Sut y gallwch chi neu eich Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ganiatáu i hyn ddigwydd, a chithau wedi bod yn canmol—ac yn dal i wneud hynny ar wefan Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru—y gofal a roddir yn yr uned adsefydlu ar gyfer yr henoed, a agorodd yn Llandudno mor ddiweddar â Thachwedd 2003, a'r uned osteoporosis a dwysfureg esgyrn newydd, a agorodd yn Rhagfyr 2006? Sut y gallwch chi a'ch Gweinidog dros iechyd ganiatáu'r posibilrwydd o israddio Ysbyty Llandudno pan fo'r holl gyfleusterau rhagorol hyn yn cael eu defnyddio yno yn barod?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf eich bod wedi bod yn cyfarfod llawer o bobl drist yn Llandudno yn ddiweddar—efallai eu bod yn drist ar ôl eich cyfarfod chi; nid wyf yn siŵr sut y digwyddodd pethau. Os oeddech yn dweud wrthynt ein bod yn mynd i gau Ysbyty Llandudno, byddent yn sicr o fod yn drist iawn. Fodd bynnag, nid oes dim cynlluniau i gau Ysbyty Llandudno, felly credaf y dylech sicrhau bod eich ffeithiau'n gywir. Efallai fod cyfarfodydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn yr ardal yn

events on 3 May, I do not know. You may meet a lot of unhappy people, but people in Wales are well aware of just how much the wealth of the country has been transformed, and also of how the quality of public services has been transformed during the past eight years.

canolbwyntio ar ragolygon trist ar gyfer digwyddiadau ar 3 Mai, ni wn. Efallai eich bod yn cyfarfod llawer o bobl drist, ond mae pobl yng Nghymru yn gwybod o'r gorau gymaint y mae cyfoeth y wlad wedi ei drawsnewid, a hefyd sut y mae ansawdd gwasanaethau cyhoeddus wedi ei drawsnewid yn ystod yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf.

Gwella Bywydau Pobl yn Islwyn Improving the Lives of People in Islwyn

Q8 Irene James: Will the First Minister make a statement about Welsh Assembly Government initiatives that are improving the lives of the people in Islwyn? OAQ2428(FM)

C8 Irene James: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am fentrau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sy'n gwella bywydau pobl yn Islwyn? OAQ2428(FM)

The First Minister: Progress towards the new £130 million-worth hospital for the Caerphilly county borough and the mid Valleys area has taken a further step forward with the appointment of the design and construction team. I also note that 80 per cent of primary schools in the Caerphilly county borough—which has two constituencies, with Islwyn being one of them—are expected to provide free breakfasts, and they are signed up to the scheme by the end of this year. Therefore, the lives of people in Islwyn are benefiting from Assembly Government initiatives right across the board.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r ysbyty newydd gwerth £130 miliwn ar gyfer bwrdeistref sirol Caerffili ac ardal canol y Cymoedd wedi dod gam yn nes ar ôl penodi'r tîm dylunio ac adeiladu. Yr wyf am nodi hefyd fod disgwyl i 80 y cant o'r ysgolion cynradd ym mwrdeistref sirol Caerffili—sydd â dwy etholaeth, gydag Islwyn yn un ohonynt—ddarparu brecwast am ddim, ac maent wedi cytuno i weithredu'r cynllun cyn diwedd y flwyddyn hon. Felly, mae pobl yn Islwyn yn elwa o fentrau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ym mhob agwedd ar eu bywydau.

Irene James: Thank you for that response, First Minister. Do you agree that, on top of national incentives and initiatives, ranging from delivering free bus travel for older people to securing £1.3 billion of Objective 1 money to regenerate communities across west Wales and the Valleys, our Labour Assembly Government has a demonstrable local record with many examples of achievements, such as the much anticipated new hospital in Caerphilly, which you already mentioned, and the new general practice surgeries in my constituency, which are already in place and are benefiting my constituents in Islwyn? Would you also agree that the new Ebbw Valley rail line is a key component of delivering a local economic boost, and will you assure us that you will do everything in your control to expedite its completion, not only to Cardiff, but to the Valleys, because we need it to be completed and opened as soon as possible to Newport?

Irene James: Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Brif Weinidog. A ydych yn cytuno, yn ychwanegol at gymhellion a mentrau cenedlaethol, yn amrywio o ddarparu cludiant am ddim mewn bysiau i bobl hŷn i sicrhau £1.3 biliwn o arian Amcan 1 er mwyn adfywio cymunedau yn y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd, fod Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad wedi gwneud enw da iawn iddi'i hun yn lleol â sawl enghraifft o lwyddiant, fel yr ysbyty newydd yr edrychwn ymlaen i'w weld yng Nghaerffili, y cyfeiriasoch ato'n barod, a'r meddygfeydd newydd ar gyfer meddygon teulu yn fy etholaeth i, sydd wedi agor eu drysau'n barod ac sydd o fudd i'm hetholwyr yn Islwyn? A fydddech hefyd yn cytuno bod llinell rheilffordd newydd Glyn Ebwy yn elfen allweddol er mwyn rhoi hwb i'r economi leol, ac a wnewch roi sicrwydd inni y byddwch yn gwneud popeth y gallwch ei wneud er mwyn cyflymu'r gwaith o'i chwblhau, nid yn unig i Gaerdydd, ond hefyd i'r Cymoedd, oherwydd y mae angen iddi

gael ei chwblhau a'i hagor cyn gynted ag y bo modd i Gasnewydd?

3.00 p.m.

The First Minister: I agree with you, of course. That was the original idea, but Network Rail and its view of the signalling system just outside Newport, west of the tunnel, made that impossible in the first phase. However, it is critical to your constituents, and I think that three or four of the stations are probably in your constituency, so it will be a major improvement to commuting and leisure access to Cardiff and eventually to Newport. Once completed, Network Rail's £400 million-worth investment will revolutionise the signalling system between Port Talbot and Newport.

Jocelyn Davies: Many people in Islwyn are benefiting from the activities of the voluntary sector, including heart rehabilitation groups and healthy living centres, which serve our most deprived communities. What are you going to do to ensure that that invaluable work continues now that the lottery money is running out?

The First Minister: You are giving the impression that no-one expected the lottery money to run out. In fact, I think that it was always known that it would run out. Therefore, it was up to the bodies concerned to decide that the local health board needed to take on the schemes. The year in which that happens will vary from scheme to scheme. I do not know the details of the negotiations between the local health board and the healthy living centre to which you refer. Healthy living centres have done a wonderful job; they are a classic example of preventative medicine. Therefore, I would like to think that local health boards would agree with that and take them on. If they are not doing so, I would like to know why.

William Graham: How will the lives of the people in Islwyn be improved by the closure of primary schools, particularly the one in Argoed?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn cytuno â chi, wrth gwrs. Dyna oedd y syniad gwreiddiol, ond gwnaeth Network Rail a'i farn ynglŷn â'r system signalau cyn cyrraedd Casnewydd, i'r gorllewin o'r twnnel, hynny'n amhosibl yn y rhan gyntaf. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig iawn i'ch etholwyr, a chredaf fod tair neu bedair o'r gorsafoedd mae'n debyg yn eich etholaeth chi, felly bydd yn welliant sylweddol o ran cymudo a theithiau hamdden i Gaerdydd ac i Gasnewydd maes o law. Pan fydd y gwaith wedi ei gwblhau, bydd y buddsoddiad hwn gan Network Rail, sy'n werth £400 miliwn, yn trawsnewid y system signalau rhwng Port Talbot a Chasnewydd.

Jocelyn Davies: Mae llawer o bobl yn Islwyn yn elwa o weithgareddau'r sector gwirfoddol, gan gynnwys grwpiau adsefydlu cardiaidd a chanolfannau byw'n iach, sy'n gwasanaethu'n cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig. Beth yr ydych yn mynd i'w wneud er mwyn sicrhau bod y gwaith amhrisiadwy hwn yn parhau gan fod arian y loteri'n dod i ben yn awr?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych yn rhoi'r argraff nad oedd neb yn disgwyl i'r arian loteri ddod i ben. A dweud y gwir, credaf ein bod yn gwybod o'r dechrau y byddai'n dod i ben. Felly, cyfrifoldeb y cyrff dan sylw oedd penderfynu bod angen i'r bwrdd iechyd lleol ymgymryd â'r cynlluniau. Bydd y flwyddyn y bydd hyn yn digwydd yn amrywio o'r naill gynllun i'r llall. Nid wyf yn gwybod manylion y trafodaethau rhwng y bwrdd iechyd lleol a'r ganolfan byw'n iach yr ydych yn cyfeirio ati. Mae canolfannau byw'n iach wedi gwneud gwaith rhagorol; maent yn enghraifft wych o feddygaeth ataliol. Felly, hoffwn feddwl y byddai byrddau iechyd lleol yn cytuno â hynny ac yn eu cymryd drosodd. Os nad ydynt yn gwneud hynny, byddwn yn hoffi gwybod pam.

William Graham: Sut y bydd cau ysgolion cynradd, yn enwedig yr un yn Argoed, yn gwella bywydau pobl yn Islwyn?

The First Minister: I have no control over the school population of Wales. One thing that a First Minister cannot affect in any way is the fact that 40,000 children will leave school this year, while only 30,000 will start school. The birth rate has tipped up to about 32,000 over the past three or four years, and there will therefore be some alleviation of the stark prospect of a 25 per cent reduction in the school population, which was envisaged. However, that will not affect the major picture that there will be far fewer children to be educated in our schools. Therefore, we must look at the school stock and establish the best way to fit it to the much reduced child population. There is nothing you can do to argue with those figures and their consequences. Anyone who has the idea that the figures will have no impact on the number of schools that are needed and where they should be located belongs in cloud-cuckoo-land.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes gennyf reolaeth dros boblogaeth ysgolion Cymru. Un peth na all Prif Weinidog ddylanwadu arno sut yn y byd yw'r ffaith y bydd 40,000 o blant yn ymadael â'r ysgol eleni, a dim ond 30,000 yn dechrau mewn ysgol. Mae cyfradd y genedigaethau wedi codi i tua 32,000 yn ystod y tair neu bedair blynedd diwethaf, a bydd hyn yn lliniaru rhywfaint felly ar y rhagolygon tywyll am ostyngiad o 25 y cant ym mhoblogaeth ein hysgolion, yr oeddem yn ei ddisgwyl. Fodd bynnag, ni fydd hyn yn effeithio ar y prif ddarlun, sef y bydd llawer llai o blant i'w haddysgu yn ein hysgolion. Felly, rhaid inni edrych ar y stoc ysgolion a phenderfynu beth yw'r ffordd orau o addasu'r rhain ar gyfer y gostyngiad sylweddol yn nifer y plant. Nid oes dim y gallwch ei wneud i ddadlau â'r ffigurau hynny a'u canlyniadau. Mae unrhyw un sy'n tybio na fydd y ffigurau yn cael dim effaith ar nifer yr ysgolion sydd eu hangen nac ar eu lleoliad â'i ben yn y cymylau.

Chwaraeon Sport

Q9 Laura Anne Jones: How is the Welsh Assembly Government working with the UK Government to benefit sport in Wales? OAQ2441(FM)

C9 Laura Anne Jones: Sut y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n gweithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU er budd chwaraeon yng Nghymru? OAQ2441(FM)

The First Minister: We are working closely with Ministers and officials in Whitehall to ensure that sport in Wales benefits from UK-wide initiatives, as well as from our own significant levels of investment. Securing the 2009 UK School Games on a tri-city basis—in Cardiff, Newport and Swansea—is an example of how effective we have been, as a team, in doing so.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn gweithio mewn cysylltiad agos â Gweinidogion a swyddogion y Llywodraeth yn Llundain er mwyn sicrhau bod chwaraeon yng Nghymru'n elwa o fentrau'r DU, yn ogystal â'n buddsoddiad sylweddol ni. Mae llwyddiant ein cais i gynnal Gemau Ysgolion y DU 2009 gan ddefnyddio tair dinas—Caerdydd, Casnewydd ac Abertawe—yn dangos pa mor effeithiol yr ydym wedi gwneud hyn fel tîm.

Laura Anne Jones: I seek your assurance that the money that was meant to get to Wales for UK-wide sport initiatives is actually getting to Wales. I have been made aware by the England and Wales Cricket Board that money for cricket from the UK Treasury has been going down the wrong channels, and is therefore not getting to Wales. A purely political decision can change this. It seems that money has been going to

Laura Anne Jones: Gofynnaf ichi roi sicrwydd inni fod yr arian a oedd i fod i ddod i Gymru ar gyfer mentrau chwaraeon Llywodraeth y DU yn cyrraedd Cymru. Yr wyf wedi cael gwybod gan Fwrdd Criced Cymru a Lloegr fod arian ar gyfer criced o Drysorlys y DU wedi bod yn mynd i'r lle anghywir, ac nad yw felly'n cyrraedd Cymru. Gall penderfyniad gwleidyddol newid hyn. Ymddengys fod arian wedi bod yn mynd i

Sport England, and that, under its powers, the money cannot be distributed to Wales. A simple political decision could change that so that we can get the money that we deserve. If we do not, we will be missing out on money that is much needed for cricket in Wales.

The First Minister: If what you are saying is right, it would certainly be a problem. Having persuaded the England and Wales Cricket Board and its major test grounds allocation committee to bring a test match to Wales in 2009, we would expect some inspirational effect on young people—who may have chosen another sport or no sport at all. If they say that cricket is the game for them, they will want to see the facilities that will enable them to develop their potential. If you write to me with the details of the blockage in the allocation system, Alun Pugh and I will look at it and give you a full answer.

Lorraine Barrett: Some people think that shooting pheasants and partridges is sport. I know that one Assembly Member does, because he told me how much he enjoys it. Do you agree that the majority of game-bird shooters would probably be shocked to know that, in the name of their sport, around 20 million to 30 million of these birds are intensively reared in Wales and England—some in appalling conditions—and that they are not the wild birds that shooters may think they are giving a sporting chance when they pull the trigger?

The First Minister: You did say that these people would be ‘shocked’ and not ‘shot’?

Lorraine Barrett: Yes, shocked.

The First Minister: I frequently come out of my back door in the morning to see a pheasant perched on the hedge, so I am fond of pheasant—not to eat, but simply to observe. Those pheasants are certainly wild. However, your point about the younger development of the pheasant and partridge populations may well be true. I will write to you in full about the animal welfare points that you have raised.

Sport England, ac nad yw ei bwerau'n caniatáu iddo ddsbarthu'r arian i Gymru. Gallai penderfyniad gwleidyddol syml newid hyn er mwyn inni gael yr arian yr ydym yn ei haeddu. Hebdo, byddwn yn colli arian y mae ei angen yn fawr ar gyfer criced yng Nghymru.

Y Prif Weinidog: Os yw'r hyn yr ydych yn ei ddweud yn wir, byddai yn sicr yn broblem. Wedi perswadio Bwrdd Criced Cymru a Lloegr a'i bwyllgor dyrannu prif feysydd gemau prawf i ddod â gêm brawf i Gymru yn 2009, byddem yn disgwyl rhywfaint o ysbrydoliaeth i bobl ifanc—a allai fod wedi dewis camp arall ym maes chwaraeon neu yr un gamp o gwbl. Os ydynt yn dweud mai criced yw'r gêm iddynt hwy, byddant am weld y cyfleusterau a fydd yn eu galluogi i ddatblygu eu potensial. Os ysgrifennwch ataf gyda manylion y diffyg yn y system ddyrannu, gwnaiff Alun Pugh a minnau edrych arno a rhoi ateb llawn ichi.

Lorraine Barrett: Mae rhai pobl yn credu bod saethu ffesantod a phetris yn gamp ym maes chwaraeon. Gwn fod un Aelod Cynulliad yn credu hyn, oherwydd dywedodd wrthyf gymaint y mae'n ei fwynhau. A ydych yn cytuno y byddai'r rhan fwyaf o'r rhai sy'n saethu adar hela yn synnu mae'n debyg o wybod bod tua 20 miliwn i 30 miliwn o'r adar hyn yn cael eu magu, yn sgîl y gamp, drwy ddulliau dwys yng Nghymru a Lloegr—rhai mewn amgylchiadau dychrynlyd—ac er bod saethwyr o bosibl yn tybio eu bod yn rhoi pob siawns iddynt pan fyddant yn tynnu'r glicied, nad adar gwyllt ydynt?

Y Prif Weinidog: Dweud a wnaethoch y câi'r bobl hyn eu 'synnu', nid eu 'saethu'?

Lorraine Barrett: Ie, eu synnu.

Y Prif Weinidog: Deuaf allan drwy fy nrws cefn yn aml yn y bore i weld ffesant yn clwydo ar y gwrych, felly yr wyf yn hoff o ffesantod—nid i'w bwyta, ond i'w gwyllo. Mae'r ffesantod hynny yn bendant yn rhai gwyllt. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bosibl iawn bod eich pwynt ynglŷn â datblygiad iau poblogaethau'r ffesant a'r petris yn wir. Ysgrifennaf atoch yn llawn ynghylch y pwyntiau a godwyd gennych ynglŷn â lles

anifeiliaid.

Peter Black: I think that we all agree that young people should participate more in sport rather than just watch it. Do you agree that it would be beneficial for everyone if the school curriculum contained at least two hours of sport each week, which pupils would be required to do?

Peter Black: Credaf y cytunwn oll y dylai pobl ifanc gyfranogi mwy mewn chwaraeon yn hytrach na'i wyllo yn unig. A gytunwch y byddai'n fuddiol i bawb pe bai'r cwricwlwm ysgol yn cynnwys o leiaf dwy awr o chwaraeon bob wythnos y byddai'n ofynnol i'r disgyblion ei wneud?

The First Minister: Yes, but to take your first proposition—that it is not much fun watching sport—I think that, on Saturday afternoon, it was a great deal of fun for everyone in the Assembly to watch sport. We should all pay our compliments to the comeback kids in the Welsh 15, or 22 as it is now, for the magnificent game that they played on Saturday evening in defeating England. The important point about that inspiring participation is the same point that I made earlier to Laura Anne Jones: a number of young people in Wales will want to be the next James Hook; because they have seen it, they want to try the game out and to commit themselves seriously to it. That is how sport works; very frequently it works through role models and heroes, and that should then flow through into wider participation. Thank goodness we got the result that we did.

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwnaf, ond o ystyried eich awgrym cyntaf—nad yw gwylio chwaraeon yn llawer o hwyl—credaf i bawb yn y Cynulliad fwynhau gwylio chwaraeon brynhawn dydd Sadwrn. Dylai pob un ohonom ganmol y 15 arwrol, neu'r 22 fel y mae bellach, yn sgwad Cymru am y gêm ryfeddol a chwaraeasant nos Sadwrn wrth drechu Lloegr. Yr un yw'r pwynt pwysig ynglŷn â'r cyfranogiad ysbrydoledig hwnnw â'r pwynt a wneuthum yn gynharach wrth Laura Anne Jones: bydd nifer o bobl ifanc yng Nghymru am fod yn James Hook nesaf, oherwydd y maent wedi ei weld, maent am roi cynnig ar y gêm ac ymrwymo o ddifrif iddi. Dyna beth sy'n digwydd mewn chwaraeon; digwydd hynny'n aml iawn drwy fodolau rôl ac arwyr, a dylai hynny arwain yn ddiweddarach at gyfranogiad ehangach. Diolch byth inni gael y canlyniad a gawsom.

Owen John Thomas: Mae pobl wedi bod yn disgwyl am rai wythnosau i'r Llywodraeth yn Llundain ddatgan y bydd cost cynnal y Gemau Olympaidd yn codi i dros £9 biliwn. Bu i'r Gweinidog wadu hynny fore Mercher diwethaf, ond, erbyn dydd Iau, yr oedd y newyddion yn y papurau newydd i gyd. Beth ydych chi, fel Llywodraeth â chyfrifoldeb dros Gymru, yn ei wneud i sicrhau nad yw chwaraeon yng Nghymru yn colli degau o filoedd, neu filiynau, o bunnoedd, a hynny heb ichi ddweud dim?

Owen John Thomas: For some weeks now, people have been expecting the Government in London to declare that the cost of hosting the Olympic Games will increase to over £9 billion. The Minister denied that last Wednesday, but, by Thursday, the story was reported in every newspaper. What are you, as a Government with responsibility for Wales, doing to ensure that sport in Wales does not lose tens of thousands, or millions, of pounds in funding, and to ensure that you do not just remain silent on the issue?

Y Prif Weinidog: Fel y deallaf y sefyllfa, yn ôl datganiad Tessa Jowell gerbron Tŷ'r Cyffredin yr wythnos diwethaf, ar 15 Mawrth, bydd cyllideb y Gronfa Loteri Fawr a rhai o'r sefydliadau eraill sy'n dosbarthu arian y loteri yn colli arian. O ran yr arian sydd ar gael yng Nghymru, efallai y bydd y cyrff dan sylw yn colli cymaint â £70 miliwn. Er hynny, mae'n rhaid i ni gadw mewn cof y manteision fydd yn llifo i Brydain Fawr—gan gynnwys Cymru, er taw yn Llundain y

The First Minister: As I understand it, according to Tessa Jowell's statement to the House of Commons last week, on 15 March, the Big Lottery Fund and some of the other bodies that distribute funds will lose out. In terms of money available to bodies in Wales, those in question could lose as much as £70 million. However, we must bear in mind the benefits that will accrue to Great Britain—which, despite the fact that the games are to be held in London, will include benefits for

caiff y gemau eu cynnal—ac ystyried sut y gallwn fanteisio ar y cyfleoedd fydd ar gael i ni am fod y gemau yn cael eu cynnal ym Mhrydain Fawr.

Wales—and we must consider how we can take advantage of the opportunities arising from the games being held in Great Britain.

Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig Special Educational Needs

Q10 William Graham: Will the First Minister make a statement on the provision of special educational needs services in south-east Wales? OAQ2440(FM)

C10 William Graham: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau anghenion addysgol arbennig yn ne-ddwyrain Cymru? OAQ2440(FM)

The First Minister: The budget agreed by the Assembly for the year which is about to start contains a further £7.7 million for SEN services, including £1.7 million for special services for children with autism. In the same year, in south-east Wales, the Assembly Government will also be providing £1.5 million in capital funding for three critical regional SEN projects in Monmouthshire, Torfaen, and Blaenau Gwent.

Y Prif Weinidog: Cynhwysir yn y gyllideb y cytunwyd arni gan y Cynulliad ar gyfer y flwyddyn sydd ar fin dechrau £7.7 miliwn arall tuag at wasanaethau anghenion addysgol arbennig, gan gynnwys £1.7 miliwn ar gyfer gwasanaethau arbennig i blant sydd ag awtistiaeth. Yn yr un flwyddyn, bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad hefyd yn darparu £1.5 miliwn mewn cyllid cyfalaf yn y de-ddwyrain ar gyfer tri phrosiect anghenion addysgol arbennig rhanbarthol yn sir Fynwy, Tor-faen a Blaenau Gwent.

William Graham: Yesterday saw the launch of the final special educational needs review by the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee, at which concern was expressed by the principal of Trinity Fields School. It has put in a bid for further mentoring, which is extremely important in getting people with these special needs into employment and into college, but its funding runs out in June. Can you assure me that the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills will provide assurance that this will continue?

William Graham: Ddoe, lansiwyd adolygiad terfynol anghenion addysgol arbennig y Pwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, a mynegwyd pryder yn y lansiad gan brifathro Ysgol Trinity Fields. Mae wedi gwneud cais am fwy o fentora, sy'n hynod bwysig o ran cael pobl sydd â'r anghenion arbennig hyn i swydd ac i goleg, ond daw ei gyllid i ben ym mis Mehefin. A allwch fy sicrhau y rhoddir sicrwydd gan y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau y bydd hyn yn parhau?

The First Minister: I will read the Record tomorrow and I will arrange for Jane Davidson to look into that matter and to respond to you in detail. The schools that I referred to with regard to the three projects in Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire, have to feed into somewhere. There is very good comprehensive provision in Fairwater Comprehensive School in Cwmbran, which serves a wider circle in the old county of Gwent. However, the issue is what happens afterwards, and is college provision available? That is important, and I will get Jane to write to you about that.

Y Prif Weinidog: Darllenaf y Cofnod yfory a threfnaf i Jane Davidson ymchwilio i'r mater a'ch ateb yn fanwl. Rhaid i'r ysgolion y cyfeiriais atynt yng nghyswllt y tri phrosiect yn Nhor-faen, Blaenau Gwent a sir Fynwy fwydo rhyw ysgol. Ceir darpariaeth gynhwysfawr dda iawn yn Ysgol Gyfun Fairwater yng Nghwibrân, sy'n gwasanaethu cylch ehangach yn hen sir Gwent. Fodd bynnag, beth a ddigwydd wedi hynny, ac a oes darpariaeth coleg ar gael—dyna'r broblem. Mae hynny'n bwysig, a gofynnaf i Jane ysgrifennu atoch ynghylch hynny.

3.10 p.m.

Jocelyn Davies: I am glad that you mentioned autism, as you ought to be aware that, without a specific Welsh Assembly Government target, the health community in south-east Wales will not be commissioning services for youngsters with autism. How is the health community to be held accountable for not meeting the very real needs of this vulnerable group?

The First Minister: I do not know if you heard what I said in my answer to the original question, but we have earmarked £1.7 million for specialist services for children with autism. This is a little like the answer to the earlier question about eating disorders; we know that a tier is needed for specialist autism services of the kind that cannot be dealt with at a local level, but 90 per cent of autism services are dealt with at a local level. That should always remain the case. You must have that pyramid for specialist services, but it should rest on an effective set of local services. As far as I am aware, those services do exist, although you will always get difficult cases that cannot be dealt with locally. Those difficult-to-treat cases are the ones that need the £1.7 million on top of other services in the pyramid.

Jocelyn Davies: Yr wyf yn falch ichi grybwyll awtistiaeth, gan y dylech fod yn ymwybodol, oni cheir targed penodol gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, na fydd y gymuned iechyd yn y de-ddwyrain yn comisiynu gwasanaethau ar gyfer plant ifanc sydd ag awtistiaeth. Sut y gellir dal y gymuned iechyd yn atebol am beidio â bodloni anghenion real iawn y grŵp hwn sy'n agored i niwed?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn gwybod a glywsoch yr hyn a ddywedais yn fy ateb i'r cwestiwn gwreiddiol, ond yr ydym wedi clustnodi £1.7 miliwn ar gyfer gwasanaethau arbenigol i blant sydd ag awtistiaeth. Mae hyn yn debyg braidd i'r cwestiwn cynharach ynghylch anhwylderau bwyta; yr ydym yn gwybod bod angen haen ar gyfer y gwasanaethau anghenion addysgol na ellir delio â hwy ar lefel leol, ond delir â 90 y cant o wasanaethau awtistiaeth ar lefel leol. Dyna sut y dylai pethau fod bob amser. Rhaid ichi fod â'r pyramid hwnnw ar gyfer gwasanaethau arbenigol, ond dylai cyfres effeithiol o wasanaethau lleol fod yn sail iddo. Hyd y gwn, mae'r gwasanaethau hynny yn bodoli, er y cewch wastad achosion anodd na ellir delio â hwy yn lleol. Yr achosion hynny sy'n anodd delio â hwy yw'r rhai sydd angen yr £1.7 miliwn yn ychwanegol at wasanaethau eraill yn y pyramid.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I have one change to report to this week's business. Following this statement, the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks will make a statement on Alfred McAlpine's Gwynedd slate quarries. Business for next week is as set out in the draft statement, available to Members on the agenda. Members will see that next week's timetable is full, and that we may, with the Presiding Officer's agreement, need to start Plenary earlier, at 1 p.m..

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Mae gennyf un newid i'w gyhoeddi i fusnes yr wythnos hon. Yn dilyn y datganiad hwn, gwneir datganiad gan y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau am chwareli llechi Alfred McAlpine yng Ngwynedd. Mae busnes yr wythnos nesaf fel y mae wedi'i nodi yn y datganiad drafft, sydd ar gael i'r Aelodau ar yr agenda. Gwêl yr Aelodau fod amserlen yr wythnos nesaf yn llawn, ac efallai, gyda chaniatâd y Llywydd, y bydd angen inni ddechrau'r Cyfarfod Llawn yn gynharach, am 1 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: You know that you

Y Llywydd: Gwyddoch fod caniatâd

have my agreement to start Plenary whenever you want to do so.

A oes gwrthwynebiad i'r datganiad busnes? Gwelaf nad oes. A oes sylwadau?

Helen Mary Jones: I begin by thanking the Business Minister for making time available for a statement on the quarry situation in Gwynedd; we are glad that that has been possible. I also thank the Minister for arranging for written statements to be made about the reduction in nurse training places, especially for community nurses, and about the effect of lottery funding coming to an end at cardiac rehabilitation centres and at healthy living centres. Under other circumstances, we would have preferred to have seen these statements made orally, as we would have wished to question the Ministers concerned, but we understand, given the pressure of business, that that will not be possible, so we are grateful for the written statements.

Lisa Francis: We are grateful for the oral statement to be made on job losses at Alfred McAlpine quarries in Gwynedd and for the written statements to be issued later this week. Obviously, the cut of more than 200 nurse training places is extremely serious, particularly in terms of the effect that it will have on community nursing. I hope that the written statement will address how this will affect your Government's ability to reach its 2015 targets in 'Designed for Life', which is meant to achieve excellent health and social care.

We are also grateful for the written statement on the closure of cardiac rehabilitation projects. This hugely important initiative has been beneficial not only to the physical health of heart patients, but to their psychological health and peace of mind, and it has been affected by the dearth of lottery funding.

We acknowledge that you say that you cannot be held accountable for local authority operational matters in relation to our request for an oral statement on the possible loss of 300 jobs in Gwynedd Council. I expect that

gennych i ddechrau'r Cyfarfod Llawn pa bryd bynnag y dymunwch.

Are there any objections to the business statement? I see that there are none. Are there any comments?

Helen Mary Jones: Dechreuaf drwy ddiolch i'r Trefnydd am wneud amser i wneud datganiad am sefyllfa'r chwareli yng Ngwynedd; yr ydym yn falch bod hynny wedi bod yn bosibl. Diolchaf hefyd i'r Trefnydd am drefnu i ddatganiadau ysgrifenedig gael eu gwneud ynghylch y lleihad yn nifer y lleoedd hyfforddi i nyrsys, nyrsys cymunedol yn benodol, ac ynghylch effaith arian y loteri'n dod i ben mewn canolfannau adsefydlu cardiaidd ac mewn canolfannau byw'n iach. Dan amgylchiadau eraill, byddai wedi bod yn well gennym i'r datganiadau hyn gael eu gwneud ar lafar, gan y byddem wedi dymuno holi'r Gweinidogion dan sylw, ond deallwn, o ystyried y pwysau o ran busnes, na fydd hynny'n bosibl, felly yr ydym yn ddiolchgar am y datganiadau ysgrifenedig.

Lisa Francis: Yr ydym yn ddiolchgar am y datganiad llafar a wneir am golli swyddi yn chwareli Alfred McAlpine yng Ngwynedd ac am y datganiadau ysgrifenedig a gyhoeddir yn ddiweddarach yr wythnos hon. Yn amlwg, mae cwtogi dros 200 o leoedd hyfforddi nyrsys yn fater difrifol iawn, yn enwedig o ran yr effaith a gaiff ar nyrsio cymunedol. Gobeithio y bydd y datganiad ysgrifenedig yn mynd i'r afael â sut y bydd hyn yn effeithio ar allu eich Llywodraeth i gyflawni ei thargedau 2015 yn 'Cynllun Oes', a ddylai sicrhau iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol rhagorol.

Yr ydym hefyd yn ddiolchgar am y datganiad ysgrifenedig ynghylch dod â phrosiectau adsefydlu cardiaidd i ben. Bu'r cynllun hollbwysig hwn yn fuddiol nid yn unig i iechyd corfforol cleifion y galon, ond hefyd i'w hiechyd meddyliol a'u tawelwch meddwl, ac effeithiwyd arno gan brinder arian loteri.

Cydnabyddwn eich bod yn dweud na allwch fod yn atebol am faterion gweithredol awdurdodau lleol yng nghyswllt ein cais am ddatganiad llafar ar y posibilrwydd o golli 300 o swyddi yng Nghyngor Gwynedd.

the council's staff, who have already received letters saying that those job losses are happening, would not agree with you, especially as they feel that those job losses are occurring because the council will not receive £12 million in Welsh Assembly Government funding. You might not be minded to address that issue at this moment in time, but with rural councils already saying that they are under huge pressure, I am sure that it will come up again.

Kirsty Williams: First, with regard to the written statement on supposed cuts in nurse training places and the impact on community nursing, this comes at a time when local health boards such as my own are planning to cut the number of hospital beds, on the promise that those beds are not needed because people will be treated in their own home by community nurses. It seems difficult to understand where those community nurses will come from if we are cutting the number of training places and the number of staff who will be able to fill those positions. Will you ask the Minister for Health and Social Services to consider, as a part of that statement, sharing with us the workforce planning statistics that he has had from the LHBs, so that we can see on what basis these decisions on training places are being made, and so that we can have an analysis of that workforce planning, which is the key to the number of training places that we need?

Secondly, we welcome the written statements on cardiac rehabilitation centres and healthy living centres. We realise that the pressure of time so close to the end of term makes it impossible for those to be delivered orally. However, the concerns that have been expressed in relation to this matter during questions to the First Minister and by Business Committee members this morning illustrate several concerns. What is happening, and what is the priority for our lottery money in Wales? Are these projects losing out, not because they are unworthy projects, but because lottery funding is being diverted elsewhere? Many of us will be aware of the high-profile coverage of lottery funding going to London to make up the shortfall in the Olympic Games funding. Also, we still have a huge problem as regards the ongoing failure of the public sector to

Disgwyliaf na chytunai staff y cyngor â chi, staff sydd eisoes wedi derbyn llythyrau yn dweud bod colli'r swyddi hynny'n digwydd, yn enwedig gan eu bod yn credu bod y swyddi hyn yn cael eu colli oherwydd na chaiff y cyngor £12 miliwn o gyllid gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Efallai na fyddwch yn barod i ddelio â'r mater hwnnw ar hyn o bryd, ond, gyda chynghorau gwledig eisoes yn dweud eu bod dan bwysau aruthrol, yr wyf yn siŵr y caiff y mater ei godi eto.

Kirsty Williams: Yn gyntaf, ac ystyried y datganiad ysgrifenedig am y cwtogi posibl ar leoedd hyfforddi nyrsys a'r effaith ar nyrsio cymunedol, daw hyn ar adeg pan fo byrddau iechyd lleol, megis fy un i, yn bwriadu cwtogi nifer y gwelyau mewn ysbytai, gan addo nad oes angen y gwelyau hynny gan y caiff pobl eu trin yn eu cartrefi eu hunain gan nyrsys cymunedol. Ymddengys yn anodd deall o ba le y daw'r nyrsys hynny os cwtogir nifer y lleoedd hyfforddi a nifer y staff a all lenwi'r swyddi hynny. A ofynnwch i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, fel rhan o'r datganiad hwnnw, ystyried rhannu â ni yr ystadegau cynllunio'r gweithle y mae wedi'u cael gan y BILlau, fel y gallwn weld ar ba sail y gwneir y penderfyniadau hyn ynghylch lleoedd hyfforddi, ac fel y cawn ddadansoddiad o'r cynllunio gweithle hwnnw, sef yr allwedd i nifer y lleoedd hyfforddi sydd eu hangen arnom?

Yn ail, croesawn y datganiadau ysgrifenedig am ganolfannau adsefydlu cardiaidd a chanolfannau byw'n iach. Sylweddolwn fod y pwysau o ran amser gan ei bod mor agos at ddiwedd tymor y Cynulliad yn ei gwneud yn amhosibl cyflwyno'r rheini ar lafar. Serch hynny, mae'r pryderon a godwyd ynglŷn â'r mater hwn yn ystod y cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog a chan aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Busnes yn codi sawl cwestiwn. Beth sy'n digwydd, a beth yw'r flaenoriaeth ar gyfer ein harian loteri yng Nghymru? A yw'r prosiectau hyn ar eu colled, nid oherwydd eu bod yn brosiectau annheilwng ond oherwydd bod arian y loteri yn cael ei ddargyfeirio i rywle arall? Bydd llawer ohonom yn ymwybodol o'r cyhoeddusrwydd amlwg a roddir i arian y loteri sy'n mynd i Lundain er mwyn talu'r diffyg yng nghyllid y Gemau Olympaidd. Hefyd, mae gennym problem

mainstream voluntary sector work. The voluntary sector is innovative, and it comes up with new projects that are worth while and work well, only to find that they are not brought into the main stream for public sector funding. Those projects, therefore, continually need to look for lottery funding and other sources of voluntary sector funding, as they are not mainstreamed into the main public service expenditure lines.

Carl Sargeant: I welcome the opportunity, in the short time that we have left in this Assembly, to touch on community safety, and the safer streets aspects of our communities. I was interested this morning, while I was surfing the BBC website, to see a photograph that concerned me. I thought for a moment that it was the Leader of the Conservative Party, but it was actually a member of the public riding a motorbike along a footpath. Another member of the public had taken a picture of this person, and I found out later that it was Alun Pugh, the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, protecting our community. We should play a huge part in supporting the active role of the citizen in reporting crime across Wales. *[Interruption.]* It is a shame that our Conservative colleagues do not agree with me.

Secondly, I welcome the fact that the A494 public inquiry was announced yesterday. My constituents in Alyn and Deeside will welcome the opportunity to explore this superhighway, which Sandy Mewies and I have campaigned on recently. Alyn and Deeside is not the place for it, and we will make that clear in the public inquiry, if given the opportunity to do so.

Finally, could we have a debate on the council tax and police precept in north Wales? Our colleague, Mark Isherwood, commented in yesterday's *Evening Leader* that he thought that there was the opportunity for the Home Office to fund the difference in the police precept in Wales. However, interestingly, only a few weeks ago, Mark Isherwood, Brynle Williams and Eleanor

enfawr o hyd o ran methiant parhaus y sector cyhoeddus i brif ffrydio gwaith y sector gwirfoddol. Mae'r sector gwirfoddol yn arloesol, ac mae'n cyflwyno prosiectau newydd gwerth chweil ac sy'n gweithio'n dda, ond yna'n canfod na chânt eu cynnwys yn y brif ffrwd ar gyfer ariannu'r sector cyhoeddus. Felly, mae angen i'r prosiectau hynny chwilio'n barhaus am arian loteri ac am ffynonellau eraill o gyllid sector cyhoeddus, gan na chânt eu prif ffrydio i brif linellau gwariant y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Carl Sargeant: Croesawaf y cyfle i ymdrin â diogelwch cymunedol a'r agweddau sy'n ymwneud â strydoedd mwy diogel yn ein cymunedau, yn ystod yr amser prin sydd gennym ar ôl yn y Cynulliad hwn. Yr oedd gennyf ddiddordeb y bore yma, wrth daro golwg ar wefan y BBC, o weld llun a oedd yn peri pryder imi. Yr oeddwn yn credu am funud mai Arweinydd y Blaid Geidwadol ydoedd, ond llun ydoedd o aelod o'r cyhoedd yn gyrru beic modur ar hyd llwybr cerdded. Yr oedd aelod arall o'r cyhoedd wedi tynnu llun o'r unigolyn hwn, a chanfûm yn ddiweddarach mai Alun Pugh ydoedd, y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, yr Iaith Gymraeg a Chwaraeon, yn amddiffyn ein cymuned. Dylem chwarae rhan enfawr mewn cefnogi rôl weithredol y dinesydd o ran rhoi gwybod am droseddau ledled Cymru. *[Torri ar draws.]* Mae'n drueni mawr na chytuna ein cyd-Aelodau Ceidwadol â mi.

Yn ail, croesawaf y ffaith bod ymchwiliad cyhoeddus yr A494 wedi'i gyhoeddi ddoe. Bydd fy etholwyr yn Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy yn croesawu'r cyfle i ymchwilio i'r wibffordd hon, y mae Sandy Mewies a minnau wedi bod yn ymgyrchu yn ei chylch yn ddiweddar. Nid Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy yw'r lle ar ei chyfer, a gwnawn hynny'n amlwg yn yr ymchwiliad cyhoeddus, os ceir y cyfle i wneud hynny.

Yn olaf, a gawn drafodaeth ynghylch y dreth gyngor a phraesept yr heddlu yn y gogledd? Dywedodd ein cyd-Aelod, Mark Isherwod, yn yr *Evening Standard* ddoe, y credai fod cyfle i'r Swyddfa Gartref ariannu'r gwahaniaeth ym mhraesept yr heddlu yng Nghymru. Serch hynny, yn ddiddorol, ychydig wythnosau'n ôl, pleidleisiodd Mark Isherwood, Brynle Williams ac Eleanor

Burnham voted for an increase of over 5 per cent in council tax for the council tax payers of north Wales.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): As we are in the last few weeks of this Assembly, I am glad to be able to offer these statements, as there is great pressure of business, as has been acknowledged.

I believe that the Minister for Health and Social Services will be glad to put the record straight and to give the information on the nurse training and workforce issues. I understand, Kirsty, that statistics went to the partnership forum in relation to workforce planning. These are crucial in terms of workforce planning for nurses and nurse-allied professions, and training plans and funding. However, our record shows that we have over 40 per cent more therapists as a result of a Labour Welsh Assembly Government, we have over 30 per cent more consultants, and over 20 per cent more staff in the nurse workforce. That is the record on which we stand and it is the basis for decisions that have been made in relation to this year's round of nurse training and workforce planning.

3.20 p.m.

You also raised, quite rightly, Kirsty, as was raised during questions to the First Minister by Jocelyn, the issue of sustainability and follow-through mainstreaming of lottery funding. Sustainability and partnership have to be understood at the beginning, in terms of supporting applications. A lot has been learned in relation to lottery funding in Wales. However, clearly, at the outset, we are all signed up to having exit strategies in terms of innovation, and embedding, taking forward and sustaining those projects.

In relation to your points, Lisa, no decisions have been made with regard to Gwynedd Council. It is up to it to evaluate its resources and the deployment of staff. Gwynedd receives the fifth highest funding per head in Wales, equivalent to £1,364 for every person in Gwynedd. That is a 3.7 per cent increase on last year, and it is important to put that on

Burnham o blaid cynnydd o dros 5 y cant yn y dreth gyngor i dalwyr y dreth gyngor yn y gogledd.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Gan ein bod yn wythnosau olaf y Cynulliad hwn, yr wyf yn falch o allu cynnig y datganiadau hyn, gan fod llawer o bwysau o ran y busnes, fel y cydnabuwyd.

Credaf y bydd y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn barod i egluro'r sefyllfa ac i roi'r wybodaeth ar y materion yn ymwneud â hyfforddi nyrsys a'r gweithle. Deallaf, Kirsty, fod ystadegau wedi mynd i'r fforwm partneriaeth yng nghyswllt cynllunio'r gweithle. Mae'r rhain yn allweddol o ran cynllunio'r gweithle ar gyfer proffesiynau nyrsio a pherthynol i nyrsio, a chynlluniau hyfforddi ac ariannu. Fodd bynnag, dengys ein record fod gennym dros 40 y cant yn ychwanegol o therapyddion o ganlyniad i Lywodraeth Lafur Cynulliad Cymru, mae gennym dros 30 y cant o ymgynghorwyr ychwanegol a thros 20 y cant o staff ychwanegol yn y gweithle nyrsio. Dyna'r hyn a gyflawnwyd ac mae'n sail i'r penderfyniadau a wnaethpwyd o ran rownd eleni o hyfforddi nyrsys a chynllunio'r gweithle.

Codasoch hefyd, Kirsty, a hynny'n gwbl deg, ac fe godwyd yr un peth yn ystod y cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog gan Jocelyn, fater cynaliadwyedd a phrif ffrydio cyllid loteri ar ôl hynny. Rhaid deall yr angen am gynaliadwyedd a phartneriaeth ar y dechrau, o ran cefnogi ceisiadau. Dysgwyd llawer mewn cysylltiad â chyllid loteri yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, ar y dechrau, wrth gwrs, yr ydym oll yn derbyn bod angen strategaethau ymadael mewn cysylltiad ag arloesi, a gwreiddio, hyrwyddo a chynnal y prosiectau hynny.

Gyda golwg ar y pwyntiau a wnaethoch chi, Lisa, ni wnaed dim penderfyniadau mewn cysylltiad â Chyngor Gwynedd. Mater iddo ef yw gwerthuso ei adnoddau a threfnu ei staff. Y cyllid y pen ar gyfer Gwynedd yw'r uchaf ond pump yng Nghymru, ac mae'n gyfwerth â £1,364 am bob un yng Ngwynedd. Mae hynny 3.7 y cant yn fwy

record today.

Over the years, I have probably been very indulgent to Carl Sargeant, but is it not good value to have those questions from Carl Sargeant, which ensure that we put the backbench view of business statements on record? We are proud of our community safety record. Ministers, and their roles with regard to bikes, and even motorbikes, are important, and citizens are putting the community safety message across very effectively in Wales. However, it is the community safety partnerships at the local level, and the funding that is coming from Edwina Hart, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, and the Home Office, that is making the difference with regard to community safety. The alleygating regulations that came through the Assembly a few weeks ago are important in that regard. Finally, as well as the A494 public inquiry, it is good to see positive publicity in north Wales newspapers, recognising that the petition against increases in council taxes is going from strength to strength, and seeing our Labour Ministers and AMs fighting at the forefront of that.

*Derbyniwyd y datganiad busnes.
Business statement adopted.*

Datganiad am Chwareli Llechi Alfred McAlpine Statement on Alfred McAlpine's Slate Quarries

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): On 26 January, Alfred McAlpine plc made an announcement to the London stock exchange regarding accounting irregularities and allegations of fraud at its north Wales slate subsidiary. While internal investigations by Alfred McAlpine are ongoing, the initial evidence shows a loss of several million pounds over a number of years. Immediately following this announcement, my officials met Alfred McAlpine's senior management team. While it received assurances that the company remained committed to the business in the medium to longer term, it stressed that radical restructuring would be required.

na'r llynedd, ac mae'n bwysig rhoi hynny ar gof a chadw heddiw.

Dros y blynyddoedd, mae'n debyg imi fod yn dra goddefgar tuag at Carl Sargeant, ond onid yw'n fuddiol cael cwestiynau o'r fath gan Carl Sargeant, sydd yn sicrhau ein bod yn cofnodi barn y meincwyr cefn am ddatganiadau busnes? Yr ydym yn ymfalchïo yn ein record ar ddiogelwch cymunedol. Mae Gweinidogion, a'u rolau mewn cysylltiad â beiciau, a beiciau modur hyd yn oed, yn bwysig, ac mae dinasyddion yn cyfleu'r neges am ddiogelwch cymunedol yn effeithiol iawn yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, y partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol ar lefel leol, ynghyd â'r cyllid a geir gan Edwina Hart, y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, a chan y Swyddfa Gartref, sydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth o ran diogelwch cymunedol. Mae'r rheoliadau ar osod gatiau a dderbyniodd y Cynulliad ychydig wythnosau'n ôl yn bwysig yn hynny o beth. Yn olaf, yn ogystal â'r ymchwiliad cyhoeddus ynghylch yr A494, mae'n dda gweld cyhoeddusrwydd cadarnhaol ym mhapurau newydd y gogledd, sy'n cydnabod bod y ddeiseb yn erbyn cynyddu'r dreth gyngor yn mynd o nerth i nerth, a chan weld bod ein Gweinidogion a'n ACau Llafur ar flaen y gad yn hynny o beth.

Y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau (Andrew Davies): Ar 26 Ionawr, gwnaeth Alfred McAlpine plc gyhoeddiad yn y gyfnewidfa stociau yn Llundain ynghylch afreoleidd-dra wrth gyfrifyddu a honiadau o dwyll yn ei is-gwmni llechi yn y gogledd. Er bod yr ymchwiliadau mewnol gan Alfred McAlpine yn parhau, mae'r dystiolaeth gyntaf yn dangos colled o amryw o filiynau o bunnoedd dros nifer o flynyddoedd. Yn union ar ôl y cyhoeddiad hwnnw, cyfarfu fy swyddogion ag uwch dîm rheoli Alfred McAlpine. Er iddynt gael eu sicrhau bod y cwmni wedi ymrwymo o hyd i'r busnes yn y tymor canolig a hwy, pwysleisiodd y byddai angen

ad-drefnu sylfaenol.

Alfred McAlpine currently employs 400 people at its three north Wales quarries—Cwt-y-Bugail and Gloddfa Ganol in Blaenau Ffestiniog, and Alfred McAlpine's Welsh slate headquarters at Penrhyn quarry in Bethesda. A loss of 175 jobs in total, between these three quarries, has been announced. The Cwt-y-Bugail quarry is being mothballed. The company has entered into a 30-day consultation process with employee representatives and trade unions. I am sure that all Members will join me in saying that these job losses are extremely disappointing and that our sympathy is with those affected and their families.

Mae Alfred McAlpine yn cyflogi 400 o bobl ar hyn o bryd yn ei dair chwarel yn y gogledd—Cwt y Bugail a'r Gloddfa Ganol ym Mlaenau Ffestiniog, a phrif waith llechi Alfred McAlpine yng Nghymru yn chwarel y Penrhyn ym Methesda. Cyhoeddwyd y bydd cyfanswm o 175 o swyddi'n cael eu colli, rhwng y tair chwarel hynny. Cedwir chwarel Cwt y Bugail fel y bydd yn barod i'w gweithio. Mae'r cwmni wedi dechrau ar broses ymgynghori 30 niwrnod gyda chynrychiolwyr y gweithwyr a'r undebau llafur. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yr holl Aelodau'n ymuno â mi pan ddywedaf mai siomedig iawn yw colli'r swyddi hynny a'n bod yn estyn ein cydymdeimlad at y rhai y mae hyn yn effeithio arnynt a'u teuluoedd.

The Assembly Government is very much adopting a Team Wales approach in providing every possible assistance to Alfred McAlpine and its affected employees during this difficult time. My officials from both the north and mid-Wales offices are working closely alongside my Transport Wales and Operations and Invest Wales teams, as well as their colleagues in the Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and the Department for Environment, Planning and Countryside. They are also maintaining close links with Gwynedd Council.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gweithredu yn null Tîm Cymru, i raddau helaeth iawn, wrth roi pob cymorth posibl i Alfred McAlpine a'r gweithwyr yr effeithiwyd arnynt yn ystod y cyfnod anodd hwn. Mae fy swyddogion yn swyddfeydd y gogledd a'r canolbarth yn cydweithio'n agos â thimau Trafnidiaeth Cymru a Gweithrediadau a Buddsoddi Cymru, yn ogystal â'u cydweithwyr yn yr Adran Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau a'r Adran Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad. Maent hefyd yn cadw mewn cysylltiad agos â Chyngor Gwynedd.

Alun Ffred Jones: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ei sylwadau, ac yr ydym hefyd yn estyn ein cydymdeimlad at y gweithwyr sydd yn debygol o golli eu swyddi. Yr oedd cyfeiriad at 170 o swyddi, ond, mewn gwirionedd, y nifer yw 200, sef hanner y gweithwyr yn y chwareli i gyd. Mae hynny'n ergyd drom i gymunedau Blaenau Ffestiniog, Bethesda a'r cylchoedd cyfagos.

Alun Ffred Jones: I thank the Minister for his comments, and we also extend our sympathy to those workers likely to be made redundant. Reference was made to 170 jobs, but the number is actually 200 jobs, or half the workers in all the quarries. That is quite a knock for the communities of Blaenau Ffestiniog, Bethesda and the surrounding areas.

Cefais gyfarfod gyda'r cwmni a'r undeb ddoe, ac yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed y Gweinidog yn dweud bod ei swyddogion mewn cysylltiad â'r cwmni eisoes. Pan fydd y cwmni—sydd yn hollol o ddifrif, credaf, yn ei awydd i ddod â'r busnes yn ôl i drefn—wedi penderfynu ar ei gyfeiriad, byddwn yn gofyn i'r Gweinidog am sicrwydd ynglŷn â dau neu dri pheth. Yn gyntaf, mae angen sicrhau bod swyddogion ei adran yn barod i

I had a meeting with the company and the union yesterday, and I was pleased to hear the Minister say that his officials have already been in contact with the company. When the company—which I believe is serious about wanting to bring the business back to order—has decided on the direction to take, I would ask the Minister for assurances on two or three points. First, assurances are needed that his officials are

drafod anghenion y cwmni er mwyn gwneud ei brosesau yn fwy hyfyw ac yn fwy effeithlon. Dyna'r allwedd yn y pen draw i lwyddiant y chwareli. Yn ail, bydd materion cynllunio, o bosibl, yn dod i'r fei ac, er mai mater i'r cyngor lleol fydd hynny, bydd asiantaethau'r Llywodraeth yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn y broses ac mae angen sicrhau eu bod yn ymwybodol bod elfen o frys ynglŷn â hyn. Gofynnaf am eu cydweithrediad parod a buan. Yn olaf, yn y tymor hir, ac yn sicr o safbwynt Blaenau Ffestiniog, bydd dyfodol y cynllun cludo gwastraff llechi yn dod yn fwyfwy pwysig. Mae'n debyg y bydd adroddiad Network Rail yn ymddangos yn Ebrill, felly pryd fydd y Gweinidog mewn sefyllfa i wneud penderfyniad ynglŷn â hyfywedd y cynllun hwnnw? Nid oes dwywaith na fydd hwnnw yn cynnig cyflogaeth ychwanegol. A yw'n barod, mewn egwyddor, i ddweud y bydd yn cefnogi'r cynllun hwnnw?

Andrew Davies: When the Presiding Officer first raised this issue with me, in his role as the local Assembly Member, my officials met company representatives to discuss the support that we could give the company. You mentioned specific assistance and we are discussing with the company how it can make its manufacturing processes more efficient. We are also introducing it to our manufacturing advisory service. We will do all that we can to help the company to maintain a competitive and efficient operation in the Blaenau Ffestiniog area. Similarly, we will help all those affected by this job loss announcement, as we have done with previous redundancy announcements.

On transport and upgrading the Conwy valley railway line to allow it to take slate waste out, we have been in discussions with the company and other stakeholders, including Network Rail, about this. A considerable amount of work has been done since 2004. The original proposal came to the Assembly Government and there were substantial issues relating to affordability and a robust business case. Work has continued and has culminated in an options feasibility report by Network Rail, which Network Rail will submit to the Assembly Government for consideration later this year. It would be premature at this stage

willing to discuss the company's requirements in order to make its processes more viable and efficient. That is, ultimately, the key to making the quarries successful. Secondly, there may be planning issues to consider, and even though that is a matter for the local council, Government agencies will play an important role in the process; there is a need to ensure that they know of the element of urgency attached to this issue. I ask for their prompt and ready co-operation. Finally, in the long term, and certainly in relation to Blaenau Ffestiniog, the future of the scheme to remove slate waste will become increasingly important. Network Rail's report is likely to be published in April, so when will the Minister be in a position to make a decision on the scheme's viability? There is no doubt that that will provide additional employment. Is he ready to tell us, in principle, that he will support that scheme?

Andrew Davies: Pan gododd y Llywydd y mater hwn gyda mi gyntaf, yn rhinwedd ei rôl fel Aelod Cynulliad lleol, cyfarfu fy swyddogion â chynrychiolwyr y cwmni i drafod y cymorth y gallem ei roi i'r cwmni. Cyfeiriasoch at gymorth penodol ac yr ydym yn trafod gyda'r cwmni sut y gall beri i'w brosesau gweithgynhyrchu fod yn fwy effeithlon. Yr ydym hefyd yn ei gyflwyno i'n gwasanaeth cynghori ar weithgynhyrchu. Gwnawn bopeth a allwn i helpu'r cwmni i gynnal gweithrediadau cystadleuol ac effeithlon yn ardal Blaenau Ffestiniog. Yn yr un modd, rhoddwn gymorth i bawb y mae'r cyhoeddiad hwn am golli swyddi'n effeithio arnynt, fel y gwnaethom pan gafwyd cyhoeddiadau am ddiswyddiadau o'r blaen.

Ynghylch trafniadaeth a gwella rheilffordd dyffryn Conwy fel y gall gludo gwastraff llechi, buom yn cynnal trafodaethau â'r cwmni a rhanddeiliaid eraill, gan gynnwys Network Rail, am hyn. Gwnaed gwaith sylweddol ers 2004. Cyflwynwyd y cynnig gwreiddiol i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ac yr oedd materion sylweddol yn codi o ran fforddiadwyedd a sicrhau achos busnes cadarn. Mae'r gwaith wedi parhau ac wedi arwain at lunio adroddiad ar ddichonadwyedd y dewisiadau gan Network Rail, y bydd Network Rail yn ei gyflwyno i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i'w ystyried yn ddiweddarach

to say whether the Assembly Government will support or reject that proposal, as we will need to see whether there is a sound business case. There are also wider implications across north Wales, for example, possible displacement and other issues, so it would be premature to say that this will be supported. We have to see a robust business case, but we have given a commitment to consider it in due course.

Lisa Francis: Thank you for this important statement, Minister. The Welsh Conservative group sympathise with those who have been informed that they will lose their jobs—that is 59 people at the Cwt-y-Bugail quarry and people in the Penrhyn and Gloddfa Ganol quarries, which, as Alun Ffred stated, brings the total to around 200. It is a huge blow in the wake of the news of two weeks ago of the loss of 66 jobs at the Aykroyd factory in Bala. These two sites are in a travel-to-work area of about 25 miles, and this will be a huge body blow to the local and wider north Wales economy.

I understand that constituency-elected representatives have already met Alfred McAlpine and the local authority to discuss these losses. It is depressing to note that the leader of Gwynedd Council says that there is no chance of saving these jobs. You said that you entered into talks with McAlpine a fortnight ago, immediately after the announcement regarding the fraud and the fact that two managers had been suspended following serious accounting irregularities. You mentioned radical restructuring in your statement. Can you give us an idea of how that radical restructuring will occur in the company?

3.30 p.m.

What action will your Government take to help those who have lost their jobs and to protect the firm's remaining 250 workers? At the time of your party's conference, the First Minister told Radio Cymru, in respect of the job losses at Aykroyd's in Bala, that the same help would be given in terms of job losses in north Wales as had been given to the Burberry factory in the Rhondda. You have said that you will attract more jobs to the

eleni. Mae'n rhy fuan ar hyn o bryd i ddweud a fydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cefnogi ynteu'n gwrthod y cynnig hwnnw, gan y bydd angen inni weld a oes achos busnes cadarn. Mae goblygiadau mwy cyffredinol hefyd ledled y gogledd, er enghraifft, y posibilrwydd o ddadleoli a materion eraill, felly byddai'n rhy fuan i ddweud y bydd cefnogaeth i hyn. Rhaid inni gael gweld achos busnes cadarn, ond yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i ystyried hynny yn ei dro.

Lisa Francis: Diolch i chi am y datganiad pwysig hwn, Weinidog. Mae grŵp Ceidwadwyr Cymru'n cydymdeimlo â'r rhai a gafodd wybod y byddant yn colli eu swyddi—sef 59 o bobl yn chwarel Cwt y Bugail a rhai yn chwareli'r Penrhyn a'r Gloddfa Ganol, sydd yn gwneud cyfanswm o tua 200, fel y dywedodd Alun Ffred. Mae'n ergyd drom yn sgîl y newyddion bythefnos yn ôl am gollu 66 o swyddi yn ffatri Aykroyd yn y Bala. Mae'r ddau safle hynny mewn ardal teithio i'r gwaith o tua 25 milltir, a bydd hyn yn ergyd drom iawn i'r economi leol ac i'r economi yn y gogledd yn gyffredinol.

Yr wyf yn deall bod cynrychiolwyr a etholwyd gan etholaethau wedi cyfarfod eisoes ag Alfred McAlpine a'r awdurdod lleol i drafod y swyddi a gollir. Digalon yw nodi bod arweinydd Cyngor Gwynedd yn dweud nad oes dim gobaith o achub y swyddi hynny. Dywedasoeh eich bod wedi dechrau trafodaethau â McAlpine bythefnos yn ôl, yn union ar ôl y cyhoeddiad am y twyll a'r ffaith bod dau reolwr wedi'u hatal o'u gwaith yn dilyn afreoleidd-dra difrifol o ran cyfrifyddu. Cyfeiriasoch at ad-drefnu sylfaenol yn eich datganiad. A allwch roi syniad i ni am y modd y bydd yr ad-drefnu sylfaenol hwnnw'n digwydd yn y cwmni?

Pa gamau y bydd eich Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd i helpu'r rhai a gollodd eu swyddi ac i amddiffyn y 250 o weithwyr sydd ar ôl yn y cwmni? Adeg cynhadledd eich plaid, dywedodd y Prif Weinidog wrth Radio Cymru, mewn cysylltiad â'r swyddi a gollwyd yng ngwaith Aykroyd yn y Bala, y rhoddid yr un cymorth os collir swyddi yn y gogledd ag a roddwyd i ffatri Burberry yn y Rhondda. Dywedasoeh y byddwch yn denu

area—how are you going to do that? When will your officials in Team Wales and the ReAct programme set up to help those affected to find alternative employment? Did they do that a fortnight ago or can we expect it to happen fairly soon?

In respect of the job losses at Aykroyd's in Bala, two weeks ago you said that your officials would contact the local authority and other partners to consider the best way forward and would possibly form a taskforce to look at job losses in general. In the light of today's news that there may be 300 job losses at Gwynedd Council, will you look at this holistically and involve those at McAlpine as well? Will you tell us how work on that has progressed?

In your statement, you mentioned the work of your Transport Wales and Operations and Invest Wales teams, and I will pick up the point that Alun Ffred raised about the Conwy valley line. You will be aware that McAlpine company chiefs and Yn Ein Blaenau have repeatedly appealed for the Conwy valley railway line to be upgraded to boost business. It would mean reinforcing the infrastructure of the line so that it could transport slate freight. The feasibility study is almost complete. For local people, that represents a glimmer of hope because they feel that if work were to go ahead on that upgrade, it would safeguard jobs as well as create new ones. Can you tell me whether your Government would consider supplementing the freight facilities grant to enable the infrastructure upgrade to take place? There have been reports that that upgrade could create 48 new jobs and safeguard an existing 81 jobs. We have seen money being spent in south Wales—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I have been very patient—this is not a debate; it is a statement. I call the Minister to respond.

Andrew Davies: On your question about the company's intention in terms of radical restructuring, that is obviously a matter for the company, not Government. It is a private

mw y o swyddi i'r ardal—sut y gwnewch hynny? Pa bryd y bydd eich swyddogion yn Nhîm Cymru ac yn rhaglen ReAct yn mynd ati i helpu'r rhai yr effeithiwyd arnynt i ddod o hyd i waith arall? A wnaethant hynny bythefnos yn ôl neu a allwn ddisgwyl i hynny ddigwydd yn eithaf buan?

Gyda golwg ar y swyddi a gollwyd yng ngwaith Aykroyd yn y Bala, dywedasocho bythefnos yn ôl y byddai eich swyddogion yn cysylltu â'r awdurdod lleol a phartneriaid eraill i ystyried beth fyddai'r llwybr gorau i'w ddilyn ac y byddent o bosibl yn creu tasglu i ystyried colli swyddi'n gyffredinol. Yng ngoleuni'r newyddion heddiw y gellid colli 300 o swyddi yng Nghyngor Gwynedd, a wnewch ystyried hyn yn ei gyfanrwydd a chynnwys y rhai yn McAlpine hefyd? A wnewch ddweud wrthym pa gynnydd a gafwyd ar y gwaith hwnnw?

Yn eich datganiad, cyfeiriasoch at waith timau Trafnidiaeth Cymru a Gweithrediadau a Buddsoddi Cymru, a dilynaf y pwynt a gododd Alun Ffred am reilffordd dyffryn Conwy. Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod penaethiaid cwmni McAlpine ac Yn Ein Blaenau wedi apelio dro ar ôl tro am wella rheilffordd dyffryn Conwy er mwyn hybu busnes. Byddai'n golygu atgyfnerthu seilwaith y rheilffordd fel y gallai gludo llechi. Mae'r astudiaeth ddichonoldeb wedi'i chwblhau bron. Yng ngolwg pobl leol, mae hynny'n cynnig llygedyn o obaith gan eu bod yn teimlo, pe byddai'r gwaith ar y gwelliannau hynny'n mynd ymlaen, y byddai'n diogelu swyddi yn ogystal â chreu rhai newydd. A allwch ddweud wrthyf a fyddai eich Llywodraeth yn barod i ystyried ychwanegu at y grant cyfleusterau cludo nwyddau fel y gellid gwella'r seilwaith? Cafwyd adroddiadau i'r perwyl y gallai'r gwelliannau hynny greu 48 o swyddi newydd a diogelu 81 o swyddi sydd yn bod eisoes. Gwelsom wario arian yn y de—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Bûm yn amyneddgar iawn—nid dadl yw hon; datganiad ydyw. Galwaf y Gweinidog i ymateb.

Andrew Davies: Ynghylch eich cwestiwn am fwriad y cwmni o ran ad-drefnu sylfaenol, mae'n amlwg mai mater i'r cwmni yw hynny, nid i'r Llywodraeth. Mae'n gwmni preifat a

company and it must deal with the situation in which it now finds itself. However, as I said in response to Alun Ffred Jones, we will give every assistance to the company to help it to become a more effective and efficient operation. We will introduce the company to the manufacturing advisory service and ways in which it could perhaps apply lean principles to its processes in Blaenau Ffestiniog and Bethesda.

In terms of support, those affected by the announced redundancies will get exactly the same level of support as those in the Burberry factory or in any other redundancy situation. As long as they are in the Objective 1 area—the assisted area—they will be able to access support through the ReAct programme, which is run by Jane Davidson's department. Programme staff, together with Jobcentre Plus, Careers Wales, and the local authority, will be working with the company and the trade unions to ensure that those affected by the redundancies get the level of assistance that they require.

We have grounds for cautious optimism, if you look at the local figures in terms of economic activity and employment, and the general level of development that has taken place since the Assembly was established: the employment rate in Gwynedd is 73.6 per cent, which is in excess of the all-Wales level, the unemployment level is lower than the all-Wales level, and average gross weekly earnings in Gwynedd were £479, or just under £25,000 a year, which is slightly higher than for Wales as a whole. I am, therefore, confident that, working with all the stakeholders, we can help those affected by this regrettable news into alternative employment.

In terms of transport, there has been significant investment in transport infrastructure in Gwynedd, such as the upgrade of the Lledr valley stretch of the A470, which I opened in January 2005. However, in terms of the Conwy valley railway line, I reiterate my remarks to Alun Ffred Jones that it would be premature to make any decision on including slate waste on the Conwy valley line until we have seen the feasibility study and the business case. In

rhaiddo ddelio â'i sefyllfa bresennol. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedais mewn ymateb i Alun Ffred Jones, rhown bob cymorth i'r cwmni i'w helpu i ddod yn fusnes mwy effeithiol ac effeithlon. Cyflwynwn y cwmni i'r gwasanaeth cynghori ar weithgynhyrchu a dulliau y gallai efallai weithredu egwyddorion gweithgynhyrchu darbodus o ran ei brosesau ym Mlaenau Ffestiniog ac ym Methesda.

O ran cymorth, bydd y rhai y mae'r cyhoeddiad am ddiswyddiadau'n effeithio arnynt yn cael yr un faint yn union o gymorth ag a gafodd y rhai yn ffatri Burberry neu rai mewn unrhyw sefyllfa arall lle y bu diswyddiadau. Ar yr amod eu bod yn ardal Amcan 1—yr ardal a gynorthwyir—byddant yn gallu cael cymorth drwy raglen ReAct, sydd yn cael ei rhedeg gan adran Jane Davidson. Bydd staff y rhaglen, ynghyd â Chanolfan Byd Gwaith, Gyrfa Cymru, a'r awdurdod lleol, yn gweithio gyda'r cwmni a chyda'r undebau llafur i sicrhau y bydd y rhai a ddiswyddir yn cael cymorth yn ôl eu hangen.

Mae gennym le i fod yn weddol obeithiol, os edrychwch ar y ffigurau lleol am weithgarwch economaidd a chyflogaeth, a lefel gyffredinol y datblygu a gafwyd ers sefydlu'r Cynullad: mae cyfradd cyflogaeth yng Ngwynedd yn 73.6 y cant, sydd yn uwch na'r lefel yng Nghymru gyfan, mae lefel diweithdra yn is na'r lefel yng Nghymru gyfan, ac mae'r enillion wythnosol gros cyfartalog yng Ngwynedd yn £479, neu ychydig dan £25,000 y flwyddyn, sydd fymryn yn uwch nag i Gymru gyfan. Yr wyf, felly, yn hyderus y gallwn, drwy gydweithio â'r rhanddeiliaid i gyd, helpu rhai y mae'r newydd blin hwn yn effeithio arnynt i gael cyflogaeth arall.

O ran trafndiaeth, cafwyd buddsoddi sylweddol yn y seilwaith trafndiaeth yng Ngwynedd, fel uwchraddio darn dyffryn Lledr o'r A470, a agorais ym mis Ionawr 2005. Fodd bynnag, o ran rheilffordd dyffryn Conwy, ailadroddaf fy sylwadau wrth Alun Ffred Jones y byddai'n gynamserol gwneud unrhyw benderfyniad am gynnwys gwastraff llechi ar reilffordd dyffryn Conwy nes y byddwn wedi gweld yr astudiaeth ddichonoldeb a'r achos busnes. Mewn

principle, yes, there is a possibility of a freight facility grant, which could be augmented using other sources. The previous proposals sought to access Objective 1 funding, but, as was well known at the time—I believe that the matter was discussed in Plenary and committee—the business case was not robust in terms of the level of investment and the number of jobs created, and there were also other issues to do with displacement. A new study has been commissioned by Network Rail, and as I said to Alun Ffred, that will be submitted to the department later this year for consideration in due course. It would be premature, however, to make a judgment on this matter until I or the Government have seen the business case.

Eleanor Burnham: Thank you for your statement on the probable loss of jobs, Minister. As does everybody else, I sympathise with those who will probably lose their jobs. I also regret the way in which these job losses have occurred, seemingly because of financial irregularities. The underlying assumption must be that were it not for the loss of several million pounds over several years, these jobs could have been safe. Are you telling us, Minister, that all other financial restructuring routes have been considered before taking what is, for the local communities, a drastic and detrimental step?

Can you also clarify something about this company? It is a huge, multinational company, but is it treating this as an independent unit? Surely it could cross-subsidise the quarries in the short term.

I also seek your assurance with regard to other north Wales infrastructure changes, which are, to my mind, closely linked to the quarrying issue. Grave concerns have been raised about some information that has come to me about a Welsh Assembly Government initiative to remove the rail sidings, for instance, from the trans-European rail network at Bangor, rendering rail freight impossible—

The Presiding Officer: Order. This

egwyddor, oes, mae posibilrwydd o grant cyfleuster cludo nwyddau, y gellid ychwanegu ato o ffynonellau eraill. Ceisiodd y cynigion blaenorol fanteisio ar arian Amcan 1, ond, fel yr oedd yn wybyddus ar y pryd—credaf i'r mater gael ei drafod mewn Cyfarfod Llawn ac mewn pwyllgor—nid oedd yr achos busnes yn ddigon cryf o ran lefel y buddsoddiad a nifer y swyddi a gâi eu creu, ac yr oedd materion eraill hefyd yn ymwneud â dadleoli. Mae astudiaeth newydd wedi cael ei chomisiynu gan Network Rail, ac fel y dywedais wrth Alun Ffred, caiff ei chyflwyno i'r adran yn ddiweddarach eleni i gael ei hystyried maes o law. Byddai'n gynamserol, fodd bynnag, llunio barn am y mater hwn hyd nes y byddaf fi neu'r Llywodraeth wedi gweld yr achos busnes.

Eleanor Burnham: Diolch ichi am eich datganiad am y swyddi sy'n debygol o gael eu colli, Weinidog. Fel pawb arall, yr wyf yn cydymdeimlo â'r rhai a fydd yn ôl pob tebyg yn colli eu swyddi. Mae'r ffordd y mae'r swyddi hyn wedi eu colli, oherwydd afreoleidd-dra ariannol, yn destun gofid i minnau hefyd. Y rhagdybiaeth waelodol o reidrwydd yw y gallai'r swyddi hyn fod wedi bod yn ddiogel, oni bai am y colledion o sawl miliwn o bunnoedd dros sawl blwyddyn. A ydych yn dweud wrthym, Weinidog, fod pob llwybr ailstrwythuro ariannol arall wedi cael ei ystyried cyn cymryd yr hyn sydd, i'r cymunedau lleol, yn gam eithafol a niweidiol?

A allwch hefyd egluro rhywbeth am y cwmni hwn? Mae'n gwmni rhyngwladol, enfawr, ond a yw'n trin hon fel uned annibynnol? Oni allai drawsgymorthdalu'r chwareli yn y tymor byr?

Gofynnaf hefyd am sicrwydd gennych ynglŷn â newidiadau eraill o ran y seilwaith yn y gogledd, sydd, yn fy meddwl i, â chysylltiad agos â'r chwareli. Mae pryderon difrifol wedi cael eu codi am wybodaeth yr wyf wedi'i chael am fenter gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gael gwared â seidins rheilffordd, er enghraifft, oddi ar y rhwydwaith rheilffyrdd traws-Ewropeaidd ym Mangor, gan ei gwneud yn amhosibl cludo nwyddau ar y rheilffordd—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r cwestiwn hwn—

question—

Eleanor Burnham: If you will indulge me for a minute, Llywydd—

The Presiding Officer: Order. This matter is of considerable importance to me, as it is to us all. This is a statement about a slate-quarrying company, and I would be grateful if questions were concentrated on the matter in hand.

Eleanor Burnham: The other matter is to do with the slate-waste-by-rail scheme, Llywydd, with your indulgence. I understand that the Assembly Government has not lodged any objections to the proposed removal of sidings at Llandudno Junction. Do you have any comment, Minister, about the removal of the Blaenau Ffestiniog goods yards at the very time when this might be needed?

Andrew Davies: Your question about financial restructuring really should be addressed to the company; it is a private company, so it is not a matter for Government. With the information given to my officials and, I am sure, to representatives, substantial losses have now been uncovered, and the company feels that the only way to address it is by taking this action.

On your question about cross subsidy, you must take that up with the company, too, as it is a matter for the company to do that.

On the issue of the transport of slate waste and transport in general, what I did not say in reply to Lisa Francis was that, in addition to the opening of the new stretch of the A470, the construction of the next stage of the A470, from Blaenau Ffestiniog to Cancoed has also started recently. As a Government, we are investing substantially in transport infrastructure.

3.40 p.m.

On the issue of railways infrastructure, to the best of my knowledge and that of my officials, because this question has been raised with me before, the Assembly

Eleanor Burnham: Os gwnewch oddef imi am funud, Lywydd—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r mater hwn o gryn bwysigrwydd i mi, fel y mae i bawb ohonom. Datganiad yw hwn am gwmni chwareli llechi, a byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe bai'r cwestiynau'n canolbwyntio ar y mater dan sylw.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae a wnelo'r mater arall â'r cynllun gwastraff llechi ar y rheilffordd, Lywydd, os byddwch yn oddefgar. Deallaf nad yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cyflwyno dim gwrthwynebiadau i'r cynnig i gael gwared â seidins yng Nghyffordd Llandudno. A oes gennych unrhyw sylw, Weinidog, am gael gwared â'r ierdydd nwyddau ym Mlaenau Ffestiniog ar yr union adeg y gallai fod gofyn am hyn?

Andrew Davies: Dylai eich cwestiwn am ailstrwythuro ariannol gael ei gyflwyno i'r cwmni mewn gwirionedd; mae'n gwmni preifat, felly nid yw'n fater i'r Llywodraeth. Gyda'r wybodaeth a roddwyd i'm swyddogion ac, yr wyf yn siŵr, i gynrychiolwyr, mae colledion sylweddol wedi cael eu canfod, ac mae'r cwmni'n teimlo mai'r unig ffordd o fynd i'r afael â hynny yw drwy weithredu fel hyn.

O ran eich cwestiwn am draws gymorthdal, rhaid ichi godi hynny, hefyd, gyda'r cwmni, gan mai mater i'w cwmni yw gwneud hynny.

O ran cludo gwastraff llechi a thrafnidiaeth yn gyffredinol, yr hyn nas dywedais wrth ateb Lisa Francis oedd, yn ogystal ag agor y darn newydd o'r A470, fod y gwaith o adeiladu'r darn nesaf o'r A470, o Flaenau Ffestiniog i Gancoed hefyd wedi dechrau'n ddiweddar. Fel Llywodraeth, yr ydym yn buddsoddi'n sylweddol mewn seilwaith trafndiaeth.

O ran seilwaith y rheilffyrdd, hyd y gwn i a'm swyddogion, am fod y cwestiwn hwn wedi cael ei godi gyda mi o'r blaen, nid yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'm swyddogion

Government and my officials have not supported the removal of infrastructure at any location that you mentioned, whether it is at Llandudno Junction, Blaenau Ffestiniog or Bangor. I do not know where that rumour has come from, but it certainly did not come from officials in my department.

Denise Idris Jones: Thank you for making this statement. As you will be aware, I have held numerous discussions with you and the Transport and General Workers Union about the job losses at Alfred McAlpine plc, 70 of which are at Penrhyn quarry in Bethesda but which will also have a greater regional impact. I understand that the company intends to restructure and concentrate on the roofing and aggregate aspects of the business, and discontinue the architectural operations. I will attend a meeting later this week with the unions to discuss the proposals and the local situation. Will you give an assurance that you will explore every possible avenue at this uncertain and difficult time for the workforce, to establish whether it may be possible to continue operations at Bethesda under a different operator? Will you also work with Jobcentre Plus to establish whether suitable alternative employment opportunities may be found locally, and ensure that new skills and training opportunities are in place and ready to be put into practice?

Andrew Davies: Yes. As I said earlier, we will do everything that we can to work with the company to help it through this difficult time, and, more specifically, with those affected by the redundancy announcement. The suggestion that the company will discontinue with a particular line of operation was a commercial decision for the company, but if there are opportunities for my department, in the north and mid Wales regional offices, to discuss with the company whether there may be some opportunity for diversification or for revisiting that decision to discontinue the architectural slate business, we will certainly do so. It is premature to speculate on that, but my officials will explore every opportunity to keep as many jobs in the area as possible and to maintain the company's effectiveness and profitability.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you for your

wedi cefnogi tynnu'r seilwaith mewn unrhyw fan a grybwyllwyd gennych, boed hynny yng Nghyffordd Llandudno, Blaenau Ffestiniog neu Fangor. Ni wn o ble y daeth y si hwnnw, ond yn sicr ni ddaeth oddi wrth swyddogion yn fy adran i.

Denise Idris Jones: Diolch ichi am wneud y datganiad hwn. Fel y byddwch yn gwybod, yr wyf wedi cael nifer o drafodaethau gyda chi ac Undeb y Gweithwyr Cludiant a Chyffredinol am y swyddi sy'n cael eu colli yn Alfred McAlpine plc, y mae 70 ohonynt yn chwarel y Penrhyn ym Methesda ond a fydd hefyd yn cael effaith ranbarthol ehangach. Deallaf fod y cwmni'n bwriadu ailstrwythuro i ganolbwyntio ar agweddau ar y busnes sy'n ymwneud â thoi ac agregau, a rhoi'r gorau i'r gweithrediadau pensaernïol. Byddaf yn mynd i gyfarfod yn ddiweddarach yr wythnos hon gyda'r undeb i drafod y cynigion a'r sefyllfa yn lleol. A rowch sicrwydd y byddwch yn archwilio pob llwybr posibl ar yr adeg ansicr ac anodd hon i'r gweithlu, i weld a fyddai'n bosibl efallai parhau â'r gweithrediadau ym Methesda dan gwmni gwahanol? A wnewch hefyd weithio gyda Chanolfan Byd Gwaith i weld a oes modd canfod cyfleoedd i gael cyflogaeth arall addas yn lleol, a sicrhau bod cyfleoedd sgiliau a hyfforddiant newydd yn cael eu sefydlu ac yn barod i weithredu?

Andrew Davies: Gwnaf. Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, byddwn yn gwneud popeth a allwn i weithio gyda'r cwmni i'w helpu drwy'r cyfnod anodd hwn, ac, yn fwy penodol, gyda'r rhai y mae'r cyhoeddiad ynghylch dileu swyddi yn effeithio arnynt. Penderfyniad masnachol i'r cwmni oedd yr awgrym y bydd yn rhoi'r gorau i un math o weithrediad, ond os oes cyfleoedd i'm hadran i, yn swyddfeydd rhanbarthol y gogledd a'r canolbarth, i drafod gyda'r cwmni a oes cyfle efallai i arallgyfeirio neu i edrych eto ar y penderfyniad hwnnw i roi'r gorau i'r busnes llechi pensaernïol, byddwn yn sicr yn gwneud hynny. Mae'n rhy gynnar i ddyfalu am hynny, ond bydd fy swyddogion yn edrych ar bob cyfle i gadw cynifer â phosibl o swyddi yn yr ardal ac i gynnal effeithiolrwydd y cwmni a'i broffidoldeb.

Y Llywydd: Diolch ichi am eich datganiad

helpful statement today and at all times on this issue. buddiol heddiw a bob amser ar y mater hwn.

**Datganiad am Ymateb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i Brosiect Craffu'r
Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus—Trefniadau
Etholiadol yng Nghymru
Statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's Response to the Local
Government and Public Services Committee's Scrutiny Project—Electoral
Arrangements in Wales**

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I welcome the publication of this report by the Local Government and Public Services Committee, which has once again shown itself to be capable of producing a thorough and thought-provoking analysis of one of its policy areas.

Over the last few years, there has been considerable discussion and change in what is called electoral modernisation. We have seen the formation of the Electoral Commission, the introduction of postal voting on demand, pilot schemes in local government elections—although sadly hardly any in Wales yet—all-postal-voting experiments, the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which has lowered the age of candidacy and introduced the need for personal identifiers for postal and proxy voters. Unfortunately, during this period we have also witnessed a general decline in turnout, something which we all hope is reversed at our elections in May.

The Assembly has relatively few powers over elections. We finance our own elections and appoint the returning officers, but we have no powers over the conduct of elections. However, we have set up the elections planning group, which brings together all the players in electoral matters in Wales. Through this group we are able to facilitate the promotion of best practice. This has formed the background to what has been a lengthy scrutiny review involving evidence-gathering from many sources, including from overseas, and also the use of expert advice in the form of Roger Morris, one of the principal experts in electoral matters in the UK.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Croesawaf gyhoeddi'r adroddiad hwn gan y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, sydd unwaith eto wedi dangos ei fod yn gallu llunio dadansoddiad trylwyr, sy'n peri i rywun feddwl, o un o'i feysydd polisi.

Dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, bu cryn lawer o drafod a newid yn yr hyn sy'n cael ei alw'n foderneiddio etholiadol. Yr ydym wedi gweld llunio'r Comisiwn Etholiadol, cyflwyno pleidleisio drwy'r post drwy ofyn yn unig, cynlluniau peilot mewn etholiadau llywodraeth leol—er mai prin iawn a fuont yng Nghymru hyd yma yn anffodus—arbrofion pleidleisio drwy'r post yn unig, Deddf Gweinyddiaeth Etholiadol 2006, sydd wedi gostwng yr oedran ymgeisio ac wedi cyflwyno'r angen am ddynodyddion personol i bleidleiswyr post a phleidleiswyr drwy ddirprwy. Yn anffodus, yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, yr ydym hefyd wedi gweld gostyngiad cyffredinol yn y nifer sy'n pleidleisio, rhywbeth y mae pawb ohonom yn gobeithio y bydd yn cael ei wrthdroi yn ein hetholiadau ym mis Mai.

Cymharol brin yw'r pwerau sydd gan y Cynulliad dros etholiadau. Yr ydym yn cyllido ein hetholiadau ein hunain ac yn penodi swyddogion canlyniadau, ond nid oes gennym bwerau dros gynnal etholiadau. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym wedi sefydlu'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadau, sy'n dod â phawb sy'n ymwneud â materion etholiadol yng Nghymru ynghyd. Drwy'r grŵp hwn yr ydym yn gallu hwyluso'r gwaith o hyrwyddo'r arferion gorau. Hynny oedd y cefndir i adolygiad craffu maith a oedd yn cynnwys casglu gwybodaeth o lawer o ffynonellau, gan gynnwys o wledydd tramor, a hefyd gyngor arbenigol ar ffurf Roger Morris, un o'r arbenigwyr pennaf mewn

materion etholiadol yn y DU.

I have little difficulty in accepting and supporting almost all of the recommendations. My one caveat is in relation to individual registration. I do not think that the case is yet proven for this. Many of us are concerned that a move in this direction, although supportable in principle, might lead to declines in levels of registration once everyone has to return their own form on an annual basis, particularly in urban areas with young and shifting populations. Its introduction in Northern Ireland led initially to a dramatic decline in registration levels. I am aware that ground has been made up by allowing people to remain on the register for some time, even if their forms are not returned each year. However, Northern Ireland has a particular history, in electoral terms, which may not make it the best test bed for this process. I think that we should leave this recommendation for now, until and unless it becomes clear that the UK Government is moving in this direction.

Nid yw'n peri fawr o drafferth imi dderbyn a chefnogi pob un bron o'r argymhellion. Mae fy unig gafeat yn ymwneud â chofrestru unigol. Ni chredaf fod yr achos o blaid hyn wedi ei brofi eto. Mae llawer ohonom yn pryderu y gallai symudiad i'r cyfeiriad hwn, er ei fod efallai i'w gefnogi mewn egwyddor, arwain at ostyngiad yn lefelau'r rhai sy'n cofrestru wedi iddi ddod yn ofynnol i bawb ddychwelyd ei ffurflen ei hun yn flynyddol, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd trefol gyda phoblogaethau ifanc a phoblogaethau sy'n newid. Arweiniodd ei gyflwyno yng Ngogledd Iwerddon at ostyngiad dramatig ar y dechrau yn y lefelau cofrestru. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod y sefyllfa wedi gwella drwy ganiatáu i bobl aros ar y gofrestr am beth amser, hyd yn oed os nad yw eu ffurflenni'n cael eu dychwelyd bob blwyddyn. Fodd bynnag, mae gan Ogledd Iwerddon hanes arbennig, o ran etholiadau, felly efallai nad dyna'r man profi gorau i'r broses hon. Credaf y dylem adael yr argymhelliad hwn ar hyn o bryd, hyd nes ei bod yn dod y glir bod Llywodraeth y DU yn symud i'r cyfeiriad hwn.

I am pleased that the report places so much emphasis on the work of the electoral planning group that we set up. The group is well placed to co-ordinate responses on many of these matters and will consider the report at its next meeting in June.

Yr wyf yn falch hefyd fod yr adroddiad yn rhoi cymaint o bwyslais ar waith y grŵp cynllunio etholiadol a sefydlwyd gennym. Mae'r grŵp mewn sefyllfa dda i gyd-drefnu ymatebion ar lawer o'r materion hyn a bydd yn ystyried yr adroddiad yn ei gyfarfod nesaf ym mis Mehefin.

I am also pleased that the report echoes the principles of the Beecham report, and calls for an examination of costs, resources and efficiency in the fields of registration and electoral administration. Although each county needs its own returning officer and electoral registration officer, who are usually the same person and are not to be confused with the electoral administrators, I am sure that there are ways in which registration and electoral services could benefit from sharing expertise.

Yr wyf yn falch hefyd fod yr adroddiad yn adleisio egwyddorion adroddiad Beecham, ac yn galw am archwilio costau, adnoddau ac effeithlonrwydd ym meysydd cofrestru a gweinyddiaeth etholiadol. Er bod angen ei swyddog canlyniadau a'i swyddog cofrestru etholiadol ei hun ar bob sir, sef yr un un fel arfer ac ni ddylid drysu rhwng y rheini â'r gweinyddwyr etholiadol, yr wyf yn siŵr bod ffyrdd posibl i'r gwasanaethau cofrestru ac etholiadol elwa o rannu arbenigedd

This report also comes out in the wake of the Government of Wales Act 2006, which provides to the Assembly the power to promote its own elections. The recommendations concerning this power are

Daw'r adroddiad hwn hefyd yn sgîl Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006, sy'n rhoi i'r Cynulliad y pŵer i hyrwyddo ei etholiadau ei hun. Argymhellion i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, nid i mi, yw'r argymhellion

for the National Assembly and not for me.

ynglŷn â'r pŵer hwn.

A number of the recommendations relate to what happens in school in terms of political education and democratic involvement. They are, therefore, matters for the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills as much as they are for me. The responses to those recommendations, which are numbered from 21 to 29 in the report, show that much is already being done in this area and that more is planned to address the issue of including democratic processes within the curriculum.

Mae a wnelo nifer o'r argymhellion â'r hyn sydd yn digwydd mewn ysgolion o ran addysg wleidyddol ac ymwneud democrataidd. Maent, felly, yn faterion i'r Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau yn gymaint ag i mi. Mae'r ymatebion i'r argymhellion hynny, sydd wedi'u rhifo o 21 i 29 yn yr adroddiad, yn dangos bod llawer yn cael ei wneud eisoes yn y maes hwn a bod rhagor yn cael ei gynllunio i roi sylw i gynnwys prosesau democrataidd yn y cwricwlwm.

I am sure that we would all agree that we need to do much more if young people are to see the relevance of voting and participating in the democratic process. Although a lower turnout among young voters has always been the case, the number of non-participants is now dangerously high; there are probably some young people whose parents have never voted, so they have no example to follow. We must acknowledge that there is a real threat to democratic institutions if the majority of young people do not think it worth their while to vote. We need to work on this continuously, and I am pleased that the committee has pointed us in this direction.

Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddem i gyd yn cytuno bod angen inni wneud llawer mwy os yw pobl ifanc i weld perthnasedd pleidleisio a chymryd rhan yn y broses ddemocrataidd. Er bod nifer y pleidleiswyr ifanc sy'n pleidleisio wedi bod yn is erioed, mae'r nifer nad ydynt yn cymryd rhan yn beryglus o uchel erbyn hyn; mae'n debyg bod rhai pobl ifanc nad yw eu rhieni erioed wedi pleidleisio, felly nid oes ganddynt esiampl i'w dilyn. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod bygythiad gwirioneddol i sefydliadau democrataidd os yw'r mwyafrif o bobl ifanc yn credu nad yw'n werth iddynt bleidleisio. Mae angen inni weithio ar hyn yn barhaus, ac yr wyf yn falch bod y pwyllgor wedi ein harwain i'r cyfeiriad hwn.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the intensive work that I know is under way to prepare for the Assembly elections. Once they are over, the electoral community will begin preparations for the county and community elections in Wales in May 2008. That should provide the first real opportunity for electoral pilot schemes to be held in Wales, and I am hopeful that, in line with the committee's recommendations, we will see examples of electronic counting and voting, voting in places other than polling stations, and perhaps voting on days other than polling day. I welcome this report.

Byddwn ar fai pe na bawn yn sôn am y gwaith dwys sydd, fe wn, yn mynd rhagddo i baratoi ar gyfer etholiadau'r Cynulliad. Cyn gynted ag y byddant wedi digwydd, bydd y gymuned etholiadol yn dechrau paratoi ar gyfer yr etholiadau sir a chymuned yng Nghymru ym mis Mai 2008. Dylai'r rheini ddarparu'r cyfle gwirioneddol cyntaf i gynnal cynlluniau etholiadol peilot yng Nghymru, ac yr wyf yn obeithiol y byddwn, yn unol ag argymhellion y pwyllgor, yn gweld enghreifftiau o gyfrif a phleidleisio electronig, pleidleisio mewn manau ar wahân i orsafoedd pleidleisio, ac efallai bleidleisio ar ddiwrnodau ar wahân i'r diwrnod pleidleisio. Croesawaf yr adroddiad.

David Lloyd: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ei datganiad ac am ymateb y Llywodraeth i un o brif ddarnau gwaith y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn, sef yr adolygiad o drefniadau etholiadol. Cawsom drafodaeth ar y pwnc

David Lloyd: I thank the Minister for her statement and for the Government's response to one of the main pieces of work of the Local Government and Public Services Committee during this Assembly, namely the review of electoral arrangements. We had a

hwn yn ddiweddar, felly nid wyf am ailadrodd y prif bwyntiau; yr wyf hefyd yn ymwybodol o'r cyfyngiadau amser. Cefndir yr adolygiad oedd ceisio mynd i'r afael â pham nad yw pobl, a phobl ifanc yn enwedig, yn tueddu i bleidleisio. Wrth gwrs, mae sawl argymhelliad i'r perwyl hwnnw, a chrosawaf y ffaith bod y Llywodraeth wedi derbyn y rhan fwyaf o'r argymhellion. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn pryderu ynghylch dau fater. Sonnir am bleidleisio drwy'r post yn unig. Clywodd y pwyllgor gryn dipyn o dystiolaeth am y pryder ynghylch y system hon, ac yr oedd teimladau eithaf cryf o gofio'r problemau a welwyd mewn lleoedd fel Birmingham o ganlyniad i ddefnyddio system o bleidleisio drwy'r post yn unig. Mae hynny'n achosi pryder.

Yn ail, er bod hyn y tu allan i gylch gwaith yr adolygiad, mae pobl yn pryderu ynghylch dibyniaeth pleidiau gwleidyddol ar dderbyn symiau mawr o arian gan unigolion cyfoethog. Mae hwnnw'n parhau i fod yn bryder. Fel rhan o'r darlun mawr, rhaid mynd i'r afael â'r broblem honno.

3.50 p.m.

Pwysleisaf ail dudalen datganiad y prynhawn yma, lle mae'r Gweinidog yn dweud nad oes gennym fel Cynulliad ryw lawer o bwerau dros etholiadau. O gofio hynny a'r pryderon am y system o bleidleisio yn gyfan gwbl drwy'r post, sut all y Gweinidog ddwyn perswâd ar ei chyd-Weinidogion yn San Steffan ynghylch y system? Mae teimladau cryf ynghylch y system honno ac yr wyf yn bersonol yn ei herbyn.

Sue Essex: I must point out that there has never been any evidence in Wales of problems around postal voting, but I understand your concerns. We will wait to see where we go, but I would stress that, in Wales, we have not had any experiments in new methods of voting. In addition, the world has probably moved on since that postal-voting experiment in England. Given some of the other methods that are used overseas, it may well be that a combination of modern methods of voting, or voting across different days and so on, could help to increase voter turnout. I suspect that simply moving the day

debate about this recently, so I will not rehearse the main points; I am also aware of time constraints. The background of the review was to try to get to grips with the reasons why people, and young people in particular, tend not to vote. Of course, there are a number of recommendations to that end, and I welcome the fact that the Government has accepted the majority of them. However, I have two concerns. There is mention of all-postal voting. The committee heard a great deal of evidence regarding concerns about that system, and there were relatively strong views, given the problems seen in places such as Birmingham as a result of all-postal voting. That causes concern.

Secondly, although it was outside the remit of the review, people were concerned about the dependency of political parties on large donations from wealthy individuals. That remains a concern. As part of the bigger picture, we must get to grips with that particular problem.

I emphasise that, on page 2 of this afternoon's statement, the Minister states that, as an Assembly, we do not have very many powers over elections. Given that and the concerns about the system of voting entirely by post, how can the Minister bring pressure to bear on her Westminster colleagues regarding that system? People have strong feelings about that system, and I am personally opposed to it.

Sue Essex: Rhaid imi dynnu sylw at y ffaith na fu dim tystiolaeth erioed yng Nghymru am broblemau yn ymwneud â phleidleisio drwy'r post, ond yr wyf yn deall eich pryderon. Byddwn yn aros i weld ble i fynd, ond byddwn yn pwysleisio nad ydym ni, yma yng Nghymru, wedi cael dim arbrofion gyda dulliau pleidleisio newydd. Hefyd, mae'n debyg bod y byd wedi symud ymlaen ers yr arbrawf pleidleisio drwy'r post hwnnw yn Lloegr. O ystyried rhai o'r dulliau eraill a ddefnyddir dramor, efallai y gallai cyfuniad o ddulliau pleidleisio modern, neu bleidleisio dros wahanol ddiwrnodau ac ati, helpu i

of the election from a Thursday to a Saturday or Sunday would make a considerable difference in a modern society.

I would personally have liked to see the Assembly get more powers in this matter, but the good work of the election planning group will collate some of these ideas as well as picking up best practice. Working with the new Assembly, the group can have an important voice that must be heard, even without the powers.

The issue of donations is clearly a matter beyond my remit and beyond that of the Assembly, but I have no doubt that it will be addressed at some stage at Westminster.

David Melding: Minister, I do not disagree with anything that you have said in response to the committee's report. Voter turnout is clearly crucial for the legitimacy of elections and the institutions that rely on elections, and we should all be worried by the falling turnout at Assembly elections, local government elections, and even general elections. It is incumbent upon all political parties, and all sorts of organisations in civic society, to try to bring home to people the need to vote, even if it is registering some sort of protest—perhaps we should look at including a none-of-the-above option, so that at least people get into the habit of exercising their right to vote one way or the other.

You are right to say that we need to pilot and test a wide range of methods for voting, remembering that, in any single election, some may want to vote by post, and some may want to go to the polling station—some may even prefer to vote at the supermarket, electronic methods permitting at some time in the future. However, we need some experimentation, and we ought to look at running an election over a Saturday and a Sunday; let us test something like that, which would at least give people a full opportunity to go out and vote. If someone does not vote over a weekend, it must be because they

gynyddu'r nifer sy'n pleidleisio. Yr wyf yn amau y byddai dim ond symud diwrnod yr etholiad o ddydd Iau i ddydd Sadwrn neu ddydd Sul yn gwneud cryn wahaniaeth mewn cymdeithas fodern.

Byddwn i yn bersonol wedi hoffi gweld y Cynulliad yn cael rhagor o bwerau yn y mater hwn, ond bydd gwaith da'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadau yn casglu rhai o'r syniadau hyn ynghyd yn ogystal â chanfod yr arferion gorau. Drwy weithio gyda'r Cynulliad newydd, gall y grŵp fod yn llais pwysig y mae'n rhaid iddo gael ei glywed, hyd yn oed heb y pwerau.

Mae'r mater ynglŷn â rhoddion yn amlwg y tu hwnt i'm cylch gwaith i a thu hwnt i gylch gwaith y Cynulliad, ond yr wyf yn siŵr yr eir i'r afael ag ef ryw dro yn San Steffan.

David Melding: Weinidog, nid wyf yn anghytuno â dim yr ydych wedi'i ddweud mewn ymateb i adroddiad y pwyllgor. Mae'r nifer sy'n pleidleisio yn amlwg yn dyngedfennol i ddilysrwydd etholiadau a'r sefydliadau sy'n dibynnu ar etholiadau, a dylai'r gostyngiad yn y nifer sy'n pleidleisio yn etholiadau'r Cynulliad, etholiadau llywodraeth leol, a hyd yn oed etholiadau cyffredinol, beri pryder i bawb ohonom. Mae'n rheidrydd ar bob plaid wleidyddol, a phob math o gyrff mewn cymdeithas ddinesig, geisio argyhoeddi pobl o'r angen i bleidleisio, hyd yn oed os gwneir hynny i gofrestru rhyw fath o brotest—efallai y dylem ystyried cynnwys opsiwn dim-un-o'r-uchod, fel bod pobl o leiaf yn mynd i'r arfer o arfer eu hawl i bleidleisio ryw ffordd neu'i gilydd.

Yr ydych yn iawn wrth ddweud bod angen inni dreialu a phrofi ystod eang o dulliau pleidleisio, gan gofio, mewn unrhyw etholiad unigol, y bydd rhai am bleidleisio drwy'r post efallai, ac y bydd rhai am fynd i'r orsaf bleidleisio—efallai y bydd yn well gan rai hyd yn oed bleidleisio yn yr archfarchnad, os bydd dulliau electronig yn caniatáu hynny ryw dro yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, mae angen rhywfaint o arbrofi arnom, a dylem edrych ar gynnal etholiad ar ddydd Sadwrn a dydd Sul; gadewch inni brofi rhywbeth felly, a fyddai o leiaf yn rhoi cyfle llawn i bobl i fynd allan i bleidleisio. Os na fydd rhywun

really do not want to vote. Why, in this country, do we vote on a Thursday, or sometimes on a Tuesday? Neither day is particularly convenient. We should also take this opportunity to remember the need to ensure access to polling stations, and if polling stations were more attractive and accessible in the first place, it may encourage people to go to vote.

On the education system, I am sure that the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills will look at the report very carefully, and consider how we can have effective political education in schools to promote civic responsibility. Inevitably, that will include an element of teaching what political parties stand for—and that does not mean being partisan. However, if you are talking about the Conservative Party, you will have to say some of the things that the Conservative Party stands for, and, in a future lesson, you will talk about other political parties. I do not think that we should be afraid of that. We could even ask some people directly involved in the political system, perhaps elected politicians, to come in to talk about what their parties stand for. In addition, in adult education and in training and skills development, why do we not have a module on civic education and on the importance of exercising the right to vote? I think that that might encourage greater participation.

There needs to be a more active strategy on registration. I am inclined to accept what you say about individual registration; it is not a magic answer, but we do need to work with ethnic groups and with those hidden groups that are hard to reach, to ensure that they are registering. It is very important.

I will just finish in the way that I started. Members of political parties have to set a good example in how they conduct themselves in political discourse, and they must emphasise the need to vote, even if that

yn pleidleisio dros benwythnos, mae'n rhaid mai'r rheswm yw nad ydynt am bleidleisio o gwbl. Pam, yn y wlad hon, yr ydym yn pleidleisio ar ddydd Iau, neu weithiau ar ddydd Mawrth? Nid yw'r naill ddiwrnod na'r llall yn arbennig o hwylus. Dylem hefyd achub ar y cyfle hwn i gofio am yr angen i sicrhau mynediad i orsafoedd pleidleisio, a phe bai gorsafoedd pleidleisio yn fwy deniadol a hygyrch yn y lle cyntaf, efallai y byddai hynny'n annog pobl i fynd i bleidleisio.

O ran y gyfundrefn addysg, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau yn edrych ar yr adroddiad yn ofalus iawn, ac yn ystyried sut y gallwn gael addysg wleidyddol effeithiol mewn ysgolion i hyrwyddo cyfrifoldeb dinesig. Yn anochel, bydd hynny'n cynnwys elfen o ddysgu beth y mae pleidiau gwleidyddol yn sefyll drosto—ac nid yw hynny'n golygu bod yn bleidgar. Fodd bynnag, os ydych yn siarad am y Blaid Geidwadol, bydd rhaid ichi ddweud beth yw rhai o'r pethau y mae'r Blaid Geidwadol yn sefyll drostynt, ac, mewn gwerau yn y dyfodol, byddwch yn siarad am bleidiau gwleidyddol eraill. Ni chredaf y dylai fod arnom ofn hynny. Gallem hyd yn oed ofyn i rai o'r bobl sy'n ymwneud yn uniongyrchol â'r gyfundrefn wleidyddol, gwleidyddion etholedig efallai, ddod i mewn a siarad am yr hyn y mae eu pleidiau yn sefyll drosto. Hefyd, mewn addysg oedolion ac wrth hyfforddi a datblygu sgiliau, pam nad oes gennym fodiwl am addysg ddinesig ac am bwysigrwydd arfer yr hawl i bleidleisio? Credaf y gallai hynny annog mwy o gyfranogi.

Mae angen strategaeth fwy gweithredol yn ymwneud â chofrestru. Yr wyf yn tueddu i dderbyn yr hyn a ddywedwch am gofrestru unigol; nid yw'n ateb gwyrthiol, ond mae angen inni weithio gyda grwpiau ethnig a'r grwpiau cudd hynny sy'n anodd eu cyrraedd, i sicrhau eu bod yn cofrestru. Mae'n bwysig iawn.

Gorffennaf yr un fath ag y dechreuais. Mae'n rhaid i aelodau o bleidiau gwleidyddol osod esiampl dda yn y ffordd y maent yn ymddwyn wrth siarad yn wleidyddol, a rhaid iddynt bwysleisio'r angen i bleidleisio, hyd

means that people are not likely to vote for you, so that people know fully when the elections are being held and how important they are, and we should not encourage cynicism in any way.

Sue Essex: I agree with you. Why not try out Saturdays and Sundays for an election? My personal frustration around this whole issue relates to the fact that all our policies, materials, and venues all seem to come from a bygone age. I have to admit that it does not seem to be a modern process. The portakabins stacked up on the road with hardly any room to swing the proverbial cat in, let alone to take in a pushchair or pram, are not a modern answer to this issue. Therefore, from my perspective, the whole thing needs a complete revamp. Holding an election on a Saturday or a Sunday seems like an excellent experiment to me.

Going back to Dai's point, we have to recognise that postal voting is still a favoured way of voting, because people can take their time to vote from their own home. I know that a lot of elderly people—and it seems silly to say this, but I think that it is true—get flustered when they go into a polling station. They feel that they are being watched and, if there are a few people waiting, they feel as though they do not have enough time. People say to me that they would sooner do it sitting down, reading the form through carefully in the comfort of their own home. They then know that they have made the right decision, and have not done anything wrong. Therefore, postal voting is very attractive to a range of people, and I think that is why we have seen its use increase over recent years. It suits those people who are going to be away, whether on holiday or because of the nature of their jobs. Of course, voting by proxy is also suitable for those people who will be out of the country for some time.

There is a strong identification with the ability to vote at home for a whole chunk of our people. However, for others, let us try to make the experience as easy and perhaps as enjoyable as possible. Voting over the

yn oed os yw hynny'n golygu nad yw pobl yn debygol o bleidleisio i chi, fel bod pobl yn gwybod yn union pryd y mae'r etholiadau yn cael eu cynnal ac mor bwysig ydynt, ac ni ddylem annog sinigiaeth mewn modd yn y byd.

Sue Essex: Cytunaf â chi. Pam na ddylem roi cynnig ar gynnal etholiad ar ddydd Sadwrn a dydd Sul? Mae a wnelo fy rhwystredigaeth bersonol i â'r holl fater hwn â'r ffaith bod ein holl bolisiau, deunyddiau a manau cynnal fel pe baent yn perthyn i'r oes o'r blaen. Rhaid imi gyfaddef nad yw'n ymddangos yn broses fodern iawn. Nid yw'r cabanau dros dro wedi'u pentyrru i fyny'r ffordd heb le bron i droi, heb sôn am fod â lle i gadair wthio neu bram, yn ateb modern i'r holl fater. Felly, o'm safbwynt i, mae angen ailwampio'r holl beth yn llwyr. Mae cynnal etholiad ar ddydd Sadwrn neu ddydd Sul i'w weld yn arbrawf rhagorol i mi.

O fynd yn ôl at bwynt Dai, rhaid inni gydnabod bod pleidleisio drwy'r post yn dal i fod yn ddull o bleidleisio sy'n cael ei ffafrio, gan fod pobl yn gallu cymryd eu hamser i bleidleisio o'u cartref. Gwn fod llawer o bobl oedrannus—ac mae i'w weld yn wirion dweud hyn, ond credaf ei fod yn wir—yn cynhyrfu pan ânt i orsaf bleidleisio. Maent yn teimlo eu bod yn cael eu gwyllo ac, os oes pobl yn disgwyl, maent yn teimlo nad oes ganddynt ddigon o amser. Mae pobl yn dweud wrthyf y byddai'n well ganddynt bleidleisio ar eu heistedd, a darllen drwy'r ffurflen yn ofalus yn eu cartref. Maent yn gwybod wedyn eu bod wedi gwneud y penderfyniad iawn, ac nad ydynt wedi gwneud dim byd anghywir. Felly, mae pleidleisio drwy'r post yn ddeniadol iawn i amrywiaeth o bobl, a chredaf mai dyna pam yr ydym wedi gweld cynnydd yn y defnydd ohono dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae'n addas i'r rhai a fydd oddi cartref, boed hynny ar wyliau neu oherwydd natur eu swyddi. Wrth gwrs, mae pleidleisio drwy ddirprwy hefyd yn addas i'r bobl hynny a fydd allan o'r wlad am beth amser.

Mae cyfran fawr o'n pobl yn uniaethu'n gryf â'r gallu i bleidleisio gartref. Fodd bynnag, i eraill, gadewch inni wneud y profiad mor hawdd ac mor ddymunol efallai â phosibl. Mae pleidleisio dros y penwythnos yn syniad

weekend is a good idea, as people are more relaxed and perhaps have more time; they do not have to rush to vote after coming home from work and seeing to the children, or do not have to worry about getting someone to look after the children. That is exactly your point and, of course, there should also be proper access for disabled people, so that there is no impediment to their casting their vote. I am glad that we have played some role in this by providing grants. However, the approach of having a portakabin stuck in the middle of the road is not the most ideal way to promote an election, though I know that local authorities feel that they have to use it.

Your point about schools is well made and, being a member of the Local Government and Public Services Committee, I could participate in some of the work of looking at other countries and at how they undertake the voting process. Elsewhere, there was a far stronger emphasis of civic responsibility in this area in schools. From my experience in my local patch, the schools that seem to get children and young people out to vote—and I do not have the figures, but I know from talking to them—are those that really get involved, by using role-playing and mock elections to try to reproduce the conditions of an election. However, there is still that issue of not knowing enough about the political parties to make a judgment. If they know a person, and they recognise a name, they feel a bit more confident to vote, but when they see the standard names, some of them say that it is not that they do not want to vote, but that they feel as though they do not have enough knowledge to vote; that view has been expressed to me several times.

4.00 p.m.

On the recommendations in the report referring to the school curriculum and to how that information could be conveyed to youngsters, there is the opportunity to receive written information, and people can use the web, but in Denmark, I think, we saw that political parties were invited into schools to talk about what they stood for, which, warts and all, they did. We cringed when we saw that the equivalent of a nationalist party was

da, gan fod pobl yn ymlacio mwy ac efallai fod ganddynt fwy o amser; nid oes rhaid iddynt rithro i bleidleisio ar ôl dod adref o'r gwaith a gofalu am y plant, neu nid oes rhaid iddynt boeni am gael rhywun i mewn i warchod y plant. Dyna eich union bwynt ac, wrth gwrs, dylai fod mynediad priodol i bobl anabl, fel nad oes rhwystr iddynt fwrw eu pleidlais. Yr wyf yn falch ein bod wedi chwarae rhyw rôl yn hyn drwy ddarparu grantiau. Fodd bynnag, nid cael caban dros dro wedi ei daro yng nghanol y ffordd yw'r ffordd fwyaf delfrydol o hyrwyddo etholiad, er fy mod yn gwybod bod awdurdodau lleol yn teimlo bod rhaid iddynt ddefnyddio'r dull hwnnw.

Mae eich pwynt am ysgolion yn un da ac, fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, gallwn gymryd rhan mewn peth o'r gwaith o edrych ar wledydd eraill a sut y maent yn cynnal y broses bleidleisio. Mewn manau eraill, yr oedd pwyslais llawer cryfach ar gyfrifoldeb dinesig yn y maes hwn mewn ysgolion. Yn ôl fy mhrofiad i yn fy ardal fy hun, yr ysgolion sydd yn ôl pob golwg yn cael plant a phobl ifanc allan i bleidleisio—ac nid yw'r ffigurau gennyf, ond gwn o siarad â hwy—yw'r rhai sy'n bwrw iddi o ddifrif, gan ddefnyddio chwarae rhan ac etholiadau ffug i geisio ailgynhyrchu amodau etholiad. Fodd bynnag, mae'n broblem o hyd nad yw pobl yn gwybod digon am y pleidiau gwleidyddol i lunio barn. Os ydynt yn adnabod rhywun, a'u bod yn gyfarwydd ag enw, maent yn teimlo ychydig yn fwy hyderus i bleidleisio, ond pan welant yr enwau arferol, dywed rhai ohonynt nad ydynt am bleidleisio, eu bod yn teimlo nad oes ganddynt ddigon o wybodaeth i bleidleisio; mae'r farn honno wedi cael ei mynegi wrthyf droeon.

O ran yr argymhellion yn yr adroddiad sy'n cyfeirio at y cwricwlwm ysgol a sut y gellid cyfleu'r wybodaeth honno i bobl ifanc, mae cyfle i gael gwybodaeth ysgrifenedig, a gall pobl ddefnyddio'r we, ond yn Nenmarc, yr wyf yn credu, gwelsom fod pleidiau gwleidyddol yn cael eu gwahodd i'r ysgolion i siarad am yr hyn y maent yn sefyll drosto, ac yr oeddent yn gwneud hynny, gyda'u holl ffaeiddau. Yr oeddem ni'n gwingo wrth

going into schools there, but the youngsters said that we should trust them to have the ability to make decisions about fascist organisations; they felt that they were able to make that judgment. Perhaps in some ways, coming face to face with such organisations enabled them to see the validity of the anti-fascism parties.

Your point on adult education is quite interesting. As I said in the introduction to my statement, as well as the young people leaving school, there is also a group of younger adults—probably in their 30s, or, even, from my experience, going into their 40s—who have never voted. We must try to reach out to those people, too. All the data show that they are likely to persist in not voting. There are a huge number of people who are just not interested or who feel that it is just not their duty. This is a generation of people that has been missed out by the curriculum. Your idea of an active strategy to get these people on board is a good one.

I absolutely agree that the main political parties have a duty to get people to vote—and not just a vote-for-me duty—because democracy will not work unless we get reasonable voter turnouts. Once turnouts fall below a certain percentage, there is a real worry about the validity of the results as a full expression of the wishes of the electorate. It undermines everyone when that happens.

Michael German: Thank you for your statement. I will not dwell on some of the detail, as I know that we shall have an opportunity to do that in the committee. You have already provided a paper that goes into somewhat more detail than your statement. The backdrop to this, which has been well explained by colleagues around the Chamber, is that the number of people turning out to vote in elections of whatever sort in the United Kingdom is dropping. The crucial statistic—which is an international statistic for the western world rather than for the UK—is that if you do not vote in the first

weld yr hyn oedd yn cyfateb i blaid genedlaethol yn mynd i mewn i ysgolion yno, ond dywedodd y bobl ifanc y dylem ymddiried ynnddynt i fod â'r gallu i wneud penderfyniadau am fudiadau ffsgaidd; teimlent hwy bod y gallu ganddynt i farnu felly. Mewn rhai ffyrdd, efallai, yr oedd dod wyneb yn wyneb â mudiadau o'r fath yn eu galluogi i weld dilysrwydd y pleidiau gwrth-ffsgiaeth.

Mae eich pwynt am addysg oedolion yn bur ddiddorol. Fel y dywedais yn y rhagymadrodd i'm datganiad, yn ogystal â'r bobl ifanc sy'n gadael yr ysgol, mae grŵp o oedolion iau hefyd—yn eu 30au mae'n fwy na thebyg, neu, hyd yn oed, yn ôl fy mhrofiad i, ar drothwy eu 40au—nad ydynt erioed wedi pleidleisio. Rhaid inni geisio estyn allan at y bobl hynny hefyd. Mae'r data i gyd yn dangos eu bod yn debygol o barhau i beidio â phleidleisio. Mae nifer enfawr o bobl nad oes ganddynt ddiddordeb neu sy'n teimlo nad oes dyletswydd arnynt hwy. Mae hon yn genhedlaeth o bobl nad yw'r cwricwlwm wedi llwyddo i fynd atynt. Mae eich syniad chi o strategaeth weithredol i ennyn diddordeb y bobl hyn yn un da.

Cytunaf yn llwyr fod gan y prif bleidiau gwleidyddol ddyletswydd i gael pobl i pleidleisio—ac nid dim ond dyletswydd pleidleisiwch i mi—oherwydd ni wnaiff democratiaeth weithio oni chawn nifer resymol o bobl yn pleidleisio. Cyn gynted ag y mae nifer y pleidleiswyr yn disgyn islaw rhyw ganran, mae pryder gwirioneddol am ddilysrwydd y canlyniadau fel mynegiant llawn o ddymuniadau'r etholwyr. Mae'n tanseilio pawb pan fydd hynny'n digwydd.

Michael German: Diolch ichi am eich datganiad. Nid wyf am fynd ar ôl rhai o'r manylion, oherwydd gwn y cawn gyfle i wneud hynny yn y pwyllgor. Yr ydych eisoes wedi darparu papur sy'n manylu rhywfaint mwy na'ch datganiad. Y cefndir i hyn, sydd wedi cael ei esbonio'n dda gan gyd-Aelodau o amgylch y Siambr, yw bod nifer y bobl sy'n pleidleisio mewn etholiadau o unrhyw fath yn y Deyrnas Unedig yn gostwng. Yr ystadegyn tyngedfennol—sy'n ystadegyn rhyngwladol i'r byd gorllewinol yn hytrach nag i'r DU—yw os na phleidleisiwch yn yr etholiad cyntaf yr ydych yn gymwys ar ei

election for which you are eligible, the likelihood of your ever voting is negligible. That is the big problem that we face, and we must face up to it.

This is a substantial report in which you have taken a strong hand as Minister and a member of the committee. It will probably be one of this Assembly's legacies that a substantive report of this nature has come before the Assembly. We will be able to refer back to this as something to dwell on for the future.

You have raised several issues today, and I would like to question you on three themes, one of which is the relationship between the Electoral Commission and the elections planning group. The elections planning group is an animal of this National Assembly. That is to be encouraged, but it has no statutory framework. One of the Electoral Commission's main *raison d'être* is to ensure that it is entirely absent from the political process, and yet it has most of the powers over it. For some of us, the worry is that we have yet to properly sort out the dynamic between those who are engaged in the political process—whether they be politicians, returning officers or whoever—and those who have to manage the process independently. Have you reflected on whether the elections planning group could have a stronger role to play than it does at present, and whether it deserves to have more powers?

I do not agree with you about individual registration; I think it the fairest of registration processes. I understand the concerns about falling numbers of voter turnout, but I also understand that, in Northern Ireland, the number of people registering to vote is increasing again. However, there are some forms of experiment, such as all-postal voting, which, if you did not have individual voter registration, could lead to some dangers for us. Are you tying yourself too tightly to the UK Government position on this matter? Would it be useful for us to have freedom and flexibility in the National Assembly?

The third area is that of curriculum change. My colleagues on the committee will know

gyfer, mai bach iawn yw'r tebygrwydd y pleidleisiwch chi byth. Dyna'r broblem fawr sy'n ein hwynebu, a rhaid inni wynebu hynny

Mae hwn yn adroddiad sylweddol yr ydych wedi cyfrannu'n helaeth ato fel Gweinidog ac fel aelod o'r pwyllgor. Mae'n debyg y bydd yn un o gymynroddion y Cynulliad hwn fod adroddiad o sylwedd fel hwn wedi dod gerbron y Cynulliad. Gallwn gyfeirio'n ôl at hwn fel rhywbeth i ymhelaethu arno yn y dyfodol.

Yr ydych wedi codi sawl mater heddiw, a hoffwn eich holi am dair thema; un ohonynt yw'r berthynas rhwng y Comisiwn Etholiadol a'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadau. Creadigaeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol hwn yw'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadau. Mae hynny i'w gefnogi, ond nid oes iddo fframwaith statudol. Un o'r prif resymau dros fodolaeth y Comisiwn Etholiadol yw sicrhau nad oes a wnelo o gwbl â'r broses wleidyddol, ac eto ef sydd â'r rhan fwyaf o'r pwerau drosti. I rai ohonom, y pryder yw nad ydym eto wedi cael trefn iawn ar y dynamig rhwng y rhai sy'n ymwneud â'r broses wleidyddol—boed hwy'n wleidyddion, yn swyddogion canlyniadau neu beth bynnag y bônt—a'r rhai sy'n gorfod rheoli'r broses yn annibynnol. A ydych wedi pwysu a mesur a allai'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadau gael rôl gryfach i'w chwarae nag oes ganddo ar hyn o bryd, ac a yw'n haeddu cael rhagor o bwerau?

Nid wyf yn cytuno â chi am gofrestru unigol; credaf mai hon yw'r decaf o'r prosesau cofrestru. Deallaf y pryderon am y gostyngiad yn y nifer sy'n pleidleisio, ond yr wyf yn deall hefyd, yng Ngogledd Iwerddon, fod nifer y bobl sy'n cofrestru i bleidleisio ar gynydd eto. Fodd bynnag, mae rhai mathau o arbrawf, fel pleidlais bost i bawb, a allai, pe na bai pleidleiswyr unigol yn cofrestru, arwain at rai peryglon inni. A ydych yn rhwymo'ch hun yn rhy dynn wrth safiad Llywodraeth y DU ar y mater hwn? Oni fyddai'n syniad inni gael rhyddid a hyblygrwydd yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol?

Y trydydd mater yw newid y cwricwlwm. Bydd fy nghyd-Aelodau ar y pwyllgor yn

that I regard this area as probably the most fundamental and the basis of all of the change that we have to make in order to improve voter turnout. I think that it is the subject at its simplest, is it not; we are asking what is democracy and what is power. Understanding how that happens is crucial. I will come back to this issue on Thursday, but can you indicate in your response now whether we need to take stronger statutory powers over this matter, or use the statutory powers that we have more strongly than you have indicated so far, in order to try to make the change which we all deem to be needed?

The final point that I would like to question you about relates to something to which you referred in an earlier answer, namely how, in other countries, do political parties engage in a political process. As an example, we saw in Denmark that the state funds the youth movements of all of the major political parties so that they cannot turn away from their responsibility of having to engage within schools when the schools demand their attendance to take forward that matter. Should we look at that and other examples of how, in political-party terms, the youth movements of political parties are encouraged to engage more readily with young people throughout our country?

Sue Essex: There were many questions there; I will do my best to respond, although, as you said, we will also have a session in committee on this. The Electoral Commission was set up with good intentions, but I am not sure that its remit is exactly right. I think that you put your finger on the button when you said that there has been an absence of contact with the political process and the fact that the commission has to remain separate from that may impede its work. At times, it means that it does not get an understanding of the political process or how this process is managed. I know that that probably gives administrators of every political party a real headache. There may be a chance to review the role of that organisation; perhaps its remit could be reconsidered. That relationship and what it does compared with the electoral planning group is difficult. You will see in my

gwybod fy mod yn meddwl mai'r maes hwn yw'r un pwysicaf, mae'n debyg, a sail yr holl newid sy'n rhaid inni ei gael i sicrhau bod mwy o bobl yn pleidleisio. Credaf mai'r pwnc ar ei symlaf yw hyn; siarad yr ydym am beth yw democratiaeth a beth yw pŵer. Mae deall sut y mae hynny'n digwydd yn hollbwysig. Dof yn ôl at y mater hwn ddydd Iau, ond a allwch roi syniad inni wrth ymateb heddiw a oes angen inni gael pwerau statudol cryfach ar y mater hwn, neu ddefnyddio ein pwerau statudol presennol yn gryfach nag y gwnaethoch ei awgrymu hyd yma, i geisio cael y newid sydd ei angen arnom oll a'r newid yr ydym yn ei haeddu.

Y pwynt olaf yr hoffwn ei ofyn ichi yw rhywbeth y gwnaethoch gyfeirio ato mewn ateb cynharach ynghylch sut, mewn gwledydd eraill, y mae'r pleidiau gwleidyddol yn cyfrannu at broses wleidyddol. Er enghraifft, yn Nenmarc gwelsom fod y wladwriaeth yn cyllido mudiadau ieuenctid yr holl brif bleidiau gwleidyddol fel na allant anwybyddu eu cyfrifoldeb i ymgysylltu mewn ysgolion pan fydd yr ysgolion yn mynnu eu presenoldeb i symud ymlaen â'r mater hwnnw. A ddylem edrych ar hynny ac ar enghreifftiau eraill o sut y mae mudiadau ieuenctid pleidiau gwleidyddol, mewn termau gwleidyddol, yn cael eu hannog i gysylltu mwy â phobl ifanc yn ein gwlad?

Sue Essex: Mae gennyh sawl cwestiwn; gwnaf fy ngorau i'w hateb, er y bydd gennym, fel y dywedasoch, sesiwn yn y pwyllgor hefyd ar hyn. Sefydlwyd y Comisiwn Etholiadol gyda bwriadau da, ond nid wyf yn siŵr a ydyw ei gylch gwaith yn hollol gywir. Credaf eich bod yn llygad eich lle pan ddywedasoch fod diffyg cysylltiad â'r broses wleidyddol ac efallai fod y ffaith bod yn rhaid i'r comisiwn aros ar wahân i hynny yn atal ei waith. Ar adegau, mae'n golygu nad yw'n dod i ddeall y broses wleidyddol na sut y rheolir y broses hon. Gwn fod hynny yn achosi cryn benbleth i weinyddwyr pob plaid wleidyddol mae'n debyg. Efallai y cawn gyfle i adolygu rôl y sefydliad hwnnw; efallai y dylid ailystyried ei gylch gwaith. Mae'r berthynas honno, a'r hyn y mae'n ei wneud o'i gymharu â'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadol, yn anodd. Fe welwch yn fy ymateb fod y pwyllgor wedi dweud droeon mai'r grŵp

response that the committee has often said that the electoral planning group should do the work; I understand the sentiment and, in many ways, I endorse that sentiment. However, I have had to reply that it is the responsibility of the commission. The commission is funded to do that and has the statutory base on which to do it. The electoral planning group has made a good start since its inception and could potentially do a lot more. However, it is not a statutory organisation and it has certain constraints. Having said that, as this progressed, if there was an agreement between the commission and the electoral planning group about what the electoral planning group could do, you could see that there might be a way through this that could give an answer to some of the recommendations.

Individual registration is quite interesting. I do not like the idea of annual registration. One of the reasons why I do not like that is that, like some of my colleagues here, I represented the Riverside area, which had a transient population at the time that I was one of its representatives. It is this group that causes the biggest problem in terms of registration. I know that Ann Jones feels strongly about this due to the nature of her constituency. I find it hard to believe that this group would not just fall off the electoral roll if we went down the path of annual registrations.

4.10 p.m.

The area that attracted me more, as we saw in Denmark, and I think that the same was true in the Netherlands and Belgium, was early registration. Repeating that progress might have to be accompanied with having to register when you move, and I know that that is the case in Belgium. So, that is something of a civil liberties issue. Nevertheless, that was much more appealing to me than the idea of everyone having to register individually every year in order to be eligible to vote. The figures for that in Northern Ireland were quite startling. They have made improvements in some areas because, basically, they have relaxed the rules. So, I do not want anything that will deter and reduce registration to be introduced because, once that happens, you are in a dangerous area in terms of your

cynllunio etholiadol a ddylai wneud y gwaith; yr wyf yn deall y teimlad hwnnw ac, i raddau helaeth, yn cytuno. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wedi gorfod ateb mai cyfrifoldeb y comisiwn ydyw. Mae'r comisiwn yn cael ei gyllido i wneud hynny ac mae ganddo'r sail statudol i wneud hynny. Mae'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadol wedi cael cychwyn da ers ei sefydlu a gallai wneud llawer mwy mae'n debyg. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n sefydliad statudol ac mae cyfyngiadau neilltuol arno. Wedi dweud hynny, wrth i hyn fynd rhagddo, pe bai cytundeb rhwng y comisiwn a'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadol ynghylch beth y gallai'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadol ei wneud, gallech weld y gallai fod ffordd drwy hyn a allai roi ateb i rai o'r argymhellion.

Mae cofrestru unigol yn eithaf diddorol. Nid wyf yn hidio llawer am y syniad o gofrestru blynyddol. Un o'r rhesymau am hynny yw fy mod, fel rhai o'm cyd-Aelodau yma, wedi cynrychioli ardal Riverside, a oedd â phoblogaeth symudol iawn ar yr adeg yr oeddwn i yno. Y grŵp hwn sy'n achosi'r broblem fwyaf o ran cofrestru. Gwn fod Ann Jones yn teimlo'n gryf am hyn oherwydd natur ei hetholaeth. Yr wyf yn ei chael yn anodd credu na fyddai'r grŵp hwn yn diflannu oddi ar y gofrestr etholiadol pe byddem yn penderfynu cael cofrestru blynyddol.

Yr opsiwn a apeliodd fwyaf ataf oedd un a welsom yn Nenmarc, a chredaf fod yr un peth yn wir yn yr Iseldiroedd a Gwlad Belg, sef cofrestru buan. Efallai y byddai angen i bobl gofrestru wrth symud i weld cynnydd o'r fath, a gwn fod hyn yn digwydd yng Ngwlad Belg. Felly, mae hynny'n fater o ryddid sifil i raddau. Er hynny, yr oedd ganddo lawer mwy o apel na'r syniad o bawb yn gorfod cofrestru'n unigol bob blwyddyn i fod yn gymwys i bleidleisio. Yr oedd y ffigurau ar gyfer hynny yng Ngogledd Iwerddon yn eithaf syfrdanol. Maen nhw wedi gweld gwelliannau mewn rhai ardaloedd oherwydd, yn y bôn, eu bod wedi llacio'r rheolau. Felly, nid oes arnaf eisiau cyflwyno dim byd a fyddai'n rhwystro ac yn lleihau cofrestru oherwydd, wedi i hynny ddigwydd, yr ydych

ability to deal with turnout.

On the curriculum change, I will check with my colleague, Jane Davidson, on the statutory powers and perhaps we could discuss that in committee, but I think that this is a chance for us to be bold on this. We could try a pilot for a few years and see whether or not that encourages more young people to vote in elections. For today's youngsters, it has to be part of the whole personal and social education curriculum, but it will have to be done in such a way that they understand what their responsibilities are and what the scope of voting is—for example, why it is good to vote. As you rightly said, unless we tackle that, then we are destined to see another group of people being potentially left out for good.

On state funding, we must give more thought to the state funding of the youth wings of political parties. That goes back to Dai's point about the state funding of political parties. I will not say that I am absolutely opposed to it, but we saw the pros and cons. I cannot reveal my prejudices as to which were the pros and which were the cons, but I certainly think that the best way to start this is through the schools, using our powers, and involving political parties and perhaps trying out a pilot to see if it manifests itself in encouraging more young people to vote.

Ann Jones: I thank you for your statement. Much was said in last week's debate when you presented the Government's response, which we will scrutinise in the committee on Thursday. I am pleased that you have given so much attention to the turnout to vote among young people, and I hope that the report, as Mike said, will remain a legacy for people to look at post May 2007. In thanking you, I also pay tribute to you for how you have conducted yourself throughout this inquiry. Despite knowing that you had to respond on behalf of the Government, you were never frightened to tell us where you thought we should make some improvements, which was helpful to the committee. In doing so, the committee feels that we must look at this issue without

ar dir peryglus iawn o ran gallu delio â'r ganran sy'n pleidleisio.

O ran newid y cwricwlwm, holaf ynghylch pwerau statudol gyda fy nghyd-Aelod, Jane Davidson, ac efallai y gallem drafod hynny yn y pwyllgor, ond credaf fod hwn yn gyfle inni fod yn feiddgar. Gallem geisio ei dreialu am rai blynyddoedd i weld a fyddai'n annog mwy o bobl ifanc i bleidleisio mewn etholiadau ai peidio. I bobl ifanc yr oes sydd ohoni, rhaid iddo fod yn rhan o'r cwricwlwm addysg bersonol a chymdeithasol cyfan, ond bydd yn rhaid ei wneud fel eu bod yn deall beth yw eu cyfrifoldebau a beth yw sgôp pleidleisio, er enghraifft, pam mae pleidleisio'n beth da. Fel y dywedasoeh yn hollol gywir, oni bai ein bod yn mynd i'r afael â hynny, yna byddwn yn gweld grŵp arall o bobl yn cael eu halltudio am byth.

O ran cyllid y wladwriaeth, rhaid inni feddwl mwy am gael y wladwriaeth i gyllido mudiadau ieuentid pleidiau gwleidyddol. Mae hynny'n mynd yn ôl at bwynt Dai am gael y wladwriaeth i gyllido pleidiau gwleidyddol. Ni allaf ddweud fy mod yn erbyn y peth yn llwyr, ond gwelsom y manteision a'r anfanteision. Ni allaf ddatgelu fy rhagfarn o ran pa rai oedd y manteision a pha rai oedd yr anfanteision, ond credaf yn sicr mai'r ffordd orau o ddechrau hyn yw drwy'r ysgolion, gan ddefnyddio ein pwerau, drwy gynnwys pleidiau gwleidyddol a chael cynllun peilot efallai i weld a ydyw'n annog mwy o bobl ifanc i bleidleisio.

Ann Jones: Diolch am eich datganiad. Dywedwyd llawer yn y ddadl yr wythnos diwethaf pan wnaethoch gyflwyno ymateb y Llywodraeth, a byddwn yn craffu arno yn y pwyllgor ddydd Iau. Yr wyf yn falch eich bod wedi rhoi cymaint o sylw i ganran y bobl ifanc sy'n pleidleisio ac yn gobeithio y bydd yr adroddiad, fel y dywedodd Mike, yn rhywbeth y gall pobl gyfeirio ato ar ôl Mai 2007. Wrth ddiolch ichi, rhoddaf deyrnged ichi hefyd am y modd y gwnaethoch ymddwyn drwy gydol yr ymchwiliad hwn. Er y gwyddoch fod yn rhaid ichi ymateb ar ran y Llywodraeth, nid oedd arnoch ofn dweud wrthym ymhle y dylid gwneud gwelliannau, a fu'n gymorth i'r pwyllgor. Wrth wneud hynny, mae'r pwyllgor yn teimlo bod yn rhaid inni edrych ar y mater hwn heb

adopting the role that party politics can play in elections. Everyone in the committee felt that we must consider voter turnout. I hope that some of the recommendations that we put forward will, in years to come, increase voter turnout. I am proud of the committee's work on electoral arrangements and I hope, as Mike said, that we can scrutinise this in more depth on Thursday and that it will stand as a legacy for future elections.

Sue Essex: Thank you for your kind comments, Ann. I repeat that the report will go to the electoral planning group in June, which I am sure will respond in detail.

I will end by saying that the main thrust of this is the need to modernise to ensure that the voting system works in this country. There should be no worries about trying out modern pilots because unless you try them out, you will not know if they work and, as I say, the time has long gone for Wales to be left out. I hope that there will be some good examples at the local government elections, which are the basis for getting people enthused, not only because they have a belief, but because of the method of voting. The ability to vote—whether they are able or disabled—is there for them in an easy, modern and practical way. That would be a good testament to the committee's work.

fabwysiadu'r rôl y gall gwleidyddiaeth plaid ei chwarae mewn etholiadau. Yr oedd pawb yn y pwyllgor yn teimlo bod yn rhaid inni wneud rhywbeth i ystyried y ganran sy'n pleidleisio. Gobeithio y bydd rhai o'r argymhellion a wnawn, mewn blynyddoedd i ddod, yn cynyddu'r nifer. Yr wyf yn falch o waith y pwyllgor ar drefniadau etholiadol ac yn gobeithio, fel y dywedodd Mike, y gallwn graffu ar hyn yn fwy manwl ddydd Iau ac y bydd yn rhywbeth i gyfeirio'n ôl ato pan gynhelir etholiadau yn y dyfodol.

Sue Essex: Diolch am eich sylwadau caredig, Ann. Fel y dywedais, bydd yr adroddiad yn mynd i'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadol ym mis Mehefin, ac mae'n siŵr o ymateb yn fanwl.

Hoffwn gloi drwy ddweud mai prif fyrddwn hyn yw bod angen moderneiddio i sicrhau bod y system bleidleisio'n gweithio yn y wlad hon. Ni ddylid poeni am gynnal cynlluniau peilot modern oherwydd, os na rown gynnig arnynt, ni chawn wybod a wnânt weithio ac, fel y dywedais, mae'r adeg pan oedd Cymru'n cael ei gadael ar ôl wedi hen fynd. Gobeithio y bydd rhai enghreifftiau da yn yr etholiadau llywodraeth leol, sy'n tanio'r brwdfrydedd cyntaf fel arfer, nid yn unig am fod ganddynt gred, ond hefyd oherwydd y dull o bleidleisio. Mae'r gallu i bleidleisio—p'un a ydynt yn anabl neu'n abl—ar gae iddynt drwy ddull hawdd, modern ac ymarferol. Byddai hynny'n destament da i waith y pwyllgor.

Datganiad am y Cynnydd a Wnaed wrth Fuddsoddi mewn Adeiladau Ysgolion Statement on Progress Made in Investing in School Buildings

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): Thank you, Presiding Officer, for allowing me to make this statement on the progress made in investing in school buildings during the lifetime of this Assembly.

In 2003, we set out in our manifesto a commitment that we would invest £560 million in the improvement of school buildings. I am pleased to say that we have exceeded that commitment. The total level of funding provided by the Assembly Government in the period from 2004-05 to 2007-08 is £667 million.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Davidson): Diolch, Lywydd, am ganiatáu imi wneud y datganiad hwn am y cynnydd a wnaed wrth fuddsoddi mewn adeiladau ysgolion yn ystod oes y Cynulliad hwn.

Yn 2003, dywedasom yn ein maniffesto y byddem yn buddsoddi £560 miliwn i wella adeiladau ysgolion. Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud ein bod wedi rhagori ar yr ymrwymiad hwnnw. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, yn ystod y cyfnod 2004-05 tan 2007-08 wedi rhoi cyllid o £667 miliwn i gyd.

Since 2002, 1,575 projects have received Assembly Government funding support through the school buildings improvement grant. They include 140 costing over £0.5 million. In addition, the voluntary aided schools capital programme is currently supporting 35 major projects, totalling £30 million. In 2007-08, we will see a further 24 schools housed in new or substantially refurbished buildings.

We want all schools to be in good physical shape, well-maintained, and fit for purpose, as set out in 'Wales: A Better Country', published in 2003. The goal was set for 2010, which was always recognised as an ambitious timescale, and one which we have had to revisit. However, I do not apologise for that. We had to set an ambitious goal if we were going to shift the inertia that had set in as a result of 20 years with so little investment prior to 1999. This aim has forced local authorities to focus on developing capital investment strategies. Increasingly, these are linked to school reorganisation proposals to address falling rolls, and to ensure that schools are fit to deliver the curriculum and meet local community needs in the twenty-first century.

We are now moving into the next phase as described in 'The Learning Country: Vision into Action'. We are reviewing the progress made by individual local authorities, and I anticipate that an evidence-based target date to achieve fitness for purpose for all school buildings will be agreed with each local authority by the end of July. In light of those targets, we will review with local government the arrangements for distributing the school building improvement grant.

Given the pressing need for investment across Wales, until now we have allocated resources on a formula basis. I envisage that, once current commitments to individual schemes have been delivered, we will move to new arrangements to allocate funding, by reference to authorities' individual investment plans. We will also look at some

Ers 2002, mae 1,575 o brosiectau wedi derbyn cyllid gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad drwy'r grant gwella adeiladau ysgolion. Maent yn cynnwys 140 a gostiodd dros £0.5 miliwn. Yn ogystal, mae'r rhaglen gyfalaf i ysgolion gwirfoddol a gynorthwyir ar hyn o bryd yn cefnogi 35 o brosiectau mawr, gwerth £30 miliwn i gyd. Yn 2007-08, byddwn yn gweld 24 o ysgolion eraill yn mynd i adeiladau newydd neu rai a ailwampwyd yn helaeth.

Mae arnom eisiau gweld pob ysgol mewn cyflwr da, yn cael eu cynnal yn dda ac yn addas i'r diben, fel y nodir yn 'Cymru: Gwlad Well', a gyhoeddwyd yn 2003. Gosodwyd 2010 yn darged, a oedd yn amserlen uchelgeisiol o'r dechrau, ac yn un y bu'n rhaid inni ei hailystyried. Ond nid wyf yn ymddiheuro am hynny. Yr oedd yn rhaid inni gael nod uchelgeisiol os oeddem am wneud rhywbeth ynghylch y syrthni yn sgîl ugain mlynedd o ddiffyg buddsoddi cyn 1999. Mae'r nod hwn wedi gorfodi awdurdodau lleol i ganolbwyntio ar ddatblygu strategaethau buddsoddi cyfalaf. Cysylltir y rhain fwyfwy â chynigion ad-drefnu ysgolion i wneud rhywbeth ynghylch y lleihad yn y niferoedd, ac i sicrhau bod ysgolion yn addas i ddarparu'r cwricwlwm ac ateb anghenion cymunedau lleol yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

Yr ydym bellach yn dod at y cam nesaf fel y disgrifir yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu: Gweledigaeth ar Waith'. Yr ydym yn adolygu'r cynnydd a wnaed gan awdurdodau lleol unigol, ac yr wyf yn rhagweld y bydd cytundeb â phob awdurdod lleol erbyn diwedd Gorffennaf ynghylch dyddiad targed seiliedig ar dystiolaeth, i gael pob adeilad ysgol yn addas i'r diben. Yng ngoleuni'r targedau hynny, byddwn yn adolygu'r trefniadau i ddsbarthu'r grant gwella adeiladau ysgolion gyda llywodraeth leol.

O gofio'r angen taer i fuddsoddi ar draws Cymru, hyd yn hyn yr ydym wedi dyrannu adnoddau ar sail fformiwla. Yr wyf yn rhagweld, wedi i'r ymrwymadau presennol i gynlluniau unigol gael eu cyflawni, y byddwn yn symud at drefniadau newydd i ddyrannu cyllid, drwy gynlluniau buddsoddi'r awdurdodau eu hunain. Byddwn

hypothecation of education shares of general capital funding for those authorities whose use of their own resources is consistently low. In my contacts with individual authorities, I have made it clear that I will consider using my powers of direction, under the Education Act 1996, subject to discussion with the Welsh Local Government Association. The powers of direction are available where an authority is either failing to carry out a duty under education legislation, or is failing to carry it out to an adequate standard.

At the same time, we are making some changes to the grant requirements to address some key issues. Already, to qualify for grant schemes involving new building or substantial refurbishment, buildings must be accessible to disabled people. From 2007-08, all such schemes must include sprinklers to combat arson attacks. In keeping with an overall change in Assembly Government policy, all schemes for new buildings will also need to be rated as excellent according to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method for sustainability.

That is the future. The current position is that around half of local authorities are making good progress in investing in buildings, and have a clear direction in terms of investing to support the reorganisation of provision. We will want to help those authorities that have robust plans to accelerate progress. However, many authorities are not yet keeping pace with the growth in the number of empty places. In their schools in January 2006, there were almost 51,000 empty places in primary schools, and, in secondary schools, almost 33,000. Members have heard me—and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales—say that, without decisive action, Wales will be heading for around 110,000 empty places by 2013—that is 20 per cent of all places in our schools—when our joint intentions must be to make schools more effective, and to improve outcomes for pupils.

hefyd yn edrych ar glustnodi cyfran y gwasanaeth addysg o gyllid cyfalaf cyffredinol i'r awdurdodau hynny sy'n gyson yn defnyddio ychydig ar eu hadnoddau eu hunain. Yn fy nghysylltiadau ag awdurdodau unigol, yr wyf wedi dweud yn glir y byddaf yn ystyried defnyddio fy mhwerau cyfarwyddo o dan Ddeddf Addysg 1996, ac yn amodol ar gael trafodaeth â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. Mae'r pwerau cyfarwyddo ar gael lle y mae awdurdod naill ai'n methu â chyflawni dyletswydd o dan ddeddfwriaeth addysg, neu'n methu â'i chyflawni hyd at safon dderbyniol.

Ar yr un pryd, yr ydym yn gwneud rhywfaint o newidiadau i'r gofynion grant i fynd i'r afael â rhai materion allweddol. Eisoes, i fod yn gymwys ar gyfer cynllun grant ar gyfer adeiladau newydd neu i ailwampio'n helaeth, rhaid i adeiladau roi mynediad i bobl anabl. O 2007-08 ymlaen, rhaid i'r holl gynlluniau hyn gynnwys system chwistrellu i warchod rhag tanau sy'n cael eu cynnau'n fwriadol. Yn unol â'r newid cyffredinol ym mholisi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, bydd angen yn ogystal i bob cynllun adeiladau newydd gyrraedd y safon ragorol o ran cynaliadwyedd o dan Ddull Aseu Amgylcheddol y Sefydliad Ymchwil Adeiladu.

Y dyfodol yw hynny. Y sefyllfa bresennol yw bod tua hanner yr awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud cynnydd da gyda buddsoddi mewn adeiladau, ac yn dilyn llwybr clir o ran buddsoddi i gefnogi ad-drefnu eu darpariaeth. Byddwn am helpu'r awdurdodau hynny sydd â chynlluniau cadarn, i brysuro'r cynnydd. Fodd bynnag, nid yw llawer o awdurdodau eto'n llwyddo i ymateb i'r twf yn nifer y lleoedd gwag. Yn eu hysgolion yn Ionawr 2006, yr oedd gan ysgolion cynradd bron 51,000 o leoedd gwag, ac ysgolion uwchradd bron 33,000. Mae'r Aelodau wedi fy nghlywed i—a Phrif Arolygydd Addysg a Hyfforddiant Ei Mawrhydi yng Nghymru—yn dweud o'r blaen y bydd gan Gymru, oni wneir rhywbeth pendant yn ei gylch, tua 110,000 o leoedd gwag erbyn 2013; mae hynny'n 20 y cant o'r holl leoedd yn ein hysgolion, ar adeg pan fo'n rhaid inni gydymdrechu i wneud ysgolion yn fwy effeithiol, a gwella canlyniadau i ddisgyblion.

It is significant that a recent Estyn report on the performance of schools, before and after moving into new or significantly refurbished premises, has shown improvement in pupils' attainment and achievement. In some cases, the improvement has been significant, especially among schools in communities with high levels of social and economic deprivation. There has also been a beneficial effect on the quality of teaching and morale of staff.

Mae'n arwyddocaol bod adroddiad diweddar gan Estyn ar berfformiad ysgolion, cyn ac ar ôl symud i mewn i adeiladau newydd neu rai a ailwampwyd yn helaeth, wedi dangos gwelliant yng nghyrrhaeddiad a llwyddiannau'r disgyblion. Mewn rhai achosion, bu'r gwelliant yn sylweddol, yn enwedig ymysg ysgolion mewn cymunedau sydd â lefelau uchel o amddifadedd cymdeithasol ac economaidd. Cafwyd effaith lesol hefyd ar ansawdd y dysgu ac ar ysbryd y staff.

4.20 p.m.

Although the task of investing to restructure provision is far from straightforward, there are authorities that have made significant progress and which have found the focus and resources to make changes. Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Monmouthshire are exemplars. Their experience and that of other authorities shows that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Plans need to be tailored to the educational needs of pupils, the needs of the community and the geographical location.

Er nad yw'r dasg o fuddsoddi i ailstrwythuro darpariaeth yn syml o bell ffordd, mae rhai awdurdodau wedi gwneud cynnydd sylweddol ac sydd wedi dod o hyd i'r ffocws a'r adnoddau i wneud newidiadau. Mae siroedd Penfro, Caerfyrddin a Mynwy yn esiamplau. Dengys eu profiad hwy a phrofiad awdurdodau eraill nad oes un ateb addas i bawb. Rhaid teilwrio cynlluniau at anghenion disgyblion, anghenion y gymuned a'r lleoliad daearyddol.

We remain fully committed to ensuring that all schools in Wales should be in good physical shape and properly maintained, and we are taking a number of practical steps to help authorities. Value Wales is working with six pilot authorities to help them to collaborate on capital investment programmes, by sharing expertise and good practice, and that means that they should be able to get projects delivered more quickly and obtain better value for money. Today saw the start of that collaboration with a workshop for the six pilot authorities covering strategic partnering, modern methods of construction and sustainable development.

Yr ydym yn dal i fod wedi llwyr ymrwymo i sicrhau y dylai pob ysgol yng Nghymru fod mewn cyflwr ffisegol da ac yn cael eu cynnal yn iawn, ac yr ydym yn cymryd nifer o gamau ymarferol i helpu awdurdodau. Mae Gwerth Cymru yn gweithio gyda chwe awdurdod peilot i'w helpu i gydweithredu ar raglenni buddsoddi cyfalaf, drwy rannu arbenigedd ac arferion da, a golyga hynny y dylent allu sicrhau bod prosiectau'n cael eu cyflwyno'n gynt a chael gwell gwerth am arian. Heddiw fe welwyd cychwyn y cydweithredu hwnnw gyda gweithdy i'r chwe awdurdod peilot yn ymdrin â phartneru strategol, dulliau adeiladu modern a datblygu cynaliadwy.

As I visit schools in Wales, I am struck by the growing evidence on the ground of our investment and the positive impact new or refurbished buildings have on pupils, staff and local communities. Good surroundings boost learning and send the message that education is important and valued. I will close by quoting a year 12 pupil from St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School in Newport:

Wrth imi ymweld ag ysgolion yng Nghymru, yr hyn sy'n fy nharo yw'r dystiolaeth gynyddol ar lawr gwlad o'n buddsoddiad a'r effaith gadarnhaol a gaiff adeiladau newydd neu rai wedi eu hadnewyddu ar ddisgyblion, y staff a chymunedau lleol. Mae amgylchiadau da yn hybu dysgu ac yn cyfleu'r neges bod addysg yn bwysig a bod gwerth yn cael ei roi arno. Terfynaf drwy ddyfynnu disgybl blwyddyn 12 o Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Rufeinig St. Joseff yng

Nghasnewydd:

‘The facilities available to me continually encourage me to make better use of my time, which in turn helps me to complete my work to the best of my ability’.

Janet Ryder: I thank the Minister for her statement today. Plaid Cymru agrees that a child always does better in appropriate and high-quality educational surroundings, which allow today’s curriculum to be taught. It is not always the case, in many of our schools throughout Wales, that there are such high-quality surroundings. You started off by saying that you are revisiting the original target date for when schools should be fit for purpose, 2010. You have always maintained that you are an evidence-based Minister, so on the basis of what evidence did you set the 2010 date in the first place? You said that you hope to have negotiated another date with local authorities by July. On what evidence different from that for the 2010 date will the new date be based? What will that new evidence be, and how certain are you that we will meet that target, given that we will not meet the 2010 target? There are many counties that doubt whether 2020 is a realistic target date; some believe that 2025 is more realistic. Powys has a backlog of between £50 million and £60 million in repairs and estimates that doubling its funds up until 2020 may just about help it to meet that target. There is still a substantial backlog of repairs throughout Wales. Plaid Cymru would like to know, if you bring forward a new target date, how certain you are that you will meet that target date.

Plaid Cymru welcomes the introduction of sprinklers into new schools and redevelopments. At the moment, few schools in Wales have sprinkler systems, and it is important that sprinkler systems are included in any redevelopment and new builds. With regard to energy efficiency, will you be making pots of money available to encourage local authorities to put in energy efficient schemes, or will you just expect them to develop them?

Mae'r cyfleusterau sydd ar gael imi yn fy annog yn gyson i wneud gwell defnydd o'm hamser, sydd yn ei dro yn fy helpu i gwblhau fy ngwaith hyd eithaf fy ngallu.

Janet Ryder: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ei datganiad heddiw. Mae Plaid Cymru'n cytuno bod plentyn yn gwneud yn well mewn amgylchiadau addysgol addas ac o safon uchel, sydd yn caniatáu i gwricwlwm heddiw gael ei ddysgu. Nid yw'n wir bob tro, mewn llawer o'n hysgolion ledled Cymru, fod amgylchiadau o safon uchel felly ar gael. Dechreuasoch drwy ddweud eich bod yn ail-edrych ar y dyddiad targed gwreiddiol pan ddylai ysgolion fod yn addas i'w diben, 2010. Yr ydych wedi dweud drwy'r amser mai Gweinidog ydych sy'n gweithredu ar sail tystiolaeth, felly ar sail pa dystiolaeth y gosodasoch 2010 yn ddyddiad i ddechrau? Dywedasoch eich bod yn gobeithio y byddwch wedi trafod dyddiad arall gyda'r awdurdodau lleol erbyn mis Gorffennaf. Ar ba dystiolaeth wahanol i'r un ar gyfer y dyddiad 2010 y seilir y dyddiad newydd? Beth fydd y dystiolaeth newydd honno, o gofio na fyddwn yn cyflawni'r targed 2010? Mae llawer sir yn amau a yw 2020 yn ddyddiad targed realistig; cred rhai fod 2025 yn fwy realistig. Mae gan Bowys werth rhwng £50 a £60 miliwn o waith trwsio wedi cronni, ac mae'n amcangyfrif y gall dyblu ei gyllid hyd at 2020 fod yn help iddo gyrraedd y targed hwnnw, ond cael a chael fydd hi. Erys cryn swm o waith trwsio wedi cronni ledled Cymru. Fe garai Plaid Cymru wybod, os byddwch yn cyflwyno dyddiad targed newydd, pa mor sicr yr ydych y byddwch yn cyrraedd y dyddiad targed hwnnw.

Mae Plaid Cymru'n croesawu cyflwyno system chwistrellu mewn ysgolion newydd ac ailddatblygu. Ar hyn o bryd, ychydig o ysgolion sydd â systemau chwistrellu, ac mae'n bwysig bod systemau o'r fath yn cael eu cynnwys mewn unrhyw ailddatblygu ac adeiladu o'r newydd. O ran effeithlonrwydd ynni, a fyddwch yn peri bod cronfeydd ariannol ar gael i annog awdurdodau lleol i gynnwys cynlluniau effeithlonrwydd ynni, neu ai'r hyn a wnewch fydd disgwyl iddynt eu datblygu?

Finally, you seem to be linking a programme of school closures and removing empty places with funding for new build or capital projects. Can you rule that out altogether, because, while there are empty places, they are not uniformly distributed and it is not always easy for a county to cut out those places uniformly? Empty places do not always arise in small schools. We have seen a programme from many counties of closing small schools, but some small schools are not that empty. Can you confirm that there is no link at all, in your mind, between a county addressing that situation and having its capital funding, and that counties will have their capital funding, which they all need to ensure that all of our children are in schools that are fit for purpose and which can teach the curriculum of today and not one that was designed perhaps two centuries ago?

Jane Davidson: I will start with what we published in ‘Wales: A Better Country’ in 2003. Our manifesto commitment, which we have exceeded, was to invest £560 million to improve school buildings. Our aim with that commitment was to equip schools for modern teaching and a wider role in the community. The implementation plan for that commitment—and that is the phraseology in ‘Wales: A Better Country’—was an annual programme of funding for school buildings rising to £139 million a year in 2005-06 and beyond so that all were fit for purpose by 2010. When we published ‘Wales: A Better Country’, we anticipated that local authorities would be able to give us asset management plans in 2004, which would lay out the way in which they were going to invest in their school buildings and how they would plan for their school population, and which would also determine that they had the right schools in the right places, in terms of where communities were growing and where they were shrinking. As it has turned out, and as I have had to report to committee regularly, not all local authorities have asset management plans. It is those authorities that had good planning structures that are much closer to meeting the aspiration in 2010.

We then looked intensively, across the piece,

Yn olaf, yr ydych fel petaech yn cysylltu rhaglen o gau ysgolion a diddymu lleoedd gwag â chyllid i adeiladu o'r newydd neu brosiectau cyfalaf. A allwch ddweud yn bendant na fydd hynny'n digwydd oherwydd, er bod lleoedd gwag, nid ydynt wedi eu dosbarthu yn wastad ac nid yw'n hawdd bob amser i sir dorri'r lleoedd hynny ar batrwm unffurf. Nid mewn ysgolion bach y cyfyd lleoedd gwag o hyd. Gwelsom raglen gan lawer sir i gau ysgolion bach, ond mae rhai ysgolion bach heb fod mor wag â hynny. A allwch gadarnhau nad oes cysylltiad o gwbl, yn eich barn chi, rhwng sir yn mynd i'r afael â'r sefyllfa honno â chael ei chyllid cyfalaf, ac y caiff siroedd eu cyllid cyfalaf, y mae arnynt oll ei angen er mwyn sicrhau bod ein holl blant mewn ysgolion sydd yn addas i'r diben ac a all ddysgu cwricwlwm heddiw ac nid un a gynlluniwyd, efallai, ddwy ganrif yn ôl?

Jane Davidson: Fe ddechreuaf â'r hyn a gyhoeddwyd gennym yn ‘Cymru: Gwlad Well’ yn 2003. Yr ymrwymiad yn ein maniffesto oedd buddsoddi £560 miliwn i wella adeiladau ysgolion, a gwnaethom yn well na hynny. Ein nod gyda'r ymrwymiad hwnnw oedd arfogi ysgolion ar gyfer dysgu modern a rôl ehangach yn y gymuned. Y cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer yr ymrwymiad hwnnw—a dyna'r ymadrodd yn ‘Cymru: Gwlad Well’—oedd rhaglen flynyddol o gyllido ar gyfer adeiladau ysgolion a fyddai'n codi i £139 miliwn y flwyddyn yn 2005-06 ac wedi hynny fel y byddent oll yn addas i'r diben erbyn 2010. Pan gyhoeddasom ‘Cymru: Gwlad Well’, yr oeddem yn rhagweld y gallai awdurdodau lleol roi i ni gynlluniau rheoli asedau yn 2004, a fyddai'n dangos sut y bwriadent fuddsoddi yn eu hadeiladau ysgolion a sut y byddent yn cynllunio ar gyfer eu poblogaeth ysgol, ac a fyddai hefyd yn sicrhau bod yr ysgolion iawn ganddynt yn y lleoedd iawn, o ran lle'r oedd cymunedau yn tyfu a lle'r oeddent yn crebachu. Fel y digwyddodd pethau, ac fel yr wyf wedi gorfod adrodd dro ar ôl tro wrth y pwyllgor, nid pob awdurdod lleol sydd â chynlluniau rheoli asedau. Yr awdurdodau hynny a oedd â strwythurau cynllunio da sydd gymaint yn nes at fodloni'r dyhead yn 2010.

Yna edrychasom yn ddwys, yn gyffredinol, ar

at what local authorities have done and we have required local authorities to have the appropriate plans in place by July. When we published 'The Learning Country—Vision into Action' last October, we indicated that we would provide, on average, funding of £150 million a year to 2009-10 for school buildings, that we would keep under review the progress made by local authorities, that we would consult authorities on the need for investment beyond 2010 and that we would set target dates for individual authorities to reach the fitness target. Local authorities warmly welcomed that, and the individual target dates will be the dates for those individual local authorities to achieve fitness for purpose. Officials have spent a huge amount of time working with local authorities across Wales on delivering that outcome. That is why, as I said in my statement, how the individual target is set for each local authority in Wales by July this year will be evidence based, on the back of the local authorities' evidence.

I am pleased that you strongly endorse the sprinkler programme. The people of Wales have Ann Jones to thank for this, given her continuous lobbying on sprinkler systems over the years. It is an important statement that we have been able to make as an Assembly Government.

On energy efficiency issues, we gave additional money to schools this year for energy costs. We are looking at ensuring that schools meet the sustainable Building Research Establishment environmental assessment method standards, which are about energy efficiency and we are aiming for new public buildings to be carbon neutral by 2010. We are therefore taking this forward in several policy areas.

As I said in my statement—and I have indicated this to committee previously—we are looking for high-quality capital investment to follow high-quality planning in local authorities and we will be demanding that planning in terms of future additional funding.

William Graham: I welcome your

yr hyn y mae awdurdodau lleol wedi'i wneud ac yr ydym wedi mynnu bod y cynlluniau priodol gan awdurdodau lleol erbyn mis Gorffennaf. Pan gyhoeddasom 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu—Gweledigaeth ar Waith' fis Hydref diwethaf, dywedasom y byddem yn darparu cyllid o £150 miliwn y flwyddyn, ar gyfartaledd, tan 2009-10 ar gyfer adeiladau ysgolion, y byddem yn parhau i adolygu cynnydd yr awdurdodau lleol, y byddem yn ymgynghori â'r awdurdodau am yr angen am fuddsoddiad ar ôl 2010 ac y byddem yn gosod dyddiadau targed i awdurdodau unigol gyrraedd y targed addasrwydd. Croesawodd yr awdurdodau lleol hynny'n gynnes, a'r dyddiadau targed unigol fydd y dyddiadau i'r awdurdodau lleol hynny gyrraedd addasrwydd i'r diben. Treuliodd swyddogion amser maith yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru i gyflwyno'r canlyniad hwnnw. Dyna pam, fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad, y bydd sut y bydd y targed unigol yn cael ei osod ar gyfer pob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru erbyn mis Gorffennaf eleni yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth, yn sgîl tystiolaeth yr awdurdodau lleol.

Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn cefnogi'r rhaglen chwistrellwyr yn gryf. Dylai pobl Cymru ddiolch i Ann Jones am hyn, gan mai hi fu'n lobïo'n gyson am systemau chwistrellu dros y blynyddoedd. Mae'n ddatganiad pwysig y llwyddasom i'w wneud fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad.

O ran materion effeithlonrwydd ynni, rhesom arian ychwanegol i ysgolion eleni ar gyfer costau ynni. Yr ydym yn gobeithio sicrhau y bydd ysgolion yn cyrraedd safonau dulliau asesu amgylcheddol cynaliadwy y Sefydliad Ymchwil Adeiladu, sydd yn ymwneud ag effeithlonrwydd ynni, a'n nod yw y bydd adeiladau cyhoeddus newydd yn garbon niwtral erbyn 2010. Yr ydym felly yn bwrw ymlaen â hyn mewn llawer maes polisi.

Fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad—a chrybwyllais hyn wrth y pwyllgor eisoes—yr ydym yn chwilio am fuddsoddiad cyfalaf o safon uchel i ddilyn cynllunio o safon uchel mewn awdurdodau lleol, a byddwn yn mynnu'r cynllunio hwnnw o ran cyllid ychwanegol yn y dyfodol.

William Graham: Yr wyf yn croesawu eich

statement, Minister, and am grateful to you for it. However, you must agree that this is a tacit admission of failure. Each year, for many years, you have come to committee to explain this to us but the general capital funding that you make available is so small, it is no wonder that local authorities are having difficulty with repairs and in creating new schools. Blaming local education authorities will not wash with the general public.

Do you also agree that the First Minister's remark in May last year was not overly helpful in terms of questions about school buildings? He said,

'many of our schools were trash-built in the 1960s'.

4.30 p.m.

That decade was dominated by another failing Labour Government, so perhaps that legacy is not one that you would care to endorse. At the end of your statement, you quoted a reasonable statement by a year-12 pupil. However, why does Monmouth Comprehensive School have science classrooms that have deteriorated so much that the computers and scientific equipment can no longer be securely stored in those rooms? Why is there no direct access to the outdoors from the under-fives classroom at Argoed Primary School, as Estyn inspectors highlighted correctly in their report, although the headteacher has been trying, at every opportunity, to secure funding for that work? Finally, after listening to the BBC news this morning about Ysgol Groeslon in Caernarfon and hearing one of the parents say that she could not understand why the council had allowed the school to get into such a state, it is hardly surprising that people are cynical about the non-repair of their schools and their possible closure.

Jane Davidson: I do not accept that what I have just reported to the Assembly is an admission of failure. We made a manifesto commitment in 2003 to spend £560 million on school buildings and we have exceeded

datganiad, Weinidog, ac yn ddiolchgar i chi amdano. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i chi gytuno mai cyfaddefiad o fethiant ydyw, mewn gwirionedd. Bob blwyddyn, ers blynyddoedd lawer, yr ydych wedi dod i'r pwyllgor i esbonio hyn inni, ond mae cyn lleied o gyllid cyfalaf cyffredinol yn cael ei roi gennych, nid oes ryfedd yn y byd bod awdurdodau lleol yn cael trafferth gyda thrwsio a chodi ysgolion newydd. Ni fydd rhoi'r bai ar awdurdodau addysg lleol yn argyhoeddi'r cyhoedd yn gyffredinol.

A ydych hefyd yn cytuno nad oedd sylw'r Prif Weinidog ym mis Mai y llynedd fawr o gymorth o ran cwestiynau am adeiladau ysgolion? Dywedodd fod

llawer o'n hysgolion wedi eu hadeiladu'n wael yn yr 1960au.

Llywodraeth Lafur fethiannus arall oedd amlycaf yn y degawd hwnnw, felly efallai nad yw'r etifeddiaeth yn un y carech ei chymeradwyo. Ar derfyn eich datganiad, dyfnasoch ddatganiad rhesymol gan ddisgybl blwyddyn 12. Er hynny, pam mae gan Ysgol Gyfun Mynwy ystafelloedd dosbarth gwyddoniaeth sydd wedi dirywio cymaint fel nad oes modd storio'r cyfrifiaduron na'r cyfarpar gwyddonol ynddynt bellach? Pam nad oes mynediad uniongyrchol i'r awyr agored o ystafell ddosbarth y plant dan bump yn Ysgol Gynradd Argoed, fel y pwysleisiodd arolygwyr Estyn yn gywir yn eu hadroddiad, er bod y pennaeth wedi bod yn chwilio am bob cyfle i sicrhau cyllid ar gyfer y gwaith hwnnw? Yn olaf, wedi gwranddo ar newyddion y BBC y bore yma am Ysgol Groeslon ger Caernarfon a chlywed un o'r rhieni yn dweud na allai ddeall pam yr oedd y cyngor wedi caniatáu i'r ysgol fynd i'r fath gyflwr, prin ei bod yn syndod bod pobl yn sinigaidd ynghylch diffyg trwsio yn eu hysgolion ac ynghylch y posibilrwydd y byddant yn cael eu cau.

Jane Davidson: Nid wyf yn derbyn mai cyfaddef methiant yw'r hyn yr wyf newydd ei adrodd i'r Cynulliad. Gwnaethom ymrwymiad ym maniffesto 2003 i wario £560 miliwn ar adeiladau ysgolion a

that—we are spending £667 million. That is an absolute success for this Labour Government and it demonstrates our commitment. Of course, we had to make that commitment, because of the previous failing Conservative Governments, prior to 1999, and the lack of investment in school buildings. When I became Minister, the amount of money spent on school buildings was a pittance compared with what we are spending today, and that is down to this Labour Government. I refuse to accept that a budget of over £150 million a year is a small budget—and in the last few months it has increased and is now running at £157 million a year. It is a substantial budget. We have made a commitment that the funding to the end of the decade will stay at least at that level. We have substantial additional funding going in to ensure that all schools will be fit for purpose. Local authorities have their obligations too—they have legal obligations in managing their school stock—and that is why this is a shared responsibility.

Peter Black: Minister, you made a manifesto commitment in 2003, as you acknowledged in your statement, that we would get all schools fit for purpose by 2010. That is a target that, again, as you have admitted yourself, is not going to be achieved. Whereas we can accept that you have put more money in than you had planned to do, the commitment that you made with regard to the 2010 date has not been met. As William Graham said, you have failed to achieve that target.

I am pleased, however, about the steps that you are now taking with local authorities. Whenever we have raised the issue of the target that you set of getting all school buildings fit by 2010, with you, the First Minister or any other Minister, all that we have ever heard is that it is the fault of the local authorities, that they have not been investing the money or delivering the goods. However, what seems to have happened is that you set the target without talking to the local authorities first, and tried to impose it on them—it has taken four years for you to get to the stage where you are now trying to get agreement with local authorities on what

gwnaethom fwy na hynny—yr ydym yn gwario £667 miliwn. Llwyddiant llwyr yw hynny i'r Llywodraeth Lafur hon ac mae'n dangos ein hymrwymiad. Wrth gwrs, rhaid oedd inni wneud yr ymrwymiad hwnnw, oherwydd y Llywodraethau Ceidwadol methiannus blaenorol, cyn 1999, a'r diffyg buddsoddiad mewn adeiladau ysgolion. Pan ddeuthum i'n Weinidog, yr oedd yr hyn a oedd yn cael ei wario ar adeiladau ysgolion yn bitw o'i gymharu â'r hyn yr ydym yn ei wario heddiw, ac i'r Llywodraeth Lafur hon y mae diolch am hynny. Gwrthodaf dderbyn fod cyllideb o dros £150 miliwn y flwyddyn yn gyllideb fach—a thros y misoedd diwethaf, cynyddodd ac mae bellach yn £157 miliwn y flwyddyn. Mae'n gyllideb sylweddol. Gwnaethom ymrwymiad y bydd y cyllido tan ddiwedd y degawd yn aros o leiaf ar y lefel honno. Bydd cyllid ychwanegol sylweddol er mwyn gwneud yn siŵr y bydd pob ysgol yn addas i'r diben. Mae gan awdurdodau lleol eu cyfrifoldebau hefyd—mae ganddynt gyfrifoldebau cyfreithiol i reoli eu stoc ysgolion—a dyna pam mae hyn yn gyfrifoldeb ar y cyd.

Peter Black: Weinidog, gwnaethoch ymrwymiad maniffesto yn 2003, fel y cydnabuwyd yn eich datganiad, y byddem oll yn cael ysgolion addas i'r diben erbyn 2010. Targed yw hwnnw, fel yr ydych chi eich hun eto wedi cyfaddef, na fydd yn cael ei gyrraedd. Er ein bod yn derbyn eich bod wedi rhoi mwy o arian nag a gynlluniwyd gennych, nid atebwyd yr ymrwymiad a wnaethoch o ran y dyddiad, sef 2010. Fel y dywedodd William Graham, yr ydych wedi methu â chyrraedd y targed hwnnw.

Yr wyf yn falch, fodd bynnag, yngylch y camau yr ydych yn awr yn eu cymryd gydag awdurdodau lleol. Pryd bynnag yr ydym wedi codi pwnc y targed a osodasoch o gael pob adeilad ysgol yn addas erbyn 2010, gyda chi, y Prif Weinidog neu unrhyw Weinidog arall, y cyfan yr ydym wedi'i glywed bob tro yw mai bai'r awdurdodau lleol ydyw, nad ydynt wedi bod yn buddsoddi'r arian nac yn cael y maen i'r wal. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn ddigwyddodd, yn ôl pob tebyg, yw i chi osod y targed heb siarad â'r awdurdodau lleol hynny yn gyntaf, a cheisio ei osod arnynt—cymerodd bedair blynedd i chi gyrraedd y fan lle'r ydych yn awr, yn ceisio cael cytundeb

is achievable and what can be done. I welcome the fact that you are starting to do that. That is evidence—and, after all, you are the evidence-based Minister—that you have been listening to what the opposition has been saying, and particularly to what the Committee on School Funding said about how you should approach the subject.

With regard to your new commitment to work with local authorities, could you give any further indications as to what sort of targets you are likely to be able to meet in terms of getting school buildings fit for purpose across Wales, as a result of your talks? Will additional money be made available to local authorities, particularly those whose buildings are in such a state that it will take them much longer to meet the target than others, so that we can start to target the money properly at those who are worst off?

Jane Davidson: Let me read our manifesto commitment to you.

‘Better schools, better chances. In our first term we invested £300 million to reverse the Tory legacy of run down school buildings. In our second term the level of investment will increase to £140 million per year so that by the end of the decade over £1 billion will have been spent ensuring that every school in Wales is fit for our children’.

Over £1 billion will have been spent, and that is very much our aim. However, the point that I have already made is that, when you go to ‘Wales: A Better Country’ and look at the terminology, it features in an implementation plan that we will deliver an annual programme of funding, working with local authorities. In 2003, we were hopeful that that would be delivered, and I still find it rather sad that, in 2007, despite many interventions by Assembly Government officials, some authorities still do not have proper plans in place. I call on all political parties that run such authorities to make sure that those plans are in place for July.

gydag awdurdodau lleol ynghylch yr hyn y mae modd ei gyflawni a beth y gellir ei wneud. Croesawaf y ffaith eich bod yn dechrau gwneud hynny. Tystiolaeth yw hynny—ac wedi’r cyfan, chi yw’r Gweinidog sy’n mynnu seilio popeth ar dystiolaeth—eich bod wedi gwranddo ar yr hyn y bu’r gwrthbleidiau’n ei ddweud, ac yn enwedig yr hyn a ddywedodd y Pwyllgor ar Gyllido Ysgolion ynghylch sut y dylech ymdrin â’r pwnc.

O ran eich ymrwymiad newydd i weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol, a allwch roi unrhyw syniad pellach ynghylch y math o dargedau yr ydych yn debyg o allu eu cyrraedd o ran sicrhau bod adeiladau ysgolion yn addas i’r diben ledled Cymru, o ganlyniad i’ch trafodaethau? A fydd arian ychwanegol ar gael i awdurdodau lleol, yn enwedig y rhai y mae eu hadeiladau yn y fath gyflwr fel y cymer fwy o lawer o amser iddynt gyrraedd y targedau nag eraill, fel y gallwn ddechrau targedu’r arian yn gywir at y sawl sydd waethaf eu byd?

Jane Davidson: Gadewch imi ddarllen ichi yr ymrwymiad yn ein maniffesto.

Gwell ysgolion, gwell cyfle. Yn ystod ein tymor cyntaf, buddsoddwyd £300 miliwn gennym i wrthweithio etifeddiaeth Dori’aidd o adeiladau ysgolion wedi dirywio. Yn ein hail dymor bydd lefel y buddsoddiad yn cynyddu i £140 miliwn y flwyddyn fel y bydd dros £1 biliwn wedi ei wario, erbyn diwedd y degawd, i sicrhau bod pob ysgol yng Nghymru yn addas i’n plant.

Bydd dros £1 biliwn wedi ei wario, a dyna’n union yw ein nod. Fodd bynnag, y pwynt yr wyf wedi ei wneud eisoes yw, os ewch i ‘Cymru: Gwlad Well’ ac edrych ar y derminoleg, mae’n cynnwys cynllun cyflawni sy’n dweud y byddwn yn cyflawni rhaglen ariannu flynyddol, drwy weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol. Yn 2003, yr oeddem yn obeithiol y gellid ei gyflawni, ac yr wyf yn teimlo braidd yn drist nad oes gan rai awdurdodau gynlluniau priodol ar waith yn 2007, er gwaethaf llawer o ymyriadau gan swyddogion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Galwaf ar bob plaid wleidyddol sy’n rhedeg yr awdurdodau hyn i sicrhau bod y cynlluniau hynny ar waith erbyn mis

Gorffennaf.

Mark Isherwood: How do you see the balance between repairs and maintenance to existing buildings and investment in new buildings, when local authorities clearly have to prioritise? I, for one, as I am sure have many of my colleagues, have visited many primary and secondary schools that have healthy numbers of pupils, expert, dedicated staff, and good results, but are located in atrocious premises, yet their local authorities are investing in completely new schools or additions to schools elsewhere rather than addressing those urgent needs. What role do you see being played by consultation with local communities, parents and other stakeholders in the community who have working relationships with those schools? I know of many instances, certainly in my region, particularly in north-east Wales, where parent groups have been concerned that decisions were being taken that they believed went against the interests of their children.

You refer to pupil numbers as a driver in addressing this issue, and it is a key consideration in terms of excess places, but how can you address the need for greater provision in additional learning needs, class sizes, and teacher and headteacher workload? Only last week, a headteacher told me that he and colleagues had no time for planning for the numerous new initiatives coming their way. That person was worried that successor headteachers were not coming through because they could not be accommodated or be incentivised, given the demands of the present job.

How would you address the needs of those school buildings often used as community facilities, delivering services to the community that go well beyond the direct education of pupils? I endorse the welcome comments about sprinklers and disabled access. Can you assure me that the latter will not only address physical barriers in terms of mobility, but barriers in terms of sensory

Mark Isherwood: Sut yr ydych yn gweld y cydbwysedd rhwng gwaith trwsio a chynnal a chadw adeiladau presennol a buddsoddi mewn adeiladau newydd, a hithau'n amlwg bod rhaid i awdurdodau lleol flaenoriaethu? Yr wyf fi, ac yr wyf yn siŵr bod llawer o'm cyd-Aelodau, wedi ymweld â llawer o ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd sydd â niferoedd calonogol o ddisgyblion, staff galluog ac ymroddgar, a chanlyniadau da, ond sydd wedi eu lleoli mewn adeiladau echrhydus, ond er hynny mae eu hawdurdodau lleol yn buddsoddi mewn ysgolion newydd sbon neu mewn ychwanegiadau at ysgolion mewn mannau eraill yn hytrach na rhoi sylw i anghenion dirfawr yr ysgolion hyn. Pa rôl, yn eich barn chi, sydd gan ymgynghori â chymunedau lleol, rhieni a rhanddeiliaid eraill yn y gymuned sydd â chysylltiadau gweithio gyda'r ysgolion hynny? Gwn am sawl enghraifft, yn sicr yn fy rhanbarth i, yn enwedig yn y gogledd-ddwyrain, lle y mae grwpiau rhieni wedi mynegi pryder bod penderfyniadau wedi cael eu gwneud a oedd, yn eu tyb hwy, yn mynd yn groes i fuddiannau eu plant.

Cyfeiriasoch at niferoedd disgyblion fel ffactor i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn, ac mae'n ystyriaeth allweddol o ran lleoedd dros ben, ond sut y gallwch roi sylw i'r angen am fwy o ddarpariaeth mewn anghenion dysgu ychwanegol, maint dosbarthiadau, a baich gwaith athrawon a phenaethiaid? Dywedodd pennaeth wrthyf yr wythnos diwethaf nad oes ganddo ef na'i gydweithwyr amser i gynllunio ar gyfer yr holl gynlluniau newydd niferus a oedd yn effeithio arnynt. Yr oedd yr unigolyn hwnnw'n bryderus nad oedd penaethiaid newydd yn dod i gymryd eu lle oherwydd nad oedd lle iddynt neu ei bod yn anodd eu symbylu, o gofio holl ofynion y swydd fel ag y mae ar hyn o bryd.

Sut y byddech yn mynd i'r afael ag anghenion yr adeiladau ysgolion hynny sy'n cael eu defnyddio'n aml fel cyfleusterau cymunedol, sy'n darparu gwasanaethau i'r gymuned ac sy'n mynd y tu hwnt i addysg uniongyrchol y disgyblion? Cymeradwyaf y sylwadau ynghylch system chwistrellu a mynediad i bobl anabl. A allwch fy sicrhau na fydd mynediad i'r anabl ond yn rhoi sylw i

impairment by the use of loop systems and digital inclusion for people who are deaf or blind?

You stated that, when you became Minister, spending on school buildings was a pittance. As you made a few party-political comments, I would point out that you became Minister after the Labour Government had already assumed responsibility in London. I hope that you will agree that spending on public services, including on school buildings, reflects the broader economic situation. Spending in the 1980s reflected the situation inherited in 1979, but spending post 1997—

The Presiding Officer: Order. This is not a debate; it is a statement. I will not allow electioneering to take place during statements, from any party.

Mark Isherwood: I conclude on that note. Thank you for your indulgence, as always, Llywydd.

Jane Davidson: The school building improvement grant, the general capital allocation and the new opportunities for prudential borrowing, that have gone up to £130 million for the coming financial year, present huge opportunities for local authorities to look at new build, where appropriate, and at repairs and refurbishment. When I said at the beginning of my statement that 1,575 projects had been funded by the school building improvement grant, that indicates that a large number of those would have been repairs and refurbishments. We also put in place the additional large grants of £9 million to each local authority so that they could undertake major new builds or major repairs and refurbishment. That is why we have about 140 projects worth more than £0.5 million. We can see that there has been dramatic investment.

4.40 p.m.

I welcome what you said about community facilities. Over and above this investment,

rwystrau ffisegol o ran symudedd, ond y bydd hefyd yn rhoi sylw i rwystrau o ran nam ar y synhwyrâu drwy ddefnyddio systemau dolen sain a chynhwysiant digidol i bobl sy'n fyddar neu'n ddall?

Dywedasoch, pan ddaethoch yn Weinidog, fod y gwariant ar adeiladau ysgolion yn druenus. Gan eich bod wedi gwneud ambell sylw gwleidyddol, hoffwn innau dynnu sylw at y ffaith eich bod wedi dod yn Weinidog ar ôl i'r Llywodraeth Lafur gymryd yr awenau yn Llundain. Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn cytuno bod gwariant ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys adeiladau ysgolion, yn adlewyrchu'r sefyllfa economaidd yn gyffredinol. Yr oedd gwariant yn yr 1980au yn adlewyrchu'r sefyllfa a etifeddwyd yn 1979, ond mae gwariant ar ôl 1997—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid dadl yw hyn; datganiad ydyw. Nid wyf am ganiatáu ymgyrchu etholiadol yn ystod datganiadau, gan ddim un blaid.

Mark Isherwood: Yr wyf am gloi ar y nodyn hwnnw. Diolch i chi am eich goddefgarwch, fel arfer, Lywydd.

Jane Davidson: Mae'r grant gwella adeiladau ysgolion, y dyraniad cyfalaf cyffredinol a'r cyfleoedd newydd ar gyfer benthyca darbodus, sydd wedi codi i £130 miliwn ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf, yn golygu cyfleoedd enfawr i awdurdodau lleol edrych ar adeiladu o'r newydd, pan fo hynny'n briodol, ac ar drwsio ac adnewyddu. Pan ddywedais ar ddechrau fy natganiad fod 1,575 o brosiectau wedi eu hariannu drwy'r grant gwella adeiladau ysgolion, mae hynny'n dangos y byddai nifer fawr o'r rheini wedi ymwneud â gwaith trwsio ac adnewyddu. Yr ydym hefyd wedi cyflwyno'r grantiau mawr ychwanegol o £9 miliwn i bob awdurdod lleol er mwyn eu galluogi i wneud gwaith adeiladu newydd neu waith trwsio ac adnewyddu sylweddol. Dyna pam mae gennym tua 140 o brosiectau gwerth dros £0.5 miliwn. Gallwn weld bod buddsoddiad dramatig wedi digwydd.

Croesawaf yr hyn a ddywedasoch am gyfleusterau cymunedol. Yn ychwanegol at y

there is additional funding for community-focused schools and we are particularly keen—this is, I believe, supported by all Members—to extend the opportunities available in our schools. Schools should not only be there from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m.—they need to be there from the beginning of the school day, for breakfast opportunities in primary schools, through until after-school activities. They should also include activities for adults in the community. It is notable that, in rural authorities that grasped the nettle and provided new schools with crèche facilities and adult learning facilities, although some parents were initially opposed to the change in provision, they have become extremely supportive having had the opportunity to use the facilities. That is a very important part of this agenda. When the Assembly came into being, the Labour Party maintained a commitment for the first two years to keep to Tory spending plans, and then we started spending on school buildings.

Lynne Neagle: I welcome your statement, Minister, and the progress that has been made by the Labour Assembly Government in delivering over £600 million for school building improvements. However, we all recognise that there is scope for local government to do more in this regard. You will know from your visit to St Peter's Church in Wales Primary School that this issue is very much alive for many of my constituents. The other school in Blaenavon, Hillside Primary School, probably faces even more significant challenges than St Peter's.

I was, therefore, encouraged by Sue Essex's statement last week regarding the 'A Shared Responsibility' document, outlining the way forward for local government to deliver the commitments made in the Beecham response, 'Making the Connections: Delivering Beyond Boundaries'. The Minister spoke about the ability of the Assembly to provide stronger direction for local government in certain areas, and I am sure that Members will be keen for school building improvements to be pushed whenever possible. With this in mind, will you consider taking a more hands-on approach in considering the progress of local government in delivering the 2010 target of having all Welsh schools fit for purpose?

buddsoddiad hwn, ceir cyllid ychwanegol ar gyfer ysgolion bro, ac yr ydym yn arbennig o awyddus—credaf y caiff hyn ei gefnogi gan bob Aelod—i ehangu'r cyfleoedd sydd ar gael yn ein hysgolion. Ni ddylai ysgolion fod yn agored o 9 a.m. tan 4 p.m. yn unig—mae angen iddynt fod yn agored o ddechrau'r diwrnod ysgol, i ddarparu brecwast mewn ysgolion cynradd, ac ymlaen tan y gweithgareddau ar ôl ysgol. Dylent hefyd gynnwys gweithgareddau i oedolion yn y gymuned. Mae'n werth nodi bod awdurdodau gwledig wedi mynd i'r afael â hyn ac wedi darparu ysgolion newydd gyda chyfleusterau meithrin a chyfleusterau dysgu i oedolion, ac er bod rhai rhieni'n gwrthwynebu'r newid yn y ddarpariaeth ar y pryd, maent bellach yn gefnogol dros ben ar ôl cael cyfle i ddefnyddio'r cyfleusterau. Mae hynny'n rhan bwysig iawn o'r agenda. Pan sefydlwyd y Cynulliad, ymrwymodd y Blaid Lafur i lynu wrth gynlluniau gwario'r Toriaid am ddwy flynedd, ac yna aethpwyd ati i wario ar adeiladau ysgolion.

Lynne Neagle: Croesawaf eich datganiad, Weinidog, a'r cynnydd a wnaethpwyd gan Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i gyflawni gwerth dros £600 miliwn o welliannau i adeiladau ysgolion. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym i gyd yn cydnabod bod lle i lywodraeth leol wneud mwy yn hyn o beth. Gwyddoch wedi eich ymweliad ag Ysgol San Pedr yr Eglwys yng Nghymru fod hwn yn fater perthnasol iawn i lawer o'm hetholwyr. Mae'r ysgol arall ym Mlaenafon, Ysgol Gynradd Hillside, yn ôl pob tebyg yn wynebu heriau anos na San Pedr, hyd yn oed.

Oherwydd hynny, cefais fy nghalonogi gan ddatganiad Sue Essex yr wythnos diwethaf ar y ddogfen 'A Shared Responsibility', a oedd yn amlinellu'r ffordd ymlaen i alluogi llywodraeth leol i gyflawni'r ymrwymadau a wnaethpwyd yn ymateb Beecham, 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau: Cyflawni ar Draws Ffiniau'. Soniodd y Gweinidog am allu'r Cynulliad i roi cyfeiriad cryfach i lywodraeth leol mewn rhai meysydd, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yr Aelodau'n awyddus i welliannau i adeiladau ysgolion gael eu hyrwyddo pan fo hynny'n bosibl. Gyda golwg ar hyn, a wnewch ystyried mabwysiadu dull mwy ymarferol wrth ystyried cynnydd llywodraeth leol o ran cyflawni'r targed 2010 o gael pob ysgol yng

Nghymru mewn cyflwr addas i'r diben?

Jane Davidson: I am sure that you will welcome the specific commitment in my statement that I will use directions where appropriate under education legislation. We would also wish to look at opportunities under other Ministers' portfolios in local government responsibilities, because this party has made a huge commitment, as I know that you have, in terms of making school buildings fit for purpose. When we agree individual targets with local authorities, we will want to ensure that they deliver against those individual targets. You may tell your constituents that.

Owen John Thomas: Yr wyf yn sicr y byddech yn cytuno fod dirywiad yn broses yn hytrach na digwyddiad. Yn aml, mae'r angen i wario arian mawr ar ysgol yn ganlyniad i'r ffaith nad yw rhywun, ar ryw adeg, wedi gwneud gwaith trwsio bach. Byddwch yn gyfarwydd â'r dywediad bod pwyth mewn llaw yn arbed naw; mae hynny'n wir. Yr wyf yn cofio dysgu mewn ysgol yng Nghaerdydd lle chwythwyd llechi oddi ar y to; yr oedd yr awdurdod wedi torri ar yr arian i ddelio â phroblemau o'r fath, felly bu'n rhaid aros am sawl blwyddyn cyn i'r gwaith gael ei wneud. Yn y cyfamser, yr oedd sawl llechen arall wedi cael ei chwythu oddi ar y to ac yr oedd y to yn gollwng dŵr. Yn y pen draw, yr oedd y gost yn ddegau o filoedd o bunnoedd. Pan fyddwch yn clustnodi arian i awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer trwsio neu wella ysgolion, a ydych yn rhoi cyfarwyddiadau iddynt i sicrhau nad yw gwaith bach yn arwain at waith mawr? Dyna lle mae'r mwyafrif o'r dirywio yn dechrau. Yr wyf yn sicr y gallem wario arian yn llawer doethach drwy wneud y gwaith trwsio bach yn gynnar, yn hytrach na gadael i'r broblem waethygu.

Jane Davidson: Yr ydym yn ei gwneud yn glir i awdurdodau lleol y bydd yn rhaid iddynt flaenoriaethu'r gwaith yn ôl angen. Weithiau, pethau bach fydd y flaenoriaeth; heb hynny, ceir problemau mawr. Weithiau, bydd angen gwneud gwaith mawr, gan nad yw'n bosibl gwario arian ar adeilad gwael iawn. Felly, dewis i awdurdodau lleol yw hwn, ac mae swyddogion y Cynulliad yn

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn croesawu'r ymrwymiad penodol yn fy natganiad a ddywed y byddaf yn defnyddio cyfarwyddiadau o dan y ddeddfwriaeth addysg pan fo hynny'n briodol. Hoffem edrych hefyd ar gyfleoedd o fewn portffolios Gweinidogion eraill o ran cyfrifoldebau llywodraeth leol, oherwydd y mae'r blaid hon wedi gwneud ymrwymiad enfawr, fel yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod chithau wedi gwneud, o ran gwneud yn siŵr bod cyflwr ysgolion yn dderbyniol. Pan fyddwn yn cytuno ar dargedau unigol gydag awdurdodau lleol, yr ydym am sicrhau eu bod yn cyflawni'r targedau unigol hynny. Gallwch ddweud hynny wrth eich etholwyr.

Owen John Thomas: I am sure that you would agree that decline is a process rather than an event. Often, the need to spend a large sum of money on a school is the result of someone, at some point, not undertaking small repairs. You will be familiar with the saying that a stitch in time saves nine; that is true. I remember teaching in a school in Cardiff where some slates were blown off the roof; the authority had cut back on the money available for dealing with such repairs, so we had to wait a number of years before the work was done. In the meantime, more slates had been blown off and water was leaking into the school. In the end, repair work cost tens of thousands of pounds. When you earmark money for local authorities to spend on maintaining or improving schools, do you provide them with instructions, to ensure that small repairs do not become major works? That is where most of the decline starts. I am sure that we could be much wiser in the way that we spend money, undertaking small repairs at an early stage, so as to avoid allowing the problem to deteriorate.

Jane Davidson: We make it clear to local authorities that they will have to prioritise work according to need. Sometimes, small repairs will be the priority; without that, large-scale problems will arise. Sometimes, major works will be needed, because it is not always possible to spend money on buildings that are in an extremely poor condition. Therefore, the decision is for local

sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn gwario'r arian yn dda. authorities, and Assembly officials ensure that local authorities spend the money well.

Cymeradwyo'r Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 o dan Reolau Sefydlog Rhifau 24.25, 25.13 a 25.14

Approval of the Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food And Feeding Stuffs) (England And Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 under Standing Order Nos. 24.25, 25.13 and 25.14

The Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 24.25, this motion is not subject to debate. **Y Llywydd:** O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25, ni chynhelir dadl ar y cynnig hwn.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that **Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt):** Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order Nos. 24.25, 25.13 and 25.14:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhifau 24.25, 25.13 a 25.14:

approves the draft the Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 6 March 2007, and notes the explanatory memorandum for this Order laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 6 March 2007. (NDM3539)

yn cymeradwyo'r rheoliadau drafft, the Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 6 Mawrth 2007, ac yn nodi'r memorandwm esboniadol ar gyfer y Gorchymyn hwn a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 6 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3539)

*Cynnig (NDM3539): O blaid 32, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3539): For 32, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Carwyn

Jones, Laura Anne
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Deddfwriaeth o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25 Approval of Legislation under Standing Order No. 24.25

The Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 24.25, this motion is not subject to debate. **Y Llywydd:** O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25, ni chynhelir dadl ar y cynnig hwn.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that **Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt):** Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 24.25:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25:

1a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 13 March 2007 on the draft the Independent Schools (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2007; and

1a) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 13 Mawrth 2007 ynghylch y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Ysgolion Annibynnol (Diwygiadau Amrywiol) (Cymru) 2007; a

b) approves that the Independent Schools (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2007 are made in accordance with

b) yn cymeradwyo bod Rheoliadau Ysgolion Annibynnol (Diwygiadau Amrywiol) (Cymru) 2007 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

i) the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2007; and

i) y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2007; a

ii) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2007;

ii) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2007;

2a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 13 March 2007 on the draft The References to Health Authorities Order 2007; and

2a) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 13 Mawrth 2007 ynghylch y gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Cyfeiriadau at Awdurdodau Iechyd 2007; a

- b) *approves that the References to Health Authorities Order 2007 is made in accordance with* b) *yn cymeradwyo bod Gorchymyn Cyfeiriadau at Awdurdodau Iechyd 2007 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:*
- i) *the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007; and* i) *y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007; a*
- ii) *the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007. (NDM3548)* ii) *yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3548)*

*Cynnig (NDM3548): O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3548): For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Byrddau Iechyd Lleol (Cyfansoddiad, Aelodaeth a Gweithdrefnau) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2007
Approval of the Local Health Boards (Constitution, Membership and Procedures) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I propose that
Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Cynigiad fod

the National Assembly for Wales,

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru,

considers the principle of the Local Health Boards (Constitution, Membership and Procedures) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2007. (NDM3549)

yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Byrddau Iechyd Lleol (Cyfansoddiad, Aelodaeth a Gweithdrefnau) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2007, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2007. (NDM3549)

I propose that

Cynigiad fod

the National Assembly for Wales,

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru,

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 13 March 2007 in relation to the draft the Local Health Boards (Constitution, Membership and Procedures) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007; and

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 13 Mawrth 2007 ynghylch y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Byrddau Iechyd Lleol (Cyfansoddiad, Aelodaeth a Gweithdrefnau) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2007; a

2. approves that the draft the Local Health Boards (Constitution, Membership and Procedures) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 is made in accordance with:

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Byrddau Iechyd Lleol (Cyfansoddiad, Aelodaeth a Gweithdrefnau) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2007 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

a) the draft laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2007; and

a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2007; a

b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2007. (NDM3550)

b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2007. (NDM3550)

Y Llywydd: Nid oes siaradwyr ar y cynnig hen, felly awn yn syth at y bleidlais.

The Presiding Officer: There are no speakers on this motion, so we will move directly to the vote.

*Cynnig (NDM3549): O blaid 42, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
 Motion (NDM3549): For 42, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3550): O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3550): For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael

Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Staffio Ysgolion a Gynhelir (Diwygiadau Amrywiol)
 (Cymru) 2007
 Approval of the Staffing of Maintained Schools (Miscellaneous Amendments)
 (Wales) Regulations 2007**

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

the National Assembly for Wales,

considers the principle of the Staffing of Maintained Schools (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2007, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007. (NDM3551)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales,

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 13 March 2007 in relation to the draft the Staffing of Maintained Schools (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2007; and

2. approves that the draft the Staffing of

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Davidson): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru,

yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Staffio Ysgolion a Gynhelir (Diwygiadau Amrywiol) (Cymru) 2007, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3551)

Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru,

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 13 Mawrth 2007 ynghylch y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Staffio Ysgolion a Gynhelir (Diwygiadau Amrywiol) (Cymru) 2007; a

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y rheoliadau drafft,

Maintained Schools (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2007 is made in accordance with:

a) the draft laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007; and

b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007. (NDM3552)

Rheoliadau Staffio Ysgolion a Gynhelir (Diwygiadau Amrywiol) (Cymru) 2007 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007; a

b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3552)

Janet Ryder: These regulations apply to all teaching staff on school premises, and therefore to all non-teaching staff on school premises—caretakers, cleaners, and so on. Could you clarify what position volunteers are in? We are seeing an increasing number of volunteers, whose work in schools is much to be welcomed, but who now play quite a large role in the school day. Is it the school's responsibility to ensure that they have criminal records checks? Are you satisfied that all staff in schools in Wales have now been completely vetted, and have been cleared?

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): Clearly, if volunteers have access to children, they will also need to be criminal-record vetted, and we have maintained that principle throughout. There will be further regulatory provision for non-school-based staff—for example, in pupil referral units and further education institutions—that will come through under the new negative resolution procedures post May.

Janet Ryder: Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn berthnasol i bob aelod o'r staff dysgu ar safle'r ysgol, ac felly i bob aelod o'r staff nad ydynt yn dysgu ar safle'r ysgol—gofalwyr, glanhawyr, ac yn y blaen. A allwch egluro beth yw'r sefyllfa yn achos gwirfoddolwyr? Yr ydym yn gweld nifer cynyddol o wirfoddolwyr, ac mae eu gwaith mewn ysgolion i'w groesawu, ond maent bellach yn chwarae rhan eithaf sylweddol yn niwrnod yr ysgol. Ai'r ysgol sy'n gyfrifol am sicrhau bod archwiliadau cofnodion troseddol yn cael eu cynnal? A ydych yn sicrhau bod pob aelod o'r staff yn ysgolion Cymru wedi cael eu fetio'n drylwyr, a'u bod yn addas?

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Davidson): Wrth gwrs, os daw gwirfoddolwyr i gysylltiad â phlant bydd rhaid iddynt gael eu fetio ar gyfer cofnodion troseddol, ac yr ydym wedi glynu wrth yr egwyddor honno o'r cychwyn. Bydd darpariaeth reoliadol bellach yn cael ei chyflwyno ar gyfer staff nad ydynt wedi eu lleoli mewn ysgolion—er enghraifft, mewn unedau cyfeirio disgyblion a sefydliadau addysg bellach—a fydd yn dod o fewn y gweithdrefnau penderfyniadau negyddol newydd ar ôl mis Mai.

Cynnig (NDM3551): O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM3551): For 43, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane

Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3552): O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3552): For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark

James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Cyfarwyddiadau Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG (NHS Business Services Authority) (Cymru) 2007 o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 29.3(iii)
 Approval of the NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) (Wales) Directions 2007 under Standing Order No. 29.3(iii)**

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 29.3(iii):

considers the principle of the NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) (Wales) Directions 2007, a draft of which was laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 13 March 2007. (NDM3553)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales,

acting under Standing Order No. 29.3(iii) approves the NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) (Wales) Directions 2007 which was laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 13 March 2007. (NDM3554)

Y Llywydd: Nid oes siaradwyr ar y cynnig hwn, felly awn yn syth at y bleidlais.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 29.3(iii):

yn ystyried egwyddor Cyfarwyddiadau Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG (NHS Business Services Authority) (Cymru) 2007 y gosodwyd drafft ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 13 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3553)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru,

Gan weithredu'n unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 29.3(iii) yn cymeradwyo Cyfarwyddiadau Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG (NHS Business Services Authority) (Cymru) 2007 y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 13 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3554)

The Presiding Officer: There are no speakers on this motion, so we will move directly to the vote.

*Cynnig (NDM3553): O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3553): For 43, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3554): O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3554): For 44, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

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

Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Essex, Sue
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

4.50 p.m.

**Cymeradwyo'r Highways (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007
 o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 25 adran 3
 Approval of the Highways (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007
 under Standing Order No. 25 section 3**

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): I propose that

Y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau (Andrew Davies): Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 25.13

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 25.13

approves the draft the Highways (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 13 March 2007, and notes the

yn cymeradwyo'r rheoliadau drafft, the Highways (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 13

explanatory memorandum for this Order laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 13 March 2007. (NDM3555) *Mawrth 2007, ac yn nodi memorandwm esboniadol y Gorchymyn hwn a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 13 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3555)*

*Cynnig (NDM3555): O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3555): For 44, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.51 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.51 p.m.*

Adroddiad Blynyddol Prif Arolygydd Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant
The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training

Motion (NDM3556): to propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. welcomes:

a) the annual report for 2005-06 of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training;

b) the chief inspector's conclusion that providers in most sectors have improved a great deal since they were last inspected;

c) the action being taken through 'The Learning Country' programme to address the areas for improvement identified by the chief inspector and break down barriers to learning.

Amendment 1 in the name of Lisa Francis. Delete point (b) and replace with:

the chief inspector's conclusion that better joint working between those who plan, provide and deliver education is essential if many of the new initiatives in education and training in Wales are to be effective.

Amendment 2 in the name of Lisa Francis. Delete point (c) and replace with:

the acknowledgement of the need to encourage a wider use of the Welsh language in English-medium schools in subjects other than Welsh and in after-school activities.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 and 2 in the name of Lisa Francis.

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

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynnig (NDM3556): cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn croesawu:

a) adroddiad blynyddol Prif Arolygydd Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant ar gyfer 2005-06;

b) casgliad y prif arolygydd bod darparwyr yn y rhan fwyaf o sectorau wedi gwella'n sylweddol ers iddynt gael eu harolygu ddiwethaf;

c) y camau sy'n cael eu cymryd drwy raglen 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu' i fynd i'r afael â'r meysydd ar gyfer gwella a nodwyd gan y prif arolygydd ac i chwalu'r rhwystrau rhag dysgu.

Gwelliant 1 yn enw Lisa Francis. Dileu pwynt (b) a rhoi yn ei le:

casgliad y prif arolygydd bod gwell cydweithio rhwng y rheini sy'n cynllunio, darparu a chyflwyno addysg yn hollbwysig os yw nifer o'r cynlluniau newydd ym myd addysg a hyfforddiant yng Nghymru yn mynd i fod yn effeithiol.

Gwelliant 2 yn enw Lisa Francis. Dileu pwynt (c) a rhoi yn ei le:

y gydnabyddiaeth o'r angen i annog defnydd ehangach o'r iaith Gymraeg mewn ysgolion Saesneg eu cyfrwng mewn pynciau heblaw Cymraeg ac mewn gweithgareddau ar ôl ysgol.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Lisa Francis.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Davidson): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

I. welcomes:

a) the annual report for 2005-06 of the Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training;

b) the chief inspector's conclusion that providers in most sectors have improved a great deal since they were last inspected;

c) the action being taken through 'The Learning Country' programme to address the areas for improvement identified by the chief inspector and break down barriers to learning. (NDM3556)

In proposing the motion, I would like to draw the attention of Assembly Members to the annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales for 2005-06, published on 24 January 2007.

That report provides an overview of the progress made in just about every area of education and training in Wales. It therefore provides a key contribution to the evidence base that underpins our distinctive strategy for education and training in Wales. I am delighted that, once again, Estyn has seen an improvement in the quality of learning and in the standards achieved by learners, with the chief inspector's conclusion that,

'providers in most sectors have improved a great deal since they were last inspected'.

I also note the inclusion in the annual report, for the first time, of details of the grades awarded for each inspection completed in 2005-06. As a result, information is now provided on each of the seven areas identified in our 'Made in Wales' common inspection framework, including standards, quality, and leadership and management, for each institution inspected in 2005-06. I very much welcome this development as a further valuable contribution to our work to support learning providers across Wales, in benchmarking their performance and identifying areas for improvement.

I. yn croesawu:

a) adroddiad blynyddol Prif Arolygydd Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant ar gyfer 2005-06;

b) casgliad y prif arolygydd bod darparwyr yn y rhan fwyaf o sectorau wedi gwella'n sylweddol ers iddynt gael eu harolygu ddiwethaf;

c) y camau sy'n cael eu cymryd drwy raglen 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu' i fynd i'r afael â'r meysydd ar gyfer gwella a nodwyd gan y prif arolygydd ac i chwalu'r rhwystrau rhag dysgu. (NDM3556)

Wrth gyflwyno'r cynnig, hoffwn dynnu sylw Aelodau'r Cynulliad at adroddiad blynyddol Prif Arolygydd Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru ar gyfer 2005-06, a gyhoeddwyd ar 24 Ionawr 2007.

Mae'r adroddiad hwnnw yn rhoi trosolwg o'r cynnydd a wnaed ym mhob maes, fwy na heb, ym myd addysg a hyfforddiant a Chymru. Mae felly'n gyfraniad allweddol at y sylfaen dystiolaeth sy'n sail i'n strategaeth arbennig ar gyfer addysg a hyfforddiant yng Nghymru. Yr wyf wrth fy modd bod Estyn, unwaith eto, wedi gweld gwelliant yn ansawdd y dysgu a'r safonau a gyflawnir gan ddysgwyr, gyda chasgliad y prif arolygydd fod,

darparwyr yn y rhan fwyaf o sectorau wedi gwella'n sylweddol ers iddynt gael eu harolygu ddiwethaf.

Yr wyf hefyd yn nodi bod manylion y graddau a ddyfarnwyd ar gyfer pob arolygiad a gwblhawyd yn 2005-06 yn ymddangos am y tro cyntaf yn yr adroddiad blynyddol. O ganlyniad, rhoir bellach wybodaeth am bob un o'r saith maes a nodir yn ein fframwaith arolygu cyffredin 'Gwnaed yng Nghymru', gan gynnwys safonau, ansawdd, ac arweiniad a rheolaeth, ar gyfer pob sefydliad a arolygwyd yn 2005-06. Yr wyf yn croesawu'r datblygiad hwn yn fawr iawn fel cyfraniad gwerthfawr pellach at ein gwaith i gefnogi darparwyr dysgu ledled Cymru, wrth feincodi eu perfformiad a nodi meysydd ar gyfer gwelliant.

Turning to the detail in the report, I was delighted with the chief inspector's conclusion that the percentage of schools achieving the top two inspection grades for the quality of teaching has improved, since last inspected, by 31 percentage points in the primary sector and 13 percentage points in the secondary sector. I was also pleased to see that 14 schools demonstrated excellence across the board by securing the highest possible inspection grade in each of the seven areas assessed by Estyn. This is a significant achievement and is testimony to the skills, expertise and commitment of teachers, support staff and governors. It confirms that we have many excellent schools in Wales. However, the data also underline that we need to continue to improve the standards achieved by learners in schools, and the chief inspector quite rightly highlights the challenges that lie ahead. We need to reduce absenteeism in schools, improve literacy—particularly for boys—and continue to lever up the percentage of 16-year-olds with GCSEs at A* to C or equivalent in the core subjects.

In 'The Learning Country: Vision into Action', we recognise and address these challenges, and we underline that the learning journey is a continuum, not only throughout school but also throughout life. Success lies, therefore, in a programme of sustained interventions, and Flying Start, the new foundation phase, and 'Words Talk—Numbers Count', our national strategy for basic skills, do just that. Similarly, we need to support practitioners at every point in nurturing and supporting a culture of continuous improvement. The recent appointment of our learning and teaching, or pedagogy, champions is another step in celebrating the work of practitioners and transforming the focus of education in Wales from being based on individual professionalism to being based on collective professionalism, where it is the norm to support the development of others, and where support is sought and welcomed.

As a small country, we also need to be continually at the cutting edge of innovation. There is much to be proud of, particularly the

Gan droi at y manylion yn yr adroddiad, yr oeddwn wrth fy modd â chasgliad y prif arolygydd fod canran yr ysgolion sy'n cyflawni'r ddwy radd arolygu uchaf ar gyfer ansawdd addysgu wedi gwella, ers iddynt gael eu harolygu ddiwethaf, 31 pwynt canran yn y sector cynradd a 13 pwynt canran yn y sector uwchradd. Yr oeddwn yn falch hefyd o weld bod 14 o ysgolion wedi dangos rhagoriaeth gyffredinol drwy sicrhau'r radd arolygu uchaf posibl ym mhob un o'r saith maes y mae Estyn yn eu hasesu. Mae hyn yn gyflawniad sylweddol ac yn dystiolaeth o sgiliau, arbenigedd ac ymrwymiad athrawon, staff cefnogi a llywodraethwyr. Mae'n cadarnhau bod gennym lawer o ysgolion rhagorol yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, mae'r data hefyd yn tanlinellu bod angen inni barhau i wella'r safonau a gyflawnir gan ddysgwyr mewn ysgolion, ac mae'r prif arolygydd yn tynnu sylw'n briodol iawn at yr heriau sydd o'n blaenau. Mae angen inni gwtogi ar absenoliaeth mewn ysgolion, gwella llythrennedd—yn enwedig ar gyfer bechgyn—a pharhau i gynyddu canran y plant 16 oed sydd â chymwysterau TGAU gradd A* i C neu gyfwerth yn y pynciau craidd.

Yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu: Gweledigaeth ar Waith', yr ydym yn cydnabod yr heriau hyn ac yn mynd i'r afael â hwy, gan danlinellu bod y siwrnai ddysgu yn gontinwmm, nid yn unig drwy gydol yr ysgol ond hefyd drwy gydol oes. Mae llwyddiant felly'n dibynnu ar raglen o ymyriadau parhaus, ac mae Dechrau'n Deg, y cyfnod sylfaen newydd, a 'Geiriau'n Galw—Rhifau'n Cyfri', ein strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer sgiliau sylfaenol, yn gwneud hynny'n union. Yn yr un modd, mae angen inni gefnogi ymarferwyr drwy'r amser i feithrin a chefnogi diwylliant o wella parhaus. Mae penodi ein hyrwyddwyr dysgu ac addysgu, neu addysgeg, yn ddiweddar, yn gam arall i ddathlu gwaith ymarferwyr a thrawsnewid ffocws addysg yng Nghymru o fod yn seiliedig ar broffesiynoldeb unigol i fod yn seiliedig ar broffesiynoldeb ar y cyd, a'r drefn arferol yw cefnogi datblygiad eraill, gan geisio cael cymorth a chroesawu hynny.

Fel gwlad fach, mae angen hefyd inni fod ar flaen y gad o ran arloesedd o hyd. Mae llawer i fod yn falch ohono, yn enwedig datblygu

development of the Welsh baccalaureate, which builds on existing structures to provide breadth and balance through the variety and richness of the experiences it promotes for the learner. The chief inspector's report emphasises the need to bring together academic and vocational routes, and we are currently considering how, through the Welsh baccalaureate, learners in Wales can have access to the new employer-led qualifications that are being developed as part of the diplomas in England.

Eleanor Burnham: Will you take an intervention, Minister?

Jane Davidson: No, not at the moment.

We are extremely fortunate that in the Welsh baccalaureate we have a qualification that is flexible enough to allow learners access to these new qualifications while safeguarding their entitlement to the distinctive 14-19 learning core for Wales. We want the benefits flowing from improvements to be enjoyed by all. It was encouraging to see the chief inspector's conclusion that the approach that we have taken in implementing the commitments in 'Extending Entitlement' is bearing fruit.

Young people in schools and colleges feel that they are listened to when they get involved in school or student councils, and providers in all settings are involving young people more in thinking about how they can influence the education and support that they receive. Partnership also provides the foundation for our work to strengthen the contribution of education and training to economic development. In particular, we need to identify the needs of employers, address skills gaps and remove barriers to learning.

Work-based learning and further education sectors have a central role to play in addressing this agenda. I was pleased, therefore, to see that the chief inspector highlighted the very good performance in colleges this year. Overall, 81 per cent of work in colleges was assessed by Estyn as being 'good' or 'better', with 29 per cent seen as 'outstanding'. In addition, it was encouraging to note that none of the areas

bagloriaeth Cymru, sy'n meithrin strwythurau presennol ymhellach i roi ehangder a chydbwysedd drwy amrywiaeth a chyfoeth y profiadau y mae'n eu hyrwyddo i'r dysgwyr. Mae adroddiad y prif arolygydd yn pwysleisio bod angen dod â llwybrau academaidd a galwedigaethol ynghyd, ac ar hyn o bryd yr ydym yn ystyried sut y gall dysgwyr yng Nghymru, drwy faglorigaeth Cymru, gael y cymwysterau newydd a arweinir gan gyflogwyr sy'n cael eu datblygu'n rhan o'r diplomâu yn Lloegr.

Eleanor Burnham: A wnewch dderbyn ymyriad, Weinidog?

Jane Davidson: Na wna, nid ar hyn o bryd.

Yr ydym yn ffodus dros ben fod gennym gymhwyster ym magloriaeth Cymru sy'n ddigon hyblyg i alluogi dysgwyr i gael y cymwysterau newydd hyn gan ddiogelu eu hawl i'r craidd dysgu 14-19 arbennig i Gymru. Yr ydym am i bawb fwynhau'r buddion sy'n deillio o'r gwelliannau. Yr oedd yn galonogol gweld casgliad y prif arolygydd fod y dull yr ydym wedi gweithredu wrth roi'r ymrwymadau yn 'Ymestyn Hawliau' ar waith yn dwyn ffrwyth.

Mae pobl ifanc mewn ysgolion a cholegau yn teimlo bod rhywun yn gwranddo arnynt pan fyddant yn ymwneud â chynghorau ysgol neu fyfyrwyr, ac mae darparwyr ym mhob lleoliad yn cynnwys pobl ifanc i raddau helaethach wrth ystyried sut y gallant ddylanwadu ar yr addysg a'r cymorth a gânt. Mae partneriaeth hefyd yn sail i'n gwaith i gryfhau cyfraniad addysg a hyfforddiant at ddatblygu economaidd. Yn benodol, mae angen inni nodi anghenion cyflogwyr, mynd i'r afael â bylchau sgiliau a chwalu'r rhwystrau rhag dysgu.

Mae gan sectorau dysgu yn y gwaith ac addysg bellach rôl ganolog i'w chwarae wrth fynd i'r afael â'r agenda hon. Yr oeddwn yn falch, felly, o weld bod y prif arolygydd yn pwysleisio'r perfformiad da iawn mewn colegau eleni. Ar y cyfan, yn ôl asesiad Estyn, yr oedd 81 y cant o'r gwaith mewn colegau yn 'dda' neu'n 'well', gyda 29 y cant yn 'eithriadol'. Yn ogystal, yr oedd yn galonogol nodi nad oedd diffygion gan ddim

inspected had shortcomings. Inspection findings for the work-based learning sector also show improvement, with 45 per cent of provision assessed as 'outstanding' or 'good', which is an improvement of 31 percentage points on 2004-05.

However, there is still far too much provision assessed by Estyn as being 'unsatisfactory'. Through our improvement plan, we are committed to addressing the issues identified by the chief inspector. Providers are under no illusion that poor performance is acceptable; it simply is not. We need to continue to develop innovative measures to address the low modern apprenticeship completion rates that have been a persistent problem in Wales. The rates are improving, but not quickly enough.

The chief inspector is not alone in challenging the Assembly to continue to break down barriers to learning. Many of the themes explored in her report also figure prominently in Lord Leitch's review. I welcome the debate in this area. It confirms that not only are we absolutely right to place skills at the top of our agenda, but that—through our skills and employment action plan—we are steering firmly in the right direction. We are committed in Wales to forging a demand-led system whereby learning meets the needs of individual learners and employers. Through our partnerships with the sector skill councils and the establishment of a Wales board of the new employer-led Commission for Employment and Skills we will drive forward in improving the match between demand and supply for skills.

Similarly, through our comprehensive strategy for basic skills 'Words Talk—Numbers Count', we recognise that poor basic skills are a barrier to sustained employment and career progression. I was delighted to see that Lord Leitch adopted our basic skills Employer's Pledge, which draws together employers and learning providers to improve basic skills, and that he said that it was the single most important pledge that he wanted the rest of the UK to take up.

un o'r meysydd a arolygwyd. Mae canfyddiadau arolygu ar gyfer y sector dysgu yn y gwaith hefyd yn dangos gwelliant, gyda 45 y cant o'r ddarpariaeth yn cael ei asesu'n 'eithriadol' neu'n 'dda', sy'n 31 pwynt canran yn well na 2004-05.

Fodd bynnag, mae llawer gormod o'r ddarpariaeth yn 'anfoddhaol' o hyd yn ôl asesiad Estyn. Drwy ein cynllun gwella, yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i fynd i'r afael â'r materion a nodir gan y prif arolygydd. Nid yw'r darparwyr yn twyllo eu hunain fod perfformiad gwael yn dderbyniol; nid yw'n dderbyniol o gwbl. Mae angen inni barhau i ddatblygu mesurau arloesol i fynd i'r afael â'r cyfraddau isel o ran cwblhau prentisiaeth fodern sydd wedi bod yn broblem gyson yng Nghymru. Mae'r cyfraddau'n gwella, ond nid yn ddigon cyflym.

Nid y prif arolygydd yw'r unig un sy'n herio'r Cynulliad i barhau i chwalo'r rhwystrau rhag dysgu. Mae llawer o'r themâu a archwilir yn ei hadroddiad i'w gweld yn amlwg hefyd yn adolygiad yr Arglwydd Leitch. Croesawaf y ddadl yn y maes hwn. Mae'n cadarnhau ein bod yn llygad ein lle wrth roi sgiliau ar frig ein hagenda, a hefyd ein bod—drwy ein cynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth—yn bendant yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad cywir. Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo yng Nghymru i lunio system a arweinir gan y galw lle y bo dysgu yn bodloni anghenion dysgwyr a chyflogwyr unigol. Drwy ein partneriaethau â'r cynghorau sgiliau sector a sefydlu bwrdd Cymru o'r Comisiwn Cyflogaeth a Sgiliau newydd a arweinir gan gyflogwyr, byddwn yn bwrw ymlaen â sicrhau bod y galw a'r cyflenwad ar gyfer sgiliau yn cyd-fynd yn well.

Yn yr un modd, drwy ein strategaeth gynhwysfawr ar gyfer sgiliau sylfaenol 'Geiriau'n Galw—Rhifau'n Cyfri', yr ydym yn cydnabod bod sgiliau sylfaenol gwan yn rhwystr rhag cyflogaeth barhaus a chamu ymlaen mewn gyrfa. Yr oeddwn wrth fy modd o weld bod yr Arglwydd Leitch wedi mabwysiadu ein Haddewid y Cyflogwr o ran sgiliau sylfaenol, sy'n dod â chyflogwyr a darparwyr dysgu ynghyd i wella sgiliau sylfaenol, a'i fod wedi dweud mai hwn oedd yr addewid pwysicaf un yr oedd am i weddill y DU ei fabwysiadu.

Turning to the two amendments tabled by Lisa Francis, there is no doubt that effective and sustained partnerships at every level are the bedrock of the transformation of education and training in Wales. As the chief inspector notes, providers must accept that they cannot do it all alone, and they must work together to deliver what is best for learners. The establishment of young people's partnerships and the 14-19 learning networks are two examples of our commitment to work with partners at local and national levels to shape and deliver support and advice for learners.

It is vital that we look at how well each network operates, and at how they come together in service planning and provision. Therefore, I have asked the chief inspector to pay particular attention in the programme of area inspections for 2007-08 to an assessment of how well networks work together. There is no room for compromise in this area, and we will look to Estyn's advice to ensure that we have effective networks that recognise and meet the needs of learners.

With regard to the use of Welsh in English-medium schools, I agree with the chief inspector's conclusion that not enough schools encourage pupils to practise their Welsh in subjects other than Welsh or in after-school activities. Again, there is much good practice in this area, frequently drawing on the resources made available in the Better Schools fund to support the realisation of the vision for education and training set out in 'Iaith Pawb'. Particular emphasis has been placed on links with local partners to improve opportunities for out-of-hours learning through the medium of Welsh. This remains an area in which we want to improve. As set out in 'The Learning Country: Vision into Action', we are committed to working with the Welsh Language Board to promote effective approaches to immersion teaching and the promotion of linguistic continuity, so that pupils have access to a greater range of subjects through the medium of Welsh and so that we address the drift from Welsh as first language to Welsh as second language upon transition to secondary school.

Gan droi at y ddau welliant a gyflwynwyd gan Lisa Francis, nid oes dim amheuaeth nad partneriaethau effeithiol a pharhaus ar bob lefel yw'r sylfaen i weddnewid addysg a hyfforddiant yng Nghymru. Fel y dywed y prif arolygydd, mae'n rhaid i ddarparwyr dderbyn na allant wneud y cyfan ar eu pennau eu hunain, ac mae'n rhaid iddynt gydweithio i ddarparu'r hyn sydd orau i'r dysgwyr. Mae sefydlu partneriaethau pobl ifanc a'r rhwydweithiau dysgu 14-19 yn ddwy enghraifft o'n hymrwymiad i weithio gyda phartneriaid ar lefelau lleol a chenedlaethol i lunio a chyflwyno cymorth a chynngor i ddysgwyr.

Mae'n hollbwysig inni ystyried pa mor dda y mae pob rhwydwaith yn gweithio, a sut y dôt at ei gilydd i gynllunio a darparu gwasanaethau. O ganlyniad, yr wyf wedi gofyn i'r prif arolygydd roi sylw penodol yn y rhaglen o arolygiadau ardal ar gyfer 2007-08 i asesu pa mor dda y mae rhwydweithiau'n cydweithio. Nid oes lle i gyfaddawdu yn y maes hwn, a byddwn yn ystyried cyngor Estyn i sicrhau bod gennym rwydweithiau effeithiol sy'n cydnabod ac yn bodloni anghenion dysgwyr.

O ran defnyddio'r Gymraeg mewn ysgolion Saesneg eu cyfrwng, yr wyf yn cytuno â chasgliad y prif arolygydd nad oes digon o ysgolion yn annog disgyblion i ymarfer eu Cymraeg mewn pynciau heblaw Cymraeg nac mewn gweithgareddau ar ôl ysgol. Eto, mae llawer o arferion da yn y maes hwn, sy'n defnyddio'n rheolaidd yr adnoddau sydd ar gael yng nghronfa Ysgolion Gwell er mwyn gwireddu'r weledigaeth ar gyfer addysg a hyfforddiant a nodwyd yn 'Iaith Pawb'. Rhoddwyd pwyslais penodol ar gysylltiadau â phartneriaid lleol i wella cyfleoedd dysgu y tu allan i oriau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae hyn yn parhau'n faes yr ydym am ei wella. Fel y nodwyd yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu: Gweledigaeth ar Waith', yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i weithio gyda Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg i hyrwyddo dulliau effeithiol o gyflwyno addysg drochi a hyrwyddo parhad ieithyddol, fel bod disgyblion yn gallu gwneud ystod fwy o bynciau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ac er mwyn inni fynd i'r afael â'r duedd o symud oddi wrth y Gymraeg fel iaith gyntaf a thuag at y Gymraeg fel ail iaith wrth

symud i'r ysgol uwchradd.

5.00 p.m.

Both amendments, therefore, relate to areas in which, as the chief inspector notes, there is much good practice and we continue to make progress, but there is also room for improvement. However, I cannot ask the Assembly to support the amendments, as they would replace the two key elements of the substantive motion. Had they been proposed as additions, we could have been more helpful.

In conclusion, we have begun a revolution in education and lifelong learning in Wales. The chief inspector in her annual report once again sets out the progress that we have made, and challenges us to press for further improvement. There is still much to do and, in 'The Learning Country: Vision into Action', we both recognise the challenges and set out our strategy and priorities. I am delighted with her overall conclusion that we remain on track to realise our ambition that Wales will be a learning country in which everyone has the opportunity to learn and prosper. I commend the chief inspector's report to the Assembly.

William Graham: I propose the following amendments in the name of Lisa Francis. Amendment 1: delete point (b) and replace with:

the chief inspector's conclusion that better joint working between those who plan, provide and deliver education is essential if many of the new initiatives in education and training in Wales are to be effective.

I propose amendment 2. Delete point (c) and replace with:

the acknowledgement of the need to encourage a wider use of the Welsh language in English-medium schools in subjects other than Welsh and in after-school activities.

Mae'r ddau welliant, felly, yn ymwneud â meysydd lle y mae llawer o arferion da, fel y dywed y prif arolygydd, a lle yr ydym yn parhau i wneud cynnydd, ond lle y mae lle i wella hefyd. Fodd bynnag, ni allaf ofyn i'r Cynulliad gefnogi'r gwelliannau, oherwydd y byddent yn disodli dwy elfen allweddol y cynnig gwreiddiol. Pe byddent wedi'u cynnig fel ychwanegiadau, gallem fod wedi bod yn fwy parod i gynorthwyo.

I gloi, yr ydym wedi dechrau chwyldro mewn addysg a dysgu gydol oes yng Nghymru. Mae'r prif arolygydd yn sôn unwaith eto yn ei hadroddiad blynyddol am y cynnydd a wnaethpwyd gennym, ac yn ein herio i bwysio am welliant pellach. Mae llawer i'w wneud o hyd ac yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu: Gweledigaeth ar Waith', yr ydym yn cydnabod yr heriau ac yn nodi ein strategaeth a'n blaenoriaethau. Yr wyf wrth fy modd â'i chasgliad cyffredinol ein bod yn dal i fod ar y trywydd cywir i wireddu ein huchelgais y bydd Cymru yn wlad sy'n dysgu lle y caiff pawb y cyfle i ddysgu a ffynnu. Yr wyf yn cymeradwyo adroddiad y prif arolygydd i'r Cynulliad.

William Graham: Cynigiaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Lisa Francis. Gwelliant 1: dileu pwynt (b) a rhoi yn ei le:

casgliad y prif arolygydd bod gwell cydweithio rhwng y rheini sy'n cynllunio, darparu a chyflwyno addysg yn hollbwysig os yw nifer o'r cynlluniau newydd ym myd addysg a hyfforddiant yng Nghymru yn mynd i fod yn effeithiol.

Cynigiaf welliant 2. Dileu pwynt (c) a rhoi yn ei le:

y gydnabyddiaeth o'r angen i sicrhau defnydd ehangach o'r iaith Gymraeg mewn ysgolion Saesneg eu cyfrwng mewn pynciau heblaw Cymraeg ac mewn gweithgareddau ar ôl ysgol.

I would like to begin by recording a definite tribute to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training and her staff for the objective and professional way in which they have drawn up this report, which largely reflects the state of education in Wales.

Education is not about systems or strategic programmes; it is about assisting children to learn the academic, vocational, and social life skills that they will require throughout their lives. Learners at all levels and of all ages must be put first. The Welsh Conservatives trust our teachers to reflect their professional skills and training. This Estyn report indicates that our trust and their professionalism has, in most cases, been entirely vindicated.

This administration has set out system upon system and strategy upon strategy in the hope of improving the service that we provide for learners throughout Wales. It is a sad reflection that Estyn should objectively report that there are sectors of education and training in areas of Wales where inspectors have seen very little excellence during the year. All is not wrong with our education service, but, as this report indicates, all is not right. This does not mean that we should not acknowledge progress; it does mean that we must accept the responsibility not to overstate apparent successes when so many are being left behind. Some 13,500 children in Wales have left school without any qualifications since Labour took control of the Assembly in 1999.

During a visit to a secondary school in Chepstow yesterday, I was questioned by a school council, the members of which were aged from 11 to 17 years old. I was totally unaware of the questions that they would be asking. One of their concerns centred on the issues that pupils face during their move from primary to secondary school. Children who had recently experienced this progression in their education highlighted the assistance and guidance that they wish to see implemented. These comments are reflected in the Estyn report that we are considering today. Susan

Hoffwn ddechrau drwy gofnodi teyrnged bendant i Brif Arolygydd Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant a'i staff am y ffordd wrthrychol a phroffesiynol y maent wedi llunio'r adroddiad hwn, sydd, i raddau helaeth, yn adlewyrchu cyflwr addysg yng Nghymru.

Nid yw addysg yn ymwneud â systemau na rhaglenni strategol; mae'n ymwneud â chynorthwyo plant i ddysgu'r sgiliau academiaidd, galwedigaethol a bywyd cymdeithasol y bydd eu hangen arnynt drwy gydol eu bywydau. Mae'n rhaid rhoi blaenoriaeth i ddysgwyr ar bob lefel ac o bob oedran. Mae gan Geidwadwyr Cymru ffydd yn ein hathrawon i adlewyrchu eu sgiliau a'u hyfforddiant proffesiynol. Mae'r adroddiad hwn gan Estyn yn nodi bod ein ffydd ni a'u proffesiynoldeb hwy, gan amlaf, wedi'u cyfiawnhau'n llwyr.

Mae'r weinyddiaeth hon wedi gosod system ar ben system a strategaeth ar ben strategaeth yn y gobaith o wella'r gwasanaeth a ddarparwn i ddysgwyr ledled Cymru. Mae'n drist bod Estyn yn adrodd yn wrthrychol mai prin yw'r rhagoriaeth a ddangosodd rhai sectorau addysg a hyfforddiant i arolygwyr yn ystod y flwyddyn. Nid yw popeth o'i le gyda'n gwasanaeth addysg, ond, fel y mae'r adroddiad hwn yn nodi, nid yw popeth yn iawn chwaith. Nid yw hyn yn golygu na ddylem gydnabod cynnydd; mae'n golygu bod rhaid inni dderbyn y cyfrifoldeb dros beidio â gorliwio llwyddiannau ymddangosiadol pan fo cynifer yn cael eu gadael ar ôl. Mae rhyw 13,500 o blant yng Nghymru wedi gadael yr ysgol heb ddim cymwysterau ers i'r Blaid Lafur gymryd awenau'r Cynulliad yn 1999.

Yn ystod ymweliad ag ysgol uwchradd yng Nghas-gwent ddoe, fe'm holwyd gan gyngor ysgol, a'r aelodau rhwng 11 a 17 oed. Nid oeddwn yn ymwybodol o gwbl o'r cwestiynau y byddent yn eu gofyn. Yr oedd un o'u pryderon yn ymwneud â'r problemau sy'n wynebu disgyblion wrth symud o'r ysgol gynradd i'r ysgol uwchradd. Yr oedd plant a oedd wedi profi'r cyfnod pontio hwn yn ddiweddar yn eu haddysg yn pwysleisio'r cymorth a'r arweiniad yr hoffent eu gweld ar waith. Adlewyrchir y sylwadau hyn yn yr adroddiad gan Estyn sydd dan sylw heddiw.

Lewis indicates that:

'Better joint working between those who plan, provide and deliver education is essential if many of the new initiatives in education and training in Wales are to be effective'.

The need for this joint working during the progression from primary to secondary school has also been highlighted by John Graystone of Fforwm. He explains that,

'Very good examples of collaboration between schools and colleges do exist. But these examples only scratch the surface. Much more could be done to benefit the learners'.

We know, as this report indicates, that some schools and teachers do better than others with children of similar backgrounds or learning abilities. This indicates that more can be done to improve the education of all of our children by more effective joint working at all levels of our education service. Joint working means extending the boundaries of the education experience and incorporating the widest possible learning, social, and economic resources. We remain concerned that the literacy of some less able pupils, mainly boys, is often weak. Nearly 50 per cent of work-based learning providers are still giving cause for concern. There is a significant gap in the numbers of people between the ages of 15 and 19 in education or training in Wales when compared with other areas of Europe. Improving standards in education is absolutely vital if Wales is to meet the challenges presented by today's increasingly competitive global economy. However, we believe that these challenges will be overcome by more effective joint working between those who plan, provide and deliver education.

Education is about putting learners first, not systems or strategies. Joint working requires the needs of individual learners to be addressed. That is why this requirement was highlighted by Estyn and, for that reason, the Government must outline how this is to be realised.

Mae Susan Lewis yn nodi bod:

Gwell cydweithio rhwng y rhai sy'n cynllunio, darparu a chyflwyno addysg yn hanfodol os yw llawer o'r mentrau newydd yn y byd addysg a hyfforddiant yng Nghymru yn mynd i fod yn effeithiol.

Mae John Graystone o Fforwm hefyd wedi tynnu sylw at yr angen am y cydweithio hwn yn ystod y cyfnod pontio o'r ysgol gynradd i'r ysgol uwchradd. Mae'n esbonio bod

Enghreifftiau da iawn o gydweithio rhwng ysgolion a cholegau yn bodoli. Ond dim ond crafu'r wyneb y mae'r enghreifftiau hyn. Gellid gwneud llawer mwy er lles y dysgwyr.

Yr ydym yn gwybod, fel y dywed yr adroddiad hwn, fod rhai ysgolion ac athrawon yn gwneud yn well nag eraill gyda phlant o gefndiroedd neu alluoedd dysgu tebyg. Mae hyn yn dangos y gellir gwneud mwy i wella addysg ein holl blant drwy gydweithio'n fwy effeithiol ar bob lefel yn ein gwasanaeth addysg. Mae cydweithio yn golygu ymestyn ffiniau'r profiad addysg ac ymgorffori'r adnoddau dysgu, cymdeithasol ac economaidd ehangaf posibl. Yr ydym yn poeni o hyd fod llythrennedd rhai disgyblion llai galluog, bechgyn yn bennaf, yn aml yn wan. Mae bron 50 y cant o ddarparwyr dysgu yn y gwaith yn parhau i beri gofid. Mae bwlch sylweddol yn niferoedd y bobl rhwng 15 a 19 oed mewn addysg neu hyfforddiant yng Nghymru o'i gymharu ag ardaloedd eraill yn Ewrop. Mae'n hollol hanfodol gwella safonau addysg os yw Cymru am ymateb i'r heriau a gyflwynir heddiw gan economi fyd-eang sy'n fwyfwy cystadleuol. Fodd bynnag, credwn y caiff yr heriau hyn eu goresgyn drwy sicrhau gwell cydweithio rhwng y rhai sy'n cynllunio, yn darparu ac yn cyflwyno addysg.

Hanfod addysg yw rhoi blaenoriaeth i ddysgwyr, nid systemau na strategaethau. Mae cydweithio'n peri bod gofyn mynd i'r afael ag anghenion dysgwyr unigol. Dyna'r rheswm pam y tynnodd Estyn sylw at y gofyniad hwn ac, am y rheswm hwnnw, mae'n rhaid i'r Llywodraeth amlinellu sut y caiff hyn ei wireddu.

Janet Ryder: Like everyone else, I would like to add my thanks, and those of Plaid Cymru, for the work of Susan Lewis and her team. In parts, the report shows that there has been improvement, but it also underlines some deep causes for concern. I will concentrate on one or two of those areas, the first being the foundation phase and the criticisms in the report of the development of that important early years stage.

The report raises concerns about staff training and states that, while there has been a concentration on the new areas of learning, such as multicultural understanding and bilingualism, staffing settings are still uncertain about how to deliver the overall programme. Many staff find it difficult to find the balance between activities led by adults and play or exploration initiated by children.

Most damningly, the report clearly says that a guidance pack for training and guidance material that providers can use is still not available, and yet we have had assurances from the Minister that all of that material is available. Plaid Cymru knows that that is not the case—the material is still not yet in place. Looking at the inspection of early years settings in schools and play groups, it is interesting to note that some of those institutions are criticised for that very point, namely that the balance between teacher-led and pupil-led activities is not right and that staff are not being supported or trained to achieve the right balance. It is not necessarily the staff who are letting the children down, but the lack of guidance and support from the Minister's own department. It is her department that should be criticised and not the settings, which have not had the additional material to improve training, but are, nonetheless, providing it to the best of their abilities.

The report also stresses that there are not enough experienced and suitably qualified staff to support the development of the foundation phase and other programmes such as the childcare strategy and Flying Start. It

Janet Ryder: Fel pawb arall, hoffwn ychwanegu fy niolch, a diolch Plaid Cymru, am waith Susan Lewis a'i thîm. Mewn rhai rhannau, dengys yr adroddiad welliant, ond mae hefyd yn amlinellu rhai pethau sy'n destun pryder difrifol. Byddaf yn canolbwyntio ar un neu ddau o'r meysydd hynny, a'r cyntaf yw'r cyfnod sylfaen a'r beirniadaethau yn yr adroddiad ar ddatblygiad y cyfnod pwysig hwnnw yn y blynyddoedd cynnar.

Mae'r adroddiad yn codi pryderon ynghylch hyfforddiant staff ac yn datgan, er bod canolbwyntio wedi bod ar y meysydd dysgu newydd, fel dealltwriaeth amlddiwylliannol a dwyieithrwydd, fod lleoliadau staffio'n dal i fod yn ansicr ynghylch sut i gyflawni'r rhaglen gyffredinol. Mae llawer o staff yn ei chael yn anodd canfod y cydbwysedd rhwng gweithgareddau a arweinir gan oedolion a chwarae neu ymchwilio a gychwynnir gan blant.

Yn fwyaf damniol, dywed yr adroddiad yn glir nad yw pecyn arweiniad o ddeunydd hyfforddi a chanllawiau y gall darparwyr eu defnyddio ar gael byth, ac eto, mae'r Gweinidog wedi ein sicrhau bod yr holl ddeunydd hwnnw ar gael. Gŵyr Plaid Cymru nad yw hynny'n wir—nid yw'r deunydd hwnnw'n bod eto. Mae'n ddi-ddorol, wrth edrych ar arolygon lleoliadau blynyddoedd cynnar mewn ysgolion a chylchoedd chwarae, fod rhai o'r sefydliadau hynny'n cael eu beirniadu am yr union bwynt hwnnw, sef nad yw'r cydbwysedd yn iawn rhwng gweithgareddau a arweinir gan athrawon a gweithgareddau a arweinir gan ddisgyblion ac nad yw'r staff yn cael eu cefnogi na'u hyfforddi i sicrhau'r cydbwysedd iawn. Nid y staff o reidrwydd sydd yn siomi'r plant, ond y diffyg arweiniad a chymorth oddi wrth adran y Gweinidog ei hun. Ei hadran hi ddylai gael ei beirniadu, ac nid y lleoliadau, sydd heb gael y deunydd ychwanegol er mwyn gwella hyfforddiant, ond sydd, er gwaethaf hynny, yn ei ddarparu orau y gallant.

Mae'r adroddiad yn pwysleisio hefyd nad oes digon o staff profiadol sydd â chymwysterau addas i gynnal datblygiad y cyfnod sylfaen a rhaglenni eraill megis y strategaeth gofal plant a Dechrau'n Deg. Mae'n datgan yn glir

states clearly that we need more people to be qualified, through that early years training, in order to start these initiatives. Yet, if you consider some of the other work that the Minister is doing in her portfolio, this comes at a time when she is cutting back the number of training places available. Not only is she cutting back the number of places, but there is no plan for how it is to be done. There is no plan to develop the early years courses. She assumes, as she stated in the last committee meeting, that it will just happen or will just evolve. It will not just evolve; there needs to be guidance. The Minister has always said that she would not cut those training places willy-nilly and that she would provide a plan, but she has not done so. Those places are being cut back and the providers have not received guidance, apart from very broad parameters around how they should use their resources. She could be unbalancing the profession and she will certainly not develop the teachers that we need to teach the foundation phase in Flying Start to give children, in those early years, the best start.

The other area of concern is the development of the 14-19 learning pathways. The report highlights the fact that none of the community consortia for education and training are working. They have no impact on changing the curricula and developing new courses, and few of the 14-19 learning pathways have had any impact in terms of developing new courses. The report states clearly that:

‘Schools and colleges do not work together well enough to widen the choice for learners in a clear and planned way’.

Furthermore, not enough vocational courses have been developed to meet the needs of this age group.

The report goes on to state that just over a third of the schools with sixth forms work with colleges, involving 5 per cent of the learners in sixth forms across Wales. We are clearly still not offering those 14 to 19-year-

fod angen i fwy o bobl ymgymhwysu drwy'r hyfforddiant blynyddoedd cynnar hwnnw er mwyn gwneud i'r mentrau hyn gychwyn. Ond os ystyriwch rywfaint o'r gwaith arall y mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud yn ei phortffolio, mae'n digwydd ar adeg pryd y mae hi'n cwtogi nifer y lleoedd hyfforddi sydd ar gael i athrawon. Nid yn unig y mae hi'n cwtogi'r lleoedd hynny, ond nid oes cynllun ar gyfer gwneud hynny. Nid oes dim cynllun i ddatblygu'r cyrsiau blynyddoedd cynnar hynny. Mae hi'n rhagdybio, fel y dywedodd yn nghyfarfod diwethaf y pwyllgor, y bydd hynny'n digwydd neu'n esblygu ohono'i hun. Ni wnaiff esblygu ohono'i hun; mae angen arweiniad. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi dweud erioed na fyddai'n cwtogi'r lleoedd hyfforddi hynny rywsut rywsut ac y byddai'n darparu cynllun, ond nid yw wedi gwneud hynny. Mae'r lleoedd hynny'n cael eu cwtogi ac nid oes dim arweiniad yn cael ei roi i'r darparwyr, ar wahân i baramedrau bras iawn ynghylch sut y dylent ddefnyddio'u hadnoddau. Gallai fod yn bwrw'r proffesiwn oddi ar ei echel ac yn sicr ni wnaiff ddatblygu'r athrawon y mae arnom eu hangen i ddysgu'r cyfnod sylfaen o fewn Dechrau'n Deg i roi i'r plant hynny, yn y blynyddoedd cynnar hynny, y dechrau gorau y mae angen iddynt ei gael.

Y maes arall sy'n peri pryder yw datblygiad y llwybrau dysgu 14-19. Mae'r adroddiad yn pwysleisio'r ffaith nad oes yr un o'r Consortia Cymunedol dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yn gweithio. Nid ydynt yn gwneud dim argraff ar newid y cwricwla a datblygu cyrsiau newydd, ac ychydig o'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19 sydd wedi cael dim effaith o ran datblygu cyrsiau newydd. Dywed yr adroddiad yn glir:

Nid yw ysgolion a cholegau'n cydweithio'n ddigon da i ehangu'r dewis i ddysgwyr mewn dull eglur sydd wedi'i gynllunio.

At hynny, nid oes digon o gyrsiau galwedigaethol wedi'u datblygu i ddiwallu anghenion y grŵp oedran hwn.

Â'r adroddiad ymlaen i ddatgan mai ychydig dros draean yr ysgolion sydd â chweched dosbarth sy'n cydweithio gyda cholegau, sef darpariaeth i 5 y cant o'r dysgwyr chweched dosbarth ledled Cymru. Yn amlwg, nid ydym

olds the choice of vocational courses that we need. We need to see more support being given to the 14-19 learning pathways. The Government has come up with many initiatives that can transform education, and Plaid Cymru supported the development of the foundation phase and the 14-19 learning pathways. However, the Government has not sufficiently supported the schools, the teaching staff or the very structures that they have created to enable these strategies to have an impact. Therefore, you could read this report more as a criticism of the Minister than as a criticism of the institutions.

Jeff Cuthbert: I add my tribute to the work of Susan Lewis and her team. I would have been happy to support both amendments had they been additions to the motion and not required the deletion of its points.

5.10 p.m.

I will focus on vocational education, because it is important in ensuring that all young people can achieve their potential. Not every child can succeed through academic means. Wales needs young people to be trained as skilled workers, to encourage a dynamic and successful economy, as well as ensuring that every individual is given the chance to succeed. Wales, therefore, should provide quality learning for those who enrol on such courses, and should equip people for lifelong learning. The Estyn report shows that, overall, colleges are doing much better than the Welsh Assembly Government's targets for learner achievement and for the quality of teaching, and attendance and punctuality have also improved.

However, there is still much work to be done in this area, to ensure that a full range of options is available to learners in their chosen field. By not ensuring a full curriculum for young people, learners' choices are being limited, and this fails the vulnerable young people in society, who need these courses the most. Whereas many schools and colleges of further education are making good progress and are providing more vocational courses at key stage 4, few schools are large enough to

byth yn cynnig i'r bobl ifanc 14 i 19 oed hynny y dewis o gyrsiau galwedigaethol y mae ei angen. Mae angen rhoi mwy o gefnogaeth i'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi cyflwyno sawl menter a all drawsnewid addysg, ac mae Plaid Cymru wedi cefnogi'r camau hynny i ddatblygu'r cyfnod sylfaen a'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r Llywodraeth wedi gwneud digon i gefnogi'r ysgolion, y staff dysgu na'r union strwythurau y mae wedi'u creu i alluogi'r strategaethau hynny i gael effaith. Felly, gellid darllen yr adroddiad hwn yn fwy fel beirniadaeth ar y Gweinidog nag fel beirniadaeth ar y sefydliadau.

Jeff Cuthbert: Ychwanegaf finnau fy nheyrnged i waith Susan Lewis a'i thîm. Byddwn wedi bod yn fodlon cefnogi'r ddau welliant yn llawen pe baent yn ychwanegol at y cynnig ac nid yn galw am ddileu ei bwyntiau.

Canolbwytiaf ar addysg alwedigaethol, oherwydd y mae'n bwysig o ran sicrhau bod pawb o'r bobl ifanc yn gallu cyflawni eu potensial. Nid pob plentyn a all lwyddo drwy ddulliau academaidd. Mae ar Gymru angen i bobl ifanc gael eu hyfforddi fel gweithwyr crefftus, i annog economi ddynamig a llwyddiannus, yn ogystal â sicrhau y caiff pob unigolyn y cyfle i lwyddo. Felly, dylai Cymru ddarparu addysg o ansawdd i'r rhai sy'n cofrestru ar gyrsiau o'r fath, a dylai arfogi pobl ar gyfer addysg gydol oes. Dengys adroddiad Estyn fod colegau, ar y cyfan, yn gwneud yn llawer gwell na thargedau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer cyflawniad dysgwyr ac ar gyfer ansawdd y dysgu; mae presenoldeb a phrydlondeb wedi gwella hefyd.

Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o waith i'w wneud o hyd yn y maes hwn, i sicrhau bod amrediad llawn o opsiynau ar gael i ddysgwyr yn eu dewis faes. Drwy beidio â sicrhau cwricwlwm llawn i bobl ifanc, cyfyngir dewisiadau dysgwyr, sy'n gwneud cam â'r bobl ifanc fregus yn ein cymdeithas sydd angen y cyrsiau hyn fwyaf. Er bod llawer o ysgolion a cholegau addysg bellach yn gwneud cynnydd da, ac yn darparu mwy o gyrsiau galwedigaethol yng nghyfnod

offer a good range of courses at different levels, and they should be encouraged to work with colleges to widen the choice for learners.

I wish to highlight a college in my constituency of Caerphilly, which sets a precedent in vocational education, and continues to encourage those involved to take up the offer of a full and high-standard curriculum, which will equip them with the skills and knowledge base needed for their future. Ystrad Mynach college is involved in the 14-19 learning pathways, and it is leading the way in the borough by working closely with a satellite department at College Rhymney. It addresses the educational needs at the top end of the Valley and contributes to the economic development of the area as a whole. The provision has been serviced through learning being provided in the college facility and through delivery in the community.

Although not in my constituency, but within the Caerphilly borough, the College Rhymney and Rhymney Comprehensive School came together to seek to develop a curriculum that would enhance the learning experience of learners in years 9 to 13. They collaborated to create an innovative programme of learning, removing limitations on the school by providing access to workshops, specialist trained staff, and learning areas in the college, which would otherwise not be available, or viable, in the school environment. Together, the college and school have been proactive in exposing learners to an alternative learning environment and learning techniques. By 2006-07, the college, along with Rhymney Comprehensive School, had developed further courses, including a full-time course for a group of year 11 pupils.

However, vocational education is not just a way of engaging people who may feel ostracised by the conventional education system. It is a quality education in its own right. By encouraging schools and colleges to participate in a learning pathway, which will give young people choices and opportunities, we improve the quality of the education on offer. Young people get a taster of what

allweddol 4, ychydig o ysgolion sy'n ddigon mawr i gynnig amrediad da o gyrsiau ar wahanol lefelau, a dylid eu hannog i gydweithio gyda cholegau i ehangu'r dewis i ddysgwyr.

Hoffwn dynnu sylw at goleg yn fy etholaeth i, Caerffili, sy'n gosod cynsail mewn addysg alwedigaethol, ac yn parhau i annog y bobl berthnasol i dderbyn y cynnig o gwricwlwm llawn ac o safon uchel, a fydd yn eu harfogi â'r sylfaen sgiliau a gwybodaeth angenrheidiol i'w dyfodol. Mae coleg Ystrad Mynach, yn fy etholaeth, yn ymwneud â'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19, ac yn arwain y ffordd yn y fwrdeistref, drwy gydweithio'n agos ag adran ategol yng Ngholeg Rhymni. Mae'n diwallu'r anghenion addysgol ym mhen uchaf y cwm, ac yn cyfrannu at ddatblygiad economaidd yr ardal yn ei chyfanrwydd. Mae'r ddarpariaeth wedi'i sicrhau drwy ddarparu addysg yn y coleg, a thrwy gyflwyno hynny yn y gymuned.

Er nad yn fy etholaeth i, ond o fewn bwrdeistref Caerffili, daeth Coleg Rhymni ac Ysgol Gyfun Rhymni at ei gilydd i geisio datblygu cwricwlwm a fyddai'n cyfoethogi profiad dysgu dysgwyr blynyddoedd 9, 10, 11, 12 ac 13. Buont yn cydweithio i greu rhaglen ddysgu arloesol, gan ddileu'r cyfyngiadau ar yr ysgol, drwy ddarparu mynediad at weithdai, staff hyfforddedig arbenigol, a manau dysgu yn y coleg, na fyddent ar gael fel arall, nac yn ymarferol, yn yr ysgol ei hun. Gyda'i gilydd, mae'r coleg a'r ysgol wedi mynd ati'n rhagweithiol i ddarparu amgylchedd dysgu a thechnegau dysgu amgen i ddysgwyr. Erbyn 2006-07, yr oedd y coleg, ynghyd ag Ysgol Gyfun Rhymni, wedi datblygu cyrsiau pellach, gan gynnwys cwrs llawnamser i grŵp o ddisgyblion blwyddyn 11.

Fodd bynnag, mae addysg alwedigaethol yn fwy na modd o gynnwys pobl a all deimlo eu bod wedi'u cau allan gan y system addysg gonfensiynol. Mae'n addysg o ansawdd yn ei rinwedd ei hun. Drwy annog ysgolion a cholegau i gyfranogi mewn llwybr dysgu, a fydd yn rhoi dewisiadau a chyfleoedd i bobl ifanc, byddwn yn gwella ansawdd yr addysg a gynnigir. Caiff pobl ifanc flas ar yr hyn y

working life involves, and what they will be required to do on a daily basis. What young people need now is to be guaranteed the opportunity of having the best education, so that they start work at a sufficient level for their future employers. Apprentices, for example, need to feel confident when entering work that they have sufficient knowledge and skills to enable them to make a valuable contribution to their workplace from the beginning.

The future of vocational education in Wales depends on proper funding being in place, to ensure that courses of the highest quality are being provided, and to encourage younger people to see these courses as credible alternatives to academia, where a good income can be earned in the future and where specialist skills can be gained.

Finally, vocational education has undoubtedly helped many young people who feel disengaged with the traditional learning system. However, it should also be seen as an attractive option for those who exercise their right to choose how they would like to pursue their education. I hope that colleges such as Ystrad Mynach and College Rhymney continue in their good work and continue to provide a high standard, which other colleges around Wales can emulate, and that young people continue to have choices in their education.

Peter Black: I also pay tribute to Susan Lewis and her staff for their work in helping to drive up the quality of education across Wales. It is important to note that, over the years that I have been looking at the issue as an Assembly Member, there has been a general improvement in the standard of education in Wales. The regular inspection reports and the way in which the inspectorate goes about its work assists in that process, and it enables schools to benchmark and to work more effectively in terms of setting targets and achieving them. It is worth acknowledging that as part of this debate.

A number of issues are raised in the report, and the Minister touched on them, and Jeff touched in particular on the issue about vocational learning, which is an important factor. In the last two or three reports, we

mae byd gwaith yn ei olygu, a'r hyn y bydd gofyn iddynt ei wneud yn ddyddiol. Yr hyn sydd ei angen ar bobl ifanc yn awr yw cael sicrwydd y cânt y cyfle i gael yr addysg orau, er mwyn iddynt ddechrau gweithio ar lefel ddigonol i'w cyflogwyr yn y dyfodol. Mae angen i brentisiaid, er enghraifft, deimlo'n hyderus, wrth ddechrau gweithio, bod ganddynt ddigon o wybodaeth a sgiliau i'w galluogi i wneud cyfraniad gwerthfawr i'w gweithle o'r cychwyn cyntaf.

Mae dyfodol addysg alwedigaethol yng Nghymru'n dibynnu ar gael cyllid priodol, i sicrhau y darperir cyrsiau o'r ansawdd gorau, a hefyd ar annog pobl ifanc i weld y cyrsiau hyn fel dewisiadau amgen credadwy yn lle academia, a fydd yn caniatáu iddynt ennill incwm da yn y dyfodol, a lle y gellir ennill sgiliau arbenigol.

Yn olaf, mae addysg alwedigaethol yn ddi-os wedi helpu llawer o bobl ifanc sy'n teimlo nad yw'r system addysg draddodiadol yn berthnasol iddynt. Fodd bynnag, dylid ei gweld hefyd fel opsiwn deniadol i'r rhai sy'n arfer eu hawl i ddewis pa ffordd yr hoffent ddilyn eu haddysg. Gobeithiaf y bydd colegau fel Ystrad Mynach a Choleg Rhymni'n parhau â'u gwaith da, ac yn darparu safon uchel, y gall colegau eraill o gwmpas Cymru ei hefelychu, ac y gall pobl ifanc barhau i gael dewisiadau yn eu haddysg.

Peter Black: Talaf finnau deyrnged i Susan Lewis a'i staff am y gwaith a wnânt i helpu gwella ansawdd addysg ledled Cymru. Mae'n bwysig nodi, yn ystod y blynyddoedd y bûm i'n edrych ar y mater fel Aelod o'r Cynulliad, fod gwelliant cyffredinol wedi bod yn safon addysg yng Nghymru. Mae'r adroddiadau arolygwyr rheolaidd a'r modd yr â'r arolygwyr o gwmpas eu gwaith yn cynorthwyo'r broses honno, gan alluogi ysgolion i feincnodi ac i weithio'n fwy effeithiol o ran gosod targedau a'u cyrraedd. Mae'n werth cydnabod hynny fel rhan o'r ddadl hon.

Codir nifer o faterion yma ac fe'u crybwyllwyd gan y Gweinidog, a soniodd Jeff yn arbennig am gwestiwn dysgu galwedigaethol, sydd yn ffactor pwysig. Yn y ddau neu dri adroddiad diwethaf, yr ydym

have particularly noted the reference to work-based learning and the fact that although there has been some improvement—a small improvement this time—there are, in general, still shortcomings in that provision and we need to see much greater improvement on the part of providers to put that right. The inspectorate found that 45 per cent of work-based learning providers—if I can just find the page—were judged to have reached a good overall standard, which is an improvement over 14 per cent in the previous year. The report states:

‘However, it is still a cause for serious concern that nearly half the providers we inspected have unsatisfactory standards overall’.

I know that we had a session in the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee on this particular issue not so long ago, where we talked to officials about the action that they were taking on that. Clearly, work is being undertaken at DELLS, as it is now known, to try to ensure that providers that do not meet the standards will effectively lose their contract at the end of the day, and it is right that that is happening. We need to make the providers understand that their part in educational provision is equally as important as that of academic and other routes and that they need to meet the high standards that we expect of them as well. They also need to understand that if we are to invest public money, we will want to ensure value for that public money and ensure that we get the results that are required as part of that.

I also noted the reference in the report to the impact of poor school buildings on pupils’ education. That has been all too evident. When you go around Wales and look at school buildings that are still in a poor condition, you will see a difference between the children there and those at a newly built school. More than anything else, there is an improvement in attitude and pride in the school where there is a fit-for-purpose building where the facilities are very good and are fit for purpose in the sense that there are purpose-built outdoor play areas that fit in with the foundation phase and Flying Start, and where classrooms have been designed

wedi nodi’n arbennig y cyfeiriad at ddysgu seiliedig ar waith a’r ffaith, er bod rhywfaint o welliant—gwelliant bach y tro hwn—fod diffygion o hyd yn y ddarpariaeth honno yn gyffredinol, a bod angen llawer mwy o welliant ar ran darparwyr i unioni hynny. Canfu’r arolygwyr fod 45 y cant o ddarparwyr dysgu seiliedig ar waith—os gallaf ddod o hyd i’r dudalen—wedi cyrraedd safon y bernid ei bod yn dda at ei gilydd, sydd yn welliant o dros 14 y cant o’i gymharu â’r flwyddyn flaenorol. Yn ôl yr adroddiad:

Fodd bynnag, mae’n dal i beri pryder difrifol fod safonau anfoddhaol ar y cyfan gan bron hanner y darparwyr a arolygwyd gennym.

Gwn inni gael sesiwn yn y Pwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau am y mater hwn ychydig amser yn ôl, lle y cawsom sgwrs gyda swyddogion am yr hyn yr oeddent yn ei wneud am hynny. Yn amlwg, mae gwaith yn cael ei wneud yn yr Adran Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, fel sy’n hysbys bellach, i geisio sicrhau y bydd darparwyr sydd heb gyrraedd y safonau i bob pwrpas yn colli eu contract yn y diwedd, a da hynny. Mae angen gwneud i’r darparwyr ddeall bod eu rhan hwy mewn darpariaeth addysgol llawn cyn bwysiced â chyfraniad llwybrau academiaidd ac eraill, a bod angen iddynt gyrraedd y safonau uchel a ddisgwyliwn ganddynt hefyd. Rhaid iddynt ddeall hefyd, os ydym am fuddsoddi arian cyhoeddus, y bydd arnom eisiau sicrhau gwerth am yr arian cyhoeddus hwnnw a sicrhau ein bod yn cael y canlyniadau sy’n ofynnol fel rhan o hynny.

Sylwais hefyd ar y cyfeiriad yn yr adroddiad at effaith adeiladau ysgolion gwael ar addysg disgyblion. Bu hynny’n ddigon amlwg. Pan ewch o gwmpas Cymru ac edrych ar yr adeiladau ysgolion sydd yn dal mewn cyflwr gwael, fe welwch wahaniaeth rhwng y plant yno a’r rhai mewn ysgol sydd newydd ei hadeiladu. Yn anad dim arall, mae gwahaniaeth o ran agwedd ac o ran y balchder yn yr ysgol pan geir adeilad addas i’r diben lle y mae’r cyfleusterau’n dda iawn ac yn addas i’r diben yn yr ystyr bod yno fannau chwarae pwrpasol y tu allan sy’n gweddu i’r cyfnod sylfaen a Dechrau’n Deg, ac ystafelloedd dosbarth sydd wedi’u

specifically to meet the needs of a modern curriculum. Bearing in mind the statement that we discussed earlier on school buildings, this report underlines how important it is to get them right and to get school buildings up to scratch and fit for purpose at the earliest possible moment so that all pupils across Wales can enjoy the standard of education that comes from being in a building that is specifically designed to deliver a twenty-first century curriculum.

There is also evidence that smaller class sizes have an impact on pupils' attainment. We talked earlier about the number of surplus places around Wales. It is worth noting that the previous administration, prior to 2003, had a commitment that, having achieved 30 pupils as a maximum in terms of primary school classes, it would move on to a maximum of 25 pupils as the next step. That has effectively been abandoned by this Assembly Government and I know that the Minister has given reasons for that, but if we can work towards that maximum of 25, we will get to the optimum level whereby pupils will get far more attention from teachers but still have a cohort with which they can work and in which they can learn from each other as part of joint working. It is too late for this Assembly Government, but I hope that the next Assembly Government will take that work forward as part of its education agenda and start to deliver the smaller class sizes that are so needed.

I have come to the end of my time, Deputy Presiding Officer, but there are a lot more issues that could be discussed, however, those were the two main ones that I wanted to highlight. I hope that we can take forward that work in the next Assembly.

Irene James: I would like to begin by congratulating those schools in Islwyn that are delivering higher than ever educational standards for local pupils, which is a testimony to the joint efforts of pupils, parents, teachers, support staff and school governors.

cynllunio'n benodol i ateb anghenion cwricwlwm modern. O gofio'r datganiad a drafodwyd gennym yn gynharach ynglŷn ag adeiladau ysgolion, mae'r adroddiad hwn yn tanlinellu mor bwysig ydyw eu bod yn iawn a sicrhau adeiladau ysgolion safonol ac addas i'r diben cyn gynted ag y bo'n bosibl fel y gall pob disgybl ledled Cymru fwynhau'r safon o addysg a ddaw o fod mewn adeilad sydd wedi'i gynllunio'n benodol i gyflwyno cwricwlwm sy'n perthyn i'r unfed ganrif ar hugain.

Mae tystiolaeth hefyd fod dosbarthiadau llai'n effeithio ar gyrhaeddiad disgyblion. Siaradwyd yn gynharach am nifer y lleoedd gwag ar hyd a lled Cymru. Mae'n werth nodi bod y weinyddiaeth flaenorol, sef honno cyn 2003, wedi ymrwymo y byddai, ar ôl cyrraedd 30 disgybl fel uchafswm o ran maint dosbarthiadau ysgolion cynradd, yn symud ymlaen i osod uchafswm o 25 disgybl fel y cam nesaf. Mae hynny i bob pwrpas wedi'i roi heibio gan y Llywodraeth hon a gwn fod y Gweinidog wedi rhoi rhesymau dros hynny, ond os gallwn weithio tuag at yr uchafswm hwnnw o 25, fe gyrhaeddwn y lefel orau lle y caiff disgyblion lawer mwy o sylw gan athrawon ond y byddant yn dal i fod yn rhan o garfan lle y gallant weithio a lle y gallant ddysgu oddi wrth ei gilydd fel rhan o broses o gydweithio. Mae'n rhy hwyr i'r Llywodraeth hon, ond gobeithiaf y gwnaiff y Llywodraeth nesaf yn y Cynulliad fwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith hwnnw fel rhan o'i hagenda addysg a dechrau sicrhau'r dosbarthiadau llai hynny y mae cymaint o'u hangen.

Yr wyf wedi dod at ddiwedd fy amser, Ddirprwy Lywydd, ond mae llawer mwy o faterion y gellid eu trafod. Fodd bynnag, dyna'r ddau brif fater yr oedd arnaf eisiau tynnu sylw atynt. Gobeithiaf y gallwn fwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith hwnnw yn y Cynulliad nesaf.

Irene James: Hoffwn ddechrau drwy longyfarch yr ysgolion hynny yn Islwyn sy'n cyflawni safonau addysgol uwch nag erioed i ddisgyblion lleol, sydd yn dyst i gydymdrech disgyblion, rhieni, athrawon, staff cymorth a llywodraethwyr ysgolion.

5.20 p.m.

Across Wales the number of primary schools reaching the top two inspection grades increased by a third, and I was delighted to invite the Minister along on a visit to one of the schools that achieved those grades in its inspection report, Tŷ Isaf school, where, for example, pupils have been exploring the potential benefits of the new Ebbw valley rail line. Its high standards have been mirrored at another school in my constituency, Cwmcarn High School.

The chief inspector points out that to make further significant improvements, schools and colleges will have to work more co-operatively to provide a greater choice of subjects and courses for young people.

I am delighted that young people are taking a lead in the co-operative working agenda. Elected school council members from Blackwood School council have launched a local Blackwood cluster school councils forum. School council representatives from four feeder primary schools have been invited to an event designed to ease the transition from primary school to secondary school. The event aimed to empower the pupils and to ensure that the transition to secondary schooling is as comfortable and as seamless as possible, and information on this will soon be posted on the school's website. It included an Appetite for Life, healthy-eating lunch prepared by the year-10 and year-11 catering students.

The inspector's report also highlights that, as pupils are moving through the school system, those achieving the expected standards in mathematics, English and the sciences tails off, with only about 40 per cent of pupils achieving a good GCSE grade in those subjects. Achievement levels in these subjects also vary greatly between local authority areas and, while we have delivered record levels of investment in education, we must, as a priority, tackle that inequality by making the funding formula fairer and taking forward the core recommendations of the Committee on School Funding report. We must ensure that every pupil in Wales has the

Ledled Cymru cafwyd dwy traean o gynnydd yn nifer yr ysgolion cynradd sy'n cyrraedd y ddwy radd uchaf mewn arolygiadau, ac yr oeddwn wrth fy modd o wahodd y Gweinidog i ymweld ag un o'r ysgolion a enillodd y graddau hynny yn ei adroddiad arolygu, ysgol Tŷ Isaf, lle, er enghraifft, y bu'r disgyblion yn archwilio manteision posibl rheilffordd newydd glyn Ebwy. Adlewyrchwyd ei safonau uchel mewn ysgol arall yn fy etholaeth, Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmcarn.

Er mwyn gwneud rhagor o welliannau mawr, dywed y prif arolygydd y bydd yn rhaid i'r ysgolion a'r colegau weithio mewn modd mwy cydweithredol i gynnig rhagor o ddewis o ran pynciau a chyrsgiau ar gyfer pobl ifanc.

Yr wyf wrth fy modd bod pobl ifanc yn achub y blaen yn yr agenda gweithio cydweithredol. Mae aelodau etholedig cyngor Ysgol y Coed-duon wedi lansio fforwm cynghorau ysgol clwstwr y Coed-duon. Gwahoddwyd cynrychiolwyr cynghorau ysgol o bedair o'r ysgolion cynradd sy'n bwydo'r ysgol uwchradd i ddiwyddiad sydd wedi ei gynllunio i hwyluso'r pontio o'r ysgol gynradd i'r ysgol uwchradd. Amcan y digwyddiad oedd grymuso'r disgyblion a sicrhau bod pontio i'r ysgol uwchradd mor gyffyrddus ac mor llyfn ag y bo modd, a bydd gwybodaeth ar gael ynghylch hyn ar wefan yr ysgol cyn bo hir. Yr oedd yn cynnwys cinio bwyta'n iach Blas am Oes a baratowyd gan fyfyrwyr arlwyyo blwyddyn 10 a blwyddyn 11.

Mae adroddiad yr arolygydd hefyd yn pwysleisio'r ffaith bod y ganran sy'n cyflawni'r safonau disgwylidig mewn mathemateg, Saesneg a'r gwyddorau'n gostwng wrth i'r disgyblion symud drwy'r system ysgol, ac nad oes ond 40 y cant o'r disgyblion yn ennill graddau TGAU da yn y pynciau hynny. Mae lefelau cyflawniad yn y pynciau hynny hefyd yn amrywio'n ddirfawr ymhlith ardaloedd yr awdurdodau lleol ac er inni fuddsoddi mwy nag erioed o'r blaen o arian mewn addysg, mae'n rhaid inni fynd i'r afael, fel mater o flaenoriaeth, â'r anghydraddoldeb hwnnw drwy wneud y fformiwla cyllido'n decach a bwrw ymlaen

best opportunity to achieve their highest career aspirations.

Mark Isherwood: As this report states, if leaders are to make improvements in education standards, they will need new, joint ways of working. I recently attended a conference on 14-19 learning in Denbighshire, where we were told that there are not the resources to achieve the level of change required without collaboration.

This report states that schools and colleges are not working together enough and that there is a need for more or better leadership training.

Half of local authority draft plans further disadvantage disabled children, children with learning difficulties, children from ethnic minorities and young people in difficulty with the law.

At the Denbighshire conference we were told that it would cost £2,300 to release one pupil from school or college for one day a week, but that it would only save the school £400. We also heard that the threat to charge for post-16 transport works against the 14-19 agenda and will penalise the most excluded the most. When I questioned the Minister about this recently in the Chamber, it seemed apparent that no long-term planning was in place to address these issues.

A quarter of 16-year-olds lack basic skills in language, numeracy and science and the figures have not shifted for the last decade. This report states that only about 40 per cent of 16-year-olds achieve good grades at GCSE or equivalent qualifications and, as we know, Careers Wales figures show that the proportion of school leavers not going into education, training or work has risen. Only last week, a headteachers' leader told me of concerns about standstill budgets and the lack of resources to plan for the foundation phase, the 14-19 agenda and post-16 provision.

ag argymhellion craidd adroddiad y Pwyllgor ar Ariannu Ysgolion. Mae'n rhaid inni sicrhau bod pob disgybl yng Nghymru'n cael y cyfle gorau oll i gyflawni ei ddyheadau uchaf o ran gyrfa.

Mark Isherwood: Ys dywedir yn yr adroddiad hwn, os yw'r arweinwyr am wella safonau addysg, bydd arnynt angen ffyrdd newydd o weithio ar y cyd. Yn ddiweddar bûm mewn cynhadledd ynghylch dysgu 14-19 yn sir Ddinbych, lle y dywedwyd wrthym nad oes adnoddau i gyflawni'r newid angenrheidiol heb gydweithredu.

Dywedir yn yr adroddiad hwn nad yw'r ysgolion a'r colegau'n cydweithio'n ddigonol a bod angen naill ai rhagor o hyfforddiant ym maes arweiniad neu well hyfforddiant arweiniad.

Mae hanner cynlluniau drafft yr awdurdodau lleol yn rhoi plant anabl, plant a chanddynt anawsterau dysgu, plant o leiafrifoedd ethnig a phobl ifanc sydd mewn trybini gyda'r gyfraith dan ragor o anfantais.

Yn y gynhadledd yn sir Ddinbych dywedwyd wrthym y byddai'n costio £2,300 i ryddhau un disgybl o'r ysgol neu'r coleg am un diwrnod yr wythnos, ond na fyddai'n arbed ond £400 i'r ysgol. Clywsom hefyd fod y bygythiad i godi tâl am gludiant ar ôl 16 yn llesteirio'r agenda 14-19 gan gosbi'r difreintiedig yn anad neb arall. Pan holais y Gweinidog ynglŷn â hyn yn ddiweddar yn y Siambr, ymddangosai nad oedd cynlluniau hirdymor i'w cael i fynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn.

Mae chwarter y rhai 16 oed heb sgiliau sylfaenol mewn iaith, rhifedd a gwyddoniaeth ac nid yw'r ffigurau wedi newid ers degawd. Dywedir yn yr adroddiad hwn nad oes ond tua 40 y cant yn ennill graddau da mewn TGAU neu gymwysterau cyffelyb ac, fel y gwyddom, dengys ffigurau Gyrfa Cymru fod canran y rhai sy'n ymadael â'r ysgol nad ydynt yn mynd i addysg, hyfforddiant na gwaith wedi cynyddu. Yr wythnos diwethaf, soniodd arweinydd prifathrawon wrthyf ynglŷn â phryderon ynghylch cyllidebau digyfnewid a diffyg adnoddau ar gyfer cynllunio ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen, yr agenda 14-19 a'r ddarpariaeth ar ôl 16.

As we have heard, this report states that 45 per cent of students in work-based learning need help in literacy, and even more need help with numeracy, and they do not always receive the support that they need. There is a significant gap between the numbers of people aged 15 to 19 in education or training in Wales, and those in other EU countries.

Providers of adult community-based learning do not offer enough community development and enterprise activities, and the range of classes is not wide enough. As we have heard, there is a shortage of staff who can teach in Welsh, particularly for those aged 16 and over.

This report states that the limited provision for young people in the youth justice system continues to have a negative effect on education. Eighty-five per cent of young criminals who end up in young offender institutions have mental health issues or learning difficulties, half have spent time in care, over half are addicted to drugs or alcohol, and 40 per cent of the boys have suffered violence at home and one third of the girls have suffered sexual abuse. Thirty-eight per cent of homeless young people have literacy and numeracy levels below the expected level for a seven to eight-year-old child. The shortcomings in young offender institutions and in youth justice plans that are highlighted in this report are therefore simply not acceptable. The UK came out worst, out of 21 industrialised nations, in a recent UNICEF report on child wellbeing. It found that wealth is no indicator of child wellbeing and we must therefore break the cycle of hopelessness that continues to reward failure and penalise success in Welsh education.

Owen John Thomas: Rhannaf bryder fy nghyd-Aelod, Janet, ynglŷn â'r diffyg arweiniad a'r diffyg deunydd sydd ar gael ar gyfer y bobl sy'n gweithio yn y cyfnod sylfaen. Crybwyllais y mater hwn gyda'r Gweinidog sawl gwaith llynedd, a dywedodd hi bob tro fod popeth yn ei le a bod popeth yn iawn. Yna, dangosodd adroddiad y prif

Fel y clywsom dywedir yn yr adroddiad hwn fod angen help gyda'u llythrennedd ar 45 y cant o'r myfyrwyr sydd mewn cynlluniau dysgu seiliedig ar waith a bod angen help gyda rhifedd ar fwy fyth ohonynt, ac nid ydynt wastad yn cael y cymorth angenrheidiol. Mae bwlch mawr rhwng niferoedd y bobl 15 hyd 19 oed sydd mewn addysg neu hyfforddiant yng Nghymru, a'r rhai yng ngwledydd eraill yr Undeb Ewropeaidd.

Nid yw darparwyr sy'n dysgu oedolion yn y gymuned yn cynnig digon o weithgareddau datblygu cymunedol a mentergarwch, ac nid oes digon o amrywiaeth ymhlith y dosbarthiadau. Fel y clywsom, mae prinder staff a all ddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, yn enwedig ar gyfer rhai 16 a hŷn.

Dywedir yn yr adroddiad hwn fod diffygion y ddarpariaeth sydd ar gael ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn dal i gael effaith negyddol ar addysg. Mae gan 85 y cant o'r troseddwy'r ifanc sy'n mynd i sefydliadau troseddwy'r ifanc broblemau iechyd meddwl neu anawsterau dysgu, mae eu hanner wedi treulio amser mewn gofal, mae rhagor na'u hanner yn gaeth i gyffuriau neu alcohol, ac mae 40 y cant o'r bechgyn wedi dioddef trais yn y cartref ac mae traean y merched wedi cael eu cam-drin yn rhywiol. Mae gan 38 y cant o bobl ifanc ddigartref lefelau llythrennedd is na'r hyn y byddech yn ei ddisgwyl gan blentyn saith neu wyth oed. Felly mae'r diffygion a amlygir yn yr adroddiad hwn o ran sefydliadau troseddwy'r ifanc a chynlluniau cyfiawnder ieuencid yn gwbl annerbyniol. Y Deyrnas Unedig oedd y wlad waethaf o blith 21 o gwledydd diwydiannol, mewn adroddiad diweddar gan UNICEF ynglŷn â lles plant. Cafwyd nad yw cyfoeth yn arwydd o les plant ac felly mae'n rhaid inni chwalu'r cylch anobaith sy'n dal i wobrwyo methiant a chosbi llwyddiant yn addysg Cymru.

Owen John Thomas: I share the concerns of my colleague, Janet, about the lack of leadership and material for those who work in the foundation phase. I raised this matter with the Minister many times last year, and she said every time that everything was in place and that all was fine. Then, the chief inspector's report showed that inspectors are

arolygydd bod yr arolygwyr hefyd yn siomedig nad oes pecyn safonol na deunydd hyfforddi ar gael ar gyfer y rhai sy'n gweithio yn y cyfnod sylfaen. Wrth ymateb i hynny, dywedodd y Gweinidog

'the training pack will be out at Easter and we have a project management group that includes Professor Iram Siraj-Blatchford.... She is an internationally respected expert on these kinds of issues'.

Yr oedd dweud hynny i fod yn ddigon i gael gwared ar bob diffyg yn y maes ac ym mhob dosbarth cyfnod sylfaen. Ffoniais adran y Gweinidog ddoe a gofyn a oedd y pecyn wedi cyrraedd ac a fyddai'n bosibl ei weld.

The answer that I received was that there are pack co-ordinators who are developing the training pack, and that they met on 13 March to share materials and to evaluate what further work was needed. I was told that the material would need to be formatted and linked to create a single and coherent pack. That work is to be undertaken during April, by Morfudd Roberts, who is joining DELLS as a foundation phase advisor.

Hoffwn wybod, Weinidog, beth yw'r gwahaniaeth rhwng swyddogaeth y rheolwr prosiect, yr Athro Iram Siraj-Blatchford, a'r cynghorydd ar y cyfnod sylfaen, Morfudd Roberts? Beth sydd wedi digwydd i'r Athro Iram Siraj-Blatchford os nad yw hi yno i wneud y gwaith hwn?

Yr wyf yn poeni ynglŷn â'r mater hwn, Weinidog, ac yr ydych wedi ein camarwain yn ei gylch dros gyfnod. Yn awr, os bydd y pecyn yn barod erbyn y Pasg, tymor yr haf yn unig a fydd gan athrawon i'w dreialu. Beth y byddant yn ei dreialu? A fyddant yn treialu'r pecyn cyfan? A ydynt yn mynd i'w wasgaru drwy'r dosbarthiadau? A fydd y pecyn yn cynnwys y deunydd sy'n angenrheidiol ar gyfer blwyddyn 2, nad yw'r cyfnod sylfaen wedi'i chyrraedd eto? Hoffwn wybod beth yn union sydd gennych mewn golwg, Weinidog.

Eleanor Burnham: Obviously, our thanks go to Susan Lewis and the Estyn team for their work. Although I am not a member of the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

also disappointed that there is no standardised pack or training material available for those working in the foundation phase. In replying to that, the Minister said

caiff y pecyn hyfforddiant ei ryddhau adeg y Pasg ac mae gennym grŵp rheoli prosiect sy'n cynnwys yr Athro Iram Siraj-Blatchford.... Mae hi'n arbenigwraig y mae parch ati yn rhyngwladol yn y maes hwn.

That was supposed to be enough to deal with all deficiencies in this matter and in all foundation phase classes. I telephoned the Minister's department yesterday, asking whether the pack had arrived and whether it would be possible for me to see it.

Yr ateb a gefais oedd bod cydlynwyr pecyn yn datblygu'r pecyn hyfforddiant, a'u bod wedi cwrdd ar 13 Mawrth i rannu deunyddiau ac arfarnu pethau i weld beth arall yr oedd angen ei wneud. Dywedwyd wrthyf y byddai angen fformatio'r deunydd a'i gysylltu i greu un pecyn cydlynol. Caiff y gwaith hwnnw ei wneud ym mis Ebrill, gan Morfudd Roberts, sy'n ymuno ag AADGOS fel ymgynghorydd ynghylch y cyfnod sylfaen.

I would like to know, Minister, what the difference is between the role of the project manager, Professor Iram Siraj-Blatchford, and the adviser on the foundation phase, Morfudd Roberts. What has happened to Professor Iram Siraj-Blatchford if she is not there to do this work?

I am concerned about this issue, Minister, and you have misled us about it over a period of time. If the pack is ready by Easter, teachers will only have the summer term in which to undertake trials. What will they be trialling? Are they going to trial the whole pack? Will they divide it between classes? Will it include the material needed for year 2, that the foundation phase has not yet reached? I would like to know exactly what you have in mind, Minister.

Eleanor Burnham: Wrth reswm, diolchwn i Susan Lewis a thîm Estyn am eu gwaith. Er nad wyf yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, mae gennyf

Committee, I take a great interest in education because, as a regional Member, I am privileged to be invited to all kinds of colleges and other educational establishments around Wales and I know that there is some very good work going on. However, I am concerned about the state of play with regard to the 14-19 learning pathways, as Mark Isherwood mentioned. Recently, in two colleges—at Coleg Llysfasi about three weeks ago and at Deeside College only last week—many students expressed grave concerns about the state of their finances, particularly when they will have to pay the extra transport costs that the local authorities tell us that they cannot afford. I note that, in the Estyn report, there is a significant gap compared with other EU countries in terms of the education and training of 15 to 19-year-olds, even though they have done better than before, and are surpassing Welsh Assembly Government targets. However, with the huge costs of education to people who cannot really afford it, this Labour Government has shot itself in the foot with tuition fees, and it will shoot itself in the foot again when it finds that local authorities, because of their overstretched budgets, cannot perform in this area. I think that the youngsters need an answer from the Minister.

5.30 p.m.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I join those who paid tribute to the chief inspector in this debate; she will be retiring in November, and this is therefore her last annual report. As Minister, it has been a real pleasure working with her and her team in the interests of delivering for education in Wales. Both the inspection work and the remit work contained in this report make a strong contribution towards this Government's evidence base.

William, in your contribution you highlighted several areas—students leaving school without qualifications, issues around transition, work-based learning, and boys' literacy, for example—and in each of those we are talking about taking action through 'The Learning Country: Vision into Action' programme to address the areas for

ddiddordeb mawr mewn addysg gan fy mod yn cael y ffraind, fel Aelod rhanbarthol, o gael fy ngwahodd i bob mathau o golegau a sefydliadau addysg eraill o amgylch Cymru a gwn fod gwaith da iawn i'w gael. Fodd bynnag, pryderaf ynglŷn â'r sefyllfa sydd ohoni o ran y llwybrau dysgu 14-19, fel y crybwyllodd Mark Isherwood. Yn ddiweddar, mewn dau goleg—yng Ngholeg Llysfasi tua thair wythnos yn ôl ac yng Ngholeg Glannau Dyfrdwy yr wythnos diwethaf—mynegodd llawer o'r myfyrwyr bryder difrifol ynglŷn â'u harian, yn enwedig pan fydd yn rhaid iddynt dalu'r costau cludiant ychwanegol y mae'r awdurdodau lleol yn dweud wrthym na allant eu fforddio. Yn adroddiad Estyn nodaf fod bwlch mawr o'i gymharu â gwledydd eraill yr Undeb Ewropeaidd o ran addysg a hyfforddiant pobl 15 hyd 19 oed, er eu bod wedi gwneud yn well nag o'r blaen, a'u bod yn gwneud yn well na thargedau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Fodd bynnag, ac ystyried costau enfawr addysg i bobl nad ydynt yn gallu ei fforddio mewn gwirionedd, mae'r Llywodraeth Lafur hon wedi cymryd cam gwag gyda ffioedd dysgu, a bydd yn cymryd cam gwag arall pan wêl na fydd yr awdurdodau lleol, oherwydd y pwysau gormodol ar eu cyllidebau, yn gallu perfformio yn y maes hwn. Credaf fod angen i'r Gweinidog roi ateb i'r bobl ifanc.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Ymunaf â'r rhai a fu'n talu teyrnged i'r prif arolygydd yn y ddadl hon; bydd yn ymdeol ym mis Tachwedd, ac felly dyma'r adroddiad blynyddol olaf ganddi. Fel Gweinidog, bu'n bleser digamsyniol gweithio gyda hi a'i thîm gyda'r bwriad o wella addysg yng Nghymru. Mae'r gwaith arolygu a'r cylch gwaith a geir yn yr adroddiad hwn ill dau'n cyfrannu'n helaeth at sylfaen dystiolaeth y Llywodraeth hon.

William, yn eich cyfraniad chi tynasoch sylw at amryw o feysydd—myfyrwyr yn ymadael â'r ysgol heb gymwysterau, materion sy'n ymwneud â phontio, dysgu'n seiliedig ar waith, a llythrennedd bechgyn, er enghraifft—ac ym mhob un o'r rheini yr ydym yn sôn am weithredu drwy'r rhaglen 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu: Gweledigaeth Ar

improvement. Yet your party wanted to delete the part of the motion that deals with the specific issues that you raised in your contribution.

Janet, you talked about cutting back on places in the teaching sector without appropriate planning. That is not what we are doing at all; we are responding to the number of children in Wales, the number of teachers already trained, and the number of teachers—particularly in the primary sector—who are unable to find employment at the moment. We have specifically asked the institutions that train teachers to hold the places that would otherwise have been available for teacher training, and look instead at providing professional support in other areas identified by the Assembly Government, such as the foundation phase. Money for the 14-19 learning pathways has increased substantially this year, which is outside the realm of this report. The report covers 2005-06, and therefore excludes that additional £32.5 million, along with the new network development plans and opportunities for courses across Wales, which are being evaluated by the department at the moment. I think that Jeff, in the example he gave of the partnership between Ystrad Mynach College and a local school, demonstrated unequivocally how this route can offer a far wider curriculum base for students and pupils than has been the case previously.

Peter, you and I and the chief inspector remain concerned about work-based learning, and rightly so. At the same time as standards rose among 45 per cent of the providers inspected, we know that they fell in the bottom tranche. What I can tell you, which is extremely positive, is that the inspection outcomes for the first part of this academic year, from September 2006 to January 2007, are showing a marked improvement: 85 per cent of subject areas inspected so far this year are at grade 3 or better, compared to 64 per cent for the whole of 2006. There are still a number of other inspections to take place, but it is an encouraging picture, and it reflects an overall improvement. As I have informed you previously, there is increased monitoring by DELLS, and support for providers to help them improve. If they do not improve then

Waith' er mwyn rhoi sylw i'r meysydd yr ydym am eu gwella. Er hynny yr oedd eich plaid am ddileu'r rhan honno o'r cynnig sy'n ymwneud â'r materion penodol a godasoch yn eich cyfraniad.

Janet, soniasoch am leihau lleoedd yn y sector dysgu heb gynllunio priodol. Nid gwneud hynny yr ydym o gwbl; ymateb yr ydym i nifer y plant yng Nghymru, nifer yr athrawon sydd eisoes wedi hyfforddi, a nifer yr athrawon—yn enwedig yn y sector cynradd—nad ydynt yn gallu dod o hyd i swyddi ar hyn o bryd. Gofynasom yn benodol i'r sefydliadau hynny sy'n hyfforddi athrawon atal y lleoedd a fyddai ar gael i hyfforddi athrawon fel arall, ac yn lle hynny ystyried darparu cymorth proffesiynol mewn meysydd eraill y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi eu nodi, megis y cyfnod sylfaen. Mae arian y llwybrau dysgu 14-19 wedi cynyddu'n ddirfawr eleni, ac nid yw hynny'n rhan o orchwyl yr adroddiad hwn. Mae a wnelo'r adroddiad â 2005-06, ac felly nid yw'n cynnwys y £32.5 miliwn ychwanegol, ynghyd â'r cynlluniau datblygu rhwydwaith a'r cyfleoedd ar gyfer cyrsiau ar draws Cymru, y mae'r adran wrthi'n eu harfarnu ar hyn o bryd. Credaf fod Jeff, yn yr enghraifft a roes o'r bartneriaeth rhwng Coleg Ystrad Mynach ac ysgol leol, wedi dangos yn bendant sut y gall y llwybr hwn gynnig cwricwlwm ehangach o lawer i fyfyrwyr a disgyblion na'r hyn a welwyd o'r blaen.

Peter, yr ydych chi a minnau a'r prif arolygydd yn dal i bryderu ynglŷn â dysgu seiliedig ar waith, a theg yw hynny. Ar yr un pryd ag y bu safonau'n codi ymhlith 45 y cant o'r darparwyr a arolygwyd, gwyddom eu bod wedi gostwng yn y gyfran isaf. Yr hyn y gallaf ei ddweud wrthy, sy'n gadarnhaol iawn, yw bod canlyniadau arolygiadau rhan gyntaf y flwyddyn academiaidd hon, o fis Medi 2006 hyd fis Ionawr 2007, yn dangos gwelliant clir: mae 85 y cant o'r meysydd pwnc a arolygwyd hyd yma eleni ar radd 3 neu well, o'i gymharu â 64 y cant ar gyfer 2006 ar ei hyd. Mae nifer o arolygiadau eraill i'w gwneud o hyd, ond mae'n ddarlun calonogol, ac mae'n adlewyrchu gwelliant cyffredinol. Ys dywedais wrthy o'r blaen, mae rhagor o fonitro gan AADGOS, a chymorth i'r darparwyr i'w helpu i wella. Oni

their contracts will be terminated, and I know that you support that very robust line.

There is nothing in this report about class sizes, but in fact it was the Estyn evidence that showed that the spend required to achieve your specific outcome on class sizes was not commensurate to improved delivery in education—as an evidence-based Minister, I published that in 2005. However, targeted investment such as the raising attainment and individual standards in education in Wales programme and improved pupil-teacher ratios in the foundation phase suggests that that will lead to improvements in education.

Irene, thank you for giving such a positive example of the work in Islwyn on issues around school councils and transition. The chief inspector has strongly endorsed the learners' voice; she wants issues around learners' voices to be heard by senior management, as well as others.

Mark, we have always agreed, as the chief inspector said, that schools and colleges are not working together closely enough. In the delivery of an appropriate collaborative agenda offering the widest range of opportunities for young people, we want them to do just that. It is also important to recognise that, in the acquisition of key skills, for example, the ability to communicate, to use numbers and ICT, Wales is leading the way across the whole of the UK. We are developing that aspect even further with the huge numbers of schools and colleges that have volunteered to participate in the Welsh baccalaureate project, such as every school in Anglesey and Newport, and other collaborations in local authorities. The Welsh baccalaureate is available in every local authority area for those who want to achieve these skills at levels 2 and 3.

I will ensure that you are sent a copy of the new youth justice booklet on which we have worked with the National Offender Management Service. We also recently launched the learning to change agenda for

fyddant yn gwella caiff eu contractau eu terfynu, a gwn eich bod o blaid gweithredu cadarn felly.

Nid oes sôn yn yr adroddiad hwn am faint dosbarthiadau, ond yn wir, tystiolaeth Estyn a ddangosodd nad oedd y gwariant a oedd yn angenrheidiol er mwyn gwireddu eich nod penodol o ran maint dosbarthiadau yn gymesur â gwella'r ddarpariaeth ym maes addysg—gan fy mod yn Weinidog sy'n seilio pethau ar dystiolaeth, cyhoeddais hwnnw yn 2005. Fodd bynnag, mae buddsoddiad wedi'i dargedu megis y rhaglen codi cyrhaeddiad a safonau addysgol unigol yng Nghymru a gwell cymarebau disgybl-athro yn y cyfnod sylfaen yn awgrymu y bydd hynny'n arwain at welliannau mewn addysg.

Irene, diolch am roi enghraifft mor gadarnhaol o'r gwaith yn Islwyn ar faterion ynghylch cyngorau ysgol a phontio. Mae'r prif arolygydd wedi ategu llais y dysgwyr yn gryf; mae arni hi eisiau i faterion ynghylch lleisiau dysgwyr gael eu clywed gan uwch reolwyr, ynghyd ag eraill.

Mark, yr ydym wastad wedi cytuno, fel y dywedodd y prif arolygydd, nad yw ysgolion a cholegau'n cydweithio'n ddigon agos. Wrth gyflwyno agenda gydweithredol briodol a fydd yn cynnig yr amrediad ehangaf o gyfleoedd i bobl ifanc, mae arnom eisiau iddynt wneud yr union beth hwnnw. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod, hefyd, ym maes ennill sgiliau allweddol, er enghraifft y gallu i gyfathrebu, defnyddio rhifau a thechnoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu, fod Cymru'n arwain y ffordd ledled gwledydd Prydain. Yr ydym yn datblygu'r agwedd honno ymhellach fyth gyda'r niferoedd aruthrol o ysgolion a cholegau sydd wedi gwirfoddoli i gymryd rhan ym mhrosiect bagloriaeth Cymru, megis pob ysgol ym Môn a Chasnewydd, a phrosiectau cydweithredol eraill mewn awdurdodau lleol. Mae bagloriaeth Cymru ar gael ym mhob ardal awdurdod lleol i'r rhai sydd eisiau ennill y sgiliau hyn ar lefelau 2 a 3.

Fe sicrhaf yr anfonir copi atoch o'r llyfryn newydd ar gyfiawnder ieuenctid y buom yn gweithio arno gyda'r Gwasanaeth Rheoli Troseddwyd Cenedlaethol. Yn ddiweddar, hefyd, lanswyd yr agenda dysgu newid i

adults in terms of linking issues around basic skills, which I am sure you would welcome.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You need to wind up, Minister.

Jane Davidson: Very briefly, just to clarify to Owen John Thomas, Professor Iram Siraj-Blatchford, by public appointment, is leading the work on early years and care and we are privileged to have her do so. She is leading with me on the project board; Morfudd Roberts has been seconded by Denbighshire County Council to be the adviser for the delivery of the foundation phase, which starts in September 2008. The training packs will be available to ensure that all teachers involved in the delivery of the foundation phase will have the appropriate training.

oedolion, o ran cysylltu materion yn ymwneud â sgiliau sylfaenol, rhywbeth y byddech yn ei groesawu, yr wyf yn siŵr.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae angen i chi ddirwyn i ben, Weinidog.

Jane Davidson: Yn fyr iawn, dim ond i egluro i Owen John Thomas, mae'r Athro Iram Siraj-Blatchford, drwy benodiad cyhoeddus, yn arwain y gwaith ar flynyddoedd cynnar a gofal ac mae'n ffrainc i ni ei bod yn gwneud. Mae hi'n arwain gyda mi ar fwrdd y prosiect; mae Morfudd Roberts wedi'i secondio gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych i gynghori ar gyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen, a fydd yn dechrau ym Medi 2008. Bydd y pecynnau hyfforddi ar gael i sicrhau y caiff pob athro neu athrawes sy'n ymwneud â chyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen ei hyfforddi'n briodol.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 20, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Amendment 1: For 20, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 20, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Amendment 2: For 20, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Motion (NDM3556): to propose that
the National Assembly for Wales:*

1. welcomes:

a) the annual report for 2005-06 of the Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training;

b) the chief inspector's conclusion that providers in most sectors have improved a great deal since they were last inspected;

c) the action being taken through 'The Learning Country' programme to address the areas for improvement identified by the chief inspector and break down barriers to learning.

Cynnig (NDM3556): cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn croesawu:

a) adroddiad blynyddol Prif Arolygydd Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant ar gyfer 2005-06;

b) casgliad y prif arolygydd bod darparwyr yn y rhan fwyaf o sectorau wedi gwella'n sylweddol ers iddynt gael eu harolygu ddiwethaf;

c) y camau sy'n cael eu cymryd drwy raglen 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu' i fynd i'r afael â'r meysydd ar gyfer gwella a nodwyd gan y prif arolygydd ac i chwalu'r rhwystrau rhag dysgu.

*Cynnig (NDM3556): O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3556): For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Daw hynny â
completes business for this afternoon. chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.38 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.38 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)

Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
 Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
 Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Dunwoody, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
 Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Law, Trish (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Marek, John (Cymru Ymlaen – Forward Wales)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
 Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)