



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Cofnod y Trafodion**

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

**Dydd Mercher, 28 Mawrth 2007
Wednesday, 28 March 2007**

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

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

*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.*

**Datganiad Personol gan y Dirprwy Lywydd
Personal Statement by the Deputy Presiding Officer**

Y Llywydd: Cyn dechrau ar ein busnes, galwaf ar Dr John Marek i wneud datganiad personol.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Given that the Presiding Officer wished to preside all day yesterday and today, the only opportunity for me to thank everyone for their assistance during my time as Deputy Presiding Officer was by making a personal statement. I am sorry that it has not been included as an item on today's agenda, but I hope that some Members may have heard about it at the last moment, by being sent an e-mail.

I thank everyone at the Assembly for allowing me to carry out my job as Deputy Presiding Officer, in the service of the Assembly, to the best of my ability. A major part of the job did not involve working here, but the part that did was such that I had two principal duties. The first was to ensure that Government business got to the point of a vote, although whether it was carried or defeated was nothing to do with me. The second was to ensure that the opposition parties were allowed time to have their say and time to scrutinise Government legislation, and to do so properly. Allow me to say that some of you have been long-winded; equally, some of you have been rude to others, and that works both ways. I see that you do not recognise that, Rhodri Glyn, but it does. In the long run, however, I think that it has all worked out well.

I therefore place on record my thanks to you, Mr Presiding Officer, to all the staff of the Assembly Parliamentary Service, as well as to the cleaners, and the catering and security staff, all of whom have enabled us to do what we do here, and have let me do my job. Therefore, I thank you all for your help and, at times, your patience. [*Applause.*]

The Presiding Officer: I thank the Deputy

The Presiding Officer: Before we begin our business for today, I call Dr John Marek to make a personal statement.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gan fod y Llywydd yn awyddus i lywyddu drwy'r dydd ddoe a heddiw, yr unig gyfle a oedd gennyf i ddiolch i bawb am eu cymorth yn ystod fy amser fel Dirprwy Lywydd oedd drwy wneud datganiad personol. Mae'n flin gennyf nad yw wedi'i gynnwys fel eitem ar yr agenda heddiw, ond gobeithio bod rhai Aelodau wedi clywed amdano ar yr eiliad olaf, drwy neges e-bost.

Hoffwn ddiolch i bawb yn y Cynulliad am ganiatáu imi ymgymryd â'm swydd fel Dirprwy Lywydd a gwasanaethu'r Cynulliad hyd eithaf fy ngallu. Yr oedd y swydd yn golygu gweithio o fannau eraill i rannau helaeth, ond yr oedd y gwaith a gyflawnwyd o'r fan hon yn cwmpasu dwy brif ddyletswydd. Y cyntaf oedd sicrhau bod busnes y Llywodraeth yn mynd i bleidlais, er nad oedd ei dderbyn ynteu ei wrthod yn ddim oll i'w wneud â mi. Yr ail oedd sicrhau bod y gwrthbleidiau'n cael amser i fynegi eu barn a chraffu ar ddeddfwriaeth y Llywodraeth, ac i wneud hynny'n briodol. Gadewch imi ddweud bod rhai ohonoch wedi bod yn amleiriog; mae rhai ohonoch hefyd wedi bod yn anghwrtais wrth eraill, ac mae hynny'n gweithio'r ddwy ffordd. Gwelaf nad ydych yn cydnabod hynny, Rhodri Glyn, ond mae'n wir. Fodd bynnag, yn y pen draw credaf fod y cyfan wedi gweithio'n dda.

Felly, hoffwn ddiolch i chi, Mr Lywydd, i holl staff Gwasanaeth Seneddol y Cynulliad, ynghyd â'r glanhawyr a'r staff arlwyyo a diogelwch, sydd bob un ohonynt wedi'n galluogi i wneud yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud yma, ac wedi caniatáu imi wneud fy ngwaith. Felly, diolch ichi am eich cymorth ac, ar brydiau, eich amynedd. [*Cymeradwyaeth.*]

Y Llywydd: Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Dirprwy

Presiding Officer for his personal statement. We have been a unique double act in the history of the first two Assemblies. It will never happen again, of course, because, as Members are well aware, the Presiding Officer and the deputy are paired forever under our new Standing Orders and legislation—in terms of voting, that is. [*Laughter.*]

Lywydd am ei ddatganiad personol. Yr ydym wedi bod yn act ddwbl unigryw yn hanes y ddau Gynulliad cyntaf. Fel y gŵyr Aelodau, ni fydd hyn byth yn digwydd eto, wrth gwrs, gan fod y Llywydd a'r Dirprwy Lywydd wedi'u paru am byth o dan ein Gorchmynion Sefydlog a'n deddfwriaeth newydd—hynny yw, o ran pleidleisio. [*Chwerthin.*]

Cwestiynau ar Lywodraeth Leol i'r Gweinidog Cyllid Questions on Local Government to the Finance Minister

Cynllun Awdurdodau Lleol i Gymell Twf Busnesau The Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme

Q1 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the delivery of the local authority business growth incentive scheme in the Vale of Clwyd? OAQ1151(LGP)

C1 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarparu'r cynllun awdurdodau lleol i gymell twf busnesau yn Nyffryn Clwyd? OAQ1151(LGP)

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): Denbighshire County Council received a LABGI payment of £589,407 earlier this month, and a payment of £221,219 in 2006. This is money provided by the Treasury and is in addition to the local government settlement grant provided by the Assembly Government.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Cafodd Cyngor Sir Ddinbych daliad LABGI o £589,407 yn gynharach yn y mis, a thaliad o £221,219 yn 2006. Arian a roddwyd gan y Trysorlys oedd hwn, yn ychwanegol at y grant setliad llywodraeth leol a roddwyd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Ann Jones: Thank you for that reply, Minister. I think that you will agree that this scheme is an important way of giving local authorities a financial inducement to stimulate business growth in their areas. According to figures supplied to me by the Assembly Library, Denbighshire council has drawn down £8.40 per head of population, compared with £22.10 per head in Conwy and £26.80 in Flintshire. Does it bother you, Minister, that not all local authorities have shown the same level of enthusiasm for this scheme? What can we do in future to ensure that we promote this scheme to best effect?

Ann Jones: Diolch ichi am yr ymateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Credaf y cytunwch fod y cynllun hwn yn ffordd bwysig i roi cymhelliad ariannol i awdurdodau lleol i gymell twf busnesau yn eu hardaloedd. Yn ôl ffigurau a roddwyd imi gan Lyfrgell y Cynulliad, mae Cyngor Sir Ddinbych wedi defnyddio £8.40 y pen o'r boblogaeth, o'i gymharu â £22.10 y pen yng Nghonwy a £26.80 yn sir y Fflint. A ydych yn poeni, Weinidog, nad yw pob awdurdod lleol wedi dangos yr un brwdfrydedd tuag at y cynllun hwn? Beth y gallwn ei wneud yn y dyfodol i sicrhau ein bod yn hyrwyddo'r cynllun hwn yn y ffordd orau?

Sue Essex: I would like to say, 'I'm not bothered', but I am bothered. [*Laughter.*] The issue is—[*Interruption.*] No, I am bothered, Minister for culture. I want to see local authorities maximising business in their areas, particularly along north Wales, as I have been involved with the spatial plan for north Wales.

Sue Essex: Hoffwn ddweud 'I'm not bothered', ond yr wyf yn poeni. [*Chwerthin.*] Y broblem yw—[*Torri ar draws.*] Na, yr wyf yn poeni, Weinidog dros ddiwylliant. Yr wyf am weld awdurdodau lleol yn sicrhau'r twf mwyaf posibl o ran busnesau yn eu hardaloedd, yn enwedig yn y gogledd, gan imi fod yn gysylltiedig â'r cynllun gofodol ar

gyfer y gogledd.

Looking to the future, I know that Michael Lyons recognised in his recent report that it is a good scheme, although it needs to be simplified—and I say ‘Hear, hear’ to that. Rewarding local authorities for spurring on and encouraging businesses in their areas has got to be a sound idea. I hope that Denbighshire will do well in future.

Gan edrych i'r dyfodol, gwn fod Michael Lyons wedi cydnabod yn ei adroddiad yn diweddar ei fod yn gynllun da, er bod angen ei symleiddio—a dywedaf ‘Clywch, clywch’ i hynny. Mae gwobrwyo awdurdodau lleol am ysgogi ac annog busnesau yn eu hardaloedd yn rhwym o fod yn syniad da. Gobeithio y bydd sir Ddinbych yn gwneud yn dda yn y dyfodol.

The Presiding Officer: Question 2 is transferred for written answer. I call Mark Isherwood to ask question 3.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 2 i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig. Galwaf ar Mark Isherwood i ofyn cwestiwn 3.

Mark Isherwood: Oh. That came around a lot quicker than I expected.

Mark Isherwood: O. Digwyddodd hynny'n gyflymach nag yr oeddwn yn ei ddisgwyl.

Sue Essex: Do you want me to read it out for you, Mark, in the spirit of partnership?

Sue Essex: A hoffech imi ddarllen y cwestiwn allan ar eich rhan, Mark, yng ngwir ysbryd partneriaeth?

Mark Isherwood: No, thank you. I have it here.

Mark Isherwood: Na, diolch. Mae'r cwestiwn gennyf yma.

Effaith Praesept yr Heddlu The Impact of the Police Precept

Q3 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on the impact of the police precept on council tax? OAQ1177(LGP)

C3 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am effaith praesept yr heddlu ar y dreth gyngor? OAQ1177(LGP)

Sue Essex: In South Wales, Gwent and Dyfed-Powys police authorities, the increase in the police element of council tax will be 5 per cent for 2007-08. I am pleased that they acted responsibly by keeping within the 5 per cent. In the North Wales Police Authority area, the police element of council tax will rise by 6.8 per cent.

Sue Essex: Yn ardaloedd awdurdodau heddlu De Cymru, Gwent a Dyfed-Powys, bydd elfen yr heddlu o'r dreth gyngor yn cynyddu 5 y cant ar gyfer 2007-08. Yr wyf yn falch dweud eu bod wedi gweithredu'n gyfrifol drwy gadw o fewn y 5 y cant. Yn ardal Awdurdod Heddlu Gogledd Cymru, bydd elfen yr heddlu o'r dreth gyngor yn cynyddu 6.8 y cant.

Mark Isherwood: In clarifying your last point, that the police precept has gone up by 6.75 per cent, would you agree that, in reality, and contrary to the claims made to the public by some people, council tax has not gone up by 6.7 per cent but by an average of 4.77 per cent? Of that, 4.47 per cent excluded the additional 1.75 per cent on police precept, equivalent to 6p a week, for bobbies on the beat.

Mark Isherwood: Wrth egluro eich pwynt olaf, sef bod praesept yr heddlu wedi cynyddu 6.75 y cant, a fyddech yn cytuno, yn groes i'r honiadau a wnaethpwyd i'r cyhoedd gan rai pobl, nad yw'r dreth gyngor wedi cynyddu 6.7 y cant mewn gwirionedd, ond yn hytrach 4.77 y cant ar gyfartaledd? O'r ffigur hwnnw, nid oedd 4.47 y cant yn cynnwys yr 1.75 y cant ychwanegol ar braesept yr heddlu, sy'n cyfateb i 6c yr wythnos, ar gyfer rhoi plismyn ar y strydoedd.

Sue Essex: Final council tax figures will vary from county to county across north Wales, because of the different levels at which authorities set the tax. However, as you know, all local authorities in Wales—including those in the three other police authority areas—kept within the 5 per cent limit. I greatly appreciated the work that they did in doing so. It is sad that north Wales police authority was unable to do that. I can remember clearly that its starting figure was 15 per cent, so, with a lot of pressure from me and my colleagues, that figure came down. The issue in north Wales, Mark, is whether people think that that extra money is essential. Do they think that they should be paying it? Whether or not you think that the sum is small, it is the principle that matters, and I am sorry if you cannot see that.

The police authority charge makes up 17 per cent of band D council tax in north Wales, which is way beyond many other UK police authority charges. So, whether the figure is small or large, the principle of exceeding 5 per cent is something that north Wales council tax payers do not appreciate. I did not receive any negative letters on my stance on this issue, as everyone understood the principle of 5 per cent or less.

Carl Sargeant: I congratulate you, Minister, on the work that you have done for local government and public services.

Would you agree that, no matter how much the opposition chooses to deny that there has been an increase in council tax for people in north Wales, the fact is that Mark Isherwood, Eleanor Burnham, Brynle Williams and John Marek all voted for a tax hike for the hard-working families of north Wales?

Sue Essex: Some Conservative colleagues left the Chamber that day hardly believing what they had done. They can no longer claim to be the party of low council tax, because, if you look at the figures, over the last two years, I have done my best, working with Welsh local government and police authorities, to keep council tax levels to the

Sue Essex: Bydd y ffigurau terfynol ar gyfer y dreth gyngor yn amrywio o sir i sir yn y gogledd, oherwydd y gwahanol lefelau y mae awdurdodau yn pennu'r dreth arnynt. Fodd bynnag, fel y gwyddoch, cadwodd pob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru—gan gynnwys y rheini yn ardaloedd y tri awdurdod heddlu arall—o fewn y terfyn o 5 y cant. Yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi'n fawr y gwaith a wnaethant i wneud hynny. Mae'n drist nad oedd awdurdod heddlu gogledd Cymru yn gallu gwneud hynny. Gallaf gofio'n glir mai 15 y cant oedd ei ffigur cychwynnol, felly, ar ôl llawer o bwysau gennyf fi a'm cyd-Aelodau, gostyngwyd y ffigur hwnnw. Y broblem yn y gogledd, Mark, yw a yw pobl yn credu bod yr arian ychwanegol hwnnw'n hanfodol. A ydynt yn credu y dylent fod yn ei dalu? P'un a ydych yn credu bod y swm yn fach ai peidio, yr egwyddor sy'n bwysig, ac mae'n flin gennyf os na allwch weld hynny.

Mae tâl yr awdurdodau heddlu yn cyfateb i 17 y cant o dreth gyngor band D yn y gogledd, sy'n uwch o lawer na thaliadau nifer o awdurdodau heddlu eraill yn y DU. Felly, p'un a yw'r ffigur yn fach neu'n fawr, mae'r egwyddor o bennu cynnydd dros 5 y cant yn rhywbeth nad yw pobl yn y gogledd sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor yn ei werthfawrogi. Ni chefais yr un llythyr negyddol ynglŷn â'm safbwynt ar y mater hwn, gan fod pawb yn deall yr egwyddor o 5 y cant neu lai.

Carl Sargeant: Hoffwn eich llongyfarch, Weinidog, ar y gwaith yr ydych wedi'i wneud dros lywodraeth leol a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

A gytunech, waeth faint y mae'r gwrthbleidiau'n dewis gwadu'r cynnydd a fu yn y dreth gyngor i bobl yn y gogledd, y gwir yw fod Mark Isherwood, Eleanor Burnham, Brynle Williams a John Marek bob un wedi pleidleisio o blaid cynnydd yn y dreth i deuluoedd gweithgar y gogledd?

Sue Essex: Aeth rhai cyd-Aelodau Ceidwadol o'r Siambr y diwrnod hwnnw bron yn methu credu'r hyn yr oeddent wedi'i wneud. Ni allant honni bellach mai nhw yw plaid y dreth gyngor isel, oherwydd os edrychwch ar y ffigurau, dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf, yr wyf wedi gwneud fy ngorau glas, drwy weithio gyda llywodraeth

lowest that they have been since the tax was introduced. I thought that 5 per cent was a reasonable level, and council tax payers think that 5 per cent or less is reasonable. They were shocked that many colleagues in the Chamber could not support council tax payers on that day, and they will be answerable for that when the time comes.

John Marek: Will the Minister admit that, although she believes that we are the party of council tax hikes, we are the party that is against crime and in favour of proper policing? Will she further admit that this extra sum, to which I and others plead guilty, increasing the police precept by £2.93 for the whole year, means that we will have up to 10 community beat managers in Wrexham that we would not have had if she had had her way? In Carl Sargeant's constituency, 10 community beat managers who would have been sacked will not now be sacked because of this £2.93. Rather than being sad, will the Minister be joyful that we are to be policed properly?

Sue Essex: John, you started by saying 'we are the party', but I am not sure what that means. Are you Forward Wales when you say that, are you an Independent, or do you wish that you were still a member of the Labour Party? It will be interesting to look at the transcript. Maybe you can tell the good folk of Wrexham which party you represent, because there is some confusion about that at the moment.

2.10 p.m.

The point is this: did they need to do this to keep community constables on the beat? The answer is 'no'. I looked at the figures carefully, and there was an important letter from Tony McNulty, the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety, who wrote to the police authorities and said that they did not need to introduce level 2 funding until 2011. This was the issue that North Wales Police said broke the bank for it and pushed it over the 5 per cent level.

leol ac awdurdodau'r heddlu yng Nghymru, i gadw'r dreth gyngor ar ei lefel isaf ers cyflwyno'r dreth. Yr oedd 5 y cant yn lefel resymol yn fy marn i, ac mae pobl sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor yn credu bod 5 y cant neu lai yn rhesymol. Yr oeddent yn synnu bod nifer o'm cyd-Aelodau yn y Siambr yn methu cefnogi talwyr y dreth gyngor ar y diwrnod hwnnw, a byddant yn atebol am hynny pan ddaw'r amser.

John Marek: Er bod y Gweinidog yn credu mai ni yw'r blaid sy'n gyfrifol am y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor, a wnaiff hi gyfaddef mai ni yw'r blaid sydd yn erbyn troseddu ac o blaid plismona priodol? A wnaiff y Gweinidog gyfaddef hefyd fod y swm ychwanegol hwn yr wyf fi ac eraill yn pledio'n euog iddo yn cynyddu praesept yr heddlu £2.93 am y flwyddyn gyfan, yn golygu y bydd gennym hyd at 10 rheolwr rhawd cymunedol yn Wrecsam na fyddem wedi'u cael pe bai'r Gweinidog wedi cael ei ffordd? Yn etholaeth Carl Sargeant, ni fydd angen diswyddo 10 rheolwr rhawd cymunedol a fyddai wedi eu diswyddo fel arall, oherwydd y £2.93 hwn. Yn hytrach na thristáu, a wnaiff y Gweinidog lawenhau ein bod i gael ein plismona'n briodol?

Sue Essex: John, yr oeddech yn dechrau drwy ddweud 'ni yw'r blaid', ond nid wyf yn siŵr beth mae hynny'n ei olygu. A ydych yn dweud hynny fel aelod o Cymru Ymlaen, fel aelod Annibynnol, neu a ydych yn edifar nad ydych yn dal yn aelod o'r Blaid Lafur? Bydd yn ddiddorol edrych ar y trawsgrifiad. Efallai y gallwch ddweud wrth bobl Wrecsam pa blaid yr ydych yn ei chynrychioli, oherwydd mae yna ychydig ddryswch ynglŷn â hynny ar hyn o bryd.

Y pwynt yw hyn: a oedd angen iddynt wneud hyn i gadw cwnstabiliaid cymunedol ar y strydoedd? Yr ateb yw 'na'. Edrychais ar y ffigurau'n ofalus, ac yr oedd llythyr pwysig gan Tony McNulty, y Gweinidog dros Blismona, Diogelwch a Diogelwch Cymunedol, a ysgrifennodd at yr awdurdodau heddlu yn dweud nad oedd angen iddynt gyflwyno cyllid lefel 2 tan 2011. Yn ôl Heddlu Gogledd Cymru, dyna a arweiniodd at bennu cynnydd o fwy na 5 y cant. Felly, yr

Therefore, there was a letter from the Minister in London that said that the authorities did not have to do it. North Wales Police could have kept below 5 per cent, and not have made threats to take police off the front line—police whom the good people of north Wales believe that they are paying for anyway, given the decision years ago. From the facts, I am clear in my mind that North Wales Police, like the other three police authorities in Wales, could have kept to 5 per cent or below.

Mick Bates: I offer my congratulations to the Minister on her work over the last eight years, and her refreshing attitude to politics—I am aware that there are a few eggshells lying around here today.

To me, this argument embodies one principle, and I would like to hear the Minister's view on this: does she think that we get a fair share of the Home Office money for policing in Wales, because that is where the heart of this argument can be resolved?

Sue Essex: It is interesting this year, Mick, because there is a formula. Like all formulas, it is argued over—the more complex the formula, the more it is argued over, in my experience. However, there is a formula that takes into account issues such as sparsity and deprivation, which are important to us in Wales. This year, the formula did not kick in—the formula was not used, I understand—and the police forces in Wales benefited from a floor increase. North Wales got a considerable amount; I think it was £8 million. If people have reservations about the formula, and I think that they did, the police authorities in Wales were not adversely affected by that this year, because they had floor funding. I think that all police authorities throughout England and Wales had the same level.

oedd llythyr gan y Gweinidog yn Llundain yn dweud nad oedd rhaid i'r awdurdodau wneud hynny. Gallai Heddlu Gogledd Cymru fod wedi cadw islaw 5 y cant, a pheidio â bygwth cael gwared ar swyddogion rheng flaen—swyddogion heddlu y mae pobl dda y gogledd yn credu eu bod yn talu amdanynt beth bynnag, o gofio'r penderfyniad flynyddoedd yn ôl. O edrych ar y ffeithiau, yr wyf yn argyhoeddedig y gallai Heddlu Gogledd Cymru, fel y tri awdurdod heddlu arall yng Nghymru, fod wedi cadw at 5 y cant neu lai.

Mick Bates: Hoffwn longyfarch y Gweinidog ar ei gwaith dros yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf, a'i hagwedd braf tuag at wleidyddiaeth—gwn fod plisgyn wŷy neu ddau ar lawr yma heddiw.

I mi, mae'r ddadl hon yn ymgorffori un egwyddor, a hoffwn glywed barn y Gweinidog am hyn: a yw'r Gweinidog yn credu ein bod yn cael cyfran deg o arian y Swyddfa Gartref ar gyfer plismona yng Nghymru, ohewydd dyna lle y gellir datrys gwraidd y dadl hon?

Sue Essex: Mae'n ddiddorol eleni, Mick, gan fod fformiwla ar waith. Fel pob fformiwla, bydd dadlau drosti—po fwyaf cymhleth yw'r fformiwla, y mwyaf o ddadlau a fydd, o'm profiad i. Fodd bynnag, mae yna fformiwla sy'n ystyried materion fel teneurwydd y boblogaeth ac amddifadedd, sy'n bwysig i ni yng Nghymru. Eleni, ni ddechreuodd y fformiwla—ni ddefnyddiwyd y fformiwla, yn ôl a ddeallaf—a chafodd yr heddluoedd yng Nghymru fudd o gynnydd terfyn isaf. Cafodd Gogledd Cymru swm sylweddol; £8 miliwn, mi gredaf. Os oes gan bobl amheuan am y fformiwla, ac yr oedd ganddynt amheuan, mi gredaf, ni chafodd hynny effaith niweidiol ar awdurdodau'r heddlu yng Nghymru eleni, am eu bod wedi cael arian terfyn isaf. Credaf fod pob awdurdod heddlu ledled Cymru a Lloegr wedi cael yr un lefel.

Ailbrisio Eiddo Property Revaluation

Q4 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement on the continuing impact of property revaluation on council tax? OAQ1184(LGP)

C4 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am effaith barhaus ailbrisio eiddo ar y dreth gyngor? OAQ1184(LGP)

Sue Essex: In Wales we revalued domestic properties in 2005. Council tax levels in Wales remain considerably lower than those in England.

William Graham: Thank you for your answer, Minister. You will remember that, in years gone by, the suggestion was that revaluation would be neutral, but in reality there are far more losers than winners. I think that you have until Tuesday before purdah begins—we are not supposed to use that term, but I gather that it is still quite acceptable to most of us—so could I ask you to join the Welsh Conservatives in promising a £100 reduction in council tax bills for pensioner households?

Sue Essex: On the point about it being neutral, the issue was whether it was neutral with regard to council tax revenue, and it was. If you look at council tax take for that year, it is no different from previous years, because although more people went up a band than came down a band, once the bands were set—and I have given you an explanation for why that happened—what was critical was the rate at which council tax is charged. You will remember that in that year I issued the principles of capping for local authorities, ensuring that unfair advantage was not taken of revaluation. Therefore, that is where the neutrality comes in; it is about where you set the increase. In Cardiff, for instance, because a lot of properties went up a band, the council tax increase was zero point something—it was relatively low.

The revaluation issues are interesting. The reason why there was such a massive change is that when your Government introduced council tax—which was a lot better than the horrendous poll tax—it failed to present a timescale for revaluation. You are a chartered surveyor, William, and will know better than I that the nature of a property tax means that you must ensure that values are kept up to date, otherwise it is grossly unfair. That is what people do not see, because it does not hit them in the eye. We did revaluation; it

Sue Essex: Yng Nghymru, ailbrisiwyd eiddo domestig yn 2005. Mae lefelau'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru yn dal yn is o lawer na'r rheini yn Lloegr.

William Graham: Diolch ichi am eich ateb, Weinidog. Fe gofiwch, yn ystod y blynyddoedd sydd wedi mynd heibio, mai'r awgrym oedd y byddai ailbrisio'n niwtral, ond mewn gwirionedd mae llawer mwy o bobl ar eu colled nag ar eu hennill. Credaf fod gennych tan ddydd Mawrth cyn bod purdah yn dechrau—ni ddylem ddefnyddio'r term hwnnw, ond credaf ei bod yn dderbyniol i'r rhan fwyaf ohonom o hyd—felly, a allaf ofyn i chi ymuno â Cheidwadwyr Cymru i addo gostyngiad o £100 mewn biliau treth gyngor ar gyfer cartrefi pensiynwyr?

Sue Essex: O ran bod yn niwtral, y mater dan sylw oedd a oedd yn niwtral o ran reffeniw'r dreth gyngor, ac yr oedd hynny'n wir. Os edrychwch ar y dreth gyngor a gasglwyd y flwyddyn honno, nid yw'n wahanol i'r blynyddoedd blaenorol, oherwydd er i fwy o bobl symud i fand uwch o'u cymharu â'r rheini a symudodd i fand is, ar ôl i'r bandiau gael eu pennu—ac yr wyf wedi esbonio wrthyhch pam y digwyddodd hynny—yr hyn a oedd yn hanfodol oedd cyfradd y dreth gyngor a godwyd. Yn y flwyddyn honno, fe gofiwch imi gyhoeddi egwyddorion capio ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol, er mwyn sicrhau na fyddai unrhyw fantais annheg yn sgîl ailbrisio. Felly, dyna lle mae niwtraliaeth yn dod i mewn; mae'n ymwneud â ble yr ydych yn pennu'r cynnydd. Er enghraifft, yng Nghaerdydd, gan fod llawer o eiddo wedi symud i fand uwch, yr oedd y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor yn sero pwynt rhywbeth—yr oedd yn gymharol isel.

Mae'r materion sy'n ymwneud ag ailbrisio yn ddiddorol. Y rheswm pam y bu newid mor enfawr oedd pan gyflwynwyd y dreth gyngor gan eich Llywodraeth—a oedd yn llawer gwell na'r felltith treth y pen—methwyd â chyflwyno amserlen ar gyfer y gwaith ailbrisio. Yr ydych yn syrfêwr siartredig, William, a gwyddoch yn well na mi, mae'n siŵr, fod natur treth eiddo yn golygu bod yn rhaid cadw gwerthoedd yn gyfoes, neu fel arall mae'n hollol annheg. Nid yw pobl yn gweld hynny, am nad yw'n amlwg iddynt.

was difficult for some people, and I acknowledged that and we brought in the moderation scheme to ensure a transition, but it covered that major period of house price volatility in the 1990s. I think that you will admit, in your heart of hearts, that it was the fairest thing to do, and we did it. One of your colleagues came out in support of me, which I appreciated, and it would be nice if you and all your colleagues could say that it was a job that needed to be done.

Gwnaethom y gwaith ailbriso; yr oedd yn anodd i rai pobl, a chydnabuais hynny a chyflwynwyd y cynllun safoni gennym er mwyn sicrhau cyfnod trosi llyfn. Ond yr oedd yn cwmpasu'r cyfnod hwnnw yn y 1990au lle'r oedd prisiau tai yn gyfnewidiol. Credaf y byddech yn cyfaddef, yn eich calon, mai dyna oedd y peth tecaf i'w wneud, a gwnaethom hynny. Yr oedd un o'ch cyd-Aelodau yn fy nghefnogi, ac yr oeddwn yn gwerthfawrogi hynny, a byddai'n braf pe gallech chi a'ch cyd-aelodau i gyd ddweud ei fod yn waith yr oedd angen ei wneud.

Cyflawni Targedau Allweddol Achieving Key Targets

Q5 Alun Cairns: Will the Minister make a statement on the progress she has made towards achieving key Assembly Government targets over the last four years? OAQ1165(LGP)

C5 Alun Cairns: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y cynnydd a wnaeth tuag at gyrraedd targedau allweddol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad dros y pedair blynedd diwethaf? OAQ1165(LGP)

Sue Essex: We have set and achieved a programme of change and progress over the last four years. You will appreciate that mine is a wide portfolio, so I will not go through all of the points that it covers. One significant area that I will mention, because we are talking about council tax today, is the stabilising of council tax levels in Wales over the last three years, at the lowest level since the tax came into being. Most people would think that that is an achievement worth remarking upon.

Sue Essex: Yr ydym wedi llunio a chyflawni rhaglen o newid a chynnydd dros y pedair blynedd diwethaf. Byddwch yn gwerthfawrogi'r ffaith fod gennyf bortffolio eang, felly, nid wyf am drafod yr holl bwyntiau y mae'n eu cwmpasu. Un maes arwyddocaol y soniaf amdano, oherwydd yr ydym yn sôn am dreth gyngor heddiw, yw sefydlogi lefelau treth gyngor yng Nghymru dros y tair blynedd diwethaf, ar y lefel isaf ers i'r dreth gael ei chyflwyno. Byddai'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn credu bod hwnnw'n llwyddiant gwerth sôn amdano.

Alun Cairns: First, I wish you well for the future. I know that that sentiment is felt on all sides of the Chamber, and I express our gratitude for the candid way in which you have answered questions during your time as a Minister.

Alun Cairns: Yn gyntaf, dymunaf yn dda ichi yn y dyfodol. Gwn fod pawb yn y Siambr yn dymuno hynny, a hoffwn ddiolch ichi, ar ran pawb, am ateb cwestiynau yn ystod eich amser fel Gweinidog mewn modd agored.

To take you back to your response to my original question, council tax is one element on which your Government and administration will be judged, along with the economy—one is what is paid out and the other is what generates the wealth needed to make those payments. Are you not saddened by the fact that, under this administration, council tax rates have doubled during the Assembly's first eight years? That is a sad indictment, given the relatively low level of

I fynd â chi'n ôl i'ch ymateb i'm cwestiwn gwreiddiol, mae'r dreth gyngor yn un elfen y bydd eich Llywodraeth a'ch gweinyddiaeth yn cael eu barnu arni, ynghyd â'r economi—y naill yw'r hyn a delir allan a'r llall yw'r hyn sy'n creu'r cyfoeth angenrheidiol i wneud y taliadau hynny. Onid yw'r ffaith bod cyfraddau treth gyngor, o dan y weinyddiaeth hon, wedi dyblu yn ystod wyth mlynedd cyntaf y Cynulliad yn eich tristâu? Mae hynny'n feirniadaeth drist, o gofio'r

inflation during this period. Would you not accept that the facts regarding the income needed to generate payments are also a sad indictment of your administration, because the wealth gap—or poverty gap—between Wales and the rest of the United Kingdom is the widest it has been since records began? We are at the bottom of the league table, despite your personal positive efforts.

Sue Essex: Thank you. I will miss your questions, Alun. I will get up on a Wednesday morning and think how sad it is that I will not see Alun Cairns's bright, cheery face looking at me from across the Chamber.

To go back to the question, and William's previous question, William was looking at me with an understanding of the degree of honesty that we should achieve during our last Plenary of this Assembly. Local government is a very different animal from what it was when I entered it many years ago. The amount and diversity of services that it now delivers means that the councils and authorities are much higher spending bodies than they were years ago, and rightly so. As society progresses and people want a better quality of life, they expect that to be provided. An obvious example from the time that I entered local government, which is more years ago than I care to say, is the fact that local authorities provided playing fields as leisure facilities, whereas people now expect proper leisure facilities, including leisure centres, to be provided—they have a range of expectations. It is no wonder that local authorities spend more, and, if they do that, council tax will go up.

Over the period you mentioned, the money that we have provided from the centre has increased enormously. If you look at the money that now goes to local government, you will see that it has changed beyond belief. However much you try to hide them, the figures are clear: in 1996-97, during your Government's last year in office, there was

lefel chwyddiant gymharol isel yn ystod y cyfnod hwn. Oni fyddech yn derbyn bod y ffeithiau am yr incwm sy'n angenrheidiol i greu taliadau hefyd yn feirniadaeth drist o'ch gweinyddiaeth, oherwydd mae'r bwlch cyfoeth—neu'r bwlch tlodi—rhwng Cymru a gweddill y Deyrnas Unedig yn ehangach yn awr nag ar unrhyw adeg ers cychwyn cofnodi? Yr ydym ar waelod y tabl, er gwaethaf eich ymdrechion cadarnhaol personol.

Sue Essex: Diolch. Byddaf yn gweld eisiau eich cwestiynau, Alun. Byddaf yn codi ar fore dydd Mercher ac yn meddwl mor drist yw peidio â gweld hapus, siriol Alun Cairns yn edrych arnaf ar draws y Siambr.

I fynd yn ôl at y cwestiwn, a chwestiwn blaenorol William, yr oedd William yn edrych arnaf gan ddeall y gonestrwydd y dylem ei gyflawni yn ystod Cyfarfod Llawn olaf y Cynulliad hwn. Mae llywodraeth leol yn wahanol iawn i'r hyn yr ydoedd pan eutham i mewn i'r maes flynyddoedd lawer yn ôl. Mae swm ac amrywiaeth y gwasanaethau a ddarperir ganddi bellach yn golygu bod y cynghorau a'r awdurdodau yn gyrrff gwario llawer uwch nag oeddent flynyddoedd yn ôl, a hynny'n gywir. Wrth i gymdeithas ddatblygu ac wrth i bobl ddymuno cael gwell ansawdd bywyd, disgwylant i hynny gael ei ddarparu. Enghraifft amlwg o'r adeg pan ddechreuais weithio mewn llywodraeth leol, sydd ymhellach yn ôl nag yr hoffwn ei ddweud, yw'r ffaith bod awdurdodau lleol yn darparu meysydd chwarae fel cyfleusterau hamdden, lle mae pobl bellach yn disgwyl i gyfleusterau hamdden go iawn, gan gynnwys canolfannau hamdden, gael eu darparu—mae ganddynt amrywiaeth o ddisgwyliadau. Nid yw'n syndod bod awdurdodau lleol yn gwario mwy, ac os gwnânt hynny, bydd y dreth gyngor yn codi.

Yn ystod y cyfnod y soniech amdano, mae'r arian yr ydym wedi'i ddarparu o'r canol wedi cynyddu'n enfawr. Os edrychwch ar yr arian sydd bellach yn cael ei roi i lywodraeth leol, gwelwch ei fod wedi newid yn aruthrol. Waeth faint y ceisiwch eu cuddio, mae'r ffigurau'n glir: yn 1996-97, yn ystod blwyddyn olaf eich Llywodraeth chi mewn

an 18 per cent increase in council tax, whereas the last three years have seen the lowest increase. I will give you the graph that shows the figures, and I am sure that you will be honest enough to include it in your election leaflets. The graph is dramatic, and shows that over the last three years we have achieved the lowest increases since council tax was established.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): One of the key Assembly targets that you will not be able to meet is that to make all school buildings fit for purpose by 2010. Given that you will not meet that target, what are you doing, along with local government, to ensure that you will meet the target in the future?

Sue Essex: If you look at the manifesto, I do not think that you will see the word 'target' used. We are recognising, through the Beecham report and our work on Value Wales, that if we want school buildings to be fit for purpose, and I assume that all Assembly Members and local authority members would agree with that, we must get to grips with some of the difficult rationalisation issues that local authorities have faced.

2.20 p.m.

The method set out in our response to Beecham is the use of local service boards, to just take one example. I hate to use the word 'legacy', but I think that Beecham's legacy will be significant, in terms of our response to it and the whole 'Making the Connections' agenda. It is saying that we have lots of good policies, however, we need to work better and more closely with the delivery organisations on the ground, which are primarily, but not exclusively, the local authorities. The big change that you will see in the next few years is that in working with local authorities and other local deliverers, it will be much easier to deliver on those important capital and other investments. From my discussions with local authorities, I know that the expertise that they had many years ago had been lost, and that is where the work of Value Wales comes in; through collaboration and joint working, it can enable

grym, bu cynnydd o 18 y cant yn y dreth gyngor, ond yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf gwelwyd y cynnydd lleiaf. Cewch y graff gennyf sy'n dangos y ffigurau, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn ddigon gonest i'w gynnwys yn eich taflenni etholiadol. Mae'r graff yn ddramatig, ac mae'n dangos ein bod, yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf, wedi gweld y cynnydd lleiaf ers sefydlu'r dreth gyngor.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Un o dargedau allweddol y Cynulliad na fyddwch yn gallu ei gyflawni yw sicrhau bod pob adeilad ysgol yn addas at y diben erbyn 2010. A bwrw na fyddwch yn cyrraedd y targed hwnnw, beth yr ydych yn ei wneud, ynghyd â llywodraeth leol, i sicrhau y byddwch yn cyrraedd y targed yn y dyfodol?

Sue Essex: Os edrychwch ar y manifffesto, ni chredaf y gwelwch y gair 'targed' yn cael ei ddefnyddio. Yr ydym yn cydnabod, drwy adroddiad Beecham a'n gwaith ar Gwerth Cymru, os ydym am i adeiladau ysgolion fod yn addas at y diben, a thybiaf y byddai holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad ac aelodau awdurdodau lleol yn cytuno â hynny, rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r materion rhesymoli anodd y mae awdurdodau lleol wedi eu hwynebu.

Y dull sydd wedi ei osod allan yn ein hymateb i Beecham yw defnyddio byrddau gwasanaeth lleol, fel un enghraifft yn unig. Yr wyf yn casáu'r gair 'etifeddiaeth', ond credaf y bydd etifeddiaeth Beecham yn arwyddocaol, o ran ein hymateb iddo a'r holl agenda 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau'. Mae'n dweud bod gennym nifer o bolisiâu da, ond bod angen inni weithio'n well ac yn agosach gyda'r sefydliadau darparu, sef yr awdurdodau lleol yn bennaf ond nid yn gyfan gwbl. Y newid mawr a welwch yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf yw y bydd yn haws o lawer, drwy weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol a darparwyr lleol eraill, i sicrhau'r buddsoddiadau cyfalaf pwysig hynny a'r buddsoddiadau eraill. O'm trafodaethau gydag awdurdodau lleol, gwn fod yr arbenigedd a oedd ganddynt flynyddoedd yn ôl wedi'i gollu, a dyna lle y mae gwaith Gwerth Cymru yn bwysig; drwy

local authorities to make some of these important capital investments in schools and education that we all want to see.

Helen Mary Jones: Minister, I refer you to your Government's key targets around job creation and promoting good quality jobs, particularly outside the M4 and A55 corridors, that is, in the Mid and West Wales region. Has your Government made an assessment yet of the likely impact of the job cuts that central Government has proposed, some of which are already going through? I am thinking of the 40 jobs that are proposed to be cut at the tax office in Llanelli and the 180 jobs in Llangennech that are pretty certain to go. Has your Government undertaken an impact assessment of how those job losses are likely to affect your ability to meet your targets? Would you encourage your successor Government—whatever its colour—to do so and to be proactive in trying to retain those jobs in the communities that need them most?

Sue Essex: This is, of course, against a backcloth of the 140,000 net extra jobs that have been created in Wales over the last eight years. However, in terms of the changes that you mentioned, the Wales spatial plan and the area frameworks enable us to home in on those local areas and ascertain what is happening in terms of the overall employment picture. I know that the First Minister had a meeting with Dawn Primarolo and I know that he left her in no doubt about how important those jobs and some of the affected offices are to Wales. The spatial plan will give us the capacity to focus geographically to see where extra support is needed. As you know, our location strategy—particularly the building in Aberystwyth—will be a major catalyst in providing new jobs for local people in the Aberystwyth sub-region.

gydweithredu a chydweithio, gall alluogi awdurdodau lleol i wneud rhai o'r buddsoddiadau cyfalaf pwysig hyn mewn ysgolion ac addysg yr ydym i gyd am eu gweld.

Helen Mary Jones: Weinidog, hoffwn eich cyfeirio at dargedau allweddol eich Llywodraeth o ran creu swyddi a hyrwyddo swyddi o safon, yn enwedig y tu hwnt i goridorau'r M4 a'r A55, hynny yw, yn y canolbarth a'r gorllewin. A yw eich Llywodraeth wedi cael cyfle eto i asesu effaith debygol y cynnig gan y Llywodraeth ganolog i gwtogi swyddi sydd eisoes wedi dechrau? Yr wyf yn meddwl am y 40 o swyddi y cynigir eu cwtogi yn y swyddfa dreth yn Llanelli a'r 180 o swyddi yn Llangennech sydd bron yn sicr o fynd. A yw eich Llywodraeth wedi gwneud asesiad effaith o'r ffordd y mae'r cynnig hwn i gwtogi swyddi yn debygol o effeithio ar eich gallu i gyrraedd eich targedau? A fydddech yn annog y Llywodraeth a fydd yn eich dilyn—o ba liw bynnag—i wneud hynny ac i fod yn rhagweithiol wrth geisio cadw'r swyddi hynny yn y cymunedau lle y mae eu hangen fwyaf?

Sue Essex: Mae hyn, wrth gwrs, yn erbyn y 140,000 o swyddi ychwanegol net a grëwyd yng Nghymru dros yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf. Fodd bynnag, o ran y newidiadau y soniech amdanynt, mae cynllun gofodol Cymru a'r fframweithiau ardal yn ein galluogi i ganolbwyntio ar yr ardaloedd lleol hynny ac i weld beth sy'n digwydd o ran cyflogaeth yn gyffredinol. Gwn fod y Prif Weinidog wedi cyfarfod â Dawn Primarolo, a gwn ei fod wedi gwneud yn hollol glir wrthi mor bwysig yw'r swyddi hyn a rhai o'r swyddfeydd yr effeithir arnynt i Gymru. Bydd y cynllun gofodol yn ein galluogi i ganolbwyntio ar sail daeryddiaeth, er mwyn gweld ble y mae angen cymorth ychwanegol. Fel y gwyddoch, bydd ein strategaeth lleoliadau—yn enwedig yr adeilad yn Aberystwyth—yn brif gatalydd i ddarparu swyddi newydd i bobl leol yn isranbarth Aberystwyth.

Etholiadau Lleol 2008 2008 Local Elections

Q6 Jenny Randerson: What discussions has **C6 Jenny Randerson:** Pa drafodaethau y

the Minister had on planning for the 2008 local elections? OAQ1158(LGP)

Sue Essex: The conduct and administration of local government elections is not a devolved matter. However, we did set up the all-Wales elections planning group, which meets regularly to discuss and promote best practice in all elections. I know that there are numerous recommendations in the committee report, which we discussed last week, that the elections planning group will look to take up, particularly for the next local government elections.

Jenny Randerson: Minister, from the 24 years that we have worked together, both on the council and here, I know that you are concerned about access for people with disabilities to elections. The cross-party group on disabilities, of which I am the chair, is re-launching its campaign to improve access to the whole electoral system; this includes access to party campaigns through leaflets in accessible formats all the way through to the accessibility of polling stations. Minister, do you agree that the all-Wales elections planning group should meet representatives of disability organisations, so that its decisions can be informed by the experience of those organisations? Can you tell us what specific steps you are already planning to take to improve access for people with disabilities to the electoral system?

Sue Essex: Thank you, Jenny, for raising an important issue. During my time as Minister with responsibility for local government, I met a group—I am trying to remember its name; it was something beginning with ‘s’—that represents the disability groups with regard to access to electoral systems. It was one of those experiences that will stay in my mind because the representatives gave me chapter and verse about people’s experiences in Wales—some good and some extremely bad.

That is why we gave extra money to local authorities to improve physical access to polling stations. We have put this very high on the agenda. I will not be here, but I would be happy to recommend that to the elections

mae’r Gweinidog wedi’u cael ynghylch cynllunio ar gyfer etholiadau lleol 2008? OAQ1158(LGP)

Sue Essex: Nid yw’r broses o gynnal a gweinyddu etholiadau llywodraeth leol yn fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym wedi sefydlu grŵp cynllunio etholiadau i Gymru gyfan, sy’n cyfarfod yn rheolaidd i drafod a hyrwyddo arfer gorau ym mhob etholiad. Gwn fod nifer o argymhellion yn adroddiad y pwyllgor, a drafodwyd gennym yr wythnos diwethaf, y bydd y grŵp cynllunio etholiadau yn ystyried eu gweithredu, yn enwedig ar gyfer yr etholiadau llywodraeth leol nesaf.

Jenny Randerson: Weinidog, ar ôl cydweithio â chi dros gyfnod o 24 mlynedd, yn y cyngor ac yma, gwn fod sicrhau y gall pobl anabl gymryd rhan mewn etholiadau yn bwysig i chi. Mae’r grŵp trawsbleidiol ar anabledau yr wyf yn gadeirydd arno yn ail-lansio ei ymgyrch i wella mynediad i’r holl system etholiadol; mae hyn yn cynnwys bod yn ymwybodol o ymgyrchoedd pleidiau drwy daflenni ar ffurfiau gwahanol, a hwylustod gorsafoedd pleidleisio. Weinidog, a gytunwch y dylai’r grŵp cynllunio etholiadau i Gymru gyfan gyfarfod â chynrychiolwyr sefydliadau anabled, fel y gall ei benderfyniadau gael eu llywio gan brofiad y sefydliadau hynny? A allwch ddweud wrthym pa gamau penodol yr ydych eisoes yn bwriadu eu cymryd i wella mynediad pobl anabl i’r system etholiadol?

Sue Essex: Diolch, Jenny, am godi mater pwysig. Yn ystod fy amser fel Gweinidog sy’n gyfrifol am lywodraeth leol, cyfarfûm â grŵp—yr wyf yn ceisio cofio’i enw; rhywbeth yn dechrau gydag ‘s’—sy’n cynrychioli’r grwpiau anabled o ran mynediad i systemau etholiadol. Un o’r profiadau hynny a fydd yn aros yn fy nghof, oherwydd cefais wybod yn fanwl iawn gan y cynrychiolwyr am brofiadau pobl yng Nghymru, rhai’n dda a rhai’n ddrwg iawn.

Dyna pam y rhoesom arian ychwanegol i awdurdodau lleol i wella mynediad i orsafoedd pleidleisio. Yr ydym wedi gosod y mater hwn yn uchel iawn ar yr agenda. Ni fyddaf yma, ond byddwn yn fwy na pharod i

planning group, on which all the political parties are represented. I am sure that each of your representatives can also take this forward by asking to meet this group, and that any work that the cross-party group has done will be very well received. There is a year in which to plan for the local government elections, and we must do our best to ensure that all those who want to vote can do so.

Janet Davies: Following these elections, I understand that there will be some changes to the ways of working within councils; for example, councillors will have their own small budgets and delegated powers. What controls are likely to be put in place to safeguard propriety with regard to the money and powers, or are you not bothered? [*Laughter.*]

Sue Essex: I am bothered, Janet. I put this forward as a suggestion; elsewhere, local authority members have been given a small budget to work with local people to see what the priorities are, and not to hand out as largess—that is the important point. It is up to local authorities whether they take forward this idea. There are mechanisms within local authorities to ensure that that will be done with complete probity and propriety—the monitoring officers would be the appropriate people to deal with that. The important point about this is that it will place the emphasis on local communities so that they also feel empowered to bring forward ideas where they want changes to take place within their communities.

The Presiding Officer: Question 7, OAQ1166(LGP), has been withdrawn.

Gwella Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Improving Public Services

Q8 Janet Ryder: What new measures does the Minister plan to introduce to improve public services in north Wales? OAQ1188(LGP)

Sue Essex: ‘Delivering Beyond Boundaries: Transforming Public Services in Wales’ sets out our priorities and actions in light of the

argymell hynny i'r grŵp cynllunio etholiadau, lle mae'r holl bleidiau gwleidyddol yn cael eu cynrychioli. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gall pob un o'ch cynrychiolwyr hefyd symud hwn ymlaen drwy ofyn am gael cyfarfod â'r grŵp hwn, ac y bydd unrhyw waith a wnaed gan y grŵp trawsbleidiol yn cael ei groesawu'n fawr. Mae gennych flwyddyn i gynllunio ar gyfer yr etholiadau llywodraeth leol, a rhaid inni wneud ein gorau glas i sicrhau bod pawb sydd am bleidleisio yn gallu gwneud hynny.

Janet Davies: Ar ôl yr etholiadau hyn, deallaf y bydd rhai newidiadau yn y ffyrdd o weithio o fewn cynghorau; er enghraifft, bydd gan gynghorwyr eu cyllidebau bach a'u pwerau dirprwyedig eu hunain. Pa reolaethau sy'n debygol o gael eu rhoi ar waith i sicrhau priodoldeb o ran yr arian a'r pwerau, neu efallai nad ydych yn malio? [*Chwerthin.*]

Sue Essex: Mae'r mater hwn yn bwysig i mi, Janet. Cyflwynaf hwn fel awgrym; mewn manau eraill, mae aelodau awdurdodau lleol wedi cael cyllideb fach i weithio gyda phobl leol er mwyn gweld beth yw'r blaenoriaethau, ac i beidio â'i roi fel rhodd—dyna'r pwynt pwysig. Yr awdurdodau lleol sy'n penderfynu a ydynt am ddatblygu'r syniad. Mae yna fecanweithiau mewn awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau y caiff hynny ei wneud yn gwbl briodol a chywir—y swyddogion monitro fyddai'r bobl briodol i ymdrin â hynny. Y pwynt pwysig ynghylch hyn yw y bydd yn rhoi pwyslais ar gymunedau lleol er mwyn iddynt hwy hefyd deimlo y gallant gyflwyno syniadau lle y maent yn dymuno gweld newidiadau o fewn eu cymunedau.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 7, OAQ1166(LGP), yn ôl.

C8 Janet Ryder: Pa fesurau newydd y mae'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu eu cyflwyno i wella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn y gogledd? OAQ1188(LGP)

Sue Essex: Mae 'Cyflawni y Tu Hwnt i Ffiniau: Trawsnewid Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus yng Nghymru' yn gosod allan ein

Beecham report. These actions will accelerate our goal of transforming how public services are delivered. In terms of financial support for that, local authorities in north Wales will receive some £828 million in revenue support grant.

Janet Ryder: Due to the actions of your colleagues in Westminster, a number of public service jobs will be lost in the communities of Rhyl, Colwyn Bay and Bangor. What new measures will your Government put in place to replace those jobs, given that you are relocating jobs that already exist in north Wales to your new offices in Llandudno Junction? That will reduce the number of jobs in other parts of north Wales, as new jobs will not be created in that sector for many years.

Sue Essex: There is some concentration and movement of officials. The office on the Dinerth Road development in Colwyn Bay is pretty grim, so I do not think that anyone working there will be sorry to leave it and to work in a brand spanking new building. They will not all be relocated jobs. We know that a percentage of jobs that will be moved to north Wales from south Wales will perhaps not be filled by the existing post holders in south Wales. Therefore, I would not be so pessimistic about that. As I said to Helen Mary, in terms of the spatial plan, structural funds will be used to implement the priorities of the plan, and that is a way of looking at local areas and seeing what the balance of jobs is. No Government, of whatever colour, can say, 'Jobs are going to stay static'. That is not the reality, and people would think that you were lying to them if you said that that was the case. We want to see the number of jobs increase. As I said, there are 140,000 new jobs in Wales, and all the evidence shows that structural funds have been working in the Objective 1 priority areas. I have no doubt that European funding over the next few years will emphasise that growth in those particular areas where we know there is still a need for more jobs.

blaenoriaethau a'n camau gweithredu yn sgîl adroddiad Beecham. Bydd y camau gweithredu hyn yn cyflymu ein nod o drawsnewid y ffordd y darperir gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. O ran cymorth ariannol ar gyfer hynny, bydd awdurdodau lleol yn y gogledd yn cael tuag £828 miliwn mewn grant cymorth refeniw.

Janet Ryder: O ganlyniad i weithredoedd eich cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan, caiff nifer o swyddi gwasanaeth cyhoeddus eu colli yng nghymunedau'r Rhyl, Bae Colwyn a Bangor. Pa fesurau newydd y bydd eich Llywodraeth yn eu rhoi ar waith i ddarparu swyddi yn lle'r rheini, o gofio'ch bod yn symud swyddi sydd eisoes yn bod yn y gogledd i'ch swyddfeydd newydd yng Nghyffordd Llandudno? Bydd hynny'n lleihau nifer y swyddi mewn rhannau eraill o'r gogledd oherwydd na chaiff swyddi newydd eu creu yn y sector hwnnw am flynyddoedd lawer.

Sue Essex: Mae yna rywffaint o grynhoi a symud swyddogion. Mae'r swyddfa ar ddatblygiad Heol Dinerth ym Mae Colwyn yn ddigon diflas, felly, ni chredaf y bydd neb sy'n gweithio yno yn amharod i adael y lle ac i weithio mewn adeilad newydd sbon. Ni fyddant i gyd yn swyddi sy'n cael eu symud. Gwyddom efallai na chaiff canran o swyddi a gaiff eu symud i'r gogledd o'r de eu llenwi gan ddeiliaid presennol y swyddi yn y de. Felly, ni fyddem mor besimistaidd ynglŷn â hynny. Fel y dywedais wrth Helen Mary, o ran y cynllun gofodol, caiff cronfeydd strwythurol eu defnyddio i gyflawni blaenoriaethau'r cynllun, ac mae hynny'n ffordd o edrych ar ardaloedd lleol a gweld beth yw cydbwysedd y swyddi. Ni all unrhyw Lywodraeth, waeth pa liw, ddweud, 'Mae swyddi'n mynd i aros yn ddigyfnawid'. Nid dyna'r realiti, a byddai pobl yn credu eich bod yn dweud celwydd wrthynt pe baech yn dweud hynny. Yr ydym am weld nifer y swyddi'n cynyddu. Fel y dywedais, mae 140,000 o swyddi newydd yng Nghymru, ac mae'r holl dystiolaeth yn dangos bod cronfeydd strwythurol wedi bod yn gweithio yn ardaloedd blaenoriaeth Amcan 1. Yn ddiau, bydd arian Ewropeaidd dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf yn pwysleisio'r twf hwnnw yn yr ardaloedd penodol hynny lle y gwyddom fod angen mwy o swyddi o hyd.

2.30 p.m.

Gwella'r Fformiwla Ariannu Improving the Funding Formula

Q9 Kirsty Williams: What plans does the Minister have to improve the local government funding formula? OAQ1155(LGP)

C9 Kirsty Williams: Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Gweinidog i wella'r fformiwla ariannu llywodraeth leol? OAQ1155(LGP)

Sue Essex: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about the local government funding formula; I will miss this one, too—like a hole in the head. As I have said during previous question sessions, an organisation called the distribution sub-group, consisting of local government and Welsh Assembly Government officials, meet annually to look at the work that needs to be done. This year, they are looking in particular at weighting with regard to deprivation and sparsity, and at the economic development formula.

Sue Essex: Diolch am roi'r cyfle imi siarad am y fformiwla ariannu llywodraeth leol; byddaf yn gweld eisiau hon, hefyd—fel cur pen. Fel y dywedais yn ystod sesiynau cwestiynau blaenorol, bydd sefydliad a elwir yr is-grŵp dosbarthu, sy'n cynnwys swyddogion llywodraeth leol a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, yn cyfarfod bob blwyddyn i ystyried y gwaith y mae angen ei wneud. Eleni, maent yn edrych yn benodol ar bwysoli, gan ystyried amddifadedd a'r boblogaeth denau, a'r fformiwla datblygu economaidd.

Kirsty Williams: I, too, wish you well, Minister. I suspect that you will not be going 'gentle into that good night', and I am sure that this is not the end of your career and your work for Wales. Perhaps you will agree that it is disappointing that, at the end of your Assembly career, we have not reached a position by which we can improve the local government funding formula to go some way towards addressing the concerns of local authorities, such as mine in Powys, about sparsity and rurality and some of the additional difficulties in supplying services to a small population over a large area. When do you expect a future Government to be in a position to move forward with this?

Kirsty Williams: Hoffwn i hefyd ddymunu'n dda ichi, Weinidog. Tybiaf na fyddwch yn diflannu'n llwyr o fyd gwleidyddiaeth, ac yr wyf yn siŵr nad dyma ddiwedd eich gyrfa na'ch gwaith dros Gymru. Efallai y cytunwch ei bod, ar ddiwedd eich gyrfa yn y Cynulliad, yn siomedig nad ydym wedi cyrraedd man lle y gallwn wella fformiwla ariannu llywodraeth leol i gyfrannu at fynd i'r afael â phryderon awdurdodau lleol, fel fy awdurdod i ym Mhowys, am boblogaeth denau a gwledigrwydd, a rhai o'r anawsterau ychwanegol wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau i boblogaeth fach dros ardal fawr. Pryd yr ydych yn disgwyl y bydd Llywodraeth y dyfodol mewn sefyllfa i symud ymlaen â hyn?

Sue Essex: Thank you for your kind remarks.

Sue Essex: Diolch am eich sylwadau caredig.

Ministers will come and go, but I guarantee that there will never be overall agreement about the formula. Every time someone puts a new element of the formula together, people complain. Going back some years to when the Assembly first drew up a completely new formula that everyone thought would do the job, at the next consultative forum meeting or at the next Plenary, people complained about the nature

Bydd Gweinidogion yn mynd ac yn dod, ond gallaf eich sicrhau na fydd byth cytundeb cyffredinol am y fformiwla. Bob tro pan fydd rhywun yn ychwanegu elfen newydd at y fformiwla, bydd pobl yn cwyno. I fynd yn ôl rai blynyddoedd i'r adeg pan luniodd y Cynulliad fformiwla newydd sbon y credai pawb a fyddai'n ateb y diben, yng nghyfarfod nesaf y fforwm ymgynghori, neu yn y Cyfarfod Llawn nesaf, cwynodd pobl am

of the formula, because it moved money around. Every change in the formula moves money around.

I would not be so pessimistic, as I think that the formula is pretty good as it stands now. It has been changed and tweaked in places, and this involves people who come together from across Wales, and not with their own axe to grind. I should thank the people who have done this work. They are officials, paid by their own local authority, but when they come together, they look at Wales as a whole.

In terms of the work going on, it may well say that the figures that we have are right—we do not know that. However, come May, from the first meeting of the distribution subgroup after the election, there should be a report from the expert that we have employed on the issue of sparsity and deprivation. That will at least provide some figures for people to work on.

natur y fformiwla, am ei bod yn symud arian o gwmpas. Mae pob newid yn y fformiwla yn symud arian o gwmpas.

Ni fyddwn mor besimistaidd, oherwydd credaf fod y fformiwla'n eithaf da fel y mae. Mae wedi ei newid a'i haddasu mewn mannau, ac mae hyn yn golygu cynnwys pobl o bob cwr o Gymru nad oes ganddynt asgwrn i'w grafu. Dylwn ddiolch i'r bobl a wnaeth y gwaith hwn. Swyddogion ydynt, sy'n cael eu cyflogi gan eu hawdurdod lleol eu hunain, ond pan ddônt at ei gilydd, byddant yn edrych ar Gymru gyfan.

O ran y gwaith sy'n mynd ymlaen, mae'n ddigon posibl y bydd yn dangos bod y ffigurau sydd gennym yn gywir—ni wyddom hynny. Fodd bynnag, erbyn mis Mai, o gyfarfod cyntaf yr is-grŵp dosbarthu ar ôl yr etholiad, dylid cael adroddiad ar boblogaeth denau ac amddifadedd gan yr arbenigwr a gyflogwyd gennym. Bydd hynny o leiaf yn rhoi ffigurau i bobl weithio arnynt.

Llwyddiannau Achievements

Q10 Carl Sargeant: Will the Minister outline the Welsh Assembly Government's achievements in the field of local government in Flintshire? OAQ1150(LGP)

Sue Essex: I concluded a policy agreement with Flintshire County Council in January 2005 setting out the agreed improvements to the council. In 2005-06 and 2006-07, Flintshire demonstrated performance at a satisfactory level to receive its performance incentive grant. I think that it met 16 of its 22 targets.

Carl Sargeant: I am sure that you will agree, Minister, that under the leadership of Aaron Shotton, Flintshire County Council is moving forward in leaps and bounds. The only issue that we have is the council tax bill that landed on people's doormats this week, which includes police precepts. Having just looked at their website, North Wales Police are looking for a web designer and a web programmer at a cost of £46,000. I am not quite sure how that puts police on the streets, but I say yet again that Eleanor Burnham, Mark Isherwood and Brynle Williams voted

C10 Carl Sargeant: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu llwyddiannau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ym maes llywodraeth leol yn sir y Fflint? OAQ1150(LGP)

Sue Essex: Lluniais gytundeb polisi gyda Chyngor Sir y Fflint ym mis Ionawr 2005 yn gosod allan i'r cyngor y gwelliannau y cytunwyd arnynt. Yn 2005-2006 a 2006-2007, dangosodd Sir y Fflint berfformiad ar lefel foddhaol i gael ei grant cymell perfformiad. Credaf ei fod wedi cyflawni 16 o'i 22 o dargedau.

Carl Sargeant: Fe gytunwch, mae'n siŵr, Weinidog, bod Cyngor Sir Fflint yn datblygu'n aruthrol o dan arweiniad Aaron Shotton. Yr unig broblem sydd gennym yw'r bil treth gyngor a ddaeth drwy ddrws pawb yr wythnos hon, sy'n cynnwys praeseptau'r heddlu. Yr wyf newydd edrych ar ei wefan, ac mae Heddlu Gogledd Cymru yn chwilio am ddylunydd gwefan a rhaglennwr gwefan a fydd yn costio £46,000. Nid wyf yn siŵr sut mae hynny'n sicrhau bod heddlweision ar y strydoedd, ond dywedaf unwaith eto fod Eleanor Burnham, Mark Isherwood a Brynle

for a 6.75 per cent increase for families in Alyn and Deeside. *[Interruption.]* Oh, I forgot to include John Marek, the independent party Member.

Sue Essex: I wish Aaron Shotton well; he became leader following the sad loss of Derek Darlington, the former leader of Flintshire.

On your point about council tax bills, for those of us who live in Cardiff, South Wales Police kept to the 5 per cent increase. The debate on this issue has shown a need perhaps to build more transparency and accountability into the system. This issue has led people to ask just where the value for money is. Clearly, you will be asking the North Wales Police Authority about this particular matter, and I suspect that, over the next year, many council tax payers will also be asking those questions.

Williams wedi pleidleisio o blaid cynnydd o 6.75 y cant ar gyfer teuluoedd yn Alun a Dyfrdwy. *[Torri ar draws.]* O, anghofiais gynnwys John Marek, Aelod y blaid annibynnol.

Sue Essex: Dymunaf yn dda i Aaron Shotton; daeth yn arweinydd yn dilyn marwolaeth drist Derek Darlington, cyn-arweinydd sir y Fflint.

O ran eich pwynt am filiau'r dreth gyngor, i'r rheini ohonom sy'n byw yng Nghaerdydd, cadwodd Heddlu De Cymru at y cynnydd o 5 y cant. Mae'r ddadl ar y mater hwn wedi dangos efallai fod angen cynnwys mwy o eglurder ac atebolrwydd yn y system. Mae'r mater hwn wedi peri bod pobl yn gofyn ble mae'r gwerth am yr arian. Yn amlwg, byddwch yn holi Awdurdod Heddlu Gogledd Cymru am y mater penodol hwn, a thybiaf y bydd nifer o bobl sy'n talu'r dreth cyngor hefyd yn gofyn y cwestiynau hynny yn ystod y flwyddyn nesaf.

Trefn Etholiadol Electoral System

C11 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pa drafodaethau mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cynnal yn ddiweddar gyda Gweinidogion y DU ynglŷn â'r drefn etholiadol? OAQ1193(LGP)

Q11 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What recent discussions has the Minister held with UK Ministers regarding the electoral system? OAQ1193(LGP)

Sue Essex: I am sorry, Rhodri—I assume that you asked the question that has been tabled.

Sue Essex: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Rhodri—cymeraf eich bod wedi gofyn y cwestiwn a gyflwynwyd.

The Presiding Officer: Order. If he had not asked the tabled question, he would not be called to ask a supplementary question.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Oni fyddai wedi gofyn y cwestiwn a gyflwynwyd, ni fyddai wedi ei alw i ofyn cwestiwn ychwanegol.

Sue Essex: Thank you, Llywydd; I had forgotten about your watchful eye and ear.

Sue Essex: Diolch, Lywydd; yr oeddwn wedi anghofio am eich llygad barcud a'ch clust fain.

As the conduct of elections is not a devolved matter, I have not held any recent discussions with UK Ministers regarding the electoral system.

Gan yw'r drefn etholiadol yn fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli, nid wyf wedi cael dim trafodaethau'n ddiweddar gyda Gweinidogion y DU am y drefn etholiadol.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you for listening to my question and for responding to it. Carl Sargeant likes to describe himself as the directly elected Member for Alyn and Deeside, but he does not mention that only 25

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch am wrando ar fy nghwestiwn ac ymateb iddo. Mae Carl Sargeant yn hoff o ddisgrifio'i hun fel yr Aelod a etholwyd yn uniongyrchol dros Alun a Dyfrdwy, ond nid yw'n sôn mai 25 y cant

per cent of the electors turned out to vote in his constituency. Do you agree that we all have a responsibility to try to ensure that as many people as possible turn out to vote on 3 May, however they wish to use that vote? Would it encourage people to vote if we concentrated on policy rather than on personality, and tried to put over our own ideas? *[Interruption.]* I am happy to discuss Plaid Cymru's policies. *[Interruption.]* I am happy to discuss our manifesto at any time, and I am glad that you are aware of our manifesto. Do you agree, Minister, that we should be concentrating on policy and ensuring that people debate politics in this election?

Sue Essex: I agree that we all have a responsibility to ensure that voting levels go up; it does democracy no good to see those figures come down. It is an issue of promotion; it is for the Electoral Commission, the Presiding Officer and all of us who are involved in politics to encourage people to come out to vote. I always concentrate on policy rather than personality, Rhodri, and our manifesto will be full of policies that can be financially delivered. I suggest that you look again at your policies so that you can assure the people of Wales that that is also true of your manifesto.

yn unig o'r etholwyr a bleidleisiodd yn ei etholaeth. A gytunwch fod gennym i gyd gyfrifoldeb i geisio sicrhau bod cynifer â phosibl o bobl yn pleidleisio ar 3 Mai, sut bynnag y dymunant ddefnyddio'r bleidlais honno? A fyddai pobl yn cael eu hannog i bleidleisio pe baem yn canolbwyntio ar bolisi yn hytrach na phersonoliaeth, ac yn ceisio cyfleu ein syniadau ein hunain? *[Torri ar draws.]* Yr wyf yn fodlon trafod polisiau Plaid Cymru. *[Torri ar draws.]* Yr wyf yn fodlon trafod ein maniffesto unrhyw bryd, ac yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn ymwybodol o'n maniffesto. A gytunwch, Weinidog, y dylem fod yn canolbwyntio ar bolisi a sicrhau bod pobl yn trafod gwleidyddiaeth yn yr etholiad hwn?

Sue Essex: Cytunaf fod gennym i gyd gyfrifoldeb i sicrhau bod lefelau pleidleisio'n cynyddu; nid yw o ddim lles i ddemocratiaeth i weld y ffigurau hynny'n gostwng. Mae'n fater o hyrwyddo; gwaith y Comisiwn Etholiadol, y Llywydd a phob un ohonom sy'n rhan o wleidyddiaeth yw annog pobl i bleidleisio. Byddaf bob amser yn canolbwyntio ar bolisi yn hytrach na phersonoliaeth, Rhodri, a bydd ein maniffesto ni'n llawn polisiau y gellir eu cyflawni'n ariannol. Awgrymaf eich bod yn edrych eto ar eich polisiau fel y gallwch sicrhau pobl Cymru fod hynny hefyd yn wir am eich maniffesto chi.

Pwysau Cost Cost Pressures

C12 Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am bwysau cost ar lywodraeth leol? OAQ1191(LGP)

Sue Essex: The cost pressures on local government are clearly set out in the expenditure sub-group report. We sit down with local government—Dai Lloyd is a member of the group—to look at and evaluate those cost pressures in a mature way. We do our best to meet them, and that is scrutinised by the Local Government and Public Services Committee, the consultative forum on finance and the partnership council. I believe that we have responded well to cost pressures this year, which was acknowledged in the local government press release; we

Q12 The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Will the Minister make a statement on the cost pressures of local government? OAQ1191(LGP)

Sue Essex: Mae'r pwysau cost ar lywodraeth leol wedi'u gosod allan yn glir yn adroddiad yr is-grŵp gwariant. Byddwn yn eistedd i lawr gyda llywodraeth leol—mae Dai Lloyd yn aelod o'r grŵp—i ystyried a gwerthuso'r pwysau cost mewn ffordd aeddfed. Gwnawn ein gorau i'w hateb, ac mae'r Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus a Llywodraeth Leol, y fforwm ymgynghori ar gyllid a'r cyngor partneriaethau yn craffu ar hynny. Credaf inni ymateb yn dda i'n pwysau cost eleni, a gydnabuwyd yn y datganiad llywodraeth leol i'r wasg; rhoesom fwy o

actually added more funding than it asked for, particularly around the needs of migrants and refugees.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf innau hefyd yn dymuno'n dda i'r Gweinidog ac yn diolch iddi am ei chwarteisi, nid yn unig yn y Siambr ond hefyd yn ystod y trafodaethau a gawsom am y gyllideb yn 2005 a 2006. Yr wyf yn diolch iddi hefyd am ei gonestrwydd bob amser wrth gydnabod fod y Llywodraeth hon wedi methu â chyflwyno polisi rhoi gofal i'r anabl gan nad oedd wedi ei gostio yn ddigon gofalus. O ran y pwysau ar lywodraeth leol, a yw'r Gweinidog yn derbyn fod y setliad a gafodd cyngor Ynys Môn eleni yn golygu ei fod yn wynebu toriadau difrifol yn ei wasanaethau? A yw'r Gweinidog o'r farn y dylai pa bynnag Lywodraeth a etholir ar 3 Mai ystyried effaith hynny ar lywodraeth leol, yn arbennig mewn ardaloedd gwledig lle mae'r boblogaeth yn fach, fel Ynys Môn?

Sue Essex: As I said to Kirsty, that work is ongoing, in terms of looking at the cost of dispersal and delivering on deprivation. The formula has been agreed each year and over a period of years since the establishment of the Assembly, and detailed work is done every year. Inevitably, some councils are at the top and of the league and some are at the bottom. As you well know, Anglesey's biggest problem is loss of population; the biggest single driver is population, and that is why it is so important, in the spatial plan and in the Môn a Menai strategy, that there should be decent jobs in Anglesey to keep people there and to attract other people into the area. Cracking that one is the biggest issue for Anglesey.

2.40 p.m.

Secondly, the collaborative work that all north Wales authorities are engaged in, to reduce their overheads and costs, will be so important for Anglesey. I have gone through that with the chief executive and leader, and the council knows that that is the way forward. One last thing that I would say, though some of you might have forgotten, is that I signed a document with Harry Jones, the former leader of the Welsh Local Government Association, stating that we would not pass on any new burdens to local

arian nag y gofynnodd amdano mewn gwirionedd, yn enwedig o ran anghenion mewn fudwyr a ffoaduriaid.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I also wish the Minister well and thank her for her courtesy, not only in the Chamber but also during our budget negotiations in 2005 and 2006. I also thank her for her honesty at all times in recognising that this Government failed in its attempt to introduce a policy of care for the disabled as it had not been costed carefully enough. In terms of pressures on local government, does the Minister accept that the settlement received by Anglesey council this year means that it faces serious cuts in services? Is the Minister of the opinion that whatever Government is elected on 3 May should consider the effect of that on local government, especially in rural areas where the population is small, such as Anglesey?

Sue Essex: Fel y dywedais wrth Kirsty, mae'r gwaith hwnnw'n parhau, o ran ystyried costau gwasgaru a mynd i'r afael ag amddifadedd. Cytunwyd ar y fformiwla bob blwyddyn a thros gyfnod o flynyddoedd ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad, a gwneir gwaith manwl bob blwyddyn. Mae'n anochel y bydd rhai cyngorau ar frig y gynghrair ac eraill ar y gwaelod. Fel y gwyddoch, prif broblem Ynys Môn yw colli poblogaeth; y ffactor unigol mwyaf yw poblogaeth, a dyna pam y mae mor bwysig, yn y cynllun gofodol ac yn strategaeth Môn a Menai, i sicrhau bod swyddi da ar Ynys Môn er mwyn cadw pobl yno a denu pobl eraill i'r ardal. Mynd i'r afael â'r broblem honno yw'r mater pwysicaf i Ynys Môn.

Yn ail, bydd y gwaith y mae holl awdurdodau Cymru yn rhan ohono, i leihau eu gorbenion a'u costau, hefyd yn bwysig i Ynys Môn. Yr wyf wedi trafod hynny gyda'r prif weithredwr a'r arweinydd, a gŵyr y cyngor mai dyna'r ffordd ymlaen. Un peth olaf yr hoffwn ei ddweud, er, efallai fod rhai ohonoch wedi anghofio, yw fy mod wedi llofnodi dogfen gyda Harry Jones, cyn-arweinydd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, yn dweud na fyddwn yn trosglwyddo unrhyw feichiau newydd i lywodraeth leol

government without the appropriate funding; we have kept to that promise, and the WLGA will tell you as much. That was a major advance for local government, which is under pressure. The partnership is alive and well and will develop over the next few years.

heb yr arian priodol; yr ydym wedi cadw'r addewid hwnnw, a bydd CLILC yn cadarnhau hynny. Yr oedd hynny'n gam pwysig ymlaen i lywodraeth leol, sydd o dan bwysau. Mae'r bartneriaeth yn fyw ac yn iach, a bydd yn datblygu yn ystod y blynyddoedd nesaf.

Y Llywydd: Am y tro olaf o'r gadair hon, ond nid am y tro olaf am byth, diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei hatebion ac am ei chyfeillgarwch dros y blynyddoedd. [*Cymeradwyaeth.*]

The Presiding Officer: For the last time from this chair, but not for the final time, I thank the Minister for her answers and for her friendship over the years. [*Applause.*]

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

Llwybrau Dysgu Galwedigaethol Vocational Learning Routes

Q1 Jeff Cuthbert: What action is being taken to promote the take-up of vocational learning routes? OAQ1289(ELL)

C1 Jeff Cuthbert: Pa gamau sy'n cael eu cymryd i annog pobl i ddilyn llwybrau dysgu galwedigaethol? OAQ1289(ELL)

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): I have appointed a vocational skills champion to work with employers, schools and colleges. Our 14-19 learning pathways programme greatly strengthens work-related learning, including the work-focused learning pathways that combine study in school with hands-on work experience. The Welsh baccalaureate also requires learners to have work-related experiences.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Davidson): Yr wyf wedi penodi hyrwyddwr sgiliau galwedigaethol i weithio gyda chyflogwyr, ysgolion a cholegau. Mae ein rhaglen llwybrau dysgu 14-19 yn cryfhau dysgu sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gwaith, gan gynnwys y llwybrau dysgu sy'n canolbwyntio ar waith sy'n cyfuno astudio yn yr ysgol â phrofiad gwaith ymarferol. Mae bagloriaeth Cymru hefyd yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i ddysgwyr gael profiadau sy'n gysylltiedig â gwaith.

Jeff Cuthbert: I am sure that you agree that there must be a clear and meaningful link between education and the workplace. For major schemes like the Welsh baccalaureate and the 14-19 learning pathways to flow logically and cleanly into, for example, the modern apprenticeship programmes, work by learners in achieving key skills must be accepted as valid evidence of appropriate skills for the workplace. Do you agree with me that it is absolutely crucial that employers engage with educationalists at all levels to ensure that there is a proper and meaningful flow-through for learners from the world of education into the world of work?

Jeff Cuthbert: Fe gytunwch, mae'n siŵr, fod yn rhaid cael cyswllt clir ac ystyrllon rhwng addysg a'r gweithle. Er mwyn i'r cynlluniau mawr fel bagloriaeth Cymru a llwybrau dysgu 14-19 lifo'n rhesymegol ac yn rhwydd i'r rhaglenni prentisiaethau modern, er enghraifft, rhaid derbyn gwaith gan ddysgwyr i feistroli sgiliau allweddol fel tystiolaeth ddilys o sgiliau sy'n briodol i'r gweithle. A gytunwch â mi ei bod yn gwbl hanfodol i gyflogwyr ymgysylltu ag addysgwyr ar bob lefel er mwyn sicrhau bod dilyniant priodol ac ystyrllon ar gyfer dysgwyr o faes addysg i'r byd gwaith?

Jane Davidson: The role of employers will become increasingly important over the next

Jane Davidson: Daw rôl cyflogwyr yn fwyfwy pwysig yn ystod y blynyddoedd

few years. We are talking about 14 new vocational qualifications that will be delivered through the Welsh baccalaureate from 2009, in the development of which employers have a chance to have a major input. We are already outperforming other parts of the United Kingdom in the apprenticeship agenda, and we want to ensure that there are more apprenticeships in place, particularly since Wales has been leading the way on all-age apprenticeships. Wales is also dramatically outperforming the rest of the United Kingdom in key skills acquired, and we will maintain that position.

Janet Ryder: There is wide agreement now that we are not developing sufficient variety of courses for the 14 to 19 age group, whether it is vocational courses or the ability to access courses in a number of different settings. Estyn clearly states that the major problem behind that is that schools and colleges are not working together as closely as they should be, because they are competing for resources, funding and pupils. How do you intend to overcome that competition between schools and colleges?

Jane Davidson: The chief inspector also acknowledges that this Assembly Government has been driving forward the collaborative agenda, and the new funding for 14 to 19 is predicated on collaboration. All our local authority area networks are including vocational education in their annual network development plans for this year, and in many cases there will be new vocational pathways, with partnerships formed between schools, FE institutions and/or work-based learning providers. That is a crucial part of the agenda, which we have long supported on this side of the Chamber.

Janet Ryder: Therefore, you will confirm that you are about to embark on a new funding formula for 14-19 education, which will overcome the barrier that exists for schools and colleges to work together. However, when you make investigations into geographical pathfinders, such as the ones in Ynys Môn and Gwynedd, you find that the same problems still exist and you find

nesaf. Yr ydym yn sôn am tua 14 o gymwysterau galwedigaethol newydd a ddarperir drwy fagloriaeth Cymru o 2009, a chaiff cyflogwyr gyfle i gyfrannu'n sylweddol at y gwaith o'u datblygu. Yr ydym eisoes yn gwneud yn well na rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig o ran yr agenda prentisiaethau, ac yr ydym am sicrhau bod mwy o brentisiaethau ar waith, yn enwedig am fod Cymru wedi bod ar y blaen o ran prentisiaethau ar bob oed. Mae Cymru hefyd yn perfformio lawer yn well na gweddill y Deyrnas Unedig o ran y sgiliau allweddol a feistolir, a byddwn yn cadw'r safle hwnnw.

Janet Ryder: Cytunir yn gyffredinol bellach yn awr nad ydym yn datblygu amrywiaeth ddigonol o gyrsiau ar gyfer y grŵp oedran 14 i 19, boed y rheini'n gyrsiau galwedigaethol neu'r gallu i ddilyn cyrsiau mewn nifer o leoliadau gwahanol. Mae Estyn yn dweud yn glir mai'r brif broblem wrth wraidd hyn yw nad yw ysgolion a cholegau'n cydweithio mor agos ag y dylent, am eu bod yn cystadlu â'i gilydd am adnoddau, arian, a disgyblion. Sut yr ydych yn bwriadu goresgyn y gystadleuaeth honno rhwng ysgolion a cholegau?

Jane Davidson: Mae'r prif arolygydd hefyd yn cydnabod bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad hwn wedi bod yn hyrwyddo'r agenda gydweithredol, a chlustnodir yr arian newydd ar gyfer 14 i 19 ar sail cydweithredu. Mae pob un o'n rhwydweithiau ardal awdurdodau lleol yn cynnwys addysg alwedigaethol yn eu cynlluniau datblygu rhwydwaith blynyddol ar gyfer eleni, ac mewn llawer achos bydd llwybrau galwedigaethol newydd, a phartneriaethau'n cael eu llunio rhwng ysgolion, sefydliadau addysg bellach a/neu ddarparwyr dysgu'n seiliedig ar waith. Mae honno'n rhan hanfodol o'r agenda yr ydym wedi'i chefnogi ers cryn amser ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr.

Janet Ryder: Felly, byddwch yn cadarnhau eich bod ar fin ymgymryd â fformiwla ariannu newydd ar gyfer addysg 14-19, a fydd yn goresgyn y rhwystrau sy'n atal ysgolion a cholegau rhag gweithio gyda'i gilydd. Fodd bynnag, pan fyddwch yn gwneud ymchwiliadau i gynlluniau braenaru daearyddol, fel y rhai yn Ynys Môn a Gwynedd, fe welwch fod yr un problemau'n

objections from schools and colleges about sharing those resources. Will you confirm when you intend this new funding formula to be introduced, and what consultation have you undertaken with schools and colleges about this new funding formula?

Jane Davidson: I can confirm to you again—as you may not have listened to the answer in committee, as usual—that we have looked at the fact that we may well need to look at adapting the funding formula to deliver our 14-19 agenda, to bring more closely together the national planning and funding system and existing school funding. This side of the Chamber is opening up opportunities, not least through the Welsh baccalaureate, which I hope you will learn to support. The Welsh baccalaureate is now supported by over a third of schools and colleges in Wales, because it makes good educational sense and it enhances vocational and traditional academic opportunities.

bodoli o hyd a bydd gwrthwynebiadau gan ysgolion a cholegau o ran rhannu'r adnoddau hynny. A allwch gadarnhau pryd y bwriadwch gyflwyno'r fformiwla ariannu newydd hon, a pha waith ymgynghorol a wnaed gennych gydag ysgolion a cholegau ynghylch y fformiwla ariannu newydd hon?

Jane Davidson: Gallaf gadarnhau wrthyh eto—gan nad oeddech hwyrach yn gwrandao ar yr ateb yn y pwyllgor, fel arfer—ein bod wedi edrych ar y ffaith y bydd angen yn wir inni ystyried addasu'r fformiwla er mwyn darparu'n ein hagenda 14-19, i ddod â'r system gynllunio ac ariannu genedlaethol a chyllid ysgolion presennol yn nes at ei gilydd. Mae'r ochr hon o'r Siambr yn darparu cyfleoedd, yn bennaf drwy fagloriaeth Cymru, a gobeithio y byddwch yn dod i'w chefnogi. Cefnogir bagloriaeth Cymru bellach gan fwy na thraean ysgolion a cholegau yng Nghymru, oherwydd ei bod yn gwneud synnwyr addysgol da ac yn gwella cyfleoedd galwedigaethol ac academaidd traddodiadol.

Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg Welsh-medium Education

C2 Owen John Thomas: Pa gamau diweddar y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cymryd i gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth ar gyfer addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg? OAQ1321(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Gallaf gyhoeddi heddiw y bydd mwy o arian yn cael ei fuddsoddi ym maes hyfforddiant cychwynnol cyfrwng Cymraeg i athrawon yn 2007-08. Bydd y cynllun atodiad cymhelliant cyfrwng Cymraeg yn galluogi mwy o bobl i hyfforddi i fod yn athrawon. Bydd arian ar gael i bob sefydliad ac ysgol sy'n cynnig hyfforddiant cychwynnol i athrawon, a bydd grantiau ychwanegol ar gael i'r sawl sy'n hyfforddi.

Owen John Thomas: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod wedi ymateb i alwad y pleidiau eraill i wneud hynny. Er gwaethaf eich hunanganmoliaeth, yr ydych wedi methu o ran sawl gofyniad allweddol i hybu'r Gymraeg, megis annog o ddifrif awdurdodau addysg lleol i bennu'r galw am addysg Gymraeg, cryfhau dilyniant y Gymraeg i blant wrth iddynt fynd o'r sector cynradd i'r sector uwchradd, cyflwyno polisi blaengar i

Q2 Owen John Thomas: What recent steps has the Minister taken to increase Welsh-medium education provision? OAQ1321(ELL)

Jane Davidson: I can announce today that more money will be invested in Welsh-medium initial teacher training in 2007-08. The Welsh-medium incentive supplement scheme will enable more people to train to become teachers. Money will be available to all institutions and schools offering initial teacher training, and additional grants will be available for trainees.

Owen John Thomas: I am pleased that you have responded to calls from other parties to do that. Despite your self praise, you have failed on a number of key requests to promote the Welsh language, such as giving serious encouragement to local education authorities to determine the demand for Welsh-medium education, improving progression from the primary to secondary sectors, introducing an innovative policy to

ehangu addysg uwch cyfrwng Cymraeg, a chael ystadegau da am sgiliau Cymraeg ymhlith ein hathrawon. Pam ydych chi wedi llusgo'ch traed ar y materion hyn, sy'n hanfodol os ydym i greu Cymru ddwyieithog?

Jane Davidson: Nid wyf wedi gwneud hynny. Mae llawer o bethau newydd yn y system erbyn hyn. Rhaid i awdurdodau lleol ofyn faint o bobl sydd am gael addysg Gymraeg. Yr wyf wedi rhoi llawer mwy o arian—£7 miliwn—i'r ymarferwyr blynyddoedd cynnar. Mae'r prosiectau trochi yn llwyddiannus, ac yr wyf wedi sicrhau y gall mwy o ysgolion gael mynediad i'r prosiectau hyn. Mae mwy o arian ar gael yn y gyllideb ar gyfer y gronfa ysgolion gwell er mwyn datblygu'r Gymraeg fel pwnc yn y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol, ac mae ein partneriaethau yn datblygu cynlluniau datblygu addysg ddwyieithog i roi darpariaeth ehangach mewn ardaloedd lleol. Hefyd, mae mwy o arian ar gyfer y sector addysg bellach. Er enghraifft, gofynnwn i'r cynlluniau datblygu addysg 14-19 sicrhau bod mwy na 10 y cant o gyrsiau ar gael drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Felly, bydd llawer o bethau newydd yn cael eu gwneud. Mae'n dda gennyf gyhoeddi heddiw y grant newydd a phwysig ar gyfer pobl sydd am ddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ac a fydd yn cael ychydig mwy o gefnogaeth wrth ddatblygu eu sgiliau iaith.

2.50 p.m.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol o gynlluniau radical y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar gyngor Caerdydd i ehangu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. A ydych yn rhannu ein siom fel plaid, a'm siom bersonol, fod hyn heb ddigwydd gan fod Plaid Cymru wedi pleidleisio yn erbyn y cynlluniau?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf wedi dweud sawl gwaith mai mater i gynghorau etholedig lleol yw penderfynu ar eu polisiau fel aelodau etholedig. Wrth gwrs, mae modd gofyn cwestiynau am fwriadau'r Gweinidog mewn perthynas â llywodraeth lleol, ond nid yw'n briodol gofyn a yw'r Gweinidog yn siomedig ai peidio o ganlyniad i rywbeth y mae

increase Welsh-medium provision in higher education, and gathering concrete statistics on the Welsh-language skills of teachers. Why have you been dragging your feet on these matters, which are essential if we are to create a bilingual Wales?

Jane Davidson: I have not done so. There are now a number of new things in the system. Local authorities have to ask how many people wish to have Welsh-medium education. I have provided much more money—£7 million—for early-years practitioners. Immersion projects are successful, and I have ensured that more schools are able to access these projects. More money is available in the budget for the better schools fund in order to develop Welsh as a subject within the national curriculum, and our partnerships are developing bilingual education development schemes to offer wider provision in local areas. There is also more money for the further education sector. For example, we ask that 14-19 education development schemes ensure that more than 10 per cent of all courses are available through the medium of Welsh. Therefore, there will be many new innovations. I am pleased to announce today the new and important grant for those who wish to teach through the medium of Welsh and who will be given a little more support as they develop their language skills.

Eleanor Burnham: I am sure you are aware of the radical plans by the Liberal Democrats on Cardiff council to expand Welsh-medium education. Do you share our disappointment as a party, and my personal disappointment, that this has not happened because Plaid Cymru voted against the plans?

The Presiding Officer: Order. I have said many times that it is up to locally elected councils to decide their own policies, as local members. It is possible, of course, to question the Minister about her intentions in relation to local government, but it is not appropriate to ask the Minister whether or not she is disappointed about something that other

aelodau etholedig eraill wedi'i wneud.

elected members have done.

Eleanor Burnham, mewn ysbryd o garedigrwydd anhygoel, pe baech yn fodlon aralleirio'r cwestiwn mewn ffordd a fyddai'n dod â'r mater i drefn, byddwn yn barod i wrando arno.

Eleanor Burnham, in a remarkable show of kindness, if you were to rephrase your question to ensure that it is in order, I should be prepared to listen to it.

Eleanor Burnham: Diolch yn fawr, Lywydd. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar dros ben.

Eleanor Burnham: Thank you, Llywydd. I am very grateful.

Weinidog, a oes gennych gynlluniau penodol ynglŷn ag ehangu'r addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd, ac a fydd, ar gael yng Nghaerdydd a lleoedd eraill ar draws Cymru?

Minister, do you have specific plans to expand the Welsh-medium education that is, and will be, available in Cardiff and across Wales?

Y Llywydd: Cwestiwn da iawn.

The Presiding Officer: That was a very good question.

Jane Davidson: Mae'r cyfrifoldeb dros hynny yn aros gydag awdurdod lleol Caerdydd ac eraill. Fodd bynnag, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn annog ehangu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg; yr wyf yn falch iawn o Gymru fel gwlad ddwyieithog. Gwn fod Alun Pugh yn cytuno â mi.

Jane Davidson: Responsibility for that lies with local authorities, in Cardiff and elsewhere. However, the Assembly Government does encourage the expansion of Welsh-medium education; I am very proud of Wales as a bilingual country. I know that Alun Pugh agrees with me.

Cyflawniad Addysgol Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal The Educational Attainment of Looked-after Children

Q3 David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on meetings she has had in connection with the educational attainment of looked-after children in South Wales Central? OAQ1343(ELL)

C3 David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyfarfodydd y mae wedi eu cael mewn cysylltiad â chyflawniad addysgol plant sy'n cael gofal yng Nghanol De Cymru? OAQ1343(ELL)

Jane Davidson: I have held no meetings about looked-after children in South Wales Central specifically, but I recognise the urgency required in improving the services available to them. We have established a task group to inform the development of a programme of work designed to promote the educational achievement of looked-after children. We have also allocated £259,000 to authorities in South Wales Central, under RAISE, the raising attainment and individual standards in education in Wales grant, specifically for the achievements of looked-after children.

Jane Davidson: Nid wyf wedi cael dim cyfarfodydd ynghylch plant sy'n cael gofal yng Nghanol De Cymru yn benodol, ond yr wyf yn cydnabod bod angen gweithredu ar fyrder i wella'r gwasanaethau sydd ar gael iddynt. Yr ydym wedi sefydlu tasglu i lywio'r gwaith o ddatblygu rhaglen waith wedi'i chynllunio i hyrwyddo cyflawniad addysgol plant sy'n cael gofal. Yr ydym hefyd wedi dyrannu £259,000 i awdurdodau yng Nghanol De Cymru, o dan RAISE, sef y grant i godi cyflawniad a safonau unigol mewn addysg yng Nghymru, yn benodol ar gyfer cyflawniadau plant sy'n cael gofal.

David Melding: The question about the educational attainment of looked-after children has been raised with you many times in the past few years by Members of all

David Melding: Codwyd y cwestiwn am gyflawniad addysgol plant sy'n cael gofal gyda chi droeon dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf gan Aelodau o bob plaid wleidyddol. Yn

political parties. The sad truth is that, had the question been asked 20 years ago, the answer would have been that attainment was very poor. Had it been asked in 1999—and perhaps it was—the answer would have been that attainment was very poor. Even today, it is true that there are some intimations of change, but the general standard is still poor. Do you agree that those Assembly Members who are returned to the next Assembly need to look at this area of work and drive up standards with a comprehensive policy? One thing that we can do for these looked-after children is give them a good set of qualifications to succeed in adult life after meeting the considerable challenges of their childhood.

Jane Davidson: I agree, and I am grateful for the work that you and your colleagues on the all-party group have done on taking this agenda forward. It is the first time that any legislature has put money in place, as we have done with the additional £1 million per year targeted at the attainment of looked-after children. We also used our procedures by taking forward a proposal for legislation under Standing Order No. 31 to designate specialist practitioners to co-ordinate personal education plans, and, therefore, we have been very specific about our expectations of local authorities.

It is also important to say that the Green Paper issued by the Department for Education and Skills includes attractive propositions, which the task group is working through at the moment, not least that of ensuring that young people are not moved from school to school if possible. If they are in a school that fits their educational needs, the system should support them to remain in that school. Those kinds of approaches have worked well in a few authorities in Wales where we have seen attainment climb dramatically as a result. We continue to endorse that, as the Assembly Government.

Dysgu Gydol Oes (Cymoedd y De) **Lifelong Learning (South Wales Valleys)**

Q4 Huw Lewis: Will the Minister make a statement on the future of lifelong learning in the south Wales Valleys? OAQ1318(ELL)

anffodus, pe bae'r cwestiwn wedi ei ofyn 20 mlynedd yn ôl, yr ateb fyddai fod cyflawniad yn wael iawn. Pe bae wedi ei ofyn yn 1999—ac efallai y gwnaed hynny—yr ateb fyddai fod cyflawniad yn wael iawn. Hyd yn oed heddiw, mae'n wir bod rhai awgrymiadau o newid, ond mae'r safon gyffredinol yn wael o hyd. A gytunwch fod angen i Aelodau'r Cynulliad hynny a gaiff eu hethol i'r Cynulliad nesaf edrych ar y maes gwaith hwn a chodi'r safonau gyda pholisi cynhwysfawr? Un peth y gallwn ei wneud i'r plant hyn sy'n caerl gofal yw rhoi set dda o gymwysterau iddynt er mwyn iddynt lwyddo fel oedolion ar ôl wynebu heriau sylweddol eu plentyndod.

Jane Davidson: Cytunaf, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y gwaith yr ydych chi a'ch cyd-Aelodau yn y grŵp trawsbleidiol wedi'i wneud i ddatblygu'r agenda hon. Dyma'r tro cyntaf i unrhyw ddeddfwrfa ddarparu arian, fel y gwnaethom ni gyda'r £1 filiwn ychwanegol fesul blwyddyn a oedd yn targedu cyflawniad plant sy'n caerl gofal. Defnyddiwyd ein gweithdrefnau hefyd drwy ddatblygu cynnig am ddeddfwriaeth o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31 i ddynodi ymarferwyr arbenigol i gydlynu cynlluniau addysg personol, ac felly, yr ydym wedi bod yn benodol iawn ynghylch yr hyn a ddisgwyliwn gan awdurdodau lleol.

Mae hefyd yn bwysig dweud bod y Papur Gwyrdd a gyhoeddwyd gan yr Adran Addysg a Sgiliau yn cynnwys cynigion deniadol y mae'r tasglu yn eu hystyried ar hyn o bryd, yn bennaf i sicrhau na symudir pobl ifanc o ysgol i ysgol os yw'n bosibl. Os ydynt mewn ysgol sy'n diwallu eu hanghenion addysgol, dylai'r system eu cynnal i aros yn yr ysgol honno. Mae'r mathau hynny o ddulliau wedi gweithio'n dda mewn rhai awdurdodau yng Nghymru, lle gwelwyd cyflawniad yn codi'n sylweddol o ganlyniad i hynny. Yr ydym yn parhau i gefnogi hynny, fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad.

C4 Huw Lewis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddyfodol dysgu gydol oes yng Nghymoedd y de? OAQ1318(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Pioneering initiatives include: the modernisation of 16-19 education and training in Merthyr, Blaenau Gwent and Rhondda Cynon Taf; the development of lifelong learning campuses in Merthyr Tydfil and Ebbw Vale; an initiative to train up to 400 beneficiaries in community regeneration; and the RISE learning network in Torfaen, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent.

Huw Lewis: As you say, Minister, there is much to be pleased and excited about. However, you will be aware of Welsh Labour's commitment to making Merthyr Tydfil a university town. I am sure that you will acknowledge that there is still some way to go. Can you give an update on the development of the lifelong learning campus at Merthyr Tydfil?

Jane Davidson: We have gone some way towards realising the ambition for Merthyr in the merger of Merthyr Tydfil College and the University of Glamorgan. That was a very important first step. Given that it was a merger between a higher education body and a further education body, it can offer education and vocational opportunities across the board, post-statutory provision. That is very exciting too. The Merthyr Tydfil lifelong learning campus project strategic board will receive an independent report at the end of this month outlining a curriculum strategy and the site development options for Merthyr. If accepted, the project will move to the final stage with the development of a business case for the campus, including integrated management arrangements to be finalised in this calendar year.

Peter Black: One of the many advantages to benefit people in the Valleys is the new medical school at Swansea University, which has enabled a number of students to have medical training in their local area. You will know that there is a danger that the medical school could run into the ground, because the agreement between Swansea and Cardiff universities expires at the end of 2008, and there is, as yet, no alternative agreement in place. What arrangements are being put in place to assist Swansea University in developing its own four-year, stand-alone

Jane Davidson: Ymhlith y mentrau arloesol mae: moderneiddio addysg a hyfforddiant 16-19 ym Merthyr, Blaenau Gwent a Rhondda Cynon Taf; datblygu campysau dysgu gydol oes ym Merthyr Tudful a Glynabwy; menter i hyfforddi hyd at 400 o fuddiolwyr mewn adfywio cymunedau; a'r rhwydwaith dysgu RISE yn Nhor-faen, Caerffili a Blaenau Gwent.

Huw Lewis: Fel y dywedwch, Weinidog, mae llawer i fod yn falch ohono ac yn gyffrous yn ei gylch. Fodd bynnag, fe wyddoch am ymrwymiad Llafur Cymru i wneud Merthyr Tudful yn dref brifysgol. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cydnabod bod cryn ffordd i fynd eto. A allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y gwaith o ddatblygu campws dysgu gydol oes ym Merthyr Tudful?

Jane Davidson: Yr ydym wedi mynd ychydig o'r ffordd tuag at wireddu'r uchelgais ar gyfer Merthyr drwy uno Coleg Merthyr Tudful a Phrifysgol Morgannwg. Yr oedd hynny'n gam cyntaf pwysig. O gofio bod hyn yn golygu uno corff addysg uwch a chorff addysg bellach, gall gynnig cyfleoedd addysgol a galwedigaethol yn gyffredinol, ar ôl y ddarpariaeth statudol. Mae hynny'n gyffrous iawn hefyd. Bydd bwrdd strategol y prosiect campws dysgu gydol oes ym Merthyr Tudful yn cael adroddiad annibynnol ddiwedd y mis hwn yn amlinellu strategaeth cwricwlwm a'r dewisiadau datblygu safle ar gyfer Merthyr. Os caiff ei dderbyn, bydd y prosiect yn symud i'r cam terfynol gan ddatblygu achos busnes ar gyfer y campws, gan gynnwys trefniadau rheoli integredig i'w cwblhau yn ystod y flwyddyn galendr hon.

Peter Black: Un o'r manteision niferus a fydd o fudd i bobl yn y Cymoedd yw'r ysgol feddygol newydd ym Mhrifysgol Abertawe, sydd wedi galluogi nifer o fyfyrwyr i gael hyfforddiant meddygol yn eu hardal leol. Gwyddoch fod perygl y gallai'r ysgol feddygol fethu, oherwydd bod y cytundeb rhwng prifysgolion Abertawe a Chaerdydd yn dod i ben ddiwedd 2008, ac ar hyn o bryd nid oes cytundeb arall wedi ei wneud. Pa drefniadau sy'n cael eu rhoi ar waith i gynorthwyo Prifysgol Abertawe i ddatblygu ei gradd feddygol annibynnol bedair blynedd

independent medical degree, to enable that school to develop in a natural way?

Jane Davidson: I am really surprised at the way in which you phrased that question, as there is absolutely no notion of the medical school in Swansea, which was started as a result of the successful intervention of this Assembly Government, running into the ground. It would be extremely inappropriate for you to run with that terminology in the local area. Brian Gibbons, Minister for health, and I have looked at this and commissioned an independent review of how to deliver the training across four years in Swansea. We have done that as an Assembly Government. You continue to ask the same question, and we will give you the absolute answer: this Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that the learners benefit. Therefore, this review will be undertaken and will report back to the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills in July.

Peter Black: As you know, any independent degree in medicine established in Swansea must be ratified by the British Medical Association. Swansea will need a good year to put that in place. The university itself considers that, if this is not done before the Assembly is dissolved for the elections, there is a danger that it will not have a degree in place when the agreement with Cardiff University runs out. Could you not look upon this with some urgency, particularly given the view of the university that, if it does not get the independent degree in place, there is a severe danger that there will be a hiatus between the end of the agreement with Cardiff University and the establishment of the independent degree?

Jane Davidson: I can assure you that there will be no hiatus. This Government believes in doing things properly. A review that has been commissioned to report back in July is already operating to a strict timetable. There will be a wider review of issues in medical education in the whole of Wales later in the year.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 5, OAQ1348(ELL), yn ôl.

ei hun, i alluogi'r ysgol honno i ddatblygu mewn ffordd naturiol?

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn rhyfeddu'n fawr at eiriad y cwestiwn hwnnw, gan nad oes dim awgrym o gwbl y bydd yr ysgol feddygol yn Abertawe, a ddechreuwyd o ganlyniad i ymyrryd llwyddiannus y Llywodraeth Cynulliad hon, yn methu. Byddai'n eithriadol o anaddas ichi ddefnyddio'r geiriau hynny yn eich ardal leol. Mae Brian Gibbons, y Gweinidog dros Iechyd, a minnau wedi edrych ar hyn ac wedi comisiynu adolygiad annibynnol o'r ffordd i ddarparu'r hyfforddiant mewn pedair blynedd yn Abertawe. Yr ydym wedi gwneud hynny fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Yr ydych yn dal i ofyn yr un cwestiwn, a byddwn yn rhoi ateb pendant ichi: mae'r Llywodraeth Cynulliad hon wedi ymrwmo i sicrhau bod y dysgwyr ar eu hennill. Felly, gwneir yr adolygiad hwn a chyflwynir adroddiad arno i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau ym mis Gorffennaf.

Peter Black: Fel y gwyddoch, rhaid i unrhyw radd annibynnol mewn meddygaeth a sefydlir yn Abertawe gael ei chadarnhau gan Gymdeithas Feddygol Prydain. Bydd angen blwyddyn dda ar Abertawe i roi hynny ar waith. Mae'r brifysgol ei hun yn ystyried, os na wneir hyn cyn diddymu'r Cynulliad ar gyfer yr etholiadau, y bydd perygl na fydd ganddi radd ar waith pan fydd y cytundeb gyda Phrifysgol Caerdydd yn dod i ben. A allech ystyried ar hyn ar fyrder, yn enwedig o gofio barn y brifysgol, sef os na chaiff radd annibynnol y bydd perygl mawr gweld bwlch rhwng diwedd y cytundeb gyda Phrifysgol Caerdydd a sefydlu gradd annibynnol?

Jane Davidson: Gallaf eich sicrhau na fydd bwlch. Cred y Llywodraeth hon mewn gwneud pethau'n iawn. Mae adolygiad a gomisiynwyd i gyflwyno adroddiad ym mis Gorffennaf eisoes yn gweithio yn ôl amserlen dynn. Bydd adolygiad ehangach o broblemau addysg feddygol yng Nghymru gyfan yn ddiweddarach eleni.

The Presiding Officer: Question 5, OAQ1348(ELL), has been withdrawn.

Addysg Uwch Cyfrwng Cymraeg Welsh-medium Higher Education

C6 Elin Jones: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd yn ddiweddar i roi hwb sylweddol i ehangu'r ddarpariaeth ar gyfer addysg uwch cyfrwng Cymraeg? OAQ1320(ELL)

Q6 Elin Jones: What recent steps has the Minister taken to support the expansion of Welsh-medium higher education provision? OAQ1320(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Cytunais ar 13 Mawrth 2007 i roi £1.310 miliwn ychwanegol o Gronfa Ymgeisio yn Uwch i helpu gyda datblygiadau cyfredol a newydd y Ganolfan Datblygu Addysgu Cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae hyn yn ychwanegu at y mesurau datblygu tebyg sydd eisoes ar waith.

Jane Davidson: I agreed on 13 March 2007 to provide a further £1.310 million from the Reaching Higher fund to support ongoing and additional developments at the Welsh Medium Teaching Development Centre. This builds on the complementary suite of development measures already being supported.

Elin Jones: Pam nad ydych wedi cyflwyno adroddiad gerbron y pwyllgor addysg am yr opsiynau a gomisiynwyd gennych o ran hyrwyddo addysg uwch Gymraeg? Ai'r rheswm yw eich bod ym amharod iddo graffu ar ddatblygiad addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn prifysgolion, gan nad oes mwy o fyfyrwyr yn astudio drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn awr nag ydoedd bedair blynedd yn ôl?

Elin Jones: Why have you not presented a report to the education committee on the options which you commissioned on promoting Welsh-medium higher education? Is the reason for this your unwillingness to be scrutinised on the development of Welsh-medium education in universities, as there are now no more students studying through the medium of Welsh than there were four years ago?

3.00 p.m.

Jane Davidson: Yr oedd 4.6 y cant o fyfyrwyr yn dysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn 2004-05. Dyna'r ffigurau diweddaraf sydd gennym. Mae mwy o bobl yn dysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn awr ac mae mwy o gyrsiau ar gael. Er enghraifft, mae'n bosibl astudio'r gyfraith ym Mangor a ieithoedd tramor modern ym mhrifysgol Abertawe drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Yr wyf yn hapus i weld y cyrsiau yn datblygu.

Jane Davidson: The percentage of students studying through the medium of Welsh stood at 4.6 per cent in 2004-05. Those are the latest figures we have. More people now study, and more courses are taught, through the medium of Welsh. For example, it is possible to study law at Bangor and modern languages at Swansea through the medium of Welsh. I am pleased to see the development of such courses.

Swyddi Penaethiaid sy'n Wag Headteacher Vacancies

Q7 Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the number of headteacher vacancies in Wales? OAQ1328(ELL)

C7 Kirsty Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am nifer y swyddi penaethiaid yng Nghymru sy'n wag? OAQ1328(ELL)

Jane Davidson: The latest figures available show that, in January 2006, 24 vacant headteacher posts had been advertised across Wales. Research shows that 84 per cent of these would be filled at the first attempt.

Jane Davidson: Mae'r ffigurau diweddaraf sydd ar gael yn dangos, ym mis Ionawr 2006, fod 24 o swyddi penaethiaid wedi'u hysbysebu ledled Cymru. Dengys ymchwil y byddai 84 y cant o'r rhain yn cael eu llenwi ar

yr ymgais gyntaf.

Kirsty Williams: Minister, you are aware that I wrote to you recently outlining the concerns of teachers in my constituency about difficulties in recruiting headteachers in Powys. I showed your reply to a number of headteachers who were concerned about this, and one commented that it was patronising in the extreme. They felt that you were not taking this issue seriously. What are you doing to ensure that more headteacher vacancies are filled on the first attempt and that teachers are given training opportunities and encouragement to move up the career ladder and become headteachers?

Jane Davidson: That is an unfair analysis of the reply, because it took evidence from education data surveys published in January 2007, which looked at vacancies in England and Wales and the percentage of those vacancies that were re-advertised. The figure for Wales was extremely low. That is data from January this year. We then gave you information about Estyn's report of 28 December 2006, which demonstrated the number of headteachers who had been through the national professional qualification for headship and showed that most headteacher vacancies in Wales attracted between six and 15 applicants. We also gave you information from the independent study in school leadership conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers. That was the content of the letter; it was independent evidence. It was not, therefore, patronising in any way to give your constituents independent evidence in terms of the actual position across Wales. Over 1,000 practitioners have gained the national professional qualification for headship in Wales, and around 250 are currently headteachers in schools in Wales. Therefore, we have 750 teachers who are accredited with the NPQH who could take up headship posts, and that means that we are well served as regards our pool of future headteachers.

Kirsty Williams: Weinidog, fe wyddoch imi ysgrifennu atoch yn ddiweddar yn amlinellu pryderon athrawon yn fy etholaeth am anawsterau recriwtio penaethiaid ym Mhowys. Dangosais eich ateb i nifer o benaethiaid a oedd yn pryderu ynghylch hyn, a dywedodd un ei fod yn nawddoglyd iawn. Yr oeddent yn teimlo nad oeddech yn cymryd y mater hwn o ddifrif. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod mwy o swyddi penaethiaid sy'n wag yn cael eu llenwi ar yr ymgais gyntaf, a bod athrawon yn cael cyfleoedd hyfforddi ac anogaeth i ddatblygu eu gyrfa a dod yn benaethiaid?

Jane Davidson: Mae hwnnw'n ddadansoddiad annheg o'r ateb, oherwydd cymerodd dystiolaeth o arolygon data addysg a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Ionawr 2007, a oedd yn edrych ar swyddi gwag yng Nghymru a Lloegr a chanran y swyddi gwag hynny a gafodd eu hailhysbysebu. Yr oedd y ffigur ar gyfer Cymru yn isel iawn. Data o fis Ionawr eleni yw'r rheini. Yna rhoddwyd gwybodaeth ichi am adroddiad Estyn, ym mis Rhagfyr 2006, a ddangosodd nifer y penaethiaid a enillodd y cymhwyster proffesiynol cenedlaethol ar gyfer prifathrawiaeth, yn dangos bod y rhan fwyaf o swyddi gwag penaethiaid yng Nghymru yn denu rhwng chwech a 15 o ymgeiswyr. Rhoesom wybodaeth hefyd ichi am yr astudiaeth annibynnol mewn arweinyddiaeth ysgolion a wnaed gan PricewaterhouseCoopers. Dyna oedd cynnwys y llythyr; tystiolaeth annibynnol ydoedd. Felly, nid oedd yn nawddoglyd o gwbl i roi tystiolaeth annibynnol i'ch etholwyr am y sefyllfa wirioneddol ledled Cymru. Mae dros 1,000 o ymarferwyr wedi ennill y cymhwyster proffesiynol cenedlaethol ar gyfer prifathrawiaeth yng Nghymru, ac mae tua 250 yn benaethiaid mewn ysgolion yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd. Felly, mae gennym 750 o athrawon sydd wedi eu hachredu gyda CPCP ac a allai ddechrau swyddi fel penaethiaid, ac mae hynny'n golygu ein bod yn cael ein gwasanaethu'n dda o ran ein cronfa o benaethiaid ar gyfer y dyfodol.

**Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig
Special Educational Needs**

Q8 Alun Cairns: Will the Minister make a statement on special education needs? OAQ1336(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Local education authorities are required to make suitable provision for children with special educational needs, under the Education Act 1996, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and the associated special educational needs code of practice. During 2006-07, we have allocated an additional £13.9 million to the 22 authorities in Wales for specific SEN initiatives.

Alun Cairns: Minister, this is an issue that covers a number of areas and is a topic on which I seek answers from you on a regular basis. More recently, in my short debate, I raised the issue of Dore and whether it is a cure for dyslexia and supports those with dyslexia in the way that it is claimed. You responded favourably by saying that you would refer it to your reference group. I would like to hear more. Did you get very far with regard to establishing the reference group to look at this area of policy before the election? If so, what is the make-up of the committee? As I said in that debate, I have concerns that, if some organisations or individuals that have taken strong views against or in favour of Dore are represented on that committee, we may not get the objective analysis that we all want.

Jane Davidson: As I replied to you in the debate, our external reference group for specific learning difficulties, which includes dyslexia, consists of a range of stakeholders, including LEAs, schools, the voluntary sector, and experts in the field. I have asked this group to consider examining the various approaches to dealing with dyslexia and to advise on the benefit of a longitudinal study to assess which of the approaches are most effective and which, potentially, an Assembly Government could endorse.

We are also in the process of auditing current education provision across the 22 local education authorities and we aim to produce guidance with quality standards to all schools and LEAs during the course of 2007.

C8 Alun Cairns: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am anghenion addysgol arbennig? OAQ1336(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Mae'n ofynnol i awdurdodau addysg lleol wneud darpariaeth addas ar gyfer plant sydd ag anghenion addysgol arbennig, o dan Ddeddf Addysg 1996, Deddf Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig ac Anabledd 2001 a'r cod ymarfer ar anghenion addysgol arbennig cysylltiedig. Yn ystod 2006-07 yr ydym wedi dyrannu £13.9 miliwn ychwanegol i'r 22 awdurdod yng Nghymru ar gyfer mentrau AAA penodol.

Alun Cairns: Weinidog, mae hwn yn fater sy'n cwmpasu nifer o feysydd ac mae'n bwnc yr wyf yn ceisio cael atebion gennych yn rheolaidd. Yn fwy diweddar, yn fy nadl fer, codais y mater yn ymwneud â Dore ac a yw'n gallu gwella dyslecsia a chynorthwyo pobl sydd â dyslecsia yn y ffordd a honnir. Yr oedd eich ymateb yn gadarnhaol drwy ddweud y byddech yn cyfeirio'r mater at eich grŵp cyfeirio. Hoffwn glywed rhagor. Pa gynnydd a wnaethoch o ran sefydlu'r grŵp cyfeirio i ystyried y maes polisi hwn cyn yr etholiad? Os felly, beth yw cyfansoddiad y pwyllgor? Fel y dywedais yn y ddadl honno, yr wyf yn pryderu, os bydd rhai sefydliadau neu unigolion sydd â barn gref yn erbyn neu o blaid Dore yn cael eu cynrychioli ar y pwyllgor hwnnw, efallai na fyddwn yn cael y dadansoddiad gwrthrychol yr ydym i gyd am ei gael.

Jane Davidson: Fel y dywedais yn yr ateb ichi yn y ddadl, mae ein grŵp cyfeirio allanol ar gyfer anawsterau dysgu penodol, sy'n cynnwys dyslecsia, yn cynnwys ystod o randdeiliaid, ac yn eu plith AALLau, ysgolion, y sector gwirfoddol, ac arbenigwyr yn y maes. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i'r grŵp hwn ystyried archwilio'r amrywiol ddulliau o ymdrin â dyslecsia, a chynghori ar fudd astudiaeth hydredol i asesu pa rai o'r dulliau sydd fwyaf effeithiol a pha rai, o bosibl, y gallai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad eu cefnogi.

Yr ydym hefyd yn y broses o archwilio'r ddarpariaeth addysg gyfredol ar draws y 22 awdurdod addysg lleol, a'n nod yw cynhyrchu canllawiau gyda safonau ansawdd ar gyfer pob ysgol ac AALL yn ystod 2007.

Helen Mary Jones: I was recently contacted by a constituent whose little boy was supposed to receive one-to-one support in his primary school, but because there are other children in the class with lower levels of special needs, the parents feel that the time allocated to their little boy by the classroom assistant is being unintentionally—it may not be a matter of school policy—spent on other children as well as this particular child, which obviously means that he does not get the support that he needs.

First, how would you advise the parents to proceed in this regard? The authority is passing the responsibility to the school and the school to the authority. Secondly, and more generally, what is your Government doing to ensure that those children with lower-level special needs, who may not need statements, are being effectively supported in our primary schools, so that the support for children with more profound needs is not diverted off to other children who need support but whose support needs are not as great?

Jane Davidson: If an individual child has a statement, there is clearly a duty to deliver on the requirements of the statement. If you write to me on the individual case, I will ensure that we have a dialogue with the local authority on that.

On the wider agenda, substantial work has gone on in my department to look at the inclusion policy and performance framework across Wales and at guidance to all schools, which will be delivered through the media of English and Welsh. We will particularly consider a number of areas related to statutory assessment and statementing, educational achievements and outcomes for learners with additional learning needs, SEN funding and empowering teachers and pupils with additional needs. That is ongoing work and it links with the debate that we had yesterday on the third part of the committee report. Substantial work has gone on in the committee and in my department on developing the SEN agenda in Wales, and we are asking Estyn to monitor inclusive education practices as part of its remit for the coming year.

Helen Mary Jones: Cysylltodd etholwr â mi'n ddiweddar a oedd disgwyl i'w fachgen bach gael cymorth un-i-un yn ei ysgol gynradd. Ond oherwydd bod plant eraill yn y dosbarth sydd â lefelau is o anghenion arbennig, mae'r rhieni'n credu bod yr amser a roddir i'w bachgen bach gan y cynorthwydd dosbarth yn cael ei dreulio'n anfwriadol—efallai nad yw'n fater o bolisi ysgol—ar blant eraill yn ogystal â'r plentyn penodol hwn, sy'n amlwg yn golygu nad yw'n cael y cymorth y mae arno ei angen.

Yn gyntaf, sut y byddech yn cynghori rhieni yn y cyswllt hwn? Mae'r awdurdod yn beio'r ysgol a'r ysgol yn beio'r awdurdod. Yn ail, ac yn fwy cyffredinol, beth mae eich Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod y plant hynny sydd ag anghenion arbennig lefel is ac nad oes angen datganiadau arnynt, hwyrach, yn cael eu cynorthwyo'n effeithiol yn ein hysgolion cynradd, fel nad yw'r cymorth i blant sydd ag anghenion mwy difrifol yn cael ei ddargyfeirio i blant eraill y mae angen cymorth arnynt ond nad yw eu hanghenion cymorth mor ddifrifol?

Jane Davidson: Os oes gan blentyn unigol ddatganiad, mae'n amlwg bod dyletswydd i gyflawni gofynion y datganiad. Os ysgrifennwch ataf am yr achos unigol, gwnaf yn sicr ein bod yn cael trafodaeth am hynny gyda'r awdurdod lleol.

O ran yr agenda ehangach, gwnaed gwaith sylweddol yn fy adran i edrych ar y fframwaith polisi a pherfformiad cynhwysiant ledled Cymru ac i edrych ar ganllawiau ar gyfer pob ysgol, a gwneir hynny drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg. Byddwn yn ystyried yn arbennig nifer o feysydd sy'n ymwneud ag asesu statudol a datganiadau, cyflawniadau addysgol a chanlyniadau i ddysgwyr sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol, cyllido AAA a grymuso athrawon a disgyblion sydd ag anghenion ychwanegol. Mae hwnnw'n waith parhaus ac mae'n cysylltu â'r ddadl a gawsom ddoe ar y drydedd ran yn adroddiad y pwyllgor. Gwnaed gwaith sylweddol yn y pwyllgor ac yn fy adran ar ddatblygu'r agenda AAA yng Nghymru, ac yr ydym yn gofyn i Estyn fonitro arferion addysgol cynhwysol fel rhan o'i gylch gwaith ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf.

Y Cap ar Ffioedd Dysgu The Tuition Fee Cap

Q9 Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on the tuition fee cap? OAQ1332(ELL)

C9 Jenny Randerson: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y cap ar ffioedd dysgu? OAQ1332(ELL)

Jane Davidson: There are no plans for the maximum tuition fees chargeable in Wales to be uprated beyond the level of inflation in 2007-08 or 2008-09.

Jane Davidson: Nid oes dim cynlluniau i godi uchafswm y ffioedd dysgu y gellir eu codi yng Nghymru yn uwch na lefel chwyddiant yn 2007-08 neu 2008-09.

Jenny Randerson: What would be your Government's position if the UK Government were to lift the tuition fee cap? Are you in a position to give a commitment today that if you are in Government again after the election, you will, at the very least, maintain the present level of support for students?

Jenny Randerson: Beth fyddai safbwynt eich Llywodraeth pe bai Llywodraeth y DU yn codi'r cap ar ffioedd dysgu? A ydych mewn sefyllfa i roi ymrwymiad heddiw, os byddwch mewn grym eto ar ôl yr etholiad, y byddwch o leiaf yn cynnal y lefel bresennol o gymorth i fyfyrwyr?

Jane Davidson: The new arrangements are only being introduced from this coming year. It was our commitment, as the Labour Party, that kept down the increased fees in the last year of this Assembly. We commit to keeping that investment, but we want to ensure that if there were a review by the UK Government, there would also be a review here so that we could consider how effective our policies have been, particularly in relation to the child poverty agenda.

Jane Davidson: Dim ond o'r flwyddyn sydd i ddod y mae'r trefniadau newydd yn cael eu cyflwyno. Ein hymrwymiad ni, fel y Blaid Lafur, a rwystrodd gynnydd yn y ffioedd ym mlwyddyn olaf y Cynulliad hwn. Yr ydym yn ymrwmo i gadw'r buddsoddiad hwnnw, ond dymunwn sicrhau, pe bai adolygiad gan Lywodraeth y DU, y byddai adolygiad yma hefyd er mwyn inni allu ystyried effeithiolrwydd ein polisiau, yn arbennig mewn perthynas â'r agenda tlodi plant.

Addysg Bellach Further Education

Q10 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the delivery of further education in the Vale of Clwyd? OAQ1323(ELL)

C10 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarpariaeth addysg bellach yn Nyffryn Clwyd? OAQ1323(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Further education in the Vale of Clwyd is provided by Coleg Llandrillo and Coleg Llysfasi. Adult learning is also offered by the local education authority, which is developing three new learning centres in the county. My department is in receipt of a bid for funding to support this.

Jane Davidson: Darperir addysg bellach yn Nyffryn Clwyd gan Goleg Llandrillo a Choleg Llysfasi. Cynigir dysgu i oedolion hefyd gan yr awdurdod addysg lleol, sy'n datblygu tair canolfan ddysgu newydd yn y sir. Mae fy adran i wedi cael cais am gyllid i gefnogi hyn.

Ann Jones: I warmly welcomed your announcement in the autumn on funding for the £4.2 million development of Rhyl College. That development will put that college on a secure footing and will enable

Ann Jones: Yr oeddwn yn croesawu'n fawr eich cyhoeddiad yn yr hydref am arian ar gyfer y datblygiad gwerth £4.2 miliwn yng Ngholeg y Rhyl. Bydd y datblygiad hwnnw'n rhoi sylfaen gref i'r coleg ac yn galluogi pobl

people from some of the deprived areas in Rhyl to acquire the knowledge and skills to improve their careers and to compete for the new jobs that have been created throughout the Vale of Clwyd. Do you agree that the success of that bid is a credit to the staff of Coleg Llandrillo, particularly to Huw Evans and Maggie Griffiths, and their predecessor, Irene Norman, who put together a bid that was so strong that it succeeded despite the fact that Denbighshire County Council, at the last minute, decided to withdraw its financial support? The reason given by the council for doing that was that it prefers to spend its money elsewhere, and not in the deprived areas of Rhyl. Do you agree that we must carry on targeting money at those areas of deprivation, so that we can build the skills and knowledge of people there, so that they can take advantage of the jobs that we are creating?

3.10 p.m.

Jane Davidson: I am always happy to pay tribute to Coleg Llandrillo, which was the first college in Wales to achieve a grade 1 in the inspection process across its delivery mechanism, and therefore it is a model for colleges in Wales. It is important that we are able to ensure that we have partnership arrangements operating in our most deprived communities. I welcome the fact that the Cities programme will be working in the context of Rhyl, as well as the fact that there is a partnership approach to considering the future of post-16 learning in Rhyl in a way that will benefit learners and assist the ongoing economic regeneration of the town. These are important agendas, which I know you support.

o rai o'r ardaloedd difreintiedig yn y Rhyl i gael y wybodaeth a'r sgiliau i wella'u gyrfaedd a chystadlu am y swyddi newydd sydd wedi eu creu ledled Dyffryn Clwyd. A gytunwch fod llwyddiant y cais hwnnw'n glod i staff Coleg Llandrillo, yn arbennig Huw Evans a Maggie Griffiths, a'u rhagflaenydd, Irene Norman, a luniodd gais a oedd mor gryf fel y llwyddodd er gwaetha'r ffaith bod Cyngor Sir Ddinbych wedi penderfynu tynnu ei gymorth ariannol yn ôl ar y funud olaf? Y rheswm a roddwyd gan y cyngor oedd ei bod yn well ganddo wario'i arian mewn mannau eraill, nid yn ardaloedd difreintiedig y Rhyl. A gytunwch fod yn rhaid inni barhau i dargedu arian yn yr ardaloedd difreintiedig hynny, er mwyn inni allu meithrin sgiliau a gwybodaeth y bobl yno, er mwyn iddynt allu manteisio ar y swyddi yr ydym yn eu creu?

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf bob amser yn fwy na pharod i roi teyrnged i Goleg Llandrillo, y coleg cyntaf yng Nghymru i ennill gradd 1 yn y broses arolygu yn ei fecanwaith ddarparu, ac felly mae'n esiampl i golegau yng Nghymru. Mae'n bwysig inni allu sicrhau bod gennym drefniadau partneriaeth ar waith yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig. Croesawaf y ffaith y bydd y rhaglen Dinasoedd yn gweithio yng nghyd-destun y Rhyl, yn ogystal â'r ffaith fod yna ddull partneriaeth wrth ystyried dyfodol dysgu ôl-16 yn y Rhyl mewn ffordd a fydd o fudd i ddysgwyr ac yn cynorthwyo yn yr adfywio economaidd sy'n digwydd yn y dref. Mae'r rhain yn agendâu pwysig, a gwn eich bod yn eu cefnogi.

Annog Dysgu Cymunedol Encouraging Lifelong Learning

Q11 Gwenda Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to encourage lifelong community learning in Wales?
OAQ1292(OAQ)

Jane Davidson: My department works actively to promote and support lifelong community learning. We do this through

C11 Gwenda Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i annog dysgu cymunedol gydol oes yng Nghymru?
OAQ1292(OAQ)

Jane Davidson: Mae fy adran yn gweithio'n galed i hyrwyddo a chefnogi dysgu cymunedol gydol oes. Gwnawn hyn drwy

development projects, piloting new approaches to learning, marketing specific products and provision, providing a range of funding routes for learners, working with key partners to promote learning, and using data on participation to monitor progress.

Gwenda Thomas: I am sure, therefore, that you will join me in welcoming the recent allocation of grant funding from the Labour Welsh Assembly Government to help make more use of school buildings outside traditional classroom hours. This will enable community-focused schools to be a focus of activity, and will aid regeneration. The schools in my constituency to benefit from this funding include Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gwauncaegurwen, Alderman Davies Church in Wales Primary School, Neath, and Llangatwg and Cefn Saeson comprehensive schools. These schools will be boosted with advances in areas such as out-of-school clubs, and community facilities such as outreach services. This grant will also be able to offer a new level of locally based provision in fields such as art, information and communication technology, homework clubs and childcare. I am sure that you will agree that this initiative, funded by the Labour Welsh Assembly Government, will augment existing community facilities, and will be a means to enrich life in many deserving Valleys communities and urban neighbourhoods.

Jane Davidson: You articulate well why the Assembly Government is promoting the community-focused schools agenda. We want our schools to be hubs, and we want them to offer a range of facilities, because they are fully funded by public funding, and we want those facilities, therefore, to be far more widely available to the public. I am particularly keen to see effective partnership arrangements between the primary sector and the secondary sector, and, sometimes, with colleges, in terms of, for example, physical education and school sport initiatives, which then spill over into out-of-school-hours activities as well. Therefore, we will want to see this agenda growing dramatically over the next few years.

brosiectau datblygu, gan dreialu dulliau newydd o ddysgu, marchnata cynnyrch a darpariaeth benodol, darparu amrywiaeth o ddulliau cyllido ar gyfer dysgwyr, gweithio gyda phartneriaid allweddol i hyrwyddo dysgu, a defnyddio data ar gyfranogi i fonitro cynnydd.

Gwenda Thomas: Hyderaf, felly, y byddwch yn ymuno â mi i groesawu'r arian grant yn ddiweddar gan Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i helpu gwneud mwy o ddefnydd o adeiladau ysgolion y tu allan i oriau traddodiadol yr ystafell ddosbarth. Bydd hyn yn galluogi ein hysgolion bro i fod yn ganolfbwynt gweithgarwch, a bydd yn cynorthwyo adfywio. Ymhlith yr ysgolion yn fy etholaeth a gafodd y cyllid hwn mae Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gwauncaegurwen, Ysgol Gynradd yr Henadur Davies yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, Castell-nedd, ac ysgolion cyfun Llangatwg a Chefnsaeson. Hybir yr ysgolion hyn gan ddatblygiadau mewn meysydd megis clybiau y tu allan i'r ysgol, a chyfleusterau cymunedol megis gwasanaethau allgymorth. Bydd y grant hwn hefyd ar gael i gynnig lefel newydd o ddarpariaeth leol mewn meysydd megis celf, technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu, clybiau gwaith cartref a gofal plant. Fe gytunwch, mae'n siŵr, y bydd y fenter hon, a ariennir gan Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad, yn ychwanegu at y chyfleusterau cymunedol presennol, ac y bydd yn fodd i gyfoethogi bywyd mewn llawer cymuned haeddiannol a chymdogaethau trefol yn y Cymoedd.

Jane Davidson: Yr ydych wedi mynegi'n dda pam y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn hyrwyddo'r agenda ysgolion bro. Dymunwn i'n hysgolion fod yn ganolfannau, a dymunwn iddynt gynnig ystod o gyfleusterau, oherwydd drwy arian cyhoeddus y cânt eu cyllido, a dymunwn i'r cyfleusterau hynny, felly, fod ar gael yn fwy eang i'r cyhoedd. Yr wyf yn awyddus iawn i weld trefniadau partneriaeth effeithiol rhwng y sector cynradd a'r sector uwchradd, ac weithiau gyda cholegau, er enghraifft, mewn addysg gorfforol a mentrau chwaraeon mewn ysgolion, sydd wedyn yn parhau mewn gweithgareddau y tu allan i oriau ysgol. Felly, dymunwn weld yr agenda hon yn tyfu'n sylweddol dros y blynyddoedd nesaf.

Anweithgarwch Economaidd Economic Inactivity

C12 Alun Ffred Jones: Pa drafodaethau diweddar y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cynnal i ddatrys anweithgarwch economaidd yng Ngwynedd? OAQ1298(ELL)

Q12 Alun Ffred Jones: What recent discussions has the Minister had to resolve economic inactivity in Gwynedd? OAQ1298(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf wedi trafod yn ddiweddar â'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau y trefniadau o ran darparu rhaglen Llwybrau at Waith yn y gogledd. Bydd y fenter hon, a luniwyd i helpu pobl sy'n hawlio budd-dal analluogrwydd i gael gwaith, yn cael ei hymestyn i rannau eraill o Gymru, gan gynnwys Gwynedd, o fis Hydref 2007.

Jane Davidson: I have had recent discussions with the Department for Work and Pensions about the arrangements for the delivery of the Pathways to Work programme in north Wales. This initiative, designed to help people claiming incapacity benefit into employment, will be extended to other areas of Wales, including Gwynedd, from October 2007.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae'r rhaglen honno wedi bod yn llwyddiannus iawn yn y gogledd, ac yng Ngwynedd yn benodol. Fodd bynnag, mae ffigurau yr arolwg o'r llafurlu yn dangos cynnydd sylweddol yn nifer y rhai sy'n anweithgar, yn enwedig ymysg y grŵp sydd rhwng 16 a 24 oed. Beth sy'n gyfrifol am y cynnydd hwn dros y degawd diwethaf, a pha gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i ateb yr her honno?

Alun Ffred Jones: The programme has been extremely successful in north Wales, particularly in Gwynedd. However, the labour force survey figures demonstrate a significant increase in the number of inactive people, particularly in the 16 to 24 age group. What is responsible for this increase during the last decade, and what steps are you taking to respond to that challenge?

Jane Davidson: Mae dau beth pwysig i'w ddweud. Mae'r rhaglen Llwybrau at Waith yn bwysig iawn, ac yr wyf yn falch o ddweud bod y rhaglen hon yn llwyddiannus. Hefyd, mae rhaglenni eraill, fel y Fargen Newydd, er enghraifft, yn helpu llawer o bobl—mae bron 2,000 o bobl rhwng 18 mlwydd oed a 24 mlwydd oed yn cael cefnogaeth drwy'r Fargen Newydd. Mae'r rhaglen hefyd yn helpu rhieni sengl. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau na fydd pobl ifanc yn gadael y system addysg heb gymwysterau, ac mae datblygu'r agenda honno hefyd yn bwysig.

Jane Davidson: There are two important points to be made. The Pathways to Work programme is very important, and I am pleased to say that the programme is proving to be successful. Other programmes, such as the New Deal, are also helping many people—almost 2,000 people between the ages of 18 and 24 receive support from the New Deal programme. The programme also assists lone parents. The Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that young people do not leave the education system without qualifications, and the development of that agenda is also important.

Y Llywydd: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am atebion mor rhugl yn y Gymraeg.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Minister, for providing such fluent answers in Welsh.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

**G. Costa a Chwmni Cyf
G. Costa and Company Ltd**

Irene James: Will the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

Irene James: A wnaiff y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad

make a statement about proposed job losses announced at G. Costa in Islwyn? EAQ1129 (EPC)

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): We were disappointed to hear this news from G. Costa and Company Ltd, and our sympathies go out to those who will be affected, not just in Abercarn, but in Newtown. I know that officials are in contact with the company and are meeting the management to offer their assistance and to discuss the implications of the proposed closure and what support can be offered to affected staff.

Irene James: As you will be aware, I have held discussions with the Transport and General Workers' Union, the company, and the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks's office since this disappointing announcement, which has left everyone involved shell-shocked. It is a massive blow to a longstanding and loyal workforce. I will be meeting the company tomorrow morning to discuss my concerns further. I ask for your assurances that all options are explored in discussions between your officials and the company during the 90-day consultation period to overcome the current issues and to secure key local jobs at the plant. I understand that 151 workers—full and part time—are working at the plant at Abercarn and that they are all deeply concerned about their now unstable future. I particularly ask that you and your colleague, Andrew Davies, make contingency plans to support the workforce, organise training, enter discussions with the company and the trade unions, open a dialogue with other viable employers and initiate a Team Wales approach to ensure that, in the event of redundancy, there are new opportunities in place for all workers. I apologise for my voice today.

Alun Cairns: We thought you were emotional.

Irene James: No, it is laryngitis.

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): I understand that the company is seeking to

datganiad am golledion swyddi a gyhoeddwyd yn G. Costa yn Islwyn? EAQ1129 (EPC)

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Yr oeddem yn siomedig i glywed y newyddion hyn gan G. Costa and Company Ltd, ac yr ydym yn cydymdeimlo â'r rheini yr effeithir arnynt, nid yn Aber-carn yn unig, ond yn y Drenewydd hefyd. Gwn fod swyddogion mewn cysylltiad â'r cwmni ac yn cyfarfod â'r rheolwyr i gynnig eu cymorth ac i drafod goblygiadau'r bwriad i gau'r gwaith a pha gymorth y gellir ei gynnig i staff yr effeithir arnynt.

Irene James: Fel y gwyrddoch, yr wyf wedi cael trafodaethau gyda'r Undeb y Gweithwyr Cludiant a Chyffredinol, y cwmni, a swyddfa'r Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesedd a Rhwydweithiau ers y cyhoeddiad siomedig hwn, sydd wedi peri syndod mawr i bawb dan sylw. Mae'n ergyd enfawr i weithlu hirsefydlog a theyrngar. Byddaf yn cyfarfod â'r cwmni bore yfory i drafod fy mhryderon ymhellach. Gofynnaf am eich sicrwydd y caiff pob dewis eu harchwilio mewn trafodaethau rhwng eich swyddogion a'r cwmni yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori o 90 diwrnod, er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r problemau presennol a sicrhau swyddi lleol allweddol yn y ffatri. Deallaf fod 151 o weithwyr—llawn amser a rhan amser—yn gweithio yn y ffatri yn Aber-carn a'u bod i gyd yn pryderu'n fawr am eu dyfodol, sydd bellach yn ansefydlog. Gofynnaf yn arbennig i chi a'ch cyd-Weinidog, Andrew Davies, wneud cynlluniau wrth gefn i gefnogi'r gweithlu, trefnu hyfforddiant, cael trafodaethau gyda'r cwmni a'r undebau llafur, cychwyn deialog gyda chyflogwyr posibl eraill, a chychwyn dull Tîm Cymru i sicrhau, os bydd diswyddo, y bydd cyfleoedd newydd i bob gweithiwr. Ymddiheuraf am fy llais heddiw.

Alun Cairns: Yr oeddem yn meddwl eich bod yn emosiynol.

Irene James: Na, mae arnaf laryngitis.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Deallaf fod y cwmni'n ceisio helpu'r staff i

support the staff in terms of them seeking future employment and that training will be provided as part of that process. Nevertheless, officials have spoken with the management of G. Costa and a meeting is proposed with it next week to discuss options of future support for the business and support from organisations such as Careers Wales for staff in seeking future employment, should the closure take place next spring. The first aim will be to secure as many jobs as possible, but if that proves not to be possible, the full and usual Team Wales approach will be put into action.

Jocelyn Davies: This is the second time this week that you are facing questions about job losses in my region, Minister. Food processing is supposed to be the jewel in the crown for your department. Do you still maintain that Wales is doing well under your stewardship?

Carwyn Jones: You only have to look at the number of jobs that have been created, compared with the number of jobs that have been lost. It is an inescapable fact that the number of jobs being created is far greater than those being lost.

3.20 p.m.

Nevertheless, it is unfortunate for those who are working at Abercarn and Newtown to hear this news, as it was unfortunate yesterday to hear the news that we heard, but we are confident that, with the support that is being put in place, we can help those who need to find new jobs to do exactly that. We have had examples elsewhere, for example, we lost many hundreds of jobs in my constituency of Bridgend some two years ago, but the vast majority of those who wished to find new jobs, if not all, were able to do so. That is the sign of a vibrant economy and that is what we have delivered.

Michael German: As has just been said, this is the second threatened closure within a week in the region. Has this company been provided with any grant aid, either now or in the past? Given that it is part of Associated British Foods plc, has that company received

chwilio am gyflogaeth yn y dyfodol ac y darperir hyfforddiant fel rhan o'r broses honno. Serch hynny, mae swyddogion wedi siarad â rheolwyr G. Costa, a bwriedir cael cyfarfod gyda hwy yr wythnos nesaf i drafod dewisiadau ar gyfer cymorth yn y dyfodol i'r busnes a chymorth gan sefydliadau fel Gyrfa Cymru i staff a fydd yn chwilio am gyflogaeth yn y dyfodol, pe bae'r ffatri'n cau yn y gwanwyn nesaf. Y nod cyntaf fydd diogelu cynifer â phosibl o swyddi, ond os na fydd yn bosibl gwneud hynny, defnyddir y dull Tîm Cymru llawn ac arferol.

Jocelyn Davies: Dyma'r eilwaith yr wythnos hon ichi wynebu cwestiynau am gollu swyddi yn fy rhanbarth i, Weinidog. Prosesu bwyd yw trysor eich adran, yn ôl pob sôn. A ydych yn dal i fynnu bod Cymru'n gwneud yn dda o dan eich stiwardiaeth?

Carwyn Jones: Y cyfan sy'n rhaid i chi ei wneud yw edrych ar nifer y swyddi sydd wedi eu creu, o'u cymharu â nifer y swyddi a gollwyd. Ni ellir gwadu'r ffaith bod nifer y swyddi sy'n cael eu creu lawer yn fwy na'r nifer sy'n cael eu colli.

Serch hynny, mae'n anffodus i'r rheini sy'n gweithio yn Abercarn a'r Drenewydd glywed y newyddion hyn, fel yr oedd yn anffodus ddoe clywed y newyddion a glywsom ni. Ond yr ydym yn hyderus, gyda'r cymorth a roddir ar waith, y gallwn helpu'r rheini y mae angen swyddi newydd arnynt wneud hynny'n union. Cafwyd enghreifftiau mewn mannau eraill, er enghraifft, collwyd cannoedd o swyddi yn fy etholaeth i ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr tua dwy flynedd yn ôl, ond llwyddodd y mwyafrif helaeth o'r rheini a oedd yn dymuno cael swyddi newydd, os nad pob un ohonynt, i wneud hynny. Mae hynny'n arwydd o economi ffyniannus, a dyna yr ydym wedi'i darparu.

Michael German: Fel sydd newydd ei ddweud, dyma'r ail fygythiad cau o fewn wythnos yn y rhanbarth. A roddwyd unrhyw gymorth grant i'r cwmni hwn, nawr neu yn y gorffennol? O gofio'i fod yn rhan o Associated British Foods plc, a yw'r cwmni

grant aid from the National Assembly for Wales? What is the relationship between the head company, Associated British Foods plc, and G. Costa? Will you reassure us that your officials will seek to retain as much of this work as possible in Wales and to ensure that it is made clear to the parent company that, in relation to any grant that is and can be provided, we play this role in order to strengthen our economy in Wales and not to weaken it?

Carwyn Jones: On your last points, that will undoubtedly be done. My officials will offer support to see what can be done to save at least some of the jobs there. I am sure that that message will be communicated to the parent company. I can confirm that this company has not received grant aid from us in recent years.

Mick Bates: I offer my sympathy to the 179 employees who are affected by this announcement. There are 158 such employees at Abercarn and 28 in my constituency in the factory in Newtown. I want to put on record my sympathy for all those workers. I hear what the Minister has said about offering them support, and I welcome that and hope that it will be in place as quickly as possible.

The company informed us of this by letter yesterday, which I thought was good practice, given the nature of this and, having spoken to the managing director and manager of the plant in Newtown, I feel great sympathy with them also, because they are in a difficult position.

In the announcement about the proposed closure, the company draws attention to the fact that operating costs have made this consultation essential. It is proposing to move to Poland where operating costs—although there are no details of this in the statement—are, I am told, approximately one third of those in Wales. While we are all in a competitive world, I am deeply concerned that businesses such as this are feeling such immense pressure that they are forced to move. Will there be support for retraining and skills for these workers? Is your Government concerned about the loss of

hwnnw wedi cael cymorth grant gan Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru? Beth yw'r berthynas rhwng y prif gwmni, Associated British Foods plc, a G. Costa? A wnewch chi ein sicrhau y bydd eich swyddogion yn ceisio cadw cymaint â phosibl o'r gwaith hwn yng Nghymru a sicrhau y gwneir yn glir wrth y prif gwmni, mewn perthynas ag unrhyw grant y gellir ei rhoi ac a gaiff ei roi, ein bod yn defnyddio'r dull hwn er mwyn atgyfnerthu ein heconomi yng Nghymru, nid i'w gwanhau?

Carwyn Jones: O ran eich pwyntiau olaf, gwneir hynny'n bendant. Bydd fy swyddogion yn cynnig cymorth i weld beth y gellir ei wneud i arbed o leiaf rai o'r swyddi yno. Yr wyf yn siŵr y caiff y neges honno ei chyfleu i'r prif gwmni. Gallaf gadarnhau nad yw'r cwmni hwn wedi cael cymorth grant gennym yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

Mick Bates: Yr wyf yn cydymdeimlo â'r 179 o gyflogeion y mae'r cyhoeddiad hwn yn effeithio arnynt. Mae 158 o gyflogeion felly yn Abercarn a 28 yn fy etholaeth i yn y ffatri yn y Drenewydd. Yr wyf am gofnodi fy nghydymdeimlad â phob un o'r gweithwyr hynny. Cytunaf â'r hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog am gynnig cymorth iddynt, a chroesawaf hynny gan obeithio y bydd ar waith cyn gynted â phosibl.

Cawsom wybod am hyn gan y cwmni drwy lythyr ddoe, a oedd yn arfer da yn fy marn i, o ystyried natur hyn, ac ar ôl siarad â chyfarwyddwr rheoli a rheolwr y ffatri yn y Drenewydd, cydymdeimlaf yn fawr â hwy hefyd, gan eu bod mewn sefyllfa anodd.

Yn y cyhoeddiad am y bwriad i gau, mae'r cwmni'n tynnu sylw at y ffaith fod costau gweithredu wedi gwneud yr ymgynghori hwn yn hanfodol. Mae'n cynnig symud i Wlad Pwyl lle y mae costau gweithredu—er nad oes manylion am hyn yn y datganiad—mae'n debyg tua thraean y costau yng Nghymru. Er ein bod i gyd mewn byd cystadleuol, yr wyf yn pryderu'n fawr bod busnesau fel y rhain yn teimlo cymaint o bwysau fel eu bod yn cael eu gorfodi i symud. A fydd cymorth ar gyfer ailhyfforddiant a sgiliau i'r gweithwyr hyn? A yw eich Llywodraeth yn pryderu am golli busnesau bach, fel y busnes hwnnw yn y

small businesses, such as that in Newtown? It was a Newtown company many years ago, started with venture capital, called Zest Foods Ltd. Are you considering reinstating grant assistance to such companies in the form of a mid Wales development grant, which we used to have in mid Wales, or are you considering further support through the reduction in business rates? Those are the mechanisms by which we will attract and retain these small companies.

There seems to be an issue of offering more support. Is that support from initiatives such as the marketing and processing grant? In east Wales, we are at a severe disadvantage with regard to receiving convergence funding and that was also the case in the last round of structural funds. Are you prepared to say today that the support can be evened out, so to speak, to east Wales, where we have particular problems with manufacturing?

Carwyn Jones: Convergence funding has to be provided in the denoted area, as we know. That was also the situation with Objective 1. Nevertheless, processing and marketing grants are available across the whole of Wales. We will be looking to see what support, including financial support, can be offered to the company to persuade it to remain on its two sites in Wales. We should realise that operating costs are much lower in eastern Europe, because wage rates, particularly, are far lower there. Unless we lower our wage rates to those levels, we are not going to compete purely on that basis. Nevertheless, there are many companies, including many companies involved in food processing of this type—I can think of one or two in Wales in particular—that successfully manufacture in Wales and are able to make a profit. They are not looking to move to eastern Europe in order to carry on manufacturing.

It is difficult to know whether this is a situation where the company's moving to eastern Europe is a matter of the company continuing to trade or not, or whether this is to do with maximising profits, which, I know, is what companies are for. I know that my colleague, Leighton Andrews, has

Drenewydd? Cwmni o'r Drenewydd ydoedd flynyddoedd maith yn ôl, a ddechreuwyd gyda chyfalaf mentro, o'r enw Zest Foods Ltd. A ydych yn ystyried ailgyflwyno cymorth grant i gwmnïau felly ar ffurf grant datblygu canolbarth Cymru, a arferai fod ar gael yn y canolbarth? Neu a ydych yn ystyried rhoi cymorth pellach drwy ostwng trethi busnes? Dyna'r dulliau a ddefnyddiwn ni i ddenu a chadw'r cwmnïau bach hyn.

Ymddengys fod yna broblem cynnig mwy o gymorth. A ddaw'r cymorth hwnnw o fentrau fel y grant marchnata a phrosesu? Yn y dwyrain, yr ydym o dan anfantais ddifrifol o ran cael arian cydgyfeirio, ac yr oedd hynny'n wir hefyd yn y cylch diwethaf o gronfeydd strwythurol. A ydych yn barod i ddweud heddiw y gellir rhannu'r cymorth hwnnw'n gyfartal, fel petai, gyda'r dwyrain, lle y mae gennym broblemau arbennig gyda gweithgynhyrchu?

Carwyn Jones: Rhaid darparu'r arian cydgyfeirio yn yr ardal ddynodedig, fel y gwyddom. Dyna oedd y sefyllfa hefyd gydag Amcan 1. Serch hynny, mae grantiau prosesau a marchnata ar gael ledled Cymru gyfan. Byddwn yn edrych i weld pa gymorth, gan gynnwys cymorth ariannol, y gellir ei gynnig i'r cwmni i'w gymell i aros yn ei ddau safle yng Nghymru. Dylem sylweddoli fod costau gweithredu lawer yn is yn nwyrain Ewrop, oherwydd bod cyfraddau cyflog, yn arbennig, lawer yn is yno. Oni fyddwn yn gostwng ein cyfraddau cyflog i'r lefelau hynny, ni allwn gystadlu dim ond ar y sail honno. Serch hynny, mae nnifer o gwmnïau, gan gynnwys nifer o gwmnïau sy'n ymwneud â phrosesu bwyd o'r math hwn—gallaf feddwl am un neu ddau yng Nghymru yn arbennig—sy'n cynhyrchu'n llwyddiannus yng Nghymru ac sy'n gallu gwneud elw. Nid ydynt yn meddwl am symud i ddwyrain Ewrop er mwyn parhau i gynhyrchu.

Mae'n anodd gwybod a yw'r cwmni'n gorfod symud i ddwyrain Ewrop er mwyn parhau i fasnachu, neu a yw'n gwneud hynny er mwyn cynyddu elw, sef diben cwmnïau, mi wn. Gwn fod gan fy nghyd-Weinidog, Leighton Andrews, brofiad o hynny gyda chwmni penodol yn Rhondda. Nid yw'n glir

experience of that with a certain company in the Rhondda. It is not clear what the reasons for this decision are, apart from the obvious one, which we all know, that costs are lower in eastern Europe. However, whether that would make the essential difference as to whether the company would continue or not is not yet clear. We can, hopefully, get that information from officials. I am encouraged by the fact that the company saw fit to inform all those interested of the decision as quickly as possible; I hope that that is a sign that it will co-operate next week and in the weeks that follow.

beth yw'r rhesymau dros y penderfyniad hwn, ar wahân i'r rheswm amlwg y gwyddom oll amdano, sef bod costau'n is yn nwyrain Ewrop. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n glir eto a fyddai hynny'n gwneud y gwahaniaeth hanfodol wrth benderfynu a fyddai'r cwmni'n parhau ai peidio. Gobeithio y gallwn gael y wybodaeth honno gan swyddogion. Fe'm calonogir gan y ffaith bod y cwmni wedi rhoi gwybod i bawb a oedd â diddordeb am y penderfyniad mor fuan â phosibl; gobeithio bod hynny'n arwydd y bydd yn cydweithredu yr wythnos nesaf ac yn yr wythnosau i ddod.

Datganiad am Raglenni Cydgyfeirio ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd Statement on Convergence Programmes for West Wales and the Valleys

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Addewais, rhai misoedd yn ôl, y buaswn yn gwneud datganiad i'r Cynulliad ar y trafodaethau â Chomisiwn Ewrop ar y rhaglenni cydgyfeirio ar gyfer gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, pan fyddai camau sylweddol ymlaen wedi eu cymryd. Mae'r diwrnod hwnnw wedi cyrraedd erbyn hyn.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I promised this Assembly, some months ago, that I would make a statement to the Assembly on discussions with the European Commission on the convergence programme for west Wales and the Valleys when significant progress had been made. That day has now arrived.

We submitted the draft European regional development fund and European social fund programmes to the commission just before Christmas. These programmes have been the subject of intensive and extensive negotiation with the different departments of the commission and while we have led that process, our partners in Wales have been fully consulted and fully involved on all the relevant points. Wales is the first part of the UK to submit any of its programmes to the commission and maintaining this momentum is vital if we are to get the programmes under way as soon as possible. I am therefore pleased that, on Monday, I received a letter from Commissioner Hübner that stated:

Cyflwynwyd drafft y rhaglenni cronfa datblygu rhanbarthol Ewrop a chronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop i'r comisiwn ychydig cyn y Nadolig. Mae'r rhaglenni hyn wedi bod yn destun trafod dwys a helaeth gyda gwahanol adrannau'r comisiwn, ac er ein bod wedi arwain y broses honno, ymgynghorwyd yn llawn â'n partneriaid yng Nghymru a chawsant eu cynnwys yn llawn ar bob pwynt perthnasol. Cymru yw'r rhan gyntaf yn y DU i gyflwyno unrhyw un o'i rhaglenni i'r comisiwn, ac mae'n hanfodol cynnal y momentwm hwn os ydym i roi'r rhaglenni ar waith cyn gynted â phosibl. Yr wyf yn falch felly, imi gael llythyr ddydd Llun gan y Comisiynydd Hübner a oedd yn dweud:

'I am delighted to confirm that my services in DG Regional Policy have reached an agreement with WEFO on all items of substance for the ERDF convergence programme. This is a significant achievement'.

'I am delighted to confirm that my services in DG Regional Policy have reached an agreement with WEFO on all items of substance for the ERDF convergence programme. This is a significant achievement'.

So, I am proud to advise Members that not only are we the first part of the UK to reach agreement with the EU, but we are also

Felly, mae'n bleser gennyf ddweud wrth yr Aelodau nid yn unig mai ni yw'r rhan gyntaf yn y DU i ddod i gytundeb â'r UE, ond ein

among the first in Europe. While it will take a few weeks yet to complete the usual legal formalities, we are now in a position to move forward with real purpose.

So what now for the people, communities and businesses of west Wales and the Valleys? First, we have the opportunity to continue the job that we started with Objective 1 and take forward the continued transformation of the region's economy. The convergence programmes will bring an additional £1.42 billion of European grant. The agreed ERDF programme alone brings £856 million to support research and development, innovation, enterprise, transport, strategic infrastructure, energy, the environment and sustainable communities. When non-European public funding and private sector investment is added in, this represents a total investment of over £2 billion. Secondly, we can actually get on with doing the work now. The new strategic frameworks will help to focus new projects on key priorities to make an early start to deliver. The Welsh European Funding Office is already gearing up for this. We have appointed the expert members of the new all-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee and will be inviting nominations from sectors for their representative members. The new committee is expected to meet for the first time in early May.

The agreement reached with the European Commission allocates £215 million to help us to create a knowledge-based economy, in line with the Lisbon agenda for growth, skills and jobs; £132 million to encourage the development and growth of new and existing businesses; £147 million for transport, which is a 50 per cent increase on the present structural funds transport budget; £79 million to develop new business sites and premises; £54 million for investments in clean and renewable energy; £52 million to tackle environmental risks; and a further £52 million to promote environmental technologies. That is all part of the climate change adaptation programme. There is also £108 million to regenerate our most deprived areas through improving urban centres and

bod ymhlith y cyntaf yn Ewrop hefyd. Er y bydd yn cymryd ychydig o wythnosau eto i gwblhau'r trefniadau cyfreithiol arferol, yr ydym bellach mewn sefyllfa i symud ymlaen yn bwrpasol.

Felly, beth nesaf i'r bobl, y cymunedau a'r busnesau yn y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd? Yn gyntaf, mae gennym y cyfle i barhau'r gwaith a ddechreuwyd gennym drwy gyfrwng Amcan 1, ac i barhau'r gwaith o drawsnewid economi'r rhanbarth. Bydd y rhaglenni cydgyfeirio yn darparu £1.42 biliwn ychwanegol o grant Ewropeaidd. Mae'r rhaglen ERDF ei hun sydd wedi ei chytuno yn darparu £856 miliwn i helpu gwaith ymchwil a datblygu, arloesedd, menter, cludiant, seilwaith strategol, ynni, yr amgylchedd a chymunedau cynaliadwy. Pan ychwanegir arian cyhoeddus nad yw'n arian Ewropeaidd a buddsoddiad o'r sector preifat, mae hyn yn cyfateb i fuddsoddiad o fwy na £2 biliwn. Yn ail, gallwn fynd ati'n awr mewn gwirionedd i wneud y gwaith. Bydd y fframweithiau strategol newydd yn helpu sicrhau bod prosiectau newydd yn canolbwyntio ar flaenoriaethau allweddol er mwyn cychwyn ar y gwaith darparu'n gynnar. Mae Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru eisoes yn paratoi ar gyfer hyn. Yr ydym wedi penodi aelodau arbenigol y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni newydd Cymru Gyfan, a byddwn yn gwahodd enwebiadau gan sectorau ar gyfer eu haelodau cynrychioli. Disgwylir i'r pwyllgor newydd gyfarfod am y tro cyntaf ddechrau mis Mai.

Mae'r cytundeb a wnaed gyda'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn dyrannu £215 miliwn i'n helpu i greu economi'n seiliedig ar wybodaeth, yn unol ag agenda Lisbon ar gyfer twf, sgiliau a swyddi; £132 miliwn i annog datblygiad a thwf busnesau newydd a phresennol; £147 miliwn ar gyfer cludiant, sy'n gynydd o 50 y cant ar y gyllideb bresennol ar gyfer cludiant cronfeydd strwythurol; £79 miliwn i ddatblygu safleoedd busnes ac adeiladau newydd; £54 miliwn ar gyfer buddsoddi mewn ynni glân ac adnewyddadwy; £52 miliwn i fynd i'r afael â risgiau amgylcheddol; a £52 miliwn arall i hyrwyddo technolegau amgylcheddol. Mae hynny oll yn rhan o'r rhaglen addasu i'r newid yn yr hinsawdd. Mae £108 miliwn hefyd i adnewyddu ein hardaloedd mwyaf

stimulating the economic potential of our communities.

diffreintiedig drwy wella canolfannau trefol ac ysgogi potensial economaidd ein cymunedau.

3.30 p.m.

There is also good progress in terms of the European social fund, and a final agreement is anticipated within the next few weeks. This programme would deliver an additional £571 million of European grant, leveraging in a total investment programme of over £1.1 billion to improve the skills of the workforce and reduce economic inactivity in west Wales and the Valleys. In summary, therefore, we can look forward to total additional investment in west Wales and the Valleys of well over £3 billion.

Mae cynnydd da hefyd gyda chronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop, a rhagwelir y ceir cytundeb terfynol yn ystod yr ychydig wythnosau nesaf. Byddai'r rhaglen hon yn darparu grant Ewropeaidd ychwanegol o £571 miliwn, gan ychwanegu rhaglen fuddsoddi gwerth dros £1.1 biliwn i wella sgiliau'r gweithlu a lleihau anweithgarwch economaidd yn y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd. Yn gryno, felly, gallwn edrych ymlaen at fuddsoddiad ychwanegol sydd ymhell dros £3 biliwn yn y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd.

This agreement also permits me now to clarify the issue of the sufficiency of match funding, which is vital to delivering the new programmes successfully. Our record on match funding the 2000-06 programmes speaks for itself. The facts show that our assessment in 2000 was spot on, that no good project would fail for want of match funding and that we could meet our obligations to match fund within existing budgets and without reducing provision for our core programmes. That same funding stream is in our budget lines and will continue to be available for new round structural funds purposes for the 2007-13 period as old round projects come to an end.

Mae'r cytundeb hwn hefyd yn caniatáu imi sôn am ddigonolrwydd arian cyfatebol, sy'n hanfodol ar gyfer darparu'r rhaglenni newydd yn llwyddiannus. Mae ein record yn darparu arian cyfatebol ar gyfer rhaglenni 2000-06 yn siarad drosti ei hun. Dengys y ffeithiau bod ein hasesiad yn 2000 yn hollol gywir, na fyddai'r un prosiect da yn methu oherwydd diffyg arian cyfatebol, ac y gallem gyflawni ein rhwymedigaethau i ddarparu arian cyfatebol o fewn cyllidebau presennol a heb leihau'r ddarpariaeth ar gyfer ein rhaglenni craidd. Mae'r un lliw arian hwnnw yn ein llinellau cyllideb, a bydd yn parhau ar gael at ddibenion cronfeydd strwythurol y cylch newydd am y cyfnod 2007-13 wrth i brosiectau'r hen gylch ddod i ben.

The new programmes align much more closely with the Government's own strategic aims, and vice versa. This new alignment approach facilitates the use of Assembly Government expenditure to match-fund projects, which not only brings the structural fund expenditure right to the heart of what we do as a Government, but also increases the available resources on which we can draw, at no extra cost. As with the 2000-07 programmes, match-funding contributions will continue to be made by other parts of the public sector—by project sponsors, in particular—by the voluntary sector and, importantly, by the private sector. That is a strong basis for the confidence that we will be able meet the match funding requirements of the new programmes. I can repeat that no quality, eligible project will fail for lack of

Mae'r rhaglenni newydd yn alinio lawer yn agosach â nodau strategol y Llywodraeth ei hun, ac i'r gwrthwyneb. Mae'r dull newydd hwn o alinio yn hwyluso defnyddio gwariant Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i ddarparu arian cyfatebol ar gyfer prosiectau, sy'n cynyddu'r adnoddau sydd ar gael i'w defnyddio, heb unrhyw gost ychwanegol, yn ogystal â dod â gwariant y gronfa strwythurol at wraidd yr hyn a wnawn fel Llywodraeth. Fel gyda rhaglenni 2000-07, bydd cyfraniadau arian cyfatebol yn parhau i gael eu gwneud gan rannau eraill o'r sector cyhoeddus—drwy noddwyr prosiect, yn arbennig—gan y sector gwirfoddol ac, yn bwysig, gan y sector preifat. Mae hynny'n sail gref dros fod yn hyderus y gallwn fodloni gofynion arian cyfatebol y rhaglenni newydd. Gallaf ddweud eto na fydd yr un prosiect cymwys o safon yn

match funding. There is no need to seek additional resources from the Treasury and I will not be doing so. We have proved, by delivering the old programmes, that we can also deliver the new ones without overstretch.

I will also update Members on where we are with the east-Wales programmes. These were submitted to the commission at the beginning of March and have now passed the formal admissibility test. We expect the negotiations on these programmes and the Ireland/Wales cross-border programme to get under way shortly. It is no accident that the programmes are making such good progress. I have been determined that my Government should pick up, embrace and tailor the commission's policies on economic development, skills and the environment and weave them into our policies and strategies for Wales, and into convergence in particular.

I conclude by congratulating the Welsh partnership on its achievement of being the first in Europe. The programmes have been developed in close consultation with trade unions, equality bodies, higher and further education, environment agencies, local authorities, and the private, voluntary and community sectors over a period of around 18 months. The partnership has demonstrated a real unity of purpose and this bodes well for the successful implementation of the new programmes.

I also thank our negotiating team, which has worked under a lot of pressure over recent weeks to deliver this agreement, and the Welsh European Funding Office team, which has been responsible for preparing good quality programmes.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Croesawn y cyfle hwn i gwestiynu'r Prif Weinidog ynghylch y datganiad hwn ar arian cydgyfeiriant gan ei fod yn dangos unwaith eto na fu'r Prif Weinidog yn ymladd yn galed iawn ar ran Cymru i sicrhau bod digon o arian ar gael yn ein cyllideb i drefnu nid yn unig bod arian ar gael ar gyfer prosiectau, ond bod mwy o arian ar gael ar gyfer iechyd ac addysg hefyd—dychwelaf at hynny mewn eiliad.

methu oherwydd diffyg arian cyfatebol. Ni fydd angen gwneud cais am adnoddau ychwanegol gan y Trysorlys, ac ni fyddaf yn gwneud hynny. Yr ydym wedi profi, drwy ddarparu'r hen raglenni, y gallwn hefyd ddarparu'r rhai newydd heb orwario.

Byddaf hefyd yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i Aelodau am y cynnydd a wnaed gennym gyda rhaglenni'r dwyrain. Cyflwynwyd y rhain i'r comisiwn ddechrau mis Mawrth ac maent bellach wedi pasio'r prawf derbynoldeb ffurfiol. Disgwyliwn i'r negodiadau ar y rhaglenni hyn a'r rhaglen drawsffiniol rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon gychwyn maes o law. Nid damwain yw'r ffaith bod y rhaglenni'n gwneud cynnydd cystal. Yr wyf wedi bod yn benderfynol y dylai fy Llywodraeth ystyried, croesawu a theilwra polisiau'r comisiwn ar ddatblygu economaidd, sgiliau a'r amgylchedd a'u hymgorffori yn ein polisiau a'n strategaethau ar gyfer Cymru, ac mewn cydgyfeiriant yn benodol.

Hoffwn gloi drwy longyfarch partneriaeth Cymru am fod y cyntaf yn Ewrop. Datblygwyd y rhaglenni drwy ymgynghori'n agos ag undebau llafur, cyrff cydraddoldeb, addysg uwch a phellach, asiantaethau'r amgylchedd, awdurdodau lleol, a'r sectorau preifat, gwirfoddol a chymunedol dros gyfnod o tua 18 mis. Mae'r bartneriaeth wedi dangos undod diben gwirioneddol, ac mae'n argoeli'n dda y caiff y rhaglenni newydd eu gweithredu'n llwyddiannus.

Hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i'n tîm trafod, a fu'n gweithio o dan bwysau mawr dros yr wythnosau diwethaf i gwblhau'r cytundeb hwn, ac i dîm Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru, a fu'n gyfrifol am baratoi rhaglenni o safon.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: We welcome this opportunity to scrutinise the First Minister on this statement on convergence funding as it demonstrates once again that the First Minister has not fought very hard on Wales's behalf to ensure that adequate funding is available within our budget to arrange not only that funding is available for projects, but that more funding is available for health and education also—I shall return to that shortly.

O edrych yn ôl ar record y Llywodraeth hon o ran rhan gyntaf y rhaglen—rhwng 2000 a 2007—gwelwn fod y ffigurau GVA yn dangos nad ydym wedi symud ymlaen o gwbl ers i ni gael yr arian yn y lle cyntaf. Yr wyf yn falch y byddwn yn gorfod trafod y mater hwn gyda phobl Cymru dros yr wythnosau nesaf, gan fy mod yn hyderus bod angen Llywodraeth wahanol i gael gwell trefn ar yr ail raglen.

I will concentrate on the First Minister's admission that he will not go to the Treasury for match funding for European monies for this round of programmes. I remind him and the Assembly why that is so important. In the first round, we had to find some £450 million of public matched funding from the Assembly's block grant to ensure that the programme could proceed. That money could have been used on health and, principally, on education. As the First Minister has not even gone to the Treasury to ask for this money, between 2007 and 2013, more money will have to be raided from health and education to provide match funding for convergence funds.

The First Minister should be ashamed of himself for coming to the Assembly to tell us that he is not even prepared to ask for match funding for Wales. Even Alun Michael went to the Treasury to ask for money, although he was rejected. This First Minister has given up without even firing a shot.

The First Minister: For a party that is dedicated to separating Wales from the Treasury, it is pretty rich to say, 'We don't like being part of the United Kingdom, but, by the same token, we want to have a whinge about everything to do with the United Kingdom', and say that the Treasury would be your first port of call if you had a share of power. You must be a little more consistent on whether you want to be independent from the Treasury or want to take a begging bowl to the Treasury. I know that your party has started to allow all its candidates to stand as single-issue politicians—Plaid-Cymru-save this or that hospital; it is enough to make Gwynfor Evans turn in his grave to think that

Looking back at this Government's record in terms of the first part of the programme—between 2000 and 2007—we see that the GVA figures show that we have not moved forward at all since being given this funding in the first place. I am pleased that we will have to discuss this issue with the people of Wales over the next few weeks, because I am confident that we need a different Government to get better order in terms of the second programme.

Canolbwyntiaf ar gyfaddefiad y Prif Weinidog na fydd yn mynd at y Trysorlys i gael arian cyfatebol i'r arian Ewropeaidd ar gyfer y cylch hwn o raglenni. Hoffwn ei atgoffa ef a'r Cynulliad pam mae hyn mor bwysig. Yn y cylch cyntaf, bu'n rhaid inni ddod o hyd i tua £450 miliwn o arian cyfatebol cyhoeddus o grant bloc y Cynulliad er mwyn sicrhau y gallai'r rhaglen fynd rhagddi. Gellid bod wedi defnyddio'r arian hwnnw ar iechyd, ac yn bennaf oll, ar addysg. Gan nad yw'r Prif Weinidog hyd yn oed wedi mynd at y Trysorlys i ofyn am yr arian hwn, rhwng 2007 a 2013, bydd yn rhaid inni gymryd rhagor o arian o'r cronfeydd iechyd ac addysg er mwyn darparu arian cyfatebol ar gyfer cronfeydd cydgyfeiriant.

Dylai fod cywilydd ar y Prif Weinidog am ddod i'r Cynulliad i ddweud wrthym nad yw hyd yn oed yn barod i ofyn am arian cyfatebol i Gymru. Aeth hyd yn oed Alun Michael at y Trysorlys i ofyn am arian, er iddo gael ei wrthod. Mae'r Prif Weinidog hwn wedi ildio cyn cychwyn.

Y Prif Weinidog: I blaid sydd wedi ymroi i wahanu Cymru oddi wrth y Trysorlys, yr wyf yn synnu eich bod yn dweud, 'Nid ydym yn hoffi bod yn rhan o'r Deyrnas Unedig, ond, ar yr un pryd, yr ydym am gwyno am bopeth sy'n ymwneud â'r Deyrnas Unedig', ac yn dweud mai at y Trysorlys y byddech yn troi gyntaf pe byddai gennych gyfran o'r pŵer. Rhaid ichi fod ychydig yn fwy cyson o ran a ydych am fod yn annibynnol ar y Trysorlys neu fynd ar ofyn y Trysorlys. Gwn fod eich plaid wedi dechrau caniatáu i'w holl ymgeiswyr sefyll fel gwleidyddion un pwnc—Plaid-Cymru-achub yr ysbyty hwn neu'r llall; byddai Gwynfor Evans yn troi yn ei fedd o feddwl mai casgliad o wleidyddion

Plaid Cymru is now a collection of single-issue politicians. However, on this particular issue, you do not seem to have taken on board at all what the new European regulations say. They make it absolutely clear that it is project sponsors that are responsible for match funding. We have taken on board the new rules—not whinged about them—over the seven years since the start of the previous programme. As I have said on several occasions, we have developed what we call the alignment approach, which means that, while Europe has been moving towards what we are doing in terms of expenditure priorities, we have also been moving towards the Lisbon agenda. That means that there will be areas in which we can use our own Government funding, because they are the areas in which we have learnt what Europe wants and what Wales wants. That reduces the amount of match funding that might be in question.

There is absolutely no issue of a responsible Government, such as we are, trying to invent a reason for having a row with the Treasury. Obviously, if you are in Plaid Cymru, you want to invent reasons for a row with the Treasury, but we do not see that that serves any purpose except that you can get on your high horse, get out the megaphone and say that somebody else is responsible for all of Wales's problems. It is the old Plaid Cymru conspiracy theory that the whole system of UK Government is a conspiracy against poor little Wales. We do not take that view at all. We are first out of the 12 parts of the United Kingdom in terms of the increase in gross domestic household income, as revealed by the Office of National Statistics data that emerged yesterday, with a rise of 32.3 per cent in GDHI in Wales. You say, 'Well, okay; we are first out of 12; but what about west Wales and the Valleys?'. Fine; look at west Wales and the Valleys over the same six years between 1999 and 2005: if you look at the United Kingdom's 37 sub-regions, west Wales and the Valleys is third out of 37, with east Wales fourth. It is clear that we are gaining rapidly on the UK as a whole, and that west Wales and the Valleys are slightly ahead of east Wales, which is exactly what you would expect. It is clear that we have made good use of the existing programmes; they did not really get going until 2001, so,

un pwnc yw Plaid Cymru erbyn hyn. Fodd bynnag, ar y mater penodol hwn, nid yw'n ymddangos eich bod wedi ystyried o gwbl yr hyn y mae'r rheoliadau Ewropeaidd newydd yn ei ddweud. Maent yn dweud yn hollol glir mai noddwyr prosiectau sy'n gyfrifol am arian cyfatebol. Yr ydym wedi derbyn y rheolau newydd—yn hytrach na chwyno amdanynt—yn ystod y saith mlynedd ers dechrau'r rhaglen flaenorol. Fel y dywedais droeon, yr ydym wedi datblygu'r hyn a alwn yn ddull alinio, sy'n golygu, wrth i Ewrop symud yn nes at yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud o ran blaenoriaethau gwariant, ein bod ni hefyd wedi bod yn symud tuag at agenda Lisbon. Mae hynny'n golygu y bydd yna feysydd y gallwn ddefnyddio arian ein Llywodraeth ein hun ar eu cyfer, gan eu bod yn feysydd lle'r ydym wedi dysgu beth y mae Ewrop am ei gael a beth y mae Cymru am ei gael. Mae hynny'n lleihau swm yr arian cyfatebol a allai fod dan sylw.

Yn sicr nid oes yma broblem o Lywodraeth gyfrifol, fel ni, yn ceisio creu rheswm dros gael ffræ â'r Trysorlys. Yn amlwg, os ydych ym Mhlaid Cymru, byddwch am greu rhesymau dros gael ffræ â'r Trysorlys, ond nid ydym ni'n credu bod diben o gwbl gwneud hynny heblaw mynd ar gefn eich ceffyl, codi'r uchelseinydd a dweud mai rhywun arall sy'n gyfrifol am holl broblemau Cymru. Hen ddamcaniaeth Plaid Cymru yw bod holl system Llywodraeth y DU yn cynllwynio yn erbyn Cymru fach. Nid dyna ein barn ni o gwbl. Ni sydd ar y blaen o blith 12 rhan y Deyrnas Unedig o ran y cynnydd mewn incwm cartrefi mewnwladol crynswth, fel y dangosodd data'r Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol a gyhoeddwyd ddoe, gyda chynnydd o 32.3 y cant mewn incwm cartrefi mewnwladol crynswth yng Nghymru. Fe'ch clywaf yn dweud, 'Wel, iawn; ni sydd ar y blaen allan o 12; ond beth am y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd?'. Iawn; edrychwch ar y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd dros yr un chwe blynedd rhwng 1999 a 2005; os edrychwch ar y 37 o is-ranbarthau'r Deyrnas Unedig, mae'r gorllewin a'r Cymoedd yn drydydd allan o 37, a'r dwyrain yn bedwerydd. Mae'n amlwg ein bod yn dal i fyny â'r DU yn gyffredinol, a bod y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd ychydig ar y blaen i'r dwyrain, sef yn union yr hyn y byddech yn ei ddisgwyl. Mae'n amlwg ein bod wedi gwneud defnydd da o'r rhaglenni

even in the four years since 2001, you can see dramatic progress in the prosperity of west Wales and the Valleys.

We have this agreement—we are the first in Europe to achieve it, and certainly we are the first in the UK to do so—which we hope to complete shortly, in legal terms. We also hope to complete the European social fund in the next few weeks, as I said. There are no congratulations from you on that; you cannot bear the good news that Wales is first in Europe and first in the UK, can you? That does not fit your message that we are making a mess of things, does it? However, we cannot be making a mess of things. In her letter, which I will make available to Members, Commissioner Hübner says that she is delighted to confirm that the Directorate General for Regional Policy has reached agreement with WEFO on all items of substance for the new convergence programme, and that this was a significant achievement.

3.40 p.m.

That is not me calling the shots and saying that we are wonderful; it is Commissioner Hübner saying, quite independently, that she thinks that we are doing a good job, and that is why she is delighted to be able to confirm an agreement. I do not expect you to accept my word for the efficacy of the administration that I lead, as regards the convergence programme, but I do expect you to show a bit of respect for Commissioner Hübner, as she is responsible for regional policy.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful for the statement, but I must pick the First Minister up on two points. First, he correctly states that we have qualified again for Objective 1 in the new round of convergence funding, but he glories in that and talks about the progress that we made in the first round. Is that not inconsistent in that, if we had made considerable progress, we would not have

presennol; ni chawsant eu sefydlu'n iawn tan 2001, felly, hyd yn oed yn ystod y pedair blynedd er 2001, gallwch weld cynnydd dramatig yn ffyniant y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd.

Mae gennym y cytundeb hwn—ni yw'r cyntaf yn Ewrop i'w gyflawni, ac yn sicr ni yw'r cyntaf yn y DU i wneud hynny—a gobeithio y gallwn ei gwblhau'n fuan, o ran y gyfraith. Yr ydym hefyd yn gobeithio cwblhau cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop yn ystod yr ychydig wythnosau nesaf, fel y dywedais. Ni allaf eich clywed yn ein llongyfarch am hynny; ni allwch oddef y newyddion da mai Cymru yw'r cyntaf yn Ewrop a'r cyntaf yn y DU, allwch chi? Nid yw hynny'n cyd-fynd â'ch neges ein bod yn gwneud cawlach o bethau, nac ydyw? Fodd bynnag, mae'n amlwg nad ydym yn gwneud cawlach o bethau. Yn ei llythyr, a fydd ar gael i'r Aelodau, dywed y Comisiynydd Hübner ei bod yn bleser ganddi gadarnhau bod y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gyffredinol dros Bolisi Rhanbarthol wedi dod i gytundeb â Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru ar bob mater o bwys ar gyfer y rhaglen gydgyfeiriant newydd, a bod hwn yn llwyddiant pwysig.

Nid enghraifft ohonof fi'n gwneud penderfyniadau ac yn dweud ein bod yn wych yw hyn; y Comisiynydd Hübner sy'n dweud, a hynny'n hollol annibynnol, ei bod yn credu ein bod yn gwneud gwaith da, a dyna pam mae'n bleser ganddi allu cadarnhau cytundeb. Nid wyf yn disgwyl ichi dderbyn fy ngair am effeithiolrwydd y weinyddiaeth a arweinir gennyf, o ran y rhaglen gydgyfeiriant, ond yr wyf yn disgwyl ichi ddangos ychydig barch at y Comisiynydd Hübner, gan mai hi sy'n gyfrifol am bolisiau rhanbarthol.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y datganiad, ond hoffwn drafod dau o bwyntiau'r Prif Weinidog. I ddechrau, dywedodd yn gywir ddigon ein bod yn gymwys unwaith eto i gael arian Amcan 1 yn y cylch newydd o arian cydgyfeiriant, ond mae'n ymffrostio yn hynny ac yn sôn am y cynnydd a wnaethom yn y cylch cyntaf. Onid yw hynny'n anghyson yn yr ystyr na fyddem

qualified for the second round of funding? I therefore find that there is a non sequitur in the argument put forward by the First Minister.

Secondly, I certainly share the First Minister's view about the inconsistencies that are apparent in Plaid Cymru, whose Members will criticise everything that comes from Westminster except the money—we are always conscious of that, because it is a fact of life. However, when the First Minister talks about having a row with the Treasury, I must point out that that is not necessary—though it would be welcome if you were at least willing to negotiate with the Treasury. It does not have to be a row—but as has been said, at least Alun Michael tried. There is a point here in that you recognise that some of the match funding has to come from public sector quarters, and we do not want that to be a drain on the education and health budgets, and so on, because that would clearly be to the disadvantage of Wales. Is it not, therefore, the case that we should at least seek negotiations with the Treasury? It does not have to be a row, but we have negotiations with other Government departments, so is it not wrong to fail to seek to have some discussion with the Treasury about the funds that may be necessary here so that we do not have to raid the other budgets, which would have an effect on public services? That is my concern.

The First Minister: There is no raid. There has not been a raid during the 2000 to 2006 period, and there will be no raid during the 2007 to 2013 period, because there has been a major change in the rules for public expenditure cover for European receipts. That was made clear in the pre-budget report at the end of 2005, and we have not repeated the 1999-2000 arguments over public expenditure cover because of this change in the rules, which has been beneficial to us. It is now transparent that the money from Europe simply flows straight into our budget and does not come via any Treasury modulation or argument.

On the match funding issue, the alignment strategy that we adopted was to ask which way Europe was heading. It has been pretty

yn gymwys i gael yr ail gylch o arian pe byddem wedi gwneud cynnydd sylweddol? Dof i'r casgliad, felly, nad oes diben i'r ddadl a gyflwynwyd gan y Prif Weinidog.

Yn ail, yr wyf yn sicr o'r un farn â'r Prif Weinidog am yr anghysonderau sy'n amlwg ym Mhlaid Cymru. Mae ei Haelodau'n beirniadu popeth a ddaw o San Steffan heblaw'r arian—yr ydym bob amser yn ymwybodol o hynny, gan fod hynny'n ffaith. Fodd bynnag, pan fydd y Prif Weinidog yn sôn am gael ffræ â'r Trysorlys, rhaid imi egluro nad oes angen gwneud hynny—er y byddai'n galonogol pe byddech o leiaf yn barod i drafod gyda'r Trysorlys. Nid oes angen ffræ—ond fel y dywedwyd, rhoddodd Alun Michael gynnig arni o leiaf. Yr ydych yn cydnabod ei bod yn rhaid i ryw faint o'r arian cyfatebol ddod o'r sector cyhoeddus, ac nid ydym am i hynny gymryd arian o'r cyllidebau addysg ac iechyd, ac ati, oherwydd byddai hynny, wrth gwrs, o anfantais i Gymru. Felly, oni ddylem o leiaf geisio trafod gyda'r Trysorlys? Nid oes rhaid cael ffræ, ond yr ydym yn trafod gydag adrannau eraill y Llywodraeth, felly, onid yw'n anghywir peidio â cheisio cael rhywfaint o drafodaeth gyda'r Trysorlys ynghylch yr arian y gallai fod ei angen yma, fel na fydd yn rhaid inni ddefnyddio'r cyllidebau eraill, a fyddai'n effeithio ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus? Dyna yw fy mhryder i.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid ydym yn cymryd o'r cronfeydd eraill. Ni ddigwyddodd hynny yn ystod y cyfnod 2000 i 2006, ac ni fydd hynny'n digwydd yn ystod y cyfnod 2007 i 2013, oherwydd bu newid mawr yn y rheolau ar gyfer y gwariant cyhoeddus a ddefnyddir ar gyfer derbynebau Ewropeaidd. Eglurwyd hynny yn yr adroddiad cyn y gyllideb ar ddiwedd 2005, ac nid ydym wedi ailadrodd dadleuon 1999-2000 dros ddefnyddio gwariant cyhoeddus oherwydd y newid hwn yn y rheolau, sydd wedi bod o fudd i ni. Mae'n amlwg bellach fod yr arian o Ewrop yn llifo'n syth i mewn i'n cyllideb ac nad yw'n dod drwy unrhyw fodiwleiddio neu ddadl gan y Trysorlys.

O ran yr arian cyfatebol, y strategaeth alinio a fabwysiadwyd gennym oedd gofyn i ba gyfeiriad yr oedd Ewrop yn mynd. Mae wedi

obvious since Lisbon which way Europe is going, so we asked whether we were happy with that, and we were, so we could align our priorities with Europe's priorities, in terms of high proportions being devoted to the Lisbon agenda—very high proportions, in the case of the European social fund, which may turn out to be over 90 per cent, and certainly 70 per cent or so in the European regional development fund. It is simply skill in negotiation that means that we can produce programmes that match and align our proposals as a Government, because we could see where Europe was going, and that was the direction that we wanted as well. That resolves many of the issues around match funding.

However, I need to bring you back to the fact that match funding is not a Government responsibility, or a Treasury responsibility, or our responsibility—it is the sponsors' responsibility. If they bring forward a project, then they are responsible for providing the match funding, and that has been repeated in the current round of EU programmes: the recipient must contribute to the cost of projects by providing match funding. We do not have any choice about that—those are the rules. We have always said that what we would provide would be last-resort funding, and I think that it is a healthy proposition that locally sourced match funding is a critical element in making these projects work, because it means that you have local ownership.

The other point that you made, Nick, was about the figures on gross domestic household income. I said, and I think you accept this, that the figures show that Wales was first out of the 12 regions in terms of the rise in GDHI from 1999 to 2005—we do not have the figures beyond 2005—and the increase in Wales was bigger than in any region in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Does that not indicate that we do not really need, or could not make the case for, west Wales and the Valleys to be recipients of structural funds for the new seven-year period, which has just started? The fact is that the cut-off point was 2001, which we should

bod yn lled amlwg ers Lisbon i ba gyfeiriad y mae Ewrop yn mynd, felly, gofynasom a oeddem yn fodlon ar hyn, ac yr oeddem yn fodlon, felly gallem alinio ein blaenoriaethau â blaenoriaethau Ewrop, o ran y cyfrannau uchel a oedd yn cael eu neilltuo i agenda Lisbon—cyfrannau uchel iawn, yn achos cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop, a allai fod yn uwch na 90 y cant, ac yn bendant ar lefel o tua 70 y cant yng nghronfa datblygu rhanbarthol Ewrop. Trafod medrus sy'n golygu y gallwn lunio rhaglenni sy'n cyfateb ac yn alinio ein cynigion fel Llywodraeth, oherwydd y gallem weld i ba gyfeiriad yr oedd Ewrop yn mynd, a dyna'r cyfeiriad yr oeddem ni am anelu ato hefyd. Mae hynny'n datrys nifer o'r problemau'n ymwneud ag arian cyfatebol.

Fodd bynnag, mae angen imi dynnu eich sylw at y ffaith nad cyfrifoldeb y Llywodraeth yw arian cyfatebol, na'r Trysorlys, na'n cyfrifoldeb ni—cyfrifoldeb y noddwyr ydyw. Os byddant yn cyflwyno prosiect, yna hwy sy'n gyfrifol am ddarparu'r arian cyfatebol, ac mae hynny wedi'i ailadrodd yn y cylch presennol o raglenni'r UE: rhaid i'r derbynnydd gyfrannu at gost prosiectau drwy ddarparu arian cyfatebol. Nid oes gennym ddewis o gwbl yn hynny—dyna yw'r rheolau. Yr ydym bob amser wedi dweud mai dim ond pan fetho popeth arall y byddem yn darparu unrhyw arian, a chredaf ei bod yn briodol fod arian cyfatebol wedi'i gaffael yn lleol yn elfen hanfodol wrth wneud i'r prosiectau hyn weithio, gan ei fod yn golygu bod gennych berchnogaeth leol.

Yr oedd eich pwynt arall, Nick, hyn ymwneud â'r ffigurau ar incwm cartrefi mewnwladol crynswth. Dywedais fod y ffigurau, a chredaf eich bod yn derbyn hynny, yn dangos mai Cymru oedd ar y blaen o'r 12 rhanbarth o ran y cynnydd mewn incwm cartrefi mewnwladol crynswth rhwng 1999 a 2005—nid oes gennym ffigurau ar ôl 2005—a bod y cynnydd yng Nghymru'n uwch nag mewn unrhyw ranbarth yn Lloegr, yr Alban neu Ogledd Iwerddon.

Onid yw hynny'n dangos nad oes angen yn wir inni gyflwyno'r achos dros sicrhau bod y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd yn cael arian strwythurol am y cyfnod saith mlynedd newydd, sydd newydd ddechrau, neu na allem gyflwyno'r achos dros hynny? Y gwir

be celebrating. The average figures that were used to determine gross value added were for the three years 2000, 2001 and 2002, which was before the programme that is now coming to an end had a chance to effect economic prosperity in the area. You can see that, had that been moved to one year later and the average figures for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 used, west Wales and the Valleys would not have qualified. Given that such early figures were used—essentially, those for 2001, which was the first year of any major spend during the first programme—there is no inconsistency at all.

We have done well, and we are making progress, but we qualified only because such an early cut-off date was used for qualification for the 2007-13 programme. I am not complaining about that, as it is a golden scenario. I have said on many occasions that you get qualified for the next round from 2007-13 before the first round has really had a chance to have an effect on your economy. Thank goodness that that was the case; otherwise, west Wales and the Valleys would have been deemed too prosperous to qualify.

Michael German: This is a good-news/bad-news announcement. I agree with you and I welcome the fact that you have had a swift response and a swift deal on the European regional development fund, which is only one of the convergence programmes. However, I hope that we will see the other programmes coming on-stream quickly. It is in all of our interests for those projects that have been in operation in the past to have a smooth transition, if they are to proceed in future. The work that has been done in the past should be given a smooth transition.

I must take you to task on the issue of match funding. You used the word 'alignment', and you referred to your alignment strategy. Nothing has changed about the rules and regulations of match funding in terms of project sponsors. However, two things have happened that have made a difference. First, you have determined in this current round of

amdani yw mai 2001 oedd y torbwynt, a dylem fod yn dathlu hynny. Yr oedd y ffigurau cyfartalog a ddefnyddiwyd i bennu gwerth ychwanegol crynswth am y tair blynedd 2000, 2001 a 2002, sef cyn i'r rhaglen sydd bellach yn dod i ben gael cyfle i sicrhau ffyniant economaidd yn yr ardal. Gallwch weld, pe bae hynny wedi ei symud i flwyddyn yn ddiweddarach a'r ffigurau cyfartalog am y blynyddoedd 2001, 2002 a 2003 wedi eu defnyddio, ni fyddai'r gorllewin a'r Cymoedd wedi bod yn gymwys. Gan fod ffigurau cynnar felly wedi eu defnyddio—y rheini ar gyfer 2001, mewn gwirionedd, sef blwyddyn gyntaf unrhyw wariant mawr yn ystod y rhaglen—nid oes unrhyw anghysondeb o gwbl.

Yr ydym wedi gwneud yn dda, ac yr ydym yn gwneud cynnydd, ond yr oeddem yn gymwys dim ond oherwydd defnyddio torbwynt mor gynnar i fod yn gymwys ar gyfer rhaglen 2007-13. Nid wyf yn cwyno ynghylch hynny, gan ei bod yn sefyllfa ddelfrydol. Yr wyf wedi dweud droeon eich bod yn gymwys ar gyfer y cylch nesaf o 2007-13 cyn i'r cylch cyntaf gael cyfle gwirioneddol i effeithio ar eich economi. Diolch i'r drefn am hynny; neu byddai'r gorllewin a'r Cymoedd wedi eu hystyried yn rhy ffyniannus i fod yn gymwys.

Michael German: Mae yn y cyhoeddiad hwn newyddion da a newyddion drwg. Cytunaf â chi a chroesawaf y ffaith eich bod wedi cael ymateb cyflym ac wedi taro bargaen gyflym ar gronfa datblygu rhanbarthol Ewrop, sef un yn unig o blith y rhaglenni cydgyfeirio. Fodd bynnag, gobeithio y caiff y rhaglenni eraill eu derbyn yn gyflym. Mae'n fuddiol i bawb i'r prosiectau hynny a fu ar waith yn y gorffennol drosglwyddo'n ddiraffferth, er mwyn iddynt barhau yn y dyfodol. Dylid sicrhau bod y gwaith a wnaed yn y gorffennol yn trosglwyddo'n ddiraffferth.

Rhaid imi eich galw i gyfrif gyda mater arian cyfatebol. Yr oeddech yn defnyddio'r gair 'alinio', a chyfeiriwyd at eich strategaeth alinio. Nid oes dim wedi newid o ran rheolau a rheoliadau arian cyfatebol ar gyfer noddwyr prosiectau. Fodd bynnag, mae dau beth wedi digwydd sydd wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth. Yn gyntaf, yr ydych wedi

programmes that there will be much more direction from the Welsh Assembly Government. You may argue—which I presume you will—that that is a good thing to do. Your strategic approach and alignment with your current Labour policies for the National Assembly mean that, in effect, you are making sure that what you have is universally required for Wales. However, I put it to you that the question about European funding that has been the common thread throughout all of this is that of additionality. Match funding is supposed to provide the additional funds for the public sector, which would allow European funds to be doing extra work. By your programme of alignment, you almost find an invisible line as to what is additional and what is not. That is the difficulty that I sense.

In the current round that ended in 2006, there are two funds: the local regeneration fund, which was partially raided, by local government analysis—and that is the view of local government as a whole rather than that of Liberal Democrat-led local government—during that period, and the Pathways to Prosperity. Those are the two funds for which there was an interchange of funding. Those were the match funding pots, which you described as the ‘pots of last resort’. I agree with you that there was and is money in the system. Those two pots of money came from the Welsh block, from the Assembly’s funding. In other words, they were the funds that were meant to provide the additional match funding required for what was not within the pot already. If that is to be continued, that is fine, but that money would otherwise be available to the National Assembly for use in other areas, such as health, education and other parts of our programming. Therefore, it would be wrong to say that we are not having to find the money if those two pots remain. If those two pots of money are to continue to be available—as I gather from your description in your statement—that is the money that would have been available for other areas in our National Assembly budget. That is the issue that the Assembly would have liked you to take to the Treasury, seeking support for those particular funds, because that is how

penderfynu yn y cylch cyfredol hwn o raglenni y bydd mwy o gyfeiriad o lawer gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Gallwch ddadlau—y tybiaf y gwnewch—fod hynny’n beth da i’w wneud. Golyga eich dull strategol o weithredu a’ch proses o alinio â’ch polisiau Llafur presennol ar gyfer y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol eich bod, yn y bôn, yn sicrhau bod yr hyn sydd gennych yn ofynnol i Gymru, yn gyffredinol. Fodd bynnag, awgrymaf wrthyfch mai mater o ychwanegedd yw’r cwestiwn ynghylch arian Ewropeaidd, sydd wedi bod yn llinyn cyswllt drwy hyn oll. Diben arian cyfatebol yw darparu’r arian ychwanegol ar gyfer y sector cyhoeddus, a fyddai’n caniatáu i arian Ewropeaidd wneud gwaith ychwanegol. Drwy eich rhaglen alinio, fe welwch bron fod llinell gudd o ran yr hyn sy’n ychwanegol a’r hyn nad yw. Dyna’r anhawster a synhwyrhaf.

Yn y cylch cyfredol a ddaeth i ben yn 2006, mae dwy gronfa: y gronfa adfywio leol, y defnyddiwyd rhan ohoni, gan ddadansoddiad llywodraeth leol—a dyna yw barn llywodraeth leol yn gyffredinol yn hytrach na barn llywodraeth leol dan arweiniad y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol—yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, a’r Ffordd i Ffyniant. Dyna’r ddwy gronfa y cyfnewidiwyd arian ar eu cyfer. Dyna’r cronfeydd arian cyfatebol, a ddisgrifiwyd gennych fel y ‘cronfeydd pan fetho popeth arall’. Cytunaf â chi fod arian yn y system ar hyn o bryd a bod arian yn y system yn y gorffennol. Daeth y ddwy gronfa arian hynny o floc Cymru, sef o arian y Cynulliad. Hynny yw, dyna’r cronfeydd y bwriedid iddynt ddarparu’r arian cyfatebol ychwanegol a oedd yn ofynnol ar gyfer yr hyn nad oedd yn y gronfa eisoes. Os bwriedir parhau hynny, mae hynny’n iawn, ond byddai’r arian hwnnw ar gael fel arall i’r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ei ddefnyddio mewn meysydd eraill, megis iechyd, addysg a rhannau eraill o’n rhaglennu. Felly, byddai’n anghywir dweud nad ydym yn gorfod dod o hyd i’r arian os bydd y ddwy gronfa hynny’n parhau. Os bydd y ddwy gronfa arian hynny’n dal ar gael—fel y deallaf o’ch disgrifiad yn eich datganiad—dyna’r arian a fyddai wedi bod ar gael ar gyfer meysydd eraill yng nghyllideb y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Dyna’r mater y byddai’r Cynulliad wedi dymuno ichi ei gyflwyno i’r

we could have argued the case that we had fought for the best for our Welsh block.

3.50 p.m.

Many of us believe that the Welsh block is not appropriate for our needs. It is not a needs-based formula; we get it via another route. However, in this example, there was a clear need—the European money comes to us because of a clear need. We had demonstrated that we had to find that money from our own pocket, which we did, but it would have been appropriate to ask that question of the Treasury. I note and welcome that you are being frank enough about this matter, which may be so that you could not be quizzed on your view later had you not expressed it. However, it would have been much better and in the interests of the National Assembly had you gone to the Treasury and said, ‘Here is money that we could otherwise have put into health and education, and so on, which we would seek from you as additional funding in order to be able to match our commitments for that European money’.

The First Minister: Let us ask ourselves what will happen to the Pathways to Prosperity and local regeneration fund pots. They will be combined into a single pot, and the money that will be released by terminating those two budget lines and replacing them with a new budget line will follow the following criteria: projects will need to be of strategic significance; they will need to recognise and support our spatial plan objectives; they must demonstrate collaborative working between partners and sectors; they need to align with our national strategic aims and objectives; and they will also need to be projects that cannot for demonstrable reasons be matched from other sources. Therefore, they fit into strategic objectives, as well as the last-resort qualification. It would have been far better had we used the phrase ‘last-resort match funding’ more in the media’s coverage of this issue and in the political knockabout around it. That would have made it clear to everyone

Trysorlys, gan geisio cymorth ar gyfer y cronfeydd penodol hynny, oherwydd dyna sut y gallem fod wedi dadlau’r achos ein bod wedi brwydro i sicrhau’r gorau i floc Cymru.

Mae nifer ohonom yn credu nad yw bloc Cymru’n briodol i’n hanghenion. Nid yw’n fformiwla sy’n seiliedig ar anghenion; fe’i cawn drwy lwybr arall. Fodd bynnag, yn yr enghraifft hon, yr oedd angen clir—cawn ni’r arian Ewropeaidd oherwydd angen clir. Yr oeddem wedi dangos bod yn rhaid inni ddod o hyd i’r arian hwnnw o’n pocedi ein hunain, sef yr hyn a wnaethom, ond byddai wedi bod yn briodol gofyn y cwestiwn hwnnw i’r Trysorlys. Sylwaf eich bod yn ddigon agored ynghylch y mater hwn, a chroesawaf hynny. Efallai eich bod yn gwneud hynny fel na ellid eich holi am eich barn yn ddiweddarach pe na baech wedi’i mynegi. Fodd bynnag, byddai wedi bod lawer yn well ac o fudd i’r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol pe baech wedi mynd at y Trysorlys a dweud, ‘Dyma arian y gallem fel arall fod wedi’i roi i iechyd ac addysg, ac ati, ac y byddem yn ei geisio gennych chi fel arian ychwanegol er mwyn gallu cyfateb ein hymrwymiaidau ar gyfer yr arian Ewropeaidd hwnnw’.

Y Prif Weinidog: Gadewch inni holi ein hunain beth fydd yn digwydd i’r gronfa Ffordd i Ffyniant a’r gronfa adfywio leol. Cânt eu cyfuno i greu un gronfa, a bydd yr arian a ryddheir yn sgîl terfynu’r ddwy linell gyllideb hynny a’u disodli gan linell gyllideb newydd yn dilyn y meini prawf canlynol: bydd angen i brosiectau fod o bwys strategol; bydd angen iddynt gydnabod amcanion ein cynllun gofodol a’u cefnogi; rhaid iddynt ddangos cydweithio rhwng partneriaid a sectorau; mae angen iddynt alinio â’n nodau a’n hamcanion strategol cenedlaethol; a bydd angen iddynt hefyd fod yn brosiectau na ellir darparu arian cyfatebol ar eu cyfer o ffynonellau eraill am resymau amlwg. Felly, maent yn gydnaws ag amcanion strategol, yn ogystal â’r cymhwyster ‘pan fetho popeth arall’. Byddai wedi bod yn llawer gwell pe baem wedi defnyddio’r ymadrodd ‘arian cyfatebol pan fetho popeth arall’ yn amlach yn y sylw a roddwyd i’r mater hwn yn y cyfryngau ac yn

that last-resort match funding could approach those two pots, but that normal match funding should follow the obligation laid down in the structural funds regulations, in which it is an obligation on the project sponsor to find the match funding; otherwise, it is wasting everyone's time.

Your points about alignment and additionality are interesting, but you are taking it to real extremes. You have to remember that, from 2007 to 2013, we are inheriting those budget lines. You cannot con the Treasury by saying that those two budget lines have disappeared and pretend that they were never there, and that, therefore, we want it to fill that little gap. The same applied when Alun Michael made his approach in 2000. There was an enormous and inconclusive argument about the extent to which there was an inherited budget line from the 1992 to 1999 budget lines, which we had to ensure did not disappear; otherwise, it was a false claim that match funding was not available in the Assembly's budget. In any case, that was all overshadowed by the much wider argument—which is now purely academic—about the public expenditure cover. Therefore, you cannot pretend that those budget lines are not there. If you try to claim additionality on the basis of making budget lines that have been there for the best part of 14 years disappear, I think that you will get very short shrift from the Treasury. You would certainly not be taken seriously in attempting to get the money that way. Therefore, I reject the allegation that that money would have flowed into mainstream budgets. It has been there since the early 1990s to support projects under previous structural fund programmes, and you cannot pretend that it does not exist.

What we have to do now is proceed with this programme on the basis that we have learned a lot over the past seven years on how to align our budget with European Commission objectives, and on how to get European Commission objectives to fit with our budgets. That removes any case for match funding. We must get on with the continued

y trafodaethau gwleidyddol cysylltiedig. Byddai hynny wedi egluro i bawb y gallai arian cyfatebol pan fetho popeth arall ddod o'r ddwy gronfa hynny, ond y dylai arian cyfatebol arferol ddilyn y rhwymedigaeth a bennwyd yn rheoliadau'r cronfeydd strwythurol, lle y mae'n rhwymedigaeth ar noddwr y prosiect i ddod o hyd i'r arian cyfatebol; fel arall, mae'n gwastraffu amser pawb.

Mae eich pwyntiau ynghylch alinio ac ychwanegedd yn ddiddorol, ond yr ydych yn bod yn wirioneddol eithafol. Rhaid ichi gofio, rhwng 2007 a 2013, ein bod yn etifeddu'r llinellau cyllideb hynny. Ni allwch dwyllo'r Trysorlys drwy ddweud bod y ddwy linell gyllideb hynny wedi diflannu ac esgus nad oeddent yno yn y lle cyntaf, a'n bod, felly, am iddo lenwi'r bwlch bach hwnnw. Yr oedd yr un peth yn wir pan aeth Alun Michael at y Trysorlys yn 2000. Cafwyd dadl enfawr na lwyddwyd i ddod i gytundeb yn ei chylch am y graddau yr eifeddwyd llinellau cyllideb o linellau cyllideb 1992 i 1999 y bu'n rhaid inni sicrhau nad oeddent yn diflannu; fel arall, yr oedd honni nad oedd arian cyfatebol ar gael yng nghyllideb y Cynulliad yn honiad ffug. Sut bynnag, taflwyd hynny oll i'r cysgod gan ddadl ehangach o lawer—sy'n hollol academiaidd bellach—ynghylch defnyddio gwariant cyhoeddus. Felly, ni allwch esgus nad yw'r llinellau cyllideb hynny'n bodoli. Os ceisiwch honni ychwanegedd ar sail gwneud i linellau cyllideb sydd wedi bod yno am ryw 14 blynedd ddiflannu, ni chredaf y cewch fawr o drugaredd gan y Trysorlys, Yn sicr, ni fyddai'n eich ystyried o ddirif wrth ichi geisio cael yr arian fel hynny. Felly, gwrthodaf yr honiad y byddai'r arian hwnnw wedi llifo i gyllidebau prif ffrwd. Mae wedi bod yno ers dechrau'r 1990au i gefnogi prosiectau o dan raglenni cronfeydd strwythurol blaenorol, ac ni allwch esgus nad yw'n bodoli.

Yr hyn y mae'n rhaid inni ei wneud yn awr yw parhau'r rhaglen hon ar y sail ein bod wedi dysgu llawer dros y saith mlynedd diwethaf sut i alinio ein cyllideb ag amcanion y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, a sut i gael amcanion y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd i gyd-fynd â'n cyllidebau. Mae hynny'n dileu unrhyw achos o blaid arian cyfatebol. Rhaid

progress on increasing prosperity, as evidenced by yesterday's figures in west Wales and the Valleys.

Jeff Cuthbert: First Minister, I am sure that you agree that it comes as no surprise that we hear this continual carping from the sidelines. What the opposition really cannot get to grips with is the success that we have had in getting this far and in getting these agreements in place so that we can make progress. On the one hand, Plaid Cymru still takes the begging-bowl approach, namely the view that we cannot make use of this massive influx of money unless we get more money from the UK Treasury. On the other hand, from the Conservatives, as I have said many times, we are lectured about the way in which we make use of European structural funds. However, in terms of Objective 1, it was their party in government that reduced the Welsh economy to the state in which it actually qualified for Objective 1 funding in the first place. They forget that at their peril. It appears that the Liberal Democrats, again, have an obsession with procedure and technicalities and cannot grasp the big picture. Do you agree that what is really important now, with the message from Commissioner Hübner and the arrangements that are in place, is that we get on with the big job of addressing, for example, the Lisbon agenda, ensuring that, over the next seven years, our workforce is among the most highly trained in Europe and the world, and that, by addressing the skills agenda, we will ensure that there is no chance of our qualifying next time around?

The First Minister: You are quite right that this is an opportunity to take west Wales and the Valleys forward, not excluding east Wales or the Wales-Ireland and other programmes. You are always trying to do yourself out of a job in these programmes. It seems that the progress is there for everyone to see throughout west Wales and the Valleys, but we need further support for the period 2007-13. Because of the cut-off date used, west Wales and the Valleys qualified, although it would not have qualified a year later, because it would have been above the threshold. Therefore, we have another seven

inni barhau'r cynnydd parhaus wrth gynyddu ffyniant y gwelwyd tystiolaeth ohono yn y ffigurau ddoe yn y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd.

Jeff Cuthbert: Brif Weinidog, yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn cytuno nad yw'n syndod ein bod yn clywed cwyno parhaus o'r ymylon. Yr hyn na all y gwrthbleidiau ei dderbyn mewn gwirionedd yw'r llwyddiant a gawsom wrth gyrraedd mor bell â hyn ac wrth sicrhau bod y cytundebau hyn ar waith fel y gallwn wneud cynnydd. Ar y naill law, mae Plaid Cymru'n dal yn awyddus i weithredu drwy gardota, gan arddel y farn na allwn ddefnyddio'r mewnlifiad enfawr hwn o arian oni chawn fwy o arian gan Drysorlys y DU. Ar y llaw arall, mae'r Ceidwadwyr, fel yr wyf wedi'i ddweud lawer gwaith, yn areithio ynghylch y ffordd y defnyddiwn gronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop. Fodd bynnag, o ran Amcan 1, eu plaid hwy yn y llywodraeth a barodd i economi Cymru waethygu i'r cyflwr yr oedd ynddo pan oedd yn gymwys i gael arian Amcan 1 yn y lle cyntaf. Maent yn anghofio hynny ar eu perygl. Ymddengys fod gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, unwaith eto, obsesiwn â gweithdrefnau a manylion technegol ac na allant ddeall y sefyllfa gyffredinol. A gytunwch mai'r hyn sy'n wirioneddol bwysig yn awr, gyda'r neges gan Gomisiynydd Hübner a'r trefniadau sydd ar waith, yw inni fwrw ati gyda'r gwaith pwysig o fynd i'r afael ag agenda Lisbon, er enghraifft, gan sicrhau, dros y saith mlynedd nesaf, y bydd ein gweithlu ymhlith y mwyaf hyfforddedig yn Ewrop a'r byd ac y byddwn, drwy fynd i'r afael â'r agenda sgiliau, yn sicrhau nad oes dim posibilrwydd y byddwn yn gymwys y tro nesaf?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle i ddweud bod hwn yn gyfle i ddatblygu'r gorllewin a'r Cymoedd, heb eithrio'r dwyrain na rhaglenni Cymru - Iwerddon a rhaglenni eraill. Yr ydych bob amser yn ceisio eich esgusodi'ch hun rhag gweithio ar y rhaglenni hyn. Ymddengys fod y cynnydd yn amlwg i bawb ledled y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd, ond mae angen rhagor o gymorth arnom ar gyfer y cyfnod 2007-13. Oherwydd y torbwynt a ddefnyddiwyd, yr oedd y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd yn gymwys er na fyddent wedi bod flwyddyn yn ddiweddarach, gan y byddent yn uwch na'r

years' worth of funding, but the likelihood of its happening again is very limited. However, there will probably be a transitional programme for areas that no longer qualify.

The Lisbon agenda is probably more relevant to the European social fund. I do not know how we are going to make an announcement on that in the absence of the Assembly; we will have to think about whether there is a practical way of achieving that. When, as we now anticipate will happen, the European social fund, which does not come under Commissioner Hübner, catches up with the regional development fund, I hope that we will be able to make an announcement. That is where the skills and economic inactivity areas of the Lisbon agenda proportions reach 90 per cent plus. In the European regional development fund, it is about 70 per cent. Therefore, you can see how we have been able to align what we are doing with Lisbon. Commissioner Hübner's letter, which I will make available to Members as soon as is practical, confirms that throughout.

Christine Gwyther: First Minister, despite the usual jaundiced comments from some opposition Members, it is clear to most of us that the statement today is good news for Wales. It is good news on two fronts in particular. First, the speed with which we will be able to introduce the next round of funding is very important. Secondly, the funding will be more centrally driven, which means that we can take a more strategic approach. That came out clearly in the mid-term evaluation. However, how does your Government intend to drive the jobs and environment agendas together? In the Christmas break, you were good enough to visit with me a company, Ledwood Mechanical Engineering Ltd, in my constituency. At the moment, it engineers and manufactures items in the petrochemical industry. It has just won a contract to build a new power station in Norway, which is very good. It would like to manufacture renewable energy installations. How can the new structural funding help that?

trothwy. Felly, mae gennym werth saith mlynedd arall o arian, ond ychydig iawn o debygolrwydd sydd y bydd hyn yn digwydd eto. Fodd bynnag, mae'n debyg y bydd yna raglen drosiannol ar gyfer ardaloedd nad ydynt bellach yn gymwys.

Mae agenda Lisbon yn debygol o fod yn fwy perthnasol i gronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop. Ni wn sut yr ydym yn mynd i wneud cyhoeddiad am hynny pan na fydd Cynulliad; bydd yn rhaid inni feddwl a oes ffordd ymarferol i gyflawni hynny. Pan fydd cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop, nad yw'n rhan o gylch gwaith Comisiynydd Hübner, yn dal i fyny â'r gronfa datblygu rhanbarthol, fel y rhagwelwn fydd yn digwydd bellach, gobeithio y gallwn wneud cyhoeddiad. Dyna lle y bydd meysydd sgiliau ac anweithgarwch economaidd cyfrannau agenda Lisbon yn cyrraedd dros 90 y cant. Yng nghronfa datblygu rhanbarthol Ewrop, mae hyn oddeutu 70 y cant. Felly, gallwch weld sut yr ydym wedi llwyddo i alinio'r hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud â Lisbon. Mae llythyr Comisiynydd Hübner, y byddaf yn ei gyflwyno i'r Aelodau cyn gynted ag y bydd hynny'n ymarferol, yn cadarnhau hynny drwyddi draw.

Christine Gwyther: Brif Weinidog, er y sylwadau chwerw arferol gan rai o Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau, mae'n amlwg i'r rhan fwyaf ohonom fod y datganiad heddiw yn newyddion da i Gymru. Mae'n newyddion da mewn dwy ffordd yn arbennig. Yn gyntaf, mae ein cyflymder ar gyfer gallu cyflwyno'r cylch nesaf o arian yn bwysig iawn. Yn ail, caiff yr arian ei ysgogi mewn ffordd fwy canolog, sy'n golygu y gallwn weithio mewn dull mwy strategol. Yr oedd hynny'n amlwg yn y gwerthusiad tymor canolig. Fodd bynnag, sut mae eich Llywodraeth yn bwriadu uno'r agenda swyddi a'r agenda amgylcheddol? Yn ystod gwyliau'r Nadolig, yr oeddech cystal â dod gyda mi i ymweld â chwmmi Ledwood Mechanical Engineering Cyf yn fy etholaeth. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n creu ac yn gweithgynhyrchu eitemau yn y diwydiant petrogemegol. Mae newydd ennill contract i adeiladu gorsaf ynni newydd yn Norwy, sy'n dda iawn. Hoffai weithgynhyrchu gosodiadau ynni adnewyddadwy. Sut y gall yr arian strwythurol newydd helpu hynny?

The First Minister: I was grateful for your remark about jaundiced comments. I was going to say Jeremiah-type comments, so I suppose that you could say jaundiced Jeremiah comments. I hope that there is not anybody in Wales who is suffering from jaundice and who also happens to be called Jeremiah. I apologise in advance if that is the case, but I do not think that it is an unfair comment based on what we have heard, when you think about what a positive step it is to be the first in the UK, and among the first in Europe, to get our programmes so far on the ERDF side.

I mentioned the money that was allocated under the climate change heading, namely £54 million for investment in clean and renewable energy, £52 million to tackle environmental risks, and a further £52 million to invest in the environmental technology field. The problem with that is that they were all, in theory, possibilities for the development of technology and expertise in the area that you mentioned Ledwood Mechanical Engineering Ltd was interested in. I congratulate the company on its latest contract with Statoil in Monstadt in Norway. It is a great feather in its cap and the Pembrokeshire skills cap, so to speak. It is a very successful enterprise. The details will need to be worked out when the new programmes are up and running in a few months' time, and when the company can approach the Welsh European Funding Office with a project and ask whether it qualifies for WEFO money and how it would fit with regional selective assistance, SMART Cymru and the other programmes.

Y Llywydd: Diolch i'r Prif Weinidog am ei ddatganiad ac am ei atebion.

4.00 p.m.

Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

Leighton Andrews: This is not a partisan point of order, and I am grateful to you for allowing it, Presiding Officer. Yesterday, BBC Wales, with no consultation with any of

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr oeddwn yn ddiolchgar am eich sylw am sylwadau chwerw. Yr oeddwn am ddweud sylwadau Jeremeiaidd, felly, am wn i, fe allech ddweud sylwadau Jeremeiaidd chwerw. Gobeithio nad oes neb yng Nghymru o'r enw Jeremiah a fyddai'n digio wrth hyn. Ymddiheuraf ymlaen llaw os oes yna, ond nid wyf yn credu ei fod yn sylw annheg ar sail yr hyn yr ydym wedi'i glywed, pan feddylwch cymaint o gam cadarnhaol yw bod y cyntaf yn y DU, ac ymhlith y cyntaf yn Ewrop, i gael cymaint o gefnogaeth i'n rhaglenni gan Gronfa Datblygu Rhanbarthol Ewrop.

Soniais am yr arian a ddyrannwyd o dan y pennawd newid yn yr hinsawdd, sef £54 miliwn i'w fuddsoddi mewn ynni glân ac adnewyddadwy, £52 miliwn i fynd i'r afael â risgiau amgylcheddol, a £52 miliwn ychwanegol i fuddsoddi ym maes technoleg amgylcheddol. Y broblem gyda hynny yw eu bod i gyd, mewn egwyddor, yn bosibiliadau ar gyfer datblygu technoleg ac arbenigedd yn y maes yr oeddech yn dweud bod gan Ledwood Mechanical Engineering Cyf ddiddordeb ynddo. Hoffwn longyfarch y cwmni ar ei contract diweddaraf gyda Statoil ym Monstadt yn Norwy. Mae'n gamp aruthrol i'r cwmni ac i sector sgiliau sir Benfro, fel petai. Mae'n fenter lwyddiannus iawn. Bydd angen trafod y manylion pan fydd y rhaglenni newydd ar waith ymhen ychydig fisoedd, a phan fydd y cwmni'n gallu cysylltu â Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru gyda phrosiect a gofyn a yw'n gymwys i gael arian SCEC a sut y byddai'n cyd-fynd â chymorth rhanbarthol dewisol, SMART Cymru a'r rhaglenni eraill.

The Presiding Officer: I thank the First Minister for his statement and for his answers.

Leighton Andrews: Nid pwynt o drefn pleidiol mo hwn, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am ei ganiatáu, Lywydd. Ddoe, dywedodd BBC Cymru, a hynny heb ymgynghori ag

the political parties, to my knowledge, said that, from now on, it would be describing us not as Assembly Members, but as Assembly candidates. Will you confirm that each of us in this Chamber are Assembly Members until midnight, 2 May, that this Assembly is not dissolved, and that the situation is different from that in Westminster? Do you also agree that the Government of Wales Act 2006 enfranchises our constituents by keeping us as Assembly Members, and that it is not for the BBC to disenfranchise them? Do you further agree that it is not for BBC Wales to subvert the laws of Parliament or to subvert our democracy?

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to Leighton Andrews for contacting me this morning to give notice of this point of order. This issue is of great importance to our operation as an Assembly and to the understanding by the people of Wales, and, dare I say, by the BBC, of the way in which our constitution works and the changes that now face us. I can indeed confirm that the Government of Wales Act 2006 provides that the present Assembly, constituted as it is under the Government of Wales Act 1998, cannot be dissolved before the appointment of the First Minister after the Assembly general election on 3 May. For the period from now until the election, the provisions of the 1998 Act will continue to apply. Therefore, section 2(5) of that Act provides that the term of office of an Assembly Member,

‘continues until the end of the day before the day of the poll at the next ordinary election’.

This means that the present Assembly Members continue to be Members until, but not including, the day of the election on 3 May.

I also agree with the other points that Leighton Andrews made. In future, under section 14 of the 2006 Act, the Assembly will be dissolved and the term of an Assembly Member will end at the date of dissolution. That brings us into line with all parliamentary bodies known to me, including the Scottish Parliament and Westminster. However, that is not yet the position, and I hope that the BBC will understand that this interpretation

unrhyw rai o'r pleidiau gwleidyddol, hyd y gwn i, y byddai'n cyfeirio atom ni, o hyn ymlaen, fel ymgeiswyr Cynulliad ac nid fel Aelodau Cynulliad. A wnewch gadarnhau bod pob un ohonom yn y Siambr hon yn Aelodau Cynulliad tan hanner nos, 2 Mai, nad yw'r Cynulliad hwn wedi'i ddiddymu, a bod y sefyllfa'n wahanol i'r hyn sydd yn San Steffan? A gytunwch hefyd bod Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 yn breinio ein hetholwyr drwy ein cadw yn Aelodau Cynulliad, ac nad lle'r BBC yw tynnu'r fraint oddi wrthyn? A gytunwch hefyd nad lle BBC Cymru yw tanseilio cyfreithiau'r Senedd na thanseilio ein democratiaeth?

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Leighton Andrews am gysylltu â mi'n gynharach y bore yma i ddweud wrthyf ymlaen llaw am y pwynt o drefn hwn, sydd o'r pwys mwyaf i'r ffordd yr ydym yn gweithredu fel Cynulliad ac i ddealltwriaeth pobl Cymru, ac, os caf ddweud, i'r BBC o'n cyfansoddiad a'r newidiadau sy'n ein hwynebu'n awr. Gallaf felly gadarnhau bod Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 yn darparu na ellir diddymu'r Cynulliad presennol, fel y'i sefydlwyd o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, cyn penodi'r Prif Weinidog ar ôl yr etholiad cyffredinol y Cynulliad ar 3 Mai. Am y cyfnod rhwng heddiw a'r etholiad, bydd darpariaethau Deddf 1998 yn dal yn gymwys. Felly, mae adran 2(5) o'r Ddeddf honno yn darparu bod cyfnod Aelod Cynulliad yn ei swydd,

yn parhau tan ddiwedd y dydd cyn y diwrnod pleidleisio yn yr etholiad cyffredin nesaf.

Golyga hyn fod yr Aelodau Cynulliad presennol yn parhau'n Aelodau tan, ond heb gynnwys, ddiwrnod yr etholiad ar 3 Mai.

Cytunaf hefyd â phwyntiau eraill Leighton Andrews. Yn y dyfodol, o dan adran 14 o Ddeddf 2006, caiff y Cynulliad ei ddiddymu a daw cyfnod Aelod Cynulliad yn ei swydd i ben ar ddiwrnod y diddymu. Drwy hynny byddwn yn gyson â'r holl gyrff seneddol y gwn i amdanynt, gan gynnwys Senedd yr Alban a San Steffan. Fodd bynnag, nid felly y mae ar hyn o bryd, a gobeithio y bydd y BBC yn deall bod y dehongliad hwn o Ddeddf

of the Government of Wales Act 2006 is, for the purpose of this Chamber and Assembly, definitive.

Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 yn un diffiniol at ddiben y Siambr hon a'r Cynulliad.

Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Cynllun Pensiwn y Diffoddwyr Tân (Cymru) 2007, Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, a'r Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2007
Approval of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, and the Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2007

The Presiding Officer: It is proposed that the next three items be debated together, unless any Member objects. I see that there are no objections.

Y Llywydd: Cynigir trafod y tair eitem nesaf gyda'i gilydd, oni bai bod Aelod yn gwrthwynebu. Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiadau.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): I propose that

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

considers the principle of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007. (NDM3597)

yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Cynllun Pensiwn y Diffoddwyr Tân (Cymru) 2007, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3597)

I propose that

Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2007 in relation to the draft the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) Order 2007; and

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2007 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Cynllun Pensiwn y Diffoddwyr Tân (Cymru) 2007; a

2. approves that the draft the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) Order 2007 is made in accordance with:

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Cynllun Pensiwn y Diffoddwyr Tân (Cymru) 2007, yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:

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

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

b) the memorandum of corrections laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2007; and

b) y memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2007; ac

c) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007. (NDM3598)

c) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3598)

I propose that

Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

considers the principle of the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007. (NDM3599)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2007 in relation to the draft the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) Order 2007; and

2. approves that the draft the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) Order 2007 is made in accordance with:

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

b) the memorandum of corrections laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2007; and

c) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007. (NDM3600)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

considers the principle of the Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2007, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007. (NDM3601)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2007 in relation to the draft the Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2007; and

2. approves that the draft the Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2007 is made in accordance with:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn ystyried egwyddor the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3599)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2007 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) Order 2007; a

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn drafft, the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:

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

b) y memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2007; ac

c) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3600)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn ystyried egwyddor the Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2007, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3601)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2007 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, the Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2007; a

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn drafft, the Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2007, yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:

- a) *the draft laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007;* a) *y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007;*
- b) *the memorandum of corrections laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2007; and* b) *y memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2007; ac*
- c) *the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2007. (NDM3602)* c) *yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3602)*

In proposing the motions, I indicate to Members that a full consultation was held on the firefighters' pension scheme. Following initial opposition, the Fire Brigades' Union has now committed to the scheme.

The Presiding Officer: In the absence of speakers, I call for votes on these items, and look forward earnestly to the day when such motions will be taken through on the nod.

Wrth gynnig y cynigion, dywedaf wrth yr Aelodau fod ymgynghoriad llawn wedi ei gynnal ar gynllun pensiwn y diffoddwyr tân. Ar ôl iddo ei wrthwynebu ar y cychwyn, mae Undeb y Brigadau Tân bellach wedi ymrwymo i'r cynllun.

Y Llywydd: Gan nad oes gennym siaradwyr, galwaf am bleidleisiau ar yr eitemau hyn, ac edrychaf ymlaen yn ddirfawr at yr adeg pan fyddwn yn cytuno ar y gynigion felly yn syth.

*Cynnig (NDM3597): O blaid 53, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3597): For 53, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary

Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3598): O blaid 53, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3598): For 53, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish

Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3599): O blaid 53, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3599): For 53, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val

Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Cynnig (NDM3600): O blaid 53, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM3600): For 53, Abstain 0, Against 0.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri

Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3601): O blaid 53, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3601): For 53, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet

Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3602): O blaid 53, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3602): For 53, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine

Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Awdurdodau Lleol (Cymru) 2007

Approval of the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007

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

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

considers the principle of the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2007. (NDM3603)

yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Awdurdodau Lleol (Cymru) 2007, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2007. (NDM3603)

I propose that

Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 13 March 2007 in relation to the draft the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007; and

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 13 Mawrth 2007 ynghylch y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Awdurdodau Lleol (Cymru) 2007; a

2. approves that the draft the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007 is made in accordance with:

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Awdurdodau Lleol (Cymru) 2007, yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

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

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

b) the memorandum of corrections laid in the Table Office on 13 March 2007; and

b) y memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 13 Mawrth 2007; ac

c) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2007. (NDM3604)

c) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2007. (NDM3604)

The Presiding Officer: I have no speakers, so we will move directly to the vote.

Y Llywydd: Nid oes gennyf siaradwyr, felly, awn yn syth at y bleidlais.

Cynnig (NDM3603): O blaid 54, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM3603): 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
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3604): O blaid 54, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3604): 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
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Lwfansau i Aelodau) (Cymru)
2007
Approval of the Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales)
Regulations 2007**

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

considers the principle of the Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales) Regulations 2007, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 13 March 2007. (NDM3605)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2007 in relation to the draft the Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales) Regulations 2007; and

2. approves that the draft the Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales) Regulations 2007 is made in accordance with:

a) the draft laid in the Table Office on 13 March 2007;

b) the memorandum of corrections laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2007; and

c) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 13 March 2007. (NDM3606)

The Presiding Officer: I have no speakers, so we will move directly to the vote.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Lwfansau i Aelodau) (Cymru) 2007, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 13 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3605)

Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2007 ynghylch y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Lwfansau i Aelodau) (Cymru) 2007; a

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Lwfansau i Aelodau) (Cymru) 2007, yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 13 Mawrth 2007;

b) y memorandwm cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2007; ac

c) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 13 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3606)

Y Llywydd: Nid oes gennyf siaradwyr, felly awn yn syth at y bleidlais.

*Cynnig (NDM3605): O blaid 54, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3605): 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
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary

Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3606): O blaid 54, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3606): 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
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff

Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

**Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Fframwaith Cenedlaethol Tân ac Achub (Cymru)
2005 (Adolygiadau) 2007 o dan Reol Sefydlog rhif 24.27(iv)
Approval of the Fire and Rescue National Framework (Wales) 2005 (Revisions)
Order 2007 under Standing Order 24.27(iv)**

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): I propose that
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart):
Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

considers the principle of the Fire and Rescue National Framework (Wales) 2005 yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Fframwaith Cenedlaethol Tân ac Achub

(Revisions) Order 2007, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 21 March 2007. (NDM3607)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

approves that the Fire and Rescue National Framework (Wales) 2005 (Revisions) Order 2007 is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 21 March 2007. (NDM3608)

I met the chairs of the fire and rescue services and chief fire officers earlier today and we discussed the amended framework that is before you. I have agreed with them that, while we have been able to make some important revisions to the framework, because of time constraints, we have not been able to make all of the revisions that we would all like to see. I have made it clear that I hope to see work being undertaken on a more root-and-branch revision beginning within the next few months with the aim of bringing a further document before the Assembly in 12 months' time. This will include a review of the related intervention protocol that I am now putting in place. I discussed these revisions to the framework document with the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee and have gained its support for the revisions that I have put in place today.

The Presiding Officer: I have no other speakers, so we will move directly to the vote.

(Cymru) 2005 (Adolygiadau) 2007, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 21 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3607)

Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn cymeradwyo bod Gorchymyn Fframwaith Cenedlaethol Tân ac Achub (Cymru) 2005 (Adolygiadau) 2007 yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 21 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3608)

Cyfarfûm â chadeiryddion y gwasanaethau tân ac achub a'r prif swyddogion tân yn gynharach heddiw a thrafodwyd y fframwaith diwygiedig sydd ger eich bron. Yr wyf wedi cytuno â hwy, er ein bod wedi llwyddo i wneud rhai diwygiadau pwysig yn y fframwaith, oherwydd prinder amser na lwyddwyd i wneud yr holl ddiwygiadau yr hoffai pob un ohonom eu gweld. Eglurais fy mod yn gobeithio gweld gwaith yn dechrau ar ddiwygiadau mwy sylfaenol yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf gyda'r nod o gyflwyno dogfen arall gerbron y Cynulliad ymhen 12 mis. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys adolygiad o'r protocol hyn ymwneud ag ymyrryd yr wyf yn ei roi ar waith yn awr. Trafodais y diwygiadau hyn yn y ddogfen fframwaith gyda'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, ac yr wyf wedi cael cefnogaeth y Pwyllgor i'r diwygiadau a gyflwynwyd gennyf heddiw.

Y Llywydd: Nid oes gennyf siaradwyr eraill, felly, awn yn syth at y bleidlais.

*Cynnig (NDM3607): O blaid 54, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3607): 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
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane

Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Cynnig (NDM3608): O blaid 54, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM3608): 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
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David

Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Atal Rheolau Sefydlog Suspension of Standing Orders

Y Llywydd: Yn dilyn pleidlais yn y Siambreddoe ar Reoliadau Tocio Cynffonnau Cŵn Gwaith (Cymru) 2007, yr wyf wedi caniatáu cais i atal Rheolau Sefydlog er mwyn i ni allu ddod â'r rheoliadau yn eu ffurf ddiwygiedig gerbron heddiw.

The Presiding Officer: Following a vote in the Chamber yesterday on the Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (Wales) Regulations 2007, I have allowed an application to suspend Standing Orders in order to bring the revised regulations forward this afternoon.

4.10 p.m.

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

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 37.5: *Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol a Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 37.5:*

suspends Standing Order No. 6.13 and that part of Standing Order No. 5.4 that requires the weekly Business Statement to constitute the agreed timetable for Assembly Business for the following week, to allow the no named day motion (NNDM3612) tabled on 28 March 2007—to approve the Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (Wales) Regulations 2007—to be considered in Plenary on Wednesday, 28 March 2007. (NDM3613) *atal Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 6.13 a'r rhan o Reol Sefydlog Rhif 5.4 sydd yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i'r datganiad busnes wythnosol i sefydlu amserlen busnes y Cynulliad ar gyfer yr wythnos ganlynol, er mwyn caniatáu i'r cynnig heb ddyddiad trafod (NNDM3612) a gyflwynwyd ar 28 Mawrth 2007—i gymeradwyo'r Rheoliadau Tocio Cynffonnau Cŵn Gwaith (Cymru) 2007—i gael eu hystyried ar ddydd Mercher, 28 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3613)*

Cynnig (NDM3613): O blaid 54, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3613): 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
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri

Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Tocio Cynffonnau Cŵn Gwaith (Cymru) 2007 Approval of the Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (Wales) Regulations 2007

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 20 March 2007 in relation to the draft the Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (Wales) Regulations 2007; and

2. approves that the draft the Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (Wales) Regulations 2007 is made in accordance with:

a) the draft laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 28 March 2007; and

b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 28 March 2007. (NNDM3612)

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): These regulations are now being brought back before Plenary and they have been amended in accordance with the wishes of Plenary through yesterday's amendments 1 and 2 to NDM3580.

Lorraine Barrett: I thank the Minister for bringing back the amended regulations today and I also thank the Presiding Officer and the Business Minister for finding time for this on

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 20 Mawrth 2007 mewn perthynas â'r Rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Tocio Cynffonnau Cŵn Gwaith (Cymru) 2007; a

2. cymeradwyo bod y rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Tocio Cynffonnau Cŵn Gwaith (Cymru) 2007, yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 28 Mawrth 2007; a

b) y arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 28 Mawrth 2007. (NNDM3612)

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn cael eu hailgyflwyno gerbron y Cyfarfod Llawn yn awr ac maent wedi cael eu diwygio yn unol â dymuniadau'r Cyfarfod Llawn drwy welliannau 1 a 2 i NDM3580 ddoe.

Lorraine Barrett: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ailgyflwyno'r rheoliadau diwygiedig heddiw, a hefyd i'r Llywydd a'r Trefnydd am neilltuo amser ar gyfer hyn ar ddiwrnod olaf

the last day of this Assembly.

To my knowledge, this may be the first time that amended regulations have been brought back to Plenary, as they are usually dealt with through an Executive measure. So, I am delighted that the last piece of legislation in the Assembly, just six weeks before the new Government of Wales Act 2006 kicks in properly with the next Assembly, deals with an animal welfare issue.

The list of dogs now exempt from tail docking in Wales, if the regulations are carried, is further restricted than is the case in England. However, we do not go as far as Scotland, where there is a total ban on tail docking. I look forward to coming back here to pursue this as well as other animal welfare issues, so watch this space. I hope the regulations are carried today.

Mick Bates: I bring to the attention of the Chamber an issue of considerable importance with regard to this matter. The Minister, who is a public servant, like all of us, has rightly and consistently approached this matter, and done so correctly—which is to be expected of any Government Minister—as has the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee under the excellent leadership of its Chair, Glyn Davies. However, matters raised yesterday on the backbenches need to be clarified and placed on the record as being ones of public interest. I speak of the position concerning the Association of Chief Police Officers on tail docking in relation to the operational use of police dogs. This matter was brought to the attention of the Chamber yesterday and I know that it swayed Members in their voting. I request that all Members reconsider their position on this, particularly given the information that has subsequently come to my attention.

Lorraine Barrett mentioned yesterday that she had met with the chief constable, Richard Brunstrom, who voiced his opposition to tail docking and said that there was no reason to dock. Mr Brunstrom is entitled to his opinion, but, as well respected as it is, it is not the position of the Association of Chief Police

y Cynulliad hwn.

Hyd y gwn i, efallai mai dyma'r tro cyntaf i reoliadau diwygiedig gael eu hailgyflwyno gerbron y Cyfarfod Llawn, gan mai drwy fesur gan y Weithrediaeth yr ymddrinir â hwy fel arfer. Felly, yr wyf yn falch mai lles anifeiliaid yw testun y darn olaf o ddeddfwriaeth yn y Cynulliad, dim ond chwe wythnos cyn i'r ddeddf newydd, Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006, ddod i rym yn nhyrnor nesaf y Cynulliad.

Mae'r rhestr o gŵn sydd bellach wedi'u heithrio o'r arfer o docio cynffonnau yng Nghymru, os derbynir y rheoliadau, yn fwy cyfyngedig na'r rhestr yn Lloegr. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym wedi mynd mor bell â'r Alban, lle mae gwaharddiad llwyr ar docio cynffonnau. Edrychaf ymlaen at ddychwelyd yma i godi'r mater hwn yn ogystal â materion eraill ynglŷn â lles anifeiliaid, felly, cofiwch hynny. Gobeithio y caiff y rheoliadau eu derbyn heddiw.

Mick Bates: Hoffwn dynnu sylw'r Siambr at fater o gryn bwys yn hyn o beth. Mae'r Gweinidog, sy'n was cyhoeddus fel pob un ohonom, bob amser wedi ymdrin â'r mater hwn mewn ffordd briodol a chyson—sydd i'w ddisgwyl gan unrhyw Weinidog Llywodraeth—fel y gwnaeth y Pwyllgor Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad o dan arweiniad ardderchog ei gadeirydd, Glyn Davies. Fodd bynnag, mae angen egluro materion a godwyd ddoe ar y meinciau cefn a'u cofnodi'n rhai er budd y cyhoedd. Soniaf am sefyllfa o ran Cymdeithas y Prif Swyddogion Heddlu ar docio cynffonnau mewn perthynas â defnyddio cŵn heddlu wrth eu gwaith. Daethpwyd â'r mater hwn i sylw'r Siambr ddoe a gwn iddo ddylanwadu ar Aelodau wrth iddynt bleidleisio. Gofynnaf i bob Aelod ailystyried eu safbwynt ar hyn, yn enwedig o gofio'r wybodaeth a ddaeth i'm sylw wedyn.

Soniodd Lorraine Barrett ddoe iddi gyfarfod â'r Prif Gwnstabl, Richard Brunstrom, a fynegodd ei wrthwynebiad i docio cynffonnau gan ddweud nad oedd rheswm dros docio. Rhydd i bawb ei farn, ac er bod parch mawr at farn Mr Brunstrom, nid yw'n adlewyrchu safbwynt Cymdeithas y Prif

Officers on the operational use of police dogs. That was not mentioned by Lorraine yesterday.

I now wish to put on record and clarify the position of ACPO, from two statements on police operational dogs and docking made by the chair of the Association of Chief Police Officers Police Dogs Working Group:

‘Forces with their own breeding programmes in place may decide for operational reasons, as opposed to aesthetic or cosmetic purposes, to dock the tails of puppies in order to minimise the risk of injury to the dog’.

He states that such a decision is left to the discretion of individual forces. I would like to back up this statement with an e-mail sent by ACPO to the Welsh Assembly Government. The e-mail clearly outlines the needs of operational police dogs and states that the motion carried yesterday, coupled with these amendments—that were generated from the backbenches—will mean that the pool of police dogs available to the police to protect the public will now be vastly reduced. Please take heed of that and of the consequence of yesterday’s voting.

The chair of ACPO Police Dogs Working Group wrote to the Minister on 28 February stating:

‘I am chair of the Association of Chief Police Officers Police Dogs Working Group and I presented the police dog position regarding the Animal Welfare Act 2006. That position was fully supportive of the underlying principles of the then Bill, but sought to obtain an exemption for the police service and law enforcement agencies—a position that was achieved.

The position of the four Welsh police forces is that we are against the docking of tails for purely aesthetic grounds but believe there should be an exemption for law enforcement dogs.

‘In forces where there are dog breeding programmes or where we purchase a dog from an established breeder a decision is

Swyddogion Heddlu ar ddefnyddio cŵn wrth eu gwaith. Ni soniodd Lorraine am hynny ddoe.

Hoffwn yn awr gofnodi ac egluro safbwynt Cymdeithas y Prif Swyddogion Heddlu mewn dau ddatganiad ar gŵn heddlu wrth eu gwaith a thocio a wnaed gan gadeirydd Gweithgor Gŵn Heddlu Cymdeithas y Prif Swyddogion Heddlu:

Caiff heddluoedd sydd â’u rhaglenni bridio eu hunain ar waith benderfynu am resymau gweithredol, yn hytrach na rhesymau esthetaidd neu gosmetig, docio cynffonnau cŵn bach er mwyn lleihau perygl anaf i’r ci.

Dywed mai heddluoedd unigol ddylai wneud penderfyniad o’r fath yn ôl eu disgresiwn. Hoffwn ategu’r datganiad hwn gan e-bost a anfonwyd gan y Gymdeithas at Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Mae’r e-bost yn amlinellu’n glir anghenion cŵn heddlu wrth eu gwaith ac mae’n dweud y bydd y cynnig a dderbyniwyd ddoe ynghyd â’r gwelliannau hyn—a ddeilliodd o’r meinciau cefn—yn golygu y bydd nifer y cŵn heddlu sydd ar gael i’r heddlu i ddiogelu’r cyhoedd yn lleihau’n sylweddol. A wnewch ystyried hynny a’r hyn a fydd yn digwydd yn sgîl y bleidlais ddoe.

Ysgrifennodd cadeirydd Gweithgor Cŵn Heddlu y Gymdeithas at y Gweinidog ar 28 Chwefror yn dweud:

‘Fi yw cadeirydd Gweithgor Cŵn Heddlu Cymdeithas y Prif Swyddogion Heddlu a chyflwynais ei safbwynt ar gŵn heddlu mewn perthynas â Deddf Lles Anifeiliaid 2006. Yr oedd y safbwynt hwnnw’n gwbl gefnogol i egwyddorion sylfaenol y Mesur, fel yr oedd ar y pryd, ond ceisiwyd cael eithriad i’r heddlu ac asiantaethau gorfodi’r gyfraith—a chyflawnwyd hynny.

Safiad pedwar heddlu Cymru yw ein bod yn erbyn tocio cynffonnau am resymau esthetig yn unig, ond credwn y dylid cael eithriad ar gyfer cŵn a ddefnyddir i orfodi’r gyfraith.

Mewn heddluoedd lle mae rhaglenni bridio cŵn, neu pan fyddwn yn prynu ci gan fridiwr sefydledig, gwneir penderfyniad ar hyn o

currently made at an early stage in the dog's life (between 3 to 5 days) whether or not to dock its tail. This decision is not made lightly and will always be for operational reasons as opposed to aesthetic or cosmetic ones. Experience over many years of working with police dogs has shown us that certain dog types, performing certain roles—usually a search function where dogs are often required to work in difficult terrain and confined spaces—are susceptible to causing injury to their tails. Any docking of new puppies is restricted to such dog types and conducted in order to minimise the risk of such injury, which can be particularly distressing and require a protracted period of recuperation.

'The exemption is felt necessary as we have a limited number of dogs (nationally) who perform search functions including explosive searches and the removal of any teams from this crucial area has an operational impact. The docking of tails allows us to maintain the resilience of our teams in this area particularly at a time of heightened tensions.'

As an elected Member, I cannot support endangering the public. We also need to support the working dog industry. It is accepted that this may mean that the amended regulations will be carried, but not with the sanction of those who wish to protect the public. It is only right and proper that this information comes before the Chamber, and that the whole issue is meaningfully debated and voted upon in the full knowledge of the truth—and not simply from a personal perspective. I hope that those who are elected or re-elected after 3 May will return to this issue as promptly as possible.

Y Llywydd: Nid yw'r Gweinidog am ymateb, felly symudwn i bleidlais.

bryd yn fuan iawn ar ôl i'r geni'r ci (rhwng 3 a 5 diwrnod) a ddylid tocio ei gynffon. Nid ar chwarae bach y gwneir y penderfyniad hwn, a bydd bob amser am resymau gweithredol yn hytrach na rhai esthetig neu gosmetig. Mae blynyddoedd o brofiad o weithio gyda chŵn heddlu wedi dangos inni fod rhai mathau o gŵn, sy'n cyflawni penodol—gwaith chwilio fel rheol lle mae'n aml yn ofynnol i gŵn weithio ar dir anodd ac mewn mannau cyfyngedig—mewn perygl o gael niwed i'w cynffonnau. Caiff unrhyw achosion o docio cynffonnau cŵn bach newydd eu cyfyngu i'r mathau hynny o gŵn, ac fe'i gwneir er mwyn lleihau perygl anaf o'r fath, a all achosi llawer o boen a hefyd alw am gwella gyfnod hir iawn.

Teimlir bod angen yr eithriad gan fod gennym nifer cyfyngedig o gŵn (yn genedlaethol) sy'n gwneud gwaith chwilio, gan gynnwys chwilio am ffrwydron, a byddai tynnu unrhyw dimau o'r maes pwysig hwn yn cael effaith ar weithrediadau. Mae tocio cynffonnau yn ein galluogi i gynnal gwydnwch ein timau yn y maes hwn, yn arbennig ar adeg lle mae mwy o densiwn.'

Fel Aelod etholedig, ni allaf gefnogi dim sy'n peryglu'r cyhoedd. Rhaid inni hefyd gefnogi'r diwydiant cŵn gweithio. Derbynnir y gallai hyn olygu y bydd y rheoliadau diwygiedig yn cael eu derbyn, ond heb gefnogaeth y rhai sydd am ddiogelu'r cyhoedd. Mae'n gywir ac yn briodol i'r wybodaeth hon ddod gerbron y Siambr, ac y caiff yr holl fater ei drafod yn ystyrllon ac y bydd pleidlais arno gan feddu ar yr holl ffeithiau—ac nid o safbwynt personol yn unig. Gobeithio y bydd y rhai a gaiff eu hethol neu eu hailethol ar ôl 3 Mai yn dychwelyd at y mater hwn cyn gynted â phosibl.

The Presiding Officer: The Minister does not wish to reply, therefore we move to the vote.

*Cynnig (NNDM3612): O blaid 35, Ymatal 2, Yn erbyn 15.
Motion (NNDM3612): For 35, Abstain 2, Against 15.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine

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

Bates, Mick
Burnham, Eleanor

Black, Peter
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Dunwoody, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Wood, Leanne

Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Randerson, Jenny
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
 The following Members abstained:

Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Tir Mynydd

Motion (NDM3609): to propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

endorses the proposal to reprioritise the Tir Cymru budget line in the rural development plan as laid out in the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee Chair's letter of 2 March 2007.

Amendment 1 in the names of John Marek and Trish Law. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

notes that no non-agricultural budget is

Cynnig (NDM3609): cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn cadarnhau'r cynnig i ailflaenoriaethu llinell gyllideb Tir Cymru yng nghynigion y cynllun datblygu gwledig fel y'i gosodwyd yn llythyr Cadeirydd Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad, dyddiedig 2 Mawrth 2007.

Gwelliant 1 yn enwau John Marek a Trish Law. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn nodi nad effeithir ar unrhyw gyllideb

affected by the reprioritisation proposal.

heblaw amaethyddiaeth gan y cynnig i ailflaenoriaethu.

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of John Marek and Trish Law.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw John Marek a Trish Law.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Cynigiad fod

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

the National Assembly for Wales:

yn cadarnhau'r cynnig i ailflaenoriaethu llinell gyllideb Tir Cymru yng nghynigion y cynllun datblygu gwledig fel y'i gosodwyd yn llythyr Cadeirydd Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad, dyddiedig 2 Mawrth 2007. (NDM3609)

endorses the proposal to reprioritise the Tir Cymru budget line in the rural development plan as laid out in the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee Chair's letter of 2 March 2007. (NDM3609)

Elin Jones: Dechreuaf drwy roi rhywfaint o gefndir y cynnig hwn. Gwnaeth y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad gyhoeddiad yng ngwanwyn y llynedd ei fod yn torri cyllideb Tir Mynydd o £36 miliwn i £24 miliwn eleni, ac i £22 miliwn y flwyddyn nesaf. Ers mis Ionawr eleni, yr ydym hefyd yn gwybod mai ei fwriad yw torri Tir Mynydd i £15 miliwn yn 2009.

Elin Jones: I begin with some of the background to this motion. The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside announced in the spring of last year that the Tir Mynydd budget would be cut from £36 million to £24 million this year and to £22 million next year. Since January, we have been aware that it is his intention to cut the Tir Mynydd budget to £15 million in 2009.

Nid oedd bron neb yn cytuno bryd hynny bod angen torri cyllideb Tir Mynydd yn y modd hwn; beirniadodd hyd yn oed y Gymdeithas Frenhinol er Gwarchod Adar a mudiadau amgylcheddol eraill y bwriad i dorri cyllideb Tir Mynydd. Nid dim ond cyhoeddi torri cyllideb Tir Mynydd a wnaeth y Gweinidog y llynedd, ond gwaredodd hefyd yr agweddau amgylcheddol o fewn Tir Mynydd.

Almost no-one agreed with the Tir Mynydd cutbacks in this manner, and even the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and other environmental organisations criticised the cuts. Not only did the Minister announce cuts in the Tir Mynydd budget last year, but he disposed of the environment elements of Tir Mynydd.

Pan grëwyd Tir Mynydd yn ei ffurf bresennol tua chwe mlynedd yn ôl, gan y Gweinidog hwn, rhoddwyd cymalau amgylcheddol newydd yn y cynllun. Felly, y llynedd—ac fel y bydd yn nes ymlaen heddiw, fwy na thebyg—yr oedd y Gweinidog yn gwbl rhagrithiol, yn dadlau ar yr un llaw nad oedd Tir Mynydd yn rhoi digon o fuddiannau amgylcheddol i gymdeithas, ac, ar y llaw arall, yn cyhoeddi ei fod yn cael gwared ar yr unig elfennau amgylcheddol o fewn Tir Mynydd; mae hynny wedi digwydd erbyn hyn.

When Tir Mynydd was created in its current form about six years ago, by this Minister, new environmental clauses were inserted into the scheme. Therefore, last year—and as he will no doubt be later today—the Minister quite hypocritically argued on the one hand that Tir Mynydd did not provide sufficient environmental benefits to society, and on the other hand, announced that we would be disposing of the only environmental elements within Tir Mynydd; that has now occurred.

Dyna gamgymeriad mawr y Gweinidog.

That was a major error by the Minister. He

Byddai wedi cael cefnogaeth pe bai wedi penderfynu cadw a chryfhau elfennau amgylcheddol o fewn Tir Mynydd. Fodd bynnag, yn hytrach, fe benderfynodd dynnu'r elfennau amgylcheddol o Tir Mynydd, a thorri cyllideb Tir Mynydd.

would have found support had he decided to retain and strengthen the environmental elements of Tir Mynydd. However, he decided to withdraw those environmental elements and cut the Tir Mynydd budget.

4.20 p.m.

Am fisoedd lawer y llynedd, nid oedd yn glir lle yr oedd arian Tir Mynydd wedi mynd, ac yr oedd yn gwbl amhosibl cael atebion clir gan y Gweinidog. Bu i ni glywed sawl gwahanol ateb, gan gynnwys, ar un achlysur, ei fod wedi colli'r gyllideb er mwyn i fyfyrwyr cael eu hariannu.

For many months last year, it was not clear where the funding for Tir Mynydd had gone, and getting clear answers from the Minister proved to be quite impossible. We heard numerous answers, including, on one occasion, that he had lost the budget in order to fund students.

Yn y diwedd, ym mis Ionawr, cawsom y tablau ariannol ar gyfer y cynllun datblygu gwledig o 2007 i 2013 gan y Gweinidog. Dros dair blynedd cyntaf y cynllun, mae'r Gweinidog yn cynnig y bydd 100 y cant o dwf yn arian Tir Cynnal, 32 y cant o dwf yn arian Tir Gofal, a chwymp o 37 y cant yn arian Tir Mynydd. Mis Ionawr oedd y tro cyntaf i'r tablau hyn fod ar gael yn gyhoeddus. Dylai drafft o'r tablau ariannol hyn fod wedi'i gyhoeddi wrth ymgynghori ar y cynllun datblygu gwledig y llynedd. Mae sylwedd neu ddiffyg sylwedd unrhyw bolisi i'w weld yn y tablau ariannol ac mae ymgynghori hebddynt bron â bod yn ymarfer di-werth. Er enghraifft, mae cynllun datblygu gwledig y Gweinidog yn sôn yn ffafriol iawn am drosi i ffermio organig, ond mae'r tablau a welsom am y tro cyntaf ym mis Ionawr yn dangos nad oes twf yn y cynllun trosi i ffermio organig dros y saith mlynedd nesaf.

Finally, in January, the Minister provided the financial tables for the rural development plan from 2007 to 2013. During the first three years of the plan, the Minister proposes that there will be a 100 per cent increase in Tir Cynnal funding, a 32 per cent increase in Tir Gofal funding, and a cut of 37 per cent in Tir Mynydd funding. These tables were made public for the first time in January. A draft of these tables should have been made available during the consultation on the rural development plan last year. The substance, or lack of substance, of any policy is to be seen in the financial tables, and to consult without them is almost a pointless exercise. For example, the Minister's rural development plan speaks very favourably of organic conversion, but the tables we saw for the first time in January show that there is no growth in the organic farming conversion scheme over the next seven years.

Fel y dywedais, bydd twf o 100 y cant yn y gyllideb ar gyfer Tir Cynnal, er bod y cynllun ond wedi cwrdd â 50 y cant o'i darged yn ystod y ddwy flynedd gyntaf o'i weithredu, ac nid oes argoel fod gan ffermwyr mwy o ddi-ddordeb yn y cynllun hwn i'r dyfodol. Felly, credaf fod Tir Cynnal wedi'i orgyllido yn sylweddol, a dyna pam mae'r cynnig sydd o'n blaenau heddiw yn awgrymu tynnu £8 miliwn o gyllideb flynyddol Tir Cynnal. Nid yw'r un ddadl yn wir am Tir Gofal, a derbyniaf hynny, a dyna pam y cymeradwyir gostyngiad o £2 filiwn yn unig ar gyfer Tir Gofal. Gyda llaw, dywedodd Carl Sargeant mewn ymyriad ddoe yn y Siambr fod cynnig heddiw yn torri'r gyllideb monitro

As I said, there will be an increase of 100 per cent in the Tir Cynnal budget, even though the scheme has reached only 50 per cent of its target within its first two years, and there is no indication that farmers have any more interest in this scheme in the future. Therefore, I believe that Tir Cynnal has been overfunded substantially, and that is why the motion before us proposes a withdrawal of £8 million from the annual budget for Tir Cynnal. The same is not true of Tir Gofal, and I accept that, and that is why a cut of only £2 million is proposed in the Tir Gofal budget. By the way, Carl Sargeant, in his intervention in the Chamber yesterday, said that today's motion will lead to a cut in the

amgylcheddol—nid yw hynny yn wir; nid yw hynny yn rhan o'r cynnig sydd ger ein bron.

Pam mae'r cynnig hwn felly, drwy broses weddol unigryw, yn cyrraedd ar anadl olaf y Cynulliad hwn? Mae'r Gweinidog wedi wgybod ers dros flwyddyn fod y gwrthbleidiau yn gwrthwynebu ei fwriad i dorri cyllideb Tir Mynydd. Yn ystod ei drafodaethau ar y gyllideb yr haf y llynedd, bu i Bwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad benderfynu bod adfer cyllideb Tir Mynydd yn flaenoriaeth i'r Gweinidog Cyllid.

Er bod y Gweinidog mewn Llywodraeth leiafrifol, parhaodd i wrthod ymateb i alwad y gwrthbleidiau i adfer Tir Mynydd. Felly, cododd y pwnc yn ystod trafodaethau ar y gyllideb cyn y Nadolig a bu cytundeb ar ffordd ymlaen rhwng arweinyddion y pedair plaid—er bod rhai wedi ceisio ailysgrifennu hanes ers hynny. Arweiniodd hynny yn y pen draw at y cynnig hwn heddiw, a gymeradwywyd gan Bwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad ychydig wythnosau yn ôl.

Mae gennyf ddau bwynt wrth orffen: yr ydym wedi clywed dadl y Lywodraeth—fe'i clywsom ddoe wrth y Prif Weinidog—sef y gall y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd wrthod y cynllun datblygu gwledig os caiff ei ddiwygio yn y modd a gynigir gan gynnis heddiw, gan y byddai diffyg pwyslais ar gynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol. Fodd bynnag, hyd yn oed os derbynnir y cynnig sydd o'n blaenau heddiw, bydd mwyafswm yr arian uniongyrchol i ffermwyr yn dal i fynd at gynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol.

Yn ail, mae'r Gweinidog wedi disgrifio'r bleidlais ar y cynnig hwn fel un academaidd yn y wasg yr wythnos hon, oherwydd yr amseru cyn yr etholiad. Pe bai wedi gwrando ar farn y gwrthbleidiau y llynedd, byddai cynllun datblygu gwledig drafft o'n blaenau heddiw y byddai'r mwyafrif ohonom yn gallu ei gefnogi, ac ni fyddai angen cynnig cyllideb amgen. Os derbynnir y cynnig hwn heddiw, dyma'r blaenoriaethau ariannol y bydd Llywodraeth nesaf y Cynulliad a'r Gweinidog nesaf a fydd yn gyfrifol am gefn gwlad yn eu hetifeddu. Yr wyf yn cymeradwyo'r cynnig hwn i'r Cynulliad, ac,

environmental monitoring budget—that is not true; it is not part of the motion before us

Why is this motion, therefore, through a quite unique process, coming before us in the dying breath of this Assembly? The Minister has known for over a year that the opposition parties object to his intention to cut the Tir Mynydd budget. During its discussions on the budget last summer, the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee decided that restoring the Tir Mynydd budget should be a priority for the Finance Minister.

Although a member of a minority Government, the Minister continued to refuse to respond to the call by the opposition for the restoration of Tir Mynydd. Therefore, this subject reared its head during budget negotiations before Christmas, and the four party leaders reached an agreement—even though some have tried to rewrite history since then. That is what led ultimately to today's motion, which was approved by the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee a few weeks ago.

I have two points to make in concluding: we have heard the Government's argument—we heard this from the First Minister yesterday—which is that the European Commission could reject the rural development plan if it is amended in the manner proposed by today's motion, as there would not be sufficient emphasis on agri-environment schemes. However, even if this motion is carried, the greater part of direct funding for farmers will continue to be spent on agri-environment schemes.

Secondly, in the press this week the Minister has described the vote on this motion as academic, because of its timing before the election. Had he listened to the view of the opposition parties last year, we would today be discussing a draft rural development plan which the majority of us could support, and we would not therefore need an alternative budget. If this motion is carried today, these are the financial priorities to be inherited by the next Assembly Government and the next Minister with responsibility for the countryside. I commend the motion to the Assembly, and maybe, in its penultimate act,

efallai, yn ei weithred olaf ond un, bydd y Llywodraeth hon yn deall mai Llywodraeth leiafrifol yw.

Brynle Williams: The Welsh Conservatives will support the Environment Planning and Countryside Committee's proposals to reprioritise the Tir Cymru budget. The arguments over the Tir Mynydd budget have been well rehearsed over the last six months, and I will use my time to lay out exactly why the Welsh Conservatives have supported Tir Mynydd, and why we will continue to support farmers who work on the most disadvantaged land in Wales.

For many farm businesses in the uplands, Tir Mynydd payments make the difference between staying in the industry and leaving it altogether. The latest figures for upland farms show that incomes are down by an average of nearly £9,000. These businesses were already under tremendous pressure before this year's reduction in Tir Mynydd payments is taken into account. If the Government is committed to reducing upland incomes, it must be prepared to deal with the consequences: larger farms, lower standards of welfare, the abandonment of land, which, in many areas, is very difficult to farm anyway, and the loss of a skilled workforce and of experience and knowledge of how to manage the uplands. I am sure that even you, Minister, would agree that farmers offer the most cost-effective way of maintaining the countryside.

The rationale for cutting the Tir Mynydd budget in the first place was wrong. The report from the European Commission auditors did not support cutting less favoured area funding, and neither did the mid-term evaluation recommend slashing the budget. The real motivation for undermining Tir Mynydd was to push farmers into Tir Cynnal, the Minister's own scheme, which has been massively undersubscribed because it has been smothered in so much red tape and bureaucracy, and farmers made the business decision that it was not worth their while to enter it.

Labour might not value the countryside—and it is easy to understand why, because there

this Government will understand that it is a minority Government.

Brynle Williams: Bydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru'n cefnogi cynigion Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad i ailflaenoriaethu cyllideb Tir Cymru. Mae'r dadleuon dros gyllideb Tir Mynydd wedi eu mynegi droeon yn ystod y chwe mis diwethaf, a defnyddiaf fy amser i osod allan yn union pam mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru wedi cefnogi Tir Mynydd, a pham y byddwn yn parhau i gefnogi ffermwyr sy'n gweithio ar y tir lleiaf ffafriol yng Nghymru.

I nifer o fusnesau ffermio yn yr ucheldir, mae taliadau Tir Mynydd yn gwneud y gwahaniaeth rhwng parhau yn y diwydiant a'i adael yn gyfan gwbl. Dengys y ffigurau diweddaraf ar gyfer ffermydd ucheldir fod incwm wedi gostwng bron £9,000 ar gyfartaledd. Yr oedd y busnesau hyn eisoes o dan bwysau eithriadol cyn ystyried y gostyngiad eleni mewn taliadau Tir Mynydd. Os yw'r Llywodraeth wedi ymrwymo i ostwng incwm yr ucheldir, rhaid iddi fod yn barod i wynebu'r canlyniadau: ffermydd mwy, safonau lles is, gadael tir sydd, mewn llawer ardal, yn anodd iawn ei ffermio beth bynnag, a cholli gweithlu medrus a phrofiad a gwybodaeth sut i drin yr ucheldir. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunech chi, hyd yn oed, Weinidog, mai ffermwyr sy'n cynnig y ffordd fwyaf cost-effeithiol o gynnal cefn gwlad.

Yr oedd y rhesymeg dros dorri cyllideb Tir Mynydd yn y lle cyntaf yn anghywir. Nid oedd yr adroddiad gan archwilwyr y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn cefnogi torri arian ar gyfer ardaloedd llai ffafriol, ac nid oedd y gwerthusiad canol tymor ychwaith yn argymhell torri'r gyllideb. Yr ysgogiad gwirioneddol dros danseilio Tir Mynydd oedd er mwyn gwthio ffermwyr i ymuno â Tir Cynnal, cynllun y Gweinidog ei hun nad yw wedi denu hanner digon o danysgrifwyr am fod cymaint o waith papur a biwrocratiaeth yn gysylltiedig ag ef, a gwnaeth ffermwyr y penderfyniad busnes nad oedd yn werth iddynt ymuno â'r cynllun hwnnw.

Efallai nad yw Llafur yn rhoi gwerth ar gefn gwlad—ac mae'n hawdd deall pam, am nad

are no votes there for it, frankly—but that does not mean that the countryside is not important. Eighty per cent of Wales is farmed, and the farming families that work the land are the bedrock of Welsh-speaking communities. Last week the First Minister described farming as the backbone of the Welsh language, comparing it to the slate and coal industries—start jeering, come on. Those industries were enormously successful in their heyday, but are now a shadow of their former selves. If the First Minister and Labour do not want to see the same future for Welsh farming, they should vote to support the committee's decision, and put Welsh farming back on top.

Mick Bates: The Welsh Liberal Democrat group supports this prioritisation of the restoration of the Tir Mynydd budget, but it is as well to emphasise one or two issues in relation to why we got into this mess. It is down to a weak Minister, who lost £12 million from his budget and who, to this day, is unable to tell us where it went. That is gross incompetence, but 'weakness' will suffice as a description on this last day of debate. I hope that, at some stage in this debate, the Minister will have the courage to put on record what happened in the Cabinet meeting when he lost £12 million. Where did it go, Minister? You have heard the previous speaker outline why these payments are so important. You should put on record today how this slashing of Tir Mynydd, as a result of your ineffective leadership, will enhance the chances of Welsh family farms surviving, because that is what you have tried to tell us at times.

I was interested in how the budget came to be accepted by the Assembly. The accomplices in getting the budget through were none other than Plaid Cymru Members, whose abstention ensured that this weak Minister's budget was carried in the Chamber. While we admire the efforts to correct your terrible mistake in abstaining and allowing the Labour budget to go through, we consider that to have been a major error. In the Assembly we have a duty to sustainability, which extends to all parts of Wales.

oes pleidleisiau iddi yno, i fod yn blwmp ac yn blaen—ond nid yw hynny'n golygu nad yw cefn gwlad yn bwysig. Mae 80 deg y cant o Gymru'n cael ei ffermio, a'r teuluoedd ffermio sy'n gweithio ar y tir yw conglaen y cymunedau Cymraeg. Yr wythnos diwethaf, disgrifiodd y Prif Weinidog ffermio fel asgwrn cefn yr iaith Gymraeg, gan ei gymharu â'r diwydiannau llechi a glo—dewch, dechreuwch wawdio. Yr oedd y diwydiannau hynny'n llwyddiannus iawn yn eu dydd, ond bellach nid ydynt ond cysgod o'r hyn a oeddent. Os nad yw'r Prif Weinidog a Llafur am weld yr un dyfodol i ffermio yng Nghymru, dylent bleidleisio dros gefnogi penderfyniad y pwyllgor, a rhoi ffermio yng Nghymru ar y brig unwaith eto.

Mick Bates: Mae grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cefnogi'r flaenoriaeth hon a roddir i adfer cyllideb Tir Mynydd, ond mae'n werth pwysleisio un neu ddau o faterion sy'n ymwneud â pham mae'r llanastr hwn wedi digwydd. Gellir ei feio ar Weinidog gwan, a gollodd £12 miliwn o'i gyllideb ac na all, hyd heddiw, ddweud ble yr aeth. Anfedrusrwydd o'r radd flaenaf yw hynny, ond bydd 'gwendid' yn ddisgrifiad digonol ar y diwrnod olaf hwn o ddadlau. Gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog, rywbyrd yn ystod y ddadl hon, yn ddigon dewr i gofnodi'r hyn a ddigwyddodd yng nghyfarfod y Cabinet pan gollodd £12 miliwn. I ble yr aeth, Weinidog? Fe glywsoch y siaradwr blaenorol yn amlinellu pam mae'r taliadau hyn mor bwysig. Dylech gofnodi heddiw sut y bydd torri taliadau Tir Mynydd, o ganlyniad i'ch arweiniad aneffeithiol chi, yn gwella gobaith ffermydd teuluol Cymru o barhau, gan mai dyna yr ydych wedi ceisio'i ddweud wrthym ar adegau.

Yr oedd gennyf ddidordeb gwybod sut y cafodd y gyllideb ei derbyn gan y Cynulliad. Derbyniwyd y gyllideb gyda chymorth neb llai nag Aelodau Plaid Cymru, a benderfynodd ymatal gan sicrhau bod cyllideb y Gweinidog gwan hwn yn cael ei derbyn yn y Siambr. Er ein bod yn edmygu'r ymdrechion i gywiro eich camgymeriad erchyll o ymatal a chaniatáu i gyllideb Lafur gael ei derbyn, ystyriwn fod hynny'n gamgymeriad mawr. Yn y Cynulliad, mae gennym ddyletswydd o gynaliadwyedd, sy'n ymestyn i bob rhan o Gymru.

4.30 p.m.

My colleague, Brynle Williams, was right to remind the Labour Party that there is a rural part to Wales. I would go further, and emphasise the point that social justice does not end at the Heads of the Valleys and that, all too often, because there are fewer of us, we are neglected. Labour Party Members, like it or not, that is where you stand at the moment. The slashing of this budget is simply a reflection of your attitude and disdain for the people of rural Wales. That question has been answered by you all in your groans. How will removing £12 million of support from the rural economy enhance its sustainability? No-one seems to have the courage to answer that question.

I will end by looking at the legacy that this offers us. We are all concerned to ensure that there is a sustainable and viable future for the hill farms of Wales and I am certain that we wish to see the continuation of agri-environment schemes. There has been considerable discussion among environmental groups and farmers' unions as to the future of Tir Mynydd. I think that Elin was quite right, that when the Minister removed the enhancements, he made a massive mistake, because the enhancements to the original Tir Mynydd scheme were a move in the right direction, to encourage certain types of behaviour with the support moneys received by individual farms. There is no question that the future of support moneys lies in agri-environment schemes, whether those schemes are heavily targeted like the Tir Gofal scheme, which we all praise, or are like the Tir Cynnal scheme, which, as Brynle Williams pointed out, is rather top-heavy on the bureaucracy side and red tape, although it does have an agri-environment base. I think that all responsible politicians need to take account of what is happening in Europe. When we, hopefully, sit down in the next Assembly, I believe that we will be brave and mature enough to say that Tir Mynydd will move towards being an agri-environment scheme. That will be achieved by working on the enhancements, which will prove that we can put support in the hills, retain a sustainable industry and all

Yr oedd fy nghyd-Aelod, Brynle Williams, yn gywir i atgoffa'r Blaid Lafur fod gan Gymru ardal wledig. Byddwn yn mynd ymhellach, ac yn pwysleisio'r pwynt nad yw cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn gorffen ym Mlaenau'r Cymoedd a'n bod, yn rhy aml o lawer, am fod llai ohonom, yn cael ein hesgeuluso. Aelodau'r Blaid Lafur, p'un a ydych yn ei hoffi ai peidio, dyna yw eich sefyllfa ar hyn o bryd. Nid yw cwtdogi'r gyllideb hon ond yn adlewyrchu'r ffordd yr ydych yn trin ac yn diystyru pobl Cymru wledig. Atebwyd y cwestiwn hwnnw gennych i gyd yn eich ochneidio. Sut y bydd dileu £12 miliwn o gymorth o'r economi wledig yn gwella'i chynaliadwyedd? Ymddengys nad oes neb yn ddigon dewr i ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw.

Gorffennaf drwy ystyried y canlyniadau hyn inni. Yr ydym i gyd am sicrhau bod gan ffermydd mynydd Cymru ddyfodol cynaliadwy a dichonadwy, ac yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod am weld cynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol yn parhau. Bu cryn drafod ymysg grwpiau amgylcheddol ac undebau ffermwyr ynghylch dyfodol Tir Mynydd. Credaf fod Elin yn llygad ei lle fod y Gweinidog, pan gafodd wared ar y taliadau ychwanegol, wedi gwneud camgymeriad enfawr, oherwydd yr oedd y taliadau ychwanegol at gynllun gwreiddiol Tir Mynydd yn gam i'r cyfeiriad cywir, i annog mathau penodol o ymddygiad gyda'r arian cymorth a gâi ffermydd unigol. Yn ddi-os, cynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol yw dyfodol arian cymorth, p'un a gaiff y cynlluniau hynny eu targedu'n benodol fel cynllun Tir Gofal yr ydym i gyd yn ei ganmol, neu fel cynllun Tir Cynnal, sydd, fel y dywedodd Brynle Williams, braidd yn bendrwm o ran biwrocratiaeth, er bod iddo sylfaen amaeth-amgylcheddol. Credaf fod angen i bob gwleidydd cyfrifol ystyried yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn Ewrop. Pan fyddwn, gobeithio, yn eistedd i lawr yn y Cynulliad nesaf, credaf y byddwn yn ddigon dewr ac aeddfed i ddweud y bydd Tir Mynydd yn symud at fod yn gynllun amaeth-amgylcheddol. Gwneir hynny drwy weithio ar y taliadau ychwanegol, a fydd yn profi y gallwn gefnogi ffermydd mynydd, cadw diwydiant cynaliadwy a dod i sylweddoli mai

come to realise that the future, through the rural development plan, is one of agri-environment schemes.

John Marek: I propose amendment 1 in my name and the name of Trish Law. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

notes that no non-agricultural budget is affected by the reprioritisation proposal.

I have three points to make. The first point echoes what Mick Bates has just said, that I do not think that any of us want to keep Tir Mynydd in its current form, as a system for maintaining production, for a moment longer than we need to. We need to move over to an environmental scheme, where benefits are accrued by farmers as a result of sustainability and environmental improvements. My argument with opposing this motion—I will support the motion and the amendment—is that if we do not pass it today, I fear that a number of upland hill farmers will go out of business. They will go bankrupt or they will simply not be able to carry on. That would lead, of course, to problems about what to do with hill farms and the land—Brynle Williams exemplified that problem in his remarks. I am not against a sustainable programme and changes to Tir Mynydd; however, the changes have to be made after proper notice has been given and there has been proper agreement. As I heard a little while ago, it is of no use to publish tables in February and then expect everyone to abide by what is in them. I am not happy about this and I wish to see that delay. We can certainly tell the European Union that we want to move in the direction of environmental enhancements to the scheme, and I hope that the next Government will be able to do so—it seems to be perfectly feasible, on that basis, to carry this motion today.

My second point concerns the business of what I would call gerrymandering. The Labour Party entered into negotiations and it was agreed that this money would be put back into Tir Mynydd, and that there would not be any large changes, without

cynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol yw'r dyfodol, drwy'r cynllun datblygu gwledig.

John Marek: Cynigiau welliant 1 yn fy enw i ac enw Trish Law. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn nodi nad effeithir ar unrhyw gyllideb heblaw amaethyddiaeth gan y cynnig i ail-flaenoriaethu.

Hoffwn wneud tri phwynt. Mae'r pwynt cyntaf yn ategu'r hyn y mae Mick Bates newydd ei ddweud, sef nad wyf yn credu bod yr un ohonom am i Tir Mynydd barhau fel y mae ar hyn o bryd, sef system o gynnal cynhyrchiant, am eiliad yn fwy nag sydd yn rhaid. Mae angen inni newid i gynllun amgylcheddol, lle y caiff buddiannau eu cronni gan ffermwyr o ganlyniad i gynaliadwyedd a gwelliannau amgylcheddol. Fy nadl yn erbyn gwrthwynebu'r cynnig hwn—byddaf yn cefnogi'r cynnig a'r gwelliant—yw hyn: os na dderbyniwn ef heddiw, ofnaf y bydd nifer o ffermwyr mynydd yn gorfod rhoi'r gorau iddi. Byddant yn mynd yn fethdalwyr neu'n methu parhau. Byddai hynny, wrth gwrs, yn arwain at broblemau o ran beth i'w wneud â ffermydd mynydd a'r tir—cyfeiriodd Brynle Williams at y broblem honno yn ei sylwadau. Nid wyf yn gwrthwynebu rhaglen gynaliadwy a newidiadau i Tir Mynydd; fodd bynnag, rhaid i'r newidiadau gael eu gwneud ar ôl rhoi rhybudd priodol a chael cytundeb priodol. Fel y clywais beth amser yn ôl, nid oes diben cyhoeddi tablau ym mis Chwefror ac yna ddisgwyl i bawb gadw at yr hyn sydd ynddynt. Nid wyf yn hapus am hyn, a hoffwn weld yr oedi hwnnw. Yn sicr, gallwn ddweud wrth yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ein bod am symud i gyfeiriad cyflwyno taliadau ychwanegol amgylcheddol yn y cynllun, a gobeithio y bydd y Llywodraeth nesaf yn gallu gwneud hynny—ymddengys ei bod yn gwbl ymarferol, ar y sail honno, i dderbyn y cynnig hwn heddiw.

Mae fy ail bwynt yn ymwneud â'r hyn y byddwn yn ei alw'n gyffindwyllo. Cymerodd y Blaid Lafur ran mewn trafodaethau a chytunwyd y byddai'r arian hwn yn cael ei roi yn ôl i Tir Mynydd, ac na fyddai unrhyw newidiadau mawr, heb rybudd ymlaen llaw,

forewarning, to the agricultural budget this year. Yet, here it is, at the last moment. The committee report says, 'Look at this and pass it; it was debated in committee and agreed by a majority that we should pass it'. However, the Labour Party is going to try to vary it. The last time that I remember the Labour Party doing that was some time ago, when Michael Foot was Lord President of the Council in 1979. He received a report from the boundary commission, which he did not like, and he advised all his Labour MPs to vote against it. He failed, of course, and got into a sticky mess and there were 18 years of Conservative rule as a result of that. [Interruption.] I thought that some Members would like that. What happens in Westminster is not the same as what happens here in the Assembly. However, the principle is the same; it is gerrymandering. You set up a committee or a commission, and then you do not like what it says, and you say, 'Oh dear, we didn't account for that; we'd better see whether we can scupper it'. That is what the Labour Party is trying to do today.

Finally, on the substance of the amendment, it seeks to make clear that, if we pass this motion today, as I hope that we will, nothing will be taken from any other part of the budget. It is basically an anti-spin motion for the Labour Party to take note that it is not going to be able to spin it somehow or other and say that the opposition parties have got together and that it is not going to be able to put money into hospices or repair roads, or that it is going to have to close more schools than necessary. That is not what this motion is going to produce, and the amendment is there to make that clear to the people of Wales. I recommend that we pass the amendment and the motion.

David Davies: This will be the last time that I speak in the Chamber, which may give as much pleasure to some of my colleagues as it does to Members of the opposition. I am delighted to be speaking about agricultural matters, which are close to my heart, as is supporting rural communities. Before I do so, I wish to pay tribute to the Presiding Officer, who has been truly excellent for the National

yn y gyllideb amaethyddol eleni. Eto, dyma fe, ar y funud olaf. Mae adroddiad y pwyllgor yn dweud y dylid edrych arno a'i dderbyn gan fod mwyafrif wedi cytuno y dylid ei dderbyn ar ôl ei drafod yn y pwyllgor. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Blaid Lafur yn mynd i geisio'i amrywio. Y tro diwethaf y cofiaf i'r Blaid Lafur wneud hynny oedd ychydig amser yn ôl, pan yr oedd Michael Foot yn Arglwydd Lywydd y Cyngor yn 1979. Cawsai adroddiad gan y comisiwn ffiniau nad oedd yn ei hoffi, a chynghorodd ei holl ASau Llafur i bleidleisio yn ei erbyn. Methodd, wrth gwrs, gan fynd i drafferthion a bu 18 mlynedd o lywodraeth Geidwadol o ganlyniad i hynny. [Torri ar draws.] Yr oeddwn yn meddwl y byddai rhai Aelodau'n hoffi hynny. Nid yw'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn San Steffan yr un fath â'r hyn sy'n digwydd yma yn y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, yr un yw'r egwyddor; cyffindwylo ydyw. Yr ydych yn sefydlu pwyllgor neu gomisiwn, ac yna nid ydych yn hoffi'r hyn y mae'n ei ddweud, a dywedwch, 'O wel, ni wnaethom gyfrif am hynny; mae'n well inni weld a allwn ei drechu'. Dyna y mae'r Blaid Lafur yn ceisio'i wneud heddiw.

Yn olaf, o ran sylwedd y gwelliant, mae'n ceisio'i gwneud yn glir, os derbyniwn y cynnig hwn heddiw, fel y gobeithiaf y gwnawn, na chaiff dim ei gymryd o unrhyw ran arall o'r gyllideb. Yn ei hanfod, cynnig gwrth-sbin ydyw er mwyn i'r Blaid Lafur nodi na fydd yn gallu rhoi sbin arno rywffordd neu'i gilydd a dweud bod y gwrthbleidiau wedi dod ynghyd ac na fydd yn gallu buddsoddi arian mewn hosbisau neu i atgyweirio ffyrdd, neu ei bod yn mynd i orfod cau mwy o ysgolion nag y mae ei angen. Nid dyna y bydd y cynnig hwn yn ei gynhyrchu, ac mae'r gwelliant yn bodoli i sicrhau bod pobl Cymru'n deall hynny. Argymhellaf y dylem dderbyn y gwelliant a'r cynnig.

David Davies: Dyma'r tro olaf y byddaf yn siarad yn y Siambr, a gall hynny roi cymaint o bleser i rai o'm cyd-Aelodau ag i Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau. Yr wyf yn falch iawn o gael siarad am faterion amaethyddol, sy'n bwysig iawn imi, fel y mae cefnogi cymunedau gwledig. Cyn imi wneud hynny, hoffwn roi teyrnged i'r Llywydd, sydd wedi bod yn wirioneddol wych i'r Cynulliad

Assembly—and I say that as someone who opposed it. He has given this place a sense of dignity and decorum that some of us would rather it did not have. He is a man who has succeeded in politics and his career will not have been a political failure, unlike the careers of many of the rest of us. I have enjoyed the robust debate that has taken place inside and outside the Chamber, with Members from all sides. If you go into politics, you should be willing and able to express your opinions, and I have enjoyed listening to Carl Sargeant and Leanne Wood, in particular, and many others, with whom I sometimes feel I have more in common than they probably realise, or would wish.

We have an opportunity today to do something for people in Wales. Whatever my views on the Assembly, I believe that we should make the most of our time here and we should be willing to do things and to use the powers that we have to the best of our ability. We have the power and the opportunity today to do something for some of the most hard-pressed people in Wales, namely rural hill farmers. Some of the things that have happened over the past few years, such as the foot and mouth disease outbreak, were disasters that could not have been prevented, but other things that have hit rural communities could possibly have been prevented. All sorts of formulae to give money to local authorities take little account of rurality, and formulae are used to calculate deprivation that do not take proper account of average incomes, but rather consider how many people are on benefits. We know that many rural farmers earn a lot less than they would if they sold their farms and claimed benefits—not that I am suggesting for one minute that they should do so.

I believe that most Members became candidates because they have the best interests of their constituents at heart—I say that to every Member of every party; I leave here today with no bad feelings about any of them. I ask Members to reconsider this motion before us, which is not going to remove any money from any other environmental or agricultural budget and

Cenedlaethol—a dywedaf hynny fel rhywun a oedd yn gwrthwynebu'r syniad. Mae wedi rhoi ymdeimlad o urddas a gwedduster i'r lle y byddai'n well gan rai ohonom iddo fod hebddynt. Mae'n ddyn sydd wedi llwyddo ym myd gwleidyddiaeth ac ni fydd ei yrfa wedi bod yn fethiant gwleidyddol, yn wahanol i yrfaeodd nifer ohonom. Yr wyf wedi mwynhau'r dadlau brwd a fu y tu mewn i'r Siambr a'r tu allan iddi, gydag Aelodau o bob ochr. Os camwch i fyd gwleidyddiaeth, dylech fod yn barod ac yn alluog i fynegi barn, ac yr wyf wedi mwynhau gwrando ar Carl Sargeant a Leanne Wood, yn arbennig, a llawer un arall. Weithiau yr wyf yn teimlo bod gennyf fwy yn gyffredin â hwy nag y maent yn ei sylweddoli, hwyrach, neu y byddent yn dymuno'i sylweddoli.

Mae gennym gyfle heddiw i wneud rhywbeth i bobl Cymru. Pa farn bynnag sydd gennyf am y Cynulliad, credaf y dylem wneud y mwyaf o'n hamser yma ac y dylem fod yn barod i wneud pethau ac i ddefnyddio'r pwerau sydd gennym hyd eithaf ein gallu. Heddiw, mae gennym y pŵer a'r cyfle i wneud rhywbeth i rai o'r bobl sydd o dan y pwysau mwyaf yng Nghymru, sef ffermwyr mynydd. Yr oedd rhai o'r pethau sydd wedi digwydd dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, megis argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau, yn drychinebau na ellid bod wedi eu hatal. Ond gellid bod wedi atal pethau eraill sydd wedi taro cymunedau gwledig o bosibl. Prin y mae pob math o fformiwla i roi arian i awdurdodau lleol yn ystyried gwledigrwydd, a defnyddir fformiwlâu i gyfrifo amddifadedd nad ydynt yn ystyried incwm cyfartalog yn briodol, ond yn hytrach yn ystyried faint o bobl sy'n cael budd-daliadau. Gwyddom fod nifer o ffermwyr gwledig yn ennill llawer iawn llai nag y byddent yn ei ennill pe byddent yn gwerthu eu ffermydd ac yn hawlio budd-daliadau—er nad wyf yn awgrymu am eiliad y dylent wneud hynny.

Credaf fod y rhan fwyaf o Aelodau wedi bod yn ymgeiswyr am fod lles eu hetholwyr yn hollbwysig iddynt—dywedaf hynny wrth bob Aelod o bob plaid; gadawaf yma heddiw heb deimladau drwg o gwbl am yr un ohonynt. Gofynnaf i'r Aelodau ailystyried y cynnig hwn ger ein bron, nad yw'n mynd i ddileu unrhyw arian o unrhyw gyllideb amgylcheddol neu amaethyddol arall, ac a

which could make a real difference to a very hard-pressed community. I ask Labour Members to reconsider their opposition to it.

Bu'n bleser gweithio gyda phob Aelod o bob plaid. Credaf ei bod yn bwysig fod Aelodau Seneddol yn gallu gweithio gydag Aelodau'r Cynulliad o bob plaid i sicrhau dyfodol llewyrchus i Gymru. Diolch yn fawr. [*Cymeradwyaeth.*]

Kirsty Williams: I do not think that most of the people in my constituency, the majority of which qualifies for Tir Mynydd because of the nature of Brecon and Radnorshire, really care about how we reached this situation, but they are hugely concerned that we find some way, collectively, to get ourselves out of it, and do what we can to prioritise the agricultural budget in a way that will benefit the majority of those farming in upland areas.

4.40 p.m.

A few weeks ago, I asked the First Minister about his stance on this topic, and he demonstrated an astounding lack of understanding of how upland hill farming works. I know how it works, because I see it daily—I see it at home, with my neighbours, with my relatives and with my constituents. The maintenance of upland farms is a crucial part of creating a vibrant, living rural economy and rural communities. It is also hugely important to the maintenance of the environment in those areas. To say that it is not an environmental scheme is simply untrue. We have heard that the Minister could have made it into more of an environmental scheme, but that he chose not to do so. The potential de-stocking of upland farms will have a huge effect on upland flora and fauna, as we have already seen in the Brecon Beacons following the de-stocking as a result of the foot and mouth disease outbreak. There are fewer sheep on the Brecon Beacons and there have already been huge changes in how the Brecon Beacons look and in their flora and fauna, and not for the good. Ask the representatives of the Brecon Beacons National Park: they will tell you that they have not been changes for the good.

allai wneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i gymuned sydd o dan bwysau mawr. Gofynnaf i'r Aelodau Llafur ailystyried eu gwrthwynebiad iddo.

It has been a pleasure to work with every Member from every party. I think it is important that Members of Parliament can work with Assembly Members from every party to ensure a prosperous future for Wales. Thank you very much. [*Applause.*]

Kirsty Williams: Ni chredaf fod y rhan fwyaf o'r bobl yn fy etholaeth—ac mae'r rhan fwyaf ohoni'n gymwys ar gyfer Tir Mynydd oherwydd natur Brycheiniog a sir Faesyfed—yn poeni yn wir sut y daethom i'r sefyllfa hon, ond mae cael rhyw ffordd o'i hunioni, gyda'n gilydd, a gwneud yr hyn a allwn i flaenoriaethu'r gyllideb amaethyddol mewn ffordd a fydd o les y mwyafrif sy'n ffermio tir mynydd, yn bwysig iawn iddynt.

Ychydig wythnosau'n ôl, gofynnais i'r Prif Weinidog am ei farn am y pwnc hwn, a dangosodd ddiffyg dealltwriaeth rhyfeddol o'r ffordd mae ffermio mynydd yn gweithio. Gwn i sut mae'n gweithio, oherwydd fe'i gwelaf bob dydd—fe'i gwelaf gartref, gyda'm cymdogion, gyda'm perthnasau a chyda'm hetholwyr. Mae cynnal ffermydd mynydd yn rhan hanfodol o greu economi wledig a chymunedau gwledig bywiog. Mae hefyd yn hollbwysig er mwyn cynnal yr amgylchedd yn yr ardaloedd hynny. Mae dweud nad yw'n gynllun amgylcheddol yn anghywir. Yr ydym wedi clywed y gallai'r Gweinidog fod wedi ei wneud yn fwy o gynllun amaethyddol, ond dewisodd beidio â gwneud hynny. Bydd posibilrwydd dadstocio ffermydd mynydd yn cael effaith enfawr ar blanhigion ac anifeiliaid mynydd, fel y gwelwyd eisoes ar Fannau Brycheiniog yn dilyn y dadstocio a ddilynodd argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau. Mae llai o ddefaid ar Fannau Brycheiniog, a bu newidiadau enfawr eisoes yn y ffordd mae'r Bannau'n edrych ac o ran y planhigion a'r anifeiliaid sydd yno, ac nid er gwell. Gofynnwch i gynrychiolwyr Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog: dywedant wrthyhych na ydynt wedi bod yn newidiadau da.

Maintenance of the uplands is also hugely important to the maintenance of waterways. Inappropriate management of the uplands can lead to water problems further down, in lowland areas. It is also hugely important for tourism in our area, on which so many non-farming rural industries are dependent. I know that many Labour Members spend a great deal of their time in my constituency, walking in the Beacons and on the Black mountains. They will not look the same if they are de-stocked and if upland farms go.

It will also harm the environment in other ways. Not every farm qualifies for Tir Gofal, but neither does every farmer depend on Tir Gofal to make environmental improvements to his or her farm. Take for instance the issue of hedging, which is one of the key aspects of the Tir Gofal scheme. Money is given to farmers to pay for their hedges to be pleached. It costs approximately £5 a metre to pleach a hedge, and farmers get that under Tir Gofal. Farmers who are not in Tir Gofal, however, also pleach their hedges, and fence them either side to ensure a job well done. By taking income out of upland farms and only prioritising for those that participate in Tir Gofal will mean less money for non-participating farmers to carry out their environmental works. It is cheaper to grub up a hedge than it is to pleach it. By reducing income in these highly vulnerable businesses, you are actually undermining the efforts of those farmers who want to take environmental benefits forward on their farms without being given the money to do so under Tir Gofal. It is false economy, and it is so short-sighted as to be unbelievable. You will rue this day, when the environment has been spoiled and when we have to spend public money to employ wardens or, God forbid, countryside rangers to put the countryside and the landscape back to how it is at present.

I disagree with Mick Bates's remark that the Minister is weak and incompetent; I do not believe that for a minute. The Minister is, however, ambitious and clever. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Oh.'] He also finds himself in

Mae cynnal yr ucheldir hefyd yn hollbwysig er mwyn cynnal dyfrffyrdd. Gall rheoli'r ucheldir mewn ffordd amhriodol achosi problemau dŵr ymhellach i lawr, yn yr iseldir. Mae hefyd yn hollbwysig i dwristiaeth yn ein hardal gan fod cynifer o ddiwydiannau gwledig heblaw ffermio yn ddibynnol arni. Gwn fod nifer o Aelodau Llafur yn treulio llawer iawn o'u hamser yn fy etholaeth, yn cerdded ar hyd y Bannau ac ar y Mynydd Du. Ni fyddant yn edrych yr un fath os cânt eu dadstocio ac os bydd ffermydd mynydd yn diflannu.

Bydd hefyd yn niweidio'r amgylchedd mewn ffyrdd eraill. Nid yw pob fferm yn gymwys ar gyfer Tir Gofal, ond nid yw pob ffermwr ychwaith yn dibynnu ar Tir Gofal i wneud gwelliannau amgylcheddol ar ei fferm. Meddylwch am blannu gwrychoedd, er enghraifft, sy'n un o'r agweddau allweddol ar y cynllun Tir Gofal. Rhoddir arian i ffermwyr i dalu am blethu eu gwrychoedd. Mae'n costio tua £5 y metr i blethu gwrych, a chaiff ffermwyr hynny o dan Tir Gofal. Fodd bynnag, mae ffermwyr nad ydynt yn rhan o Tir Gofal hefyd yn plethu eu gwrychoedd, ac yn codi ffens o bobtu er mwyn sicrhau bod yr hyn a wneir yn dda. Drwy gymryd incwm oddi wrth ffermydd mynydd a ond blaenoriaethu dim ond ar gyfer y rheini sy'n rhan o Tir Gofal, bydd yn golygu bod llai o arian ar gael i ffermwyr nad ydynt yn rhan ohono i wneud eu gwaith amgylcheddol. Mae'n rhatach diwreiddio gwrych nag ydyw i'w blethu. Drwy ostwng incwm yn y busnesau bregus iawn hyn, yr ydych mewn gwirionedd yn tansilio ymdrechion y ffermwyr hynny sydd am sicrhau manteision amgylcheddol ar eu ffermydd heb gael yr arian i wneud hynny o dan Tir Gofal. Mae'n economi ffug, ac mae mor gibddall fel ei bod yn anghredadwy. Bydd yn edifar gennyh am y diwrnod hwn, pan fyd yr amgylchedd wedi ei ddifetha a phan fydd yn rhaid inni wario arian cyhoeddus i gyflogi wardeniaid neu, Duw a'n gwaredo, geidwaid cefn gwlad i adfer cefn gwlad a'r dirwedd i'w golwg bresennol.

Anghytunaf â sylw Mick Bates fod y Gweinidog yn wan ac yn anghymwys; nid wyf yn credu hynny am funud. Mae'r Gweinidog, fodd bynnag, yn uchegeisiol ac yn alluog. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD:

the unenviable position of being Minister with responsibility for agriculture in a Labour Welsh Assembly Government. While Andrew Davies hovers up the trade union vote in anticipation of Rhodri's departure, Carwyn has to do something to catch up. I argue that in cutting this money and in acting in this way, the Minister seeks to counteract Andrew's trade union vote by currying favour with his backbenches. What is an ambitious young man to do?

The Presiding Officer: Order. I thought that this debate was about Tir Mynydd.

Kirsty Williams: Today, we have an opportunity to support the committee in its recommendations. It is the last time that the committee, as currently constituted, will be able to do this type of work, and I trust that Members will support its recommendations.

Glyn Davies: We have had some enjoyable speeches during this debate, particularly the last speech. Tir Mynydd is a grant that is universally available to upland farmers, so it is superfluous for me to declare an interest, although I would feel more comfortable in declaring that I am a partner in a farming business which is a recipient of Tir Mynydd funding.

It has been a difficult issue for me from two perspectives—as Chair of the committee and as someone who is committed to reform of the common agriculture policy. The difficulties arise from the fact that it has been a narrow budget issue to look at. To arrive at my perspective on this issue, I have had to look at it rather more widely than we are currently doing.

For half a century and more, agriculture has been financially supported for certain objectives: the security of cheap food has probably been the main objective, and compensation for farming in inhospitable upland conditions has been another objective. Over the last 20 years, public opinion and the objectives of Government policy have changed in favour of promoting biodiversity and a system of farming that is generally in sympathy with the environment. I accept that the grant scheme that we use to support

‘O.’] Mae hefyd yn y sefyllfa annymunol o fod yn Weinidog sy'n gyfrifol am amaethyddiaeth yn Llywodraeth Lafur Cynulliad Cymru. Tra mae Andrew Davies yn sicrhau pleidlais yr undebau llafur wrth ddisgwyl ymadawiad Rhodri, rhaid i Carwyn wneud rhywbeth i gael cefnogaeth. Dadleuaf fod y Gweinidog, wrth gwtogi'r arian hwn a gweithredu fel hyn, yn ceisio gwrthweithio pleidlais undebau llafur Andrew drwy gael cefnogaeth ei feinciau cefn. Beth y gall dyn ifanc uchelgeisiol ei wneud?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr oeddwn yn credu mai Tir Mynydd oedd testun y ddadl hon.

Kirsty Williams: Heddiw, cawn gyfle i gefnogi'r pwyllgor a'i argymhellion. Dyma'r tro olaf y bydd y pwyllgor, fel y mae ar hyn o bryd, yn gallu gwneud y math hwn o waith, a hyderaf y bydd yr Aelodau'n cefnogi ei argymhellion.

Glyn Davies: Cawsom rai areithiau pleserus yn ystod y ddadl hon, yn arbennig yr araith olaf. Mae Tir Mynydd yn grant sydd ar gael yn gyffredinol i ffermwyr mynydd, felly, nid oes angen imi ddatgan buddiant, er y byddwn yn teimlo'n fwy cyfforddus o ddatgan fy mod yn bartner mewn busnes ffermio sy'n cael arian Tir Mynydd.

Bu'n fater anodd imi o ddau safbwynt—fel Cadeirydd y pwyllgor ac fel rhywun sydd wedi ymrwymo i ddiwygio'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredinol. Mae'r anawsterau'n codi o'r ffaith iddo fod yn fater cyllideb cul i'w ystyried. I lunio barn ar y mater hwn, yr wyf wedi gorfod edrych arno'n fwy eang nag yr ydym ni ar hyn o bryd.

Ers hanner canrif a mwy, mae amaethyddiaeth wedi cael cymorth ariannol at ddibenion penodol: sicrwydd cael bwyd rhad oed y prif amcan, mae'n debyg, ac yr oedd iawndal am ffermio o dan amodau anodd ar yr ucheldir yn amcan arall. Dros yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf mae barn y cyhoedd ac amcanion polisi'r Llywodraeth wedi newid o blaid hyrwyddo bioamrywiaeth a system ffermio sy'n ystyriol o'r amgylchedd yn gyffredinol. Derbyniaf fod yn rhaid newid y cynllun grant a ddefnyddiwn i gefnogi

upland farming must be amended to reflect that change, and other speakers before me have made reference to that.

It seems that we can move in the general direction that we want to go in two ways in terms of Tir Mynydd. We can take the Minister's way—and he will correct me if I am wrong—which has been to take money out of the Tir Mynydd budget, the universal scheme to which all farmers must subscribe and have access to, and transfer the funding into competitive schemes such as Tir Cynnal and Tir Gofal. There is nothing like enough money available to enable everyone to have access to these schemes, so there will always be an element of robbing Peter to pay Paul. We decide where to put the money on a first-come-first-served basis, so it does not achieve the environmental benefit that we want to see.

My preferred strategy is to retain a universal grant scheme and to place conditions on that system that require benefits to the environment. It would change Tir Mynydd into a scheme that provides the public good that Government and European policy now require. I think that that is the right way to go, but because of the narrowness of the financial issue that we have looked at, we have not been able to deal with the complete debate; we have just had to deal with the specific budget.

In order to come to a view, I have had to take into account what I see as the wider debate. Irrespective of what we decide today, the new Minister and Government that will come into office after 4 May must engage with the European Union and agree on a rural development plan with the European Union. That will be difficult. We know the view of the European Union on this issue, and the Minister has told us what he thinks after being involved in discussions, but the rest of us have not been involved in those discussions. We will have to look at the Tir Mynydd scheme to see how we can change it to make it acceptable as part of the rural development plan. I am certain in my own mind that we will be able to achieve that.

We have heard some good speeches on this today, and I hope that Plenary will support

ffermio mynydd i adlewyrchu'r newid hwnnw, a chyfeiriodd siaradwyr eraill o'm blaen at hynny.

Mae'n ymddangos y gallwn symud i'r cyfeiriad cyffredinol y dymunwn fynd iddo mewn dwy ffordd o ran Tir Mynydd. Gallwn ddilyn trywydd y Gweinidog—a bydd yn fy nghywiro os wyf yn anghywir—sef cymryd arian o gyllideb Tir Mynydd, y cynllun cyffredinol y mae'n rhaid i bob ffermwr gofrestru ynddo a gallu ei ddefnyddio, a throsglwyddo'r arian i gynlluniau cystadleuol megis Tir Cynnal a Thir Gofal. Nid oes hanner digon o arian ar gael er mwyn i bawb allu defnyddio'r cynlluniau hyn, felly, bydd yna elfen bob amser o werthu'r fuwch i brynu'r tarw. Penderfynwn i bwy i roi'r arian ar sail y cyntaf i'r felin. Felly, nid yw'n darparu'r budd amgylcheddol y dymunwn ei weld.

Fy newis i o strategaeth yw cadw cynllun grant cyffredinol a gosod amodau ar y system honno sy'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol sicrhau lles i'r amgylchedd. Byddai'n newid Tir Mynydd i fod yn gynllun sydd o fudd i'r cyhoedd fel sy'n ofynnol gan bolisi'r Llywodraeth ac Ewrop bellach. Credaf mai dyna'r trywydd cywir i'w ddilyn, ond oherwydd culni'r mater ariannol y buom yn edrych arno, nid ydym wedi gallu ymdrin â'r ddadl gyfan; bu'n rhaid inni ymdrin â'r gyllideb benodol yn unig.

Er mwyn llunio barn ar y mater, bu'n rhaid imi ystyried yr hyn a welaf fel y ddadl ehangach. Waeth beth a benderfynwn heddiw, rhaid i'r Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth newydd a ddaw i rym ar ôl 4 Mai ymgysylltu â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd a chytuno ar gynllun datblygu gwledig gyda'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Bydd hynny'n anodd. Gwyddom farn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd am y mater hwn, ac mae'r Gweinidog wedi mynegi ei farn wrthym ar ôl bod yn rhan o'r trafodaethau. Ond ni fu'r gweddill ohonom yn rhan o'r trafodaethau hynny. Bydd yn rhaid inni edrych ar y cynllun Tir Mynydd i weld sut y gallwn ei newid i'w wneud yn dderbyniol fel rhan o'r cynllun datblygu gwledig. Yr wyf yn sicr y gallwn gyflawni hynny.

Clywsom rai areithiau da ar y pwnc heddiw, a gobeithio y bydd y Cyfarfod Llawn yn

the position that the committee has taken. It will be a great disappointment to me if we do not. I hope that we turn the budget that was available to the universal scheme, which includes the whole of Welsh farming, into a benefit for the environment, retaining people on the hills of Wales, and not transferring the money into narrower schemes that will have only dotted-about improvements that will not maximise the benefit to the environment in Wales that we wish to see.

4.50 p.m.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Diolch am y cyfle i gyfrannu at y drafodaeth hon. Mae sawl Aelod wedi egluro pam y dylid cadw cyllideb Tir Mynydd o dan yr amodau sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn llythyr Glyn Davies, Cadeirydd y pwyllgor, sydd bellach yn rhan o gynneg y Cynulliad. Nid wyf am fynd ar drywydd rhinweddau'r ddadl ond mae'n bwysig ein bod yn ystyried y broses sydd wedi ein harwain at y pwynt hwn heddiw. Mae sawl Aelod wedi gwneud yr achos yn glir pam y dylid adfer arian ar gyfer Tir Mynydd yn unol â'r cais a wnaed yn llythyr y Cadeirydd. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai pawb sydd yma heddiw—pawb sy'n cytuno â'r cynneg, hynny yw—yn dymuno imi ddiolch i Elin Jones yn arbennig am ei gwaith caled wrth sicrhau bod y pwyllgor, yn y lle cyntaf, yn derbyn y cynneg a bod y mater yn cael ei drafod yma heddiw. Nid wyf yn derbyn beirniadaeth Mick Bates. Gŵyr ef yn iawn fod yr hyn sydd gerbron y Cynulliad heddiw yn gyfundeb rhwng arweinwyr y tair gwrthblaid a'r Prif Weinidog yn dilyn cyfarfod am y gyllideb. Mae llythyr y Prif Weinidog ataf i ar 23 Rhagfyr 2006 yn gwneud hynny'n glir. Talaf deyrnged i'r Prif Weinidog ac i'r Gweinidog, nid am eu bod am gefnogi'r cynneg heddiw—mae'n debyg na wnânt mo hynny—ond am anrhydeddu'r cytundeb a wnaed, ac am roi cyfle i'r Cynulliad drafod y cynneg hwn.

Rhaid cofio mai gwelliant i gyllideb y flwyddyn nesaf sydd wedi arwain at yr holl drafodaeth yn y pwyllgor ac yn y Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw. Er hynny, pan ddechreuwyd ar ein trafodaethau ar y mater hwn fel rhan o drafodaethau'r gyllideb, yr oedd y Llywodraeth yn awyddus inni ddeall y byddai'n anodd cael y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd

cefnogi safbwynt y pwyllgor. Bydd yn siom fawr imi os na wnawn. Gobeithio y gallwn droi'r gyllideb a oedd ar gael i'r cynllun cyffredinol, ac sy'n cynnwys ffermio yng Nghymru yn ei gyfanrwydd, yn fudd i'r amgylchedd, gan gadw pobl ar fryniau Cymru yn hytrach na throsglwyddo arian i'r cynlluniau culach na fyddant yn arwain ond at welliannau yma a thraw na fyddant yn sicrhau'r budd mwyaf i'r amgylchedd yng Nghymru y dymunwn ei weld.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this debate. A number of Members have explained why the Tir Mynydd budget should be retained under the conditions set out in the letter by Glyn Davies, the committee Chair, which now forms part of the Assembly motion. I will not go into the merits of the argument, but it is important that we consider the process that has led us to this point today. A number of Members have clearly made the case for restoring the Tir Mynydd budget, in line with the letter by the Chair. I am sure that everyone present today—who agree with the motion, that is—would want to join me in thanking Elin Jones, especially, for her hard work in ensuring that the committee, initially, accepted the proposal and that it came for discussion here today. I do not accept Mick Bates's criticisms. He knows well that what we have before the Assembly today is the result of agreement between the three opposition leaders and the First Minister following a meeting to discuss the budget. The First Minister's letter to me, dated 23 December 2006, makes that clear. I pay tribute to the First Minister and to the Minister, not for supporting the motion today—they probably will not do that—but for honouring the agreement reached, and for giving the Assembly the opportunity to discuss this motion.

We must remember that the debate in committee and in today's Plenary have come about because of an amendment to next year's budget. However, when discussions began on this matter, as part of the budget negotiations, the Government was keen for us to understand that it would be difficult to get the European Commission to agree to

i gytuno i adfer arian Tir Mynydd ar ôl 2007 gan na fyddai'r comisiwn yn derbyn hynny fel rhan o'r cynllun datblygu gwledig, a hynny gan fod Llys Archwilwyr Ewrop wedi paratoi adroddiad negyddol ynglŷn â'r math hwn o daliadau. Ar ôl darllen yr adroddiad hwnnw, daeth yn amlwg i ni nad oedd y llys archwilwyr yn sôn yn benodol am Tir Mynydd. Cyfeiriodd at y ffaith y byddai'n rhaid i'r comisiwn ystyried y diffiniad o dir llai ffafriol ar ryw adeg, ond nid yw hynny'n debygol o ddigwydd tan ar ôl 2010. Yn hytrach na gadael y mater, euthum draw i siarad â swyddogion y comisiwn. Daeth yn glir i mi yn ystod y trafodaethau hynny y byddent yn hapus i weld taliadau Tir Mynydd yn parhau fwy neu lai ar yr un cynllun tan 2010 ac wedyn y byddai'n rhaid ailystyried y cynllun yn sgil y diffiniad newydd a allai ddod o dir llai ffafriol. Nid oedd y comisiwn yn ystyried hynny'n broblem am fod Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig yn Lloegr ac adran amaethyddiaeth Gweithrediaeth yr Alban yn cynnig yr un peth ar ran Lloegr a'r Alban. Nid yw'r hyn yr ydym yn gofyn amdano heddiw, o safbwynt Tir Mynydd, yn wahanol i'r hyn a fydd yn digwydd yn Lloegr ac yn yr Alban.

Felly, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi caniatáu'r drafodaeth hon ond, yn anffodus, mae wedi camliwio'r drafodaeth ar ddyfodol a gwerth Tir Mynydd. Y cyfan y gofynnwn amdano heddiw yw bod y cynllun hwn yn aros yn union fel ag y mae tan 2010, o dan y cynllun newydd, a bod cyfle wedyn i ailrafod cynllun sy'n cynnwys llawer mwy o amodau amgylcheddol. Mae hwn yn gwbl dderbyniol a gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad i'w gefnogi.

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): First, I will state clearly, so that there can be no disagreement—although I have said so many times—today's debate cannot bind the Assembly when it returns after the election. Whoever shall be in the administration at that stage will have to make their own decisions as regards the levels of funding that there should be for Tir Mynydd, Tir Gofal and Tir Cynnal. The reason for that is because the rural development plan cannot be approved until after May. Until the rural development plan is approved, the level of spending under Tir Mynydd, Tir Gofal, Tir Cynnal, and the

reinstate the Tir Mynydd money after 2007, since it would not accept that as part of the rural development plan, because of the negative report prepared by the European Court of Auditors on this kind of payments. Having read that report, it became clear to us that the court was not dealing specifically with Tir Mynydd. It referred to the fact that the commission, at some stage, would have to consider the definition of less favoured land, but that is not likely to happen until after 2010. Rather than let the matter lie, I went to talk to the commission's officials. It became clear to me during those discussions that they would be happy to see Tir Mynydd payments continue, more or less unchanged, until 2010 and that the scheme would then have to be reconsidered in light of the possible new definition of less favoured land. The commission did not consider that to be a problem, because the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England the Scottish Executive agriculture department were proposing the same thing for England and Scotland. What we are asking for today, in terms of Tir Mynydd, is no different from what will happen in England and in Scotland.

Therefore, the Government has allowed this debate but, unfortunately, it has misconstrued the debate on the future and value of Tir Mynydd. All we ask for today is that this scheme is retained exactly as it is until 2010, under the new scheme, and that we then have the opportunity to renegotiate a scheme which includes many more environmental conditions. That is entirely acceptable, and I ask the Assembly to support it.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Yn gyntaf, yr wyf yn datgan yn glir, fel na fydd camddealltwriaeth—er imi ddweud hynny droeon—na all y ddatl heddiw rwyf i'r Cynulliad pan fydd yn dychwelyd ar ôl yr etholiad. Bydd yn rhaid i bwy bynnag sydd mewn grym bryd hynny wneud eu penderfyniadau eu hunain am y lefelau ariannu a ddylai fod ar gyfer Tir Mynydd, Tir Gofal a Thir Cynnal. Y rheswm am hynny yw na ellir cymeradwyo'r cynllun datblygu gwledig tan ar ôl mis Mai. Nes bydd y cynllun datblygu gwledig wedi'i gymeradwyo, ni ellir pennu lefel y gwariant o

catchment-sensitive farming scheme cannot be decided. Therefore although today's debate has been useful in understanding where the other parties are coming from, it is not definitive, and I think it only fair to farmers to say that.

I welcome what the leader of the opposition said about our having honoured the agreement—[*Interruption.*] Hang on a second, John. He said that he felt that we had honoured the agreement that we made with his party, and therefore I cannot accept what John Marek said, which was that we somehow went back on that agreement. That is clearly not the case, as evidenced by what Ieuan Wyn said.

John Marek: I am most concerned by what you just said. If you are now telling us that the administration of the day in the third Assembly cannot be bound by the Assembly, you are treading a dangerous course indeed. I would urge that the Assembly, as the national forum for the people of Wales, remains the supreme electoral body in Wales.

Carwyn Jones: You know full well, John, that one Parliament cannot bind its successors. It is the same with the Assembly; whatever happens in the second Assembly cannot bind what the third Assembly decides. That is quite obvious; otherwise, there would be no point in having elections, quite frankly. That much is surely obvious to anyone who has been involved in parliamentary politics.

At the beginning of my address, I will just remind the Assembly of the reasoning behind the original figures put forward by the Government. This was not part of some evil plot, or some great ambition or plan by the Labour Party to do down farmers; at the end of the day, we have done well for farmers. We have paid them on time, and we have also paid Tir Mynydd on time. The great achievement of the Liberal Democrats, when they were running rural affairs, was not to pay farmers at all, so I hardly think that they have much to talk about.

dan Tir Mynydd, Tir Gofal, Tir Cynnal na'r cynllun ffermio sy'n dibynnu ar ddalgylch. Felly, er bod y ddadl heddiw wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol i ddeall safbwynt y pleidiau eraill, nid yw'n derfynol a chredaf nad yw ond yn deg i ffermwyr ein bod yn dweud hynny.

Croesawaf yr hyn a ddywedodd arweinydd y gwrthbleidiau ynglŷn â'r ffaith ein bod wedi cadw at y cytundeb—[*Torri ar draws.*] Arhoswch eiliad, John. Dywedodd ei fod yn teimlo inni gadw at y cytundeb a wnaethom gyda'i blaid, ac felly ni allaf dderbyn yr hyn a ddywedodd John Marek, sef ein bod rywsut wedi torri'r cytundeb. Yn amlwg, o'r hyn a ddywedodd Ieuan Wyn, nid yw hynny'n wir.

John Marek: Mae'r hyn yr ydych newydd ei ddweud yn ofid mawr imi. Os ydych yn dweud wrthym yn awr na ellir rhwymo gweinyddiaeth y dydd yn y trydydd Cynulliad gan y Cynulliad, yr ydych ar dir bregus iawn. Byddwn yn annog bod y Cynulliad, fel fforwm cenedlaethol pobl Cymru, yn dal yn brif gorff etholiadol Cymru.

Carwyn Jones: Gwyddoch yn iawn, John, na all un Senedd rwymo ei hollynwyr. Yn yr un modd gyda'r Cynulliad; waeth beth a ddigwydd yn yr ail Gynulliad, ni all rwymo'r trydydd Cynulliad yn ei benderfyniadau. Mae hynny'n gwbl amlwg; fel arall, ni fyddai diben cael etholiadau, a dweud y gwir. Yn sicr, mae hynny'n amlwg i unrhyw un sydd wedi cymryd rhan mewn gwleidyddiaeth seneddol.

Ar ddechrau fy araith, yr wyf am atgoffa'r Cynulliad o'r rheswm dros y ffigurau gwreiddiol a gynigiwyd gan y Llywodraeth. Nid oedd yn rhan o ryw gynllwyn dieflig, na rhyw uchelgais neu gynllun mawr gan y Blaid Lafur i sarhau ffermwyr; yn y pen draw, yr ydym wedi darparu'n dda i ffermwyr. Yr ydym wedi eu talu'n brydlon ac yr ydym hefyd wedi talu Tir Mynydd yn brydlon. Camp fawr y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, pan oedd materion gwledig o dan eu rheolaeth, oedd peidio â thalu ffermwyr o gwbl, felly, ni chredaf y gall fod ganddynt lawer i'w ddweud.

Michael German: I am so pleased. You can always tell when a man is in trouble. Ask yourself this. Who was it who pushed the button on the computer when he was in charge that started the process by which the payments would be made? I am afraid that you must own up to your responsibilities, Minister. I know that you have your back to the wall, but I did not realise that it was that far back.

Carwyn Jones: It is always someone else's fault. If it had been a Labour Minister who was in charge when farmers were not being paid, I am sure that it would be the Labour Minister whom the Liberal Democrats would blame. Mick Bates would no doubt use the phrase 'a weak Minister'.

When we talk about Tir Mynydd, we talk about a scheme that has a problematic basis. We know that, for the past 10 years bar one, hill farmers have had a higher income than lowland farmers, even if you take out the element of Tir Mynydd. That makes it difficult to justify Tir Mynydd as a scheme. Nevertheless, it is not our intention, and never has been, to remove Tir Mynydd entirely.

You sometimes get the impression that Tir Mynydd is the only payment that farmers receive. However, farmers receive substantial single farm payments, and those who receive the most in Tir Mynydd receive the most in single farm payments. There are many hill farmers who have received between £50,000 and £100,000 each year in subsidy through the single farm payment scheme. Therefore, we must not start thinking that Tir Mynydd is a life-or-death issue. The average farmer in Wales would, admittedly, lose out, but they would lose only about £800 or £900 per year in subsidy under the proposals put forward by the Government. That is not a business-breaking loss of money when many tens of thousands of pounds are paid to Welsh farmers every year, and are paid on time. I hear what the Conservatives say about subsidies being important, but where were they in the 1970s and 1980s? In the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher said that public subsidies were the worst things imaginable, but when it comes to farmers, all that goes out of the window.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn falch iawn. Gallwch ddweud bob amser pan fydd dyn mewn trafferth. Gofynnwch i chi eich hun. Pwy wasgodd y botwm ar y cyfrifiadur, pan oedd â'r cyfrifoldeb, a ddechreuodd y broses o wneud taliadau? Mae arnaf ofn y bydd yn rhaid ichi fod yn gyfrifol am eich gweithredoedd eich hun, Weinidog. Gwn ei bod yn gyfyng arnoch, ond nid oeddwn yn sylweddoli pa mor gyfyng.

Carwyn Jones: Bai rhywun arall ydyw bob amser. Pe bai Gweinidog Llafur wedi bod yn gyfrifol pan na thalwyd ffermwyr, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn beio'r Gweinidog Llafur. Byddai Mick Bates yn ddiau yn defnyddio'r ymadrodd 'Gweinidog gwan'.

Pan siaradwn am Dir Mynydd, siaradwn am gynllun ag iddo sail ddyrys. Gwyddom, dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf namyn un, fod ffermwyr mynydd wedi cael incwm uwch na ffermwyr yr iseldir, hyd yn oed os diystyriwch yr elfen Tir Mynydd. Mae hynny'n ei gwneud yn anodd cyfiawnhau Tir Mynydd fel cynllun. Er hynny, nid ein bwriad yw dileu Tir Mynydd yn llwyr, ac ni fu'n fwriad gennym erioed.

Ar brydiau cewch yr argraff mai Tir Mynydd yw'r unig daliad a gaiff ffermwyr. Fodd bynnag, mae ffermwyr yn cael taliadau sengl sylweddol, a'r rheini sy'n cael y swm mwyaf o dan Tir Mynydd sy'n cael y swm mwyaf mewn taliadau sengl. Mae nifer o ffermwyr mynydd wedi cael rhwng £50,000 a £100,000 y flwyddyn mewn cymhorthdal drwy'r cynllun taliad sengl. Felly, ni ddylem ddechrau meddwl bod Tir Mynydd yn fater o fyw neu farw. Byddai ffermwr cyffredin yng Nghymru sicr ar ei golled, ond dim ond tua £800 neu £900 y flwyddyn y byddent yn ei gollu mewn cymhorthdal o dan y cynigion a gynigir gan y Llywodraeth. Nid yw'n golled a fyddai'n dinistrio busnes pan gaiff degau ar filoedd o bunnoedd eu talu i ffermwyr yng Nghymru bob blwyddyn, a'u talu'n brydlon. Derbynïaf yr hyn y mae'r Ceidwadwyr yn ei ddweud ynghylch pwysigrwydd cymorthdaliadau, ond ble yr oeddent yn yr 1970au a'r 1980au? Yn yr 1980au, dywedodd Margareth Thatcher mai cymorthdaliadau cyhoeddus oedd y peth gwaethaf y gellid eu dychmygu, ond pan ddaw'n fater o ffermwyr,

diystyrir hynny'n gyfan gwbl.

My concern with Elin's proposal is that, to be frank, we would be cutting environmental funding in order to pay for Tir Mynydd. Tir Mynydd is not an agri-environment scheme; 90 per cent of Tir Mynydd is paid on a basis other than environmental. Tir Gofal is the agri-environment scheme, and Tir Cynnal is the scheme that we have put in place because Tir Gofal is oversubscribed, helping those people who cannot get Tir Gofal into an alternative agri-environment scheme. Under the proposal put forward by Elin, for 2007-09, for example, we would be signing a further 750 agreements for Tir Gofal; we actually have 1,500 applicants. It would mean that we would not be able to have as many Tir Gofal agreements in the future. As far as Tir Cynnal is concerned, Elin's proposal would, effectively, freeze activities and commitments from 2005-06, and pretty much everybody who has applied under 2007 would get nothing.

Fy mhryder gyda chynnig Elin, a dweud y gwir, yw yddem yn torri arian amgylcheddol er mwyn talu am Tir Mynydd. Nid yw Tir Mynydd yn gynllun amaeth-amgylcheddol; telir 90 y cant o Tir Mynydd ar seiliau heblaw rhai amgylcheddol. Tir Gofal yw'r cynllun amaeth-amgylcheddol ac mae Tir Cynnal yn gynllun a sefydlwyd gennym oherwydd bod gormod o alw ar Tir Gofal, gan helpu'r rheini na allant gael Tir Gofal i ymuno â chynllun amaeth-amgylcheddol arall. O dan y cynnig a gyflwynwyd gan Elin, ar gyfer 2007-09, er enghraifft, byddem yn llofnodi 750 o gytundebau Tir Gofal ychwanegol; mewn gwirionedd mae gennym 1,500 o ymgeiswyr. Byddai hynny'n golygu na fyddai modd inni gael cynifer o gytundebau Tir Gofal yn y dyfodol. O ran Tir Cynnal, byddai cynnig Elin, mewn gwirionedd, yn rhewi gweithgareddau ac ymrwymadau o 2005-06, a byddai pawb, fwy neu lai, a wnaeth gais o dan 2007 yn cael dim.

5.00 p.m.

However, the one issue that has been missed which Kirsty mentioned—and I do not know whether she realises what she intends to vote for this afternoon—is that we need to ensure that there is money available to deal with flooding. Kirsty intends to vote for proposals that would cut £1 million from that budget and from the catchment-sensitive farming scheme. We are talking about a scheme that is designed to look at flooding and to bring farmers into schemes in upland valleys in order to slow the flow of water into a valley, such as the Conwy valley. However, as far as flooding is concerned, a cut is proposed.

Fodd bynnag, anwybyddwyd un mater y cyfeiriodd Kirsty ato—ac ni wn a yw'n sylweddoli dros beth y mae'n bwriadu pleidleisio y prynhawn yma—yw bod angen inni sicrhau bod arian ar gael i ddelio â llifogydd. Mae Kirsty yn bwriadu pleidleisio dros gynigion a fyddai'n dileu £1 filiwn o'r gyllideb honno ac o'r cynllun ffermio sy'n ystyriol o ddalgylchoedd. Soniwn am gynllun sydd wedi ei lunio i edrych ar lifogydd ac i sicrhau bod ffermwyr yn ymuno â chynlluniau mewn dyffrynnoedd ucheldir er mwyn arafu llif dŵr i lawr i ddyffryn, megis dyffryn Conwy. Fodd bynnag, o ran llifogydd, cynigir toriad.

Tir Gofal and Tir Cynnal are flagship environment schemes. Tir Gofal has been welcomed across Europe as a flagship scheme. I have to say to John and to Trish that if you think that it is only to do with farming, you are grossly wrong. Tir Gofal has had a tremendous effect in increasing biodiversity, in ensuring environmental improvement and in terms of ensuring countryside management. You are voting to reduce spending on the environment and to

Mae Tir Gofal a Tir Cynnal yn gynlluniau amgylcheddol blaenllaw. Croesawyd Tir Gofal ledled Ewrop fel cynllun blaenllaw. Rhaid imi ddweud wrth John ac wrth Trish, os credwch ei fod a wnelo â ffermio yn unig, yr ydych yn gwbl anghywir. Mae Tir Gofal wedi cael effaith enfawr o ran cynyddu bioamrywiaeth, sicrhau gwelliannau amgylcheddol a sicrhau gwaith o reoli cefn gwlad. Fe bleidleiswch dros leihau gwario ar yr amgylchedd a rhoi arian i gynllun nad

put money into a scheme that does not deliver benefits as far as those who pay for the scheme are concerned, namely the taxpayers. I do not criticise farmers; farmers receive the money and farmers will defend what they see as their interests. I also understand that farmers who receive Tir Mynydd payments see it is a wonderful scheme because they receive the money. What I criticise, however, are parties that not only make cheap political capital, but wilfully misunderstand the rural development plan, and whenever farmers say, 'Jump', they simply ask, 'How high?'. Most of the parties in this place, apart from the—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will you take an intervention?

Carwyn Jones: You may not want to intervene after you have heard what I am about to say.

Apart from Plaid Cymru, the other parties have shown a complete misunderstanding of the issues involved. At least Elin Jones understood the issues. However, I do not agree with her conclusions, because what Plaid Cymru proposes is not a cut in Tir Mynydd, but a cut in Tir Mynydd, Tir Gofal, and Tir Cynnal—a triple whammy. Incidentally, before anyone complains about cutting money for Tir Mynydd, if you vote for this motion today, you will be proposing a cut in Tir Mynydd and not keeping it at the same level as it was in previous years.

I welcome the fact that Elin Jones put forward some proposals, but the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives said nothing. In the first committee, I invited Mick Bates to say something and, in an embarrassed fashion, he ventured an opinion. We then had the situation in Plenary a week ago when Kirsty Williams was questioning me, and Mick Bates was almost trying to say that he did not vote for these changes in committee, although we know that he seconded the changes in committee. Here they were, the Liberal Democrats, trying to claim that they are the party—

Mick Bates: Will you take an intervention?

yw'n sicrhau manteision, ym marn y rhai sy'n talu am y cynllun, sef y trethdalwyr. Nid wyf yn beirniadu ffermwyr; mae ffermwyr yn cael yr arian a bydd ffermwyr yn amddiffyn yr hyn a ystyriant o les iddynt. Deallaf hefyd fod ffermwyr sy'n cael taliadau Tir Mynydd yn credu ei fod yn gynllun gwych am eu bod yn cael yr arian. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn yr wyf yn ei feirniadu yw pleidiau sy'n ceisio cael mantais wleidyddol hawdd a hefyd sy'n camddeall y cynllun datblygu gwledig yn fwriadol, a phryd bynnag y mae ffermwyr yn dweud, 'Neidiwch', yr unig beth y maent yn ei ofyn yw, 'Pa mor uchel?'. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r pleidiau yn y lle hwn, ar wahân i—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A dderbyniwch ymyriad?

Carwyn Jones: Efallai na fyddwch am ymyrryd ar ôl ichi glywed yr hyn yr wyf ar fin ei ddweud.

Ar wahân i Blaid Cymru, mae'r pleidiau eraill wedi dangos eu bod wedi camddeall yn llwyr y materion dan sylw. O leiaf, mae Elin Jones wedi deall y materion dan sylw. Fodd bynnag, ni chytunaf â'i chasgliadau, am nad yw Plaid Cymru yn cynnig toriad o ran Tir Mynydd, ond toriad o ran Tir Mynydd, Tir Gofal a Tir Cynnal—sy'n ergyd driphlyg. Gyda llaw, cyn i neb gwyno am leihau arian i Tir Mynydd, os pleidleisiwch dros y cynnig hwn heddiw, byddwch yn cynnig toriad mewn Tir Mynydd a pheidio â'i gadw ar yr un lefel ag yr oedd yn ystod y blynyddoedd blaenorol.

Croesawaf y ffaith fod Elin Jones wedi cyflwyno rhai cynigion, ond ni ddywedodd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol a'r Ceidwadwyr ddim byd. Yn y pwyllgor cyntaf, gwahoddais Mick Bates i ddweud rhywbeth, ac mewn ffordd chwithig, cynigiodd farn. Wedyn cawsom y sefyllfa mewn Cyfarfod Llawn wythnos yn ôl pan oedd Kirsty Williams yn fy holi, a Mick Bates bron yn ceisio dweud na phleidleisiodd dros y newidiadau hyn yn y pwyllgor, er ein bod yn gwybod iddo eilio'r cynigion yn y pwyllgor. Yr oedd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn ceisio honni mai eu plaid hwy—

Mick Bates: A dderbyniwch ymyriad?

Carwyn Jones: I will, in a second. Here they are, the Liberal Democrats, trying to claim that their party is the party of the environment and of the countryside, yet, when the environment has to be paid for, the first thing that they want to do is cut back on payments to the environment.

Mick Bates: Thank you for giving way, Minister. I have one simple question: where is the £12 million that you took from this budget?

Carwyn Jones: It has nothing to do with the budget; it never has. As you well know, the co-financing rules under axis 2 of the rural development plan state that 20 per cent of the money has to be European co-financing money. You cannot put £12 million in; you cannot put money into the axis 2 budget, because there is not enough money from Europe there to co-finance it. Everyone else understands that, but apparently you do not. The rural development plan and the budget are two different things, and they always have been. There it is, the Liberal Democrat Party, trying to present itself as the party of the environment, yet it is the environment that will suffer because of its plans. What a shambles, Llywydd. They have no idea where they stand.

The Conservative Party claims to be the party of the free market, the party that does not believe in subsidies, and the party that wants value for money for the taxpayer. However, all that does not count when it comes to Tir Mynydd because there may be some voters there for them. Therefore, from that point of view and as far as it is concerned, it is only interested in trying to preserve its constituencies. I heard what Brynle Williams said, and I welcome his sympathy with the Valleys communities that suffered so much under his party in the 1980s, but, at that time, there was no talk about public subsidy for mining or for steelworks. Those subsidies were completely removed. How the worm has turned as far as the Tories are concerned.

Llywydd, I can only say that, in the Assembly, three parties, and two in particular—despite the work that has been

Carwyn Jones: Gwnaf, mewn eiliad. Yr oedd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn ceisio honni mai eu plaid hwy yw plaid yr amgylchedd a chefn gwlad, ond pan fydd yn rhaid talu am yr amgylchedd, y peth cyntaf y maent am ei wneud yw torri taliadau i'r amgylchedd.

Mick Bates: Diolch am ildio, Weinidog. Mae gennyf gwestiwn syml: ble mae'r £12 miliwn a ddilëwyd gennych o'r gyllideb hon?

Carwyn Jones: Nid oes a wnelo ddim â'r gyllideb; ni fu erioed. Fel y gwyddoch yn dda, mae'r rheolau cyd-ariannu o dan echel 2 o'r cynllun datblygu gwledig yn dweud ei bod yn rhaid i 20 y cant o'r arian fod yn arian cyd-ariannu Ewropeaidd. Ni allwch roi £12 miliwn i mewn; ni allwn roi arian i gyllideb echel 2, am nad oes yno ddigon o arian gan Ewrop i'w hariannu. Mae pawb arall yn deall hynny, ond mae'n amlwg nad ydych chi yn ei ddeall. Mae'r cynllun datblygu gwledig a'r gyllideb yn ddau beth ar wahân, a bob amser wedi bod ar wahân. Dyna ichi Blaid y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn ceisio dweud ei bod yn blaid yr amgylchedd, ond yr amgylchedd a fydd yn dioddef oherwydd ei chynlluniau. Am lanast, Lywydd. Nid oes ganddynt syniad ble maent yn sefyll.

Mae'r Blaid Geidwadol yn honni bod yn blaid y farchnad rydd, y blaid nad yw'n credu mewn cymorthdaliadau, y blaid sydd am sicrhau gwerth yr arian i'r trethdalwr. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny i gyd yn cyfrif pan ddaw mater Tir Mynydd oherwydd gall fod pleidleisiau iddi yno. Felly, o'i safbwynt hi ac o ran ei chynrychiolwyr, dim ond cadw eu hetholaethau sydd o ddiddordeb iddynt. Clywais yr hyn a ddywedodd Brynle Williams, a chroesawaf y ffaith ei fod yn cydymdeimlo â chymunedau'r Cymoedd a ddioddefodd gymaint o dan ei blaid yn y 1990au. Ond bryd hynny, nid oedd unrhyw sôn am gymhorthdal cyhoeddus i fwyngloddio nac i waith dur. Dilëwyd y cymorthdaliadau hynny'n llwyr. Mor wahanol yw'r sefyllfa bellach, o ran y Toriaid.

Lywydd, ni allaf ond dweud, yn y Cynulliad, fod tair plaid, a dwy yn benodol—er gwaethaf y gwaith a wnaed heddiw—a John

done—and John Marek and Trish Law, will today vote to reduce funding on the environment, reduce funding on countryside management, reduce environmental improvements, reduce—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will you take an intervention?

Carwyn Jones: I will finish now. They will reduce spending on biodiversity and spending on wildlife, and those are not my words, but those of environmental organisations that have told you so in the first place. However, at least we now know where you stand.

As a party, we care for the environment. We will ensure that the environment continues to be funded properly and we will ensure a fair deal for farmers. However, now that we know where the anti-environmentalists are, let the people of Wales decide on 3 May. On this side of the Chamber, we say, 'Bring it on'.

Marek a Trish Law, a fydd heddiw yn pleidleisio dros leihau'r arian i'r amgylchedd, lleihau'r arian ar gyfer gwaith rheoli cefn gwlad, lleihau gwelliannau amgylcheddol, lleihau—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A dderbyniwch ymyriad?

Carwyn Jones: Dof i ben yn awr. Byddant yn lleihau gwariant ar fioamrywiaeth a gwariant ar fywyd gwyllt, ac nid fy ngeiriau i mo'r rhain, ond geiriau'r sefydliadau amgylcheddol hynny sydd wedi dweud hynny wrthyf yn y lle cyntaf. Fodd bynnag, o leiaf yr ydym yn gwybod bellach ble yr ydych yn sefyll.

Fel plaid, yr ydym yn ofalus o'r amgylchedd. Byddwn yn sicrhau bod yr amgylchedd yn parhau i gael ei ariannu'n briodol, a byddwn yn sicrhau bargaen deg i ffermwyr. Fodd bynnag, gan ein bod bellach yn gwybod pwy yw'r gwrth-amgylcheddwyr, gadewch i bobl Cymru benderfynu ar 3 Mai. Ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr, edrychwn ymlaen at hynny.

Gwelliant 1: O blaid 30, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 28.

Amendment 1: For 30, 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, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lloyd, David
Marek, John
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

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, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine

Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Thomas, Gwenda

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

Motion NDM3609 as amended:

Cynnig NDM3609 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. endorses the proposal to reprioritise the Tir Cymru budget line in the rural development plan as laid out in the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee Chair's letter of 2 March 2007;

1. yn cadarnhau'r cynnig i ailflaenoriaethu llinell gyllideb Tir Cymru yng nghynllun datblygu gwledig fel y'i gosodwyd yn llythyr cadeirydd Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad, dyddiedig 2 Mawrth 2007;

2. notes that no non-agricultural budget is affected by the reprioritisation proposal.

2. yn nodi nad effeithir ar unrhyw gyllideb heblaw amaethyddiaeth gan y cynnig i ailflaenoriaethu.

Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 30, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 28.

Amended motion: For 30, Abstain 0, 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
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, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lloyd, David
Marek, John
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

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

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio.
Amended motion carried.*

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

Y Llywydd: Ni fydd gennym amser am y ddadl fer, felly gwahoddaf y Trefnydd i gynnig estyniad.

The Presiding Officer: We will not have time for the short debate, therefore, I invite the Business Minister to propose an extension.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cynigaf fod

the National Assembly, under Standing Order No. 6.21, extends today's Plenary meeting until 6 p.m.

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.21, yn ymestyn Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw tan 6 p.m.

Y Llywydd: A oes 10 Aelod yn cefnogi'r cynnig hwn? Gwelaf fod. Hwn fydd y tro olaf inni wneud hyn yn y Cynulliad hwn. Felly, galwaf am bleidlais.

The Presiding Officer: Are there 10 Members in support of this proposal? I see that there are. This will be the last time we do this in this Assembly. Therefore, I call a vote.

*Cynnig gweithdrefnol: O blaid 45, Ymatal 1, Yn erbyn 6.
Procedural motion: For 45, Abstain 1, Against 6.*

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

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Marek, John
Mewies, Sandy

Black, Peter
Idris Jones, Denise
Jones, Ann
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Wood, Leanne

Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
 The following Members abstained:

Pugh, Alun

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Rhyddid Gwybodaeth Freedom of Information

Motion (NDM3610): to propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

notes the commitment which the Welsh Assembly Government has made to maximising openness since a Code of Practice on Public Access to Information was implemented in May 1999.

Amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies.
 Delete all after 'Wales:' and insert:

notes with concern that proposed restrictions and changes to the fees regime under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will undermine the Act's contribution to increased discussion on public affairs; accountability; and trust in the work of public authorities by introducing new layers of procedural and bureaucratic complexity, and therefore calls on the Assembly Government to oppose the proposed changes.

Amendment 2 in the name of Lisa Francis.
 Insert at the end of the motion:

but opposes increasing fees for access to information.

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies and amendment 2 in the name of Lisa Francis.

Cynnig (NDM3610): cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn nodi ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i fod mor agored â phosibl ers i God Ymarfer ar Ganiatáu i'r Cyhoedd Weld Gwybodaeth gael ei weithredu ym mis Mai 1999.

Gwelliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Dileu popeth ar ôl 'Cymru:' a rhoi yn ei le:

yn nodi gyda phryder y bydd cyfyngiadau a newidiadau arfaethedig i'r drefn ffioedd o dan y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000 yn tanseilio cyfraniad y Ddeddf tuag at gynyddu trafodaeth ar faterion cyhoeddus; atebolrwydd; ac ymddiriedaeth yng ngwaith awdurdodau cyhoeddus drwy gyflwyno haenau newydd o gymhlethdod trefniadaethol a biwrocraidd, ac felly'n galw ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i wrthwynebu'r newidiadau arfaethedig.

Gwelliant 2 yn enw Lisa Francis. Cynnwys ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

ond yn gwrthwynebu cynyddu ffioedd ar gyfer mynediad at wybodaeth.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies a gwelliant 2 yn enw Lisa Francis.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

notes the commitment which the Welsh Assembly Government has made to maximising openness since a Code of Practice on Public Access to Information was implemented in May 1999. (NDM3610)

It is important for us to remember why this Assembly Government has been, and continues to be, totally committed to encouraging all within the Assembly to embrace a spirit of openness. We must surely accept that the underlying purpose of creating the Assembly was to bring Government closer to the people of Wales, and the achievement of this depends on an effective two-way communication process. The degree of openness that we have achieved has undoubtedly resulted in our being able to engage with the people of Wales more effectively to create the made-in-Wales policies that we have been striving to deliver.

Our open-government policies provide the framework for us to communicate outwards in a way that enables people to see and understand the work that we undertake. Since its inception, the Assembly has demonstrated its commitment to openness by implementing a code of practice on public access to information. The first edition of the code was put in place in May 1999, and this Assembly approved the present edition, the third edition, on 8 December 2004. Most significantly, our code creates greater openness than the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires through the substantial harm test, which it establishes and applies to the majority of exemptions to the requirement to release information. Although we have had a code in place since May 1999, public awareness of the right to request information has increased considerably since the commencement of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on 1 January 2005.

As well as continuing to routinely publish a considerable amount of information through our publication scheme, we have dealt with some 1,650 requests for information since 1

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn nodi ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i fod mor agored â phosibl ers i God Ymarfer ar Ganiatáu i'r Cyhoedd Weld Gwybodaeth gael ei weithredu ym mis Mai 1999. (NDM3610)

Mae'n bwysig inni gofio pam mae'r Llywodraeth Cynulliad hon wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr i annog pawb yn y Cynulliad i fod yn agored, ac yn dal i wneud hynny. Rhaid inni dderbyn mai diben sylfaenol creu'r Cynulliad oedd dod â Llywodraeth yn nes at bobl Cymru, ac mae cyflawni hyn yn dibynnu ar broses gyfathrebu ddwyffordd effeithiol. Yn ddiau, mae'r natur agored yr ydym wedi'i sicrhau wedi golygu y gallwn ymgysylltu â phobl Cymru yn fwy effeithiol i greu'r polisïau yng Nghymru yr ydym wedi bod yn ceisio'u sicrhau.

Mae polisïau llywodraeth agored yn rhoi fframwaith inni gyfathrebu tuag allan mewn ffordd sy'n galluogi pobl i weld a deall y gwaith a wnawn. Ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad, mae wedi dangos ei ymrwymiad i fod yn agored drwy weithredu cod ymarfer ar ganiatáu i'r cyhoedd weld gwybodaeth. Rhoddwyd argraffiad cyntaf y cod ar waith ym mis Mai 1999, a chymeradwyodd y Cynulliad hwn yr argraffiad presennol, sef y trydydd argraffiad, ar 8 Rhagfyr 2004. Yn bwysicaf, mae ein cod yn golygu ein bod yn fwy agored na'r hyn sy'n ofynnol o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000 drwy'r prawf niwed sylweddol y mae'n ei bennu a'i ddefnyddio yn y rhan fwyaf o eithriadau i'r gofyniad i ryddhau gwybodaeth. Er bod gennym god ar waith ers mis Mai 1999, mae ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd o'r hawl i ofyn am wybodaeth wedi gwella'n sylweddol ers cychwyn Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000 ar 1 Ionawr 2005.

Yn ogystal â pharhau i gyhoeddi llawer iawn o wybodaeth drwy ein cynllun cyhoeddiadau fel mater o drefn, yr ydym wedi ymdrin â rhyw 1,650 o geisiadau am wybodaeth er 1

January 2005. In doing so, we have released a vast amount of information relating to a wide range of subjects, including new issues and matters from many years ago. We have dealt with requests, regardless of the volume or complexity of the information involved, in all but a very small number of cases. The efforts we have made to release information—rather than making use of the statutory provisions available to either charge for dealing with large requests or refuse them—have been appreciated.

The evidence clearly indicates that the majority of requesters have been satisfied with the way in which we have dealt with their requests because dissatisfaction with a decision to withhold some or all of the requested information has been expressed in relation to only 2.5 per cent of all requests received during 2005 and 2006. This compares favourably with the experiences of other Governments in the UK. The Information Commissioner has received only 10 complaints involving the Assembly Government, and only one appeal has been made to the information tribunal, where our decision was upheld.

I am afraid that I will not be able to support either of the amendments that Lisa Francis and Jocelyn Davies have tabled to the motion. I am opposing both amendments for the same reasons. They are concerned with the fees that can be charged for dealing with requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is not a devolved matter.

5.10 p.m.

The changes proposed by the UK Government will not affect the Assembly Government's ability to operate its own more generous charging policy. That is the important point to get over in the debate today. I have voiced the Government's commitment to continuing in this way in response to many questions that have been raised on this matter in relation to the current consultation, which seeks to make restrictions in terms of fee-charging arrangements. The First Minister has written

Ionawr 2005. Wrth wneud hynny, yr ydym wedi rhyddhau llawer iawn o wybodaeth yn ymwneud ag amrywiaeth eang o bynciau, gan gynnwys materion newydd a materion a drafodwyd flynyddoedd lawer yn ôl. Yr ydym wedi ymdrin â cheisiadau, waeth beth oedd maint neu gymhlethdod y wybodaeth dan sylw, ym mhob un ond nifer fach iawn o achosion. Mae ein hymdrechion i ryddhau gwybodaeth—yn hytrach na defnyddio'r darpariaethau statudol sydd ar gael naill ai i godi tâl am ymdrin â cheisiadau mawr neu i'w gwrthod—wedi eu gwerthfawrogi.

Dengys y dystiolaeth yn glir fod y mwyafrif o'r rhai a ofynnodd am wybodaeth wedi bod yn fodlon ar y ffordd yr ydym wedi ymdrin â'u ceisiadau, oherwydd mynegwyd anfonlonrwydd ar benderfyniad i atal rhywfaint o'r wybodaeth y gofynnwyd amdani, neu'r holl wybodaeth y gofynnwyd amdani, mewn dim ond 2.5 y cant o'r holl geisiadau a gafwyd yn ystod 2005 a 2006. Mae hyn yn cymharu'n ffafriol â phrofiadau Llywodraethau eraill yn y DU. Dim ond 10 cwyn y mae'r Comisiynydd Gwybodaeth wedi'u cael yn ymwneud â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, a dim ond un apêl a wnaed i'r tribiwnlys gwybodaeth, lle y cadarnhawyd ein penderfyniad.

Yn anffodus, ni allaf gefnogi'r naill welliant na'r llall a gyflwynwyd gan Lisa Francis a Jocelyn Davies i'r cynnig. Gwrthwynebam y ddau welliant am yr un rhesymau. Maent yn ymwneud â'r ffioedd y gellir eu codi am ymdrin â cheisiadau am wybodaeth o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, ac nid yw hwnnw'n fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli.

Ni fydd y newidiadau a gynigiwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU yn effeithio ar allu Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i weithredu ei pholisi ei hun o godi tâl mwy hael. Dyna'r pwynt pwysig i'w gyfleu yn y ddadl heddiw. Yr wyf wedi mynegi ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i barhau fel hyn mewn ymateb i'r cwestiynau niferus a godwyd ar y mater hwn mewn perthynas â'r ymgynghori presennol, sy'n ceisio cyflwyno cyfyngiadau o ran trefniadau codi ffioedd. Mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi ysgrifennu at yr Arglwydd

to the Lord Chancellor to draw his attention to Members' concerns with regard to these proposed changes to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This clearly signals our commitment to meet the highest standards in this area. It is in that spirit that I move the motion, and not only to note, but, I hope, to welcome the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to maximise openness since the code of practice on public access to information was implemented in May 1999.

Owen John Thomas: I propose amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Delete all after 'Wales:' and insert:

notes with concern that proposed restrictions and changes to the fees regime under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will undermine the Act's contribution to increased discussion on public affairs; accountability; and trust in the work of public authorities by introducing new layers of procedural and bureaucratic complexity, and therefore calls on the Assembly Government to oppose the proposed changes.

It was just over a year ago, on 26 February 2006, that Tony Blair declared himself to be the defender of liberties. He said

'This Government has introduced the Human Rights Act, so that, for the first time, a citizen can challenge the power of the state solely on the basis of an infringement of human rights, and the Freedom of Information Act, the most open thing any British government has done since the Reform Acts of the 1830s'.

We will now fast forward eight months, when the Government proposed a new charging regime aimed at deterring the public from requesting information that may prove embarrassing to the Labour Governments in Westminster and Cardiff bay. Under these proposals, requests that are sensitive, complex, or which raise important public issues are likely to be refused. Any authority may refuse a request for information by combining the total cost of unrelated requests from the same individual on the grounds that it exceeds the specified financial threshold.

Ganghellor i dynnu ei sylw at bryderon Aelodau am y newidiadau arfaethedig hyn yn y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000. Dengys hyn yn glir ein hymrwymiad i gyrraedd y safonau uchaf yn y maes hwn. Cynigiwn y cynnig yn yr ysbryd hwnnw, ac nid yn unig i nodi, ond gobeithio i groesawu, ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i fod mor agored â phosibl ers gweithredu'r cod ymarfer ar ganiatáu i'r cyhoedd weld gwybodaeth ym mis Mai 1999.

Owen John Thomas: Cynigiau welliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Dileu popeth ar ôl 'Cymru:' a rhoi yn ei le:

yn nodi gyda phryder y bydd cyfyngiadau a newidiadau arfaethedig i'r drefn ffioedd o dan y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000 yn tanseilio cyfraniad y Ddeddf tuag at gynyddu trafodaeth ar faterion cyhoeddus; atebolrwydd; ac ymddiriedaeth yng ngwaith awdurdodau cyhoeddus drwy gyflwyno haenau newydd o gymhlethdod trefniadaethol a biwrocraidd, ac felly'n galw ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i wrthwynebu'r newidiadau arfaethedig.

Ychydig dros flwyddyn yn ôl, ar 26 Chwefror 2006, cyghoedd Tony Blair ei fod yn amddiffyn rhyddid. Meddai

Mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi cyflwyno'r Ddeddf Hawliau Dynol, er mwyn sicrhau, am y tro cyntaf, y gall dinesydd herio pŵer y wladwriaeth dim ond ar sail tramgwyddo hawliau dynol, a Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth, sef y peth mwyaf agored y mae unrhyw lywodraeth Brydeinig wedi'i wneud ers y Deddfau Diwygio yn y 1830au.

Symudwn ymlaen wyth mis, pan gynigiodd y Llywodraeth gyfundrefn newydd o godi tâl gyda'r nod o atal y cyhoedd rhag gofyn am wybodaeth a allai beri i'r Llywodraethau Llafur yn San Steffan a bae Caerdydd deimlo'n chwithig. O dan y cynigion hyn, mae ceisiadau sy'n sensitif, sy'n gymhleth, neu sy'n codi materion cyhoeddus pwysig yn debygol o gael eu gwrthod. Gall unrhyw awdurdod wrthod cais am wybodaeth drwy gyfuno cyfanswm cost ceisiadau digyswllt gan yr un unigolyn ar y sail ei fod yn uwch na'r trothwy ariannol penodedig. Yn eironig,

Ironically, when I wrote to Tony Blair asking for copies of his correspondence with Lord Falconer regarding these proposed reforms, I was told that the Prime Minister held the information that I requested but considered it not to be in the public interest to release that information to me.

What happened in six months to bring about such a change in the attitude of a self-professed defender of liberties? The answer is that, far too often, the Prime Minister and other members of his Government have found themselves, as a result of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, being hoisted by their own petard. Some examples spring to mind: the documents that pinpointed the moment when the Government's leading law official changed his mind over the legality of the war in Iraq; how Tony Blair's friend, Lord Falconer, as a barrister in the mid 1980s, provided vital legal advice to break up the National Union of Mineworkers after the 1984-85 miners' strike; how John Prescott enjoyed the hospitality of US tycoon Philip Anschutz, who was hoping to build a supercasino at the Millennium Dome; and how the Labour Government in Cardiff bay was informed that 1,400 jobs would be lost at the Defence Aviation Repair Agency 18 months ahead of the official announcement.

Around four years ago, on the eve of the 2003 election campaign, Rhodri Morgan promised, yet again, to put clear red water between New Labour in Cardiff bay and New Labour at Westminster. However, the Assembly Government's refusal to oppose the reform to the Freedom of Information Act illustrates once again that it is not permitted to think independently of the pied piper of Sedgefield. The people of Wales have the right to expect openness and transparency from their Government, and strong leadership from their First Minister. I see no openness, transparency, or red water of any kind, and certainly no leadership. The Government's proposals on the issue of freedom of information show little concern for the retrograde changes now proposed by their Westminster colleagues. I urge Members to support Amendment 1 tabled by Plaid Cymru.

pan ysgrifennais at Tony Blair yn gofyn am gopiâu o'i ohebiaeth gyda'r Arglwydd Falconer ynghylch y diwygiadau arfaethedig hyn, dywedwyd wrthyf fod gan Brif Weinidog y DU y wybodaeth yr oeddwn wedi gofyn amdani ond ei fod yn credu nad oedd rhyddhau'r wybodaeth honno imi o fudd i'r cyhoedd.

Beth a ddigwyddodd mewn chwe mis i newid agwedd rhywun a ddywedodd ei hun ei fod yn amddiffyn rhyddid gymaint? Yr ateb yw fod Prif Weinidog y DU ac aelodau eraill o'i Lywodraeth lawer yn rhy aml wedi'u dal yn eu magl eu hunain, o ganlyniad i Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000. Mae rhai enghreifftiau yn dod i'r cof: y dogfennau a oedd yn tynnu sylw at yr adeg pan newidiodd swyddog cyfreithiol arweiniol y Llywodraeth ei farn am gyfreithlondeb y rhyfel yn Irac; sut y rhoddodd cyfaill Tony Blair, yr Arglwydd Falconer, fel bargyfreithiwr ganol yr 1980au, gyngor cyfreithiol hollbwysig i chwalu Undeb Cenedlaethol y Glowyr ar ôl streic y glowyr yn 1984-85; sut y mwynhaodd John Prescott letygarwch y teicwŵn o'r UD, Philip Anschutz, a oedd yn gobeithio adeiladu archgasino yn Nôm y Mileniwm; sut yr hysbyswyd y Llywodraeth Lafur ym mae Caerdydd y câi 1,400 o swyddi eu colli yn yr Asiantaeth Atgyweirio Awyrennau Amddiffyn 18 mis cyn y cyhoeddiad swyddogol.

Tua phedair blynedd yn ôl, ar noswyl ymgyrch etholiad 2003, addawodd Rhodri Morgan, unwaith eto, wneud yn siŵr fod gwahaniaeth rhwng Llafur Newydd ym mae Caerdydd a Llafur Newydd yn San Steffan. Fodd bynnag, mae penderfyniad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i wrthod gwrthwynebu'r diwygiadau yn y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth yn dangos unwaith eto na chaniateir iddi feddwl yn annibynnol ar y dyn swynol o Sedgefield. Mae gan bobl Cymru yr hawl i ddisgwyl i'w Llywodraeth fod yn agored ac yn dryloyw, ac i ddisgwyl arweiniad cryf gan eu Prif Weinidog. Ni welaf unrhyw natur agored na thryloyw, na dim gwahaniaeth o unrhyw fath, ac yn sicr dim arweiniad. Ni ddengys cynigion y Llywodraeth ar ryddid gwybodaeth fawr ddim pryder am y newidiadau er gwaeth a gynigir bellach gan eu cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan. Fe'ch anogaf i gefnogi Gwelliant 1 a

gyflwynwyd gan Blaid Cymru.

Mark Isherwood: I propose amendment 2 in the name of Lisa Francis. Insert at the end of the motion:

but opposes increasing fees for access to information.

This motion is a distraction by the Labour Assembly Government at a time when the UK Labour Government is proposing changes to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 fees regulations, which will cause fundamental damage to the Act.

I therefore propose amendment 2, which opposes increasing fees for access to information, and we will also support Plaid Cymru's amendment 1.

We should also note that Scottish Executive has not followed the UK Government in clamping down on freedom of information requests, although there is still concern that restrictions could be introduced there at a later date. Any administration that claims to govern in an open and transparent way should balance that against the impulse to restrict access to information that belongs in the public domain. In that, I am united with the Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance, which rightly says that public cynicism about the way that we are governed is an accurate reflection of official cynicism about the public.

There will be a price to pay for yet further restrictions to our access to information.

The powers conferred by the 2004 regulations are entirely appropriate and should not have other costs included. However, under the changes proposed by the UK Government, a high proportion of requests that raise new, complex and contentious issues are likely to be refused in the future, regardless of their merits. The UK Government has offered no evidence to suggest that the restrictions would target requests that were themselves unreasonable or constituted an abuse of the Act.

Mark Isherwood: Cynigiaf welliant 2 yn enw Lisa Francis. Ychwanegu ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

ond yn gwrthwynebu cynyddu ffioedd ar gyfer mynediad at wybodaeth.

Mae'r cynnig hwn yn enghraifft o Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad yn tynnu sylw ar adeg pan yw Llywodraeth Lafur y DU yn cynnig newidiadau yn rheoliadau ffioedd y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, a fydd yn achosi niwed sylfaenol i'r Ddeddf.

Cynigiaf felly welliant 2, sy'n gwrthwynebu cynyddu ffioedd ar gyfer cael gwybodaeth, a byddwn hefyd yn cefnogi gwelliant 1 gan Blaid Cymru.

Dylem hefyd ddweud nad yw Gweithrediaeth yr Alban wedi dilyn Llywodraeth y DU i leihau nifer y ceisiadau rhyddid gwybodaeth, er bod pryder o hyd y gellid cyflwyno cyfyngiadau yno'n ddiweddarach. Dylai unrhyw weithrediaeth sy'n honni ei bod yn llywodraethu mewn ffordd agored a thryloyw gydbwyso hynny yn erbyn yr awydd i gyfyngu ar wybodaeth sy'n eiddo i'r cyhoedd. Yn hynny o beth, cytunaf â Chyngheir Gwrth-Niwclear Cymru, a ddywedodd yn briodol fod sinigiaeth gyhoeddus am y ffordd y cawn ein llywodraethu yn adlewyrchiad cywir o'r sinigiaeth swyddogol am y cyhoedd.

Bydd yn rhaid talu'r pris am fwy o gyfyngiadau eto ar ein gallu i gael gwybodaeth.

Mae'r pwerau a roddwyd dan reoliadau 2004 yn hollol briodol ac ni ddylent gynnwys unrhyw gostau eraill. Fodd bynnag, o dan y newidiadau a gynigir gan Lywodraeth y DU, mae cyfran uchel o geisiadau sy'n codi materion newydd, cymhleth a dadleuol yn debygol o gael eu gwrthod yn y dyfodol, waeth beth fydd eu rhinweddau. Nid yw Llywodraeth y DU wedi cynnig dim tystiolaeth i awgrymu y byddai'r cyfyngiadau'n targedu ceisiadau a oedd ynddynt eu hunain yn afresymol neu'n gyfyfstyr â chamddefnyddio'r Ddeddf.

The changes are said to be justified by the need to reduce costs, but the costs arising from the Act are low. A report commissioned by the UK Government estimates that the maximum likely savings of £10 million across the whole UK public sector are modest in terms of public expenditure. It is hard to see how the savings could justify the damage that is likely to be caused. Pricing UK Ministers' time at the extraordinary rate of £300 per hour is likely to artificially inflate the apparent costs of requests. The UK Government also proposes to count the cost of the time spent by Government departments reading, considering and consulting about the request. The result will be that many requests that currently fall within the cost limit will not do so in future. This will impact in particular on requests involving any degree of complexity.

We should also take note of the Information Commissioner's polling data, which show that the number of public authorities that thought that the Act was a burden has fallen to just 36 per cent and that 82 per cent of freedom of information officers agreed that the Act was needed. There is a balance to be struck between freedom of information and the administrative costs incurred. In our view, the right balance is struck by the powers already conferred under the 2004 regulations.

There is a paradox here because for two decades when we were in Government, Labour included, in its election manifestos, a pledge to introduce freedom of information provisions. However, as Ken Clarke stated yesterday:

'A personal, presidential, off-the-cuff, accident-prone style of Government has grown enormously under Tony Blair. It will increase and become more personal and authoritarian under Gordon Brown.'

There have always been greedy and corrupt individuals in politics, but never before in modern history has so much sleaze led

Dywedir bod y newidiadau wedi eu cyfiawnhau gan yr angen am leihau costau, ond mae'r costau sy'n deillio o'r Ddeddf yn fach. Mae adroddiad a gomisiynwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU yn amcangyfrif bod yr uchafswm arbedion tebygol o £10 miliwn ar draws y sector cyhoeddus cyfan yn y DU yn rhesymol o ran gwariant cyhoeddus. Mae'n anodd gweld sut y gallai'r arbedion gyfiawnhau'r difrod sy'n debygol o gael ei achosi. Mae prisio amser Gweinidogion y DU ar y gyfradd ryfeddol o £300 yr awr yn debygol o chwyddo costau amlwg ceisiadau o'r fath mewn modd artiffisial. Mae Llywodraeth y DU hefyd yn cynnig cyfrif cost yr amser a dreulir gan adrannau'r Llywodraeth yn darllen, ystyried ac ymgynghori ynghylch y cais. O ganlyniad, ni fydd llawer o geisiadau, sydd ar hyn o bryd o fewn y terfyn costau, o fewn y terfyn hwnnw yn y dyfodol. Bydd hyn yn effeithio'n arbennig ar geisiadau sy'n gymhleth mewn unrhyw ffordd.

Dylem hefyd nodi data pleidleisio'r Comisiynydd Gwybodaeth, sy'n dangos bod nifer yr awdurdodau cyhoeddus a oedd yn credu bod y Ddeddf yn faich wedi gostwng i 36 y cant yn unig, a bod 82 y cant o'r swyddogion rhyddid gwybodaeth yn cytuno bod angen y Ddeddf. Mae angen cael cydbwysedd rhwng rhyddid gwybodaeth a'r costau gweinyddol a dynnir. Yn ein barn ni, caiff y cydbwysedd cywir ei sicrhau gan y pwerau a roddir eisoes o dan reoliadau 2004.

Mae paradocs yma oherwydd, am ddau ddegawd pan oeddem mewn grym, cynhwysodd y blaid Lafur, yn ei maniffestos etholiad, addewid i gyflwyno darpariaethau rhyddid gwybodaeth. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd Ken Clarke ddoe:

Mae math personol, arlywyddol, byrfyfyr o lywodraeth lle mae camgymeriadau'n debygol o ddigwydd wedi tyfu'n aruthrol o dan arweiniad Tony Blair. Bydd yn cynyddu ac yn mynd yn fwy personol ac awdurdodaidd o dan arweiniad Gordon Brown.

Mae unigolion barus a llygredig wedi bod mewn gwleidyddiaeth erioed, ond ni fu erioed cymaint o lygredd mewn hanes fodern

straight to the door of No. 10—from Eccleston to the Hinduja brothers, from Desmond to Mittal, from the smallpox vaccine contract to the deliberate politicisation of the civil service, right through to lies about weapons of mass destruction.

In Wales, we have a higher proportion of whistleblowers than anywhere else in the UK—good, honest people who have raised legitimate concerns through official channels and have had their lives destroyed as a result. The power elite linked to this Assembly Government look after their own, and woe betide anyone who gets in their way. For example, when I quoted from official Flintshire County Council minutes, Edwina Hart dismissed the allegations as ‘scurrilous’, and then when I quoted from legally binding documents upholding those allegations, Sue Essex accused me of bringing the Assembly into disrepute.

Since then, Flintshire’s Labour-led council has been seen mounting investigations, mounting absenteeism, early retirements, resignations and suspensions. Now an independent councillor has written to Sue Essex, as the Minister responsible for local government, calling for an independent inquiry into how £5.8 million—a figure validated by finance officers—has disappeared into a black hole.

When, on behalf of whistleblowers, my office served a notice of misconduct in public office on Andrew Davies, he failed to respond and countless requests to the First Minister for independent inquiries have fallen on deaf ears.

This Government puts party before people and power before principle. The sooner we consign this gang of strutting commissars to the scrapbook of history, the better.

5.20 p.m.

Jenny Randerson: Undoubtedly, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been a

sydd wedi arwain yn syth at ddrws rhif 10—o Eccleston i’r brodyr Hinduja, o Desmond i Mittal, o gontract brechiad y frech wen i wleidyddoli bwriadol y gwasanaeth sifil, hyd at y celwydd ynghylch arfau dinistr.

Yng Nghymru, mae gennym gyfran uwch o chwythwyr chwiban nag yn unman arall yn y DU—pobl dda, gonest sydd wedi mynegi pryderon dilys drwy sianelau swyddogol, ac o ganlyniad i hynny mae eu bywydau wedi eu dinistrio. Mae’r etholedig rai sydd â’r pŵer ac sy’n gysylltiedig â’r Llywodraeth Cynulliad hon yn gofalu am eu pobl eu hunain, a gwae’r neb sy’n eu rhwystro. Er enghraifft, pan ddyfynnais o gofnodion swyddogol Cyngor Sir y Fflint, diystyrodd Edwina Hart yr honiadau gan ddweud eu bod yn enllibus, ac yna pan ddyfynnais o ddogfennau sy’n rhwymo’n gyfreithiol i gadarnhau’r honiadau hynny, fe’m cyhuddwyd gan Sue Essex o ddwyn anfri ar y Cynulliad.

Ers hynny, mae cyngor sir y Fflint o dan arweiniad y blaid Lafur wedi gweld cynnydd mewn ymchwiliadau, cynnydd mewn absenoldeb, pobl yn ymddeol yn gynnar, yn ymddiswyddo ac yn cael eu gwahardd o’u gwaith. Mae cynghorydd annibynnol wedi ysgrifennu at Sue Essex yn awr, fel y Gweinidog sy’n gyfrifol am lywodraeth leol, yn galw am ymchwiliad annibynnol i’r modd y mae £5.8 miliwn—ffigur a ddilyswyd gan swyddogion cyllid—wedi diflannu.

Pan gyflwynodd fy swyddfa i, ar ran chwythwyr chwiban, hysbysiad i Andrew Davies am gamymddwyn mewn swydd gyhoeddus, methodd yntau ag ymateb, ac mae ceisiadau di-rif sydd wedi’u hanfon at y Prif Weinidog yn gofyn am ymchwiliadau annibynnol wedi eu hanwybyddu.

Mae’r Llywodraeth hon yn rhoi’r blaid cyn y bobl a phŵer cyn egwyddor. Gorau po gyntaf y caiff y criw hwn o gomisariaid hunanbwysig eu bwrw i ebargfiant.

Jenny Randerson: Mae Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000 yn sicr wedi bod yn

success. Indeed, it has been far too successful for the UK Government, hence the proposal to increase fees and to reduce access to certain types of information, and certain amounts of information. The increase in the fees as it affects the media does not concern me too much. However, it concerns me greatly in relation to ordinary constituents, who apply for information, totally legitimately, in their personal interests. They are being penalised because the Government has found some of the information that has been made public to be an embarrassment.

I notice from the information that the Welsh Assembly Government has provided in the past that it reckons that the majority of requests were completed within the statutory deadline—67 per cent in 2005, and 65 per cent in 2006. I would be interested in who gets their information on time, because, over the last few years, I have lodged perhaps half a dozen to eight freedom of information requests, and on no occasion has the Government come anywhere near meeting the deadline.

The mechanisms used are interesting. They wait until day 19 of the request's having been received, and then write back saying, 'We need clarification of what you mean', although what you have written is pretty clear in the first place. That means that the clock starts ticking again. If you use that mechanism carefully, you can get 60 days out of it, by which time an awful lot of people give up, and sometimes the information has ceased to be of use. Therefore, we need much more accurate statistics on how many requests had to have their time extended in order to reach these figures.

I am also interested in why information is refused. Some of you may recall that a request that I made of the then Minister for Economic Development was rejected on the grounds that it would expose the Government to ridicule. I do not think that that is strictly within the terms of the Act, but those were the words used.

Another issue that I wish to raise is the

llwyddiant. Yn wir, bu'n llawer rhy llwyddiannus i Lywodraeth y DU, sy'n egluro'r cynnig i gynyddu ffioedd a lleihau mynediad i fathau penodol o wybodaeth, a maint penodol o wybodaeth. Nid yw'r cynnydd yn y ffioedd fel y mae'n effeithio ar y cyfryngau yn fy ngofidio ryw lawer. Fodd bynnag, mae'n fy ngofidio i'n fawr mewn perthynas ag etholwyr cyffredin, sy'n gwneud cais am wybodaeth, yn hollol ddilys, er eu lles personol hwy. Cânt eu cosbi am fod rhywfaint o'r wybodaeth a ryddhawyd i'r cyhoedd wedi achosi lletchwithdod i'r Llywodraeth.

Sylwaf o'r wybodaeth y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ei darparu yn y gorffennol ei bod yn barnu bod y rhan fwyaf o'r ceisiadau wedi eu cwblhau o fewn y terfyn amser statudol—67 y cant yn 2005, a 65 y cant yn 2006. Hoffwn wybod pwy sy'n cael eu gwybodaeth mewn pryd, oherwydd dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf yr wyf wedi gwneud rhwng chwech ac wyth o geisiadau rhyddid gwybodaeth, ac nid yw'r Llywodraeth ar unrhyw achlysur wedi dod yn agos at ddarparu'r wybodaeth o fewn y terfyn amser.

Mae'r dulliau a ddefnyddir yn ddiddorol. Maent yn aros 19 diwrnod ar ôl cael y cais, ac yna'n ysgrifennu'n ôl gan ddweud, 'Mae angen i chi egluro'r hyn a olygwch', er bod yr hyn a ysgrifennwyd gennyh yn eithaf eglur yn y lle cyntaf. Mae hynny'n golygu bod y cloc yn dechrau tician eto. Os defnyddiwyd y dull hwnnw yn ofalus, gall 60 diwrnod fynd heibio, ac erbyn hynny mae llawer iawn o bobl yn rhoi'r gorau i'r cais, ac weithiau mae'r wybodaeth wedi peidio â bod o ddefnydd. Felly, mae angen ystadegau llawer cywirach arnom am nifer y ceisiadau lle bu'n rhaid ymestyn yr amser er mwyn cyrraedd y ffigurau hyn.

Hoffwn wybod hefyd pam mae gwybodaeth yn cael ei gwrthod. Efallai y bydd rhai ohonoch yn cofio i gais a wneuthum i'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd ar y pryd gael ei wrthod am y rheswm y byddai'n gwneud y Llywodraeth yn destun sbort. Ni chredaf fod hynny'n dod o fewn telerau'r Ddeddf yn hollol, ond dyna'r geiriau a ddefnyddiwyd.

Mater arall yr hoffwn ei godi yw cynnwys

involvement of Ministers in the decision-making process with regard to what information to release. That is not just in relation to freedom of information requests, but in relation to requests from the Members' research service. Recently, I have on two or three occasions had the response from researchers here that the civil servants say that the information is available, but that they cannot provide it because they are awaiting clearance from the Minister. I do not believe that Ministers should be involved in that regard; that is inappropriate political involvement.

I recall the Presiding Officer saying to us all that Members should not have to use the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, on several occasions, I have asked for information from Ministers, have failed to get it, and have been forced to use the Act. That is a great pity. An interesting tactic is to say, 'You could provide me with this, or I will seek the information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000'. That sometimes does the trick, more or less. It depends on how much detail you want, and whether you want the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Having been in Government, I understand why Ministers do not want to reveal everything, as it is sometimes tricky to reveal stuff halfway through. However, I think that we could be at least as rigorous as the Scots. The Scots have not decided to increase fees, and have more rigorous tests for ensuring that information is released.

Finally, I wish to thank the Minister, Jane Hutt, for the information that she supplied me with when I suggested that if the Government here decided not to increase the fees or apply any other of the restrictions proposed by the UK Government, that would be fine except that people would then not be receiving information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act and would therefore not have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner. I am grateful for the Minister's reply, but having read it about 10 times, it is not clear that the suggestion that I made is not accurate. In responding, I would

Gweinidogion yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau am y wybodaeth sydd i gael ei rhyddhau. Mae hynny'n digwydd nid yn unig mewn perthynas â cheisiadau rhyddid gwybodaeth, ond mewn perthynas â cheisiadau gan wasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau. Yn ddiweddar, yr wyf ar ddau neu dri achlysur wedi cael yr ymateb gan ymchwilwyr yma fod y wybodaeth yn ôl y gweision sifil ar gael, ond na allant ei darparu am eu bod yn aros i'r Gweinidog roi caniatâd iddynt. Ni chredaf y dylai'r Gweinidogion fod yn rhan o hynny; mae'n gyfystyr ag ymwneud gwleidyddol amhriodol.

Yr wyf yn cofio'r Llywydd yn dweud wrth bob un ohonom na ddylai Aelodau orfod defnyddio Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000. Fodd bynnag, ar lawer achlysur yr wyf wedi gofyn am wybodaeth gan Weinidogion, wedi methu â'i chael ac wedi gorfod defnyddio'r Ddeddf. Mae hynny'n drueni mawr. Un dacteg ddiddorol yw dweud 'Gallech ddarparu hyn i mi, neu byddaf yn ceisio cael y wybodaeth o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000'. Mae hynny'n gweithio weithiau, fwy neu lai. Mae'n dibynnu ar faint o fanylion yr ydych am eu cael, ac a ydych am gael y gwir, yr holl wir a dim ond y gwir.

Ar ôl bod mewn grym, deallaf pam nad yw Gweinidogion am ddatgelu popeth, gan ei bod yn anodd datgelu pethau weithiau hanner ffordd drwy'r broses. Fodd bynnag, credaf y gallem fod mor llym â'r Albanwyr o leiaf. Mae'r Albanwyr wedi penderfynu peidio â chynyddu ffioedd, ac mae ganddynt broffion llymach ar gyfer sicrhau bod gwybodaeth yn cael ei rhyddhau.

I gloi, hoffwn ddiolch i'r Gweinidog, Jane Hutt, am y wybodaeth a roddodd i mi pan awgrymais, pe bai'r Llywodraeth yma'n penderfynu peidio â chynyddu'r ffioedd neu gymhwyso unrhyw rai eraill o'r cyfyngiadau a gynigiwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU, y byddai hynny'n iawn heblaw, ond na fyddai pobl wedyn yn cael gwybodaeth o dan delerau Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth, ac felly ni fyddai ganddynt yr hawl i apelio i'r Comisiynydd Gwybodaeth. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am ateb y Gweinidog, ond ar ôl ei ddarllen tua 10 gwaith, nid yw'n glir nad yw'r awgrym a wneuthum yn gywir. Wrth

be grateful if the Minister could give an unequivocal 'yes' or 'no' as to whether an appeal would still be possible, even if the information was provided outside the general terms of the Act.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): This debate was requested by opposition parties, and I was delighted to rise to the occasion and take the opportunity to say how proud we are of the lead that we have taken on freedom of information. As I said, our well-respected publication scheme and the vast amount of information that has been released in response to requests are visible examples of our commitment to maximising openness. We keep our policies and procedures under review. There is a great deal of training and awareness raising, and, as the Minister responsible, I ensure that we have a rigorous response across the whole of the Welsh Assembly Government not only with regard to our code of access but the Freedom of Information Act. That has delivered the openness that we would expect.

We have ensured that we learn lessons from experience and from the decisions made by the information commissioner and the information tribunal, and those lessons inform our future procedures. We can be confident about our ability to continue to meet the highest standards in this regard in future.

Jenny, your contribution was disappointing, because you know, having been a Minister, that the code of practice on Members' access to information clarifies the various routes available to Members in requesting information held by the Assembly Government. These include writing to Ministers, making requests via the Members' research service, making requests at committee meetings and tabling Assembly questions. In terms of writing to Ministers, we seek to deal with all requests for information as promptly as possible, but, as the code recognises, we cannot always reply to complex, and sometimes obscure, requests for information within the timescale set out in

ymateb, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai'r Gweinidog ddweud 'ie' neu 'na' pendant o ran a fyddai apêl yn bosibl o hyd, hyd yn oed os darparwyd y wybodaeth y tu allan i delerau cyffredinol y Ddeddf.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Y gwrthbleidiau a ofynnodd am y ddatl hon, ac yr oeddwn yn falch manteisio ar y cyfle a dweud mor falch yr ydym o arwain y blaen o ran rhyddid gwybodaeth. Fel y dywedais, mae ein cynllun cyhoeddiadau uchel ei barch a'r swm helaeth o wybodaeth a ryddhawyd mewn ymateb i geisiadau yn enghreifftiau amlwg o'n hymrwymiad i fod mor agored â phosibl. Yr ydym yn adolygu ein polisiau a'n gweithdrefnau'n gyson. Mae yna lawer iawn o hyfforddiant a chynhyddu ymwybyddiaeth, ac, fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol, byddaf yn sicrhau y cawn ymateb cadarn ar draws Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru nid yn unig o ran ein cod mynediad, ond o ran y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth. Mae hynny wedi sicrhau'r natur agored y byddem yn ei disgwyl.

Yr ydym wedi sicrhau ein bod yn dysgu gwersi o brofiad ac o'r penderfyniadau a wnaed gan y comisiynydd gwybodaeth a'r tribiwnlys gwybodaeth, ac mae'r gwersi hynny'n sail i'n gweithdrefnau yn y dyfodol. Gallwn fod yn hyderus ynghylch ein gallu i barhau i gyrraedd y safonau uchaf yn y cyswllt hwn yn y dyfodol.

Jenny, yr oedd eich cyfraniad yn siomedig, oherwydd gwyddoch, ar ôl bod yn Weinidog, fod y cod ymarfer ar hawl Aelodau i weld gwybodaeth yn egluro'r amrywiol lwybrau sydd ar gael i Aelodau wrth geisio cael gwybodaeth a ddelir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys ysgrifennu at Weinidogion, gwneud ceisiadau drwy gyfrwng gwasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau, gwneud ceisiadau mewn cyfarfodydd pwyllgor a chyflwyno cwestiynau Aelodau. O ran ysgrifennu at Weinidogion, yr ydym yn ceisio ymdrin â phob cais am wybodaeth mor brydlon â phosibl, ond fel y mae'r cod yn ei gydnabod, ni allwn bob amser ateb ceisiadau cymhleth,

the Freedom of Information Act. However, we always aim to do that, and we want to improve on our delivery in that regard.

Owen John, Mark, and Jenny, please listen to this carefully. I will say once more, on this final occasion, in our final Government debate: listen to what I have said about what we are doing in Wales. Do not always spend your time looking at what the UK Government is doing, and not believing that we in Wales have competence and commitment. That is demonstrated by the letter that the First Minister sent to Lord Falconer, stating your concerns about the proposed changes to the Freedom of Information Act. It stated those concerns clearly, mentioned Maurice Frankel's visit here and that concerns have been raised with us on a regular basis about the proposed changes. It is all in that letter. We have informed the UK Government of your views. As the First Minister states:

'Freedom of information is of course not a matter which is not devolved to the National Assembly and I recognised that the Welsh Assembly Government will still be able to operate a charging policy which is more generous than that established in regulations developed by the UK Government.'

That is the point, Owen John—

Owen John Thomas: Will you take an intervention?

Jane Hutt: No, you have made your point and I have made mine. This is about us repeating that we are committed to only charging for dealing with freedom of information requests in exceptional circumstances. Can you give me an example of when that has not happened?

5.30 p.m.

You can trust this Government to deliver because we have gone further than our commitment by not charging and by dealing

ac astrus weithiau, am wybodaeth o fewn yr amserlen a bennir yn y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym bob amser yn anelu at wneud hynny, ac yr ydym am wella'n darpariaeth yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

Owen John, Mark a Jenny, gwrandewch ar hyn yn ofalus. Fe ddywedaf unwaith eto, ar yr tro olaf hwn, yn nadl olaf y Llywodraeth: gwrandewch ar yr hyn a ddywedais am yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud yng Nghymru. Peidiwch â threulio'ch amser o hyd yn edrych ar yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth y DU yn ei wneud, a gwrthod credu bod gennym ni yng Nghymru y gallu a'r ymrwymiad. Dangosir hynny gan y llythyr a anfonodd y Prif Weinidog at yr Arglwydd Falconer, yn nodi eich pryderon am y newidiadau arfaethedig yn y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth. Yr oedd yn gosod allan y pryderon hynny'n glir, soniodd am ymweliad Maurice Frankel yma, a bod pryderon wedi eu codi gyda ni yn rheolaidd am y newidiadau arfaethedig. Mae'r cyfan yn y llythyr hwnnw. Yr ydym wedi hysbysu Llywodraeth y DU am eich barn. Fel y dywed y Prif Weinidog:

Nid yw rhyddid gwybodaeth, wrth gwrs, yn fater nad yw wedi ei ddatganoli i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, ac yr oeddwn yn cydnabod y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn dal i allu gweithredu polisi codi tâl sy'n fwy hael na'r hyn a sefydlwyd mewn rheoliadau a ddatblygwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Dyna'r pwynt, Owen John—

Owen John Thomas: A dderbyniwch ymyriad?

Jane Hutt: Na wna, yr ydych wedi gwneud eich pwynt chi ac yr wyf fi wedi gwneud fy mhwynt i. Mae a wnelo hyn ag ailadrodd ein bod wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau ein bod yn codi tâl am ymdrin â cheisiadau rhyddid gwybodaeth mewn amgylchiadau eithriadol yn unig. A allwch roi enghraifft i mi o adeg pan na ddigwyddodd hynny?

Gallwch ymddiried yn y Llywodraeth hon i weithredu gan ein bod wedi mynd y tu hwnt i'n hymrwymiad drwy beidio â chodi tâl, a

with any request for information despite some of them being large and complex. That is the point at which I will leave this debate. It is an important debate and I seek to retain and improve—

Owen John Thomas: Will you give way?

Jane Hutt: I will, as it is your last day. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Hear, hear.']

Owen John Thomas: Do you agree that the clear red water that you see between you and London is only a mirage? [*Laughter.*]

Jane Hutt: We will miss those kinds of contributions from Owen John Thomas.

Those of us on these benches are confident about our powers and about the strong influence that the Labour Welsh Assembly Government has on the Labour UK Government, which is demonstrated by what I have said today. Listen to my words; read the Record. As we go forward, we will seek to maintain that confidence and build on it from 9 May.

thruw ddelio ag unrhyw gais am wybodaeth er bod rhai ohonynt yn fawr ac yn gymhleth. Gadawaf y ddadl yn y fan hon. Mae'n ddadl bwysig ac yr wyf yn ceisio cadw a gwella—

Owen John Thomas: A wnewch chi ildio?

Jane Hutt: Gwnaf, gan mai hwn yw eich diwrnod olaf. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'Clywch, clywch.']

Owen John Thomas: A gytunwch mai rhithlun yw'r gwahaniaeth rhwng Llafur yng Nghaerdydd a Llafur yn San Steffan? [*Chwerthin.*]

Jane Hutt: Byddwn yn colli cyfraniadau o'r fath gan Owen John Thomas.

Mae'r rhai ohonom ar y meinciau hyn yn teimlo'n hyderus ynghylch ein pwerau ac ynghylch y dylanwad cryf sydd gan Lywodraeth Lafur Cynulliad Cymru ar Lywodraeth Lafur y DU, sy'n cael ei brofi gan yr hyn a ddywedais heddiw. Gwrandewch ar fy ngeiriau; darllenwch y Cofnod. Wrth inni symud ymlaen, byddwn yn ceisio cynnal yr hyder hwnnw ac adeiladu arno o 9 Mai ymlaen.

Gwelliant 1: O blaid 22, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 27.

Amendment 1: For 22, Abstain 0, Against 27.

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lloyd, David
Marek, John
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy

Morgan, Rhodri
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 23, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 27.
Amendment 2: For 23, Abstain 0, Against 27.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
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
Law, Trish
Lloyd, David
Marek, John
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

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

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

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

Motion (NDM3610): to propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

notes the commitment which the Welsh Assembly Government has made to maximising openness since a Code of Practice on Public Access to Information was implemented in May 1999.

Cynnig (NDM3610): cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn nodi ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i fod mor agored â phosibl ers i God Ymarfer ar Ganiatáu i'r Cyhoedd Weld Gwybodaeth gael ei weithredu ym mis Mai 1999.

*Cynnig (NDM3610): O blaid 47, Ymatal 1, Yn erbyn 2.
Motion (NDM3610): For 47, Abstain 1, Against 2.*

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

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Marek, John
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

Andrews, Leighton
Isherwood, Mark

Ymataliodd yr Aelod canlynol:
The following Member abstained:

Davies, Glyn

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Y Gymru Newydd—yr Wyth Mlynedd Cyntaf The New Wales—the First Eight Years

John Griffiths: Janet Davies and Christine Chapman have asked for some time in this
John Griffiths: Mae Janet Davies a Christine Chapman wedi gofyn am ychydig amser yn y

short debate, which I am pleased to give.

I am fortunate in having the honour of delivering the last short debate of the second Assembly. Given its timeliness, I could not resist the temptation of taking a look back at the first eight years of devolution and a peek ahead at the third Assembly under the new Government of Wales Act 2006.

A few years post 1999, on a visit to Edinburgh, I took the opportunity to ask a taxi driver for his considered verdict on the Scottish Parliament. Rather than rant against there being more politicians, he told me to ask him again after 20 years, when there might be enough experience to attempt tentative analysis and conclusions. That is laudable and sensible, so it is with considerable caution that I set out some personal thoughts and views on the infancy of devolution in Wales.

As the chair of Newport Says Yes, I can say that it was a struggle to fire up local support in the referendum but we made huge strides forward from 1979. I spent the night of 18 September 1997 in the Park Hotel, Cardiff, on that roller coaster ride of emotion through to the Carmarthenshire result and dramatic victory by just over a half of 1 per cent. I partied into the daylight before going straight to my day job as a solicitor. Devolution had taken a massive, if hesitant, step forward in great drama, which was to stay with it in the years to follow. The resignation of Ron Davies as Secretary of State for Wales and the leadership contest between Alun Michael and Rhodri Morgan were followed by all three main party leaders resigning in the first term.

The fledgling Assembly got under way with Plenary sessions and committees feeling their way in the new style of using Christian names in the Chamber and working family-friendly hours. Around half the Assembly Members were female, making Wales a world leader in the representation of women, attracting attention and admiration from around the globe. The Assembly also had

ddadl fer hon, ac yr wyf yn falch o roi'r amser hynny iddynt.

Yr wyf yn ffodus o gael y fraint o gyflwyno dadl fer olaf yr ail Gynulliad. O gofio bod hynny'n amserol, ni allwn beidio ag edrych yn ôl ar yr wyth mlynedd cyntaf ers datganoli ac edrych ymlaen yn gyflym at y trydydd Cynulliad o dan y ddeddf newydd, Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006.

Ychydig flynyddoedd ar ôl 1999, ar ymweliad â Chaeredin, achubais ar y cyfle i ofyn i yrrwr taci am ei farn am Senedd yr Alban. Yn hytrach na rhefru yn erbyn y ffaith bod mwy o wleidyddion, dywedodd wrthyf am ofyn iddo eto ymhen 20 mlynedd, pan fyddai digon o brofiad o bosibl i geisio dadansoddi a llunio casgliadau. Mae hynny'n ganmoladwy ac yn synhwyrol, felly, mynegaf safbwyntiau personol am ddyddiau cynnar datganoli yng Nghymru gyda gofal mawr.

Fel cadeirydd yr ymgyrch Ie yng Nghasnewydd, yr oedd ceisio sicrhau cefnogaeth leol yn y refferendwm yn anodd, ond cymerwyd camau breision ymlaen er 1979. Ar 18 Medi 1997, treuliais y noson yng Ngwesty'r Park, Caerdydd, yn mynd drwy bob emosiwn posibl hyd at gyhoeddi'r canlyniad yn sir Gaerfyrddin a'r fuddugoliaeth ddramatig o ychydig dros hanner un y cant. Yr oeddwn yn dal i ddathlu wrth i'r wawr dorri cyn mynd yn syth at fy ngwaith fel cyfreithiwr. Yr oedd datganoli wedi cymryd cam enfawr, ond petrusgar, ymlaen mewn drama wych, a fyddai'n parhau yn y blynyddoedd i ddod. Yn dilyn ymddiswyddiad Ron Davies fel Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru a'r frwydr am yr arweinyddiaeth rhwng Alun Michael a Rhodri Morgan, ymddiswyddodd arweinwyr pob un o'r tair prif blaid yn ystod y tymor cyntaf.

Dechreuodd y Cynulliad ifanc gyda sesiynau llawn a phwyllgorau'n dod yn gyfarwydd â'r dull newydd o ddefnyddio enwau cyntaf yn y Siambr, a gweithio oriau a oedd yn ystyriol o deuluoedd. Yr oedd hanner Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn ferched, a oedd yn golygu bod Cymru ar flaen y gad o ran cynrychiolaeth merched, gan ddenu sylw ac edmygedd ledled y byd. Yr oedd gan y Cynulliad

statutory commitments to equal opportunities and sustainable development.

All roads lead to Cardiff bay and media concentration has made it a goldfish bowl. UK organisations have also opened local offices to be near the new centre of power. One great gain, from the outset, was the opening up of the political process to voluntary organisations, professional bodies, wider civil society, communities and individuals. There have been meetings, receptions, seminars, protests and lobbies, with voluntary organisations interacting with AMs and Ministers and giving evidence to committees. There have also been key partnerships with local government, business and the voluntary sector through partnership councils and regular meetings. The trade unions and the co-operative movement have also been working with Labour Ministers.

There are 60 AMs available, from north to south, and from east to west, and the regional committees are in place. Although protestors chanting, 'What do we want?—Better Process; When do we want it?—Now' is not a regular sight on our streets, process is vitally important. Widening participation in policy formulation and implementation has resulted in better public services and a better quality of life.

Policy making, which was largely new to Wales, was a major challenge in the vital public service areas of education and health, economic development, and a range of other devolved responsibilities. There was a pressing need for politicians, civil servants, civil society, think tanks, and the country as a whole, to up their game. Although this is still a work in progress, it is greatly aided by the features of openness and accessibility.

Assembly delivery was in the context of an initial minority Labour Government, supported by daily negotiations with other parties, and then a coalition between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. In the second term, we had a Labour, de facto, wafer-thin majority, followed by a minority

ymrwymiaid statudol hefyd i gyfle cyfartal a datblygu cynaliadwy.

Bae Caerdydd yw'r ffocws, ac mae sylw'r cyfryngau wedi sicrhau bod llygaid pawb arno. Mae sefydliadau yn y DU hefyd wedi agor swyddfeydd lleol er mwyn bod yn agos at y ganolfan bŵer newydd. Un budd mawr, o'r cychwyn cyntaf, oedd agor y broses wleidyddol i sefydliadau gwirfoddol, cyrff proffesiynol, y gymdeithas sifil ehangach, cymunedau ac unigolion. Cynhaliwyd cyfarfodydd, derbyniadau, seminarau, protestiadau a lobïau, gyda sefydliadau gwirfoddol yn rhyngweithio ag ACau a Gweinidogion ac yn rhoi tystiolaeth i bwyllgorau. Gwelwyd partneriaethau allweddol hefyd gyda llywodraeth leol, busnesau a'r sector gwirfoddol drwy gynghorau partneriaeth a chyfarfodydd rheolaidd. Mae'r undebau llafur a'r mudiad cydweithredol hefyd wedi bod yn gweithio gyda Gweinidogion Llafur.

Mae 60 o ACau ar gael, o'r gogledd i'r de, ac o'r dwyrain i'r gorllewin, ac mae'r pwyllgorau rhanbarthol ar waith. Er nad yw gweld gwrthdystwyr yn gweiddi, 'Beth sydd arnom ei angen?—Gwell Proses; Pryd rydym am ei gael?—Nawr' yn digwydd yn aml ar ein strydoedd, mae proses yn hanfodol bwysig. Mae ehangu cyfranogiad wrth lunio a gweithredu polisiau wedi arwain at wasanaethau cyhoeddus gwell ac ansawdd bywyd gwell.

Yr oedd llunio polisiau, a oedd yn rhywbeth newydd i Gymru i raddau helaeth, yn her fawr ym meysydd gwasanaethau cyhoeddus hanfodol megis addysg ac iechyd, datblygu economaidd, ac amrywiaeth o gyfrifoldebau datganoledig eraill. Yr oedd angen dybryd i wleidyddion, gweision sifil, y gymdeithas sifil, pwyllgorau ystyried a'r wlad gyfan wella'u gêm. Er bod y gwaith hwn yn mynd rhagddo o hyd, caiff ei gynorthwyo'n fawr gan ddiwylledd a hygyrchedd.

I gychwyn, arweiniwyd gweithredoedd y Cynulliad gan Lywodraeth Lafur leiafrifol, a gefnogid gan drafodaethau dyddiol gyda phleidiau eraill, ac yna gwelwyd clymblaid rhwng Llafur a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Yn yr ail dymor, cafwyd mwyafrif bychan Llafur, de facto, ac yna weinyddiaeth

administration. Notwithstanding these difficulties, I would contend that much has been achieved.

The creation of a National Assembly for Wales was, in itself, the big idea. It was about bringing power to the people, building a modern Wales, and fostering greater cohesion and much needed self-confidence. It would give Wales a stronger identity for a secure base from which to sally forth into the world. Gone are the days of Secretaries of State for Wales governing from afar, and Westminster always knowing best. We are taking our fate into our own hands and maturing as a nation. The new Assembly building, the Senedd, is a source of pride, attracting a staggering 350,000 visitors from all over the world since the official opening on St David's Day last year.

We have delivered on bread-and-butter policies. Since devolution, our economy has 140,000 more jobs; unemployment is below the UK average, rather than a third higher; and the economic inactivity gap has been halved. Education is forging a distinctive Welsh path and reaching new heights of achievement. The health sector is constantly improving and there are ever-increasing standards across the public services, with many more and better-rewarded staff, and more buildings and equipment.

We are showing the way to the rest of the UK with our Children's Commissioner for Wales and with our soon-to-be-appointed older people's commissioner, building on the internationally recognised success of our older people's strategy. The reform of the Assembly sponsored public bodies, for a more strategic and streamlined approach, has demonstrated our growing political maturity and effectiveness. From a socialist viewpoint, there has been a gratifying opening-up of clear red water between Wales and Westminster, reflecting different socio-economic circumstances. There is emphasis on partnership and co-operation, public investment and local democracy. Wales is developing apace, including those parts with which I am most familiar.

leiafrifol. Er yr anawsterau hyn, byddwn yn dadlau bod llawer wedi'i gyflawni.

Creu Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i Gymru oedd y syniad mawr ynddo'i hun. Yr oedd a wnelo â dod â phŵer i'r bobl, adeiladu Cymru fodern, a meithrin gwell cydlynad a hunan-hyder yr oedd eu hangen yn ddirfawr. Byddai'n rhoi delwedd gryfach i Gymru ar gyfer sail gref i fentro allan i'r byd. Daeth y dyddiau i ben pan fyddai Ysgrifenyddion Gwladol Cymru yn llywodraethu o bell a San Steffan bob amser yn gwybod yn well. Yr ydym bellach yn gyfrifol am ein ffawd ein hunain ac yn aeddfedu fel cenedl. Mae adeilad newydd y Cynulliad, y Senedd, yn ffynhonnell balchder, ac wedi denu 350,000 o ymwelwyr o bob cwr o'r byd ers ei hagor ar Ddydd Gŵyl Dewi y llynedd.

Yr ydym wedi darparu ar bolisiau sylfaenol. Ers datganoli, ychwanegwyd 140,000 o swyddi at ein heconomi; mae diweithdra'n is na'r cyfartaledd yn y DU, yn hytrach na thraean yn uwch; ac mae'r bwlch mewn anweithgarwch economaidd wedi'i haneru. Mae addysg yn dilyn llwybr nodedig yng Nghymru ac yn cyrraedd lefelau newydd o ran yr hyn sy'n cael ei gyflawni. Mae'r sector iechyd yn gwella'n barhaus, ac mae safonau ar draws y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn codi'n barhaus, a llawer mwy o staff a wobrwyr yn well, ynghyd â mwy o adeiladau a chyfarpar.

Yr ydym yn dangos y ffordd i weddill y DU gyda swydd Comisiynydd Plant Cymru a'r comisiynydd pobl hŷn a gaiff ei benodi'n fuan, gan adeiladu ar lwyddiant ein strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn, a hynny ar lefel ryngwladol. Mae'r broses o ddiwygio cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, er mwyn sicrhau gweithredu mewn ffordd fwy strategol a syml, wedi dangos ein bod yn parhau i aeddfedu'n wleidyddol ac yn dod yn fwy effeithiol. O safbwynt sosialaidd, cafwyd y boddhad o weld gwahaniaethau pendant rhwng Cymru a San Steffan, gan adlewyrchu amgylchiadau economaidd-gymdeithasol gwahanol. Mae yna bwyslais ar bartneriaeth a chydweithredu, buddsoddiad cyhoeddus a democratiaeth leol. Mae Cymru'n datblygu'n gyflym, gan gynnwys y rhannau sydd fwyaf cyfarwydd i mi.

5.40 p.m.

In Newport, the Assembly Government's impressive response to major steel industry job losses sees a new city springing up all around, affecting retail, commerce, industry, transport, housing, leisure and education. All are given greater urgency and impetus by the coming of the world-stage event, the Ryder Cup, in 2010.

On our frequent weekend visits to wonderful Gower, my partner and I drive through a rapidly developing Swansea; and Cardiff bay has undergone a remarkable transformation from docks to ever-growing, exciting European city waterfront. All over Wales, development is impressive, showing strategies and policies reaching and benefiting all areas, from the north to the west to the Valleys, aided by judicious use of Objective 1 and other EU funding, together with the dispersal of civil service jobs out of Cardiff and the creation of new Assembly buildings. This shows the level of commitment to meeting the institution's all-Wales responsibility, and to building a more united nation. The bedrock of this delivery has been strong partnership between Labour in Cardiff and Westminster.

Issues of refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants have seen Assembly responses based firmly on humanitarian values, standing strong against racism and discrimination. The face of today's Wales is increasingly diverse. My upbringing in Pill, the docks area of Newport, was rich and varied in its ethnic mix. More recent arrivals from Pakistan and the West Indies joined those who, like my mother, had crossed the sea from Ireland and others from across Europe and beyond. Now, a new wave of workers from the enlarged European Union is aiding our economy and bringing Polish shops to our communities.

Meanwhile, cultural issues concerning the Welsh language have seen a more mature consensus built around support and development.

Yng Nghasnewydd, mae ymateb nodedig Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i'r colledi swyddi niferus yn y diwydiant dur wedi gweld dinas newydd yn datblygu, yn effeithio ar fanwerthu, masnach, diwydiant, trafndiaeth, tai, hamdden ac addysg. Mae mwy o frys ac ysgogiad i weithredu'r datblygiadau cyn dyfodiad Cwpan Ryder yn 2010, a fydd yn denu sylw ledled y byd.

Ar ein hymweliadau mynych ag ardal hyfryd Gŵyr ar benwythnosau, bydd fy mhartner a minnau'n gyrru drwy ddinas Abertawe, sy'n tyfu'n gyflym; ac mae Bae Caerdydd wedi'i drawsnewid yn llwyr o ddociau i ardal glandŵr dinas Ewropeaidd gyffrous sy'n tyfu'n barhaus. Mae datblygiadau nodedig ledled Cymru, sy'n dangos bod strategaethau a pholisïau'n cyrraedd pob ardal ac yn dod â budd iddynt, o'r gogledd i'r gorllewin i'r Cymoedd, wedi'u hategu gan ddefnyddio arian Amcan 1 yn ddoeth ac arian arall gan yr UE, ynghyd â datganoli swyddi'r gwasanaeth sifil o Gaerdydd a chreu adeiladau newydd y Cynulliad. Dengys hyn lefel yr ymrwymiad i gyflawni cyfrifoldeb y sefydliad i Gymru gyfan, ac i adeiladu cenedl fwy unedig. Sail yr hyn a gyflawnwyd fu'r bartneriaeth gref rhwng Llafur yng Nghaerdydd a San Steffan.

Mae materion yn ymwneud â ffoaduriaid, ceiswyr lloches ac ymfudwyr economaidd wedi gweld ymatebion y Cynulliad yn cael eu seilio'n gadarn ar werthoedd dyngarol, gan wneud safiad cryf yn erbyn hiliaeth a gwahaniaethu. Mae'r Gymru sydd ohoni yn gynyddol amrywiol. Yr oedd fy magwraeth i yn y Pîl, ardal y dociau yng Nghasnewydd, yn gyfoethog ac yn amrywiol o ran ei chymysgedd ethnig. Ymunodd dyfodiaid diweddarach o Bacistan ac India'r Gorllewin â'r rhai a oedd, fel fy mam, wedi croesi'r môr o Iwerddon ac eraill o bob cwr o Ewrop a thu hwnt. Yn awr, mae ton newydd o weithwyr o'r Undeb Ewropeaidd ehangach yn cynorthwyo ein heconomi ac yn dod â siopau Pwylaidd i'n cymunedau.

Yn y cyfamser, yr ydym yn gweld consensws mwy aeddfed o ran materion diwylliannol sy'n ymwneud â'r iaith Gymraeg sy'n seiliedig ar gymorth a datblygiad.

A minnau'n dysgu Cymraeg, yr wyf yn falch iawn o weld yr iaith yn tyfu ac yn datblygu yng Nghasnewydd, yn ein hysgolion, cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg fel ei gilydd, yn ein dosbarthiadau nos, yn yr orsaf drenau, yn swyddfa'r post ac mewn banciau. Braff hefyd gweld arwyddion Cymraeg yn ein strydoedd.

Crucially, and thankfully, devolution has not been introspective. Wales's interaction with the world and its international profile have benefited hugely. Greater diplomatic representation and a stream of foreign Government leaders and Ministers to Cardiff have been matched by a better presence for Wales overseas, from Brussels to the United States, with enhanced trade missions, St David's Day celebrations and visits abroad. There are also strong relations with EU regions and other countries, from China to Australia to Argentina. Recently, our international sustainable development framework was drawn up to add value to UK overseas development. It is hugely worthwhile, linking us, as it does, to sub-Saharan Africa and adding to the tremendous effort to save life and eradicate the scourge of poverty.

What of the future? The new Government of Wales Act 2006 is a big step forward. We need greater powers to achieve better delivery. We voted for a smoking ban back in 2003, but we had to wait for recent Westminster legislation to enable us to introduce that ban from next Monday, 2 April—some four years later. Public health experts estimate that some 400 people die every year in Wales from the effects of passive smoking; that figure puts the consequences of limited powers in stark relief. Post May, Orders in Council will transfer legislative responsibility to Cardiff, making Assembly Measures our equivalent of Acts of Parliament, which will present us with a raft of new opportunities and challenges to shape our own destiny.

Wales has come a long way in the last eight years, but there is a very long way yet to go.

As a Welsh learner, I am proud to see the language grow and develop in Newport, in our schools, English-medium and Welsh-medium alike, in our night classes, in the train station, in the post office and in banks. It is also wonderful to see Welsh-language signs on our streets.

Yn hanfodol, a diolch i'r drefn, nid yw llygaid datganoli wedi bod ar y system ei hun. Mae Cymru wedi elwa'n fawr o'i rhyngweithio â'r byd a'i phroffil rhyngwladol. Gwelwyd mwy o gynrychiolaeth ddiplomyddol a llif o arweinwyr a Gweinidogion Llywodraethau tramor yn ymweld â Chaerdydd a phresenoldeb Cymru dramor yn cynyddu, o Frwsel i'r Unol Daleithiau, gyda gwell cenadaethau masnach, dathliadau Dydd Gŵyl Dewi ac ymweliadau tramor. Mae cysylltiadau cryf wedi'u meithrin hefyd â rhanbarthau'r UE a gwledydd eraill, o Tsieina i Awstralia i'r Ariannin. Yn ddiweddar, lluniwyd ein fframwaith datblygu cynaliadwy rhyngwladol i ychwanegu gwerth at ddatblygiadau tramor y DU. Mae'n fuddiol iawn, yn ein cysylltu ag Affrica is-Sahara ac yn ychwanegu at yr ymdrech fawr i achub bywydau a dileu tlodi.

Beth am y dyfodol? Mae'r ddeddf newydd, Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006, yn gam mawr ymlaen. Mae arnom angen mwy o bwerau i gyflawni mwy. Pleidleisiwyd dros wahardd smygu yn ôl yn 2003, ond bu'n rhaid aros am ddeddfwriaeth yn ddiweddar gan San Steffan i'n galluogi i gyflwyno'r gwaharddiad hwnnw o ddydd Llun nesaf, 2 Ebrill—ryw bedair blynedd yn ddiweddarach. Mae arbenigwyr ym maes iechyd y cyhoedd yn amcangyfrif bod tua 400 o bobl yng Nghymru yn marw bob blwyddyn o effeithiau smygu goddefol; mae'r ffigur hwnnw'n dangos canlyniadau pwerau cyfyngedig yn blaen. Ar ôl mis Mai, bydd Gorchmynion yn y Cyfrin Gyngor yn trosglwyddo cyfrifoldeb deddfwriaethol i Gaerdydd, gan olygu y bydd Mesurau'r Cynulliad yn cyfateb i Ddeddfau Seneddol, a fydd yn rhoi llu o gyfleoedd a heriau newydd inni lunio ein tynged ein hunain.

Mae Cymru wedi dod ymhell yn yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf, ond mae llawer iawn i'w

We can look forward with confidence. Devolved government has settled in, and it is delivering. Ours is a beautiful, small country that has strong communities and friendly people, bringing many advantages for the economy, public service delivery and quality of life.

It has been a great privilege to serve as an Assembly Member since the very beginning, and to be a Deputy Minister. When the Assembly next meets in its third term, the people will have spoken once again. The politicians returned and their parties will have a big job to do in a substantially different body. However, for me, there remains unfinished business; the logical and necessary destination for the Assembly is full law making.

As a Labour politician, I am eager for greater empowerment of our people on both principle and practical effect. Wales has long shown itself to be a socialist nation in election after election by its philosophy, values and actions. Further devolution will help to deliver the historic Labour movement goals of redistributing wealth and power for equality of opportunity and greater equality of outcome, working to eradicate the tremendous waste of human potential to achieve social justice.

I very much hope that debates in years to come will take place in a parliament for Wales, and that those debates will look back at the development of an even more strongly socialist Wales.

Janet Davies: Unlike some Assembly Members, I looked forward to the first Assembly with pleasure and anticipation, although that was tempered by fear that some Members might be more interested in its destruction, or that it would be the birth of a squirming worm to be trodden underfoot rather than a beautiful Welsh owl, symbolising wisdom. However, the political world in Wales has shifted in eight years, and I look back to meeting the Presiding Officer, among others, in some rather odd backrooms and cafes in the 1980s, when a number of us

wneud o hyd. Gallwn edrych ymlaen yn hyderus. Mae llywodraeth ddatganoledig wedi'i sefydlu, ac mae'n sicrhau canlyniadau. Mae Cymru'n wlad fach, hardd gyda chymunedau cryf a phobl gyfeillgar, sy'n sicrhau buddiannau niferus i'r economi, darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ac ansawdd bywyd.

Bu'n anrhydedd mawr gwasanaethu fel Aelod o'r Cynulliad ers y cychwyn cyntaf, ac i fod yn Ddirprwy Weinidog. Pan fydd y Cynulliad yn cyfarfod nesaf yn ei drydydd tymor, bydd y bobl wedi llefaru unwaith yn rhagor. Bydd y gwleidyddion yn dychwelyd a bydd gan eu pleidiau waith pwysig i'w wneud o fewn corff a fydd yn wahanol iawn. Fodd bynnag, i mi, nid yw'r busnes ar ben o hyd; y gyrchfan resymegol ac angenrheidiol i'r Cynulliad yw fel corff llunio cyfreithiau llawn.

Fel gwleidydd Llafur, yr wyf yn awyddus i'n pobl gael eu grymuso ymhellach, o ran egwyddor ac yn ymarferol. Mae Cymru ers amser wedi dangos dro ar ôl tro mewn etholiadau ei bod yn wlad sosialaidd o ran ei hathroniaeth, ei gwerthoedd a'i gweithredoedd. Bydd datganoli pellach yn helpu sicrhau nodau hanesyddol Llafur o aildosbarthu cyfoeth a phŵer er mwyn sicrhau cyfleoedd cyfartal a mwy o degwch mewn canlyniadau, gan weithio i gael gwared ar y gwastraff aruthrol ar botensial pobl er mwyn sicrhau cyfiawnder cymdeithasol.

Gobeithiaf yn fawr y caiff dadleuon y dyfodol eu cynnal mewn senedd i Gymru, ac y bydd y dadleuon hynny'n edrych yn ôl ar ddatblygiad Cymru sy'n fwy sosialaidd fyth.

Janet Davies: Yn wahanol i rai Aelodau'r Cynulliad, yr oeddwn i'n edrych ymlaen at y Cynulliad cyntaf gyda phleser a brwdfrydedd, er i hynny gael ei lesteirio gan ofn y byddai gan rai Aelodau, o bosibl, fwy o ddiddordeb yn ei ddinistrio, neu y byddem yn gweld geni mwydyn gwinglyd i'w sathru dan draed, yn hytrach na thylluan Gymreig hardd fel arwydd o ddoethineb. Fodd bynnag, mae'r byd gwleidyddol yng Nghymru wedi datblygu mewn wyth mlynedd, ac edrychaf yn ôl ar gyfnod pan fyddwn yn cyfarfod â'r Llywydd, ymhlith eraill, mewn ystafelloedd

hoped to achieve this one day.

John has listed achievements, and they are good, but what we cannot know is what could have been achieved had the Assembly Government been wiser and more courageous, less concerned with spin and more concerned with good quality services. We have lacked powers and we will still lack powers in the third Assembly, so let us acknowledge that and commit ourselves, inside or outside the Assembly, to working towards having the powers that Wales needs to govern itself.

Christine Chapman: I commend John on his choice of debate. It is a fitting subject for the final debate of the session, and a fitting tribute. There are so many different aspects that we could talk about that we could be here all evening.

There are two points that I particularly wish to raise with reference to your debate on the new Wales. You touched upon the Assembly's record number of women Members. In 1999, devolution was a new and fresh experience, which presented us with an opportunity to increase women's participation in politics. The principle of the new Assembly from its inception was to achieve a better gender balance. We have done that, and I am proud that over 50 per cent of Members are women. Nowhere in the world has such political parity between men and women been achieved. The Cabinet that followed was to have more women than men, which set a fantastic example to the UK Parliament and the rest of the world. It gives a clear message that true democracy must represent all of its citizens, and we have achieved that in the Assembly. On 3 May, I hope that this important principle will continue into the next Assembly.

John also talked about another important principle of devolution: open and participatory politics. We have a political structure in Wales that is truly reflective of its people, with an emphasis on collaboration rather than competition. We have a style of Government that is consensual, open and less

cefn a chaffis digon rhyfedd yn yr 1980au, pan oedd nifer ohonom yn gobeithio cyflawni hyn ryw ddydd.

Rhestrodd John yr hyn a gyflawnwyd, ac maent yn rhai da. Ond yr hyn na allwn ei wybod yw beth y gellid bod wedi'i gyflawni pe byddai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi bod yn ddoethach ac yn ddewrach, gan bryderu llai am sbin a phryderu mwy am wasanaethau o safon dda. Ni fu gennym bwerau digonol, a bydd y sefyllfa honno'n parhau yn y trydydd Cynulliad, felly, gadewch inni gydnabod hynny ac ymrwymo, y tu mewn neu'r tu allan i'r Cynulliad, i weithio tuag at sefyllfa lle y bydd gan Gymru y pwerau y mae arni eu hangen i'w llywodraethu ei hun.

Christine Chapman: Hoffwn gymeradwyo John ar ei ddewis o ddadl. Mae'n bwnc addas i ddadl olaf y sesiwn, ac yn deyrnged addas. Gallem frod yma drwy'r nod, gan fod cynifer o wahanol agweddau y gallem sôn amdanynt.

Hoffwn godi dau bwynt yn benodol gan gyfeirio at eich dadl ar y Gymru newydd. Cyfeiriech yn fras at y nifer fawr o Aelodau yn y Cynulliad sy'n ferched. Yn 1999, yr oedd datganoli'n brofiad newydd a ffres, a rhoddodd gyfle inni gynyddu cyfranogiad menywod mewn gwleidyddiaeth. Egwyddor y Cynulliad newydd o'r cychwyn oedd darparu gwell cydbwysedd rhwng y ddau ryw. Yr ydym wedi gwneud hynny, ac yr wyf yn falch fod dros 50 y cant o'r Aelodau'n fenywod. Nid oes cystal cysondeb gwleidyddol rhwng dynion a menywod yn unman arall yn y byd. Yr oedd gan y Cabinet a ddilynodd fwy o fenywod na dynion, a oedd yn esiampl wych i Senedd y DU a gweddill y byd. Mae'n rhoi neges glir fod yn rhaid i ddemocratiaeth wirioneddol gynrychioli pob un o'i dinasyddion, ac yr ydym wedi gwneud hynny yn y Cynulliad. Ar 3 Mai, gobeithio y bydd yr egwyddor bwysig hon yn parhau i'r Cynulliad nesaf.

Soniodd John hefyd am egwyddor bwysig arall ynglŷn â datganoli: sef gwleidyddiaeth agored a chyfranogol. Mae gennym strwythur gwleidyddol yng Nghymru sy'n adlewyrchiad gwirioneddol o'i phobl, gyda phwyslais ar gydweithredu yn hytrach na chystadlu. Mae gennym arddull

adversarial. Our beautiful building represents that openness in Government. We see many visitors from across Wales and the rest of the world, and they all say that they can see a difference. This place has a different feel about it than anywhere else. We also know that organisations feel much closer now to policy makers, and that has been one of the great achievements here. I am certainly proud of what has happened over the last eight years. We have stuck to some important principles, and I hope that, in future, we will continue to do so.

5.50 p.m.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): Diolch yn fawr, John. That was a splendid lecture, which we should publish at the end of this second Assembly. It was absolutely wonderful, and I wish that more Members were here to hear it. It is interesting that we finished the last debate, on freedom of information, with that important point about confidence, and it is with confidence that we should look forward. John, you have clearly demonstrated your passion and commitment, not just over the past eight years, but well before that, to developing the new Wales that we are so proud of.

We must remember that it was the establishment of the first Assembly in 1999 that enabled us to take responsibility for our own futures for the first time in 500 years. That is a momentous development that we are all privileged to be a part of. In the four years of the first Assembly, and the four years of this second Assembly, we have seized that chance with growing capability and confidence in our abilities. We have achieved a lot, and we have done that by making our own decisions and choosing our own path.

Our achievements over the past eight years have made Wales a wealthier, healthier nation. I want to mention some of the ways in which we have forged our own path. You commented on establishing the first children's commissioner in the UK, with the rest of the UK following our lead. We also went on to establish the office of the older

Lywodraethol sy'n gydsyniol, yn agored ac yn llai gwrthwynebus. Mae ein hadeilad godidog yn cynrychioli'r natur agored honno mewn Llywodraeth. Gwelwn nifer o ymwelwyr o bob cwr o Gymru a gweddill y byd, a dywedant i gyd y gallant weld gwahaniaeth. Mae yna deimlad gwahanol yn y lle hwn. Gwyddom hefyd fod sefydliadau'n awr yn teimlo lawer yn nes at wneuthurwyr polisi, ac mae hynny'n un o'n llwyddiannau mwyaf. Yr wyf yn sicr yn ymfalchïo yn yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn ystod yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf. Yr ydym wedi glynu at rai egwyddorion pwysig, a gobeithio, yn y dyfodol, y byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Diolch yn fawr, John. Yr oedd yn ddarlith arbennig, a dylem ei chyhoeddi ar ddiwedd yr ail Gynulliad hwn. Yr oedd yn ardderchog iawn, a thrueni na fyddai mwy o Aelodau yma i'w chlywed. Mae'n ddiddorol ein bod wedi gorffen y ddadl ddiwethaf, ar ryddid gwybodaeth, gyda'r pwynt pwysig hwnnw am hyder, a chyda hyder y dylem edrych i'r dyfodol. John, yr ydych wedi dangos eich brwdfrydedd a'ch ymrwymiad yn glir, nid yn unig yn ystod yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf, ond ymhell cyn hynny, i ddatblygu'r Gymru newydd yr ydym i gyd mor falch ohoni.

Rhaid inni gofio mai sefydlu'r Cynulliad cyntaf yn 1999 a'n galluogodd i gymryd cyfrifoldeb am ein dyfodol ein hunain am y tro cyntaf ers 500 mlynedd. Mae hynny'n ddatblygiad hollbwysig, ac yr oedd yn frain i bob un ohonom gael bod yn rhan ohono. Yn ystod pedair blynedd y Cynulliad cyntaf, a phedair blynedd yr ail Gynulliad hwn, manteisiwyd ar y cyfle hwnnw gyda gallu a hyder cynyddol yn ein galluoedd. Yr ydym wedi cyflawni llawer, ac wedi gwneud hynny drwy wneud ein penderfyniadau ein hunain a dewis ein llwybr ein hunain.

Mae ein cyflawniadau yn ystod yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf wedi gwneud Cymru'n wlad iachach a chyfoethocach. Yr wyf am sôn am rai o'r ffyrdd a ddefnyddiwyd gennym i lunio ein llwybr ein hunain. Gwnaethoch sylwadau ar sefydlu'r comisiynydd plant cyntaf yn y DU, a gweddill y DU yn dilyn ein hesiampl.

people's commissioner, again leading the way. At the end of the second Assembly, as we move into campaigning mode, this debate is a chance for us to take stock and reflect, and I often think that this time is almost like revising for examinations.

Glyn Davies: Do you agree with John that what we should really have in Wales is a full parliament with law-making powers in devolved areas? That is certainly my view, and I was against the establishment of this Assembly. However, while driving home from the referendum count, I took the view that the only logical conclusion was to have a parliament with full law-making powers in those areas that are devolved. I think that the Government of Wales Act 2006 is, to that extent, inadequate, though it is a useful step forward, if we manage it properly. However, it would be useful if you could tell us whether you share John Griffiths's view, my view, and that of an increasing number in my party.

Jane Hutt: It is good to see a convert to devolution in the Chamber, albeit in the last few minutes of this Assembly. You are a genuine convert, and I recognise that. You did not have the great joy—and anxiety—of being part of the 'Yes for Wales' campaign in the 1997 referendum, which all the other parties were involved in, but I am sure that you now wish that you had been part of that, rather than the 'No' campaign, which we struggled against. As it turned out, we only just got there, and I think that that was because of that lack of confidence and lack of awareness about what we could do if we got to grips with devolution.

The Government of Wales Act 2006 has delivered significant new powers and an opportunity for the future development of those powers through a referendum. It is all there in the Act. I spoke earlier today at a local Probus group in my constituency, and, inevitably, there were people who were still sceptical about what the Assembly was

Aethom ati hefyd i sefydlu swydd y comisiynydd pobl hŷn, gan ddangos esiampl unwaith yn rhagor. Ar ddiwedd yr ail Gynulliad, wrth inni ddechrau ar ein hymgyrchoedd, mae'r ddadl hon yn gyfle inni ystyried a myfyrio, a chredaf yn aml fod y cyfnod hwn bron fel adolygu ar gyfer arholiadau.

Glyn Davies: A gytunwch â John mai'r hyn a ddylai fod gennym yng Nghymru mewn gwirionedd yw senedd lawn gyda phwerau i lunio cyfreithiau mewn meysydd datganoledig? Yr wyf fi'n sicr yn credu hynny, ac yr oeddwn yn erbyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad hwn. Fodd bynnag, wrth yrru adref ar ôl canlyniadau'r refferendwm, deuthum i'r farn mai'r unig gasgliad rhesymegol oedd creu senedd gyda phwerau llawn i lunio cyfreithiau yn y meysydd hynny a gaiff eu datganoli. Credaf, yn hynny o beth, fod Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 yn ddiffygiol, er ei bod yn gam defnyddiol ymlaen, os caiff ei rheoli'n briodol gennym. Fodd bynnag, byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe gallech ddweud wrthym a ydych o'r un farn â barn John Griffiths, fy marn i, a barn nifer gynyddol o aelodau fy mhlaid.

Jane Hutt: Mae'n dda gweld rhywun yn troi o blaid datganoli yn y Siambr, er mai yn ystod ychydig funudau olaf y Cynulliad hwn y gwnaed hynny. Yr ydych wedi newid eich barn yn llwyr, ac yr wyf yn cydnabod hynny. Ni chawsoch y pleser—a'r gofid—mawr o fod rhan o'r ymgyrch 'Ie dros Gymru' yn refferendwm 1997 yr oedd yr holl bleidiau eraill yn rhan ohono, ond yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod bellach yn difaru nad oeddech yn rhan o'r ymgyrch honno, yn hytrach na'r ymgyrch 'Na' yr oeddem yn brwydro yn ei herbyn. Fel y digwyddodd, yr oedd yn agos iawn, a chredaf mai'r rheswm dros hynny oedd y diffyg hyder hwnnw a diffyg ymwybyddiaeth o'r hyn y gallem ei gyflawni pe baem yn mynd i'r afael â datganoli.

Mae Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 wedi darparu pwerau newydd sylweddol a chyfle i ddatblygu'r pwerau hynny yn y dyfodol drwy refferendwm. Mae hyn i gyd yno yn y Ddeddf. Siaradais yn gynharach heddiw mewn grŵp Probus lleol yn fy etholaeth, ac yn anochel yr oedd pobl yno a oedd yn dal yn amheus ynghylch cyflawniadau'r Cynulliad.

achieving. Many of them had much the same views: 'I voted against the Assembly, but now that we have got it, we want it to have teeth and we want it to work'. Opinion polls show that people in Wales believe that the Assembly is where the big policy decisions affecting their lives should be taken. That is the indication.

Janice Gregory: You said earlier that we need to take stock. I know that you and other colleagues were present on the night the Mothers' Union of Llandaff diocese came to the Assembly to talk to Members, and so I think that you are correct in saying that we need to take stock, and I thank John for his short debate today. The Mothers' Union deanery leaders who were present on the night in question said that they wanted to ask us some very searching questions. However, in answering their questions, we were able to say that we had already delivered what they were asking for, we were in the process of delivering it, or we had discussed it and would deliver it in the third Assembly. Therefore, do you agree that not only do we need to sell the Assembly and the good work that is done here, but the media also have a responsibility to spread the word?

Jane Hutt: Yes. That is the great challenge as we move out to face the electorate, and it is one that I always enjoy. This is a chance to do more than just take stock; however, the electorate will decide on 3 May. It is interesting to note the number of organisations that have recognised the relevance of the Assembly, like the Mothers' Union, but perhaps even more recently. They have been creating far more links with the UK Government without realising that everyday, bread-and-butter issues that we recognise in civic society, in terms of questions or concerns about matters, can be brought to us, as we are responsible for them. Civic society has backed, promoted and embraced devolution in the Assembly in a vigorous way, and it would be ideal if the media would recognise that the people of Wales have seen delivery in terms of our implementing policies that make such a difference to people's lives, such as the carers' strategy. The fact that prescription charges are being completely abolished from

Yr oedd nifer ohonynt â barn debyg: 'Pleidleisiais yn erbyn y Cynulliad, ond gan fod gennym Gynulliad yn awr, yr ydym am iddo gael dannedd ac am iddo weithio'. Dengys arolygon barn fod pobl yng Nghymru yn credu mai'r Cynulliad a ddylai wneud penderfyniadau polisi pwysig sy'n effeithio ar eu bywydau. Dyna'r awgrym.

Janice Gregory: Soniech yn gynharach fod angen inni ystyried. Gwn eich bod chi a chyd-Weinidogion eraill yn bresennol ar y noson y daeth Undeb Mamau esgobaeth Llandaf i'r Cynulliad i siarad ag Aelodau, a chredaf felly eich bod yn llygad eich lle wrth ddweud bod angen inni ystyried, a diolchaf i John am ei ddadl fer heddiw. Dywedodd arweinwyr deoniaeth Undeb y Mamau a oedd yn bresennol ar y noson honno eu bod am ofyn rhai cwestiynau treiddiol iawn inni. Fodd bynnag, wrth ateb eu cwestiynau, yr oeddem yn gallu dweud ein bod eisoes wedi gwneud yr hyn yr oeddent yn gofyn amdano, ein bod wrthi'n ei wneud, neu ein bod wedi'i drafod ac y byddem yn ei wneud yn ystod y trydydd Cynulliad. Felly, a ydych yn cytuno nid yn unig fod angen inni werthu'r Cynulliad a'r gwaith da a wneir yma, ond bod cyfrifoldeb ar y cyfryngau hefyd i ledau'r neges?

Jane Hutt: Ydw. Dyna'r her fawr wrth inni fynd allan i wynebu'r etholwyr, ac mae'n her yr wyf bob amser yn ei mwynhau. Mae'n gyfle i wneud mwy nag ystyried; fodd bynnag, yr etholwyr fydd yn penderfynu ar 3 Mai. Mae'n ddiddorol sylwi ar nifer y sefydliadau sydd wedi cydnabod perthnasedd y Cynulliad, fel Undeb y Mamau, ond efallai'n ddiweddarach byth. Maent wedi bod yn creu llawer mwy o gysylltiadau â Llywodraeth y DU heb sylweddoli y gall materion bara beunyddiol cyffredin a gydnabyddir mewn cymdeithas ddinesig, o ran cwestiynau neu bryderon am faterion, gael eu cyflwyno i ni, gan mai ni sy'n gyfrifol amdanynt. Mae cymdeithas ddinesig wedi cefnogi, hyrwyddo a chrosawu datganoli yn y Cynulliad yn llawn brwdfrydedd, a byddai'n ddelfrydol pe byddai'r cyfryngau'n cydnabod bod pobl Cymru wedi gweld llwyddiant yn nhermau gweithredu polisiâu gennym sy'n gwneud cymaint o wahaniaeth i fywydau pobl, megis y strategaeth gofalwyr. Gwelwyd erthygl am

1 April hit the front page of the *Daily Express*. It was as though it was saying, 'This cannot be true. Wales having free prescriptions? What about the rest of us?'. This is the reality of devolution. It is not just a matter of our having confidence and demonstrating it, but it is about confidence in every respect. Wales, its culture, its opportunities, its tourism, its environment, its cities, towns and villages are all now demonstrating what we can offer to the world as well as to the people of Wales, and that is coming through clearly.

On what we, the Assembly Government, have been able to deliver, John went through and reminded us of our brief but important history, which was helpful. We have achieved this only by trying to develop a new way of governing, particularly in the past two years, and by recognising that this is not about the arrogance of power; it is about working together. This Chamber has made a difference to the way in which we have related and worked together across the parties, and ensured that, although Government has delivered on its objectives and manifesto, it has done so as a result of robust debate and scrutiny. We have also negotiated and taken on board issues from across the parties and across the Assembly.

On delivery, particularly for children and young people, we know that, in the first summer of the free swimming scheme for schoolchildren during school holidays, there was an increase of 108 per cent in the number of swims by young people and a further increase of 48 per cent in 2005.

Free bus travel for pensioners and disabled people came in in Wales first. We got there first. That was one of the major policy initiatives that badged the Assembly as an organisation delivering for the people of Wales. Our free breakfast schemes for all primary school children will also be a badge of identity that you will be proud of, Glyn, as well as those of us in Government who pioneered this. By the end of the autumn term, 559 schools were confirmed as having started free breakfast provision.

y ffaith fod taliadau presgripsiwn i gael eu diddymu'n llwyr o 1 Ebrill ar dudalen flaen y *Daily Express*. Yr oedd fel petai'n dweud, 'Ni all hyn fod yn wir. Cymru'n cael presgripsiynau am ddim? Beth am y gweddill ohonom?'. Dyna realiti datganoli. Nid mater syml o gael hyder a'i arddangos mohono, ond mater o hyder ym mhob ystyr. Mae Cymru, ei diwylliant, ei chyfleoedd, ei thwristiaeth, ei hamgylchedd, ei dinasoedd, ei threfi a'i phentrefi i gyd yn awr yn dangos yr hyn y gallwn ei gynnig i'r byd yn ogystal ag i bobl Cymru, ac mae hynny i'w weld yn amlwg.

O ran yr hyn yr ydym ni, Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, wedi llwyddo i'w ddarparu, aeth John ati i'n hatgoffa o'n hanes byr ond pwysig, a oedd yn ddefnyddiol. Gwnaed hyn dim ond drwy geisio datblygu ffordd newydd o lywodraethu, yn arbennig yn ystod y ddwy flynedd diwethaf, a thrwy gydnabod nad oes a wnelo'r sefyllfa â thraha pŵer; mae a wnelo â chydweithio. Mae'r Siambr hon wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth i'r ffordd yr ydym wedi uniaethu a chydweithio ar draws y pleidiau, gan sicrhau, er bod y Llywodraeth wedi cyflawni ei hamcanion a'i manifesto, ei bod wedi gwneud hynny o ganlyniad i ddadleuon a phrosesau craffu cadarn. Yr ydym hefyd wedi trafod ac wedi ystyried materion gan bob plaid a chan bob rhan o'r Cynulliad.

O ran cyflawni, yn arbennig i blant a phobl ifanc, gwyddom, yn ystod haf cyntaf y cynllun nofio am ddim i blant ysgol yn ystod gwyliau'r ysgol, fod cynnydd o 108 y cant yn nifer y bobl ifanc a aeth i nofio a chynnydd pellach o 48 y cant yn 2005.

Cyflwynwyd y cynllun teithiau bws am ddim i bensiynwyr a phobl anabl yng Nghymru gyntaf. Ni a gyrhaeddodd gyntaf. Yr oedd honno'n un o'r mentrau polisi pwysig a roddodd enw da i'r Cynulliad fel sefydliad a oedd yn cyflawni er lles pobl Cymru. Bydd ein cynllun brecwast am ddim i bob plentyn ysgol gynradd hefyd yn orchest y byddwch yn ymfalchïo ynddi, Glyn, yn ogystal â'r rheini ohonom yn y Llywodraeth a gyflwynodd y cynllun arloesol hwn. Erbyn diwedd tymor yr hydref, cadarnhawyd bod 559 o ysgolion wedi dechrau darparu brecwastau am ddim.

6.00 p.m.

We are nearly up to 50 per cent, and 16,000 children will benefit from the Assembly's groundbreaking Flying Start initiative, with £46 million invested in the scheme.

However, we have to turn to those issues that Chris mentioned with regard to openness and, in trying to relate to the people of Wales, to consult, to engage and to feed back, and being uniquely open through our Assembly Government Cabinet open-mic sessions, 'ask Rhodri' sessions, and the Senedd itself. I was delighted, Llywydd, to hear your opening remarks today to the health, wellbeing and social care festival, as I would call it, in the neuadd. There were so many organisations present, and they were enthusiastic and keen that Assembly Members should come round to learn and engage. The way that we have ensured relationships is unprecedented. We have not previously had those opportunities in terms of Government and the people in civic society in Wales to engage with wider parliamentary opportunities, and now we are grasping them. That is a made-in-Wales approach.

On public services, I want to mention that the Beecham review is pioneering; it is not just about 'Making the Connections', but about 'Beyond Boundaries'. 'Beyond Boundaries' makes us relate to the delivery of public services and is a balanced approach to delivering comprehensive quality local public services. However, we also look outwards. The more confident that you become as a nation, the more you are confident in your international relationships.

Today, I helped to launch with Sue Essex a Welsh-based charity called Abesu—meaning 'ours'—which is a charity working in Zambia to empower women who are lone parents as a result of the ravages of AIDS. It looks after 650 children, and through a women's co-operative, helps them build homes and schools. We are supporting a Welsh charity that is supporting women in Zambia, and empowering them to develop

Yr ydym bron â chyrraedd 50 y cant, a bydd 16,000 o blant yn cael budd o fenter arloesol y Cynulliad, Dechrau'n Deg, gyda £46 miliwn wedi'i fuddsoddi yn y cynllun.

Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni droi at y materion hynny y soniodd Chris amdanynt o ran bod yn agored a cheisio uniaethu â phobl Cymru, ymgynghori, ymgysylltu a rhoi adborth, a bod yn agored mewn ffordd unigryw drwy'r sesiynau meic agored a gynhelir gan Gabinet Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, y sesiynau 'gofynnwch i Rhodri', a'r Senedd ei hun. Yr oeddwn yn falch iawn, Lywydd, o glywed eich sylwadau agoriadol heddiw yn yr ŵyl iechyd, lles a gofal cymdeithasol, fel y byddwn yn ei galw, yn y neuadd. Yr oedd cynifer o sefydliadau'n bresennol, ac yr oeddent yn frwdfrydig ac yn awyddus i Aelodau'r Cynulliad ddod yno i ddysgu ac ymgysylltu â hwy. Mae'r ffordd yr ydym wedi meithrin perthynas yn ddigyffelyb. Ni chawsom y cyfleoedd hynny yn y gorffennol i'r Llywodraeth a'r bobl mewn cymdeithas ddinesig yng Nghymru ymwneud â chyfleoedd seneddol ehangach, ac yn awr yr ydym yn manteisio i'r eithaf arnynt. Mae hynny'n ddull a luniwyd yng Nghymru.

O ran gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, hoffwn sôn bod adolygiad Beecham yn arloesol; nid yw'n ymwneud yn unig â 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau', ond hefyd ag 'Ar Draws Ffiniau'. Mae 'Ar Draws Ffiniau' yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol inni ystyried sut y caiff gwasanaethau cyhoeddus eu darparu, ac mae'n ddull cytbwys o ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus lleol, cynhwysfawr o safon. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym hefyd yn edrych tuag allan. Po fwyaf hyderus fyddwch chi fel gwlad, y mwyaf hyderus y byddwch yn eich cysylltiadau rhyngwladol.

Heddiw, gyda Sue Essex, bûm yn helpu lansio elusen yng Nghymru o'r enw Abesu—sy'n golygu 'yn eiddo i ni'—sef elusen sy'n gweithio yn Zambia i rymuso menywod sy'n rhieni unigol oherwydd trychineb AIDS. Mae'n gofalu am 650 o blant, a thrwy gwmni cydweithredol i fenywod mae'n eu helpu i godi cartrefi ac ysgolion. Yr ydym yn cefnogi elusen yng Nghymru sy'n cefnogi menywod yn Zambia, ac yn eu grymuso i ddatblygu

sustainable communities. We also have, as John mentioned, Wales for Africa, our international sustainable development framework. We can learn from those women in Zambia as much as they can benefit from us and the actions that we take.

I will not read out all the achievements of this Labour Assembly Government, but we know what they are. As Carl Sargeant mentioned in commenting on my last business statement, 140,000 more people are in employment now than at the start of the Assembly. We have to be proud of that, which has been delivered in partnership, as you say, John, with the UK Government. We are confident that the part that we played in that has been significant.

We will take our next steps forward, Glyn, in terms of the Government of Wales Act 2006. We have to prove that we can deliver on those significant new powers. The new provision of Measures will lead to more made-in-Wales legislation—legislation tailor-made to deliver the solutions that are right for Wales. The new Act will also provide for clear accountability between Ministers and the Assembly after 3 May. It is what we can do for ourselves that matters now, not what others can do for us. Wales is on the up.

Y Llywydd: Diolch yn fawr i'r Gweinidog am ei haraith. Wrth gloi'r busnes fel eich Llywydd, diolchaf i'r Aelodau am eich cydweithrediad, ac i holl staff y Cynulliad, yn enwedig y cyfeillion sydd o gylch y ddesg hon, sydd yn gofalu bod busnes yn rhedeg yn esmwyth. Dymunaf yn dda i'r trydydd Cynulliad o dan ei gyfansoddiad newydd.

cymunedau cynaliadwy. Mae gennym hefyd, fel y soniodd John, Cymru dros Affrica, ein fframwaith datblygu cynaliadwy rhyngwladol. Gallwn ddysgu gan y menywod hynny yn Zambia lawn cymaint ag y gallant hwy gael budd gennym ni a'r camau a gymerwn.

Nid wyf am ddarllen ar goedd holl lwyddiannau'r Llywodraeth Cynulliad Lafur hon, ond gwyddom beth ydynt. Fel y soniodd Carl Sargeant wrth wneud sylwadau ar fy natganiad busnes diwethaf, mae 140,000 yn fwy o bobl mewn gwaith yn awr nag ar ddechrau'r Cynulliad. Rhaid inni ymfalchïo yn hynny, a wnaed mewn partneriaeth, fel yr oeddech yn ei ddweud, John, gyda Llywodraeth y DU. Yr ydym yn hyderus fod ein rhan ni yn hynny yn sylweddol.

Byddwn yn cymryd ein camau nesaf ymlaen, Glyn, o ran Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006. Rhaid inni brofi y gallwn ddarparu dan y pwerau newydd sylweddol hynny. Bydd y Mesurau newydd a ddarperir yn arwain at lunio mwy o ddeddfwriaeth wedi ei wneud yng Nghymru—deddfwriaeth wedi'i theilwra'n benodol i ddarparu'r atebion sy'n briodol i Gymru. Bydd y Ddeddf newydd hefyd yn darparu atebolrwydd clir rhwng Gweinidogion a'r Cynulliad ar ôl 3 Mai. Yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud drosom ein hunain sy'n bwysig yn awr, nid yr hyn y gall eraill ei wneud drosom. Mae Cymru'n ffynnu.

The Presiding Officer: I thank the Minister for her speech. In concluding business as your Presiding Officer, I thank Members for their collaboration, and all the staff of the Assembly, especially those around this desk, who ensure that business runs smoothly. I wish the third Assembly well under its new constitution.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.04 p.m.
The meeting ended at 6.04 p.m.*

Aelodau a'u Pleidiau Members and their Parties

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)

Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
 Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
 Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Dunwoody, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
 Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Law, Trish (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Marek, John (Cymru Ymlaen – Forward Wales)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
 Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)