



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

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

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

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

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

Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister

Rôl a Chyfrifoldebau Comisiynydd Plant Cymru The Role and Responsibilities of the Children's Commissioner for Wales

Q1 Kirsty Williams: Will the First Minister make a statement on the role and responsibilities of the Children's Commissioner for Wales? (OAQ34242)

C1 Kirsty Williams: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am rôl a chyfrifoldebau Comisiynydd Plant Cymru? (OAQ34242)

Q8 The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): Will the First Minister make a statement on the remit of the Children's Commissioner for Wales? (OAQ34243)

C8 Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am gylich gwaith Comisiynydd Plant Cymru? (OAQ34243)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): The commissioner has a wide range of powers to review, monitor, investigate and offer assistance on devolved issues affecting children and young people in Wales. He can also make representations to the Assembly on any matter affecting their rights or welfare, including non-devolved matters.

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Mae gan y comisiynydd bwerau eang i adolygu, monitro, ymchwilio a chynnig cymorth ar faterion a ddatganolwyd sy'n effeithio ar blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru. Gall hefyd gyflwyno sylwadau i'r Cynulliad ar unrhyw fater sy'n effeithio ar eu hawliau neu eu lles, gan gynnwys materion nas datganolwyd.

Kirsty Williams: You will be aware of the concerns of the opposition and of the children's commissioner with regard to the Children Bill currently before the Westminster Parliament. It will give the children's commissioner for England roles and responsibilities over non-devolved matters that affect children in Wales. Do you agree with the Children's Commissioner for Wales that this will be incredibly confusing for children in Wales? It will also be incredibly confusing for people delivering services for children in Wales. What discussions have you had with your colleagues in Westminster, and what steps have you taken, to ensure that this legislation is written in an enabling way for the National Assembly, allowing our children's commissioner to look after the needs of children in Wales holistically?

Kirsty Williams: Byddwch yn ymwybodol o bryderon y gwrthbleidiau a'r comisiynydd plant ynghylch y Mesur Plant sydd gerbron y Senedd yn San Steffan ar hyn o bryd. Rhydd rolau a chyfrifoldebau i gomisiynydd plant Lloegr dros faterion sydd heb eu datganoli sy'n effeithio ar blant yng Nghymru. A ydych yn cytuno â Chomisiynydd Plant Cymru y bydd hyn yn peri dryswch mawr i blant yng Nghymru? Bydd hefyd yn peri dryswch mawr i rai sy'n darparu gwasanaethau ar gyfer plant yng Nghymru. Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch â'ch cymheiriaid yn San Steffan, a pha gamau a gymerasoch, i sicrhau y caiff y ddeddfwriaeth hon ei llunio mewn modd sy'n galluogi'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, fel y gall ein comisiynydd plant ni ofalu'n gyfannol am anghenion plant yng Nghymru?

The First Minister: We agree on this issue, Kirsty. Jane Hutt has taken the lead on our behalf in negotiations with the UK

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn cyd-weld ar y pwnc hwn, Kirsty. Mae Jane Hutt wedi cymryd yr awennau ar ein rhan mewn

Government, specifically with Margaret Hodge at the Department for Education and Skills, and with the Secretary of State for Wales and Don Touhig, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. We all agree that there should be a one-stop shop for vulnerable children in Wales. As there are some matters—especially in relation to the criminal justice system—that are not devolved to Wales, how to achieve such a one-stop shop has not yet been fully bottomed-out. Negotiations are continuing on that issue, but we all agree on the principle. We do not expect vulnerable children in Wales to be experts on the constitution, and to be able to distinguish, when they are at their most vulnerable and seeking assistance from the children's commissioner, the difference between a devolved and a non-devolved issue.

Michael German: Before I ask my supplementary question I will say a few words in tribute to my colleague Geraint Howells, who, sadly, died during the recess. Many Members will know that Geraint was a loyal servant of our party. The best description I heard of him was that he was 'a man of his own square mile' but that he took that square mile to include Ponterwyd, the whole of Ceredigion, and London while he was in Parliament. He carried out his duties in a way that took Welsh life and culture to the Houses of Parliament. He was a tremendous advocate for the Welsh language and for the establishment of a senedd for Wales. It was one of the joys of his life that he saw this senedd established. He was a great servant of our party; he took our party forward and we will all remember him. I pay tribute to his work and pass on my commiserations to his family for the tragic loss that they have suffered.

Y Llywydd: Fel un a fu'n cydweithio â Geraint am 30 mlynedd, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai Aelodau'r Cynulliad am i mi ein cysylltu ni i gyd â'r datganiad hwnnw o goffâd, a chyfleu ein cydymdeimlad ag Olwen a'r teulu.

Michael German: Thank you. First Minister, the issue is how you can get a one-stop shop in Wales. Can you tell us how, since we have only one commissioner at present, a one-stop

negodiadau â Llywodraeth y DU ac, yn benodol, gyda Margaret Hodge yn yr Adran Addysg a Sgiliau, a chydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru a Don Touhig, yr Is-Ysgrifennydd Seneddol. Yr ydym oll yn cytuno y dylid cael siop un stop i blant sy'n agored i niwed yng Nghymru. Gan fod rhai materion—yn enwedig yn ymwneud â'r system cyfiawnder troseddol—nadydynt wedi'u datganoli i Gymru, ni lwyddwyd eto i lwyr ddatrys sut y gellir cael siop un stop o'r fath. Mae negodiadau'n parhau ar y mater hwnnw, ond yr ydym i gyd yn cytuno ar yr egwyddor. Ni ddisgwylwn i blant hyglwyr yng Nghymru fod yn arbenigwyr ar y cyfansoddiad nac iddynt allu gwahaniaethu, pan fônt yn fwyaf agored i niwed ac yn ceisio cymorth gan y comisiynydd plant, rhwng mater a ddatganolwyd ac un sydd heb ei ddatganoli.

Michael German: Cyn imi ofyn fy nghwestiwn atodol, dywedaf ychydig eiriau'n deyrnged i'm cyd-aelod Geraint Howells, a fu farw, gwaetha'r modd, yn ystod y toriad. Bydd llawer o Aelodau'n gwybod bod Geraint yn was ffyddlon i'n plaid. Y disgrifiad gorau ohono a glywais oedd ei fod yn 'ddyn ei filltir sgwâr' ond ei fod yn cymryd bod y filltir sgwâr honno'n cynnwys Ponterwyd, Ceredigion gyfan, a Llundain tra oedd yn y Senedd. Cyflawnodd ei ddyletswyddau mewn modd a oedd yn dwyn bywyd a diwylliant Cymru i'r Senedd. Bu'n ddadleuwr gwych dros y Gymraeg a thros sefydlu senedd i Gymru. Llawenydd o'r mwyaf iddo oedd gweld sefydlu'r senedd hon. Bu'n was ardderchog i'n plaid; aeth â'n plaid yn ei blaen a byddwn oll yn ei gofio. Talaf deyrnged i'w waith ac estynnaf fy nghydymdeimlad i'w deulu am y golled drist y maent wedi'i phrofi.

The Presiding Officer: As one who was a colleague of Geraint's for 30 years, I am sure that Assembly Members would wish me to associate all of us with that tribute, and to convey our condolences to Olwen and the family.

Michael German: Diolch i chi. Brif Weinidog, y mater dan sylw yw sut y gellir cael siop un stop yng Nghymru. A allwch chi ddweud wrthym, gan mai dim ond un

shop could operate with more than one commissioner?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ymatebaf yn gyntaf am farwolaeth yr Arglwydd Geraint. Os bu dyn yng ngwleidyddiaeth Cymru y gellir cyfeirio ato fel Cymro i'r carn, yr Arglwydd Geraint oedd hwnnw. Hoffwn fynegi fy nheyrnged iddo a'm cydymdeimlad ag Olwen a'r teulu. Cyfrannodd Geraint Howells i'n gwleidyddiaeth genedlaethol ac i wleidyddiaeth Ceredigion, a bu'n garedig wrth Julie a mi ar ddechrau ein gyrfaedd yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin.

To turn to your question, Mike, the \$64,000 issue is that we have to deal with vulnerable children in relation to the justice system, for example, which is not devolved, and in relation to other issues connected to education, health, local government services, housing and so on, which are devolved. We must find a bridge between devolved and non-devolved services. The method was substantially explored in the evidence given by Jane Hutt, and Peter Clarke, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, who made clear the problems that he faced because of the different nature of the two commissioner posts. One has been set up and the other is about to be set up. One can work via a Minister and give an indication of what he or she wants. The children's commissioners for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, are independent of Government and part of the redress system. There is a problem that has to be bottomed out and there must be a satisfactory solution. The fundamental principle is that we must have a workable, viable, clear one-stop shop that children know how to find in Wales when they have need of an advocate in the redress system.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Mae'n dda clywed eich ymrwymiad, Brif Weinidog, i sicrhau bod Comisiynydd Plant Cymru yn gallu ymdrin â'r holl faterion sy'n ymwneud â phlant a phobl ifanc. Mae hynny er mwyn caniatáu i'r comisiynydd—*[Torri ar draws.]* Yr oedd dau feicroffon ymlaen, yr oeddwn yn siarad—*[Torri ar draws.]* Na, mae'n digwydd drwy un meicroffon hefyd.

comisiynydd sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd, sut y gallai siop un stop weithredu o gael mwy nag un comisiynydd?

The First Minister: I will respond first on the death of Lord Geraint. If ever there was a man in Welsh politics that one could describe as a true Welshman, Lord Geraint was that man. I would like to pay my tribute to him and convey my condolences to Olwen and the family. Geraint Howells contributed to national politics and to the politics of Ceredigion, and he was kind to Julie and me when we began our careers in the House of Commons.

Gan droi at eich cwestiwn, Mike, y mater pwysicaf yw ein bod yn gorfod delio â phlant sy'n agored i niwed mewn cysylltiad â'r system gyfiawnder, er enghraifft, sydd heb ei datganoli, ac mewn cysylltiad â materion eraill sy'n ymwneud ag addysg, iechyd, gwasanaethau llywodraeth leol, tai ac yn y blaen, sydd wedi'u datganoli. Rhaid inni ganfod modd i bontio rhwng gwasanaethau a ddatganolwyd a rhai sydd heb eu datganoli. Ymdriniwyd yn helaeth â'r dull o wneud hynny yn y dystiolaeth a roddodd Jane Hutt, a Peter Clarke, Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, a eglurodd y problemau a wynebai oherwydd natur wahanol swyddi'r comisiynwyr. Mae un wedi'i sefydlu a'r mae'r llall ar fin cael ei sefydlu. Gall un weithio drwy Weinidog a mynegi ei ddymuniad. Mae'r comisiynwyr plant i Gymru, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon yn annibynnol ar Lywodraeth ac maent yn rhan o'r system gywiro. Rhaid datrys y broblem hon a chael ateb boddhaol. Yr egwyddor sylfaenol yw bod rhaid inni gael siop un stop sy'n ymarferol, yn ddichonol ac yn glir, fel y gŵyr plant sut i ddod o hyd iddi yng Nghymru pan fo arnynt angen rhywun i ddadlau ar eu rhan yn y system gywiro.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: It is good to hear your commitment, First Minister, to ensuring that the Children's Commissioner for Wales is able to deal with all the issues affecting children and young people. That would allow the commissioner—*[Interruption.]* There were two microphones on, I was speaking—*[Interruption.]* No, it is happening with one microphone also.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Pan fydd problemau technegol, y peth gorau yw parhau i siarad, Rhodri Glyn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am yr arweiniad, Lywydd. Yr wyf yn falch o'ch ymrwymiad, Brif Weinidog, a'r ffaith eich bod yn ceisio canfod rhyw ffordd o ymdrin â'r mater hwn. Oni ddylech fod wedi rhagweld hyn a cheisio cynnig gwelliannau i'r Mesur Plant er mwyn sicrhau na fyddai'r problemau hyn yn codi? Gan nad yw hynny wedi digwydd, i ba raddau y mae'r Gweinidog yn San Steffan yn cydymdeimlo â'ch achos ac a yw'n barod i ymateb yn gadarnhaol? Yn ôl adroddiadau, dywedodd y Gweinidog nad yw'r mater hwn i'w drafod a'i bod eisoes wedi dod i benderfyniad.

2.10p.m.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn sesiwn y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig, yr oedd cyfle i bawb roi tystiolaeth. Yn y dystiolaeth a roddodd Jane Hutt, er enghraifft, fe'i gwnaeth yn glir ein bod yn meddwl bod ffordd o gael siop un stop ar gyfer plant sydd o dan straen neu fygythiad yng Nghymru. Mae'n rhaid pontio rhwng y gwasanaethau a ddatganolwyd—rhestrais y rhain yn gynharach—a'r gwasanaethau nas datganolwyd, lle mae'r gyfundrefn yn wahanol. Nid yw hynny'n rhwydd, ac nid wyf am roi'r argraff ei fod felly, ond rhywsut mae'n rhaid i ni bontio'r gagendor. Mae pawb yn derbyn bod rhaid i ni gael un lle, un comisiynydd—un siop, os hoffech—y gall plant droi ato pan fo angen comisiynydd neu lais annibynnol arnynt.

Jonathan Morgan: I have been reading the Children Bill with interest. Part 1 of the Bill makes it clear that the UK children's commissioner will be required to consult the commissioner in Wales, Peter Clarke, on non-devolved matters and establish his view. If that is so, a situation could arise whereby Peter Clarke's view is different from that of the UK children's commissioner. This part of the Bill allows for an almighty public row between two children's commissioners. Do you not agree that that will lead to further confusion of the sort that Kirsty Williams alluded to earlier?

The Presiding Officer: Order. When there are technical difficulties, it is best to continue to speak, Rhodri Glyn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I am grateful for your guidance, Presiding Officer. I appreciate your commitment, First Minister, and the fact that you are trying to find some way of dealing with this matter. Should you not have anticipated this and tried to propose amendments to the Children Bill in order to ensure that these problems did not arise? Since that has not happened, to what extent does the Minister in Westminster sympathise with your cause and is she prepared to respond favourably? According to reports, the Minister has said that this subject is not subject to debate and that she has already made her decision.

The First Minister: Everyone had an opportunity to give evidence to the Welsh Affairs Select Committee session. The evidence that Jane Hutt gave, for example, made it clear that we believe that a one-stop shop could be established for Welsh children who feel threatened or under pressure. We must bridge the gap between the services that have been devolved to us—I listed them earlier—and the non-devolved services, where the system is different. This is not an easy task, and I do not want to give the impression that it is, but somehow we must bridge that gap. Everyone accepts that we must have one place, one commissioner—one shop, if you like—that children can go to when they need a commissioner or an independent advocate.

Jonathan Morgan: Bùm yn darllen y Mesur Plant gyda diddordeb. Mae Rhan 1 y Mesur yn ei gwneud yn glir y bydd yn ofynnol i gomisiynydd plant y DU ymgynghori â'r comisiynydd yng Nghymru, Peter Clarke, ar faterion sydd heb eu datganoli a chael gwybod ei farn. Os felly, gallai sefyllfa godi lle y bydd barn Peter Clarke yn wahanol i un comisiynydd plant y DU. Mae'r rhan hon o'r Mesur yn creu'r posibilrwydd o ffrae gyhoeddus fawr rhwng dau gomisiynydd plant. Oni chytunwch y bydd hynny'n arwain at ddryswch pellach o'r math y cyfeiriodd Kirsty Williams ato'n gynharach?

The First Minister: I am not sure that that is the problem. There is a problem in that the two offices are structured differently. How big a problem that will turn out to be in practice we do not know. Peter Clarke takes a strong line on being an independent advocate. The commissioner's role, as set out in the legislation now before the Houses of Parliament, is not independent in the same way, and he or she can take instruction from a Minister, which Peter Clarke cannot do. The children's commissioners for Scotland and Northern Ireland also cannot do that, and I believe that they gave evidence—certainly the commissioner for Scotland, who is in office, did—to the same effect, namely that commissioners should be independent and should not come under a Government Minister. That is the structural difficulty that Peter Clarke has spotted. Whether it is an overwhelming problem that will cause real difficulty in setting up a one-stop mechanism is what we are trying to bottom out. Jane Hutt made it clear in her evidence that she thinks it is possible to get a bridging mechanism.

We do not expect children to have to work out for themselves to which commissioner they should go; they should be able to go to one commissioner and get the service that they require, regardless of whether it pertains to a devolved or non-devolved service. Exactly how that will be done has not yet been bottomed out, and I do not want to give the impression that it has. We are continuing to work on that, and to negotiate on the basis of what provides the most seamless service to vulnerable children in Wales.

David Melding: First Minister, do you take the united view of the Assembly that, whatever happens, the needs of children in Wales should determine the design of the services?

The First Minister: Absolutely.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn siŵr mai hynny yw'r broblem. Cyfyd problem o'r ffaith bod y ddwy swydd wedi'u trefnu'n wahanol. Ni wyddom faint o broblem fydd hynny'n ymarferol. Mae Peter Clarke yn rhoi pwys mawr ar fod yn ddadleuwr annibynnol. Nid yw rôl y comisiynydd, fel a nodir yn y ddeddfwriaeth sydd gerbron y Senedd yn awr, yn annibynnol yn yr un modd, a gall gymryd ei gyfarwyddo gan Weinidog, ac ni all Peter Clarke wneud hynny. Ni all y comisiynwyr plant i'r Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon wneud hynny ychwaith, a chredaf iddynt roi tystiolaeth—yn sicr, gwnaeth comisiynydd yr Alban, sydd wedi dechrau ei swydd—i'r un perwyl, sef y dylai comisiynwyr fod yn annibynnol ac na ddylent fod o dan awdurdod Gweinidog yn y Llywodraeth. Dyna'r anhawster trefniadol y mae Peter Clarke wedi sylwi arno. Yr hyn yr ydym yn ceisio ei ganfod yw a yw hynny'n broblem lethol a fydd yn peri gwir anhawster wrth sefydlu siop un stop. Eglurodd Jane Hutt yn ei thystiolaeth ei bod o'r farn y gellir pontio'r swyddi.

Nid ydym yn disgwyl i blant orfod gweithio allan at ba gomisiynydd y dylent fynd; dylai fod modd iddynt fynd at un comisiynydd a chael y gwasanaeth y mae arnynt ei angen, pa un a yw'n ymwneud â gwasanaeth a ddatganolwyd neu un nas datganolwyd. Ni chanfuwyd eto sut yn union y gwneir hynny, ac nid wyf am roi'r argraff bod hynny wedi digwydd. Yr ydym yn dal i weithio ar hynny, ac i negodi ar sail yr hyn a rydd y gwasanaeth mwyaf di-dor i blant sy'n agored i niwed yng Nghymru.

David Melding: Brif Weinidog, a ydych yn derbyn barn unfryd y Cynulliad mai anghenion plant yng Nghymru a ddylai bennu trefn y gwasanaethau, beth bynnag a ddigwydd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn llwyr.

Mynd i'r Afael â Thlodi Tackling Poverty

Q2 Brian Gibbons: Will the First Minister make a statement on what the Welsh Assembly Government is doing to tackle poverty in Wales? (OAQ34205)

C2 Brian Gibbons: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â thlodi yng Nghymru? (OAQ34205)

The First Minister: The ‘Social Justice Report for 2004’ sets out the range of policies and programmes that impact on poverty in Wales. Our commitment to social justice incorporates our wish and commitment to combat poverty. We are tackling the wider social, educational and economic barriers that create inequality and poverty. The three main ways of combating poverty are through education, training and work. That is why we are participating enthusiastically in the new educational maintenance allowance schemes that were recently announced, and the pilot scheme, jointly with the Department for Work and Pensions, in the Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taf areas, covering some 12 per cent of Wales, on removing barriers to work for those who have been unemployed or on sickness benefit long term.

Brian Gibbons: Following on from what we have just discussed, do you agree that there is a strong and compelling body of evidence to demonstrate that social disadvantage in early years can have a massively detrimental effect on a person’s development? This evidence has been recognised by the UK Government’s successful scheme to abolish childhood poverty within a generation—almost one third of young people have been removed from poverty. You announced that the Assembly Government has commissioned a report on child poverty by Charlotte Williams at the University of Wales, Bangor. Can you give us an update on progress and on the publication of report?

The First Minister: We would all agree that, the earlier one starts, the more effective the intervention is. In Finland, it has been concluded that interventions while the child is still in the womb are the most important of all; equalisation of antenatal care leads to the biggest impact. However, if life chances cannot be equalised by compensatory, good antenatal care for the less well off, then provision should be made for those up to three years of age; if that cannot be done in that age group, then there are slightly diminishing rates of return for the three to seven age group. You could go on, but there

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae ‘Adroddiad Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol 2004’ yn nodi’r gwahanol bolisiau a rhaglenni sy’n cael effaith ar dlodi yng Nghymru. Rhan o’n hymrwymiad i gyfiawnder cymdeithasol yw ein dymuniad a’n hymrwymiad i ymladd yn erbyn tlodi. Yr ydym yn ymdrin â’r rhwystrau cymdeithasol, addysgol ac economaidd ehangach sy’n creu anghydraddoldeb a thlodi. Y tri phrif fodd i ymladd yn erbyn tlodi yw drwy addysg, hyfforddiant a gwaith. Dyna pam yr ydym yn ymwneud yn frwdfridig â’r cynlluniau newydd ar gyfer lwfansau cynhaliath addysgol a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar, a’r cynllun peilot, ar y cyd â’r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, yn ardaloedd Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a Rhondda Cynon Taf, sy’n cynnwys tua 12 y cant o Gymru, ar ddileu rhwystrau i waith ar gyfer y rhai a fu’n ddi-waith neu’n derbyn budd-dal salwch am gyfnod hir.

Brian Gibbons: Gan ddilyn yr hyn yr ydym newydd ei drafod, a ydych yn cytuno bod corff mawr o dystiolaeth berswadiol sy’n dangos y gall anfantais gymdeithasol yn y blynyddoedd cynnar gael effaith niweidiol iawn ar ddatblygiad rhywun? Cydnabuwyd y dystiolaeth honno drwy gynllun llwyddiannus Llywodraeth y DU i ddileu tlodi plant o fewn cenhedlaeth—tynnwyd bron i un rhan o dair o bobl ifanc o dlodi. Gwnaethoch gyhoeddi bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi comisiynu Charlotte Williams o Brifysgol Cymru, Bangor i baratoi adroddiad ar dlodi ymysg plant. A allwch chi roi’r newydd diweddaraf i ni am y cynnydd a wnaed, a pha bryd y cyhoeddir yr adroddiad?

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddem oll yn cytuno mai drwy ddechrau ymyrryd yn gynnar y ceir yr effaith fwyaf. Yn y Ffindir, daethpwyd i’r casgliad mai ymyriadau tra bo’r plentyn yn dal yn y groth yw’r rhai pwysicaf oll; cydraddoli gofal cyn geni a gaiff yr effaith fwyaf. Fodd bynnag, os na ellir cydraddoli cyfleoedd bywyd drwy ofal cyn geni da a chyfadferol ar gyfer y rhai llai cefnog, dylid darparu ar eu cyfer hyd at eu teirblwydd oed; os na ellir gwneud hynny yn y grŵp oedran hwnnw, mae ychydig yn llai effeithiol yn y grŵp oedran tair i saith. Gellid parhau i wneud hynny, ond mae’n mynd yn lleilai

are always diminishing returns. I do not agree entirely with the Finnish authorities in this regard, but we agree that the earlier the intervention, the better.

Charlotte Williams's report is now available and its principles have been set out, but I do not have the time to read them now. We established the task group a year ago, and the report will be debated on 9 June and published for consultation with that debate.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): A ydych yn derbyn mai cymharol yw tloidi i lawer? Yn ychwanegol at y materion a amlinellwyd gennych yn eich ateb i Brian Gibbons, mae diffyg mynediad i dai yn fater pwysig i bobl, yn enwedig o ystyried tloidi mewn cymhariaeth â dosbarthiadau eraill yn ein cymdeithas. A ydych yn derbyn bod gan awdurdodau lleol broblem aruthrol o ran darparu tai ar rent gan fod lefel eu stoc wedi disgyn, gan fod digartrefedd wedi'i ailddiffinio a chan fod prinder tai fforddiadwy i bobl ifanc mewn nifer o ardaloedd gwledig a threfol? A ydych yn derbyn bod argyfwng tai yng Nghymru ac, os felly, beth a wnewch amdano?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae pawb yn derbyn bod tonnau o godiadau mewn prisiau a gwerthoedd tai wedi llifo o Lundain a de-ddwyrain Lloegr ryw dair blynedd yn ôl, gan gyrraedd ardal Caerdydd ddwy flynedd yn ôl, ac Abertawe rhyw flwyddyn yn ôl. Daeth y don i Wynedd yn ddiweddar—gwelwyd cynnydd o ryw 50 y cant, os nad mwy, yno dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Mae hynny'n rhoi prynewyr am y tro cyntaf dan straen. Golyga hynny ein bod yn gorfod canolbwyntio llawer mwy nag o'r blaen ar sut i gyflenwi tai fforddiadwy. A oes raid inni wneud mwy mewn perthynas ag ecwiti wedi'i rannu, neu mewn perthynas â chynlluniau i gefnogi grwpiau o bobl sy'n adeiladu eu tai hunain? A oes mwy y gallwn ei wneud? Mae'n rhaid i awdurdodau lleol ddefnyddio hyblygrwydd cyllidebol i'r eithaf wrth ddiffinio tai fforddiadwy mewn trefniadau cynllunio, wrth roi caniatâd i'r sector preifat i adeiladu, ac wrth ddefnyddio eu harian eu hunain i sicrhau cyfleoedd i brynwyr am y tro cyntaf. Nid ydynt wedi bod

effeithiol. Nid wyf yn llwyr gytuno â'r arbenigwyr yn y Ffindir yn hyn o beth, ond yr ydym yn cytuno mai gorau po gyntaf yr ymyrrir.

Mae adroddiad Charlotte Williams ar gael yn awr ac mae'r egwyddorion sydd ynddo wedi'u nodi, ond nid oes gennyf ddigon o amser i'w darllen yn awr. Bu inni sefydlu'r grŵp gorchwyl flwyddyn yn ôl, a bydd dadl ar yr adroddiad ar 9 Mehefin ac fe'i cyhoeddir ar gyfer ymgynghori yr un pryd â'r ddadl honno.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Do you accept that, for many, poverty is relative? In addition to the issues that you outlined in your response to Brian Gibbons, access to housing is also a major issue, particularly when you consider poverty relative to other social classes. Do you accept that local authorities face a massive problem in trying to provide rented accommodation because stock levels have fallen, which comes as a result of the redefinition of homelessness and because affordable housing for young people is scarce in many rural and urban areas? Do you accept that there is a housing crisis in Wales and, if so, what will you do about it?

The First Minister: Everybody accepts that waves of increases in house prices and values flowed from London and south-east England some three years ago, reaching the Cardiff area some two years ago and Swansea about a year ago. The wave recently reached Gwynedd, which has seen an increase of over 50 per cent, if not more, over the past year. That places a strain on first-time buyers. As a result, we must concentrate more than we have done in the past on how to provide affordable housing. Is it necessary for us to do more in relation to shared equity, or in relation to plans to support groups of self-builders? Can we do more? Local authorities must maximise the use of budget flexibility in defining affordable housing for the purposes of planning, in granting planning permission to the private sector, and in using their own budgets to ensure opportunities for first-time buyers. They have not taken full advantage of that flexibility to date, but they now need to do so.

yn defnyddio'r hyblygrwydd i'r eithaf hyd yn hyn, ond mae eisiau iddynt wneud hynny yn awr.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Cydnabyddaf yr hyn a ddywedwch, ond yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw bod awdurdodau lleol yn cael y gefnogaeth briodol i ddarparu tai. Mae angen tai ar rent—gobeithiaf eich bod yn cydnabod hynny—ond nid oes gan awdurdodau lleol yr hyblygrwydd i sicrhau bod nifer o dai fforddiadwy yn cael eu hadeiladu i'w rhentu i bobl leol. Mae ar nifer o bobl, na fyddant byth yn gallu fforddio prynu tŷ, angen tai ar rent. Felly, a wnewch chi ystyried, ar y cyd â'r Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, swm y grant tai cymdeithasol a roddir i awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau bod ganddynt yr hyblygrwydd hwnnw? A wnewch chi hefyd ystyried y grant cymorth prynu a ddarperir i awdurdodau lleol a chymdeithasau tai i sicrhau bod y pris y gallant gynnig i bobl yn adlewyrchu pris y farchnad fel nad yw'n nenfwd artiffisial nad yw'n ymwneud â'r prisiau a geir mewn ardaloedd gwledig ar hyn o bryd?

2.20 p.m.

Y Prif Weinidog: Credaf ein bod i gyd yn derbyn bod yr ymchwydd sydd wedi digwydd, nid yn unig yn ardal Caerdydd, ond hefyd mewn ardaloedd llai cyfoethog yng Nghymru, fel Gwynedd er enghraifft, yn creu set o broblemau nad yw rhai cynghorau wedi eu hwynebu o'r blaen. Yr unig wahaniaeth rhyngoch chi a fi, Ieuan, yw'r ffaith eich bod yn derbyn bod ein hawdurdodau lleol wedi defnyddio i'r eithaf yr hyblygrwydd sydd ganddynt o ran polisiau cynllunio a'u bod hefyd wedi defnyddio'u cyllideb gosod tai i'r eithaf. Soniasoch am gynllun yr oeddwn wedi anghofio amdano, sef y cynllun cymorth prynu tai, sydd yn ychwanegol at rannu ecwiti ac yn gorwedd ochr yn ochr â pholisiau cynllunio. Os yw awdurdodau lleol yn defnyddio i'r eithaf yr hyblygrwydd sydd ganddynt eisoes yng nghyswllt y ddau fater hwnnw ac nad yw hynny'n profi'n ddigonol i ymateb i'r broblem, gallwn ailystyried ein cyllideb a'n polisiau mewn cydweithrediad â hwy. Nid ydym yn argyhoeddedig bod awdurdodau lleol Cymru yn defnyddio'r hyblygrwydd hwnnw i'r eithaf.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I acknowledge what you say, but it is important that local authorities are given appropriate support in the provision of housing. Rented accommodation is required—I hope that you acknowledge that—but local authorities do not have the flexibility to ensure that a number of affordable houses are built for rent by local people. There are many people, who will never be able to afford to buy a house, who need houses to rent. Therefore, will you consider, with the Finance Minister and the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, the amount of social housing grant awarded to local authorities to ensure that they have that flexibility? Will you also consider the homebuy grant provided to local authorities and housing associations to ensure that the offers that they make reflect the market price and is not an artificial ceiling that bears no relation to prices in rural areas at present?

The First Minister: I believe that we all accept that the boom that has happened, not only in the Cardiff area, but in less wealthy areas of Wales, such as Gwynedd, presents a set of problems that some councils have not faced before. The only difference between you and me, Ieuan, is the fact that you believe that our local authorities have used the flexibility that they have in terms of planning policies to its full potential and that they have also used their letting budgets to their full potential. You mentioned the homebuy scheme, which I had forgotten about. This scheme is available in addition to shared equity, and sits alongside planning policies. If local authorities are using to its full potential the flexibility that they already have as regards those two matters and that this is not adequate to deal with the problem, we could reconsider our budget and our policies in collaboration with them. We are not convinced that Welsh local authorities are using that flexibility to its full potential.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Os ydych yn rhoi'r sialens hwnnw i'r awdurdodau lleol, a ydych yn barod i roi arweiniad iddynt ynglŷn â'r math o hyblygrwydd yr ydych yn dweud nad ydynt wedi bod yn ei ddefnyddio yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf? Gofynnaf gwestiwn arall sydd yn hynod o bwysig yng nghydestun y drafodaeth hon, ac, er ei fod yn fater sensitif, mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cael trafodaeth aeddfed arno. Gwyddoch fod gan nifer o ardaloedd yn Lloegr ac ar y cyfandir gynlluniau sydd yn ymyrryd yn y farchnad i sicrhau bod hawl gan bobl leol i gael tai fforddiadwy yn eu cymunedau eu hunain. A ydych yn derbyn y dylwn gael y math hwnnw o ymyrraeth mewn rhai ardaloedd yng Nghymru i sicrhau bod tai fforddiadwy ar gael i bobl ifanc leol yn eu cymunedau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn siŵr pa ardaloedd yr ydych yn sôn amdanynt sydd â'r polisïau hynny. Mae llawer o ddryswch yn hyn o beth. Deallaf fod polisïau o'r fath gan rai o'r parciau cenedlaethol a rhai o'r ardaloedd tebyg i barciau cenedlaethol yn Lloegr, ond nid ydynt yn rhoi gwarant y bydd yn haws cael tai fforddiadwy, er bod yn rhaid ichi weithio'n lleol cyn y gallwch adeiladu tai i'w gwerthu yn yr ardaloedd hynny. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n gwarantu bod y tai hynny'n fforddiadwy. Felly, mae eisïau bod yn glir: yr ydym yn ceisio ehangu'r cyflenwad o dai fforddiadwy a sicrhau eu bod ar gael i bobl sydd yn byw ac yn gweithio'n lleol, ond nid yw dim ond yn fater o ddweud bod yn rhaid ichi weithio a byw yn yr ardal honno neu ddod o'r ardal. Mae llawer o atebion i'r broblem hon. Nid ydym wedi bod yn argyhoeddedig hyd yn hyn fod ein hawdurdodau lleol wedi manteisio ar yr atebion hynny i'r eithaf. Os oes tystiolaeth eu bod hwy wedi gwneud hynny ond nad yw wedi ateb y broblem, ystyriwn faterion cyllidebol a pholisïau.

Cymeradwyaf waith Carwyn Jones ar ryddhau tir nad yw o werth i'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth er mwyn ei wneud ar gael i awdurdodau lleol ac adeiladwyr lleol, ar yr amod y byddant yn cynyddu'r cyflenwad o dai fforddiadwy ar hen dir coedwigaeth nad yw mwyach o ddefnydd i'r diwydiant.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: If you are setting local authorities that challenge, are you willing to give them guidance on the kind of flexibility that you say they have not been using in recent years? I will ask another question, which is exceptionally important in the context of this discussion, and, although it is a sensitive issue, it is important that we discuss it in a mature way. You know that several areas in England and on the continent already have schemes that intervene in markets to ensure that local people have a right to affordable housing within their own communities. Do you accept that we should have that kind of intervention in some parts of Wales to ensure that affordable housing is available to local young people in their communities?

The First Minister: I am not sure which areas you are referring to in relation to such policies. There is a great deal of confusion surrounding this issue. I understand that some of the national parks and other areas similar to national parks in England have such policies, but they do not guarantee that it will be easier to secure affordable housing, although you have to be employed locally before you can build houses to be sold in those areas. However, this does not guarantee that those houses are affordable. Therefore, we must be clear: we are trying to increase the affordable housing stock and to make it available to those who work and live locally, but it is not just a matter of saying that you must be employed in and reside in that area, or come from that area. There are many solutions to this problem. We have not been convinced to date that our local authorities have fully exploited those solutions. If there is evidence that they have done so but that it has not solved the problem, we will consider the financial and policy issues.

I commend Carwyn Jones's work on releasing land which is of no value to the Forestry Commission and making it available to local authorities and local builders, on condition that they increase the supply of affordable housing on former forestry land that is no longer of use to the industry.

Cludiant i Ysgolion

School Transport

Q3 Mick Bates: Will the First Minister make a statement on school transport in Wales? (OAQ34241)

The First Minister: Local education authorities are currently responsible for providing free home-to-school transport for children who live beyond statutory walking distances, although many local education authorities operate more generous policies. The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee will consider the draft School Transport Bill tomorrow, 28 April. The key provision in the draft Bill envisages the Assembly authorising a small number of local authorities to pilot a more comprehensive but less black-and-white provision as regards the provision of school transport.

Mick Bates: Thank you for that answer, First Minister. However, as someone from rural Wales, it does nothing to alleviate my concern that children may end up paying for their school transport. Will you take this opportunity to reassure us that your Government has no intention of taking away the right to free school transport, as envisaged under the School Transport Bill?

The First Minister: You are trying to close off a consultation before it is finished, Mick. The consultation period runs to 25 June, with a view to the Bill being introduced in Parliament next November in the Queen's Speech. This is the draft School Transport Bill. It is undergoing pre-legislative scrutiny, so you should not jump on it now and say, 'Rule this out, rule that out'. By all means, present evidence to the Committee tomorrow and participate in the consultation period, but this matter will be controlled by, and will be accountable to, the Assembly. The schemes must be approved by the Assembly. All it means is that we have to try to think whether, if you replace the current black-and-white system—whereby if you are over a certain limit from school you get transport free and if you are under a certain limit, unless certain local authorities decide to be generous, it is all or nothing—that will solve in every case the problems of the school run and the dangers that it causes in terms of parking and

C3 Mick Bates: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am gludiant i'r ysgol yng Nghymru? (OAQ34241)

Y Prif Weinidog: Awdurdodau addysg lleol sy'n gyfrifol ar hyn o bryd am ddarparu cludiant am ddim o'r cartref i'r ysgol i blant sy'n byw y tu hwnt i bellteroedd cerdded statudol, er bod sawl awdurdod addysg lleol yn gweithredu polisiau mwy hael. Bydd y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn ystyried y Mesur Cludiant Ysgol drafft yfory, 28 Ebrill. Mae'r brif ddarpariaeth yn y Mesur drafft yn rhagweld y bydd y Cynulliad yn awdurdodi nifer fach o awdurdodau lleol i ragbrofi darpariaeth fwy cynhwysfawr ond llai gwahaniaethol o ran darparu cludiant i'r ysgol.

Mick Bates: Diolch i chi am yr ateb hwnnw, Brif Weinidog. Fodd bynnag, a siarad fel un o Gymru wledig, ni wnaiff ddim i leddfu fy mhryder y gallai plant orfod talu am gludiant i'r ysgol yn y pen draw. A wnewch achub ar y cyfle hwn i'n sicrhau nad oes gan eich Llywodraeth unrhyw fwriad i ddileu'r hawl i gael cludiant am ddim i'r ysgol, fel y rhagwelir o dan y Mesur Cludiant Ysgol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych yn ceisio rhoi pen ar ymgynghoriad cyn iddo orffen, Mick. Mae'r cyfnod ymgynghori'n parhau tan 25 Mehefin, gyda'r bwriad o gyflwyno'r Mesur yn y Senedd fis Tachwedd nesaf yn Araith y Frenhines. Y Mesur Cludiant Ysgol drafft yw hwn. Creffir arno cyn deddfu, felly ni ddylech neidio arno yn awr a dweud, 'Diystyrwch hyn a'r llall'. Cyflwynwch dystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor yfory, ar bob cyfrif, a chymerwch ran yn y cyfnod o ymgynghori, ond y Cynulliad fydd yn rheoli'r mater hwn, a bydd yn atebol iddo. Rhaid i'r cynlluniau gael eu cymeradwyo gan y Cynulliad. Y cwbl y mae'n ei olygu yw y bydd yn rhaid inni ystyried, os ceir system yn lle'r un wahaniaethol bresennol—lle y cewch gludiant am ddim os ydych yn byw'n bellach na therfyn penodol o'r ysgol a lle nas cewch os ydych yn byw oddi mewn i derfyn penodol, oni bai fod rhai awdurdodau lleol yn penderfynu bod yn hael—a fydd hynny'n datrys problemau o ran y siwrnai i'r ysgol ym

traffic congestion near schools, which we have all seen at 8.45 a.m., or whatever, near our schools.

In trying to do something different from that and seeing whether some pilot schemes might indicate a better way of cutting down excess traffic and excess traffic danger near our schools, you seem to be saying that there is a price to pay because some people will lose their automatic right to free school transport. Yes, some people may lose that right, but it may produce a better solution. That is why you have pilot schemes and a draft School Transport Bill before you plunge into a School Transport Bill. That is why we will have to approve all these schemes to see whether they produce something better and extra. Just having blanket condemnation of it before the consultation is over, let alone before the full Bill is introduced in November next year, seems to be rather negative.

Owen John Thomas: Byddwn yn croesawu unrhyw welliannau i'r cynlluniau ar gyfer mynd â phlant i'r ysgol, ond yn aml, mae'r gwelliannau'n dod ar draul pobl eraill. Hynny yw, mae un yn ei wneud yn well a'r llall wedyn yn ei wneud yn waeth. A allwch ein sicrhau y bydd plant sy'n mynychu ysgolion eglwysig ac ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg, sydd ar hyn o bryd â'r hawl i deithio'n rhad ac am ddim, yn cael yr un hawl ar ôl i'r drefn newydd gael ei chyflwyno gan nifer o awdurdodau lleol Cymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf wedi clywed am unrhyw fygythiad i unrhyw ddsbarth arbennig o blant. Gwneir trefniadau ar gyfer ysgolion gwirfoddol, ysgolion eglwysig—Catholig neu Brotestannaidd—ac ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg, gan fod y pellter o bum neu 10 milltir y maent yn ei deithio yn afresymol.

Y cwbl a wna hyn yw rhoi'r hawl i gynnal cynlluniau peilot. Mae hynny'n golygu y gallwn ystyried y dystiolaeth am yr hyblygrwydd newydd ar ôl i'r cynlluniau peilot ddod i ben. Byddai'n rhaid cymeradwyo pob cynllun yn y Cynulliad cyn eu bod yn gallu dechrau. Rhaid ystyried yr

mhob achos ac yn dileu'r peryglon y mae'n eu hachosi o ran parcio a thagfeydd traffig ger ysgolion, yr ydym i gyd wedi'u gweld am 8.45 a.m., neu ba bryd bynnag, ger ein hysgolion.

Wrth geisio gwneud rhywbeth gwahanol i hynny a gweld a allai rhai cynlluniau peilot ddangos modd gwell i leihau'r gormodedd o draffig a'r peryglon gormodol oddi wrth draffig ger ein hysgolion, ymddengys eich bod yn dweud bod pris i'w dalu gan y bydd rhai'n colli eu hawl awtomatig i gael cludiant am ddim i'r ysgol. Gallai rhai golli'r hawl honno, ond gallai arwain at ateb gwell. Dyna pam y ceir cynlluniau peilot a Mesur Cludiant Ysgol drafft cyn rhuthro ymlaen i gael Mesur Cludiant Ysgol. Dyna pam y bydd yn rhaid inni gymeradwyo'r holl gynlluniau hyn i weld a fyddant yn arwain at rywbeth gwell ac ychwanegol. Braidd yn negyddol yw ei gollfarnu'n gyffredinol cyn i'r ymgynghori ddod i ben, ac ymhell cyn cyflwyno'r Mesur llawn ym mis Tachwedd y flwyddyn nesaf.

Owen John Thomas: I would welcome any improvements in school transport schemes, but improvements often come at the expense of others. That is, one improves it and the other then makes it worse. Can you assure us that children who attend church schools and Welsh-medium schools, who at present have the right to free transport, will have the same right when this new arrangement has been put in place by many Welsh local authorities?

The First Minister: I have not heard of any threat to any specific group of children. Arrangements are made for voluntary schools, church schools—Catholic or Protestant—and Welsh-medium schools, because the distance of five or 10 miles that their pupils travel is unreasonable.

All this does is give the right conduct pilot schemes. That means that we can consider the evidence concerning the new flexibility at the end of the pilot schemes. We would have to approve all these schemes in the Assembly before they could start. We must consider that split between two and three miles—

holtt hwnnw rhwng dwy filltir a thair milltir—beth bynnag ydyw yn awr—lle nad ydych yn cael dim yn statudol os ydych yn byw llai o bellter na hynny o'r ysgol, a lle mae gennych hawl statudol os ydych yn byw mwy o bellter na hynny. Mae'r rheol honno'n bod ers 1944. Felly, ar ôl 60 mlynedd, nid yw'n afresymol i ddechrau cynlluniau peilot i weld a allech wneud rhywbeth ychydig yn fwy hyblyg ac wedyn, ar ôl cymryd tystiolaeth, i weld a ddylech newid y dewis o hawliau statudol. Dim ond un dewis sydd gennych ar hyn o bryd; a yw hynny'n gweddu i'r unfed ganrif ar hugain?

David Davies: I congratulate you, First Minister, on a wonderful New Labour neologism in describing a piece of legislation that we all know will lead to more expense for parents, as more comprehensive and less black-and-white. I will repeat Mick Bates's question, which required only a simple 'yes' or 'no' answer, and to which you manifestly failed to reply properly. Can you guarantee that no-one who currently has free school transport will have that right taken away from them?

2.30 p.m.

The First Minister: Your congratulations must always be taken with a tonne and a half of salt, David. We are in the middle of a consultation on draft legislation, which cannot turn into a Bill until November 2004. That consultation involves the right of the Assembly to approve schemes that are intended to explore whether some alternative to the 1944 provision might be better for children. However, you already want to close off any discussion because you believe that whatever was legislated for in 1944, during the period of the Anzio landings, must be suitable for 2004, 2010 and 2020. We do not often investigate issues such as school transport. Therefore, when we do, we might as well do it properly rather than say that whatever was all right in 1944 should be all right for the next 100 years. David, you should put your thinking cap on.

whatever it is now—where you do not have a statutory right if you live less of a distance than that from the school, and where you have a statutory right if the distance is greater. That rule has been in place since 1944. Therefore, after 60 years, it is not unreasonable to conduct pilot schemes to see whether you could do things a little more flexibly and then, after taking evidence, to see whether you should change the choice of statutory rights. You only have one choice at present; does that fit the twenty-first century?

David Davies: Fe'ch llongyfarchaf, Brif Weinidog, ar fathu ymadrodd gwych o eiddo Llafur Newydd wrth alw eitem o ddeddfwriaeth y gwyddom oll y bydd yn arwain at fwy o gostau i rieni'n un fwy cynhwysfawr a llai gwahaniaethol. Ailadroddaf gwestiwn Mick Bates, nad oedd ond angen dweud 'gwnaf' neu 'na wnaif' yn ateb iddo, y mae'n amlwg ichi fetu â'i ateb yn iawn. A allwch warantu na fydd neb sy'n cael cludiant am ddim i'r ysgol ar hyn o bryd yn colli'r hawl honno?

Y Prif Weinidog: Rhaid cymryd eich llongyfarchion ag anferth o binsiad o halen bob amser, David. Yr ydym ar ganol ymgynghori ar ddeddfwriaeth ddrafft, na all droi'n Fesur tan fis Tachwedd 2004. Mae'r ymgynghori hwnnw'n cynnwys hawl y Cynulliad i gymeradwyo cynlluniau sydd â'r bwriad o ymchwilio i ganfod a allai rhyw ddewis arall yn lle'r ddarpariaeth a wnaed yn 1944 fod yn well i blant. Fodd bynnag, yr ydych eisoes yn dymuno rhoi pen ar unrhyw drafod gan y credwch fod beth bynnag y deddfwyd ar ei gyfer yn 1944, yng nghyfnod y glanio yn Anzio, yn sicr o fod yn addas ar gyfer 2004, 2010 a 2020. Nid yn aml yr ymchwiliwn i faterion fel cludiant i'r ysgol. Felly, pan wnawn hynny, crystal inni'i wneud yn iawn yn hytrach na dweud y dylai beth bynnag a oedd yn iawn yn 1944 fod yn iawn ar gyfer y 100 mlynedd nesaf. David, dylech roi'ch meddwl ar waith.

Cronfeydd Strwythurol Structural Funds

Q4 Jeff Cuthbert: Will the First Minister make a statement on the European Commission's decision to award £65 million to the structural funds programme in Wales? (OAQ34249)

The First Minister: I am delighted that the European Commission has awarded this bonus of 4 per cent of the value of our expenditure on Objective 1, 2 and 3 programmes, which is a total of £65.4 million, for us to spend without the need for match funding. The funding comes from the top-sliced performance reserve element, which is received for good administration and is awarded as a result of financial management and output criteria being met by the end of 2003. We will spend the money on reducing economic inactivity, supporting innovation and research and development, supporting infrastructure, namely sites, premises, transport and information and communication technology, supporting town-centre regeneration, which is a new scheme, supporting a sustainable countryside, fisheries and aquaculture, and financial support for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Jeff Cuthbert: Do you agree that structural funds in Wales are making a huge difference, by creating jobs and opportunities and helping to regenerate our poorest communities? Do you also agree that this award is a clear vote of confidence in our stewardship of the programme and shows that we are on course to meet all our targets? That is in sharp contrast to the continual, negative criticism of the opposition parties.

The First Minister: The opposition parties and some of the media have been on the wrong track all along. They do not have to take our word for that; they can take the word of the European Commission. I welcome this additional £65 million, and that is why I mentioned what we are going to spend it on. I do not think that anybody, even in the ranks of Tuscany, could scarce forebear to cheer, but perhaps they will forebear.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): Our relationship with our European partners will now be the subject of

C4 Jeff Cuthbert: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am benderfyniad y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd i roi £65 miliwn i'r rhaglen cronfeydd strwythurol yng Nghymru? (OAQ34249)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf wrth fy modd bod y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd wedi rhoi inni'r bonws hwn o 4 y cant o werth ein gwariant ar raglenni Amcan 1, 2 a 3, sy'n gyfanswm o £65.4 miliwn, i'w wario heb orfod cael cyllid cyfatebol. Daw'r cyllid o'r elfen wrth gefn ar gyfer perfformiad sydd wedi'i brigdorri, a geir am weinyddu da ac o ganlyniad i fodloni meini prawf ar reolaeth ariannol ac allbynnau erbyn diwedd 2003. Gwariwn yr arian ar waith i leihau anweithgarwch economaidd, i hybu arloesi ac ymchwil a datblygu, i gynnal seilwaith, sef safleoedd, adeiladau, trafniadaeth a thechnoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu, ar hybu adfywio canol trefi, sy'n gynllun newydd, ar hybu cefn gwlad cynaliadwy, pysgodfeydd a ffermio dŵr, ac ar gymorth ariannol i fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint.

Jeff Cuthbert: A ydych yn cytuno bod y cronfeydd strwythurol yng Nghymru'n gwneud gwahaniaeth aruthrol, drwy greu swyddi a chyfleoedd a helpu i adfywio ein cymunedau tlotaf? A ydych hefyd yn cytuno bod y taliad hwn yn arwydd clir o hyder yn ein gofal am y rhaglen a'i fod yn dangos ein bod ar y ffordd iawn i gyrraedd ein holl dargedau? Mae hynny'n gwbl groes i'r beirniadu negyddol a pharhaus gan y gwrthbleidiau.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r gwrthbleidiau a rhai yn y cyfryngau wedi bod yn dilyn y trywydd anghywir drwy'r amser. Nid oes raid iddynt gymryd ein gair ni am hynny; gallant gymryd gair y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Croesawaf y swm ychwanegol hwn o £65 miliwn, a dyna pam y cyfeiriaais at yr hyn y byddwn yn ei wario arno. Credaf y bydd pawb, hyd yn oed ein gwrthwynebwyr gwleidyddol, yn barod i gymeradwyo hynny, ond efallai na fyddant.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Bellach, bydd ein perthynas â'n partneriaid yn Ewrop yn destun refferendwm

a referendum following the Prime Minister's astounding u-turn. Can we expect a similar flip-flop from the First Minister on a referendum for the people of Wales, so that they can be consulted on the Richard commission's proposals?

The First Minister: I notice the speed of your flip-flop away from the question regarding the £65 million additional expenditure. It is interesting that you do not wish to participate in celebrating good news.

On holding a referendum, I recall, given my age, I suppose, the astonishing history of how we entered the common market, as it was then called, when Edward Heath promised that this would only be done with a full—
[ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Answer the question.']

The Presiding Officer: Order. After some thought, I have decided that the question bears no relation to the initial question regarding the £65 million award.

Elin Jones: Objective 1 funding totalling £100,000 and £80,000 of Assembly local regeneration funding has been awarded to the Template Foundation in Capel Dewi, Llandysul, to create a residential centre. I will quote from the standards of behaviour of that foundation, previously known as Emin:

'at no time will homosexuality, lesbianism, transvestism...or any other unnatural condition or freak practice... be permitted.'

Do you believe that such an organisation is an appropriate recipient of Assembly funding and that providing funding to it is in line with the Assembly's commitment to equality of opportunity? I have already sent my file on the Template Foundation to Andrew Davies. Will you give a commitment to fully investigate the organisation before any public funds are released?

The First Minister: The new facilities at Waunifor will be available for use by the local community, which is represented on the project steering group. This will encourage tourism and craft industries locally. The Welsh European Funding Office undertook eligibility checks on the project, which was

yn dilyn y tro pedol rhyfeddol a wnaeth y Prif Weinidog. A allwn ddisgwyl ffit-ffatio tebyg gan y Prif Weinidog ar gael refferendwm i bobl Cymru, fel y gellir ymgynghori â hwy ar gynigion comisiwn Richard?

Y Prif Weinidog: Sylwaf mor gyflym yr ydych yn ffit-ffatio oddi wrth y cwestiwn ynghylch y £65 miliwn o wariant ychwanegol. Mae'n ddiddorol nad ydych yn dymuno ymuno i ddathlu'r newyddion da.

Ynghylch cynnal refferendwm, yr wyf yn cofio, oherwydd fy oed, yr wyf yn tybio, hanes rhyfeddol y modd yr ymunasom â'r farchnad gyffredin, fel y'i gelwid bryd hynny, pan addawodd Edward Heath na wneid hynny heb lwyf—[AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'Atebwch y cwestiwn.']

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ar ôl cryn feddwl, yr wyf wedi penderfynu nad oes a wnelo'r cwestiwn hwn ddim â'r cwestiwn gwreiddiol ynghylch y taliad o £65 miliwn.

Elin Jones: Mae cyllid Amcan 1 gwerth cyfanswm o £100,000 a £80,000 o gyllid adfywio lleol y Cynulliad wedi'i roi i'r Template Foundation yng Nghapel Dewi, Llandysul, i greu canolfan breswyl. Dyfynnaf o safonau ymddygiad y sefydliad hwnnw, a elwid gynt yn Emin:

ni chaniateir gwrywgydiaeth, lesbiaeth, trawswisgaeth...neu unrhyw gyflwr annaturiol neu arfer od arall ar unrhyw adeg.

A ydych yn credu ei bod yn briodol i gorff o'r fath dderbyn cyllid oddi wrth y Cynulliad a bod darparu cyllid ar ei gyfer yn gyson ag ymrwymiad y Cynulliad i gyfle cyfartal? Yr wyf eisoes wedi anfon fy ffeil ar y Template Foundation at Andrew Davies. A wnewch ymrwymo i ymchwilio'n llawn i'r corff hwn cyn rhoi unrhyw arian cyhoeddus?

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd y cyfleusterau newydd yn Waunifor ar gael i'w defnyddio gan y gymuned leol, sy'n cael ei chynrychioli ar grŵp llywio'r prosiect. Bydd hyn yn hybu twristiaeth a diwydiannau crefft yn yr ardal. Ymgwymerodd Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru â gwiriadau o gymhwyster y prosiect,

supported by Ceredigion County Council, the Ceredigion Objective 1 partnership and the local community. The project application and approval letter clearly set out the restrictions in terms of how the funding could be used. WEFO undertakes physical verification visits to ensure that European funds are only used for agreed purposes.

a gefnogwyd gan Gyngor Sir Ceredigion, partneriaeth Amcan 1 Ceredigion a'r gymuned leol. Yr oedd y cais ar gyfer y prosiect a'r llythyr cymeradwyo'n nodi'n glir y cyfyngiadau ar y modd y gellid defnyddio'r cyllid. Mae Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru'n ymgymryd ag ymweliadau dilysu ffisegol i sicrhau mai dim ond at ddibenion a gytunwyd y defnyddir cyllid Ewropeaidd.

Darlledu Broadcasting

Q5 Peter Black: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding the Assembly taking responsibility for broadcasting in Wales? (OAQ34244)

C5 Peter Black: Pa drafodaethau y mae Prif Weinidog wedi'u cael gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynghylch rhoi'r cyfrifoldeb am ddarlledu yng Nghymru i'r Cynulliad? (OAQ34244)

The First Minister: This matter arises occasionally in fairly casual conversation as to whether we would like to consider something along those lines, especially with regard to S4C. However, no serious proposals have been made since just before the Assembly's inception. It is important to realise that, in relation to broadcasting, we have a particular understanding of aspects of the topography and geography of Wales, which is useful because of the greater difficulty we have in getting good television, and sometimes radio, reception in all manner of areas.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r mater hwn yn codi o bryd i'w gilydd mewn sgysiau eithaf hamddenol o ran a hoffem ystyried rhywbeth tebyg i hynny, yn enwedig gyda golwg ar S4C. Er hynny, ni wnaed unrhyw gynigion difrif ers ychydig cyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad. Mae'n bwysig sylweddoli, mewn cysylltiad â darlledu, fod gennym ddealltwriaeth benodol o rai agweddau ar dirwedd a daearyddiaeth Cymru, a bod hynny'n ddefnyddiol gan ein bod yn ei chael yn fwy anodd derbyn signalau da ar gyfer teledu, a radio weithiau, mewn amryw o ardaloedd.

Peter Black: Will you join me in congratulating Afan FM and its young team, whose one-month temporary licence as a community radio station is coming to an end? Will you take up on its behalf, and on behalf of other community radio stations in Wales, the problems that it has had with the Office of Communications, which is consulting on its policies towards such stations? Ofcom insists that they have a maximum output of 50 watts and one transmitter. These rules may well be adequate in the home counties, but the fact that there are mountains in south Wales means that the coverage expected of these stations requires greater output and more transmitters. Will the Assembly Government take up with Ofcom the difficulties that its policy is posing for community radio stations in Wales, and ask it to form a Wales-only policy on the issue?

Peter Black: A wnewch ymuno â mi i longyfarch Afan FM a'i dîm o weithwyr ifanc, y mae ei drwydded un mis dros dro fel gorsaf radio gymunedol yn dod i ben? A wnewch ymholiadau ar ei ran, ac ar ran gorsafydd radio cymunedol eraill yng Nghymru, ynghylch y problemau a brofodd gyda'r Swyddfa Gyfathrebu, sy'n ymgynghori ar ei pholisïau tuag at orsafoedd o'r fath? Mae Ofcom yn mynnu y cânt allbwn uchaf o 50 watt ac un trosglwyddydd. Mae'n ddigon posibl bod y rheolau hyn yn ddigonol yn y siroedd cartref ond, gan fod mynyddoedd yn ne Cymru, rhaid wrth fwy o allbwn a mwy o drosglwyddyddion fel y gall y gorsafydd hyn gyrraedd y dalgylch y disgwylir iddynt ei gyrraedd. A wnaiff Llywodraeth y Cynulliad godi gydag Ofcom yr anawsterau y mae ei pholisï'n eu hachosi i orsafoedd radio cymunedol yng Nghymru, a gofyn iddi lunio polisi i Gymru'n unig ar y

mater hwn?

The First Minister: I am not sure whether I have been interviewed by Afan FM, but I congratulate it on its success—perhaps that is the reason for its success. The information that I have suggests that the problem with Ofcom is that if a strength of frequency of more than 25 watts is required, international clearance must be obtained. International clearance is difficult to obtain. You are right about geographical coverage and the fact that you need a stronger signal to reach populations in mountainous regions of the south Wales Valleys and of mid and north Wales than you would need to reach a similar-size area in the rolling plains of south-central England, for example. On the other hand, Ofcom has told us that the 25-watt rule is not set in stone, and it intends to consider the possibility of allowing community radio stations to cover wider areas.

Leighton Andrews: When you next discuss broadcasting in Wales, will you consider the coverage of soccer internationals in Wales? Do you think that it is time that we considered whether the coverage of Welsh soccer internationals should be limited to channels that are universally received in Wales, as many of my constituents do not have access to satellite television?

The First Minister: This is a problem. Recent figures for the Heineken Cup rugby competition, which was broadcast on Sky this year, have shown that even the quarter-final games had audiences of only 100,000. That is less of an audience than S4C would have for a typical Saturday evening game at 5.30 p.m.. These choices are made by the sports themselves—do they want big audiences or do they want the revenue from an agreement with a satellite broadcaster? It is a difficult choice. If people are desperate for money, they will go for the satellite option because they will always be paid more. On the other hand, do they want to promote their sports to the next generation? I have heard Joe Calzaghe, the boxer, say that he regrets the fact that his fights have only been shown on satellite television because he knows that he is not as famous as he would have been had

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn sicr a yw Afan FM wedi fy nghyfweld, ond yr wyf yn ei longyfarch ar ei lwyddiant—efallai mai hynny yw'r rheswm am ei lwyddiant. Mae'r wybodaeth sydd gennyf yn awgrymu mai'r broblem yng ngolwg Ofcom yw, os oes angen amledd o fwy na 25 watt, fod rhaid cael caniatâd rhyngwladol. Mae'n anodd cael caniatâd rhyngwladol. Yr ydych yn iawn ynghylch y dalgylchoedd a bod rhaid cael signal cryfach i gyrraedd poblogaethau mewn rhanbarthau mynyddig yng Nghymoedd y De ac yn y Canolbarth a'r Gogledd nag y byddai ei angen i gyrraedd ardal o faint tebyg ar wastadeddau eang yng nghanol de Lloegr, er enghraifft. Ar y llaw arall, mae Ofcom wedi dweud wrthym nad yw'r rheol 25 watt yn un ddigyfnewid, a'i bod yn bwriadu ystyried y posibilrwydd o ganiatáu i orsafoedd radio cymunedol gynnwys ardaloedd ehangach.

Leighton Andrews: Pan drafodwch ddarlledu yng Nghymru nesaf, a wnewch ystyried y sylw a roddir i gemau pêl-droed rhyngwladol yng Nghymru? A ydych yn credu ei bod yn bryd inni ystyried a ddylid cyfyngu'r sylw i gemau pêl-droed rhyngwladol Cymru i sianeli y mae pawb yng Nghymru yn eu derbyn, gan fod llawer o'm hetholwyr nad ydynt yn gallu cael teledu lloeren?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hyn yn broblem. Mae ffigurau diweddar ar gystadleuaeth rygbi Cwpan Heineken, a ddarlledwyd ar Sky eleni, wedi dangos mai cynulleidfaoedd o ddim ond 100,000 a gafwyd i'r gemau gogynderfynol. Mae hynny'n llai o gynulleidfa nag a gâi S4C ar gyfer gêm nodweddiadol ar nos Sadwrn am 5.30 p.m.. Y campau eu hunain sy'n gwneud y dewisiadau hyn—a ydynt am gael cynulleidfaoedd mawr neu a ydynt am gael y refeniw o gytundeb â darlledwr teledu lloeren? Mae'n ddewis anodd. Os yw rhywrai'n daer am arian, byddant yn dewis teledu lloeren gan y byddant yn cael mwy o dâl bob tro. Ar y llaw arall, a ydynt am hyrwyddo eu camp ymysg y genhedlaeth nesaf? Clywais Joe Calzaghe, y bocsiwr, yn dweud ei fod yn ofid ganddo mai dim ond ar deledu lloeren y mae ei ornestau wedi'u dangos gan ei fod yn gwybod nad yw

his fights and famous victories been shown by ITV, the BBC or another terrestrial, conventional broadcaster. This is a choice that everyone in the sporting world has to make. However, they want the penny and the bun—they would like to have the revenue from satellite broadcasters as well as the recognition that comes from having an audience that is 20 or 30 times bigger by going terrestrial. It is a difficult question for them.

mor enwog ag y buasai pe byddai ei ornestau a'i fuddugoliaethau gwych wedi'u dangos gan ITV, y BBC neu ddarlledwr daearol, confensiynol arall. Dyma ddewis y mae pawb ym myd y campau'n gorfod ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, maent am ei chael bob ffordd—hoffent gael y refeniw oddi wrth ddarlledwyr teledu lloeren yn ogystal â'r enwogrwydd a geir o gael cynulleidfa sy'n 20 neu 30 gwaith yn fwy wrth ddewis teledu daearol. Mae'n gwestiwn anodd iddynt.

2.40 p.m.

Cyllidebau Awdurdodau Lleol Local Authority Budgets

Q6 Glyn Davies: What is the First Minister's policy on ring-fencing local authority budgets? (OAQ34238)

C6 Glyn Davies: Beth yw polisi'r Prif Weinidog ynghylch clustnodi cyllidebau awdurdodau lleol? (OAQ34238)

The First Minister: Local authorities are responsible for setting their budgets. We support that responsibility by currently providing over 89 per cent of their grant through the non-specific grant allocated to local authorities to cover their services. The other side of that is that just over 10 per cent of our grants to local government in Wales are ring-fenced in ways that support priorities and expenditure levels that are specifically agreed by this Assembly. That percentage has doubled, largely for reasons relating to the education portfolio, over the five years of the Assembly's existence.

Y Prif Weinidog: Awdurdodau lleol sy'n gyfrifol am bennu eu cyllidebau. Yr ydym yn ategu'r cyfrifoldeb hwnnw drwy ddarparu mwy na 89 y cant o'u grant ar hyn o bryd drwy'r grant amhenodol a ddyrennir i awdurdodau lleol i dalu am eu gwasanaethau. Yr ochr arall i'r geiniog honno yw bod ychydig yn fwy na 10 y cant o'n grantiau i lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru wedi'u clustnodi fel eu bod yn ategu blaenoriaethau a lefelau gwariant a gytunir yn benodol gan y Cynulliad hwn. Mae'r ganran honno wedi dyblu, yn bennaf am resymau sy'n ymwneud â'r portffolio addysg, dros y pum mlynedd o oes y Cynulliad.

Glyn Davies: Can you give us an indication of your plans for the future? You correctly state that the level ring-fenced by special grants has increased from around 4.5 per cent to over 10 percent in the five years that the Assembly Government has been in power. However, many local authorities are concerned that this is an ongoing trend and are fearful about your future policy. Are you prepared to give us a commitment that the current percentage of funding ring-fenced through special grants will not increase while you lead the Assembly Government?

Glyn Davies: A allwch roi arwydd i ni o'ch cynlluniau ar gyfer y dyfodol? Dywedwch yn gywir fod y gyfran sydd wedi'i chlustnodi drwy grantiau arbennig wedi codi o tua 4.5 y cant i fwy na 10 y cant yn y pum mlynedd y bu Llywodraeth y Cynulliad mewn grym. Fodd bynnag, mae sawl awdurdod lleol yn pryderu mai tuedd parhaus yw hwn, ac maent yn ofnus ynghylch eich polisi ar gyfer y dyfodol. A ydych yn barod i roi ymrwymiad i ni na fydd y ganran o gyllid sydd wedi'i glustnodi ar hyn o bryd yn codi tra byddwch yn arwain Llywodraeth y Cynulliad?

The First Minister: Yes, I can give you that assurance, but I cannot be specific about the exact percentage. Consider the trend since the Assembly's first year of existence five years

Y Prif Weinidog: Ydwyf, yr wyf yn gallu'ch sicrhau o hynny, ond ni allaf sôn yn benodol am yr union ganran. Ystyriwch y tuedd a fu ers y flwyddyn y daeth y Cynulliad i fod bum

ago: when the Assembly started, the level was at 4.5 per cent, and it is now at 10 per cent. There was a sharp increase in the first three years, followed by a small one in the past two years. The increase from 9.5 per cent to 10.2 per cent has taken three years of budgeting. That largely relates to matters over which we have no control: for example, changing teachers' workload agreements. We have to be specific about the money that we allocate to local government to meet new commitments made on an England and Wales basis, but we do not have control over that, which is why I cannot give assurances on your second question. However, our protocol with Welsh local government involves ring-fencing the minimum level of expenditure considered to be compatible with achieving our priorities.

Michael German: One of the many calls on local governments' budgets is work associated with student-support services, which may well increase with the enactment of the new Higher Education Bill. Do you intend, as Charles Clarke in England does, to make identity cards compulsory for all students applying for student support in Wales?

The First Minister: We have no such plans.

Michael German: I am grateful for that, because it means that students who study in Wales will not have to buy identity cards. However, Welsh students attending English universities will have to do so. From what other areas that fall under the Assembly's responsibility will identity cards be excluded?

The First Minister: You are changing my words. I said that we had no such plans. That is what I mean, literally. That is not to say that we take a luddite view on new technology becoming available, whether that involves biometrics or DNA and so on. There are huge implications for Home Office and passport services, and we will take a close interest in the development of new technology—it does not yet exist, but it is

mlynedd yn ôl: pan ddechreuodd y Cynulliad, y lefel oedd 4.5 y cant, ac mae bellach yn 10 y cant. Bu cynnydd sydyn yn y tair blynedd cyntaf, ac un bach wedyn yn y ddwy flynedd diwethaf. Mae'r cynnydd o 9.5 y cant i 10.2 y cant wedi cymryd tair blynedd o gyllidebu. Mae hynny'n ymwneud yn bennaf â materion nad oes gennym unrhyw reolaeth drostynt: er enghraifft, newid cytundebau llwyth gwaith athrawon. Rhaid inni fod yn fanwl ynghylch yr arian a ddyrannwn i lywodraeth leol i gyflawni ymrwymadau newydd a wnaed ar gyfer Cymru a Lloegr, ond nid oes gennym unrhyw reolaeth dros hynny, a dyna pam na allaf roi sicrwydd i chi ar eich ail gwestiwn. Fodd bynnag, drwy ein protocol â llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru, clustnodir y lefel leiaf posibl o gyllid y bernir ei bod yn gydwedd â'r amcan o gyflawni ein blaenoriaethau.

Michael German: Un o blith y nifer mawr o alwadau ar gyllidebau llywodraethau lleol yw gwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â gwasanaethau cymorth i fyfyrwyr, a allai gynyddu yn sgîl gwneud y Mesur Addysg Uwch newydd yn Ddeddf. A ydych chi, fel y mae Charles Clarke yn Lloegr, yn bwriadu gwneud cardiau adnabod yn orfodol ar gyfer yr holl fyfyrwyr sy'n ymgeisio am gymorth i fyfyrwyr yng Nghymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes gennym unrhyw gynlluniau o'r fath.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am hynny, gan ei fod yn golygu na fydd myfyrwyr sy'n derbyn eu haddysg yng Nghymru'n gorfod prynu cardiau adnabod. Er hynny, bydd myfyrwyr o Gymru sy'n mynd i brifysgolion yn Lloegr yn gorfod gwneud hynny. O ba feysydd eraill y mae'r Cynulliad yn gyfrifol amdanynt y bydd cardiau adnabod yn cael eu heithrio?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych yn newid fy ngeiriau. Dywedais nad oedd gennym unrhyw gynlluniau o'r fath. Dyna a olygaf, yn llythrennol. Nid yw hynny'n gyfystyr â dweud ein bod yn ymwrthod â thechnoleg newydd a fydd ar gael, boed honno'n ymwneud â biometreg neu DNA ac yn y blaen. Mae gan hyn oblygiadau aruthrol i'r Swyddfa Gartref a gwasanaethau pasport, a byddwn yn ymddiddori'n fanwl yn

being developed.

Clearly, it is up to us to determine these matters, which the Home Office is happy to accept. Similarly with the Scottish Executive, as regards its services, which encompass the criminal justice system, but not immigration. There are no plans in Scotland or Wales to introduce compulsory ID cards. However, that does not mean that we are not taking a close interest in the evolution of the technology, which does not yet exist and is not intended to be introduced until two Assembly Governments from now. As I understand it, the earliest likely starting date is 2011.

Michael German: In your answer to a question on ID cards a few months ago, you said that you would not expect them to be introduced until well after your time, but Charles Clarke has said today that ID cards for students will be made compulsory. That decision will affect students from Wales. What do you think should happen in Wales? Do you think that students should have to carry identity cards, as Charles Clarke has stated, because this decision is being made rapidly and not after your time?

The First Minister: That is a decision in principle and is subject to the technology being available. I have not read what Charles Clarke said, but I do not think that he would have said that separate technology is to be introduced before 2011 that is separate from the Home Office intention to develop biometric technology and make it available with regard to the provision of a wide range of public services. Primarily, however, that would be used as a method of detecting all areas of criminality, whether it be money laundering, passport fraud, illegal immigrants, potential terrorism and so on. All of that is in the Home Office, the security and the passport field and it is the prime objective of the proposal. I do not know whether Charles Clarke referred to a different, early version technology, which does not require the introduction of the biometric technology, and which, therefore, may be introduced before 2011. As I understand it, the

natblygiad technoleg newydd—nid yw'n bod eto, ond mae'n cael ei datblygu.

Wrth gwrs, ni biau penderfynu ar y materion hyn, ac mae'r Swyddfa Gartref yn fodlon derbyn hynny. Felly y mae hefyd yn achos Gweithrediaeth yr Alban, o ran ei gwasanaethau, sy'n cynnwys y system cyfiawnder troseddol, ond nid mewnfudo. Nid oes unrhyw gynlluniau yn yr Alban na Chymru i gyflwyno cardiau adnabod gorfodol. Er hynny, nid yw hynny'n golygu nad ydym yn ymddiddori'n fanwl yn natblygiad y dechnoleg, nad yw'n bod eto ac na fwriadir ei chyflwyno tan ar ôl y ddwy Lywodraeth Gynulliad nesaf. Yn ôl yr hyn yr wyf yn ei ddeall, y dyddiad dechrau cynharaf sy'n debygol yw 2011.

Michael German: Yn eich ateb i gwestiwn am gardiau adnabod ychydig fisoedd yn ôl, dywedasoch na ddisgwyliech weld eu cyflwyno tan ymhell ar ôl eich amser chi, ond dywedodd Charles Clarke heddiw y bydd cardiau adnabod yn orfodol ar gyfer myfyrwyr. Bydd y penderfyniad hwnnw'n effeithio ar fyfyrwyr o Gymru. Beth a ddylai ddigwydd yng Nghymru, yn eich barn chi? A ydych yn credu y dylai myfyrwyr orfod cario cardiau adnabod, fel y dywedodd Charles Clarke, gan y penderfynir ar hyn yn fuan ac nid ar ôl eich amser chi?

Y Prif Weinidog: Penderfyniad mewn egwyddor yw hwnnw, ac mae'n amodol ar y gallu i gael y dechnoleg. Nid wyf wedi darllen yr hyn a ddywedodd Charles Clarke, ond ni chredaf y byddai wedi dweud bod technoleg ar wahân i'w chyflwyno cyn 2011 sydd ar wahân i fwriad y Swyddfa Gartref i ddatblygu technoleg biometrig a'i darparu mewn cysylltiad â darparu amrediad eang o wasanaethau cyhoeddus. Fe'i defnyddid yn bennaf, fodd bynnag, fel modd i ddarganfod pob math o droseddu, boed yn gelu ffynonellau arian, twyll sy'n ymwneud â phasbortau, mewnfudwyr anghyfreithlon, terfysgaeth bosibl ac yn y blaen. Mae hynny i gyd ym maes y Swyddfa Gartref, diogeledd a phasbortau a hynny yw pennaf amcan y cynnig. Ni wn a gyfeiriodd Charles Clarke at fersiwn gwahanol a chynharach o'r dechnoleg, nad yw'n gofyn cyflwyno technoleg biometrig, ac y gellid ei chyflwyno, felly, cyn 2011. Yn ôl yr hyn yr

introduction of the new technology is still a long way off. Without that new technology, I cannot see how there could be an early form of the ID card, which was not based on the idea that it cannot be defrauded because it is fully biometric.

wyf yn ei ddeall, mae cryn amser eto cyn cyflwyno'r dechnoleg newydd. Heb gael y dechnoleg newydd honno, ni allaf weld sut y gellid cael ffurf gynharach ar y cerdyn adnabod, nad oedd yn seiliedig ar y syniad na ellid ei ddefnyddio i dwyllo gan ei fod yn gwbl biometrig.

Budd-dal y Dreth Gyngor Council Tax Benefit

Q7 Gwenda Thomas: Will the First Minister make a statement on the take-up of council tax benefit in Wales? (OAQ34246)

C7 Gwenda Thomas: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am y nifer sy'n manteisio ar fudd-dal y dreth gyngor yng Nghymru? (OAQ34246)

The First Minister: There are no figures for the non take-up of council tax benefit in Wales. However, the Department for Work and Pensions' latest UK-wide estimates indicate that £1 billion of council tax benefit across the UK is unclaimed, and that £770 million of that is unclaimed by pensioners. That indicates that only around 60 per cent of people who are eligible for benefit actually claim it. However, given that the number of pensioners in Wales is higher than average, that percentage may also be higher, which is nothing short of a tragedy.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes unrhyw ffigurau am y nifer nad ydynt yn manteisio ar fudd-dal y dreth gyngor yng Nghymru. Er hynny, mae amcangyfrifon diweddaraf yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau ar gyfer y DU gyfan yn dangos bod £1 biliwn o fudd-dal y dreth gyngor ledled y DU heb ei hawlio, a bod £770 miliwn o hynny heb ei hawlio gan bensiynwyr. Dengys hynny mai dim ond tua 60 y cant o'r rhai sy'n gymwys i gael y budd-dal sy'n ei hawlio. Fodd bynnag, gan fod nifer y pensiynwyr yng Nghymru'n uwch na'r cyfartaledd, gallai'r ganran honno fod yn uwch hefyd, ac nid yw hynny'n ddim llai na thrychineb.

Gwenda Thomas: Do you agree, therefore, that more must be done to maximise take-up? Once a person receives council tax benefit, he or she would be protected against any increase in council tax because the amount that they would have to pay would be fixed by their income. Do you also agree that maximising take-up of the guarantee credit part of pension credit is equally important, as anyone who qualifies for that benefit would automatically receive 100 per cent council tax benefit, regardless of income or capital?

Gwenda Thomas: A ydych yn cytuno, felly, fod rhaid gwneud mwy i sicrhau y bydd y nifer mwyaf posibl yn ei dderbyn? Wedi i rywun gael budd-dal y dreth gyngor, câi ei amddiffyn rhag unrhyw gynnydd yn y dreth gyngor gan y byddai'r swm y byddai'n gorfod ei dalu'n cael ei bennu gan ei incwm. A ydych hefyd yn cytuno ei bod yr un mor bwysig sicrhau bod y nifer mwyaf posibl yn manteisio ar y rhan credyd gwarant o'r credyd pensiwn, gan y byddai unrhyw un sy'n gymwys i gael y budd-dal hwnnw'n cael swm llawn budd-dal y dreth gyngor yn awtomatig, beth bynnag fo'i incwm neu gyfalaf?

The First Minister: You raised two important issues. First, how do you correct the low take-up of claiming council tax benefit? It could be done by ensuring that it is a passported benefit. Therefore, if somebody receives another benefit, for which they may have applied as a result of recent publicity, he

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwnaethoch godi dau fater pwysig. Yn gyntaf, sut y mae cywiro'r sefyllfa lle y mae nifer isel yn derbyn budd-dal y dreth gyngor? Gellid gwneud hynny drwy sicrhau ei fod yn fudd-dal a geir drwy basbortio. Drwy hynny, os yw rhywun yn derbyn budd-dal arall, y gallai fod wedi

or she need not apply separately for council tax benefit, as it would be received automatically because it would be passported. Your other point referred to the fact that under-claiming among pensioners is unfortunately a part of our society. Many pensioners still believe that applying for benefit stigmatises them in some way and feels like being on the parish. That is one of the reasons why the Chancellor has shifted to a tax credit policy, where take-up should be higher, particularly if there is an automatic run-through to council tax benefit, if people receive the tax credits to which you referred.

William Graham: Figures suggest that 100,000 people in Wales fail to claim £50 million in council tax benefit. That gives us some idea of the scale of the problem. Will you give us some assurance that you will redouble your efforts to ensure that those vulnerable people take up this deserved benefit?

The First Minister: Yes, there is no question about that. If someone is entitled to that benefit, they should claim it. Some arrangements, such as the winter fuel grant, are based on age and are not means tested, and the benefit, therefore, is received automatically. In other cases, people must apply for it, with the exception of passported cases. Failure to claim benefit is a major problem in Wales. If everyone who was entitled to council tax benefit actually claimed it, it would solve some of the intense unhappiness with regard to council tax levels. Some opinion polls have produced evidence that if the people who object most strongly to council tax rises applied for benefit, they would discover that they did not have to pay it.

Alun Ffred Jones: Gan gofio bod pensynwyr yn derbyn incwm sefydlog, tra bod y dreth gyngor wedi cynyddu dros 30 y cant yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf, a ydych yn credu bod y dreth gyngor, yn ei

ymgeisio amdano o ganlyniad i gyhoeddusrwydd diweddar, ni fydd yn rhaid iddo ymgeisio ar wahân am fudd-dal y dreth gyngor, gan y byddai'n ei dderbyn yn awtomatig am ei fod wedi'i basbortio. Yn y pwynt arall a wnaethoch, cyfeiriasoch at y ffaith bod yr arfer ymysg pensynwyr o hawlio rhy ychydig yn agwedd ar ein cymdeithas, gwaetha'r modd. Mae llawer o bensynwyr yn dal i gredu bod ymgeisio am fudd-dal yn eu gwarthnodi mewn rhyw fodd a'i fod yn debyg i gael eich cynnal gan y plwyf. Dyna un o'r rhesymau y mae'r Canghellor wedi symud tuag at bolisi credyd treth, lle y dylai'r nifer sy'n manteisio fod yn uwch, yn enwedig os oes cysylltiad awtomatig â budd-dal y dreth gyngor, os yw pobl yn derbyn y credydau treth y cyfeiriasoch atynt.

William Graham: Mae ffigurau'n awgrymu bod 100,000 o bobl yng Nghymru'n methu â hawlio £50 miliwn ar ffurf budd-dal y dreth gyngor. Mae hynny'n rhoi rhyw amcan o faint y broblem. A wnewch roi rhyw fath o sicrwydd i ni y gwnewch ddyblu'ch ymdrechion i sicrhau bod y bobl hyglwyf hynny'n derbyn y budd-dal haeddiannol hwn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwnaf, yn sicr. Os oes gan rywun hawl i gael y budd-dal hwnnw, dylai ei hawlio. Mae rhai trefniadau, fel y grant tanwydd yn y gaeaf, yn seiliedig ar oed ac nid oes prawf moddion arnynt, a thelir y budd-dal hwnnw'n awtomatig o'r herwydd. Mewn achosion eraill, rhaid ymgeisio, heblaw am achosion sy'n cael eu pasportio. Mae methu â hawlio budd-daliadau'n broblem fawr yng Nghymru. Pe bai pawb sydd â hawl i gael budd-dal y dreth gyngor yn ei hawlio, byddai'n fodd i gael gwared â rhywfaint o'r anfodlonrwydd mawr ynghylch lefelau'r dreth gyngor. Mae rhai arolygon barn wedi dangos tystiolaeth y byddai'r rhai cryfaf eu gwrthwynebiad i godiadau yn y dreth gyngor yn darganfod na fyddai'n rhaid iddynt ei dalu, pe byddent yn ymgeisio am y budd-dal.

Alun Ffred Jones: Given that pensioners receive a fixed income while council tax has increased by over 30 per cent over the past three years, do you believe that council tax, in essence, is an inequitable tax?

hanfod, yn dreth annheg?

2.50 p.m.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes y fath beth â threth gwbl deg. Mae'n deg i rai pobl ac yn annheg i eraill. Mae unrhyw dreth sydd wedi ei seilio ar eiddo yn gallu bod yn annheg i bobl sydd â thair mawr, felly mae eu taliadau yn uchel er taw dim ond un person sy'n byw yno, gan wneud ychydig o ddefnydd yn unig o wasanaethau lleol. Mae hynny yn annheg. Fodd bynnag, os ydych yn ceisio meddwl am system arall i godi trethi lleol, perir annhegwch i deuluoedd eraill. Pe bai trethi wedi eu seilio ar dreth incwm lleol, efallai y byddai hynny'n peri problemau i deuluoedd lle mae pedwar neu bump o bobl gyflogedig ac, os nad yw'r bobl hynny yn llewyrchus ond bod pawb yn gweithio ac yn talu treth incwm, byddai'n annheg pe baent yn talu llawer mwy o gofio'r defnydd a wnânt o wasanaethau lleol. Nid oes y fath beth â threth sydd yn deg i bawb.

The First Minister: There is no such thing as an equitable tax. It is equitable for some and inequitable for others. Any tax based on property can be inequitable for owners of large houses, who pay higher taxes despite living alone and making little use of local services. That is inequitable. However, if you try to devise an alternative local taxation system, there will be inequity for other families. If taxes were based on local income tax, families where four or five people are earning may face problems and, if those people are less well off but that they all work and pay income tax, it would be inequitable were they to pay a higher level of tax and make less use of local services. There is no such thing as a tax that is equitable for everyone.

Uned Profi Arfau Maes Awyr Llanbedr The Weapons Testing Unit at Llanbedr Airfield

Q9 Lisa Francis: Will the First Minister make a statement on job losses at the former Ministry of Defence weapons testing unit at Llanbedr airfield? (OAQ34233)

C9 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am y swyddi a gollwyd yn hen uned profi arfau'r Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn ym maes awyr Llanbedr? (OAQ34233)

The First Minister: I regret the cessation of operations at the weapons testing facility at Llanbedr, which is due to take place later this year, and I extend my sympathy to the workers involved. You will be aware that the Welsh Development Agency and other partners are continuing to work towards minimising the economic impact of those job losses by finding an alternative for Aberporth and Llanbedr. They are taken together because they represent the only possible facility for developing civil-use unmanned aerial vehicles anywhere in Europe. You will not find another exclusion maritime range such as the one found in Cardigan bay, in the triangle going out from Llanbedr to the north and Aberporth to the south, to test UAVs. Everyone accepts that UAVs will be one of the big technologies of the twenty-first century, and Cardigan bay is the only place in Europe that you will be able to test them, using the runway facilities at Llanbedr and

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n edifar gennyf fod y gwaith yn dod i ben yn y cyfleuster profi arfau yn Llanbedr, fel y mae disgwyl iddo wneud yn ddiweddarach eleni, ac estynnaf fy nghydymdeimlad i'r gweithwyr sy'n gysylltiedig. Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a phartneriaid eraill yn dal i ymdrechu i leihau'r effaith o golli'r swyddi hynny ar yr economi drwy ddod o hyd i ddewis arall ar gyfer Aberporth a Llanbedr. Fe'u hystyrir gyda'i gilydd am mai hwy yw'r unig gyfleuster posibl ar gyfer datblygu awyrennau di-griw at ddibenion sifil yn Ewrop gyfan. Ni cheir maes tanio gwaharddedig arall ar y môr sy'n debyg i'r un ym mae Ceredigion, yn y triongl sy'n mynd o Lanbedr yn y gogledd ac o Aberporth yn y de, sy'n addas ar gyfer profi awyrennau o'r fath. Mae pawb yn derbyn mai awyrennau di-griw fydd un o dechnolegau pwysig yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, a bae Ceredigion yw'r unig le yn Ewrop y gellir rhoi prawf arnynt,

the radar facilities at Aberporth. However, we have not yet succeeded in making that transition and getting the UAV facility there, outside and beyond the MOD's requirements, but we will continue to work on it.

Lisa Francis: I am aware of the initiatives undertaken by the WDA, but a member of the local regeneration group in Llanbedr recently pointed out that when Trawsfynydd nuclear power station closed, which is just over the mountain, Government money was pumped into setting up Trawsnewid and many other regeneration projects. People in Llanbedr feel that not enough is currently being done to help them. What would you say to those people, First Minister?

The First Minister: It is difficult because at the moment before the sun rises it is still dark. We continue to work on the huge facility in Cardigan bay, which is unique in Europe, for the development of UAV technology, for which Aberporth, Llanbedr and the maritime exclusion area are key locations. We think that that potential is enormous, as does everybody else, but we have not yet managed to establish a consortium that can manage the transition from the closure of the weapons testing facility to the setting up of a new civil-based UAV technology centre at the two bases at the top and bottom of Cardigan bay.

gan ddefnyddio cyfleusterau'r rhedfa yn Llanbedr a'r offer radar yn Aberporth. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym wedi llwyddo eto i sicrhau'r newid hwnnw a chael y gwaith awyrennau di-griw yn y fan honno, yn ychwanegol at anghenion y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn, ond parhawn i weithio ar hynny.

Lisa Francis: Gwn am y camau a gymerodd y WDA, ond mae aelod o'r grŵp adfywio lleol yn Llanbedr wedi tynnu sylw'n ddiweddar at y ffaith bod arian Llywodraeth wedi'i gyfeirio i sefydlu Trawsnewid a sawl prosiect adfywio arall pan gaeodd gorsaf drydan niwclear Trawsfynydd, sydd yr ochr draw i'r mynydd. Mae pobl yn Llanbedr yn teimlo na wneir digon ar hyn o bryd i'w helpu hwy. Beth a ddywedech wrth y bobl hynny, Brif Weinidog?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n anodd dweud ar hyn o bryd gan na wyddom eto beth sydd o'n blaen. Parhawn i weithio ar y cyfleuster mawr ym mae Ceredigion, sy'n unigryw yn Ewrop, ar gyfer datblygu technoleg awyrennau di-griw, y mae Aberporth, Llanbedr a'r maes tanio gwaharddedig ar y môr yn lleoliadau allweddol ar ei chyfer. Credwn fod potensial aruthrol yn hynny, fel y mae pawb arall, ond nid ydym eto wedi llwyddo i sefydlu consortiwm a fydd yn gallu trefnu'r newid o gau'r cyfleuster profi arfau i sefydlu canolfan sifil newydd ar gyfer technoleg awyrennau di-griw yn y ddwy orsaf ym mhen uchaf a phen isaf bae Ceredigion.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Adran Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Blaenau Gwent Blaenau Gwent Social Services Department

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi derbyn cwestiwn brys o bwys cyhoeddus gan Rhodri Glyn Thomas o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.34.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ddatganiad ar yr adroddiad diweddaraf ar adran gwasanaethau cymdeithasol Blaenau Gwent? (EAQ34777)

The Presiding Officer: I have accepted an urgent question on a matter of public importance from Rhodri Glyn Thomas under Standing Order No. 6.34.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister for Health and Social Services make a statement on the latest report regarding Blaenau Gwent social services department? (EAQ34777)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): This report covers the follow-up inspection of services for children and young people in Blaenau Gwent after last year's joint review. The report confirms the gravity of the problems in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's children services. I will meet the leader of the council tomorrow to discuss these issues.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, diolch am gydnabod difrifoldeb y mater hwn. Tra'n bod ni, fel plaid, yn ddiolchgar i'r Llywydd am ganiatáu cwestiwn brys, teimlwn fod cwestiwn brys yn annigonol i drafod mater sydd mor ddifrifol. Dylid cael datganiad, a dylech fod wedi gwirfoddoli i wneud datganiad i'r Siambr. Yr ydych yn cydnabod bod y sefyllfa yn ddifrifol ac yr wyf yn falch o glywed eich bod yn bwriadu cyfarfod ag aelodau'r cyngor yn fuan i'w drafod. Yn ogystal â'r diffygion cyffredinol sydd i'w gweld yng ngwasanaethau cymdeithasol Blaenau Gwent, mae materion penodol yn yr adroddiad sy'n peri gofid.

Mae mwy na hanner y plant sydd yn derbyn gofal dan yr awdurdod yn cael gofal gan ofalwyr heb gymwysterau, sy'n groes i'r gyfraith. Yn yr un modd, mae diffygion yn y ffordd y mae gofalwyr maeth yn edrych ar ôl plant, gyda gormod o blant gyda rhieni maeth, sydd hefyd yn erbyn y gyfraith. Mae sôn bod y staff yn teimlo dan bwysau ac mae cyhuddiadau o fwlio. Eich ymateb, Weinidog, hyd y gwelaf, yw y byddwch yn gweithredu'r protocol a byddwch yn ymweld â'r awdurdod a bydd y prif arolygydd yn monitro'r sefyllfa. Beth yw'r gwahaniaeth rhwng hynny a'r ddarpariaeth sydd eisoes yn bodoli ym Mlaenau Gwent dan raglen Cymru ar gyfer gwella? Mae partneriaeth wedi'i sefydlu rhwng y cyngor, Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a CLILC.

Jane Hutt: This report was embargoed until 10 a.m. this morning, when the council received it. As you know, the social services inspectorate has procedures to deal with these joint-review reports and with the follow-up inspection reports, such as this one. I will report to the Committee next week, as it is vital that we give the matter full attention, and next week will not be the only time, as this matter

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn ymdrin â'r adolygiad dilynol o wasanaethau i blant a phobl ifanc ym Mlaenau Gwent ar ôl yr adolygiad ar y cyd y llynedd. Mae'r adroddiad yn cadarnhau difrifoldeb y problemau yng ngwasanaethau plant Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent. Byddaf yn cwrdd ag arweinydd y cyngor yfory i drafod y materion hyn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, thank you for acknowledging the seriousness of this matter. While we, as a party, are grateful to the Presiding Officer for allowing an urgent question, we feel that an urgent question is insufficient to discuss such a serious matter. We should have a statement, and you should have made that statement voluntarily to the Chamber. You acknowledge that it is a serious situation and I am glad to hear that you intend to meet members of the council soon to discuss it. As well as the general deficiencies in Blaenau Gwent's social services, there are specific matters identified in this report that are a cause for concern.

More than half the children who receive care from the authority receive it from unqualified carers, which is against the law. Similarly, there are failings in the way in which foster carers look after children, with too many children placed with foster parents, which is also contrary to the law. There is talk of stress among staff and accusations of bullying. Your response, Minister, as far as I can tell, is that you will implement the protocol and that you will visit the authority, and that the chief inspector will monitor the situation. What is the difference between that and the existing provision in Blaenau Gwent under the Wales programme for improvement? A partnership has been established between the council, the National Assembly for Wales and the WLGA.

Jane Hutt: Ni cheid cyhoeddi'r adroddiad hwn tan 10 a.m. y bore yma, pan ddaeth i law'r cyngor. Fel y gwyddoch, mae gan yr arolygiaeth gwasanaethau cymdeithasol weithdrefnau i ddelio ag adolygiadau ar y cyd o'r fath a'r adroddiadau ar adolygiadau dilynol, fel hwn. Byddaf yn adrodd i'r Pwyllgor yr wythnos nesaf, gan ei bod yn hollbwysig inni roi pob sylw i'r mater hwn,

will be followed through by means of regular reporting on the improvements that we expect as a result of this intervention.

Particular concerns have emerged as a result of this follow-up inspection. It is interesting that, while the response to immediate risk remains prompt, there are particular concerns, which you raised, about the fostering service and some of the decision making about vulnerable children. The issue of the gravity of the concerns and the problems, which I have recognised and which have come through the report, is how the council responds and how we will help it to address those issues and turn the service around. I am meeting the council leader tomorrow, but the council's response is that it accepts that it must turn this matter around—and that is a positive response. As a result of Sue Essex's statement in February, Blaenau Gwent now has an advisory board that is set up and which met for the first time on, I think, 17 March. The board consisted of council representatives, external independent members, representation from the Welsh Local Government Association, the social services inspectorate and Audit Commission Wales, and they will contribute as standing advisors to the advisory board. As I said in my press statement to accompany the publication of the report today, this report and social services are regarded as a major priority by the advisory board. The report confirmed the gravity of the problems in children's services in Blaenau Gwent. Much remains to be done, and we must now move forward, with the chief inspector writing to the council, in accordance with the protocol, to set out specific improvements and an arrangement for monitoring. The council fully recognised the seriousness of the problems: we have an experienced interim director of social services who has experience from outside Wales and who is coming in to turn this matter around. I am sure that Assembly colleagues will work with me and support me as Minister to ensure that we get this turnaround for the children and young people of Blaenau Gwent.

ac nid yr wythnos nesaf fydd yr unig adeg i wneud hynny, gan y bydd y mater hwn yn cael ei ddilyn i'r pen drwy adrodd yn rheolaidd ar y gwelliannau y disgwyliwn eu gweld o ganlyniad i'r ymyriad hwn.

Mae pryderon neilltuol wedi codi o ganlyniad i'r adolygiad dilynol hwn. Diddorol yw nodi, er bod yr ymateb i risg uniongyrchol yn dal i fod yn brydlon, fod pryderon neilltuol, y gwnaethoch eu codi, ynghylch y gwasanaeth maethu a rhai o'r penderfyniadau ynghylch plant sy'n agored i niwed. Y peth pwysig wrth ystyried difrifoldeb y pryderon a'r problemau, yr wyf wedi'u cydnabod ac a welir yn yr adroddiad, yw'r modd y bydd y cyngor yn ymateb a sut y byddwn ni'n ei helpu i ymdrin â'r materion hynny a thrawsnewid y gwasanaeth. Byddaf yn cwrdd ag arweinydd y cyngor yfory, ond yr ymateb a gafwyd gan y cyngor yw ei fod yn derbyn bod rhaid iddo newid hyn—ac ymateb cadarnhaol yw hwnnw. O ganlyniad i'r datganiad gan Sue Essex ym mis Chwefror, mae bwrdd ymgynghorol i Flaenau Gwent wedi'i sefydlu bellach a chyfarfu am y tro cyntaf ar 17 Mawrth, yr wyf yn credu. Yr oedd y bwrdd yn cynnwys cynrychiolwyr y cyngor, aelodau allanol annibynnol, cynrychiolwyr o Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, yr arolygiaeth gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a Chomisiwn Archwilio Cymru, a byddant yn cyfrannu fel cynghorwyr sefydlog i'r bwrdd ymgynghorol. Fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad i'r wasg i gyd-fynd â chyhoeddi'r adroddiad heddiw, mae'r adroddiad hwn a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn cael eu hystyried yn flaenoriaeth bwysig gan y bwrdd ymgynghorol. Mae'r adroddiad wedi cadarnhau difrifoldeb y problemau mewn gwasanaethau i blant ym Mlaenau Gwent. Mae llawer i'w wneud eto, a rhaid inni symud ymlaen yn awr, drwy i'r prif arolygydd ysgrifennu i'r cyngor, yn unol â'r protocol, i bennu gwelliannau penodol a threfniant ar gyfer monitro. Mae'r cyngor yn llwyr gydnabod difrifoldeb y problemau: mae gennym gyfarwyddwr gwasanaethau cymdeithasol dros dro profiadol a gafodd brofiad y tu allan i Gymru ac mae'n dod yno i drawsnewid y sefyllfa hon. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd fy nghyd-Aelodau'n gweithio gyda mi ac yn fy nghefnogi fel Gweinidog i sicrhau'r newid hwn er mwyn plant a phobl ifanc

Blaenau Gwent.

Peter Law: Minister, it cannot be denied that this report of a follow-up inspection is disappointing and worrying. In fairness, the council does not deny that it has a serious problem with its social services department, and I would have hoped that that would have been addressed following your first intervention, Minister. There is no doubt that we have a duty to the young people and children of Blaenau Gwent and, although Blaenau Gwent is not the first council to have suffered from this difficulty, it is at least reassuring that your colleague, Sue Essex, has put an intervention board in place that is working with the council and with your support. I ask you to carry on giving that support and co-operation to Blaenau Gwent council in future in the hope that we will get away from this unacceptable situation and see substantial improvements in the council's management of work with children and families in future.

3.00 p.m.

Jane Hutt: As the elected Member for Blaenau Gwent, you will have been as disappointed as we have been that there has not been a faster turnaround. However, we have seen a turnaround in other authorities, and that is the most important point. We look at this issue from the perspective of safeguarding children. We have seen a turnaround in other authorities, and that is what we will expect to happen in this case. The intervention protocol is now guiding this matter in relation to the chief inspector's actions and is setting out the targets and standards for us to monitor, and I expect the Assembly to scrutinise that; it is not to come only from me as Minister. The Finance Minister and I are also closely monitoring and supporting the Wales advisory board, which is part of the Wales programme for improvement. We must recognise that there have been improvements. This was a six-month follow-up inspection, and a turnaround is now needed to deliver for children and young people in Blaenau Gwent.

Jonathan Morgan: Merely expressing disappointment that there has not been the improvement that you expected is not good

Peter Law: Weinidog, ni ellir gwadu nad yw'r adroddiad hwn ar arolygiad dilynol yn peri siom a gofid. Er tegwch, nid yw'r cyngor yn gwadu nad oes ganddo broblem ddifrifol gyda'i adran gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, a byddwn wedi gobeithio y cawsai hynny sylw yn sgîl eich ymyriad cyntaf, Weinidog. Yn sicr, mae gennym ddyletswydd tuag at bobl ifanc a phlant Blaenau Gwent ac, er nad Blaenau Gwent yw'r cyngor cyntaf i brofi'r anhawster hwn, mae o leiaf yn gysur gwybod bod eich cyd-Weinidog, Sue Essex, wedi sefydlu bwrdd ymyrryd sy'n gweithio gyda'r cyngor a chyda'ch cefnogaeth chi. Gofynnaf ichi barhau i gynnig cefnogaeth a chydweithrediad o'r fath i gyngor Blaenau Gwent yn y dyfodol gan obeithio y byddwn yn cael ymadael â'r sefyllfa annerbyniol hon ac yn gweld gwelliannau sylweddol yn y modd y mae'r cyngor yn trefnu ei waith gyda phlant a theuluoedd yn y dyfodol.

Jane Hutt: Fel yr Aelod etholedig dros Flaenau Gwent, byddwch wedi cael eich siomi gymaint â ni na chafwyd newid yn gynt. Er hynny, gwelsom newid mewn awdurdodau eraill, a dyna'r pwynt pwysicaf. Edrychwn ar y mater hwn o safbwynt amddiffyn plant. Gwelsom newid mewn awdurdodau eraill, a disgwyliwn i hynny ddigwydd yn yr achos hwn. Y protocol ar ymyrryd sy'n llywio'r mater hwn bellach mewn cysylltiad â'r camau a gymer y prif arolygydd ac mae'n pennu'r targedau a'r safonau inni eu monitro, a disgwyliaf i'r Cynulliad graffu ar y gwaith hwnnw; nid myfi fel Gweinidog yn unig sydd i fod i wneud hynny. Mae'r Gweinidog Cyllid a minnau'n ymwneud yn fanwl â'r gwaith o fonitro a chynorthwyo bwrdd ymgynghorol Cymru, sy'n rhan o raglen Cymru ar gyfer gwella. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod gwelliannau wedi bod. Arolygiad dilynol ar ôl chwe mis oedd hwn, ac mae angen newid bellach er mwyn plant a phobl ifanc ym Mlaenau Gwent.

Jonathan Morgan: Nid yw mynegi siom na chafwyd y gwelliant yr oeddech yn ei ddisgwyl yn ddigon da ar ei ben ei hun. Yr

enough. A report published last year showed that this local authority had failed dismally in its provision of children's services. The report that has been published today is no better than that published last year. The report is chilling, particularly when it states that there was a disregard of child protection procedures in some cases. A disregard suggests to me that consideration was given to procedures but that those procedures were set aside because the people responsible felt that they should not be complied with. Apart from being utterly disgraceful, that is terrifying when you consider that vulnerable young children were put at risk by a local authority that is failing in its statutory duties. You were the Minister last year; you are the Minister this year, and we have not seen any marked improvement in this local authority's performance. When will you give us a timetable as to when you expect to see improvements, and what message does your attitude towards this local authority give to the people of Blaenau Gwent? If this local authority is not turned around quickly, will you continue to support Blaenau Gwent in delivering social services, or do you feel that there should be a different system of delivering social services in that county?

Jane Hutt: The headline of my press statement released today is that major improvements are still needed in Blaenau Gwent's social services. This report has confirmed the gravity of the problems in children's services in Blaenau Gwent and how much remains to be done. My statement gives a clear message about how I perceive this gravity, and Blaenau Gwent has received that message today. As I said, I will meet council representatives tomorrow morning.

We recognise that the inspector concludes in the report that the authority was still failing to serve children needing social services well at the time of the fieldwork, which was late last year. There have been some improvements: the system for managing initial inquiries has improved, for example, and that is crucial. My concerns are for the children that the

oedd adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd y llynedd yn dangos bod yr awdurdod lleol hwn wedi methu'n druenus wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau i blant. Nid yw'r adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd heddiw'n ddim gwell na'r un a gyhoeddwyd y llynedd. Mae'r adroddiad yn codi ias ar rywun, yn enwedig lle y mae'n datgan bod gweithdrefnau amddiffyn plant wedi'u diystyru mewn rhai achosion. Mae diystyru'n awgrymu i mi fod y gweithdrefnau wedi'u hystyried ond eu bod wedi'u rhoi o'r neilltu am fod y rhai a oedd yn gyfrifol yn teimlo na ddylid cydymffurfio â hwy. Mae hynny'n gwbl warthus, ac mae hefyd yn codi arswyd ar rywun o ystyried bod plant ifanc sy'n agored i niwed wedi'u rhoi mewn perygl gan awdurdod lleol sy'n methu â chyflawni ei ddyletswyddau statudol. Chi oedd y Gweinidog y llynedd; chi yw'r Gweinidog eleni, ac ni welsom unrhyw welliant sylweddol ym mherfformiad yr awdurdod lleol hwn. Pa bryd y rhoddwch amserlen i ni i ddangos pa bryd y disgwylwch weld gwelliannau, a pha neges y mae'ch agwedd at yr awdurdod lleol hwn yn ei chyfleu i bobl Blaenau Gwent? Os na chaiff yr awdurdod lleol hwn ei drawsnewid yn fuan, a fyddwch yn dal i fod o blaid darparu gwasanaethau cymdeithasol gan gyngor Blaenau Gwent, neu a deimlwch y dylid cael system wahanol i ddarparu gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn y sir honno?

Jane Hutt: Pennawd y datganiad i'r wasg a gyhoeddais heddiw yw bod angen gwelliannau mawr o hyd yng ngwasanaethau cymdeithasol Blaenau Gwent. Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi cadarnhau difrifoldeb y problemau yn y gwasanaethau i blant ym Mlaenau Gwent a pha faint y mae angen ei wneud o hyd. Mae'r datganiad a roddais yn cyfleu neges glir am fy marn am y difrifoldeb hwn, ac mae Blaenau Gwent wedi derbyn y neges honno heddiw. Fel y dywedais, byddaf yn cwrdd â chynrychiolwyr y cyngor bore yfory.

Cydnabyddwn fod yr arolygydd yn dod i'r casgliad yn yr adroddiad fod yr awdurdod yn dal i fethu â darparu gwasanaethau cymdeithasol da i blant yr oedd arnynt eu hangen ar adeg cynnal y gwaith maes ddiweddd y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Bu rhai gwelliannau: mae'r system i gadw trefn ar ymholiadau cychwynnol wedi gwella, er

authority looks after. Rhodri Glyn mentioned concerns about foster carers earlier. That is crucial, as foster carers are the lifeblood of the service and support that we provide across Wales in terms of striving to offer good care.

The inspectors said that they encountered several pieces of work of a high standard but that many more situations caused them concern. The crucial question, is it not Jonathan, is where do we go from here? The report says that action is required. I am held to account for that, but the local authority needs to take this forward. This is a crucial opportunity to tackle considerable problems, and the formal package of support that has come through from the intervention protocol and from the advisory board will test that.

Kirsty Williams: The local authority that you expect to take this report forward is the same local authority that received a report a year ago that was damning in its condemnation of its services to children. You may try to hold on to the one small example of improvement, but the report states that, at the time of this inspection, the authority was still not serving the children who needed its services well, and that its prospects for improvement remained poor.

In its analysis, the service has not moved on at all in the last year. What confidence do you have that the same people that were faced with this situation a year ago, and have done little about it, will now suddenly jump to attention and make this the priority that you claim it to be?

Can we acknowledge for a moment that the practices going on in this council are, in some cases, illegal? It has failed to take any cognisance of guidance and regulations issued by the National Assembly and is, in many cases, dangerous. To read that foster carers have such huge case loads that children are not even able to have their own bed, in some circumstances, and are required to share a bed with other foster children, is appalling. Simply saying today that the

enghraifft, ac mae hynny'n hollbwysig. Y plant y mae'r awdurdod yn gofalu amdanynt yw'r rhai yr wyf yn pryderu yn eu cylch. Soniodd Rhodri Glyn am bryderon ynghylch gofalcwyr maeth yn gynharach. Mae hynny'n hollbwysig, gan mai gofalcwyr maeth yw anadl einioes y gwasanaeth a'r cymorth a ddarparwn ledled Cymru wrth ymdrechu i gynnig gofal da.

Dywedodd yr arolygwyr eu bod wedi dod ar draws sawl enghraifft o waith o safon uchel ond bod llawer mwy o sefyllfaoedd yn peri pryder iddynt. Y cwestiwn hollbwysig, onid ef, Jonathan, yw o ble yr awn oddi yma? Dywed yr adroddiad fod angen cymryd camau. Myfi sy'n atebol am hynny, ond rhaid i'r awdurdod lleol fwrw ymlaen â hyn. Mae hyn yn gyfle hollbwysig i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau sylweddol, a bydd y pecyn cymorth ffurfiol a gafwyd o'r protocol ar ymyrryd a'r bwrdd ymgynghorol yn rhoi prawf ar hynny.

Kirsty Williams: Yr awdurdod lleol y disgwyliwch iddo weithredu ar sail yr adroddiad hwn yw'r un awdurdod a gafodd adroddiad y llynedd a oedd yn collfarnu ei wasanaethau i blant. Gallech geisio dal eich gafael mewn un enghraifft fach o wella, ond dywed yr adroddiad fod yr awdurdod, ar adeg yr arolygiad hwn, yn dal i fethu â chynnig gwasanaethau da i'r plant yr oedd arnynt eu hangen, ac mai gwael oedd y rhagolygon am welliant ynddo o hyd.

Yn ôl ei ddadansoddiad, nid yw'r gwasanaeth wedi symud ymlaen o gwbl yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Pa mor hyderus yr ydych y bydd yr un rhai ag a wynebodd y sefyllfa hon flwyddyn yn ôl, ac sydd heb wneud fawr ddim yn ei chylch, yn deffro'n awr ac yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i hyn fel yr honnwch y dyliid?

A gawn gydnabod am eiliad fod rhai o'r arferion a ddilynir yn y cyngor hwn yn anghyfreithlon? Methodd â chymryd sylw o'r canllawiau a'r rheoliadau a roddwyd gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ac mae'n gweithredu'n beryglus mewn sawl achos. Brawychus yw darllen bod beichiau achosion mor anferth gan ofalcwyr maeth fel na all plant gael eu gwely eu hunain hyd yn oed, mewn rhai achosion, a'u bod yn gorfod rhannu gwely â phlant maeth eraill. Nid

council needs to do more is inadequate.

Could you spell out directly, Minister, what the timescale is for further inspections and further work in this county? Could you also comment on the Assembly Government's success in training and recruiting more social workers, because again, in this authority, cases are being handled by unqualified staff, which is illegal? That is not the council's responsibility, it is your responsibility as Minister.

Jane Hutt: One point that I made about the action required, and it is clear in the report, is that this action covers all key areas, which includes workforce, performance management, planning, partnerships, commissioning and contracting resources, leadership and culture, and corporate and political support. As well as the advisory board that has been set up, in the last few weeks an interim director of social services has been appointed. This person has experience of Wales—having worked here in the 1980s—has been a director of social services in Scotland and chief executive of a primary care trust in England, and has come to work solely and fully in Blaenau Gwent to turn services around. The authority has also appointed an interim head of children's services, again from outside. We need to give those people a real opportunity. They have the determination—I have met the interim director of social services—to turn this around and to provide leadership, which is crucial. We must remember, as we discuss this issue, the people who are working to try to deliver services at the sharp end.

On recruitment and retention, there has been some improvement, but there have been deficits in middle and higher management. That is why the leadership that has come in is so important. However, in terms of the steps to be taken and the timetable, we have already discussed the protocol and intervention in the Health and Social Services

digon yw dweud heddiw fod rhaid i'r cyngor wneud mwy.

A allwch egluro'n syml, Weinidog, beth yw'r amserlen ar gyfer arolygiadau pellach a gwaith pellach yn y sir hon? A allwch wneud sylw hefyd am y llwyddiant a gafodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wrth hyfforddi a recriwtio rhagor o weithwyr cymdeithasol oherwydd, unwaith eto, yn yr awdurdod hwn, mae achosion yn cael eu trafod gan staff anghymwys, a hynny'n anghyfreithlon? Nid cyfrifoldeb y cyngor yw hynny, ond eich cyfrifoldeb chi fel Gweinidog.

Jane Hutt: Un pwynt a wneuthum am y camau y mae angen eu cymryd, ac mae hyn yn glir yn yr adroddiad, yw bod y camau hynny'n ymwneud â'r holl feysydd allweddol, a hynny'n cynnwys y gweithlu, rheoli perfformiad, cynllunio, partneriaethau, comisiynu a gosod contractau, adnoddau, arweinyddiaeth ac arferion gweithio, a chefnogaeth gorfforaethol a gwleidyddol. Yn ogystal â'r bwrdd ymgynghorol a sefydlwyd, mae cyfarwyddwr gwasanaethau cymdeithasol dros dro wedi'i benodi yn yr wythnosau diwethaf. Mae'r person hwn wedi cael profiad yng Nghymru—ac yntau wedi gweithio yma yn y 1980au—bu'n gyfarwyddwr gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn yr Alban ac yn brif weithredwr ar ymddiriedolaeth gofal sylfaenol yn Lloegr, a daeth i weithio ym Mlaenau Gwent yn unswydd i weddnewid y gwasanaethau. Mae'r awdurdod wedi penodi pennaeth gwasanaethau plant dros dro hefyd, ac yntau unwaith eto'n un o'r tu allan. Rhaid inni roi cyfle iawn i'r bobl hynny. Mae ganddynt ddigon o benderfyniad—cyfarfûm â'r cyfarwyddwr gwasanaethau cymdeithasol dros dro—i weddnewid y sefyllfa hon a chynnig arweiniad, ac mae hynny'n hollbwysig. Rhaid inni gofio, wrth drafod y mater hwn, am y rhai sy'n ymdrechu i ddarparu gwasanaethau yn y rheng flaen.

Ynghylch recriwtio a chadw staff, bu rhywfaint o wella, ond mae rheolwyr canol ac uwch wedi bod yn brin. Dyna pam y mae'r arweinwyr a ddaeth i mewn mor bwysig. Fodd bynnag, o ran y camau sydd i'w cymryd a'r amserlen, yr ydym eisoes wedi trafod y protocol ac ymyrryd yn y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol mewn

Committee in relation to other situations and circumstances. We need to follow that through, as we are doing, now that it has been agreed with local government. The starting point will be the letter from the chief inspector to the council setting out specific targets for improvement that you and I will then monitor as they come back to us in terms of reports. Safeguarding is crucial. My main concern is that we are now safeguarding children as a result of this report. We have a new, highly experienced interim director in place, as well as the advisory board and the protocol. I hope that we will scrutinise that in Committee next week.

David Melding: One year ago, Blaenau Gwent social services was found to be unfit for purpose. Six months ago, it was still found to be unfit for purpose. Today, it is considered unfit for purpose. Can you tell the Assembly that, as a result of your decision to use the protocol rather than direct measures, those children who are currently at risk face less danger?

Jane Hutt: I hope that I have laid out the steps that we have taken. I have already mentioned the experienced leadership that has been brought in from outside, the advisory board under the Wales programme for improvement, which is the first time that this has happened with an authority in Wales, and which was discussed at the Local Government and Public Services Committee, and the steps that will be taken by the chief inspector in setting out specific targets for improvement. A constructive partnership, based on a full and open recognition of problems, remains the best way forward for achieving the necessary improvements.

3.10 p.m.

We must deal with these deep-seated problems thoroughly with the commitment of all concerned. I expect to receive a report on the targets set by the chief inspector and the council's initial response in June, and a report on progress made over the next three months in September. We must ensure that the Assembly uses its scrutiny powers, which are

cysylltiad â sefyllfaoedd ac amgylchiadau eraill. Rhaid inni ddilyn hynny i'r pen, fel yr ydym yn gwneud, gan ein bod wedi cytuno ar hynny bellach gyda llywodraeth leol. Y man cychwyn fydd y llythyr oddi wrth y prif arolygydd i'r cyngor yn nodi targedau penodol ar gyfer gwella y byddwch chi a minnau'n eu monitro wedyn pan ddeuant yn ôl atom mewn adroddiadau. Mae amddiffyn yn hollbwysig. Yr hyn sydd o'r pwys mwyaf i mi yw ein bod bellach yn amddiffyn plant o ganlyniad i'r adroddiad hwn. Mae gennym gyfarwyddwr dros dro newydd a thra phrofiadol wrth ei waith, yn ogystal â'r bwrdd ymgynghorol a'r protocol. Gobeithiaf y byddwn yn craffu ar hynny yn y Pwyllgor yr wythnos nesaf.

David Melding: Flwyddyn yn ôl, cafwyd bod gwasanaethau cymdeithasol Blaenau Gwent yn anaddas i'w diben. Chwe mis yn ôl, cafwyd eu bod yn anaddas i'w diben o hyd. Heddiw, bernir eu bod yn anaddas i'w diben. A allwch ddweud wrth y Cynulliad fod y plant hynny sydd mewn risg ar hyn o bryd yn wynebu llai o berygl o ganlyniad i'ch penderfyniad i ddefnyddio'r protocol yn hytrach na mesurau uniongyrchol?

Jane Hutt: Gobeithiaf fy mod wedi egluro'r camau a gymerasom. Yr wyf eisoes wedi sôn am yr arweinwyr profiadol a gafwyd o'r tu allan, y bwrdd ymgynghorol o dan raglen Cymru ar gyfer gwella, a gafwyd am y tro cyntaf gydag awdurdod yng Nghymru, ac a drafodwyd ym Mhwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, a'r camau a gymerir gan y prif arolygydd wrth nodi targedau penodol ar gyfer gwella. Partneriaeth adeiladol, ar sail cydnabyddiaeth lawn ac agored o'r problemau, yw'r modd gorau o hyd i sicrhau'r gwelliannau sydd eu hangen.

Rhaid inni ymdrin yn drylwyr â'r problemau sylfaenol hyn gydag ymrwymiad gan bawb sy'n gysylltiedig. Yr wyf yn disgwyl cael adroddiad ar y targedau a bennwyd gan y prif arolygydd ac ar ymateb cyntaf y cyngor ym mis Mehefin, ac adroddiad ar y cynnydd a wneir dros y tri mis nesaf ym mis Medi. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod y Cynulliad yn arfer ei

important, and that our support package, which includes external support from Syniad, the Audit Commission and the Welsh Local Government Association—such support may not have been received in the authority previously—does the job for the children and young people of Blaenau Gwent.

bwerau i graffu, gan eu bod yn bwysig, a bod ein pecyn cymorth, sy'n cynnwys cymorth o'r tu allan gan Syniad, y Comisiwn Archwilio a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru—mae'n bosibl nad yw'r awdurdod wedi cael cymorth o'r fath o'r blaen—yn mynd â'r maen i'r wal er mwyn plant a phobl ifanc Blaenau Gwent.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): There are no changes to report to this week's business. Business for the next three weeks is as set out in the draft statement, which can be found on the Chamberweb under supporting documents. Following this morning's Business Committee meeting, the Deputy Presiding Officer has determined, under Standing Order No. 24.6, that the following items need not be referred to a Subject Committee for extended consideration: the Registration of Establishment (Laying Hens) (Wales) Regulations 2004, the Meat Products (Wales) Regulations 2004, the National Health Service Bodies and Local Authority Partnership Arrangements (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 and the Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Wales) Regulations 2004.

Y Llywydd: A oes gwrthwynebiad i'r datganiad busnes drafft? Ymddengys bod 10 yn ei wrthwynebu. Felly, galwaf ar y Trefnydd i gynnig y datganiad busnes yn ffurfiol.

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales adopts the business statement.

Y Llywydd: Gwahoddaf un Aelod o bob grŵp i wneud sylwadau byr ar y datganiad busnes.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I return to the report on Blaenau Gwent social services. We have had an urgent question, but it will be clear to you, from the opposition parties' response to it, that there is great dissatisfaction regarding the action taken by the Minister for Health

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Nid oes unrhyw newidiadau i'w hadrodd i fusnes yr wythnos hon. Mae busnes ar gyfer y tair wythnos nesaf fel y mae wedi'i nodi yn y datganiad drafft, y gellir ei weld ar we'r Siambr o dan ddogfennau ategol. Yn dilyn cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma, mae'r Dirprwy Lywydd wedi penderfynu, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.6, nad oes angen cyfeirio'r eitemau a ganlyn i Bwyllgor Pwnc i'w hystyried yn helaethach: Rheoliadau Cofrestru Sefydliadau (Ieir Dodwy) (Cymru) 2004, Rheoliadau Cynhyrchion Cig (Cymru) 2004, Rheoliadau Trefniadau Partneriaeth Cyrff Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol ac Awdurdodau Lleol (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2004 a Rheoliadau Cynhyrchion sy'n Tarddu o Anifeiliaid (Mewnforion Trydydd Gwledydd) (Cymru) 2004.

The Presiding Officer: Are there any objections to the business statement? I see that there are 10 objections. I therefore call on the Business Minister to formally propose the business statement.

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Cynigaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn derbyn y datganiad busnes.

The Presiding Officer: I invite one Member from each group to comment briefly on the business statement.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Af yn ôl at yr adroddiad ar wasanaethau cymdeithasol Blaenau Gwent. Cawsom gwestiwn brys, ond bydd yn amlwg i chi, yn ôl ymateb y gwrthbleidiau iddo, fod anfodlonrwydd mawr ynghylch y camau a gymerwyd gan y

and Social Services on this issue. We are still not clear about what she is going to do or about the timetable of events. I will read to you the report's conclusion:

'this inspection confirms that progress is still not sufficient to be confident that the authority can deliver its statutory social services to an acceptable standard.'

When such a conclusion is reached, do you not believe that a full statement at least should be given in the Chamber so that the Minister can explain fully what she is going to do, what the timetable will be and what is the difference between what she intends to do in the future and what is happening now when the situation is still not acceptable?

David Davies: The Conservative group will vote against the business statement because of our concern that no time has been allocated for a discussion on the issue of school breakfasts. The Business Minister will be aware that we have asked on many occasions when this manifesto commitment will be implemented and where the funding for it will come from. We have met with a deafening silence from the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning. However, the press did not meet with such silence; I understand that she made a statement to them this morning. I cannot say any more about that because she did not have the courtesy to come to the Assembly first, which is disappointing. As she is unwilling to speak to Assembly Members before going to the press, we feel that it is not unreasonable to ask her to speak to Assembly Members after going to the press. We will vote against the business statement because time has not been allocated for a statement by the Minister, which greatly concerns and disappoints us.

Peter Black: I also wish to see a further debate or statement on the situation in Blaenau Gwent. The urgent question today was important, but we need more elucidation and discussion regarding this issue. We also need to consider other social services departments that are failing in Wales, because a pattern is beginning to emerge. The Minister for Health and Social Services needs to tell the Assembly how she is dealing with

Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ar y mater hwn. Nid yw'n glir i ni eto beth a wnaiff neu beth yw amserlen y digwyddiadau. Darllenaf gasgliad yr adroddiad i chi:

mae'r arolygiad hwn yn cadarnhau na wnaed digon o gynnydd eto fel y gellir bod yn sicr y gall yr awdurdod ddarparu ei wasanaethau cymdeithasol statudol at safon dderbyniol.

Pan ddeuir i gasgliad o'r fath, oni chredwch y dylid rhoi datganiad llawn o leiaf yn y Siambr fel y gall y Gweinidog egluro'n llawn yr hyn a bwriada ei wneud, beth fydd yr amserlen a beth yw'r gwahaniaeth rhwng yr hyn y mae'n bwriadu ei wneud yn y dyfodol a'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn awr pan fo'r sefyllfa'n annerbyniol o hyd?

David Davies: Bydd grŵp y Ceidwadwyr yn pleidleisio yn erbyn y datganiad busnes gan ein bod yn pryderu na neilltuwyd amser i drafod brecwastau mewn ysgolion. Gŵyr y Trefnydd ein bod wedi gofyn ar sawl achlysur pa bryd y cyflawnir yr ymrwymiad maniffesto hwn ac o ble y daw'r cyllid ar ei gyfer. Yr ydym wedi profi distawrwydd byddarol o du'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Er hynny, ni phrofodd y wasg ddistawrwydd o'r fath; deallaf ei bod wedi rhoi datganiad iddynt y bore yma. Ni allaf ddweud rhagor am hynny gan na fu'n ddigon cwrtais i ddod i'r Cynulliad yn gyntaf, ac mae hynny'n peri siom. Gan ei bod yn amharod i siarad ag Aelodau'r Cynulliad cyn mynd at y wasg, teimlwn nad afresmyol yw gofyn iddi siarad ag Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar ôl mynd at y wasg. Pleidleisiwn yn erbyn y datganiad busnes gan na neilltuwyd amser ar gyfer datganiad gan y Gweinidog, ac mae hynny'n peri siom a gofid mawr i ni.

Peter Black: Yr wyf finnau'n dymuno gweld dadl neu ddatganiad pellach ar y sefyllfa ym Mlaenau Gwent. Yr oedd y cwestiwn brys heddiw'n bwysig, ond mae arnom angen mwy o eglurhad a thrafod ynghylch y mater hwn. Rhaid inni hefyd ystyried adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol eraill yng Nghymru sy'n methu, gan fod patrwm yn dechrau dod i'r amlwg. Rhaid i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a

this as a whole.

David raised an important issue with regard to school breakfasts. It is my understanding that if a Minister is to make an announcement, he or she should first do so to the Assembly, not to the press. I was expecting an announcement on this issue to be made to the Assembly and was therefore disappointed to see that a statement had not been timetabled. I was also disappointed that we only learnt about this by listening to the radio or reading the papers this morning. I hope that the Business Minister is prepared to timetable a statement so that the Minister can rectify this omission and make the statement that she should have made to the Assembly.

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): I thank Rhodri and Peter for raising the issue of Blaenau Gwent social services. Today's urgent question requested a statement on the subject. I will discuss with the Minister whether a statement in addition to the urgent question is appropriate and report back to you at next week's Business Committee meeting. If I understood it correctly, Peter, you asked for a discussion or statement that would be more wide-ranging than what was sought by Rhodri.

Jane Davidson does not intend to make an oral statement on school breakfasts, and she has not announced a new policy. Today's announcement was about the participating local authority and the further development of the existing policy, which, if you recall, was debated in Plenary in November. The Minister said that she would announce further details as the initiative unfolded, and this is exactly what she has done. This morning's launch will be followed by similar events during the phased roll-out of the pilot scheme over the next two years. The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee will have an opportunity to discuss this tomorrow.

Y Llywydd: Cyn imi alw pleidlais ar y datganiad busnes, mae'n bleser gennyf dynnu eich sylw at y neges e-bost a gawsoch yn

Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ddweud wrth y Cynulliad sut y mae'n delio â hyn yn ei gyfanrwydd.

Cododd David fater o bwys ynglŷn â brecwastau mewn ysgolion. Deallaf os yw Gweinidog am wneud cyhoeddiad, dylai wneud hynny'n gyntaf gerbron y Cynulliad, nid gerbron y wasg. Yr oeddwn yn disgwyl y byddai cyhoeddiad ar y mater hwn yn y Cynulliad a thestun siom i mi felly oedd gweld nad oedd datganiad wedi'i amserlennu. Yr oeddwn hefyd yn siomedig mai dim ond drwy wrando ar y radio neu ddarllen y papurau newydd y bore yma y cawsom wybod am hyn. Gobeithiaf fod y Trefnydd yn barod i amserlennu datganiad fel y gall y Gweinidog wneud iawn am y diffyg hwn a rhoi'r datganiad y dylai fod wedi'i roi gerbron y Cynulliad.

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Diolchaf i Rhodri a Peter am godi mater gwasanaethau cymdeithasol Blaenau Gwent. Gofynnwyd am ddatganiad ar y pwnc hwn yn y cwestiwn brys heddiw. Gwnaf drafod gyda'r Gweinidog a fyddai'n briodol cael datganiad yn ogystal â'r cwestiwn brys ac adroddaf yn ôl i chi yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Busnes yr wythnos nesaf. Os deellais hynny'n iawn, Peter, yr oeddech yn gofyn am drafodaeth neu ddatganiad a fyddai'n ehangach ei gwmpas na'r hyn a geisiodd Rhodri.

Nid yw Jane Davidson yn bwriadu rhoi datganiad llafar ar frechwastau mewn ysgolion, ac nid yw wedi cyhoeddi polisi newydd. Yr oedd cyhoeddiad heddiw'n ymwneud â'r awdurdod lleol sy'n cymryd rhan a'r datblygu pellach ar y polisi presennol y cafwyd dadl arno, os cofiwch, yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ym mis Tachwedd. Dywedodd y Gweinidog y byddai'n cyhoeddi manylion pellach wrth i'r fenter ddatblygu, a dyna'n union a wnaeth. Ar ôl y cyfarfod lansio y bore yma, ceir digwyddiadau tebyg wrth i'r cynllun peilot gael ei gyflwyno'n raddol dros y ddwy flynedd nesaf. Bydd y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn cael cyfle i drafod hyn yfory.

The Presiding Officer: Before I call for a vote on the business statement, it gives me great pleasure to draw attention to the e-mail

gynharch sy'n sôn am y cyfarwyddyd newydd ynglŷn â phleidleisio ac yn nodi'r gwelliannau pellach a wnaed i'r gyfundrefn pleidleisio. Pleidleisiwch yn llawen ac yn araf deg.

sent to Members earlier in order to provide revised guidance on voting and inform us of the further improvements made to the system. Vote happily and with care.

Cynnig: O blaid 29, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 27.

Motion: For 29, Abstain 0, Against 27.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Marek, John
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Daliadau Amaethyddol (Unedau Cynhyrchu) (Cymru) 2004

Approval of the Agricultural Holdings (Units of Production) (Wales) Order 2004

Y Llywydd: O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25—22.25 cyn hynny—ni chynhelir dadl ar y cynnig hwn.

The Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 24.25—previously 22.25—this motion is not subject to debate.

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): I propose that

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Cynigiad fod

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 22.25:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 30 March 2004 on the draft Order, the Agricultural Holdings (Units of Production) (Wales) Order 2004;</p> <p>b) approves the Agricultural Holdings (Units of Production) (Wales) Order 2004 is made in accordance with:</p> <p>i) the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 24 March 2004;</p> <p>ii) regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 24 March 2004; and</p> <p>iii) the memorandum of correction laid in the Table Office on 30 March 2004. (NDM1931)</p> | <p>a) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 30 Mawrth 2004 ar y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Daliadau Amaethyddol (Unedau Cynhyrchu) (Cymru) 2004;</p> <p>b) yn cymeradwyo bod Gorchymyn Daliadau Amaethyddol (Unedau Cynhyrchu) (Cymru) 2004 yn cael ei wneud yn unol â:</p> <p>i) y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 24 Mawrth 2004;</p> <p>ii) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 24 Mawrth 2004; a</p> <p>iii) y memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 30 Mawrth 2004. (NDM1931)</p> |
|---|---|

*Cynnig (NDM1931): O blaid 54, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1931): For 54, 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
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter

Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
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 3.18 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3.18 p.m.*

**Dirprwyo Swyddogaethau Rheoliadau Meddyginiaethau i'w Defnyddio gan
Bobl (Treialon Clinigol) 2004 i'r Prif Weinidog
Delegation of the Functions of the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials)
Regulations 2004 to the First Minister**

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

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

the National Assembly, acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, resolves to delegate all the functions of the National Assembly contained in the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004 to the Assembly First Minister, save those which by law cannot be so delegated.

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan adran 62(1)(b) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, yn penderfynu dirprwyo holl swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a gynhwysir yn Rheoliadau Meddyginiaethau i'w Defnyddio gan Bobl (Treialon Clinigol) 2004 i Brif Weinidog y Cynulliad, ac eithrio'r rhai na ellir yn ôl y gyfraith eu dirprwyo.

Nothing in this motion will have the effect of reducing the pre-eminence of the authority of the full Assembly or of reducing the role of the Assembly Committees in the exercise of the above functions.

Ni fydd dim yn y cynnig hwn yn lleihau goruchafiaeth awdurdod y Cynulliad llawn nac yn lleihau rôl Pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad wrth arfer y swyddogaethau uchod.

This delegation will be made in the knowledge that those functions will, as appropriate, be further delegated to the appropriate Assembly Minister and to staff. (NDM1933)

Caiff y swyddogaethau hyn eu dirprwyo gan wybod y byddant yn cael eu dirprwyo ymhellach i'r Gweinidog priodol yn y Cynulliad, ac i staff, pan fo hynny'n berthnasol. (NDM1933)

On 1 April 2004, the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004 were laid before Parliament. These implement the European Clinical Trials Directive 2001/20/EC into United Kingdom law. The regulations will come into force on 1 May 2004, the date by which all member states are required to implement the directive.

Ar 1 Ebrill 2004, rhoddwyd Rheoliadau Meddyginiaethau i'w Defnyddio gan Bobl (Treialon Clinigol) 2004 gerbron y Senedd. Maent yn rhoi'r Gyfarwyddeb Ewropeaidd ar Dreialon Clinigol 2001/20/EC ar waith yng nghyfraith y Deyrnas Unedig. Daw'r rheoliadau i rym ar 1 Mai 2004, ac mae'r holl aelod wladwriaethau i roi'r gyfarwyddeb ar waith erbyn y dyddiad hwnnw.

3.20 p.m.

The aim of this directive is to protect participants in clinical trials and to introduce Europe-wide procedures that will provide an environment in which new medicines can be developed safely and rapidly. The directive has a wide scope as it covers all clinical trials involving medicinal products for human use, whoever sponsors it, whether industry, government, research council, charity or university, and irrespective of where the trial takes place. The regulations will provide a statutory basis for the standardisation of procedures for ethical consideration and authorisation.

Bwriad y gyfarwyddeb hon yw amddiffyn y rhai sy'n cymryd rhan mewn treialon clinigol a chyflwyno gweithdrefnau ar gyfer Ewrop gyfan a fydd yn creu amgylchiadau lle y gellir datblygu meddyginiaethau newydd yn ddiogel ac yn gyflym. Mae cwmpas eang i'r gyfarwyddeb gan ei bod yn ymwneud â'r holl dreialon clinigol sy'n cynnwys cynhyrchion meddyginiaethol sydd i'w defnyddio gan bobl, pwy bynnag sy'n eu noddi, boed yn ddiwydiant, yn llywodraeth, yn gyngor ymchwil, yn elusen neu'n brifysgol, a heb ystyried ym mhle y cynhelir y treial. Bydd y rheoliadau'n cynnig sail statudol i safoni gweithdrefnau ar gyfer ystyriaeth foesebol ac awdurdodi.

In recognition of the need for the four administrations within the UK with responsibility for health to work jointly, the regulations will create a United Kingdom ethics committee authority, which will be responsible for the implementation of the ethical aspects of the regulations in the UK. The authority will be responsible for establishing ethics committees and will also have the power to recognise committees that apply to it as ethics committees, provided that they comply with the standards set in the regulations.

Er cydnabod yr angen am gydweithio gan y pedair gweinyddiaeth yn y DU sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros iechyd, bydd y rheoliadau'n creu awdurdod pwyllgor moeseg i'r Deyrnas Unedig, a fydd yn gyfrifol am weithredu agweddau moesegol y rheoliadau yn y DU. Bydd yr awdurdod yn gyfrifol am sefydlu pwyllgorau moeseg a bydd ganddo bŵer hefyd i gydnabod pwyllgorau sy'n ymgeisio iddo fel pwyllgorau moeseg, ar yr amod eu bod yn cydymffurfio â'r safonau a nodir yn y rheoliadau.

The authority will comprise the Secretary of State for Health, the Welsh Assembly Government and Scottish Executive, and the relevant Northern Ireland department. However, with the agreement of the other members, the functions of the authority may be carried out solely by one of the members, or two or more of the members acting jointly. The Assembly will have the power to carry out the functions of the authority in respect of Wales by itself. By standardising and

Bydd yr awdurdod yn cynnwys yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Iechyd, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Gweithrediaeth yr Alban, a'r adran berthnasol yng Ngogledd Iwerddon. Fodd bynnag, o gael cytundeb yr aelodau eraill, mae modd i swyddogaethau'r awdurdod gael eu cyflawni gan un o'r aelodau ar ei ben ei hun, neu gan ddau neu ragor o'r aelodau wrth weithredu ar y cyd. Bydd gan y Cynulliad bŵer i gyflawni swyddogaethau'r

harmonising the structures, processes and procedures of research ethics committees we will, in the UK, be able to provide a more efficient and effective ethical review service to all of the research community.

awdurdod mewn cysylltiad â Chymru ar ei ben ei hun. Drwy safoni a chysoni strwythurau, prosesau a gweithdrefnau pwyllgorau moeseg ymchwil byddwn ni, yn y DU, yn gallu darparu gwasanaeth adolygu moesegol mwy effeithiol ac effeithlon i bawb sy'n ymwneud ag ymchwil.

*Cynnig (NDM1933): O blaid 47, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1933): For 47, 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
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Trydydd Adroddiad Cydlyniant y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd European Commission Third Cohesion Report

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1, 2, 4 and 5 in the name of Jocelyn Davies and amendments 3, 6, 7 and 8 in the name of Kirsty Williams.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1, 2, 4 a 5 yn enw Jocelyn Davies a gwelliannau 3, 6, 7 a 8 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

The First Minister: I propose that

Y Prif Weinidog: Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. welcomes the European Commission's third report on economic and social cohesion published on 18 February 2004;

1. yn croesawu trydydd adroddiad y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar gydlyniant economaidd a chymdeithasol a gyhoeddwyd ar 18 Chwefror 2004;

2. recognises the report as an important milestone in the development of the European Union's 2007-13 programme for economic and social cohesion; and

2. yn cydnabod bod yr adroddiad yn garreg filltir bwysig o ran datblygu rhaglen cydlyniant economaidd a chymdeithasol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar gyfer 2007 i 2013; ac

3. notes that the Welsh Assembly Government will continue to seek to maximise the resources available for and benefits of regional development in Wales. (NDM1932)

3. yn nodi y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn parhau i geisio cael cymaint o adnoddau â phosibl ar gyfer datblygu rhanbarthol yng Nghymru, a chael y budd gorau ohonynt. (NDM1932)

It may seem odd to think that this debate about what happens from 1 January 2007 to the end of 2013 started three years ago in 2001, when the commission published its second cohesion report on economic and social cohesion. That was the window for debate and we have participated fully in that debate, the cohesion forum, and other round tables in Brussels. We have also participated through my mandate as the regional policy spokesman for the conference of peripheral maritime regions as well as, on one occasion, through my attendance at the Council of Ministers' regional policy ministerial meeting in Greece as part of the UK delegation, and in frequent discussions with UK Government counterparts through the Joint Ministerial Committee, Europe and other mechanisms.

Gall fod yn rhyfedd meddwl bod y ddadl hon am yr hyn a ddigwydd o 1 Ionawr 2007 hyd ddiwedd 2013 wedi dechrau dair blynedd yn ôl yn 2001, pan gyhoeddodd y comisiwn ei ail adroddiad cydlyniant ar gydlyniant economaidd a chymdeithasol. Dyna oedd cyd-destun y ddadl ac yr ydym wedi cymryd rhan lawn yn y ddadl honno, y fforwm cydlyniant, a'r cyfarfodydd bord gron eraill ym Mrwsel. Yr ydym hefyd wedi cymryd rhan drwy fy mandad fel y llefarydd ar bolisi rhanbarthol dros gynhadledd y rhanbarthau arforol ymylol a hefyd, ar un achlysur, drwy fy mhresenoldeb yng nghyfarfod gweinidogol Cyngor y Gweinidogion ar bolisi rhanbarthol yng Ngwlad Groeg fel rhan o ddirprwyaeth y DU, ac mewn trafodaethau mynych â'm cymheiriaid yn Llywodraeth y DU drwy Gydbwyllgor y Gweinidogion, Ewrop a dulliau eraill.

In getting ready for 1 January 2007, several significant new factors have come in. One is that, from 1 January 2007, enlargement makes the ball game completely different

Wrth baratoi ar gyfer 1 Ionawr 2007, mae sawl ffactor newydd o bwys wedi codi. Un ohonynt yw y bydd yr ehangu, o 1 Ionawr 2007, yn peri y bydd y sefyllfa'n gwbl

from what it would be if we were preparing for this six-year period up to 2000. The UK Government, in particular, with the Treasury and Department of Trade and Industry as the two responsible departments, have entered the debate early with a fairly dramatic proposal to adapt to the accession of countries in a poverty league that is quite different from the income gap between, for example, Germany and Portugal that we faced in the preparations for 2000-06. The Government has said that accession brings in countries that are so poor relative to the other EU countries, that a completely different set of policies must be adopted. Regional policy, in the normal way, will cover you for relatively small disparities between different regions and so on. With this accession, it is a different case. It is more like providing overseas aid to very poor countries such as Poland and some of the Baltic and Balkan countries, rather than trying to pretend that it is a type of catch-up exercise to try to address divergencies that are within the same economic playing field.

The ex-Warsaw pact countries are in a different category. It has been suggested therefore that we consider the countries as being in two different categories and dedicate a specific fund—as much as can be coped with administratively—for the very poor accession countries, and then, having limited that, have regional aid only within the existing EU of 15, where a member state has gross domestic product per capita of less than 90 per cent of the EU average. In terms of timing, this must be settled before 1 January 2006 because the final 12 months must be used to set up the programmes in each of the areas so that money is ready to flow and projects are ready to bid from January 2007. It must be settled therefore, in some 18 or 20 months' time, by 31 December 2005.

It is important that we have this debate today. We were sorry that we had to postpone it for various reasons. Nevertheless, it is still not a convenient time to be holding this debate because there will be a new commission in November and a new European Parliament will be elected in June. Likewise, although

wahanol i'r hyn a fuasai pe byddem yn paratoi ar gyfer y cyfnod chwe blynedd hwn hyd at 2000. Mae Llywodraeth y DU, yn benodol, a'r Trysorlys a'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant fel y ddwy adran gyfrifol, wedi ymuno â'r ddadl yn gynnar gan roi cynnig eithaf trawiadol i ymaddasu ar gyfer gwledydd sy'n ymuno sy'n profi tlodi o fath tra gwahanol i'r bwlch incwm rhwng yr Almaen a Phortiwgal, er enghraifft, yr oeddem ni'n ei wynebu wrth baratoi ar gyfer 2000-06. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi dweud bod y gwledydd sy'n ymuno mor dlawd o'u cymharu â gwledydd eraill yr UE, fel bod rhaid mabwysiadu set o bolisiau sy'n gwbl wahanol. Fel arfer, bydd polisi rhanbarthol yn darparu ar gyfer gwahaniaethau cymharol fach rhwng gwahanol ranbarthau ac yn y blaen. Mae'n wahanol yn achos y gwledydd sy'n ymuno'n awr. Mae'r cymorth a roddir i wledydd tlawd iawn fel Gwlad Pwyl a rhai o wledydd y Baltig a'r Balcanau yn debycach i gymorth tramor, yn hytrach na cheisio cymryd arnom bod hyn yn fath o ymarfer goddiweddyd i geisio ymdrin â gwahaniaethau sydd ar yr un gwastad economaidd.

Mae'r gwledydd a fu â rhan o gytundeb Warsaw mewn categori gwahanol. Awgrymwyd, felly, y dylem ystyried bod y gwledydd mewn dau gategori gwahanol ac y dylid neilltuo cronfa benodol—cymaint ag y gellir ymdopi ag ef yn weinyddol—ar gyfer y gwledydd tlawd iawn sy'n ymuno, ac wedyn, ar ôl cyfyngu ar hynny, na ddylid ond cael cymorth rhanbarthol o fewn yr UE presennol o 15 gwlad, lle y mae cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen yr aelod wladwriaeth yn llai na 90 y cant o gyfartaledd yr UE. O ran amseru, rhaid datrys hyn cyn 1 Ionawr 2006 gan fod rhaid defnyddio'r 12 mis olaf i sefydlu'r rhaglenni ym mhob un o'r ardaloedd fel bod arian ar gael a phrosiectau'n barod i ymgeisio o Ionawr 2007. Rhaid setlo hyn, felly, ymhen rhyw 18 i 20 mis, erbyn 31 Rhagfyr 2005.

Mae'n bwysig inni gael y ddadl hon heddiw. Yr oedd yn ofid inni ein bod wedi gorfod ei gohirio am wahanol resymau. Er hynny, nid yw hon ychwaith yn adeg gyfleus i gynnal y ddadl hon gan y bydd comisiwn newydd ym mis Tachwedd a chaiff Senedd Ewrop newydd ei hethol ym mis Mehefin. Yn yr un

they will be major participants, because the European Commission makes proposals but never makes final determinations—the commission proposes, but it is the Council of Ministers that disposes—this must be done on the basis of unanimity. It is most likely that this matter will be finally determined during the British presidency in the second half of 2005.

What is Wales's situation therefore? The third cohesion report states that there is much work to be done within the existing EU of 15 member states. There is also the issue of how to balance out the needs of the new accession countries, which will be joining the EU on Saturday, but will access regional aid early in the next programme. That means new measures of what qualifies a country for the different programmes. Objective 1 assistance at 75 per cent could remain, but 75 per cent is different in an EU of 25 member states than in an EU of 15. At present—and that is all we can say based on 2001 data—the two thirds of Wales that is currently covered by Objective 1, west Wales and the Valleys, will become a statistical effect region. In other words, without accession, it would continue to be an Objective 1 area, but with accession, it will be a follow-on special region. Only Cornwall looks as though it will be an Objective 1 region next year.

The data that will be used to finally determine this will probably include 2000, 2001 and 2002 data on average, but if the decision is left until the last minute of the British presidency of the EU in the second half of 2005, it could be 2001, 2002 and 2003 data, because all that data will then be available. The most up-to-date data would be used to determine who is above and who is below the 75 per cent criteria.

Alun Cairns: If the consideration of the data is delayed until the latest possible time, as you rightly suggested, would you expect the Welsh position to improve or decline? To date, it has obviously declined.

modd, er y byddant yn gyfranwyr o bwys, gan fod y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn cyflwyno cynigion ond nid yw byth yn gwneud penderfyniadau terfynol—y comisiwn sy'n cynnig, ond Cyngor y Gweinidogion sy'n penderfynu—rhaid cytuno ar hyn yn unfrydol. Mae'n fwyaf tebygol y penderfynir ar y mater hwn yn derfynol yn ystod llywyddiaeth Prydain yn ail hanner 2005.

Ym mha sefyllfa y mae Cymru felly? Dywed y trydydd adroddiad cydlyniant fod llawer o waith i'w wneud o fewn yr UE presennol o 15 aelod wladwriaeth. Rhaid ystyried hefyd sut i gyfantoli anghenion y gwledydd newydd a fydd yn ymuno â'r UE ar ddydd Sadwrn, ond a gaiff gymorth rhanbarthol ar ddechrau'r rhaglen newydd. Mae hynny'n golygu y ceir ffyn mesur newydd ar gyfer yr hyn sy'n cymhwysu gwlad ar gyfer y gwahanol raglenni. Efallai y bydd cymorth Amcan 1 yn dal i fod ar gael ar 75 y cant, ond mae 75 y cant yn wahanol mewn UE o 25 o aelod wladwriaethau i'r hyn y mae mewn UE o 15. Ar hyn o bryd—a dyna'r cwbl y gallwn ei ddweud ar sail y data am 2001—bydd y ddwy ran o dair o Gymru sydd wedi'i chynnwys o dan Amcan 1, gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, yn un o ranbarthau'r effaith ystadegol. Mewn geiriau eraill, pe na fyddai gwledydd newydd yn ymuno, byddai'n dal i fod yn ardal Amcan 1 ond, wrth iddynt ymuno, bydd yn rhanbarth arbennig sy'n canlyn ymlaen. Ymddengys mai Cernyw fydd yr unig ranbarth Amcan 1 y flwyddyn nesaf.

Mae'n debyg y bydd y data a ddefnyddir i bennu hyn yn derfynol yn cynnwys data 2000, 2001 a 2002 ar gyfartaledd, ond os gadewir y penderfyniad tan y funud olaf yn llywyddiaeth Prydain ar yr UE yn ail hanner 2005, gallai fod yn ddata ar gyfer 2001, 2002 a 2003, gan y bydd yr holl ddata hynny ar gael y pryd hwnnw. Y data diweddaraf a ddefnyddid i bennu pwy sy'n uwch a phwy sydd o dan lefel y maen prawf o 75 y cant.

Alun Cairns: Os bydd y gwaith o ystyried y data'n cael ei ohirio tan yr adeg hwyrach posibl, fel yr awgrymasoch, a fydddech yn disgwyl i sefyllfa Cymru fod yn well neu'n waeth? Hyd yma, mae'n amlwg ei bod wedi dirywio.

The First Minister: The 2001 data did not show a healthy picture in Wales. It was much healthier than in Cornwall, and the rate of decline was healthier than in the highlands and islands, which slipped back, but the situation in Wales has not improved as much as it has in south Yorkshire and Merseyside. Wales seems to be a kind of cross-over between the rural Objective 1 areas, such as the highlands and islands, which have done badly, and the urban Objective 1 areas, which have done well. We include a south Yorkshire equivalent in the Valleys and a Cornwall equivalent in west Wales. The figures are on a par with the other Objective 1 areas. The problems of the foot and mouth disease in 2001, and its impact on tourism and agriculture, may well have a bearing on that. That is the situation in any kind of objective reading of the Cornwall, west Wales and the Valleys, highlands and islands, Merseyside and south Yorkshire areas. Wales has the only area that has a big rural component and a big ex-coal and steel component. That is why Wales is in the middle of those figures.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr oedd data 2001 yn dangos nad oedd y sefyllfa yng Nghymru'n un iach. Yr oedd yn iachach nag yng Nghernyw, ac yr oedd y gyfradd ddirywio'n iachach nag yn ucheldiroedd ac ynsoedd yr Alban, a lithrodd yn ôl, ond nid yw'r sefyllfa yng Nghymru wedi gwella gymaint ag a wnaeth yn ne swydd Efrog a Glannau Mersi. Ymddengys fod Cymru'n rhyw fath o groesfan rhwng yr ardaloedd Amcan 1 gwledig, fel ucheldiroedd ac ynsoedd yr Alban, a wnaeth yn wael, a'r ardaloedd Amcan 1 trefol, a wnaeth yn dda. Mae gennym rywbeth sy'n cyfateb i dde swydd Efrog yn y Cymoedd a rhywbeth sy'n cyfateb i Gernyw yn y Gorllewin. Mae'r ffigurau yn debyg i rai'r ardaloedd Amcan 1 eraill. Mae'n bosibl iawn bod y problemau yn sgîl clwy'r traed a'r genau yn 2001, a'r effaith a gafodd ar dwristiaeth ac amaethyddiaeth, wedi effeithio hynny. Dyna'r unig fodd y gellir dehongli'r sefyllfa yng Nghernyw, gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, ucheldiroedd ac ynsoedd yr Alban, ac ardaloedd Glannau Mersi a de swydd Efrog yn wrthrychol. Yng Nghymru y ceir yr unig ardal sydd ag elfen wledig fawr ac elfen fawr o gyn-ardaloedd y diwydiannau glo a dur. Dyna pam y mae Cymru ar ganol y ffigurau hynny.

3.30 p.m.

It is also important that the third cohesion report does not state that we will carry on, provided it is adequately funded, exactly as before. New ways of providing value added through EU programmes are being sought, and the Objective 2 type programmes will largely disappear to be replaced by specific policy-related programmes. Their determination would largely be left to member states, alongside trying to generate competitiveness in Objective 2 type areas. Therefore, we continue to fight the battle for Wales to try to squeeze out the maximum amount of money from either the UK repatriation proposals—bring it back to the member states and concentrate on the accession states—or the other option, which, I think, is the more likely one. Looking at how the UK has not managed to recruit other countries to its column—only Sweden and Holland and, to a lesser extent, Denmark are

Mae hefyd yn bwysig nad yw'r trydydd adroddiad cydlyniant yn datgan y byddwn yn cario ymlaen, ar yr amod y caiff ei gyllido'n iawn, yn union fel cynt. Ceisir dulliau newydd o ychwanegu gwerth drwy raglenni'r UE, a bydd rhaglenni o fath Amcan 2 yn diflannu i raddau helaeth a rhaglenni'n ymwneud â pholisïau penodol yn dod yn eu lle. Gadewid i'r aelod wladwriaethau eu pennu i raddau helaeth, wrth geisio creu gallu cystadleuol mewn ardaloedd o fath Amcan 2. Gan hynny, parhawn i ymladd dros Gymru er mwyn gwasgu'r swm mwyaf posibl o arian un ai o gynigion y DU ar gyfer ailwladoli—dod ag ef yn ôl i'r aelod wladwriaethau a chanolbwyntio ar y gwladwriaethau sy'n ymuno—neu o'r dewis arall, sef yr un mwyaf tebygol, yn fy marn i. Gan fod y DU wedi methu â denu gwledydd eraill i'w chefnogi—dim ond Sweden a'r Iseldiroedd

supporting the UK line on this—there is likely to be enormous pressure on the UK to concede some ground and to continue to have an unrepatriated EU-level structural funds programme, not only in the accession countries and the member states where GDP is below 90 per cent of the EU average, but in the other member states where the regions require it. West Wales and the Valleys would therefore continue to be eligible.

We recommend the rejection of all of the amendments—many are based on excessively rose-coloured spectacles on the meaning of the EU proposals. They were a first citing shot. When the new commission will be appointed in November, we strongly suspect that there will be a different set of proposals. The European Parliament will be a different colour and have a different view, and the money on offer for structural funds—if it includes a programme in the existing EU of 15 countries, such as the UK—may involve a difficult set of budget negotiations because many countries sympathise with the UK point of view that the EU's budget should not pre-empt resources in excess of 1 per cent of EU GDP. However, if you do that and regard the common agricultural policy allocation as fixed, it is difficult to see how the countries will come around the table during the British presidency, in some 18 months' time, to agree to a fixed CAP programme and a fixed EU budget, but with some expansion to allow for EU enlargement on regional development. I would not like to predict what will happen, but we will seek to get the best bargain for Wales whether that comes via UK money, where the Barnett plus money is extremely important, or through some form of EU funding, as I suspect that it will, which will include statistical effect regions, including the two thirds of Wales that currently falls under Objective 1.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Cynigiad y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Gwelliant 1: ym mhwynt 1, dileu 'yn croesawu' ac yn ei lle rhoi 'yn cymradwyo'.

Cynigiad welliant 2. Ychwanegu fel pwynt 3 newydd ac ailrifo'r pwyntiau sy'n weddill yn unol â hynny:

ac, i raddau llai, Denmarc sy'n cefnogi safbwynt y DU ar hyn—mae'n debyg y bydd pwysau aruthrol ar y DU i ildio rhywfaint o dir a pharhau i gael rhaglen cronfeydd strwythurol ar lefel yr UE sydd heb ei hailwladoli, nid yn unig yn y gwledydd sy'n ymuno ac yn yr aelod wladwriaethau lle y ceir CMC o lai na 90 y cant o gyfartaledd yr UE, ond yn yr aelod wladwriaethau eraill lle y mae ar y rhanbarthau ei hangen. Felly, byddai gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn dal i fod yn gymwys.

Yr ydym yn argymhell y dylid gwrthod yr holl welliannau—mae llawer ohonynt yn seiliedig ar olwg ry obeithiol ar ystyr cynigion yr UE. Ergyd gyntaf oeddynt. Pan benodir y comisiwn newydd ym mis Tachwedd, yr ydym yn amau'n gryf y ceir set wahanol o gynigion. Bydd Senedd Ewrop o liw gwahanol a bydd ei barn yn wahanol ac, os yw'r arian a gynigir ar gyfer cronfeydd strwythurol yn cynnwys rhaglen ar gyfer yr UE presennol o 15 gwlad, a'r DU yn un ohonynt, gallai hynny olygu y ceir negodi anodd ar y gyllideb gan fod llawer o wledydd yn cydymdeimlo â safbwynt y DU na ddylai cyllideb yr UE ragfeddiannu mwy nag 1 y cant o CMC yr UE. Fodd bynnag, os gwneir hynny gan gymryd bod y dyraniad ar gyfer y polisi amaethyddol cyffredin yn sefydlog, anodd yw gweld sut y daw'r gwledydd i eistedd wrth y bwrdd yn ystod llywyddiaeth Prydain, ymhen rhyw 18 mis, i gytuno ar raglen CAP sefydlog a chyllideb sefydlog i'r UE, ond gyda rhywfaint yn fwy ar gyfer datblygu rhanbarthol i ddarparu ar gyfer ehangu'r UE. Ni hoffwn broffwydo beth a ddigwydd, ond ceisiwn gael y fargen orau i Gymru pa un a geir hynny drwy arian y DU, lle y mae'r arian ar ben bloc Barnett yn bwysig dros ben, neu drwy ryw fath o gyllid oddi wrth yr UE, fel yr wyf yn amau, a hwnnw'n cynnwys rhanbarthau'r effaith ystadegol, gan gynnwys y ddwy ran o dair o Gymru sydd o dan Amcan 1 ar hyn o bryd.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Amendment 1: in point 1 delete 'welcomes' and replace with 'endorses'.

I propose amendment 2. Insert as a new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

yn nodi bod rhaglen cronfeydd strwythurol yr UE yn rhoi gwarant o gyllid am saith mlynedd, ac mai dyna sy'n dod â'r budd mwyaf i'r Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd.

notes that the interests of west Wales and the Valleys are best served by the fact that the EU structural fund programme operates on a seven-year guarantee of funding.

Cynigiau welliant 4. Ychwanegu ar ddiwedd pwynt 3:

I propose amendment 4. Add at the end of point 3:

ac yn galw ar Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i gefnogi'r cynigion sydd yn yr adroddiad, gan mai dyna sy'n cynnig y fargen orau i Gymru.

and calls on the Labour Assembly Government to support proposals contained in the report since it offers the best deal for Wales.

Cynigiau welliant 5. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

I propose amendment 5. Add as a new point at end of motion:

yn nodi bod safbwynt Llywodraeth y DU ar ddyfodol y cronfeydd strwythurol yn niweidiol i fuddiannau Cymru.

notes that the UK Government's position on the future of structural funds is detrimental to the interests of Wales.

Croesawaf y ffaith ein bod, o'r diwedd, yn cael y drafodaeth hon ar drydydd adroddiad cydlyniant y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio cael datganiad clir heddiw gan y Prif Weinidog ar beth yn union yw safbwynt Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar yr adroddiad, ond y cyfan a glywsom oedd ei fwrriad i wrthwynebu ein gwelliannau ni. O leiaf yr oeddem ni yn fodlon rhoi safbwynt eithaf clir ynglŷn â lle yr ydym yn sefyll o ran yr hyn mae Llywodraeth Prydain a'r comisiwn yn ei gynnis.

I welcome the fact that, at last, we are having this discussion on the European Commission's third cohesion report. I had hoped for a clear statement today by the First Minister on the Welsh Assembly Government's exact position on the report, but all we heard was his intention to reject our amendments. At least we were willing to make our position quite clear regarding where we stand on what the British Government and the commission is proposing.

Pan fo'r Prif Weinidog yn dweud y bydd y cynigion hyn yn cael eu newid pan ddaw'r comisiwn newydd i mewn, neu hyd yn oed pan fydd newid yn safbwynt y Trysorlys, y cyfan y medrwn ei wneud yw penderfynu ar yr adroddiad sydd o'n blaenau. Yr wyf yn synnu, Brif Weinidog, na allwch ddweud wrthym heddiw a ydych o blaid yr hyn a gynigir yn yr adroddiad fel ag y mae, neu o blaid yr hyn y mae'r Trysorlys yn ceisio ei wneud, sef tynnu'r hawl i ddsbarthu arian rhanbarthol oddi wrth y comisiwn a thorri yn ôl yn sylweddol ar y gyllideb ranbarthol mae'r comisiwn yn ei hawgrymu ar y funud. Mae'n bwysig inni gael eich safbwynt ar y mater hwn oherwydd y sefyllfa gymharol wan y mae Cymru ynnddi, hyd yn oed wedi rhai blynyddoedd o arian Amcan 1 o dan y drefn bresennol.

When the First Minister says that these proposals will change when the new commission comes into being, or even when the Treasury changes its standpoint, all we can do is decide on the report that is before us. First Minister, I am surprised that you cannot tell us today whether you support the proposal in the report as it stands, or whether you support the Treasury's attempt to remove the commission's right to distribute regional aid and cut back substantially on the regional budget that the commission is currently proposing. It is important that we know where we stand on this matter because of the relatively weak position that Wales is in, despite having received Objective 1 money under the present system for a number of years.

Cyfeiriodd y Prif Weinidog at y ffaith bod

The First Minister referred to the fact that

gwahaniaeth pellach yn lefelau CMC Cymru y pen mewn perthynas ag undeb o 15 gwlad, ac mewn perthynas â'r undeb o 25 gwlad. Fel y mae ar hyn o bryd, yr ydym dros y rhicyn cyn belled â bod yr undeb o 25 yn y cwestiwn—ar 76.2 y cant—ond pe byddem yn dal yn yr undeb o 15 byddem i lawr i 69.4 y cant. Mae hynny yn ostyngiad sylweddol o gofio'r sefyllfa yr oeddem ynddi, hyd yn oed yn 1999, pan oeddem yn mynd i mewn i'r gronfa yn y lle cyntaf.

Yr hyn sy'n arwyddocaol yw, pan ddaeth y Llywodraeth a'i chynllun i wario arian Amcan 1 yn y blynyddoedd cynnar, dywedodd y byddai CMC Cymru yn codi i 90 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU. Erbyn hyn, gwyddom i hynny gael ei anghofio. Er hynny, bwriad y Llywodraeth oedd gweld cynnydd yn CMC Cymru o'i gymharu ag un Prydain ac Ewrop. Yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn ystod y blynyddoedd diweddar, fodd bynnag, yw ei fod wedi syrthio. Felly, mae gennym hawl i ofyn, os dyna'r sefyllfa, pam nad yw'r Prif Weinidog, ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru, yn dadlau o blaid cyfundrefn fyddai'n cyflwyno mwy o arian i Gymru yn ystod y tymor nesaf?

Pa fath o ffigurau yr ydym yn sôn amdanynt? Yn naturiol, mae'n anodd bod yn gwbl bendant ynglŷn â hynny. Fodd bynnag, o gymryd y byddai Cymru yn gymwys a chanddi'r hawl i'r math o arian a roddwyd iddi yn y rhaglen bresennol—£1.2 biliwn, neu £1.3 biliwn o ganiatáu am y gwahaniaeth yng ngwerth yr ewro—byddwn yn disgwyl cael swm tebyg yn ail raglen Amcan 1. Mae'r comisiwn yn dweud—ac fe'i cadarnheir yn adroddiad Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru—y byddwn yn cael 85 y cant o'r arian a fyddai'n cael ei roi i ardal Amcan 1, gan ddisgyn i tua 60 y cant erbyn 2013. Golyga hynny felly y byddai Cymru o bosibl yn cael hyd at £850 miliwn yn ystod cyfnod y rhaglen honno.

Gwyddom yr hyn y mae'r Trysorlys yn credu y dylai Cymru ei gael oherwydd, mewn papur a gyflwynwyd i'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol ym mis Mawrth, os cofiaf yn iawn, dywedodd y Trysorlys,

'Under this scenario,'—

there are further differences in Wales's GDP levels per capita in relation to a union of 15 countries and in relation to the union of 25 countries. As things stand, we are above the incremental point as far as the union of 25 is concerned—at 76.2 per cent—but if we were still part of a union of 15 we would be down to 69.4 per cent. That is a substantial reduction when compared with our previous situation, even in 1999, when we first accessed the fund.

It is significant that, when the Government presented its plans to spend Objective 1 money in the early years, it stated that Welsh GDP would rise to 90 per cent of the UK average. We now know that that has been forgotten. However, the Government's intention was to see an increase in Welsh GDP compared with that of Britain and Europe. What has happened during recent years, however, is that it has plummeted. Therefore, we are justified in asking, if that is the case, why does the First Minister, on behalf of the Government of Wales, not argue in favour of a settlement that would deliver more money to Wales during the next term?

What kind of figures are we talking about? Naturally, it is difficult to be absolutely certain about that. However, given that Wales would be eligible and entitled to the type of funding awarded to us in the current programme—£1.2 billion, or £1.3 billion if you allow for the difference in the value of the euro—we could expect to receive a similar amount in the second Objective 1 programme. The commission states—and it is reinforced by the Welsh Local Government Association's report—that we will receive 85 per cent of the funding that would be awarded to an Objective 1 area, dropping to around 60 per cent by 2013. As a result, Wales could receive up to £850 million for the duration of that programme.

We know what the Treasury believes that Wales should receive because, in a paper presented to the Committee on European and External Affairs in March, if I recall correctly, the Treasury stated,

Yn y senario hwn—

sef Amcan 1 newydd—

‘the UK would therefore receive transitional funding for these three areas,’—

sydd yn cynnwys Cymru, swydd Efrog a Glannau Mersi—

‘based on receiving around 50 per cent of what would have been received over the Financial Perspective if the areas were still eligible.’

Felly, mae'r Trysorlys yn dweud y bydd Cymru yn cael 50 y cant o'r hyn y byddai wedi'i gael o dan Amcan 1 tra bo'r comisiwn yn awgrymu y gallai gael 85 y cant. Mae gwahaniaeth sylweddol yn y ffigurau hynny, ac mae'n dibynnu ar y ffordd y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymladd o blaid Cymru yn ystod y dadleuon. Byddwn wedi disgwyl a gobeithio y byddai'r Prif Weinidog wedi bod yn fodlon gwneud hynny, ac mae'n siom mawr nad yw wedi. Gobeithiwn y bydd gweddill Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn gweld yn ein gwelliannau ein bod yn gofyn i Lywodraeth Cymru ymladd o blaid yr hyn sy'n deg i ni. Gobeithiwn hefyd, ar ddiwedd y broses hon, y bydd y fargen orau i Gymru yn cael ei tharo ac nid yr hyn sy'n plesio Trysorlys Llundain gan ei bod yn amlwg nad yw'r Prif Weinidog yn fodlon sefyll i fyny fel y mae ar hyn o bryd.

Michael German: I propose the following amendments in the name of Kirsty Williams. Amendment 3: delete point 3 and insert in its place:

is concerned that UK Government proposals to limit the size of EU structural budgets will result in Wales losing hundreds of millions of pounds over the period 2007-13.

I propose amendment 6. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

calls on the Labour Assembly Government to press the UK Government to ensure that it does not pursue EU contribution cuts that will be detrimental to Wales.

I propose amendment 7. Add a new point at

that of the new Objective 1—

byddai'r DU felly'n derbyn cyllid trosiannol ar gyfer y tair ardal hyn—

which includes Wales, Yorkshire and Merseyside—

gan gymryd y câi tua 50 y cant o'r hyn a gawsai dros y Perspectif Ariannol pe buasai'r ardaloedd hyn yn dal i fod yn gymwys.

Therefore, the Treasury is saying that Wales will receive 50 per cent of what it would have received under Objective 1 while the commission suggests that it could receive 85 per cent. There is a significant difference in those figures, and it depends on how the Government of Wales fights Wales's corner during the discussions. We had expected and hoped that the First Minister would have been prepared to do that, and we are greatly disappointed that he did not. We hope that other Assembly Members can see in our amendments that we are asking the Government of Wales to fight for our fair share. We also hope that, at the end of this process, the best deal will be struck for Wales, and not what pleases the London Treasury since it is obvious that the First Minister is not prepared to stand up as he is now.

Michael German: Cynigiau y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Kirsty Williams. Gwelliant 3: dileu pwynt 3 a rhoi'r canlynol yn ei le:

yn pryderu bod cynigion Llywodraeth y DU i gyfyngu ar faint cyllidebau strwythurol y DU yn golygu y bydd Cymru'n colli cannoedd o filiynau o bunnoedd yn ystod y cyfnod 2007-13.

Cynigiau welliant 6. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn galw ar Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i bwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU er mwyn sicrhau nad yw'n mynd ar drywydd toriadau yng nghyfraniad yr UE a fyddai'n andwylol i Gymru.

Cynigiau welliant 7. Ychwanegu pwynt

the end of the motion:

believes that the widening of the economic and wealth divide over the last quarter century between the nations and regions of the UK underlines the regional economic development record of successive UK Governments and is concerned that proposals by the present UK Government to withdraw from European structural programmes would further widen the divide across the UK.

I propose amendment 8. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

believes that successful projects to strengthen Wales's economic development require long-term secure funding and notes that financial guarantees from the European Union have a longer lifespan and are more secure than those from UK Governments.

An interesting feature of this report is not so much in its proposals, which I believe we will agree are beneficial to west Wales and the Valleys, but rather in its statistical emphasis on the evidence that it has drawn out in the document. It is interesting because the statistical tables at the back of the cohesion guide show that the United Kingdom is the most divided country in the European Union. In other words, the spread of GDP between the poorest and richest areas of any country is at its peak in the United Kingdom. Admittedly, the figures before us are rolling figures from 1999-2000 and 2000-01, but I based that assumption on the 2001 figure.

It is also interesting that that drives one to the conclusion that, since most of the time was in the run-up to Objective 1 coming into place, it is, in fact, the UK's domestic regional policies, and not European policies, that have led to that disparity. That is not surprising given that the European element is such a relatively small part of overall regional development. This is, however, a crucial factor when we come to make our choices on where we should place our trust and our emphasis. We must consider what is, essentially, the most divided country in the

newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn credu bod y bwlch o ran yr economi ac o ran cyfoeth rhwng gwledydd a rhanbarthau'r DU wedi lledu yn ystod y chwarter canrif ddiwethaf, a bod hynny'n tanlinellu perfformiad Llywodraethau olynol y DU o ran datblygu economïau rhanbarthol, ac yn pryderu y byddai cynigion presennol Llywodraeth y DU i dynnu allan o'r rhaglenni strwythurol Ewropeaidd yn lledu'r bwlch ymhellach.

Cynigiau welliant 8. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn credu bod ar brosiectau angen sicrwydd yn y tymor hir o ran cyllid os ydynt yn mynd i lwyddo i gryfhau datblygiad economaidd yng Nghymru, ac yn nodi fod gwarantau ariannol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn para'n hwy na'r rhai a roddwyd gan Lywodraethau'r DU, ac yn fwy sicr na hwy.

Un agwedd ddiddorol ar yr adroddiad hwn yw nid yn ogymaint y cynigion sydd ynddo, y credaf y byddwn yn cytuno eu bod o les i orllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, ond yn hytrach y pwyslais ystadegol sydd ynddo ar y dystiolaeth a amlygir yn y ddogfen. Mae'n ddiddorol bod y tablau ystadegol yng nghefn yr arweiniad i gydlyniant yn dangos mai'r Deyrnas Unedig yw'r wlad fwyaf rhanedig yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Mewn geiriau eraill, mae'r amrediad o CMC rhwng yr ardaloedd tlotaf a chyfoethocaf mewn unrhyw wlad ar ei fwyaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Rhaid cyfaddef mai ffigurau treiglol o 1999-2000 i 2000-01 yw'r rhai sydd ger ein bron, ond yr wyf yn seilio'r rhagdybiaeth honno ar ffigur 2001.

Mae hefyd yn ddiddorol ei bod yn gorfodi rhywun i ddod i'r casgliad, gan fod y rhan fwyaf o'r amser hwnnw yn y cyfnod cyn rhoi cyllid Amcan 1 ar waith, mai polisiau rhanbarthol domestig y DU, ac nid polisiau Ewropeaidd, a arweiniodd at y gwahaniaeth hwnnw. Nid yw hynny'n peri syndod gan nad yw'r elfen Ewropeaidd ond yn rhan gymharol fach o ddatblygu rhanbarthol yn gyffredinol. Fodd bynnag, mae hyn yn ffactor hollbwysig wrth ddewis ar beth y dylem roi ein coel a'n pwyslais. Rhaid inni ystyried yr hyn sydd, yn y bôn, yn wlad

EU, including the accession countries, and the one that has the greatest disparity between its rich and poor regions. We must also consider how that happened and whether any change has been made.

fwyaf rhanedig y DU, gan gynnwys y gwledydd sy'n ymuno, a'r un lle y ceir y gwahaniaeth mwyaf rhwng ei rhanbarthau cyfoethog a thlawd. Rhaid inni hefyd ystyried sut y digwyddodd hynny ac a fu unrhyw newid.

3.40 p.m.

It is also interesting that, if you take the figures in this report, the gross domestic product per capita figures for Wales for 2001 are an improvement on the rolling average for the three years. However, they also clearly show that the improvement has taken place substantially in the non-Objective 1 areas of Wales. There has been little improvement in the Objective 1 area, but the rest of Wales saw a significant increase beyond that of the UK average.

Mae hefyd yn ddiddorol, os cymerwch y ffigurau yn yr adroddiad hwn, fod y ffigurau am y cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen yng Nghymru am 2001 yn well na'r cyfartaledd treiglol dros y tair blynedd. Er hynny, maent hefyd yn dangos mai yn y rhannau o Gymru nad ydynt yn rhai Amcan 1 y bu'r gwelliant gan mwyaf. Prin fu'r gwelliant yn yr ardal Amcan 1, ond yng ngweddill Cymru gwelwyd cynnydd sylweddol a oedd yn fwy na'r cyfartaledd yn y DU.

Brian Gibbons: Would you not agree that that is not unique to the United Kingdom and that that has been the experience of most European countries that have had access to structural funds?

Brian Gibbons: Oni chytunech nad yw hynny'n unigryw i'r Deyrnas Unedig ac mai hynny oedd profiad y rhan fwyaf o'r gwledydd yn Ewrop y bu cronfeydd strwythurol ar gael iddynt?

Michael German: Yes. I was making two points through that observation. The reason for the United Kingdom's being the most disparate country is not to do with European funding, which has made some contribution—although we do not know how much—it is to do with domestic policy. The United Kingdom has the widest spread between the richest and the poorest because of UK domestic policy.

Michael German: Cytunaf. Yr oeddwn yn gwneud dau bwynt drwy'r sylw hwnnw. Nid â chyllid Ewropeaidd y mae a wnelo'r rheswm mai'r Deyrnas Unedig yw'r wlad fwyaf anghyfartal, gan fod hwnnw wedi cyfrannu i ryw raddau—er na wyddom pa faint—ond â pholisi domestig. Yn y Deyrnas Unedig y ceir y gwahaniaeth mwyaf rhwng y cyfoethocaf a'r tlotaf oherwydd polisi domestig y DU.

Therefore, the emphasis is on what we see in this cohesion report and what guarantees have been given to us. It is a one-sided argument at present because, as Ieuan pointed out, you have to go some way to find the guarantee in cash terms on the ground from the United Kingdom in order to measure it against what is being offered from the European Union. That is the problem that we face. We should try to improve, increase and get a better deal from Europe so that if at some stage, as seems to be the First Minister's line, the Treasury says that it will top that offer, we can then consider the better offer. However, if you sit back and wait to see what the UK Government proposes,

Gan hynny, mae'r pwyslais ar yr hyn a welwn yn yr adroddiad cydlyniant hwn ac ar y gwarantau a roddwyd i ni. Dadl unochrog ydyw ar hyn o bryd oherwydd, fel y nododd Ieuan, rhaid ymdrechu i gael gwarant ariannol yn y fan a'r lle gan y Deyrnas Unedig er mwyn cael ei chymharu â'r hyn a gynigir gan yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Dyna'r broblem a wynebwn. Dylem geisio gwella, cynyddu a chael gwell bargaen gan Ewrop oherwydd, os dywed y Trysorlys rywbryd y bydd yn rhoi cynnig gwell, fel yr ymddengys fod y Prif Weinidog yn dadlau, bydd modd inni ystyried y cynnig gwell hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, os arhoswch i ddisgwyl beth y bydd Llywodraeth y DU yn ei gynnig, mae'n

clearly we will not be in a strong position.

The First Minister: That is not what I said. I said that I did not believe that the UK Government was succeeding in attracting new recruits to its position that regional policy should be repatriated, and that, therefore, when the time comes for British presidency of the EC, it probably would have to concede some ground and, somehow or other, get a non-repatriated structural funds programme for the countries, including those that have GDP per head of over 90 per cent of the EU average.

Michael German: That point is well made because the debate has moved on from the repatriation issue of how much the UK Government could claw back from its contributions, which would only make it a domestic regional policy in spend terms and which, as I have just illustrated, has not done Wales well in the past, to the issue of seeking to cap the budget so that Britain would not be a net contributor to the European Union. As you rightly said, if the UK Government won support for its position, there would be little headroom for regional development proposals from Europe.

Therefore, does Wales's interest lie in trying to ensure that that headroom is extended as much as possible in the arguments that will take place over this bridging period between now and whenever next year—and during this crucial six months when these issues will be placed before us more starkly than ever—and that we are locked down tight and working hard to get the European proposal as bolstered and strong as we can? We know what will happen. We are being offered 80 to 85 per cent of the current Objective 1 proposals for west Wales and the Valleys, and we know that, before we received Objective 1 assistance, Wales was an even more disparate part of the United Kingdom, spread from one side to the other. Therefore, we need to ask questions. The Welsh Local Government Association put its finger on the matter by saying that a guarantee from Europe is better than a guarantee from the UK Government. It has made that assessment

amlwg na fyddwn mewn sefyllfa gryf.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid hynny a ddywedais. Dywedais nad oeddwn yn credu bod Llywodraeth y DU yn llwyddo i ddenu cefnogwyr newydd i'w dadl y dylai polisi rhanbarthol gael ei ailwladoli, ac felly, erbyn y daw'n adeg llywyddiaeth Prydain ar y CE, mae'n debyg y bydd wedi gorfod ildio rhywfaint o dir ac y bydd, rywfodd neu'i gilydd, wedi sicrhau rhaglen cronfeydd strwythurol sydd heb ei hailwladoli ar gyfer y gwledydd, gan gynnwys y rhai y mae ganddynt CMC y pen o fwy na 90 y cant o gyfartaledd yr UE.

Michael German: Mae hwnnw'n bwynt da gan fod y ddadl wedi symud ymlaen o drafod y mater sy'n ymwneud ag ailwladoli, sef pa faint o'i chyfraniadau y gallai Llywodraeth y DU ei adfachu, a barai na fyddai'n ddim ond polisi rhanbarthol domestig yng nghyd-destun gwariant ac yn un na ddaeth â budd i Gymru yn y gorffennol, fel yr wyf newydd ei ddangos, at y mater o geisio capio'r gyllideb fel na fyddai Prydain yn cyfrannu mwy nag a dderbynai gan yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Fel y dywedaso, pe byddai Llywodraeth y DU yn ennill cefnogaeth i'w safbwynt, ni fyddai fawr o le i gynigion ar gyfer datblygu rhanbarthol oddi wrth Ewrop.

Felly, ai'r hyn sy'n fwyaf buddiol i Gymru yw ceisio sicrhau cymaint o le â phosibl i hynny yn y dadleuon a geir dros y cyfnod pontio hwn o hyn hyd rywbryd y flwyddyn nesaf—ac yn ystod y chwe mis hollbwysig hwn pan welwn y materion hyn o'n blaen yn gliriach nag erioed—ac inni ganolbwyntio a gweithio'n galed i gael cynnig mor pendant ag y gellir oddi wrth Ewrop? Gwyddom beth a ddigwydd. Yr ydym yn cael cynnig 80 i 85 y cant o'r cynigion presennol ar gyfer Amcan 1 i orllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, a gwyddom fod Cymru, cyn derbyn cymorth Amcan 1, yn rhan fwy anghyfartal byth o'r Deyrnas Unedig, o'r naill ochr i'r llall. Gan hynny, rhaid inni ofyn cwestiynau. Gwnaeth Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru daro'r hoelen ar ei phen drwy ddweud bod gwarant gan Ewrop yn well na gwarant gan Lywodraeth y DU. Daeth i'r casgliad hwnnw ar sail yr hyn sy'n bwysig i Gymru. Dylem gofio hynny.

on the basis of what is important to Wales. We should bear that in mind.

Some areas—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You need to wind up now; you have run out of time.

Michael German: I just want to finish this sentence. Entering into negotiation where we do not know one side of the argument seems to be a crazy way to proceed. We should be strengthening the argument, which would then force the other side to come up with something better. We know that we received a better deal from Europe, so we should ensure that that is locked down tight and that we do the best that we can to ensure that whatever the UK Government wants to put on the table, we have the best deal possible for Wales from Europe.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That was a long sentence, Mike.

Christine Gwyther: I will try to make my sentences short and to the point, Dirprwy Lywydd.

It is important that we are having this debate today. The European Union has been implementing the Lisbon strategy for four years now. The strategy works towards a competitive, job-creating, knowledge-based economy, characterised by growth, social cohesion and respect for our environment. We have all signed up to that over the past four years and we want to see that continue. We need to keep those core principles at the heart of everything that we do. However, we are on the threshold of enlargement—1 May is almost upon us—and we must address the potential challenges, as well as capitalising on the potential benefits, of a larger pool in which to co-operate.

The Institute of Directors holds its annual convention today in the Albert Hall in London. It has reported that just under a third of the institute's members does business with the 10 accession countries; the Czech Republic and Poland are the most popular trading partners. It also says that workers

Mae rhai ardaloedd—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Rhaid ichi orffen yn awr; mae'ch amser wedi dod i ben.

Michael German: Nid wyf ond am orffen y frawddeg hon. Mae dechrau negodi, a ninnau heb gael gwybod am un ochr i'r ddadl, yn ymddangos yn ffordd hurt o fynd ati. Dylem ddadlau'n gryfach a byddai hynny, wedyn, yn gorfodi'r ochr arall i gynnig rhywbeth gwell. Gwyddom inni gael gwell cynnig gan Ewrop, felly dylem sicrhau ei fod yn un pendant a'n bod ni'n gwneud ein gorau glas i sicrhau y cawn y fargen orau posibl i Gymru gan Ewrop, beth bynnag y bydd Llywodraeth y DU yn dymuno'i gynnig.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr oedd honno'n frawddeg hir, Mike.

Christine Gwyther: Ceisiaf beri i'm brawddegau fod yn fyr ac yn berthnasol, Ddirprwy Lywydd.

Mae'n bwysig inni gael y ddadl hon heddiw. Bu'r Undeb Ewropeaidd yn rhoi strategaeth Lisbon ar waith er pedair blynedd bellach. Mae'r strategaeth yn ceisio creu economi gystadleuol sy'n seiliedig ar wybodaeth ac yn creu swyddi, a nodweddir gan dwf, cydlyniant cymdeithasol a pharch at ein hamgylchedd. Yr ydym oll wedi cytuno ar hynny dros y pedair blynedd diwethaf ac yr ydym am ei weld yn parhau. Rhaid inni ddal at yr egwyddorion hanfodol hynny ym mhob dim a wnawn. Er hynny, yr ydym ar drothwy'r ehangu—mae 1 Mai bron ar ein gwarthaf—a rhaid inni ymdrin â'r heriau posibl, yn ogystal â manteisio ar y buddion posibl, o gael cwmpas ehangach i gydweithredu.

Mae Sefydliad y Cyfarwyddwyr yn cynnal ei gynhadledd blynyddol heddiw yn Neuadd Albert yn Llundain. Mae wedi adrodd bod ychydig llai nag un rhan o dair o aelodau'r sefydliad yn gwneud busnes â'r 10 gwlad sy'n ymuno; y Weriniaeth Tsiec a Gwlad Pwyl yw'r partneriaid masnach mwyaf

from the new member states offer the strong skills that we need to maintain Britain's economic success. Accession countries are looking positively at forming economic and cultural partnerships with countries such as Wales. That was borne out about a month ago when the Estonian ambassador came to the Assembly and spoke to some Members.

That sort of partnership can seem like a potential benefit, but to some people it can also seem like a threat. However, I strongly believe that we cannot afford to be protectionist in our dealings with our new European partners. We need to ensure that we are up to the challenge. Our use of structural funds must continue to improve our workforce, to strengthen and widen our economic base and to take us further up the food chain when it comes to the quality of products and services. That is how we can take potential threats, which an enlarged union can bring, and turn them to our advantage.

The Objective 1 mid-term review suggests that we are already doing well in this regard, and the First Minister referred to this during questions this afternoon. The performance reserve money given to Wales this year—£65 million—is concrete evidence that we are doing well. Whoever provides our structural funds, be it the European Commission or the UK Treasury, we should not waver from the course that we are now on. I am sure that Rhodri Morgan's Government will support the best deal for Wales, when we know the details of that deal. We must remember that the bottom line of the European Commission offer is yet to be finalised. We do not have the fullest picture yet of where the best deal will come from.

We have had the historic assurance from Treasury officials that no UK Government has ever reneged on regional funding allocations. Therefore, the mantra that the UK cannot be in charge of regional funding because of the vagaries of democratic Government changes does not hold up. However, I wholeheartedly support the Welsh Local Government Association's clear statement that EU structural fund

poblogaidd. Dywed hefyd fod gweithwyr o'r aelod wladwriaethau newydd yn cynnig y sgiliau da y mae arnom eu hangen i gynnal llwyddiant economaidd Prydain. Mae'r gwledydd sy'n ymuno yn gobeithio ffurfio partneriaethau economaidd a diwylliannol â gwledydd fel Cymru. Profwyd hynny tua mis yn ôl pan ddaeth llysgennad Estonia i'r Cynulliad a siarad â rhai Aelodau.

Mae partneriaeth o'r fath yn gallu ymddangos yn fantais bosibl, ond gall ymddangos yn fygythiad i rai. Fodd bynnag, credaf yn gryf na allwn fforddio ymdrin mewn modd amddiffynnol â'n partneriaid newydd yn Ewrop. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn atebol i'r her. Rhaid inni ddal i ddefnyddio'r cronfeydd strwythurol mewn modd sy'n gwella ein gweithlu, er mwyn cryfhau ac ehangu ein sylfaen economaidd a'n codi'n uwch yn y gadwyn fwyd o ran ansawdd cynhyrchion a gwasanaethau. Dyna'r modd y gallwn ymateb i heriau posibl, a all ddod yn sgîl ehangu'r undeb, a'u troi er mantais i ni.

Mae'r adolygiad canol tymor o Amcan 1 yn awgrymu ein bod yn llwyddo eisoes yn hyn o beth, a chyfeiriodd y Prif Weinidog at hynny yn ystod y cwestiynau y prynhawn yma. Mae'r arian wrth gefn ar gyfer perfformiad a roddwyd i Gymru eleni—£65 miliwn—yn dystiolaeth gadarn sy'n dangos ein bod yn llwyddo. Pwy byddag fydd yn darparu ein cronfeydd strwythurol, boed y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd neu Drysorlys y DU, ni ddylem betruso ynghylch dilyn y llwybr yr ydym arno'n awr. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Llywodraeth Rhodri Morgan o blaid cael y fargen orau i Gymru, pan wyddom fanylion y fargen honno. Rhaid inni gofio nad yw'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd wedi cwblhau ei gynnig eto. Ni allwn weld yn glir eto o ble y ceir y fargen orau.

Cawsom sicrwydd nas rhoddwyd erioed o'r blaen gan swyddogion Trysorlys nad yw unrhyw un o Lywodraethau'r DU erioed wedi torri ei gair ar ei dyraniadau i gyllid rhanbarthol. Gan hynny, nid yw'r mantra na chaiff y DU fod yn gyfrifol am gyllid rhanbarthol oherwydd newidiadau mympwyol gan Lywodraeth ddemocrataidd yn un sy'n dal dŵr. Er hynny, llwyr gefnogaf y datganiad clir a wnaeth Cymdeithas

programmes have fostered a partnership approach to regeneration.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I take your point that you are confident that the First Minister will accept the best possible deal for Wales. One would expect him to do that; it would be strange if he accepted a poor deal for Wales. However, do you not believe that there is a need for someone to argue the case for Wales, with Westminster and with Europe? Is there any evidence that that is happening?

Christine Gwyther: In opening this debate, the First Minister explained fully where and at what time he is putting forward the best case for Wales. He does so at various meetings and at every possible level. At some stage, you must trust that meetings that take place outside this building are of as much value as the ones that take place in here. He is arguing strongly—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. That cannot be right. Most important meetings take place inside this building.

Christine Gwyther: I accept your judgment on that, Deputy Presiding Officer.

Coming back to local government, it is fair to say that some Welsh local councils were dragged kicking and screaming to the partnership table regarding this whole Objective 1 and other structural funds scenario. However, having got there, they have found that partnership is, after all, quite a good thing. We need to recognise and value that sea change. It did not come about easily and we cannot afford to let it go. We must recognise that Objective 1 and structural funds, although primarily about money, are not only about money. They are also about a more open and honest exchange of views between the public, private and voluntary sectors and about giving the people of Wales the confidence to face up to the great challenges that lie ahead.

3.50 p.m.

Llywodraeth Leol Cymru i'r perwyl bod rhaglenni cronfeydd strwythurol yr UE wedi meithrin dull o ymwneud ag adfywio drwy bartneriaeth.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Derbyn iaf y pwynt a wnaethoch i'r perwyl eich bod yn ffyddiog y bydd y Prif Weinidog yn derbyn y fargen orau posibl i Gymru. Byddai rhywun yn disgwyl iddo wneud hynny; byddai'n rhyfedd pe byddai'n derbyn bargaen wael i Gymru. Er hynny, oni chredwch fod angen i rywun ddadlau dros Gymru, gyda San Steffan a chydag Ewrop? A oes unrhyw dystiolaeth bod hynny'n digwydd?

Christine Gwyther: Wrth agor y ddadl hon, eglurodd y Prif Weinidog yn llawn ym mhle a pha bryd y bydd yn rhoi'r ddadl orau dros Gymru. Gwnaiff hynny mewn gwahanol gyfarfodydd ar bob lefel bosibl. Rywbryd, rhaid ichi dderbyn bod cyfarfodydd sy'n digwydd y tu allan i'r adeilad hwn mor werthfawr â'r rhai sy'n digwydd yma. Mae'n dadlau'n gryf—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid oes bosibl bod hynny'n gywir. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r cyfarfodydd pwysig yn digwydd yn yr adeilad hwn.

Christine Gwyther: Yr wyf yn derbyn eich dyfarniad ar hynny, Ddirprwy Lywydd.

Gan droi'n ôl at lywodraeth leol, teg yw dweud bod rhai cynghorau lleol yng Nghymru wedi'u llusgo dan strancio at y bwrdd partneriaeth mewn cysylltiad â holl senario Amcan 1 a'r cronfeydd strwythurol eraill. Fodd bynnag, ar ôl dod yno, cawsant fod partneriaeth yn beth eithaf da, wedi'r cwbl. Dylem gydnabod a thrysori'r newid sylfaenol hwnnw. Ni ddigwyddodd yn rhwydd ac ni allwn fforddio ei golli. Rhaid inni gydnabod, er bod Amcan 1 a'r cronfeydd strwythurol yn ymwneud yn bennaf ag arian, nad ydynt yn ymwneud â hynny'n unig. Maent yn ymwneud hefyd â chyfnewid barn yn fwy gonest ac agored rhwng y sectorau cyhoeddus, preifat a gwirfoddol ac ennyn hyder ym mhobl Cymru i wynebu'r heriau mawr sydd o'u blaen.

Nick Bourne: I apologise for the fact that our original amendment was not re-tabled. It would have welcomed the report but deplored the lack of progress thus far on Objective 1, as did our amendment for the previous debate. There is much technical detail in the draft report, but I think—*[Interruption.]* I will happily give way if the Minister for Economic Development and Transport has anything valuable to say.

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): You said that there has been poor progress on Objective 1. I think that perhaps the real motivation for not re-tabled the amendment is the fact that we have received £65 million from the European Commission in recognition of how well we have managed the structural funds programmes.

Nick Bourne: I will discuss your performance, which at best has been abject, in a minute.

There is much technical detail in the draft EC report, but the principles are clear; we need to act in the best interest of Wales. I am confident that the First Minister will seek to do that insofar as he is not constrained by considerations at Westminster—therein lies the problem. The Welsh Conservatives welcome the European Commission's plans for further funding for Wales; we have lobbied hard for that. However, as the UK Government has branded the EU budget as unrealistic and unacceptable, Wales is looking to the Assembly Government to ensure that funding is not jeopardised. Priority will go to the poorer new EU members. I welcome those members—1 May is a historic occasion and my party and I unequivocally welcome and support a EU of 25 countries—but it will make a difference to the cohesion budget insofar as Wales is concerned. That is our position. The First Minister said that he will seek the best deals for Wales. In Plenary—

Brian Gibbons: Given your fulsome praise of the EU and its approach to regional policy,

Nick Bourne: Ymddiheuraf am nad ailgyflwynwyd ein gwelliant gwreiddiol. Byddai wedi croesawu'r adroddiad ond wedi gresynu at y diffyg cynnydd a gafwyd hyd yma ar Amcan 1, fel y gwnaeth ein gwelliant ar gyfer y ddadl flaenorol. Mae llawer o fanylion technegol yn yr adroddiad drafft, ond credaf—*[Torri ar draws.]* Ildiaf yn llawen os oes gan y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth rywbeth buddiol i'w ddweud.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Dywedasoeh mai gwael fu'r cynnydd ar Amcan 1. Credaf mai'r gwir gymhellid dros beidio ag ailgyflwyno'r gwelliant, o bosibl, yw'r ffaith ein bod wedi derbyn £65 miliwn gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd er cydnabod ein llwyddiant wrth reoli rhaglenni'r cronfeydd strwythurol.

Nick Bourne: Trafodaf eich perfformiad, a fu'n druenus ar y gorau, ymhen munud.

Mae llawer o fanylion technegol yn adroddiad drafft y CE, ond mae'r egwyddorion yn glir; rhaid inni weithredu er y budd gorau i Gymru. Yr wyf yn ffyddiog y bydd y Prif Weinidog yn ceisio gwneud hynny i'r graddau na chyfyngir arno gan ystyriaethau yn San Steffan—yn hynny o beth y mae'r broblem. Mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru'n croesawu cynlluniau'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar gyfer cyllid pellach i Gymru; yr ydym wedi llobio'n galed dros hynny. Fodd bynnag, gan fod Llywodraeth y DU wedi galw cyllideb yr UE yn un anymarferol ac annerbyniol, mae Cymru'n disgwyl i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad sicrhau na fydd cyllid mewn perygl. Yr aelodau newydd tlotaf o'r UE a gaiff flaenoriaeth. Croesawaf yr aelodau hynny—mae 1 Mai yn achlysur hanesyddol ac yr wyf fi a'm plaid yn ddiamwys yn croesawu ac yn cefnogi UE o 25 o wledydd—ond gwnaiff wahaniaeth i'r gyllideb cydlyniant lle y mae Cymru dan sylw. Dyna ein safbwynt. Dywedodd y Prif Weinidog y bydd yn ceisio'r bargeinion gorau i Gymru. Yn y Cyfarfod Llawn—

Brian Gibbons: Yng ngolwg eich canmoliaeth ffuantus i'r UE a'i ddull o

are you in a position to commit your party to providing Barnett plus funding for future Assembly Governments should that be necessary under a future EU regional policy?

Nick Bourne: Oliver Letwin has made it clear that any existing commitments will be honoured. That has always been the position in terms of an incoming Conservative Government. I am glad that you share my view that there will be such a Government—it will probably be next year. It is important that that obligation is honoured. I am grateful to the Member for raising that issue so that I could address those concerns.

In Plenary on 16 March, the First Minister promised to push for a better response from the Treasury. The pressure is now on for him to ensure that Wales has guaranteed funding. This is a test of the alleged dynamic partnership between Westminster and Wales—evidence of this is sometimes thin on the ground. It is important to realise—and this point has been made—that the qualification that we are one of Europe's poorest regions is scarcely something to be proud of. According to the commission's figures—and I return to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport's claims—GDP per head in west Wales and the Valleys has declined from 73 per cent in 1996 to 69.6 per cent of that of the original 15 EU member states. Comparisons with the rest of the UK also put Wales in a poor light as the GDP gap has widened from 80.2 per cent to 78.8 per cent. The target of 90 per cent, which the Assembly Government signed up to, is as much pie in the sky as it ever was. That is not talking Wales down; that is recognising the reality. There is a troubling disparity between east and west Wales. East Wales has been outperforming west Wales. Of the jobs that have been created in Objective 1 areas—there have been some—a large number has been concentrated in the public sector. Growth in the private sector has been much less convincing. The Minister for Economic Development and Transport went cap in hand to Sue Essex because of a shortfall in existing pots of match funding, despite insisting that there

ymdrin â pholisi rhanbarthol, a ydych mewn sefyllfa i rwymo'ch plaid i ddarparu cyllid ar ben bloc Barnett i Lywodraethau Cynulliad yn y dyfodol os bydd angen hynny o dan bolisi rhanbarthol o eiddo'r UE yn y dyfodol?

Nick Bourne: Mae Oliver Letwin wedi egluro y bydd unrhyw ymrwymiadau sydd eisoes yn bod yn cael eu cydnabod. Felly y bu erioed o ran Llywodraethau Ceidwadol newydd. Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn cydweld â mi y ceir Llywodraeth o'r fath—y flwyddyn nesaf, yn ôl pob tebyg. Mae'n bwysig cyflawni'r ymrwymiad hwnnw. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Aelod am godi'r mater hwnnw fel y gallwn ymateb i'r pryderon hynny.

Yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar 16 Mawrth, addawodd y Prif Weinidog y byddai'n pwysu dros gael gwell ymateb gan y Trysorlys. Mae pwysau arno'n awr i sicrhau y gwarantir cyllid i Gymru. Mae hyn yn brawf ar y bartneriaeth ddeinamig honedig rhwng San Steffan a Chymru—mae'r dystiolaeth i hynny'n brin weithiau. Mae'n bwysig sylweddoli—a gwnaed y pwynt hwn—mai prin y gellir ystyried bod yr hawl i gael ein galw'n un o ranbarthau tlotaf Ewrop yn rhywbeth y dylid ymfalchïo ynddo. Yn ôl ffigurau'r comisiwn—ac af yn ôl at honiadau'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth—mae'r CMC y pen yng ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd wedi disgyn o 73 y cant yn 1996 i 69.6 y cant o'r hyn a geir ym 15 aelod wladwriaeth wreiddiol yr UE. Mae cymariaethau â gweddill y DU hefyd yn adlewyrchu'n wael ar Gymru gan fod y bwlch yn y CMC wedi codi o 80.2 y cant i 78.7 y cant. Mae'r targed o 90 y cant, y cytunodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad arno, yn gymaint o freuddwyd gwrrach ag ydoedd erioed. Nid bychanu Cymru yw dweud hynny, ond cydnabod y gwirionedd. Mae gwahaniaeth rhwng dwyrain a gorllewin Cymru sy'n peri gofid. Bu'r Dwyrain yn perfformio'n well na'r Gorllewin. O blith y swyddi a grëwyd mewn ardaloedd Amcan 1—a chafwyd rhai—bu llawer ohonynt yn y sector cyhoeddus. Bu'r twf yn y sector preifat yn llawer llai argyhoeddiadol. Aeth y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth â'i gap yn ei law at Sue Essex oherwydd diffyg

was no such shortfall a few months previously. The handling of Objective 1 has been bureaucratic, slow and sometimes chaotic. This EC report is a good starting point. As the First Minister said, we undoubtedly face a change of commission and parliament, which will affect this—there is already a new commissioner in that regard. It is a good starting point for Wales, and anything that is good for Wales has our support. There are technical issues about what it would do to the rebate and the Barnett block, which we must consider. However, this is a good starting point and the Assembly needs to unite in recognition of this fact so that we can move forward.

Sandy Mewies: Like all Members, with 1 May looming large, I welcome the report's conclusions, which move us further along the development of the European Union's 2007-13 programme for economic and social cohesion. The report tells us what Wales might look forward to, should we accept the position outlined by the commission. As has been said, an alternative has been put forward by the UK Government, and the Committee on European and External Affairs has been fortunate to hear both points of view. The First Minister made the point well that things could, and are likely, to change again. While I like Mike German's idea of a double bluff at poker, it would not work in reality. I speak as someone who has spent some time in Brussels and done a bit of challenging.

Alun Cairns: You were not playing poker.

Sandy Mewies: No, I was not playing poker; blackjack is my game.

This is a complicated issue, but the simple truth of the matter is that the Labour Welsh Assembly Government is committed to getting the best deal for Wales, whatever that proves to be when all the facts are known.

Alun Cairns: We accept that any Government would want to get the best deal

yn y potiau o gyllid cyfatebol a geir ar hyn o bryd, er iddo fynnu nad oedd diffyg o'r fath rai misoedd ynghynt. Bu'r dull o drafod Amcan 1 yn fiwrocraidd, yn araf ac weithiau'n ddi-drefn. Mae'r adroddiad hwn gan y CE yn fan cychwyn da. Fel y dywedodd y Prif Weinidog, mae'n sicr y ceir newid yn y comisiwn a'r senedd, a bydd hynny'n effeithio ar hyn—mae comisiynydd newydd eisoes yn hynny o beth. Mae'n fan cychwyn da i Gymru, ac mae unrhyw beth sydd o les i Gymru'n sicr o gael ein cefnogaeth ni. Mae materion technegol yn codi ynghylch ei effaith ar yr ad-daliad ac ar floc Barnett, a rhaid inni eu hystyried. Er hynny, mae hyn yn fan cychwyn da a dylai'r Cynulliad uno i gydnabod hyn fel y gallwn symud ymlaen.

Sandy Mewies: Fel pob Aelod arall, a 1 Mai yn llenwi fy meddwl, yr wyf yn croesawu'r casgliadau sydd yn yr adroddiad, sy'n datblygu ymhellach raglen yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar gydlyniant economaidd a chymdeithasol ar gyfer 2007-13. Dywed yr adroddiad wrthym beth y gallai Cymru edrych ymlaen ato, os derbyniwn y safbwynt a ddisgrifir gan y comisiwn. Fel y dywedwyd, mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi cyflwyno dewis arall, a bu'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol yn ffodus o gael clywed y ddau safbwynt. Eglurodd y Prif Weinidog yn dda y gallai pethau newid eto, a'u bod yn debygol o wneud. Er fy mod yn hoffi'r syniad sydd gan Mike German o ddwbl-flyffio fel pe byddem yn chwarae pocer, ni fyddai'n llwyddo mewn gwirionedd. Yr wyf yn siarad fel un a dreuliodd gryn amser ym Mrwsel gan wneud ychydig o herio.

Alun Cairns: Nid oeddech yn chwarae pocer.

Sandy Mewies: Nac oeddwn, nid oeddwn yn chwarae pocer; blacjac yw'r gêm i mi.

Mae hyn yn fater cymhleth, ond y gwir plaen amdani yw bod Llywodraeth Lafur Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymrwmo i gael y fargen orau i Gymru, pan welir beth yw hynny ar ôl cael gwybod yr holl ffeithiau.

Alun Cairns: Yr ydym yn derbyn y byddai unrhyw Lywodraeth am gael y fargen orau

for its nation. Under current circumstances, where does the best deal lie—with Europe or with Westminster?

Sandy Mewies: If I could read the future, I probably would not be here next Monday because I would have predicted the lottery numbers. I cannot see into the future, and neither can you nor your party. It would suit us well to wait to see what is on offer.

The commission has set out a position for the so-called statistical effect region of west Wales and the Valleys, which is generous. However, we should not forget that the data being used are based largely on 2001 and could be superseded.

Unlike many Members with constituencies in Objective 1 areas, I am concerned that most of us have constituencies that are unlikely to benefit. Our stated aim should be to ensure that smaller amounts of funding that should be available for areas outside Objective 1 areas are available. My constituency in Flintshire lost out under the last round of Objective 2, despite putting forward a brave case. I will be looking with interest to see what happens next and at what becomes available, either from the commission or the UK, to ensure that Flintshire can still access the pots of money that the authority has used effectively in the past.

Despite the doubting Thomases, we can be sure that west Wales and the Valleys have benefited immensely from existing programmes. Wales has benefited from the 55,000 jobs created or safeguarded. I do not poo-poo jobs in the public sector. They are vital to the economy and to those people who hold them.

Employment is up and inactivity is down. Average earnings have increased. This is not a bad position. It may not yet be ideal, but progress has been made. The UK position is in line with many ideas represented in the Assembly. However, as has been said, wealthier member states will be expected to fund their own regional policies, allowing funds to be targeted at the most needy. The UK position includes the belief that the

i'w phobl. O dan yr amgylchiadau sydd ohoni, ym mhle y ceir y fargen orau—yn Ewrop neu yn San Steffan?

Sandy Mewies: Pe gallwn ddarogan, mae'n debyg na fyddwn yma ddydd Llun nesaf gan y byddwn wedi proffwydo rhifau'r loteri. Ni allaf weld i'r dyfodol, ac ni allwch chi na'ch plaid ychwaith. Byddai'n briodol inni aros i weld beth a gynigir.

Mae'r comisiwn wedi cyflwyno safbwynt mewn cysylltiad â rhanbarth yr effaith ystadegol, fel y'i gelwir, sef gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, sy'n un hael. Er hynny, ni ddylem anghofio bod y data a ddefnyddir yn seiliedig i raddau helaeth ar 2001 ac y gallent gael eu disodli.

Yn wahanol i sawl Aelod sydd ag etholaeth mewn ardal Amcan 1, yr wyf yn bryderus bod gan y rhan fwyaf ohonom etholaethau sy'n annhebygol o gael budd. Dylem ddatgan mai ein nod yw sicrhau y ceir symiau llai o gyllid a fydd ar gael i ardaloedd y tu allan i ardaloedd Amcan 1. Bu fy etholaeth i yn sir y Fflint ar ei cholled o dan y cylch Amcan 2 diwethaf, er ei bod wedi cyflwyno achos cryf. Byddaf yn edrych ymlaen gyda diddordeb i weld beth a ddigwydd nesaf a beth fydd ar gael, un ai oddi wrth y comisiwn neu oddi wrth y DU, i sicrhau bod sir y Fflint yn dal i allu cael arian o'r potiau a ddefnyddiodd yr awdurdod yn effeithiol yn y gorffennol.

Er gwaethaf yr hyn a ddywed yr amheuwyr, gallwn fod yn sicr bod gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd wedi elwa'n fawr o'r rhaglenni presennol. Mae Cymru wedi elwa o gael creu neu ddiogelu 55,000 o swyddi. Nid wyf yn dibrisio swyddi yn y sector cyhoeddus. Maent yn hollbwysig i'r economi ac i'r rhai sy'n eu dal.

Mae cyflogaeth ar i fyny ac mae anweithgarwch ar i lawr. Bu cynnydd yn yr enillion cyfartalog. Nid sefyllfa wael yw honno. Efallai nad yw'n ddelfrydol, ond gwnaed cynnydd. Mae safbwynt y DU yn gyson â llawer o syniadau a gyfleir yn y Cynulliad. Er hynny, fel y dywedwyd, bydd disgwyl i aelod wladwriaethau mwy cefnog gyllido eu polisiau rhanbarthol eu hunain, fel y gellir targedu arian ar y rhai mwyaf

commission's proposals are too costly.

I am sure that talks will continue between the Assembly, the commission and the UK Government. Whatever the future holds, the Labour Welsh Assembly Government is committed to getting the best deal for Wales. Regional policy is our responsibility, wherever the money comes from. We must make sure that we secure the money, via the best deal, and spend it where it is most needed.

Elin Jones: Mae'r ddadl hon yn cynnwys dau brif bwynt i'w trafod, sef sefyllfa economaidd Cymru o'i chymharu â gwledydd eraill yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, a'r hyn y dylem gytuno arno a brwydro drosto fel cyfraniad o gronfeydd strwythurol rhwng 2007-13. Mae'r adroddiad cydlyniant yn ei gwneud yn glir fod sefyllfa economaidd gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn parhau'n fregus, tra bod y stori yn y Dwyrain yn fwy calonogol, a da yw gweld hynny.

4.00 p.m.

Prin y mae gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn osgoi dod o dan 75 y cant o gyfartaledd CMC y pen yr Undeb Ewropeaidd estynedig—dim ond 1 y cant yn uwch na'r 75 y cant. Y mae gan orllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd lefel CMC tebyg i lefelau Malta a Slofenia: dyna'r manau y mae'n rhaid i ni gymharu ein perfformiad economaidd â hwy bellach.

O fewn y Deyrnas Gyfunol, cyfeiriwyd eisoes at Gernyw ac Ynysoedd Sili, sy'n parhau i fod ar y gwaelod, yn economaidd, gyda phroblemau sylweddol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n siomedig nodi'r perfformiad economaidd gwahanol rhwng de Efrog a gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn ddiweddar. Yr oedd y ddwy ardal yn deilwng am Amcan 1 am y tro cyntaf yn 2000. Bryd hynny, yr oedd lefel gymharol CMC y ddwy ardal yn debyg—o fewn 1 y cant i'w gilydd. Ers hynny, y mae lefel CMC de Efrog wedi codi'n sylweddol ac y mae lefel gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, fel y gwyddom, wedi cwmpo'n sylweddol. Erbyn hyn, y mae dros 7 y cant o wahaniaeth rhwng lefel CMC de

anghenus. Mae safbwynt y DU yn cynnwys y gred bod cynigion y comisiwn yn rhy ddrud.

Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd trafodaethau'n parhau rhwng y Cynulliad, y comisiwn a Llywodraeth y DU. Beth bynnag a ddigwydd yn y dyfodol, mae Llywodraeth Lafur Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymrwmo i gael y fargen orau i Gymru. Cyfrifoldeb i ni yw polisi rhanbarthol, o ble bynnag y daw'r arian. Rhaid inni ofalu y byddwn yn sicrhau'r arian, drwy'r fargen orau, ac yn ei wario ym mhle y mae'r angen mwyaf.

Elin Jones: This debate has two main points for discussion, namely the state of the Welsh economy in comparison with other European Union countries, and the amount on which we need to agree, and fight for, as our share of structural funds for 2007-13. The cohesion report makes it clear that the economic position of west Wales and the Valleys continues to be vulnerable, whereas, I am pleased to say, evidence suggests that the position in east Wales is more encouraging.

West Wales and the Valleys only narrowly avoids dipping under 75 per cent of the GDP per capita of the extended European Union—it is only 1 per cent higher than the 75 per cent. West Wales and the Valleys has a similar GDP level to that of Malta and Slovenia: those are the places that we must now compare our economic performance with.

Within the UK, reference has been made to Cornwall and the Scilly Isles, which continue to be at the bottom, economically, facing grave problems. However, it is disappointing to note the recent economic performance differences between south Yorkshire and west Wales and the Valleys. Both were eligible for Objective 1 for the first time in 2000. At that time, their relative GDP level was similar—within 1 per cent of each other. Since then, south Yorkshire's GDP level has increased substantially and west Wales and the Valleys' level, as we know, has decreased substantially. There is now over 7 per cent difference between the GDP level of south Yorkshire and that of west Wales and the

Efrog a gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd. Y mae de Efrog ar 77.1 y cant o lefel gyfartalog CMC 15 gwlad yr UE tra bo gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd erbyn hyn ar lefel o 69.6 y cant yn unig. Y mae de Efrog wedi llwyddo i hybu ei economi, tra bo gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd wedi gweld dirywiad pellach. Nid oes argoel bod y Cynulliad hwn, yn enwedig ei Lywodraeth, wedi llwyddo i wneud dim i sicrhau cynnydd ym mherfformiad economaidd gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd.

Gallai'r Cynulliad fod yn llais dros fuddiannau Cymru a gosod safbwynt Cymru'n glir yn nhrefodaethau'r Undeb Ewropeaidd ar ddyfodol y cronfeydd strwythurol. Y mae'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn cydnabod bod angen lefel arbennig o gymorth ar yr ardaloedd hynny sydd o dan 75 y cant o lefel gyfartalog CMC 15 gwlad yr UE ond sy'n disgyn y tu hwnt i drothwy Amcan 1, sef o dan 75 y cant o lefel CMC 25 gwlad yr UE. Cyfeiriwyd eisoes at yr effaith ystadegol honno. Mae'n debygol y bydd gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn cwmpo o fewn y categori hwn ac y bydd yn gymwys am hyd at 85 y cant o'r lefel bresennol o gymorth o dan y cronfeydd strwythurol.

Hon yw'r ddêl orau i Gymru heb amheuaeth. Y mae CLILC yn hawlio clod am y ddêl hon. Y mae llywodraeth leol Cymru yn ymladd achos Cymru ym Mrwsel tra bo Llywodraeth genedlaethol Cymru yn ofn yngan barn gref rhag ofn tramgwyddo'r Trysorlys a'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant.

Mae'n amlwg fod gan y comisiwn yr ewyllys da i barhau i gefnogi ardaloedd megis gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, nad ydynt wedi gweld newid sylweddol yn eu perfformiad economaidd. Dywedodd cynrychiolydd o'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant yn ddigon plaen mewn cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol cyn y Pasg fod yr adran am weld mwy o bwyslais ar gronfeydd strwythurol yn mynd i aelod wladwriaethau newydd y dwyrain. Byddai'n rhaid i hynny fod ar draul gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd. Yr oedd yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant hefyd yn gwrthod ymrwymo cefnogaeth i'r categori effaith ystadegol, sef yr 85 y cant o gymorth y gallai gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd fod

Valleys. South Yorkshire is on 77.1 per cent of the average GDP of the 15 EU countries, whereas west Wales and the Valleys only has a level of 69.6 per cent. South Yorkshire has succeeded in boosting its economy while west Wales and the Valleys have seen further decline. There is no indication that this Assembly, and particularly its Government, has succeeded in doing anything to ensure progress in the economic performance of west Wales and the Valleys.

The Assembly could be a mouthpiece for the interests of Wales and set out Wales's standpoint clearly in the EU's discussions on the future of structural funds. The EC now acknowledges that a special level of assistance is required for those areas that are 75 per cent under the average GDP level of the 15 EU countries but which fall short of the threshold for Objective 1, namely under 75 per cent of the GDP levels of the 25 countries in the EU. That statistical effect has already been referred to. West Wales and the Valleys is likely to fall within this category and will be eligible for up to 85 per cent of the existing level of assistance under the structural funds.

This, without doubt, is the best deal for Wales. The WLGA is taking the credit for this deal. Local government in Wales is fighting Wales's corner in Brussels, whereas the national Government of Wales is afraid of upsetting the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry.

It is clear that the commission has the good will to continue to support areas such as west Wales and the Valleys that have not yet seen a substantial change in their economic performance. In a meeting of the European and External Affairs Committee before Easter, a representative from the DTI said plainly that the department wanted to see a greater emphasis on structural funds going to the new eastern member states. That could only be at the expense of west Wales and the Valleys. The DTI refused to commit its support to the statistical effect category, namely the 85 per cent of assistance for which west Wales and the Valleys could be eligible after 2007.

yn gymwys amdano ar ôl 2007.

Ble mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn sefyll ar hyn? Mae'n parhau i rwdlan—fel y clywsom unwaith eto y prynhawn yma—am y ddêl orau. Y mae'r ddêl orau i Gymru yn berffaith amlwg: dylem fynd am yr 85 y cant. Fodd bynnag, y mae ar y Llywodraeth hon ofn pechu'r meistri gwleidyddol yn Llundain ac mae'n fodlon aberthu buddiannau Cymru unwaith eto er lles undod y Blaid Lafur.

Mark Isherwood: We welcome this report, but only as starting point and no more than that. The EU has set itself the target of creating the world's most dynamic economy by 2010. Just as the EU cannot hope to meet this goal unless each country moves beyond current economic capacity, member states will only achieve their full potential if they take full responsibility for creating an economic environment where lagging and transitional regions are able to develop. It is not appropriate to only define eligibility for EU funding in relation to average GDP. Instead, funding should be directed to economic blackspots wherever they occur, regardless of whether the administrative region would have been classified as a disadvantaged area under current structural funds.

As the WLGA highlights in its own paper, the role of the UK Government will be crucial in providing a 'soft landing' for areas of Wales that may experience a sudden reduction in aid from EU regional policy in 2007. In particular, it is unlikely that any areas of east Wales would benefit significantly from either the commission's or the UK Government's proposals, yet pockets of urban, rural and industrial needs will still remain in 2006 and after that.

The Assembly must be realistic in its aims. The Assembly Government's own 10-year economic development strategy, 'A Winning Wales', was criticised by Professor Michael Porter from the Harvard Business School for being short on realism and detail, setting ambitious targets with no explanations on how they were to be achieved. It is therefore not surprising that this is rapidly turning into a Government aspiration rather than a target,

Where does the Assembly Government stand on this? It continues to prattle on—as we have heard again this afternoon—about the best deal. The best deal for Wales is perfectly clear: we should go for the 85 per cent. However, this Government is afraid of offending its political masters in London and is prepared to sacrifice Wales's interests again for the benefit of Labour Party unity.

Mark Isherwood: Croesawn yr adroddiad hwn, ond dim ond fel man cychwyn. Mae'r UE wedi gosod targed iddo'i hun o greu'r economi fwyaf deinamig yn y byd erbyn 2010. Yn union fel na all yr UE obeithio cyrraedd y nod oni bai fod pob gwlad yn mynd y tu hwnt i'w gallu economaidd presennol, ni fydd aelod wladwriaethau ond yn cyflawni eu potensial os byddant yn ymgymryd â chyfrifoldeb llawn dros greu amgylchiadau economaidd lle y mae rhanbarthau araf a rhyngbarthol yn gallu datblygu. Amhriodol yw diffinio cymhwyster i gael cyllid yr UE yng nghyd-destun y CMC cyfartalog yn unig. Yn hytrach, dylid cyfeirio cyllid i fannau economaidd gwan ym mhle bynnag y'u ceir, pa un a fyddai'r rhanbarth gweinyddol wedi'i ddynodi'n ardal ddifreintiedig o dan y cronfeydd strwythurol presennol ai peidio.

Fel y mae CLILC yn dangos yn ei phapur, bydd rôl Llywodraeth y DU yn hollbwysig wrth liniaru'r effaith ar rannau o Gymru a allai weld gostyngiad sydyn yn y cymorth oddi wrth bolisi rhanbarthol yr UE yn 2007. Yn benodol, mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw rannau o'r Dwyrain yn elwa'n sylweddol o gynigion y comisiwn na chynigion Llywodraeth y DU, ac eto bydd llecynnau trefol, gwledig a diwydiannol sydd mewn angen yn 2006 ac ar ôl hynny.

Rhaid i nodau'r Cynulliad fod yn rhai ymarferol. Beirniadwyd strategaeth datblygu economaidd 10 mlynedd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, 'Cymru'n Ennill', gan yr Athro Michael Porter o Ysgol Fusnes Harvard am ei bod yn brin o sylwedd a manylion, ac yn pennu targedau uchelgeisiol heb egluro sut y mae eu cyrraedd. Nid yw'n syndod, felly, fod hyn yn cyflym droi'n ddyhead gan Lywodraeth yn hytrach na tharged, na bod y

or that after spending European structural funds unsustainably on top-down tiers of consultants and officials, Wales's GDP per capita, as a percentage of the EU average, has fallen after the first two years of the programme. The Labour Assembly Government has failed to grasp the fact that the success of a project is not measured by how much money you spend but by what you produce in conjunction with it. We should be wasting less and spending better, focusing on outcomes rather than input. The Labour Assembly Government measures its political virility in reverse.

Brian Gibbons: Are you pleased that 55,000 additional jobs have been created and saved under the programme? That desirable outcome is an adequate advertisement for success.

Mark Isherwood: There is no sustainability where the majority of jobs created have not been in the productive side of the economy. I also remind you that business start-ups in most parts of Wales are lagging substantially behind the UK figure and that company profitability in Wales in the five years leading up to 2003 has fallen by 90 per cent. In the real world, business is driven by added value, but the Welsh Assembly Government's mission statement appears to be driven by subtracted value—spending more, but delivering less. Dylan Jones-Evans, the new professor of entrepreneurship at the Wrexham Business School at the North East Wales Institute of Higher Education, highlighted the fact that strong words were exchanged last month between the business community and the Welsh Assembly Government on the effectiveness of Objective 1 in particular, and on the role of the private sector in the development and delivery of that programme. According to his academic figures, out of nearly £700 million of European funds that have been allocated to date, only £15 million has been used directly to support projects initiated and developed by the wealth creators in the economy. It is clear, therefore, that the programme continues to be dominated by the public sector and that the private sector is not playing anywhere near its full potential role in developing and delivering Objective 1.

CMC y pen yng Nghymru, fel canran o gyfartaledd yr UE, wedi disgyn ar ôl dwy flynedd gyntaf y rhaglen, ar ôl gwario cyllid o gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd mewn modd anghynaliadwy ar haenau o ymgynghorwyr a swyddogion o'r top i'r gwaelod. Mae Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad wedi methu â sylweddoli nad y swm o arian a warir ar brosiect yw'r ffon fesur ar ei lwyddiant ond yr hyn a gynhyrchir ar y cyd ag ef. Dylem wastraffu llai a gwario'n well, gan ganolbwyntio ar ganlyniadau yn hytrach na mewnbwn. Mae Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad yn mesur ei gallu gwleidyddol o chwith.

Brian Gibbons: A ydych yn falch bod 55,000 o swyddi ychwanegol wedi'u creu a'u hachub o dan y rhaglen hon? Mae'r canlyniad dymunol hwnnw'n ddigon o hysbyseb dros ei llwyddiant.

Mark Isherwood: Nid oes unrhyw gynaliadwyedd gan nad oedd y rhan fwyaf o'r swyddi a grëwyd ar ochr gynhyrchiol yr economi. Yr wyf hefyd yn eich atgoffa bod nifer y busnesau newydd a gychwynnir yn y rhan fwyaf o Gymru yn llai o lawer na'r ffigur ar gyfer y DU a bod proffidioldeb cwmnïau yng Nghymru yn y pum mlynedd hyd at 2003 wedi disgyn o 90 y cant. Yn y byd go-iawn, ysgogir busnes gan werth ychwanegol, ond ymddengys bod datganiad cenhadaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n cael ei ysgogi gan yr awydd i dynnu gwerth—gwario mwy, ond cyflawni llai. Gwnaeth Dylan Jones-Evans, yr athro entrepreneuriaeth newydd yn Ysgol Fusnes Wrecsam yn Athrofa Addysg Uwch Gogledd Ddwyrain Cymru, dynnu sylw at y ffaith bod geiriau llym wedi'u ffeirio y mis diwethaf rhwng pobl busnes a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar effeithiolrwydd Amcan 1 yn benodol, ac ar rôl y sector preifat wrth ddatblygu a chyflwyno'r rhaglen honno. Yn ôl y ffigurau academaidd sydd ganddo, o blith ymron £700 miliwn o gyllid Ewropeaidd a ddyrannwyd hyd yn hyn, dim ond £15 miliwn a ddefnyddiwyd yn uniongyrchol i hybu prosiectau a gychwynnwyd ac a ddatblygwyd gan y crewyr cyfoeth yn yr economi. Mae'n amlwg, felly, fod y sector cyhoeddus yn dal i draarglwyddiaethu ar y rhaglen a bod y sector preifat ymhell o gyflawni'r cwbl a allai wrth

That cannot be good for the Welsh economy.

There must be a greater exchange of ideas and views between policy makers in Cardiff and wealth creators in the Welsh economy. This must be addressed with a sense of urgency if the rest of the Objective 1 programme is to benefit from private sector experience and expertise, thus closing the gap between the richer and poorer parts of Wales. On a wider level, the Welsh Assembly Government must understand that constructive criticism from business leaders must be considered carefully, rather than dismissed out of hand as a diatribe by those who wish to talk Wales down. That approach both undervalues and insults those hardworking entrepreneurs who make a difference in the growth of the Welsh economy.

The Institute of Directors Wales informed me that Objective 1 has failed to deliver because high expectations were met by central management and a bureaucratic jungle, which the private sector finds stultifying. We need a co-ordinated plan for local delivery with local business and local players at its core. The reality is that the Welsh Assembly Government is gold-plating rules on business support and state aid and imposing bureaucratic political control over the distribution of money. A work-based trainer summarised the situation when he told me that Objective 1 is,

‘top down, not business-led, setting up programmes to apply for, rather than making it happen’.

He complained that local meetings are dominated by consultants, rather than the business people who take the risks and that there is effectively no help to turn small businesses into big businesses. A new small business representative from Holyhead told me that,

‘unfortunately once you scratch beneath the surface you begin to realise that motivation is self-serving. The bureaucracy is staggering.

ddatblygu Amcan 1 a'i roi ar waith. Ni all hynny fod o les i economi Cymru.

Rhaid cael mwy o gyfnewid barn a syniadau rhwng llunwyr polisi yng Nghaerdydd a chrewyr cyfoeth yn economi Cymru. Rhaid ymdrin â hyn ar frys os yw gweddill rhaglen Amcan 1 i gael budd o brofiad ac arbenigedd y sector preifat, fel y caeir y bwlch rhwng rhannau cyfoethocaf a thlotaf Cymru. Yn fwy cyffredinol, rhaid i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ddeall bod rhaid ystyried beirniadaeth adeiladol gan arweinwyr busnes yn ofalus, yn hytrach na'i hwffio'n ddifeddwl a'i galw'n ymosodiad gan rai sy'n dymuno bychanu Cymru. Mae'r ymagwedd honno'n tanbriso ac yn sarhau'r entrepreneuriaid diwyd hynny sy'n peri twf yn economi Cymru.

Mae Sefydliad y Cyfarwyddwyr yng Nghymru wedi fy hysbysu bod Amcan 1 wedi methu â mynd â'r maen i'r wal am fod y disgwyliadau mawr wedi'u trechu gan reolaeth ganolog a dryswch biwrocraidd, sy'n seithugol ym marn y sector preifat. Mae arnom angen cynllun cydlynol ar gyfer cyflawni'n lleol gyda busnes lleol a chyfranwyr lleol yn y canol. Y gwir yw bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n gorgymhlethu'r rheolau ar gymorth i fusnes a chymorth gwladol ac yn gosod rheolaeth wleidyddol fiwrocraidd ar ddsbarthu arian. Gwnaeth un sy'n darparu hyfforddiant sy'n seiliedig ar waith grynhoi'r sefyllfa hon pan ddywedodd wrthyf fod Amcan 1 yn rhywbeth sy'n gweithio

o'r top i'r gwaelod, heb ei arwain gan fusnes, ac yn sefydlu rhaglenni i ymgeisio iddynt, yn hytrach na pheri i rywbeth ddigwydd.

Cwynodd mai ymgynghorwyr sy'n llywio cyfarfodydd lleol, yn hytrach na'r bobl busnes sy'n mentro ac nad oes unrhyw gymorth, i bob pwrpas, i droi busnesau bach yn fusnesau mawr. Dywedodd cynrychiolydd busnes bach newydd yng Nghaerdydd wrthyf:

gwaetha'r modd, wedi ichi grafu o dan yr wyneb, yr ydych yn dechrau sylweddoli mai cymhelliad hunanlesol sydd i hyn. Mae'r

You seem to have a choice between running your business or wading through form after form, only for your bureaucrats to reject it because the t is not crossed to Assembly specification?.

fiwrocratiaeth yn syfrdanu rhywun. Ymddengys bod gennych ddewis rhwng rhedeg eich busnes neu ymlafnio drwy'r naill ffurflen ar ôl y llall, dim ond i'r biwrocratiaid ei gwrthod am na roddwyd croes ar bob t er boddhad i'r Cynulliad.

4.10 p.m.

He concluded by saying that it was a poor and sad situation. I will conclude by saying that the bottom line is that, without radical bottom-up reform, the Welsh Assembly Government cannot be trusted to deliver this programme now, or after 2006, because what it means by social and economic cohesion is a sinister degree of state intrusion in every aspect of our social and economic existence. For the Government, empowering individuals and businesses amounts to enabling them to play whatever part the state has decided is helpful, and no more than that.

Gorffennodd drwy ddweud bod y sefyllfa'n un wael a digalon. Terfynaf drwy ddweud mai ystyr hyn yn y pen draw yw na ellir ymddiried yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gyflawni'r rhaglen hon yn awr, neu ar ôl 2006, heb gael diwygio sylfaenol o'r gwaelod i fyny, gan mai'r hyn y mae'n ei olygu wrth gydlyniant cymdeithasol ac economaidd yw graddau sinistr yr ymyrryd gan y wladwriaeth ym mhob agwedd ar ein bywyd cymdeithasol ac economaidd. Yng ngolwg y Llywodraeth, mae galluogi unigolion a busnesau yn gyfystyr â'u galluogi i chwarae pa bynnag ran y mae'r wladwriaeth wedi penderfynu ei bod yn fuddiol, a dim mwy na hynny.

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey: I did not hear all of that, Mark, because you keep hitting your microphone, which makes it difficult to understand what you are saying. However, I heard you say that we as a Government have provided no help to small businesses. I speak as the representative of the constituency that has created more small businesses than any other part of Wales. We have a culture of entrepreneurship that has been engendered and encouraged by the Government, not only through the Objective 1 fund, but through all other funds linked to it, such as Finance Wales.

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey: Ni chlywais hynny i gyd, Mark, gan eich bod yn bwrw eich microffon o hyd, ac mae hynny'n peri ei bod yn anodd deall eich geiriau. Serch hynny, fe'ch clywais yn dweud nad ydym ni fel Llywodraeth wedi rhoi unrhyw gymorth i fusnesau bach. Siaradaf fel cynrychiolydd yr etholaeth a greodd fwy o fusnesau bach nag unrhyw ran arall o Gymru. Mae gennym ddiwylliant entrepreneuriaidd a grëwyd ag a hybwyd gan y Llywodraeth, nid yn unig drwy gronfa Amcan 1, ond drwy'r holl gronfeydd eraill sy'n gysylltiedig â hi, fel Cyllid Cymru.

Alun Cairns: If the Welsh Assembly Government has been so successful, why was the 'A Winning Wales' target for new business start-ups not achieved during the first full year?

Alun Cairns: Os bu Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru mor llwyddiannus, pam na chyrrhaeddwyd y targed ar gyfer cychwyn busnesau newydd yn 'Cymru'n Ennill' yn ystod y flwyddyn lawn gyntaf?

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey: That was only the first full year. Do you know how long it takes to start up a business? Have you ever run a business? Clearly not. To create a business and a market, to establish that market and turn it into a profitable business takes considerably longer than one year—I speak from experience.

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey: Dim ond y flwyddyn lawn gyntaf oedd honno. A wyddoch faint o amser a gymer i gychwyn busnes? A ydych wedi rhedeg busnes erioed? Mae'n amlwg nad ydych. Cymer lawer mwy na blwyddyn i greu busnes a marchnad, i sefydlu'r farchnad honno a'i throï'n fusnes proffidiol—siaradaf o brofiad.

Alun Cairns: That was a target in your document.

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey: You set a target to aim for; as long as you work towards that target, you are moving in the right direction. This Government has done much more to provide for small and medium-sized enterprises than your Conservative Government ever did.

Jeff Cuthbert: Do you find it hard to stomach criticism from the Conservative group, when it was the former Conservative Government that brought the economy of Wales to the state where it qualified for Objective 1 money?

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey: Yes. Although I am in danger of being repetitive, when I last spoke in a debate on the business environment, I said that it is the Labour Government that is delivering for business, not the Conservatives, who used to think that they were the party of business people.

I welcome the EU cohesion report because it makes us look at the challenges that we face, with the expansion of the EU to include the accession countries. It makes us sit up and look at what we are good at, what we need to concentrate on, and where we should be driving our economy. It is clear—you will argue with me on this point, but I am not bothered—that the areas that we have targeted, in creating a high-skill, knowledge-based and knowledge-driven economy, are the areas that will benefit Wales most in the long run. We have a Government that is negotiating for the best for Wales. As Sandy said, we do not have a crystal ball and cannot tell you what will happen. The next 12 to 18 months are crucial in terms of negotiation, but we must develop our economy further and we must continue to push to become competitive and to create our niche market in Europe. We must not try to compete in areas where we are unable to do so, but compete in a knowledge-based economy, doing what we are best at. The EU cohesion report stresses ideas such as the incubation of SMEs and entrepreneurship, which is a development of an ethos that is occurring. It is occurring particularly in my constituency, and I can

Alun Cairns: Yr oedd hwnnw'n darged yn eich dogfen chi.

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey: Mae rhywun yn gosod targed i anelu ato; ar yr amod eich bod yn ceisio cyrraedd y targed hwnnw, yr ydych yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad iawn. Gwnaeth y Llywodraeth hon fwy o lawer dros fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint nag a wnaeth eich Llywodraeth Geidwadol chi erioed.

Jeff Cuthbert: A ydych yn ei chael yn anodd stumogi beirniadaeth gan grŵp y Ceidwadwyr, o gofio mai'r Llywodraeth Geidwadol flaenorol a barodd i economi Cymru fod yn y fath gyflwr fel ei bod yn gymwys ar gyfer arian Amcan 1?

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey: Ydwyf. Er bod perygl imi ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedais pan siaradais ddiwethaf mewn dadl ar yr amgylchiadau ar gyfer busnes, dywedais mai'r Llywodraeth Lafur sy'n mynd â'r maen i'r wal dros fusnes, nid y Ceidwadwyr, a arferai gredu mai hwy oedd plaid pobl busnes.

Croesawaf adroddiad cydlyniant yr UE gan ei fod yn ein gorfodi i ystyried yr heriau a wynebwn, wrth ehangu'r UE i gynnwys y gwledydd sy'n ymuno. Mae'n peri inni ddefro ac ystyried yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud yn dda, ar beth y dylem ganolbwyntio, ac i ba gyfeiriad y dylem yrru ein heconomi. Mae'n amlwg—gwnewch anghytuno â mi ar y pwynt hwn, ond nid yw hynny o bwys gennyf—mai'r ardaloedd yr ydym wedi'u targedu, wrth greu economi sy'n seiliedig ar wybodaeth ac yn cael ei hysgogi ganddi ac sydd â gweithwyr tra medrus, yw'r rhai a ddaw â'r budd mwyaf i Gymru yn y tymor hir. Mae gennym Lywodraeth sy'n negodi i gael y gorau i Gymru. Fel y dywedodd Sandy, nid oes gennym bêl grisial ac ni ellir rhagweld beth a ddigwydd. Mae'r 12 i 18 mis nesaf yn hollbwysig o ran negodi, ond rhaid inni ddatblygu ein heconomi ymhellach a rhaid inni ddal i geisio dod yn gystadleuol a chreu ein marchnad arbenigol yn Ewrop. Ni ddylem geisio cystadlu mewn meysydd lle na allwn wneud hynny, ond dylem gystadlu mewn economi sy'n seiliedig ar wybodaeth, gan wneud yr hyn a wnawn orau. Mae adroddiad cydlyniant yr UE yn rhoi pwys ar syniadau fel meithrin busnesau bach a

show you some incubator units that are working closely with the academic and business worlds to create viable businesses.

Christine Chapman: On incubation, do you share my delight that under Objective 1, in my constituency, a project called GTi at the University of Glamorgan has just celebrated the hundredth small business start-up?

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey: That is excellent news because it reinforces everything that I have said. On the incubator units, we are starting along that same route in Pembrokeshire. It is a way of creating SMEs that then continue to network and create further clusters down the line. It has a payback for other areas of business that are drawn into it, not only the new SMEs that are starting up in an incubator unit. Our policy of moving down the technium route is also driving the economy forward on a knowledge basis.

I welcome this document, not only because it proves conclusively that we, the Government, are moving in the right direction, but because it gives us an opportunity to sit back and look at our future direction and what further improvements we should be working towards. I welcome this report.

Jenny Randerson: In the joint meeting of the Economic Development and Transport Committee and the Committee on European and External Affairs, I asked the commission's representative what we in Wales should be doing to prepare for the decision to be taken in the middle of next year and what we could do to influence it. His answer was unequivocal: we should be making our views known to the UK Government and to the commission now. If one good thing is to come from today's debate, then I hope that, eventually, we may hear a Government view of some kind rather than having the wait-and-see approach adopted so far, which was repeated by the First Minister this afternoon. That is just not good enough. Neither is it good enough for the Government to hold a view that it does

chanolig eu maint ac entrepreneuriaeth, ac mae'r ethos hwnnw'n datblygu. Mae'n digwydd yn fy etholaeth i'n enwedig, a gallaf ddangos ichi rai unedau meithrin sy'n cydweithio'n agos â'r byd academaidd a byd busnes i greu busnesau dichonadwy.

Christine Chapman: Ynghylch meithrin busnesau, a ydych yn cydlawenhau â mi o glywed bod prosiect o'r enw GTi ym Mhrifysgol Morgannwg, o dan raglen Amcan 1, yn fy etholaeth, newydd ddathlu cychwyn y canfed busnes bach?

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey: Mae hynny'n newydd rhagorol gan ei fod yn ategu'r cwbl a ddywedais. Ynghylch unedau meithrin, yr ydym yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn sir Benfro. Mae'n fodd i greu busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint ac wedyn parhau i rwydweithio a chreu clystyrau pellach. Mae'n talu'n ôl i'r meysydd busnes eraill a dynnir i mewn iddo, nid yn unig y busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint newydd sy'n dechrau mewn uned feithrin. Mae ein polisi o ddilyn llwybr y technium yn gyrru'r economi yn ei blaen ar sail gwybodaeth hefyd.

Croesawaf y ddogfen hon, nid yn unig am ei bod yn profi'n derfynol ein bod ni, y Llywodraeth, yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad iawn, ond am ei bod yn rhoi cyfle inni ystyried i ba gyfeiriad yr awn yn y dyfodol a pha welliannau pellach y dylem eu ceisio. Croesawaf yr adroddiad hwn.

Jenny Randerson: Mewn cyfarfod ar y cyd o'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth a'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol, gofynnais i gynrychiolydd y comisiwn beth y dylem ni yng Nghymru ei wneud i baratoi ar gyfer y penderfyniad sydd i'w wneud ganol y flwyddyn nesaf a beth y gallem ei wneud i ddylanwadu arno. Yr oedd ei ateb yn ddiamwys: dylem ddatgan ein barn wrth Lywodraeth y DU ac wrth y comisiwn yn awr. Os ceir un peth da o'r ddadl hon heddiw, gobeithiaf mai hwnnw fydd datganiad o farn o ryw fath gan y Llywodraeth yn y diwedd, yn hytrach na'r agwedd disgwyl i weld a fabwysiadwyd hyd yma, a ailadroddwyd gan y Prif Weinidog y prynhawn yma. Nid yw hynny'n ddigon da. Nid yw'n ddigon da ychwaith i'r Llywodraeth goleddu barn nad

not impart to us, but rather keeps confidential and to itself. If such a view is to have influence, it must be made public.

I congratulate the WLGA on its work on our behalf. I am slightly embarrassed that, five years into the life of the Assembly, it still has to do that job on our behalf. The Labour Assembly Government should be more than embarrassed that we must rely on the WLGA to do its job for it. The WLGA document states that Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and officials clearly now have a major responsibility to make the case for Wales. Several key issues have been highlighted this afternoon. Is the UK Government's repatriation proposal really a dead donkey, as was all but admitted by the Treasury official at the committee meeting recently, or will the Government give it one last whirl? The Welsh Liberal Democrats maintain that it would be damaging for Wales were repatriation to be adopted, and we would have no guarantees on how much money we would receive and for how long that money would continue. I take no comfort from the Treasury line at the committee meeting, which was that a change of Government would not destabilise the process. The Treasury official said that incoming Governments usually honour the budget commitments of their predecessors. We know that the Labour Government honoured the Tory commitments in 1997—to our loss—but the Assembly Labour Government has not honoured the previous commitments of the partnership Government, and there are no guarantees that any future Government would honour such commitments. Repatriation may be off the agenda, but we must still deal with the other policy favoured by the UK Government—its wish to restrict the EU budget to 1 per cent of the EU's gross national income.

In effect, that policy argues that keeping the EU budget low will boost UK spending sufficiently to compensate for the absence of European money. The converse is that the UK Government has warned—maybe even threatened—that if the UK were forced to increase its net contribution to EU cohesion policy, the Welsh block budget could

yw'n ei rhannu â ni, ond yn hytrach yn ei chadw'n gyfrinach. Os yw barn o'r fath i gael dylanwad, rhaid ei datgan ar goedd.

Llongyfarchaf CLILC ar y gwaith a wnaeth ar ein rhan. Teimlaf yn chwithig braidd, bum mlynedd ar ôl sefydlu'r Cynulliad, ei bod yn dal i orfod gwneud y gwaith hwnnw drosom. Dylai Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad deimlo'n fwy na chwithig ein bod yn gorfod dibynnu ar CLILC i wneud ei gwaith drosti. Dywed dogfen CLILC ei bod yn amlwg bellach fod cyfrifoldeb mawr gan Weinidogion a swyddogion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ddadlau dros Gymru. Tynnwyd sylw at sawl mater allweddol y prynhawn yma. A yw cynnig Llywodraeth y DU i ailwladoli wedi mynd i'r gwellt mewn gwirionedd, fel y lled-gyfaddefodd swyddog o'r Trysorlys yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor yn ddiweddar, neu a fydd y Llywodraeth yn rhoi un cynnig arall arni? Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru'n dal y byddai mabwysiadu ailwladoli'n niweidiol i Gymru, ac na fyddai gennym unrhyw sicrwydd o faint yr arian a gaem ac am ba hyd y parhâi'r arian hwnnw. Ni chaf unrhyw gysur yn safbwynt y Trysorlys yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor, sef na fyddai newid Llywodraeth yn dadsefydlogi'r broses. Dywedodd swyddog y Trysorlys fod Llywodraethau newydd yn cyflawni ymrwymadau cyllideb eu rhagflaenwyr fel arfer. Gwyddom fod y Llywodraeth Lafur wedi cyflawni ymrwymadau'r Torïaid yn 1997—er colled i ni—ond nid yw Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad wedi cyflawni ymrwymadau blaenorol y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth, ac nid oes unrhyw sicrwydd y byddai unrhyw Lywodraeth yn y dyfodol yn cyflawni ymrwymadau o'r fath. Efallai nad yw ailwladoli ar yr agenda, ond rhaid inni ddelio o hyd â'r polisi arall sydd wedi'i ffafrio gan Lywodraeth y DU—ei dymuniad i gyfyngu cyllideb yr UE i 1 y cant o incwm gwladol crynswyth yr UE.

I bob pwrpas, y ddadl dros y polisi hwnnw yw y bydd cadw cyllideb yr UE yn isel yn fodd i roi digon o hwb i wariant y DU i wneud iawn am ddiffyg arian Ewropeaidd. Y gwrthwyneb i hynny yw bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi dadlau—neu hyd yn oed fygwth o bosibl—os câi'r DU ei gorfodi i gynyddu ei chyfraniad net at bolisi cydlyniant yr UE, y

correspondingly be reduced. That would have an unacceptable and disproportionate effect on Wales. The UK, as we have already heard this afternoon, has the widest economic disparities in the whole of the EU. This is sad testimony to the commitment of previous UK Governments to regional regeneration, and it does not give one confidence in the proposal for repatriation. When we consider the UK's regional disparities, Wales lies at the bottom of the list. The best solution for Wales is for the EU to retain control of structural funds and for the budget to be set sufficiently high, at 1.24 per cent, for the statistical effect regions, of which Wales has one, to receive some of those funds without there being a corresponding cut in the Welsh block grant. Any cut in the block grant would render the provision of sufficient match funding impossible. We already know of the contortions that the Government is making in order to supply sufficient match finding, and this will be an ongoing issue to be addressed, as will the provision of EU funds.

Many variables are involved, but the key issue is what this means in practice for Wales. It means a reduction of between £60 million and £100 million a year in regional funding. We have it all to play for, and the Government has a responsibility to join in the game. We need it to press not only for the right answer for Wales, as I have already outlined, but also for a simpler, more streamlined system of EU grants to deal with the problems that have been outlined by some speakers this afternoon. Above all, we need agreement on how to get the best deal for Wales from 2007 to 2015, and exactly what the Government thinks that deal is.

4.20 p.m.

Janet Davies: This report and the proposals for 2007 to 2013 from the European Commission are good for Wales; they would give us a basis of secure funding for another seven years from 2007 on which to move forward and repair the damage that our economy and society have suffered in recent years. Cohesion is about the crucial issues of reducing economic differences throughout the union and increasing competitiveness in

gellid lleihau cyllideb bloc Cymru i gyfateb i hynny. Câi hynny effaith anghyfartal ac annerbyniol ar Gymru. Fel y clywsom eisoes y prynhawn yma, yn y DU y ceir y gwahaniaethau economaidd mwyaf yn yr UE cyfan. Mae hynny'n dystiolaeth drist i ymrwymiad Llywodraethau blaenorol y DU i adfywio rhanbarthol, ac nid yw'n peri i rywun hyderu yn y cynnig i ailwladoli. Gyda golwg ar y gwahaniaethau rhanbarthol yn y DU, Cymru sydd ar waelod y rhestr. Yr ateb gorau i Gymru yw i'r UE gadw ei reolaeth ar gronfeydd strwythurol a gosod y gyllideb yn ddigon uchel, ar 1.24 y cant, fel y bydd rhanbarthau'r effaith ystadegol, y mae Cymru yn un ohonynt, yn gallu cael rhywfaint o'r cyllid hwnnw heb gael toriad cyfatebol yng ngrant bloc Cymru. Byddai unrhyw dorri ar y grant bloc yn peri iddi fod yn amhosibl darparu digon o gyllid cyfatebol. Gwyddom eisoes am yr ystumio a gafwyd gan y Llywodraeth er mwyn cyflenwi digon o gyllid cyfatebol, a bydd yn rhaid talu sylw i'r mater hwn eto, a darparu cronfeydd yr UE, yn yr un modd.

Mae llawer o newidion yn gysylltiedig â hyn, ond y mater pwysicaf yw beth fydd hyn yn ei olygu'n ymarferol i Gymru. Mae'n golygu gostyngiad o rhwng £60 miliwn a £100 miliwn y flwyddyn mewn cyllid rhanbarthol. Mae popeth yn y fantol, ac mae cyfrifoldeb gan y Llywodraeth i gymryd rhan. Dylai bwysu nid yn unig dros gael yr ateb iawn i Gymru, fel yr wyf wedi nodi eisoes, ond hefyd am gael system symlach o grantiau gan yr UE i ddelio â'r problemau a ddisgrifiwyd gan rai siaradwyr y prynhawn yma. Yn fwy na dim, rhaid inni gael cytundeb ar y modd i gael y fargen orau i Gymru o 2007 i 2015, a beth yn union yw'r fargen honno, ym marn y Llywodraeth.

Janet Davies: Mae'r adroddiad hwn a'r cynigion ar gyfer y cyfnod o 2007 i 2013 gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn rhai da i Gymru; byddent yn rhoi sylfaen o gyllid sicr i ni am saith mlynedd arall ar ôl 2007 y gallem ei defnyddio i symud ymlaen a thrwsio'r difrod y mae ein heconomi a'n cymdeithas wedi'i brofi yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae cydlyniant yn ymwneud â'r materion hollbwysig sy'n gysylltiedig â lleihau

the global economy, but set in the context of the European Union's social agenda.

Enlargement, which brings in 15 new member states this week, will not be easy. Reducing economic disparities will be hard and will take time, but the European Commission and many of its member states have the vision to see that this is essential for harmonious co-existence and the reduction of tensions. The newly defined statistical areas, which will probably include Wales, mean that we would receive 85 per cent of present funding, and every organisation and every person in Wales should recognise that as a good deal, because it is guaranteed for seven years, compared with a guarantee of just one year from the UK Government, with two further years in draft form. It gives us a unique opportunity to plan ahead, giving security to programmes and to individual schemes.

We should all agree that the Welsh Government must understand the economic needs of the whole union, but it has been elected for a specific purpose, namely to make our country safe, prosperous and caring, with equality of opportunity for everyone. To do that, it must be prepared to stand up and fight for Wales, and, if necessary, put Wales before party politics and challenge the UK Government's wish to reduce its contribution to the European Union. It is not good enough to sit on the fence. The difference, which still seems to be on-line, between a contribution of 1.14 per cent of GDP, as requested by the European Union, and the 1 per cent proposed by the UK Government, is almost certain to be the difference in funding for the statistical areas. How can the Welsh Assembly Government allow the UK Government to reduce its contribution at Wales's expense?

I was at a meeting of the European Union Committee of the Regions on the day that the third cohesion report was published, and I was the only Welsh representative of eight from the Committee of the Regions at a meeting with the European parliamentary

gwahaniaethau economaidd ledled yr undeb a hybu'r gallu i gystadlu yn yr economi fyd-eang, a hynny yng nghyd-destun agenda gymdeithasol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd.

Ni fydd yr ehangu, a ddaw â 15 aelod wladwriaeth newydd yr wythnos hon, yn beth hawdd. Bydd yn anodd lleihau gwahaniaethau economaidd a chymer amser, ond mae'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd a nifer o'i aelod wladwriaethau'n meddu ar ddigon o weledigaeth i sylweddoli bod hyn yn hollbwysig er mwyn gallu cyd-fyw'n gytûn a lleihau tensiynau. Oherwydd diffiniad yr ardaloedd ystadegol newydd, a fydd yn cynnwys Cymru yn ôl pob tebyg, byddem yn cael 85 y cant o'r cyllid a gawn ar hyn o bryd, a dylai pob corff a phob unigolyn yng Nghymru sylweddoli bod honno'n fargen dda, gan ei bod wedi'i gwarantu am saith mlynedd, o'i chymharu â gwarant o ddim ond un flwyddyn gan Lywodraeth y DU, gyda dwy flynedd arall ar ffurf drafft. Mae'n rhoi cyfle unigryw inni gynllunio ymlaen, ac yn rhoi sicrwydd i raglenni ac i gynlluniau unigol.

Dylem oll gytuno bod rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru ddeall anghenion economaidd yr undeb cyfan, ond fe'i hetholwyd i bwrras penodol, sef i beri i'n gwlad fod yn ddiogel, yn ffyniannus ac yn ofalgar, gyda chyfle cyfartal i bawb. Er mwyn gwneud hynny, rhaid iddi fod yn barod i sefyll ac ymladd dros Gymru, ac, os oes angen, rhoi Cymru o flaen gwleidyddiaeth plaid a herio dymuniad Llywodraeth y DU i leihau ei chyfraniad i'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Nid yw eistedd ar ben y clawdd yn ddigon da. Mae'r gwahaniaeth, yr ymddengys ei fod yn cael ei gynnig o hyd, rhwng cyfraniad o 1.14 y cant o'r CMC, fel y mae'r Undeb Ewropeaidd yn ei ofyn, a'r 1 y cant a gynigir gan Lywodraeth y DU, bron yn sicr o olygu'r gwahaniaeth yn y cyllid ar gyfer yr ardaloedd ystadegol. Sut y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ganiatáu i Lywodraeth y DU leihau ei chyfraniad ar draul Cymru?

Yr oeddwn mewn cyfarfod o Bwyllgor Rhanbarthau'r Undeb Ewropeaidd y dydd y cyhoeddwyd y trydydd adroddiad cydlyniant, a myfi oedd yr unig gynrychiolydd o Gymru o blith wyth o Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau mewn cyfarfod â'r pwyllgor seneddol

committee during recess. In the first of those meetings, I received many congratulations on Wales's good fortune—in fact, some of the representatives seemed jealous. In the second, there appeared to be unanimity in favour of the higher contribution and of the commission's continuing to administer structural funds. All the speeches that I heard—and I sat through the lot—spoke of a distrust of member state Governments' willingness or ability to deliver consistent funding over seven years. I have only come across one region within the union whose Government seems to back its member state in demanding a reduction in contributions, and that region is Wales.

First Minister, I always had a great deal of respect for you as an opposition Member in the House of Commons. You fought your corner with enthusiasm, courage and intelligence. When you became First Minister, I hoped that that would continue and that you would have the courage to disagree with the Westminster Government when it was right for Wales. It would not be fanciful to say that you could have become the *mab darogan*—the saviour—of Wales in the twenty-first century. You have talked of clear red water between the two Governments when it was politically expedient to do so, but you have acted by licking the boots of Blair and Brown when that was politically expedient. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Oh.'] It is easy to scoff, but that is happening. You are a disappointment to Wales, First Minister.

Government can be complex and the way forward can be a morass of confusion. [Interruption.] Do you wish to intervene, Alun Pugh? No? On this issue there is clarity for Wales. Fudging has become an art for the First Minister, to the extent that I constantly expect to see boxes of Rhodri Morgan fudge on sale in the Pierhead building. You must stand proud, First Minister: stand up for your country, and join the other regions where principle prevails.

Alun Cairns: This debate has covered a wide range of issues, from European structural funds and the cohesion report to the future of

Ewropeaidd yn ystod y toriad. Yn y cyntaf o'r cyfarfodydd hynny, cefais fy llongyfarch sawl gwaith ar lwc dda Cymru—a dweud y gwir, yr oedd rhai o'r cynrychiolwyr yn genfigennus, i bob golwg. Yn yr ail, ymddangosai fod pawb o blaid y cyfraniad uwch ac am weld y comisiwn yn dal i weinyddu'r cronfeydd strwythurol. Yn yr holl areithiau a glywais—a gwrandewais ar bob un—soniwyd am ddiffyg ymddiriedaeth ym mharodrwydd neu allu Llywodraethau'r aelod wladwriaethau i ddarparu cyllid cyson dros saith mlynedd. Dim ond un rhanbarth yn yr undeb y deuthum ar ei draws yr ymddengys fod ei Lywodraeth yn cefnogi galwad ei aelod wladwriaeth am ostyngiad yn ei chyfraniadau, a'r rhanbarth hwnnw yw Cymru.

Brif Weinidog, yr oedd gennyf barch mawr tuag atoch erioed fel Aelod o'r wrthblaid yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin. Gwnaethoch ymladd eich achos yn frwdfrydig, yn eofn ac yn ddeallus. Pan ddaethoch yn Brif Weinidog, yr oeddwn yn gobeithio y daliech i wneud hynny ac y byddech yn ddigon dewr i anghytuno â Llywodraeth San Steffan pan oedd hynny'n iawn i Gymru. Nid ffansiol fyddai dweud y gallasech fod yn fab darogan i Gymru yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain. Yr ydych wedi sôn am ddŵr coch clir rhwng y ddwy Lywodraeth pan oedd hynny'n wleidyddol gyfleus, ond yr ydych wedi gweithredu drwy lyfu esgidiau Blair a Brown pan oedd hynny'n wleidyddol gyfleus. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'O.'] Digon hawdd yw gwawdio, ond hynny sy'n digwydd. Yr ydych yn destun siom i Gymru, Brif Weinidog.

Gall llywodraethu fod yn gymhleth a gall y ffordd ymlaen fod yn gors o ddryswch. [Torri ar draws.] A ydych yn dymuno ymyrryd, Alun Pugh? Nac ydych? Ar y mater hwn, mae'r ffordd ymlaen i Gymru'n glir. Daeth bwnglera'n un o ddoniau'r Prif Weinidog, a hynny i'r fath raddau fel fy mod yn disgwyl gweld hynny'n digwydd drwy'r amser. Rhaid ichi sefyll yn anrhydeddus, Brif Weinidog: sefwch dros eich gwlad, ac ymuno â'r rhanbarthau eraill lle y mae egwyddor yn teyrnasu.

Alun Cairns: Ymdriniwyd ag amryw o faterion yn y ddadl hon, o gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd a'r adroddiad

Europe as a whole. However, it comes down to a few key issues. In relative terms, Wales's gross domestic product per capita is declining. How many times did we hear at the outset of the first Assembly that the Objective 1 programme was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity? The reality is that we have done so badly over this period of structural funds that we almost qualify again. Therefore, in response to Jeff Cuthbert, Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey and all the other Assembly Members who have claimed some sort of success, I say that it is quite obvious that Wales is now poorer than many of the eastern block regions. Who would have thought that, after seven years of a Labour Government, west Wales and the Valleys would now be an area poorer than Dresden and Leipzig, and the former eastern block countries?

Catherine Thomas: Do you agree that it will take far more than seven years of a Labour Government to undo 18 years of Tory misrule?

Alun Cairns: The reality is that the decline has accelerated over the last seven years. To respond to Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey, who seemed to claim that the number of business start-ups in her constituency had increased, let us look at the overall picture and the actual figures. The latest published key economic indices from the Assembly Government show that the stock of VAT-registered business was 76,300 for the last full year—a drop of 700 on the previous year, which is a further drop on the year before. That is what the Labour Government is doing for Wales and for west Wales and the Valleys.

Peter Law: Do you accept that you cannot generalise in this way? In hard-pressed, excluded communities like the one I come from, Objective 1 is making a huge impact, thanks to the Welsh Assembly Government's support and the good work of the local partnership: millions of pounds are being accessed. The passenger rail service is returning, thanks to an £8 million Objective 1

cydlyniant i ddyfodol Ewrop yn ei chyfanrwydd. Er hynny, ychydig o faterion allweddol sydd wrth wraidd hyn. Mae'r cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen yng Nghymru yn dirywio o'i gymharu. Pa sawl gwaith y clywsom ar ddechrau'r Cynulliad cyntaf mai cyfle unwaith mewn einioes oedd rhaglen Amcan 1? Y gwir yw ein bod wedi gwneud cyn waethed dros y cyfnod hwn o'r cronfeydd strwythurol fel ein bod bron â bod yn gymwys eto. Felly, mewn ymateb i Jeff Cuthbert, Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey a'r holl Aelodau eraill o'r Cynulliad a hawliodd ryw fath o lwyddiant, dywedaf ei bod yn gwbl amlwg bod Cymru'n dlotach bellach na sawl rhanbarth yn y bloc dwyreiniol. Pwy a gredai, ar ôl saith mlynedd o Lywodraeth Lafur, y byddai gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn ardal dlotach yn awr na Dresden a Leipzig, a gwledydd yr hen floc dwyreiniol?

Catherine Thomas: A ydych yn cytuno o cymer lawer mwy na saith mlynedd o Lywodraeth Lafur i ddad-wneud 18 mlynedd o gamreolaeth gan y Torïaid?

Alun Cairns: Y gwir yw bod y dirywiad wedi cyflymu dros y saith mlynedd diwethaf. Er mwyn ymateb i Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey, yr ymddangosai ei bod yn honni bod cynnydd yn nifer y busnesau a oedd wedi dechrau yn ei hetholaeth, gadewch inni edrych ar y darlun cyfan ac ar y gwir ffigurau. Mae'r mynegrifau economaidd allweddol diweddaraf a gyhoeddwyd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dangos mai nifer y busnesau a oedd wedi cofrestru ar gyfer TAW oedd 76,300 yn y flwyddyn lawn ddiwethaf—gostyngiad o 700 o'i gymharu â'r flwyddyn cynt, sy'n ostyngiad pellach o'i gymharu â'r flwyddyn cyn hynny. Dyna'r hyn y mae'r Llywodraeth Lafur yn ei wneud dros Gymru a thros orllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd.

Peter Law: A ydych yn derbyn na allwch gyffredinoli fel hyn? Mewn cymunedau allgaeedig sydd o dan bwysau fel yr un yr wyf fi'n hanu ohoni, mae Amcan 1 yn cael effaith aruthrol, diolch i gymorth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a gwaith da'r bartneriaeth leol: gwneir defnydd o filiynau o bunnoedd. Mae'r gwasanaeth rheilffordd i deithwyr yn cael ei adfer ar ôl 45 mlynedd,

contribution, after 45 years. That is positive, that is Objective 1, that is Labour in action.

Alun Cairns: It smacks of desperation when Assembly Members have to pick up on individual projects, when GDP per capita is deteriorating. It is not only deteriorating when Wales is compared to the rest of the United Kingdom, it is deteriorating, and this is the most worrying fact, when west Wales and the Valleys—including Blaenau Gwent, the constituency that you represent, Peter—is compared with the eastern, more prosperous parts of Wales. That is what you should be underlining, instead of supporting the fudge that is the First Minister's stance on this.

The most telling statement that I have heard in this debate was made when I asked the First Minister when he would like the European Commission to accept the data on the NUTS-2 GDP. His answer was an absolute disgrace. He came out with excuses such as that we are the only Objective 1 area that has large urban and large rural parts, and that we have had foot and mouth disease and tourism has been affected as a result—that seemed to be the excuse for why GDP in west Wales and the Valleys has declined. This is not good enough, First Minister. We expect you to bat for Wales and for the Assembly.

The First Minister: What I said was that Cornwall is down a long way, south Yorkshire has improved, Merseyside has improved, and the highlands and islands region is back down to Objective 1 status. Wales is somewhere in the middle. When you look for explanations, you see that our performance is half way between that of the rural Objective 1 areas, which have really bombed—the highlands and islands and Cornwall—and that of the urban Objective 1 areas, which have improved. We are in between. It is notable that Wales is similar to both south Yorkshire and to Cornwall. That is the point that I was making.

4.30 p.m.

Alun Cairns: The most telling element of

diolch i gyfraniad o £8 miliwn gan Amcan 1. Peth cadarnhaol yw hynny, Amcan 1 yw hynny, Llafur yn gweithredu yw hynny.

Alun Cairns: Arwydd o anobaith yw bod Aelodau o'r Cynulliad yn gorfod cyfeirio at brosiectau penodol, pan yw'r CMC y pen yn dirywio. Mae'n dirywio o gymharu Cymru â gweddill y Deyrnas Unedig, ac mae hefyd yn dirywio, a hon yw'r ffaith sy'n peri'r gofid mwyaf, o gymharu gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd—gan gynnwys Blaenau Gwent, yr etholaeth yr ydych chi'n ei chynrychioli, Peter—â'r rhannau dwyreiniol a mwy ffyniannus o Gymru. Dylech dynnu sylw at hynny, yn hytrach na chefnogi safbwynt bwngleraid y Prif Weinidog ar hyn.

Gwnaed y datganiad mwyaf trawiadol a glywais yn y ddadl hon pan ofynnais i'r Prif Weinidog pa bryd y carai i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd gael y data ar CMC y rhanbarth NUTS-2. Yr oedd ei ateb yn gwbl gywilyddus. Cynigiodd esgusion i'r perwyl mai ein hardal Amcan 1 ni yw'r unig un sydd â rhannau trefol mawr a rhannau gwledig mawr, er enghraifft, a'n bod wedi cael clwy'r traed a'r genau a bod hynny wedi effeithio ar dwristiaeth—yr oedd yn ymddangos mai hwnnw oedd yr esgus dros ddirywiad y CMC yng ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd. Nid yw hynny'n ddigon da, Brif Weinidog. Yr ydym yn disgwyl ichi sefyll dros Gymru a thros y Cynulliad.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr hyn a ddywedais oedd bod Chernyw'n isel iawn, bod de swydd Efrog wedi gwella, bod Glannau Mersi wedi gwella, a bod rhanbarth ucheldiroedd ac ynysoedd yr Alban wedi disgyn eto i statws Amcan 1. Mae Cymru rywle yn y canol. Pan chwiliwch am eglurhad, gwelwch fod ein perfformiad hanner ffordd rhwng yr hyn a geir yn yr ardaloedd Amcan 1 gwledig, sydd wedi methu—ucheldiroedd ac ynysoedd yr Alban a Chernyw—a'r hyn a geir mewn ardaloedd Amcan 1 trefol, sydd wedi gwella. Yr ydym ni yn y canol. Mae'n drawiadol bod Cymru'n debyg i dde swydd Efrog ac i Gernyw. Dyna oedd y pwynt yr oeddwn yn ceisio'i wneud.

Alun Cairns: Yr elfen fwyaf trawiadol yn

your statement was the way in which you highlighted the fact that some Objective 1 areas have improved. The reality is that Objective 1 in west Wales and the Valleys has failed under your administration. We should not forget that the First Minister, as the Minister responsible for economic development at the time, set up the Objective 1 structures. The mid-term review criticised the complications that existed. The First Minister formed the Welsh European Funding Office, which was critical, and the Assembly Government took desperate measures to snatch it back under its control because of the shambolic situation that was created under the structures formed by the First Minister. What is his position on this? Wales needs guarantees. We know that the final decision will be made by the Council of Ministers, but Wales needs guarantees either from Brussels or from the Westminster Government. Are you fighting our corner to get that guarantee? Given your responses today, it is quite obvious that you are not.

Mick Bates: I will bring a rural Wales perspective to this important debate on the third EC cohesion report. The Salzburg declaration on coherence and cohesion is a backdrop to this and to rural policy-making. The report shows that LEADER+ is to be absorbed into the common agricultural policy, which will have a crucial impact on some of the issues that Members have mentioned today, including the innovative and bottom-up approach that this programme has brought to development throughout rural Wales. The loss of the LEADER fund must be addressed. Currently, there is tremendous capacity in Wales, and work linked with LEADER has produced a great surge of regeneration throughout the country. In my constituency, we built capacity in the community using LEADER+ funding, from which we then developed a vibrant farmers' co-operative. If the funding is to be ploughed into the CAP, it ignores other rural stakeholders.

We should note some of the First Minister's comments about the comparison between different Objective 1 regions in Britain and the role that the LEADER programme has

eich datganiad oedd y modd yr oeddech wedi tynnu sylw at y ffaith bod rhai ardaloedd Amcan 1 wedi gwella. Y gwir yw bod Amcan 1 yng ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd wedi methu o dan eich gweinyddiaeth chi. Ni ddylem anghofio mai'r Prif Weinidog, fel y Gweinidog a oedd yn gyfrifol am ddatblygu economaidd ar y pryd, a sefydlodd y trefniadau ar gyfer Amcan 1. Cafwyd beirniadaeth yn yr adolygiad canol tymor o'r trafferion a geid. Y Prif Weinidog a ffurfiodd Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru, a oedd yn gam tyngedfennol, a chymerodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fesurau eithafol i'w chipio'n ôl a'i rhoi o dan ei rheolaeth oherwydd y llanastr a grëwyd o dan y trefniadau a ffurfiwyd gan y Prif Weinidog. Beth yw ei farn ef am hyn? Mae ar Gymru angen sicrwydd. Gwyddom mai Cyngor y Gweinidogion a wnaiff y penderfyniad terfynol, ond mae ar Gymru angen sicrwydd un ai gan Frwsel neu gan Lywodraeth San Steffan. A ydych yn ymladd drosom i gael y sicrwydd hwnnw? O glywed eich atebion heddiw, mae'n gwbl amlwg nad ydych.

Mick Bates: Edrychaf o safbwynt Cymru wledig ar y ddadl bwysig hon ar drydydd adroddiad cydlyniant y CE. Y datganiad yn Salzburg ar gysondeb a chydlyniant yw un cyd-destun i hyn ac i'r gwaith o lunio polisi gwledig. Dengys yr adroddiad fod LEADER+ i gael ei lyncu gan y polisi amaethyddol cyffredin, a chaiff hynny effaith dyngedfennol ar rai o'r materion y mae Aelodau wedi sôn amdanynt heddiw, gan gynnwys y dull gweithredu arloesol, o'r gwaelod i fyny, y mae'r rhaglen hon wedi'i ddwyn i ddatblygu ledled Cymru wledig. Rhaid ymdrin â cholli cronfa LEADER. Ar hyn o bryd, ceir capasiti aruthrol yng Nghymru, ac mae gwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â LEADER wedi peri cynnydd mawr o ran adfywio ledled y wlad. Yn fy etholaeth i, gwnaethom greu capasiti yn y gymuned drwy ddefnyddio cyllid LEADER+, a thrwy hynny yr ydym wedi datblygu busnes ffermwyr cydweithredol ffyniannus. Os rhoddir cyllid yn y PAC, bydd hynny'n peri anwybyddu rhanddeiliaid gwledig eraill.

Dylem nodi rhai o sylwadau'r Prif Weinidog am y gymhariaeth rhwng gwahanol ranbarthau Amcan 1 ym Mhrydain a'r rôl y mae rhaglen LEADER wedi'i chwarae ledled

played throughout Wales. If we lose the capacity that has been built in our communities, we will lose a great deal of the entrepreneurial spirit that this important scheme has built in Wales. We hear a great deal about enterprise and entrepreneurship, which is best developed from the bottom up. If we lose the LEADER programme, we will lose the best scheme that we have seen to encourage businesses in our communities to expand. Funding will change to work from the top down and become a bureaucratic burden and people will no longer be able to benefit effectively from European structural funding.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Efallai ei bod yn amserol i mi eich atgoffa mai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a gyflwynodd y ddadl hon. Pan fo'r Llywodraeth yn cyflwyno dadl, byddai'n rhesymol disgwyl iddi esbonio ei safbwynt ar y mater dan sylw. Fodd bynnag, dywedwyd y byddai'n rhaid inni aros i weld beth fydd barn y Prif Weinidog. Mae hynny'n rhyfedd, gan ei fod ef a'r Aelodau Llafur eraill a gyfrannodd at y ddadl hon wedi dadlau pa mor bwysig i Gymru y bu'r cronfeydd strwythurol yn ystod y pedair blynedd diwethaf a pha mor bwysig y byddant dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Maent wedi ceisio ein argyhoeddi iddynt ddefnyddio'r cronfeydd strwythurol hyn yn llwyddiannus. Os mai dyna yw dadl y Llywodraeth, onid yw'n rhesymol ac yn rhesymegol disgwyl iddi ymladd i sicrhau bod y cronfeydd strwythurol hynny yn parhau? Beth bynnag fo'r dadleuon ariannol, mae'n weddol glir bod y cyllid a gynigir gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn llawer iawn sicrach na'r hyn y gall San Steffan neu'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant ei gynnig, gan mai dim ond hyd yr etholiad nesaf y gall y DTI warantu unrhyw addewid etholiadol. Byddai'n rhaid ichi ragdybio o lle y deuai'r gweddill.

Fodd bynnag, hyd yn oed pe baech yn gallu dadlau y byddai'r un budd ariannol yn dod i Gymru, onid ydych, Brif Weinidog, mewn difrif calon yn credu, os yw Cymru am fod yn rhan o Ewrop, fod yn rhaid iddi fod yn ganolog ac yn rhan weithredol o Ewrop? Oni fyddai optio allan o dderbyn cronfeydd strwythurol yn rhoi inni lai o ran yn Ewrop nag sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd?

Cymru. Os collwn y capasiti a grëwyd yn ein cymunedau, collwn lawer iawn o'r ysbryd entrepreneuriaidd y mae'r cynllun pwysig hwn wedi'i greu yng Nghymru. Clywn lawer iawn am fenter ac entrepreneuriaeth, a'r modd gorau i'w datblygu yw o'r gwaelod i fyny. Os collwn raglen LEADER, collwn y cynllun gorau a welsom i gymell busnesau yn ein cymunedau i ehangu. Ceir newid fel bod y cyllido'n digwydd o'r top i'r gwaelod a daw'n faich biwrocraidaidd ac ni fydd pobl yn gallu manteisio'n effeithiol wedyn ar gyllid strwythurol Ewropeaidd.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: It may be timely for me to remind you that this debate was tabled by the Welsh Assembly Government. When the Government tables a debate, it would be reasonable to expect it to explain its standpoint on the issue being debated. However, we have been told that we must wait to see what the First Minister's standpoint will be. That is strange, because he and the other Labour Members who have contributed to this debate have argued how important structural funds have been to Wales during the past four years and how important they will be over the next three years. They have tried to persuade us that they have successfully used these structural funds. If that is the Government's argument, is it not reasonable to expect it to fight to ensure that those structural funds continue? Whatever the financial arguments may be, it is quite clear that the funding offered by the European Commission comes with much more of a guarantee than anything that Westminster or the Department of Trade and Industry can offer, because the DTI can only guarantee any electoral promise until the next election. You would have to guess where the rest would come from.

However, even if you could argue that Wales would receive the same financial benefit, do you not, in all seriousness, First Minister, believe that if Wales is to be part of Europe, we must take a central and active role in Europe? Would not opting out of the structural fund programmes give us less of a voice in Europe than we have at present?

Ynglŷn â chyfraniad gwladwriaeth Prydain at arian Ewropeaidd, a ydych yn barod i ddweud, Brif Weindiog, y byddai cwtdogi'r cyfraniad hwnnw i 1 y cant yn drasiedi ac yn annerbyniol, ac y byddai'n effeithio'n andwyol ar Gymru a rhanbarthau eraill ym Mhrydain? A ydych yn barod i ddatgan y byddwch yn ymladd hyd eithaf eich gallu i sicrhau na chaiff y cyfraniad ei gwtogi i 1 y cant?

A wnewch chi dderbyn, o ran y feirniadaeth o'r modd y defnyddiwyd cronfeydd strwythurol yn y wlad hon, nad yw'r gwrthbleidiau yn dweud nad oes lle i'r diwydiant gwasanaethau yng Nghymru? Mae lle i gwmnïau sy'n cynnig gwasanaethau, ond rhaid cael cydbwysedd yn yr economi. Mae'r feirniadaeth yn hyn o beth yn sôn am y ffaith bod yr economi gyfan yn gwyrto tuag at y diwydiant hwn, a sylwedyddion annibynnol, nid y gwrthbleidiau, a wnaeth y pwynt hwn yn gyson. A ydych yn berffraith hapus â'r modd y defnyddir cronfeydd strwythurol, neu a ydych yn pryderu am y gorbwyslais ar y diwydiant gwasanaethau?

Y Prif Weindiog: Atebaf un o'ch cwestiynau gan nad oes gennyf ddigon o amser i ateb y cwbl. Credaf imi ei gwneud yn gwbl glir nad wyf yn disgwyl i'r cyfraniad fod yn 1 y cant. Mae'n hollol resymol iddo fod yn 1 y cant cyhyd â bod hynny yn dod o ganlyniad i gwtogi'r arian ar gyfer y PAC. Os yw'r arian ar gyfer y PAC yn parhau'n sylweddol, anodd fyddai cynnal terfyn o 1 y cant o gyfartaledd CMC y pen y Gymuned Ewropeaidd.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A ydych yn derbyn mai'r math hwnnw o ateb sy'n gwneud i'r gwrthbleidiau bryderu am y ffordd yr ydych yn dewis ymwneud â'r mater hollbwysig hwn? Yr ydym yn sôn am rywbeth sydd, yn ôl yr hyn a ddywedwch chi a'ch plaid, yn hanfodol i Gymru ac o werth mawr iddi. Eto i gyd, pan ofynnir cwestiwn sylfaenol am leihau cyfraniad Prydain at gronfeydd Ewrop, yr hyn a ddywedwch mewn gwirionedd yw nad ydych yn disgwyl i hynny ddigwydd. Gan eich bod yn eistedd yn ôl ac yn dweud nad ydych yn disgwyl iddo ddigwydd, beth a ddywedech pe bai hynny yn digwydd, Brif

In terms of the British state's contribution to European funds, are you prepared to say, First Minister, that reducing this contribution to 1 per cent would be a tragedy, unacceptable and would have a detrimental effect on Wales and other regions of Britain? Are you prepared to say that you will fight tooth and nail to ensure that the contribution is not reduced to 1 per cent?

In terms of the criticism of how structural funds have been used in this country, will you acknowledge that the opposition parties have not said that there is no place for the service sector in Wales? Service industries have their place, but we must have a balanced economy. The criticism was of the fact that the economy as a whole is being skewed towards this sector, and independent commentators, not opposition parties, have consistently made this point. Are you completely happy with the way in which structural funds are being used, or are you concerned about the overemphasis on the service industries?

The First Minister: I will answer one of your questions, as I do not have enough time to deal with all of them. I believe that I stated clearly that I do not expect the contribution to be 1 per cent. It is perfectly reasonable for it to stand at 1 per cent, provided that this comes as a result of reducing the CAP allocation. However, if the CAP allocation continues to be substantial, maintaining a ceiling of 1 per cent of the European Community's average GDP per capita would prove difficult.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will you accept that that is the kind of answer that gives rise to concern among the opposition parties about the way in which you are dealing with this crucial issue? We are talking about something that you and your party have claimed to be crucial and of great benefit to Wales. Nevertheless, when asked a fundamental question about reducing Britain's contribution to structural funds, you said that you do not expect this to happen. Given that you are just sitting back and saying that you do not expect it to happen, what would you say if it were to happen, First

Weinidog? Yn yr un modd, yr ydych yn sôn am Gymru yn cael dêl dda o Ewrop neu o'r DTI ac yn dweud y byddwch yn eistedd yn ôl ac yn derbyn y ddêl olaf sy'n digwydd cwmpo yn eich côl. Onid ydych yn credu bod pobl Cymru yn disgwyl i Brif Weinidog Cymru sefyll dros eu buddiannau a dadlau eu hachos? Os nad yw Prif Weinidog Cymru na Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu gwneud hynny, pwy wnaiff? Oni fydd pobl Cymru yn gofyn, os nad oes gan Brif Weinidog Cymru ddigon o ddiddordeb yn y mater hollbwysig hwn, os nad yw'n barod i ddatgan ei farn yn glir, ac os mai dyna'r math o Lywodraeth, o Brif Weinidog ac o arweiniad gwleidyddol sydd gennym, pa werth mewn datganoli?

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): It is a pity that contributions made by opposition Members have featured a lack of understanding of the issues. We all know that structural funds are complex, but they are clearly too complex for opposition Members to comprehend. There are some basic facts to bear in mind.

Alun Cairns and Rhodri Glyn Thomas
rose—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Are you giving way, Andrew?

Andrew Davies: No, I am not.
[Interruption.]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order.

4.40 p.m.

Andrew Davies: I remind opposition Members that at this stage of the negotiations, which are summed up in the cohesion report, there is no money on the table. The commission has proposed that €336 billion should be made available for structural cohesion funds from 2007. More broadly, the commission wants an EU budget at an average level of 1.14 per cent of EU gross national income with a ceiling on expenditure of around 1.26 per cent of EU gross national income.

At least six of the current 15 member states

Minister? Similarly, you referred to Wales securing a good deal from Europe or from the DTI and said that you would sit back and accept the last offer that happens to fall into your lap. Do you not think that the people of Wales expect the First Minister of Wales to defend their interests and argue their case? If the First Minister of Wales and the Government of Wales do not intend to do this, who will? Will not the people of Wales ask, if the First Minister of Wales does not show sufficient interest in this crucial issue, if he is not prepared to state his opinion unequivocally, and if this is the kind of Government, First Minister and political leadership we have in Wales, what use is devolution?

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Mae'n drueni bod cyfraniadau gan Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau wedi amlygu diffyg dealltwriaeth o'r materion dan sylw. Yr ydym oll yn gwybod bod cronfeydd strwythurol yn astrus, ond mae'n amlwg eu bod yn rhy astrus i'w deall gan Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau. Mae rhai ffeithiau sylfaenol y dylid eu cofio.

Alun Cairns a Rhodri Glyn Thomas a
godasant—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A ydych yn ildio, Andrew?

Andrew Davies: Nac ydwyf. *[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn atgoffa Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau nad oes unrhyw arian wedi'i gynnig ar yr adeg hon yn y negodiadau, y ceir crynodeb ohonynt yn yr adroddiad cydlyniant. Mae'r comisiwn wedi cynnig y dylid darparu €336 biliwn ar gyfer cronfeydd cydlyniant strwythurol o 2007. Yn fwy cyffredinol, mae'r comisiwn am gael cyllideb i'r UE sydd ar lefel gyfartalog o 1.14 y cant o incwm gwladol crynswth yr UE gyda therfyn uchaf ar wariant o tua 1.26 y cant o incwm gwladol crynswth yr UE.

Mae o leiaf chwech o'r 15 aelod wladwriaeth

do not want a budget at this level; they want it to be more like 1 per cent. Some of those six are, nonetheless, keen to maximise their own structural fund receipts within a policy that reaches all corners of the EU. This presents an obvious problem of how you maximise one policy within a constrained overall budget, particularly when you consider that high levels of spending on the common agricultural policy are already guaranteed whatever the final budget decision. Meanwhile, the UK Government has given us a guarantee that we would not lose out in the UK's proposals on structural fund reforms, if they are implemented. I remind the sceptics that the UK Treasury has been supportive by providing a Barnett plus settlement for the existing Objective 1 programme of almost £0.5 billion for the current three-year spending review period.

Janet Davies: Will that be guaranteed for seven years?

Andrew Davies: We are in discussions with the Treasury on the frame of that offer, but we have stood by that Treasury guarantee. It is a complex issue. To use Mike German's analogy of a poker game, we are dealing with negotiations, and what the EU offers—which it accepts itself—is very much a first bid. This is a complex negotiating process, which involves the member states, the EC and, of course, countries and regions such as Wales and many others. It is a complex negotiating process and we are very much at the early stages.

It is a travesty to say that this is simply a situation of the UK Government versus the rest of the EU. It is far less—

Alun Cairns: Will you give way?

Andrew Davies: No, my time is limited.

This negotiating position is far less black and white than some AMs would have it, which is why the Assembly Government is taking a

bresennol nad ydynt am gael cyllideb ar y lefel hon; maent am ei gweld yn agosach i 1 y cant. Er hynny, mae rhai o'r chwech hynny'n awyddus i gael y mwyaf posibl o'r cronfeydd strwythurol o dan bolisi sy'n cyrraedd pob cwr o'r UE. Mae hyn yn codi problem amlwg o ran y modd y gellir gwneud yn fawr o un polisi o fewn cyllideb gyffredinol gyfyngedig, yn enwedig o ystyried bod lefelau uchel o wariant ar y polisi amaethyddol cyffredin wedi'u gwarantu eisoes, beth bynnag fydd y penderfyniad terfynol ar y gyllideb. Yn y cyfamser, mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi rhoi sicrwydd i ni na fyddem ar ein colled o dan gynigion y DU ar ddiwygio'r cronfeydd strwythurol, os cânt eu gweithredu. Yr wyf yn atgoffa'r amheuwyr bod Trysorlys y DU wedi bod yn gefnogol drwy roi setliad sy'n ychwanegol at floc Barnett ar gyfer y rhaglen Amcan 1 bresennol o ymron £0.5 biliwn ar gyfer cyfnod tair blynedd yr adolygiad o wariant a geir ar hyn o bryd.

Janet Davies: A warentir hynny am saith mlynedd?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym mewn trafodaethau â'r Trysorlys ynghylch yr amserlen ar gyfer y cynnig hwnnw, ond yr ydym wedi derbyn y warant honno gan y Trysorlys. Mae'n fater cymhleth. A defnyddio'r gymhariaeth a wnaeth Mike German â gêm pocer, yr ydym yn delio â negodiadau, ac mae'r hyn y mae'r UE yn ei gynnig—ac mae'n derbyn hyn ei hun—yn gynnig cyntaf yn fwy na dim. Proses negodi gymhleth yw hon, ac mae'n cynnwys yr aelod wladwriaethau, y CE ac, wrth gwrs, gwledydd a rhanbarthau fel Cymru a llawer un arall. Proses negodi gymhleth ydyw ac newydd ddechrau y mae.

Camliwio yw dweud nad yw ond yn sefyllfa lle y mae Llywodraeth y DU yn erbyn gweddill yr UE. Mae'n llawer llai—

Alun Cairns: A wnewch ildio?

Andrew Davies: Na wna, ychydig o amser sydd gennyf.

Mae'r safbwynt negodi hwn yn llawer llai pegynol nag y carai rhai ACau gredu, a dyna pam y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn

hard look at the overall picture. We have to take time to weigh up the merits of the EU's position as well as the UK's position. However, we must also consider where other member states and regions are coming from and try to understand what the final picture would look like. The negotiations will be complex, and if we do not consider the options and negotiate intelligently, we are unlikely to get the best deal for Wales.

We understand that the structural funds are not just about money, but also about innovation and partnership. There is no question in my mind that Wales is making good use of its current structural funds, which the commission recognises.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to you for giving way. I appreciate that this is a complicated issue, but would you be kind enough to help me? West Wales and the Valleys' GDP per capita was 73 per cent of the European average; it is now 69.6 per cent. Is that good or bad?

Andrew Davies: You keep referring to these relative GDP per capita figures, but what you do not point out is that they are historical figures that relate to 2001.

You must bear in mind that, over the last two years, there has been sustained and strong employment and earnings growth. The earnings growth has increased faster over the last year in Objective 1 areas than in other parts of Wales. If you take out London and the south-east of England—which distort the overall UK position—from the UK's figures, then earnings growth in Wales has exceeded that of the UK. That is a record of success and EU structural fund programmes have made a leading contribution to that success.

Across all the structural fund programmes, £838 million has been committed to 1,800 projects. For the Objective 1 programme, approved projects have reported the creation and safeguarding of over 57,500 gross direct and indirect jobs. We have also met the challenging N+2 or decommitment targets for 2003.

edrych yn fanwl ar y darlun cyfan. Rhaid inni gymryd amser i bwyso a mesur rhinweddau safbwynt yr UE yn ogystal â safbwynt y DU. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni hefyd ystyried safbwynt aelod wladwriaethau a rhanbarthau eraill a cheisio rhagweld y sefyllfa derfynol. Bydd y negodiadau'n rhai cymhleth, ac os nad ystyriwn y dewisiadau a negodi'n ddeallus, yr ydym yn annhebygol o gael y fargen orau i Gymru.

Yr ydym yn deall bod y cronfeydd strwythurol yn ymwneud â mwy nag arian, a'u bod yn ymwneud hefyd ag arloesi a phartneriaeth. Nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth gennyf nad yw Cymru'n gwneud defnydd da o'i chronfeydd strwythurol presennol, ac mae'r comisiwn yn cydnabod hynny.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i chi am ildio. Yr wyf yn sylweddoli mai mater cymhleth yw hwn, ond a fydddech crystal â'm helpu? Yr oedd y CMC y pen yng ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn 73 y cant o'r cyfartaledd Ewropeaidd; mae bellach yn 69.6 y cant. Ai peth da neu beth drwg yw hynny?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydych yn cyfeirio o hyd at y ffigurau hynny sy'n cymharu'r CMC y pen, ond yr hyn na nodwch yw mai ffigurau hanesyddol ydynt sy'n ymwneud â 2001.

Rhaid ichi gofio bod twf cryf a chyson wedi bod mewn cyflogaeth ac enillion dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf. Bu mwy o gynnydd mewn enillion dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf mewn ardaloedd Amcan 1 nag mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru. Os tynnir Llundain a de-ddwyrain Lloegr—sy'n ystumio'r sefyllfa gyffredinol yn y DU—o'r ffigurau ar gyfer y DU, gwelir bod enillion wedi cynyddu'n fwy yng Nghymru nag yn y DU. Record o lwyddiant yw hynny ac mae rhaglenni cronfeydd strwythurol yr UE wedi cyfrannu'n fawr at y llwyddiant hwnnw.

Yn holl raglenni'r cronfeydd strwythurol, mae £838 miliwn wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer 1,800 o brosiectau. Yn rhaglen Amcan 1, mae'r prosiectau a gymeradwywyd wedi adrodd bod nifer crynswth o fwy na 57,500 o swyddi wedi'u creu a'u diogelu'n uniongyrchol ac yn anuniongyrchol. Yr ydym hefyd wedi cyrraedd y targedau ymestynnol ar gyfer N+2 neu ddadymrwymo ar gyfer

2003.

Peter Black *rose*—**Andrew Davies:** I will give way in a minute.**The Deputy Presiding Officer:** No, you do not have a minute, Andrew. You have 10 seconds.**Andrew Davies:** We have met the challenging N+2 targets for 2003, and due to the excellent progress of the programmes, we have received an extra £65 million as part of the performance reserve for the second half of the programme. Whether it is Objective 1, or the reclaim of grants from LG Philips of £34 million, this Government will continue to fight for Wales and will continue to get the best deal for Wales.**Peter Black** *a gododd*—**Andrew Davies:** Ildiaf mewn munud.**Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Na wnewch, nid oes gennyh funud, Andrew. Mae gennyh 10 eiliad.**Andrew Davies:** Yr ydym wedi cyrraedd targedau ymestynnol N+2 ar gyfer 2003, ac oherwydd y cynnydd rhagorol a wnaed ar y rhaglenni, cawsom £65 miliwn yn ychwanegol fel rhan o'r arian wrth gefn tuag at berfformiad ar gyfer ail hanner y rhaglen. Boed yn Amcan 1, neu adennill grantiau o £34 miliwn oddi wrth LG Philips, bydd y Llywodraeth hon yn dal i ymladd dros Gymru ac yn parhau i gael y fargen orau i Gymru.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 37.
Amendment 1: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 37.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
German, Michael
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
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
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne

Pugh, Alun
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 16, Ymatal 9, Yn erbyn 28.
Amendment 2: For 16, Abstain 9, Against 28.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
German, Michael
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

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
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 3: O blaid 16, Ymatal 9, Yn erbyn 28.
Amendment 3: For 16, Abstain 9, Against 28.*

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

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 German, Michael
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
 The following Members abstained:

Bourne, Nick
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Francis, Lisa
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Melding, David

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 4: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 28.
 Amendment 4: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 28.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Alun Ffred

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
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hutt, Jane

Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 5: O blaid 26, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 28.
 Amendment 5: For 26, Abstain 0, Against 28.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

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
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 6: O blaid 26, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 28.
 Amendment 6: For 26, Abstain 0, Against 28.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
 The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Butler, Rosemary

Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

4.50 p.m.

*Gwelliant 7: O blaid 15, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 38.
 Amendment 7: For 15, Abstain 0, Against 38.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 German, Michael
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
 The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bourne, Nick
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Francis, Lisa
 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
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw

Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Brynle

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 8: O blaid 15, Ymatal 10, Yn erbyn 28.
Amendment 8: For 15, Abstain 10, Against 28.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

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
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Williams, Brynle

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig (NDM1932): O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 10.
Motion (NDM1932): For 44, Abstain 0, Against 10.*

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

Davies, Andrew
Sinclair, Karen
Morgan, Rhodri
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
German, Michael
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Davidson, Jane
Jones, Carwyn
Essex, Sue
Hutt, Jane
Davies, Jocelyn
Randerson, Jenny
Burnham, Eleanor
Law, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Gregory, Janice
Gwyther, Christine
Jones, Ann
Griffiths, John
Gibbons, Brian
Lewis, Huw
Wood, Leanne
Davies, Janet
Black, Peter
Williams, Kirsty
James, Irene
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Barrett, Lorraine
Lloyd, Val
Andrews, Leighton
Cuthbert, Jeff
Idris Jones, Denise
Chapman, Christine
Ryder, Janet
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Bates, Mick
Mewies, Sandy
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Lloyd, David
Thomas, Owen John

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

**Dadl Plaid Leiafrifol (Plaid Cymru)
Minority Party Debate (Plaid Cymru)**

**Llywodraeth Leol
Local Government**

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies, amendment 2 in the name of Karen Sinclair and amendment 3 in the name of Kirsty Williams.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies, gwelliant 2 yn enw Karen Sinclair a gwelliant 3 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

David Lloyd: I propose that

David Lloyd: Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales recognises the difficulty faced by local government in implementing any new Assembly initiatives when they are not fully funded. (NDM1934)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cydnabod yr anawsterau y mae llywodraeth leol yn eu hwynebu wrth weithredu unrhyw fentrau newydd gan y Cynulliad os nad ydynt wedi'u hariannu yn llawn. (NDM1934)

I also propose amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Delete all after ‘*the National Assembly for Wales*’ and replace with:

Cynigiau hefyd welliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Dileu popeth ar ôl ‘*Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru*’ ac yn ei le rhoi:

instructs the Government to ensure that new Assembly initiatives and responsibilities are fully funded before passing them on to local government.

yn cyfarwyddo'r Llywodraeth i sicrhau bod mentrau a chyfrifoldebau newydd y Cynulliad yn cael eu hariannu'n llawn cyn eu trosglwyddo i lywodraeth leol.

Today's debate is about the financial pressures that descend on local government when the Welsh Assembly Government decides to announce its latest initiative. The motion seeks to ensure that all new Assembly initiatives and responsibilities are fully funded before they are passed on to local government.

Mae'r ddadl heddiw'n ymwneud â'r pwysau ariannol sy'n dod i ran llywodraeth leol pan fo Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n penderfynu cyhoeddi ei menter ddiweddaraf. Mae'r cynnig yn ceisio sicrhau y caiff holl fentrau a chyfrifoldebau newydd y Cynulliad eu hariannu'n llawn cyn eu trosglwyddo i lywodraeth leol.

Regular followers of my political career will know that, come next month, I will have been a councillor for the City and County of Swansea Council for the last six years. That time in Swansea's main council chamber has been punctuated by some interesting experiences. I recall the ruling Labour cabinet in Swansea regaling me, as an Assembly Member, as well as Peter Black, with the obvious funding pressures brought about by the lack of full funding for WAG initiatives. The Government here expects local government to bail it out, as local government can at least raise some additional moneys itself by increasing council tax—an ability that is denied to the Assembly. I recall carping by Labour in Swansea about the full

Bydd y rhai sy'n dilyn hynt fy ngyrfa wleidyddol yn gwybod y byddaf, erbyn y mis nesaf, wedi bod yn gynghorydd ar Gyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe er chwe blynedd. Cafwyd rhai profiadau diddorol o bryd i'w gilydd yn ystod yr amser hwnnw ym mhrif siambr cyngor Abertawe. Cofiaf y cabinet Llafur a oedd mewn grym yn Abertawe'n fy nifyrru, a minnau'n Aelod o'r Cynulliad, yn ogystal â Peter Black, wrth sôn am y pwysau amlwg a oedd ar adnoddau am nad oedd mentrau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi'u hariannu'n llawn. Mae'r Llywodraeth yma'n disgwyl i lywodraeth leol achub ei chroen, gan fod modd i lywodraeth leol o leiaf godi rhywfaint o arian ychwanegol ei hun drwy gynyddu'r dreth gyngor—gallu a

cost of implementing free bus passes, teachers' threshold payments, the teachers' workload agreement and, doubtless, shortly there will be carping about the full cost of providing free school breakfasts. The significant costs of sometimes popular WAG initiatives fall on local government, and it is not a happy bunny. All the talk of partnership between the National Assembly and local government is undermined at a stroke when we come to talk about the sharp end of funding.

Doubtless, Labour Members will tell us that this is not the case, that I have got it wrong, and that I just do not understand the situation. In that case, they should kindly also inform the controlling Labour group in Swansea of that. As a local councillor, I am well aware of the pressures on councils and the concerns of the average voter: rubbish, pot holes, vandalism and dog fouling—budgets for which very issues must be raided each time that there is an underfunded WAG initiative. I know that some money follows in subsequent years, but the budgets have already been raided by then, and officer time spent on initiatives is not funded.

Despite all these funding pressures on local authorities, there are several examples of well-run county councils in Wales. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council was recently voted the most improved council in Wales and the second most improved council in the whole of the United Kingdom.

Leighton Andrews *rose—*

David Lloyd: I welcome some endorsement from the local Assembly Member.

Leighton Andrews: I notice that neither today nor on previous occasions have you declared that the Plaid Cymru-run Rhondda Cynon Taf council nominated itself to be the most improved council in Wales. I have a letter from the *Local Government Chronicle*

wrthodir i'r Cynulliad. Cofiaf gwyno gan Lafur yn Abertawe am y gost lawn o weithredu'r cynllun tocynnau bws am ddim, taliadau trothwy'r athrawon a chytundeb llwyth gwaith athrawon, ac mae'n siŵr y ceir cwyno cyn hir am yr holl gost o ddarparu brecwastau am ddim mewn ysgolion. Mae'r costau sylweddol a geir yn sgîl mentrau'r WAG, y mae rhai ohonynt yn boblogaidd, yn cael eu dwyn gan lywodraeth leol, ac mae ymhell o fod yn hapus am hynny. Mae'r holl sôn am bartneriaeth rhwng y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a llywodraeth leol yn cael ei danseilio ar amrantiad pan ddeuir i sôn am ariannu yn y pen blaen.

Yn ddiâu, bydd Aelodau Llafur yn dweud wrthym nad felly y mae, fy mod yn camgymryd, ac nad wyf yn deall y sefyllfa. Os felly, dylent fod cystal â hysbysu'r grŵp Llafur sy'n rheoli yn Abertawe am hynny hefyd. A minnau'n gynghorydd lleol, gwn yn iawn am y pwysau sydd ar gynghorau a phryderon yr etholwr cyffredin: ysbwriel, tyllau yn y ffyrdd, fandaliaeth a baeddu gan gŵn—a chyllidebau ar gyfer yr union bethau hynny y mae'n rhaid eu hysbeilio bob tro y caiff menter o eiddo'r WAG ei thanariannu. Gwn fod rhywfaint o arian yn dilyn mewn blynyddoedd dilynol, ond mae'r cyllidebau wedi'u hysbeilio eisoes erbyn hynny, ac nid yw'r amser y mae swyddogion yn ei dreulio ar fentrau'n cael ei ariannu.

Er gwaethaf yr holl bwysau hyn ar ariannu gan awdurdodau lleol, mae sawl enghraifft o gynghorau sir sy'n cael eu rhedeg yn dda yng Nghymru. Yn ddiweddar, daeth Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf yn gyntaf mewn pleidlais ar y cyngor sydd wedi gwella fwyaf yng Nghymru ac yn ail ar yr un sydd wedi gwella fwyaf drwy'r Deyrnas Unedig gyfan.

Leighton Andrews *a gododd—*

David Lloyd: Croesawaf gymeradwyaeth gan yr Aelod Cynulliad lleol.

Leighton Andrews: Sylwaf nad ydych wedi datgan heddiw nac ar achlysuron blaenorol mai cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf, sy'n cael ei redeg gan Blaid Cymru, a'i henwebodd ei hun fel y cyngor sydd wedi gwella fwyaf yng Nghymru. Mae gennyf lythyr o'r *Local*

that states:

'I confirm that RCT's application was self nominated'.

Is this not a case of them blowing their own trumpet? It will, however, blow up in their faces on 10 June.

David Lloyd: Am I to take that as a ringing endorsement of the council's achievements or not? It is the second most improved council in the whole of the United Kingdom, Leighton. As the local Assembly Member, you should stop your incredibly churlish behaviour. Plaid Cymru control has turned an ailing, failing council into a market leader in under five years. Caerphilly County Borough Council, similarly, achieves impressive delivery of services as well as pioneering delivery of broadband, closed circuit television and recycling services.

Jeff Cuthbert: Perhaps you would care to explain why, if Caerphilly County Borough Council is so poorly under-funded, it has £20 million in reserves, including £8 million in the housing revenue account, yet manages to spend over £200 per head less on children's education than neighbouring authorities.

David Lloyd: All the money in the housing reserves is fully committed. As the local Assembly Member, you really should check the detail with your council leader, Jeff, before you make ridiculous statements in Plenary.

Jocelyn Davies: You probably know that, when Labour ran Caerphilly, pupils' educational achievements were the worst. Now, Plaid Cymru has raised the standards there considerably. Jeff Cuthbert ought to be pleased that the council that serves the people whom he represents is serving them well.

Owen John Thomas *rose—*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Dai must reply to the last intervention before you can intervene.

Government Chronicle sy'n dweud:

Cadarnhaf mai cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf a gyflwynodd gais drosto'i hun.

Onid canu eu clodydd eu hunain yr oeddent wrth wneud hynny? Fodd bynnag, bydd hi wedi canu arnynt ar 10 Mehefin.

David Lloyd: A wyf i gymryd hynny fel cymeradwyaeth fyddarol i gyflawniadau'r cyngor neu beidio? Ef yw'r cyngor a fu'n ail orau am wella yn y Deyrnas Unedig gyfan, Leighton. A chithau'n Aelod Cynulliad dros yr ardal honno, dylech roi'r gorau i'r ymddygiad hynod sarrug hwn. Drwy reolaeth Plaid Cymru, mae'r cyngor hwn wedi troi o fod yn un gwael a diffygiol i fod ymysg y goreuon o fewn llai na phum mlynedd. Yn yr un modd, mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili'n llwyddo i ddarparu gwasanaethau rhagorol yn ogystal ag arloesi wrth ddarparu band eang, teledu cylch cyfyng a gwasanaethau ailgylchu.

Jeff Cuthbert: Efallai y gallech egluro, os yw Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili wedi'i danariannu i'r fath raddau, pam y mae ganddo £20 miliwn mewn cronfeydd wrth gefn, gan gynnwys £8 miliwn yn y cyfrif refeniw tai, ac yn llwyddo, er hynny, i wario dros £200 y pen yn llai ar addysg plant nag y mae awdurdodau cyfagos.

David Lloyd: Mae'r holl arian yn y cronfeydd tai wedi'i rwymo. A chithau'n Aelod Cynulliad dros yr ardal, dylech wirio'r manylion gydag arweinydd eich cyngor, Jeff, cyn gwneud datganiadau chwerthinllyd yn y Cyfarfod Llawn.

Jocelyn Davies: Mae'n debyg y gwyddoch mai ymysg y disgyblion hynny yr oedd y cyflawniadau addysgol gwaethaf pan oedd Llafur yn rhedeg Caerffili. Bellach, mae Plaid Cymru wedi codi'r safonau yno'n sylweddol. Dylai Jeff Cuthbert fod yn falch bod y cyngor sy'n gwasanaethau'r bobl y mae'n eu cynrychioli yn eu gwasanaethu'n dda.

Owen John Thomas *a gododd—*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Rhaid i Dai ymateb i'r ymyriad diwethaf cyn y cewch chi ymyrryd.

David Lloyd: I am grateful for that endorsement, Jocelyn, and I look forward to Jeff Cuthbert welcoming that vast improvement.

Jeff Cuthbert: I have to accept your request. However, on education, and I agree that it is crucial, can you explain why, according to the council's latest figures, the number of young people achieving grades A to C at GCSE has fallen, and the number of those leaving school without any qualifications has risen?

David Lloyd: This churlish refusal to acknowledge Plaid Cymru councils' success is beyond me. Stand up and acknowledge success for once. It would be remiss of me not to mention Gwynedd County Council, but I will not perpetuate such talk.

Peter Law *rose*—

David Lloyd: We are going to hear from Blaenau Gwent, on today of all days.

Peter Law: On today of all days so that we can, perhaps, lift the debate back up to the subject under debate. This debate is not about merits for individual authorities, but about funding for local government in general. Do you not accept that many Members cannot understand why you are holding this debate today, given that my colleague, the Minister, signed an agreement in December 2003 with the Welsh Local Government Association—which, I know, will applaud what she is doing—that all such initiatives will be funded from the 2004-05 settlement on? Do you not accept that, in all fairness to the Welsh Assembly Government, since the Assembly's inception, local government acknowledges that it has had the fairest and best settlements for years because the Assembly and this Government is in touch with it? Swansea Labour group may moan a bit, but all political groups do that, because they are always looking for more. The fact is that they are getting the best deal ever from a Labour Government.

David Lloyd: Excellent, Peter. I look forward to your whole-hearted endorsement

David Lloyd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cadarnhad hwnnw, Jocelyn, ac edrychaf ymlaen at glywed Jeff Cuthbert yn croesawu'r gwelliant aruthrol hwnnw.

Jeff Cuthbert: Rhaid imi dderbyn eich cais. Fodd bynnag, ynghylch addysg, a chytunaf fod hyn yn hollbwysig, a allwch egluro pam, yn ôl ffigurau diweddaraf y cyngor, y mae nifer y bobl ifanc sy'n ennill graddau A a C mewn TGAU wedi disgyn, a nifer y rhai sy'n gadael yr ysgol heb unrhyw gymwysterau wedi codi?

David Lloyd: Ni allaf ddeall y gwrthodiad sarrug hwn i gydnabod llwyddiant cyngorau Plaid Cymru. Sefwch ar eich traed a chydabod llwyddiant am unwaith. Byddwn ar fai pe na soniwn am gyngor sir Gwynedd, ond nid af i sôn ragor am hyn.

Peter Law *a gododd*—

David Lloyd: Yr ydym am gael clywed gair o Flaenau Gwent, heddiw o bob diwrnod.

Peter Law: Heddiw o bob diwrnod fel y gallwn, efallai, godi'r ddadl yn ôl i drafod y pwnc dan sylw. Nid yw'r ddadl hon yn ymwneud â rhinweddau awdurdodau penodol, ond â chyllid ar gyfer llywodraeth leol yn gyffredinol. Oni dderbyniwch fod sawl Aelod na all ddirnad pam yr ydych yn cynnal y ddadl hon heddiw, o wybod bod fy nghyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog, wedi arwyddo cytundeb yn Rhagfyr 2003 gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru—y gwn y bydd yn canmol yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud—fel y bydd pob menter o'r fath yn cael ei hariannu o setliad 2004-05 ymlaen? Oni dderbyniwch, er tegwch i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, fod llywodraeth leol yn cydnabod, ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad, ei bod wedi cael y setliadau tecaf a gorau ers blynyddoedd gan fod y Cynulliad a'r Llywodraeth hon mewn cysylltiad â hi? Efallai fod grŵp Llafur Abertawe'n cwyno ychydig, ond mae pob grŵp gwleidyddol yn gwneud hynny, gan eu bod bob amser yn ceisio cael mwy. Y gwir yw eu bod yn cael y fargen orau erioed gan Lywodraeth Lafur.

David Lloyd: Ardderchog, Peter. Edrychaf ymlaen at gael pob cefnogaeth gennyh i

of the Plaid Cymru amendment, which directly quotes the letter that Sue Essex signed on 10 December.

Despite the excellence in local government that we are trying to convey to Labour Members, funding shortfalls from previous WAG initiatives remain. The purpose of today's motion and amendment is to gain the National Assembly's support to instruct the Government to ensure that new Assembly initiatives and responsibilities are fully funded before they are passed on to local government. If you agree with that, vote for it. That is the Plaid amendment.

On the other amendments, the Lib Dem amendment calls for the introduction of a local income tax, which is not the main thrust of today's debate. However, that has been Plaid Cymru policy for years, so we will support that amendment.

5.00 p.m.

Labour's amendment 2 welcomes the letter of 10 September, signed by Sue Essex and Sir Harry Jones, which appeared hurriedly in our offices just before the budget debate that day. The amendment nicely 'recognises' that future initiatives need to be fully funded. This lacks the incisive instruction and guarantee contained in Plaid Cymru's amendment 1. Therefore, Peter, if you feel so strongly about this, vote for the Plaid Cymru amendment, which instructs the Government to ensure that new Assembly initiatives and responsibilities are fully funded before passing them on to local government. The words of the Plaid Cymru amendment are those contained in the letter of 10 September, which was signed by the Finance Minister, Sue Essex. Therefore, it is okay to vote for a Plaid Cymru amendment. The final paragraph of the letter states that it is understood by the Welsh Assembly Government that future new initiatives and so on must be fully funded. That means that past initiatives have not been fully funded, or if they have been, no-one told Swansea Labour group that that was so. It states:

welliant Plaid Cymru, sy'n dyfynnu'n uniongyrchol o'r llythyr a lofnododd Sue Essex ar 10 Rhagfyr.

Er gwaethaf y rhagoriaeth mewn llywodraeth leol yr ydym yn ceisio darbwyllo Aelodau Llafur ohoni, mae diffygion mewn cyllid o hyd yn sgîl mentrau blaenorol o eiddo Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Pwrpas y cynnig a'r gwelliant heddiw yw ennill cefnogaeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i gyfarwyddo'r Llywodraeth i sicrhau bod mentrau a chyfrifoldebau newydd o'r Cynulliad yn cael eu hariannu'n llawn cyn eu trosglwyddo i lywodraeth leol. Os cytunwch â hynny, pleidleisiwch drosto. Dyna welliant Plaid Cymru.

Ynghylch y gwelliannau eraill, mae gwelliant y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn galw am gyflwyno treth incwm leol, er nad ar hynny y mae prif bwyslais y ddadl heddiw. Er hynny, bu hynny'n bolisi gan Blaid Cymru ers blynyddoedd, felly cefnogwn y gwelliant hwnnw.

Mae gwelliant 2 o eiddo Llafur yn croesawu'r llythyr ar 10 Medi, a lofnodwyd gan Sue Essex a Syr Harry Jones, a ymddangosodd yn sydyn yn ein swyddfeydd ychydig cyn y ddadl ar y gyllideb y diwrnod hwnnw. Mae'r cytundeb yn 'cydnabod' yn fanwl fod angen i fentrau yn y dyfodol gael eu hariannu'n llawn. Nid oes ynddo'r cyfarwyddyd a gwarant bendant a geir yng ngwelliant 1 Plaid Cymru. Felly, Peter, os teimlwch mor gryf am hyn, pleidleisiwch o blaid gwelliant Plaid Cymru, sy'n cyfarwyddo'r Llywodraeth i sicrhau y bydd mentrau a chyfrifoldebau newydd o'r Cynulliad yn cael eu hariannu'n llawn cyn eu trosglwyddo i lywodraeth leol. Y geiriau yng ngwelliant Plaid Cymru yw'r rhai a geir yn y llythyr ar 10 Medi, a lofnodwyd gan y Gweinidog Cyllid, Sue Essex. Gan hynny, mae'n iawn pleidleisio o blaid gwelliant gan Blaid Cymru. Mae paragraff olaf y llythyr yn datgan bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn deall bod rhaid i fentrau newydd ac ati gael eu hariannu'n llawn yn y dyfodol. Mae hynny'n golygu nad yw mentrau'r gorffennol wedi'u hariannu'n llawn neu, os ydynt, nad oedd neb wedi dweud wrth grŵp Llafur

Abertawe mai felly y gwnaed. Mae'n datgan:

'Future new initiatives and responsibilities must be fully funded before they are passed on to local government'.

Rhaid i fentrau newydd a chyfrifoldebau newydd y dyfodol gael eu hariannu'n llawn cyn eu trosglwyddo i lywodraeth leol.

That is the wording of the Plaid Cymru amendment and the words signed by Sue Essex. If that is to happen, therefore, do not be tribal: support the Plaid Cymru amendment.

Dyna eiriau gwelliant Plaid Cymru a'r geiriau y rhoddodd Sue Essex ei llofnod wrthynt. Os yw hynny i ddigwydd, felly, rhaid ichi beidio â bod yn llwythol: cefnogwch welliant Plaid Cymru.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I propose amendment 2 in the name of Karen Sinclair. Delete all after '*the National Assembly for Wales*' and replace with:

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Cynigiad welliant 2 yn enw Karen Sinclair. Dileu popeth ar ôl '*Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru*' ac yn ei le rhoi:

welcomes the agreement made between the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Local Government Association, signed on 10 December 2003, which recognises that future new initiatives and new responsibilities must be fully funded before they are passed on to local government, and that this will take full effect in the 2004 budget planning round.

yn croesawu'r cytundeb a wnaed rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, a lofnodwyd ar 10 Rhagfyr 2003, sy'n cydnabod bod yn rhaid i fentrau newydd a chyfrifoldebau newydd y dyfodol gael eu hariannu'n llawn cyn eu trosglwyddo i lywodraeth leol, ac y bydd hyn yn dod i rym yn llawn yng nghylch cynllunio cyllideb 2004.

As we have just heard, there is a major problem with the Plaid Cymru amendment in that it seeks to instruct the Welsh Assembly Government to act in a manner in which it has already publicly agreed to act. How can I instruct myself to do what I have already agreed to do? The motion is redundant. I remind the Assembly that when I made the final local government settlement for 2004-05—at the appropriate time, Dai—I signed a joint statement with the leader of the Welsh Local Government Association, Sir Harry Jones, which stated that the Welsh Assembly Government would fully fund local government for the new responsibilities that are placed on it.

Fel yr ydym newydd glywed, mae problem fawr ynghylch gwelliant Plaid Cymru am ei fod yn ceisio cyfarwyddo Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i weithredu mewn modd y mae eisoes wedi cytuno'n gyhoeddus i'w wneud. Sut y gallaf fy nghyfarwyddo fy hun i wneud yr hyn yr wyf wedi cytuno i'w wneud eisoes? Mae'r cynnig yn ddibwrpas. Yr wyf yn atgoffa'r Cynulliad imi lofnodi datganiad ar y cyd gydag arweinydd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, Syr Harry Jones ar yr adeg y gwneuthum y setliad terfynol ar gyfer llywodraeth leol ar gyfer 2004-05—ar yr adeg briodol, Dai—i'r perwyl y byddai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n rhoi cyllid llawn i lywodraeth leol ar gyfer y cyfrifoldebau newydd a osodir arni.

If I were to be cynical, I could say that this is an opportunistic attempt by an opposition party to claim credit for an agreement with Welsh local government that has already been made. If I were to be charitable, I would say that it reveals incompetence, especially as I copied the letter, along with the statement, to every Member in December.

Pe byddwn yn sinigaidd, gallwn ddweud mai ymgais fanteisgar gan wrthblaid yw hon i hawlio clod am gytundeb â llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru a wnaed eisoes. Pe byddwn yn garedig, dywedwn ei bod yn amlygu bwnglera, yn enwedig gan fy mod wedi anfon copi o'r llythyr, ynghyd â'r datganiad, at bob Aelod yn mis Rhagfyr.

As I said in that statement, I make the obligation on the basis of a good record on funding local government. Over the last five years, without adjusting for transfers, Assembly support for local government has increased by 36 per cent. That is substantially above the rate of inflation. The increase has taken account of new responsibilities and has provided for real growth in local services for the first time in a generation. As a result of the level of funding in 2004-05, local authorities in Wales have set the lowest average annual increase in council tax since the introduction of unitary authorities. We have an established procedure for working with local government to identify cost pressures, and we have a good record in meeting those pressures. There is recognition in local government that we have entered into these annual appraisals of expenditure needs with real integrity. The exercise relies on forecasts of future costs and on local government representatives and me working together to achieve as accurate a forecast as possible.

I would have hoped that opposition Members would have remembered the occasions when local government has benefited from an overestimation of costs. For example, when we look ahead at pay rises and pay settlements, we have to make decisions based on what local government has said long before the pay rises are announced. Therefore, in those respects, we often estimate over and above the eventual pay settlement. There are also occasions when we provide a consequential in the revenue support grant, such as when the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 came into force a few years ago. Local authorities experienced practical difficulties with the Act because it came into force during the foot and mouth disease outbreak. However, we did not, and do not, claw back money from the revenue support grant. Equally, it is bound to be the case that we can underestimate the cost of a particular service in a particular locality. We must be realistic and understand that there is, and always will be, an element of swings and roundabouts in any settlement. I have found that we have a mature

Fel y dywedais yn y datganiad hwnnw, ymgymeraf â'r ymrwymiad hwnnw ar sail record dda o gyllido llywodraeth leol. Dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf, heb addasu ar gyfer trosglwyddiadau, mae cymorth y Cynulliad i lywodraeth leol wedi codi o 36 y cant. Mae hynny'n fwy o lawer na chyfradd chwyddiant. Mae'r cynnydd hwnnw wedi cymryd i ystyriaeth cyfrifoldebau newydd ac wedi darparu ar gyfer gwir gynnydd mewn gwasanaethau lleol am y tro cyntaf mewn cenhedlaeth. O ganlyniad i lefel y gwariant yn 2004-05, awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru sydd wedi pennu'r cynnydd blynyddol lleiaf yn y dreth gyngor ar gyfartaledd ers cyflwyno awdurdodau unedol. Mae gennym weithdrefn sefydledig ar gyfer gweithio gyda llywodraeth leol i ganfod pwysau o ran costau, ac mae gennym record dda o ran ymateb i'r pwysau hynny. Ceir cydnabyddiaeth mewn llywodraeth leol ein bod wedi ymgymryd â'r gwerthusiadau blynyddol hyn ar anghenion gwariant yn gwbl ddiwyll. Mae'r gwaith hwn yn dibynnu ar ragolygon o gostau yn y dyfodol ac ar waith ar y cyd gennyf fi a chynrychiolwyr llywodraeth leol i gael rhagolwg sydd mor gywir ag y bo modd.

Yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio y byddai Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau wedi cofio am yr adegau y mae llywodraeth leol wedi elwa yn sgîl amcangyfrif rhy uchel o gostau. Er enghraifft, pan edrychwn ymlaen at godiadau cyflog a setliadau cyflog, rhaid inni benderfynu ar sail yr hyn a ddywedodd llywodraeth leol ymhell cyn cyhoeddi'r codiadau cyflog. Felly, yn hynny o beth, yr ydym yn aml yn gwneud amcangyfrif sy'n uwch na'r setliad cyflog a geir yn y pen draw. Mae adegau hefyd pan ddarparwn swm canlyniadol yn y grant cynnal refeniw, fel yr adeg y daeth Deddf Cefn Gwlad a Hawliau Tramwy 2000 i rym rai blynyddoedd yn ôl. Profodd awdurdodau lleol anawsterau ymarferol gyda'r Ddeddf am iddi ddod i rym yn ystod yr achosion o glwy'r traed a'r genau. Er hynny, ni wnaethom, ac nid ydym yn, adfachu arian o'r grant cynnal refeniw. Yn yr un modd, mae'n sicr y gallwn wneud amcangyfrif rhy isel o gost gwasanaeth penodol mewn ardal benodol. Rhaid inni fod yn ymarferol a deall bod rhywfaint o golli ac ennill bob amser mewn unrhyw setliad. Cefais fod ein perthynas â llywodraeth leol

relationship with Welsh local government, which allows us to work together through these complexities of funding local services.

It is important that everyone understands how the process works in terms of assessing need. In the coming year, we will again use the expenditure sub-group as the forum that brings the Assembly and local government officials together to discuss these issues of pressures in detail, along with consideration of the increase in the level of funding that should be made to the annual revenue settlement, and the need to take account of pay and price increases. It is also in the context of the spending review that is taking place, which is informing our budgets over the next three years. I have the agreement of Welsh local government that it will bring forward its needs and assessments so as to inform the spending review.

Featuring in these discussions will be the extent to which authorities can make efficiency savings, through such measures as partnership working and procurement initiatives, which can be reinvested in delivering front-line services. The Liberal Democrats' amendment demonstrates that party's desire to raise the issue of local income tax at any juncture, regardless of whether it is pertinent to the issue or not. As we have already made clear, the future of council tax, whether it should be replaced and what it could be replaced with, is one of a range of issues being addressed in the balance of funding reviews taking place in England and Wales. As the consultation paper on that clearly sets out, there are the issues of, first, what the best balance between funding raised locally and centrally should be, and, secondly, what the mechanism of local taxation that delivers the element of local funding should be. The consultation ends at the end of this month, and I remind Members that there is a limited amount of time left to input into that consultation.

You were rather disingenuous in the examples that you quoted, Dai. On concessionary fares, and I was close to this so I know what the reality is, the quantum of the

Cymru yn un aeddfed, ac mae hynny'n ein galluogi i gyd-ddatrys y cymhlethdodau hyn a geir wrth gyllido gwasanaethau lleol.

Mae'n bwysig i bawb ddeall sut y mae'r broses o asesu anghenion yn gweithio. Yn y flwyddyn sydd i ddod, byddwn yn defnyddio'r is-grŵp gwariant eto fel fforwm i ddod â swyddogion y Cynulliad a llywodraeth leol at ei gilydd i drafod y materion sy'n ymwneud â'r pwysau hyn yn fanwl, ynghyd ag ystyried pa gynnydd y dylid ei gael yn y lefel cyllid yn y setliad refeniw blynyddol, a'r angen i ystyried cynnydd mewn cyflogau a phrisiau. Mae hefyd yn digwydd yng nghyd-destun yr adolygiad o wariant a geir ar hyn o bryd, sy'n dylanwadu ar ein cyllidebau dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Yr wyf wedi cael cytundeb gan lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru y bydd yn dwyn ei hanghenion a'i hasesiadau gerbron fel y gellir dylanwadu ar yr adolygiad o wariant.

Un agwedd ar y trafodaethau hynny fydd y graddau y gall awdurdodau sicrhau arbedion drwy effeithlondeb, drwy fesurau fel gweithio mewn partneriaeth a mentrau caffael, y gellir eu hailfuddsoddi yn y gwaith o ddarparu gwasanaethau yn y rheng flaen. Mae gwelliant y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn dangos awydd y blaid honno i godi mater treth incwm leol ar unrhyw adeg, boed hynny'n berthnasol i'r pwnc dan sylw neu beidio. Fel yr ydym eisoes wedi egluro, mae dyfodol y dreth gyngor, a ddylid cael rhywbeth yn ei lle a beth y gallai hwnnw fod, ymysg amryw o faterion sy'n cael eu hystyried mewn adolygiadau o wariant a gynhelir yng Nghymru a Lloegr. Fel y mae'r papur ymgynghori ar hynny'n nodi'n eglur, mae materion i'w hystyried, yn gyntaf, o ran pa gydbwysedd y dylid ei gael rhwng cyllid a godir yn lleol a hwnnw a godir yn ganolog, ac, yn ail, o ran y dull trethu lleol y dylid ei ddefnyddio i godi'r elfen o gyllid lleol. Daw'r ymgynghoriad i ben ddiwedd y mis hwn, ac yr wyf yn atgoffa Aelodau nad oes ond ychydig amser ar ôl i gyfrannu i'r ymgynghoriad hwnnw.

Buoch braidd yn ddichellgar yn eich enghreifftiau, Dai. Ynghylch tocynnau rhad, a bûm yn ymwneud yn agos â hyn felly gwn beth yw'r gwir amdano, cafodd y gost a

cost to local authorities went straight across to them. It was measured and it went straight across to them. It was distributed, as local government wanted, through the revenue support grant. That was not my preferred way, because I was worried about the formula. When it became clear after a few years that it produced inconsistencies between what a local authority was getting and what it had to pay out, everyone agreed that the best mechanism for funding the concessionary fares would be through a special grant. There was no question of local authorities not getting the money, and no local authority has ever said that we did not put the full quantum across. You were also derisive about what we are doing on free school breakfasts, Dai. The reason that we are piloting this is to ensure that we get an accurate assessment of costs.

The statement that was signed by Sir Harry and me was historic, and we intend to do our best to live up to it. As I have said, there will be swings and roundabouts in the estimations. There will be negotiations between local government and us, and there will at times be discussions and differences. However, we intend to consider every new initiative and do our best to assess that contribution so that we can say to local government that we understand the pressures on it.

Leighton Andrews: Would you like to speculate on why Plaid Cymru has tabled this motion? Is it that it wants to get on record, in advance of 10 June, its excuses as to why it will lose control of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council, by blaming it on the Welsh Assembly Government?

Sue Essex: That may be your view, Leighton. To be charitable, I do not believe that Plaid Cymru read the letters that I sent it in December. I am glad that it has given me a chance to do that now. There is no need to instruct us, we are doing it and we are ahead of you.

Michael German: I propose amendment 3 in the name of Kirsty Williams. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

gyfrifwyd ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol ei throsglwyddo iddynt yn syth. Fe'i cyfrifwyd ac fe'i trosglwyddwyd iddynt yn syth. Fe'i dosbarthwyd, yn ôl dymuniad llywodraeth leol, drwy'r grant cynnal refeniw. Nid y dull hwnnw oedd y gorau gennyf, gan fy mod yn pryderu ynghylch y fformiwla. Pan ddaeth yn amlwg ar ôl rhai blynyddoedd fod hynny'n peri anghysondeb rhwng yr hyn yr oedd awdurdod lleol yn ei gael a'r hyn yr oedd yn gorfod ei dalu, cytunodd pawb mai grant arbennig fyddai'r dull gorau i gyllido'r tocynnau rhad. Nid oedd unrhyw bosibilrwydd na fyddai awdurdodau lleol yn cael yr arian, ac ni ddywedodd yr un awdurdod lleol na wnaethom drosglwyddo'r swm llawn. Buoch yn ddirmygus hefyd ynghylch yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud ar frecwastau am ddim mewn ysgolion, Dai. Yr ydym yn rhagbrofi hyn er mwyn sicrhau y gallwn asesu'r costau'n fanwl gywir.

Yr oedd y datganiad a lofnodwyd gan Syr Harry a minnau'n un hanesyddol, a bwriadwn wneud ein gorau i ddal ato. Fel y dywedais, mae colli ac ennill yn yr amcangyfrifon. Bydd negodiadau rhwng llywodraeth leol a ninnau, a bydd trafodaethau a gwahaniaethau barn weithiau. Fodd bynnag, bwriadwn ystyried pob menter newydd a gwneud ein gorau i asesu'r cyfraniad hwnnw fel y gallwn ddweud wrth lywodraeth leol ein bod yn deall y pwysau sydd arni.

Leighton Andrews: A hoffech ddyfalu ynghylch y rheswm y mae Plaid Cymru wedi cyflwyno'r cynnig hwn? Ai am ei bod am gael cyhoeddi, cyn 10 Mehefin, ei hesgusion dros golli rheolaeth ar Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf a Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, drwy roi'r bai am hynny ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru?

Sue Essex: Gallech dybio hynny, Leighton. A bod yn garedig, ni chredaf fod Plaid Cymru wedi darllen y llythyrau a anfonais iddi ym mis Rhagfyr. Yr wyf yn falch ei bod wedi rhoi cyfle imi wneud hynny'n awr. Nid oes angen ein cyfarwyddo, gan ein bod eisoes yn gwneud hyn ac yr ydym ar y blaen i chi.

Michael German: Cynigiau welliant 3 yn enw Kirsty Williams. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

believes that the introduction of a local income tax in place of the council tax will allow the re-balancing of funding between central and local government and allow local government to take genuinely local decisions on behalf of local people.

I will address the issues that the Minister just raised regarding the balance of funding, because they are crucial to this debate. Presumably, the purpose of this motion relates to the ways in which local government receives its money and spends it. The whole issue about local government expenditure over recent years has been about transparency. There has been a good determination by the National Assembly that we would not interfere with local democracy. Before the Assembly was set up, many of us gave the commitment, when we were campaigning for a 'yes' vote, that we would not take away local government's powers. However, during the Assembly's existence—and it is not unexpected when you have European legislation of the sort that we have had and massive amounts of secondary legislation—we have been placing increasing obligations on local government. It has therefore had to do a lot more, although that is not necessarily at our bidding, but as a result of requirements that have bounced down to us as we enact and transpose European legislation.

5.10 p.m.

It is all very well to say that we can see how much money is coming to a project such as free school breakfasts, because you can identify the sum of money in the Minister's budget, and, therefore, you can transcribe it directly into the formula that goes forward. Shadowy walls surround the revenue sub-group; it is not the most entertaining piece of theatre on the block, but it has a huge impact on the way in which local government deals with its finances and it is significant in that regard. However, what happens to the various pieces of legislation passed by the Assembly which establish obligations? Environmental health departments have had to employ more enforcement measures and more officers to deal with the issues around the end-of-life vehicle directive and the disposal of fridges,

yn credu y bydd cyflwyno treth incwm lleol yn lle'r dreth gyngor yn galluogi ailfantoli'r cyllid rhwng llywodraeth ganolog a llywodraeth leol ac yn caniatáu i lywodraeth leol wneud penderfyniadau lleol gwirioneddol ar ran y bobl leol.

Ymdriniaf â'r materion y mae'r Gweinidog newydd eu codi ynghylch mantoli cyllid, gan eu bod yn hollbwysig i'r ddadl hon. Gellir tybio bod diben y cynnig hwn yn ymwneud â'r modd y mae llywodraeth leol yn cael ei harian ac yn ei gwario. Mae'r holl ddadlau ynghylch gwariant llywodraeth leol dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf wedi ymwneud â thryloywder. Cafwyd penderfyniad da ar ran y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol na fyddem yn ymyrryd â democratiaeth leol. Cyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad, gwnaeth llawer ohonom ymrwymo, wrth ymgyrchu dros bleidlais 'ie', na fyddem yn mynd â phwerau llywodraeth leol oddi arni. Fodd bynnag, yn ystod oes y Cynulliad—ac nid yw hyn yn annisgwyl o ystyried y math o ddeddfwriaeth Ewropeaidd a gawsom a maint yr is-ddeddfwriaeth—buom yn gosod mwy a mwy o rwymedigaethau ar lywodraeth leol. Oherwydd hynny, bu'n rhaid iddi wneud llawer mwy, er nad o reidrwydd ar ein gorchymyn ni, ond o ganlyniad i ofynion sydd wedi'u gosod arnom wrth inni weithredu a thrawsosod deddfwriaeth Ewropeaidd.

Hawdd dweud y gallwn weld pa faint o arian a geir ar gyfer prosiect fel brecwastau am ddim mewn ysgolion, gan y gellir gweld y swm o arian yng nghyllideb y Gweinidog ac y gellir, felly, ei drawsgrifio'n syth i'r fformiwla sy'n mynd ymlaen. Ceir cryn ddirgelwch ynghylch yr is-grŵp refeniw; nid ef yw'r sioe mwyaf difyr i'w gwyllo, ond caiff effaith aruthrol ar y modd y mae llywodraeth leol yn delio â'i chyllid ac mae'n bwysig yn hynny o beth. Fodd bynnag, beth sy'n digwydd i'r gwahanol eitemau deddfwriaeth a gaiff eu pasio gan y Cynulliad sy'n gosod rhwymedigaethau? Mae adrannau iechyd amgylcheddol wedi gorfod arfer mwy o fesurau gorfodi a chyflogi mwy o swyddogion i ddelio â materion sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gyfarwyddeb ar ddiwedd oes

and there have also been additional obligations in terms of animal health inspections. Local government has had to deal with many of these issues, and it is often the enforcer of legislation that has started its life many miles away. The cost of such legislation is not always easy to identify. I wonder whether the process by which the money is transcribed through the expenditure sub-group into the public domain is sufficiently well known for local authorities to be able to say that they are receiving that funding.

Ann Jones: You mentioned the disposal of fridges. Do you not agree that we dealt with that issue fully with a special grant, covering all local authority costs? It is unfair of you to cite that as an issue that has not been fully funded.

Michael German: Special grants apply for one year, and then, in general, they are rolled into the formula. The position that we now face—

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): The special grant for the disposal of fridges was rolled over to reflect the pressures on local government. It was not included in the revenue support grant.

Michael German: Special grants, in general, will eventually be incorporated into the formula because that is their purpose. In terms of legislation being passed, increasing demands and pressures are being placed on local government. I am not suggesting that special grants are wrong, but they are a short-term measure. They are not meant to work in the longer term, but the obligations often carry on beyond the end of special grants. That must be recognised. The issue is about the process by which the funding for achieving tasks is brought into the open so that people can see in a transparent way what the money will be spent on and where it will come from. As you move further away from the root, it gets more difficult to identify—it is easy to identify with some specific projects, but not with others.

The amendment not only notes that the issue of local income tax must ensure fairness and

cerbydau a gwaredu oergelloedd, a chafwyd rhwymedigaethau ychwanegol hefyd yng nghyd-destun arolygiadau iechyd anifeiliaid. Llywodraeth leol sydd wedi gorfod delio â llawer o'r materion hyn, a hi'n aml sy'n gorfodi'r deddfau a welodd olau dydd gyntaf filltiroedd lawer i ffwrdd. Nid hawdd canfod cost deddfwriaeth o'r fath bob amser. Tybed a yw'r broses o drawsgrifio arian drwy'r is-grŵp gwariant i'r maes cyhoeddus yn ddigon cyfarwydd fel y gall awdurdodau lleol ddweud eu bod yn derbyn y cyllid hwnnw.

Ann Jones: Gwnaethoch sôn am waredu oergelloedd. Oni chytunwch ein bod wedi delio â'r mater hwnnw'n drylwyr drwy roi grant arbennig, a oedd yn gofalu am holl gostau awdurdodau lleol? Nid yw'n deg ichi gyfeirio at hynny fel rhywbeth sydd heb ei ariannu'n llawn.

Michael German: Mae grantiau arbennig yn gweithredu am un flwyddyn, ac wedyn, fel arfer, cânt eu hymgorffori yn y fformiwla. Y sefyllfa a wynebwn yn awr—

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Parhawyd â'r grant arbennig ar gyfer gwaredu oergelloedd i adlewyrchu'r pwysau a oedd ar lywodraeth leol. Ni chafodd ei gynnwys yn y grant cynnal refeniw.

Michael German: Fel arfer, caiff grantiau arbennig eu hymgorffori yn y fformiwla yn y pen draw gan mai hynny yw eu diben. O ran y ddeddfwriaeth a gaiff ei phasio, rhoddir gofynion a phwysau cynyddol ar lywodraeth leol. Nid wyf yn awgrymu bod rhywbeth o'i le ar grantiau arbennig, ond mesur tymor byr ydynt. Nid ydynt i fod i weithio yn y tymor hir, ond mae'r rhwymedigaethau'n parhau'n aml wedi i grantiau arbennig ddod i ben. Rhaid cydnabod hynny. Mae'r pwnc sydd dan sylw'n ymwneud â'r broses o amlygu'r ariannu i gyflawni tasgau fel y gellir gweld yn glir ar beth y caiff yr arian ei wario ac o ble y daw. Wrth fynd ymhellach oddi wrth y dechreubwynt, aiff yn anos ei ganfod—mae'n hawdd ei ganfod yn achos rhai prosiectau, ond nid eraill.

Mae'r gwelliant nid yn unig yn nodi bod yn rhaid i fater treth incwm leol ddod â thegwch

justice for the people of Wales—that is on the agenda, and rightly so—it also deals with the gearing that takes place between what does and does not happen with regard to local expenditure. If the formula does not fully recognise the way in which obligations are to be carried out, local government is then required to place pressure on its own local income generation, which involves a tax based upon the value of people's property. You cannot alter the 81 to 19 per cent balance of funding. The gearing cannot be altered with a tax based upon property. The purpose of the amendment is to ensure that we get that redress and that we challenge local government to raise its own income for what it wants to do. The balance will then be right between local expenditure and central Government expenditure. It has gone the wrong way, which is why we tabled our amendment. We want to ensure that that is not forgotten and that the balance of funding is investigated, which means ensuring that obligations are carried out and that local councils are given more, and not less, freedom.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae gennyf lawer o gydymdeimlad â sylwadau Mike German, fel un a fu'n arwain cyngor sir am rai blynyddoedd. Mae'r dreth gyngor yn annheg, ond, yn waeth na hynny, mae'n achosi penbleth i bobl gan nad oes cyswllt amlwg ac uniongyrchol rhwng lefel y dreth a pherfformiad y cyngor. Hyd nes y bydd y cyswllt hwn yn amlycach a'r diffiniad o gyfrifoldebau cynghorau yn gliriach, ofnaf y bydd pobl yn parhau'n ddryslyd am y trethi a dalant a'r gwasanaethau a dderbyniant.

Gan gyfeirio at fy mhrofiad i eto, un o'r pethau gwaethaf a ddigwyddodd ar ôl sefydlu'r Cynulliad oedd y strategaethau diddiwedd a lifodd o'r sefydliad ac a laniodd ar ddesgiau swyddogion cynghorau. Y broblem a wynebwyd oedd nad oedd gan gynghorau gapasiti i ddelio â'r strategaethau, a hynny yn rhannol oherwydd bod y Torïaid wedi gwaedu eu hadnoddau. Yr oedd hon yn broblem wirioneddol, ac yr oedd bai ar Lywodraeth y dydd am beidio â bod yn ddigon dethol wrth gyflwyno strategaethau.

Fel y soniodd Dai Lloyd, un o'r strategaethau hynny yw'r strategaeth gymunedol, sy'n

a chyfiawnder i bobl Cymru—mae hynny o dan ystyriaeth, ac yn briodol felly—mae hefyd yn ymdrin â'r cysylltiad rhwng yr hyn sy'n digwydd a'r hyn nad yw'n digwydd o ran gwariant lleol. Os nad yw'r fformiwla'n llawn gydnabod y modd y mae ymrwymadau i'w cyflawni, rhaid i lywodraeth leol wedyn roi pwysau ar ei dull ei hun o godi arian yn lleol, sy'n cynnwys treth yn seiliedig ar werth eiddo pobl. Ni ellir newid y cydbwysedd o 81 i 19 y cant mewn cyllido. Ni ellir newid y gerio o gael treth sy'n seiliedig ar eiddo. Pwrpas y gwelliant yw sicrhau y cawn y cywiriad hwnnw a'n bod yn herio llywodraeth leol i godi ei hincwm ei hun ar gyfer yr hyn y mae am ei wneud. Ceir cydbwysedd priodol wedyn rhwng gwariant lleol a gwariant Llywodraeth ganolog. Mae wedi mynd i'r cyfeiriad anghywir, a dyna pam yr ydym wedi cyflwyno ein gwelliant. Yr ydym am sicrhau nas anghofir hynny ac yr ymchwilir i gydbwysedd y cyllido, ac mae hynny'n golygu sicrhau y caiff ymrwymadau eu cyflawni ac y rhoddir mwy, ac nid llai, o ryddid i gynghorau lleol.

Alun Ffred Jones: I have a great deal of sympathy with Mike German's comments, as one who led a county council for some years. The council tax is inequitable, but, worse than that, it confuses people because there is no clear and direct link between the level of taxation and the council's performance. Until this link becomes more apparent and until a clearer definition of councils' responsibilities is provided, I am afraid that people will continue to be confused about the taxes they pay and the services they receive.

Returning to my own experience, one of the worst things that happened post devolution was the endless stream of strategies that flowed from the Assembly to be dumped on council officials. The problem that they faced was that councils did not have the capacity to deal with the strategies, partly because the Tories had bled councils of their resources. This was a serious problem, and the Government of the day was at fault for not being more selective in proposing strategies.

As Dai Lloyd said, one such strategy is the community strategy, which places a statutory

gosod gofyniad statudol ar gynghorau i lunio cynlluniau cymunedol. Serch hynny, nid oes rheidrwydd ar gyrff eraill i wneud yr un modd. Yn waeth na hynny, nid yw'r cyrff hynny yn cyfrannu adnoddau at y gwaith o lunio'r cynlluniau. O ganlyniad, yr oedd disgwyl i gynghorau lleol ganfod adnoddau i ymateb i'r gofyniad. Gwendid pellach oedd y ffaith na ddarparwyd diffiniad pendant o beth oedd strategaeth gymunedol ac, erbyn hyn, ni chredaf fod y teitl 'strategaeth gymunedol' yn ddisgrifiad cywir o'r hyn sy'n digwydd. Cynhaliwyd seminar yng Ngwynedd i drafod y pwnc, a daeth cynrychiolydd o Iwerddon i rannu gwybodaeth am y gwaith o gynhyrchu strategaethau cymunedol yn y wlad honno. Yr oedd Llywodraeth ganolog Iwerddon wedi rhoi adnoddau i gynghorau lleol ac, yn fwy na hynny, wedi'i gwneud yn rheidrwydd ar bob corff cyhoeddus i gymryd rhan yn y gwaith o greu cynlluniau. Felly, cawsant adnoddau a chyfeiriad o'r dechrau, a dyma sydd ei angen ar lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru.

Mae gennyf enghraifft o gymhlethdod ac ansicrwydd yng nghyd-destun cyllido ysgolion. Mae cynghorau lleol yn chwilio am eglurder, sicrwydd a chysondeb. Yr oeddwn yn siarad â phrifathro ysgol uwchradd yn ddiweddar a dywedodd wrthyf fod ganddo naw ffynhonnell ariannol yn ychwanegol at y gyllideb sylfaenol. Nid arian yr awdurdod lleol yw hwn ond fe ddaw i gronfeydd yr ysgol naill ai drwy'r awdurdod neu drwy wneud cais amdano. Mae amryw o'r ffynonellau yn rhoi symiau bach iawn i'r ysgol, ac mae'r broses o'u gweinyddu yn wastrafflyd tu hwnt. Serch hynny, gall yr arian fod yn bwysig, yn enwedig i ysgolion bach. Cyfeiriodd y prifathro at dair ffynhonnell yn arbennig, sef y grant gwell ysgolion, y grant cynnal ymddygiad a menter mynediad ieuentid, sy'n rhoi cyfanswm o ychydig dros £20,000 i'r ysgol. Ond nid oes sicrwydd ynglŷn â'u parhad, a disgwylir iddynt gael eu torri flwyddyn nesaf. Dyma a ddigwyddodd gyda grant cynnal addysg a hyfforddiant, sydd 30 y cant yn is eleni. Er bod y flwyddyn ariannol newydd wedi dechrau, nid yw ysgolion yn gwybod beth fydd cyfanswm y grant a dderbyniant.

requirement on councils to develop community schemes. However, there is no compulsion on other organisations to follow suit. What is worse, these other organisations do not contribute financially towards the work of developing the schemes. Therefore, local councils were expected to find the necessary resources to respond to the demands. A further weakness was the fact that councils were not provided with a clear definition of a community strategy and, by now, I do not think that the title 'community strategy' is a correct description of the work being undertaken. A seminar on this subject was held in Gwynedd, which heard from someone involved in the work of producing community strategies in Ireland. We heard that the Irish Government had provided resources to local councils and, more importantly, had placed a duty on all public bodies to participate in the creation of schemes. Therefore, they were given resources and direction from the outset, and this is what Welsh local government needs.

I will quote an example of complexity and uncertainty relating to school funding. Local councils want clarity, assurance and consistency. During a recent conversation with a secondary headteacher, he told me that his school has nine funding streams in addition to the basic budget. These funds do not provide local authority money, but they can either be sought via the local authority or through a bidding process. Several of the streams provide small amounts of money, and their administration is an extremely wasteful process. However, this money can be important, particularly for small schools. The headteacher referred specifically to three streams, namely the school improvement grant, the behaviour support grant and the youth access initiative, which amount to a total of just over £20,000 for the school. However, there is no certainty as to their continuation, and it is expected that they will be cut next year. This is what happened with the grant for education support and training, which has seen a 30 per cent cut this year. Despite the fact that we are already in the new financial year, schools have not yet been told how much grant funding they are likely to receive.

Dylai'r Llywodraeth ystyried cymhlethdod ac

The Government should consider the

ansicrwydd y drefn bresennol mewn rhai meysydd. Yr wyf yn barod i ategu geiriau Sue Essex fod y sefyllfa wedi gwella.

Gwenda Thomas: A dderbyniwch fod y cytundebau polisi wedi creu eglurder a chysondeb a'u bod wedi'u croesawu gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru?

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr unig beth a ddywed y ffaith eu bod wedi'u croesawu gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yw bod y Blaid Lafur yn gytûn. Mae rhai cytundebau polisi yn ddigon derbyniol fel ffordd i'r Llywodraeth gyfeirio awdurdodau lleol, ond y broblem yw bod y Cynulliad, oherwydd ei ddiffyg pwerau, yn ymyrryd gormod ym musnes cyngorau ac, o ganlyniad, yn tanseilio democratiaeth leol. Yr oedd disgwyl llofnodi'r cytundebau polisi ar ddechrau'r mis, ond mae'r targed hwnnw wedi llithro, ac nid yw cyngorau yn gwybod os byddant yn derbyn yr arian ar gyfer y flwyddyn sydd eisoes wedi dechrau. Mae hon yn enghraifft arall o lywodraethu gwael. O ganlyniad, y mae trysoryddion yn rhoi arian yn eu cyllidebau beth bynnag, sy'n ychwanegu at y chwyddiant.

5.20 p.m.

Glyn Davies: The Conservatives support Plaid Cymru's motion and amendment. This issue has been raised in the National Assembly on several occasions. The principle behind Plaid Cymru's concerns is to ensure that new impositions put upon local government are fully funded so that they do not result in council tax increases. Because of the gearing problem, as we all know, such increases are multiplied, and we end up with our current position on council tax. I have referred to the current council taxes on several occasions in the Chamber; they are extremely unfair and it is almost impossible for people on low, fixed incomes to pay them.

It is difficult to know how to respond to the Government's amendment. Its wording is acceptable, but the protocol or joint letter between the Government and local government was signed with a breathtaking

complexity and uncertainty of the current system in certain areas. I am prepared to endorse Sue Essex's comment that the situation has improved.

Gwenda Thomas: Do you accept that the policy agreements have led to clarity and consistency and that they have been welcomed by the Welsh Local Government Association?

Alun Ffred Jones: The fact that the agreements have been welcomed by the Welsh Local Government Association simply tells us that the Labour Party is in agreement on this issue. Some policy agreements are acceptable as a means for the Government to direct local authorities, but the problem is that the Assembly, due to its lack of powers, intervenes too much in council business and therefore undermines local democracy. The policy agreements were due to be signed at the beginning of this month, but that target has slipped, and councils have yet to be told whether they will receive the funding for the year that has already begun. This is another example of poor governance. As a result, treasurers are factoring that funding into their budgets regardless, which adds to the inflation.

Glyn Davies: Mae'r Ceidwadwyr yn cefnogi cynnig a gwelliant Plaid Cymru. Mae'r mater hwn wedi'i godi yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar sawl achlysur. Yr egwyddor sy'n sail i bryderon Plaid Cymru yw'r awydd i sicrhau y bydd beichiau newydd sy'n cael eu gosod ar lywodraeth leol yn cael eu hariannu'n llawn fel na fyddant yn peri cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor. Oherwydd y broblem gerio, fel y gwyddom oll, mae cynnydd o'r fath yn cael ei luosogi, ac fe'n gadewir â'r sefyllfa bresennol o ran y dreth gyngor. Yr wyf wedi cyfeirio sawl gwaith yn y Siambr at y trethi cyngor presennol; maent yn annheg dros ben ac mae bron yn amhosibl i rai sydd ar incwm isel, sefydlog eu talu.

Mae'n anodd gwybod sut i ymateb i welliant y Llywodraeth. Mae ei eiriad yn dderbyniol, ond llofnodwyd y protocol neu lythyr ar y cyd rhwng y Llywodraeth a llywodraeth leol gyda rhagrith syfrdanol. Fe'i llofnodwyd ar

degree of hypocrisy. It was signed on the same day as the budget, in advance of an election year, to help the Labour Party rather than to defend the position of local councils in Wales. I spoke at a local government conference yesterday, where representatives from the WLGA also spoke. This issue was raised, and I stated my view. The WLGA acted in defence of Labour Party interests instead of fighting for the corner of its members. Almost everyone at that conference thought that the WLGA's position was extremely unconvincing.

Brian Gibbons: You spoke about people on low, fixed incomes, but, as was mentioned earlier in questions to the First Minister, there are options open to people through council tax benefits. That is the correct way forward. The problem is that people on slightly higher incomes in high council tax areas do not have redress to the benefits system. Those people are in local authority areas with high levels of social and economic need. This is a social justice issue and we need to address it as such.

Glyn Davies: I will address that point in the next minute or so. The problem is the impact on council tax bills of the non-full funding of new Government initiatives. Council tax bills have risen to a level that, for many people—and I think that you would acknowledge this, Brian—is unaffordable. It is worse in Wales than anywhere else. Since Labour has been in power, council tax has increased by 79 per cent in Wales and by 69 per cent in England. I know that those figures are uncomfortable, because they show you in a poor light.

When we discussed benefits during questions to the First Minister, it became clear that despite their availability, huge numbers of people across Wales do not access benefits. Those people are suffering; they cannot afford to pay their council tax bills. Everyone in the Chamber should share this view. I have been involved in local government and I know how these charges will hit the most vulnerable people. Clearly, if we had a system that everyone understood and accessed, this problem would not be as grave.

yr un diwrnod â'r gyllideb, cyn blwyddyn etholiad, i helpu'r Blaid Lafur yn hytrach nag i warchod sefyllfa cynghorau lleol yng Nghymru. Siaradais mewn cynhadledd llywodraeth leol ddoe, lle y siaradodd cynrychiolwyr o CLILC hefyd. Codwyd y mater hwn, a datgenais fy marn. Amddiffynodd CLILC fuddiannau'r Blaid Lafur yn hytrach na dadlau dros ei haelodau. Yr oedd bron pawb yn y gynhadledd honno'n credu bod safbwynt CLILC yn anargyhoeddiadol dros ben.

Brian Gibbons: Cyfeiriasoch at rai sydd ar incwm isel, sefydlog, ond, fel y dywedwyd yn gynharach mewn cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog, mae dewisiadau ar gael i bobl drwy fudd-dal y dreth gyngor. Dyna'r llwybr y dylid ei ddilyn. Y broblem yw bod rhai sydd ar incwm ychydig uwch mewn ardaloedd lle y mae'r dreth gyngor yn uchel nad ydynt yn gallu troi at y system fudd-daliadau. Mae'r bobl hynny mewn ardaloedd awdurdod lleol sydd â llawer iawn o anghenion cymdeithasol ac economaidd. Mater o gyfiawnder cymdeithasol yw hwn ac felly y dylem ei drin.

Glyn Davies: Ymdriniaf â'r pwynt hwnnw mewn munud neu ddau. Y broblem yw'r effaith ar filiau'r dreth gyngor o beidio ag ariannu mentrau newydd y Llywodraeth yn llawn. Mae biliau'r dreth gyngor wedi codi i'r fath lefel—a chredaf y byddech yn derbyn hyn, Brian—fel bod llawer o bobl na allant eu talu. Mae'n waeth yng Nghymru nag yn unman arall. Ers i Lafur fod mewn grym, mae'r dreth gyngor wedi codi 79 y cant yng Nghymru a 69 y cant yn Lloegr. Gwn fod y ffigurau hynny'n peri annifyrrwch, gan eu bod yn adlewyrchu'n wael arnoch.

Pan drafodasom fudd-daliadau yn ystod cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog, daeth yn amlwg bod nifer fawr o bobl ledled Cymru nad ydynt yn hawlio budd-daliadau er eu bod ar gael. Mae'r bobl hynny'n dioddef, ni allant fforddio talu eu biliau treth gyngor. Dylai pawb yn y Siambr fod yn gytûn ar hyn. Bûm yn ymwneud â llywodraeth leol a gwn y bydd y taliadau hyn yn ergyd i'r rhai sy'n fwyaf agored i niwed. Wrth gwrs, pe bai gennym system yr oedd pawb yn ei deall ac yn ei defnyddio, ni fyddai'r broblem hon mor

However, it is a problem and it is no good discussing how it could be resolved: we must consider what is happening on the ground. As a result of huge council tax increases, many vulnerable people in Wales are suffering.

In relation to the Liberal Democrat amendment, I will address the effect of these huge council tax increases on the integrity of the council tax system. I support the system. It is perfectly reasonable for a Government to have a property tax within the portfolio of taxes that it levies. It is also reasonable that that tax should be used to fund local government because of its ease of collection and its certainty. I have always believed that, but it is a regressive tax. It can only operate at a level that people on low, fixed incomes can afford, but the Government has raised it to a level unsuitable for a regressive tax. It has done that over the last six years by imposing too great a burden on local government by not fully funding all new initiatives. You can argue the case for or against it, but that is the reality. The blame for it rests with the Labour Government in the Assembly, which so often wears its socialism on its sleeve.

Peter Black *rose*—

Glyn Davies: I will give way in a minute.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You have half a minute.

Glyn Davies: In that case, I will not.

To wind up, this is a huge problem for the Government and I do not know how it will get itself out of it. It is also becoming a major problem for the Conservative Party. As a result of the way in which the wheels are coming off the Labour Party wagon, and the great advances that Michael Howard is making at Westminster, there is an increasingly good chance that the Conservative Party will form the next administration at Westminster after the next election. We will have to address this problem that you have created, not only in Wales, but across Britain. You have created a huge problem, and let us hope that we can have a Conservative Government with the

ddifrifol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n broblem ac nid oes gwerth mewn trafod sut y gellid ei datrys: rhaid inni ystyried beth sy'n digwydd ar lawr gwlad. O ganlyniad i godiadau anferth yn y dreth gyngor, mae llawer o bobl sy'n agored i niwed yng Nghymru'n dioddef.

O ran gwelliant y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, ymdriniaf ag effeithiau'r codiadau anferth hyn yn y dreth gyngor ar uniondeb system y dreth gyngor. Yr wyf o blaid y system hon. Mae'n berffaith resymol i Lywodraeth gael treth ar eiddo ymhlith y trethi y mae'n eu codi. Mae hefyd yn rhesymol defnyddio'r dreth honno i ariannu llywodraeth leol gan ei bod yn hawdd ei chasglu a'i bod yn cynnig sicrwydd. Yr wyf yn credu hynny erioed, ond treth atchweliadol ydyw. Ni all ond gweithredu ar lefel y mae rhai ar incwm isel, sefydlog yn gallu ei fforddio, ond mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'i chodi i lefel sy'n anaddas i dreth atchweliadol. Gwnaeth hynny dros y chwe blynedd diwethaf drwy roi gormod o faich ar lywodraeth leol drwy beidio ag ariannu pob menter newydd yn llawn. Gellir dadlau o'i phlaid neu yn ei herbyn, ond dyna'r gwir. Y Llywodraeth Lafur yn y Cynulliad, sydd mor barod i arddel ei sosialaeth, sydd i'w beio am hynny.

Peter Black *a gododd*—

Glyn Davies: Ildiaf mewn munud.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae gennych hanner munud.

Glyn Davies: Os felly, ni wnaf.

I derfynu, mae hon yn broblem aruthrol i'r Llywodraeth ac ni wn sut y daw ohoni. Mae hefyd yn dod yn broblem fawr i'r Blaid Geidwadol. Gan fod y Blaid Lafur yn dechrau mynd â'i phen iddi, ac oherwydd y cynnydd mawr y mae Michael Howard yn ei wneud yn San Steffan, mae'n dod yn fwyfwy tebygol mai'r Blaid Geidwadol fydd yn ffurfio'r weinyddiaeth nesaf yn San Steffan ar ôl yr etholiad nesaf. Bydd yn rhaid inni ymdrin â'r broblem hon a grëwyd gennych, nid yn unig yng Nghymru, ond ledled Prydain. Yr ydych wedi creu problem anferth, a gadewch inni obeithio y cawn Lywodraeth Geidwadol a chanddi ddigon o synnwyr cyffredin i gywiro'r llanastr hwn.

common sense to put this mess right.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: There are constraints on the time for this debate. I will call Janet Ryder and Ann Jones to speak for three minutes each, and then Jocelyn Davies will have five minutes to wind up the debate.

Janet Ryder: It was with some amazement that I read the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning's remarks yesterday that she dreads talking to unions and professionals in the field for which she has responsibility. Her stated reason for that was that there were inaccuracies about funding. So the professionals who work in the field of education, who must make the budgets that they receive work, are wrong. Of course, our school buildings are being repaired and the teacher workload agreement is fully funded, as is the threshold agreement—or at least that is the truth according to the spin that this Labour Government is putting on issues. One could start to wonder sometimes whether the Welsh Assembly Government is still on the same planet as some of the people who have to implement its policies. It has struck me for some time that there are many similarities between the Minister and Lord Nelson, who just before the Battle of Trafalgar held a telescope up to his blind eye only to declare, 'I see no ships'.

It has been obvious to observers of Government for some time that the responsibility for inaccuracies of all kinds, but especially those about funding, always lies at the feet of others, because the Government is never wrong. Our schools and local education authorities are wrong about the money they receive to put in place such measures as the teachers' workload agreement. The aim of that agreement is to ease the burden on teachers, improve their terms and conditions and hopefully stem the loss of staff from the profession. Yet the five LEAs that are developing the pilot scheme have been told that the £150,000 that is available will be kept centrally rather than given to them. That means that all the work to arrange those schemes at a local government level will not be funded. Would it not have been better to split that money between the participating authorities? This is not about local choice, as the Minister would

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae cyfyngiadau ar yr amser ar gyfer y ddadl hon. Galwaf ar Janet Ryder ac Ann Jones i siarad am dri munud yr un, ac wedyn caiff Jocelyn Davies bum munud i orffen y ddadl hon.

Janet Ryder: Darllenais gyda peth syndod sylwadau'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ddoe i'r perwyl ei bod yn arswydo rhag siarad ag undebau a gweithwyr proffesiynol yn y maes y mae'n gyfrifol amdano. Y rheswm a roddodd am hynny oedd y bu sylwadau anghywir am gyllido. Felly mae'r gweithwyr proffesiynol ym maes addysg, sy'n gorfod peri i'r cyllidebau a gânt weithio, yn anghywir. Wrth gwrs, mae ein hadeiladau ysgol yn cael eu hatgyweirio ac mae'r cytundeb llwyth gwaith athrawon wedi'i ariannu'n llawn, fel y mae'r cytundeb ar y taliadau trothwy—neu dyna'r gwir yn ôl sbin y Llywodraeth Lafur ar y materion hyn o leiaf. Gallai rhywun feddwl weithiau tybed a yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n dal i fyw ar yr un blaned â rhai o'r bobl sy'n gorfod rhoi ei pholisïau ar waith. Mae wedi fy nharo ers cryn amser fod sawl tebygrwydd rhwng y Gweinidog a'r Arglwydd Nelson, a ddaliodd ysbïenddrych wrth ei lygad dall ychydig cyn brwydr Trafalgar a datgan, 'Ni welaf longau'.

Bu'n amlwg ers cryn amser i'r rhai sy'n gwylïo'r Llywodraeth fod y cyfrifoldeb am anghywirdebau o bob math, ond yn enwedig y rhai sy'n ymwneud ag ariannu, bob tro yn eiddo i eraill, gan nad yw'r Llywodraeth byth yn anghywir. Mae ein hysgolion a'n hawdurdodau addysg lleol yn anghywir ynghylch yr arian a gânt i roi mesurau megis y cytundeb llwyth gwaith athrawon ar waith. Bwriad y cytundeb hwnnw yw ysgafnhau'r baich ar athrawon, gwella eu telerau a'u hamodau a, gobeithio, atal staff rhag gadael y proffesiwn. Ac eto, dywedwyd wrth y pum AALI sy'n datblygu'r cynllun peilot y bydd y £150,000 sydd ar gael yn cael ei gadw'n ganolog yn hytrach na'i roi iddynt hwy. Mae hynny'n golygu na fydd yr holl waith i drefnu'r cynlluniau hynny ar lefel llywodraeth leol yn cael ei ariannu. Oni fuasai'n well rhannu'r arian hwnnw ymysg yr awdurdodau sy'n cymryd rhan? Nid yw hyn yn ymwneud â dewis lleol, fel y carai'r

have us believe. It is about using local taxes to pay for national policies—something that is the opposite of the agreement signed between the Finance Minister and the Welsh Local Government Association.

Of course our schools are being repaired—or at least some of them are to some extent. The £9 million that was promised to every county council in Wales to ensure that all school buildings are fit for purpose by 2010 has not materialised. It might have been spent on paper by well-managed councils such as Caerphilly County Borough Council, but that is as far as it has gone because the Minister will not tell us when the money will be released. It is only the good management of some councils, such as Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, that have enabled them to achieve success. Work is progressing on the new school in Llantrisant as a result of the good management of the local authority.

Leighton Andrews: Will you give way?

Janet Ryder: There is no time.

All of this begs the question—whose figures are right? Are they those of the Assembly Government, which assesses at a distance, or those of local government, which must make things work at the chalk face? We know the Minister's response. She would dismiss the unions' and the WLGA's claims by saying that the figures are gold-plated. If that is the case, then she should publish the formula that her officials used to arrive at the Government's figures.

5.30 p.m.

Ann Jones: We do not take any lessons on this side of the Chamber from the Conservatives. Neither we nor the people of Wales will forget who introduced the obnoxious poll tax, Glyn; my comrade used to refer to you as 'Farmer Poll Tax'. I want to say a lot about Plaid Cymru's motion, but I do not have much time. I find it strange that it wants to talk about public services when we know that independence is high on its agenda and what that would cost the people of

Gweinidog inni ei gredu. Mae'n ymwneud â defnyddio trethi lleol i dalu am bolisiau cenedlaethol—rhywbeth sy'n groes i'r cytundeb a lofnodwyd rhwng y Gweinidog Cyllid a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru.

Mae ein hysgolion yn cael eu hatgyweirio, wrth gwrs—neu mae rai ohonynt o leiaf i ryw raddau. Nid yw'r £9 miliwn a addawyd i bob cyngor sir yng Nghymru i sicrhau bod yr holl adeiladau ysgol yn addas i'w diben erbyn 2010 wedi dod i'r golwg. Gallai fod wedi cael ei wario ar bapur gan gynghorau sy'n cael eu rheoli'n dda megis Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, ond nid aeth yn bellach na hynny am na wnaiff y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym pa bryd y rhoddir yr arian. Dim ond drwy reolaeth dda gan rai cynghorau, megis Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf, y bu modd iddynt sicrhau llwyddiant. Mae gwaith yn mynd rhagddo ar yr ysgol newydd yn Llantrisant oherwydd y rheolaeth dda ar yr awdurdod lleol.

Leighton Andrews: A wnewch chi ildio?

Janet Ryder: Nid oes digon o amser.

Mae hyn oll yn peri i rywun holi—ffigurau pwy sy'n iawn? Ai rhai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, sy'n asesu o bell, sy'n iawn neu rai llywodraeth leol, sy'n gorfod peri i bethau weithio yn y fan a'r lle? Gwyddom beth fyddai ymateb y Gweinidog. Byddai'n wfftio'r undebau a honiadau CLILC drwy ddweud bod y ffigurau'n gwbl sicr. Os felly, dylai gyhoeddi'r fformiwla a ddefnyddiodd ei swyddogion i gael ffigurau'r Llywodraeth.

Ann Jones: Ni chymerwn unrhyw wersi ar yr ochr hon i'r Siamb gan y Ceidwadwyr. Nid anghofiwn ni na phobl Cymru pwy a gyflwynodd y dreth y pen wrthun, Glyn; arferai fy nghymrawd eich galw'n 'Farmer Poll Tax'. Mae gennyf lawer i'w ddweud am gynnig Plaid Cymru, ond nid oes gennyf lawer o amser. Fe'i caf yn rhyfedd ei bod am sôn am wasanaethau cyhoeddus a ninnau'n gwybod bod annibyniaeth yn uchel ar ei hagenda a'r hyn y byddai hynny yn ei gostio i

Wales.

Owen John Thomas: What about Ireland?

Ann Jones: You have not come up with any figures and, as you made a sedentary intervention, I will talk to you about it later.

The Labour Assembly Government is committed to partnership with local government to put in place the policies that the people of Wales gave us a clear mandate to deliver some 12 months ago. The Minister has referred to the letter that she has jointly signed with the WLGA and Sir Harry Jones. Alun Ffred, you are wrong to say that only the Labour Party is represented on the WLGA: it crosses all parties. Therefore, with confidence, we acknowledge what the WLGA says as it talks for all local authorities.

Mark Isherwood *rose—*

Ann Jones: Sorry, Mark, there is no time. We will ensure, when we ask local authorities to manage initiatives on our behalf, that they receive funding to match it—the Minister referred to the free bus pass scheme, for example. Our agenda is freedom and responsibility for local government. That is why we have increased the general financial support for local government. Groan all you like, Ieuan, because the fact is that you still cannot tell us how much independent Wales will cost. We have increased general financial support for local government since 1999 by £1 billion to £4.4 billion. That is why, in addition to that, special grants for projects now stand at £3.6 billion. No-one can pretend that spending decisions, when taken at a local or national level, are easy, but at a time when the Assembly is delivering record increases in funding for local services, I find it frivolous of Plaid Cymru to pass the buck.

The debate on abolishing prescriptions was a classic example of how Plaid Cymru operates here, as opposed to how it operates in local authorities. We are told that that was a Plaid Cymru policy, but when we debated the principle in Plenary, Plaid Cymru Members

bobl Cymru.

Owen John Thomas: Beth am Iwerddon?

Ann Jones: Nid ydych wedi cynnig unrhyw ffigurau a, gan eich bod wedi ymyrryd ar eich eistedd, gwnaf siarad â chi am hynny'n ddiweddarach.

Mae Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo i bartneriaeth â llywodraeth leol er mwyn rhoi ar waith y polisiau y rhoddodd pobl Cymru fandad clir inni eu gweithredu tua 12 mis yn ôl. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi cyfeirio at y llythyr y mae wedi'i gydllofnodi â CLILC a Syr Harry Jones. Alun Ffred, yr ydych yn anghywir wrth ddweud mai dim ond y Blaid Lafur a gynrychiolir ar CLILC: mae'n cynnwys yr holl bleidiau. Gan hynny, cydnabyddwn yn hyderus yr hyn a ddywed CLILC gan ei bod yn siarad ar ran yr holl awdurdodau lleol.

Mark Isherwood *a gododd—*

Ann Jones: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Mark, nid oes amser ar ôl. Gwnawn sicrhau wrth ofyn i awdurdodau lleol reoli mentrau ar ein rhan eu bod yn cael cyllid ar gyfer hynny—cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog at y cynllun tocynnau bws am ddim, er enghraifft. Ein hagenda ni yw rhyddid a chyfrifoldeb i lywodraeth leol. Dyna pam yr ydym wedi rhoi mwy o gymorth ariannol cyffredinol nag erioed i lywodraeth leol. Cewch riddfan faint a fynnoch, Ieuan, oherwydd y gwir amdani yw na allwch ddweud wrthym byth faint y bydd Cymru annibynnol yn ei chostio. Yr ydym wedi cynyddu'r cymorth ariannol cyffredinol i lywodraeth leol er 1999 o £1 biliwn i £4.4 biliwn. Dyna pam, ar ben hynny, y ceir grantiau arbennig ar gyfer prosiectau o £3.6 biliwn bellach. Ni all neb gymryd arno fod penderfyniadau ar wario, ar lefel leol neu genedlaethol, yn rhai hawdd, ond ar adeg pan fo'r Cynulliad yn rhoi mwy o gyllid nag erioed ar gyfer gwasanaethau lleol, credaf ei bod yn ofer i Blaid Cymru daflu'r baich.

Yr oedd y ddadl ar ddiddymu presgripsiynau'n enghraifft glasurol o'r modd y mae Plaid Cymru'n gweithredu yn y fan hon, yn hytrach na sut y gweithreda mewn awdurdodau lleol. Dywedir wrthym mai polisi o eiddo Plaid Cymru oedd hwnnw, ond

sat on their hands. On free school breakfasts, when the policy was put to Plenary the nationalists again sat on their hands.

Helen Mary Jones: Will you take an intervention?

Ann Jones: I cannot; I only have 15 seconds left.

Helen Mary Jones: You do not want the explanation.

Ann Jones: Perhaps you can respond later. It is clear that we, on this side of the Chamber, take our politics seriously. Serious politics requires parties to choose. [*Interruption.*] I have run out of time, and the Deputy Presiding Officer is going to call me down, so do not start playing those games with me, Helen Mary.

Jocelyn Davies: Is it not nice to see us all agreeing on something? Regardless of what people have said today, we all agree with the proposition that initiatives that we pass to local government should be fully funded.

Housing is a major responsibility for local government, and one that most councils take seriously. We debate housing here from time to time, and all of us want to see an improvement in the Welsh housing stock. There is no disagreement on that. We know that poor housing significantly impacts on health, which costs the national health service some £15 million a year. Improvements in housing will lead to improvements in the nation's health, and will save the NHS considerable amounts of money.

Nick Bourne: Are you aware that Russell Goodway and the Labour administration in Cardiff have condemned what they receive from the Labour Assembly Government as one of the worst financial settlements that they have ever had?

Jocelyn Davies: I have not seen that report, Nick, but I believe you that that is probably

pan gawsom ddadl ar yr egwyddor yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, gwneud dim a wnaeth Aelodau Plaid Cymru. Ynghylch brecwastau am ddim mewn ysgolion, pan gyflwynwyd y polisi i'r Cyfarfod Llawn, gwneud dim a wnaeth y cenedlaetholwyr eto.

Helen Mary Jones: A wnewch chi dderbyn ymyriad?

Ann Jones: Ni allaf; nid oes gennyf ond 15 eiliad yn weddill.

Helen Mary Jones: Nid ydych am glywed yr eglurhad.

Ann Jones: Efallai y cewch ymateb yn ddiweddarach. Mae'n amlwg ein bod ni, ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr, yn cymryd ein gwleidyddiaeth o ddifrif. Er mwyn gwleidyddiaeth o ddifrif, rhaid i bleidiau ddewis. [*Torri ar draws.*] Mae fy amser wedi dod i ben, ac mae'r Dirprwy Lywydd am alw arnaf i eistedd, felly peidiwch â dechrau chwarae castiau o'r fath arnaf fi, Helen Mary.

Jocelyn Davies: Onid yw'n braf gweld ein bod oll yn cytuno ar rywbeth? Beth bynnag a ddywedwyd heddiw, yr ydym oll yn cytuno â'r gosodiad y dylai mentrau a drosglwyddwn i lywodraeth leol gael eu hariannu'n llawn.

Tai yw un o brif gyfrifoldebau llywodraeth leol, ac mae'n un y mae'r rhan fwyaf o gynghorau'n ei gymryd o ddifrif. Cawn ddadleuon ar dai yma o bryd i'w gilydd, ac mae pob un ohonom am weld stoc dai Cymru'n gwella. Nid oes anghytuno ar hynny. Gwyddom fod tai gwael yn cael effaith sylweddol ar iechyd, a bod hynny'n costio tua £15 miliwn y flwyddyn i'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Bydd gwelliannau mewn tai'n arwain at welliannau yn iechyd y genedl, a bydd yn arbed symiau mawr o arian i'r GIG.

Nick Bourne: A wyddoch fod Russell Goodway a'r weinyddiaeth Lafur yng Nghaerdydd wedi collfarnu'r hyn a gânt gan Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad gan ei alw'n un o'r setliadau ariannol gwaethaf a gawsant erioed?

Jocelyn Davies: Nid wyf wedi gweld yr adroddiad hwnnw, Nick, ond credaf fod

correct. It is estimated that some 98,000 houses are unfit for habitation, affecting some 0.25 million people in Wales. Council houses represent a particular challenge and the Government has committed itself to tackling the estimated £1 billion backlog of repairs and modernisation. However, the reality is that the housing budget has been at a standstill, which probably results in the Russell Goodway situation, and which most people recognise as a cut. As a percentage of the Assembly budget, the housing share has gradually fallen each year in the budgetary period. The Chartered Institute of Housing has called for an extra £50 million over the next three years to halve the number of council houses that are in a state of serious disrepair. We can all agree that if local authorities can bring their stock up to standard, tenants will benefit as will the NHS budget. However, how will they manage that without extra resources from the Assembly?

I understand that the Government has set a new Welsh housing quality standard for all councils and that their stock must meet this standard by 2012. It is a standard that Newport City Council says is too high—the standard is in fact higher than that set for English councils. The new minimum standard will include a garden with a 10 sq m level area, a kitchen that is less than 15 years old, and a bathroom that is less than 25 years old with a shower. There must also be improvement in security, the environment and energy efficiency. These are all good aims, and local authorities say that they would like to meet them but that they simply cannot afford to do so. Newport council, which is not a Plaid Cymru council and is led by the other signatory to this letter, has described this as unachievable and unfair. It estimates that it needs about £240 million for these improvements, and it sees a shortfall of £158 million. I doubt that any council can achieve this standard, and we must acknowledge that telling councils to do something does not necessarily enable them to do it.

hynny'n gywir, yn ôl pob tebyg. Amcangyfrifir bod tua 98,000 o dai'n anaddas i fyw ynddynt, a bod hynny'n effeithio ar tua 0.25 miliwn o bobl yng Nghymru. Mae tai cyngor yn her arbennig ac mae'r Llywodraeth wedi ymrwmo i fynd i'r afael â'r ôl-groniad o waith atgyweirio a moderneiddio yr amcangyfrifir ei fod yn werth £1 biliwn. Fodd bynnag, y gwir yw bod y gyllideb tai wedi sefyll yn ei hunfan a hynny, mae'n debyg, sydd wedi arwain at y sefyllfa y mae Russell Goodway ynnddi, y mae'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn ei ystyried yn gwtogiad. Fel canran o gyllideb y Cynulliad, mae'r gyfran a gaiff tai wedi gostwng yn raddol bob blwyddyn yng nghyfnod y gyllideb. Mae'r Sefydliad Tai Siartredig wedi galw am £50 miliwn ychwanegol dros y tair blynedd nesaf er mwyn haneru nifer y tai cyngor sydd wedi dadfeilio'n ddifrifol. Gallwn oll gytuno, os gall awdurdodau lleol godi eu stoc i'r safon ofynnol, y bydd tenantiaid yn elwa ar hynny yn ogystal â chyllideb y GIG. Fodd bynnag, sut y gwnânt hynny heb gael adnoddau ychwanegol gan y Cynulliad?

Deallaf fod y Llywodraeth wedi pennu safon newydd ar gyfer ansawdd tai Cymru i'r holl gynghorau a bod rhaid i'w stoc gyrraedd y targed hwn erbyn 2012. Mae'n safon y dywed Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd ei bod yn rhy uchel—mae'r safon yn uwch, mewn gwirionedd, na'r un a osodwyd ar gyfer cynghorau yn Lloegr. Bydd y safon sylfaenol newydd yn cynnwys gardd â wyneb gwastad o 10 metr sgwâr, cegin sy'n llai na 15 mlwydd oed, ac ystafell ymolchi sy'n llai na 25 mlwydd oed gyda chawod. Rhaid wrth welliant hefyd mewn diogeledd, yr amgylchedd ac effeithlonrwydd ynni. Mae'r rhain i gyd yn nodau da, a dywed awdurdodau lleol y carent eu cyflawni ond na allant fforddio gwneud hynny. Mae cyngor Casnewydd, nad yw'n un o gynghorau Plaid Cymru ac a arweinir gan lofnodwr arall y llythyr hwn, wedi dweud ei bod yn annheg ac yn amhosibl cyflawni'r nod. Mae'n amcangyfrif y bydd arno angen tua £240 miliwn i wneud y gwelliannau hyn, ac mae'n rhagweld diffyg o £158 miliwn. Yr wyf yn amau a allai unrhyw gyngor gyrraedd y safon hon, a rhaid inni gydnabod nad yw dweud wrth gynghorau am wneud rhywbeth yn golygu o reidrwydd y gallant ei wneud.

Caerphilly council is in the same boat as Newport, predicting that it will need an extra £120 million. Monmouthshire needs an extra £32 million and Blaenau Gwent needs £60 million. Torfaen says that its shortfall is £57 million for the housing work alone, and the additional environmental improvements could push that figure up to £130 million. This leaves all these councils in a desperate position.

Jeff Cuthbert: When I raised the issue of the £8 million surplus in the housing revenue account in Caerphilly, not long ago, I was told that it was all earmarked. How can you explain how that has accumulated given the level of underfunding that you claim?

Jocelyn Davies: I am told by Caerphilly that all of that money is earmarked to be spent, so it is not actually reserved and you are wrong to describe it as such. Let me make my point, Jeff, because you do not need to criticise Caerphilly council particularly in this matter. I am telling you what the shortfalls are in Caerphilly, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Newport. You should take a broader view than just what is going on in Caerphilly.

The number of applications for council houses is rising because more and more people need council housing. First-time buyers cannot find properties that they can afford, and more are turning to the council for help. Therefore, we must ensure that social housing is available and that local authorities are given the money that they need to meet the standard that the Assembly has set for them.

Sir Harry Jones, the Newport City Council leader, says that housing is at the core of a council's responsibilities, and that the debate on its future is the most important debate that we have had in a long time. We must, therefore, pledge to fund fully the WAG initiatives that the Assembly insists that local government undertake. The Minister said that she is already committed to that, and I assume that, after today's vote, she will find

Mae cyngor Caerffili yn yr un cwch â Chasnewydd, ac mae'n rhagweld y bydd arno angen £120 miliwn yn ychwanegol. Mae ar sir Fynwy angen £32 miliwn yn ychwanegol ac mae ar Flaenau Gwent angen £60 miliwn. Dywed Tor-faen fod ganddo ddiffyg o £57 miliwn ar gyfer y gwaith ar dai'n unig, a gallai'r gwelliannau amgylcheddol ar ben hynny godi'r ffigur i £130 miliwn. Mae hyn yn gadael yr holl gynghorau hynny mewn sefyllfa anobeithiol.

Jeff Cuthbert: Pan godais fater y gwarged o £8 miliwn yn y cyfrif refeniw tai yng Nghaerffili, ychydig yn ôl, dywedwyd wrthyf fod y cwbl wedi'i glustnodi. Sut y gallwch egluro'r modd y mae wedi cronni yng ngolwg eich honiadau am raddau'r tanariannu?

Jocelyn Davies: Dywed cyngor Caerffili wrthyf fod y cwbl o'r arian hwnnw wedi'i glustnodi i'w wario, felly nid yw wedi'i gadw wrth gefn ac yr ydych yn anghywir wrth ddweud hynny. Gadewch imi wneud y pwynt hwn, Jeff, gan nad oes angen ichi feirniadu cyngor Caerffili'n benodol ar y mater hwn. Yr wyf yn dweud wrthyf beth yw'r diffygion yng Nghaerffili, Tor-faen, Blaenau Gwent a Chasnewydd. Dylech edrych ymhellach na'r hyn sy'n digwydd yng Nghaerffili'n unig.

Mae nifer y ceisiadau am dai cyngor yn codi gan fod ar fwyfwy o bobl angen tai cyngor. Nid yw prynwyr tro cyntaf yn gallu dod o hyd i dai y gallant eu fforddio, ac mae mwy'n troi at y cyngor i gael cymorth. Gan hynny, rhaid inni sicrhau bod tai cymdeithasol ar gael ac y caiff awdurdodau lleol yr arian y mae arnynt ei angen i gyrraedd y safon y mae'r Cynulliad wedi'i phennu ar eu cyfer.

Mae Syr Harry Jones, arweinydd Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd, yn dweud bod tai yn ganolog i gyfrifoldebau cyngor, ac mai'r ddadl ar eu dyfodol yw'r un bwysicaf a gawsom ers amser maith. Gan hynny, rhaid inni addunedu y bydd y mentrau o eiddo Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru y mae'r Cynulliad yn mynnu bod llywodraeth leol yn ymgymryd â hwy, yn cael eu hariannu'n llawn. Dywedodd y Gweinidog ei bod eisoes

that the Assembly is also committed to that.

wedi ymrwymo i hynny, ac yr wyf yn cymryd, ar ôl y bleidlais heddiw, y caiff fod y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo i hynny hefyd.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 28.
Amendment 1: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 28.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

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
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 34, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 19.
Amendment 2: For 34, Abstain 0, Against 19.*

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
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John

Gwyther, Christine
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Williams, Kirsty

Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 3: O blaid 15, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 38.
 Amendment 3: For 15, Abstain 0, Against 38.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 German, Michael
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
 The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bourne, Nick
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Francis, Lisa
 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
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Williams, Brynle

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

Motion NDM1934 as amended:

the National Assembly for Wales welcomes the agreement made between the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Local Government Association, signed on 10 December 2003, which recognises that future new initiatives and new responsibilities must be fully funded before they are passed on to local government, and that this will take full effect in the 2004 budget planning round.

Cynnig NDM1934 wedi'i ddiwygio:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn croesawu'r cytundeb a wnaed rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, a lofnodwyd ar 10 Rhagfyr 2003, sy'n cydnabod bod yn rhaid i fentrau newydd a chyfrifoldebau newydd y dyfodol gael eu hariannu'n llawn cyn eu trosglwyddo i lywodraeth leol, ac y bydd hyn yn dod i rym yn llawn yng nghylch cynllunio cyllideb 2004.

*Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 34, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 19.
Amended motion: For 34, Abstain 0, Against 19.*

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
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio.
Amended motion carried.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Daw hynny â today's proceedings to a close. 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-Kneafsey, 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, Peter (Llafur – Labour)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Marek, John (Annibynnol – Independent)
 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)